



# The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



## CLUB MEETINGS - BY SUE MULLER

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Thursday, November 14, 2019 “The Howard County Green Infrastructure Network: An Approach to Defending Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services,” by Bill Mahoney, Howard County Office of Community Sustainability. In 2011, Howard County mapped out what are considered the best connected habitats in the county, resulting in the creation of Howard County’s Green Infrastructure Network (GIN). This presentation will show how areas were selected for inclusion in the GIN, ways that the county is working to protect and enhance these areas, and examples of why the average citizen should value this network. Mr. Mahoney will describe classic and innovative methods by which citizens can participate in stewardship of the network.

Thursday, December 12, 2019 “Cat Wars - Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer,” by Dr. Peter Marra. Mounting scientific evidence confirms what many conservationists have suspected for some time – that in the United States alone, free-ranging cats are killing birds and other animals by the billions. Equally alarming are the little-known, but potentially devastating, public health consequences of rabies and parasitic *Toxoplasma gondii* passing from cats to humans at rising rates. Dr. Marra will discuss his book, *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*. Dr. Marra is a professor at Georgetown University and the Director, Georgetown Environment Initiative. He will have autographed books available for purchase.

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 Mary Lou Clark, 410-465-4061.

Website: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter>

YES, BIRDS DO YAWN!



Green Heron at Centennial Park, July 3<sup>rd</sup> by Bonnie Ott

## SUMMER BIRD RECORDS: JUNE 1 – JULY 31, 2019

BY JOANNE SOLEM



Summer was, again, hotter than normal, but birders who ignored the heat were rewarded. Least Bittern and Least Tern were highlights. Four species established unusually late records: Redhead, Great Black-backed Gull, Pine Siskin, and Dark-eyed Junco. Two Little Blue Herons and the third consecutive year for a small Dickcissel colony were also notable.



At least four **Wood Duck** broods were reported during the summer season. A seemingly healthy **Redhead** at a pond on Nichols Dr continued beyond the end of this season (MW), establishing a new late date [6/3/06 S. Lengade]. A female **Bufflehead**

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



## FALL 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](mailto:auk1844@gmail.com). HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.



  **HOWARD CO. CONSERVANCY C. S. ROBBINS SKYWATCH**  
November 2, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Half day. *Meet at parking lot.* This trip will be strictly a skywatch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Our main target will be Golden Eagle. While not expected, early November is the best time to catch one flying over Howard County. In a recent year a half-day skywatch less than a mile from this location produced an immature Golden Eagle and a Sandhill Crane, along with good numbers of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, plus Northern Harriers, accipiters, and some waterfowl. We will watch the skies and tally the birds as long as conditions are productive. Hope for a north wind! Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, light-colored sunglasses, your own lawn chair if you wish (there are benches on site), binocular, scope (optional), and camera. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if skywatching proves non-productive. Facilities available.  
Leader – Russ Ruffing, [ruff2@verizon.net](mailto:ruff2@verizon.net)

  **CENTENNIAL PARK**  
November 3 Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. (Daylight Saving Time ends) *Meet at the west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Early waterfowl, lingering migrants likely. Facilities available.  
Leader – Richard and Renee Peters, [Richard@rrrrrpeters.org](mailto:Richard@rrrrrpeters.org)

**SHARPS AT WATERFORD FARM**  
November 9, 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 is advisable for part of hike.  
Leader – Wes Earp, [wesandsue@gmail.com](mailto:wesandsue@gmail.com), 410-531-3197

  **CENTENNIAL PARK**  
November 10, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. *Meet at the west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Leader – Sarah Romero, [Smyrna\\_38@yahoo.com](mailto:Smyrna_38@yahoo.com), 586-337-3860

  **CENTENNIAL PARK**  
November 17, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. *Meet at the west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available. Leaders – Richard and Renee Peters, [Richard@rrrrrpeters.org](mailto:Richard@rrrrrpeters.org)


