



News from the Hood Patuxent Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

www.patuxentbirdclub.org

November-December 2021

Upcoming Virtual Meetings

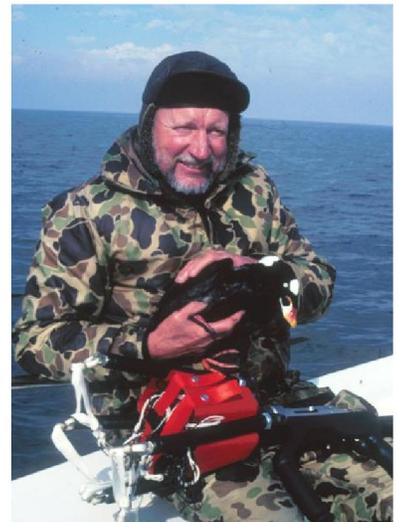
Tuesday, November 9, 7:30 pm

Sign in to Zoom at 7:00 pm for informal social time before speaker

Chesapeake Bay Waterfowl: Exploring and Solving Mysteries

Presented by Dr. Matthew C. Perry

Dr. Perry will review the history of waterfowl in the Chesapeake Bay from the time of Captain John Smith to the present-day as they compete with humans for optimum habitat. He will discuss Chesapeake Bay studies of the Canvasback, known as the King of the Bay, and latest tracking studies of seaducks using satellite telemetry. Matt will also explore how species such as Mute Swans, Canada Geese, and Snow Geese are destroying habitat for other waterfowl species.



About the presenter: Dr. Matthew C. Perry is a Scientist Emeritus at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (recently renamed the [Eastern Ecological Science Center](#)). Dr. Perry's love of birds was a constant throughout his life and resulted in him choosing to major in wildlife management at the University of Rhode Island. He later earned an MS in wildlife management from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and a PhD in avian science from the University of Maryland. He served as an officer in the US Navy during the mid-1960s and spent many hours cruising off the coast of South Vietnam. Matt worked at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, where he conducted numerous research studies mainly in waterfowl nutrition, Chesapeake Bay ecology, and in the management, restoration, and creation of wildlife habitat. His last official research projects dealt with a study of seaducks in the Atlantic Flyway, which included a nutrition study of captive ducks and a satellite telemetry tracking study with wild ducks. Matt retired after 45 years with the Federal government, but as an emeritus scientist continues to publish research articles and recently completed a research project in Argentina dealing with satellite telemetry of ducks. Matt is a long-time member of the Patuxent Bird Club and a founding member of Prince George's Audubon Society.

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, November 7. To register, go to the registration form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1D1kKwDND6AsMpGy_SdxkZXII5y_9zh6s8tzPdihOyKU/edit?usp=sharing. Your Zoom link will be sent by email on Monday, November 8, but only if you register before then.

Meetings continued next page

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Upcoming Virtual Meetings, continued

Tuesday, December 14, 7:30 pm

**Sign in to Zoom at 7:00 pm for informal social time before film
Annual Holiday Film Night**

Featuring “Bird of Prey,” a film by Cornell Lab of Ornithology



The feature-length film “Bird of Prey” explores the vanishing world of the Great Philippine Eagle and reveals the people determined to save it. The film follows Emmy award-winning wildlife cinematographer, Neil Rettig, as he embarks on the most challenging assignment of his career: to find and film the rarest eagle on the planet. The footage weaves a remarkable story of the world's rarest eagle species and the heroic individuals working tirelessly to save it. Since its release in 2018, Bird of Prey, has screened to countless audiences around the world and throughout the Philippines where the film has become an invaluable tool for raising awareness and support for conservation of the critically endangered Philippine Eagle.

The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) is a private non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the critically endangered Philippine Eagle, preserving its rainforest habitat, and working with the communities that share its home. In addition to scientific research, public education, and culture-based conservation, they operate the only breeding and rehabilitation facility for the species in the world — the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC) in Davao City.

In conjunction with our screening of the film, the Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George’s Audubon Society will be making a small donation to support the work of the Philippine Eagle Foundation. To learn more about Philippine Eagles and how you can help support the eagles, visit: <https://www.philippineeaglefoundation.org>.

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, December 12. To register, go to the registration form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ZBUg-sdY3bpl_XNaZuylwNUH9g9xEG0y-AKB2wuKPVE/edit?usp=sharing. Your Zoom link will be sent by email on Monday, December 13, but only if you register before then.

Meeting Schedule for Remainder of the Club Year

We do not yet know when we will be able to return to in-person meetings.

The leadership of Patuxent Bird Club and Prince George’s Audubon is continuing to monitor the situation.

An announcement will be made by email when we’re ready to go back to in-person meetings.

