

“News from the Hood”

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club
of the Maryland Ornithological Society



April - May - June 2014

Editor: Fred Fallon, fwoffallon@ymail.com

Programs

Our meetings will be held at the College Park Airport Museum Annex as usual for the rest of the program year, i.e. through June. Doors open at 7 pm; meetings start at 7:30 pm.

April 8

“Birding Cuba”

Presented by **Donald Messersmith**

Cuba offers many surprises for the first time visitor. In 2012 Don went to Cuba on a bird survey trip with an Audubon Naturalist Society group. It is a poor country, but the facilities for the tour were excellent, the food was good and the birding was better than hoped for. In twelve days they recorded over 150 species of birds, many of them endemic to Cuba. They had excellent guides, good bus transportation, and traversed about two-thirds of this island nation.

Dr Messersmith is a retired professor of entomology at the University of Maryland where he also taught a popular course on ornithology. (Many current MOS members have taken this course over the years). He and his wife operated their own nature tours for 55 years, visiting all parts of the world. He was the first to open China to regular birding tours, back in 1982. Cuba is his most recent birding foray.

May13

“Recording and Identifying Flight Calls Of Nocturnal Migrants (for the Fun of it!)”

Presented by **Andy Martin**

Andy will speak about his experiences in the new field of recording the nocturnal flight calls of migrating birds. Most small birds migrate at night to avoid predators, and they vocalize distinctive chips to stay in touch with each other in the dark. These calls can be recorded surprisingly well with modest equipment and the birds identified from the recording. Andy will play examples of these recordings and describe the equipment and techniques used. This is a fascinating subject!

Andy switched careers, from business to wildlife studies. He went back to grad school for a degree in Conservation Biology, then worked on inland fisheries issues for BLM and the Forest Service. He discovered birding about 15 years ago and that led to his interest in tonight's topic.

June 10

“Members’ Night” and Annual Business Meeting

This is the meeting where we observe a long tradition of inviting all members to bring their favorite examples of wildlife and nature photography. Please observe a maximum of 20-30 slides. If you have 2x2 emulsion slides we will try to have the appropriate projector on hand. If digital images, it is easiest to have them copied to a flash card or CD to show on our projector. It helps, to preserve the order you intend, to precede the file name with a serial # e.g. “01Yellow Warbler”, “02Goshawk”, &c. Please drop the editor a note with your intention to bring slides, ~ how many, and what projector required.

During the business meeting we hear reports on our finances and membership numbers, and hold the election of officers for the coming year.

Field trips, Spring 2014 Season

Thur, Apr 3. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet **6 PM** at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 or <mozurk@bellatlantic.net> for more info. Note earlier, PM time.

Sat, Apr 5. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at end of Lemon Bridge Rd off Rt 197, just n. of Bowie State College. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at <mozurk@bellatlantic.net>.

Thur, Apr 17. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet **6 PM** at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 or <mozurk@bellatlantic.net> for more info.

Sat, Apr 19. Governor Bridge NA Joint trip with PGAS. 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 3/US301.

Sun, Apr 27. Points along the Patuxent River for migrant waders and songbirds. Meet at Bowie P&R at 7:00 AM. Contact David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 or <mozurk@bellatlantic.net> for more info.

Thur, May 1. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet **6 PM** at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 or <mozurk@bellatlantic.net> for more info.

Sat, May 3. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at end of Lemon Bridge Rd off Rt 197, just n. of Bowie State College. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at [<mozurk@bellAtlantic.net>](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net).

Sat, May 10. Annual May Count. Broad latitude as to where to count within the county, but contact PG County coordinator Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152 to avoid overlap, or for suggestions on good, available areas to cover.

Thur, May 15. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet **6 PM** at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212 or [<mozurk@bellatlantic.net>](mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net) for more info.

Sat, May 17. Governor Bridge NA Joint trip with PGAS. 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 3/US 301.

Sun, May 25. All day trip to Delaware beaches for shorebird feeding frenzy on horseshoe crab eggs. Meet at 7 AM at Bowie Park & Ride off Rt 197 just s. of Rt 50. Bring water, lunch, and scope if possible. Reservations needed – contact Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152, fwfal-lon@ymail.com.

Sat, Jun 7. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 7:30 AM at end of Lemon Bridge Rd off Rt 197, just n. of Bowie State College. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at [<mozurk@bellAtlantic.net>](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net).

Sat, June 14. Botany trip to the remarkable Suitland Bog. Led by David Mozurkewich and Chris Garrett. This extremely alkaline bog hosts carnivorous and other unusual plants.

The same pattern of regular field trips to Fran Uhler Natural Area – 1st Sat of the month, Gov Bridge Park – 3rd Sat of the month, and Lake Artemesia - 1st and 3rd Thur - continue through the summer.

