



The Goldfinch

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

www.howardbirds.org



CLUB MEETING - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

Thursday, May 14, 2015 "Solving the Mysteries of Bird Migration," by Dr. Gwen Brewer, Maryland DNR. The migration of birds has fascinated bird watchers and researchers alike for centuries. The amazing journeys of birds have been chronicled in song, poetry, and film, but how do they do it? This talk will summarize what we know about bird migration today, including exciting recent advances that have come about through the use of new technologies. As Science Program Manager for the Natural Heritage Program, Dr. Brewer works with staff to carry out inventory, monitoring, research, and conservation projects for rare species and non-game animals.

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 Robin Todd, 410-491-5333.

Inside this Issue:

Club Meeting	1
Winter Bird Records	1
Spring Field Trips	2
Annual List	2
May Count	5
Board of Directors Meeting	5
Changes to Directory	6
Dragonfly Count	7
New Members	7
Contributions	7
Midwinter Count Results	8
Butterfly Events	8
Midwinter Count Table	9
Potluck Thanks	10

WINTER BIRD RECORDS: DECEMBER 1, 2014 – FEBRUARY 28, 2015

BY JOANNE SOLEM

A winter that started with normal temperatures and more rain than snow took a turn for the worse just as birders were beginning to anticipate spring. February became progressively colder with frequent snow. By the end of the season, a significant amount of ice-covered snow still blanketed the ground and temperatures remained well below normal. Despite these adverse conditions, a number of birds made it a winter to remember. Highlights included Greater White-fronted Goose, Ross's Goose, American Bittern, Nashville Warbler, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak.

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** appeared at Waterford Farm, Jennings Chapel Rd on 1/8 (A&CSH, ph.), the sixth county record. Birders were not aware of this sighting, so when a single White-fronted was spotted at Centennial Park (CENPK) on 1/16, it created excitement (DCM; m. obs.). This individual did not linger long after it was discovered, but on 1/19 two were spotted at Larriland Farm, MD 94 (ALW; m. obs.). The question remains as to whether there were two—or possibly three—birds involved in the three sightings. The first **Snow Geese** this season were a flock flying over Cavey La on 12/7 (RRF). Russ counted 37, but, after examining his photos carefully, he realized that one of the birds was a **Ross's Goose**—a very nice

(Records continued on page 3)

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BIRDING REPORT FOR 2014

This excellent report, compiled by club member Russ Ruffing, can be found at: <http://www.billhubick.com/documents.php>

SPRING 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 or Bonnie Ott at bonnieott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

MAY COUNT

May 9, Saturday. See [announcement](#) on page 5.

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

May 15-17, 2015. See announcement on the MOS web site: <http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/annual.html>

PATAPSCO SCRUBLAND

May 30, Saturday, 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, c5nest@gmail.com, 301-802-1969

ANNUAL DRAGONFLY COUNT

August 25 Saturday. See [announcement](#) on page 7.

BUTTERFLY EVENTS

See [page 8](#)

ANNUAL LIST FOR THE COUNTY

BY JOE HANFMAN

Birders reported a total of 226 species for Howard County in 2014. This total was the sixteenth highest total in the last 36 years. The top county birds of the year were the county's first **Little Gull** and **Swallow-tailed Kite**. The Little Gull was found on 4/6 by Karen and Kevin Heffernan and Howard Patterson at Centennial Lake. It was very cooperative and stayed all day to the delight of many Howard County and Maryland birders. The Swallow-tailed Kite flew over Harry Fink's yard.



Little Gull *by Kevin Heffernan*

The county's second record of **Eared Grebe** was photographed at Lake Elkhorn on 8/28. It was several days later when birders saw the photograph, but unfortunately the bird was gone. **Red-necked Grebes** showed up in several locations with a high count of 18 at Triadelphia Reservoir on 3/21. Four **Ross's Geese**, the second county record, were found by Russ Ruffing along Daisy Rd on 1/2. A **Tricolored Heron** found by Matt Rogosky at Centennial Lake was

the fourth county record. On 8/7, Bonnie Ott photographed an immature **White Ibis** at Rockburn Branch Park. This was only the fifth year of the last 36 years that this species has been seen. On 3/19 Jim Wilkinson found a pair of **Brewer's Blackbirds** along Daisy Road for the fifth county record.



White Ibis (immature) *by Bonnie Ott*

Examine the complete list at: <http://www.howardbirds.org/records/HowardCountyAnnualBirdList.htm>

Thanks and congratulations to all those who spent many hours scouring the county, finding birds, and sharing their sightings.

