

“News from the ‘Hood”

Newsletter of the Patuxent Bird Club
of the Maryland Ornithological Society



Sep – Oct 2016

Editor: Fred Fallon, fwfallon@ymail.com

Programs

Starting this season our meetings will be held at the College Park Airport *Operations Building* off Paint Branch Parkway, every 2nd Tuesday Sep thru June. From Paint Branch Parkway turn onto Cpl Scott Dr at the light; after 3 blocks turn right on Dorman St, which ends at the parking lot on left by the Museum. Walk leftward past the museum to the entrance to the new Operations Bldg. Our meeting room is up the stairway (or elevator) to the 2nd floor. Doors open at 7 pm for refreshments and informal discussion; formal program with guest speaker starts at 7:30 pm and ends by 9:15; doors close at 9:30 pm. Our meetings are held jointly with the Prince Georges Audubon Society

Tuesday, September 13
Identifying Eastern Hawks in Flight
Presentation: Marcia Watson
7:30 p.m.

For 16 years, Marcia Watson was an official counter with the Turkey Point Hawk Watch in Cecil County. There she learned to look for the distinguishing marks of high flying raptors migrating past Turkey Point, which is located on a south-facing peninsula at the head of the Chesapeake Bay. The peninsula tends to funnel migrating birds, and the geography allows for great views of the birds as they prepare themselves to cross the water.

Using slides from the Hawk Migration Association of North America and video clips from the Macaulay Library at Cornell University, Marcia will review the identifying marks and distinguishing flight characteristics of the most common hawks and other raptors encountered at hawk watches in our region, including accipiters, buteos, falcons, eagles, vultures, kites, osprey, and harrier. The presentation will also cover the timing of the passage of the different species through our area, and will conclude with a brief guide to hawk watches in Maryland and neighboring states. In conjunction with this talk, Marcia will lead a field trip to Turkey Point on Sep 28 as described below under Field Trips.

Marcia has been fascinated with raptors ever since she spotted a male Northern Harrier circling the fields around her former home in Fair Hill, Maryland. Interested in biology and the outdoors from the time she was a little girl, Marcia holds a doctorate in Biological Sciences, and for over 20 years specialized in research dealing with the environmental signals that animals use to coordinate their life cycles with seasonal changes such as day length and temperature. Marcia is now retired and lives in Bowie, and is concentrating on getting to know the great birding sites in Prince George's. Active for many years in the Maryland Ornithological Society, she recently served as president of our chapter.

October Program
Tuesday, October 11, 2016
Satin Bowerbirds in Australia
Featured Speaker: Joshua Kiner
7:30 p.m

Evolution by sexual selection has given rise to some of the most extravagant, beautiful, and sometimes hideous organisms in the natural world. One extraordinary example of how sexual selection has shaped the behavior of such creatures is the bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchidae*). This family of birds is endemic to Australia and Papua New Guinea and the males are best known for the construction of courtship display sites called “bowers.” In this presentation, Joshua “Josh” Kiner will share his field research at Wallaby Creek in New South Wales, Australia, where he studied the mating behavior of the Satin Bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*) as a graduate student at the University of Maryland. In addition to highlighting some of the fascinating studies that have been conducted at Wallaby Creek, Josh will share stories, pictures, and videos of bowerbird behavior and the challenges of documenting their behavior in the wild.

Josh Kiner received his BS in biology from Millersville University in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where an ornithology course turned his professional and personal life upside down. He went on to complete an MS in Biology at the University of Maryland, for which he traveled to New South Wales, Australia, to study the mating behavior of Satin Bowerbirds. Though he has since left research for an administrative position in the Department of Entomology at the University, he continues to find tremendous joy sharing the life of birds with others. Josh has previously given a bird identification workshop in College Park and led a spring bird walk at Lake Artemesia

Field Trips, Sep - Oct

Contacts for regularly scheduled walks at Fran Uhler Nat Area and Governor’s Bridge Park: Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

At Lake Artemesia: David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net)

Saturday, September 3: Bird Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Lemon’s Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Thursday, September 15: Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia, Luther Goldman Birding Trail; variety of habitats. Meet at 3 p.m. in parking lot at end of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more information.

Saturday, September 17: Bird Walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot off Governor Bridge Road, a mile east from Route 301. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Sun, Sep 18. Fall bird count. The goal is to count all birds in the county this day, analogous to the MayCount. To participate, contact the PG County compiler, David Mozurkewich, (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net).

Thursday, September 22: Afternoon pontoon boat bird trip at Jug Bay to observe Sora, Least Bittern and other species of this freshwater marsh. Meet at 4:00 p.m. at Patuxent River Park, Jug

Bay Natural Area (Prince George's County side) dockside. Trip will be led by Greg Kearns. Reservations are required. Contact David Mozurkewich. Preference will be given to PBC/PGAS chapter members

Sat, Sep 24 (rain date Sunday September 25). Field trip to Turkey Point Hawk Watch in Cecil County. The Hawk Watch is located at the head of the Chesapeake Bay, on a southward-pointing peninsula that acts as a funnel for migrating hawks and passerines. If the raptors aren't flying, there should be plenty of passerines to keep us busy, and the scenery alone is worth the trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Bowie Park & Ride to carpool to Turkey Point (approx. 2 hr. drive). Bring money for tolls along I-95. Also bring snacks and drinks and either a packed lunch or money to purchase lunch at Woodie's Crab House in the town of North East after we're done at the Hawk Watch. Optional: bring a lightweight folding chair or a blanket to sit on at the Hawk Watch. There will be a one-mile walk on a gravel road from the parking lot to the Hawk Watch site, so be sure that your things are easy to carry. Contact leader Marcia Watson (marshwren50@comcast.net) no later than midnight of Wednesday September 21 for reservations (required) and more information.

Sat Oct 1 - Bird Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton for more information

Thu Oct 6 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more info.

Sat Oct 8 - 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 for more info.

Thu Oct 20 - Walk at Lake Artemesia, jointly with PG Audubon. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot, at end of Berwyn Rd in Berwyn Hts. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich.

Generate income for your MOS Chapter through purchases on Amazon

The mail-order giant Amazon offers a rebate to non-profits designated by customers. One need only designate the NGO once, and every purchase thereafter will automatically generate the rebate of .5%. Then quarterly, the accumulated rebates are remitted to the non-profit. Patuxent Bird Club qualifies for this program since we are listed by the IRS as a non-profit organization. We encourage members to take advantage of this program; even though the rebate is small, it could add up summed over all our membership.

The way it works is, go to the site <smile.amazon.com>, type in "Patuxent Bird Club" in the box provided, and click "select". The name will then show as "Maryland Ornithological Society – Huntingtown MD". The city name means that our *chapter* has been selected – not the state MOS; the chapters are distinguished by the mailing address of the chapter's treasurer.

Thereafter, when shopping at Amazon, go to the URL above, not the usual <Amazon.com>, and log in as usual. Your account will come up as usual, with all your credit card info, recommendations, etc. just the same as with your usual log-in. The rebate for your purchase will be generated automatically and you need not take any other steps.



**MOS/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.”