

HOWARD

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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE CONFESSIONS OF A NUTHATCH AVOIDER

Bird watchers top my honors list.
I aimed to be one, but I missed.
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,
My aim turned out to be erratic,
And I, bespectacled and binocular,
Exposed myself to comment jocular.
We don't need too much birdlore, do we
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;
Yet I cannot and never will,
Unless the silly birds stand still.
There's no enlightenment in a tour
Of ornithological literature.

Is you strange creature a common chickadee,
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?
You rush to consult your nature guide
And inspect the gallery inside,
But a bird in the open never looks
Like its picture in the birdie books --
Or if it did, it has changed its plumage,
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage.
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,
Watching the clock instead of finches,
But I sometimes visualize in my gin
The Audubon that I audubin.

by Ogden Nash



STEVENSON

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

PROGRAM

Program evenings will be the second Thursday of each month at the Swansfield Elementary School, Columbia. This year we will open the book store at 7:30 p.m. (the best place in town to shop for special gifts), the program will begin at 7:45 p.m. and the business meeting will follow.

SEPTEMBER 12, 7:45 p.m.-- Dr. Tom Custer: "Bird Studies Near Point Barrow, Alaska", a talk with slides. Dr. Custer spent 7 summers studying Lapland longspurs in northern Alaska.

OCTOBER 10, 7:45 p.m. -- Dr. Bob Herndon: "Eastern Shore Birding", excellent slides taken over the past few years (many on our field trips) at our National Wildlife Refuges in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey.

FIELD TRIPS

As an organization, we are primarily interested in birds of Howard County and what we can do to save them. So this year we will have a one-half day field trip on each Saturday morning following the monthly program meeting. The trips will be to the local good birding areas and great for young birders--so make it a family outing. NOTE: This month the trip will be on Sunday.

SEPTEMBER 15, SUNDAY -- One-half day local birding trip--meet promptly at 7:30 a.m. at the Swansfield Elementary School parking lot. David Holmes, Leader.

SEPTEMBER 22, SUNDAY: A special trip to beautiful Hawk Mountain near Kempton, Pa. This will be at the peak of the broad-winged hawk migration (thousands may be seen if the weather is right). Last year on this date, sharp-shinned, Cooper's, marsh hawks, kestrel and osprey were also seen. A new head-quarters building has opened since our last visit. This is a full day's trip so bring lunch. Meet at 7 a.m. at Swansfield Elementary School parking lot for car-pooling. Larry Hood, leader.

OCTOBER 5, SATURDAY: We join the Middle Patuxent Valley Association for a local birding trip for beginners. The emphasis will be on how to use field guides and binoculars in identifying birds. Leader will be Jay Sheppard. Meet at 7:30 a.m., Swansfield Elementary School parking lot.

A NEW YEAR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP PROMPTLY

SEPTEMBER BEGINS A NEW YEAR AND OUR THIRD SEASON. OUR CHAPTER HAS GROWN DURING THAT TIME AND HAPPILY WE HAVE HAD VERY FEW WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS ANNUALLY. IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN AND WE ARE ATTACHING THE MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. PLEASE RENEW PROMPTLY AND COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GROW "BIGGER AND BETTER" AND THE BOARD WOULD WELCOME MORE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION IN SOME OF THE IMPORTANT AREAS WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP, SUCH AS FIELD RESEARCH PROJECTS AND JUNIOR ACTIVITIES. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE CONTACT TOM MOYER (730-0138), MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN.

SIGHTINGS: A pied-billed grebe on Wilde Lake on August 31 reminds us that the fall migration is underway and that visitors to the lake who feed and watch the mallards should bring binoculars to search out interesting visitors.

