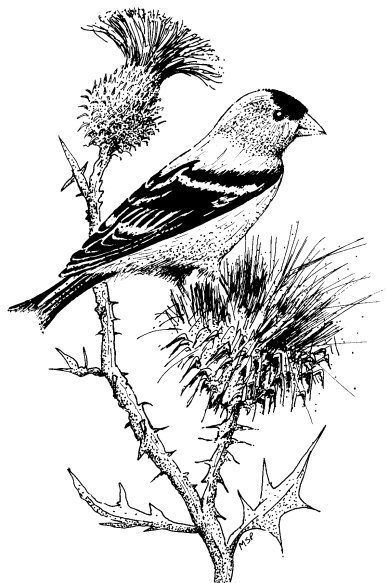


# The Goldfinch

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



## CLUB MEETINGS - BY JANE GEUDER

Thursday, May 12, 2011 “Birds of Southern Africa” by Mark Abdy. Mark's experience in growing up in southern Africa has enabled him to lead eight safaris throughout South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana. He is also a veterinarian who works on public health issues for the U. S. government and follows avian H5N1 influenza closely.

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.

## Inside This Issue

Club Meetings . . . . .	1
Winter Bird Records . . . . .	1
Potluck Thanks . . . . .	3
Dragonfly Count . . . . .	3
Midwinter Count . . . . .	4
Annual List . . . . .	5
Field Trips . . . . .	6
Board of Directors Meetings . . . . .	7
Art Contest . . . . .	7
WSSC Presentation . . . . .	7
May Count . . . . .	8

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

**Copy deadline for the September/October 2011 issue is July 25, 2011.**

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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8865 Purple Iris Lane  
Elkridge, MD 21075  
amanda.witt@yahoo.com

Please visit the Club's website at [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org)

## WINTER BIRD RECORDS: DECEMBER 1, 2010 – FEBRUARY 28, 2011

BY JOANNE SOLEM

**H**eadline species this season were Greater White-fronted Goose, Black-capped Chickadee, Lapland Longspur, Brewer's Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill, and Common Redpoll. Although much lower total snowfall this winter than last was an advantage for observers, ice-covered ponds and reservoirs reduced waterfowl numbers for much of January and February.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** (5<sup>th</sup> record) appeared 12/23 at the Brighton Dam Rd quarry (JHf). Fortunately, it re-appeared on Daisy Rd 1/7 (JSz), where it was seen intermittently until 1/22 (JHb+). A total of four different **Snow Geese** were tracked (JCu; JFr; NM-2). **Cackling Geese** were reported from seven different locations. A banded **Canada Goose** on Daisy Rd 1/24 had been banded in Greenland, July 2009

(NM). One or two **Gadwalls** were noted at Lake Elkhorn 12/1 (JHf) to 2/26 (SN); the high **American Wigeon** count was 23 at a farm on Daisy Rd 1/24 (NM); 100 **Mallards** gathered at Pigtail 12/10 (CSt); Waterford hosted nine **Northern Shovelers** 12/18 and one 2/5 (MW), three **Northern Pintails** were spotted at a Daisy Rd farm 1/21 (BCe), and **Redheads** reached a high of 21 at Centennial 2/4 (K Dy). **Greater Scaup** were noted at the quarry (JHf), BRDAM (KS), Centennial (KS), Rocky Gorge Dam (RBy+), and Elkhorn (DCm). Thirty **Long-tailed Ducks** appeared at TRIRS 12/7 (BHi, DCm); one female was spotted at the quarry 1/13 (BHi; m.obs.). **Common Goldeneyes** were scarce with one male (JHf), (later two BHi, DCm) at TRIRS 12/7. The peak count of 78 **Hooded Mergansers** came from

*(Records continued on page 2)*

*(Records continued from page 1)*

Pigtail 12/10 (**CSt**). **Common Merganser** numbers at TRIRS swelled from 13 on 12/9 (**BHi**) to 1,800+ by 12/26 (**NM**), with five female **Red-breasted Mergansers** in that large flock (**NM**). When lakes and reservoir froze, just two Common Mergs were tallied countywide 2/5 (**JS, KKx-1; ESu, SN-1**), but by 2/25, after a thaw, 1,000 were again present at BRDAM (**JS**).

