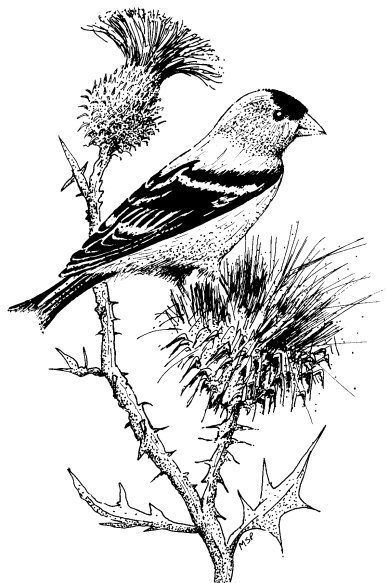


The Goldfinch

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



CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, May 8, 2008 "Why Not Carry a Camera...?" by Michael Oberman. With a degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, Michael Oberman was a music columnist and critic for the Washington Star. He later worked in the music industry for a major record company. His latent interest in photography emerged in 2003 with a trip to New Mexico where he discovered nature through his camera lens. His photos have appeared in books and newspapers nationally and abroad and he had a gallery show at Slayton House in March of 2008.

Meetings are held at Howard County Recreation & Parks Headquarters 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046. In inclement weather, check 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 with program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731.

WINTER BIRD RECORDS DECEMBER 1, 2007 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2008

BY JOANNE SOLEM

A relatively mild winter produced some lovely birds including two new county records. Headliners included Ross's Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Long-eared Owl, Marsh Wren, White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's), Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak.

As usual, a few **Snow Geese** wintered. The high was four on 12/19 at MD99/Camden Meadows Ct where there were 3 wh. (1 ad.) and 1 bl. ad. (NM). The season's choicest sighting and a new county re-

cord was an adult white phase **Ross's Goose** on 12/17 at MD94/Florence Rd (BHi, ph.). It stayed for a few hours and left at sunset. Despite intense searching during the following days, it was seen just once more on the morning of 12/19 in a large flock of **Canada Geese** at MD99/Camden Meadows where it was being harassed by other geese (NM). The Ross's was last seen taking off with a small flock of Canadas heading in a southerly direction. **Cackling Geese** are noted in small numbers each winter. This season's high was three on 12/20 at Brighton Dam (TFe,GKg). Twenty-eight **Gadwall** were present at the Race Road

(Records continued on page 2)

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The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year.

Copy deadline for the September/October issue is July 25, 2008.

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

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders.

Copy may be sent to:

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6134 Starburn Path
Columbia, MD 21045
amanda.witt@yahoo.com

Please visit the Club's website at www.howardbirds.org

(*Records continued from page 1*) wetlands 2/27 (a new high) (NM); 18 at Centennial on 1/26 were an unusually high number for that park (NM). A skittish flock of 121 **Mallards** was watched at a secluded pond on Jennings Chapel Rd 2/2, probably truly wild birds (MW). A pair of **Redheads** visited Centennial 12/9 (KS) to 12/12 (EH). As usual, a few **Canvasbacks**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and **Buffleheads** wintered. A **Greater Scaup** stayed at Warfields Pond Pk from 1/10 (BHi) to 1/20 (KS); another was present at Centennial 1/13 (J&TDC). **Long-tailed Ducks** were recorded in each winter month: 12/1 Triadelphia Reservoir (BHi-1) and 12/9 (JSh-7), 1/3 Centennial (JCu-1), and 2/2 Triadelphia (NM-1). The only **Common Goldeneye** was found at Triadelphia 12/1 (BHi). A few **Hooded Mergansers** were present all winter. The six on 1/9 at Wilde Lake (CN) swelled to ~25 by 2/25 (J&TDC); 28 were still there 2/28 (HZ). Once again **Common Mergansers** were attracted to Triadelphia with numbers increasing from eight on 12/12 (EH) to 1,800+ (a new high) on 1/5 (NM).

Wild Turkeys were noted at five locations: 12/1 Triadelphia (JHb-12), 2/2 Annapolis Rock Rd (JSh+-2), 2/5 Alpha Ridge landfill (BMy-1), early Feb. along MD216 (HMz-2), and 2/13 Duvall Rd (KTf-2). The **Pied-billed Grebe** high was four on 12/1 Lake Elkhorn (SN). An ice storm dropped a **Horned Grebe** into a yard on Nodding Night in River Hill on 2/13. Rehabber **Judy Holzman** picked it up so it could be released on water in order to take off. A **Red-necked Grebe** on Wilde Lake 2/24 tied the early county

date (Wilde Lake 1984) (JHf). Photographs revealed a downcurved upper mandible crossing the lower one. The bird remained into March.

