



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 14, 2019 “Chasing a Desert Apparition: LeConte’s Thrasher,” by Jay Sheppard. Having spent years studying this bird, Jay will present both his results and some insights into its daily life. Jay is a club member and his monograph on this topic was published last summer. His research was conducted in the deserts of the American Southwest and in northwestern Mexico.

Thursday, April 11, 2019 “Wildlife Rehabilitation,” by Kathleen Woods, director of the Phoenix Wildlife Center. Currently in its 19th year, the center runs entirely on volunteer power. Learn about its history, stories, and passion for saving birds and all Maryland wildlife. Tips will be given on what to do if you find an injured animal. The center opened in Howard County in the early 1990s. Kathleen’s interest in this work stemmed from her volunteer work at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge.

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. There is no admission charge. For further information call Mary Lou Clark at 410-465-4061. Website: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter>

AUTUMN BIRD RECORDS: AUGUST 1 – NOVEMBER 30, 2018

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Autumn’s rainfall continued on track to become the wettest year on record; resulting high water levels almost eliminated shorebird habitat during peak migration. Standout species were Ross’s Goose, Sandhill Crane, and Evening Grosbeak. Also of note were Laughing Gull, Little Blue Heron, Golden Eagle, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Dickcissel.

A **Ross’s Goose** was spotted in a flock of Canadas at the University of MD Central Farm (UMDCF) (viewed from Carroll Mill Rd) 11/5 (**ALw**), photograph (ph.), a new early arrival date. A **Cackling Goose** was reported over Fulton Pd 10/26 (**MRt**), and two were noted in a flock of 74 Canadas over Cavey La 11/22 (**RRf**). Most **Canada Geese** breed in late spring and early summer with Maryland young reported as late as 8/27. A brood of half-grown Canadas was reported at Centennial Park (CENPK) 10/1 (**KS**); unfortunately, no photo was obtained for this weirdly late record. A leucistic goose with a striking head pattern stood out in a flock along MD 144 on 11/25 (**AVS**). Although the major Canada migration usually occurs around the first week of Oct, this year a later movement was also detected on 11/22 when 710 in 15 flocks

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



Evening Grosbeak

by Anthony VanSchoor

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 3, 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

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 10, 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 - Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 17, 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 - [David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com](mailto:David.Sandler.detour65@gmail.com)

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 24, 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 - Karen and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@gmail.com

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 31, 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

ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL

April 6, Saturday, half day. *Reservations and 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, auk1844@gmail.com, 410-772-8424.

SHARPS AT WATERFORD FARM

April 7, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. (half day). *Meet at farm parking area, through barns on right. Rte. 97 S. to right on Jennings Chapel Rd., one 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

MT. PLEASANT FARM - HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY


April 27, 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](mailto:Anthony.VanSchoor@gmail.com)


WESTERN REGIONAL PARK

May 5, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. *Meet at Carr's Mill Road parking lot.* Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Facilities available.

Leader - Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com

 = Reservations required

 = Wheelchair accessible

 = Great for beginning birders

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

Join your friends at the Annual Potluck Dinner

Time: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Where: Robinson Nature Center Time: 6-10 p.m.

Doors open 6:00 p.m. for room set-up

Snacks start at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner starts at 7:00 p.m.

Sign up at the March club meeting, or contact Kathie Lillie by Friday, March 29, 2019 at 301-807-3785 or killie12@verizon.net.

See the [January/February Goldfinch](#) for more details.

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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howard21042@verizon.net

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the May/June 2019 issue is March 25, 2019.

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

were counted over Cavey La in 3.5 hours (RRf). **Tundra Swan** migration was in full swing before mid-Nov with 72 over Waterford Farm 11/10 (WE+); on 11/11, 427 in seven flocks were tallied at Cavey La (RRf), 250 at Green Clover Dr (RTd), and 53 at CENPK (BO).

