



# The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club  
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society  
[www.howardbirds.org](http://www.howardbirds.org)



## CLUB MEETINGS - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

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Thursday, November 14, 2012 "Birds of the Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica" by Steve Kent. This presentation includes images of birds from two three-week expeditions to the locales noted above, in December 2010 and November 2012. Steve Kent is the Chief Scientist - Information Security for BBN Technologies. He has traveled to all seven continents photographing birds (and other animals) over the past two decades.

Thursday, December 12, 2012 "Philippine Mega Birds," by Gail Mackiernan. The Philippine Islands encompass 7,100 islands and host almost 200 endemic bird species. Gail will talk about her recent trip to three of the largest islands. Continued loss of forest has made many species rare and hard to locate.

Meetings are at the Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality 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 Wes Earp, 410-531-3197.

## SUMMER BIRD RECORDS: JUNE 1-JULY 31, 2013

BY [JOANNE SOLEM](#)

### 2013-14 Duck Stamp



Buy a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) and help conserve wetland and grassland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

[\(Duck Stamp continued on page 3\)](#)

Mississippi Kite, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Henslow's Sparrow were the headline species this season.

Many summers produce at least one unexpected species of waterfowl. The July Big Day 7/27 turned up a female **American Black Duck (RRf, HFk, MRg)**. This is a species that 40 years ago was an uncommon but regular breeder. Since then, it has become increasingly hard to find in summer, so that by the 2002-2006 atlas there were no county breeding records. A male **Ring-necked Duck** spent the season at or near Lake Elkhorn and was still present 7/29 (**MSt, BMr**). A laggard **Common Loon** in breeding plumage continued on Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) (6/14-NM; 6/17-BO+); however, the 7/28 bird was a non-breeding adult (**MKw**). A **Double-crested Cormorant** at Waverly Pond (MD99) on 7/27 was at an unexpected location (**RRf, HFk, MRg**). **Green Herons** probably nested in the vicinity of Loyola Pond, E. Col., with up to eight there 7/13 (**SN**). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was present at the large pond on Kerger Rd 6/5, an infrequently reported location (**BO**). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were scarce; the only sightings were at Lake Elkhorn 6/1 and 6/3 (**ALw**).

Almost every summer at least one non-breeding **Osprey** appears. This year there were at least a dozen sightings from at least eight locations. A **Mississippi Kite** was spotted east of US29 over the Red Branch Rd area 6/20 (**PWb**).

[\(Records continued on page 3\)](#)

## FALL FIELD TRIPS BY JOE HANFMAN & BONNIE OTT

**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 Joe Hanfman at [auk1844@gmail.com](mailto:auk1844@gmail.com) or 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.

### **DICKEY FARM, HOWARD COUNTY**

November 2, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. (half-day)

Joint trip with Carroll County

*Meet at the Park 'n Ride on MD 32 just north of I-70*

Moderate but long hike. Good mixed habitat, expect good sparrow numbers.

*Leader – Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117*

### **CENTENNIAL PARK**

November 3, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours) (Note: Daylight Saving Time ends)

*Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane*

Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available.

*Leader - Mike Kerwin, [m63kerwin@verizon.net](mailto:m63kerwin@verizon.net), 410-461-2408*

### **SHARPS AT WATERFORD FARM**

November 9, Saturday 8:00 a.m. (half day).

*Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right. From I-70 take MD 97 S. to right on Jennings Chapel Rd., 1 mile to right into farm at sign.* Moderate walking over crop stubble, farm roads and paths on this working farm. Fields with crop residue, extensive woodlands, Cattail Creek and floodplain, three ponds and five shallow waterfowl impoundments make for diverse habitats and good birding opportunities. Port-a-pots available. Knee-high waterproof footwear is advisable for part of hike.