  **CENTENNIAL PARK**  
November 24, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. *Meet at the west end parking lot off Centennial Lane.* Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Facilities available.  
Leader – David Sandler, [detour65@gmail.com](mailto:detour65@gmail.com), 410-370-0747


**TRIADELPHIA CHRISTMAS COUNT**  
Saturday, December 14. For information or to volunteer to participate, contact the compiler, David Holmes, [musicbndr@gmail.com](mailto:musicbndr@gmail.com), 410-730-7083

**HOWARD WATERFOWL SEARCH**  
December 21, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. *Meet at the Broken Land Parkway Park and Ride west side.* Plan to visit the Columbia lakes search for gulls, ducks, grebes, loons, and other waterfowl Easy walking involved. Plan to carpool. Bring lunch and drinks. Scopes helpful. Facilities available.  
Leader – Kurt Schwarz, [krschwal@verizon.net](mailto:krschwal@verizon.net), 410-461-1643

**START YOUR YEAR LIST**  
Wednesday, January 1, 2020, Start at 8:00 (half day). *Meet at the Howard County Conservancy – Mount Pleasant Farm.* Easy walking on woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Facilities available.  
Leader – Kurt Schwarz, [krschwal@verizon.net](mailto:krschwal@verizon.net), 410-461-1643

**BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**  
January 11, Saturday (all day trip). Plan to stop at the Choptank River Bridge for ducks and coffee. Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly, Entrance fee, Duck Stamp, or national parks pass required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. We will carpool. Facilities at some spots.  
Leader – Kurt Schwarz, [krschwal@verizon.net](mailto:krschwal@verizon.net), 410-461-1643

 = Wheelchair accessible

 = Great for beginning birders

at Wilde Lake was last seen 6/4 (**KWn**) for the fourth summer record.

As usual, **Wild Turkeys** were widely reported. A sampling included singles at West Friendship Park 6/26 (**KCr**), Long Corner Rd 7/11 (*vide* **DNg**), and Mission Rd 7/22 (**GPr**). A **Pied-billed Grebe** appeared at Lake Kittamaquidi 7/21 (**KTn**).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** numbers peaked in late June with seven at Centennial Park (CENPK) 6/23 (**MLC, SRm**) and eight at Daniels, Patapsco Valley State Park (PVSP) 6/24 (**BO**). Since cuckoos are late migrants, some of the following **Black-billed** reports do not necessarily represent breeding individuals: CENPK 6/4 (**CSt**), Norris La 6/8 (**DZk**), and Cedar Lane Park 6/14 (**BPo**). This species called the entire summer at Timberleigh (**DNg**).

The last **Common Nighthawk** was noted over West Friendship Park 6/1 (**MWm**). On 7/16, eight **Chimney Swifts** were counted above a River Rd, Sykesville chimney which had been used for nesting (**FLv**).

By late July, fall shorebird migration was well underway. Seven **Least Sandpipers** at Tarbay Pond, Jessup 7/28 was the modest high (**MLC, SRm**). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** turned up at the same location 7/29 (**ALw**). **Spotted Sandpipers** lingered into June with the last sighting at CENPK 6/4 (**DMh**). The last **Solitary Sandpiper** appeared at Waverly Pond 6/1 (**RRf**).

The summer's first **Ring-billed Gull**, was spotted over MD 104/Snowden River Pkwy 7/31 (**BO**). A **Great Black-backed Gull**, photographed flying with three **Herring Gulls** over West Friendship Park 6/1 (**BO**), established an astonishing record [4/25/92 J. Farrell, J. Solem]. Three **Least Tern** sightings in a single season would be unprecedented. Two different sightings at Race Road Wetlands (RACRW), one on 7/10 (**SRm**) and one on 7/17 (**MLC, SRm**), have been accepted. A potential third bird reported at Lake Elkhorn 6/30 (**J/MHr**) is subject to MD/DC Records Committee review because the location is in the Piedmont. One or two **Double-crested Cormorants** were present intermittently at the central lakes and at a few ponds all season.

