Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Tuesday, January 12, 7:00 pm, sign in to Zoom starting at 6:45 pm
Taking Action for American Kestrels, Barn Owls and Chimney Swifts in Maryland
*Presented by Chris Eberly*

Chris Eberly, Executive Director of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP), will discuss MBCP’s new programs that focus on stabilizing and increasing the populations of American Kestrels, Barn Owls, and Chimney Swifts. These three species, along with 140 others, are identified in Maryland’s State Wildlife Action Plan as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/SWAP_home.aspx). Chris will describe how the MBCP’s initiatives will enable these birds to thrive and how you can help.

*About the presenter: Chris Eberly is Executive Director of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. A Marylander by birth, he worked in the computer industry for eleven years before returning to graduate school at the University of Georgia. After graduating with an M.S. in natural resources/ornithology, Chris coordinated the Department of Defense’s bird conservation program (DoD Partners in Flight program) for 17 years. He then served as Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Chris is excited to return to his roots to help make MBCP the leader in bird conservation in Maryland and beyond. Chris is also the current President of the Anne Arundel Bird Club and serves on the MOS Executive Committee.*

This program, sponsored by Patuxent Bird Club and PGAS, will be presented via Zoom and is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required and seats are limited. Please register no later than midnight of Sunday, January 10. To register, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_MdUL7an_T6NYuyAfCvtUng2T-t7Zb-IoGEB7G_qqig/edit?usp=sharing. Your Zoom link will be sent by email on Monday, November 9, but only if you register before then.

*Meetings continued next page*
Upcoming Virtual Meetings, continued

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 pm, sign in to Zoom starting at 6:45 pm
Habitat Restoration and Song Birds at Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park
Presented by Steve Dryden

Steve Dryden will give an overview of the Rock Creek Songbirds Project, involving habitat restoration and outreach initiatives, that he founded in 2013. The initiative got its start with funding from the National Audubon Society’s “Together Green” program, combining conservation and education in the Piney Branch section of Rock Creek National Park. A common theme of all the Songbirds Project activities is that bird migration bonds the peoples of the Western Hemisphere in a common ecological future. The Songbirds Project has resulted in the planting of more than 500 trees and installation of hundreds of wildflower and grass plants. Last year, the project expanded the wetland behind the Piney Branch parkway picnic pavilion by removing an asphalt slab that served as a basketball court before the area flooded. The 2,400 square foot space is being planted with both aquatic and upland species, with the assistance of students from the Sacred Heart Catholic School in nearby Mt. Pleasant. An earlier program was the “Songbird Journeys” exhibit, featuring film interviews with Latino residents about their recollections of birds in their home countries. Supported by the DC Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs and the DC Humanities Council, the one-room exhibit has “migrated” to schools, churches, and community venues around the city since its debut in 2016.

About the presenter: Steve Dryden is a 20-year veteran of environmental and historic preservation advocacy. Steve was media relations director of the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase, a founding board member of the Rock Creek Conservancy, and is currently executive director of the Friends of Peirce Mill, which partnered with the National Park Service to re-open that historic landmark in Rock Creek National Park. He has taught environmental science as an adjunct faculty member at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington DC, and appears regularly in other schools to give presentations on the Songbirds Project. Before moving into environmental work, Steve was a journalist specializing in trade and international economic policy.

This program, sponsored by Patuxent Bird Club and PGAS, will be presented via Zoom and is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required and seats are limited. Please register no later than midnight of Sunday, February 7. To register, go to the registration form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1YZ3EyOHl-QDgGfCuvpQQ89Q1ierr6jTUvqyCRnhFEvk/edit?usp=sharing.

Your Zoom link will be sent by email on Monday, February 8, but only if you register before then.

Virtual Meetings for Remainder of Spring 2021

Given the uncertainty of the ongoing virus situation, including the timing of the full vaccination rollout, we are continuing with virtual meetings on Zoom for the first half of 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 9, 2021</td>
<td>Dave Mozurkewich, Ross Geredien, &amp; Gabriel Foley</td>
<td>Update on the Third Breeding Bird Atlas of MD &amp; DC, at both the county and state levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13, 2021</td>
<td>Kathy Shollenberger &amp; Barry Stahl with Erin Miller of Patterson Park Audubon Center</td>
<td>Audubon at Home, a new gardening consulting service sponsored by National Audubon, promoting wildlife plantings in the home landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Dates to be announced for a special two-part series</td>
<td>Gene Scarpulla, Surprise Guest Speaker</td>
<td>Part 1: Introduction to Shorebird ID Part II: Intermediate Level Shorebird ID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 2021</td>
<td>Members Night</td>
<td>Bird and birding photos by bird club members; must be present for the virtual meeting to share your photos.</td>
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</table>
Message from the President

Happy New Year to all! I can’t remember the start to another year that has been so widely anticipated and welcomed. We are all weary of the virus pandemic, the accompanying economic distress, and the never-ending political bickering. My heart goes out to families in our area and throughout the country who have lost loved ones as well as those who have lost their livelihoods and perhaps their homes, or who don’t have enough to eat. It’s been a tough year.

Getting out to do some birding or just to enjoy some nature can offer a way to stay grounded and to focus on the bigger picture. My personal resolution for 2021 is to explore some of our parks and natural areas that I have never before visited. I have a bucket list of these that keeps growing.

Through my involvement with the MOS Birder’s Guide to Maryland & DC, I’ve developed a deep appreciation for the conservation initiatives of the State of Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources and our own Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation. Through their land acquisition programs, we have an outstanding suite of public lands that provide a wide range of habitats for birds and other wildlife. I’m grateful that we live in a county and a state that puts our tax dollars to this good use.

