



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, March 9, 2017 "Mom's Big Year," by Nancy McAllister. Join this ambitious mother with three children, husband and two unexpected jobs as she spent 2016 trying to list as many birds as possible. Nancy traveled to U. S. hotspots from coast to coast. Returning to her life-long passion for nature and travel proved to be both exhausting and exhilarating for this club member, as she encountered beautiful birds and fascinating people along the way.

Thursday, April 13, 2017 "Madagascar," by Gail Mackiernan. The world's fourth largest island, a "naturalist's dream," has unique fauna and flora that evolved during millions of years of isolation. Gail will talk about her 2015 trip which explored this ancient land and recorded many of the island's most sought-after species. This club member started birding in high school, took a break during grad school, then revived her interest after a career working toward improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. She and her husband, Barry Cooper, have traveled to all seven continents in search of birds.

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. There is no admission charge. For further information call John Harris at 240-755-0183.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker can be seen in Howard County any month other than June, July, or August.

Anthony VanSchoor captured this stunning portrait of an adult female in Columbia.

AUTUMN BIRD RECORDS: AUGUST 1 – NOVEMBER 30, 2016

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Although waterfowl and shorebird migration was mediocre, county birders enjoyed a good variety of raptors, warblers, and sparrows. Headliners this season were Greater White-fronted Goose, Trumpeter Swan, White Ibis, and Painted Bunting. Also noteworthy were a flyover Red-throated Loon, nesting Osprey, a nice Broad-winged Hawk flight, flocks of Black Terns, and a Nelson's Sparrow. Multiple reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches provided hope for a good winter for boreal species.

Two **White-fronted Geese** (Greenland race) turned up at Centennial

(Records continued on page 3)

SPRING FIELD TRIPS BY JOE HANFMAN

Field trips are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Arrive at the meeting site ready to leave at the designated time with appropriate footwear and gear. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. Directions for trips not on ADC maps are on the Club's website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinator Joe Hanfman at auk1844@gmail.com. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 5, 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. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. Leaders - Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org

WATERFOWL SEARCH

March 11, 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, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 12, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. Daylight Saving Time starts (set clocks ahead). *Meet at west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. Leader - TBD

SHARPS AT WATERFORD FARM

March 18, 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. Knee-high waterproof footwear required for part of walk. Port-a-pots available. Leader - Wes Earp, wesandsue@gmail.com, 410-531-3197

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 19, 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. Waterfowl expected, woodland trails for passerines. Facilities available. Leaders - Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 26, 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. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. Leader - Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net, 410-461-2408

MT. PLEASANT FARM-HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY BEGINNERS' WALK


April 1, Saturday, 8.00 a.m. (2-3 hours). *Meet in parking lot.* Gentle ramble around rough pastures, brushy thickets and stream valleys. Early migrants arriving and resident birds starting to nest. Good chance for beginners to learn bird ID and habits before the spring migration brings in a profusion (= confusion) of later migrants. Facilities available. Leaders - John Harris, jaybee.harris@gmail.com, 240-755-0183, and Robin Todd, totnesman@aol.com, 410-491-5333

ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL

April 8, 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. Leader - Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com, 410-772-8424.

MT. PLEASANT FARM - HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY

April 22, Saturday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. Earth Day Walk in conjunction with the Howard County Conservancy. *Meet at parking lot near the barn.* Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant Farm. Tree lines, hedgerows and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. Leader - Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com

 = Great for beginning birders

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

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4209 Hermitage Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042-6235
howard21042@verizon.net

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

[\(Records continued from page 1\)](#)

(CENPK) 11/11 (EHs), for the eighth county record. They were seen intermittently with a flock of ~24 **Canada Geese** (HPT) until 11/25 (FSh). A **Cackling Goose** was detected at CENPK 11/26 (K&KnHf). The county's second **Trumpeter Swan** hung around into a third season spending much of its time on a pond east of US 29/Broken Land Pkwy. It was last reported 9/13 (JHf). **Tundra Swans** were scarce.



