

“News from the ‘Hood”

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club
of the Maryland Ornithological Society



May – June 2016

Editor: Fred Fallon, fwoffallon@ymail.com

Programs

Our meetings are held at the College Park Airport Museum, off Paint Branch Parkway, 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. Doors close by 9:30 pm.

Tuesday May 10

“The 2015 Breeding Bird Survey at the Patuxent Research Refuge – How it was done and what it found”

Presented by John Sauer

The Patuxent Research Refuge, at 13,000 acres (20 square miles!), contains a variety of habitats, ranging from bottomlands along the Patuxent River to upland pine forests, to swamps and upland hardwoods on lands that formerly were part of Fort George G. Meade. The Fort Meade lands, now called the North Tract, also contain various firing of ranges still used by the military and law enforcement agencies. Hunting also takes place there.

The refuge has a long history of bird studies, which are facilitated by a system of grid markers, installed over most of the refuge in the 1940s, that forms a convenient framework for long-term studies; the same grid markers can be repeatedly sampled. Of course, these studies also benefit from having some of the best birders around on the staff at Patuxent who are willing to donate some mornings to counting birds! In 2008, Dr John Sauer organized a bird survey around the grid system, visiting grid markers 400m apart and conducting bird counts during breeding season. These counts were used to map bird distributions on the refuge, and to develop statistical models to evaluate the effects of management activities on bird populations. Last year (2015), the survey was repeated to analyze changes in bird populations over the 7 years.

This talk will focus on the joys and tribulations of organizing and conducting a bird survey. It rained almost constantly, and the roads on the refuge were often partially flooded. Many points were located beyond wading depth, causing a lot of frustration, but persistence and a high tolerance for wet feet led to a surprisingly complete survey. Parts of the refuge are generally closed to public access due to the active ranges; getting into these areas was a rare treat, although one that required a great deal of careful planning to minimize the possibility of the observers becoming targets themselves. Results of the study with maps of species distributions, and documentation of habitat associations with species, will be given.

Dr John Sauer is a wildlife biologist and Senior Scientist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, specializing in the analysis of changes in bird populations and author of hundreds of scientific papers. He is also a member of the Patuxent Bird Club and himself an excellent birder.

Tuesday June 14

Members Photo Night & Business Meeting/Elections

Members are invited to bring their favorite nature-themed photos (“slides” no longer!) to be shown on the facility laptop and projector. The easiest way is to load them onto a flash card which can be plugged into the laptop; you needn’t bring your own. Please observe a reasonable time so that all can be accommodated by 9:15 pm closing time. In fact, please e-mail me (fwfallon@ymail.com) indicating your intention to bring photos so as to help allocate the time. The first part of the program will be the conclusion of Don Messersmith’s November presentation on his birding tour across America, which had to be terminated prematurely on account of problems getting our projector to work until well after starting time.

Elections are also held at this meeting to fill our board positions for the coming year – four officers and the 3 board positions expiring this year. (Three others continue into the next year, on staggered 2-year terms). The board’s functions are to plan the speakers and field trips for the next year, interface with our parent organization, the MD Ornithological Society (MOS), and maintain communication with members. The nominating committee will present its slate, while nominations may also be made from the floor.

“Birding Pal” – A new service to meet a local birder when travelling, and vice versa

Inspired perhaps by the success of such social network sites as LinkedIn and crowd-sourcing, Birding Pal links birders who would like to meet up with a local birder when visiting another part of the country unfamiliar to them, and in turn are willing to host visiting birders from out of town and show them the local hot spots. The network extends to foreign countries too. “Pals” do not make or receive payment, except for expenses such as entrance fees, tolls, etc. The only cost is an annual subscription of \$10. Several area birders have availed themselves of this service and found it has worked well for them.

To apply, go to www.birdingpal.org. Payment has to be by (appropriately enough), Paypal.

Field Trip Report

For this evening trip to find Woodcock, leader David Mozurkewich and a dozen hopeful participants showed up at a secret location for a chance to hear and maybe see this common but elusive bird. They saw two birds (or maybe the same bird twice) fly low over the group and heard a number of displays. After the woodcock display, several of the group retreated to a local pond where they listened to Leopard and Pickerel Frogs calling.

Field trips, entire remaining 2015-2016 Season

(Note the up-dated info on the May 1 and May 8 trips)

Sun May 1 – Trip to National Arboretum. Meet at the main parking lot between visitor center and gift shop (nearer gift shop) at 8 am, right after gates at the R St. entrance open. We will walk Azalea Hill (with hopefully some blooms!) avoiding anything closed off by the eagle nest at the top, then go to the Asia garden looking for more warblers and other migrants. Contact Jeannine Dorothy, codyozbrindle@yahoo.com for more info.

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 Recreation Area of Patapsco SP. THIS TRIP CANCELLED.

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 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 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.

Welcome new Members

A warm welcome to new member Kathleen “Kathy” Pape of Greenbelt.



**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.”

Beginning Balance \$2,491.05

Expenses

MOS Dues	\$ 730.00	
Speakers	\$ 150.00	
Library room rental	\$ 100.00	
Total Expenses		\$ 980.00

Income

Dues	\$1028.00	
Donations	\$ 70.00	
Total Income		\$1,098.00

Ending Balance \$2,609.05

Membership Report

	4/30/2015	4/30/2016
Single Memberships	19	22
Household Memberships	10	13
Affiliate Members	4	7
<u>Life members</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Total Members	50	61

Submitted by Jane Fallon,
treasurer