Bald Eagle sightings continued to increase countywide. During the few weeks in January when ponds and lakes were frozen, eagles concentrated near Brighton Dam. On 1/26, at least 24 were counted (9 ad., 11 im., 4 sub-ad.) (NM). On Howard County Midwinter Count (HCMC) 2/2, 17 were tallied at the dam (NM) and an additional seven were noted in other parts of the county. An immature **Northern Goshawk** was watched and, fortunately, photographed 12/15 over the University of Maryland Central Farm (UMDCF) (W&SE, M&GMcC). Because the identification was not easy, Sue's photos were invaluable. From them, **Laurie Goodrich** of Hawk Mt. Sanctuary was able to identify the bird. On HCMC 2/2 an im. No. Goshawk was reported within one-half mile of the Dec. site (SS, MVk). A light phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted just south of the landfill on 2/17 near I-70/US40 East (M&GMcC). A **Merlin** was noted on 2/2 at W. Friendship (JCu) and on 2/3 along McKendree Rd (B&GHi).

A few **American Coots** were reported (NM; WEb, R&SPo). One that appeared at Warfields PP on 2/16 (B&GHi) was still present on 2/28 (KTf). A **Sandhill Crane** (fourth county record) made an appearance for a few hours at Brighton Dam 1/6 (JS, NM, EH+, ph.).

Despite the relatively mild winter, **Killdeer** numbers were low. The high was five at MD32/MD99 on

2/6 (WE). **Wilson's Snipe** were noted twice at UMDCF: 12/15 (W&SE, M&GMcC-1) and 2/8 (BO, EH-2). A few warm days produced four **American Woodcock** the evening of 2/9 at PRSP (W&SE, TFe, KHf, KD+). They were also present near Sykesville from 2/18 on (FLv).

Bonaparte's Gull sightings extended into Dec.: 12/1 Triadelphia 2 (1 ad.) (JHb; EH) and 12/9 Centennial 1 (KS). **Ring-billed Gulls** hit 130 on Triadelphia 12/1 (BHi), including a yellow wing-tagged one from Chicago, Ill., May 2007. Late winter peaks were 270 on 2/6 at MD99/E. Watersville Rd (WE) and 205 on 2/18 along A.E. Mullinix Rd (KTf). The season's lone **Great Black-backed Gull** was spotted 12/15 near Pigtail (MW).

Owls were well-reported with a nest of **Great Horned Owls** along Snowden River Pkwy for the second consecutive year (KS). A **Long-eared Owl** wintered at PRSP (JSh+). There were multiple reports of **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at PRSP (JSh+). A saw-whet was also found 12/15 at MD32 n.e. of Linden Church Rd (W&SE, M&GMcC).

Red-headed Woodpeckers are scarce county birds. Four on 2/2 (all on private property) were unprecedented: Jennings Chapel Rd (MW-1), Forsythe Rd, (D&MH-1 im.), and west of MD97 (W&SE-2 ad.). **Common Ravens** were seen twice: 1/7 PRSP (R&JG - also heard) and 1/10 along US29 north of MD175 (NM). At least a dozen **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports were received with no more than two at any location. On 2/24, a

(*Records continued on page 3*)

(Records continued from page 2)

Carolina Wren got an early start nest building in Clary's Forest, W. Columbia (FP). A **Marsh Wren** spotted in the large patch of cattails at Font Hill Pk 1/5 was just the second Jan. record (JTv).

A high of four **Hermit Thrushes** was recorded 1/12 at Schooley Mill Pk (NM). A lingering **Gray Catbird** was last seen at Talbots Landing 12/22 (R&JG); one was still present at Centennial 2/2 (ML). Two **Brown Thrashers** were seen on 2/2: one at Rockburn Branch Pk (BO,EH) and one along the Patuxent Branch Trail (MSt,BMi). The largest flock of **American Pipits** detected was a low 15 on 12/4 at Florence Rd/Shaffersville Rd (WE). **Cedar Waxwings** roamed in sizeable numbers with 100+ on 12/5 at Warfield PP (BHi) and 125 there on 1/8 (KTf). On 2/27, a flock of 250+ descended on ~20 ornamental trees at the Columbia Mall where they feasted on softened fruit—a memorable sight (MBt).

