



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
www.howardbirds.org



CLUB MEETINGS - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

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Thursday, May 9, 2013 “Protecting Birds and Airplanes Around Local Airports,” by Jonathan Leddon, Wildlife Biologist. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Wildlife staff works at BWI Airport and other D.C. area airports to reduce air strike hazards. Jonathan will detail some of the issues and methods involved. He has a great deal of experience and has worked at a number of airports to protect both airplanes and birds. Jonathan currently works at BWI Airport.

Meetings are at the Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality at 7:30 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 8:00 p.m. Nature Center doors unlocked at 7:15 p.m. and locked again at 8:15 p.m. There is no admission charge. For further information call Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

WINTER BIRD RECORDS: DECEMBER 1, 2012 – FEBRUARY 28, 2013

BY JOANNE SOLEM

A winter with more rain than snow was highlighted by a [Great Egret](#), unusual gulls, a [Louisiana Waterthrush](#), a wintering [Summer Tanager](#), and numerous boreal species.

Snow Geese were few. A white adult and an immature were reported from a variety of locations from 12/2 at Sawmill Rd (**JHf**) to 1/26 at the quarry pond, Springdale Dr (**RRf, HFk, MRg**). Five **Cackling Geese** at the large Lime Kiln pond 12/15 (**NM**) were the high for the season. A few **Tundra Swans** heard in the fog at Western Regional 12/17 were a new species for the park (**KTf**).

Gadwalls peaked at 10 at Fox Chase 2/15 (**BO**). **American Wigeon** numbers at ponds on Daisy Rd rose from 13 on 12/13 (**KTf**) to 33 on 1/26 (**RRf, HFk, MRg**). The 100 **American Black Ducks** at Browns Bridge 1/5 (**MKw**) were a fine count. Three **Blue-winged Teal** at W. Friendship Pk 2/2 were among the earliest February records (**JCu, JHf, DCm**). **Northern Shovelers** are infrequent visitors, but this season they were spotted at three sites with a high of five at Race Rd wetlands 1/13 (**KS**) and 2/14 (**HPt, KDy**). Two male **Northern Pintails** stopped at Centennial 1/14 (**BO+**); two (one female) at Warfields Pond Pk 2/2 were a new species for the park (**JCu, DCm**). A few **Redheads** appeared. One male, photographed at Browns Bridge 1/16 (**HPt**), spent a week in a flock of **Ring-**

(Records continued on page 3)

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Over the past 35 years, how much money has the Howard County Bird Club raised from seed sale proceeds and individual donations to preserve habitat? See [page 4](#) for the answer.

SPRING FIELD TRIPS BY [BONNIE OTT](#) & [JOE HANFMAN](#)

Field trips are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Arrive at the meeting site ready to leave at the designated time with appropriate footwear and gear. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. Directions for trips not on ADC maps are on the Club's website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinator Bonnie Ott at bonnieott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

[PIGTAIL - TRIADELPHIA](#)

May 4, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)

In conjunction with WSSC. *Meet at the Green Bridge Rd parking lot which is off Triadelphia Mill Rd.* The cove is bordered on three sides by deciduous and coniferous woods. Extensive mudflats may exist with the possibility of shorebirds. No permit required. Facilities available (rustic). *Leader – Dennis Coskren, coskren@verizon.net or 410-381-7344.*

MAY COUNT

May 11, Saturday (See [page 8](#) for details.)

[HENRYTON ROAD, PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE](#)

[PARK](#) May 15, Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. (Half day) *Meet at bottom of Henryton Rd at the dead end.* Walk along the Patapsco River looking for spring migrants and nesting warblers. Plan for moderate walking and possible muddy trails areas. No facilities. *Leader - Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329 or LBRoller@verizon.net.*

BIG DAY

May 18, Saturday

All day listing extravaganza!

Limit 12. Email or call the leader to sign up. Plan to spend the day hiking around the county in search of as many species as possible. All types of footwear needed. Bring food and drinks. Facilities in some spots. *Leader - Bonnie Ott, 443-285-3302 or bonnieott@verizon.net.*

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Copy may be sent to:
Howard Patterson
4209 Hermitage Dr
Ellicott City MD 21042
howard21042@verizon.net

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the September/October 2013 issue is July 25, 2013.