I hope that you too will take advantage of our many parks, refuges, natural areas, wildlife management areas, and hiker-biker trails as we move into 2021. And don’t forget: while you’re out there, take notes on bird breeding behaviors and enter some data for the Third Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and DC.

Here’s to good birding in 2021!

Patuxent Bird Club Officers and Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Marcia Watson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Fred Fallon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fwfallon@ymail.com">fwfallon@ymail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer/Memberships</td>
<td>Jane Fallon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jefallon90@yahoo.com">jefallon90@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year Directors (Term 2019-2021)</td>
<td>David Mozurkewich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net">mozurk@bellatlantic.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debi Talbott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dtalb74296@aol.com">dtalb74296@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Directors (Term 2020-2022)</td>
<td>Ken Cohen</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kvulture@aol.com">kvulture@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Matt Felperin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mfelperin@nvra.org">mfelperin@nvra.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ikumi Kayama</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ikumikayama@gmail.com">ikumikayama@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives to MOS State Board</td>
<td>Marcia Watson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ross Geredien</td>
<td><a href="mailto:goodmigrations@yahoo.com">goodmigrations@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip Coordinator</td>
<td>David Mozurkewich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net">mozurk@bellatlantic.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor &amp; Webmaster</td>
<td>Marcia Watson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall and Spring Bird Counts</td>
<td>Fred Fallon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net">mozurk@bellatlantic.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowie Christmas Bird Count</td>
<td>David Mozurkewich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mozurk@bellatlantic.net">mozurk@bellatlantic.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count</td>
<td>Marcia Watson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit us on the web at www.patuxentbirdclub.org
Fred Fallon Receives Valued Service Award

During the club’s virtual meeting on December 8, 2020, Fred Fallon was presented with the Patuxent Bird Club’s Valued Service Award. The award was conferred by the club’s Board of Directors in recognition of Fred’s many years of service to the Patuxent Bird Club and to the Maryland Ornithological Society.

Fred’s roles within the Patuxent Bird Club have been many:

- Served as President for several terms
- Now serving as Vice President, as he has for several previous terms
- Has been the one-man Nominating Committee since?
- Represented Patuxent Bird Club on the MOS Board for 20 years
- Former editor of the chapter newsletter
- Serves as a field trip leader
- Serves as Fall and Spring Count Coordinator
- Participates in Jug Bay and Bowie Christmas Bird Counts, as well as several others in MD
- Designed and drew the Patuxent Bird Club logo
- Instrumental in bringing together PBC and PGAS as partners

In addition, Fred has served the Maryland Ornithological Society at the statewide level:

- Served as MOS’s representative to Partners in Flight
- Served on the MOS Conservation Committee for 20 years
- Served on the MOS Birder’s Guide Planning Committee
- Wrote almost all the Birder’s Guide entries for Prince George’s & Calvert Counties
- Serves on the MOS Sanctuary Committee
- Led a team that conducted habitat assessments at five MOS Sanctuaries, resulting in a Habitat Management Plan published in 2001
- Chaired the MOS Convention Committee for several years
- Was a fieldworker in Prince George’s County for the First Breeding Bird Atlas
- Served as County Coordinator for the Second Breeding Bird Atlas
- Serves on the Steering Committee for the Third Breeding Bird Atlas

The Patuxent Bird Club is deeply grateful to Fred for all he does for birds and birders.
In Memoriam: Barbara Dowell

Barbara Dowell passed away on December 1st after fighting cancer for a year. Barbara held a life membership in MOS and resided in the Old Town area of Bowie. She was a dedicated atlayer and a loyal participant in the Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count for many years.

Barbara, a retired Patuxent Wildlife Research Center biologist, is best-known for her research in association with Chan Robbins. As one example, she coordinated a great deal of Chan’s field work endeavors. Barbara and Chan traveled to and banded in a number of Central American countries over several decades. And in that work, Barb always would build time in their busy schedules for the training of local folks, many of whom are today ecologists themselves and who frequently express great appreciation and admiration for Barb and Chan’s dedication.

Barbara is also known for her work with Chan and others at Belt Woods; their research revealed an unusually high density of Forest Interior Dwelling Birds in these old-growth woods, a finding that helped to save Belt Woods from development. Belt Woods, located on Church Road south of Bowie, is now managed by the state’s Department of Natural Resources as a Natural Area.

Among Barb’s closest friends and colleagues at Patuxent are Jane Fallon and Deanna Dawson, and also Jane Robbins, Chan’s daughter. Barb is survived by her husband, Daniel (“Dan”) Boone, himself a well-known naturalist and ecologist. If you wish to send messages of condolence, Dan’s email address is dan.boone@gmail.com.

A partial list of Barbara’s publications includes:


Jane Fallon and Dave Ziolkowski contributed to this article. Watch for a more complete remembrance in the Maryland Yellowthroat.
This year, Patuxent Bird Club is celebrating its 60th Anniversary, having held its first meeting on September 27, 1960. To commemorate the anniversary, we are reproducing selected reports from the newly formed club, as published in *Maryland Birdlife*. The December 1961 issue of *Birdlife* included the following list of Patuxent Bird Club members, complete with phone numbers. (Vol. 17, No. 4, pp. 114-115).