The **Wood Duck** high was a modest 19 at Waverly Pd 9/7 (RRf). Ten **Northern Shovelers** at Race Rd Wetlands 11/25 was a fine count (BRf). Three **Gadwalls** turned up at CENPK 11/4 (R&RnPr) and five were at Brighton Dam (BRDAM) 11/10 (AVS). The season's first **American Wigeon** appeared at Lake Kittamaquidi (LKKIT) 9/24 (CKc-2). An **American Black Duck** was a pleasant surprise at Meadowbrook Pk 11/4 (JBt), ph. A **Greater Scaup** appeared at Lake Elkhorn (LKELK) 11/3 (ALw), ph.; four were found at CENPK on a stormy 11/24 (AVS; J&MHR-5). Three hundred **Buffleheads** at BRDAM 11/10 (AVS) marked the second highest count ever; that same day a **Common Goldeneye** was picked out of the waterfowl there (AVS). The season's **Hooded Merganser** high was 23 at LKELK 11/30 (DSn). A movement of **Common Mergansers** was reflected at CENPK with five on 11/23 (BO) and 21 on 11/27 (BO). **Ruddy Ducks** showed up on 10/23 at both CENPK (CKc-16) and LKELK (SRm-11).

As usual, a few **Wild Turkeys** were glimpsed. Especially nice were three at Duvall Rd 11/11—a new yard bird (KTf)! A **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared at Warfield's Pond Pk 9/29 (BHi). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was noted at Font Hill Wetland Pk 9/28 (KWn), ph.; one was heard four times during the first half of Aug at Timberleigh (DNg).

A **Common Nighthawk** at David Force Natural Resource Area 8/7 (KGr), ph. was a new early record [8/11/65 obs. unknown]. One at Old Columbia Rd/Columbia Pike 8/14 was the third earliest (KGF). Major county movement was noted on 9/1 with 40 over Cavey La (RRf); the peak occurred on 9/2: Blandair 63 (AVS), Fox Chase 39 (POs), Mt. Hebron 24 (JCu), Green Clover Dr 20 (RTd), and LKELK 4 (ALw); on 9/3, there were reports from four locations. Most of the above birds were flying west to east or directly north in a massive reverse migration. This can occur ahead of major storm systems. Eventually, when the birds have outrun the bad weather, they turn and head south. A flock of 40 was noted over Jennings Chapel Rd 9/15 (LCg). The last report was one over Montgomery Run 10/1 (RSm). A **Chimney Swift** at Rockburn Branch Pk 11/1 (MLC, MHR, SRm) established a new late date [10/28/89 M. Chestem]. The latest **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was at Timberleigh 10/10 (DNg).

The season produced **Sandhill Cranes** on two dates, which is notable in itself. The first two were on 9/23 at BRDAM (AVS); however, multiple birds on 11/23 were more intriguing. At Cavey La, just before 9:00 a.m., three Sandhills flew over headed west (RRf), ph. A few minutes after 9:00 a.m. four flew southwest across US 29 just north of MD 100 (DCm). Finally, at around 9:45 a.m., three Sandhills moved southwest over the west side of MD 94 just north of Larriland Farm (M&SWm). There is a real possibility that the last three birds were the Cavey La trio; however, based on the distance between the two sites and the general speed of crane flight, it should not have taken more than 15 or 20 minutes for them to fly between the two locations. Where might they have been? Or was it a different group of three? We can only speculate that the presumed family group dropped into a

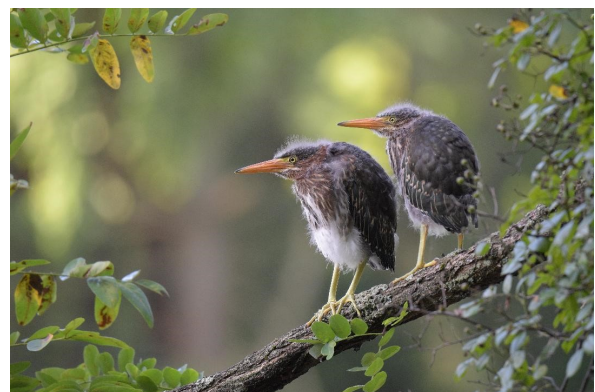
field, but, after only a short rest, something startled them into flight. That morning, there were either seven or ten cranes in the county!