Amanda Witt, *Editor*
Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*

LITTLE BIG DAY

May 18, Saturday, optional full day

This trip is designed for beginner and intermediate birders and will not be as intense as the Big Day trip. Some of the same locations as the Big Day trip may be visited. Email or call the leader for reservations and details. Facilities in some spots. *Leaders - Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com.*

PATAPSCO SCRUBLAND


May 25, Saturday, 7:30 a.m. (half day)

Meet at 735 River Road (up long drive take right-hand split & park by house). Starting in the scrubland, we'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Depending on conditions, we may continue into the woods. Moderate to possibly difficult walking: steep trails with several stream crossings, so wear appropriate footwear. Facilities available. *Leader - Felicia Lovelett 410-489-7169 or c5nest@gmail.com.*

BUTTERFLIES THROUGH BINOCULARS – [LAKE ELKHORN POWERLINE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STUDY TRACT](#)

August 31, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. (2-3 hours)

Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots, Oakland Mills Rd opposite Dasher Ct. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies, and receive expert instruction on their identification. Dick will add information about caterpillar host and adult nectar plants as we encounter various species. Easy walking in the garden plot and on paved paths near the right-of-way alongside open, flowery wet meadows and brushy hillsides. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior, but Dick will also use net and jars to provide brief close-up examinations. Cancelled if raining or overcast. No facilities. *Leader - Dick Smith, Richard.Smith@jhuapl.edu or 410-997-7439.*

 = Great for beginning birders

(Records continued from page 1)

necked Ducks that peaked at 226 on 1/22 (**KS**). **Greater Scaup** were spotted at five locations from 12/12 at Gateway (**DCm+1**) to 2/8 at Lake Kittamaqundi (**DCm-2**). **Common Goldeneyes** are never “common” locally. This season two dropped in at Centennial 1/25 (**BO**); last seen 1/26 (**RRf, HFk, MRg**). **Hooded Mergansers** peaked at 30 at Lake Elkhorn on 2/22 (**SN**). **Common Mergansers** again gathered in impressive numbers at Triadelphia Reservoir. More than 2,000 (new high) were counted on 1/6 based on multiple photos (**MKw**). A maximum of four **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Brighton Dam on 1/17 (**JHf**).

Wild Turkeys continue to turn up consistently, mostly in the west. One at Scotts Cove, Duckett Reservoir 12/31 was at an unusual location (**KKx**). A nest with broken eggshells (halves and membranes) under a few briars in pine woods at Annapolis Rock 2/11 was the first recorded in the county (**JSh**). Best guess was that it was an unusually late 2012 nest.

Horned Grebes are not always present in winter. This year they appeared at four locations with a high of three at Lake Elkhorn and one at Gateway on 2/23 (**RRf, HFk, MRg**). A decade ago **Double-crested Cormorants** were almost unknown in winter. This year at least one was noted at four sites; three spent much of Jan. at Lake Kittamaqundi (**DCm**). A **Great Egret** at Race Rd 1/14 set a new late date for the county (**MO'S**) [12/27/03 S. Neri, M. Stewart+].

Bald Eagles were widely reported. The pair continued at the new nest at the Univ. of Md Central Farm (**m.obs.**). The only **American Coots** noted were two at the quarry pond 2/22 (**DCm+**). Peak **Wilson's Snipe** numbers were four at ALRGL 1/12 (**RCu+**). Uncharacteristically, **American Woodcock** were reported all winter, even on a number of Jan. evenings! Low temperatures were no deterrent as six were courting at a chilly 36°F at Hipsley Mill Rd on 1/15 (**RRf**).

Gulls were among the stars of the season. At least 65 **Bona-partes Gulls** at Lake Kittamaqundi 1/22 were a surprise (**DCm; m. obs.**). A winter flock of that size had not been seen in the county for more than 20 years. Birders have endured a lack of unusual gull species since 1997, the last year Alpha Ridge was an active landfill. Scattered records since then have been few and inconsistent. This winter a site near the county line usually visited on seasonal counts (**ESu**) provided excellent gulls for a month. On 1/27, while scouting for HCMC, seven **Great Black-backed Gulls** were spotted in a mixed flock on a fenced parking lot adjacent to a small pond (**KS**). A few hundred yards away an Anne Arundel waste transfer facility offered gulls a bountiful supply of