Yellow-rumped Warblers on HCMC 2/2 set a new high of 90, significantly above the old record of 58. Two **Pine Warblers** wintered. The one at an Allview suet feeder (for the third winter) was present 12/15-2/22 (JMCK). Another, reported on 1/7 (*vide* DN), had been appearing daily for several weeks at a Carrigan Dr suet feeder.

American Tree Sparrows were concentrated at UMDCF where there were 38 on 2/2 (M&GMCC) and 46 (a new high) on 2/8 (BO,EH). Singles were at Schooley MP 12/15 (NM), MPEA 12/19 (BHi), and W. Friendship 12/28 (JCu); two were at Western

Reg. Pk 1/5 along with four **Fox Sparrows** (JW). Seven **Chipping Sparrows** were present at Alpha Ridge landfill 12/28 (RC). The sparrow highlight of the season was the county's first **White-crowned Sparrow** of the Gambel's subspecies—an adult on 2/2 at a silage pit along Florence Rd south of Shaffers Mill Rd (TFe). On 2/3, while searching for the adult, an immature (first winter) was unwittingly photographed at the same site (BHi), where it was spotted again 2/8 (NM,EH,JS). Both birds were seen and photographed 2/9 (TFe). The high count of **Dark-eyed Juncos** was 80+ at Wynfield 1/21 (RC).

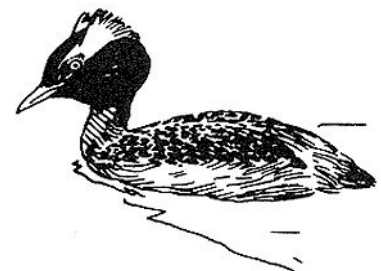
The only **Eastern Meadowlarks** were two on 1/8 at Western RP (KTf). An ad. male **Baltimore Oriole** was noted at Burleigh Manor 12/19 and then regularly through the season feeding on hulled sunflower seeds (JHp); one was also seen at several locations along Iron Pen Pl. in W. Columbia from early Jan. to 1/26 (RKr; FDw).

Northern invasives enlivened the winter. **Purple Finches** were widely reported with highs of 30 on 2/21 at Walt-Ann Dr (CSt) and 20 on 2/26 at Duvall Rd (KTf). The single **Common Redpoll** sighting was 12/7 in Clary's Forest (FP). **Pine Siskins**, often one or two with large flocks of **American Goldfinches**, appeared from 11/23 to 2/24 (RC, KD/KHf, NM, BO, FP, ES). **Evening Grosbeaks**, a rarity in the last two decades, were noted twice: 2/2 McKendree Rd near Rover Mill Rd (POs-2[1 m.]) and 2/4 PRSP headquarters, Annapolis Rock Rd (MSty-2 f.).

Two leucistic birds were reported: a **Canada Goose** 2/24 at W. Friendship with normal head and neck coloring but a white body and wings (JCu), and a **House Sparrow** 2/23 at Swansfield, W. Col. with white on the top of the head, nape, and back (JTv).

Observers: MBt – Monika Botsai, JC – Jane Coskren, TDC – T. Dennis Coskren, JCu – Jeff Culler, RC – Ralph Cullison III, KD – Karen Darcy, FDw – Frances Dawson, SE – Sue Earp, WE – Wesley Earp, WEb – Ward Ebert, TFe – Tom Feild, JG – Jane Geuder, RG – Ralph Geuder, JHf – Joe Hanfman, JHp – Jim Happel, DH – Dave Harvey, MH – Maureen Harvey, KHf – Kevin Heffernan, BHi – Bill Hill, GHi – Gayle Hill, EH – Emmalyn Holdridge, JHb – John Hubbell, GKg – Geraldine King, RKr – Robert Kramer, ML – Mike Leumas, FLv – Felicia Lovelett, NM – Nancy Magnusson, GMCC – Grazina McClure, MMCC – Mike McClure, JMCK – John McKitterick, HMz – Helen Metzman, BMi – Barry Miller, BMy – Brian Moody, DN – Diane Nagengast, SN – Sue Neri, CN – Carol Newman, POs – Peter Osenton, BO – Bonnie Ott, FP – Fred Pierce, RPO – Ron Polniaszek, SPO – Susan Polniaszek, KS – Kurt Schwarz, SS – Susan Setterberg, JSh – Jay Sheppard, JS – Jo Solem, MSty – Mark Staley, MSt – Michelle Stewart, CSt – Chuck Stirrat, ES – Eva Sunell, KTf – Kate Tufts, JTv – June Tveekrem, MVk – Marilyn Veek, MW – Mark Wallace, JW – Jim Wilkinson, HZ – Helen Zeichner.