*Leader – Wes Earp, [the\\_earps@verizon.net](mailto:the_earps@verizon.net), 410-531-3197*

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

Howard Patterson

4209 Hermitage Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21042-6235

[howard21042@verizon.net](mailto:howard21042@verizon.net)

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Howard Patterson, *Editor*

### **CENTENNIAL PARK**

November 10, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)

*Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane*

See Nov 3 for trip details.

*Leader – Mike Kerwin, [m63kerwin@verizon.net](mailto:m63kerwin@verizon.net), 410-461-2408*

### **HOWARD WATERFOWL SEARCH**

November 16, Saturday (8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

*Meet at Broken Land Parkway parking lot at Lake Elkhorn.*

Plan to carpool to the Columbia lakes to search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons and other waterfowl. Easy walking involved. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available at some locations.

*Leader - Kurt Schwarz, [krschwa1@verizon.net](mailto:krschwa1@verizon.net), 410-461-1643*

### **CENTENNIAL PARK**

November 17, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours )

*Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane*

See November 3 for trip details. *Leaders - Richard & Renee*

*Peters, [Richard@rrrrpeters.org](mailto:Richard@rrrrpeters.org), (301) 821-5983*

### **CENTENNIAL PARK**

November 24, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours)

*Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane*

See November 3 for trip details.

*Leader – Allen Lewis, [allenlewis@gmail.com](mailto:allenlewis@gmail.com)*

### **BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

December 7, Saturday (All Day Trip)

Plan to stop at the Choptank River Bridge for ducks and coffee. Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly. Entrance fee or Duck Stamp required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. We will carpool. Facilities at some locations.

*Leader – Kurt Schwarz, [krschwa1@verizon.net](mailto:krschwa1@verizon.net), 410-461-1643*

### **START YOUR YEAR LIST**

January 1, 2014 (8:00-11:00 a.m.)

*Meet at the Howard Conservancy – Mount Pleasant Farm*

Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible - on the one day of the year when every bird is new! Facilities available.

*Leader - Bonnie Ott, [bonnieott@verizon.net](mailto:bonnieott@verizon.net), 443-285-3302*



= Great for beginning birders

*(Records continued from page 1)*

High water levels reduced shorebird habitat which meant numbers were low and variety limited. Four **Solitary Sandpipers** appeared at Tar Bay Pond 7/22 (**KS**). The first fall **Spotted** was at Fulton Pond 7/3 (**JHf**). **Semipalmateds** were few. **Short-billed Dowitcher** was the best shorebird of the season. Four flew over Fulton Pond 7/28 with just one dropping in (**JHb**; **HPt**). Unfortunately, its stay was less than half an hour.

Late July brought a **Caspian Tern** to TRIRS 7/27 (**RRf**, **HFk**, **MRg**); it was last seen 7/29 (**DCm**; **JHf**). Two **Forster's** (same location and date) set a new county early record [7/29/08 B. Hill]. Although **Black-billed Cuckoos** at Mt. Pleasant continued until 7/27 (**KS-1**), no one detected successful breeding.

A **Great Horned Owl** at Schooley Mill Pk 6/17 was the first summer report in decades (**NM**). A **Merlin** at the north end of TRIRS 7/27 established a new early date (**RRf**, **HFk**, **MRg**) [8/2/12 B. Ott, R. Orr]. Five **Willow Flycatchers** at West Friendship 7/27 were an excellent count (**RRf**, **HFk**, **MRg**).

Three **Yellow-throated Vireos** were noted at Howard Chapel Rd 7/14 (**KS**) and one at Henryton 7/17 (**BO**). A **Warbling Vireo** was at Mt. Pleasant 6/22 (**EHS**). **Veery** numbers were low with singles at Henryton 6/2 (**KS**), Browns Bridge 7/5 (**NM**, **ROr**, **JS**), Hipsley Mill Rd 7/14 (**KS**), and MPEA 7/23 (**JS**). Two **Brown Thrashers** frequented Stone Hill Dr from 7/6 to 7/24 (**KLz**), and one appeared in an Allview yard 7/27 (**ESu**). Ten **Cedar Waxwings** were seen at Lake Elkhorn 6/4 (**EHS**).