With few mudflats, shorebirding was definitely mediocre. Five **Semipalmated Plovers** were spotted from the road at UMDCF 9/23 (AVS). Also present there that day were 54 **Killdeer** (J&MHR, SRm). One of the season's best species was a **Dunlin** at Fulton Pond seen initially on 10/22 (SRm), but not identified until 10/23 (JHf). **Pectoral Sandpipers** were detected at Fulton 9/11 (DCm-3) and 10/22 (EHs-1). An **American Woodcock** flushed from an Etchison Rd yard 11/2 (NMCA), while a **Wilson's Snipe** at Meadowbrook 10/22 (AVS) was at an infrequently reported location.



Wilson's Snipe at Meadowbrook Park by Anthony VanSchoor

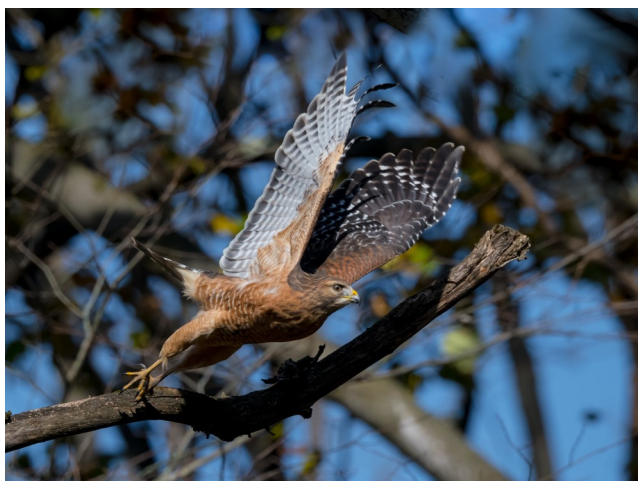
Fifty-one **Bonaparte's Gulls** were counted at BRDAM 11/10 (AVS). Three **Laughing Gulls** were spotted over Mt. Pleasant (MTPLT) 8/26 (BFI). Few **Caspian Terns** were noted this season; two were at LKKIT 8/7 (CKc), ph. **American Bitterns** were picked up on six nights over Cavey La (RRf-NFC). On a few occasions, a **Great Egret** has stayed into late Dec, but any dates after mid-Nov are good. One at CENPK 11/18 was a welcome addition to the day's field trip list (R&RnPr+). A **Little Blue Heron** was present at Blandair 9/2 (AVS). By mid-Aug, **Green Herons** at Wilde Lake had had a second brood (HPT); a bird hung on at LKELK beyond the end of the period setting a late date well into the winter season. A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at CENPK 11/6 was the third Nov record (MLC, SRm).



Green Heron Chicks, Second Brood, Wilde lake by Kelsey Wellons

Bald Eagles continued to be widely noted. Eight were behind the turkey farm at Fulton 11/22 (J&MHR). A flyover eagle at Wincopin 9/27 was carrying a squirrel in its talons (KCr, SRd). A **Northern Harrier** at Schooley Mill Pk 8/22 (SWm) was at the leading edge of fall migration for this species. A **Sharp-shinned Hawk** required intervention when it was found unable to fly well at LKKIT 10/16 (CKe). An Owl Moon Raptor representative captured it, but, unfortunately, it eventually died of West Nile Virus. Beginning birders learn quickly that not every bird that sounds like a **Red-shouldered Hawk** is one; rather, **Blue Jays** often mimic the hawk's descending scream. Now, it appears, jays pose another challenge. One was doing the "kek" call of a **Cooper's Hawk** at So. Trotter Rd 11/1, a surprise for an experienced raptor observer (WE).

