



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club
 A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
www.howardbirds.org



CLUB MEETINGS - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

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Thursday, January 14, 2016 "Our East African Safaris," by Barry Miller and Michelle Stewart. A passion for bird photography has led this couple to travel to Africa 12 times since 2004. They will share photos and videos of birds and mammals they have seen there. Barry and Michelle are long-time club members.

Thursday, February 11, 2016 "James Bond and the Orioles of the Caribbean: How a Spy's Namesake Set the Stage for Research on the Endangered Bahama Oriole," by Dr. Kevin Omland, biology professor UMBC. Dr. Omland has studied new world orioles for 20 years. His talk will center on his group's studies of tropical orioles and his plans for work on the conservation of the Bahama Oriole

Meetings are at the Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality at 7:00 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 7:30 p.m. Nature Center doors unlocked at 6:45 p.m. and locked again at 8:00 p.m. There is no admission charge. For further information call Robin Todd at 410-491-5333

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL MID-WINTER COUNT

BY JOE HANFMAN

WISHFUL THINKING? (A SNOWY OWL IN HOWARD COUNTY THIS WINTER?)



Maryland, but not Howard County by Jeff Culler
 February, 2014

Join the Howard County Bird Club's Thirty-first Annual Mid-Winter Count on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Joe Hanfman (410-772-8424 or auk1844@gmail.com) is the count coordinator. You may volunteer to participate by signing up at a meeting or by contacting one of the area coordinators:

- Area 1: Mark Wallace - 301-725-6370 or abcxyz5@verizon.net
 Wes Earp - 410-531-3197 or the_earps@verizon.net
- Area 2: Ward Ebert - 301-490-5807 or wardebert@verizon.net
- Area 3: If you wish to count in that area, contact Joe Hanfman - 410-772-8424 or auk1844@gmail.com
- Area 4: Mike McClure - 410-531-2780 or michael.mcclure@jhuapl.edu
- Area 5: Karen & Kevin Heffernan - 410-418-8731 or kjheff@aol.com or khdarcy4@aol.com
- Area 6: Open. Birders are encouraged to count at their usual locations and send results to Joe Hanfman - auk1844@gmail.com or Chuck Stirrat - stirrcl1@gmail.com
- Area 7: Kurt Schwarz - 410-461-1643 or krschwa1@verizon.net

(Mid-Winter Count continued on page 7)

WINTER 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 Coordinators Joe Hanfman at auk1844@gmail.com Bonnie Ott at bonnieott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

START YOUR YEAR LIST

January 1, Friday, 8:00 a.m. (half day). *Meet at Mt. Pleasant Farm-Howard County Conservancy.* Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year when every bird is new! Facilities available.

Leader - Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net, 443-285-3302

ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL

January 23, Saturday (half day). **Reservations required.** Carpooling is required. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. We will search for Short-eared Owls with no guarantee of finding one. Other possibilities are Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Eastern Meadowlark. If we finish early, we may go to Mount Pleasant and look for wintering sparrows. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park.

Limited to a maximum of five cars. *Contact Joe Hanfman for reservations, auk1844@gmail.com, 410-772-8424.*

MID-WINTER COUNT

February 6, Saturday. See [page 1](#) for details.

HOW TO FIND AN OWL

February 20, Saturday, 1:00 p.m., possibility of birding till dusk for owls and early woodcock. *Meet at Annapolis Rock Rd horse trailer parking lot, midway between Hipsley Mill Rd and Rt. 94.* Learn how to find owls by habitat and signs. Jay is an expert at finding owls and will share his skills and knowledge as to how to find different species. Contact Jay to sign up so participants can be advised of weather-related changes. Our target species are Long-eared, Northern Saw-whet, and other owls. No facilities
Leader - Jay Sheppard, JMSheppard@aol.com (preferred), 301-725-5559

WATERFOWL SEARCH

March 5, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. (half day).

