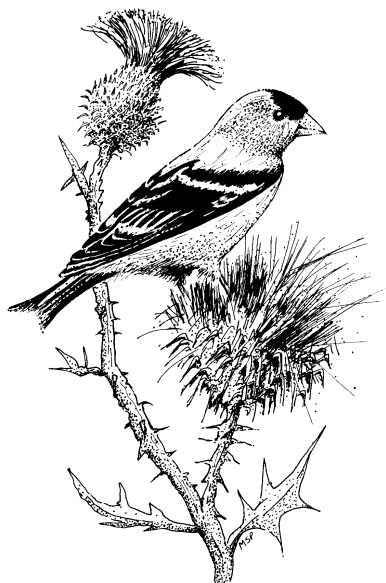


The Goldfinch

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



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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 2012 issue is July 25, 2012

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

CLUB MEETINGS - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

Thursday, May 10, 2012 "Birding Ecuador: Andes to the Rainforest," by Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy. About the size of Nevada, Ecuador has over 1,500 species of birds, the fifth most in the world. The beauty and diversity of the birds are amazing. More than 500 species were seen on this March 2011 tour to both sides of the Andes and the Amazon. Besides many tanagers, antbirds, and hummingbirds, other specialties seen were quetzal, condor, hoatzin and Cock-of-the-Rock.

Meetings are at the **Robinson Nature Center**, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 8:00 p.m. Nature Center doors unlocked at 7:15 p.m. and locked again at 8:15 p.m. There is no admission charge. For further information call Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

FINDING THE PINK-FOOTED GOOSE IN HOWARD COUNTY

BY NICK LUND

I've since been reassured that it usually happens this way – that first state records or other rare birds are more often blundered into than sought out. Still, I wish I had a better story for the Pink-footed Goose in Howard County. I wish I could say it came to me in a dream or that I had smelled something unusual on the wind.

Nope. I had driven to Patuxent State Park to look for owls but missed the turn for the parking area. I turned onto the first suburban road available - Jones Road - and used a driveway to pull a U-turn. On the way back to Hipsley Mill Road, I paused in the middle of the street to scan a flock of 150 or so Canada Geese lounging in a small manmade pond on a manicured lawn. The first bird I set eyes

on – the closest one to me – was immediately apparent as a Pink-footed Goose.

Surely this couldn't be a wild bird! Had there been a Pink-foot reported from Maryland, I wondered. (I am new to Maryland, and haven't been able to bird as much as usual, and so I haven't been watching the listservs as carefully as I should.) I snapped a bunch of pictures, sent an email to the one birder I knew in the state and – instead of doing what I should have done and make the effort to let some others know about the bird – I went looking for owls.

I am pretty embarrassed about that part. I can offer a bunch of excuses – that I didn't know it was a

(Pink-footed Goose continued on page 5)

WINTER BIRD RECORDS: DECEMBER 1, 2011- FEBRUARY 29, 2012

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Winter 2011-12 exceeded all expectations. Not only was it one of the warmest on record, but the season produced an assortment of extraordinary sightings. Led by a [Pink-footed Goose](#) (first Maryland record), other notables were a [Golden Eagle](#), two [Sandhill Cranes](#), an active [Common Raven](#) nest, a small flock of [Tree Swallows](#), a [Northern Parula](#), and an assortment of early and late dates.

For a few days in late February, birders from near and far visited the county in search of a **Pink-footed Goose** found by Nicholas Lund 2/20/12 at a pond on Jones Mill Rd near the intersection with Hipsley Mill Rd. (See the article on page 1.) For two days, the bird's whereabouts were tracked feverishly (shades of the *The Big Year*). On 2/21, it was viewed in fields, initially through woods on the north side of Jennings Chapel Rd/Colton Ct (**JCu, JHf, ALw+**) until 10:35 a.m., then from 12:40 p.m. until sunset from a cemetery opposite Jennings Chapel Rd/Old Sawmill Rd. On 2/22, the goose initially remained at the same location, but by 7:30 a.m. it had flown northwest with a flock of 400 **Canada Geese**. Shortly after 11:00 a. m. it was relocated in a pasture near 16525 A. E. Mullinix Rd. where it stayed the rest of the day. Unfortunately, after that date it was not seen again. Mild weather and early movement statewide of wintering Canadas pointed to migration. (Locally, a flock of 200 was reported high over Allview heading north on 2/23-**ASu**.) Joe Hanfman compiled a list of about

100 people who had seen it—he knows there were many others.