### Patuxent Bird Club

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Akey, Douglas</td>
<td>1105 Marton St., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-0888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addy, Mrs. C. E.</td>
<td>2217 Sandy Spring Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-0888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addy, Miss Christine</td>
<td>2217 Sandy Spring Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>GB4-6195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge, Mr. David</td>
<td>84 Ridge Rd., Greenbelt, Md.</td>
<td>GR4-6195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campagna, Mrs. Louis J.</td>
<td>1100 Marton St., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-6035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campagna, Louis J., Jr.</td>
<td>1100 Marton St., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-6035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campagna, Mary Ann</td>
<td>1100 Marton St., Laurel, Md.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collins, Mr. Martin R.</td>
<td>P.O. Box 307, Savage, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-4178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dupee, Miss Eugene J.</td>
<td>906 Philip Powers Drive, Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-5355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dupee, Miss Pat.</td>
<td>906 Philip Powers Drive, Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-8555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edie, James K.</td>
<td>305 4th St., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-4940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getchell, Dr. and Mrs. B. C.</td>
<td>314 Bond Mill Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-5359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Byrl</td>
<td>E112 Ingraham St., Hyattsville, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-6867</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kleen, Mr. Melvin H.</td>
<td>339 Talbott Ave., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-6867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kleen, Mr. Vernon</td>
<td>339 Talbott Ave., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-6867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libby, Kenneth R., Jr.</td>
<td>4401 Tonquill Pl., Silver Spring, Md.</td>
<td>GR6-6054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lochastumphor, Miss Carrie</td>
<td>1501 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-6719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meanley, Mr. Brooke</td>
<td>199 Bond Mill Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>APY-3605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newman, Bruce</td>
<td>4219 28th St., Mt. Rainier, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-3605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North, Mrs. Mary B.</td>
<td>Highland, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-0165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriel, Margaret</td>
<td>981 Wildwood Rd., Bethesda, Md.</td>
<td>WA9-6055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riedel, Mrs. William H.</td>
<td>981 Wildwood Rd., Bethesda, Md.</td>
<td>WA9-6055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbins, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler S.</td>
<td>1409 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-1175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbins, George C.</td>
<td>1409 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
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<td>Robbins, Jane S.</td>
<td>1409 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-1175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robbins, Stuart E.</td>
<td>1409 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-1175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sparkes, Mrs. Adele S.</td>
<td>919 7th St., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-0899</td>
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<td>Stiles, Ted</td>
<td>8000 Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-4395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vartuli, Mrs. George H.</td>
<td>807 5th St., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>DA5-0447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson, Mr. Charles K.</td>
<td>801 Bond Mill Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-1414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson, Charles K., Jr.</td>
<td>801 Bond Mill Rd., Laurel, Md.</td>
<td>PA5-1414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:** The asterisk by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Chandler S. Robbins indicates that they were Life Members. The President of the Patuxent Bird Club at this time was Melvin H. Kleen, who served as a representative to the MOS Board of Trustees, along with David Bridge. David Bridge is still an active member of MOS, although he now lives in Virginia. Jane Robbins also continues as a member of PBC and MOS and is now a Life Member.

Another notable early member was the late Brooke Meanley (1915-2007), who was employed as a biologist at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center from 1957 through 1977. Meanley was a prolific author of scientific studies and also was renowned as a nature photographer. His photos often graced the covers of *Maryland Birdlife*. Much of his work centered on birds of the marshlands, and locally he is especially remembered for his monographs *Birds and Marshes of the Chesapeake Bay Country* (1975) and *The Patuxent River Wild Rice Marsh* (1992). For more on Brooke Meanley, see the remembrance authored by Dr. Matthew C. Perry (January 2008, *The Auk* 125(1):235-237).
MOS Convention Going Virtual

As previously announced, a virtual MOS Convention is being planned for June 11-13, 2021. Activities will be built around the theme of “The Breeding Birds of Maryland.” There will be ties to the Atlas, and we will have self-organized field trips taking place all over Maryland, with prizes for various accomplishments (e.g., most new Atlas confirmations in a block). We’ll have on-line seminars, and of course a keynote speaker. Planning has begun, but plans are still very much embryonic. What we are looking for now are volunteers to help us organize the convention and to make it happen. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- IT Platform
- Social Media
- Photo Contest
- Pin Contest
- Sponsors
- Online registration and email lists
- Organizing scientific poster sessions
- Tally Rally

Most importantly, the Planning Committee is looking for help and advice with the IT infrastructure needed to host this virtual convention, so if you have IT experience, your help would be invaluable. If interested in helping with IT or any of the areas listed above, please contact Convention Chair Meg Harris (mctharris@gmail.com).

MOS Convention Pin Design Contest – Now Open for Entries

Even though the MOS Convention will be virtual this year, the traditional pin design contest will still be held, with all registered attendees receiving a pin by mail. The theme for this convention will be the Breeding Birds of Maryland, and the bird depicted in artwork for the pin contest must be one of the birds that breed in all counties in the state. There are 96 such species! (Who knew?) The list of the bird species that meet this requirement is on the MOS website along with the complete set of rules. The deadline for the submission of entries for the pin design competition is March 15th, 2021.

MOS Names New Maryland Yellowthroat Editor and Committee Chairs

- Maryland Yellowthroat Editor: David Wood
- Budget: Ron Ketter
- Sanctuaries: Wayne Gordon

Virtual Meetings Hosted by MOS Chapters

As previously announced, most of the MOS chapters throughout the state have opened their virtual meetings to members of other chapters. This brings the roster of speakers to a much wider audience and allows interaction among members throughout the state. The MOS chapter presidents have worked hard, as a group, to make it possible to open their meetings. None of the chapters charge a fee to participate in a meeting but most require pre-registration in order to manage the seats available. You can easily find a list of the upcoming virtual MOS chapter meetings by going to https://mdbirds.org/calendar/list/?tribe_paged=1&tribe_event_display=list&tribe-bar-date=2020-12-30&tribe-bar-search=Meeting

And, two of the MOS chapters, Anne Arundel and Howard, have started their own YouTube channels where you can view recorded videos of past chapter meetings. There are also YouTube channels for two of the regional Audubon societies and for a number of other nature-related organizations. There is even a YouTube channel featuring short video visits to some of the MOS Sanctuaries. Use the links below to access the channels.

| Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVs9A14JMYUtQk6sn641zg |
| Anne Arundel Bird Club | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn380JTb07SjWgDx52RHzKx |
| Audubon Society of Central MD | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJLCm3S3q1LcPnVj77hebQ |
| Forests for the Bay | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCq0QnNhmtEpkLXyPiaxug |
| Howard Bird Club | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnYioPT9nwGkDg7pLyv76g |
| MD Dept of Natural Resources | https://www.youtube.com/user/AccessDNR |
| MD Native Plant Society | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCa0b9g3ziyD-Sj51z0Q |
| MOS Sanctuaries | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCskelqg9-taqgblb6G_NW8g/videos |
| Natural History Society of MD | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEx9yS4qXe516s3xIWy |
| Southern MD Audubon Society | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqMaLrWrpzF0cXZeKhVKnhg |
Requests for Information

Seeking Advice on Protecting Nest Boxes from Snakes
A local birder who is maintaining bluebird nest boxes at White’s Landing on the Patuxent River is seeking information regarding predator guards that will effectively exclude snakes. She has tried commercially available guards but they do not work. If you have experience in devising guards to keep snakes out of bluebird nest boxes and could offer advice, please drop a note to Marcia Watson at marshwren50@comcast.net and Marcia will put you in touch with the birder.

Seeking Bald Eagle Nest Locations
Chris Eberly, Executive Director of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, writes that the Maryland Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program has fewer than 25% of the estimated Bald Eagle nests in their database. Now that leaves are off the trees, please be on the lookout for eagle nests and, more importantly, report those nests to the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership. Nests can be reported at https://marylandbirds.org/report-bald-eagle-nest. If this is a new nest for the database, the person reporting the nest can opt to volunteer as a nest monitor for that nest.

We need to continue monitoring eagles to track productivity and to be an early warning system in the event of future environmental impacts. Thank you for your help in identifying Bald Eagle nests in Maryland! For more information, see www.marylandbirds.org or www.facebook.com/MarylandBCP.

Conservation Update:
U.S. Treasury Department to Build Facility at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

In a project that has mostly stayed out of the public eye, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has announced plans to build a new facility for printing paper money on a 100-acre tract within the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility will replace an aging facility in downtown Washington, D.C.

This project has raised great concern among birders familiar with BARC, which is now the #1 eBird hotspot in Prince George’s County, with a total of 239 bird species reported. Although BARC is not open to the public for birding, a small team of birders have been monitoring birds at BARC since 2013, as part of an ongoing research project authorized by BARC. In addition, limited birding from public roadways is available at BARC.

Detailed information about the Treasury Department project is available in a PowerPoint presentation provided by the Treasury Department for a public webinar that took place on December 2, 2020; the PowerPoint slides can be viewed here. According to the presentation, the new facility will be approximately 1 million square feet in size and would employ 1,600 people, working in shifts. The facility will house manufacturing, warehouse, storage, security, and administrative functions and will be located on Poultry Road within BARC, an area that is no longer being actively used for BARC research. A new entrance road would be built off Powder Mill Road, and the entire facility would be fenced and gated for security.

The site currently includes a number of unused buildings scattered among open fields and woodlands that provide good habitat for birds, including a colony of Red-headed Woodpeckers. The site is notable for hosting the first bluebird nestbox trail developed by the late Larry Zeleny, a former MOS president who is widely credited with being the father of the bluebird restoration movement in this country.
The satellite image below left shows the current appearance of the site, while the image below right shows the footprint of the planned Treasury facility. (Source: PowerPoint slides provided by the Department of the Treasury for December 2, 2020 public webinar).

The required Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project was released to the public on November 6, 2020, but we were unaware of it at the time. Public comments were due on December 21, 2020. In response to the call for comments, the small team of birders who have been surveying birds at BARC worked with the MOS Conservation Committee to draft a formal response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Some members of the BARC bird survey group also submitted individual comments.

Concerns cited by the MOS Conservation Committee include the following:

- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not fully take into account the diversity of bird species that would be impacted by the project, stating that only 12 species of migrant birds use the site. In fact, 170 species have been documented at Poultry Road and adjacent areas.
- The project will result in both loss of habitat as well as fragmentation of habitat, cutting off connections between habitats located east and west of the site.
- The Treasury Department facility will impact water quality and flow in Beaverdam Creek, a tributary of the Anacostia River in the Potomac Watershed, with an estimated 60% increase in effluent discharge into the creek.
- The site is unsuitable for what will be a large industrial facility. BARC is part of the last large, relatively undisturbed area of open space and habitat between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Recognizing its importance, as a green buffer, the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission has designated BARC in its Green Infrastructure as a “Special Conservation Area.” The Green Infrastructure designation in part is due to the fact that “This complex has vast areas of open space providing ecological hubs and wildlife corridors. The site also contains a wide variety of habitats that provides extensive research opportunities. Its placement in the green infrastructure network’s evaluation area emphasizes that any future land use of the area should be carefully considered.”

In short, the project will have impacts far beyond the 100 acres of BARC that are targeted for the facility. Although the period for public comment on this project has passed, please stay tuned for further updates and developments as the project moves forward.
Conservation Update: Bowie Race Track

Patuxent Bird Club members will recall that last year, state legislators became involved in determining the future of the Bowie Race Track site on Race Track Road. See the article on page 6 of the January-February 2020 issue of the Patuxent Bird Club newsletter for a refresher on the issue. The legislators brokered a complex deal that transferred most of the land to the City of Bowie to be used for active recreation, but, thanks to our efforts to ensure that critical habitat for birds would be preserved, a 100-foot buffer adjacent to the Patuxent River was set aside for passive recreation only (this includes birdwatching and similar activities).