**Black-and-white Warblers**, noted at three different locations at Daniels 6/9, were a pleasant surprise (**GMcC**, **JS**). **Prothonotary Warblers** were scarce this year. After a single sighting in spring, a singing male appeared at Henryton 6/1 (**MRg**). Its location, just west of the road at the river, enabled many people to enjoy it. It was last reported 7/5 (**M&GMcC**; **THg**). A **Hooded** at Hipsley Mill Rd at the Patuxent River 6/21 was a treat (**NM**, **M&GMcC**, **JS**). The **American Redstart** at Henryton 6/1 might have been a migrant (**KS**, **JS**, **HPt**), but the two at Howard Chapel Rd 7/14 (**KS**) and the family group at Henryton 7/27 (**RRf**, **HFk**, **MRg**) were residents. The **Cerulean** from May continued into June, just east of Henryton Rd at the river, with one heard sporadically. Two were detected 6/24 (**THg**); the last report was one on 6/27 (**THg**). A **Chestnut-sided** lingered until 6/1 at Henryton (**JHf+**). **Black-polls** dawdled past the first week of June with one spotted at Montgomery Run Rd 6/9 (**NM**). **Pines** were reported with one at Gateway 7/8 (**JW**) and two at Centennial 6/20 (an unexpected location— especially since one bird was carrying food) (**JW**). **Prairies** probably nested at Mt. Pleasant with reports of two on 6/6 (**BO**) and 6/22 (**KS**). A **Canada** at Henryton 6/6 tied the latest departure date (**THg**). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were alive and well at Mt. Pleasant with four seen 7/27 (**KS**).

A **Chipping Sparrow** was feeding a **Brown-headed Cowbird** in an Allview yard 7/25 (**ESu**). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were present at Gateway 7/2 (**JW-2**), Western Regional Pk 7/13 (fledglings) and 7/24 (feeding young) (**BO**), Jeninings Chapel Rd 7/14 (**KS-2**), and Alpha Ridge Landfill (viewed from the park) 7/27 (**RRf**, **HFk**, **MRg-1**). The **Henslow's Sparrow** that frequented a hayfield along Jennings Chapel Rd, first reported 5/11 (**TFe**, **GKg**), stayed into June. It was singing at dusk 6/8 (**JSh**), reported on 6/12 (**HPt**) and last noted 6/15 (**JSn**). Of the 13 county records, this was by far the latest [5/14/47 R. Munro].

**Blue Grosbeaks** were present during the breeding season at the following sites: Mt. Pleasant (**BO-2**), Gateway (**JW-2**), Blandair (**JW-1**), and W. Friendship (**RRf**, **HFk**, **MRg-1**). **Eastern Meadowlarks** were reported from Mt. Pleasant 6/6 (**BO-1**) and Western Reg 7/13 (**BO-2**).

The research effort to put transmitters on orioles resulted in six attached at Schooley Mill Pk: five on **Orchard Orioles** and one on a **Baltimore Oriole** (*vide NM*). Orchards were also reported nesting at Meadowbrook Pk 6/17 (**KLz**) and at Mt. Pleasant 6/28 (**HPt**), while Baltimores raised a brood in a nest overhanging Lake Kittamaquidi (**CKc**).

Thanks to Joe Hanfman, Nancy Magnusson, and Howard Patterson for their assistance.

