Our region lost an esteemed wildlife artist when John W. Taylor died last October at age 86. Known to all as “Bud,” he was a beloved and treasured member of MOS and the Anne Arundel Bird Club. An accomplished wildlife artist, his career started with commissions from the National Geographic Society and the National Wildlife Foundation, leading to his self-employment as a wildlife artist. He authored two books published by Johns Hopkins Press: *Birds of the Chesapeake* and *Chesapeake Spring*, and designed Maryland's first deer and trout stamps and was selected as the artist for Maryland's first Waterfowl Stamp in 1974. He won the Duck Stamp contest in 1979 and was selected in 1984 as the winner of the Florida Duck Stamp contest. His life and work were documented on Maryland Public Television's *Maryland Outdoors*. His later years were spent painting in his studio, working primarily with oils. Dr. Perry, emeritus scientist at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and long-time friend of Bud, will share Taylor's influence on protecting the Chesapeake Bay landscapes, even beyond his well-known paintings.

*About the presenter:* Dr. Matthew C. Perry is an Emeritus Scientist (Retired Wildlife Research Biologist), with the United States Geological Survey - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, in Laurel, MD. He is the author of numerous scientific publications. While employed at Patuxent, he conducted research dealing with waterfowl food habits and management of wetland areas, among other projects. Dr. Perry remains active as a lecturer, writer, and naturalist for bird tours.
Upcoming Meetings and Speaker Programs, continued

Tuesday, October 9, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm

**Saving the Places You Love**  
**Presented by Ned Tillman**

Naturalist, outdoor guide and environmental author Ned Tillman will give a spirited presentation about how to protect and preserve the places that we and our feathered friends like to visit. Ned has used fiction and nonfiction, workshops, presentations, blogs, and interpretive walks to inspire people of all ages to fall in love with the outdoors and to become better stewards of these fragile lands. His hope is that each of us will become more effective champions of the wild spaces in our midst. His book, *Saving the Places We Love: Paths to Environmental Stewardship*, describes the major campaigns that have been waged to preserve the forests and parks all across the country. It was the 2014 Book of the Year as selected by Howard County’s Poetry and Literary Society, Community College, and Library System. He will have copies of his books and will be happy to sign them for you at the meeting. If you wish to read them ahead of time, they are all available on Amazon.

**About the presenter:** Ned Tillman, a life-long Maryland resident, lives in Howard County on Lake Elkhorn. He has served as the Chair of the Howard County Conservancy and the Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board, the Izaak Walton League of America and the Maryland Academy of Science. His books are used widely throughout Maryland in the Master Naturalist program, as well as in schools and colleges. He has spent the last 12 months visiting threatened habitats for key species. Ned’s first book, *The Chesapeake Watershed: A Sense of Place and a Call to Action*, is about the region where we live. It won the 2010 Excellence in Journalism Award chosen by the Renewable Natural Resource Foundation and was named the 2010 Best Book on Environmental and Natural Resources by The American Society for Public Administration. His latest book, *The Big Melt*, is a novel that inspires the reader to take more actions to help reduce the impacts of a changing climate.

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Message from the President

Greetings to my friends in the Patuxent Bird Club. I’m honored and delighted to be stepping into the presidency for the upcoming year.

It’s been a busy summer, full of birding and other activities. Gene and I did a lot of traveling in the US, and you can read about a visit that we made to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, NY, on page 17 of this newsletter. Because that’s a lengthy article, I’ll keep this introductory message brief.

One issue that I want to mention is that during our travels around the country, we noted, sadly, that we hardly ever had to wash insect splatter off the car windshield. I remember just a few years ago, I had to be sure to wash my windshield several times each
week during the warm months. While some might applaud the lack of insects, as we birders know, birds depend on bugs for food. Even seed-eating birds feed insects to their young, so the dearth of insects is a cause for real concern, and an issue that has not gone unnoticed by ornithologists. For more information on this subject, I urge you to read a brief article “Insects and aerial insectivores decline” in the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership June/July newsletter at https://mailchi.mp/f35117ef724/maryland-bird-conservation-news-junejuly (it’s the second article; scroll down on the page to read it.)

Back home in Prince George’s County, it was a wild summer with some rare birds turning up, and with fall migration now upon us, no doubt more are on the way. Read about our summer rarities on page 14 of this newsletter. And I hope that you will enjoy the fall weather while finding some rarities of your own!

Marcia Watson

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### Patuxent Bird Club Officers & Directors

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>President</td>
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Visit us on the web at [www.patuxentbirdclub.org](http://www.patuxentbirdclub.org)
As always, all field trips are co-sponsored with Prince George’s Audubon Society.

**Saturday, September 1, 7:30 am - Fran Uhler Natural Area**
Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at east end of Lemon’s Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information.