HCMC – Howard County Midwinter Count, 2/2/08
PRSP – Patuxent River State Park
UMDCF - University of Maryland Central Farm
ph. – photograph



Horned Grebe - Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

TWENTY-THIRD HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 2, 2008

BY JOANNE SOLEM AND JOSEPH BYRNES

A mostly sunny day with partly open water, little wind and 32° F - 45° F temperatures combined for pleasant birding. The day, plus a relatively mild winter, an excellent fruit crop, and northern irruptives enabled us to tie the record high of 94 species! A recognized subspecies of the White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's) was recorded as a new county bird.

For species seen on at least 12 previous counts, 18 new highs were established compared to nine lows. New high totals were Gadwall 19, Common Merganser 1,580, Bald Eagle 24, Red-headed Woodpecker 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 364, White-breasted Nuthatch 362, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 18, Eastern Bluebird 461 (t), and Yellow-rumped Warbler 90. Second highs were Ring-necked Duck 184, Hooded Merganser 67, Cooper's Hawk 13, Red-tailed Hawk 98, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 29, Hairy Woodpecker 48, Pileated Woodpecker 52, Eastern Towhee 101, and Chipping Sparrow 9.

Fortunately, the lows were fewer: Northern Pintail 1 (t), Lesser Scaup 1 (t), Gray Catbird 1 (t), and Brown-headed Cowbird 12 (hurrah!). Second all-time lows were Ruddy Duck 2 (t), Wild Turkey 2 (t), Pied-billed Grebe 2 (t), American Coot 2 (t), and Brown Thrasher 2 (t).

Six species had been seen on two or fewer counts: Cackling Goose, Northern Goshawk, Horned Grebe, Merlin, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Pine Warbler. Long-

tailed Duck had been seen on three prior counts. Two Evening Grosbeaks shared the spotlight. None had been tallied since 1991 when one had been seen. The only year when more than one was recorded was the first count in 1986, which boasted 67! The adult Gambel's Sparrow (a subspecies of the White-crowned) was a great find since it was new for the county (TFe).

With three known county nests, plus others in adjacent counties, Bald Eagle numbers have jumped each of the last three years. This year 17 eagles were counted in the vicinity of Brighton Dam (perched or in the air at once) (NM); seven others were established by time, plumage, etc. in other parts of the county. American Kestrels crept back into double digits to 10, but numbers since 2002 are still depressed. All woodpecker numbers were among the highest ever with several records. Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse numbers hit lows in 2004, but both have been up in each succeeding year (see totals in this issue and cumulative totals on the website under Seasonal Counts). A Gray Catbird and two Brown Thrashers, along with generally high numbers of Carolina Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and Yellow-rumped Warblers indicated ample fruit and mild weather. House Finch numbers were the highest in the last five years. There were no crow or blackbird roosts counted. There are always birds that got away. The county's only wild Mute

Swan died in 2007, so that species is no longer likely. Although this was the best year in recent memory for northern invasives, both Pine Siskin and Common Redpoll were missed, and sightings of an adult male Baltimore Oriole neatly bracketed count day. The chance for a new record will have to wait for another year.

This year for the first time we asked field observers to include the number of deer seen in the course of the day. The depressing total was 203, including about 50 at Rockburn Branch Park.

Many people contributed to the success of the day. In addition to the stalwart counters from this county, the 67 field observers, included birders from Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. We bid farewell to Susan Setterberg, a member and faithful counter; this was her final count with us before moving to California from New Jersey. Best wishes in retirement! Fifteen feeder watchers helped set some of the record highs, although more than one complained that the mild weather reduced the number of birds seen.

