



# News from the Hood

## Patuxent Bird Club

*A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society*

[www.patuxentbirdclub.org](http://www.patuxentbirdclub.org)

November –December 2019

### Message from the President

Dear Patuxent Bird Club Members,

With an overseas trip fast approaching, I've run into a time crunch in preparing the November-December club newsletter, and I'm not going to be able to send it out at the start of the month as I usually do. Instead, I'm sending this quick newsgram with details on our upcoming meetings, field trips, and Christmas Bird Counts.

Also included below is the Friends of Patuxent Holiday Bazaar on November 2.

I'll be back in time for our next meeting on November 12. See you then!

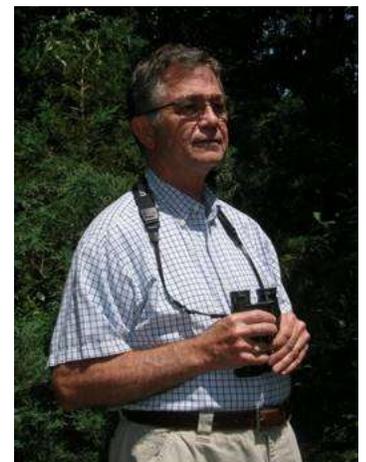
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### Upcoming Meetings and Presentations

**Tuesday, November 12, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm**  
**Monthly Meeting and Speaker Program - Free and open to the public.**

College Park Airport Operations Building, 2nd Floor  
1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr.  
College Park, MD 20740 ([Directions](#))

**Chasing a Desert Apparition: LeConte's Thrasher, presented by Jay Sheppard.** A Howard County Bird Club member, Jay will discuss some of the challenges and results of his study of this uncommon desert bird. This thrasher is a shy, poorly-known, and little-studied species found in the hottest and driest deserts of the American Southwest and northwestern Mexico. The bird rarely, if ever, drinks any water. Jay has spent years studying this enigmatic bird and gives the results of his study with some insight into its daily life. Some 350 thrashers were color-banded and followed around an 1800-acre tract in the San Joaquin Valley of California for several years. Extensive information was learned



about the life history of this bird. His monograph, *The Biology of a Desert Apparition: LeConte's Thrasher (Toxostoma lecontei)*, was published last summer.

**About the presenter:** Jay is a retired biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and lives in Laurel, Maryland. He worked for a number of years at the Bird Banding Laboratory, located at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, and later in the endangered species program office in Washington, DC. He was born and raised in Ohio, went to Miami University, served 5 years as a Navy officer with the Pacific Fleet, and moved to Maryland in 1972 after graduate school at Long Beach State University. He has been watching and studying birds and nature since as long as he can remember.

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**Tuesday, December 10, 7:30 pm, doors open at 7 pm**

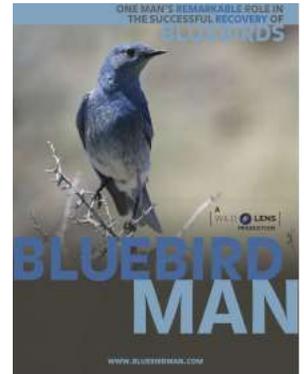
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### **Annual Holiday Social and Movie Night.**

Join the Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George's Audubon Society for popcorn and other refreshments to enjoy during our annual movie night. We have two films lined

up. "Bluebird Man" (2014) is a half-hour documentary about bluebird conservation and citizen science. The film focuses on the efforts of 91-year-old Alfred Larson, who has been monitoring and maintaining over 300 nestboxes for bluebirds in Idaho for 35 years. The companion film, "The Making of 'Bluebird Man'" (2016), features an interview with Al Larson, Idaho's 'Bluebird Man' himself, and with Matthew Podolsky, who produced and co-directed the documentary about Larson's efforts. The two discuss why they wanted to make the film, what they hope viewers will learn from it, and how the bluebird is faring in Idaho.



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## **Upcoming Field Trips and Bird Walks**

### **Saturday, November 2, 7:30 am - Bird Walk**

**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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com)) for more information.

### **Thursday, November 7, 3 pm - Bird Walk**

**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](mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net)) for more information.

### **Saturday, November 16, 7:30 am - Bird Walk**

**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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

**Thursday, November 21, 3 pm - Bird Walk**

**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](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net)) for more information.

**Thursday, December 5, 3 pm - Bird Walk**

**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](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net)) for more information.

**Saturday, December 7, 7:30 am - Bird Walk**

**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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com)) for more information.

**Thursday, December 19, 3 pm - Bird Walk**

**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](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net)) for more information.

**Saturday, December 21, 7:30 am - Bird Walk**

**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](mailto:kiwisuits@msn.com).

**Sunday, December 29, 8 am - Bird Walk**

**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 9:00 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> or see [https://www.mdbirdingguide.com/Patuxent Research Refuge South Tract](https://www.mdbirdingguide.com/Patuxent%20Research%20Refuge%20South%20Tract). For further information, contact the leader, Ken Cohen, at [kvulture@aol.com](mailto:kvulture@aol.com).

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**Christmas Bird Counts - two coordinated by our members; see upcoming MOS Yellowthroat for a complete list of counts in MD and nearby**

**Sunday, December 15 - Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count**

**Volunteers are needed** to census birds in a 15-mile diameter circle centered near Jug Bay, spanning from Upper Marlboro in the west to the Chesapeake Bay in the east. The circle covers parts of Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Calvert counties. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize. Contact compiler Marcia Watson ([marshwren50@comcast.net](mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net)) to be put in touch with a sector leader to receive an area assignment.

**Wednesday, January 1, 2020 - Bowie Christmas Bird Count**

**Volunteers are needed** to census birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in the vicinity of Bowie. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize. Contact compiler David Mozurkewich ([mozurk@bellAtlantic.net](mailto:mozurk@bellAtlantic.net)) to volunteer and to receive an assignment.

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**Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar**

**Saturday, November 2, 2019, 9 am to 3 pm**

**National Wildlife Visitors Center, Patuxent Research Refuge - South Tract, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD 20708-4027**



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. For details, see flyer at [https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Region\\_5/NWRS/South\\_Zone/Patuxent\\_Research\\_Refuge/2019\\_Friends\\_Bazaar.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Region_5/NWRS/South_Zone/Patuxent_Research_Refuge/2019_Friends_Bazaar.pdf), or call 301-497-5772 for more information.

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