“two-fer” and the county’s fifth record. Other Snow Goose sightings included Florence Rd/Shaffersville Rd 1/22 (**KnHf**-2), Carrs Mill Rd 1/25 (**JHf**, m. obs.-1), and MD 99/Morgan Station Rd 2/7 (**W&SE**+1). **Cackling Geese** were reported multiple times with highs of at least four (possibly six) at Glenwood, MD 97 on 12/4 (**RRf**) (five later that day **KS**); four at CENPK 12/7 (**KS**) (three on 1/13 **BO**); one at MD 99/Camden Meadows 2/14 (**NM**); and two at Daisy Rd/Bushy Pk Rd 2/22 (**JW**).

Until lakes and reservoirs froze, there were scattered reports of **Tundra Swans** with a juvenile at CENPK 12/4 (**KS**) to 1/8 (**JHr**+) and two at Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 1/6, continuing for several days, (**DCm**).

Gadwalls can be scarce locally, but this winter they turned up at CENPK 12/16 (**KS**-3), Race Rd wetlands 1/4 (**KS**; **MKw**-8), the quarry south of Brighton Dam Rd 1/10 (**DCm**-2), and Larriland 1/25 (**DCm**-2). Although most **American Black Duck** reports were in the low single digits, Howard County Midwinter Count (HCMC) on 2/7 tallied 34 countywide. **Northern Shovelers** were spotted at Race Rd 1/4 (**JHr**-7), at the quarry 1/10 (**DCm**-2), and at Wilde Lake (WILLK) 1/16 (**DCm**-3). **Northern Pintails** were noted at six locations with a high of 10 at a McNeal Rd pond 2/7 (**MW**). **Canvasbacks** frequently winter at local lakes in low numbers. This winter a flock of 26 showed up at CENPK 12/3 (**JCu**); the high count of 31 on 2/18 (**KnHf**, **Hpt**) was the second highest number ever. **Redheads**, which are considered unusual, were

seen throughout the winter at seven sites with highs of 16 at the quarry 1/7 (**DCm**, **ALw**) and 17 at BRDAM 1/9 (**NM**). The peak **Ring-necked Duck** flock was 103 at Lime Kiln Pond 1/3 (**MKw**).



Redheads by Kathy Litzingeer

Both scaup species were seen intermittently all winter. Of the two **Surf Scoters** continuing at CENPK from mid-November, the last report was 12/1 (**JSf**-1). Four **Long-tailed Ducks** at CENPK 12/2 were a choice, albeit brief, sighting (**FFI**). Although **Common Goldeneyes** are infrequent winter visitors, there were three at Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) 1/7 (**DSn**) and five at BRDAM 1/10 (**DCm**). **Hooded Mergansers** peaked at 32 at LKELK 12/27 (**JW**). At Triadelphia Reservoir, **Common Merganser** numbers generally rise during December and early January routinely peaking ~2,000. Not this winter. By 12/31, there were “hundreds” (**DCm**), (peak was probably ~1,000), but as the reservoir began to freeze most birds departed with few left by mid-January. On 1/30, two appeared at CENPK (**JHf**); there were none on HCMC; two were at the quarry 2/16 (**JHf**) before it, too, froze over. A female **Red-breasted Merganser** visited CENPK 12/3 (**MRg**), but most reports of this species came in early January from BRDAM with a high of four females on 1/10 (**NM**). Other than a flock of 26 **Ruddy Ducks** at CENPK 12/4 (**KS**), this species was scarce with none on HCMC and just one at the quarry 2/16 (**JHf**).

Wild Turkeys are an increasing species in HOWCO. A flock of ~20 at W. Friendship Pk wandered along the Middle Patuxent River from 1/16

(**JHr**) to early February. Other sightings of singles were from Carrs Mill Rd, HCMC (**KTf**, **LCg**), E. Walkersville Rd, HCMC (**W&SE**), and Annapolis Rock Rd 2/25 (**JHr**).

Two **Horned Grebes** appeared at CENPK 1/24 (**DSn**). One or two were seen daily through 2/1. Two **Red-necked Grebes** at LKELK 12/16



American Bittern by Bonnie Ott

(**ALw**) were the only report for this unusual species. An **American Bittern** at Fox Chase on 12/31 was a choice sighting (**BO**); it was just the second winter record. **Double-crested Cormorants** occasionally stay into winter. The latest one was at CENPK 1/12 (**MEk**).

