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CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, January 13, 2011 “Maryland's Secretive Marsh Birds: Will They Survive Sea Level Rise?” by David Brinker, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources. Using survey studies done in the 1990’s and updated MD/DC Atlas data, a prediction can be made about coastal area changes in 60-100 years. Meeting is held at Howard County Recreation & Parks Headquarters 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046.

Thursday, February 10, 2011 “The Robinson Nature Center, Its History and Future,” by Mark Raab, Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks. Mark will discuss ways our club can interact with the nature center. We expect that short tours of the facility will be available beginning an hour before the 8:00 p.m. meeting. LOCATION CHANGE (February meeting only) Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044 (Just north of MD 32, west side of Cedar Lane. A map will be posted on the club website after the January meeting.)

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.

CLARKSVILLE ELEMENTARY STUDENT WINS ART CONTEST

BY KATE TUFTS

Ten-year old Amy Li, a fifth grader at Clarksville Elementary School, is the first place winner in the Howard County Bird Club’s student art contest. Amy’s watercolor rendering of a pair of Mallards was considered to be top-notch by the contest’s judge, professional artist, Brenda Kidera. Ms. Kidera, a former Bird Club member, teaches watercolor painting and is well known around Howard County and the state for her pastoral local scenes and portraits. She also produced this year’s Wine in the Woods poster.

Ms. Kidera stated that Amy showed good control of the watercolors which can be difficult for such a young artist.

Amy’s prize is a backpack containing a pair of Eagle Optics binoculars, a copy of The Young Birder's Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America, other assorted birding books and a one year membership in the Howard County Bird Club.

A photo of Amy’s watercolor can be viewed on the club’s website, www.howardbirds.org.
JOE BYRNES AND JOE HANFMAN

Join the Howard County Bird Club’s Twenty-Sixth Annual Midwinter Count on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Joe Byrnes (410-730-5329 / LBRoller@verizon.net) and Joe Hanfman (Cell 410-730-5329 / auk1844@comcast.net) 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. If you wish to count only at your feeder, call Joe B. or Joe H. (between 5:00 & 6:00 a.m. on the day of the count) if you are unsure of the status of the count.

Area 1  Mark Wallace  301-725-6370  abcyz5@verizon.net
       Wes Earp          410-531-3197  the_earps@verizon.net
Area 2  Ward Ebert         301-490-5807  warebert@verizon.net
Area 3  Maureen & Dave Harvey  301-795-3117  dahtangara@verizon.net
Area 4  Mike McClure        410-531-2780  michael.mcclure@jhuapl.edu
Area 5  Michele Wright       410-465-6057  wrightm_29067@msn.com
Area 6  Bonnie Ott          410-461-3361  bonnieott@verizon.net
Area 7  Kurt Schwarz        410-461-1643  krschwal@verizon.net

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 2nd, to sign up for a vegetable, 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 B. or Joe H. (between 5:00 & 6:00 a.m. on the day of the count) if you are unsure of the status of the count.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?

BY BOB SOLEM

In late November 2010, the Howard County Bird Club sent an email to all members notifying them that the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board turned down the request from Terrapin Adventures to expand its zipline onto Howard County public park land. 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. We may expand the number of notices and publications sent by email in the future.

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, 2011
Jim Lubitz
10908 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044
410-730-7958

February 24, 2011
Jo Solem
10617 Graeloch Road
Laurel, MD 20723
301-725-5037
The Howard County Bird Club Seed Sale took place on October 2nd at the Wildlife Authority on US 40 west of Ellicott City. Kevin Cassidy, the owner, went out of his way to make us feel welcome and to make the sale a success. Kevin’s staff unloaded the truck and loaded seed into each customer’s car making logistics easy for the club. He also provided a discount card for each customer to be used on the day of the sale and another for the first full week in December. The 8695 lbs. of seed sold would have netted $869.50 for conservation, but Kevin generously rounded the total up to $1000. The money will be donated to help the birds of the Gulf Coast.

I would like to thank all of our customers for hanging in there with us during the changes that have taken place over the last couple of years. Your support is much appreciated. I would also like to thank Michael O’Sullivan who took all of the orders and worked the desk the day of the sale. Finally, I would like to give a big thank you to Kevin Cassidy and the staff of the Wildlife Authority for their dedication and generosity. This would not have worked without them. If you get a chance, stop in and thank them yourself. They have high quality seed at a great price and a good selection of feeders, jewelry, books, etc. The store is located on the north side of Rt. 40 a few blocks west of Bethany Lane behind the Cat Rescue.

Plan to purchase your seed at our October 2011 sale knowing that all

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**SEED SALE A SUCCESS** BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

START YOUR YEAR LIST
Jan. 1, Sat. (8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
*Meet at Centennial Park boat ramp off MD108. If ramp parking lot is still closed due to construction, go to top of the hill. Park either near the pavilions or in the lot near the park offices.*

MIDWINTER COUNT Feb. 5, Sat. (See page 2 for more info.)

HOW TO FIND AN OWL
Feb. 19, Sat. (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. Snow/rain date February 26.* 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. No facilities. Contact the leader to sign up so participants can be advised of weather-related changes. Leader - Jay Sheppard, JMSheppar@aol.com or 301-725-5559.

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**GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**
BY AMANDA WITT

Did 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 18-21, 2011. 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. You can explore the results of prior years by visiting www.birdsource.org/gbbc/.

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**WINTER FIELD TRIPS**
BY BONNIE OTT & 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 honniecott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

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ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER
BY KATHIE LILLIE

The annual potluck dinner will again be held at the Owen Brown Community Center on Saturday, March 12, 2011. The social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner begins at 6:30 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. However, please note that this year we ask each person to limit his photographs to no more than 15 images. Presentation time is limited, so please respect this request! 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 410-715-3979, or june@southernspreadwing.com

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 Kathie Lillie by Friday, March 11, 2011 at 410-489-5262, or klillie3@verizon.net. You will need to specify the number of attendees and what food you are bringing. Let Kathie know if you would like to come early to help set up (5:00-6:00 p.m.), help clean up afterwards (9:30-10:00 p.m.) 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 photo 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.