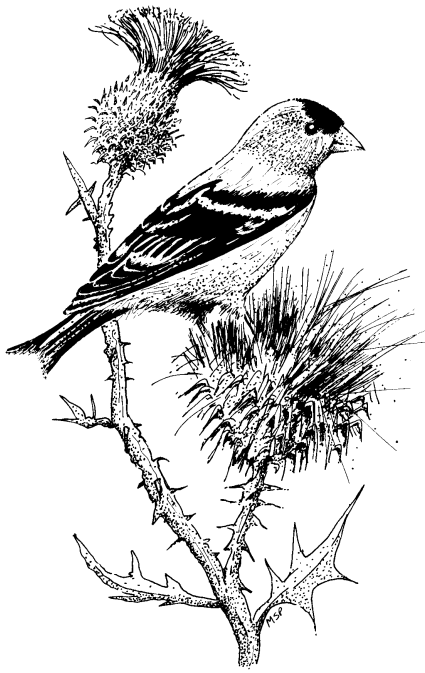


The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club • A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



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Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Copy may be mailed, or e-mailed to Suzanne Probst
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SUMMER BIRD RECORDS JUNE 1 TO JULY 31, 2005

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Despite a hot, wet summer birders turned up some notable species. Among the more unusual were Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Mississippi Kite, Alder Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, and Dickcissel (two sites). Confirmed breeding for Hooded Merganser and Dickcissel were excellent records.

A **Common Loon** made a late appearance at Centennial Park 6/7 (JTv). A **Double-crested Cormorant** was spotted at the Johns Hopkins APL pond 6/25 (WEb) and two were at Lake Kittamaquundi 7/3 (MJa). An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** made sporadic appearances at Lake Elkhorn between 7/10 (J&CW) and 7/17 (SN). Three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were at Elkhorn 6/15 (SN).

Glencoe Country School was host to nests of both vulture species. **Black Vultures** nested in the old water tower; unfortunately, the lone chick died. **Turkey Vultures** fledged two young from a natural cavity with a 1.5 foot x 8 inch opening which was 9.5 feet above the ground in a tulip poplar. Enthusiastic atlasers followed the progress of the nest* (LL,PSm+).

A pair of **Gadwalls** stopped at Centennial 6/2 (SAr). A male **Ring-necked Duck**, which had been at the Larriland ponds along Rt 94 since at least 6/27/04, was last seen 6/7/05 (KT). Three partly grown **Hooded Mergansers** were observed diving in a flooded portion of Cattail Creek near Jennings Chapel Rd 6/17 (BHi). This is one of the county's few breeding records.

Ospreys were reported at Centennial 6/2 (SAr), MPEA 6/5 (WEb), Marriottsville Rd 6/12 (RC), and Manahan Dr 6/13 (BO). The **Bald Eagle** nest on Duckett Reservoir contained two nestlings (*vide* EH). Summer **Sharp-shinned Hawks** are unusual: one was seen along Highland Rd 6/13 (PZ). A **Cooper's Hawk** nest with two nestlings was observed near Brush Run, e. Columbia in late July (C&JW). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** nest with three nestlings was noted in Kings Contrivance 6/5 (D&LSO). The most unusual raptor of the season was an adult **Mississippi Kite** perched atop an ornamental cherry tree on Meadow Glen Rd west of Clarksville 7/2 (MW). Of the half dozen county records, this is the only one in which the observer has had a clear look at a perched bird. Unfortunately, it was not relocated after it flew.

A cock **Ring-necked Pheasant** was present at private property along Old Columbia Rd south of Rt 216 during the first half of June (*vide* JS). **Wild Turkeys** continued to appear at improbable locations. A hen flew across Old Frederick Rd near Mt. Hebron High School 6/11 (MaWr). A tom was noted in a yard in Hallmark several times in June (WEb), and a turkey was spotted along Ilchester Rd 7/5 (KL). Two **Northern Bobwhites** were reported: one at an undisclosed location in western HowCo 6/18 (HH) and one at a farm on Shady La 7/1 and for several additional weeks (MG).

(*Summer Bird Records continues on page 2.*)

The last spring **Spotted Sandpipers** lingered at Fore Bay until 6/4 (**JW**) and at Alpha Ridge landfill until 6/11 (**RC**). The first fall shorebirds were five **Semipalmated Sandpipers** which appeared at Western Regional Park 7/29 (**B&GHI**). By 7/31 there were up to four **Least Sandpipers** at the same location (**EH,JS; B&GHI**).