Greater White-fronted Geese

by Bill Hill

Duck migration was disappointing, following the pattern of recent years with low numbers and limited variety. The **Wood Duck** high of 22 was counted at US 29/Broken Land Pkwy 10/29 (JHf). A lone **Northern Pintail** appeared on a pond near Hipsley Mill Rd/Jennings Chapel Rd 11/17 (JSh). November produced a **Redhead** seen from Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 11/12 (DCm). Also at Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) were two **Long-tailed Ducks** on 11/11 (DCm), a nice count of 92 **Buffleheads** 11/21 (BHi), and a **Common Goldeneye** on 11/21 (BHi).

Wild Turkeys were spotted a few times. Eighteen in the Patapsco scrubland near River Rd/Sykesville 9/16 was the highest number (FLv), with 11 there the following day (FLv, EHs). Six were seen at Mink Hollow Rd 10/19 (SWm). **Red-throated Loons** are always of more than passing interest with fewer than 20 county records. On 10/20 at Meadowbrook Pk, a distant loon was routinely photographed. Not until more than a month later was the photo examined carefully, at which point it was apparent that the bird was not the expected **Common Loon** (BO). To add icing on the cake, this date tied the earliest record [10/20/89 N. Magnusson, J. Solem+]. It pays to examine all of your photos on a large screen! An early **Pied-billed Grebe** was present on 8/2 at the US 29/Broken Land Pkwy pond (RRf); eight were at Lake Elkhorn 10/17 (EAl).

A **Great Egret** hung on at CENPK until 11/13 (NT). The first-year **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** last seen at Lake Elkhorn 9/22 (MLC) tied the third latest record. A juvenile **White Ibis** was seen at Browns Bridge 9/10 (JW) for the county's eighth record. It was not immedi-

ately reported so the following day when a kayaker (ECh) spotted two juveniles in the same location and spread the word, birders flocked to the site. The two birds stayed together until 5:30 p.m. on 9/16 (KS), a late record [9/6 - 9/9/80 C. & L. Williamson]. In an attempt to add a new species to the annual Fall Count, multiple searches were made on 9/17, but the birds could not be found.



White Ibis

by Anthony VanSchoor

The pair of **Ospreys** on the relay tower at Triadelphia Lake View Farm took a lackadaisical attitude toward nesting. Although they were first seen carrying nesting material in late March (MW), by May they appeared to have abandoned the site (an extremely rainy May may have been the cause for the interruption). On 7/10, a bird was seen on the nest (JS, MLC), and young were still present in August (WE). Because of the height and depth of the nest, it was not possible to be sure of the number of nestlings, but the landowners thought there were at least two (*vide* WE).

Raptor migration was good with the new Skywatch site at Mt. Pleasant (MTPLT) becoming a modest draw for local birders. On a welcome note, **Bald Eagles** continue to be reported from many county locations. Six on 9/25 at MTPLT was the high (KS). The first migrant **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported on 8/22 over Martin Rd, W. Col. (JHf). A flight of 1,078 Broad-wings kept counters at the Skywatch busy on 9/27 (HFk, BO, BHi+). Although the number was not a one-day record, it was the latest peak flight; in the past, the peak has occurred between 9/20 and 9/25. Birders are used to hearing **Blue Jays** imitating **Red-shouldered Hawks**. Hearing a jay doing a **Cooper's Hawk** call at CENPK on 10/28 was more surprising (KS).

Shorebird migration proved disappointing. Attractive mudflats were ephemeral with heavy rains raising water levels just as migration was picking up steam. A **Semipalmated Plover** was spotted at Waverly Pond 9/10

[\(Records continued on page 4\)](#)

(RRf), and one was reported at Browns Bridge 9/12 (AVS). The **Killdeer** high was 53 on 10/8 at the University of Maryland Central Farm (UMDCF) open house field trip (WE, JHf+). A **Wilson's Snipe**, spotted 11/20 at CENPK (Rn & RPr+), was still present 11/27 (R&RnPr+). **American Woodcock** were reported more often than usual this season: at Daniels Patapsco Valley SP 9/17 (CSt-1), at two locations in Patuxent River SP 9/17 (TFe, GKg-3), at MTPLT 10/23 (RRf+-1), and at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) 11/28 (JHr-1).

