

“News from the ‘Hood”

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club
of the Maryland Ornithological Society

January – February 2016

Editor: Fred Fallon, fwfallon@ymail.com



Programs

Our meetings are held at the College Park Airport Museum, as last year. Doors open at 7 pm for hospitality and informal discussion; meetings start at 7:30 pm, every 2nd Tuesday Sep thru June.

Tuesday January 12 **"Know your Thrips", by Cheryle O'Donnell, USDA**

Thrips (both sing. and pl) are very small insects, of 6,00 species (!) in the order *Thysanoptera*. Though small, thrips are very important because of their interactions with plants viruses, and other animals. There are many species – feeding on plants some spread viruses that can destroy whole crops, while others are important pollinators and predators of harmful insects. Due to their small size, these insects are easily moved around the world on plant material and are difficult to detect on commodities at our ports of entry.

Dr. O'Donnell is responsible for curating and maintaining the USNM Thysanoptera collection in Beltsville, MD, and collaborating with scientists around the world. As a taxonomist, she spends much of her time classifying thrips families, genera and species or adding new species to the order. She also works with inspectors and identifiers at ports of entry to detect and identify thrips that are intercepted on commodities coming into the U.S.

This will be a fascinating departure from more conventional subjects into a little-known world.

Tuesday February 9 **"Butterflies: Nature's Festival of Colors"** presented by C. "Sparky" Sparks

Each summer, volunteers across North America fan out to count butterflies on a selected day within a designated count circle to promote interest in butterflies and provide results for the scientific monitoring of butterflies within North America. The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) count program has been held annually since 1975, when only 29 counts were held. In 2013, 451 counts were held: 444 in the U.S. and 27 in Canada. Counts are usually held a few weeks before or after early July, but the best timing for butterfly observation in each count circle varies. Much like Christmas Bird Counts, each circle has a 15-mile diameter. On count day, volunteers conduct a one-day census, counting every but-



terfly they observe within that circle. The West Anne Arundel County Count is centered in Odenton and encompasses habitats on the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Mr. Sparks will present the results of 15 years of West Anne Arundel County counts.

C. “Sparky” Sparks has been a Maryland resident in Anne Arundel County since 1981. Sparky is a retired Air Force Senior NCO and currently a Federal employee with the National Security Agency. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, he made Maryland his new home when he retired in 1996. Sparky has been an active volunteer with the USFWS Patuxent Research Refuge since 1993, and a member of the board of directors of the Friends of Patuxent since 2003. He’s has long been an avid fan of the local Lepidoptera, mainly butterflies, of Maryland.

MDBirding – How to sign up!

Did you know that there is a web site on which up-to-date bird sightings are posted? This is how MD birders find out about rarities, sometimes within minutes of their being posted! You can read them on the web site, or have them sent directly to your e-mail address. You may also post your own sightings, attaching a photo from your smart phone if you wish.

To sign up, go to www.MDBirding.com. There, go to the Info tab on left, then Sign up on the bar at the top, and follow the simple instructions. Go to the Home tab to read current postings.

After signing up, you can post your own sightings with an e-mail to MDBirding@googlegroups.com

Welcome to new Members

We'd like to welcome the following new members to the Patuxent Bird Club:

Mr & Ms Kenneth Cohen, of Laurel
Janice Holland, of Glenarden
Ken Lavish and Janice Devine, of Silver Spring
Allen and Dorothy Paugh, of Bowie
Wade Stephen, of New Carrollton (a returning member)

Associate members (already members of another MOS chapter):

Cynthia Bravo, of Upper Marlboro, from the Anne Arundel chapter

Rich Galloway, of Silver Spring, from the Montgomery chapter

Peter Osenton, of Jessup, from the Howard chapter

Thanks to Barbara Ricciardi for her enthusiastic membership recruiting.