**Least Bitterns** are among the county's least reported birds and are exceptionally rare during the summer. One was photographed in flight at RACRW 7/16 (**AVS**), an exciting find. One or two **Great Egrets** were reported at lakes and ponds all summer. Eight in one tree at CENPK 7/26 (**H/RSw**) must have been an arresting sight. **Little Blue Herons** are infrequent county visitors. This season two appeared: an adult at Lake Kittamaquidi 7/19 (**CKc, ph.**) and a juvenile at RACRW 7/31 (**MLC, SRm, ph.**). Numerous reports of juvenile **Green Herons** demonstrated the value of county stormwater management ponds, providing there is woody edge-vegetation on at least one side.

As usual, **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were consistent at Wilde Lake with occasional reports from CENPK. An adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was a pleasant surprise at Font Hill Wetland Park 6/1 (**CSp**). Two days later, the same species was spotted at CENPK (**J/MHr**). Because the Font Hill bird had disappeared and CENPK is ~two miles due south of the original site, it is likely both sightings were the same bird.

With the dramatic increase in **Osprey** numbers the last few decades, summer sightings were numerous and consistent at lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. Unfortunately, county breeding has been difficult to establish. The nest on the relay tower on the Prince George's County side of Duckett Dam and the nest on a Murphy Rd tower were again the only known nests within or immediately adjacent to the county. There likely are others, as yet undiscovered or unverified.

The nesting pair of **Bald Eagle** at the University of Maryland Central Farm (seen from Folly Quarter Rd) made up for last year's failure. Three large nestlings were visible on 6/19 (**RRf**); two juveniles were still perched on or near the nest on 7/3 (**JHf**). (Only a small percentage of Bald Eagle clutches contain three eggs; an even smaller percentage fledge three successfully, so food must have been plentiful.) Three branching **Barred Owls** were present along the Patuxent Branch Trail 6/2 (**SRm**).

After two years of successful breeding, **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Fox Chase did not nest this year. Although one adult remained in the vicinity during part of the season and appeared to be excavating a cavity in a favorite dead tree 6/14 – 6/21, there was never consistent evidence of a second adult. The single adult was last seen 6/25 (**JCu**).

Fourteen **Acadian Flycatchers**, 23 **Red-eyed Vireos**, 14 **Wood Thrushes**, and one **Veery** were counted on territory along the river trail at Daniels, PVSP, between Daniels Rd and the tunnel on 6/24 (**BO**). A **Willow Flycatcher** was notched as a yard bird at Martin Rd, W. Col. when a bird ventured from its specialized breeding location 100 yards away (**JHf**).

Besides the long-standing **Cliff Swallow** colonies on the county's two large dams and under two major highway bridges,

(Records continued on page 4)



Least Bittern

by Anthony VanSchoor

*(Records continued from page 3)*

small outlying groups were noted at the Browns Bridge Rd bridge 6/5 (**SRm**, **MLC**) and at the MD 32/Cedar La overpass 7/9 (**J/MHr**). Although there were just two active nests at the former site, one nest provided an opportunity to watch a nestling fledge successfully. When young of this species leave the nest, they are able to fly well. In this case, a maiden flight over water heightened the stakes—and the drama.

Single late migrant **Swainson's Thrushes** were detected over Cavey Lane 6/2, 6/4, and 6/5 (**RRf**-Night Flight Call [NFC equipment]). The last record tied the second latest date.

As noted in the spring records article, when winter brings large numbers of **Pine Siskins** far south of their normal range, a few of the wanderers may linger well into spring. Summer records, however, are extremely unusual. This year there were summer reports on two successive days: Elkhorn Garden Plots (a single calling flyover) 6/25 (**JW**) and Bushy Park Rd (one in a shrub near a feeder) 6/26 (**PPr**, ph.).

Juvenile **Grasshopper Sparrows** were noted at Mt. Pleasant 7/20 (**BO**-1) and along Underwood Rd 7/21 (**JHf**, **KS**-1). A **Dark-eyed Junco**, still present at the end of July in a Manahan Dr yard (**HSt**), was a first-ever July record.