Bald Eagles attracted attention in many parts of the county. The high count at Brighton Dam was a rather low 14 on 1/11 (**NM**). Eagles are early nesters so it was not surprising to hear that a bird was on the nest along Folly Quarter Rd on 1/25 (**K&KnHf**). The 10 **Cooper’s Hawks** on HCMC compared to two **Sharp-shinned**s reflected the change in ratio between these two wintering Accipiters since Cooper’s began nesting locally in numbers about 25 years ago. **Red-shouldered Hawks** have a varied diet, but birders are more used to seeing them eat reptiles and rodents than birds. During a period of deep snow cover, an adult was photographed at CENPK eating a **Belted Kingfisher** 2/17 (**BO**).

One **American Coot** appeared at LKELK 1/2 (**ALw**), two at CENPK 1/11 (**CKc**); and one at the Camden Meadows/MD 99 pond on 2/4 (**NM**). Shorebirds were hard to find with a **Killdeer** high of two at Glenwood 1/22 (**JHf**). Two **Wilson’s Snipe** were flushed at Alpha Ridge Landfill 1/17 (**JHf**); by HCMC there were zero there or elsewhere in the county.

Bonaparte’s Gulls are occasional in winter. One was present at Fulton 12/3 (**KS**) and again 12/11 (**JW**). The only **Laughing Gull** of 2014 was at Jessup 12/3 (**DCm**, ph.), the third latest record. The 260 **Ring-billed Gulls** at Fulton 1/4 were a fine number (**JHf**), as were the 14 **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Jessup 1/14 (**RHl**).

No **Long-eared Owls** were seen, although a fresh pellet was found on 12/1 at Annapolis Rock (**JSh**). That same excursion produced a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, winter’s lone record (**JSh**).



Red-headed Woodpecker by Bonnie Ott

The **Red-headed Woodpecker** at a Linden Church Rd home continued into February (**HFk**). On HCMC, three were counted on private property west of Md 97 along the Patapsco River (**W&SE**). Late February brought **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** to sunflower feeders, a rather odd circumstance: Cavey La (**RRf**) and Hammond Village 2/20-21 (**J&RS**). Fourteen **Northern Flickers** were counted at Linden Church Rd 2/14 (**JHf**). HCMC tallied 58 **Pileated Woodpeckers**. Although bird-

(Records continued from page 3)

ers tend to take this handsome bird for granted, in 1958, when *Birds of Maryland...* was published, Pileateds were not yet permanent county residents! This species is a good example of the changes that may take place in bird populations within relatively short periods of time.

American Kestrels continued their winter scarcity with a high of three at the landfill 1/17 (JHf+). Just one (at Belmont) was found on HCMC (SPr, DKb). **Merlins**, which used to be winter rarities, are increasingly being reported (and photographed) by sharp-eyed birders. They were noted at eight locations with multiple sightings at Old Frederick Rd, Meadowbrook Pk, W. Friendship Pk and Fulton. Interestingly, on 1/19 a **Peregrine Falcon** was identified at CENPK around 9:00 a.m. flying southwest (HPt, KnHf), while a second was seen soaring northwest at 10:30 a.m. in the Daisy/Lisbon area (ALw).

Eastern Phoebe reports were few with just two on HCMC: Rockburn Branch Pk (BO) and MD 99 (W&SE). **Common Ravens** may not yet have become exactly “common,” but with reports of one or two birds from nearly a dozen locations, they are not the rarities they were a decade ago. As many as 45 **Horned Larks** in the Old Frederick Rd/Underwood Rd area between 1/3 (JW) and 2/19 (CSt) provided plenty of opportunity to check the flocks for more unusual open-country species.

Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in a few localities with up to two on 1/6 (RRf) continuing from autumn into late February at MPEA (m. obs.), a high of three at the east end of LKELK 2/7 (DEk), and one at Burleigh Maor 2/11 (MKw). A **House Wren** at Hanover Rd 12/29 (RRf, ALw, HPt) was located again 1/2 (RRf), for an unusual January record. Normally, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** are tough to find in winter. That was true again this year, but **Golden-crowneds** were also strangely scarce which produced an abnormal ratio on HCMC of nine Golden-crowneds to eight Ruby-crowneds.



Red-breasted Nuthatch by Anette Allor

Most people do not associate **American Robins** with winter, except perhaps during a February thaw. For whatever reason, this was an astonishing season. The Triadelphia Christmas Count on 12/20 tallied a mind-boggling 11,921. Although the majority of the count circle lies outside HOWCO, the huge majority of the total robins flew into this county. Rod Burley's e-mail described his party's experience at Supplee Park, (south shore of Duckett Reservoir, P. G. Co.): “We were walking up from the boat ramp...just as the sun was rising when we heard robins in flight. We then saw many flying over heading north...; all of the birds counted would have made it into Howard. We stood there for over 30 minutes counting as they kept coming and coming and coming. Since we had a good number last year, Derek Richardson luckily had brought a clicker counter with him...After about 30-35 minutes they had finally all flown over...The total robin count in that area was 7,150...I had another large flight of 2,573...about a mile east of the park. Again all flying fairly high and heading north to northwest. All of these likely made it into Howard as well if they stayed on the same heading... Anyway ended up with 9,730 robins.”