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard near West Friendship 6/1 (**LC**), one was at Bon Secours 7/3 (**RC**), and one was present all summer on Duvall Rd (**KT**). **Eastern Screech-Owls** again nested on Tall Ships Rd (**JMcKg**). A vocalizing **Alder Flycatcher** was a tardy migrant along Shady La 6/4 (**BHI**). A **Yellow-throated Vireo**, on a stunningly crafted nest in a chestnut oak, was photographed at Bon Secours on Marriottsville Rd 6/5 (**RC**)*. **Cliff Swallows** were reported utilizing the northbound bridge on Rt 32 over Cedar Lane (**Web**). Four **Veeries** were heard along the Middle Patuxent River near Triadelphia Rd 6/1 (**BO,EH**) and at least seven were at the MPEA 6/18 (**Web**).

Two species of migrant warblers were still present the first week of June: **Magnolia** at MPEA 6/5 (**Web;MSz**) and **Blackpoll** in Hammond Village 6/1 (**JS**). Atlasing turned up some fine records, although a **Northern Parula** feeding a **Brown-headed Cowbird** 6/21 along the Patapsco in the Sykesville NW block was bittersweet (**DH**). The county had never recorded an active **Pine Warbler** nest until one was found with nestlings on Roxbury Mill Rd 7/5 (**BHI**). It was approximately 75 feet above ground on a horizontal 15 foot limb, approximately 10 feet from the trunk of a 90 foot pine. The observer followed a tip based on a bird heard while running a mini-route for the Woodbine SE atlas block (**DHo**). **Prothonotary Warblers** are scarce breeders in the county. Historically, most nestings have occurred along the Patapsco River. This summer, a male was singing above Browns Bridge on the Howard side of the Patuxent River 6/11, not far from a pair that nested in Montgomery Co (**DOI**). Farther

upstream, a male was present near the junction of the Patuxent River with Cabin Branch 6/12, mostly on the Montgomery side of the river (**B&GHI**). In a more traditional location, two males were singing west of Old Frederick Rd 7/4, one on the Howard side of the Patapsco and the other on the Baltimore side (**JS,EH**). The Woodbine SE block reported 12 species of breeding warblers this year (**K&BB**). Confirmations from this dozen were **Pine, Worm-eating, Hooded, Ovenbird** and **Louisiana Waterthrush (BHI)**. The Clarksville CW block produced 11 warbler species including confirmed **Northern Parula, Ovenbird**, and **American Redstart (RPO)**. A **Black-and white Warbler** feeding young in the Damascus CE block 6/26 was a fine record (**MBR**). How nice that there still are breeding warblers in the county!

A pair of **Summer Tanagers** at Bon Secours 6/19 was an unexpected sighting. A first year male together with a female vocalized as they fed (**RC**). Despite efforts that day and on subsequent days, they could not be relocated. Although this species has been reported several times in late May, this is the county's first summer record.

A **Vesper Sparrow** was still singing in Damascus CE the last week of July (**MBR**). One was also found along A.E. Mullinix Rd 7/31 (**EH,MBR,JS**). An adjacent field held a small colony of **Savannah Sparrows** with at least three singing males (**JS,EH,MBR**). Confirmation of this secretive species eluded several observers despite repeated attempts. A **Swamp Sparrow**, which had been observed nest building 5/14 at Race Rd for the first confirmed county breeding of this species (**JMa**), was still present 6/28 (**JS**). A possible **White-throated Sparrow** was reported singing in undergrowth at Centennial 7/29 (**JTv**). Without seeing the bird there is always the possibility that a talented starling or mockingbird was vocalizing; however, the bird was heard at 8:30 a.m. and again at noon in the same area and was not

reported again. There are two previous summer records.

Dickcissels invaded Maryland this year in significant numbers. Alpha Ridge landfill proved attractive with one singing male on 6/4 (**RC**). By mid-June, four males were present singing in adjoining territories. On 6/25, a female was spotted and a nest with four eggs was discovered in crown vetch adjacent to a gravel road (**RC,JS**). This was the second verified county nesting (previous record in 1974). Unfortunately, a subsequent visit found the nest tipped, eggs destroyed or cold, and the nest deserted. Storms or deer (which appeared to have bedded adjacent to the nest site) could have been the cause for the failure. On 7/29, in the territory of a different male a few hundred yards from the original nest, four birds were seen: a male, a female, and two fledged young (**RC**)*. Another singing male Dickcissel was found adjacent to a field on Roxbury Rd 7/4 (**MG,BP**). No evidence of nesting was established. This bird was last seen 7/31 (**MG**).