*Photo of Fran Uhler NA courtesy of MNCPPC*

**Thursday, September 6, 3 pm (Note: start time is 3 pm September-March) - Lake Artemesia Natural Area**
Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

**Saturday, September 15, 7:30 am - Governor Bridge Natural Area**
Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of Route 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

**Sunday, September 16 – Fall Bird Count**
Annual county-wide census of resident and migrating birds. This census is part of a state-wide effort to count fall birds. Pick your own start and stop times. Contact the county compiler David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) to receive an assigned area and for more information. See related article in this newsletter.

**Tuesday, September 18, 4:15 pm – Jug Bay Boat Trip – A few seats still available – sign up soon!**
Sunset pontoon boat trip on the Patuxent River at Jug Bay to observe Sora and other rails, Least Bittern, maybe some migrating songbirds, and other specialties of this freshwater wild rice marsh. The boat will depart the dock promptly at 4:30 PM. Meet at the boat launch area of Jackson’s Landing at Patuxent River Park, Croom, MD. Trip will be led by Naturalist Greg Kearns of Patuxent River Park. Boat fee: $5 for residents of Prince George’s or Montgomery Counties; all others $7. Come early for bathroom stop, and have $5 (or $7) cash ready. Limited to 20 participants; for reservations (required), contact Marcia Watson (marshwren50@comcast.net). Open to members of the Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George’s County Audubon Society only, unless last-minute space is available.

*Continued on Page 5*
Upcoming Field Trips, continued

Thursday, September 20, 3 pm (Note: start time is 3 pm September-March) - Lake Artemesia Natural Area
Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, September 22, 9 am to 1 pm for main events; bird walks start at 7:30 am - PGAS Birding Festival at Lake Artemesia
Sponsored by Prince George's Audubon Society, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, MOM's Organic Market. 5th annual migration-themed birding festival with live raptors and 11:00 am raptor talk; 7:30 am bird walk for all skill levels; 10:00 am family bilingual scavenger hunt introducing iNaturalist app; children’s games, crafts, coloring mural, bilingual Spanish/English activity pages, make recycled binoculars; spotting scope set up; Monarch butterfly migration life cycle display, Wood Thrush display. For more information, see flier in this newsletter, or contact Lisa Bierer-Garrett at froglipp@gmail.com.

Sunday, September 30, 8 am - South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge
One of a series of walks to explore the seasonal variations in bird use of the habitats at South Tract. Be prepared to walk up to 2 miles. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Target species include migrating warblers, flycatchers, vireos, sparrows. Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot of the National Wildlife Visitor Center off Powder Mill Rd.; bear left on entering the parking area and go all the way to the last section of the lot past the covered solar recharging station for electric vehicles. For directions, see https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html. For further information, contact the leader, Ken Cohen, at kvulture@aol.com.

Thursday, October 4, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area
Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, October 6, 7:30 am - Fran Uhler Natural Area
Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at east end of Lemon’s Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information.

Sunday, October 14, 7:30 am - Patuxent River in Southern PG County
This trip will visit a few less-birded areas along the Patuxent in southern PG County focusing on sparrows and other late migrant songbirds. The route will depend on what areas have good habitat this year. Bring a lunch/snacks since we will not finish up until early afternoon. Meet at 7:30 am at the small parking area near the historic flying field (Columbia Air Center) memorial near the end of Croom Airport Road. Please RSVP to the leader, David Mozurkewich, (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net).

Continued on Page 6
Upcoming Field Trips, continued

Thursday, October 18, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area
Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, October 20, 7:30 am - Governor Bridge Natural Area
Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of Route 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Thursday, November 1, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area
Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, November 3, 7:30 am - Fran Uhler Natural Area
Monthly walk. Meet at 7:30 am at east end of Lemon’s Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com) for more information.

Saturday, November 10, 9 am - Point Lookout State Park
We will explore the varied habitats of Point Lookout in St. Mary’s County with a focus on songbirds, migrating hawks, and waterfowl. Brown-headed Nuthatches are a specialty of the park. Bring lunch and snacks since we will not finish up until early afternoon. Meet at 9 am at the Park Office, on the right as you enter the park on Point Lookout Rd. Please RSVP to the leader, Marcia Watson (marshwren50@comcast.net), who can provide driving directions if you need them. (Photo of Point Lookout courtesy MD DNR)

Thursday, November 15, 3 pm - Lake Artemesia Natural Area
Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. Meet at 3 pm at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellAtlantic.net) for more information.