Meet at Lake Elkhorn Broken Land Pkwy parking lot. We'll carpool to search the Howard County waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers, and loons. Chance of an early migrant.

Leader - Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 6, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours). Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible.

Leader - Jeff Culler, cullersfuls@hotmail.com, 410-465-9006

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 13 Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours). Daylight Savings Time starts (set clocks ahead). *Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible.

Leader - Allen Lewis, allenlewis@gmail.com

SHARPS AT WATERFORD FARM

March 19, Saturday 8:00 a.m. (half day). Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right. Rte. 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 required for part of walk.

Leader - Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com, 410-531-3197

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 20, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours). *Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, woodland trails for passerines.

Leaders - Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org

CENTENNIAL PARK


March 27, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (2-3 hours). *Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected; early migrant passerines possible.

Leader - Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net, 410-461-2408

ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL

April 9, Saturday (half day). *Meet at Alpha Ridge Park at 7:45 a.m. to carpool to landfill.* Carpooling required. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. Vesper Sparrow and other field birds possible. Meadowlarks, kestrels, and other open country birds expected. Rarities possible. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park.

Contact Joe Hanfman for reservations, auk1844@gmail.com, 410-772-8424.

 = Great for beginning birders

2015 HOWARD COUNTY BUTTERFLY SEASON

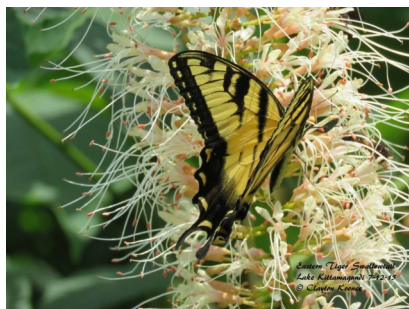
BY RICHARD SMITH AND LINDA HUNT

Documenting butterfly species diversity in a specific locality requires knowledge of species habitat, host plant requirements, and flight periods as well as the time and energy to visit well-known and “off-the-beaten-path” locations. Often, however, in a stroke of serendipity, a rare species will appear on a trellis in someone’s garden or in a newly-seeded public park meadow. 2015 has been such a year, a combination of purposeful search with happenstance.

Ten Howard County Bird Club members completed season surveys of biweekly counts from the middle of March until the end of October at 11 specific sites. An additional 27 people contributed reports of butterflies in their gardens and at another dozen-plus locations. Field trips led by Dick Smith, Sue Muller, or Linda Hunt and butterfly counts by participants of the annual Dragonfly Count and Fall Bird Count contributed county-wide information. In addition, more than 30 Howard County butterfly enthusiasts participated in two season-long efforts aimed at recording numbers of the nationally declining Monarch and also the Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, which had significantly lower Howard County numbers in 2014. Bill Hill reported the first of 400 Monarchs on May 16 and Jim Wilkinson the latest on November 17. E. Tiger Swallowtails appeared stronger than in 2014, with Sue Muller reporting the first of 847



Monarch ovipositing by Paul Bade



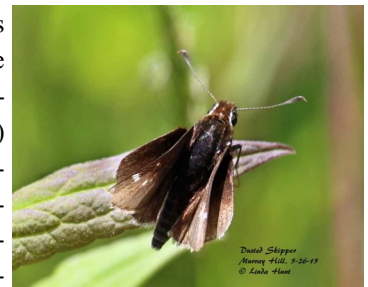
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail by Clayton Koonce

on May 7 and Clayton Koonce the last on September 15. By mid-November these efforts totaled 17,458 individual butterflies representing 70 species, a 40% increase in individuals and two species more than 2014. While a few species seen in previous years (notably Long-tailed Skipper, Giant Swallowtail, and American Snout) were absent in 2015, participants found other rare and unusual species in known and new locations. Following are additional details of the 2015 butterfly season.