**Observers:** **DCm** – David Cummings, **TFe** – Tom Feild, **HFk** – Harry Fink, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **THg** – Timothy Houghton, **JHb** – John Hubbell, **EHS** – Ed Huestis, **MKw** – Mike Kerwin, **GKg** – Geraldine King, **CKc** – Clayton Koonce, **ALw** – Allen Lewis, **KLz** – Kathy Litzinger, **NM** – Nancy Magnusson, **GMcC** – Grazina McClure, **MMcC** – Mike McClure, **BMr** – Barry Miller, **SN** – Sue Neri, **ROr** – Richard Orr, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **HPt** – Howard Patterson, **MRg** – Matthew Rogosky, **RRf** – Russ Ruffing, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** – Jay Sheppard, **JSn** – Jeff Shenot, **JS** – Jo Solem, **MSt** – Michelle Stewart, **ESu** – Eva Sunell, **PWb** – Pete Webb, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson.

**Changes/Corrections:** The **May Count** table in the Sept/Oct *Goldfinch* omitted two species: Northern Flicker 55 and Kentucky Warbler 6. The website version is correct. **Spring 2013:** Northern Shoveler departure date was 4/5; a Mississippi Kite was reported over MD100/Snowden River Pkwy 5/8 (**BO**); the Greater Yellowlegs on 4/10 was not the third earliest record; Red-breasted Nuthatch departure date was 5/16 MPEA (**JHf**) (second latest); and the Purple Finch high was 14 at Cavey La on 4/27 (**RRf**).

*(Duck Stamp continued from page 1)*

Go to either the main Columbia Post Office or the Fulton P.O. and purchase your Duck Stamp. ALL money raised is used to purchase bird habitat. As a bonus, the stamp gives you unlimited entrance to all National Wildlife Refuges. Another way to save is to show your Duck Stamp at the Assateague National Seashore or Chincoteague. Pay an additional \$15.00 and get a year's worth of entrances to both of these areas.

Remember: You can't use your Duck Stamp at Assateague State Park. For that, you need a MD State Parks pass, pay \$3.00 per visit, or, if over 62, buy a lifetime pass for \$10.00.

For more information, use the following link:

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/mbhcs2013/>

## SUMMARY OF THE 2013 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT

BY [MIKE MCCLURE](#) AND [CHUCK STIRRAT](#)

The twentieth annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 21, 2013. This count has turned out to be slightly above average count for the number of species and slightly below average for the number of birds observed (13,130 total birds, 129 total species, 25 warbler species, and 380 total warblers). However, the total number of warblers was below average. Comparison totals for the prior 19 years are as follows: total birds, high 26,651 in 1994; low 9,293 in 2004; average 16,827; total species, high 140 in 2010; low 108 in 2004; average 125. For total warblers, high 1,004 in 1994; low 130 in 2004; average 462; warbler species, high 30 in 1994; low 13 in 2004; average 24.

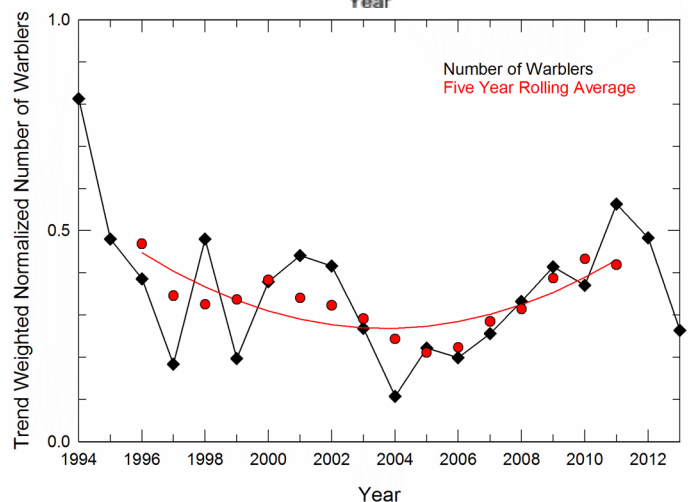
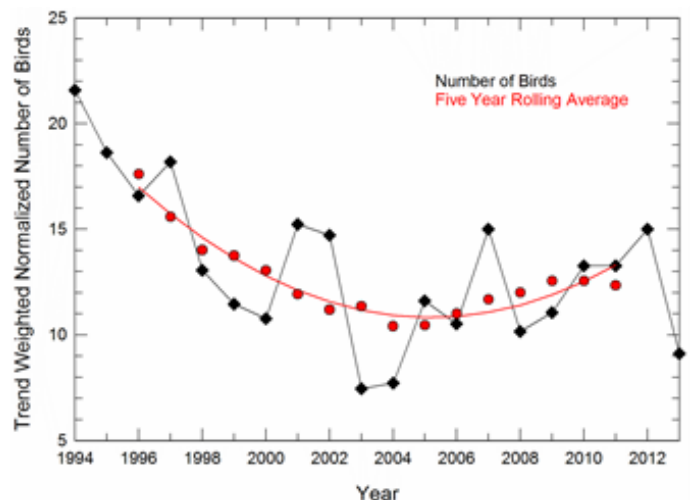
The number of participants and parties (58 and 35) compared to last year's (55 and 32) shows an increase in participation. The participants provided 199 hours of field counting time [average of 191]. The mileage was 464 compared to the average of 396 miles

