

President's Corner  
An I-S-O S-O-S

by Wayne Bell



# The Maryland Yellowthroat

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

MARCH/APRIL 2010

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In the early 1980s I had the privilege of working with the late Douglas Cater while he was President of Washington College. A political activist and speechwriter during the Johnson administration, Mr. Cater had a lot to say about leadership and working with people. One thing he liked to say regarding his job is that "A President lives in a big house and begs."

The President of an all-volunteer organization like the MOS can hardly be expected to live in a "big house." The "begging part" of being at the helm is another matter. As an institutional President, Mr. Cater most often begged for funding that would help him meet the salaries of the scores of faculty and staff responsible for running a college's education, public outreach, and research programs. As President of MOS, yours truly is more disposed to beg for assistance than beg for money.

I have come to view my role as your President as a facilitative one. Your goal might be facilitated access to significant birding locations in search of rare species. Or you might wish to see the MOS as a voice for more effective bird and wildlife conservation. Perhaps you are interested in recruiting youngsters into a lifetime enhanced by the pleasures of simply enjoying birdlife. I know that the majority of you enjoy the camaraderie of your local bird

*continued on page 2*

## YMOS CELEBRATES SPRING WITH MARCH BIRDATHON: PLEDGE NOW!

Young birders in the MOS Youth Program (YMOS) had too much fun last year. They have organized a second (annual) Eastern Shore Birdathon to celebrate the end of winter (and who wouldn't?) and to raise money for YMOS programs, including their participation in the World Series of Birding in May. This two-day quest lasts from sunrise March 20 to sunset March 21 and is restricted to Maryland's Eastern Shore south of the C&D Canal.

As last year, the youngsters are constructing a 100-species "must-see" list based on their hits and misses during their field training, which began last August. The list will be challenging—in 2009 they missed 6 birds on their list, incurring a penalty of two species from their net total for each miss. (They tallied a total of 132 species for a net total

of 120.) All of the species missed in 2009 will be must-sees in 2010!

Please consider a per-species pledge of 10, 25, or 50 cents. As an additional incentive, these aspiring birders ask that your per-species pledge be doubled for each one over a net total of 100. Single pledges in any amount are welcome, too. In 2009, the Birdathon raised \$663 for the YMOS.

Only your pledge is needed before March 19. Contributors will receive a copy of the must-see list in advance of the Birdathon as well as a final report of the results shortly thereafter. Please e-mail your per-species commitment to George Radcliffe at my new e-mail address: [radclifg@gmail.com](mailto:radclifg@gmail.com).

—George Radcliffe

### Inside This Issue

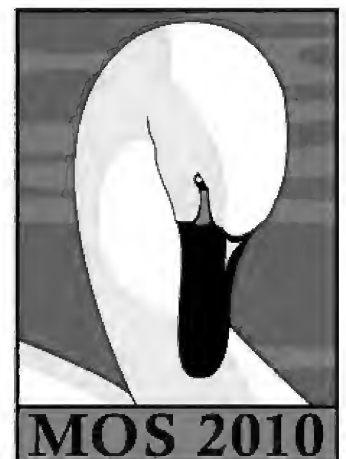
President's Corner .....	1
Birdathon 2010 .....	1
Pin Winner .....	1
Rufous Encore.....	2
Records Committee Decisions .....	3
Birds of Note.....	3
MOS Treasurer .....	4
Chapter Chatter .....	5
Calendar .....	7
South Africa Safari .....	15
Book Review: <i>Crow Planet</i> .....	16
Last Call.....	16

### A Captivating Swan

The winner of the 24th annual MOS Conference Pin Design contest is **Gemma Radko**. Her entry portrays a striking Tundra Swan set against a blue background. Gemma, a member of both the Montgomery and Frederick Bird Clubs, also won the contest in 1998 with a Black-throated Blue Warbler creation. Congratulations, Gemma!

Remember, everyone who attends this year's Conference—June 11-13 at Washington College in Chestertown—will receive one of these beautiful Tundra Swan cloisonné lapel pins.

—John Malcolm



**President's Corner** *continued from page 1*

clubs and see yourselves as part of a larger organization that facilitates the exchange of information through and among others who share your passion.

MOS was chartered in 1945. It has Bylaws that define its administrative structure and provide for the appointment of committees. All such services to the organization are voluntary. Over time, some stalwart and committed persons have performed yeoman service by serving as Chapter Presidents, State Directors, Committee Chairs, and Administrative Council members. I am a relative newcomer to the MOS scene. Even so, I have come quickly to value the contribution each person has made to the organization. That's why I want to be an effective facilitator.

Late January saw the annual Budget Committee meeting. The 2010-2011 MOS budget will be the first where the current national economic situation really comes home to roost. As with all organizations like ours, income from investments is significantly down as the value of our portfolio has been eroded.

The budget will be presented and debated at the April Board meeting prior to its proposed adoption at the Annual Meeting in June. This is advance notice that we will need to tighten our belts.

The Budget Committee meeting included all members of the Administrative Council. Our collective conclusion was that the most useful way to augment our financial resources is through memberships. As of January 21, we have a total of 1,292 memberships. Given that birding is recognized as one of the fastest-growing recreational pastimes nationally, we should be a growing organization. Yet our Membership Chair is vacant, as is our Environmental Fund for MD Chair. Both of these provide significant opportunities for outside visibility. And we will lose our long-term Treasurer at the end of my tenure, a

vacancy that has been admirably filled as one of our organization's primary contacts with organizations concerned with nonprofit organizations like ours.

Subsequent MOS budgets will continue to be austere if we remain heavily dependent on investment income for program operations. More members would definitely help us participate in whatever economic recovery may be at hand. More leadership to fill existing committee vacancies would also help us keep our priorities on track. In the absence of additional funding and demonstrated participation from our membership, the MOS will have to make difficult decisions as to which programs to curtail and which ones to continue in the future. Your Board can and will make such decisions. As your President, I would rather beg for assistance.

## Rufous Takes an Encore



*This female Rufous Hummingbird was photographed by George Jett January 12, 2009 in Calvert County.*

In December 2008 and January 2009, *Sue Hamilton*, of Port Republic in Calvert County, hosted a female Rufous Hummingbird for several weeks. Now comes news from David Holmes, who captured and banded Sue's bird: "Sue, I have really delightful news for you!! Your little lady Rufous Hummingbird from last year is happily defending a feeder in Athens, Georgia right now. A bander caught her on Saturday morning [January 16, 2010] and said she was a very healthy bird and not particularly willing to get caught. The bird has been at that feeder since some time in November. These encounters are way too rare, so this is a super treat. It is our first bird that someone else has picked up."

—Tyler Bell

### The Maryland Yellowthroat Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Editor: Lydia Schindler  
lydiaschindler@verizon.net  
301-977-5252

Designer: Suzanne Probst  
msprobst2@verizon.net  
410-992-3489

Calendar Editor: Andy Martin  
apmartin2@comcast.net  
301-294-4805

Chapter Chatter: Jean Wheeler  
jswheeler44@msn.com

Mailing list: Helen Horrocks  
hlh\_37@yahoo.com  
301-831-6315

MOS web site: <http://www.mdbirds.org>

Webmaster: John Hays Christy  
SiteMaven@mdbirds.org

*Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas that would be of interest to other birders. Copy may be mailed or e-mailed to Lydia Schindler by March 20, 2010 for the May/June 2010 issue.*

*Illustrations pages 1 and 5 ©M. Suzanne Probst.  
Pin Design page 1 ©Gemma Radko.  
Photograph page 2 ©George Jett.  
Photograph page 4 ©Sean McCandless.*

## MARYLAND/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

BY PHIL DAVIS, MD/DCRC SECRETARY

The MD/DCRC has reached the following record decisions since the last committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review package 129. MD/DCRC report numbers are in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. No new "state" species were added to either the MD or DC Official Lists as a result of these decisions. The total number of species on the official lists remains at 435 for MD and 330 for DC.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web pages at <http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcsrc/rcindex.html>

### MD RECORDS ACCEPTED:

**White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*** [MD/2009-042]

Berlin, Worcester County

19-Apr-2009 through 27-Apr-2009

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis***  
[MD/2009-057]

Patuxent River, Westwood, Prince George's County

02-Jun-2009 through 04-Jun-2009

**Ross's Goose, *Chen rossii*** [MD/2008-162]

Jug Bay, Lothian, Anne Arundel County

14-Dec-2008

**Ross's Goose, *Chen rossii*** [MD/2009-021]

Lake Artemesia, Greenbelt, Prince George's County

09-Feb-2009

**Little Gull, *Larus minutus*** [MD/2007-056]

Herrington Manor State Park, Oakland, Garrett County

09-Apr-1995

**Common Murre, *Uria aalge*** [MD/2009-038]

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County

12-Apr-2009

**Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens***

[MD/2008-093]