A **Gray Catbird** 12/27 at MTPLT (BO) continued to be reported occasionally into February. Four were seen on HCMC: 1) MPEA (K&KnHf); 2) Western Regional Park (RTd, WMk); 3) River Rd, Sykesville (FLv, TMr, CBr); 4) MTPLT (KS). **Brown Thrashers** also occasionally survive winter weather. One was at MPEA on HCMC (K&KnHf); it was seen again on 2/20 (JHr). Feeder watchers at Dunloggin (KS) and Hallmark (WEB) remarked that in late February they saw **European Starlings** at their feeders. For those lucky souls, starlings were a rarity!

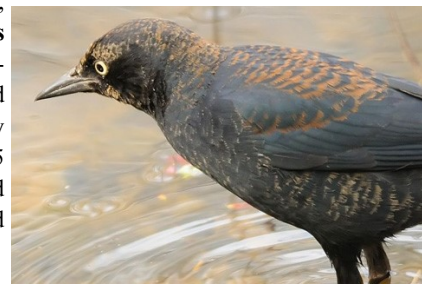
A **Nashville Warbler** was noted at MTPLT 12/22 (THg), a new late date [12/6/12 M. Bowen+]. Surprisingly, the bird found the swale to its liking and stayed for another two weeks enabling many observers to check it off in 2015. It was last seen 1/4 (JHf), an impressive late date indeed. A few **Pine Warblers** may winter, mostly in extensive pine stands. One was spotted near Whiskey Bottom Rd 12/4 (JW). An accommodating, brightly-colored Pine arrived at a LKELK feeder 1/24 and was still present 2/28 (SCI, ph.).

American Tree Sparrows are a much sought-after species, not only because they are among the handsomest of our wintering sparrows, but because their numbers have been declining. MTPLT's were the most consistent (BO, m. obs.). Other locations included Covenant Soccer Pk 1/8 (JW-1), W. Friendship Pk 1/29 (JCu-2), Western Reg. Pk 2/8 (BO-2), Meadowbrook Pk 2/18 (JW-1), and an Allview yard 2/27-28 (JMCK-1). A scattering of **Chipping Sparrows** stayed the winter with a total of 10 on HCMC. Thirty **Savannah Sparrows** was a good count at Western Reg. Pk 1/27 (JHf). **Fox Sparrows** were rather scarce; six at a Red Branch office park 12/19 was the high (JW). As has become predictable, the **White-crowned Sparrow** peak of 30 was tallied at a Roxbury Rd farm on HCMC (MW).



American Tree Sparrow by H. Patterson

A leucistic (cream-colored) **Red-winged Blackbird** appeared 1/10 and 1/21 at an Allview feeder (ESu). The 27 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at the landfill 1/17 were an exceptional number (JHf, ALw+), but by HCMC there were none there. **Rusty Blackbirds** are a declining species so when one turned up in a So. Trotter Rd yard on 1/10, it was definitely worth noting. The number grew to four and continued intermittently through most of February (W&SE, ph.). By 2/23, after snow and ice had blanketed HOWCO, three **Rusty Blackbirds** were spotted visiting a silage pit along Florence Rd with the total rising quickly to a high of 53 on 2/25 (JCu). The flock remained in the area beyond the end of February.



Rusty Blackbird by Richard Orr

(Records continued on page 6)

MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015

BY KEVIN HEFFERNAN

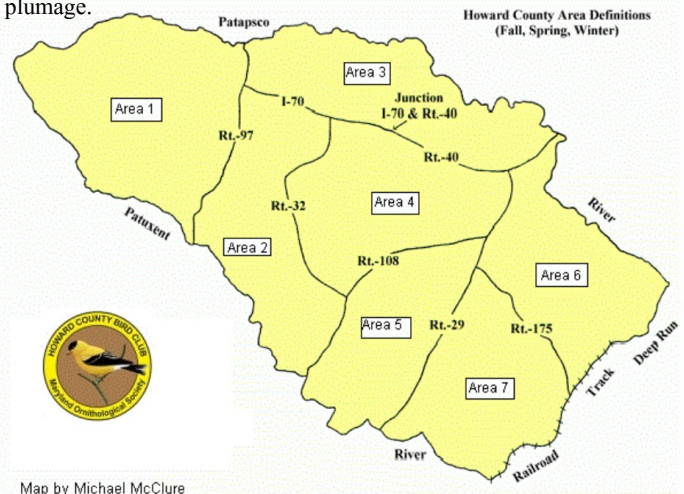
After the second long, cold, and snowy winter in a row, spring is finally here and May Count is just around the corner. May Count is always the second Saturday in May, timed to coincide with the peak of the spring migration. This year it is on May 9th, which is also International Migratory Bird Day. Hopefully, that means we should see a lot of migrants. For beginning birders, this is an excellent opportunity to be paired with more experienced birders and get to see and hear a number of both residents and spring migrants. Think warblers, vireos, thrushes, shorebirds, etc. This is the time of year when you will see or hear the largest number of species. The spring migrants are passing through headed north, the summer residents are back and some of the winter migrants are still around. Over the last 10 years across the county, we have tallied an average of 146 species during the May Count. Last year's total was 145.