Species	Totals	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Area 11	Area 12
1 Canada Goose	8648	2431	95	611	241	1658	1569	125	200	116	713	91	798
2 Trumpeter Swan	2			2									
3 Wood Duck	110	7		95	6				2				
4 Gadwall	51	49		2									
5 American Wigeon	2	2											
6 American Black Duck	57	25		30						2			
7 Mallard	448	27	26	101	8	106	19	3	6	30	62		60
8 Shoveler	6	6											
9 Green-winged Teal	20	16		4									
10 Ring-necked Duck	283	16		161	1	2			15	11	76		1
11 Lesser Scaup	2	2											
12 Bufflehead	3										3		
13 Hooded Merganser	110		4	29	3	2				19	7	16	30
14 Ruddy Duck	4	4											
15 Wild Turkey	2	1											1
16 Pied-billed Grebe	15			5	1	1			1		7		
17 Double-crested Cormorant	1											1	
18 Great Blue Heron	17		2	2			3		4		2	2	2
19 Black Vulture	375	40	6	9	12	2	176	12	13	8	6	40	51
20 Turkey Vulture	323	22	10	10	13	16	108	16	69	5	11	9	34
21 Northern Harrier	2	1											1
22 Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	1		1	1		3	1				3	1
23 Cooper's Hawk	7	3					2		1			1	
Accip, sp?	2		1						1				
24 Bald Eagle (a) 24 (i) 16 (u) 5	45	2		3	2	2	17	5	2	3	2	1	6
25 Red-shouldered Hawk	44	4	7	2	4	2	12	1		1	4		7
26 Red-tailed Hawk	69	9	2	8	8	3	17	4	5	3		1	9
27 American Coot	21	18		3									
28 King Rail	1			1									

Species	Totals	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Area 11	Area 12
29 Sandhill Crane	1			1									
30 Killdeer	20			1			19						
31 American Woodcock	4				2		1						1
32 Ring-billed Gull	1119	1	9		6	802	19	22	22		154	20	64
33 Herring Gull	217	1		1			106	21	19		1	45	23
<i>Gull, sp.</i>	51	6			2					1			42
34 Rock Pigeon	1314	531	1				613	24	22	1	1	57	64
35 Mourning Dove	518	107	17	47	44	43	64	24	58	18	45	6	45
36 Eastern Screech-Owl	1						1						
37 Great Horned Owl	7	1				3	2	1					
38 Barred Owl	11			2		5	2				2		
39 Belted Kingfisher	20	1	1	5	2		3	1	1		1		5
40 Red-headed Woodpecker	19	3		14					1				1
41 Red-bellied Woodpecker	339	36	15	55	7	32	75	47	16	10	10	4	32
42 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	55	8	5	8	3	1	13	2	3	1	1	3	7
43 Downy Woodpecker	216	20	14	20	12	16	61	22	10	5	9		27
44 Hairy Woodpecker	44	3	2	10	1	1	17			1	2		7
45 Northern Flicker	207	14	27	18	9	2	46	28	13	2	5	3	40
46 Pileated Woodpecker	79	6	3	16	5	4	22	6	3	1	2		11
47 American Kestrel	5	2				1	2						
48 Peregrine	1	1											
49 Merlin	3	1		1						1			
50 Blue Jay	586	128	42	60	40	26	79	50	29	17	48	7	60
51 American Crow	3639	647	63	1299	20	516	231		492	139	89	66	77
52 Fish Crow	575	216	7	191	2	7	27	2	69		32	10	12
<i>Crow, sp.</i>	906	600		210	8		15		30		43		
53 Common Raven	4			1	1								2
54 Carolina Chickadee	594	24	9	81	44	73	167	27	28	13	25		103
55 Tufted Titmouse	366	16	8	78	26	34	104	16	17	3	12		52