Recently Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith, who represents the Bowie area in the General Assembly, sent constituents an email with an update on the Bowie Race Track issue, and we are providing the text of her email here for your information. On December 7, 2020, Delegate Valentino-Smith wrote:

The City website just recently noted that there is a vote tonight, Monday, December 7, 2020 at the Bowie City Council meeting regarding the Joint Use Agreement between the City of Bowie and Bowie State University (BSU) regarding the Bowie Race Track Property. Earlier this year during the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session the District 23 Team advanced legislation regarding the property and as part of that legislation the City was required to draft a Joint Use Agreement with BSU about a shared use agreement regarding the property. The City of Bowie has retained ownership of the property.

I encourage you to review the Joint Use Agreement which will be voted on by the Bowie City Council tonight. It is broad in scope and was drafted to meet the deadline set forth in SB 987-Racing and Community Development Act of 2020.

City Councilman Michael Esteve has stated that the concrete parts of the agreement as far as use and improvements include:

Property Use
- No housing of any kind; recreation only;
- The city will support a Bowie State University ROTC fitness course (plans yet to be approved);
- Four track and field events a year (no agreement yet about what and where);
- The City and BSU will work out a system where the city approves use of facilities.

Improvements
- The City has input on all improvements to the property;
- BSU pays for improvements city agrees to;
- The ONLY improvement BSU can own and operate at this time is the ROTC fitness course.

Other details are still pending and a city task force is being created to address many of the details of the agreement. If you have any comments or questions, they must be directed to the City Council, I have noted the contact information below for the Mayor and Bowie City Council members. The City Meeting Agenda can be found here and tonight’s vote is listed under the Consent Agenda Item D Adoption of Resolution R-87-20 Approving a Joint Use Agreement with Bowie State University Regarding the Bowie Racetrack Property. If you wish to speak or comment, you must follow the directions on the city’s website on how to sign up to register a comment. You can view the Bowie City Council meeting by clicking here.
Proposed High Speed Train Threatens Habitat at Patuxent Research Refuge and Other Federal Lands

By Marcia Watson

A version of this article appears in the Winter issue of the Friends of Patuxent Newsletter.
The version below was updated on 1/11/21.

As previously reported in the Patuxent Bird Club newsletter (Nov-Dec 2017), a private company is planning to build an ultra-high-speed train (reaching over 300 mph) to carry passengers between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The train is advertised to make the trip in about 15 minutes. What you may not know is that the proposed train route would slice through the edge of Patuxent Research Refuge, and that the train’s infrastructure will destroy fragile habitats that the Refuge was designed to protect.

The project is known as the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting MAGLEV Project, or SCMAGLEV or MAGLEV for short. “MAGLEV” is an acronym for “Magnetic Levitation;” the train would operate by hovering above metal tracks using a levitation system powered by magnets.

Only three passenger stations would be built: in downtown Baltimore, in downtown Washington D.C., and at BWI Airport. There would be no local stops: this would not be a train to serve local commuters or communities. Eventually, the train line would be extended to Boston and New York.

The proposed SCMAGLEV train would be operated in the United States under a private company, and part of the funding would be provided by the Japanese company that operates the existing “Bullet Train” in Japan. However, the SCMAGLEV technology is NOT the same as that used by the Bullet Train; the SCMAGLEV technology is new and there is only a 27-mile section of test track in existence using this new technology. The test track is located near Osaka, Japan. That section is to be expanded to provide commercial service starting in 2027 from Tokyo to Nagoya City and in 2037 for the Tokyo to Osaka. Currently the Osaka project is experiencing financial difficulties. In other words, the proposed project here is relying on technology that is unproven, both in terms of its technical feasibility, its environmental impacts, and its commercial viability.

A definite route has not yet been chosen for the train. When the SCMAGLEV project was first announced in 2017, there were a large number of possible routes that the train might take between Baltimore and D.C. Since that time, the possibilities have been narrowed to just two possible routes, one running along the west side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD 295), and one running along the east side of the Parkway. (Note that portions of the official project website still – confusingly – refer to the routes that have been discarded.) The proposed route along the eastern side of the Parkway goes through the Refuge’s North Tract, impacting the trail system there. Much of the Baltimore to D.C. route would run underground through deep tunnels, but the part running through and past Patuxent Research Refuge would be above ground. There is also a theoretical “No Build” option that has been included in project planning as a logical alternative.

The huge extent of the project makes it difficult to adequately describe its wide-reaching impacts. This article is focusing on impacts to ecosystems and habitat at Patuxent Research Refuge and other federal facilities and public lands. For a full discussion of the impacts on human communities, including environmental justice issues, see the Stop This Train website at https://www.stopthistrain.org/.
The proposed train route and its associated structures would require use of federal lands including pieces of Patuxent Research Refuge (both North and South Tracts), the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (operated as a scenic parkway by the National Park Service), and lands of other agencies. In addition, county parks and open spaces operated by the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), by Anne Arundel County Parks and Recreation, and by towns such as Greenbelt and Maryland City would be impacted, for example, Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Northway Fields Park/North Woods in Greenbelt, and Maryland City Park.

The project would involve the construction not only of rails (known in SCMAGLEV parlance as guideways), but also of underground tunnels, tunnel exits, air shafts, emergency exits, a maintenance yard, and associated service structures, parking lots, entry ramps, and roads. The maintenance yard, where trains will undergo routine service, washing, and repairs, would be very large, about 200 acres.

As shown in the map at right, currently there are three possible sites for the 200-acre maintenance yard, only one of which would be built:

1. On the north side of MD Route 198, east of the interchange with the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. This yard would be sited primarily on land owned by the U.S. Government adjacent to the northwest corner of the North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge. This parcel houses the Maya Angelou Academy at New Beginnings and the Maryland Job Corps’ Woodland Job Corps Center. The supporting roads and other infrastructure would use Patuxent Research Refuge land, as would the track alignment on the east side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The yard, as drawn on the SCMAGLEV maps, extends across the Little Patuxent River.