The season's lone **Bobolink** appeared at Mt. Pleasant 7/20 (**BO**). **Brown-headed Cowbird** parasitism is unwelcome. Local observers reported seeing adult **Red-eyed Vireos** (**SRm**) and **Northern Cardinals** (**AAI**) feeding young cowbirds this summer.

Additional neotropical species on territory along the river trail at Daniels, PVSP on 6/24 included nine **Ovenbirds** and six **Worm-eating Warblers** (**BO**). The cooperative **Prothonotary Warbler** at Lake Elkhorn was last seen 6/8 (**ALw**). A **Kentucky Warbler** showed up at a Long Corner Rd property 6/11 (**MPw**). Although **American Redstarts** nest locally in small numbers, some are still migrating in early June. It is likely some of those counted on 6/6 were migrants: two at CENPK (**J/MHr**), four at Marriottsville, PVSP (**AVS**), and one at Atholton Park (**EHs**). A **Pine Warbler** at Pushcart Way, E. Col. 7/17 (**EHs**) was a nice find. A **Blue-winged Warbler** at Jamina Downs, E. Col. 6/3 (**EHs**) was a notable yard bird.

**Dickeissels** were spotted briefly along Underwood Rd in mid-May; however, multiple birders later that month failed to detect any. Because last year's fallow field was not available for lease this year, birders made few summer visits. A brief stop on 7/20 turned up a singing male (**AVS**). From then until the end of the season, observers logged up to five adults at once (three females, two males on 7/25) (**AVS**), mostly in the cornfields adjoining the road. It is likely they bred in the area, although no verifiable evidence of nesting was seen.

Although most people are familiar with winter bird feeding, varied habitat enhancement to attract birds and other wildlife year-round can be equally rewarding. Extensive acreage is not necessary as the following three examples from recent seasonal reports illustrate.

Joe Hanfman's one-half acre wooded lot in Clemens Crossing, W. Col. is within sight of a stormwater management pond. After many years of waiting, a Willow Flycatcher finally wandered from its wet, scrubby habitat so it could be tallied as a new (and unusual) yard bird. This summer five woodpecker species (Red-bellied Downy, Hairy, Northern Flicker, and Pileated) nested on or adjacent to Joe's property. A Red-headed spent seven weeks visiting during the spring. An Eastern Screech-Owl continued to roost intermittently in a box he erected some years ago.

Annette Allor's townhouse is located near Plumtree Path's trees and associated wetlands in Dorsey Hall, so a wide variety of birds appear on or near her well-stocked deck. She particularly enjoys the summer visitors because adults bring their young to the bounty. (Cutting peanut suet into beak-size pieces enhances the attraction of her year-round feeders—and the speed with which a carton of suet disappears.) Watching as the offspring become more adept at eating on their own is entertaining, but noting the slow, subtle change from juvenile to adult plumage is also fascinating. Potted blooming plants on the deck attract pollinators. When blossoms on a lantana began disappearing, Annette discovered a Northern Flicker was ingesting all the petals it could reach with its long tongue.

Kathy Litzinger's one-third acre lot on Stone Hill Dr is a suburban wildlife sanctuary. A modest number of mature deciduous and coniferous trees, some planted flowering shrubs, and benign neglect of interesting volunteers combined to produce a habitat that boasted 13 nesting bird species this season. Her location is well-known among the butterfly group for attracting/harboring unusual species.