MOS Conference , May 16-18

Solomons I., MD

This year the annual MOS Conference will be held in Solomons Island, at the southern tip of Calvert County. Field trips will thus be concentrated in less-often visited southern Maryland. Besides birding trips, there will also be butterfly excursions. MOS conferences are always fun events; consider attending this one. Registration deadline is April 13. Watch for the brochure distributed via e-mail or the notice in the Mar/April *MD Yellowthroat*. Or, go to the MOS website [<mdbirds.org>](http://mdbirds.org), click on Activities and Events -> Conferences-> 2014 -> brochure. Deadline is April 13!

Trip Report – Ocean City & vic., Mar 1-2

Led by Marcia Watson and Gene Scarpulla, this trip focused on the waterfowl opportunities of Ocean City inlet and neighborhood ponds, Assateague Island, and Indian River Inlet. An unusual feature of the trip was the overnight stay Fri and Sat (at the Holiday Inn in OC, where off-season rates are reasonable), so that we could get out birding early w/o the delay of the long drive from Bowie. We had dinners both evenings on premises for added convenience.

At the Bayside Campground on Assateague we tracked down and got good views of the lingering Clay-colored Sparrow – a life bird for several of us. An adjacent Chipping Sparrow afforded a useful contrast of field marks. Other excursions on Assateague came up rather unproductive as the weather turned cold and windy. While we found no real rarities among waterfowl, between the inlet, W OC pond, and Indian River we “swept” the ducks with nearly every species possible at this time of year, and many good photos were taken. While we were sorry to see some habitat loss at Indian R Inlet, we were pleased to find public access at a new park well down the south side of the inlet. It could be well worth a visit during milder weather.

Since we all arrived and left at scattered times it’s hard to give an exact cumulative number of species seen, about 74 would be a fair estimate.

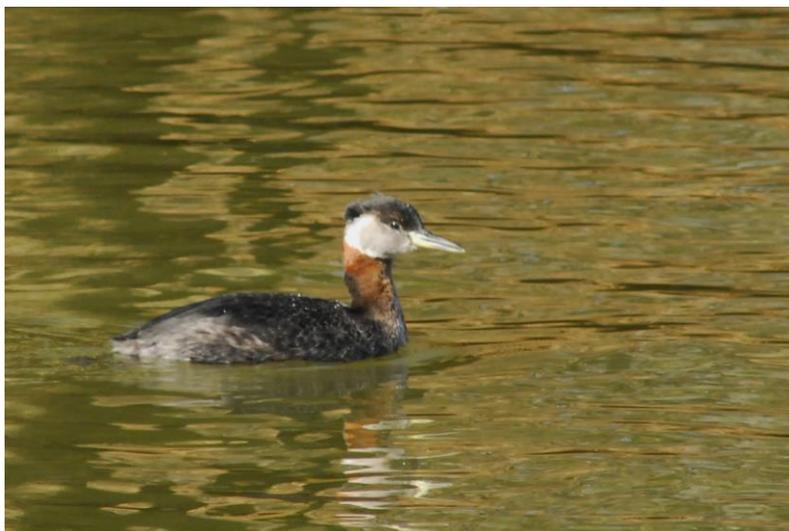
Young Birder’s Pack available

The “Young Birders” program of MOS, “YMOS”, provides each chapter with a back-pack to be awarded to a young birder, preferably 6-9th grade, who has demonstrated interest in becoming a birder – maybe for the same life-time dedication to the avocation which most of us in MOS have. The back-pack contains a pair of binoculars, a field guide, notebooks, and other useful items – and of course the pack itself to keep them in. The award also carries a one-year membership in MOS. We presented a pack at the November meeting to 14-yr old Gerald Maravanyika.

Already another back-pack is available for award. Please consider nominating a promising youngster of your acquaintance. Contact Fred Fallon at <fwfallon@ymail.com>, or at any MOS meeting, with your suggestions. Applicants should submit a letter expressing their interest in birding and how their birding will be enhanced by it.

Red-necked Grebes continue

The remarkable – nearly unprecedented – invasion of Red-necked Grebes into our area, due to the freezing over of their usual winter home on the Great Lakes, continues. Be sure to visit a local hot-spot to see one if you have not already. Lake Artemesia and Cash Lake in the Patuxent Research Center’s South Tract are two local sites where they have been seen consistently.



Patuxent Bird Club Chapter of MOS List of Officers and Board

President – David Mozurkewich	Directors, 1st year	Directors, 2 nd year
Vice-president – Fred Fallon	Marcia Watson	Mike Sampson
Secretary – Lynette Fullerton	Joanna Lutmerding	Bill Sefton
Treasurer/membership – Jane Fallon	Terri Watson	Elwood Martin
	Field Trips – At large	
	Newsletter – Fred Fallon	
	State director – Fred Fallon	

(Chapter “Directors” are board members. “State directors” are the chapters’ delegates to the MOS.)

MOS/Patuxent Bird Club Membership Application

2013/2014

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip code:

Phone:

E-Mail:

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).

Chapter and State combined: Household \$33, Individual \$26, Junior (Age < 18) \$6

Chapter membership only (must be a member of another MOS chapter): Household \$8, Individual \$6, Junior \$1

Make check payable to **Patuxent Bird Club**. Please send application and check 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.”