2. Along Springfield Road south of Powder Mill Road. This yard would use the old airstrip at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and would overlie Beaverdam Creek, which is part of the Anacostia-Potomac watershed. The yard would extend into South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge, coming within 1500 yards of the National Wildlife Visitor Center and within 450 yards of the entrance drive. New roads accessing the facility would be built across BARC lands west of Springfield Road.

3. Along the west side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, extending from Powder Mill Road north to Odell Road. This facility would be built on BARC and other USDA lands.

This large maintenance yard would consist entirely of an unbroken swath of pavement, metal, and gravel. There would be no habitat supporting any type of wildlife. The appearance will likely be similar to that shown in the photo at left of a maintenance yard for the Bullet Train in Japan.

Maintenance yard for the Bullet Train in Japan. Photo from Wikipedia.
Currently, Patuxent Research Refuge, BARC, and other adjacent federal lands occupy over 20,000 acres and constitute the largest block of undeveloped land in the Baltimore-Washington corridor. Numerous research studies have established that fragmentation of habitat by roads and buildings reduces nesting success of breeding birds, and disrupts migration and dispersal corridors used by terrestrial mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

The green spaces in the Patuxent Research Refuge vicinity provide ecosystem services that directly benefit the health of the environment and of humans. These services include carbon monoxide removal, nitrogen dioxide removal, sulfur dioxide removal, ozone removal, particulate matter removal, carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge, nitrogen uptake, stormwater mitigation, and surface water protection. According to analyses that are publically available through the Maryland Department of Natural Resource’s GreenPrint mapping service (https://geodata.md.gov/greenprint/), the monetary value of the ecosystem services provided by the lands at Patuxent Research Refuge and BARC is far in excess of $35 million dollars per year. Note that there is no way to mitigate the loss of these services, as there is no other green space of comparable size in the region.

The lands that would be impacted by the train maintenance yard and other supporting structures contain habitats rare for our region, such as sand barrens and bogs. Patuxent Research Refuge and BARC are studded with freshwater wetlands that protect the water quality of the Little Patuxent and Patuxent Rivers. These habitats support native plants that are rare for our region, along with unique insect and wildlife communities that depend on them. Every one of the three possible sites for the train maintenance yards would impact such habitats. The proposed placement of these maintenance yards could not be worse from an environmental perspective. It is not known why the project leadership has not instead planned for use of available industrial-zoned spaces in Baltimore or Washington.

The impacts of the SCMAGLEV project on habitats at Patuxent Research Refuge and BARC were extensively reviewed by biologist Sam Droege in a presentation hosted by the Maryland Native Plant Society on October 27, 2020. A recorded session of Droege’s presentation is available courtesy of the Native Plant Society at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCXM3FiXoY8. In addition, a more detailed written description of the impacts to habitat at Patuxent Research Refuge and at BARC is provided on the Stop This Train website at https://www.stopthistrain.org/biological-and-ecological-concerns.

Given the unproven nature of the SCMAGLEV technology, there are many unanswered questions about other possible ecological and environmental impacts of the project, including

- Impacts of runoff of chemicals used in train washing and maintenance on water quality of streams and rivers;
- Disruption of underground aquifers by the tunneling process;
- Effects of magnetic fields on wildlife and on humans: it is known that some bird species rely on the earth’s magnetic fields for navigation during migration, and the effects of the train’s magnetic fields have simply not been studied.

Significantly, the proposed taking of federal lands for use by a private, for-profit company is apparently unprecedented. It is unclear what process would be needed to authorize such a taking, but it likely would require an act of Congress.

The SCMAGLEV project is receiving support from some business and political leaders in Baltimore and Washington, DC. However, a large number of community groups are opposed to the project, citing the negative impacts on their communities in the absence of any benefits to local citizens. These citizen groups question the economic benefits cited by the train project. Moreover, the economic projections for the train have not been revised to account for the massive changes in commuter use of roadways and public transit in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the website https://stopthistrain.org/ or the Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/groups/CitizensAgainstSCMaglev/ for further details of the impacts on human communities.

Currently, the project is moving through the federally-mandated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process which requires preparation and public review of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). A version of that statement was recently delivered to agencies whose lands will be directly impacted by the project, including Patuxent Research Refuge, and such agencies had the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

A revised version of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public review, with a 45-day public comment period from January 15, 2021 through March 1, 2021. Members of the Patuxent Bird Club will receive an email from the bird club when the DEIS becomes available, with information on how to access the document and how to provide
comments. We hope that Patuxent Bird Club members will take the opportunity to become involved in the process and make their concerns known.

Here are some steps you can take prior to and during the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

1. **Sign an online petition** against SCMAGLEV at [https://www.change.org/p/larry-hogan-stop-the-train-support-the-no-build-alternative](https://www.change.org/p/larry-hogan-stop-the-train-support-the-no-build-alternative). The petition is sponsored by a citizens’ group in Greenbelt.

2. **Study the information available** at the official project website [http://www.bwmaglev.info/](http://www.bwmaglev.info/) and especially the interactive project map at [https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/3126ba14ebf54d3887e95f257ca5d054](https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/3126ba14ebf54d3887e95f257ca5d054). Note that at the top right of the interactive map, there are two tiny icons that allow the user to change the layers shown in the map as well as the base map, so that you can better visualize different aspects of the project. Also note that if you click on any color-shaded overlay that shows a component of the project, a small pop-up window will appear near the upper left of the map, identifying that component.