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

**Abbreviations:** CENPK – Centennial Park, PVSP – Patapsco Valley State Park, ph. – photograph, RACRW – Race Road Wetlands

**Observers:** **AAI** – Annette Allor, **MLC** – Mary Lou Clark, **KCr** – Kyle Crouse, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **JHr** – John Harris, **MHr** – Meg Harris, **EHs** – Ed Huestis, **CKc** – Clayton Koonce, **ALw** – Allen Lewis, **FLv** – Felicia Lovelett, **DMh** – Dean Mahlstedt, **DNg** – Diane Nagengast, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **PPr** – Pam Perna, **BPO** – Bud Poole, **GPr** – Gary Prestiani, **MPw** – Mary Prowell, **SRm** – Sarah Romero, **RRf** – Russ Ruffing, **HSw** – Helen Schwartz, **RSw** – Ron Schwartz, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **HSt** – Hank Stanton, **CSp** – Cathy Starpoli, **CSt** – Chuck Stirrat, **KTn** – Kristin Trouton, **AVS** – Anthony VanSchoor, **MW** – Mark Wallace, **KWn** – Kelsey Wellons, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson, **MWm** – Matt Williams, **DZk** – Dave Ziolkowski

## JOY OF BIRDING HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP

BY JULIE DUNLAP

With Ospreys overhead and Black Guillemots bobbing in the water, Hog Island, Maine, captivated Roger Tory Peterson in the 1930s. Since learning about Peterson's time at Hog Island Audubon Camp, I longed to attend, and the MOS scholarship program afforded a chance. Simply choosing which session to join could have been wrenching. How could I pick between honing my teaching skills in "An Educator's Week," contributing to habitat restoration in "Saving Shorebirds," or plumbing the mysteries of migration in "Living on the Wind"? But my schedule this summer opened for only one possibility, which turned into reality thanks to the generosity of MOS: "Joy of Birding."



The SnowGoose III

My first sight upon arrival was a cluster of other campers, binoculars trained on an apple tree. A blue-gray warbler with splashes of yellow became our mutual obsession, with the more experienced observers sharing details about behavior and ecology for those of us new to Northern Parulas and the Maine woods. Learning at camp, I realized, would be shaped as much by fellow participants as by our illustrious instructors. Only the clanging camp bell—the same one that summoned Roger Peterson and Allan Cruickshank to dinner—could have drawn us inside.

That evening, our first lecture introduced the island's history and a seabird restoration experiment known worldwide as Project Puffin. Stephen Kress, executive director of the camp and visionary who launched the project in 1973, shared charming tales of early struggles against Black-backed Gulls, bureaucrats, and senior zoologists who called his dream to revive a historic nesting site a "stunt" and a "waste of time." Funds were drying up after eight years, when at last a harlequin-billed alcid was spotted landing with a beakful of fish for its hungry chick. Kress's original mission was a self-sustaining colony on Eastern Egg Rock, but decades of effort

have convinced him that human disruptions to the ecosystem mean that active management will be permanently required. Project Puffin is a metaphor for conservation in the Anthropocene, Kress told us, a reminder that "species saved today will likely be in jeopardy tomorrow without a strong culture of stewardship."

Every evening featured a different instructor's talk aimed at fostering enjoyment of all things avian. Highlights included Pete Dunne's jocular guide to optics, Raymond Van Burkirk's touching story of healing from tragedy through birds, and Charles Duncan's sweeping look at what new technologies such as the International Motus Tracking System are revealing about shorebird migration. Trained in organic chemistry, Dr. Duncan is a former director of the Manomet Shorebird Recovery Project who refers to decades of conservation achievements as "a hobby that got wildly out of control." Day workshops, especially on some inevitably rainy Maine mornings, also bolstered our bird appreciation and practical skills. Popular programs included feather lab, birding etiquette, and interactive hawk identification. But the camp's favorite talk, no doubt, was Pete Dunne's uproarious (and slightly profane) "The Art of Pishing."