For the count, Howard County is divided 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 would have a good chance of seeing that bird.

Area 1	Bill Hill	410-442-5512
Area 2	Tom Strikwerda	301-942-2841
Area 3	Chuck Stirrat	410-531-2417
Area 4	Mike McClure	410-531-2780
Area 5	Karen Heffernan	443-857-1789
Area 6	Bonnie Ott	410-461-3361
Area 7	John McKitterick	410-997-3122

At the end of the day, all of the counters are invited to a tally rally at Kathie Lillie'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 everyone else has seen. (Directions to Kathie's house will be provided by the area coordinators.) Please contact Kathie in advance (klillie3@verizon.net or 410-489-5262) and let her know how many are coming from your party and your choice of food or beverage to bring. Dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the tally will start at 8:00 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 7:00 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. This is a great chance for beginning birders to see many new and beautiful species of birds as they pass through in their spring plumage.



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 Dr
Ellicott City MD 21042
howard21042@verizon.net

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the September/October 2015 issue is July 25, 2015.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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.

May 28, 2015
John & Meg Harris
6400 Ripe Apple Lane
Columbia MD 21044
(240) 755-0183
jaybee.harris@gmail.com

(Records continued from page 4)

Purple Finches were present all winter, but not countywide. The largest numbers and most consistent sightings were in the west. The high count was 38 at Duvall Rd 1/19 (**KTf**); her feeders hosted up to ten all winter. HCMC tallied 49, of which 42 were in Area 1 (far western HOWCO).



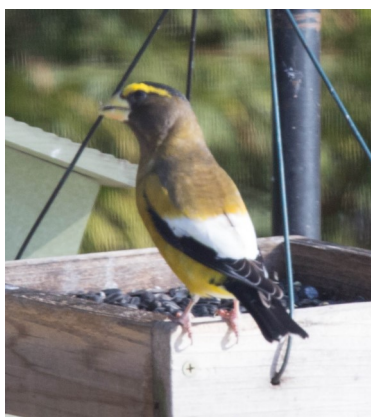
Purple Finch *by Kevin Heffernan*

A special treat was a male **Common Redpoll** spotted at the southeast end of LKELK 1/26 to 1/30 (**ALw**, m. obs.). Although found once in cedars on the northeast side of the lake on 1/29 (**JW**), the bird appeared to enjoy primarily weed seeds. That was not the only county redpoll. During the height of a snowstorm on 2/21, a dozen redpolls and 10 **Pine Siskins** showed up at feeders along Timberleigh Way feeding for several hours before departing. By the following day, the storm had passed—and so had all but three siskins (**DNg**).



Common Redpoll *by H. Patterson*

Unlike Purple Finches, Pine Siskins were widely reported at feeders, in treetops, and as flyovers. More than a dozen sites produced a high of 23 at Burleigh Manor 2/28 (**MKw**). An **Evening Grosbeak** put the county on Maryland's ornithological map this season. A male made a brief stop at a feeder on Hermitage Dr, east of Centennial H. S. on 1/31. This may have been the only verified winter sighting in the state (**HPt**, ph.).



Evening Grosbeak *by Howard Patterson*

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

Correction: The Red-headed Woodpecker at Cavey La 9/26/14, in the Autumn 2014 summary, was an error.

