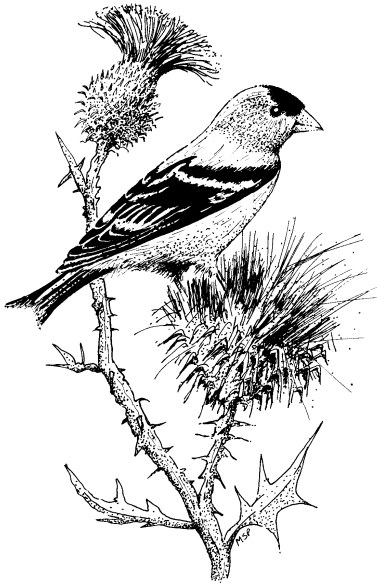


The Goldfinch

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



CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, January 14, 2010 "Costa Rica, Coast to Coast," by Ralph Geuder. This 14 day bird watching trip included Carara, Cano Negro, Sarapiquí, La Selva and Severgre as well as a side trip to Rancho Naturalista. Club members Jane and Ralph Geuder enjoyed this trip to Costa Rica in February/March of 2009. The trip listed 350 species of birds including 18 species each of raptors and hummingbirds as well as many warblers, tanagers and others. But Costa Rica is not about the numbers...

Thursday, February 11, 2010 "Birding in New Zealand," by Tom and Geraldine Feild. Tom and Geraldine's presentation will cover the country's unique land birds, pelagic birding, the southern hemisphere's arctic migrants as well as some of New Zealand's conservation issues. In 2003 when club member Tom Feild left on his "Big Trip" to the southern hemisphere, he found that a Kiwi meant more than just an endemic bird to New Zealand. After five years of "migrations," one particular "Kiwi" became his wife. Geraldine moved to Howard County in April 2009.

Meetings are held at Howard County Recreation & Parks Headquarters 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046. Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information call Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

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The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the March/April 2010 issue is January 25, 2010.

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:
Amanda Witt
8865 Purple Iris Lane
Elkridge, MD 21075
amanda.witt@yahoo.com
Please visit the Club's website at www.howardbirds.org

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MIDWINTER COUNT

BY JOE BYRNES AND JOANNE SOLEM

Join the Howard County Bird Club's Twenty-Fifth Annual Midwinter Count on Saturday, February 6, 2010. Joe Byrnes (410-730-5329 / LBRoller@verizon.net) and Jo Solem (301-725-5037 / odenata@msn.com) are the count coordinators. You may volunteer to participate by signing up at a meeting, by calling Joe Byrnes, or by contacting one of the area coordinators.

Beginning birders are always welcome, as are individuals who wish

to count only for part of the day. A checklist for the count is available on the club's website. If you wish to count only at your feeder, call Joe and request a feeder form.

The evening potluck tally will be at Jeff and Karen Culler's at 2672 Thornbrook Rd, Ellicott City, MD.

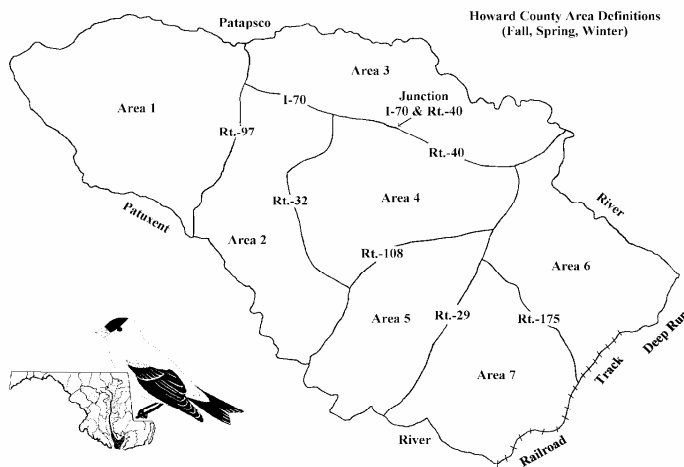
Please contact the Cullers at 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com by Wednesday, February 3rd, to sign up for a vege-
(Count continued on page 2)

(Count continued from page 1)

table, salad, or dessert, and to obtain directions. If you cannot make the meal, you are welcome to drop in about 7:30 p.m. for the tally.

If there is a question about the weather, we will try to make a decision the night before. Call your area coordinator; Joe or Jo (between 5:00 & 6:00 a.m.) if you are unsure of the status of the count.

Area 1	Mark Wallace Wes Earp (assistant)	301-725-6370 410-531-3197	abcxyz5@verizon.net the_earps@verizon.net
Area 2	Ward Ebert	301-490-5807	wardebert@verizon.net
Area 3	Maureen & Dave Harvey	410-795-3117	dahtangara@verizon.net
Area 4	Mike McClure	410-531-2780	none
Area 5	Kevin Heffernan	410-418-8731	kjheff@aol.com
Area 6	Bonnie Ott	410-461-3361	bonnieott@verizon.net
Area 7	Kurt Schwarz	410-461-1643	krschwa1@verizon.net



CHANGES IN CLUB LEADERSHIP

For personal reasons Tom Miller has asked to be relieved of his duties as president of the club. He discussed his reasons with the board of directors at the November meeting and subsequently submitted a letter of resignation from the presidency. Ward Ebert, currently vice president, will assume Tom's responsibilities effective immediately.

CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS

BY BOB SOLEM

In early December, 2009, the Howard County Bird Club sent an email to all members notifying them of the January meeting (back at Rec & Parks HQ) and of the MOS Backpacks for Youths program. If you did not receive this email, we do not have your correct email address. If emails we send are returned because of delivery failure, we remove your email address from the system.