Of course our field trips were even more captivating. On a mainland expedition, nesting Bobolinks entertained us in a meadow refuge, and Pete Dunne's pishing for warblers delighted us in the woods. Back on Hog Island, a hike through the spruces led by Camp Director Holly Merker to practice birding-by-ear was for me an exercise in humility, though no one outclassed me in happiness while watching the camp's resident Ospreys: Steve (Kress) and Rachel (Carson). Excitement built the morning we boarded the camp boat, Snowgoose III, to visit islands in Muscongus Bay including Egg Rock. Stoked with sunscreen and Dramamine®, we distracted ourselves along the way scanning for terns and scoters, but I at least thought mostly about one kind of bird. Finally, beside the boulder-rimmed refuge, our captain cut the engine, and perhaps a dozen puffins—from a colony that now approaches 200 pairs—lifted off and circled us, twice. I wasn't the only camper to exclaim, "A dream come true."

Yet I suspect the most memorable camp moments will be unanticipated, informal ones. At dinner one night, ornithologist Wayne Peterson took time to share advice on how to help energize my Audubon chapter. At sunrise over coffee, Pete Dunne pronounced my binoculars "the perfect pair to give your husband so you can get better ones." And my favorite camp memory remains the huddle of birders that met my arrival, a warm and welcoming object lesson in the meaning of Hog Island's Audubon camp that we all took home to share: the joy of birding.

## SUMMARY OF THE 2019 HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT

BY MIKE MCCLURE AND CHUCK STIRRAT

The twenty-sixth annual Howard County Fall Count was conducted on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 with the count data shown in the table below. This count has turned out to be better than expected countywide for the total number of bird species while the total number of individuals was again below average thus continuing the decline since the beginning of the Fall Count in 1994. For the warblers, the species count was above the average while the number of individual warblers continued their slow but sure decline.

The number of participants, parties, and the overall effort as measured by the hours and miles continues to remain strong in spite of the occasional difficult season with few birds in the field, as was the case this year.

	Observed Birds Countywide		Observed Warblers Countywide		Statistics
	Species	Birds	Species	Birds	
<a href="#">2019</a> Numbers	124	10,115	26	349	
Historical High : Low	140 : 108	26,651 : 9,293	30 : 13	1,004 : 130	
Year 's of High : Low	2010 : 2004	1994 : 2004	1994 : 2004	1994 : 2004	
Averages for Birds & Species	124.7	15313.77	23.54	427.04	
2019 Counters : Parties					52 : 44
Counters : Parties Averages					54.6 : 33.3
2019 Counters Hours : Miles					190.4 : 524.2
Counters Hours : Miles Averages					195.8 : 418.6

Saturday's temperature started at 51°F [dew point 49°F] at 6:00 a.m. with scattered clouds, rising to 86°F [dew point 65°F] in late afternoon. Winds were light during the early morning but slowly changed to intermittent 3-5 mph with the afternoon.

Plan now to join us on a future seasonal count and if possible attend the tally as well. Next year the 2020 Fall Count will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September which will be the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Individual species table is on page 7. A full report of the results will be posted on the Seasonal Counts Results page on the club's web site, <http://www.howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm>.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2019-2020, go to the HCBC website at <https://www.howardbirds.org/> and click on "Join Us" at the top of the home page. You will have the option of joining through MOS via PayPal or credit card or by using the HCBC membership form.

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

November 21, 2019  
 Allen Lewis  
 7226 Lasting Light Way  
 Columbia, MD 21045  
[allenlewis@gmail.com](mailto:allenlewis@gmail.com)  
 787-590-4501

December 2018 - No meeting



Dickcissel on Underwood Road

by Anthony VanSchoor

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Copy may be sent to:  
 Howard Patterson  
 4209 Hermitage Drive  
 Ellicott City, MD 21042-6235  
[howard21042@verizon.net](mailto:howard21042@verizon.net)

**The Goldfinch**, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the January/February 2020 issue is November 25, 2019.