A lone white **Snow Goose** moved around the western part of the county from 1/2 at Lisbon (**RSu**) to 2/21 east of Folly Quarter Rd/Carroll Mill Rd (**NM**). **Cackling Geese** were widely reported with highs of four at the quarry visible from Springdale Rd 1/6 (**JHf**) and five north of Jennings Chapel Rd/Colton Ct 2/21 in the goose flock with the Pink-footed Goose (**BHb+**).

Open water much of the season produced an assortment of ducks, even though the Nov. 15th early reservoir closure limited access during peak waterfowl migration. **Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Redhead, and Greater Scaup** were all fine winter species. Gadwalls were more widespread than usual with reports from Brighton Dam (**NM**), Centennial (**KS**), Daisy Rd/MD144 (**KTf**), Larriland/MD94 (**KTf**), Meadowbrook Pk (**JW**), Pigtail (**DCm+**), Race Rd (**DCm**), and Univ. of MD Central Farm (UMDCF) (**M&GMcC**). The high count of **Ring-necked Ducks** was 100 at Pigtail 12/29 (**DCm**). During the season, at least one male and one female **Red-breasted Merganser (DCm)** were picked out of the almost 900+ **Common Mergansers** present on Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) 1/22 (**KS**).

Winter **Double-crested Cormorants** are always scarce. Two juveniles were seen at Wilde Lake 12/22 (**JFr, ph.; SPz**), and 1/5 at

Centennial (**JHf**). The **Great Egret** at Centennial 2/22 was a new county early date (**BO**), beating the old record of 3/13/99 (also **BO**) by more than three weeks! The **Green Heron** at Daniels 12/2 (**GMcC, ROOr, JS**) was a record late date, superseding 11/26/93 (**JC**).

High counts of **Wild Turkeys** were eight on 12/7 near River Rd, Sykesville (**FLv**) and 10 in a corn field opposite Alpha Ridge Park 12/30 (**JCu**). Roosting vultures near Centennial La/Old Frederick Rd yielded a count of 85 **Turkeys** and 19 **Blacks** on 2/3 (**MKw**), while 68 Blacks gathered to feed on a dead cow north of Daisy Rd/Bushy Park Rd 1/8 (**RRf**). **Bald Eagles** congregated at Brighton Dam in numbers with 20 on 1/22 (**KS**); by 1/29, 27 were present, mostly below the dam (**MKw**). It was a new record; previous high was 24 on 1/26/08 (**NM**). Single **Merlins** were reported from Marriottsville Rd/Warwick Way 1/22 (**JW**), UMDCF 2/4 (**M&GMcC, CSt**), and MD99/Morgan Station Rd 2/4 (**W&SE, KLI**). A **Peregrine Falcon** was noted at UMDCF 2/4 (**MO'S, CSt, G&MMcC**) and one at Larriland, MD94 2/9 (**JCu, ph.**) A **Golden Eagle** was spotted over MD32 near US1 on 1/31 (**JSz**). It was the 15th Howard record.

Sandhill Cranes always garner attention. The county's eighth record consisted of two birds (one ad., one first winter) reported 2/28 in a field at the corner of Gorman

(*Records continued on page 3*)

(*Records continued from page 2*)

Rd/Murray Hill Rd (**GBk**). Later it was learned they had been seen there on 2/26 (**T&TmBk**). Many birders saw them near this busy intersection well into March (more about them in the spring season).

Five **Wilson's Snipe** were present at UMDCF 1/8 (**BO+**), a fine winter count. Although **American Woodcock** courtship is a much-anticipated sign of spring, this year spring came unusually early. Three were courting at Annapolis Rock on 1/26 (**RRf, DCm**). Mt. Pleasant also hosted one on 1/29 (**BO**). Midwinter Count 2/4 turned up six in the Annapolis Rock/Hipsley area (**JSh, MSz, TFe, GKg**). Peak activity appeared to have occurred on 2/18 when six were detected in a field west of Pigtail (**HMz**) and at least a dozen were logged north of Hipsley Mill Rd at two sites not far from the Patuxent River (**NM, KCv, MBt**) and (**W&SE, CSt**).