food. The location appeared to have great potential since a different mix of gulls arrived each morning from roost sites near the Bay. Unfortunately, security issues arose almost immediately. Fortunately, Russ Ruffing obtained permission for birders to access a viewing area. From 1/27-2/28, the following gulls were identified: **Iceland** (second-cycle; 12th record; **JHf+**), **Lesser Black-backed** (three: one first-cycle and two different third-cycle birds; **JHf; NM+**), **Glaucous** (near adult; 15th; **BBg, MBc+**), and **Great Black-backed** with a high of 64 on 1/30 (**NM, JHf+**). Kudos to Joe Hanfman for identifying many of the gulls, as well as thanks to the many photographers.

At Patuxent River State Pk, a **Long-eared Owl** was seen at dusk 12/13 (**DCm**), 1/26 (**RRf, HFk, MRg**), and on a few other dates, while a **Northern Saw-whet** was noted the evening of 1/27 (**JHf+**). In the course of the winter, dozens of pellets were found—some at obvious roosts—but no more than one of either species was ever seen (**JSh+**). On 2/5, rehabilitator Judy Holzman was called to a house near Worthington Elem. School where she found a saw-whet perched on a porch. When the bird was approached, it flew to a nearby conifer so no intervention was required. A **Short-eared Owl** (10th) was present at ALRGL 1/8 (**RCu**).

As has been usual for a decade, wintering **American Kestrels** were few (**HCMC - 2**). On the other hand, **Merlins** were reported from eight locations with three on HCMC (**NM; JSh+**; **M&GMcC, RSm**). A **Peregrine Falcon** was reported carrying a **Common Grackle** at Fox Chase 12/12 (**BO**); singles were at Jessup 2/5 (**KS, JHf**), and at Brighton Dam 2/24 (**MKw**).

Sightings of **Common Ravens** at Annapolis Rock ranged from 1/4 (**DCm-1**) to 2/16 (**JSh+2**); others were spotted at Jessup 2/5 (**JHf-1**) and at the power lines on Gorman Rd 2/7 (**WE-2**). **Black-capped Chickadees**, rare winter visitors, were verified at two locations: Crest Lawn 12/1 (**BHb+**) and Sebring where a bird moved between Sebring Dr 12/7 (**JHf+**) and Martin Rd (two streets away) 1/1 (**JHf**). **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widely present (mostly one or two) with highs of seven at Crest Lawn 12/1 (**KS**) and four at Gateway 2/9 (**JW**).

The season's only **House Wren** was spotted along the Little Patuxent River at Old Frederick Rd 1/13 (**PWf**). At MPEA on 2/25, a House Wren nest with three eggs was found in a nesting box (**SKd, Jcf**). The nest had been built and eggs laid after the box was cleaned on 8/19/12, establishing a record late egg date (**SKd**). **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were more scarce than usual; HCMC tallied one (**WEb, TSt**). Two **Brown Thrashers** turned

(Records continued on page 4)

(Records continued from page 3)

up on HCMC: Columbia Hills (**BLd**) and MPEA (**MRg**). The high count of **American Pipits** was 95 at Underwood Rd 12/31 (**JHf**).

Warblers of special interest included a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Font Hill Wetland Pk on the state record early date of 2/16 (also 2/26) (**JW**, ph.). Interestingly, three of the four state early records for this species are from this county (**RR**). A **Nashville Warbler** at Crest Lawn 12/6 established a new county late date (**MBw+**) [11/23/2005 R. Cullison]. A western **Palm** at Western Reg. 12/8 was just the second Dec. record (**DCm**).

Ten **American Tree Sparrows** were present at Mt. Pleasant 12/19 (**BO**) and at Fox Chase 1/11 (**BO**). Normally uncommon in winter, **Chipping Sparrows** were noted at a minimum of five locations with highs of 12 at Cavey La 12/12 (**RRf**) and eight at Wynfield Dr ~12/25 (**RCu**). Both observers mentioned an association of this species with **Dark-eyed Juncos**. The **Vesper** at Fox Chase 12/23 (**BO**, **ROR**) was a new late date [11/12/01 H. Zeichner, M. Chestem]. Wintering **Savannahs** reached 65 (55 in one flock) at ALRGL 1/12 (**RCu+**). A 10-sparrow day was notched countywide on 2/23 (**RRf**, **HFk**, **MRg**), while nine species were counted at Mt. Pleasant 2/22 (**BO**). (Juncos, but not towhees were included.)