As in 2014, low average temperatures in early spring and record-breaking precipitation (12.9” recorded in June) affected spring butterfly occurrence. In addition to the ubiquitous Cabbage White

(2,747), Mourning Four of us visited Black Marsh to see the Red-headed Woodpeckers and were not disappointed. We saw three (possibly four) adults and two immature birds.

Cloak (17), comma (10), and azure (38) species dominated. Attempts were made to distinguish Spring Azures from Spring-form Summer Azures, with Dick Smith determining the former occurring at Western Regional Park in late April. Also in late April Falcate Orangetip (21), Juniper Hairstreak (27), and Pine Elfin (3) at two new locations: Trinity Cemetery and Hipsley Mill (PRSP) emerged. By the end of May, with temperatures regularly nearing a butterfly comfort level of 80°F, the number of species/butterflies rose from 11/315 in March/April to 39/1,381 in May. Common butterflies appeared in waves: Eastern Tailed-Blue in Early May; Pearl Crescent, duskywings, and Zabulon Skipper in Mid-May; and Little Wood-Satyr in Late May. (References to Early (E), Mid (M), and Late (L) correspond to 10-day periods of each survey month.) Zebra Swallowtail (17) appeared in numbers around Pawpaw at Hollofield (PVSP). Bonnie Ott reported this year’s single Silvery Checkerspot, a species abundant in a 2013 irruption and present at three sites last year, at David Force NRA. Linda Hunt recorded six rare Dusted Skippers in the same location where one was seen last year, among an apparent irruption of Southern (39) and Northern (16) Cloudywings from Mid-May to Mid-June near the Gorman NRA.



Dusted Skipper by Linda Hunt

With June rains surveyors struggled to schedule productive outings in only 11 days of even partial sunshine. However, they recorded more than 50 species with double the number of butterflies seen in May. Of special note were strong numbers of Silver-spotted Skipper (134), Little Glassywing (274), Orange and Clouded Sulphurs (364), and Great Spangled Fritillary (98). Meadow Fritillary (85), which had emerged in force in May, and American Coppers (20) in June, continued strong into late summer. Linda Hunt found the Coral Hairstreak (3) again at Hipsley Mill (PRSP), as well as along Annapolis Rock Road and at Warfield’s Pond Park. Linda Hunt also found four early Sleepy Oranges along the Middle Patuxent River and in her garden, observing two ovipositing on Maryland Senna.

Butterfly numbers and species peaked again this year in July (4,156/50), August (3,910/52) and September (4,216/43). In full bloom, the three home gardens surveyed attracted more than

(Butterfly Year continued on page 4)

(Butterfly Year continued from page 3)

1,700 butterflies of 40 species. Especially notable were the 118 Eastern Tiger Swallowtails at Kate Tuft's garden in July and early August and the variety of skippers (16 species). These included some of the more unusual species such as the four rare Broad-winged Skippers at Kathy



Broad-winged Skipper by Kathy Litzinger

Litzinger's that were possibly utilizing newly discovered Phragmites occurring nearby, and Common Checkered (1), Fiery (5), Crossline (2), Southern Broken-Dash (15), Dun (3), and Ocola (4).

Southern migrants missing last year reappeared at the Robinson NC and at Emy's Meadow, the new pollinator/butterfly meadow at Centennial Park. Cloudless Sulphur (39 total) and Sleepy Orange (19 total) were guaranteed sightings from late July to the end of September at both locations. At Emy's Meadow heavy concentrations of blooming Partridge Pea, Grass-leaved Goldenrod, and Blue Mistflower became magnets for Monarchs, Variegated and Meadow Fritillaries, American Ladies, Clouded and Orange Sulphurs, and Common Checkered-Skipper.