Observers: **SAr**-Stan Arnold, **K&BB**-Karan & Bill Blum, **MBR**-Marilyn Brinkley, **LC**-Lisa Colangelo, **RC**-Ralph Cullison III, **Web**-Ward Ebert, **MG**-Mary Gustafson, **DH**-Dave Harvey, **BHI**-Bill Hill, **GHI**-Gayle Hill, **HH**-Hans Holbrook, **EH**-Emy Holdridge, **DHo**-David Holmes, **MJa**-Marcus James, **LL**-Lauri Lee, **KL**-Kathy Litzinger, **JMa**-John Maloney, **JMcKg**-Janet McKegg, **SN**-Sue Neri, **DOI**-Daryl Olson, **BO**-Bonnie Ott, **BP**-Bruce Peterjohn, **RPO**-Ron Polniaszek, **Psm**-Phil Smith, **JS**-Jo Solem, **D&LSO**-Dan & Linda Southworth, **MSz**-Marcie Stutzman, **KT**-Kate Tufts, **JTv**-June Tveekrem, **MW**-Mark Wallace, **CW**-Carol Wilkinson, **JW**-Jim Wilkinson, **MaWr**-Martha Wright, **PZ**-Paul Zucker.

MPEA—Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

HowCo—Howard County

*photograph posted at www.howardbirds.org

Bird Feeding Bonanza

A local company no longer selling bird feeding supplies has donated its remaining inventory to the Bird Club. It consists largely of suet cakes and suet feeders, along with some hummingbird feeders, thistle feeders, and mixed seed feeders.

All items will be available for sale at the November 10 meeting.

Suet cakes will be sold at \$1.00 per cake or a box of 12 for \$5.00. Six flavors of suet cakes. Great gifts for relatives, friends, teachers, and co-workers.

All other items at bargain prices.

No guarantees, but all items are new and suet cakes are within sell dates.

Proceeds to habitat preservation.

If you are unable to attend the November meeting and wish to order items, contact Bob or Jo Solem at odenata@msn.com or 301-725-5037.

YOUR LIST COUNTS!

BY JANE COSKREN

A list of all the birds seen in the county during the 2005 calendar year is being compiled for the 26th consecutive year. Did we break any records this year? Only you can help us decide. Assemble your sightings for the year (even if the list was compiled in your neighborhood or your yard) and mail to Jane Coskren, 6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia MD 21045 any time after December 31, but not later than March 3, 2006. The length of the list isn't important because your list may contain the bird that will make 2005 a year for the record books.



Eastern Bluebird

THANK YOU TO DAVE HOLYOKE

Alas, all good things must come to an end. . . this issue marks the last time that Dave Holyoke is performing his duty as editor of *The Goldfinch*. Therefore, as the graphic designer for this publication, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Dave. For the past three years, Dave did a great job of gathering and editing the articles that went into each issue of this newsletter! In addition, he brought a great sense of humor as well as organization to the entire process. Dave, please consider this article as a great round of applause from all of us in the Howard County Bird Club!

SUMMARY OF THE 2005 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT

BY MIKE MCCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

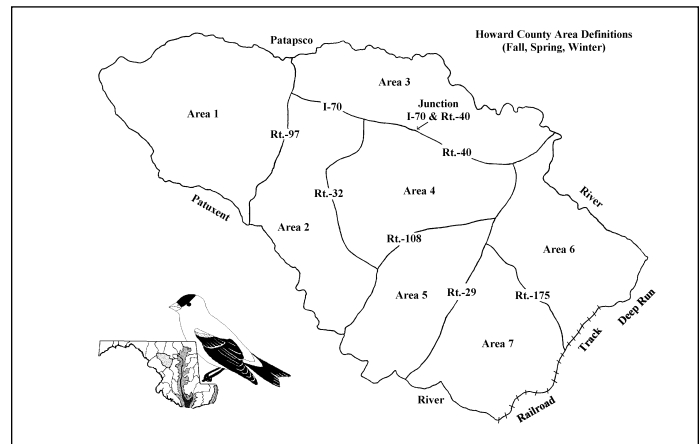
The twelfth annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 17, 2005. All field counters agreed it was a very slow day of birding; however, 135 species were observed which was close to the Fall Count high. Comparison totals for the prior 11 years are as follows: high, 136 on 9/19/1998; low, 108 on 9/18/2004; average, 125 species.