January 11	Dr. Sahas Barve, evolutionary ecologist and ornithologist, Peter Buck Fellow, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History	Birds and Cold Weather Adaptation
February 8	Jim McCann, State Zoologist, MD Department of Natural Resources	Dragonflies & Damselflies of Maryland
March 8	Ana Maria Castaño Rivas, Deputy Director of Conservation, Parque de la Conservación, Colombia; also, one of the coordinators of Global Big Day in Colombia	The Global Big Day Experience in Colombia
April 12	Dan Small, Natural Lands Project Coordinator at Washington College in Chestertown, MD	Natural Lands Project at Washington College’s River and Fields Campus (formerly Chino Farms)
May 10	Paul Baicich, nationally known birder, prolific author, consultant for the NWR System, and editor of the Birding Community E-bulletin	Access Matters: Why Birders Should Care
June 14	Members’ Night	Members share their photos of birds and birding

Upcoming Bird Walks and Bird Counts

Click on blue underlined titles to go to a description of each place.

- [Fran Uhler Natural Area](#) – first Saturday of each month: **November 6, December 4, January 1, February 5**. Leader: Bill Sefton. Meet at the parking area off Lemons Bridge Road north of Bowie State University at **7:30 am**.
- [Governor Bridge Natural Area](#) – third Saturday of each month: **November 20, December 18, January 15, February 19**. Leader: Bill Sefton. Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange at **7:30 am**.
- [Lake Artemesia Natural Area](#) – first and third Thursdays of each month: **November 4, November 18, December 2, December 16, January 6, January 20, February 3, February 17**. Leader: rotates as schedules permit. Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. The start time is **3 pm** from September through March.
- [Bladensburg Waterfront Park & the Anacostia River Trail](#) – **Sunday, November 21, 7:30 am**. We'll check the Anacostia River at Bladensburg for early waterfowl and gulls, and then stroll down the Anacostia River Trail, which passes through shrubby fields and wetlands - excellent habitat for sparrows and marshland birds. Round trip distance of about 2.5 miles. Trail is paved and wheelchair-accessible. Leader Kevin Bennett (██████████). Reservations not needed. Meet at 7:30 AM at the pavilion at Bladensburg Waterfront Park, off MD Route 450 just west of MD Route 201.
- [Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge](#) – **Friday, November 26, 7:30 am**. Cohost: Anne Arundel Bird Club. Annual Barbara Ricciardi Memorial Field Trip. Trip will have a limited number of participants; **reservations required**. PBC & PGAs members should contact Ken Cohen (██████████) to register. Car-pooling only with members of your own household. Leader (Peter Hanan) may require masks to be worn if safe distance cannot be maintained in the field. Bring food & drinks in case the group decides not to stop at a restaurant for lunch. Meet at 7:30 am at Bay 50 Shopping Center off US Route 50 just west of the Bay Bridge at Exit 31.
- [Wharf Road Fishing Area at Piscataway National Park](#) – **Saturday, December 11, 8:00 am**. The mouth of the Piscataway Creek at the Potomac River is one of the best spots in PG County for wintering waterfowl and gulls. Bring scopes and snacks. The fishing area parking lot is gravel-surfaced; birding will be near the parked cars and is wheelchair-accessible. There may also be a short stroll for landbirds on a section of the paved road. Opportunities for side-trips to other parts of the park afterward. Leader Ken Cohen (██████████). Reservations not needed. Meet at the Fishing Area at the north end of Wharf Road at 8 am. [Click here for Google map and directions](#).
- [Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count](#) – **Sunday, December 19**. Compiler Marcia Watson. See details on page 6 of this newsletter.
- [Bowie Christmas Bird Count](#) – **Friday, December 31**. Compiler Dave Mozurkewich. See details on page 6 of this newsletter.

Note that on bird walks or counts, the leader has the discretion to ask participants to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, and also to ask for social distancing. And we may have to cancel if the COVID situation worsens. On the other hand, if the virus situation stabilizes or improves, we anticipate scheduling additional field trips and bird walks.

Meetings and Speakers Hosted by Other MOS Chapters

Many MOS chapters are continuing their monthly meetings in an online format, and would welcome your attendance for their guest speaker presentations. To see upcoming meetings and speakers around the state, go to the online MOS calendar at