A female **Summer Tanager** first appeared at a Sebring Dr feeder on the bizarre date of 11/24 (**BDn**, ph.). In early December, when it was brought to the attention of local birders, they flocked by the dozens to see this winter rarity—a state late bird still present in early March! She also visited feeders at nearby Martin Rd (**JHf**).

A flock of 26 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at ALRGL 2/2 was the largest in 15 years (**RCu**). Although few **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported, 35 on Florence Rd 1/26 was a nice count (**RRf**, **HFk**, **MRg**).

Crossbills were highlights of the season. **Reds** were reported at five locations, almost all in Dec. The first was a male at Beaverbrook 12/1 (**ROR-1**); the high was a flock of 25 that flew across Duckett Reservoir on 12/15 (**RBy**, **DRh**). Two at MPEA dropped to a puddle at the feet of surprised observers on 2/10 (**M&CRg**). **White-winged Crossbills** were more frequently reported. Crest Lawn produced the most consistent sightings from 12/1 (**JHf+7**), with a high count of 35 in two flocks 1/10 (**DCm**). A second productive area was the vicinity of Barrel House Rd, N. Laurel 1/7 (**JW-25**); the high was 44 on 1/10 (**HPt**, **KDy**). In addition to utilizing various conifers, sweetgum fruit proved attractive as observed on N. Ridge Rd 2/7 (**S&DBg**, ph.). Winter's lone **Com-**

mon Redpoll was spotted on Wildflower Terr, Wilde Lake 12/22 (**JW**). In contrast, **Pine Siskins** visited numerous feeders, but numbers were much lower than those in late Oct. Cavey La notched a winter high of 25 on 12/12 (**RRf**).

Thanks to Joe Hanfman and Nancy Magnusson for assistance with this compilation.

Abbreviations: ALRGL – Alpha Ridge Landfill; Crest Lawn – Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens; HCMC – Howard County Mid-winter Count, February 2.

Observers: **BBg** – Betsy Bangert, **DBg** – Dena Berglund, **SBg** – Scott Berglund, **MBw** – Michael Bowen, **MBc** – Mike Burchett, **RBy** – Rod Burley, **JCf** – Jeff Claffy, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **RCu** – Ralph Cullison III, **DCm** – David Cummings, **KDy** – Karen Darcy, **BDn** – Brian Duncan, **WE** – Wes Earp, **WEB** – Ward Ebert, **HFk** – Harry Fink, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **BHb** – Bill Hubick, **SKd** – Sally Kendall, **MKw** – Mike Kerwin, **KKx** – Kim Knox, **BLd** – Brigitte Lund, **NM** – Nancy Magnusson, **GMcC** – Grazina McClure, **MMcC** – Mike McClure, **SN** – Sue Neri, **ROR** – Richard Orr, **MO'S** – Michael O'Sullivan, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **HPt** – Howard Patterson, **DRh** – Derek Richardson, **RR** – Robert Ringler, **CRg** – Carin Rogosky, **MRg** – Matt Rogosky, **RRf** – Russ Ruffing, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** – Jay Sheppard, **RSm** – Romaine Smith, **TSt** – Tom Strikwerda, **ESu** – Eva Sunell, **KTF** – Kate Tufts, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson, **PWF** – Paul Woodford.

BIRD TALK

Come listen to member Susan Polniaszek as she presents a program entitled Breeding Activities and Nest Selection of Birds. Her talk will be at the Miller Library branch. The program will be on Saturday, June 22 at 11a.m. and should last approximately one hour. Participants will learn about birds that breed in Howard County and how to select a bird house for the back yard. Talk is geared towards adults who are beginning birders. Children are welcome when accompanied by an adult. *Sponsored by the Howard County Bird Club.*

Registration is required. Registration details can be obtained on the library's website, www.hclibrary.org, closer to the event.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ANSWER:

Nearly \$67,000. To see a list of the projects, visit <http://www.howardbirds.org/howard/seedsale.htm>.

HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 2, 2013

BY JOE HANFMAN

A cold and overcast day with temperatures 12 – 30° F, but at least the snow held off until the evening. The ponds were iced over in the morning and 75% frozen in the afternoon; the rivers were open. We recorded 94 species which is five above the average of the last 26 years. The total number of individual birds was 43,197 which is 11,898 below the average, but the highest total since 2007.

There was one new species added to the midwinter count, a female Summer Tanager coming to a feeder south of Columbia. Only the second White-winged Crossbill in 27 years was found. Blue-winged Teal were found for only the third time. Greater Scaup and Double-crested Cormorant were found for only the fourth time.

All-time high counts were recorded for Canada Goose 13,961, Blue-winged Teal 3, Hooded Merganser 87, Winter Wren 30, Savannah Sparrow 133, and Dark-eyed Junco 3,529.

All-time low counts were recorded for Canvasback 1, Ring-billed Gull 268, House Finch 137, and House Sparrow 263.

The birds that have been seen on more than half of the counts but missed this year were Snow Goose, Tundra Swan, American Coot, Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, and Purple Finch.

Many people contributed to the success of the day. Fifty-nine observers spent 174.2 hours and covered 114.7 miles on foot and 379.6 miles by car. Another 11.8 hours were spent feeder watching, plus 5 hours stationary and 3 hours of owling.

As co-compiler, Joe Byrnes did the preparatory work for the count. As usual, he handled multiple details with precision and care. Chuck Stirrat summarized the area worksheets and provided field and feeder checklists. Area leaders arranged coverage, did follow-up if necessary, and compiled area totals. Their names are in boldface below (*anyone who counted in more than one area or also at a feeder is listed just once*). Once again, we thank Karen and Jeff Culler for generously serving as hosts for the tally and welcoming us to their home.

Land permission from Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and many private property owners assure good coverage—we are extremely grateful.

Observers: *Area 1.* **Mark Wallace, Wes Earp**, Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Lisa Colangelo, Sue Earp, Frank Fogarty, Kathie Lillie, Jay Sheppard, Marcy Stutzman, Robin Todd, Kate Tufts; *Area 2.* **Ward Ebert**, Jeff Culler, David Cummings, Joe Hanfman, Tom Strikwerda; *Area 3.* **Dave & Maureen Harvey**, Joe Byrnes, Ralph Cullison, John Finedore, Dave Gillum, Tom Miller, Russ Ruffing, Kurt Schwarz, Will & Robin Tress; *Area 4.* **Mike McClure**, Mike Leumas, Grazina McClure, Romaine Smith; *Area 5.* **Karen Darcy, Kevin Heffernan**, Brian Duncan, Ed Huestis, Shashi Lengade, Nancy Magnusson, Jeanne Odermatt, Howard Patterson; *Area 6.* **Bonnie Ott**, Emy Holdridge, Jane & Ralph Gueder, Dave Kubitsky, Brigitte Lund, Janet Lydon, Richard Orr, Suzanne Probst, Emily Reed, Tim Thompson; *Area 7.* **Kurt Schwarz**, Diane Johns, Kim Knox, John McKitterick, Barry Miller, Sue Neri, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, Jim Wilkinson.

2013 POTLUCK THANKS BY KATHIE LILLIE

Thanks to everyone for another successful Annual Potluck Dinner, held once again at the Robinson Nature Center. I wish to thank the many people who helped with the set-up and take-down, and especially Ward Ebert for the power strips and electrical cords, and June Tveekrem for coordinating and running the slide show. Thank you to all who donated items for the door prizes! One of the door prize finch feeders was given to the Robinson Nature Center, a small token in return for use of the RNC space. Stacey Yankee, Director of the Robinson Nature Center, joined the party. She also made sure that RNC's Kevin (who was

monitoring the front entrance) also got something to eat. Our bird club members' buffet offered a fine variety of food. Thank you to everyone who contributed photos to the slide show. It is one thing to see a bird; it is a wonderful opportunity to be able to share that sighting with others through photography. About 35 people attended, and a number of people weren't able to attend because of illness. We missed you! One of these was Marty Chestem, and for the first time in 20 years we missed out on Marty's "bird cartoon" placemats.