Saturday's temperature started in the high 50s at 6:00 a.m. under partial cloud cover, rising to 73 degrees in late afternoon with complete cloud cover during the remainder of the day. The humidity was comfortable (dew point: 56 degrees at 6:00 a.m., rising to 63 degrees by the late afternoon and holding there for the remainder of the day). Winds were not an issue during the day. Despite the delightful weather, counters generally complained about the lack of birds. This problem is reflected in the data from the 20 years of Fall Counts as shown on the graphics for the total number of individual birds and warblers observed countywide as shown by the Rolling Five Year Average [RFYA] data. The RFYAs seem to support the fact that the first numbers have reached their lows and are now beginning to rise which contrasts with the serious declines of the early years of the Fall Count.

The accompanying [table](#) presents the count data. There were 22 species for which there was only one bird sighted countywide and six species for which there were only two birds sighted countywide. The single bird sighting number is the highest ever observed and is unchanged from last year. Species showing moderately high numbers (>500) are Canada Goose 898, Blue Jay 823, Crows [American+Fish+species] 1,114, American Robin 570, European Starling 2,062, Northern Cardinal 522.

The count participants were Dena & Scott Berglund; Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Lisa Colangelo, Dennis & Jane Coskren, **Jeff Culler (Area 2 Coordinator)**, Ralph Cullison III, David Cummings, **Karen Darcy (Area 3 Co-coordinator)**, Susan & **Wes Earp**

**(Area 1 Co-coordinator)**, Ward Ebert; Tom Feild, Geraldine King, John Finedore, John Harris, **Kevin Heffernan (Area 3 Co-coordinator)**, Bill & Gayle Hill, Emy Holdridge, John Hubbell, Ed & Jason Huestis, Michael Kerwin, Shashi Lengade, Mike Leumas, Kathie Lillie, Felicia Lovelett, Rosa Lubitz, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina & **Mike McClure (Area 4 & County Co-coordinator)**, John McKitterick, Barry Miller, Tom Miller, Sue Muller, Sue Neri, Daryl Olson, Richard Orr, **Bonnie Ott, (Area 6 Coordinator)**, Steve & Cyndy Parr, Howard Patterson, Ron & Susan Polniaszek, Suzanne Probst, Clyde Robinette, Russ Ruffing, **Kurt Schwarz (Area 5 Coordinator)**, Romayne Smith, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, **Chuck Stirrat, County Co-coordinator**, **Eva Sunell, (Area 7 Coordinator)**, Robin Todd, **Mark Wallace (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**. Lastly, a very special thanks to **Don and Martha Waugh** who hosted the evening tally.