White M Hairstreak by Kevin Heffernan

Finally, in late August and September people reported sightings of rare butterflies. Jim Wilkinson found the single Little Yellow (August 31, Thomas Viaduct Middle School) for 2015. White M

Hairstreaks were in short supply this year. None were seen in June, only three at Gateway (August 27-30, Jim Wilkinson and Linda Hunt), and one in Clemens Crossing (September 13, Linda Hunt and Kevin Heffernan). After an abundance of sightings of Beech aphids, along with Harvester caterpillars and butterflies in 2014, this species lived up to its reputation and seemingly vanished from previous sites. However, Annette Allor did find two Harvesters at Rockburn

Branch Park on August 14, and Linda Hunt found two Harvesters in a new location at Hollofield (PVSP) on September 6. After three years of Howard County Bird Club members looking for a good location with Common



Hackberry Emperor by Pat Greenwald

Hackberry trees for hackberry butterflies, on August 15 Pat Greenwald found a Hackberry Emperor puddling on her patio.

Over the next two weeks Pat recorded four Hackberry Emperors near newly-discovered Hackberry trees in the Sykesville area.

Common skippers provided surveyors with ample opportunities to practice their identification skills. Hordes of Sachem (M-July/L-July 374 and L-Aug/M-Sept 1,539), Silver-spotted (M-July/M-Aug 737), Least (M-July/L-July 180), Peck's (L-July 219), Tawny-edged (L-July/E-Aug 141), Little Glassywing (E-Aug/M-Aug 209), and Zabulon (M-May/L-May 149 and M-Aug 171) skippers were abundant. Ocola, although normally rare, staged an irruption this year, appearing early and staying late (Kathy Litzinger, July 16 and October 22) for a total of 32 for the season. On August 21 Jim Wilkinson found the rare



Clouded Skipper by Jim Wilkinson

Clouded Skipper at Mt. Pleasant, the only record for it this year. And on August 28, Rick Borchelt diverted his excursion through Central Maryland to take in the notable snowcone stand at Woodstock Road, and then spotted the rare Hayhurst's Scallopwing in the community gardens at nearby Mt. Pleasant. This species was last seen in the county in 1994.

Warm summer weather continued into early November but numbers of individuals and species slowly declined, with only 21 species and 814 individuals recorded in October. These included our late season species: Common Checkered (32), Sachem (59) and Fiery (48) skippers; Clouded and Orange Sulphurs (146); Eastern Tailed-Blue (48); and Variegated (28) and Meadow (50) Fritillary, Pearl Crescent (106) and Common Buckeye (67). Even Cabbage White dwindled from 64 in the first 10 days of October to 13 in the last 10 days of the month. Linda Hunt recorded the season's last Sleepy Orange, in winter colors, on Patuxent Branch Trail on November 3. Reports of Monarchs (22) migrating south continued into November.

We wish to especially thank the field trip leaders and each of the surveyors who completed season surveys for 2015: Kevin and Karen Heffernan, Linda Hunt, Clayton Koonce, Kathy Litzinger, Sue Muller, Suzanne Probst, Kurt Schwarz, Kate Tufts, and Jim Wilkinson. Additionally, we wish to thank all those who took the time to count and report Monarchs, E. Tiger Swallowtails and other butterflies seen at home or around the county: Paul Bade, Gill Bentley, Alicia Buxton, Ward Ebert, Sherry Fisher, Jeff Friedhoffer, Linda Giampalmo, Pat Greenwald, Bill and Gayle Hill, Mike Kerwin, Suzanne Klick, Jenny Kranz, Asuncion Lavrin, Mike and Grazina McClure, Woody Merkle, Bonnie Ott, Howard Patterson, Norma Petersen, Paul Petkus, Dick Smith, Sharon Smith, Jo and Bob Solem, Ann Strozyk, and Eva Sunell.

A brief comparison of data from 2013 to 2015 reveals consistent year to year patterns in butterfly brood cycles regardless of weather. Also, each year additional species have been documented, and existing species have been found in new locations. Finally, as additional years of surveys

Robinson Nature Center Educator Receives MOS Scholarship

BY KATE TUFTS, MOS SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

The Maryland Ornithological Society is happy to announce that it is awarding five scholarships to the National Audubon Society's Hog Island camps in Maine for the summer of 2016. Representing Howard County is **Josh Detweiler**, an Environmental Educator at the Robinson Nature Center. Josh has a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from Penn State University. He will be attending the Raptor Rapture camp in July thanks to the Frances Covington/Etta Wedge Memorial scholarship.