120th Street, Ocean City, Worcester County

16-Nov-2008

**Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens***

[MD/2008-106]

Coventry Parish Road, Rehobeth, Somerset County

03-Dec-2008 through 04-Dec-2008

**Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens***

[MD/2008-176]

Snug Harbor, Berlin, Worcester County

28-Dec-2008



## Birds of Note—by Les Roslund

- Last fall, prior to the arrival of the first snow, Maryland birders were on the lookout for unusual birds, as usual. Dave Czaplak of Germantown in Montgomery County enjoyed great success in this endeavor when he found an immature BULLOCK'S ORIOLE at Sycamore Landing on Nov 24. The bird was feeding on fruit in tall trees beside the canal towpath, in the company of hordes of robins, waxwings and starlings. The oriole was only loosely associated with the other species, and it soon disappeared across a nearby field. Attempts to relocate the bird over the next few days were not successful.
- Other orioles continued to come around. At least four BALTIMORE ORIOLE sightings have been reported, suggesting that some of these birds decided to tough it out through the winter, with the help of some bird feeders. Fred Burggraf of Dentsville, Charles County, had one show up at his feeders on Dec 15 and remain through ~Jan 5. On Dec 24 a first-year bird stopped at a feeder at the home of Bill Peak near Easton in Talbot County and remained for a couple of days. Another was seen Jan 5 and 6 at the home of Harry and Liz Armistead in Royal Oak, Talbot County. And one arrived Jan 6 at Jug Bay near Croom, Prince George's County, at a feeder stocked by Jeff Shenot. The Jug Bay bird has continued to come to the feeder almost daily as of Jan 26.
- The SANDHILL CRANES that pass through our area most years are always fun to see, and they are especially appreciated when they pause long enough to allow successful chasing. This winter there have been three reports of flyovers and one report of a bird that lit and stayed around. The first flyover was seen by Mark Johnson of Aberdeen, Harford County, on the morning of Dec 12; Mark saw three SANDHILL CRANES flying low above the tree tops as he entered I-95 from the intersection with Rte 22. Later that day the Carroll County Bird Club saw one SANDHILL CRANE passing over Point Lookout State Park during a visit to St. Mary's County; Keith Costly noticed the bird as it trailed a group of high-flying BROWN PELICANS and drew it to the attention of the other Carroll County birders. The single SANDHILL CRANE that stayed around was first found by Ross Geredien of Edgewater, Anne Arundel County, on Dec 24 at Great Oak Landing Pond in Kent County. This bird remained for three days, much to the delight of local birders. And finally, a large (35-40) flock of SANDHILL CRANES was seen flying over the Washington Beltway on Jan 21; these birds were noticed by Frank and Mary Enders of Halifax, North Carolina, who passed the information to the Maryland birding community through their friend, Harry Armistead of Royal Oak.

continued on page 4



Birds of Note *continued from page 3*

- Birders normally expect to find great birds around Point Lookout, and this year one of those birds was a KING EIDER located by Mikey Lutmerding of Croom, Anne Arundel County. The bird was found the morning of Jan 18 and stayed around for a few hours—long enough for the sighting to be shared by at least one other birder, J.B. Churchill of Frostburg.
- Years ago EVENING GROSBEAK visits were a normal part of the migration season, but now such a visit is rare indeed. This year, perhaps brought in by the big storm of Dec 19-20, a single female EVENING GROSBEAK showed up at the home of Kevin Graff of Jarrettsville, Harford County, on Dec 20 and lit in the top of a bare oak tree. It stayed only for a little over a minute, but that was long enough for the field marks to be clearly seen. Unfortunately, it did not drop down to the available feeders, but promptly left.
- This has not been a good year for local sightings of the finches, crossbills, and siskins that were so abundant last winter. Hence, it was a matter worthy of special note when a single RED CROSSBILL provided a loud and clear call on Dec 27 that was heard by Jeff Shenot of Croom, Anne Arundel County. The call was so clear that Jeff reported it as being probably no more than 100 feet away. With binocs and camera ready, Jeff continued to watch for the bird at his feeders, but it apparently just kept on moving. No other crossbill sightings have been reported this season.



*Black-headed Gull, swimming among a flock of Ring-billed Gulls, was photographed by Sean McCandless December 24 in Cecil County.*

- Winter highlights of this region usually include some very nice gull sightings, and there have been several this season. BLACK-HEADED GULLS showed up at two locations. The first was seen at North East Town Park, Cecil County, by Sean McCandless on Dec 24, in the company of a large flock of RING-BILLED GULLS. Later attempts to relocate this bird were not successful. On Dec 25 another BLACK-HEADED GULL was found at the Ocean City inlet by Chris and Julie Keefer

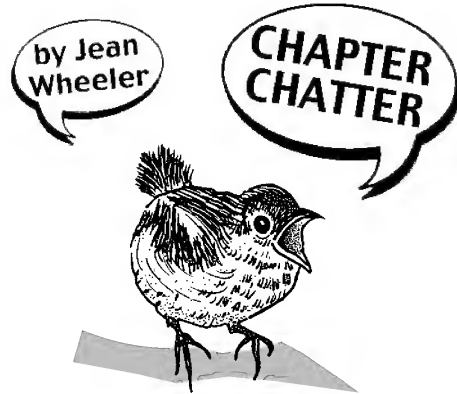
## SEEKING A NEW TREASURER

After six years of excellent service as the MOS Treasurer, Emmalyn Holdridge has made the decision to resign. The Nominating Committee is looking for a candidate to fill this important position. The MOS Treasurer handles all of the organization's financial information and transactions, including the checking, savings, and investment accounts. The Treasurer also prepares financial reports and works with the outside auditors. The accounting software used is Quick Books Pro. The candidate should have some financial/accounting background.

If you are interested in taking on this challenging but rewarding position, please contact either Helen Patton (Helen@dataprompt.com or 301-588-5418) or Janet Shields (janetbill@prodigy.net or 301-733-7877).

of Connecticut (visiting Julie's Ocean City family for the holidays). Also on Dec 25, a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE was sighted at the Ocean City Inlet by Alex Baish of Ocean City, and Alex drew it to the attention of Chris and Julie Keefer. The bird remained on the rocks of the jetty for a brief period before flying off, not to be seen again.

- Two more excellent Ocean City Inlet sightings occurred in mid-January. On Jan 17, in the midst of harsh weather conditions (cold temps with strong winds and rain), a charming little DOVEKIE came chugging up the channel to reward the persistence of Jim Brighton, Mike Walsh, and Mikey Lutmerding. Mikey was the first to spot the bird, which gave the three of them some 20 minutes of joy as it worked its way from the mouth to the bend of the channel. On Jan 19, with the advantages of a much nicer day, Lance Biechele and Leo Wiegant were treated to a view of a RAZORBILL at the Ocean City Inlet; they managed about 10 minutes of viewing before the bird flew back out over the ocean. It should be noted that during early January numerous people enjoyed Ocean City Inlet sightings of BONAPARTE'S GULLS, COMMON EIDER (60 or more this season), HARLEQUIN DUCKS, SCOTERS, BRANT, and PURPLE SANDPIPERS.
- Perhaps the most unusual sighting of the season came on Jan 24 when diligent searching by Bill Hubick, Dan Small, and Mike Walsh turned up a COMMON TEAL amongst the 600 or so GREEN-WINGED TEAL at Truitt's Landing, Worcester County. Distant but clearly diagnostic photos were attained of this unusual and reportable bird. (The primary field marks were the obvious horizontal white stripes on the sides along with the total absence of the normal vertical white stripes found on GREEN-WINGED TEAL.)

**ANNE ARUNDEL**

*AABC member Kathie Lambert spent a few days doing CBCs with some friends in Texas:* The lure was the San Bernard CBC, which regularly features good views of Yellow Rails. This CBC is interesting in that nearly the entire count is on NWR property and the refuge staff is highly involved. The rail strategy includes an early morning listen—response to tapes—followed by a morning marsh buggy ride. A marsh buggy is a tractor on steroids, with tires about 3 feet in diameter and 4 feet wide. The ride is outrageously bouncy and is not for those prone to motion sickness; it's a wonder no one got bounced off. The birds didn't disappoint. Lots of Soras, a few Virginia Rails, and outstanding looks at several Yellow Rails. Even a Barn Owl flushed from the marsh. The day ended with a tally rally at refuge headquarters. The retired refuge manager cooked the best seafood gumbo outside New Orleans! Those Texans know how to put out a spread.