[\(Fall Count continued on page 6\)](#)

## HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT RESULTS - SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

Canada Goose	898
Wood Duck	21
American Black Duck	1
Mallard	181
Wild Turkey	5
Pied-billed Grebe	1
Double-crested Cormorant	8
Great Blue Heron	33
Great Egret	5
Green Heron	19
Black-crowned Night-Heron	1
Black Vulture	153
Turkey Vulture	275
Osprey	6
Bald Eagle	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3
Cooper's Hawk	15
<i>accipiter species</i>	5
Red-shouldered Hawk	56
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	18
Killdeer	60
Spotted Sandpiper	1
Solitary Sandpiper	3
Greater Yellowlegs	2
Lesser Yellowlegs	6
Least Sandpiper	17
Pectoral Sandpiper	4
Caspian Tern	2
Rock Pigeon	308
Mourning Dove	390
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	5
Black-billed Cuckoo	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	1
Great Horned Owl	1
Barred Owl	4
Chimney Swift	154
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21
Belted Kingfisher	38
Red-headed Woodpecker	2
Red-bellied Woodpecker	210
Downy Woodpecker	122
Hairy Woodpecker	27
Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker	117
Pileated Woodpecker	52

American Kestrel	10
Merlin	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	43
Acadian Flycatcher	8
<i>Empidonax species</i>	14
Eastern Phoebe	74
Great Crested Flycatcher	6
Eastern Kingbird	1
White-eyed Vireo	8
Yellow-throated Vireo	3
Warbling Vireo	2
Philadelphia Vireo	2
Red-eyed Vireo	25
Blue Jay	823
American Crow	748
Fish Crow	80
<i>crow species</i>	286
Horned Lark	12
Tree Swallow	4
Barn Swallow	13
Carolina Chickadee	366
Tufted Titmouse	228
White-breasted Nuthatch	117
Brown Creeper	1
House Wren	39
Marsh Wren	2
Carolina Wren	445
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Eastern Bluebird	301
Veery	2
Wood Thrush	13
American Robin	570
Gray Catbird	410
Northern Mockingbird	128
Brown Thrasher	15
European Starling	2,062
American Pipit	1
Cedar Waxwing	58
Ovenbird	1
Worm-eating Warbler	1
Northern Waterthrush	1
Black-&-white Warbler	30
Tennessee Warbler	12

Nashville Warbler	1
Kentucky Warbler	1
Common Yellowthroat	90
American Redstart	33
Cape May Warbler	9
Northern Parula	9
Magnolia Warbler	69
Bay-breasted Warbler	4
Blackburnian Warbler	3
Yellow Warbler	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	13
Blackpoll Warbler	1
Blk.-throated Blue Warbler	17
Palm Warbler	13
Pine Warbler	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Yellow-throated Warbler	1
Prairie Warbler	2
Blk.-throated Green Warbler	38
Canada Warbler	1
<i>warbler species</i>	27
Eastern Towhee	59
Chipping Sparrow	221
Field Sparrow	27
Savannah Sparrow	9
Grasshopper Sparrow	2
Song Sparrow	92
White-throated Sparrow	2
Scarlet Tanager	13
Northern Cardinal	522
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	6
Blue Grosbeak	16
Indigo Bunting	67
Bobolink	80
Red-winged Blackbird	39
Eastern Meadowlark	17
Common Grackle	416
Brown-headed Cowbird	301
Baltimore Oriole	4
Purple Finch	1
House Finch	99
American Goldfinch	245
House Sparrow	319
<b>Total Birds:</b>	13,130
<b>Total Species:</b>	129

# EIGHTH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT RESULTS

BY BETH JOHNSON

This year's dragonfly count was held on June 1st. The temperatures were in the 80s and the skies were mostly sunny – a lovely day.

While dragonfly numbers were moderate, diversity was on the high side. We counted 48 species comprising 2,446 individuals. This is the second-highest number of species for a count, bested only by the 52 species seen on the June 5, 2010 count.