Saturday, November 17, 7:30 am - Governor Bridge Natural Area
Monthly walk. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of Route 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Saturday, November 24, 8 am - Blackwater NWR
Meet at the Bowie Park and Ride at 8:00 am to carpool to Blackwater for wintering waterfowl, eagles and other raptors, lingering shorebirds and songbirds. Please RSVP to the leader, Ken Cohen, at kvulture@aol.com, in advance.
Birding in the Americas: Mi Casa es Su Casa
MIGRATION CELEBRATION

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2018
9am - 1pm
Lake Artemesia Park
Berwyn Road & 55th Ave.,
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

Schedule of Events

• 7:30am Bird walk (for all skill levels)
• 9:00am Event OPENS
• 10:00am Family bilingual Nature walk
  introducing iNaturalist app
• 10:00am - 1:00pm Live birds of prey
  from Watkins Nature Center
• 11:00am Birds of Prey talk with park
  naturalist
• Door prizes throughout event

ONGOING: Celebrating Migration:
Wood Thrush - 2018 Migratory Bird Display
Monarch Butterfly life cycle display

For more information about this event, visit our
Meetup: www.meetup.com/Prince-George’s-
Audubon-Society
Facebook: http://facebook.com/princegeorgesaudubonsociety

Fun Stuff for Kids!

• Bird coloring mural, games, &
  cool crafts
• Make a pair of recycled binoculars!
• Bilingual Activities
• Spanish/English Nature Bingo pages
• Face painting and more!

Featured Bird – Wood Thrush
Photo by Matt Felperin
Observación de Aves en las Américas: Mi Casa es Su Casa
Celebración de los Aves Migratorias

Sábado, 22 de septiembre del 2018
9am - 1pm  (GRATIS)
Lake Artemesia Park
Berwyn Road & 55th Ave.,
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

Horario del Programa
- 7:30am - Caminata para observación de aves (para todas las personas/edades)
- 9:00am - Apertura del Programa
- 10:00am - Caminata Bilingüe por la naturaleza, presentando la aplicación ¡Naturalist
- 10:00am - 1:00pm - Aves Rapaces de Watkins Park
- 11:00am Charla con el Naturalista de Parque sobre las aves de presa
- Premios durante todo el evento

Exhibiciones
El Zorzal/Tordo Común – Exhibición de aves migratorias del 2018
Exhibición de ciclo de vida de la Mariposa Monarca

¡Actividades para niños!
- Mural para colorear con aves, juegos y manualidades
- Crea un par de binoculares reciclados
- Actividades Bilingües
- Bingo de Naturaleza en Español/Inglés
- Pintura de caritas, y más

Para más información, visite pgaudubon.org
Meetup: www.meetup.com/Prince-George's-Audubon-Society
Facebook: http://facebook.com/princegeorgesaudubonsociety
Calling all Birders:
Annual Fall Bird Count – September 16

By Chuck Stirrat
Fall Count Statewide Coordinator

The annual Fall Seasonal Bird Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the weekend of September 15th and 16th in the Maryland/DC area. The MOS Board has left the choice of day to local chapters and coordinators. In Prince George’s County, the count will take place on Sunday, September 16, and the county coordinator is Dave Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellatlantic.net or 301-459-3375).

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Each pair of eyes helps, plus it can be a great learning experience and a lot of fun. The results of the count will appear in an article in the Spring 2019 issue of Maryland Birdlife.

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation of unusual sightings.

A new checklist compilation form is available on the MOS website; it includes common species found in Maryland during the fall. [A copy of the checklist is also attached at the back of this newsletter, and you can print and use that.] Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks *. (Note: all write-ins require full details.)

The deadline for submitting completed reports to your county coordinator is October 1, 2018. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by October 15.

Join the fun and have a great day birding! Chuck Stirrat, Statewide Fall Count Coordinator, 13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155; Home phone: 410-531-2417; E-mail: stirrbird@outlook.com

How to take part:
1) Pick an area you would like to cover – your back yard, or a favorite park or Wildlife Management Area. Choose to stay out for as long or short a period as you wish. This year we are encouraging more people to go afield, even if for only a short time in the morning. Two people out for just two hours in the early morning is better than one person out for four hours, because birds are so much more visible and audible just before and after sunrise, and because two pairs of human eyes and ears provide better detection capabilities.

2) No later than Wednesday September 12, contact the Prince George’s County coordinator, Dave Mozurkewich (mozurk@bellatlantic.net or 301-459-3375) and specify your preferred area to count. If you don’t have an area in mind, you can ask Dave for a suitable assignment. If you’re relatively new, you may wish to ask to accompany a more experienced birder. In our county, the Beltsville Agricultural Center (BARC) and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) have restricted access, so they have separate sub-coordinators operating in conjunction with site management. The county coordinator will refer you to those gatekeepers if you wish to count at those two sites, but be mindful that accommodation can’t be guaranteed due to security regulations beyond their control.
3) Go out and count the birds on Sunday September 16!