Day 2 was spent touring the coast from Quintana to Bolivar, an area that was devastated by Hurricane Ike. The truly distressing part is the new construction that is occurring on the beach! It's hard to believe that people are building in this vulnerable area and that insurance companies are insuring them. Driving on the beach is OK along this section of coast--no permit required. Shorebirds were uncharacteristically few. The best birds of the day were a flock of 40,000 avocets at the Bolivar jetty. The ferry ride to Bolivar produced dolphins, Double-crested and

Neotropic Cormorants, and some very nice Red-breasted Mergansers.

Day 3 was the Freeport CBC, and our territory was the Brazoria NWR. Think of Blackwater, only 10 times larger! Goose numbers were down—only a few hundred Greater White-fronted Geese, a few thousand widely dispersed Snow Geese, and no Canada Geese. Duck variety was decent but numbers were low. We had a hard time finding long-legged waders, though we did get all the usual waders, including a small flock of Roseate Spoonbills. Because the water was very high this weekend, the shore and water birds were not concentrated anywhere. An early-morning highlight was a Black Rail that responded to a tape by growling. Earlier, the biologist was playing a Sora call and a Sora hopped into her car; she had a hard time getting it out.

The Red-tailed Hawks are highly variable in plumage and posed identification problems all weekend. Eventually, one turned into a dark morph Rough-legged Hawk, which required a detailed writeup. The two local birders were passing it off as a Red-tail until the out-of-town birder insisted on a more detailed look. Total species for the weekend was nearly 200. I added 14 birds to the TX life list, which now surpasses my MD life list by 1 species. Incentive to do more MD birding! One of the best parts of the trip: being the out-of-town birder holding her own with a bunch of local Texans.

—Kathie Lambert

From December 8 to 12, my wife Carol and I visited relatives in the Naples-Apollo Beach, FL area. At the Big Bend coal-fired TECO power plant, the warm cooling water released into a channel going into the Tampa Bay attracts many manatees. We saw at least 75 manatees and spinner sharks jumping and spinning out of the 81-degree water, along with spotted eagle rays and big fish--tarpons. There were many water birds, including Brown Pelican and various

tern and heron species. At a local golf course winter birding hotspot, we saw our favorite Florida species, Roseate Spoonbill. This year we had our best looks as they were really close around ponds on the course. Also on the golf course and ponds were Wood Stork, Tricolored Heron, Little Blue Heron, three species of egrets, Anhingas, and a few ducks (e.g., Northern Shoveler and Gadwall). Another highlight was a flock of White Pelicans and Sandhill Cranes. Later, in Tampa Bay, we spotted American Oystercatcher, many terns, gulls, and even some shorebirds like Ruddy Turnstone. The beaches near Naples turned up Royal Tern, Sandwich Tern, Brown Pelican, a few Black Skimmers, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, and four gull species.

—Gerald Winegrad

**CAROLINE COUNTY**

Neither snow nor hail. . . Caroline County Bird Club held its Christmas Bird Count on Dec 19, despite the 16+-inch snowfall that day. Several hardy folks went out and recorded 63 species. Count Compiler Steve Westre said the count has never been postponed in its 60-year history. That first count "way-back when" recorded 47 species, and Steve wanted to at least equal that. Our thanks to those brave souls who went out that day, and may all the CBCs have better luck in 2010. For more info on the Count as well as more info on the Caroline County Bird Club, be sure to visit our blog <http://carolinebirdclubmos.blogspot.com/>

—Danny Poet

Fil and Patrice Morrison of Caroline reported that a huge Bald Eagle nest that had been used many times near their home on the Choptank River fell down during a recent storm. Happily, the Bald Eagle pair appear to be rebuilding in the same location. This past weekend the Morrisons observed an immature Bald Eagle try unsuccessfully to nab a Bufflehead for lunch. The group of Buffleheads all dove underwater, popped back up, and went about their business.

—Debby Bennett

*continued on page 6*

**HOWARD COUNTY**

Jane and Joe Hanfman visited Churchill, Manitoba, Canada in early November 2009 on a Polar Bear trip. Their first bear was an animal being released from the Polar Bear Prison. Bears that wander into the town are sometimes trapped and put into solitary confinement, where they are given water but no food. This jail is supposed to be unpleasant enough to discourage them from coming back to town. The Hanfmans watched as the bear was airlifted back to the wild by helicopter. As they were watching the airlift, a wild bear ambled out of low willows nearby. Conservation officers scared it away with flares and poppers. Over the next three days the Hanfmans saw 96 Polar Bears, including several with cubs. (This is actually a low number at prime time.) One moment of drama occurred on the frozen tundra when a Pine Marten ran across the ice. It stopped to look around just in the nick of time as a Polar Bear chased it. The marten went into the willows and the Polar Bear pounced; the marten barely escaped. Bird highlights were flocks of Willow Ptarmigans, Gyrfalcons, Boreal Chickadees, and Common and Hoary Redpolls.

It should also be noted that Joe had a really great year of birding in Howard County. Joe's 2009 total was 225 species--a new record for the county. The previous record, set by Bonnie Ott in 2001, was 224. Joe says he doesn't know how Bonnie did it without a BlackBerry. He attributes his success to the many people who shared their sightings with him and to the unselfish support of Bonnie

—Kate Tufts

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Gail Mackiernan and Barry Cooper, along with two British friends, took a 20-day cruise from San Diego, California to Valparaiso, Chile in November 2009. Their primary targets were the many seabirds of the eastern Pacific, but the cruise's 12 port stops in Mexico and Central and South America provided many

great land birds and a few adventures as well. Two days in southern California prior to embarkation gave them a new US bird, Yellow-footed Gull, at the Salton Sea. Exciting seabirds included Galapagos, Tahiti, DeFillippe's, Cook's, Juan Fernandez, and Kermadec Petrels, Waved and Buller's Albatrosses, 10 species of Storm-Petrel, 6 species of Booby, Swallow-tailed Gull, and Humboldt Penguin. Landbirding started in the heat of Baja California (Belding's Yellowthroat, Xantus's Hummingbird) and ended in the cold wet southern beech forests of Chile (Chestnut-throated Huet-huet, Magellanic Woodpecker). In between were thorn forests in western Mexico, shade coffee plantations in Guatemala and Nicaragua, the rainforest of Costa Rica (in the rain), the strange Tumbes forest of Ecuador, and a car breakdown on an isolated road in the Andean foothills of Peru. Gail will relate their adventures at the club's May meeting.

Robert Parsons spent a week in Chile and a week in the Antarctic in December. In Chile, he saw 130 species, including over 100 life birds. Highlights included his first Seedsnipe, the striking Inca Tern, and a group of White-throated Caracaras at a garbage dump, as well as the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover, found at 10,000 feet in the bogs of a high Andean lake. Antarctica was a unique and thrilling adventure, resulting in more than 35 species, including 7 species of penguin, 5 species of albatross, and the beautiful Snow Petrel. Highlights included kayaking in the ice-filled sea with flocks of Cape Petrel floating all around, and watching two skuas as one literally grabbed and then lifted a penguin off her nest so the other could sweep in and steal the eggs.

—Chris Wright

**TALBOT COUNTY**

*George (as a tour leader) and Harry Armistead travelled to Antarctica, Argentina, the Falklands, South Georgia, and environs in November: Highlights included Rheas and their*

*chicks, Chilean Flamingos, 5 species of penguin, 4 of albatross, an Andean Condor, spectacularly lovely pure-white Snow Petrels, 150-foot-high icebergs miles long, and an hour-and-a-half encounter with a pod of 11 Orcas at close range (right off and sometimes under the bow). In over 4,000 miles of cruising, I was struck by the low numbers of cetaceans. Whales still haven't recovered from the massive slaughter of the 20th Century (will they ever?). But the penguins and seal types largely have (they, too, were "rendered" by the hundreds of thousands for their oil). Our trip had disadvantages: there was very low krill production this season, we were too early in the breeding season, and wind and/or ice kept us from several key landings. The cliché is that a trip to Antarctica is the "trip of a lifetime." However, it is.*

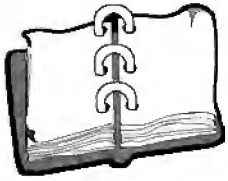
—Harry Armistead

**TRI-COUNTY**

Tri-County members Linda Cashman and Dr. Ellen Lawler attended the annual Crane festival at Bosque del Apache NWR in mid-November. Adding to the panorama of thousand of Sandhill Cranes was the choice of several programs on crane behavior and a very active feeding station at the visitor center. Highlights were Gambel's Quail and Pyrrhuloxia. After the festival, they toured other birding spots in the area and enjoyed Northern Pygmy Owl, Pinyon Jay, and Ferruginous Hawks. After a harrowing drive to the top of windy and icy Sandia Crest (over 10,000 ft.), they were rewarded with all three Rosy-Finch at a feeding station--a great finale for their trip.