<https://mdbirds.org/calendar/>

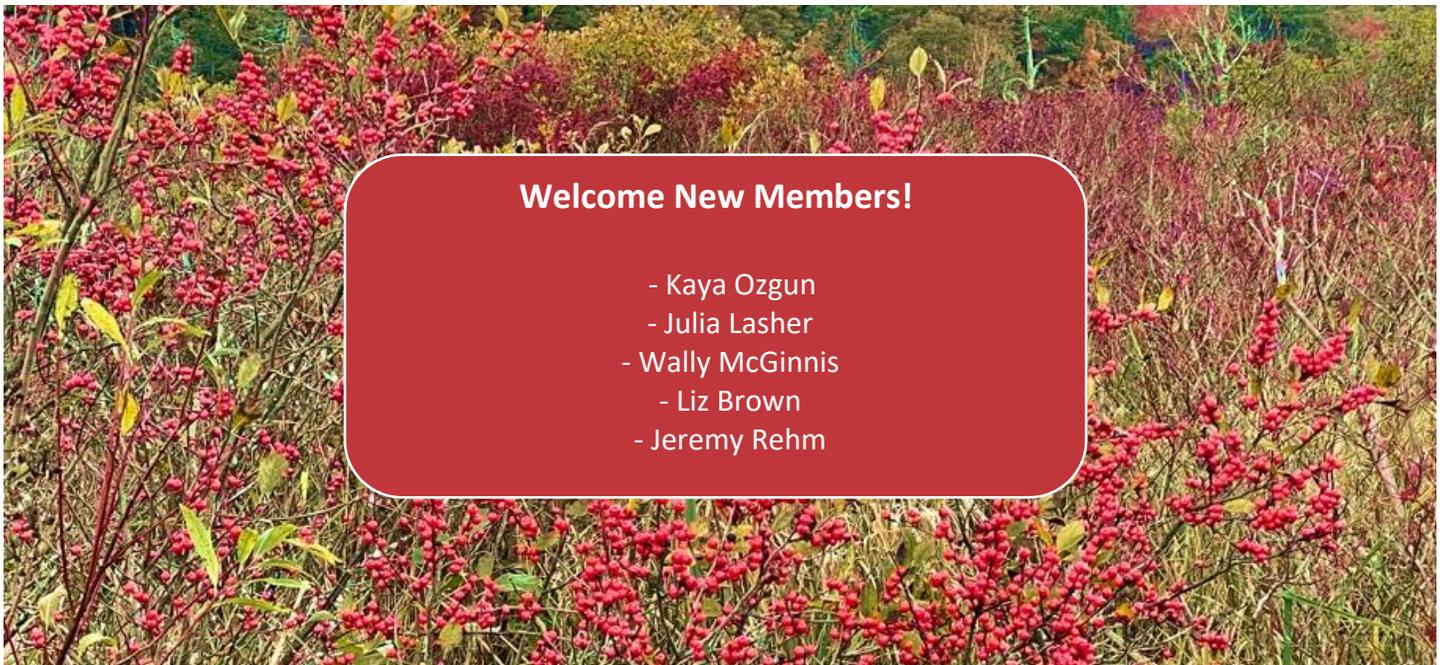
Message from the President

I can't believe that it's time to start planning for the Christmas Bird Counts. It doesn't seem possible that the year 2021 is almost gone. But indeed, the Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count will be held in just seven weeks, on Sunday December 19th, and the Bowie Christmas Bird Count will be just 12 days later, on New Year's Eve, December 31st. As last year, the National Audubon Society, the sponsoring organization for the Christmas Bird Counts, has announced that the counts will be conducted under Covid-safe protocols, the most notable of which is that volunteers are not supposed to ride in cars with people from outside their household. If you wish to participate but the Covid restrictions are worrying you, please discuss this with the count compilers. See the article on page 6 of this newsletter for more details.

We're happy to announce that a few new field trips have been added to the schedule. As you can see on page 3, we have new trips to Bladensburg Waterfront Park, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, and the Wharf Road Fishing Area of Piscataway National Park. It will be good to get out and get some fresh air.

A reminder: if you have not already renewed your membership in Patuxent Bird Club please do so now. Otherwise, this will be the last newsletter that you receive as we'll be trimming the member list. Please renew online at the MOS website, or if you absolutely must pay with a check, please use the form at the back of this newsletter. Note that checks should be mailed to Carol Daugherty, the MOS Treasurer, not to our local chapter treasurer.

Thanks for your participation in the Patuxent Bird Club.



Background image: Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*

Photo by Marcia Watson, Finzel Swamp, 10/23/21

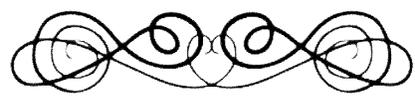
Member Spotlight: Mike Burke



Mike Burke is a relatively new member of the Patuxent Bird Club, having joined in 2020. He lives in the Collington retirement community off Lottsford Road in Mitchellville. He is one of the leaders of the community’s local bird club and he writes a “Flights of Fancy” column for their monthly newsletter. Mike is also the long-time author of the bird and nature column called “On the Wing” for the Bay Journal; his most recent article is “Maryland: a new hotspot for out-of-town avians,” about the many rarities that showed up in Maryland over the past year. This and his previous articles may be found by going to <https://www.bayjournal.com/users/profile/mike%20b/>.

Prior to retirement, Mike served as Senator Ben Cardin’s senior advisor for environment and energy issues. Prior to that, he served as an associate director of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program in Annapolis. He and his wife Pat’s favorite birding destination is Blackwater NWR.

Patuxent Bird Club Officers and Directors		
President	Marcia Watson	
Vice-President	Fred Fallon	
Treasurer/Memberships	Jane Fallon	
First Year Directors (Term 2019-2021)	David Mozurkewich	
	Kevin Bennett	
	Vacant	
Second Year Directors (Term 2020-2022)	Ken Cohen	
	Matt Felperin	
	Ikumi Kayama	
Representatives to MOS State Board	Marcia Watson	
	Ross Geredien	
Field Trip Coordinator	Vacant	
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster	Marcia Watson	
Fall & Spring Bird Counts	Matt Felperin	
Bowie Christmas Bird Count	David Mozurkewich	
Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count	Marcia Watson	
<i>Visit us on the web at www.patuxentbirdclub.org</i>		



Jug Bay CBC and Bowie CBC



At the moment, we are *tentatively* planning to hold the **Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, December 19** and the **Bowie Christmas Bird Count on Friday, December 31**. The plans are still tentative because the National Audubon Society has asked all compilers to wait until November 15 or later to finalize plans. Each compiler is being asked to make a decision for their count based on the local COVID situation.