**Wild Turkeys** are doing well with reports from four locations (**SDw, BHi, FLv, PWf**). The high was 24 in mid-January at property on Carrs Mill Rd (**SDw**).

**Bald Eagles** continue to be widely reported. Highs in the vicinity of BRDAM were 16 on 12/26 (**NM**) and 15 on 2/23 (**JHf**). **Merlins** made an unusual showing this winter with a high of six on 2/5 (**HCMC**). **Peregrine Falcons** were spotted at UMDCF 12/18 (**WE, M&GMcC**) and at Roxbury Mill Rd 2/5 (**JCu**).

**American Coot** numbers built to eight by 2/28 at Centennial (**KS**). **Killdeer** reports were few. On 12/18, a **Wilson's Snipe** was at UMDCF (**S&WE, G&MMcC**) as well as 2/5 (**MMcC, RSm**); also, Florence Rd/Shaffers Mill Rd 2/5 (**J&MBr-2**), and Waverly Pond 2/27 (**RRf-1**). An **American Woodcock** was a surprise at Pigtail 12/18 (**MW**). It was the last reported until spring migrants arrived at MPEA 2/17 (**DCm-2**) and at River Rd/Sykesville 2/18 (**FLv-4**).

**Bonaparte's Gull** migration at TRIRS extended well into December with a high of 27 on 12/14 (**JHf**). A banded **Ring-billed Gull**

seen at the Long Gate Shopping Center 2/12 had been banded in Massachusetts 10/29/10 (**JGu**). A **Great Black-backed Gull** waited until 2/23 to make a winter appearance at TRIRS, with three there 2/24 (both **JHf**).

Two **Eastern Screech-Owls** (one red) roosted intermittently in nest boxes at Talbots Landing (**R&JGu**). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** and a **Long-eared Owl** were detected at Annapolis Rock Rd 1/20 (**JSh, JCu+**), again on 1/25 (**DCm, RGb**), but not after that. At least two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were spotted 2/5 at a farm on St. Michaels Rd (**W&SE**).

Because **Black-capped Chickadees** invade infrequently and present identification problems, birders appreciated their widespread appearance this winter. A bird arrived at a Thornbrook Rd feeder 11/2 and was still present 2/28. It was well-photographed and seen by many, thanks to **Jeff Culler's** hospitality. Others were at Dunloggin 1/1 (**KS**), Annapolis Rock Rd 1/21 (**EBy, JSz-4**), Shaffersville Rd 1/21 (**KS, DCm**) (again 1/30 **EBy, JSz, NSb**), and Font Hill Dr/El Dee Dr 2/20 (**JW**).

**Common Ravens** continue to wander into the county with reports at Rocky Gorge Dam 12/18 (**RBy+-2**), River Rd/Sykesville 12/18 (**FLv-1**), US29/Rivers Edge Rd 1/13 (**JHf-1**), Mt. Pleasant 1/24 (**RGB-1**), and Timberleigh 2/17 (**DNg-2**). A report on 1/13 lacked details. **Horned Larks** were consistent at Western Regional Park with a high of 43 on 1/8 (**M'OS**). The largest flock was in fields along Underwood Rd where the peak was 150 on 1/29 (**JHf**) - a count which had not been reached

since 2/12/04 when 150+ were tallied at the same site (**RC**). Although some **Red-breasted Nuthatches** moved in this winter, they were few and locations inconsistent.

The last **House Wren** of 2010 was seen at Fulton 12/18 (**DHm**). Wintering **American Robins** appeared in numbers at Centennial Pk 1/19 (**BO-210**) and at Dunloggin 2/20 (**KS-200**). **American Pipits** were scarce except for one flock of 50 on 1/8 along Underwood Rd (**CSt, JCu**). Seven flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** numbering 50+ were reported (**W&SE, MKw, FLv, ESu, MW-2, JW**).

A wintering **Pine Warbler** appeared at a suet feeder at Paul Mill Rd 1/27 (**PWf**); another was photographed at Font Hill Dr/Carrigan Dr 2/9 (**JCu**). The last **Common Yellowthroat** of the year was spotted 12/18 at UMDCF (**WE**).