Abbreviations: CENPK – Centennial Park; HOWCO – Howard County, HCMC – Howard County Midwinter Count, February 7; LKELK – Lake Elkhorn; MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area; MTPLT – Mount Pleasant, ph. - photograph

Observers: CBR – Colby Barne, LCg – Lisa Colangelo, SCI – Steve Collins, JCu – Jeff Culler, DCm – David Cummings, WEb – Ward Ebert, SE – Sue Earp, WE – Wes Earp, DEk – Darius Ecker, MEk – Mary Erickson, FF1 – Fred Fallon, HFk – Harry Fink, JHf – Joe Hanfman, JHr – John Harris, KnHf – Karen Heffernan, KHf – Kevin Heffernan, RHI – Russel Hillsley, THg – Timothy Houghton, MKw – Mike Kerwin, CKn – Clayton Koonce, DKb – Dave Kubitsky, ALw – Allen Lewis, FLv – Felicia Lovelett, NM – Nancy Magnusson, JMCK – John McKitterick, WMk – Woody Merkle, TMr – Tom Miller, DNg – Diane Nagengast, BO – Bonnie Ott, HPt – Howard Patterson, SPr – Sue Probst, MRg – Matt Rogosky, RRF – Ruff Ruffing, DSn – David Sandler, JSf – Justine Schaeffer, KS – Kurt Schwarz, ASH – Allen Sharp, CSh – Chuck Sharp, JSh – Jay Sheppard, JS – Jo Solem, RS – Robert Solem, CSt – Chuck Stirrat, ESu – Eva Sunell, RTd – Robin Todd, KTf – Kate Tufts, MW – Mark Wallace, JW – Jim Wilkinson.

Changes to Howard County Bird Club Directory

Additions to Directory:

Mary Erickson
8513 Window Latch Way
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 718-8263
(410) 730-6004
twostagging@yahoo.com

Mary Pagan
7707 Briarstone ct
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 802-2617
mery707@verizon.net

Frank Wilkins
9669 Highwind Ct
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 730-6872
wilkrun@verizon.net

Change to Directory:

Kevin Heffernan
Karen Darcy
to
Kevin Heffernan
Karen Heffernan

Change email address:

Bob & Jo Solem
odenata@msn.com

Change telephone number:

Charles Stirrat
change (443) 676-0467 to (443) 462-8234

State Directors:

change Karen Darcy to Karen Heffernan

**TENTH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY
DRAGONFLY COUNT**

The 10th Annual Howard County Dragonfly Count, co-sponsored with the Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks, will be held this year on Saturday, August 25, 2015.

No experience is necessary to participate. Join fellow birders and naturalists in enjoying these beautiful insects. Each group of observers, with an experienced leader, visits sites within the county. The group identifies and counts every dragonfly and damselfly seen. Beginners and photographers are welcome.

For prior years' count data, see http://www.howardbirds.org/odonates/OdonateCounts/odonate_count_results.htm. For other historical information, visit the club's website, www.howardbirds.org and click on the dragonfly links for a preview of Howard County odes.

If you are interested in participating, leading a group, or assisting in some other way, please contact count coordinator, Beth Johnson, at bajohnsonjohnson@verizon.net.



American Rubyspot

by Bonnie Ott

**THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING
NEW MEMBERS
DECEMBER 1 2014 - MARCH 31, 2105**

- Callow, Richard
- Duck, Katherine
- Ecker, Darius and Linda
- Erickson, Mary
- Kelly, Joyce
- Prowell, Mary
- Sprecher, Steve
- Tucker, Duane
- Vilar, Lisa

CONTRIBUTIONS

THANKS TO THESE MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions above basic membership:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Baicich, Paul | Lovelett, Felicia |
| Berglund, Scott & Dena | Lillie, Katharine & Ralph |
| Beverly, Mary Ann | McKitterick, John |
| Buswell, Susan | Merkle, Woody |
| Chestem, Martha | Miller, Tom |
| Colston, Kathy | Morris, Georgia |
| Cullison, Ralph | Petersen, Norma |
| Doyle, Robert | Schwarz, Kurt & Kennan, Patsy |
| Dunlap, Julie | Southworth, Daniel & Linda |
| Gold, Mary | Speelman, Lori |
| Harvey, Dave & Maureen | Stirrat, Charles |
| Hoffman, John | Strikwerda, Tom |
| Holley, Lynn & Linda | Sunnell, Eva |
| Kendall, Sally & Bob | Todd, Robin |
| Kerwin, Mike | Tress, Will & Robin |
| Kubofcik, Grace | Wilder, Phill & Maria |
| | Wilson, Jonathan |

Contributions to MOS

- Buswell, Susan
- Harvey, Dave & Maureen
- Lillie, Katharine
- Hoffman, John
- Todd, Robin

Contributions to Butterfly Project

- Sunnell, Eva

Sustaining

- Beverly, Mary Ann
- Colston, Kathy
- Kerwin, Mike
- Speelman, Lori

Memorial contributions for Emy Holdridge will appear in the Sept/Oct issue of the Goldfinch.