Although it appears unlikely at this time, the worst-case scenario is that it may be necessary to cancel the count if the virus infection rate increases in our area. For example, some of our prime parks and refuges may close their gates or limit access, making the count untenable.

National Audubon has issued special guidelines for counts being held this season:

- Tally rallies and other gatherings, such as group lunch breaks, will be at the discretion of the local compiler. Audubon encourages any gatherings be held outdoors if possible. Safety for the health of participants must be paramount, including wearing masks indoors and following local COVID guidelines. Decisions on tally rallies for our counts will be made later.
- Masking is required if social distancing is not possible while in the field.
- Carpooling may only occur within existing familiar or social “pod” groups.
- Activities must comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.
- Allow for flexibility as it is not possible to know individual or family situations with respect to their home or family risks.

More help is always needed for the counts. Each Christmas Bird Count is conducted within a pre-determined circle of 15 miles in diameter (see maps below). If you live within one of the count circles, you can do a feeder count at your home. Or perhaps you would like to count birds in your favorite park or natural area within the count circle. You can choose your own start and stop times. You must contact the compiler prior to the day of the count to confirm the area you will cover. The count compiler will give you instructions on how to submit your report. See [Audubon’s interactive map](#) for zoomable maps of count circles.

Sunday, December 19, 2021 Jug Bay Christmas Bird Count

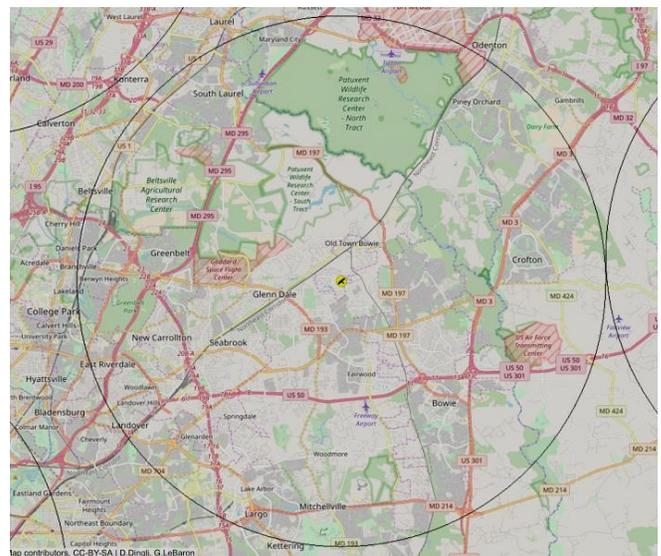
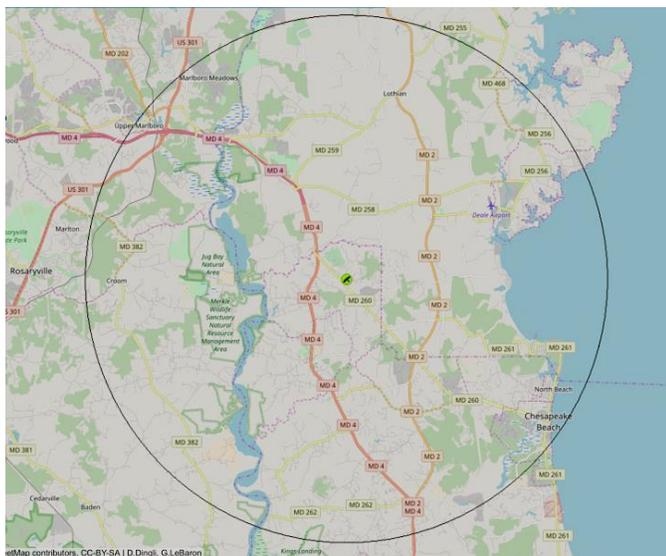
The Jug Bay count circle, centered near Dunkirk, spans the Patuxent River and includes parts of Prince George’s, Anne Arundel, and Calvert Counties. The circle extends from Upper Marlboro on the west to the Chesapeake Bay on the east.

Contact compiler Marcia Watson, [redacted], to volunteer.

Friday, December 31, 2021 Bowie Christmas Bird Count

As shown below, the Bowie count circle includes parts of Prince George’s and Anne Arundel Counties and is centered in Bowie. The circle extends from inside the Capital Beltway on the west to just east of Crofton.

Contact compiler David Mozurkewich, [redacted], to volunteer.



Stream Restoration in the Anacostia Watershed

As we learned from Jorge Bogantes Montero, our October 2021 speaker from the Anacostia Watershed Society, there is much need for stream restoration work in the Anacostia River Watershed. The US Army Corps of Engineers recently announced that, pending funding from Congress, it will be undertaking a major stream restoration project in the Anacostia watershed, in partnership with Prince George's County. The Corps and the county evenly split the \$1.8-million study costs in preparation for the project.

