

MARYLAND
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PROGRAM

The last program before the summer hiatus (July and August) will be a family picnic supper at the Rhinelanders at 6 p.m., Saturday, June 22. Bring the family, a picnic supper and any slides you may have taken of birds, particularly those taken on field trips. This is a beautiful spot for our last gathering of the season. From our regular meeting place at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot, take Cedar Lane to Harper's Farm Road, turn left to Route 108 and right about 50 yards to Homewood Rd. and here a sharp left. Travel Homewood Rd straight through the intersection (Shepherd Lane on left, Folly Quarter on right). The Rhinelander's lane is the first dirt lane on the left after the intersection. There will be a sign to assist you that evening. The Rhinelanders live on Folly Quarter Rd. If you have any questions about the arrangements, please call Nan Rhinelander (286-2427).

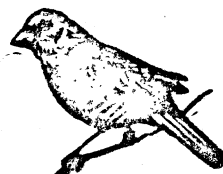
FIELD TRIPS

MAY 18, SATURDAY: Back to Woodbine again--this time to look for warblers. This is a beautiful area, don't miss it! Leader: Larry Hood (730-9251) Meet Swansfield Elementary School--7:00 a.m. One-half day trip.

JUNE 15, SATURDAY: This trip could be a real highlight of the year. Jay Sheppard will lead a trip to Elliott Island marsh to seek out the black rails. We also hope to find the Henslow's sparrows in the area. This is a very late at night trip so we will start at 3:30 p.m. from Swansfield Elementary School parking lot and it will probably be well past midnight when we get back. Bring food.

The Patuxent Bird Club also plans a night trip to Elliott Island marsh for black rails. The trip will be from about 6 p.m. to midnight, June 8 (Saturday). Contact Jay Sheppard (776-8476) for the place and exact time to meet.

CONVENTION REMINDER: THE SANTA MARIA HOTEL, OCEAN CITY, MD., MAY 10, 11, and 12. HOTEL RATES ARE \$36 PER PERSON WITH 2, 3, or 4 PEOPLE IN A ROOM HAVING TWO DOUBLE BEDS OR \$44 FOR A SINGLE ROOM. THE FEE INCLUDES FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT LODGING AND MEALS BEGINNING WITH DINNER ON FRIDAY EVENING THROUGH DINNER ON SUNDAY AT NOON. TAX AND GRATUITY ARE INCLUDED IN THE FEE. THERE WILL ALSO BE A REGISTRATION FEE OF \$2.00 FOR ADULTS AND \$.50 FOR JUNIORS. MAKE YOUR MOTEL RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH THE SANTA MARIA, BOARDWALK AND 15TH, OCEAN CITY, MD. 21842. (289-7192)



BIRD TRIPS

The early Sunday morning trips of the Middle Patuxent area were progressively better attended and more productive as early migrants began moving into the area to dramatically increase the trip counts. The walk on April 28 was attended by 18 and the group saw and/or heard some good warblers such as the hooded and blue-winged. The last trip of the series on May 5 was led by Chan Robbins with 41 in attendance. The area covered was just off Trotter Road where many warblers can be seen or heard this time of year. It is the best place around to see the blue-winged and fortunately, one appeared very early in the trip. Some warblers were identified by song but just refused to be seen. A special treat was excellent views of several yellow-breasted chats, a hooded warbler, two prairie warblers, and a redstart. Many other species of birds were seen and the official count for the morning was 52!

BIRD BANDERS ORGANIZE

A bird banding organizational meeting will be held Wednesday evening (7:45) on June 5. Banders from Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia are invited to attend. The place of the meeting has not been selected but those interested in attending are asked to send a self-addressed postcard to Kathy Klimkiewicz, 13117 Larchdale Rd., Apt 2, Laurel, Md., 20810 (telephone: 490-1491). Membership dues will be \$1.00 and twelve self-addressed postcards for notification purposes.

GOOD NEWS

Frances Ehlers reports a pair of bluebirds nesting in the house she has on her place on Brighton Dam Road. There are five eggs in the nest! Chickadees are also nesting at her place with six eggs in the nest and she has seen a robin's nest and mourning dove's nest.

A pair of mallards on Lake Kittamaqundi are proudly showing off a family of eleven ducklings and during the May count, another pair was seen on the Little Patuxent with a family of twelve.

A number of barn and tree swallows can be seen feeding on the Columbia lakes but check them out because there have been purple martins among them.

TOUR

Dr. Erwin Klaas guided a group through the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center on Sunday, April 28. He explained the different studies and projects being undertaken at the Center. The highlight was a very close view of a number of pairs of barn owls nesting. All ages of young were seen (and photographed) from day-old to several almost as large as the parents.

SAVE ASSATEAGUE! HELP!

The future of Assateague Island is most important to all of us who have spent so many pleasant hours there on our field trips or on family outings and camping trips. Assateague's future at least in its present form is in danger.

On April 17 and 18 public hearings were held by the Dept. of Interior as a result of wilderness studies required by the 1964 Wilderness Act. The plan is to designate an area of Assateague Island National Seashore a federal wilderness area which would mean that vehicles and further building would be banned on a portion of the island. The Washington Post reported Del. Russell Hickman spoke against the measure at the hearing stating federal authorities should not try to force the plan for a wilderness area on the local residents. He said, "It will create a degradation of our moral society and undermine our tourist industry", and that the area would become a paradise for hippies, nudists and a refuge for the "American Society of Streakers."

John O'Mara, representing the Assateague Mobile Sports Fishermen Association which claims membership of 1000, said there are only 12 miles of beach between New Jersey and North Carolina open to them and their sand vehicles. He claimed the proposal would eliminate 10 miles on Assateague. On the first day of the hearings, C. Lee Savage of Chincoteague spoke against the wilderness proposal stating the proposed road would be beneficial to Chincoteague residents and tourists alike, and is favored 25 to 1 by residents. "I believe in protection but not in confiscation," he said.

Rep. Robert Bauman (R-Md.) recommended that action on any wilderness designation be deferred until Congress acts on proposals to eliminate these provisions from the legislation. These are amendments to Public Law 89-195 creating Assateague Island National Seashore. They are:

S.3302 - by Senators Mathias and Beall and would: (1) Remove Sections 7 & 9 (calling for 600 acres of development and the road the length of the island). (2) Provide for the Secretary of the Interior to hold a hearing within 12 months of enactment of the law, if Worcester County files a claim for loss of tax revenues. He shall determine what compensation, if any, is owing to the county and certify to the Secretary of the Treasury the sum to be paid.

H.R. 13975 - by Congressman Thomas N. Downing and would (1) Remove sections 7 & 9. (2) Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide for a visitor transportation system. (3) Authorize a comprehensive study of the land and waters surrounding the area to determine their ecological values and proper usage.

WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN URGING SUPPORT OF THESE BILLS. THE OFFICIAL HEARING RECORD OF THE HEARING DISCUSSED ABOVE CLOSES ON MAY 20. WRITE YOUR VIEWS TO: Regional Director, BSWF, John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse, Boston, Mass. 02109 and send a copy of your letter to your Congressman and your Senators.

This action is supported by the Maryland Ornithological Society, Audubon Naturalist Society, National Audubon Society, Committee to Preserve Assateague, D. C. Wilderness Committee, Sierra Club Potomac Chapter, Friends of the Earth, and The Wilderness Society.