All year birders look forward to fall hawk migration. The **Broad-winged Hawk** parade started with two over Burleigh Manor 9/2 (MKw). The early peak was 9/19 with 400 at Cyprus Cedar La (BO), 240 at Rockburn (BO), 157 at Burleigh Manor (MKw), and 15 or fewer at five additional sites (SRm; JCu; JHr; KS). Other flights were noted the last three days of Sept with an autumn high of 458 at the SkyWatch 9/29 (MKw, RCu+); the last Broad-wing was sighted over MTPLT 10/16 (BO, ROOr, HPt). For avid watchers, time spent at the Chandler Robbins SkyWatch at MTPLT (or any location with a good view of the sky) may range from boring (a warm fall day with light southerly breezes) to really exciting (a blustery Nov day with northerly winds). The SkyWatch field trip on 11/3 turned up the following: 19 Bald Eagles, 8 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper's, 3 Red-shoulders, 21 Red-tails, 2 American Kestrels, and 1 Merlin (RRf, JHf+). Some birds are late migrants so it pays to scan the sky into late fall. This year, a chilly 11/22 produced the desirable north winds. At the SkyWatch in the a.m., a **Golden Eagle** moved through (J&MHR), while another was spotted in the p.m. at Cavey La (RRf).



Red-shouldered Hawk at Rockburn Branch Park by Bonnie Ott

Barn Owls were recorded four nights between 8/24 and 10/12 at Cavey La (RRf-NFC). As expected, **Great Horned Owls** were calling by mid-Nov as courtship began. There were at least five reports from Scaggsville in the southeast (BNk) to Timberleigh in the west (DNg). The first **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were detected at Annapolis Rock 10/26 (AVS-1 or 2) with two there 11/12 (JSh-1, DCm-1). For the second consecutive year, a pair of **Red-headed Woodpeckers** nested at Fox

Chase: two ad., two juv. on 8/11 (JCu); one of the adults remained through the season. On 9/15, single Red-headed were spotted at Blandair (AVS) and at Belmont (CSt, DBs, KGr), while three were noted at Cavey La (RRf). One was also sighted at MTPLT 9/26 (JHf) and several times thereafter. Nineteen **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) 9/28 was more than the usual number for that location (JHr). Although some **Northern Flickers** are migratory and others are permanent residents, large movements are reported infrequently. On 10/13, 32 were counted at the SkyWatch (JHf). Either **Merlins** were more abundant than usual or birders are improving their ID skills as the species was reported from at least 14 locations. **Peregrine Falcons** were noted a few times with the earliest at Trinity School 9/15 (AVS) and the latest over Cavey La 11/3 (RRf).



Northern Saw-whet Owl at Annapolis Rock by Anthony VanSchoor

Single **Olive-sided Flycatchers** were at Blandair 9/5 (AVS), West Friendship Pk 9/15 (JCu), Schooley Mill Pk 9/15 (DSn), and LKKIT 9/18 (KS). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was photographed at Blandair 9/6 (JHr). **Least Flycatchers** were well-reported from one at MPEA 8/31 (ALw) to one at MTPLT 9/28 (BO). A **Blue-headed Vireo** (heard only) at MPEA 9/5 (JSn) set a new arrival date, while a laggard at Mt. Hebron 11/29 (JCu), ph. was the second latest. **Philadelphia Vireo** numbers and dates were unremarkable.



Least Flycatcher at Howard County Conservancy by Bonnie Ott

Some **Blue Jays** are permanent residents; others pass through during migration. At the SkyWatch the last week of Sept, peak numbers were 9/26 - 190 (JHf), 9/27 - 590 (JHf), 9/29 - 380 (JHf). (Overlapping observations on all dates would have boosted each day's totals considerably.) There were more than 15 **Common Raven** reports with a high of six together over Gateway (GATWY) 10/14 (DZk). On 11/28, two were battling **Fish Crows** at the REI parking lot (BO). Thirty **Horned Larks** at UMDCF (road view) 9/23 was the season's high (J&Mhr, SRm).

Purple Martins flock before migration. Seven at Mt. Hebron 8/7 had increased to 20 on 8/10 (JCu). Fifty-two **Tree Swallows** over the SkyWatch 10/13 (JHf) was the high count. A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Annapolis Rock 11/7 (AVS) set a new late date [11/3/02 B. Ott, R. Cullison]. A **Barn Swallow** lingered at CENPK until 11/8 (LGg), ph., breaking a 40-year-old record [11/3/78 obs. unknown].

As predicted, it proved to be an invasion year for boreals. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens 8/28 (JCu) was the first. By the Nov meeting, a show of hands indicated about half the audience had seen one. Fifteen in a group at Annapolis Rock 10/26 was the second highest total ever (AVS). **Marsh Wrens** slipped through from 9/19 Cyprus Cedar Ln (BO) to 11/4 MTPLT (MRg), recorded.