The **Bonaparte's Gull** high was a modest four at TRIRS 11/9 and 11/21 (BHi). A lone **Caspian Tern** was seen at Lake Kittamaquundi on 8/22 (CKc). Although there are more than 20 county records of **Black Terns** during the last 60 years, some years none are seen; other years one or two are glimpsed briefly. This year proved different. On 8/21, a cool front approaching from the west was accompanied by periodic showers and westerly winds. Such conditions in August often bring unusual terns. A stop at BRDAM in the mid-afternoon produced three **Forster's Terns** perched on buoys (JS). More interesting were half a dozen distant light-colored terns. A move from the dam to the pipeline at Greenbridge improved the view of the main reservoir but produced no birds for half an hour. At 5:25 p.m., two **Double-crested Cormorants** flew by; close behind them swirled a flock of eight **Black Terns** near the Howard County shore (JS). From then until dark, birders were rewarded with changing small groups of terns (mostly Blacks) from both vantage points. A record high count of 16 Blacks occurred at the dam at 6:00 p.m. (RRf, MKw+). [8/2/86 H. Mudd - 9]. The four Forster's, also at the dam that evening, were the season's high (RRf, MKw); one there on 9/28 was the last of the season (ALw).

Both cuckoos were reported a handful of times which continued the spring pattern. The final **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** on 10/21 at MPEA was one of the county's later dates, though not a record (JHr). On 10/24, a red phase **Eastern Screech-Owl** roosted in a box at Timberleigh (DNg); one was heard at CENPK 11/25 (FSh) where they are detected occasionally.

This was a good season for **Common Nighthawks**. High counts included 90 coming from the landfill over Alpha Ridge Pk the evening of 8/30 (AVS) and 38 over Martin Rd on 9/1 (JHf), with two added the same day at the Skywatch at MTPLT (HFk+). Two new late dates for the species were set: the third latest bird flew over MTPLT on 10/9 (JHf+), while the second latest was spotted just west of the intersection of US 29/MD 108 on 10/14 (CPs).

A **Chimney Swift** over Mink Hollow Rd on 10/22 established a new second latest record (SWm). The last two **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were reported at Stone



Common Nighthawk

by Bonnie Ott

Hill Dr 10/4 (KLz) and Thornbrook Rd 10/5 (JCu). **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported multiple times at both CENPK and MTPLT by many observers.

Falcon migration was good. Three **Merlins** at a Long Reach, W. Col. home on 9/14 were unusual (AVS, ph.). A flyover **Peregrine Falcon** at UMDCF 10/8 was admired by dozens of observers (WE, JHf+). Peregrines were also reported from MTPLT (HFk+), Waterford Farm (WATFD) (AVS), TRIRS (DCm), Cavey La (RRf), and Wilde Lake (MOB).

Olive-sided Flycatchers eluded birders this fall for the first time since 2010. Thirteen **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were counted at MPEA 9/2 (KS). A calling **Alder Flycatcher** was reported on Fall Count 9/17 at CENPK (MLm, JHr, MKw). A **Traill's** was at Cavey La 8/25 (RRf). A **Least** at Cavey La on 8/22 (RRf, JHf) was the third earliest ever.

The last **Blue-headed Vireo** was detected on 10/31, River Rd, Elkridge (MAF). Late **Philadelphia Vireos** set records this season. The previous late date had been 10/8/11 by R. Ruffing. That was tied this year at UMDCF (BO, JHf, WE+); then a bird was seen on 10/11 at MTPLT (JW) which established a new late record—for one day! When that bird (or another) was spotted at MTPLT on 10/12, that became the new departure date (KS).

Common Ravens are not "common," but they continue to be noticed in ever more locations. Reports came from at least eight sites; one at Dunloggin 10/30 (KS) and one at Wincopin Neck 9/11 (JHf) were at seldom reported locations. Seven **Horned Larks** at W. Friendship Pk 9/17 (JCu) and 12 at UMDCF 10/8 (WE, JHf+) were the highs of the season. A lone **Bank Swallow** was noted at MTPLT 8/15 (RRf).

(Records continued from page 4)

The coming winter is predicted to be a good one for boreal species as a result of a poor cone crop in northern areas. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were in the vanguard. The first arrived on 8/27 at Cavey La (**RRf**), the third earliest record. By the end of the season, there were sightings from at least 12 locations (m. obs.). Six in a Pointers Run yard, W. Col. 10/22 (**JHr**) was an unusual concentration. Thanks for the many reports!

A singing **Winter Wren** at Western Regional Pk 9/17 (**B&GHi**) tied the third earliest date; four at Gorman Stream Valley NRA (Kindler) on 11/5 were an unexpected bonus while looking for salamanders (**KS**). Three **Marsh Wrens** were spotted at UMDCF 10/8 (**BO, JHf+**), a high point of the open house field trip; one was also seen at WATFD 10/19 (**AVS**). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Western Reg. Pk 10/11 was the third latest (**HPt**).



Marsh Wren

by Allen Lewis

Overall, thrush migration was unremarkable with all **Gray-cheeked** sightings singles. The individual at MTPLT 10/5 was the last of the season (**AVS**). Forty **Gray Catbirds** at Blandair 9/17 was the season's high and one of the highest counts ever (**AVS**). One was still present at CENPK 11/20 (**AMy**), a not unusual date for a species that occasionally winters. More than 35 **American Pipits** were counted in a field along Jennings Chapel Rd 11/23 (**JSh**).

Warbler migration was spotty with most sightings in the low single digits. The last **Northern Waterthrush** was noted at Lake Kittamaqundi 9/24 (**CKc**). As expected, more **Tennessees** were tallied in fall than in spring. The last **Blue-winged** was seen at MPEA 9/25 (**EHs**). **Connecticuts** were detected from 9/2 (**KS**) to 10/17 (**HPt**), both at MTPLT. The **Mourning** on 8/22 at Cavey La (**RRf**) tied the second earliest date, while the 10/18 sighting at Dr. Patel Dr (**JW**) was a new late date [10/14/02 H. Hollbrook]. **Hoodeds** were wandering from local breeding areas by 8/22 when one turned up in an

Allview yard (**JMcK**). **Cape Mays** were slow to arrive. There were none in the usual elm at Wynfield Dr until 9/20; the high was six on 9/23, while the last one on 10/21 tied the second latest county record (**RCu**). One at Lake Kittamaqundi on 10/20 tied the third latest record (**CKc**). **Bay-breasteds** are never numerous, but four slipped through between 8/26 at David Force WMA (**MJn**) and 10/3 at Dunloggin (**KS**). **Blackburnians** also drifted through for more than a month with the earliest at Lake Elkhorn 8/23 (**ALw**) and the last at the UMDCF 10/8 (**RRf, JS**). The first **Chestnut-sided** was noted at Schooley Mill Pk 8/26 (**MJn**), while the last set a record late date on 10/15 at the landfill (**JHf, KHf+**) [10/13/91 N. Magnusson]. **Blackpolls** are among the trickiest fall identification challenges. A record early bird was found along Plumtree Path on 8/22 (**MRg**) [8/25/05 B. Ott, E. Holdridge, J. Solem], while one at Blandair 10/21 was the second latest record (**AVS**). The two latest **Palms** were both noted on 11/12: Schooley Mill Pk (**JW**) and WATFD (**WE+**). The modest seasonal high of 25 was 10/16 at MTPLT (**THg**). **Yellowthroateds** are seldom found in migration. One at Mt. Hebron 9/27 (**JCu**), not far from the Patapsco Valley where they breed in small numbers, tied the late departure date [9/27/14 R. Ruffing].

Sparrows, as usual, were well-reported although no **American Tree Sparrows** were detected. Mid-October brought **Vespers** to WATFD 10/12 (**BO-1**) and to MTPLT 10/20 (**HPt, KnHf-2**). One at WATFD 11/12 tied the second latest departure date (**WE+**). The modest high of 40 **Savannahs** was counted at MTPLT 10/23 (**RRf+**). As usual, **Grasshoppers** lingered well into October with the last two on 10/13 at WATFD (**EHs**).