—Carol Broderick





# MOS Calendar

## March-April 2010

### Tuesday, March 2

**MEETING. Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: "Birds and Natural History in Queensland, Australia." *Pierre Henkart*, President of the Anne Arundel Bird Club, describes birds and birding "down under" in the Australian tropics. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. For more info, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217 or [pete\\_webb@juno.com](mailto:pete_webb@juno.com).

**Montgomery.** Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. Joint MBC/ANS trip. Meet at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge" at 5 PM. After checking out the river, we will proceed to Hughes Hollow to observe waterfowl flying in to roost. We will try for displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight, and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations not required. For more info, call Jim Green at 301-208-2393.

### Wednesday, March 3

**Baltimore.** First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Scopes useful. Automatically cancelled in bad weather (rain, sleet, snow, fog, etc.). (From I-695 southwest of the city, take I-95 north (exit 11), towards the city. Get off at exit 55, Hanover St. Turn right (east) on McComas St, left (north) on Key Hwy. Take first left onto Lawrence St and turn left onto Fort Ave, continue through gateway into the park. Meet outside the Visitor Center at 8 AM. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

**MEETING. Carroll.** "Uganda," by *Gail MacKiernan*. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg MD. Contact

Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

**MEETING. Cecil.** Program TBA. 7 PM at the Elkton HS. For more info, contact President Pat Valdata, [pvaldata@zoominternet.net](mailto:pvaldata@zoominternet.net).

### Thursday, March 4

**MEETING. Frederick.** Members' Night. This is a chance for members to bring in a few slides of a favorite birding activity to share with the group. Collectively, we travel far and wide and do lots of interesting things, so this will be your chance to share with the group. Call Kathy Calvert at 301-698-1298 if you would like to participate. 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

**Montgomery.** Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See March 2 listing.

**Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). The Prince George's Audubon Society (PGAS), along with members of the Patuxent Bird Club, will host mid-week bird walks every first and third Thursday at the newly-dedicated Luther Goldman Birding Trail. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call 301-459-3375 for more info.

### Friday, March 5

**DINNER MEETING. Harford.** *George Jett* presents "A Photographic Big Year in Maryland." 6:15 PM dinner; 7 PM program at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 and MD 136. Contact Dave Webb at 410-939-3537 or [porzana@comcast.net](mailto:porzana@comcast.net) for add'l info.

### Saturday, March 6

**MOS BOARD MEETING.** Hosted by Caroline Chapter. 10 AM at Adkins Arboretum. Contact Janet Shields, MOS Secretary at [janetbill@prodigy.net](mailto:janetbill@prodigy.net) for add'l info.

### Anne Arundel/Patuxent.

Edgewater area for waterfowl and other beach birds. Meet at Parole P&R at 8 AM for this half-day trip. Leader: Fred Fallon, 301-249-1518.

### Cecil. Eastern Neck NWR.

Full day. Meet 7 AM at Big Elk Mall, Elkton at Dunkin' Donuts parking lot area. Leader: Parke John, [parke@del.net](mailto:parke@del.net).

### Harford. Harford Waterfowl Tour.

Visit several areas in the county to see a variety of waterfowl as they congregate prior to migrating north. Meet at the McDonalds in Edgewood on Rte 40 at 7 AM. Bring a photo ID for admittance to APG. Leader Dave Webb, 410-939-3537 or [porzana@comcast.net](mailto:porzana@comcast.net).

**Frederick.** Timberdoodles at Audrey Carroll. David Smith will lead us on a search for American Woodcocks. Bring a flashlight. For info, call David at 410-549-7082.

**Patuxent.** Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at [kiwisuits@msn.com](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

**Tri-County.** Western Wicomico County. We will visit the Nanticoke River and other spots in Western Wicomico. Bring snacks and drinks. Meet 7:30 AM in Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art parking lot on S Schumaker Dr on Beaglin Park Dr in Salisbury. Contact leader Ron Gutberlet, 410-334-2655, for more details.

### Sunday, March 7

**Baltimore.** Loch Raven. Waterfowl and landbirds. Possible Bald Eagles

Calendar *continued from page 7*

and bluebirds. Scopes useful. Two mile level walk. Meet 8:30 AM along Stone Hill Rd. Beginning birders welcome. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or gt5s@bcpl.net.

**Howard.** Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. 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 and lingering migrants likely. Meet 8 AM at west end parking lot. Leader: Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329, LBRoller@verizon.net. Facilities available.

**Kent.** Blackwater NWR, Dorchester County. Prime wintering waterfowl and eagle country. Full day, bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

**Talbot/Kent.** Bluestem (formerly Chino) Farms. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

### Monday, March 8

**Baltimore.** Poplar Island. Poplar I. is an environmental restoration project similar to Hart-Miller. When completed, it will provide approximately 570 acres of wetland and 570 acres of upland habitat. Poplar I. is reached by a 20-30 minute boat ride from Tilghman I. Meet 7 AM at Nursery Rd P&R or meet 9 AM at Tilghman I. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. Bring snacks if desired. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Reservations required. Limit 24. Leader: Robin Armetta. Coordinator: Kevin Graff, whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

### Tuesday, March 9

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** *Marie Brady*, a graduate student at Frostburg State U, will discuss "Habitat Selection and Reproductive Success of Grassland Birds in Western Maryland." 7 PM at Compton Hall, Rm 224, Frostburg State U.

MEETING. **Kent.** "Brown-headed Cowbirds," by *David Curson*. 7:30 PM at Wesley Hall, Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown. For info, contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

**Montgomery.** Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See March 2 listing.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** *George Jett* will present "The Big Picture." The formal program begins at 7:30 PM, but doors open at 7 PM for informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. Location: College Park Airport Annex. For more info, contact Fred Shaffer at glaucousgull@verizon.net.

### Wednesday, March 10

**Harford.** Timberdoodle Search. Join this evening watch for one of our most interesting (and elusive!) birds, the American Woodcock, as it performs its mating dance. Meet 6:30 PM at the Rte 155/95 P&R. Leader: Elaine Beery, 410-272-6037.

### Thursday, March 11

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Lecture. Amazing Speaker TBA. 8 PM in the Blue Heron Rm at Quiet Waters Park. 600 Quiet Waters Park Rd, Annapolis.

MEETING. **Howard.** "Birding in the Land of the Thunder Dragon—Bhutan," by *Gail Mackiernan*. Open to tourism only since 1979, the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is one of the world's premier birding destinations. The country's enlightened environmental policies have protected its forests and wildlife. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Howard Co Rec and Parks, 7210 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. Info: Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

MEETING. **Talbot.** Speaker: *Kurt Schwarz*, MOS Conservation Chair. "Aimophila Adventures." Most birders travel to southeast AZ to seek such showy birds as Elegant

Trogon and Flame-colored Tanager. Kurt spent the summer of 2009 in the region, and did look for such birds, but he also took time to study those little brown jobs that make MD sparrows appear downright gaudy. Kurt will show uncharacteristically in-focus pictures of many of AZ specialties such as Scott's Oriole and the ultimate LBJ, Botteri's Sparrow. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, 501 Dutchmans Ln, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, 410-822-3451 or coopercw@goeaston.net.

### Friday, March 12

ANNUAL SOCIAL. **Montgomery.** 6:30 PM at Woodend, Chevy Chase. *Gemma Radko* is our Guest of Honor. Reservations required. Contact Steve Pretl, stevep@takomavillage.org.

### Saturday, March 13

**Anne Arundel.** Little Patuxent Oxbow Lake Preserve. Depart 7:30 AM from Parole P&R. Leader: Marcy Stutzman. For more info, contact David Gillum, 410-987-0674.

**Baltimore.** Middle Creek WMA. All-day trip (bring lunch) to visit this major gathering place north of Lancaster, PA for Snow Geese and other waterfowl. There is also an excellent display of mounted birds at the Visitor Center. Note: Trip may go elsewhere if Middle Creek is frozen over. Meet 8 AM at Timonium P&R on Greenspring Dr/Deereco Rd off Timonium Rd just east of I-83. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

**Carroll.** Woodcocks at Morgan Run. Meet 6:30 PM at the parking lot for the south area of Morgan Run NEA at the end of Ben Rose Ln, accessed near the intersection of Bartholow Rd and MD 97. We will try to hear the calls and wing twitter of, and possibly see, American Woodcocks doing their courtship displays. We will bird during dusk until after dark (sunset about 7:15 PM, twilight ends 7:40 PM). Contact Jerry Tarbell at 410-857-1109 for more info.