As co-compiler, Joe Byrnes did the preparatory work for the count. As usual, he handled the multiple details with precision and care; he is always looking for ways to improve the process. Area leaders arrange coverage, do follow-up if necessary, and compile area totals. Their

(Midwinter Count continued on page 7)

WINTER BIRD COUNT - HOWARD CO. - February 2, 2008							
Species	Totals	Species	Totals	Species	Totals		
Snow Goose	5	Mourning Dove	1,024	Fox Sparrow	11		
Canada Goose	9,248	Eastern Screech-Owl	4	Song Sparrow	461		
Cackling Goose	2	Great Horned Owl	5	Swamp Sparrow	18		
Wood Duck	4	Barred Owl	11	White-throated Sparrow	1,839		
Gadwall	19	Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	White-crowned Sparrow	57		
American Wigeon	8	Belted Kingfisher	29	<i>sparrow species</i>	41		
American Black Duck	151	Red-headed Woodpecker	4	Dark-eyed Junco	1,309		
Mallard	632	Red-bellied Woodpecker	364	Northern Cardinal	1,042		
Northern Pintail	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	29	Red-winged Blackbird	402		
Green-winged Teal	7	Downy Woodpecker	261	Common Grackle	1,570		
Canvasback	3	Hairy Woodpecker	48	Brown-headed Cowbird	12		
Ring-necked Duck	184	Northern(Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	122	<i>blackbird species</i>	378		
Lesser Scaup	1	Pileated Woodpecker	52	Purple Finch	18		
Long-tailed Duck	1	Blue Jay	866	House Finch	621		
Bufflehead	5	American Crow	3,296	American Goldfinch	413		
Hooded Merganser	67	Fish Crow	115	Evening Grosbeak	2		
Common Merganser	1,580	<i>crow species</i>	1,866	House Sparrow	1,050		
Red-breasted Merganser	1	Horned Lark	32		Total Birds:	40,252	
Ruddy Duck	2	Carolina Chickadee	788		Total Species:	94	
Wild Turkey	2	Tufted Titmouse	613				Totals
Pied-billed Grebe	2	Red-breasted Nuthatch	19	Supplemental Data			
Horned Grebe	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	362		Time Start:	4:15 a	
Great Blue Heron	21	Brown Creeper	9		Time Stop:	6:45 p	
Black Vulture	204	Carolina Wren	372		Hours on Foot:	187.9	
Turkey Vulture	342	Winter Wren	9		Hours by Car:	44.0	
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	24	Golden-crowned Kinglet	64		Miles on Foot:	155.1	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	18		Miles by Car:	528.8	
Cooper's Hawk	13	Eastern Bluebird	461		Hours Feeder Watching:	42.3	
<i>accipiter species</i>	6	Hermit Thrush	15		Hours Stationary:	4.0	
Northern Goshawk	1	American Robin	904		Hours "Owling":	6.0	
Red-shouldered Hawk	71	Gray Catbird	1		Miles "Owling":	26.9	
Red-tailed Hawk	98	Northern Mockingbird	287				
<i>buteo species</i>	2	Brown Thrasher	2		Total Field Observers.:	67	
American Kestrel	10	European Starling	3,810		Total Field Parties:	37	
Merlin	1	Cedar Waxwing	826		Total Feederwatchers:	15	
American Coot	2	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	90		Total Feederwatch Parties:	14	
Killdeer	1	Pine Warbler	1		Total Observers in Area:	81	
Ring-billed Gull	493	Eastern Towhee	101		Total Field Party-Hrs (Reg.):	231.9	
Herring Gull	8	American Tree Sparrow	46		Total Party-Hrs (Feeder):	42.3	
<i>gull species</i>	19	Chipping Sparrow	9		Total Party-Hrs (Stationary):	4.0	
Rock Pigeon	645	Field Sparrow	136		Total Party-Hrs (Owling):	6.0	
		Savannah Sparrow	31		Total Party-Hours:	284.1	

DIRECTORY CORRECTION

In the first column on page 4 of the Howard County Bird Club 2007-2008 Directory, please add the following:

Kevin Heffernan
 Karen Darcy
 9775 Diversified Lane
 Ellicott City MD 21042
 (410) 418-8731
 KJHeff@aol.com
 Khdarcy4@aol.com

SITE GUIDES UPDATE

The following Site Guides have been posted on the website:

Alpha Ridge Park
 Font Hill Wetland Park
 High Ridge Park
 Jackson Pond
 Lake Elkhorn/Forebay Pond
 Wilde Lake Park

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB SUMMER 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 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; 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.