The number of participants and parties (58 and 41) was up from last year's (47 and 26) which was low due to Hurricane Ivan. The totals for party miles and hours are shown on the tally sheet. The participants provided about 216 hours of field count time vice an average of 186 hours (16% increase). The mileage was 487, which was above last year's and greater than the average of 379 miles. The total of individual birds tallied to 14,902 which is below the average. Comparisons to prior years: high, 26,651 on 9/17/1994; low, 9,293 on 9/18/2004; average, 17,685 birds. Finally, there were 21 warbler species identified compared to prior years (high, 30; low, 13; average, 25 species) with 295 individual warblers sighted compared to an average of 464 for the 12 years of records.

During the last nine years (includes 2005) the Fall Count has been adversely affected by the weather on six occasions (67% of the time). These weather events ranged from severe drought, to extensive rainfall, to unseasonably hot and humid conditions, to comfortable temperature and humidity accompanied by high winds for the day. Saturday's temperature started in the upper 60's at 6:00 a.m. and was in the middle 80's for the daylight hours with tolerable humidity (dew point: 66 degrees at 6:00 a.m. and decreasing to 62 degrees by the mid afternoon). Winds were nonexistent. So while not ideal conditions, it was a welcome relief that Hurricane Ophelia tracked to the east of the mid-Atlantic region sparing another major rain event for this count day. In spite of the weather, the count was very slow with the birds only showing up at a very slow rate, and frustrating all of the participants. In fact this is a growing problem observed on all of the annual counts; winter, spring and fall. This problem is further reflected in the data from the 12 years of fall counts as shown on the graphic for the number of individual birds observed countywide.

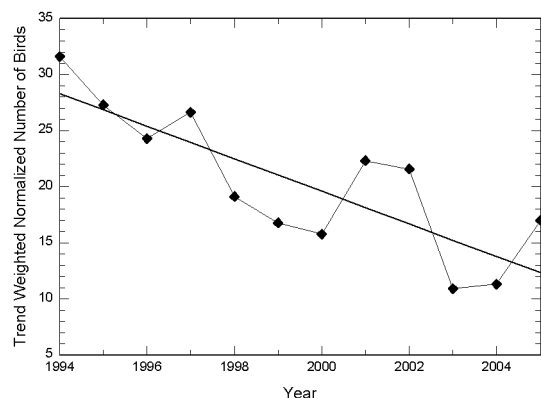
The accompanying table presents the count data. There were 23 species for which there was only one bird sighted countywide and 6 species for which there were only two birds sighted countywide. Species showing moderately high numbers were: Canada Goose, 1,619, Common Grackle, 1,192; and European Starling, 1,901. However, new to fall count were White-rumped Sandpiper (4 birds) and Stilt Sandpiper (1 bird) sighted in area 1.

Thanks to all participants and those who acted as **area coordinators (shown in bold)** for the count: Elaine & Stan Arnold, Randy Beaton, **Karan & Bill Blum (Area 4)**, Lisa Colangelo,



Dennis & Jane Coskren, **Jeff Culler (Area 2)**, Ralph Cullison III, **Karen Darcy (Area 3 Co-coordinator)**, Justin Earp, Wes Earp, Ward Ebert, Erin Eve, Tracy Eve, Tom Feild, John Finedore, Jeff Friedhoffer, **Kevin Heffernan, (Area 3 Co-coordinator)**, Bill & Gayle Hill, Emy Holdridge, Mike Kerwin, Mike Leumas, Brigitte Lund, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina & **Mike McClure (County Co-coordinator)**, John McKitterick, Elayne & Jeff Metter, Barry Miller, Sue Neri, Carol Newman, Daryl Olson, **Bonnie Ott (Area 6)**, Karla Pearce, Anita Picco, Ron & Susan Polniaszek, Suzanne Probst, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5)**, Susan Setterberg, Philip Smith, Romayne Smith, Bob & Jo Solem, **Michelle Stewart (Area 7)**, **Chuck Stirrat (County Co-coordinator)**, Tom Strikwerda, Robin Todd, Kate Tufts, June Tveekrem, **Mark Wallace (Area 1)**, Michele Wright. **Lastly a very special thanks to Don and Martha Waugh who hosted the evening tally.**

This thirteenth fall count provided an enjoyable, although difficult time in the field for the participants. As usual the camaraderie at the evening tally was spirited and provided the participants with ample opportunity to question why the fall count was planned to be held near the date of maximum storm activity during the hurricane season. Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and, if possible, attend the tally as well. Next year the fall count will be held on September 16, which is the third Saturday of the month.