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

## HOWARD COUNTY FALL COUNT RESULTS - SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

Canada Goose	1,181	Eastern Kingbird	6	White-throated Sparrow	2
Wood Duck	34	Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	<i>unidentified sparrow</i>	10
Mallard	75	Eastern Wood-Pewee	40	Yellow-breasted Chat	1
Wild Turkey	1	Least Flycatcher	1	Bobolink	5
Pied-billed Grebe	2	<i>Empidonax species</i>	7	Eastern Meadowlark	2
Rock Pigeon	150	Eastern Phoebe	41	Baltimore Oriole	2
Mourning Dove	331	White-eyed Vireo	16	Red-winged Blackbird	36
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	25	Yellow-throated Vireo	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	19
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	Red-eyed Vireo	44	Common Grackle	1
Common Nighthawk	10	Blue Jay	656	Ovenbird	2
Chimney Swift	306	American Crow	265	Worm-eating Warbler	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	21	Fish Crow	145	Northern Waterthrush	1
Killdeer	28	<i>crow species</i>	158	Blue-winged Warbler	2
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Common Raven	10	Black-&-white Warbler	39
Solitary Sandpiper	2	Horned Lark	5	Tennessee Warbler	1
Ring-billed Gull	2	Tree Swallow	11	Nashville Warbler	2
Double-crested Cormorant	14	Barn Swallow	11	Connecticut Warbler	1
Great Blue Heron	29	Carolina Chickadee	130	Mourning Warbler	2
Great Egret	5	Tufted Titmouse	91	Common Yellowthroat	81
Green Heron	17	White-breasted Nuthatch	105	Hooded Warbler	2
Black-crowned Night-Heron	2	House Wren	45	American Redstart	75
Black Vulture	278	Carolina Wren	369	Northern Parula	26
Turkey Vulture	288	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	17	Magnolia Warbler	29
Osprey	3	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Northern Harrier	3	Eastern Bluebird	211	Blackburnian Warbler	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7	Veery	2	Yellow Warbler	2
Cooper's Hawk	10	Swainson's Thrush	2	Chestnut-sided Warbler	8
Bald Eagle	7	Wood Thrush	7	Blk.-thrt'd. Blue Warbler	11
Red-shouldered Hawk	60	American Robin	322	Pine Warbler	3
Broad-winged Hawk	143	Gray Catbird	478	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	5
Red-tailed Hawk	17	Brown Thrasher	15	Prairie Warbler	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	Northern Mockingbird	84	Blk.-thrt'd. Green Warbler	7
Great Horned Owl	1	European Starling	1,277	Canada Warbler	4
Barred Owl	3	Cedar Waxwing	83	Wilson's Warbler	2
Belted Kingfisher	24	House Sparrow	323	<i>warbler species</i>	37
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	House Finch	130	Scarlet Tanager	8
Red-bellied Woodpecker	222	American Goldfinch	169	Northern Cardinal	438
Downy Woodpecker	123	Eastern Towhee	49	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
Hairy Woodpecker	23	Chipping Sparrow	106	Blue Grosbeak	8
Northern Flicker	107	Field Sparrow	5	Indigo Bunting	63
Pileated Woodpecker	58	Savannah Sparrow	8	Dickcissel	X-NFC
American Kestrel	18	Grasshopper Sparrow	1		
Merlin	1	Song Sparrow	70		
Peregrine Falcon	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	2		
				<b>Area Total Birds:</b>	10,115
				<b>Area Total Species:</b>	124



## HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

*Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

PO Box 1323  
Columbia, MD 21044



### November/December 2019 - Inside this Issue

Club Meeting	Summer Bird Records
Field Trips	Hog Island Audubon Camp
Fall Count Summary	Membership Renewal
Board Meeting	

## EXCITING NON-AVIAN SIGHTINGS IN HOWARD COUNTY



Bonnie Ott spotted these three coyotes in early morning light September 26<sup>th</sup> at West Friendship Park.



Dainty Sulphur  
PVSP 9/18/19  
Annette Allor

*photo by Annette Allor*

Kathy and Jack Litzinger found dozens of Dainty Sulphurs, rarely seen in Maryland, along the Patapsco Valley State Park's Grist Mill Trail in Baltimore County on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Kathy and Annette Allor successfully searched the Howard County side of the river on September 18<sup>th</sup>, finding them along the River Road Trail.