**H Howard.** Waterfowl Search. Meet at Broken Land Pkwy P&R (west) at 8 AM. We'll carpool to search Howard Co waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers, and loons. A chance for early migrants. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643 or krschwa1@verizon.net.

**H Montgomery.** Jug Bay, Prince George's County. Half day. Joint trip with ANS. Possible Rusty Blackbirds, migrating Wilson's Snipe, and courtship display of Osprey. Meet 8 AM. Call leader for details and driving instructions. Check ANS *News* for more info. Reservations required. Leader: John Bjerke, 240-401-1643.

**H Patuxent.** Patuxent River Locations. Waterfowl, sparrows, and other early migrants. Meet 7:30 AM. Contact Fred Shaffer for meeting place and reservations, 410-721-1744 or glaucousgull@verizon.net.

#### Sunday, March 14

**H Anne Arundel.** Wooten's Landing for woodcocks and breakfast. Meet 5:30 AM at Parole P&R. Leader: Kathie Lambert, 410-867-4056.

**H Harford.** Loch Raven Reservoir. Explore the beautiful surroundings of Baltimore's premier watershed for early migrant songbirds, waterbirds, and raptors. Meet at the Rte 147/152 P&R near Fallston at 8:30 AM. Leader is Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or dlarkin@towson.edu.

**H Howard.** Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. See Mar 7 listing. Leader: Jeff Culler, 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com. Facilities available.

**H Talbot.** Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (formerly Horsehead Sanctuary). Bring lunch. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM or meet leader at CBEC at 7:30 AM. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651.

#### Tuesday, March 16

**H Montgomery.** Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See March 2 listing.

#### Wednesday, March 17

**H Harford.** Timberdoodle Search II. Join this evening watch for one of our most interesting (and elusive!) birds, the American Woodcock, as it performs its mating skydance. Meet at 7 PM at the Rte 155/95 P&R. Leader: Tom Gibson, gibsonlld@aol.com.

#### Thursday, March 18

MEETING. **Caroline.** *L.T. Short* will present "May Migration As Seen from Crane Creek State Park, Ohio." 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

**H Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). See Mar 4 for details.

#### Saturday, March 20

**H Anne Arundel.** Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Waterfowl and late winter migrants. Meet 7 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center parking lot for this all-day trip. Bring lunch. Leader: Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674.

**H Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. A continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. See Mar 3 listing for directions. Meet 8 AM in Visitor Center parking lot. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, etc). Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379.

**H Cecil.** Blackwater NWR and Beyond. Full day. A trip designed to see large numbers of waterfowl during the height of spring staging season. Bald Eagles are a bonus feature. Ospreys may be newly arrived and if so, will be setting up territories. Some early shorebirds might be on the move. Come take advantage of the peaceful Eastern Shore ambiance before the tourist season sets in. Meet 9 AM at the refuges's HQ. Bring breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Dress for possible extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Some easy walking on level ground. Leader: Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

**H Frederick.** Black Hill RP. Pat Caro will lead us on a trip to the lake at Black Hill RP in Montgomery Co, one of the best places for wintering waterfowl. Red-necked Grebes, Canvasbacks, and Redheads will be among the species we will be seeking. For more info, contact Pat at 301-845-6246.

**H Patuxent.** Governor Bridge NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

**H Patuxent.** Woodcocks! Evening trip to one of the local leks for displaying woodcocks. Location, meeting place, and time will depend on which location is most reliable during the previous week. Contact Dave Mozurkewich for info and reservations, 301-458-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

**H Washington.** Contact Linda Field, 301-797-6189, to attend this half-day trip to the Fort Frederick/Big Pool area.

#### Sunday, March 21

**H Howard.** Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. See Mar 7 listing. Leader: Jeff Culler, 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com. Facilities available.

**H Talbot.** Talbot County WWTP. Migrant waterfowl, gulls, Osprey, Wilson's Snipe, Rusty Blackbirds, pipits, and maybe an oddity or two. Co-leaders: Paul and Priscilla Thut, 410-745-6657. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Breakfast host: Patty Allen.

#### Monday, March 22

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. **Tri-County.** 6 PM at Ward Museum of Wildlife Art, Education Rm. Program: "Tropical Birding" by *Jeff Gordon*. For more info, contact Betty Pitney at 410-543-1853.

Calendar *continued from page 9*

### Tuesday, March 23

**MEETING. Washington.** *Cliff Brown* will tell us about the MD Wood Duck Initiative's mission to enhance Wood Duck populations and to generate a greater appreciation of the wetland habitats in which they live. 7:30 PM at the Mount Aetna Nature Center. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

### Saturday, March 27

**■ Anne Arundel.** Naval Academy Dairy Farm. Grassland species and local birds. Half day. Meet 7 AM at Parole P&R. Leader: Janet Mackey, 410-923-3283.

**■ Kent.** Owl Prowl. Meet 7 PM at the Eastern Neck NWR Lodge. This field trip will hopefully bring us face to face with an owl or two after an introduction to local species and their calls. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

### Sunday, March 28

**■ Harford.** Brunch and Birding. Start at the Laurrapin Grill in HDG at 1 PM for fine eats followed by birding at Lapidum Boat Landing and other spots along the Susquehanna. This is prime time for unusual gulls (Little and Black-headed Gulls) and grebes, including Red-necked and Horned. If you can't make lunch, join the group at Lapidum at 2:30 PM. Let the leaders know if you will be at lunch so they can make reservations. Co-leaders, Mark Johnson, mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil, and Sue Procell, suzanne.procell@us.army.mil.

**■ Howard.** Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. See Mar 7 listing. Leader: Jeff Culler, 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com. Facilities available.

**■ Talbot.** Cottingham/Duval Farm. Wetland and grassland restoration projects for sparrows, raptors, and early spring migrants. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002. Breakfast host: Margie Steffens. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM.

### Wednesday, March 31

**■ Washington.** Woodcocks. Meet in Clear Spring for dinner and then take a short drive to Blair's Valley to look for displaying woodcocks. Call Dave Weesner, 301-302-6376, for starting time.

### Thursday, April 1

**MEETING. Frederick.** *Mike Welch* Bird Quiz. Can you identify MD birds from photos and sound recordings? Last year we all demonstrated that we needed a bit of practice on this. We promise not to publish the results! 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

**■ Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). See Mar 4 for details, but meet at 6 PM.

### Friday, April 2

**MEETING. Anne Arundel.** *Paul Baicich*, co-author, *A Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*, columnist for *Birding* and *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and co-editor of the popular monthly Birding Community E-bulletin, will present "The Travel-and-Birding Network in North America: How It Works and How It Evolved to Find Good Birds." 8 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

### Saturday, April 3

**■ Allegany/Garrett.** Garrett County Ponds. Meet at Parkside School in LaVale at 9 AM and pack a lunch for a picnic at New Germany SP. We typically visit Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, Meadows Lake and Campground, and New Germany SP. Call leader, Mary Huebner, 301-777-0545, for more info or to arrange for an alternate meeting spot (such as Finzel Swamp).

**■ Howard.** Alpha Ridge Landfill. Half day. Meet at Alpha Ridge Park at 7:45 AM to carpool to landfill. 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. Leader: Ralph Cullison, RMCullison@comcast.net or 410-442-2181. Facilities available.

**■ Patuxent.** Fran Uhler NA. See Mar 6 for details.

### Sunday, April 4

**■ Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. A series of casual spring walks in Apr and May. Watch spring progress with a delightful variety of flowers, trees, and bushes along Cylburn's nature trails. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. No designated leader. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's front porch, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

**■ Talbot.** Bottomlands East of Rte 50 for Warblers. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875. Breakfast host: Bill Novak.

### Tuesday, April 6

**■ Baltimore.** Lake Roland. First in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh. Meet 8:30 AM at footbridge. (From I-695, take Jones Falls Expy (I-83 south) to Northern Pkwy exit, and go left (east) to next light, Falls Rd. Go left (north) and stay in right lane, go past second light (Lake Ave), turn right (east) before south end of Falls Rd bridge (just north of Lake Ave), follow right-left-right turns to avoid Light Rail entrance and go 0.5 mile to intersection. Park and walk to footbridge. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

**MEETING. Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. "Shorebird Identification" by *John Bjerke* and *Cyndie Loeper*. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. For more info, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217 or pete\_webb@juno.com.