Species	Totals	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9	Area 10	Area 11	Area 12
56 White-breasted Nuthatch	189	17	8	34	5	5	53	29	9	2	6	2	19
57 Brown Creeper	25	3		8		2	5	1		1	1		4
58 Winter Wren	47	6	5	14	1		15		3		1		2
59 Carolina Wren	310	37	23	38	5	34	79	22	18	11	14	1	28
60 Golden-crowned Kinglet	44	5	1	17	7		9				1		4
61 Ruby-crowned Kinglet	34	1	3	3		4	14			1	3		5
62 Eastern Bluebird	174	13		20	19	6	64	4	7			5	36
63 Hermit Thrush	60	3	4	14	1		19		5		2	1	11
64 American Robin	3305	303	285	187	105	504	1054	83	233	226	85	8	232
65 Gray Catbird	3		2										1
66 Brown Thrasher	7		1	1			2					1	2
67 Northern Mockingbird	134	8	14	13	8	6	31	2	6	2	7	1	36
68 European Starling	4759	1574	370	44	45	446	929	28	513	109	202	138	361
69 Cedar Waxwing	416	4	135	108	43		53		36				37
70 Yellow-rumped Warbler	79	1	8	12	2	2	26		2		2		24
71 Eastern Towhee	173	22	5	38	17	13	33	9	7	5	9	2	13
72 American Tree Sparrow	4	2		1			1						
73 Chipping Sparrow	11			11									
74 Field Sparrow	65	6	2	31	3	4	15				1		3
75 Savannah Sparrow	20			16			4						
76 Fox Sparrow	45	8	1	14	1	2	7	1	1	2		1	7
77 Song Sparrow	449	71	18	163	16	23	52	11	10		15		70
78 Swamp Sparrow	87	7	6	59	2		9	1					3
79 White-throated Sparrow	2238	263	140	396	36	234	570	135	124	23	57	42	218
80 White-crowned Sparrow	7						7						
81 Dark-eyed Junco	1715	123	50	235	45	162	413	69	74	107	143	26	268
82 Northern Cardinal	577	45	28	58	18	110	123	29	45	16	35		70
83 Red-winged Blackbird	1726	166	57	102	12	65	838	17	307	87	28	12	35
84 Rusty Blackbird	26	20		1			4			1			

Species	Totals	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Area 9
85 Common Grackle	30984	2331	18	4444	10253		3217	5456	3532	
86 Brown-headed Cowbird	2270	2001		4			257		4	
<i>Blackbird, sp.</i>	300				300					
87 <i>Baltimore Oriole</i>	3									
88 House Finch	207	22	7	18	5	52	19	15	26	
89 Purple Finch	2	1		1						
90 Pine Siskin	52	20		32						
91 American Goldfinch	297	37	10	35	46	8	76	20	13	
92 House Sparrow	398	1	22			28	64	74	1	

Total taxa	96	75	50	73	54	46	65	42	51	
Other taxa	4	2	1	1	3		1	0	3	
Number of species	92	73	49	72	51	46	64	42	48	
Plus count week	0									
Number of individuals	73505	12257	1650	9444	11586	5116	11743	6508	6182	

Parties	44	6	1	9	6	1	6	1	3	
Observers	85	8	3	15	12	2	13	1	4	
Feeder watchers	5		1		0			2	2	
Party hours by foot	210.55	31.75	6.5	39	9.5	8.5	36.8	8	11.5	
Party hours by car	50.3	2.3	4	1.5	9.5	2	12	1	6	
Party hours by bike	0.75	0.75								
Party miles by foot	178.75	21.3	3	33.2	11	7	35.3	6	10	
Party miles by car	422.4	35	31	8.5	29	34.1	66.5	20	51	
Party miles by bike	2	2								
Party hours owling	19.3	3	1	2	2	2.5	4.3	0.5		
Party miles owling	67.05	6	7	0.55	29	14	2			
Feeder hours	8.5		1	1				4	2.5	

MOS Conference Chair filled (for now) MOS Pres Tom Strikwerda assumes responsibilities

As this year's annual conference approached, there had been no volunteer to assume the position of conference chair, without which the conference could not be made to happen. The duties of that position seemed too onerous for one person to take on. The MOS executive committee responded with a plan to make the Conference Chairmanship more palatable. First, the responsibilities have been greatly pared down: Registration, Field Trips, Silent Auction, Workshop, Poster Session, and the Species Tally have been split off and will be manned by other volunteers. Moreover, to sweeten the deal, a stipend of \$3,000 per year was to be included.

However, no applicants have come forward in time to prepare for this year's conference; so MOS president Tom Strikwerda has taken on the responsibilities for this year. The offer may be renewed for next year.