Emy Holdridge's Optics for Sale

Emy Holdridge's well-cared-for optics (consisting of a telescope, three pairs of binoculars, and two tripods) will be available for sale at the May meeting, May 14. Watch for a Newsgram with details or contact the webmaster at Howardbirds.org. At her daughter's request, all money raised will go toward pollinator meadows.

HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 7, 2015

BY JOE HANFMAN

The day was cool and overcast with temperatures 22 - 44° F. The reservoir and ponds were 100% iced over and streams were 10 - 50% iced. We recorded 87 species which is three below the average of the last 29 years. The total number of individual birds was 41,991 which is 11,860 below the average but 9,046 above last year's total.

A continuing Pine Warbler was found at Lake Elkhorn the first time on the count. Common Ravens are becoming more common and one was found for the third time.

All time high counts were recorded for Canada Goose (15,428), Northern Shoveler (3 tied), American Robin (2,212), and Swamp Sparrow (89).

All-time low counts were recorded for American Wigeon (1), Herring Gull (2), and American Kestrel (1).

Fifty-five of the 87 species tallied have been seen on all 29 Midwinter Counts. Eighty-two of the 87 species tallied have been seen on at least 50% of all 29 Midwinter Counts.

The birds that have been seen on more than half of the counts but missed this year were Mute Swan (not expected), Tundra Swan, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, American Coot, Wilson's Snipe, Great Black-backed Gull, and Eastern Meadowlark.

Many people contributed to the success of the day. Sixty-one observers spent 214.4 hours and covered 141.3 miles on foot and 436.9 miles by

car. Another 10.1 hours were spent feeder watching, plus 2.5 hours stationary, and 2.3 hours of owling.

Chuck Stirrat updated the taxonomic order, summarized the area worksheets, and provided field and feeder checklists. Area leaders arranged coverage, did follow-up, if necessary, and completed 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, Lisa Colangelo, Trish Cope, Sue Earp, Toni Evans, Tom Feild, Ron Griffin, Geraldine King, Woody Merkle, Robert Ringler, Jay Sheppard, Marcy Stutzman, Debi Talbott, Robin Todd, Kate Tufts; *Area 2.* **Ward Ebert**, Jeff Culler, David Cummings, Paul Zucker; *Area 3.* **Dave Harvey**, Colbey Barne, Ralph Cullison, Darius Ecker, Joe Hanfman, Scott Housen, Felicia Lovelett, Tom Miller, Kurt Schwarz, Will & Robin Tress; *Area 4.* **Mike McClure**, John Harris, Patsy Kennan, Grazina McClure, Chuck Stirrat; *Area 5.* **Karen & Kevin Heffernan**, Jane Ebert, David Holmes, Ed Huestis, Nancy Magnusson, Sharon Smith, June Tveekrem, Laurie Waisel, Ginny Walker; *Area 6.* **Bonnie Ott**, Ralph Geuder, Dave Kubitsky, Richard Orr, Suzanne Probst; *Area 7.* **Kurt Schwarz**, Dennis Coskren, Rosa Lubitz, John McKitterick, Sue Muller, Sue Neri, Ben Newton, Jo Solem, Jim Wilkinson

BUTTERFLY EVENTS BY LINDA HUNT

There will be a number of Butterfly Walks and events this spring and summer for those of you interested in looking for butterflies and learning more about them. A few of those scheduled for April and May are listed here. For information about additional walks, field trips, and events, email Linda Hunt at raven10322@hotmail.com so that you can be added to her mailing list.

Butterflies of Field and Garden, Robinson Nature Center, Sunday, May 3, 2015, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Free. REGISTRATION REQUIRED (email Linda Hunt at raven10322@hotmail.com). Number of participants limited. Local butterfly enthusiast Linda Hunt will present a slide show on identification of common Howard County butterflies. After a quick overview of the differences between butterflies and moths and the butterfly life cycle, participants will participate in applying a simple method for identifying 25 common butterfly species. Presentation of information on butterfly flight times, habitats and host plants, and printed and internet resources will enable participants to identify additional species independently. Additionally, suggestions for

finding, approaching, and photographing butterflies will be discussed. Approximate time: 1.5 hours. A list of scheduled follow-up Butterfly Walks at the Robinson Nature Center and other Howard County parks and gardens will be available.

Hipsley Mill Meadow Butterfly Walk, Monday, April 20, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Leader: Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com

Rockburn Branch Park Butterfly Walk, Friday, May 8, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Leader: Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com

Meadowbrook Park Butterfly Field Trip/Count, Saturday, June 6, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (tentative) Leader: Sue Muller (Contact Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com closer to the date for updated information.)