**American Tree Sparrows** were most consistent at Mt. Pleasant where the high was nine on 1/17 (**JW**), at Schooley Mill Park where four were tallied on 2/26—an eight sparrow day there (**NM**), and at River Rd, Sykesville (**FLv-1-2**). It was a good winter for **Chipping Sparrows** with highs of four at both Schooley 12/4 and Font Hill Wetlands Park 2/11 (both **JW**); other reports: **RC, JHf, JMCK, BO**. Oddly, in the Howard Co. areas of the Triadelphia Count circle on 12/18, 12 lingering Chippies eclipsed the eight **Field Sparrows** reported. Most other sparrow numbers were unremarkable. A **Lapland Longspur** is a choice county bird. Five (a new high, 13<sup>th</sup> record) were discovered at the

*(Records continued on page 3)*

(Records continued from page 2)

edge of snowbanks along Underwood Rd on 1/29 (JHf). Many people were able to see at least one among the numerous Horned Larks and Savannah Sparrows. The same day two were reported nearby from Old Frederick Rd (JW), but are being considered part of the five. One longspur was also logged at Alpha Ridge Landfill 2/5 (RC).

A female Northern Cardinal that exhibited partial albinism (white patches on the neck and head) was again at Martin Rd, w. Col. as it has been each winter from 2008 to the present (JHf).

Rusty Blackbirds may be a declining species, but this season a flock of up to 60 (1/29) (JHf) spent several months in the wetlands and silage pit at Florence Rd near Shaffersville Rd (m.obs.). They were also seen at Manahan Dr 1/29 (BO-1), Martin Rd, w. Col. 2/2 (JHf-1), Allview 2/10 (JMCK-1), and Cavey La 2/23

(RRf-3). A female Brewer's Blackbird (4th record) was spotted 12/23 at a feeder in a yard adjacent to Meadowbrook Park (JW).

Winter irruptives included small numbers of Purple Finches in early winter, and widespread, but inconsistent, Pine Siskins, mostly fewer than 10. Non-feeder sightings came from Schooley 12/18 (NM-1) and the vicinity of Font Hill Dr/Carrigan Dr where up to 10 visited spruce cones 1/22 through Feb. (JW; m.obs.) One White-winged Crossbill flew over Brush Run, e. Col. 12/8 (JW), and a Common Redpoll visited a feeder in Sykesville 2/28 (SHs). (Last previous record 2/23/07, FP)

Locations: BRDAM – Brighton Dam, TRIRS – Triadelphia Reservoir, UMDCF – University of Maryland Central Farm.

Observers: EBy – Ed Boyd, JBr – Jim Brinkley, MBr – Marilyn Brinkley, RBy – Rod Burley, BCe – Brad Cernohorsky,

JCu – Jeff Culler, RC – Ralph Cullison III, DCm – David Cummings, KDy – Karen Darcy, SDw – Sabrina Dowd, SE – Sue Earp, WE – Wes Earp, JGu – Jane Geuder, RGu – Ralph Geuder, RGb – Ron Gutberlet, JHf – Joe Hanfman, DHm – David Holmes, HCMC – Howard County Midwinter Count, EHn – Elaine Hendricks, BHi – Bill Hill, SHs – Scott Houston, JHb – John Hubbell, MKw – Mike Kerwin, KKx – Kim Knox, FLv – Felicia Lovelett, NM – Nancy Magnusson, GMcC – Grazina McClure, MMcC – Mike McClure, JMCK – John McKitterick, DNg – Diane Nagengast, SN – Sue Neri, MO'S – Michael O'Sullivan, BO – Bonnie Ott, FP – Fred Pierce, RRf – Russ Ruffing, NSb – Nico Sarbanes, KS – Kurt Schwarz, JSh – Jay Sheppard, JS – Jo Solem, CSt – Chuck Stirrat, JSz – Jim Stasz, ESu – Eva Sunell, MW – Mark Wallace, JW – Jim Wilkinson, PWf – Paul Woodford.

## POTLUCK THANKS

BY KATHIE LILLIE

Thanks to everyone who helped to make the 2011 Potluck Dinner a success! Owen Brown Community Center's Howell Room and kitchen had undergone extensive renovation since we were last there, but Bird Club members are experienced hands and know exactly what to do to make the event happen. Kurt Schwarz and Bonnie Ott set up tables, Ward Ebert set up power strips, and June Tveekrem expertly ran the slide show. Everyone enjoyed reading their wonderful "bird cartoon" placemats made by Marty

Chestem, which have been a potluck tradition for so many years. We hope the door prize winners enjoy their prizes! (If not, we hope we don't see the prizes again next year...) Many members volunteered their services to help make it fun for the rest of us, and I hope next year I am better at names and can name everyone who donated their valuable time in setting up and/or staying late to clean up! This annual event could not run as smoothly as it does without all of your help!

## HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT

BY JUNE TVEEKREM

Saturday August 20, 2011

**No experience needed!** Join fellow birders and naturalists in enjoying these beautiful insects.

Each group of observers, with an experienced leader, visits ponds and rivers in an assigned territory. The group identifies and counts every dragonfly and damselfly seen. Visit [www.southernspreadwing.com](http://www.southernspreadwing.com) for more details and results of previous counts.

Tally and snacks 4:00 pm at June Tveekrem's house. To sign up contact June Tveekrem at [June@SouthernSpreadwing.com](mailto:June@SouthernSpreadwing.com) or 410-715-3979.

# HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER COUNT

BY JOE HANFMAN

An overcast day with light rain, fog, wind, and temperatures from 32° – 36° F made for a tough day of birding. The ponds were frozen, fields covered in snow, rivers open, and some ice where snow was compacted. The weather contributed to the second lowest species count of 83 and the lowest individual number of birds at 19,648.

There was one new species added to the midwinter count, a Black-capped Chickadee coming to a feeder in Ellicott City. Only the second Lapland Longspur in 25 years was found. An all-time high count for Merlin was 6, breaking the previous record of 2.

Fourteen new lows were set or tied previous lows: American Wigeon 2, Common Merganser 2, Black Vulture 13, Turkey Vulture 39, Mourning Dove 504, Belted Kingfisher 5, Downy Woodpecker 109, Northern Mockingbird 101, European Starling 2443, Field Sparrow 26, White-throated Sparrow 701, Northern Cardinal 601, Brown-headed Cowbird 12, and House Finch 166.

The birds that have been seen on more than half of the counts but missed this year were Snow Goose, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, Great Black-backed Gull, Eastern Screech-Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, and Purple Finch.

Many people contributed to the success of the day: 74 observers spent 159.2 hours and covered 68.2 miles on foot and 498 miles by car; another 21.7 hours were spent watching feeders — plus 4 additional stationary hours.

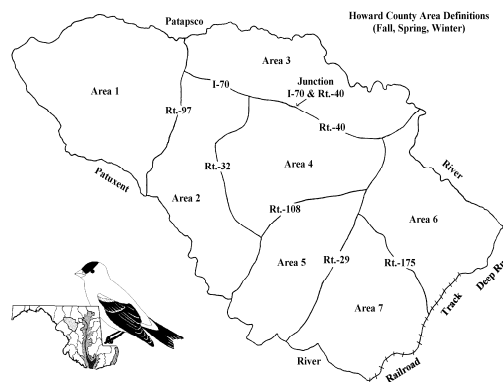
As co-compiler, Joe Byrnes did the preparatory work for the count. As usual, he handled multiple details with precision and care. Chuck Stirrat summarized the area worksheets and provided field and feeder checklists. Area leaders arranged coverage, did follow-up if necessary, and compiled area totals. Their 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 Michele Wright as leader of Area 5. Once again we thank Karen and Jeff Culler for generously serving as hosts for the tally and welcoming us to their home.

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

Observers: **Area 1. Mark Wallace, Wes Earp**, Marcia & Hilton Brake, Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Lisa Colangelo, Sue Earp, Kathie Lillie, Lexie Mayo, Diane Nagengast, Bob Ringler, Jay Sheppard, Marcy Stutzman, Robin Todd, Kate & Dick Tufts, Sam Wilson; **Area 2. Ward Ebert**, Jeff Culler, Diane & John Ference, Ron & Sue Polniaszek, Tom Strikwerda; **Area 3. Dave & Maureen Harvey**, Joe Byrnes, Ralph Cullison, Felicia Lovelett, Tom Miller, Will & Robin Tress; **Area 4. Mike McClure**, Mike Kerwin, Mike Leu-

mas, Grazina McClure, Michael O'Sullivan, Romaine Smith, Chuck Stirrat, Robert & Karen Stone; **Area 5.**

**Michele Wright**, Karen Darcy, Kevin Heffernan, Carol Newman, Karla Pearce, Ginny Walker; **Area 6. Bonnie Ott**, Emy Holdridge, Brigitte Lund; **Area 7. Kurt Schwarz**, Dennis & Jane Coskren, David Cummings, Kim Knox, John McKitterick, Barry Miller, Ian & Susan Moody, Sue Muller, Sue Neri, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, Anna DiPietantonio, Eva Sunell, Chris Toscano, Will Ueckerman, Jim Wilkinson.