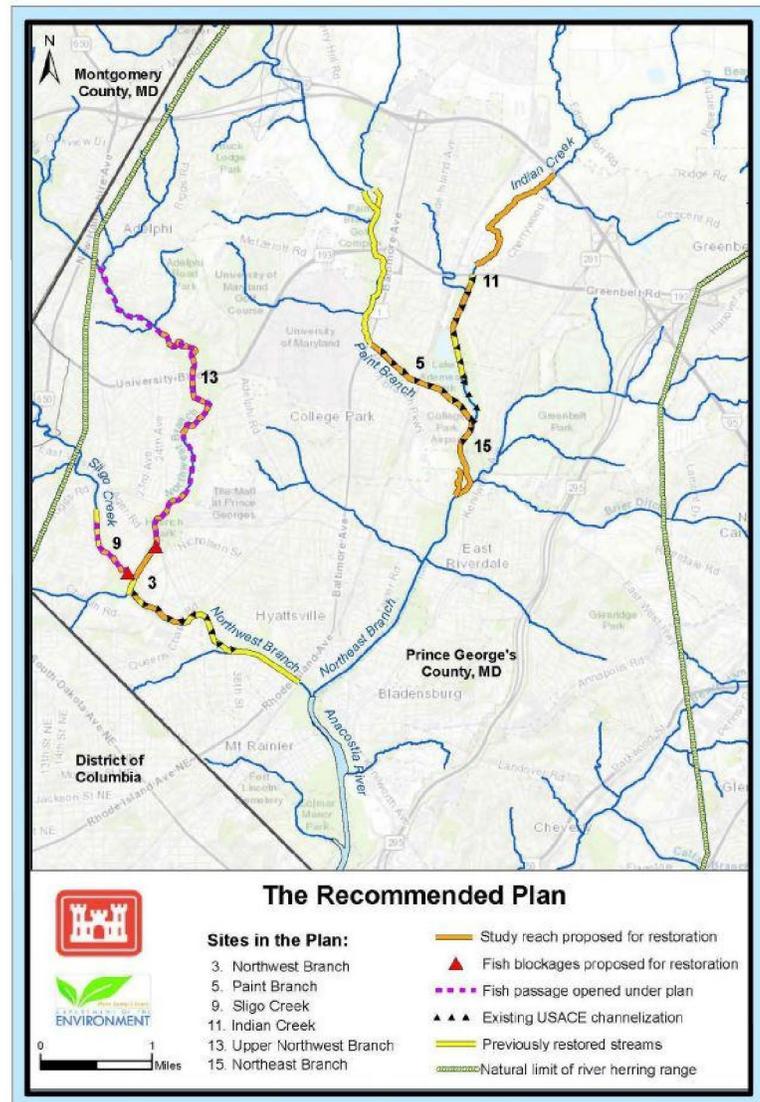
As the map at right illustrates, the plan addresses stream conditions at multiple sites, namely the Northwest Branch and Upper Northwest Branch, Paint Branch and Indian Creek, Sligo Creek, and the Northeast Branch.

The combined restoration sites will restore 7 miles of in-stream habitat, opening 4 miles for fish passage and connecting 14 miles of stream to previously restored stream areas.

The goal of the plan is to restore aquatic habitat in previously-degraded streams, and fish and other critters will likely benefit. Alewife and blueback herring are the primary fish species of concern. They travel from the sea to the Anacostia River specifically to spawn; however, they are currently only using 10 to 20 percent of their natural range due to blockages and poor habitat. Their absence in the upstream watershed is affecting fish populations and is removing important nutrients from the stream ecosystem.

The project will remove fish blockages on Northwest Branch and Sligo Creek, increasing access for alewife and blueback herring to their historical range and spawning areas from approximately 20 percent to more than 80 percent on the Northwest Branch and from 10 percent to 90 percent on the Northeast Branch. The habitat restoration component would also support diversity and abundance of native fish and other resident fish species.

ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND



The plan provides substantial environmental improvements for the habitat within the selected sites and contributes to a comprehensive watershed restoration strategy. About 95 percent of stream miles in the entire Anacostia River watershed are estimated as having indices in the very poor to poor categories relating to fish and the invertebrates living at the bottom of the streams. How does this affect birds? Birds eat fish and invertebrates, so a healthier stream will better support birds.

The study now moves to Congress for authorization and funding for the construction of the project. The estimated cost of the project is \$34.1 million, to be cost shared between the Baltimore District of the US Army Corps of Engineers and Prince George's County Department of the Environment. For more information, see <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Anacostia-Watershed-Restoration/>.

Map and text courtesy US Army Corps of Engineers.

Intentional Balloon Releases Banned in Maryland



For anyone who has witnessed birds or other wildlife entangled in balloon strings, here is a welcome press release from the MD Department of Natural Resources.