HOWARD CO. FALL BIRD COUNT - September 17, 2005																	
Species & Codes (1) / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	Species & Codes / Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Common Loon					1			1	Winter Wren	1							1
Pied-billed Grebe				2			2	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1						1
Double-crested Cormorant							2	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			6		3			10
Great Blue Heron	7	7	5	5	8	5	11	48	Eastern Bluebird	61	33	66	13	16	31		220
Great Egret				2			2	4	Veery	2			1				3
Green Heron	2	1	3	6	10	4	4	30	Swainson's Thrush			1					1
Black-crowned Night-Heron					2			2	Wood Thrush	14	5	6	3	4	1	5	38
Black Vulture	5	65	24	37		18	4	153	American Robin	189	21	71	37	116	96	142	672
Turkey Vulture	68	68	30	40	5	54	20	285	Gray Catbird	89	25	70	99	78	43	59	463
Canada Goose	126	196	101	261	564	256	115	1,619	Northern Mockingbird	25	20	23	16	27	26	24	161
Mute Swan							1	1	Brown Thrasher	8		8	1	9	12		38
Wood Duck	13	6	8	1	1	1	2	32	European Starling	715	84	177	81	283	364	197	1,901
American Black Duck	1							1	American Pipit				1				1
Mallard	4		17	74	39	31	71	236	Cedar Waxwing	5	6	9	1	23			44
Blue-winged Teal	1	1		2				4	Blue-winged Warbler					2		1	3
Green-winged Teal				1				1	Tennessee Warbler			1					1
Hooded Merganser				2				2	Nashville Warbler			2		1		1	4
Osprey	1	2	2	3				8	Northern Parula			3		4		1	8
Bald Eagle [adim/unk]		1						1	Yellow Warbler			2	1				3
Northern Harrier			1	1				2	Chestnut-sided Warbler	2		2	2	1	1		8
Sharp-shinned Hawk			3	2				5	Magnolia Warbler	13		8	4	12	3	4	44
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	4		2		2	11	Blk.-thrd. Blue Warbler			1		2		1	4
accipiter species	2			2	1			8	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler			2		2			4
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	4	11	2	6	3	32	Blk.-thrd. Green Warbler	6	3	5				1	15
Broad-winged Hawk		1		8				9	Blackburnian Warbler		1						1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	3	6	3	3	5	23	Pine Warbler	1		1				1	3
American Kestrel	3		6			1	2	12	Palm Warbler	1		3			1		5
Northern Bobwhite							1	1	Blackpoll Warbler			5	2				7
Sora				2				2	Black-&-white Warbler	8	3	5	4	3	2		25
Killdeer	81	4	3	10	21	2	22	143	American Redstart	6	1	11	3	4	2	6	33
Lesser Yellowlegs	3				4			7	Worm-eating Warbler				1				1
Solitary Sandpiper	4			2				6	Ovenbird				1		1	5	7
Spotted Sandpiper	1	6	1				2	10	Northern Waterthrush		1					1	2
Semipalmated Sandpiper		3						3	Mourning Warbler						1		1
Least Sandpiper	4	2		10	8			24	Common Yellowthroat	26	1	22	4	12	6	8	79
White-rumped Sandpiper	4							4	warbler species		1	7	23	5		1	37
Pectoral Sandpiper	6							6	Scarlet Tanager	8	1	2		5		2	18
Stilt Sandpiper	1							1	Eastern Towhee	10	1	8	7	5	9	11	51
Wilson's Snipe	1							1	Chipping Sparrow	25	5	24	2	31	22		109
Laughing Gull			3					3	Field Sparrow	9		16		2			27
Ring-billed Gull			1	3		4		8	Savannah Sparrow			2					2
Rock Pigeon	55	24	28	89		161	1	358	Grasshopper Sparrow	6							6
Mourning Dove	115	43	168	58	57	62	129	632	Song Sparrow	38	3	18	14	6	3	5	87
Black-billed Cuckoo					1			1	sparrow species	4		9	10				23
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	4		2		2	1	12	Northern Cardinal	99	23	105	119	86	65	74	571