Mary Helen Gillen has chosen to attend the Field Ornithology camp. She is a Teacher Naturalist and Climate Programs Coordinator at the Pickering Creek Audubon Center near Easton and active in the MOS Talbot Chapter. Mary Helen's scholarship is made possible through the generosity of the Kent County chapter's Gibson-Mendinhall scholarship fund.

Montgomery County has two scholarship awardees this year. **Alex Rausch** studied Environmental Education/Interpretation in college and is working in that field at the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase. Alex has chosen the Sharing Nature camp. Also, representing Montgomery County this year is **Brady Hartley**, a Park Naturalist at Brookside Nature Center in Wheaton. Brady develops and leads education programs, including one on birds of the area. She is looking forward to participating in a new program at Hog Island this year, Hands on Bird Science. Brady is this year's recipient of the Chandler Robbins scholarship.

The Baltimore Bird Club recommended **Alexa White** for a scholarship to attend the ever-popular Sharing Nature camp. Alexa is a Chesapeake Conservation Corps Fellow at the Patterson Park Audubon Center where she designs and teaches the Green Leaders after school program for middle school students.

Congratulations to the Hog Island campers for 2016 and a special "Thank you" to the chapters which supported them. The campers have so much to look forward to. As Grant Melville, one of this year's campers stated, "The whole experience was amazing, and I feel that many of the things that I learned I will take with me for the rest of my life."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

January 28, 2016
Jo & Bob Solem
10617 Graeoch Rd.
Laurel, MD 20723
(301) 725-5037, odenata@msn.com

February 25, 2016
John McKitterick
10018 Maple Ave
Columbia, MD 21046
(410) 997-3122, jbmck@verizon.net

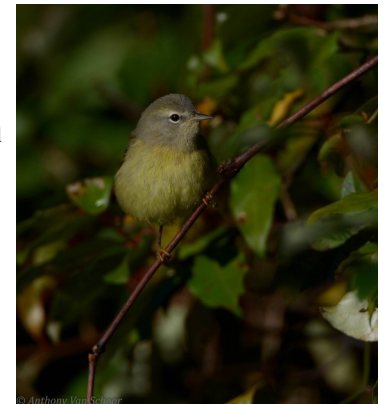
SEED SALE AND HABITAT DONATIONS

BY WARD EBERT

Despite lower seed prices, we saw a decline this year in the amount of seed sold due to a much lower number of purchasers. Proceeds from the sale of seed were \$750.00 compared to \$1,000.00 last year. On a positive note, however, direct donations for habitat actually increased to \$442.00 leaving us with a net of nearly \$1,200.00. A hearty thanks to all of you who supported this event.

Thanks once again to Kevin Cassidy and the staff of the Wildlife Authority for managing the buying and delivery process. Big thanks go to Cindy Albright, Jeff Friedhoffer, and Bob Solem who do all the handling of the order forms and money.

As always, your suggestions to make the sale better for you are welcome. The board of directors will soon be considering worthy habitat projects and possible improvements to the seed sale process.



Anthony Van Schoor found and
photographed this
Orange-crowned Warbler at
Blandair Park
on November 3, 2015.