3. **Also study the materials available** at the website [https://stopthistrain.org/](https://stopthistrain.org/) or the Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/groups/CitizensAgainstSCMaglev/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CitizensAgainstSCMaglev/). Note the following sections of the website:
   a. “About the MAGLEV” ([https://www.stopthistrain.org/about](https://www.stopthistrain.org/about)) contains background about the project and about Citizens against SCMAGLEV.
   b. The page at [https://www.stopthistrain.org/questions](https://www.stopthistrain.org/questions) shows a list of unanswered questions and concerns, including discussion of the impacts on human communities.
   c. The page [https://www.stopthistrain.org/biological-and-ecological-concerns](https://www.stopthistrain.org/biological-and-ecological-concerns) goes into more depth than this article on the ecological concerns surrounding the project.
   d. A page with contact information for elected officials and government agencies is at [https://www.stopthistrain.org/take-action](https://www.stopthistrain.org/take-action).
   e. A wide variety of resources for citizens are at [https://www.stopthistrain.org/downloads-and-resources](https://www.stopthistrain.org/downloads-and-resources). This page includes downloadable documents on how to prepare comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

4. Please **contact your local legislators** (town, county, state) with your questions, comments, and concerns.

5. It is also important to **submit your comments** to the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) official project website by email, letter, or web form, using instructions at [bwmaglev.info/index.php/contact-us](http://bwmaglev.info/index.php/contact-us).

6. We believe it will be of prime importance to **contact your representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.** It is likely that an act of Congress will be needed to authorize the taking of federal lands for this private project. Your elected representatives in Congress can be reached using contact information available at [https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/39fed/06ushse/html/rep.html#rep](https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/39fed/06ushse/html/rep.html#rep) and [https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/39fed/05ussen/html/rep.html](https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/39fed/05ussen/html/rep.html).

We hope that members of the Patuxent Bird Club will step up to protect the Refuge that we all cherish. It is irreplaceable.

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**WEAR A MASK - It's the Law**

- When you go for a walk
- When you’re chatting with a neighbor
- In line outside the grocery store
- When you’re pumping gas
- On public transport
- Indoors at businesses, stores, and public spaces

...and in just about every other indoor and outdoor setting

**The bottom line is masks are required anytime you leave your home.**

*Exceptions during vigorous exercise outdoors and for children under 2 (recommended for ages 6-11)*

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**Birders’ Tip:** Use a safety pin or other fastener to clip one of the ear loops of your mask to your hat or your coat collar. This will enable you to remove your mask when birding, maybe for a sip of water, without dropping the mask. It’s an easy way to keep your mask handy, yet allow for quick put-ons and take-offs.
Western Grebes Makes Waves in Loch Raven

Photos by Matt Felperin, Text by Marcia Watson

The hottest birding news in Maryland has been the recent appearance of two “Western-type” Grebes in Loch Raven in Baltimore County. Although not in our county, these birds have engendered so much excitement and discussion that it would be remiss not to mention them.

The birds were first sighted by Alina Martin and Johnnie Ramos from the bridge on Dulaney Valley Road on December 3, 2020. One bird was clearly a male Western Grebe, but there was quite a bit of speculation about the identity of the second bird. Most observers agreed it was a female and that it was in non-breeding plumage, but identified it variously as a Clark’s Grebe, a Western Grebe, or a hybrid Clark’s/Western.

The uncertainty about the identity of the second bird is related to a lack of clear, easily accessible field identification tips in the literature. Clark’s Grebe and Western Grebe were initially considered to be color morphs of a single species. However, they were separated by the American Ornithologists’ Union in 1985 after a number of research studies found little interbreeding. Although the slit to separate species occurred 35 years ago, it is still difficult to find authoritative descriptions to enable separation of the two species in the field.

In the case of the Loch Raven birds, after much debate on the MDBirds Google Group, various Facebook pages, and other media, most observers now believe that the birds are a male and female Western Grebe.

Interestingly, a Western Grebe was sighted near the Dulaney Valley Road bridge at Loch Raven in the winter of 1984/85. The earlier Loch Raven bird is one of only seven accepted records for Maryland. There are no accepted records of Clark’s Grebe in Maryland, which is what makes the stakes so high in the identification of the female bird.

Western Grebes are usually found west of the Mississippi, as shown on this map from Cornell’s All About Birds website. The range of Clark’s Grebe (not shown) is similar but not quite as extensive.

Matt Felperin, one of our Patuxent Bird Club board members, has observed the birds and provided the photos included here. Matt also obtained excellent video footage of the birds and posted his video here. Matt’s voiceover on the video includes a careful analysis of the bird’s field marks and identification. Take a look at Matt’s video and if you haven’t already seen the birds, you might want to take a run up to Loch Raven to see them for yourself. As of this writing (January 1), they are still present.

For directions and background information on Loch Raven, see the Loch Raven Reservoir description on the MOS Birder’s Guide to Maryland & DC website.
News from the ‘Hood
January - February 2021

Notable Bird Sightings in Prince George’s County
November through December, 2020

See a selection of photos on the next page.

November and December brought a spate of rare migrants and winter visitors to our county.

Michel Cavigelli photographed 4 Greater White-fronted Geese at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on December 14th. These birds also showed up at Lake Artemesia on December 15th (Eric R) and spent a few days in the area, moving from one spot to another. At least two were still present for the Bowie Christmas Bird Count on January 1.

Snow Geese are hard to find in our county; Michel Cavigelli photographed one at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on November 26th, and Jeff Shenot and Marcia Watson each saw one (possibly the same bird) during the Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count along the Patuxent River on December 20th.

There was a brief sighting of a Long-tailed Duck near the Wilson Bridge over the Potomac (Marisa Rositol, 11/12/20). Another was at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on December 20th and stayed for a few days (Michel Cavigelli).

