

“News from the ‘Hood”

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club
of the Maryland Ornithological Society



May – Jun 2017

Editor: Fred Fallon, fwfallon@ymail.com

Programs

Starting this season our meetings will be held at the College Park Airport *Operations Building* off Paint Branch Parkway (some road signs erroneously read “Campus Dr”), every 2nd Tuesday Sep thru June. From Paint Branch Parkway turn onto Cpl Scott Dr at the light; after 3 blocks turn right on College Ave, which ends at the parking lot on left by the Museum. Walk leftward past the museum to the entrance to the adjoined new Operations Bldg and inside, bear left. Our meeting room is up the stairway (or elevator) to the 2nd floor. Doors open at 7 pm for refreshments and informal discussion; formal program with guest speaker starts at 7:30 pm and ends by 9:15; doors close at 9:30 pm. Our meetings are held jointly with the Prince Georges Audubon Society (PGAS).

Chan Robbins passes at age 98

Celebrated Ornithologist Honored at Celebration of Life at his church in Laurel

Chandler “Chan” Robbins, Maryland’s pre-eminent ornithologist and indeed recognized as one of the greatest in the world, was well-known to many of us through the research projects he initiated, his frequent presentations, and for his humble demeanor and approachability. We in MOS have a special affection for him because his was the inspiration that founded the MOS in 1945 (!), and soon after he and wife Eleanor also founded our own chapter, the Patuxent Bird Club.

What marks out Chan’s work as truly great science is that it has taken a life of its own and continues on after him in an unbroken trajectory. How many of us have run Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes, or helped on the MD Breeding Bird Atlas! And in Central America, the banding stations he set up, he realizing that studies of our own breeding birds must also take into account their wintering grounds, still continue operation. How this writer dreams he could magically peer into the future and read the “32nd Atlas of the Breeding Birds of MD and DC”, published in 2206! There will almost certainly be such a publication. While the original such atlas first appeared in the UK, Chan immediately saw its importance to this country and introduced it to Maryland, whence it has been imitated and spread to all the states. Meanwhile the BBS has spawned literally hundreds of Masters and PhD theses, and will spawn. Who would have seen it, back in 1965?

Chan Robbins worked his whole life at one place, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. When it came time to honor him for 60 years’ service, the authorities were hard put to find a 60-year pin! Then, whatever “compulsory retirement age” had to say about it, he kept right on working almost to the very end, coming in to the office several days a week well into his nineties. At the

memorial service held at the church where he sang faithfully in the choir for decades, there gathered almost a “who’s who” of Maryland birding, amateur and professional. It was wonderful to renew acquaintanceships and share stories connected to Chan, and the mood was a cheerful one, as he would have wished. Perhaps you too, dear reader, have a story of your own.

May Program

(Note – Re-scheduled from last March)

Tuesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

“The Pantanal: Endemics and Island Beauty”

Presentation by Greg Kearns

Doors open 7:00 p.m.

Greg, long-time naturalist, rail and osprey bander/researcher and photographer at Patuxent River Park for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, spent time in Brazil on an exchange program invitation through Partners of the Americas to consult on parks and environmental issues. Greg will share these experiences through his always fascinating stories and pictures as he explores Rio de Janeiro, Iguazu Falls (one of the largest waterfalls in the world), and the Pantanal. The Pantanal is a wetland the size of England and one of the greatest places on earth to view wildlife. The word ‘Pantanal’ originated from Portuguese word ‘pantano’ meaning marshland. The Pantanal is 76,000 sq mi in area and its major portion is located in Brazil (in Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul Provinces) with additional portions in Bolivia and Paraguay. During rainy seasons, 80% of its area gets submerged underwater forming a miniature inland sea.

Learn about the natural history of the region and see photographs of creatures such as endangered golden lion tamarins, coatimundis, capybaras, marsh deer, caiman, and a great diversity of birds, including the Hyacinth Macaw, Red-legged Seriema, Black-collared Hawk, Guira Cuckoo, and Jabiru, to name a few. For those who are interested in watching wildlife in natural settings, no place offers more. It is believed that about 10 million crocodiles live here comfortably. The biodiversity of this area is astonishing: 3500 species of plants, 650 species of birds, 400 species of fish, 100 species of mammals, 80 species of reptiles are just some of the inhabitants of this wonderful land.

MOS Conference at WISP – still open

This is just a reminder that you can still sign up now for the 73rd MOS Annual Conference. This year the conference is taking place at the WISP resort on Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County from May 19-21. There is a wonderful program planned, and numerous field trips in beautiful Western Maryland. We have extended the deadline for registration until Friday April 28 so there is still time to register. Download the form from the MOS website <MDBirds.org>, center of page. Send your registration form and payment to the Registrar Diane Benyus (address is given on the form).

