

“News from the Hood”

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club
of the Maryland Ornithological Society

December 2013 - January 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.

Nov 12. Trinidad and Tobago: Vacation Birding in a Tropical Paradise
Presented by: **Linda Weir**

Looking for a tropical birding destination to visit? Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) is a great option to consider. This travelogue talk will reminisce on my 2012 trip to Trinidad and Tobago, a tropical birding paradise. Some highlights of the trip include: Trinidad Piping Guan (the one endemic species), Bearded Bellbird, and over a dozen hummingbirds including the captivating Tufted Coquette.

Linda's local claim to fame is discovering the Painted Bunting on the WBA trail in the Glenn Dale/Bowie area during this past summer. She was also co-presenter of the "Penguins and More: Birding the Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctic Peninsula" talk at PG Audubon and Anne Arundel County Bird Club. She works at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center as a wildlife biologist specializing in amphibians.

Dec 10. “Our Ordinary Extraordinary Junco”
Film produced by Indiana University

This 90-min. film, produced by Indiana University, explores recent and long-term research on the Junco, one of our most familiar winter birds. But that familiarity belies the remarkable diversity of the bird across North America and the insight into evolution it provides. Slate-colored, Yellow-eyed, White-winged, “pink-sided”, “Oregon” are some of its distinct subspecies and forms, some once considered separate species. Their ecology, migration, hormones, and DNA present fascinating research subjects. They have been likened to the famous “Darwin’s finches” of the Galapagos, evolving as they have in the relatively short time since the last Ice Age into the diverse forms of today, but over a whole continent. So don’t dismiss the common junco as just a bird you’ve already seen so often. This beautifully filmed movie raises and answers many profound questions of great interest.

We will be having hot cider, cookies, and other holiday season treats along with the movie.

**Jan 14, 2014. "Birding Africa with Gun & Camera, minus the Gun"
Presented by Doug Bolt**

Long-time member Doug Bolt will share his adventures across Africa, illuminated with award winning photography.

Trip Report – Kiptopeake, Sep 28-29

Marcia Watson and Gene Scarpulla led a group of 7 of us to the Eastern Shore of Virginia, stopping first at Chincoteague NWR where our best birds were a Cabot's Tern and a group of both eastern and western Willets, but not the Bar-tailed Godwit that had previously been seen with them. From here we hurried down to the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR and walked the paved trails. Heavy winds kept any passerines under cover, but overhead we saw a steady stream of Tree Swallows, Merlins, Kestrels, and Peregrines soaring in the wind, possibly unable to cross the mouth of the Bay. At the look-out at the end of the boardwalk, looking across the marsh, we spotted a flock of about 30 large white birds flying in the distance. At first we assumed them to be Great Egrets, but Gene looked more closely and identified them as White Ibises (!), a rare wanderer this far north, usually seen as single birds, never in a group of that size. Sure enough, we later read that a large flock had been seen at Cape May the day before; perhaps these were the same birds. What forces could have propelled so many of these southern birds so far north, in such numbers?

The next morning we convened at Kiptopeake State Park, site of the famous banding station and hawk-watch platform. The banding nets were closed due to the high winds, and walking the trails gave us no migrant passerines, though a Red-headed Woodpecker was a nice find. But the hawk watch gave us close-up views of many raptors – Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Kestrels, Merlins, Harriers, and a few Peregrines. We left here at noon for lunch at Stingray's, then on to The Nature Conservancy's new Brownsville Sanctuary. This property has a large butterfly garden attached to the donor's substantial residence, and extensive trails leading to the edge of wide marsh. The wind still hampered us, but at a stream came across a tree festooned with Black-crowned Night-herons in all plumages, with a few Yellow-crowned's. This site, open to the public, should well repay an early morning visit. We left here by 4 pm for the long ride home.

Field trips Fall 2013 – 2014 Season

Thu, Nov 7. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212, <mozurk@bellatlantic.net> for more info.

Sat, Nov 16. 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 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at <mozurk@bellAtlantic.net>.

Thu, Nov 21. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 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, Nov 23. Point Lookout for waterbirds and late migrant raptors. Meet 7:30 AM at Bowie Park and Ride. Contact the leader, Fred Fallon <fwfallon@gmail.com>, (410) 286-8152 to sign up.

Sun, Dec 1. Afternoon trip to Piscataway Park for waterfowl. We will meet at 1 PM at the boardwalk parking lot near the end of Bryans Pt Rd; watch for sign. No reservation necessary. Contact DaveMozurkewich at 301-509-2212 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net for more info.

Thur, Dec 5. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 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, Dec 7. Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State College and the MARC line. No reservations required. Leader is Bill Sefton, at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Thur, Dec 19. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 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, Dec 21. 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 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at <mozurk@bellAtlantic.net>.

Thu, Jan 2. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 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, Jan 4. Fran Uhler Natural Area. (As Dec 7)

Sun, Jan 12. Jug Bay Park and Merkle WMA for marsh and field birds. Meet at the Bowie Park & Ride at 7 AM. Leaders: Fred & Jane Fallon, 410-286-8152.

Thu, Jan 16. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. Meet 3 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, Jan 18. Governor Bridge NA Joint trip with PGAS. (As Dec 21)

Sat, Jan 25. Prince Georges County Mid-winter Bird Count. Count birds for as long as you want, from your yard or favorite birding spot. Contact compiler Rob Ostrowski, <rjos-trowski@gmail.com> to coordinate areas covered, obtain count form, and submit your totals.

Local Area Christmas Bird Counts

Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) are long-standing bird counts held around the Christmas holiday season. The long time-lines for most of the CBC's provide valuable data on the long-term rise and fall of wintering birds. Counts are made within 14-mile diameter circles divided into "areas" or "sectors" each coordinated by a leader, and the whole organized by the "compiler". Birders go into the field individually or in small parties, convene at the end of the day, and tabulate their results over food and drink at a sometimes lively tally. All levels of experience are welcome; newer birders may be paired with more experienced. There are three CBC's in our area: Jug Bay, Bowie, and Annapolis. Prospective participants contact the CBC Compiler in advance to negotiate exactly which non-overlapping areas they will cover. Lots of fun, and a good excuse to be out birding for a worthy cause.

Sun, Dec 15 - Jug Bay – compiler, Sam Droege 301-390-7759; <sam droege@yahoo.com>

Wed, Jan 1 - Bowie – compiler, David Mozurkewich 301-509-2212; mozurk@bellatlantic.net

Sun, Jan 5 - Annapolis - compilers, Sue Ricciardi 410-647-9513; Hal & Lynn Wierenga 410-647-7439.

Young Birder's Pack awarded

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. This year we have awarded the pack to Gerald Maravanyika, a home-schooled 14-year old beginning birder from Laurel. Congratulations Gerald! The pack will be presented to him at our November meeting.

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 ideas.

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.”