If you received that email, you need to do nothing; the system works. But if you did not receive it and want to receive subsequent notices by email from the Bird Club, send an email to webmaster@howardbirds.org and ask to have your email address added (or corrected). Remember, this service is only available to members who are current with their dues.

HEY KIDS, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?

BY KATE TUFTS

It's time for the Howard County Bird Club's Second Annual Youth Birding Essay Contest. Applicants must be Howard County residents between the ages of nine and 13. Previous winners are not eligible. The essay topic is My Favorite Bird Watching Experience. Length should be no longer than 250 words.

The prize for the best essay is a backpack containing a pair of Eagle Optics Triumph 8x42 binoculars, field guides, and a one year free membership in the Howard County Bird Club.

Essays should be sent to: Tom Miller, 6404 Glasgow Circle, Sykesville, MD 21784 or birderTWM@verizon.net. Please include your name, age, and contact information. The deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2010**. Good luck!

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.

January 28, 2010

Karen Darcy
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-418-8731

February 25, 2010

Jo Solem
10617 Graeloch Road
Laurel, MD 20723
301-725-5037

SEED SALE

BY SHERRY TOMLINSON

The Howard County Bird Club would like to extend a great big thank you to all the customers, members, and volunteers who supported this year's seed sale, especially during these tough economic times. It's your giving spirit, dedication, and love of birds that made this year's contribution to habitat preservation and conservation possible.

This year's seed sale pick-up location was at Pennington Seed located in North Laurel. Division Manager Richard Lampton provided the storage location, a forklift driver, and free freight. This generous donation helped not only with the bottom line, but also spared our backs from the heavy lifting. Pennington Seed welcomes the opportunity to host the Club's seed sale in the future, which the Club appreciates.

This year's volunteers did a wonderful job. They are Jeff Culler, Wes Earp, Ward Ebert, Tom Miller, Bob Solem, and Sherry Tomlinson.

There is still time to participate. We have the following items for sale: one 25 lb bag of whole safflower and 5 bags of 5.5 lbs of sunflower chips. If you are interested in purchasing these products, please call Sherry Tomlinson at 410-747-2382. The seed will also be at Club meetings until sold. In addition, monetary donations designated to Habitat Preservation can be made at any time.

WINTER FIELD TRIPS

BY BONNIE OTT AND 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.

START YOUR 2010 LIST

January 1, Friday (8:00 -11:00 a.m.)
Meet at the South Entrance (MD 108) boat ramp of Centennial Park. Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Facilities available. Call the leader for more info. *Leader- Bonnie Ott 410-461-3361.*

HOW TO FIND AN OWL

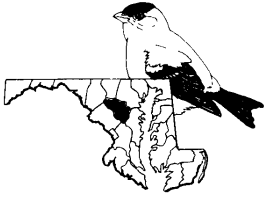
Feb. 20, Saturday (1:00 p.m. , possibility of birding till dusk)
Meet at Annapolis Rock Rd horse trailer parking lot, midway between Hipsley Mill Rd and Rt. 94. Learn how to find owls by habitat and signs. Jay is an expert at finding owls and will share his skills and knowledge as to how to find different species. Contact Jay to sign up so participants can be advised of weather related changes. No facilities.
Leader- Jay Sheppard 301-725-5559 or JMSheppard@aol.com.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

BY AMANDA WITT

Will you miss the Midwinter Count or do you just want an excuse to do more birding? If so, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is for you. The GBBC is sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and will be held February 12-15, 2010. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Observers then enter their tallies on the GBBC website, www.birdcount.org.

This count continues to be a huge success. In 2009, history was rewritten with a record number of checklists (93,600) being submitted. Altogether 619 species were seen across North America. Last year, Columbia and Ellicott City led the state with the most checklists submitted; 134 and 110 respectively. You can explore the results of prior years by visiting www.birdcount.org.



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

BY SUE PROBST

The annual potluck dinner will again be held at the Owen Brown Community Center on Saturday, March 20, 2010. The social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner starts at 7:00 p.m. All club members and their guests are invited to share in the fun, the food and the program. The club furnishes beverages, social hour snacks, rolls, and eating utensils. Those attending may bring a main dish, a salad, a vegetable, or a dessert. Be sure to mark your dishes and any accompanying serving implements with your name so we can get them back to the right person. If you cannot cook, other arrangements can be made. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the "slide show," so bring your

nature photos. You can bring digital photos (or a PowerPoint presentation) on a CD or USB thumb drive. If you have 35 mm slides, please bring them mounted in a carousel. The club will provide both a conventional slide projector and a laptop with multimedia projector. For more information, contact **June Tveekrem** at june@southernspreadwing.com or 410-715-3979.

You **MUST** reserve in advance so we can arrange for sufficient beverages, etc. You may sign up at either the February or March club meeting, or contact **Sue Probst** by Friday, March 19, 2010 at 410-992-3489, or msprobst2@verizon.net. You will need to specify the num-

ber of attendees and what food you are bringing. Let Sue know if you would like to come early to help set up, help clean up afterwards, or help in any other way. If you are a new member or if you have not attended our dinner before, we strongly encourage you to come and get to know others who share your passion for birds and birding. There will be many delicious dishes and great slide presentations. So mark your calendars and come join the fun!

Directions: The Owen Brown Community Center is located on the east side of Columbia at 6800 Cradlerock Way, off Broken Land Parkway from Route 29. There is ample parking.