(<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2021/09/30/intentional-balloon-releases-banned-in-maryland/>)

September 30, 2021

New State Law Will Reduce Plastic Pollution that Degrades Waterways and Threatens Animal Life

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) remind Marylanders that a new state law that prohibits intentional balloon releases is now in effect. The new Maryland law bans the releasing of balloons that, upon landing, create litter and threaten the health and safety of animals on the land in the water, effective Oct. 1. MDE is responsible for enforcing the law, and DNR is joining in raising public awareness through participation in a regional campaign funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"In Maryland it's now illegal to be a plastic balloon litterbug and that's good news for our land, water, and wildlife," said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Ben Grumbles. "With the rising tide of plastic pollution, this new law is an important and timely step for the health of our Chesapeake Bay, coast, and ocean."

"Balloons can be a great way to commemorate a special occasion, but when they are intentionally released into the air, they can harm and kill livestock and wildlife. They can also cause electric outages when caught in power lines," Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio said. "The key is to find other ways to celebrate or honor a loved one or if you have balloons, be sure to 'pop them and drop them' in the trash rather than releasing them into the air on purpose."

The law bans people aged 13 or older from intentionally releasing a balloon or organizing or participating in a mass release of 10 or more balloons. This legislation follows similar bills in other states, including neighboring Virginia and Delaware, and certain municipalities within Maryland.

Biannual surveys of mid-Atlantic beaches consistently find balloons and related debris such as ribbons. These items can be mistaken by wildlife or even domestic animals as food, or animals can become entangled. A person who violates the law may be subject to penalties of up to \$100 per violation, community service, or watching a video about environmental pollution. MDE is charged with enforcing the law, but may delegate enforcement to local governments.

DNR is currently involved in a regional campaign, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program, aimed at reducing intentional balloon releases. Part of this campaign offers litter-free alternatives to releasing balloons for various occasions. For celebrations, blowing up balloons or using sparklers create a festive atmosphere, while, for memorials, installing a bench or planting trees or wildflowers offer long lasting tributes to loved ones. Other alternatives to balloon releases include the release of bubbles, flying kites, or tossing eco-friendly "confetti" like bird seed, flower petals or dried leaves.

MDE is reaching out to the public and the regulated community, including the balloon distribution industry, event planners, and event venues, to advise them of the new requirements to ensure compliance and reduce the risk of unintentional violations.

Balloon releases prohibited under the law can be reported to MDE by telephone at 410-537-3315 or by email (MDE.WEBMASTER@maryland.gov).

For more information, see the following websites:

- [Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Work Group](#)
- [Marine debris issues in Maryland and the mid-Atlantic on the DNR website](#)
- [More information on the new Maryland law is on MDE's website.](#)

New Bird for Maryland



Photo by Matt Felperin, 10/5/21
Macaulay Library ML375457181

On October 4, Ramsay Koury found a **Kirtland's Warbler** at Swann Park in the City of Baltimore, marking a potential first record* for the State of Maryland. The bird remained at the park until October 10, and was seen by hundreds of birders from across the state as well as from other parts of the country. The brown tones indicate that the individual is an immature, first-year bird, possibly a female.

Swann Park is a small city park Baltimore on the east bank of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. Most of the park is occupied by athletic fields. There are just small patches of trees and shrubs along the shoreline as well as a hedgerow along the south boundary. The warbler was found in the straggly shrubbery along the shoreline, which is armored with large rocks. It spent its time foraging for insects on the rocks and in the trees and shrubs.

While Kirtland's Warblers have been reported in Maryland in the past, none of the prior reports have been accepted by the MD-DC Bird Records Committee. If the reports of this individual Kirtland's are accepted by the Records Committee, it will become the first official record* of this species in the State of Maryland. (*See box on next page for an explanation of "reports" vs. "records.")

Kirtland's Warblers breed in a restricted range in Michigan and Wisconsin and a small slice of neighboring Canada. They are habitat specialists, their preferred nesting sites being in young Jack Pines. Once the pines grow too large, the birds can no longer use them. Historically, Kirtland's Warblers depended on fires to regenerate the forest. But the Jack Pines were a valuable timber tree, and humans made an effort to suppress fires, leading to loss of the bird's habitat and to a drastic reduction in the birds' population. Parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds also contributed to the population decline.



Photo by Suzette Stitely, 10/6/21,
Macaulay Library ML375488901

The species was almost entirely lost. Censuses showed that in 1974, the population reached a low of only 167 singing males. Singing males are counted as an indicator of breeding pairs. Remember – this is the entire worldwide population.

Kirtland's Warblers were placed on the Endangered Species List in 1967, but it took several years before an effective management plan was implemented. Eventually, as more habitat was set aside and better managed, the species began to recover, and Kirtland's Warbler was removed from the Endangered Species list in 2019.

Kirtland's Warblers are migratory; their only known wintering grounds are in the Bahamas. Although the birds must travel overland to get from their breeding grounds to their winter territory, it is extremely rare that they are found during migration, which is what makes the Baltimore bird so special. The five previous reports in Maryland have come from Caroline County (1945); Prince George's (1976); Anne Arundel (1976); Montgomery (2005); and Worcester (2012). The latter three reports were reviewed by the Records Committee but not accepted. The historical report from Denton in 1945 has not yet been reviewed by the Records Committee. The Prince George's County bird was reported from Beltsville on 9/27/1976 but was deemed unreviewable by the Records Committee; "unreviewable" means that not enough information is available for the committee to render a decision.