Howard County Midwinter Count - February 7, 2015

Totals		Totals		Totals	
Snow Goose	1	Hairy Woodpecker	41	White-crowned Sparrow	34
Canada Goose	15,428	Northern(Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	120	<i>sparrow species</i>	3
Wood Duck	5	Pileated Woodpecker	58	Dark-eyed Junco	1,809
Gadwall	4	American Kestrel	1	Northern Cardinal	676
American Wigeon	1	Merlin	1	Red-winged Blackbird	1,183
American Black Duck	34	Eastern Phoebe	2	Common Grackle	142
Mallard	387	Blue Jay	607	Brown-headed Cowbird	360
Northern Shoveler	3	American Crow	2,829	<i>blackbird species</i>	20
Northern Pintail	10	Fish Crow	67	House Finch	253
Canvasback	22	<i>crow species</i>	945	Purple Finch	49
Redhead	5	Common Raven	1	Pine Siskin	24
Ring-necked Duck	110	Horned Lark	19	American Goldfinch	340
Lesser Scaup	1	Carolina Chickadee	572	House Sparrow	369
Bufflehead	10	Tufted Titmouse	444	Area Total Birds:	41,991
Hooded Merganser	21	Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	Area Total Species:	87
Wild Turkey	2	White-breasted Nuthatch	249	Supplemental Data	
Great Blue Heron	9	Brown Creeper	7	Totals	
Black Vulture	236	Winter Wren	20	Time Start:	6:45 a
Turkey Vulture	258	Carolina Wren	281	Time Stop:	6:45 p
Bald Eagle [ad/im/unk]	17	Golden-crowned Kinglet	9	Hours on Foot:	163.2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	Hours by Car:	51.2
Cooper's Hawk	10	Eastern Bluebird	317	Miles on Foot:	141.3
<i>accipiter species</i>	1	Hermit Thrush	18	Miles by Car:	436.9
Red-shouldered Hawk	73	American Robin	2,212	Hours Feeder Watching:	10.1
Red-tailed Hawk	46	Gray Catbird	4	Hours Stationary:	2.5
<i>buteo species</i>	5	Brown Thrasher	1	Hours "Owling":	2.3
Killdeer	3	Northern Mockingbird	122	Miles "Owling":	11.0
Ring-billed Gull	816	European Starling	5,097	Totals	
Herring Gull	2	Cedar Waxwing	46	Total Deer Seen	123
<i>gull species</i>	2	Pine Warbler	1	Tot. Field Obs. in Area:	59
Rock Pigeon	671	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	12	Tot. Field Parties in Area:	42
Mourning Dove	805	Eastern Towhee	83	Tot. Feederwatchers:	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	American Tree Sparrow	15	Tot. Feederwatch Parties:	2
Great Horned Owl	2	Chipping Sparrow	10	Total Observers in Area:	61
Barred Owl	4	Field Sparrow	100	Tot. Field Pty-Hrs (Reg.):	214.4
Belted Kingfisher	18	Savannah Sparrow	15	Total Party-Hrs (Feeder):	10.1
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	Fox Sparrow	8	Tot. Pty-Hrs (Stationary):	2.5
Red-bellied Woodpecker	307	Song Sparrow	741	Total Party-Hrs (Owling):	2.3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	19	Swamp Sparrow	89	Total Party-Hours:	229.3
Downy Woodpecker	236	White-throated Sparrow	1,962	Totals	
Totals		Totals		Totals	



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

PO Box 1323

Columbia, MD 21044

May/June 2015 - Inside This Issue:

Club Meeting	Winter Bird Records
Spring Field Trips	Annual List
May Count	Dragonfly Count
Midwinter Count Results	Butterfly Events
Potluck Thanks	

2015 POTLUCK THANKS BY KATHIE LILLIE

Thanks to everyone for the successful 2015 Annual Potluck Dinner, once again held in the auditorium of the Robinson Nature Center. In spite of a cold day complete with snow flurries, 36 people came out and shared great dinner dishes and fabulous desserts. Many thanks to Marty Chestem for once again sharing her bird cartoon placemats for the dinner place settings, to the many people who helped make the set-up and take-down so smooth and speedy, and to the RNC staff for arranging the tables and chairs for us, as usual. Ward Ebert even arrived before everyone else in order to get the electrical cords in place first thing. In

addition to the door prizes donated by Jo and Bob Solem, Kate and Dick Tufts, the RNC, via Kate Tufts, donated three free family passes. Thank you to everyone who contributed their photos to the slide show and to John McKitterick for navigating the IT equipment and coordinating the slide show. It is a nice opportunity to get to see what some of our fellow bird club members have been up to during the past year, whether it has been special trips, watching their bird feeders, or tracking birds through the underbrush at Western Regional Park!