Field trips, Entire remaining 2015-2016 Season

Fri Jan 1 – Bowie Christmas Bird Count. Contact compiler David Mozurkewich <mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more information and an area to cover. Tally afterwards at T J Eliot's on Rt 19, between Rt 450 and Old Chapel Rd in Bowie.

Sat Jan 2 - Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area jointly with PG Audubon . Meet at 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just n. of Bowie State College, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Thu Jan 7 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 3 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich <mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more information.

Sat Jan 16 - Walk at the Gov Bridge Park, jointly with PG Audubon . Meet at 7:30 at the parking lot off Gov Br Rd, ~ 1 mile from Rt 301. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

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Thu Jan 21 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 3 pm. (Note change in time.) Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich <mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more information.

Thu Feb 4 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 3 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich <mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more information.

Sat Feb 6 - Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area, jointly with PG Audubon . Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just n. of Bowie State College, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Fri Feb 12 - Mon Feb 15 –19th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Fun and easy event for birders of all ages to count birds and create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Count as little as 15 min.,

or as long as you wish on one or more days and report findings online at www.birdcount.org. For beginning birders to experts. Can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Sun Feb 14 (President's Day weekend) – Trip to Ocean City, Indian R inlet, Burton's I. Park, and adjacent areas. Meet at 7 am at the Bowie P&R off Rt 197. Dinner and overnight stay the night before a possible option. Leader: Fred Fallon fwfallon@ymail.com.

Thu Feb 18 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 3 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich <mozurk@bellAtlantic.net> for more information.

Sat Feb 20 – Walk at the Gov Bridge Park, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 7:30 am at the parking lot off Gov Br Rd, ~ 1 mile from Rt 301. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info

Thu Mar 3 - Walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at 3 pm, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich <mozurk@bellAtlantic.net> for more information.

Sat Mar 5 - Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just n. of Bowie State College, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Sat Mar 12 – Field trip for displaying Woodcock at location to be decided soon before trip; meeting at ~ 5:30 pm, place to be determined according to conditions. Reservations required. Contact leader: David Mozurkewich mozurk@bellAtlantic.net.

Thu Mar 17 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 3 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich mozurk@bellAtlantic.net for more information.

Sat Mar 19 - Walk at the Gov Bridge Park, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 7:30 am at the parking lot off Gov Br Rd, ~ 1 mile from Rt 301. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Sat Apr 2 - Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just n. of Bowie State College, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

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Thu Apr 7 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 6 pm – note change in time. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Sat Apr 16 - Walk at the Gov Bridge Park, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 7:30 at the parking lot off Gov Br Rd, ~ 1 mile from Rt 301. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Thu Apr 21 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 6 pm – note change in time. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Sun May 1 – Trip to National Arboretum. Meet at Bowie P&R at 7 am. Leader: Jeannine Dorothy OZ-Girl2@verizon.net.

Thu May 5 - 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 (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Sat May 7 - Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just n. of Bowie State College, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Sun May 8 – Trip to McKeldin area of the Patapsco SP for migrants and breeding Cerulean Warblers. Meet at Bowie P&R at 6:30 am (1 hr drive to park.) Leader: TBA.

Sat May 14 – May Count. Count all day at a park/ WMA or just a few hours around your yard and n'hood. Contact compiler FredFallon (fwfallon@ymail.com) for information, and coordination of areas covered.

Thu May 19 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon . Meet at 6 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Sat May 21 - Walk at the Gov Bridge Park jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 7:30 am at the parking lot off Gov Br Rd, ~ 1 mile from Rt 301. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Thu Jun 2 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon . Meet at 6 pm. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Sat Jun 4 - Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Br Rd, off Rt 197 just n. of Bowie State College, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.

Thu Jun 16 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon . Meet at 6 pm – note change in time. Meet at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Sat Jun 18 - Walk at the Gov Bridge Park, jointly with PG Audubon . Meet at 7:30 am at the parking lot off Gov Br Rd, ~ 1 mile from Rt 301. Contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com for more info.



**M OS/Patuxent Bird Club
Membership Application/Renewal
2015/2016**



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

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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.”