**Wednesday, April 7**

**Baltimore.** First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. See Mar 3 listing. Meet 8 AM at Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Brazil: Rio, the Patanal, and Iguazu Falls," by *Greg Kearns*. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg. Contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Program TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS. For more info, contact President Pat Valdata, pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

**Thursday, April 8**

MEETING. **Howard.** "Birding South Florida, the Keys, and the Dry Tortugas," by *Kevin Heffernan* and *Karen Darcy*. Waders, the endemic Scrub Jay, ABA birds found most easily in FL, Caribbean vagrants, seabirds, established exotics, and FL subspecies all draw serious listers through casual birders to the Sunshine State. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Howard Co Rec and Parks, 7210 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. Info: Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

MEETING. **Talbot.** *Steve Goodbred*, formerly of Talbot Co, and son *Steven* will describe their birding in Ecuador in the cloud forests of the eastern slope of the Andes. The Choco Bioregion has many endemic species. Situated on the Equator, the country has the world's highest diversity of bird species. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, 501 Dutchmans Ln, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, 410-822-3451 or coopercw@goeaston.net.

**Saturday, April 10**

**Anne Arundel.** Quiet Waters Park. Forest birds and early migrants. Meet 7:30 AM at Parole P&R. Leader: Pat Tate, 410-266-6043.

**Cecil.** Conowingo Wildflowers and Birds. Meet 7 AM at Fisherman's Park at Conowingo Dam. Bring scope if you have one. Wear sturdy footwear for walking trails that may be muddy.

Easy walking on a level, well-graded trail. Leader, Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

**Kent.** Terrapin Point Park, Kent Is. We will search the fields and woods for songbird migrants, including sparrows and early warblers, and the Bay for water birds. Bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

**Washington.** Bird Photography. Grab whatever camera you have and join Bruce Field as he guides us through photography basics for the casual bird photographer. Antietam Battlefield will be the trip's most likely destination. Call Bruce at 301-797-6189 for details.

**Sunday, April 11**

**Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

**Frederick.** Hughes Hollow. Jim Green will lead us around Hughes Hollow and nearby sites in northwestern Montgomery Co. This wetlands area is good for waterfowl, wintering song birds, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. For info, call Jim at 301-208-2393.

**Harford.** Perryman. Explore this locally popular birding destination known for its large fields and bayside access. The timing of this trip presents a great opportunity to find Wilson's Snipe, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Savannah Sparrow, and a good mix of puddle ducks. Meet Phil Powers at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart parking lot, NE corner. Contact him at birdsinmd@prodigy.net for more info and meet time.

**Howard.** UMD Farm. Half day. Search the wetland and dry fields for migrants. Expect difficult walking. Bring gear for multiple habitats. Knee boots a must and waterproof pants advisable. Limit: 12. No facilities. Contact Bonnie for meeting location and to sign up at bonnieott@verizon.net or 410-461-3361.

**Patuxent.** Piscataway Park. Late waterfowl and early migrants. Meet at Beltway Plaza at 7 AM. Contact Dave Mozurkewich for reservations, 301-458-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

**Talbot.** Urban Birding. We will bird the wetlands, fields, and wood margins around the new Target shopping center and vicinity in search of migrant and resident land, marsh, and waterbirds. Last year we found Purple Finches, Rusty Blackbirds, snipe, Rough-winged Swallow, and a nice assortment of other birds in our search in and near Easton. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132. Breakfast: Jean and Ralph Crump at Londonderry.

**Tuesday, April 13**

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Speaker: *Dave Harvey*. Title: "Winter Birding in New Mexico." Dave will describe a Feb 2007 trip that he and Chuck Stirrat made to Bosque del Apache, Sandia Crest, Albuquerque Nature Center, and other areas, mostly driving, between Bosque and Santa Fe. Big emphasis on Sandhill Cranes and Rosy-Finches. 7 PM at Compton Hall, Rm 224, Frostburg State U, Frostburg.

**Baltimore.** Lake Roland. Second in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. See Apr 6 listing for directions. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Kent.** "Turner's Creek and Sassafras NRMA," by *Wayne Gilchrest*. 7:30 PM at Wesley Hall, Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown. For info, contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** *Mike Bowen* will present "Warbler ID Seminar with Slides and Sound." The formal program begins at 7:30 PM, but doors open at 7 PM for informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. Location: College Park Airport Annex. For

Calendar *continued from page 11*

more info, contact Fred Shaffer at glaucousgull@verizon.net.

#### Thursday, April 15

**MEETING. Caroline.** *David P. Blazer* will present "Offshore Wind in the Mid-Atlantic Region." Producing alternative and sustainable sources of energy has been in the news a great deal lately. Come hear how Bluewater Wind LLC is moving forward now to develop the first offshore wind park in the US off the coast of DE and later, of MD. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

**Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). See Mar 4 for details. Except Meet at 6 PM.

#### Saturday, April 17

**Anne Arundel.** Pocomoke River Canoe Trip. Early spring migrants. Bring lunch. Contact Leader, Larry Zoller, 410-987-9354, for more details.

**Cecil.** North East and Elkton Town Parks. Amble around two town parks that offer spectacular habitat for birds. Good walking conditions on mostly level ground. Meet 7 AM at North East Town Park, at the end of Walnut St in North East. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. Bring scope if you have one. Trip leader: Richard Donham donhamr@zoominternet.net.

**Frederick.** Blue Mash. Helen Horrocks will lead us on a trip to this very birdy site in Montgomery Co. If weather has been wet, waterproof boots might be a good idea. Contact Helen at 301-831-6315 to attend.

**Montgomery.** Blue Mash. Half day. Waterproof boots helpful. Meet 7:30 AM at Zion Rd parking lot. Call leader for reservations and directions. Limit: 8-10. Leader: Mark England, 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell).

**Patuxent.** Governor Bridge NA. See Mar 20 listing for details.

**Indicates Field Trip**

**Tri-County.** Nassawango Preserve. Migrating and resident vireos and warblers and other special birds of the swamp forest. Bring snacks and drink. Meet 7 AM in Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art parking lot on S Schumaker Dr on Beaglin Park Dr in Salisbury. Leader: Betty Pitney, 410-543-1853.

#### Sunday, April 18

**Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

**Kent.** Turner's Creek and Sassafras NRMA. A smorgasboard of waterfowl, terns and gulls, raptors, early migrant swallows, and sparrows and warblers. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

**Montgomery.** Hugh Mahanes Presidents' Walk at Hughes Hollow and Vicinity. Half day. Our traditional Presidents' Walk in a new season! Meet 7 AM at the Hughes Hollow parking lot. Reservations required. For more info and reservations, contact leader: Jim Nelson, 301-530-6574 or kingfishers2@verizon.net.

**Talbot.** Hope House. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Les Roslund, 410-763-8169. Breakfast host: Carolyn Roslund.

#### Tuesday, April 20

**Baltimore.** Lake Roland. Third in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of Spring migration. See Apr 6 listing for directions. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net.

#### Wednesday, April 21

**Howard.** Bon Secours. 2 hours. Meet 8 AM at visitor lot at the top left of the entrance road. Moderate to easy walking through the grounds of this mixed habitat adjoining Patapsco SP. Leader: Michele Wright, 410-465-6057 or WrightM\_29067@msn.com. Facilities available.

**MEETING. Montgomery.** "Wildlife and History of Five Remote Tropical Island Refuges" by *Doug Forsell*. Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuges are our most remote refuges, lying within 100 miles of the equator in the Central Pacific Ocean. Doug was manager of these refuges. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info, contact Steve Pretl at stevep@takomavillage.org.

#### Saturday, April 24

**Baltimore.** Huntley Meadows, VA. Bring picnic lunch for three-quarter day trip to northern VA woods and freshwater marsh with boardwalk trail for resident wildlife and early spring migrants. American Bittern and Sora both possible. Three-hour level walk on paved paths and boardwalks. Meet 7:30 AM at Nursery Rd P&R, Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or pete\_webb@juno.com.

**Cecil.** Spring at Fair Hill. Spring at Fair Hill means migrants: we'll be looking for early warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and sparrows. Meet 8 AM at the Covered Bridge parking lot at Fair Hill. Parking fee required. Honor system in use; bring small bills to pay fee (\$3 MD residents, \$4 out-of-state visitors). Wear shoes or boots good for walking. Leader: Meta Little, meta368@Juno.com.