Ring-billed Gulls reached a high on 1/27 with 250 near Brighton Dam Rd/Ten Oaks Rd (**NM**) and 410 near MD94/MD144 (**NM**). An adult **Great Black-backed Gull** caused a brief stir at As-sateague Dr on 2/4 (**ESu, SN**) and 2/5 (**JHf, NM, JS+**). Northern owls were few with a lone **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on 1/26 and 1/31 at Annapolis Rock (**JSh+**) and one **Long-eared Owl** 1/26 (**JHf+**).

Sixty **Horned Larks** were present 1/20 along A. E. Mullinix Rd (**JHf**); 40 were counted at Western Regional Pk 12/21 (**BHi**). Numerous **Common Raven** reports came from Duckett (Rocky Gorge) Dam. Their frequency at that site pointed to nesting again. This was verified on 2/21 when the face of the dam was examined, a pair was

present, and one was on a nest—on the Howard County side this year (**JSh, JS, KKx, R. Orr, ph.**). This date established a new state early egg date for the species and was the first active nest for the county. On 2/29, Kim Knox photographed the frayed-tail member of the pair, attacking his reflection, appropriately, at windows of the WSSC building 2.3 miles south of the dam. In addition, single ravens were reported from River Rd, Sykesville 12/14 (**FLv**), Annapolis Rock 1/8 (**FMg**), Martin Rd., W. Col. 2/7 (**JHf**), Brighton Dam 2/17 (**NM**), and Hammond Village (being chased by 30 **American Crows**) 2/29 (**JS**).

A flock of 10 early **Tree Swallows** over MD32 east of US29 on 2/22 was another indication of the mild winter (**JSh**). A single seasonal **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report came from Hobbit's Glen, W. Col. 1/16 (**SFx**). Three **Winter Wrens** were a nice count at Elkhorn Garden Plots 2/17 (**JW**). One **Brown Thrasher** was spotted at MPEA 1/16 (**MRg**) and again 1/20 (**HFk**).

A **Northern Parula** was a surprise at Wynfield, W. Friendship 1/14 — 1/21 (**RCu**) (sixth state winter record-**RR**). It alternated between suet and sap oozing from sap-sucker holes in the trunk of a Siberian elm. A **Pine Warbler** at Stone Hill Dr 1/15 was a more expected, although uncommon, visitor (**KLz, ph.**).

American Tree Sparrows are harder to find than they were a decade or two ago. The high was six at Mt. Pleasant 12/30 (**RRf**). Usually scarce **Chipping Sparrows** wintered in several locations with highs of 10 both at Rockburn Branch Pk 1/10 (**BO**) and at

Cavey La 2/16 (**RRf**). Sixty were tallied countywide on 2/4. Mt. Pleasant was a sparrow hotspot on 1/8 with 22 **Fields**, 65 **Songs**, and one **Lincoln's**—always an exciting winter find (**BO**).

Nineteen **Eastern Meadowlarks** at Alpha Ridge Landfill on 2/4 was a surprisingly high count (**RC, JHf**). A few **Rusty Blackbirds** hung around Florence Rd near Shaffers Mill Rd, with a high of three on 1/7 (**JCu+**). **Purple Finch** records were few with one (brown) at Brush Run, E. Col. 12/11 (**JW**) and one (brown) at Allview 12/18 (**ESu**). There were just two **Pine Siskin** sightings, both on 2/11: one at Kendall Ridge, E. Col. (**MO'S**) and one heard flying over MD175/Snowden River Pkwy (**JW**).

ph. - photograph

The links to the photos of species in the first paragraph may or may not be of the same bird referenced in the article.

Observers: **MBt** – Marcia Balestri, **GBk** – George Berkheimer, **TBk** – Terri Berkheimer, **TmBk** – Tom Berkheimer, **KCv** – Kathy Calvert, **JC** – Jane Coskren, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **RCu** – Ralph Cullison III, **DCm** – David Cummings, **SE** – Sue Earp, **WE** – Wes Earp, **TFe** – Tom Feild, **HFk** – Harry Fink, **SFx** – Suzanne Fox, **JFr** – Jeff Friedhoffer, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **BHb** – Bill Hubick, **MKw** – Mike Kerwin, **GKg** – Geraldine King, **KKx** – Kim Knox, **KLz** – Kathy Litzinger, **FLv** – Felicia Lovelett, **NM** – Nancy Magnusson, **FMg** – Frank Marengi, **GMcC** – Grazina McClure, **MMcC** – Mke McClure, **HMz** – Helen Metzman, **SN** – Sue Neri, **ROR** – Richard Orr, **MO'S** – Michael O'Sullivan, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **SPz** – Sherry Peruzzi, **RR** – Robert Ringler, **MRg** – Matt Rogosky, **RRf** – Russ Ruffing, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** – Jay Sheppard, **JS** – Jo Solem, **JSz** – Jim Stasz, **CSt** – Chuck Stirrat, **MSz** – Marcy Stutzman, **ASu** – Augie Sunell, **ESu** – Eva Sunell, **RSu** – Rick Sussman, **KTf** – Kate Tufts, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson.