(**May Count** continued from page 8)

one else has seen. (Directions to June's house will be provided by the area coordinators.) 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 gets delivered or gets 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.

Come join us!

Howard County Midwinter Count - February 5, 2011.					
	Totals		Totals		Totals
Canada Goose	5,378	<i>gull species</i>	12	Northern Mockingbird	101
Gadwall	2	Rock Pigeon	333	European Starling	2,443
American Wigeon	2	Mourning Dove	504	American Pipit	8
American Black Duck	12	Great Horned Owl	5	Cedar Waxwing	303
Mallard	489	Barred Owl	7	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	25
Northern Shoveler	1	Belted Kingfisher	5	Eastern Towhee	12
Canvasback	3	Red-headed Woodpecker	2	American Tree Sparrow	16
Redhead	11	Red-bellied Woodpecker	133	Chipping Sparrow	21
Ring-necked Duck	77	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	16	Field Sparrow	26
Hooded Merganser	43	Downy Woodpecker	109	Savannah Sparrow	11
Common Merganser	2	Hairy Woodpecker	29	Fox Sparrow	2
Wild Turkey	7	Northern (Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	51	Song Sparrow	375
Great Blue Heron	7	Pileated Woodpecker	31	Swamp Sparrow	10
Black Vulture	13	Blue Jay	203	White-throated Sparrow	701
Turkey Vulture	39	American Crow	1,254	White-crowned Sparrow	78
Bald Eagle	3	Fish Crow	61	<i>sparrow species</i>	81
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5	<i>crow species</i>	685	Dark-eyed Junco	1,744
Cooper's Hawk	9	Horned Lark	183	Lapland Longspur	1
<i>accipiter species</i>	1	Carolina Chickadee	334	Northern Cardinal	601
Red-shouldered Hawk	57	Black-capped Chickadee	1	Red-winged Blackbird	256
Red-tailed Hawk	35	Tufted Titmouse	330	Eastern Meadowlark	4
<i>buteo species</i>	4	Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	Rusty Blackbird	4
American Kestrel	3	White-breasted Nuthatch	105	Common Grackle	71
Merlin	6	Brown Creeper	9	Brown-headed Cowbird	12
Peregrine Falcon	1	Carolina Wren	133	House Finch	166
American Coot	4	Winter Wren	9	Pine Siskin	52
Killdeer	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	American Goldfinch	209
Wilson's Snipe	3	Eastern Bluebird	87	House Sparrow	532
Ring-billed Gull	288	Hermit Thrush	8	<b>Total Birds:</b>	19,648

## ANNUAL LIST FOR THE COUNTY BY WARD EBERT

Two thousand ten was another strong year, tying 1994 for second place with a count of 236 species behind last year's record 241. This includes the discovery of a deceased Barn Owl (included upon inspection and determination that this was indeed a county bird). Helping the total were reports of a number of shorebirds not commonly found in the county; these included American Golden-Plover, American Avocet, Upland Sandpi-

per, Ruddy Turnstone, Western Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Red Phalarope. Other sightings of note include Glossy Ibis, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Short-eared Owl, Alder Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, and Brewer's Blackbird. A probable Bicknell's Thrush did not make the list, but certainly adds to the sense of success in the hunt for rarities.

Sadly missing was the formerly common Northern Bobwhite which had been missed in only one previous year of the last 30. Look for the complete list on our website, with history dating back to 1979. Thanks and congratulations to all those who spent many hours scouring the county and gathering this data.

# SUMMER 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 [bonnieott@verizon.net](mailto:bonnieott@verizon.net). HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

## PIGTAIL - TRIADELPHIA

May 7, Sat., 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)  
*Meet at the Green Bridge Rd parking lot which is off Triadelphia Mill Rd. In conjunction with WSSC and Montgomery County Bird Club. The cove is bordered on three sides by deciduous and coniferous woods. Extensive mudflats may exist with the possibility of shorebirds. Facilities available (rustic). Leader - Jeff Culler, [cullerfuls@hotmail.com](mailto:cullerfuls@hotmail.com) or 410-465-9006.*

## BIG DAY

May 7, Saturday. Limit 12  
All day listing extravaganza!  
Email or call the leader to sign up. 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. Leader - Bonnie Ott, [bonnieott@verizon.net](mailto:bonnieott@verizon.net), 410-461-3361.