4) Print out the checklist provided on the last pages of this newsletter (or download the form from [https://mdbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/MD-Fall-Count-Checklist-2018-AOS59.pdf](https://mdbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/MD-Fall-Count-Checklist-2018-AOS59.pdf)) and enter your day's totals for each species. Checklists may also be obtained from Dave Mozurkewich. The checklist is in PDF format and is not an interactive file, and so must be printed and filled out by hand. Please enter actual numbers of each species seen, not a mere checkmark for birds seen or heard. Be sure to include the site names, the hours and miles you covered, information for others who counted with you, and weather information. Then scan the form and email it to Dave Mozurkewich, or send it by US Mail to Dave at the street address shown on the form.

**A word about the checklist.** As you may know, taxonomists are always re-arranging the order of species listed on checklists, to the confusion of the rest of us. They can't help it, because ongoing DNA analyses reveal more of the evolutionary tree that has resulted in the present diversity of species. This year’s checklist reflects many recent changes – in case you can’t find Kestrels at first, they now come after woodpeckers; House Sparrow and American Goldfinch now come after waxwings, and warblers are now almost last(!). So please use this list and not one from a previous year, and try to look it over in advance.

**A word about eBird.** If you use eBird, by all means submit your Fall count sightings on eBird. However, Dave will still need to receive your total bird counts on the checklist provided.

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**Works of Ikumi Kayama to be Exhibited at National Wildlife Visitor Center Gallery**

Our own Ikumi Kayama, member of the Patuxent Bird Club Board of Directors and Treasurer of Prince George's County Audubon Society, will be September's Artist of the Month at the Hollingsworth Gallery at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

As many know, Ikumi is an accomplished medical and scientific illustrator. She is the Principal Illustrator of her own studio, Studio Kayama, and has received much recognition for her work, including First Prize for a Clinical Medicine Textbook in the 2015 PROSE Awards competition, and a Certificate of Excellence from the Illustrators Club of DC, Maryland, Virginia in May, 2013. She currently serves as Vice President of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, and is a volunteer Insect Ambassador for the Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution. She holds degrees from the University of Georgia (BFA in Scientific Illustration and in French) and Johns Hopkins University (MA, Medical & Biological Illustration). Ikumi’s work was previously featured at the National Wildlife Visitor Center in March of 2016.

Please drop in and view Ikumi’s beautiful artwork during the month of September. The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located on the South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027; the Center is closed on Thursdays but is open other days from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. See [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html#south_tract](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html#south_tract) for directions.
Anacostia River Bioblitz
Thursday, September 6 through Sunday, September 9
Special Event on Saturday, September 8

Sponsored by the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS, https://www.anacostiaws.org/), the Bioblitz is part of the Year of the Anacostia celebration. A Bioblitz is a concerted effort to identify every living thing — plants, invertebrates, fish, birds, mammals, etc. — in a designated area on a specific date or range of dates. In last year’s Anacostia Bioblitz, more than 100 AWS volunteers identified 528 species. This is an opportunity to explore the natural treasures of the Anacostia River Watershed and to engage in citizen science, helping AWS document the biodiversity of the watershed.

The Bioblitz will be a weekend-long event from Thursday to Sunday (September 6-9), allowing you to make your own observations, at your own pace, from anywhere within the Anacostia River Watershed.

On Saturday, September 8th, AWS will host an event at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens that will allow you to explore with other naturalists and experts. This is a great opportunity to be a nature geek and to learn about the identification and ecology of some of the river’s species.

The main tool used in the Bioblitz is the crowd-sourced (and free) iNaturalist app (https://www.inaturalist.org/home). Bioblitz participation requires a smartphone with the iNaturalist app. See https://www.anacostiaws.org/event/114-public-event-anacostia-river-bioblitz.html for more information, including how to register.

You can follow the Biodiversity of the Anacostia River project on iNaturalist at https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/biodiversity-of-the-anacostia-river.

Monarch Festival
Saturday, September 22, 2018, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge

Learn about the wonders of the annual 3,000-mile migration of the Monarch Butterfly. Appropriate for all ages. Free and no advance registration necessary. Sponsored by the Friends of Patuxent (http://friendsofpatuxent.org/). The event will be held at the North Tract of the refuge, located at 230 Bald Eagle Drive, Laurel, MD 20724; phone 301-497-5770 or send email to Jennifer_Hill@fws.gov for more information. Bald Eagle Drive is accessed from Rte. 198 east of Laurel. You can find driving directions at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html#north_tract.


Wildlife Festival
Saturday, October 6, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
National Wildlife Visitor Center at South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge

Enjoy live animals, children’s crafts, tram tours, and scientific demonstrations. Appropriate for all ages. Free and no advance registration necessary. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located on the South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027. Driving directions are at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html#south_tract.
**Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar**

Saturday, November 3, 2018, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
National Wildlife Visitor Center at South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge

Shop for wild and not-so-wild, new and gently-used treasures. Find unique gifts from local crafters and at the same time support the Patuxent Research Refuge. Attractions include live animals, tram rides (weather permitting), door prizes, and much more. Free. Hosted by the Friends of Patuxent ([http://friendsofpatuxent.org/](http://friendsofpatuxent.org/)). For more information call 301-497-5772. The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located on the South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027. Driving directions are at [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html#south_tract](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/directions.html#south_tract).