SPRING 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. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

PIGTAIL - TRIADELPHIA

May 5, Sat., 8:00 a.m., (2 – 3 hours)
In conjunction with WSSC and Montgomery County Bird Club.
Meet at the Green Bridge Rd parking lot which is off Triadelphia Mill Rd.
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 – Michael O'Sullivan, fr84wrdr@yahoo.com.

MAY COUNT

May 12, Sat. Details on [page 8](#).

 **HENRYTON ROAD, PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK** May 16, 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 areas. No facilities.
Leaders - Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329, LBRoller@verizon.net.

BIG DAY

May 19, Saturday
Limit 12. Email or call the leader to sign up. 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. *Leader - Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net, 443-285-3302.*

LITTLE BIG DAY

May 19, Saturday (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. Email or call the leader for reservations and details. Facilities in some spots. *Leaders - Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com.*

HOT SPOTS FOR RED KNOTS, EPISODE VII

May 26, Saturday (all day). 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. We will work our way north, visiting hot-spots 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 lots of bug repellent, drinking water, food, and sun screen. Rendezvous: 8:30 a.m., Prime Hook NWR Visitor Center. The Howard chapter will depart Brokenland Pkwy Park & Ride West promptly at 6:00 a.m. The itinerary is subject to change based on scouting trips and rare bird reports. The trip will be limited to twelve persons/three cars per chapter. Reserve a spot with

the leaders. *Leader: Kurt Schwarz, kerschma1@verizon.net, 410-461-1643 before 8 p.m.*

PATAPSCO SCRUBLAND

May 27, 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 Lovellett, 410-489-7169 or c5nest@gmail.com.*

DRAGONFLY COUNT

July 28, Sat. For details contact Sue Muller at 410-313-4697 or smuller@howardcountymd.gov.

POPLAR ISLAND

August 29, Wed., (8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) Poplar Island is an environmental restoration project similar to Hart-Miller. When completed, it will provide approximately 570 acres of wetland and 570 acres of upland habitat. It is reached by a 20-30 minute boat ride from Tilghman Island. Scopes helpful. Cormorants, herons, egrets, shorebirds, gulls, and terns expected. Facilities available. Reservations required. Strictly limited to 24.
Leader: Joe Hanfman, 410-772-8424 or auk1844@comcast.net.

 = Great for beginning birders

(Pink-footed Goose continued from page 1)
 first state record, that I thought it was a known escapee (Patuxent is heavily birded, I reasoned, and this could be a resident flock) – but the reality is that I should have done a better job getting the word out. Thank goodness the bird stayed around for a few days at least.

Well, that's about it, really. No great tale of discovery. However, the experience has reinforced one of the great pieces of birding advice I've been given: always be prepared for a rarity. I've found that those birders who let their imaginations run wild and expect the unexpected are most often the ones who end up finding the unexpected. Great birds can be sitting anywhere, whether it's a city park or a backyard feeder or a pond during a U-turn. Now I just need to get some more phone numbers.



Jo Solem, Ward Ebert, and Bonnie Ott presented a copy of *The Second Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and D.C.* on February 27 to Michael Dwyer (second from left: Facility Manager, University of Maryland CMREC-Clarksville Facility) in appreciation for allowing access to the farm during the second breeding bird atlas.