**Harford.** Pish and Pedal. Combine two interests of the outdoors by pedaling in the flats of southern Cecil Co. Support vehicles will be carrying non-bikers as well as equipment for birding. Make reservations with the leader, Dave Webb, porzana@comcast.net. The meeting place will be the Rte 155/95 P&R at 7 AM.

**Howard.** Mt. Pleasant. 2 hrs. Meet 8 AM 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. Co-leaders: Mike Kerwin 240-357-7625 or m63kerwin@verizon.net and Scott Berglund, 410-750-2568 or Business250@yahoo.com.



**Sunday, April 25**

**Baltimore.** Druid Hill Park. Just about anything could show up in this large, urban park with varied habitats. Meet 8 AM. (Take the Druid Hill Park exit from I-83, which puts you onto Druid Park Lake Dr. Turn right into the main park entrance on Swan Dr and park on road margins at the northwest corner of the lake.) Leader: Bryce Butler, 410-728-0646 or capitano.bryce@verizon.net.

**Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

**Baltimore.** Chimney Swifts at Dusk. The swifts occasionally switch nightly roosting sites between the Hampden and the Conservatory (Druid Hill Park) chimneys, so we will post which chimney is being used on Apr 22 at <http://baltimorebirdclub.org>. Come at 7 PM if the weather is cloudy or gray; cancelled if raining. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

**Carroll.** Spring Migrants at McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot on the west side of Marriottsville Rd, on the north side of the railroad tracks, just south of the South Branch of the Patapsco River (at the Howard-Carroll Co line). Contact Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031 for info.

**BIG DAY. Frederick.** This is our second annual Big Day. Help us find as many species as possible in Frederick Co in one day. We will put together teams to try to cover the county and try to top last year's total of 134 species. You can start at any time and finish at any time. Call Mike Welch, 301-685-3561, if you would like to participate.

**Harford.** Winters Run Road. A quiet 3-mile stroll along this primary Harford Co waterway. A low-traffic, tree-lined pathway with some farmland and meadow habitat attracts a variety of birds, with the promise of heron and kingfisher and an abundance of passerines during the spring. Join co-leaders Dave Larkin

and Lynn Davis at 7 AM at the Rte 24/I-95 P&R. Call Lynn at 410-569-0504 for more info.

**Howard.** Fulton South Bio-Blitz. Half day. Meet 8 AM at Reservoir HS in Fulton. Take the first right into the school parking lot. Car pooling is required. This trip will focus on herps, wildflowers, mushrooms, fungi, insects, and birds. Help to establish baseline data for undeveloped county parkland. Leaders: Sue Muller, 410-313-4697 or smuller@howardcountymd.gov, and Bob and Jo Solem, 301-725-5037 or odenata@msn.com.

**Talbot.** Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Sanctuary for early migrants. Leader: Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Breakfast hosts: Jacqui Bonomo.

**Monday, April 26**

**MEETING. Tri-County.** "Cranes and More! Birding in New Mexico" by *Ellen Lawler*. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Fox Rm, south entrance, Camden Ave, Salisbury.

**Tuesday, April 27**

**Baltimore.** Lake Roland. See April 6 listing. Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379.

**MEETING. Washington.** "Birding Alaska" by *Kevin Heffernan* and *Karen Darcy*. 7:30 PM at the Mount Aetna Nature Center. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

**Thurs, April 29 and Sun, May 2**

**Montgomery.** Bird Photography for Beginners. On Thursday we will meet in Bethesda from 7:30 to 9 PM and discuss photographic technique, equipment, and philosophy pertinent to enjoying bird photography. On Sunday we will meet for a field trip from 8 AM to 12 noon to photograph any and all birds that cooperate. Limited to 6-8 participants. For more info and reservations, contact leader: Evelyn Ralston, 301-493-4132 or evelynsr@verizon.net. Rain date: May 9.

**Friday, April 30**

**Washington.** Sideling Hill. For more info and to register for this popular trip, call Dave Weesner at 301-302-6376.

**Saturday, May 1**

**Baltimore.** Soldiers Delight. Warblers, flycatchers, and tanagers are featured as spring migration heats up in this globally rare ecosystem. Meet 7:30 AM. (From I-695 Beltway exit 18 Liberty Rd, go west 4 miles, bear right onto Deer Park Rd just before traffic light and water tower, go 2 miles to historical marker, overlook, and gravel lot on left.) Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 443-985-6849 or oriolekec1@comcast.net.

**Cecil.** Elk Neck State Forest. Traverse the quiet wooded lanes of one of Cecil's prime birding gems, Elk Neck SE, with our own Parke John. Meet 7 AM at the State Forest office parking lot off Irishtown Rd. Leader: Parke John, parke@del.net.

**Frederick.** Little Bennett RP. We will look for migrating warblers and other returning species in this lovely area in Montgomery Co. Call Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894, for further info.

**Howard/Montgomery.** Pigtail, Triadelphia Reservoir. Also in conjunction with WSSC. Meet 8 AM at the Green Bridge Rd parking lot off Triadelphia Mill Rd in Howard Co. The cove is bordered on three sides by deciduous and coniferous woods. Extensive mudflats may exist, holding out the possibility of shorebirds. Facilities available (rustic). Leader: Joe Hanfman, auk1844@comcast.net or 410-772-8424.

**Kent.** Beginner's Bird Walk at Heron Point. 2 hrs. Meet 9 AM in the main parking lot at Heron Pt. for a leisurely walk along the river, looking for early spring migrants: swallows, warblers, vireos, and sparrows. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Calendar *continued from page 13*

**H Patuxent.** Fran Uhler NA. See Mar 6 listing for details.

### Sunday, May 2

**H Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

**🌸 Frederick.** FRED ARCHIBALD MAY COUNT. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Contact Bob Schaefer at 301-831-5660 or robert.schaefer@gmail.com for further info.

**H Montgomery.** Little Bennett RP. Half day. Near peak migration for warblers and vireos, including those breeding in this varied habitat. Contact the leader for time and directions. Reservations required. Leader: Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894.

**H Talbot.** Pocomoke Swamp. Full day. We will bird the edge of Nassawango Creek Preserve in search of migrant and resident songbirds with a focus on warblers. Help us find a new bird or two. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132. Bring lunch, drinks, and insecticide. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 AM.

### Tuesday, May 4

**H Baltimore.** Lake Roland. Fifth in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of Spring migration. See Apr 6 listing for directions. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: Speaker and topic TBA. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. For more info, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217 or pete\_webb@juno.com.

**H Montgomery.** Rock Creek Park, DC. Early migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Meet 7 AM at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Call the leader for more info and for specific directions. Limit: 8. Reservations required. Leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

### Wednesday, May 5

**H Baltimore.** First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. See Mar 3 listing. Meet 8 AM at Visitor's Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** Program TBA. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg MD. Contact Dave Harvey 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Program TBA. 7 PM at the Elkton HS. For more info, contact President Pat Valdata, pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

**H Montgomery.** Exploring Calvert County. Sue Hamilton will guide us as we cover some of the birding hotspots of Calvert Co. Participants will meet 7 AM at the road leading to Flag Ponds. Limit: 10. Call the coordinators for detailed directions and more info. Leader: Sue Hamilton. Coordinators: Lydia Schindler, 301-977-5252 and Linda Friedland, 301-983-2136.

### Thursday, May 6

MEETING. **Frederick.** John Bjerke and Cyndie Loeper will present an abbreviated version of their well-received workshop on "Shorebird Identification," to help prepare us for the tricky identification challenges of shorebird migration in July and August. 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

**H Patuxent.** Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). See Mar 4 for details, but meet at 6 PM.

### Friday, May 7

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "All You Need to Know about Reptiles and Amphibians but Were Afraid to Ask." Scott Smith, Maryland DNR, State Herpetologist. 8 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

DINNER MEETING. **Harford.** "Bald Eagle Tagging and Monitoring at Aberdeen Proving Ground" by OFC Bart Roberts. 6:15 PM dinner; 7 PM program at Harford Glen, 502

W Wheel Rd, Bel Air. Contact Dave Webb at 410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net for add'l info.

**H Montgomery.** Birding by Ear along the C&O. The emphasis is on listening so tune up your ears for this half-day canal walk. Migrant and nesting landbirds. Meet 7 AM at the end of Pennyfield Lock Rd. Reservations required. For more info and reservations call the leaders. Leaders: Cyndie Loeper, 301-530-8226, and Ann Lucy, 301-229-8810.

### Saturday, May 8

**🌸 MAY COUNT. Allegany/Garrett.** To participate in Allegany Co, contact J.B. Churchill, jchurchi@atlanticbb.net, 301-689-8344 or 301-697-1223 (cell) to be assigned an area to count. To participate in Garrett Co contact Fran Pope, fpope@gcnetmail.net or 301-334-4908.