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**Conservation Update:**  
**Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge**

*By Marcia Watson*

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge, near Rock Hall in Kent County, narrowly dodged a bullet over the summer.

Early this past summer, the Kent County Bird Club chapter of MOS alerted the MOS Conservation Committee, chaired by Kurt Schwarz, that Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge had lost its manager, who left to take another position. The Kent County Bird Club was alarmed because the Friends of Eastern Neck ([https://friendsofeasternneck.org/](https://friendsofeasternneck.org/)) had learned that the NWR administration had no plans to fill the position at Eastern Neck. The NWR confirmed that the lack of an on-site manager might mean that the Refuge would have to “shutter” its doors, eliminating public access. Not only birders, but hunters, fishermen, boaters and others would be affected, and the Refuge itself would suffer from lack of maintenance and oversight.

In response, the MOS Conservation Committee initiated a letter-writing campaign, and urged individual members of MOS to contact their congressional representatives as well as the leadership of the NWR system. The MOS response drew upon information posted at [https://www.friendsofblackwater.org/help-eastern-neck.html](https://www.friendsofblackwater.org/help-eastern-neck.html).

I felt that additional public support and publicity could only help to support the cause, so on July 18, in my role as President of Patuxent Bird Club, I wrote to the *Bay Journal* and other media outlets, requesting coverage of the issue. My letter provided a package of information on Eastern Neck and its importance to the birding community, as well as to other outdoor enthusiasts. I was very pleased when on July 23, the *Bay Journal* ran an article by Jeremy Cox: “Supporters rally to save Eastern Neck wildlife refuge from closure” ([https://www.bayjournal.com/article/supporters_rally_to_save_eastern_neck_refuge_from_closure](https://www.bayjournal.com/article/supporters_rally_to_save_eastern_neck_refuge_from_closure)). Mr. Cox’s article drew on the information I had provided, as well as on interviews with NWR staffers and individuals from the Friends of Eastern Neck. Many thanks to the *Bay Journal* for this coverage!
The *Bay Journal* article was picked up by the *Capital Gazette* and a bevy of local newspapers and online newsletters, broadening the public exposure of the issue. The *Capital Gazette* article was particularly important, in that the Gazette is routinely read by members of the state legislature.

On July 28, Kurt Schwarz received a brief email from Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the US Department of the Interior, stating that Eastern Neck would remain open to the public but unstaffed.

The reaction of MOS members was that, without staffing, Eastern Neck was still at risk, so a tacit decision was made to keep up the public pressure to fill the manager position. Audubon MD-DC joined the effort, with a plea to members to participate in the letter-writing campaign.

On August 13, 2018, the efforts of so many were rewarded with a press release from the US Fish and Wildlife Service stating that the manager position at Eastern Neck would be filled. You can read the press release at [https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=eastern-neck-national-wildlife-refuge-to-fill-position-&_ID=36297](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=eastern-neck-national-wildlife-refuge-to-fill-position-&_ID=36297). I notified the Bay Journal of this development, and on August 16 the Bay Journal published a follow-up article: “Eastern Neck refuge spared from closure, but funding crunch continues” ([https://www.bayjournal.com/article/eastern_neck_refuge_spared_from_closure_but_funding_crunch_continues](https://www.bayjournal.com/article/eastern_neck_refuge_spared_from_closure_but_funding_crunch_continues)).

If there is a lesson to be learned from this situation, I think it is that broad publicity can be helpful to a cause. Eastern Neck, like other National Wildlife Refuges, serves not just birders, but a broad slice of the public: fishermen, hunters, butterfly enthusiasts, hikers, kayakers/canoers/boaters, bicyclists, families with children – just about anyone who enjoys the outdoors. Informing all these folks about the issue, and recruiting their support, was no doubt instrumental in the victory.

But the victory may not be permanent. As the second *Bay Journal* article indicates, there is still a financial crunch at Eastern Neck, in that the decision to hire a manager has been made, but no additional funding has been secured. Going forward, you can do three things, for Eastern Neck in particular and for our public lands in general: donate money to the Friends of Eastern Neck and similar groups that offer boots-on-the-ground support for our public lands; write to your congressmen, senators, and state legislators, early and often, to let them know that funding for public lands is important to you; and help to get the word out to the public by writing letters to the editor, sending press releases, and using word of mouth and social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.) to let others know of critical situations. By standing together, we can save our lands for future generations.