POTLUCK THANKS BY KATHIE LILLIE

Thanks to everyone for the successful 2012 Annual Potluck Dinner! This year's dinner was held in the auditorium of the Robinson Nature Center, the same room where we have been having our monthly meetings. Thank you to the many people who helped to make the set-up and take-down smooth and speedy. Many thanks to Marty Chestem for coming up with 40 "bird cartoon" placements once again, to Kate Tufts for the fresh daffodils from her garden to adorn the tables, to Ward Ebert for the power strips and electrical cords, and to June Tveekrem for coordinating and running the slide show. Also, for door prizes thank

you's go to Eva Sunell (several items) and Sherry Tomlinson (several bags of bird seed). One of the bags of bird seed went on to become a donation to the Robinson Nature Center's bird feeders.

Our buffet was particularly good this year, with many tasty dishes (including bison chili), desserts, and appetizers. Thank you to everyone who contributed their photos to the slide show. It is a nice opportunity to share some of the pictures fellow members have taken over the year. Maybe this year's early warm spring weather contributed to the occasion; however, thank you all!

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. The May meeting is held jointly with incoming and outgoing board members.

May 24, Thursday
 Kate Tufts
 2830 Duvall Road
 Woodbine, MD 21797
 (410) 489-7052

HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

BY JOE HANFMAN

It was a partially cloudy day, wind 4 mph with gusts 10 mph, the temperature 29° – 43° F. The ponds were open. Light rain in the afternoon hours. The total number of species was 89 which is right at the average of the last 26 years. The total number of individual birds was 30,352 which is 25,177 fewer individuals than the average of the last 26 years.

All-time high counts were Gadwall 19, Northern Shoveler 3, Cooper's Hawk 14, American Woodcock 6, Pileated Woodpecker 66, Chipping Sparrow 60, and Swamp Sparrow 89. New lows were set for Mourning Dove 425, Hermit Thrush 1, and House Sparrow 308. The birds that have been seen on more than half of the counts but missed this year were Mute Swan, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Wild Turkey, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.

Many people contributed to the success of the day. Sixty-eight observers spent 221.3 hours and covered 131.5 miles on foot and 504 miles by car. Another 16.2 hours were spent feeder watching and there were 5.3 stationary hours recorded. There were 4.3 hours of owling.

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 work-sheets and provided field and

feeder checklists. Area leaders arranged coverage, followed-up, 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). 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*, Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Sue Earp, Tom Feild, Bill & Gayle Hill, Geraldine King, Kathie & Ralph Lillie, Jay Sheppard, Marcy Stutzman, Robin Todd; *Area 2. Jeff Culler*, Warren Cummings, Ward Ebert, Harry Fink, Kathy Lillie, Nancy Magnusson, Peter Osenton, Ron & Sue Polniaszek, Tom Strikwerda, Paul Zucker; *Area 3. Dave & Maureen Harvey*, Joe Byrnes, Ralph Cullison, Joe Hanfman, Felicia Lovelett, Tom Miller, Russ Ruffing, Will & Robin Tress; *Area 4. Mike McClure*, Patsy Kennan, Mike Leumas, Grazina McClure, Michael O'Sullivan, Romayne Smith, Chuck Stirrat; *Area 5. Michele Wright*, Karen Darcy, Kevin Heffernan, Carol Newman, David Smith, Ginny Walker; *Area 6. Bonnie Ott*, Jane & Ralph Geuder, Emy Holdridge, Dave Kubitsky, Brigitte Lund, Janet Lydon, Suzanne Probst, Emily Reed; *Area 7. Kurt Schwarz*, Mary Ann Beverly, Dennis & Jane Coskren, Kim Knox, John McKitterick, Barry Miller, Sue Neri, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, Eva Sunell, Jim Wilkinson.

ANNUAL LIST FOR THE COUNTY

BY WARD EBERT

2011 was a notable year for the appearance of several uncommon visitors and one new species, the Green Violetear. Also of note was the Western Grebe, for which there was only a single historical record and which did not appear in the list on our website as a county bird.

We tallied 232 species making 2011 the 6th best of the past 33 years. In addition to the two mentioned above, we found Mississippi Kite, Least Tern, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak. Missing, or more likely just not found, were Ring-necked Pheasant and Orange-crowned Warbler. Examine the complete list at http://howardbirds.org/mem_corn/Howard_County_Annual_Bird_List_2011.htm. Thanks and congratulations to all those who spent many hours scouring the county and gathering this data.

BOOKSTORE CLOSING

Remember the club's bookstore is closing. There are many bargains to be found!