## LITTLE BIG DAY

May 7, Sat. (Half day)  
This trip is designed for beginner and intermediate birders and will not be as intense as the Big Day trip. Some of the same locations as the Big Day trip may be visited. Facilities in some spots. Email or call the leaders for reservations and details. Leaders - Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan 410-418-8731 or [KJHeff@aol.com](mailto:KJHeff@aol.com).

## MAY COUNT

May 14, Saturday (See page 8 for details.)



## HENRYTON ROAD, PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK

May 18, Wed., 8:00 a.m. (half day) *Meet at bottom of Henryton Rd at the dead end. Walk along the Patapsco River looking for spring migrants. Easy walking along the river for nesting Worm-eating and Yellow-throated warblers. Plan for moderate walking and possible muddy trails. No facilities. Leaders - Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329, [LBRoller@verizon.net](mailto:LBRoller@verizon.net) and Jeff Culler 410-465-9006.*

## HOT SPOTS FOR RED KNOTS, EPISODE VI

May 28, Sat., (all day) *Meet at the Broken Land Parkway Park-and-Ride West lot. Joint Montgomery and Howard County Chapters trip. We will concentrate on the middle Delaware Bay shore, beginning at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, as well as the impoundments on Broadkill Rd. We will also visit Dupont Nature Center at Mispillion Harbor, where we have seen hundreds of Red Knots and other shorebirds for the past four visits. We will work our way north, visiting hotspots such as Ted Harvey Wildlife Management Area, and, time permitting, Bombay Hook NWR. Expect shorebirds, late waterfowl, and gulls. Facilities are available at some stops. Short walks from the cars. Mud is possible. Bring drinking water, food, sun screen, and lots of insect repellent.*

The trip will be limited to twelve persons/three cars per chapter. Reserve a spot with one of the leaders. Leaders- Kurt Schwarz, [kerschwa1@verizon.net](mailto:kerschwa1@verizon.net), 410-461-1643 before 8 p.m., Peter Osenton, 410-799-8584, [roadwarrior71@verizon.net](mailto:roadwarrior71@verizon.net). Cyndia Loeper will lead for Mont. Co.

## PATAPSCO SCRUBLAND

May 29, Sun., 7:30 a.m. (half day)  
*Meet at 735 River Road (up long drive take right-hand split & park by house). Starting in the scrubland, we'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Depending on conditions, we may continue into the woods. Moderate to possibly difficult walking: steep trails with several stream crossings, so wear appropriate footwear. Facilities available. Leader - Felicia Lovelett 410-489-7169 or [c5nest@gmail.com](mailto:c5nest@gmail.com).*

## HIPSLEY MILL RD - PATUXENT RIVER STATE PARK

June 4, Sat., 7:30 a.m. (2-3 hours)  
*Meet at the parking lot. Joint Montgomery and Howard County Chapters trip. We will walk downriver with our main target being breeding Cerulean Warblers along the Howard/Montgomery border. Other notable nesting birds include American Woodcock, Yellow-throated Vireo, Veery, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. Moderate to possibly*

*(Field Trips continued on page 7)*

(*Field Trips* continued from page 6)

difficult walking with steep trails, waist high wet vegetation, and muddy trails, so wear appropriate footwear. Hand clippers can be valuable to cut the multiflora rose canes which are difficult to avoid. No facilities. *Leaders – Joe Hanfman, auk1844@comcast.net, 410-772-8424; Jim Moore, epiphenomenon9@gmail.com.*

**TROLLEY TRAIL**

June 8, Wed., 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)  
*Directions - Go through Ellicott City on Main St. Immediately after crossing the Patapsco River into Baltimore County, turn left. Drive ~100 yards and turn right into the Oella lot. Easy walking along the paved path of this Baltimore County section of Patapsco Valley State Park. Mature woodlands should be hosting many nesting species. Leader - Michele Wright 410-465-6057 or WrightM\_29067@msn.com.*