Seven species were new to the count this year: Eastern Red Damselfly, Seepage Dancer, Gray Petaltail, Cobra Clubtail, Twin-spotted Spiketail, Slender Baskettail, and Umber Shadowdragon. Umber Shadowdragon (Orr, Ott) also stands out as a new species for Howard County. For the first time, Blue-Fronted Dancer, Dusky Dancer, Wandering Glider, and Spot-Winged Glider were not seen.

### Eastern Red Damselfly



photo by Bonnie Ott

Twenty volunteers took part in the event, which is co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. Five groups of observers, plus three individuals not in a group, fanned out throughout the county. The county was divided into five territories or areas: 1 (west), 2 (north), 3 (central), 4 (south), and 5 (east). The late afternoon tally rally was held at the Robinson Nature Center. Thanks to Sue Muller for arranging for our use of this outstanding facility.

The complete results are posted online;  
<http://southernspreadwing.com/odes/count2013/>

Many thanks to the group leaders: Helen Metzman (Area 1), Mike & Grazina McClure (Area 1), June Tveekrem (Area 2), Sue Muller (Area 3), Bob Solem (Area 4), and Jo Solem (Area 5).

In addition to the group leaders, participants were as follows:  
**Area 2:** Paul Koehler, Rick Borchelt, Beth Johnson, Richard Orr;  
**Area 3:** Mike Bandy, Bonnie Ott (also in 2); **Area 4:** John Fisher, Sherry Fisher, Linda Roberts, Phil Perkins, Diana Perkins;  
**Area 5:** Lisa Shannon, Nancy Magnusson

Next year's dragonfly count will be in August. We invite you to join us next summer!

## Triadelphia Christmas Count

The Triadelphia Christmas Count will be Saturday, December 15. Contact David Holmes at [musiclbndr@verizon.net](mailto:musiclbndr@verizon.net).

*(Fall Count continued from page 4)*

For the second year counters were given the option to list the species of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies seen as they were counting birds. A total of 14 people [10 in 2012] turned in a list. They were **Wes Earp (Area 1 Co-coordinator)**; Nancy Magnusson; **Mike & Grazina McClure (Area 4 & County Co-coordinator)**; Romayne Smith; Clyde Robinette; **Bonnie Ott (Area 6 Coordinator)**; Emy Holdridge; Richard Orr; John Hubbell; Suzanne Probst; Daryl Olson; Jo Solem; Sue Muller. Counters identified 22 species [37 in 2012] of butterflies and moths for a total of 302 sightings [407 in 2012]. For the dragonflies and damselflies, there were 15 species [13 in 2012] and 126 sightings [142 in 2012]. See the [table](#) for greater detail. The butterfly numbers appear to be down significantly but when compared to the unexpectedly large numbers seen during July and August, it's not surprising they're not here in September as well. The dragonfly/damselfly numbers do not appear to have changed appreciably from last year's.

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and, if possible, attend the tally as well. Next year the 2014 Fall Count will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September which will be the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA DISCOUNT CODE FOR MOS MEMBERS

There is a subscription discount code for a 1 year subscription to Birds of North America for MOS members. These are complete life histories, each one written by an expert for that species and accompanied by an extensive bibliography. MOS members will purchase their subscriptions directly through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology E-Store:

Renewals: [http://store.birds.cornell.edu/category\\_s/38.htm](http://store.birds.cornell.edu/category_s/38.htm)

New Subscriptions: [http://store.birds.cornell.edu/Birds\\_of\\_North\\_America\\_s/35.htm](http://store.birds.cornell.edu/Birds_of_North_America_s/35.htm)

Once at the store page:

1. Select the 1 year term by clicking "Add to Cart"
2. You will then be taken to the "Your Cart" page. To take advantage of the discounted subscription rate, simply put the following code in the Promotion Code field at the bottom left of the page: **BNAMOS**
3. Click "Apply"; The \$25 rate will appear
4. Click "Proceed to Checkout"
5. Finish purchasing process.
6. Two emails will then be sent to you; one email is your receipt and the other email will include a Subscription Code and a url link to a BNA Online page.
7. When ready to Activate the subscription, click on the url link in the email and establish a User Name & Password (if a new subscription) and insert the Subscription Code in the appropriate field.
8. After subscription activation, access will be through the BNA Online Home page: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/> with the User Name and Password. Current subscribing MOS members will receive an email notifying them of their subscription's pending expiration along with a link to the renewal purchasing page. However, their discount code will not be included in the email.