June Program

Tuesday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.

Annual Business Meeting and “Members’ Night”

Elections and slides by members

Doors open 7:00 p.m.

The June meeting is our regular occasion for election of officers and Board of directors for the coming year. Nominations will be presented by a nominating committee and may also be made from the floor – one may nominate any other PBC member. The chapters financial report will also be given.

Members are invited to show slides after the business portion, an opportunity to show off your favorite nature-themed photos foreign or domestic. Bring photos on a flash drive that can be inserted into a laptop or PC.

Field Trips, May – June

Contacts for regularly scheduled walks at Fran Uhler Nat Area and Governor’s Bridge Park: Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com. At Lake Artemesia: David Mozurkewich mozurk@bellAtlantic.net

Sunday April 30 – Piscataway Park. **Meet at end of Wharf Rd** in Piscataway at 7:30 AM. A good venue for spring migrants. Group will also visit boardwalk at Piscataway Park. Leader, David Mozurkewich mozurk@bellAtlantic.net. Please contact in advance.

Thursday May 4 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 6 pm at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more info.

Saturday May 6 - Bird Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Lemon’s Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton for more information

Thursday May 18 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 6 pm at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more info.

Saturday, May 20, 7:30 am. Regularly scheduled walk at Gov Br Park in conjunction with Prince Georges Audubon Society. Meet inside the gate at Gov Br Park on Gov Br Rd, 1 mile from Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Fri - Sun May 19-21 - MOS Convention at WISP resort, McHenry MD. See details in the MD *Yellowthroat*, and MOS website, www.MDBirds.org. So, if far-western MD is new to you, this will be an excellent introduction to the area and its birds.

Tuesday May 23 (rain date Wednesday May 24, 2017). Hart-Miller Birding Bus Trip. Join the Patuxent Bird Club, Prince George's Audubon Society, and Anne Arundel Bird Club for a rare birding BUS trip on Hart-Miller Island, courtesy of Maryland Environmental Service (MES). No seven-mile hike required! The bus will stop frequently to allow us to get out to look for birds. Hart-Miller is a dredged material containment facility, similar to Poplar Island. The 1100-acre island is located south of Baltimore, just off the mouth of Back River, and has a history of hosting a spectacular assortment of migrating and resident birds, including many that are rare for Maryland. As of July 2016, the species count for Hart-Miller stood at 282. During a lunch break in the administration building, an MES representative will give a presentation on the development of Hart-Miller as a managed habitat for the benefit of wildlife. Space is strictly limited because of the capacity of the boat and bus, and reservations are necessary. To reserve your spot, send an email to Marcia Watson at marshwren50@comcast.net no later than May 1. Marcia will provide you with details on meeting place and time, and what to bring.

Saturday, May 27 – Trip to Eastern Shore sites for spring shorebird migration. Meet at Bowie P&R at the ungodly hour of 7am (dictated by tides). A special bonus of this trip will be a tour of normally off-limits parts of the Bombay Hook refuge. Make reservations with trip leader Fred Fallon, fwfallon@ymail.com, 410-286-8152.

Thursday Jun 1 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 6 pm at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more info.

Saturday, Jun 3 - Bird Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Thursday Jun 15- Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 6 pm at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more info.

Saturday, June 17, 7:30 am. Regularly scheduled walk at Gov Br Park in conjunction with Prince Georges Audubon Society. Meet inside the gate at Gov Br Park on Gov Br Rd, 1 mile from Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more info, contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.



**M OS/Patuxent Bird Club
Membership Application/Renewal
2016/2017**



• **Name:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip code:** _____

Phone(s): _____

E-Mail: _____

Full dues include Chapter and MOS State membership, and subscriptions to *Maryland Yellowthroat*, *Maryland Birdlife*, and the Patuxent Bird Club Newsletter. (The newsletter will be sent by email unless US mail requested). Dues are tax-deductible; see note below.

Choose Membership category:

Chapter and State combined membership:

or

Chapter membership only:

(must be a full-paying member of another MOS chapter - indicate primary MOS chapter: _____)

- Household \$33
- Individual \$26
- Junior (Age < 18) \$6

- Household \$8
- Individual \$6
- Junior \$1

In addition, I have enclosed a tax-deductible contribution

to Patuxent Bird Club in the amount of _____

to Maryland Ornithological Society in the amount of _____

Make check payable to **Patuxent Bird Club** with this application to:

Jane Fallon, Treasurer PBC
6711 Venus Dr
Huntingtown, MD 20639

“The benefits received from Maryland Ornithological Society membership dues are not considered to be substantial, as determined by criteria in IRS Publication 526. Therefore, members can claim a tax deductible charitable contribution for the full amount of their membership dues.”