 = Great for beginning birders

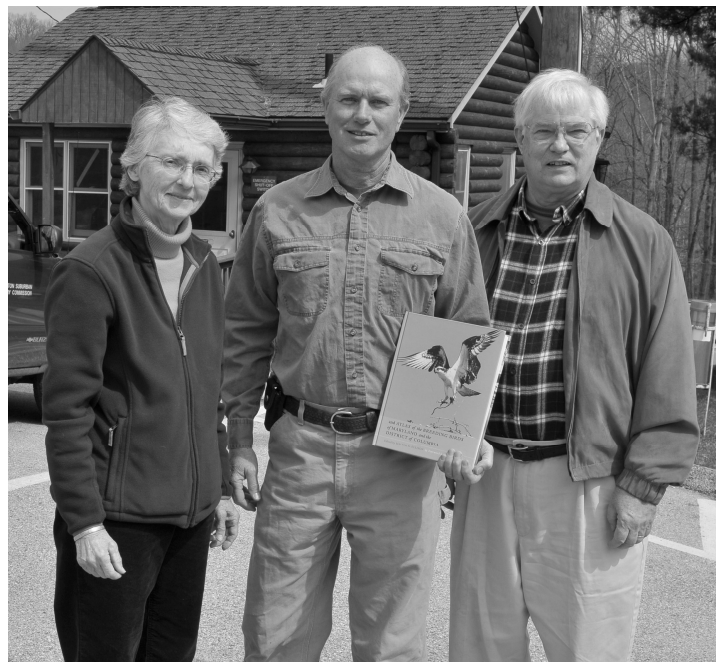
# SECOND ANNUAL ART CONTEST

BY KATE TUFTS

**T**he spring bird migration has started and it's time to notice all of the beautiful winged creatures headed our way. The Howard County Bird Club is again sponsoring a Birding Art Contest for Howard County students between the ages of nine to thirteen. Kids, simply draw or paint your favorite bird. Attention to detail is always a plus. The art work should be no larger than 11" x 14". Any medium including pencil, oils, watercolors, acrylics and pastels may be used.

The first place winner will receive a backpack containing a pair of Ea-

gle Optics binoculars and a youth birding field guide plus a one year membership in the Howard County Bird Club. Deadline for submissions is May 31, 2011. Send entries to: Kate Tufts, 2830 Duvall Road, Woodbine, MD 21797. Previous backpack winners are not eligible. For more information check out the club's web site at [www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org).



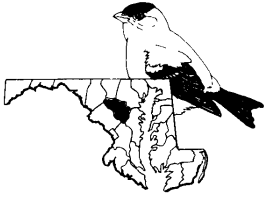
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

**B**oard 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.

**May 26, 2011**

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

**A** copy of the *Second Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and the District of Columbia* was presented to Jim Benton, Watershed Manager, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, March 21, 2011, in appreciation for land access 2002-2006. Joanne Solem, Howard Co. atlas co-chair; Jim Benton; Ward Ebert, president Howard County Bird Club. Made possible with funds from the Marjorie Mountjoy Fund. *Ronald Williams, WSSC photographer.*



# HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

*Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

6007 Flywheel Court

Columbia, MD 21044

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PERMIT NO. 452

## May/June 2011 - Inside This Issue:

Club Meetings	Winter Bird Records
Annual List	Field Trips
Midwinter Count Results	Art Contest
Potluck Thank You	May Count
Dragonfly Count	

## MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

The Howard County Bird Club holds three bird counts every year: Fall Count, Midwinter Count, and May Count. The May Count, which is timed to coincide with the peak of the spring migration, is held on the second Saturday in May. This year it is on May 14th, the latest date it can be. This is by far the most exciting time of year for birding. The spring migrants are passing through on their way north. The summer residents are back and some of the winter migrants are still hanging around. This is the time of year when you will see or hear the largest number of species. Over the last 10 years across the county, we have tallied an average of 147 species during the May Count.

For the count, Howard County is divided up 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.

Area 1: Wes Earp  
410-531-3197

Area 2: Ward Ebert  
301-490-5807  
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

At the end of the day, all of the counters are invited to a tally rally at June Tveekrem's house to share what was seen and come up with the county totals. It is a great opportunity to relax, swap stories of the day, and find out what every-

*(May Count Continued on page 4)*