Grasshopper Sparrow

by Allen Lewis

A **Nelson's** was found in the swale at MTPLT 10/4 (**THg**). **Fox Sparrows** did not make an appearance until 11/6 at Cavey La (**RRf-1**). **Lincoln's** are eagerly sought and were reported from eight sites. The first was noted 9/24 at

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(Records continued from page 5)

Cavey La (**RRf**-1); the last reports were 11/23 at Alpha Ridge Pk (**JW**-1) and 11/26 at CENPK (**KRb**-1), with a high of six on 10/12 at WATFD (**BO**). Ninety Swamps at WATFD 10/12 was the season's high (**BO**), as were the 97 White-throateds at MPEA 10/16 (**JHr**).

The lone **Summer Tanager** was photographed at MPEA 10/4 (**KS**, **HPT**, **KnHf**).

Fifteen **Blue Grosbeaks** at MPEA 9/24 (**AVS**) was the second highest total on record. A well-described male **Painted Bunting** made a brief appearance at a Beaverbrook feeder on 11/19 (anonymous report). Unfortunately, the bird was not seen again. Although this was just the fourth county record, it was the second in 2016 [1/19 - Elkridge]. Single **Bobolinks** were present at MTPLT from 8/14 (**BO**) to 10/20 (**HPT**, **KnHf**); two were at UMDCF 10/8 (**JHf**, **WE**+). A count of 27 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at the landfill 10/15 (**BO**, **KHf**+) tied the previous high count at that (or any) location [1/17/15 J. Hanfman +]. Few **Rusty Blackbirds** were reported (**THg**, **WE**+, **JCu**); all were one or two birds. A late **Orchard Oriole** stayed until 9/5 at Cavey La (**RRf**). An occasional **Baltimore Oriole** lingers well into the winter. This year one was photographed at Blandair 11/15 (**JW**), and one was heard at MTPLT 11/25 (**KLz**).

Anecdotal evidence from several feeder watchers suggests the **House Finch** population may be rebounding. It will be interesting to see if Christmas and Mid-winter counts produce substantiating numbers. **Purple Finches** began arriving on 9/25 with one brown at Cavey La (**RRf**). Reports in the single digits continued during much of October and early November from at least 10 locations (mostly feeders). As yet, **Pine Siskins** are not widespread. One appeared on 11/24 at Diversified La and continued sporadically into the winter season (**Kn&KHf**).

Many thanks to Joe Hanfman, Nancy Magnusson, and Howard Patterson for their proofing and editorial assistance.

Abbreviations: BRDAM – Brighton Dam, CENPK – Centennial Park, MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, MTPLT – Mt. Pleasant, TRIRS – Triadelphia Reservoir, UMDCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, WATFD – Waterford Farm.

Observers: EAl – Eric Albright, ECh – Eric Christian, MLC – Mary Lou Clark, JCu – Jeff Culler, RCu – Ralph Cullison III, DCm – David Cummings, WE – Wes Earp, TFe – Tom Feild, HFk – Harry Fink, MAF – Mary Anne Fluke, JHf – Joe Hanfman, JHr – John Harris, KHf – Kevin Heffernan, KnHf – Karen Heffernan, BHi – Bill Hill, GHi – Gayle Hill, THg – Timothy Houghton, EHS – Ed Huestis, MJn – Mark Johnson, MKw – Mike Kerwin, GKg – Geraldine King, CKc – Clayton Koonce, MLm – Mike Leumas, KLz – Kathy Litzinger, ALw – Allen Lewis, FLv – Felicia Lovelett, JMcK – John McKitterick, AMy – Anne Mytych, DNg – Diane Nagengast, MOb – Michael Oberman, BO – Bonnie Ott, CPs – Carolyn Parsa, HPT – Howard Patterson, RnPr – Renee Peters, RPr – Richard Peters, MRg – Matt Rogosky, KRb – Ken Rosenberg, RRF – Russ Ruffing, KS – Kurt Schwarz, FSh – Fred Shaffer, JSh – Jay Shepard, JS – Joanne Solem, CSt – Chuck Stirrat, NT – Nathan T[no last name, eBird], AVS – Anthony VanSchoor, MW – Mark Wallace, JW – Jim Wilkinson, SWm – Silvester Williams, m. obs. – many observers.

