

News from the 'Hood

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club
of the Maryland Ornithological Society

November – December 2012

Editor: Fred Fallon, fwfallon@gmail.com



Field Trips

(All trips are held jointly with PGAS)

Programs

November 13, 2012 – “Birding exotic Borneo”,
w/ Dave Harvey

Dec 11, 2012 – Holiday Party at Watkins Park
Nature Center. See further details on p.2

January 8, 2013 – “Gull ID” w/ Clive Harris

February 12, 2013 – “Birding Bhutan” w/ Gail
McKiernan

March 12, 2013 – “Forensic Ornithology”
w/Carla Dove aka "The Feather Lady"

April 9, 2013 – “Life History of Redstarts”
w/Clark Rushing

May 14, 2013 – “Horseshoe Crab Biology & Tagging”
w/Sheila Eyler

Jun 11, 2013 – Annual Business Meeting: elections,
status reports; “Members’ Night” showing of your
latest photos.

Dec 1, Sat 7:30 am. Monthly bird walk at Fran
Uhler Natural Area.

Dec 2, Sun. Piscataway Creek and Potomac River for
waterfowl and other winter birds. Meet at 7:30 AM
at Beltway Plaza on Rt 450, e. end of parking lot , or
at the end of Wharf Rd at 8:15.

Dec 6, Thur 3:00 pm. Semi-monthly bird walk at Lake
Artemesia. Meet at parking lot.

Dec 15, Sat 7:30 am. Monthly bird walk at Gov
Bridge Park, on Gov Br Rd. Meet at parking lot.
No reservations required. If you have questions,
contact the trip leader Bill Sefton at ki-wisuits@msn.com.

Dec 16, Sun. All day. Jug Bay Christmas Bird
Count (CBC). Contact compiler Sam Droege,
<sdroege@usgs.gov>

Dec 20, Thur 3:00 pm. Semi-monthly bird walk
at Lake Artemesia. Meet at parking lot.

Dec 30, Sun. All day. Annapolis CBC. Open to all;
contact Hal Wierenga/Lynn Davdson at 410-
647-7439, hal.lynn@comcast.net, or Sue ric-
ciardi, 410-647-9513

Jan 1, 2013, Tue. All day. Bowie CBC. Open to
all. Contact compiler David Mozurkewich for
area to cover. <mozurk@bellatlantic.net>, 301-
509-2212.

Jan 3, Thur 3:00 pm. Semi-monthly bird walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at parking lot.

Jan 5, Sat 7:30 am. Monthly bird walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area.

Jan 17, Thur 3:00 pm. Semi-monthly bird walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at parking lot.

Jan 19, Sat. 7:30 am. Monthly Bird Walk at Gov Br Park

Jan 27, Sun. 7:30 am. Birding local ponds and Merkle WMA. Meet at Bowie P&R. Call Fred Fallon, <fwfallon@ymail.com>, 410-240-8152.

Feb 7, Thur 3 pm. Semi-monthly bird walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at parking lot.

Feb 9, Sun. All day trip to Eastern Shore coastal spots. Meet at Bowie P&R at 7:30. Leader: Fred Shaffer, glaucousgull@verizon.net, 410-721-1744.

Feb 16, Sat. 7:30 am. Monthly Bird Wlk at Gov Br Park.

Feb 21, Thur 3 pm. Semi-monthly bird walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at parking lot.

Mar 9, Sat. Sites along Patuxent R in PG Co. for sparrows and early migrants. Meet at Bowie P&R, 7:30. Contact Dave Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375, mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

Pine Siskins Invade!

In case you haven't heard, Pine Siskins have invaded the area in large numbers, along with smaller numbers of other winter finches: Red Crossbills, Wh-winged Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and even a few "Common" Redpolls; also Red br Nuthatches, counted as "honorary winter finches". Keep your feeders filled and you have a good chance for the siskins and R-b Nuthatch, and always the chance for the others. The siskins seem to come and go in large flocks; 100 one day, the 0 the next. Crossbills, of course, favor cone-bearing

conifers, especially hemlocks, but occasionally come to suet.

As if that weren't excitement enough, there have been an exceptional number of hummingbirds this month, mostly Rufous but also a few others. It's worth-while to leave your feeder out, bringing it in at night in case of freeze.

Joint Annual Holiday Party and Photo-Share Tuesday, December 11, 2012, at 6:30 pm

Watkins Nature Center
Watkins Regional Park
Kettering, Maryland

Colorful holiday/nature/sports scenes lit up throughout the woods and open spaces of Watkins Regional Park (more than one million lights); great food; warm fellowship; door prizes; and people's favorite photos on everything from natural history, the birds and the bees, trips, and more - what's not to love about our annual holiday gathering with members of the Patuxent Bird Club and BUMBA (Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association). Doors open at 6 pm for this informal evening, so come early to peruse the nature center's exhibits and animals, greet one another, and be set up for our 6:30 potluck supper. Please bring a dish generous enough to serve about six. Beverages, utensils and paper goods will be provided.

There will be a sales table or two - a great opportunity to buy unique gifts for the holidays, from honey and chapter pins to handmade jewelry. During the program segment of the evening around 7:30 (door prizes and photos), there will be a time for the clubs to make announcements. You are encouraged to bring items to contribute for door prizes, a popular tradition. It's nice if everyone goes home with a memento. After eating, it will be time to enjoy photos, another popular tradition. Whether you have one favorite picture you're proud of, or want to

share multiple photos on a nature-oriented theme or from a special trip, bring them! A laptop and digital projector will be available, and PowerPoint presentations are encouraged.

Remember: Watkins Regional Park draws many visitors to this 26th Annual Festival of Lights, so allow extra time for the slow drive to the nature center. Festival visitors are encouraged to donate canned goods for local food pantries at the gate. Admission fee is \$5/car or van (cash only), which is waived if you tell them you are attending the Audubon meeting at the nature center. For multi-visit passes and other ticket/festival information, go to www.mncppc.org. For more party info, call Maureen Blades at 301-262-5148.

“Birds of North America “ (BNA) on-line at reduced rate for MOS members

Birds of North America is the massive compendium of almost all that's known about all bird species that occur in North America. *BNA* The printed edition fills 2 shelves and is so expensive (\$1,000) that virtually no-one except libraries own their own copy. Library copies are typically kept under lock and key. But an on-line version is available by subscription from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. *BNA* Online is based on the print version of *BNA*, which was completed in 2003 in 18 volumes and covered 18,000 pages. *BNA* Online includes range maps, photos, videos and audio selections for each species covered. It also includes sections on “Distinguishing Characteristics”, “Systematics” and “Appearance” which can aid in identification. MOS members will soon be able to subscribe for a reduced annual rate, probably \$25/yr vs the normal \$50, giving unlimited access to this valuable resource.

Between now and Dec 26, MOS will be collecting the names of members who wish an online subscription that will run from Jan 1, 2013 to Dec 31, 2013. If you wish to purchase a subscription, please contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com, to arrange payment or ask further questions about *BNA* Online.

New On-line Forum for MD Bird Sightings and Discussions

The popular e-mail based MD birding forum MDOsprey, widely used for the past 25 years, but hampered by a limitation on the number of subscribers, has been superseded by a new version, MD Birding. The “feel” is almost the same as MDOsprey. To subscribe, visit <http://www.mdbirding.com/signup.html> and follow the simple directions.

Hooded Merganser at PWRC



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	Fred Shaffer	Elwood Martin
	Field Trips – Fred Shaffer	
	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

2012/2013

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.”