Red-breasted Nuthatch at Crestlawn Memorial Gardens by Anthony VanSchoor

A **Veery** at Atholton Pk 9/8 was a nice bird for that small park (EHs). A **Gray-checked Thrush** was detected at well-birded CENPK 9/27 (KS); the last was recorded at Cavey La 10/12 (RRf-NFC). A late **Swainson's Thrush** on 11/2 at Blandair (ALw) was the second latest record. Hundreds of **American Robins** were reported with a high of 500 at the SkyWatch 11/3 (RRf, JHf+). **Gray Catbirds** made a good showing with dozens noted; the high was 65 at Blandair 9/28 (JHr). Single **Brown Thrashers** lingered at MTPLT until 11/11 (BO) and at CENPK 11/12 (GDb). A few may stay the winter.

A total of 45 **Evening Grosbeaks** spent much of 10/31 at feeders and among yellow maple leaves at Catchfly Ct, E. Col.

(AVS) for their sole seasonal appearance. **Purple Finches**, on the other hand, showed up at many locations. The high was 44 over the SkyWatch 10/26 (JHf) eclipsing the previous high of 38 at Duvall Rd 1/19/15 (Ktf). The first **Pine Siskin** of an invasion was at Crest Lawn 10/7 (JCu); the season's high was 53 at Burleigh Manor 10/29 (MKw). Eighty-six **American Goldfinches** were tallied at Rockburn 8/19 (BO), with 80 at MTPLT the same day (MLC, J&Mhr, SRm). An **American Tree Sparrow** turned up at MTPLT 11/27 (SRm), ph. A high of 67 **Chipping Sparrows** visited Cavey La 11/17 (RRf). As usual, **Vespers** were found at MTPLT 10/19 (AVS - 2) and at Waterford 10/20 (WE+-1); more unexpected was the one at the GE Pond, GATWY 11/8 (SRm). **Savannahs** peaked at 75 at MTPLT 10/19 (AVS). A lone singing **Grasshopper Sparrow** continued at GATWY until 8/20 (BHb); unfortunately, breeding was never verified. A late one at MTPLT 11/2 (JHf) was just the second Nov record. The **Song Sparrow** high of 120 was notched at MTPLT 10/16 (BO, ROr, HPt). As usual, **Lincoln's** were noted at a minimum of five sites. A count of 55 **Swamps** at MTPLT 10/16 (BO, ROr, HPt) was eclipsed by the 120 there on 11/11 (BO), one of the highest counts ever. Eighteen **White-crowned Sparrows** at MTPLT 11/1 (BO) was the high count.



White-crowned Sparrow at Howard County Conservancy by Howard Patterson

Small numbers of **Bobolinks** drifted through from mid-Aug to mid-Sept, most consistently at Underwood Rd. Six **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at GATWY 10/13 (DZk), an occasional location. A **Baltimore Oriole** was photographed at Crest Lawn 11/25 (JCu). **Rusty Blackbirds** appeared in small numbers: Race Rd 10/19 (TCn -2), MTPLT 10/21 (JHr-1), and Cyprus Cedars La 11/15 (BO-2).

Five **Tennessee Warblers** at Cavey La 9/19 was the season's high (RRf). A **Connecticut** was detected at Blandair 9/18 (AVS) and again on 9/29 (AVS+); one was also at GATWY 10/14 (DZk). A **Mourning Warbler** was at Oxford Square 9/23 (JW). A **Hooded** at Rockburn (where they formerly nested) 8/23 was a pleasant surprise (MLC, Mhr, SRm); a late one was at the same park 10/3 (SRm). An early **Cape May** appeared at LKELK 8/29 (ALw), while one at Crest Lawn 10/30 (JCu) pushed the boundaries of late migration. A **Magnolia** at Crest Lawn 9/21 was the hundredth species for that site (JCu)! A **Chestnut-sided** at Mt. Hebron 8/14 was the third earliest record (JCu). A **Blackpoll** at CENPK 10/26 (JBl)

established a new late date; however, that record was soon extended when probably the same bird was spotted there 10/29 (KS) [10/23/86 S Atkinson]. A late **Black-throated Green** visited Cavey La 10/24 (RRf).