OCTOBER SPEAKER UPDATE

BY JANE GEUDER

Tom Reider, who presented the "Physics and Evolution of Flight" program at the October club meeting, enjoyed speaking to our members and would be willing to present the second part of this program some other year. He apologized for not being able to visit with folks as he was packing up. He sent several sheets to me for some members who asked for his business card. Please contact Jane Geuder (oldhawk@aol.com) (410-788-3764) if you still want his contact information. Tom's message follows:

It was great to meet you. Thank you for inviting me to speak before the Howard County Bird Club. I think it went well judging from the number of people who came up to talk after the program. It's always hard to give each person courteous, generous time as I'm madly throwing things back into boxes to get out the door on time. Charmaine told me that a few people asked for my business card or a description of the program with my email address. I had nothing to give them. Now I have modified a program and bio sheet that was created for the Wyncote Audubon Society newsletter. I am sending you an envelope with four sheets should some of your members still wish to contact me.

MOM'S BIG YEAR - 2016

BY NANCY McALLISTER



"Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." ~Howard Thurman

I'm a mom and I'm a birder.
 Passionate about both.
 And undeniably passionate about life.

My love of birds started at an early age and has engulfed me for decades. Lots has happened in my life over that time. Through the ups and downs, family and friends have always been there, and thankfully.... so have the birds.

This year, I'm planning to use my passion for birds as a tool to reinvent myself as a mom, as well as a means of healing. I'm inviting you to fasten your seatbelt and come along with me for the ride.

In 2016, I'll be doing a Big Year, A Mom's Big Year...that is, an adapted version of the traditional birder's Big Year. I'll be going as many places and seeing as many birds as possible throughout 2016...all within the context of being the best mom I know how to be.

I'll be blogging along the way (<http://www.momsbigyear.com>) and will share my internal reflections as well as the tangible side of the adventure, including the places, the people, and of course, the BIRDS...Hopefully LOTS of them! It's my hope that this trek will reveal ways that we all can use our true passion as a compass to reorient ourselves. I believe that this process has the potential to empower us all to overcome our challenges in life.

THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING

NEW MEMBERS,

AUGUST 1-NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Tom & Leslie Buchman
 Douglas Ikosait
 Anne Looker
 Kim Morganstern
 Patricia Pitts

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

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the March/April 2016 issue is January 25, 2016.

Howard Patterson, *Editor*
 Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*

Site Guide

Included with this issue is the site guide to Meadowbrook Park. [Guides](#) to other birding spots are available on the club's website.

TENTH ANNUAL HOWARD COUNTY DRAGONFLY COUNT

BY BETH JOHNSON AND JUNE TVEEKREM

The 2015 Howard County Dragonfly Count was held on July 25th.

With a total of 41 species, dragonfly diversity was slightly below the 10-year average of 43 species. 2,249 individuals were counted.

One new species were added to the count this year; ten Sweetflag Spreadwings were seen by Tom Feild's party. This species can be sighted in Howard County between late June and late September, but, it had not yet been located during a count.



Sweetflag Spreadwing

by Richard Orr

Thirty-four volunteers took part in the event, which is co-sponsored by the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. Seven groups of observers 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 at:

<http://www.howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm>

Many thanks to the group leaders: Sue Muller (Area 1), Wes Earp (Area 1), June Tveekrem (Area 2), Linda Hunt (Area 2), Tom Feild (Area 3), Bob Solem (Area 4), and Jo Solem (Area 5).

In addition to the group leaders, participants were as follows:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Area 1 | Sue Earp, Melissa Gerr, Jamone Hopkins, Betsy Kadow, Kathy Kadow, Paul Koehler, Harris Littman, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure, Elizabeth Miller, and Cecilia Wright |
| Area 2 | Barbara Denny, Karen Heffernan, Kevin Heffernan, Beth Johnson, Clayton Koonce, Kathy Litzinger, Tim Reichard, and Robin Todd |
| Area 3 | Larry Bachman, Wayne Gordon, and Ruth Siegel |
| Area 4 | John Fisher, Sherry Fisher, and Linda Roberts |
| Area 5 | Nancy Magnusson and Lisa Shannon |

Finally, a note regarding last year's count results: 2014 was the first year in which Vesper Bluets were reported. In 2014 we decided to expand the count hours to allow for counting of species not generally seen during the main count period. This information was inadvertently omitted from the newsletter, although the species was included in the count results.