Howard County Mid-Winter Count - February 2, 2013					
	Totals		Totals		Totals
Canada Goose	13,961	Eastern Screech-Owl	1	White-throated Sparrow	1,904
Wood Duck	1	Great Horned Owl	7	White-crowned Sparrow	66
Gadwall	13	Barred Owl	3	<i>sparrow species</i>	13
American Wigeon	5	Belted Kingfisher	17	Dark-eyed Junco	3,529
American Black Duck	30	Red-bellied Woodpecker	214	Summer Tanager	1
Mallard	316	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	14	Northern Cardinal	682
Blue-winged Teal	3	Downy Woodpecker	191	Red-winged Blackbird	1,796
Northern Shoveler	1	Hairy Woodpecker	34	Eastern Meadowlark	26
Northern Pintail	2	Northern (Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	81	Rusty Blackbird	7
Canvasback	1	Pileated Woodpecker	43	Common Grackle	1,257
Redhead	2	Blue Jay	561	Brown-headed Cowbird	111
Ring-necked Duck	101	American Crow	3,724	<i>blackbird species</i>	45
Greater Scaup	1	Fish Crow	156	House Finch	137
Lesser Scaup	11	<i>crow species</i>	2,585	White-winged Crossbill	1
Bufflehead	9	Horned Lark	50	Pine Siskin	4
Hooded Merganser	87	Carolina Chickadee	358	American Goldfinch	213
Common Merganser	367	Tufted Titmouse	357	House Sparrow	263
Ruddy Duck	12	Red-breasted Nuthatch	38	Area Total Birds:	43,197
Wild Turkey	5	White-breasted Nuthatch	183	Area Total Species:	94
Pied-billed Grebe	6	Brown Creeper	19		Totals
Double-crested Cormorant	1	Carolina Wren	297	Time Start:	5:45 a
Great Blue Heron	13	Winter Wren	30	Time Stop:	9:00 p
Black Vulture	73	Golden-crowned Kinglet	62	Hours on Foot:	133.1
Turkey Vulture	115	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Hours by Car:	41.1
Bald Eagle	17	Eastern Bluebird	298	Miles on Foot:	114.7
Northern Harrier	1	Hermit Thrush	14	Miles by Car:	379.6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	American Robin	794	Hours Feeder Watching:	11.8
Cooper's Hawk	11	Northern Mockingbird	89	Hours Stationary:	5.0
Red-shouldered Hawk	81	Brown Thrasher	2	Hours "Owling":	3.0
Red-tailed Hawk	62	European Starling	5,005	Miles "Owling":	4.6
<i>buteo species</i>	9	American Pipit	4		Totals
American Kestrel	2	Cedar Waxwing	56	Deer Seen:	149
Merlin	3	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	17	Tot. Field Obs. in Area:	58
Killdeer	17	Eastern Towhee	38	Tot. Field Parties in Area:	40
Wilson's Snipe	4	American Tree Sparrow	8	Tot. Feederwatchers:	1
Ring-billed Gull	268	Chipping Sparrow	23	Tot. Feederwatch Parties:	1
Herring Gull	57	Field Sparrow	103	Total Observers in Area:	59
Great Black-backed Gull	20	Savannah Sparrow	133	Tot. Field Pty-Hrs (Reg.):	174.2
<i>gull species</i>	2	Fox Sparrow	14	Total Party-Hrs (Feeder):	11.8
Rock Pigeon	416	Song Sparrow	825	Tot. Pty-Hrs (Stationary):	5.0
Mourning Dove	507	Swamp Sparrow	72	Total Party-Hrs (Owling):	3.0
	Totals		Totals	Total Party-Hours:	194.0

ANNUAL LIST FOR THE COUNTY

BY JOE HANFMAN

2012 was an exceptional year adding two first-ever county birds. The Pink-footed Goose was a first for the state and the Sabine's Gull was a county first. Both birds were very cooperative and well over 100 birders saw each one.

We tallied 240 species making 2012 our second best year in the past 34 years. In addition to the two species mentioned above, we found a Brant (the third all-time and first since 1959), Le Conte's Sparrow, Wilson's Phalarope, Red Crossbill, and 19 species of shorebirds. Missing in 2012 were Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, and Dickcissel. Examine the complete list at: http://howardbirds.org/mem_corn/Howard_County_Annual_Bird_List_2012.htm

Thanks and congratulations to all those who spent many hours scouring the county, finding birds, and sharing their sightings.

8TH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT

The 8th Annual Howard County Dragonfly Count, co-sponsored with the Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks, will be held this year on Saturday June 1, 2013. No experience is necessary to participate.

Join fellow birders and naturalists in enjoying these beautiful insects.

Each group of observers, with an experienced leader, visits sites within the county. The group identifies and counts every dragonfly and damselfly seen.

For prior year count data and other historical information, visit www.southernspreadwing.com. Visit the club's website, www.howardbirds.org and click on the Dragonfly links for a preview of Howard County odes.

If you are interested in participating, leading a group, or assisting in some other way, please contact count coordinator, Beth Johnson, at bajohnsonjohnson@verizon.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORRECTIONS TO THE 2012-2013 HCBC DIRECTORY

Kathie & Ralph Lillie: first email address should be klilie3@verizon.net; delete the nih email address.

Karen Darcy's phone number on page 7 (under State Directors) should be **(410) 718-8731**.

Eva Sunell: correct phone number is 443-319-5866.

Allen Lewis: correct phone number is 787-590-4501.

Joseph B. Byrnes: correct email address is LBRoller@verizon.net.

Bonnie Ott: correct email address is bonnieott@verizon.net.

GATHERING-TIME SLIDESHOWS

Interested members are invited to provide pictures for background presentations prior to club meetings. The 20 or more pictures should have a nature theme and be formatted as .jpg or be in a power point presentation. They will play and/or cycle the half hour prior to the meeting. Contact Wes Earp at (410) 531-3197 or the_earps@verizon.net to pick a night.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Howard Patterson will be the new editor of *The Goldfinch* starting with the September/October 2013 issue.

Ann Marie Raterman will be our reporter to the Chapter Chatter column of the *Maryland Yellowthroat*.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

May 23, Thursday

Kate Tufts
2830 Duvall Road
Woodbine, MD 21797
(410) 489-7052



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

10970 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044

May/June 2013 - Inside This Issue:

Club Meetings	Winter Bird Records
Spring Field Trips	Library Talk
Midwinter Count Results	Potluck Dinner
Annual List	Dragonfly Count
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MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

The May Count, which is timed to coincide with the peak of spring migration, is held on the second Saturday in May. This year it is on May 11th. This is by far the most exciting time of year for birding. This is the time of year when you will see or hear the largest number of species. Spring migrants are passing through on their way north; summer residents are back; and some winter migrants are still hanging around. If you are new to birding and want to get a jump start, this is an excellent way to get started. Over the last 10 years across the county, we have tallied an average of 147 species during the May Count.

For the count, Howard County is divided into seven areas. A map of each area can be found on the club's website, <http://www.howardbirds.org/howard/maycount.htm>. Each area has an Area Coordinator (**Area 1** Wes Earp 410-531-3197, **Area 2** Tom Strikwerda 301-942-2841, **Area 3** Chuck Stirrat 410-531-2417, **Area 4** Mike McClure 410-531-2780, **Area 5** Karen Darcy 443-857-1789, **Area 6** Bonnie Ott 443-285-3302, **Area 7** John McKittrick 410-997-3122) who communicates with the counters, assigns territories, and compiles area results.

If you are a beginner, ask to be paired with a more experienced birder. Since the point is to tally every individual bird, extra eyes and ears are helpful. If you want to see a particular species, give me a call (410-418-8731) and I will try to place you in a location where you might have a good chance of seeing that bird.

At the end of the day, all of the counters are invited to a tally rally at **Kathie Lillie's** house (note, new location for tally rally) to share what was seen and come up with the county totals. It is a great opportunity to relax, swap stories of the day, and find out what everyone else has seen. (Directions to Kathie's house will be provided by the area coordinators.) Please call Kathie in advance (410-489-5262) and let her know how many are coming from your party and your choice of food or beverage to bring. Dinner will begin at 7 p.m. and the tally will start at 8 p.m. The completed checklist must be turned in to the area coordinators at the tally rally. If you cannot make it, be sure that your checklist gets delivered or gets called in by 7 p.m. We will find out what rarities were seen and often go out the next day to try to relocate them. Come join us!