Cape May Warbler at Rockbrn Branch Park

by Bonnie Ott

An early **Summer Tanager** was recorded at Cavey La 8/29 (RRf). Two were at MPEA 9/2 (AVS) and one at Cavey La 9/6 (RRf). A **Scarlet Tanager** at Cavey La 10/21 was the second latest record (RRf). Two non-dependent **Northern Cardinal** juveniles were noted at Timberleigh 10/13 (DNg). (Maryland's late egg and nestling dates are the first week of Sept.) Twelve **Blue Grosbeaks** were spotted along Hammond Branch, Fulton 9/16 (JHr). For the second consecutive year, **Dickcissels** produced an unknown number of second broods at Underwood Rd; a juvenile was still present 8/12 (ALw), while the last bird was seen on 9/10 (AVS). Elsewhere, one flew over Cavey La 9/28 (RRf-NFC), and two were spotted in a flock of **House Sparrows** (a typical association) at Meadowbrook Pk 10/22 (AVS).

Thanks to Joe Hanfman and Howard Patterson for proofing assistance and to Russ Ruffing for verifying records.

Abbreviations: BRDAM – Brighton Dam, CENPK – Centennial Park, GAT-WY – Gateway Business Pk, LKELK – Lake Elkhorn, LKKIT – Lake Kittamaquidi, MPEA – Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, MTPLT – Mt. Pleasant, NFC – Night Flight Call, ph. – photograph, UMDCF – University of Maryland Central Farm

Observers: DBs – Debbie Belchis, Jbt – Jonathan Blithe, TCn – Tim Carney, MLC – Mary Lou Clark, Lcg – Lisa Colangelo, KCr – Kyle Crouse, JCu – Jeff Culler, RCu – Ralph Cullison, III, Dcm – David Cummings, GDb – Glenn Darby, WE – Wes Earp, BfI – Brad Filiginzl, KGf – Kevin Graff, LGg – Lynn Gregg, KGr – Kristin Gressitt, JHf – Joe Hanfman, JHr – John Harris, Mhr – Meg Harris, BHi – Bill Hill, BHb – Bill Hubick, EHs – Ed Huestis, MKw – Mike Kerwin, CKc – Clayton Koonce, ALw – Allen Lewis, NMcA – Nancy McAllister, DNg – Diane Nagengast, BNk – Bea Newkirk, ROrr – Richard Orr, POs – Peter Osenton, BO – Bonnie Ott, HPt – Howard Patterson, RnPr – Renee Peters, RPr – Richard Peters, SRd – Sam Richardson, MRg – Matt Rogosky, BRf – Brian Rollfinke, SRm – Sarah Romero, MRt – Mark Rositol, RRf – Russ Ruffing, RSm – Ryan Salsman, DSn – David Sandler, KS – Kurt Schwarz, JSn – Jeff Shenot, JSh – Jay Sheppard, CSt – Chuck Stirrat, RTd – Robin Todd, Ktf – Kate Tufts, AVS – Anthony VanSchoor, KWn – Kelsey Wellons, JW – Jim Wilkinson, MWm – Matt Williams, SWm – Silvester Williams, DZk – Dave Ziolkowski.

2018 ANNUAL LIST FOR HOWARD COUNTY

BY JOE HANFMAN

Birders reported a total of 228 species for Howard County in 2018. This total was the 15th highest total in the last 40 years and the same number as years 2017 and 2016. The top birds of the year were the county's first Wood Stork, second Limpkin, fourth Trumpeter Swan, and fifth Ross's Goose and Tricolored Heron.

Other highlights included Iceland, Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous gulls, a flock of Evening Grosbeaks, and breeding Dickcissels.

The biggest miss was Semipalmated Sandpiper which has been seen in 37 of the last 40 years but not in 2018.

168 of the 308 species that have been seen in the county, have been seen in each of the last 40 years. 208 of the 308 species that have been seen in the county, have been seen 20 or more times in the last 40 years.

Examine the complete list at: https://www.howardbirds.org/howard/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.