WESTERN REGIONAL PARK

May 3, Sat. 8:00 a.m. (half day)
Meet at lot near pond off Carr's Mill Rd. Explore this newly developed county park with a variety of habitats. Some paved roads will provide moderate walking but be prepared to head on to grassy paths or trail blaze into field edge areas. Facilities available. *Leader - Ralph Cullison 410-442-2181.*

BIRDS & WILDFLOWERS AT PATUXENT BR. TRAIL

May 4, Sunday 1:30 p.m. (half day)
Meet in the Wincopin Neck Trails parking lot. From MD 32, take Exit 14B (Broken Land Parkway South) for 0.2 m. to Guilford Rd.; left 0.2 m. to Murray Hill Rd.; right 0.4 m. to Vollmerhausen Rd., left 1.3 m. to parking lot on right. Trail is across the road along the river. Easy walking along a flat, crushed gravel trail. Leaders - Bob and Jo Solem 301-725-5037.

MAY COUNT

May 10, Saturday (See page 8 for details.)

BON SECOURS SPIRITUAL CENTER

May 14, Wed. 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)
Meet at visitors' parking lot. Easy walking through the grounds of this spiritual retreat. Woods, fields, and hedgerows provide opportuni-

ties for a variety of birds. Facilities available. *Leader- Michele Wright 410-465-6057.*

BIG DAY

May 17, Saturday. Limit 12
All day listing extravaganza! 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. *Call Bonnie Ott to sign up 410-461-3361.*

PATAPSCO SHRUBLAND

May 18, Sun. 7:30 a.m. (half day)
Meet at 735 River Road (1 mile from either end of River Rd.), park by house (right-hand split up long drive). Moderate to possibly difficult walking. We'll start in the shrubland to look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Depending on conditions, we may continue into the woods. The trails are steep with several stream crossings, so bring appropriate footwear. Facilities available. *Leader - Felicia Lovell 410-489-7169.*

HOT SPOTS FOR RED KNOTS 2008

May 24, Saturday 6:00 a.m. (all day)
Meet at the Meadowbrook park and ride, off MD 100, just east of MD 29. Joint trip with the Montgomery

County Bird Club. We will start at the visitor's center for Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge and work our way north along the Bay. We will also visit the new nature center at Mispillion Light. Bring binoculars, scopes, food, water, sunscreen, and lots of insect repellent.

The trip will be limited to 12 persons/3 vehicles per chapter. Contact one of the co-leaders to reserve a spot: Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@comcast.net, 410-461-1643. Cyndie Loeper will lead for MontCo.

ROCKBURN BRANCH PARK

May 25, Sunday 8:00 a.m. (half day)
Meet in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse. Moderate but lengthy walking through the woods and fields of our largest county park looking for early migrants. Paths may be muddy. Facilities available. *Leader - Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.*

DRAGONFLY WALK AT MT. PLEASANT


June 14, Sat. 10:00 a.m. (2 hours)
Meet in front of Gudelsky Nature Center. Learn about these interesting insects. Cancelled in case of rain. Facilities at Howard County Conservancy. *Leaders - Bob and Jo Solem 301-725-5037.*

BALTIMORE CHECKER-SPOT WETLANDS

July 10, Thurs. 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet at Lisbon park and ride on Rt. 94. Visit three Montgomery Co. locations where turtlehead has been planted and caterpillars have been relocated. Learn about efforts to save our state butterfly. Rain date July 17th. Limit 15. There will be a van from Black Hill RP that holds eleven. First signups may travel in the van. Limited facilities. Contact Kate Tufts to sign up: ktufts@verizon.net or 410-489-7052.

DRAGONFLY COUNT

August 23, Saturday (See this page for details.)

 = Great for beginning birders

3RD ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT

Saturday August 23, 2008

No experience needed!

Come enjoy these colorful and interesting creatures. Each group of observers (with an experienced leader) spends one day visiting ponds and rivers in an assigned region of the county. The group identifies and counts every dragonfly and damselfly seen. Tally and light meal 4:00 p.m. at June Tveekrem's. To sign up or get more information, contact June at 410-715-3979 or June@SouthernSpreadwing.com

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

POTLUCK THANKS

BY SUE PROBST

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the 2008 Potluck Dinner a wonderful success! As in past years, I had a lot of great volunteers, but I want to give a special “thank you” to several members who, year after year, have volunteered their services to help make it so much fun for the rest of us. Thanks to Marty Chestem, who produces those wonderful “bird cartoon” placemats, which have truly become a “potluck tradition.” I also want to thank Monika and Rod Botsai who always take care of the sodas, ice, and floral centerpieces. Finally, I am *extremely* grateful to Tom Miller for his technical expertise in running our slide show!