Eastern Screech-Owl	2				1	2		5	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2		3	1	2	1		9
Great Horned Owl	1	1				1		3	Blue Grosbeak			9			2		11
Barred Owl	2				1	3	1	7	Indigo Bunting	107		23	1	9	2	3	145
Common Nighthawk				1				1	Bobolink	1			80				81
Chimney Swift	21	9	242	88	10	101	11	482	Red-winged Blackbird			11	26	40	7	8	92
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	2	7	5	2	1	1	24	Eastern Meadowlark			4					4
Belted Kingfisher	6	3	11	2	2	2	3	29	Common Grackle	497				200	58	437	1,192
Red-bellied Woodpecker	24	13	32	16	23	40	27	175	Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1		26	10			38
Downy Woodpecker	32	8	19	11	32	17	23	142	blackbird species				3				3
Hairy Woodpecker	6	4	1	5	5	1	1	23	Orchard Oriole		1						1
Northern(Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	12	2	14	7	7	11	14	67	Baltimore Oriole	1	2	1					4
Pileated Woodpecker	5	4	6	1	1	5	3	25	House Finch	4	3	29	19	17	40	5	117
Olive-sided Flycatcher			1					1	American Goldfinch	87	25	157	86	20	90	194	659
Eastern Wood-Pewee	19	4	12	4	8	2	7	56	House Sparrow	10	15	23	40	43	43	113	287
Acadian Flycatcher				2		5	5	12	Area Total Birds:	3,450	959	2,136	1,814	2,258	2,049	2,236	14,902
Empidonax species	11		1	4	4	1	2	23	Area Total Species:	88	68	87	80	72	72	71	135
Eastern Phoebe	11	8	9	7	1	1	6	43	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Great Crested Flycatcher	2	1						3	Supplemental Data								
Eastern Kingbird						1		1	Time Start:	6:00 a	6:00 a	7:00 a	6:45 a	5:30 a	5:30 a	7:00 a	5:30 a
White-eyed Vireo	10	2	1	9	15	8	5	50	Time Stop:	7:45 p	2:30 p	5:30 p	5:30 p	3:15 p	6:30 p	4:00 p	7:45 p
Yellow-throated Vireo	5	1	2	2		1		11	Hours on Foot:	41.8	11.5	27.2	19.4	27.3	21.5	25.8	174.5
Warbling Vireo						1		1	Hours by Car:	7.8	1.8	2.5	.7	2.2	4.7	1.7	21.4
Philadelphia Vireo						1		1	Miles on Foot:	25.5	8.0	24.0	12.8	20.7	20.0	25.0	136.0
Red-eyed Vireo	3	1	15	2	11	10	8	50	Miles by Car:	79.0	67.5	29.7	45.0	43.0	50.0	36.1	350.3
Blue Jay	122	70	97	95	87	56	98	625	Hours Feeder Watching:								
American Crow	88	23	44	10	20	85	34	304	Hours Stationary:		3.5		9.3	3.0	2.0		17.8
Fish Crow	169	2	6		8	1	2	188	Hours "Owling":	.2				1.0	1.0		2.2
crow species	66	23	16	25	4		39	173	Miles "Owling":	.1				6.0	5.0		11.1
Horned Lark	18		1					19	Area Code:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals
Tree Swallow	2			3			12	17	Total Observers in Area:	10	9	7	9	8	7	11	56
Barn Swallow			1	4				5	Total Parties in Area:	7	5	6	8	6	4	5	41
Carolina Chickadee	48	17	64	39	68	44	72	352	Total Party-Hours (Reg.):	49.6	13.3	29.7	20.1	29.5	26.2	27.5	195.9
Tufted Titmouse	34	8	50	31	40	18	47	228	Total Party-Hours (Feeder):								
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4		1		1	4	4	14	Total Party-Hours (Station'y):		3.5		9.3	3.0	2.0		17.8
White-breasted Nuthatch	26	8	48	19	25	17	30	173	Total Party-Hours (Owling):	.2				1.0	1.0		2.2
Carolina Wren	77	20	45	48	61	53	64	368	Total Party-Hours:	49.8	16.8	29.7	29.3	33.5	29.2	27.5	215.8
House Wren	18	1	12	2	9	12	3	57	Total Party-Miles:	104.5	75.5	53.7	57.8	63.7	70.0	61.1	486.3
Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals	Area No.:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Totals