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 28, 2019

Kevin and Karen Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
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April 25, 2019

Kathie Lillie
4102 Roxbury Mill Road
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301-807-3785

MOS SCHOLARSHIPS

Howard County Bird Club member Julie Dunlap is one of seven winners of MOS's 2019 scholarships to the Audubon Society's Hog Island camp in Maine. She will attend the "Joy of Birding" workshop. For more information on how Julie will put the knowledge gained to good use, as well as information on the other scholarship winners, see the January - February issue of *The Yellowthroat* at <https://mdbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/bks-pdf-manager/2019/01/YT-JANFEB-2019-FINAL-for-WEB.pdf>.

THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Fred and Georgia Dandeneau
John and Carolyn Maroon

QUEST FOR 300 SPECIES IN MARYLAND

BY ANTHONY VANSCHOOR

I was a tough person to track for any length of time in 2018, as I was constantly on the go. Trying to see 300 species in Maryland was quite fun, but nerve-wracking at the same time. The irruptive waders played a major role in adding a few unforeseen birds to the list. I thought with those and the others seen or to be seen, 300 was a reachable goal.



Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Swan Harbor Farm Park, Harford County
by Anthony VanSchoor

Then a pelagic I was hoping to go on was cancelled lacking the required minimum of birders. It turned into a scramble to even get close to 300, including many trips to the Eastern Shore to get eyes on birds I had very little knowledge of at locations where I had no clue as to the protocol. The Hurley Waste Water Treatment Plant was the only site that could have been a dud since I showed up on a weekend and the gate was closed. I sat there staring at a phone number that I should have called in the first place. I had to find something to make the trip worth the time and I started thinking. Blank...I had nothing; the birds were past the gate and out of sight. I put my head back and closed my eyes and thought...ah crrrap. Eyes closed for about ten minutes and HOOOONK! A tanker truck with two of the most unfriendly-looking guys in it. I turned my truck around and was leaving when I heard "Hey." I looked up and the driver asked what I was doing. I said, "There are three birds up in one of those cells and I have never been here before and didn't know the place would be closed at lunchtime on a weekend." He said, "Leave your truck there. Walk in beside my truck when the gate opens You have twenty minutes until I leave and the gate will be closing." I thanked him greatly and ran up and got two of the three target birds.

I was still short of 300. And the remaining birds were all longshots. Or were they? The winter finch forecast was just out and it was looking promising. I followed reports on eBird as the markers got closer and closer to Maryland and then they stopped. One blip of an Evening Grosbeak south of Howard County, then nothing new was being found. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches were here, but Pine Siskins were few and very far between. Was nobody in Maryland out looking? The morning of October 31st I noticed more than a dozen Purple Finches. Then a handful of Pine Siskins.



Chuck-will's-widow, Dorchester County
by Anthony VanSchoor

Then I saw nothing but a bigger black-backed bird in a hanging flat feeder I had bought just four days earlier. When I saw the yellow on its head I about fell over. Then three more flew down to join the one. They were crammed into this small feeder. I took a few photos. And walked out of the front door to buy another feeder to accommodate them with hopes of them sticking around for others to see. The calls from numerous Evening Grosbeaks that filled almost every sugar maple tree around my court was unimaginable and I was stunned. The only thing I could think of was to start counting . . . That day has had me questioning the reason of how and why? I was satisfied that my year was done at that point and 300 was no longer on my mind. But a Barnacle Goose, Red Crossbills, and a Varied Thrush came along to give me a total of 301 for Maryland. What will 2019 bring?



Snowy Owl, Sandy Point Shoal Lighthouse, Anne Arundel County
by Anthony VanSchoor



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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Club Meetings	Autumn Bird Records
Spring Field Trips	Annual Potluck Dinner
New Member Welcome	2018 Annual List
Board Meetings	MOS Scholarships
Quest for 300	GreenFest

Howard County
GreenFest

Saturday, April 13, 2019
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Howard Community College
HCGreenfest.org

Science and Our Environment

The graphic features a woman sitting cross-legged on a green field, using a laptop. Behind her are several interlocking gears in orange, green, and blue, with a paper airplane flying above them. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds.