

“News from the ‘Hood”

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club
of the Maryland Ornithological Society



February – April 2015

Editor: Fred Fallon, fwoffallon@gmail.com

New/Old Meeting Place

All meetings for the program year will be held at the College Park Airport Museum – not the “annex” trailer as last year and most previous years.

The road we normally take to the museum is closed and the detour to the museum parking area is not as clearly marked as it could be. Here are detour directions:

- After turning from Paint Branch Parkway onto Cpl. Frank Scott Dr.,
- Turn right at first stop sign. The road is College Ave and the turn is marked with an easily missed yellow detour sign directing to museum parking. College Ave. is more an alley between a gauntlet of garages and light industrial buildings.
- The museum parking is at the end of the street on the left.

Meetings – all 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:30 pm
College Park Airport Museum
Doors open at 7:00 pm

Feb 10, “Help save the Monarch Butterfly”, with Rich Dolesh. Details below.

Mar 10, “The Effects of Native & Non-native Vegetation on Food Resources for Breeding Birds”, with Desiree Narango. Details below.

Apr 14, “Shorebird ID Made Easy”, with Mikey Lutmerding.

May 12, “Those Wonderful Whooping Cranes”, with Ken Lavish.

June 9, “Members Night” and Business meeting – bring your own bird or nature-themed slides to show, after election of officers for the following year.

February 10 Meeting
College Park Airport Museum
Doors open at 7:00 pm

"How You and Your Parks Can Help Save the Monarch"
Presented by Richard Dolesh

Monarch butterflies are in deep trouble. Once found in great numbers throughout North America and much beloved for their multi-generational migration from Mexico all the way into Canada and the northern United States, monarch populations have declined nearly 95% in recent years. But there is hope for this seriously threatened species. This informative program will cover actions that you personally can take right now, this year, to attract, feed, and propagate more monarchs on their migration. It will also provide information on how you and your family, friends, and communities can take action as citizen volunteers working with your local park and recreation and public lands agencies.

Whether you are already committed to the cause of monarch conservation, or if you are just learning what needs to be done, there will be much new for you to learn and new resources for you to discover how you can do more to help turn the tide for monarchs. In addition, you'll hear some great ideas on how you and your friends can contribute to public education and conservation stewardship for this valuable wildlife species.

March 10 Meeting

"Do Tree Species Matter?"
The Effects of Native & Non-native Vegetation on Food Resources for Breeding Birds"
Presented by Desiree L. Narango

Scientists have recognized there are fewer bird species in urban areas, but surprisingly little research has been conducted to figure out why this is. In addition, most 'urban ecology' has focused on remnant forest patches, even though suburban backyards have the potential to retain suitable habitat and resources for many bird species.

During the breeding season, birds feed their young mostly insects, and caterpillars in particular are a very important food source. Individual caterpillar species are often specialized to feed on only a few specific plant species. In residential areas, native plants can be replaced by non-native varieties either intentionally (horticultural planting) or unintentionally (invasion). As a result, local caterpillars may not be adapted to feed on plants from other regions, and it has been suggested that non-native plants produce less food for birds. This question, however, has not yet been tested.

Within the Smithsonian's Neighborhood Nestwatch Program, the 'Food Web Project' was initiated to study the effects of non-native plants on insect food resources for a common backyard bird: the Carolina Chickadee. In the summers of 2013 and 2014, the Food Web Team, with the help of >80 volunteers, monitored backyard nest boxes to determine foraging behavior, nest success, yearly survival, and nestling growth on >100 chickadee nests in the Washington, D.C. area. Desiree will speak about some of the preliminary findings of this study and share some of the ways you can participate in backyard bird research.

Desiree Narango is a PhD student of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Her research interests include urban ecology, animal behavior, and citizen science (to name a few). Desiree has a M.S. in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University, a B.S. in Environ-

mental Biology from SUNY: ESF and more than ten years of experience studying wildlife. She's also an active birder who really enjoys increasing her yard list and getting others excited about the natural world.

Coming Field Trips

Saturday February 7: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Fran Uhler NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Habitat includes brushy fields, woods and hedgerows for a good mix of species. Side trip to freshwater wetland at Horsepen Branch also possible. 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 or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellAtlantic.net or 301-509-2212 for more info.

Saturday February 14: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Governors Bridge Wildlife area. No reservations required. Meet at 7:30 am. The Natural Area is located on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301, in Bowie. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com or David Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

Thursday February 19: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. We will walk the paved trail around the lake as well as the trail through the woods along Indian Creek. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call or email David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212/ mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more info.

Saturday February 28: Field trip to Eastern Shore beaches. Visiting the Ocean City/Indian R./Cape Henlopen area, exact itinerary to be decided on basis of pre-trip reports. All day trip, bring lunch and warm clothing. Meet at **6:45** am, Bowie P&R. Reservations required, contact trip leaders Fred/Jane Fallon at 410-286-8152, fwfallon@ymail.com.

Thursday March 5: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. We will walk the paved trail around the lake as well as the trail through the woods along Indian Creek. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call or email David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212/ mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more info.

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Sunday March 8: Field Trip to Greenbelt area ponds for waterfowl. Meet at Beltway Plaza parking lot behind Wendy's, at 7:30 am. Leaders: Fred & Jane Fallon, at 410-286-8152, fwfallon@ymail.com.

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Thursday March 19: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. We will walk the paved trail around the lake as well as the trail through the woods along Indian Creek. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call or email David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212/ mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more info.

Saturday March 28: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Governors Bridge Wildlife Area. Regularly scheduled Field Trip Meet at 7:30 am. No reservations required. The Natural Area is located on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301 in Bowie. If you have questions, see Feb 14 above.

Saturday April 4: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Fran Uhler NA. Joint trip with PGAS. Habitat includes brushy fields, woods and hedgerows for a good mix of species. Side trip to freshwater wetland at Horsepen Branch also possible. 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, see Feb 7 above for more info.

Thursday April 9: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. We will walk the paved trail around the lake as well as the trail through the woods along Indian Creek. Meet 7 PM (**note earlier time**) at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call or email David Mozurkewich, 301-509-2212/ mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more info.

Saturday April 11: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Governors Bridge Wildlife Area. Regularly scheduled Field Trip Meet at 7:30 am. No reservations required. The Natural Area is located on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301 in Bowie. If you have questions, see Feb 14 above.

Sunday April 12: Field trip to Jug Bay (PG side) Park. Meet at 7:30 am at parking lot at the end of Croom Airport Rd (not the road into the Jug Bay VC) just before the first gate. We will cover river landings, fields, and woods at Jug Bay and over the driving tour into Merkle WMA for early Spring migrants. You may want to carpool from your home to the destination.

Thursday April 23: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). Joint trip with PGAS. We will walk the paved trail around the lake as well as the trail through the woods along Indian Creek. Meet 7 PM (**note later time**) at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights.

Saturday April 25: regularly scheduled Field Trip to Governors Bridge Wildlife Area. Regularly scheduled Field Trip Meet at 7:30 am. No reservations required. The Natural Area is located on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301 in Bowie. If you have questions, see Feb 14 above.

May 15 – 18. Annual MOS Conference - Hagerstown MD. See the coming March/April issue of the *Maryland Yellowthroat* for more information.

Exhibit Opening: The Biological Flyers of College Park
Friday, February 27, 2015
College Park Aviation Museum

The exhibit “Biological Flyers of College Park” opens Saturday, February 28 at 10 am at the College Park Aviation Museum, which is owned and operated by the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). This collaborative effort with M-NCPPC Park Rangers, the Prince George’s Audubon Society, and the Patuxent Bird Club examines the flying creatures around College Park and their unique features. The exhibit includes photographs taken by members of both the Audubon Society and the Patuxent Bird Club.

Join us Friday, February 27 from 6 - 8 pm at the Opening Reception at the museum to get a first look at the exhibit, mingle with some of the exhibit creators and photographers and enjoy light refreshments. R.S.V.P. by calling 301-864-6029.

Patuxent Bird Club Chapter of MOS List of Officers and Board

President – Marcia Watson	Directors, 1st year	Directors, 2 nd year
Vice-president – Fred Fallon	David Mozurkewich	Mike Sampson
Secretary – Lynette Fullerton	Joanna Lutmerding	Terri Watson
Treasurer/membership – Jane Fallon	Jeannine Dorothy	Elwood Martin
	Field Trips – David Mozurkewich	
	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

2014/2015

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.”