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**Your Submissions Invited**

Do you have an idea for an article you would like to see published in a future issue of *News from the ‘Hood*? Send a note with your suggestion or, better yet, a draft article to the editor, Marcia Watson at [marshwren50@comcast.net](mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net). Worried that you’re not a good writer? No worries – Marcia will happily help with your article. Deadline for submission of completed articles is the 20th of even-numbered months (August, October, December, February, and April). If your article is just a rough idea, please allow more time to develop the text and to seek illustrations, if appropriate.
New County Record: The Prince George’s County checklist gained a most unexpected bird over the summer, when an Roseate Spoonbill put in a brief appearance in the Jug Bay area. Jeff Shenot first reported the immature bird, in white and pale pink plumage, in the marsh near Billingsley House on the PG side of the river, on July 8. Jeff was at Mt. Calvert and spotted the bird through a scope, looking north to Billingsley. Though the bird was distant, Jeff managed to capture a video as documentation. The video is posted on flickr at https://flic.kr/p/27z44rD; the photograph at right is a screenshot from Jeff's video. The bird's large spatulate bill is obvious.

The bird was also seen and photographed by several others later that day. Though this report has not yet been reviewed by the MD/DC Records Committee, it will no doubt be accepted because of the photo and video documentation.

It should be noted that this sighting in PG County followed earlier reports of perhaps the same bird on the other side of the river at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary in Anne Arundel County. And there was a long-staying immature Roseate Spoonbill at North Beach in Calvert County from mid-June through early July. Although it is tempting to speculate that the PG bird was the same individual as the North Beach bird, in fact, sightings of out-of-territory immature Roseate Spoonbills have been rampant this summer, as shown below on the eBird species map. Spoonbills breed from Florida and Georgia west to Texas and Mexico, along the Gulf Coast. But young-of-the-year sometimes disperse widely from the breeding grounds, as they have this year.

Roseate Spoonbill, current year species map courtesy of eBird; screenshot 8/28/18

PG Notable Bird Sightings
Notable Birds Sightings, continued

Other notable species seen in our county this summer include:

- **Mississippi Kite**, Greenbelt, June 1 (Michel Cavigelli).
- Two **Least Terns**, Bladensburg Riverfront Park, June 16 and after (Mark Rositol, Thomas Ostrowski and others); another pair of Least Terns, Selby’s Landing, June 28 (Elizabeth Wheeler); also noted along the Patuxent River on later dates by others.
- **Common Tern**, Critical Area Driving Tour at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary, July 15 (Joe Hanfman).
- **Cerulean Warbler**, South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge, July 27 (Christina Yuan).
- **Common Nighthawk**, South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge, July 29 (Ryan Hutchins).
- **Peregrine Falcon**, USDA National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, August 19 (Matt Olear).
- **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, Governor Bridge Natural Area, August 21 (Joe Hanfman).
- **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, Rocky Gorge Reservoir/Supplee Park, August 24 and after (Derek Richardson and others); also noted at other locations in late August.
- **Least Sandpiper**, Schoolhouse Pond, August 25 (Hugh Vandevoort).
- **Little Blue Heron**, Patuxent River Park-Jackson’s Landing, August 26 (Mark Rositol)
- **Blue-winged Warbler**, Governor Bridge Natural Area, August 26 (Jeff Shenot).
Notable Birds Sightings, continued

And this just in: a Snowy Owl was present at Brown Station Road Landfill for several days in late December of 2017, and was seen and photographed by employees at the Landfill. The photo below, taken on December 28, 2017, was provided by Henry Ellis, Jr., who is an Engineer Tech V and Safety Officer at the Landfill.
A Summer Visit to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

By Marcia Watson

I never expected to tear up while looking at a painting by Roger Tory Peterson. But there we were, standing in front of the original artwork for Spring Warblers, Plate 50 in the 1947 edition of Peterson’s Field Guide to the Birds: Eastern Land and Water Birds, and I found that quite unexpectedly, I had a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes. The 1947 edition of Peterson was my first real field guide, and what I had not realized was that the plates are apparently seared into my brain from many hours of studying. Seeing the original artwork for the plate, framed and lighted on the wall of a gallery, was like seeing an old friend, but a friend who is all dressed up and on center stage and being treated as a VIP.

Left to right: the original artwork for Plate 50, Spring Warblers; Marcia’s copy of the 1947 edition of the Peterson field guide; open pages of Marcia’s field guide showing the Spring Warblers plate.

My husband Gene Scarpulla and I were spending a few days visiting the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, NY. We had driven up in July after Gene made arrangements with the Institute to come and conduct a search through their archives for some data pertaining to “Gull Days” held in Maryland about 25 years ago. The Gull Days were organized by Gene and his late friend and mentor, Eirik “Rick” Blom. Rick was a noted Maryland ornithologist, one of two chief consultants for the 1st and 2nd editions of the National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America, a contributing editor for Bird Watcher’s Digest, and a key figure in the Maryland Ornithological Society. Also a real character, but that’s another story. After Rick passed away in 2002, Gene and another friend acted on the family’s wishes and arranged for Rick’s files to be donated to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. Gene’s own copies of the Gull Days data had been lost when his house was flooded during Hurricane Isabel in 2003, so Gene was hoping to find the data in Rick’s files. Hence our visit.