### 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. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the November meeting is a week earlier. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

November 21, 2013

John McKitterick  
10018 Maple Ave.  
Columbia, MD  
(410) 997-3122/1046, [jbmck@verizon.net](mailto:jbmck@verizon.net).

December — No Meeting

<b>Fall Count, September 21, 2013</b>	
<b>Butterflies &amp; Moths</b>	
Cabbage White	174
Clouded Sulphur	94
Common Buckeye	6
Common Checkered-Skipper	2
Common Wood-Nymph	2
Eastern Comma	18
Eastern Tailed-Blue	24
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	8
Fall Webworm Caterpillar	14
Henry's Marsh Moth Caterpillar	4
Least Skipper	56
Monarch	13
Northern Pearly-eye	4
Orange Sulphur	66
Pearl Crescent	202
Sachem	40
Salt Marsh Caterpillar	16
Spicebush Swallowtail	4
Variegated Fritillary	28
Viceroy	4
White M Hairstreak	2
Wild Indigo Duskywing	2
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>601</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Dragonflies &amp; Damselflies</b>	
Autumn Meadowhawk	2
Black Saddlebags	17
Blue Dasher	12
Blue-faced Meadowhawk	2
Common Green Darner	158
Common Whitetail	8
Eastern Pondhawk	4
Familiar Bluet	2
Fawn Darner	6
Fragile Forktail	4
Seepage Dancer	24
Skimming Bluet	4
Twelve-spotted Skimmer	2
Wandering Glider	2
Widow Skimmer	4
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>251</b>
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>15</b>

### Volunteer Opportunity—Seed Sale Coordinator

An alternate coordinator is needed to assist Ward Ebert with future seed sales. Contact Ward at [wardebert@verizon.net](mailto:wardebert@verizon.net) or 301-490-5807 for more information or to volunteer to help with this important fundraiser for habitat preservation.



## HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society  
10970 Millbank Row  
Columbia, MD 21044

### November/December 2013 - Inside This Issue

Club Meetings	Summer Bird Records
2013 Duck Stamp	Field Trips
Fall Count Records	Dragonfly Count Records
Board Meetings	Triadelphia Christmas Count
Birds of North America Discount	
Volunteer Opportunity—Seed Sale Alternate Coordinator	
Display and “Big Sit” at University of Maryland Farm	

## Display and “Big Sit” at University of Maryland Farm

Again this year, the Howard County Bird Club was invited to participate in the University of Maryland farm’s open house on Saturday, October 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wes Earp organized not only the usual table display, but also planned a “Big Sit” on the lawn adjoining the large tent. Books and binoculars on a nearby table provided a “show and tell” between periods of scanning the sky. Although the midday heat was far from ideal for birds, Wes, Kurt Schwarz, Ed Huestis, and John Harris pulled 22 species out of the sky and nearby trees. A tally board enabled visitors to note what had been seen.

People visiting the HCBC exhibit between 2:15 and 2:45 p.m. were treated to a perched adult Bald Eagle in a mature sycamore just downstream from the bridge. Imagine if that were the first bird you ever saw through a telescope!

Bob and Jo Solem helped set up and with Kate Tufts worked the a.m. Sue Earp dropped by for the p.m. and take-down. A few other members stopped by to say hello. Make a point to put this family-friendly event on your calendar next October—and help with the Big Sit.



Bird Club table display in the tent

photos by Jo Solem



Wes Earp and Ed Huestis scanning for birds. Reference material and optics display in foreground.