A Black Scoter was on Piscataway Creek, visible from Wharf Road and from North Piscataway Park, on November 20th (Marisa Rositol). Little gaggles of Surf Scoters – a duck of salt water – showed up at two locations in mid-November: in Piscataway Creek off the Fort Washington Marina, where they are expected, and at a most unexpected spot: Cash Lake in South Tract at Patuxent Research Refuge on November 13th.

November 13th was a busy day. Along with the aforementioned Surf Scoters, there was also a Red-necked Grebe at Cash Lake on November 13th (Christina Yuan). On that same date, Anna Sewell spotted a flock of 12 Sandhill Cranes flying over Piscataway Park. And also on that date, Jeff Shenot was at his house watching gulls on the Patuxent when a group of 23 Dunlin flew through his scope view. While Dunlin are not unusual during migration, this was a late date for them at this inland location. And on that same day, Jeff got his long-awaited Evening Grosbeak at home, and managed to get some good photos.

A Golden Eagle was spotted at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center by Gail Mackiernan on November 22.

The Short-eared Owl show has been ongoing at Konterra Fields since November 4th. Usually two or three birds are being seen, and usually there are Northern Harriers present as well. Konterra Fields is private property and entry on your own is strictly prohibited, but Jay Sheppard has permission from the owner to lead field trips to see the owls. If interested in getting on the mailing list for Jay’s field trips, email a request to Jay Sheppard at jaymsheppard95@gmail.com. Mention that you’re with Patuxent Bird Club.

A very good bird for our county was an Ash-throated Flycatcher along the Anacostia River Trail in Bladensburg, found by Jon Boone on December 19th. It was seen by many on the 19th and 20th before moving on.

An Evening Grosbeak sighting by Jeff Shenot was mentioned above. Other Evening Grosbeak reports have been widely scattered across the county, mostly in November: one at a home in Berwyn Heights on November 1st (Jack Saba); one each on November 1st and December 3rd at a home near Good Luck Road (Hans Holbrook); one in Old Town Bowie on November 1st (Joanne Wood); an amazing flock of 24 to 55 birds at a private home on Old Chapel Drive in Bowie on November 1st (Marisa Rositol, Jeff Shenot); one at Colmar Manor Park on November 1st (Benjamin Proshok); one at a private residence in South Laurel on November 4th (Jason Mottern); three on Lottsford Road on November 17th (Mike Burke); one at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center on November 29th (Hans Holbrook); three at a farm near Brown Station Road on November 29th (Dan Rauch); two at Piscataway Park on December 9th (Bill Townsend); and a flock of twelve flying over Fort Washington National Park on December 25th (Marisa Rositol).

Although Common Redpolls are one of the boreal finches expected during a winter irruption like we’re having this year, sightings have been scarce from our county. One was seen and photographed at Beltsville Agricultural Research Center by Michel Cavigelli on November 21st, but could not be re-found by others. Another bird was reported from Watkins Regional Park on December 22 (Gabriel Evans).

Two Lapland Longspurs were found by Jeff Shenot at Selby’s Landing in Patuxent River Park during the Jug Bay Christmas Count on December 20th. Dan Rauch found and photographed a Clay-colored Sparrow at his farm off Brown Station Road on November 21.

An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Lake Artemesia on December 16th (Matt Cohen). Another has been lingering along the Anacostia River Trail in Bladensburg since December 20th (Clare Wayner and Jojo Baidoo, et al.).
Notable Birds in Photos

Greater White-fronted Geese, photo by Eric R, Lake Artemesia, 12/14/20, Macaulay Library ML288293931

Snow Goose, photo by Michel Cavigelli, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, 11/26/20, Macaulay Library ML291947981

Surf Scoter, photo by Kevin Bennett, Patuxent Research Refuge – South Tract, 11/13/20, Macaulay Library ML279641361

Long-tailed Duck, photo by Michel Cavigelli, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, 12/25/20, Macaulay Library ML291921271

Ash-throated Flycatcher, photo by Marisa Rositol, Anacostia River Trail, 12/19/20, Macaulay Library ML289382891

Evening Grosbeak, photo by Jeff Shenot, Private Residence, 11/13/20, Macaulay Library ML279762801

Evening Grosbeak Flock, photo by Jeff Shenot, Bowie Old Chapel Road, 11/13/20, Macaulay Library ML279394341

Common Redpoll, photo by Michel Cavigelli, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, 11/21/20, Macaulay Library 281743541

Clay-colored Sparrow, photo by Dan Rauch, Oxon Hill Farm, 11/21/20, Macaulay Library ML282231781

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. Concerned 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.
MOS/Patuxent Bird Club
Membership Application

REQUEST TO ALL CURRENT AND NEW MEMBERS: If at all possible, please join or renew your membership online at the MOS website (https://mdbirds.org/), even if you haven’t done so in the past. This will streamline our database maintenance and bookkeeping procedures, and make things easier for our volunteer workforce. At the website, you will be able to choose the Patuxent Bird Club as your local chapter for membership registration and dues payment - and also make charitable donations to the Patuxent Bird Club or to MOS. If, however, you prefer to remit your membership dues by check, please print and complete this form and mail it with your check to the address below. Thank you for your assistance!

Name(s): __________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________

City: ________________  State: __________  Zip code: __________

Phone(s): __________________________________________

E-Mail Address(es): ___________________________________

Full dues include Chapter and MOS State membership, and subscriptions to Maryland Yellowthroat, Maryland Birdlife, and the Patuxent Bird Club Newsletter. (The Patuxent Bird Club newsletter will be sent by email unless US mail requested). Dues are tax-deductible; see note below.

Choose Membership category:

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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 ____________

Please make check payable to Maryland Ornithological Society and mail this completed application to:

Carol S. Daugherty, MOS Treasurer
11925 Oden Court
Rockville, MD 20852

“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.”

THANK YOU AND HAPPY BIRDING!