With our trip being focused on the hunt through Rick’s papers, neither Gene nor I had given much thought to what the Roger Tory Peterson Institute might have in their actual exhibits. To be frank, we probably would never have visited without the impetus to search through Rick’s papers, but we’re glad we did: the Institute has a rich collection of Peterson’s artwork, memorabilia, and assorted belongings, beautifully and professionally displayed in a building that is nothing short of
stunning. The exhibits bring to life, in a dramatic and memorable fashion, the seminal role that Peterson played in the field of birdwatching and ornithology. Any birder, and non-birders as well, would enjoy a day or more roaming through the Institute.

The Institute building was dedicated in 1993, in the latter part of Peterson’s lifetime (he was born in 1908 and died in 1996). The building was designed by architect Robert A. Stern in the Arts and Crafts tradition, with extensive use of natural wood and stone and incorporating large windows to provide natural light. It is no accident that the building invokes the aura of a campground lodge: it was intended to be reminiscent of Peterson’s devotion to the outdoors. Indeed, Jamestown was Peterson’s boyhood home, and the modest family house (still used as a residence, not open to the public) stands a few blocks from the Institute. The Institute building is surrounded by 27 acres of woods and meadows, with a network of trails, a freshwater pond, and a stream. A butterfly garden graces the front entrance area. Peterson himself probably roamed these same woods and fields as a young boy.

The exhibits include permanent installations as well as areas where the displays change annually. This year, the major show is “Roger Tory Peterson: The Life, The Work, The Legacy.” The displays in the main galleries on the first floor of the Institute include not only his original artwork for the field guides, such as the warbler plate that was so evocative to me, but also art work produced by commission for magazines and for coffee-table books. A corner exhibit shows an easel, paints, and study skins, evoking Peterson’s workroom. There are mesmerizing displays showing his handwritten personal journals, his equipment such as cameras and binoculars, his passport, even his boyhood grade school report. These tangible articles invoke something of the personality of the man, and show how dedicated he was, from an early age, to the art and science of ornithological illustration.
One display, tucked into a nook by the foot of the grand staircase, puts a spotlight on Peterson’s iconic 1955 book, *Wild America*, co-written with James Fisher as a memoir of their epic 100-day, 30,000-mile to the great birding hotspots of North America. The display includes a screen running a continuous loop of a digitized version of the 16 mm film that Peterson shot during the *Wild America* journey. The movie originally had no soundtrack, but the digitized version includes Peterson’s own voice as narrator, using a taped recording from a lecture that he gave in conjunction with a showing of the film. The film, and Peterson’s voice, provide another captivating feature of the Institute, and a comfortable padded bench in front of the screen invites visitors to sit and watch as much of the film as they choose.

Upstairs, the second floor walls hold more artwork, including a corner with a number of paintings of penguins. In a glass case nearby is the very clothing worn by Peterson on his Antarctic expeditions to study the penguins. You probably cannot recall the outfit from memory, but one glance at the red parka, yellow pants and striped woolen beanie will immediately call to mind photographs you have no doubt seen of Peterson, binoculars in hand, wading through flocks of penguins.

The remainder of the second floor houses the administrative offices of the Institute’s staff, as well as the archives area. Because we were given access to the archives, we had a glimpse of the size and extent of the Institute’s holdings that are not on view to the public. Here, metal shelves are piled high with boxes and boxes of equipment and papers. There, lying casually on a shelf, was a canvas bag containing a tripod, labelled for travel in Peterson’s own handwriting. Shallow wooden drawers hold hundreds of unframed pieces of art. Another area provides controlled climate cases for Peterson’s collection of study skins, which are available to visiting scientists upon request.

To provide an idea of the extent of the Institute’s collections, here is a quote from the Institute’s website:

“Over 120 cubic feet of personal papers, including personal correspondence and manuscripts spanning more than 70 years, are now being re-arranged into acid free conditions thanks to devoted volunteers. A growing collection of at least 200,000 slides, 600 reels of documentary film, over 250 pieces of photographic equipment used by Roger Tory Peterson and other naturalists are also housed. The slides and natural history films include, as well as Dr. Peterson’s, those of Hugh Smith, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Allen Benton and Fran Hall.”
Left to right: the “penguin corner” on the second floor; original Peterson painting “Penguins of the World;” display of Peterson’s Antarctic expedition clothing.

The attractive gift shop near the front entrance has tee shirts and hats, coffee mugs and pottery, and of course, the entire collection of Peterson Field Guides available for purchase. There are also some signed, limited edition prints of Peterson artwork available.

Also located on the first floor is a beautiful library, enhanced by oak tables and chairs crafted by Stickley Furniture in upstate New York. The library is an inviting place to sit and peruse the many publications on the shelves, including contemporary magazines such as *Birding* and *Audubon*. The library includes part of Peterson’s personal collection of books, as well as those that he authored, and has copies of most of the important field guides of the world, among other ornithological references.

Left to right: items for sale in the Gift Shop; view of the library, looking down from the second floor balcony; view of the library looking up to the second floor balcony, where the back of the expedition clothing display can be seen.

While Gene was digging through Rick Blom’s papers, I took the opportunity to explore the trails through the Institute’s surrounding woods and meadows. Even on a hot summer afternoon, I was able to find northern breeders such as Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-headed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush. I particularly enjoyed the pond area, which was swarming with dragonflies and enlivened by singing Common Yellowthroats.

Left to right: the pond on the Institute grounds; the butterfly garden near the building entrance; milkweeds in bloom, with a feeding Monarch Butterfly partially visible.
The Institute is enhanced by many nearby birding opportunities. Across the road is a larger wooded tract, known locally as the 100-acre Woods (memories of Winnie the Pooh?), which is managed by the nearby Jamestown Community College. The woods contain a network of walking trails, open to the public, and include some good bog habitat. Another highlight of our trip was a visit to the Audubon Community Nature Center, about 15 miles away. The Nature Center has well-marked trails on 600 acres of woods and wetlands, along with an outstanding indoor exhibit area.

It would be remiss not to mention that, in addition to preserving the art and published works of Roger Tory Peterson, the Institute has two additional missions in keeping with Peterson's own priorities: education and conservation. The education mission is embodied in programming for adults and children, including the Project Wild America Youth Ambassadors Program, which engages young people in local projects focused on natural resources. In the realm of conservation, the Institute is engaged in a number of initiatives at the local, regional, and global levels. These projects include winter raptors surveys; waterbird monitoring at an environmental cleanup site on Long Island Sound; conservation projects related to Eastern Hellbenders (two of whom reside at the Institute) and other herps; monitoring of Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows at the county airport; and a partnership in the Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds.

Waterbirds, led by Audubon Connecticut.

All in all, Gene and I immensely enjoyed our visit to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. We came away with a new appreciation for Peterson's body of work and a heightened sense of respect for Peterson the man. I heartily recommend a visit to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute as the centerpiece of any trip to western New York. It would be a particularly good place to share with a non-birding spouse or family and friends.

**If you go:** The Roger Tory Peterson Institute ([https://rtpi.org](https://rtpi.org)) is in Jamestown, in Chautauqua County, New York, in the southwestern corner of the state. The Institute building is not open every day, so check the website for current hours. There is a small admission charge, and the non-profit Institute, a 501 (c)(3) organization, appreciates donations. Jamestown lies at the southeastern end of Chautauqua Lake, and as such is a prime summer vacation spot, so advance lodging reservations are needed in the warm months. The town is well provided with hotels and restaurants. Chautauqua Lake is literally ringed with good places to bird, and the nearby shoreline of Lake Erie also draws birders. Chautauqua County has well over a hundred birding eBird hotspots, as shown on the map at left, with 300 species reported in the county. See [https://ebird.org/region/US-NY-013/hotspots?yr=all&me](https://ebird.org/region/US-NY-013/hotspots?yr=all&me) for a list of county hotspots.

**Endnote:** Gene was not able to find the Gull Day data among Rick Blom's papers. But the trip was enormously worthwhile and we hope to return to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in the future.

**Acknowledgments:** Many thanks to Twan Leenders, President of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, and Jane Johnson, Director of Exhibits and Special Collections, for giving us permission to use the archives, and for their many kindnesses during our visit. We are also grateful to the Institute for allowing us to take photographs for this article; photographs are generally not permitted of the exhibits and artwork.
Or, you can now pay your dues online using the new MOS website:
1. Go to [https://mdbirds.org/](https://mdbirds.org/)
2. Choose “Join” from the menu on the top right
3. Scroll down and click on “Chapters”
4. Scroll down to the map and click on Prince George’s County to reach the Patuxent Bird Club membership area
5. Scroll down and click the little + sign next to “Membership” for PBC
6. Scroll down and pick your membership level and then click the orange “Register” button
7. Fill out the information, including setting up a password that will allow you to access “Members Only” information on the MOS website
8. That’s it! You can even pay dues using your smartphone – the website is optimized to work with the screen on your phone.

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:

- [ ] 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.”
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**Scan and email the completed form to Dave Mozurkewich at mozurk@bellatlantic.net or send by postal mail to Dave Mozurkewich, 9310 Duberry Ave, Seabrook, MD 20706. Deadline for Submission: October 1**