Didn't get to see the Baltimore bird? Kirtland's Warblers, though not numerous, are actually relatively easy to find during breeding season in Michigan. The US Forest Service has a self-guided tour through the Jack Pine area that offers fine opportunities to hear and see the birds during breeding season; the best timeframe is from May 15th through July 10th. In addition, the Michigan Audubon Society offers guided tours most years. See the [US Forest Service website](https://www.usfs.gov/) for more information.



Photo by Nico Sarbanes, 10/5/21,
Macaulay Library ML375248191.



Photo by Jonathan Irons, 10/5/21
Macaulay Library ML375332701

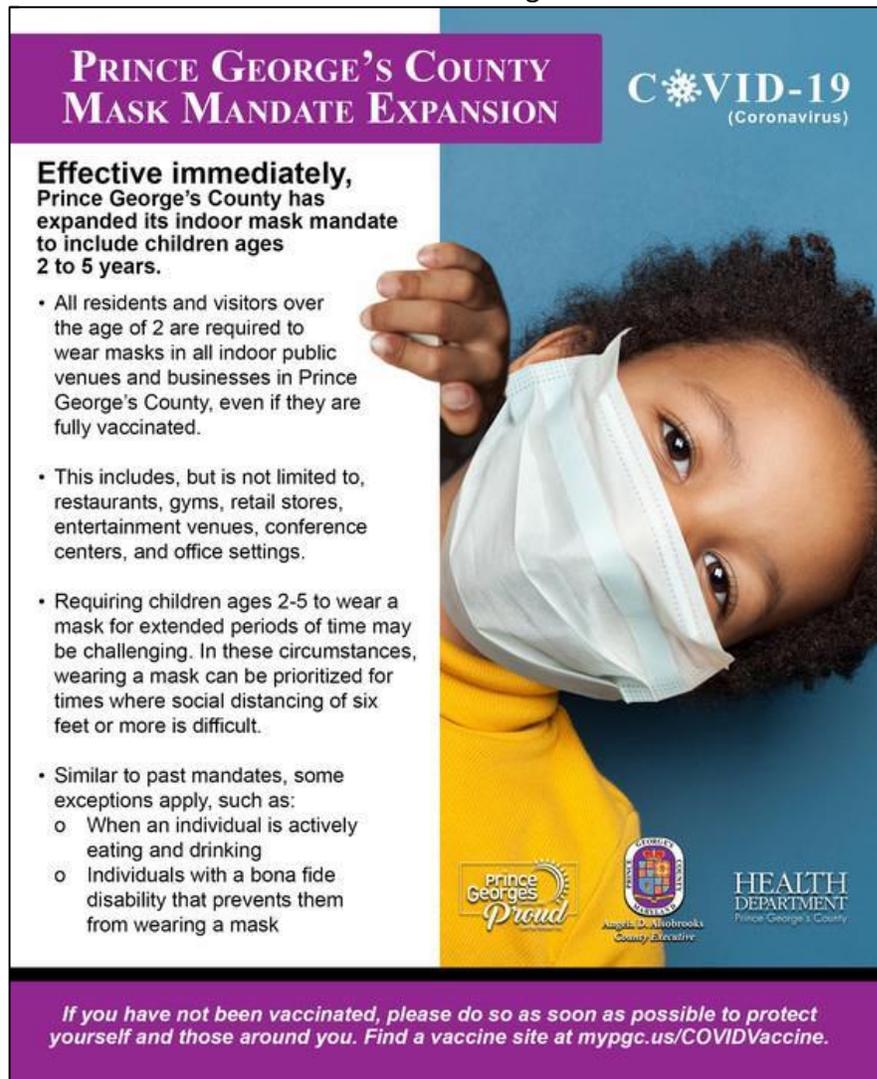
About “Reports” and “Records”

What’s the difference between a *report* of a bird species and an *accepted record*? The word “report” can be used to refer to any observation of a bird. But the words *accepted record* indicate that a report has been reviewed and approved by the [MD-DC Bird Records Committee](#). The committee may decide against approving a report if the identification is in question or if the bird’s origin is questionable – that is, if it might have escaped from captivity or been intentionally released. Species for which there are accepted records are added to the [Official List of the Birds of Maryland](#), published by the MD-DC Bird Records Committee. Note that eBird reviewers also review reports of rarities that are posted to eBird, but the role of the eBird reviewers is in deciding whether to CONFIRM (not “approve”) the identification of the species for the purpose of inclusion in the eBird database. The eBird reviewers do not play a role in making a decision to add species to the *Official List of the Birds of Maryland*.

Public Service Announcement

On October 27, 2021, Prince George’s County
extended the indoor mask mandate at least until December 9.

See details on mask wearing below.



**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
 MASK MANDATE EXPANSION**

COVID-19
 (Coronavirus)

Effective immediately,
 Prince George's County has
 expanded its indoor mask mandate
 to include children ages
 2 to 5 years.