2006 MOS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

BY TOM STRIKWERDA

As announced in the September/October *Yellowthroat*, MOS is now accepting applications from Maryland teachers, park rangers, and youth leaders for scholarships to attend summer ecology and ornithology workshops conducted by the Audubon Society in Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Those accepted into the program receive tuition, room, and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction in ecology, ornithology, conservation, and natural history. The value of each scholarship is from \$800 to \$1,000. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient. Each year MOS awards approximately ten scholarships.

Please note: Brochures from the camps are not available until January, so specific dates for camps are not known at this time. The scholarship chairperson, MOS chapter presidents, or MOS chapter representatives can provide general descriptions of the content of workshops. Websites of the respective Audubon organizations provide additional information; however, not all workshops listed are approved for the MOS Scholarship program. Winners are notified by early March.

To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must work with young people. Typical applicants are teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, students, and others who intend to make nature education a part of their careers. Applicants need not be members of MOS, but they must be endorsed by a chapter or a member of MOS. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Each candidate must submit the following:

- 1) A written statement in the form of a letter showing how the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our natural heritage and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment.
- 2) Two letters of recommendation from individuals who know of the candidate's interests, activities, abilities, and potential. One of these letters should be from either a member of MOS or a chapter of MOS. It is extremely helpful if the letters of recommendation cite specific activities, accomplishments, or projects in which the applicant was involved, in addition to personal qualities.
- 3) A current resume.

For further information, please consult with our chapter president, Jeff Friedhoffer or me at 301-942-2841; tom.strikwerda@verizon.net; 9806 Culver Ct, Kensington, MD 20895. **Applications for the 2006 workshops are due by January 31, 2006.**

CONSERVATION COLUMN

"BOTTOM OF THE NINTH, TWO OUTS, STRIKE ONE"

BY KURT SCHWARZ

The United States' most critically endangered bird species is likely the Po'ouli. As of November 26, 2004, only two members of the species remained alive.

The Po'ouli is a black and gray honeycreeper endemic to the island of Maui, in Hawaii. The name of the bird means "black head" in Hawaiian, and it does, indeed, have a prominent black mask. The bird, which was distinctive enough to be placed in its own genus, subsists largely on native Hawaiian tree snails.

It was first discovered in 1973, when the population was thought to number about 200. The last known breeding of the species occurred in 1996. By 2003, the population was reduced to three individuals, what were thought to be two females and one male. Since the ranges of these birds did not overlap, the likelihood of them breeding was nil. So in 2002, one of the putative females was captured and moved to the home range of the remaining male. "She", however, returned to its home range within 24 hours. A decision was made in 2002 to bring the remaining three into captivity, to attempt breeding there.

It turns out that the Po'ouli can be quite elusive. Between that, weather, and funding problems that led to the cancellation of three expeditions, the first bird, thought to be a female, was not captured until September 9, 2004. The bird, in fact, turned out to be a male. In songbird terms, it was quite old, being at least 8 years old. In addition, it had lost an eye and was suffering from avian malaria. The exact cause of death had not been determined initially, but one website attributes the death to malaria.

The surviving two birds remain unaccounted for, and have not been seen recently. Their future remains very uncertain. Even if they are captured, the lack of genetic diversity available from just two birds may ultimately doom the species. DNA from the captured bird, meanwhile, has been frozen, though just what that might lead to is also unclear.

The demise of the Po'ouli was the result of several causes, the primary ones likely being destruction of habitat by introduced mammals, primarily pigs, and predation by other aliens such as mongooses, cats, and rats. The death of the bird to malaria points out yet another hazard to Hawaiian native birds, an introduced disease to which the native Hawaiian species have no immunity.

For further information see the October 2004 and February 2005 editions of the Hawaii Audubon Society's journal 'ELEPAIO, the July and November 2004 editions of the American Bird Conservancy's BIRD CALLS, and these websites: <http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/pubs/engdgrspp/> and <http://eastmauiwatershed.org/Birds/poul.htm>

CLUB MEETINGS—BY JANE GEUDER

Club meetings are held at

Howard County Recreation & Parks Headquarters
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21046

If schools are closed for the day or close early due to snow and/or ice, all indoor facilities are closed for the day. You can check on the status of programs and facilities by calling the recorded program status line at 410-313-4451.

Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m.
 Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Jeff Friedhoffer, 410-997-5366.

Thursday, November 10 "Birds and Bats of Brazil," by George Jett and Gwen Brewer. Explore the diversity of western Brazil through photographs from a 12-day, 500 mile trip down the Amazon and its tributaries. Our speakers are members of the Southern Maryland Audubon Society as well as active members of MOS. George spoke to our club ten years ago concerning the decline in neotropical migrants.