**🌸 MAY COUNT. Anne Arundel.** Contact (by May 5) compiler Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336 for more details.

**🌸 MAY COUNT. Baltimore.** All-day count of birds in Balt City and Co. For area assignments call compiler Joel Martin, 410-744-9211 or jcdlmartin@aol.com.

**🌸 MAY COUNT. Caroline.** Compiler, Debby Bennett. Contact her at firefly5845@hotmail.com for more info.

**🌸 MAY COUNT. Carroll.** All Day. Individual parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas. The Tally Rally will be hosted by Jerry and Laura Tarbell at their home. Contact Bill Ellis to coordinate count locations at 443-520-8809. RSVP to Jerry and Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109 if you will be attending the Tally. Please bring a cash donation or a food item.

**🌸 MAY COUNT. Cecil.** Assist the Cecil Bird Club as we participate in the annual, continent-wide International Migratory Bird Day. Must contact compiler (to be named) ahead of

**H** Indicates Field Trip

time for assignment to an area and for reporting forms and instructions. Note: If you are interested in volunteering to be compiler of the May Count, please contact Pat Valdata, pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Frederick.** Join the crowd for our local countywide count. Contact Mike Welch at 301-685-3561 to assist.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Harford.** Contact Compiler, Mark Johnson at Mark.Johnson@apg.amedd.army.mil.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Howard.** Call Bonnie Ott to sign up at 410-461-3361.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Kent.** An all-day effort to census all birds in Kent County. Join a field party or count in your neighborhood. Contact one of the leaders for details. Info: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Montgomery.** Compiler: Andy Martin, apmartin2@comcast.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Patuxent.** Contact Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152 for info.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Talbot.** Please contact compiler to coordinate count areas. Compiler: Les Coble, 410-820-6165 or lescoble@hughes.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Tri-County.** Everyone can participate. Contact Ellen Lawler for details and checklists at 410-546-9056.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Washington.** Contact Dave Weesner, 301-302-6376, to help with the local effort.

🏠 **Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry.** A continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. See Mar 3 listing for directions. Meet 8 AM in Visitor Center parking lot.

Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, etc). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

### Sunday, May 9

🏠 **Anne Arundel.** Reptiles and Amphibians at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, and Birds, Too. Follow-up to May 7 club meeting. DNR's Scott Smith will lead with help from Chris Swarth. Meet 8 AM at the Jug Bay Visitor Center. Contact: Gerald Winegrad, 410-280-8956.

🏠 **Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

🏠 **Frederick.** Audrey Carroll May Count. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Call Dave Smith at 410-549-7082 for further info.

🏠 **Talbot.** Nomini Farm, Trappe. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Co-leaders: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002, and Paul Spitzer.

## Birding Safari to South Africa

November 20–December 4, 2010

Group size: 12

Dr. Mark Abdy invites fellow MOS members to join him on a birding tour of his South Africa homeland next fall. Since 2000, Mark has led annual safaris to southern Africa, including a 2007 trip with fellow Washington County MOS members. This year's trip targets the region's birdlife, and Mark would particularly like to assemble a compatible group of birders from the MOS family and friends.

A combination of good infrastructure, excellent accommodations, and an exciting variety of birds makes South Africa one of the world's top birding destinations. Of the approximately 850 bird species recorded in South Africa, 95 are considered endemic or near-endemic. In addition, it's a phenomenal cultural experience.

This two-week itinerary includes visits to five different ecosystems and provides an excellent opportunity to view many of the birds during their breeding season. (Some of the targeted species include the elusive *Pel's Fishing Owl*, *Bat Hawk*, *Taita Falcon*, *Short-clawed Lark*, *Blue Swallow*, *Cape Parrot*, *Narina Trogon*, *Green and Pink-throated Twinspots*, *Black-fronted Bush-Shrike*, *Tinkling Cisticola*, *Gurney's Sugarbird*, *Neergaard's Sunbird*, and *Denham's Bustard*.) The safari also includes two days in one of Africa's premier game reserves, Sabi Sand, allowing for very close encounters with Africa's big game as well.

The tour is organized by Eyes on Africa, a Chicago firm, and includes a 24-7 birding specialist guide, local guides, all meals, transport (in a comfortable 21-seater bus), and entry fees. The accommodations, all with en suite facilities, are equivalent to 3½-4 stars on the US scale. While the food is in many ways similar to American fare, the group can anticipate enjoying a classic South African BBQ, called a "braai." In Mark's words, "You will not lose weight on this trip."



The African Harrier-Hawk (aka *Gymnogene*) is one of many raptors expected on the trip. Mark Abdy captured this image as the bird took off from a waterhole and flew straight toward the viewers. More usually he sees them flying from tree to tree in search of nests, rodents, etc; they have a very flexible ankle joint that allows them to probe backwards and forwards in nests, holes, etc, often while hanging upside down

While the final few details of the itinerary are still being worked out, the goal is to keep the LAND price around \$5,200 per person. (As is customary for the organizer, the overall cost incorporates Mark's cost.) South African Airways flies daily from Washington-Dulles to Johannesburg. The cost for this flight varies; while you should budget \$2,000 for an economy seat, current online prices are considerably less.

For more details and to get a copy of the detailed itinerary, please contact Mark (mjabdy@yahoo.com) or Vanessa at Eyes on Africa (Vanessa@eyesonafrica.net).

## LAST CALL

...for Posters for the June conference at Washington College. If you would like to share the results of research on the natural history of Maryland bird life—banding activities, hawk watches, even small research projects—present it in poster format during the Wine and Cheese Social on Saturday evening, June 12. For more information, contact Dave Ziolkowski at 443-299-8453.

## MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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## BOOK REVIEW

**Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness**, by Lyanda Lynn Haupt • *Little, Brown and Company*, 2009. 229 pp. Illustrated. (\$23.99)



Originally, I thought this book would be merely a collection of the author's empirical observations of crows. Instead, I found an interesting blend of ornithology, ecology, and philosophy. Lyanda Haupt confesses that she decided to write this book *only* at the prompting of her editor. But the longer she studied the crows in her neighborhood and nearby parks in Seattle, the more intrigued she became.

Trained as a raptor rehabilitator, Ms. Haupt describes herself as a “self-styled urban naturalist.” Although she admits that “crows are not my favorite bird,” she approaches her subject with a lot of respect and dignity for creatures that are often regarded with suspicion or disgust.

Crows are one of those urban wild creatures that have adapted to, and thrived in, the presence of human civilization. Almost everyone can identify a crow. Yet, crows exhibit many interesting behaviors that most of us are too busy to stop and observe. As Ms. Haupt explains in her foreword, “The title *Crow Planet* has two intertwined meanings. First, it refers to an earth upon which native biodiversity is gravely threatened, where in too many places the rich variety of species is being noticeably replaced by a few prominent, dominant, successful species (such as crows). At the same time, *Crow Planet* alludes to the fact that no matter where we dwell, or how, our lives are implicated in, and informed by, all of wilder life through the insistent presence of native wild creatures (such as crows).”

Ms. Haupt relates a very touching tale about a group of crows that she spotted caring for a dying member of their flock. She carefully examined the young broken-winged crow (in the presence

of the other crows, who watched from a safe distance), and determined that it was dying of dehydration as a result of the injury. Her initial reaction was to take the crow home and euthanize her. But she decided to leave her there because her crow family was *caring* for her. After she left, she observed that the crows gathered around their injured companion once more. Ms. Haupt described them as “being with” the dying crow in a kind of crow hospice.

In another account, Ms. Haupt cites an experiment conducted by a researcher at the University of Washington where volunteers captured and banded crows (something crows hate) while wearing caveman masks. When these volunteers re-entered the crow precincts some time later wearing the caveman masks, the crows scolded and dive-bombed them. But when the same volunteers walked through the “crow zone” wearing Dick Cheney masks, “the crows left them entirely alone.” Presumably this reflected no political bias, but the researcher did conclude that crows have the ability to recognize human faces.

And so Ms. Haupt interweaves many interesting crow observations, anecdotal as well as scientific, with Thoreau-like reflections of how we humans can find our place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century *zoöpolis*. I enjoyed reading her many encounters with crows and other urban and household “wildlife,” although I would caution that not everyone will appreciate her candor. Some of the stories are wildlife observations of critters other than crows, and some include adventures that she and her young daughter have with the resident house spiders. (Not everyone will subscribe to her theory of integrated pest management!) But, that’s part of this book’s charm.

—Suzanne Probst  
Howard County Bird Club