Many thanks also go to club members who were kind enough to come early to set up the room and/or stay late to clean up. They include: Monika and Rod Botsai, Marty Chestem, Wes and Sue Earp, Ward Ebert, Jeff and Carol Friedhoffer, Ralph and Jane Geuder, Emy Holdridge, Tom and Peggy Miller, Sue Neri, Bonnie Ott, Phill Probst, Chuck Stirrat, Kurt Schwarz, and Sherry Tomlinson.

With such great food, fabulous slides, and terrific company, I look forward to joining all of you at next year's potluck dinner!

board member.

May 22, Thursday

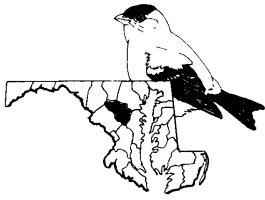
Kate Tufts
2830 Duvall Rd.
Woodbine, MD 21797
(410) 489-7052

(*Midwinter Count* continued from page 4) names are in boldface below (anyone who counted in more than one area or also at a feeder is listed just once). This year we welcomed Wes Earp as co-leader in Area 1. Tally results are given to Chuck Stirrat who carefully creates the tabular results. Once again we thank Karen and Jeff Culler for generously serving as hosts for the tally. What a fitting ending to a long day!

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

Don't miss the fun! Make a note to participate next year on February 7, 2009!

Observers: *Area 1.* **Mark Wallace, Wes Earp**, Jim Brinkley, Marilyn Brinkley, Lisa Colangelo, Susan Earp, Tom Feild, Bill Hill, Gayle Hill, Janet Howe, Marshall Howe, Brenda Kidera, Diane Nagengast (f), Robert Ringler, Jay Sheppard, Marcy Stutzman, Debbie Terry, Robin Todd, Dick Tufts, Kate Tufts; *Area 2.* **Ward Ebert**, Jeff Culler, Bill Kidwell (f), Nancy Magnusson, Peter Osenton, Ron Polniaszek, Susan Polniaszek, Paul Zucker; *Area 3.* **Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey**, Joe Byrnes, Ralph Cullison III, Jim Green, Felicia Lovelett, Tom Miller, Kurt Schwarz, Robin Tress, Will Tress; *Area 4.* **Mike McClure**, Randy Beaton, Patsy Kennan (f), Mike Leumas, Grazina McClure, Susan Setterberg, Romayne Smith, Chuck Stirrat, Marilyn Veek; *Area 5.* **Kevin Hefernan**, Ellen Bryson (f), Hal Bryson (f), Karen Darcy, William Musser (f), Carol Newman, Karla Pearce, Jacqueline Stanford (f), Sherry Tomlinson, Ginny Walker, Michele Wright; *Area 6.* **Bonnie Ott**, Stan Arnold, Monika Botsai (f), Susan Buswell (f), Ralph Geuder, Jane Heim (f), Emy Holdridge, Charlie Kucera, Brigitte Lund (f), Elayne Metter (f), Jeff Metter (f), Suzanne Probst; *Area 7.* **Kurt Schwarz**, Mary Ann Beverly (f), Erin Eve, Tracy Eve, John McKitterick, Barry Miller, Sue Neri, Bob Solem, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, Eva Sunell, June Tveekrem, Jim Wilkinson.



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

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May/June 2008 - Inside This Issue:

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Site Guides Update	Field Trips
Potluck Thanks	Dragonfly Count
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MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2008

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

The Howard County Bird Club's May Count, which is timed to coincide with the peak of the spring migration, will be held on May 10, 2008. For the count, Howard County is divided into the seven areas shown on the map. Each area has an Area Coordinator (name and phone number listed below) 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 June Tveekrem's house. It is a great opportunity to relax, swap stories of the day, and learn what everyone else has seen. Please call June in advance (410-715-3979) 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 is delivered or 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.

Speaking of the checklist, we are no longer including it in

the newsletter. Since most were not being used, we decided to conserve paper. You can get a copy of it from the website or ask your area coordinator to email or mail you a copy.

Area 1	Kate Tufts	410-489-7052
Area 2	Kevin Heffernan	410-418-8731
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	410-461-3361
Area 7	Jo Solem	301-725-5037