Thursday, December 8 "Establishing Wildlife Habitat on Residential Property," by Daryl Dutrow. Tired of mowing your lawn? Consider a wildlife friendly landscape using native plants to attract birds, butterflies and other helpful insects. Daryl, owner of Wildlife Landscapes since 1995, is a long-time member of the Maryland Native Plant Society and the Baltimore Bird Club.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB FALL TRIPS—BY BONNIE OTT

FIELD TRIPS are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Plan to arrive at the meeting area with enough time to be prepared to begin birding at the designated time. Carpooling is encouraged. Come prepared with appropriate footwear and gear (the trip description will offer advice). The leader has the option to cancel due to inclement weather. Directions for trips not on ADC maps may be found on the howardbirds.org website. If you have questions, call or e-mail the trip leader at the number/ address listed in the trip description, or field trip coordinator, **Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361** or bonnieott@verizon.net

To help make trips successful please stay behind the leader, keep talking to a minimum and stay with the group. Don't hesitate to ask questions or alert the leader to something you've spotted. Howard Bird Club members will be given priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

ALPHA RIDGE PARK AND LANDFILL

Nov. 5, Saturday. 8:00 a.m. (3 hrs)

Meet at parking lot on the right, just inside the gate to Alpha Ridge Park. Moderate to difficult walking through the fields looking for lingering sparrows and early winter arrivals. The landfill has a good chance of hosting rarities. Possibility of walking through tall, wet grass. Boots recommended. Facilities at park. Leader-Ralph Cullison 410-442-2181.

HOWARD WATERFOWL SEARCH

Nov. 19, Saturday. 8:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Meet at Broken Land Parkway parking lot at Lake Elkhorn. Plan to visit the Columbia lakes to search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons and other waterfowl. Easy walking involved. Plan to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. Leader-Jane Coskren 410-381-7344.

BLACKWATER WILDLIFE REFUGE

Dec. 3, Saturday. 6:30 a.m. (all day)

Meet at Rt. 32/Broken Land Parkway park-and-ride, north lot. We will bird the Choptank River Bridge before going to the refuge. Targeting waterfowl and wintering raptors with the likelihood of Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl. The spectacle of huge flocks of Snow and Canada Geese worth the trip! Facilities at some stops. Pack lunch, snacks and beverages. Scopes useful. Leader-Stan Arnold 410-768-0155 or 410-428-7567 (cell).

CENTENNIAL PARK

Nov. 6, Sunday. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)

Meet at Centennial Park west end parking lot. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available. Leader-Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329.

CENTENNIAL PARK

Nov. 20, Sunday. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)

Meet at Centennial Park west end parking lot. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Leaders-Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 and Karen Darcy 410-552-9342.

CENTENNIAL PARK

Nov. 13, Sunday. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)

Meet at Centennial Park west end parking lot. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Leader-TBA.

CENTENNIAL PARK


Nov. 27, Sunday. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)

Meet at Centennial Park west end parking lot. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Leader-Jeff Friedhoffer 410-997-5366.

START YOUR 2006 LIST

Jan. 1, 2006. Sunday. 8:00 a.m. (half day)

(Possibility of lunch stop and day trip depending on the weather.) Meet at boat ramp of Centennial Park. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Walking will be moderate. Facilities at some spots. Leader-Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.

 =Great for beginning birders



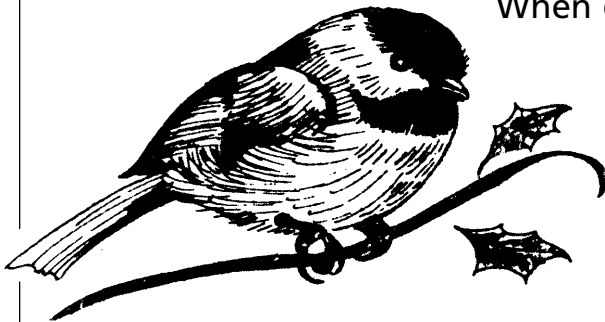
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Your List Counts!	Programs & Field Trips
Thanks to Dave Holyoke	Holiday Shopping Ideas
Twelfth Annual Fall Count	Board Meetings Schedule

HOLIDAY SHOPPING?



When doing your
 holiday shopping,
 why not consider
 a few purchases
 from the club's
 bookstore?

If you are searching for a
 particular title, contact **Ann Marie Raterman**
 (301-847-1958) and ask if she can get you that
 perfect item.

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.

November 17, Thursday
 (Note: this is the **third** Thursday)
 Tracy Eve
 7323 Narrow Wind Way
 Columbia 21044
 410 997-5366

December: No board meeting