2016 ANNUAL LIST FOR HOWARD COUNTY

BY JOE HANFMAN

Birders reported a total of 228 species for Howard County in 2016. This total was the fifteenth highest total in the last 38 years. The top county birds of the year were the county's third year for Ross's Goose, the second Trumpeter Swan, the second (and first photographed) Swallow-tailed Kite, and the third and fourth Painted Buntings which were both one day wonders, at different feeders and not chasable.

Other highlights included all-time high counts of 16 Black Terns on 8/21 and 20 Sandhill Cranes on 12/17, both at Triadelphia Reservoir.

An Evening Grosbeak on 2/06 during the Mid-winter Count was only the fifth sighting in the last 14 years.

Of the 307 species on the county checklist, 168 have been seen in each of the last 38 years.

Examine the complete list at: http://www.howardbirds.org/records/Howard_County_Annual_Bird_List.htm

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

SCREEN VIEWING OF “THE MESSENGER”

The Howard County GreenFest (April 22nd) will be showing the documentary, “The Messenger.” Admission to the movie and festival is free.

This movie shows “an artful investigation into the causes of songbird mass depletion and the compassionate people who are working to turn the tide. The film takes viewers on a visually stunning journey revealing how the problems facing birds also pose daunting implications for our planet and ourselves.” Can you imagine a world without birdsong? There will also be a workshop on preventing window strikes.

The location will be the Howard Community College with show time at 2:00 p.m. Please arrive half hour before to park and walk through the festival to the classroom on the second level. For a full schedule of GreenFest activities, please visit www.HCCGreenFest.org. The movie trailer can be seen at songbirdsos.com.

See the GreenFest postcard on page 8.

For further information, contact Sue Muller, smuller@howardcountymd.gov or 410 313-4697.

2016 ODONATE SUMMARY

BY JOANNE SOLEM

The 2016 season began auspiciously with two *Common Green Darners* on 3/16 at Fox Chase by Bonnie Ott, just three days later than the all-time early date.

A *Twin-spotted Spiketail* photographed at Rockburn Branch Park on 4/18 by Kathy Litzinger was both a new county early date and a new location. A *Sweetflag Spreadwing* at Centennial Park on 6/18 by Tom Feild, Tim Ray, and Larry Bachman was also a new early date.



Twin-spotted Spiketail

by Kathy Litzinger

There were no new late dates.

Species reported from significant new locations included the following: *Great Spreadwing*, Dorsey Run Rd 10/30 by Sue Muller and Bob Solem; *Sphagnum Sprite*, Dr. Patel Dr/US 1 (just the second county location) by Jo

Solem and Lisa Shannon; *Comet Darner* and *Swamp Darner*, Hollofield, Patapsco Valley State Park by Jim Wilkinson; and *Blue Corporal*, Patapsco River, off Landing Rd, PVSP 4/26 (KLz). A *Golden-winged/Needham's Skimmer* (needs in-hand examination or precise photos to determine species) 6/18 by Tim Reichard and JS is a new location for either species.

Gray Petaltails always attract attention. One on 6/10 by Paul Koehler was spotted at Daniels, PVSP, a reliable location for the species. Another was reported 6/18 at Woodstock, PVSP by June Tveekrem and Beth Johnson. Spiketails usually receive a second look. Two *Brown Spiketails* in a wheel were photographed at Mt. Pleasant, 5/31 (BO). The cast skin of a *Tiger Spiketail* was picked up 6/18 at the mouth of a tributary to the Patapsco River at Henryton, PVSP (Richard Orr).



Brown Spiketails

by Bonnie Ott

**THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS,
DECEMBER 1, 2016-JANUARY 31, 2017**

Karen Ashcraft Grossman
Ann Coren & Robert Coren
Johathan Blithe
Robert Burdette & Janice Doherty
Mike Wood
Peter Hanan

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.

March 23, 2017
Mary Lou Clark
5153 Morningside Ln
Ellicott City MD 21043
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410-465-4061

April 27, 2017
Kathie Lillie
4102 Roxbury Mill Rd
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HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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March/April 2017 - Inside This Issue

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Howard County
GreenFest 

Earth Day Every Day



**Save the
Date!**

**Saturday,
April 22, 2017
10 am - 4 pm
Howard Community
College
www.HCGreenFest.org**