Howard County Mid-Winter Count - February 4, 2012

Snow Goose	1	Peregrine Falcon	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	18
Canada Goose	7,880	American Coot	2	Eastern Bluebird	338
Tundra Swan	6	Killdeer	15	Hermit Thrush	1
Wood Duck	2	Wilson's Snipe	4	American Robin	500
Gadwall	19	American Woodcock	6	Northern Mockingbird	128
American Wigeon	47	Ring-billed Gull	606	European Starling	2,909
American Black Duck	87	Herring Gull	17	American Pipit	1
Mallard	486	Great Black-backed Gull	1	Cedar Waxwing	199
Northern Shoveler	3	<i>gull species</i>	5	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	20
Northern Pintail	3	Rock Pigeon	309	Eastern Towhee	38
Green-winged Teal	5	Mourning Dove	425	American Tree Sparrow	13
Canvasback	1	Eastern Screech-Owl	2	Chipping Sparrow	60
Redhead	5	Great Horned Owl	9	Field Sparrow	123
Ring-necked Duck	212	Barred Owl	7	Savannah Sparrow	85
Lesser Scaup	1	Belted Kingfisher	22	Fox Sparrow	8
Hooded Merganser	64	Red-bellied Woodpecker	219	Song Sparrow	622
Common Merganser	736	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	6	Swamp Sparrow	89
Red-breasted Merganser	1	Downy Woodpecker	252	White-throated Sparrow	1,383
Pied-billed Grebe	6	Hairy Woodpecker	68	White-crowned Sparrow	18
Great Blue Heron	24	Northern (Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	55	Dark-eyed Junco	1,765
Black Vulture	165	Pileated Woodpecker	66	Northern Cardinal	795
Turkey Vulture	190	Blue Jay	294	Red-winged Blackbird	1,203
Bald Eagle	16	American Crow	2,517	Eastern Meadowlark	19
Northern Harrier	2	Fish Crow	327	Common Grackle	51
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	<i>crow species</i>	1,744	Brown-headed Cowbird	174
Cooper's Hawk	14	Horned Lark	45	<i>blackbird species</i>	185
<i>accipiter species</i>	2	Carolina Chickadee	583	House Finch	214
Red-shouldered Hawk	92	Tufted Titmouse	502	American Goldfinch	201
Red-tailed Hawk	60	White-breasted Nuthatch	224	House Sparrow	308
<i>buteo species</i>	3	Brown Creeper	15	Area Total Birds:	30,352
American Kestrel	4	Carolina Wren	368	Area Total Species:	88
Merlin	2	Winter Wren	23		

GATHERING-TIME SLIDESHOWS

Interested members are invited to provide pictures for background presentations prior to club meetings. The 20 or more pictures should have a nature theme and be formatted as .jpg or be in a power point presentation. They will play and/or cycle the half hour prior to the meeting. Contact Wes Earp at (410) 531-3197 or the_earps@verizon.net to pick a night.

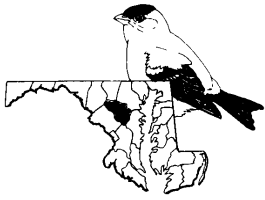
CORRECTIONS TO 2011-2012 HCBC
DIRECTORY

Allen & Laurie Lewis: Change phone number to (787) 590-4501

Kathy & Ralph Lillie: Change Kathy's email to klillie@verizon.net

Kathy & Jack Litzinger: Change email to knjlitzinger@verizon.net

Eva Sunell: Change phone number to (443) 319-5866



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

10970 Millbank Row

Columbia, MD 21044

ADDRESS SERVICE SUGGESTED

May/June 2012 - Inside This Issue

Club Meetings	Pink-footed Goose
Winter Bird Records	Spring Field Trips
Atlas Presentation	Potluck Thanks
Board Meetings	Annual List
May Count	Midwinter Count Results

MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012

BY [KEVIN HEFFERNAN](#)

The May Count, which is timed to coincide with the peak of the spring migration, will be held on May 12th. This is by far the most exciting time of year for birding. This is the time of year when you will see or hear the largest number of species—spring migrants, summer residents, and lingering winter birds. 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 (**Area 1:** Wes Earp 410-531-3197 **Area 2:** Tom Strikwerda 301-942-2841 **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 443-285-3302 **Area 7:** Jo Solem 301-725-5037) 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 to share what was seen and come up with the county totals. (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.

Come join us!