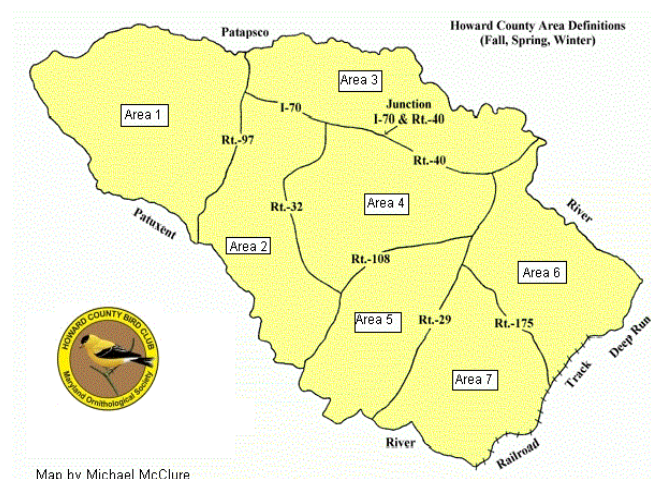
Next year's dragonfly count will be on June 11, 2016. We invite you to join us next summer!

(Mid-Winter Count continued from page 1)

Beginning birders are always welcome, as are individuals who wish to count only for part of the day. If you wish to count only at your feeders, email Joe H. and request a feeder form.

The evening potluck tally will be at Jeff and Karen Culler's at 2672 Thornbrook Rd, Ellicott City, MD. Please contact the Cullers at 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com by Wednesday, February 4th, to sign up for a vegetable, salad, or dessert, and to obtain directions. Dinner will be served at 6:45 p.m. If you cannot make the meal, you are welcome to drop in about 7:30 p.m. for the tally.

If there is a question about the weather, we will try to make a decision the night before. Contact your area coordinator if you are unsure of the status of the count.



Map by Michael McClure



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

**10970 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044**

January/February 2016 - Inside This Issue

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ANNUAL POTLUCK

BY KATHIE LILLIE

We are fortunate once again that the club's annual potluck dinner will be held at the Robinson Nature Center, Columbia, MD. The date is Saturday, March 19, 2016. Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m.; the doors to RNC open for us at 6:00 p.m. Room set-up is from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m., snacks and hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. All club members and their guests are invited to share in the comraderie, food, and the program. (RNC will not be charging their entrance fee.) The club furnishes water and utensils, cups, plates, etc. Those attending bring a main dish, hors d'oeuvres, a salad, a vegetable or a dessert. (To assist those with food allergies, it is suggested that you include a list of ingredients along with your dish. Also, be sure to mark you bowls, plates, and any accompanying service implements with your name so they can make their way back to their rightful owner!)

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the after-dinner slide show, so bring your nature photos. Please note that once again we limit images to no more than 15 photographs per person. Presentation time is limited, so please respect this request! You can bring digital photos (or a PowerPoint presentation) on a CD or USB thumb drive and the group will provide a laptop for projec-

tion of the photos.

In order to ensure we have enough chairs, beverages, etc., please let Kathie Lillie know in advance you will be attending. You may sign up at the January, February, or March club meetings, or contact Kathie Lillie by Friday, March 18, 2016 at 301-807-3785 or klillie12@verizon.net. It is helpful, too, if you can specify the number of attendees and what food you are bringing.

Let Kathie know if you would like to come early to help set up (6:00-6:30 p.m.), help clean up afterwards (9:00-10:00 p.m.) or help in other ways. If you are a new member, or if you have not attended our potluck dinner before, we encourage you to come and get to know others who share your delight in birds and things of nature, so mark your calendars and come join the event!

Directions: The Robinson Nature Center is located at 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044 (410-313-0400). Route 32 Exit 17 takes you to Cedar Lane. There is ample parking.