- All residents and visitors over the age of 2 are required to wear masks in all indoor public venues and businesses in Prince George's County, even if they are fully vaccinated.
- This includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, gyms, retail stores, entertainment venues, conference centers, and office settings.
- Requiring children ages 2-5 to wear a mask for extended periods of time may be challenging. In these circumstances, wearing a mask can be prioritized for times where social distancing of six feet or more is difficult.
- Similar to past mandates, some exceptions apply, such as:
 - When an individual is actively eating and drinking
 - Individuals with a bona fide disability that prevents them from wearing a mask

Prince Georges Proud
 Angela DeAlto Brooks
 County Executive

HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 Prince George's County

If you have not been vaccinated, please do so as soon as possible to protect yourself and those around you. Find a vaccine site at mypgc.us/COVIDvaccine.

Notable Bird Sightings in Prince George's County September and October, 2021 *Based on eBird Rare Bird Alerts*

To be honest, Fall migration has been a little dull around here, with only a smattering of rare and rare-ish birds in our county. Not many of these were documented with photos.

Marisa Rositol photographed a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at [Oxon Hill Farm](#) on October 4th.

An **American Golden-Plover** dropped in at the [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center \(BARC\)](#) on October 12th (Michel Cavigelli). BARC is not open to the public, but there are some limited viewing opportunities along public roads.

Michel Cavigelli and Ditte McInnes had a flycatcher two-fer in a residential area of old Greenbelt: a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** on September 7th, and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on September 13th (pictured in silhouette, next page). A **Yellow-bellied** was caught in the banding nets at Central Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge on September 17 and another on September 20th (Andrew Rapp). Central Tract houses the USGS research facility now known as the [Eastern Ecological Science Center](#), and is not open to the public.

The banding nets at Patuxent Central Tract yielded a **Philadelphia Vireo** on September 13th and two on September 15th (Andrew Rapp).

Gray-cheeked Thrushes moved through our area from mid-September through mid-October. Bill Townsend reported a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at [Hard Bargain Farm](#) on September 9th, and Andrew Rapp had one in the banding nets at Patuxent Central Tract on September 15th. Cavan Allen found a Gray-Cheeked at [Buddy Attick/Greenbelt Lake Park](#) on October 4th. Patti Nedoluha Joshua reported a **Gray-cheeked** in the Huntington area of north Bowie on October 14th. Johnson photographed a Gray-cheeked Thrush in a residential area of Bowie on October 17th.

Three early **Purple Finches** were seen by Michel Cavigelli and Ditte McInnes in Greenbelt on September 20th. Bill Townsend reported one from [Hard Bargain Farm](#) on October 20th, which is getting into the more normal season for these winter visitors.

White-crowned Sparrows, never a common bird in our area, are settling in for the winter. The earliest **White-crowned Sparrow** was found by Christina Yuan in a residential neighborhood near Patuxent Central Tract on September 26th, and she had another one later, on October 20th, at [South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge](#). Marisa Rositol found a **White-crowned** at [Oxon Hill Farm](#) on October 10th. Others were at [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center \(BARC\)](#) on October 23rd (Michel Cavigelli), at Patuxent Central Tract on October 23rd (Evan Buck), and at Lake Artemesia on October 24th (Keith Jahoda).

Andrew Rapp reported a **Lincoln's Sparrow** from Central Tract at Patuxent on September 29th, and Andrew and Evan Buck had another **Lincoln's** at Central Tract on October 27th. Additional **Lincoln's** were found at [Patuxent Research Refuge-South Tract](#) on October 1st (Elaine Hendricks) and on October 5th (Marisa Rositol); at [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center \(BARC\)](#) on October 2nd (Kevin Bennett) and on October 24th (Michel Cavigelli); and at the Glenn Dale Wetlands on October 21st and October 28th (Simon Keegan).

Two **Vesper Sparrows** were at [Beltsville Agricultural Research Center \(BARC\)](#) by Michel Cavigelli on October 25th (photo of one on next page). Another **Vesper** was at [Oxon Hill Farm](#) on October 24th, photographed by Guy Foulks with Deborah Hahn.

A well-described **Brewster's Warbler**, a hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-winged, was found at [Lake Artemesia](#) on September 11th by Maggie Reuter, Ginger Deason, and Kerry Snyder.

Andrew Rapp caught a **Connecticut Warbler** in the banding nets at Patuxent Central Tract on September 15th. Another **Connecticut** was at [Oxon Hill Farm](#) on October 10th, photographed by Marisa Rositol.

Andrew Rapp also observed a **Cerulean Warbler** at Patuxent Central Tract on August 31st.

A selection of photos is on the following page.

Photos of Notable Birds
September and October, 2021
As Submitted to eBird/Macaulay Library



Black-billed Cuckoo, photo by Marisa Rositol,
 Oxon Hill Farm, 10/4/21,
 Macaulay Library ML375137961



Olive-sided Flycatcher, photo by Michel
 Cavigelli, Greenbelt, 9/13/21,
 Macaulay Library ML369213481



Gray-cheeked Thrush, photo by Joshua
 Johnson, Bowie, 10/17/21,
 Macaulay Library ML380876981



Vesper Sparrow, photo by Michel Cavigelli,
 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center,
 10/25/21,
 Macaulay Library ML382974491



Vesper Sparrow, photo by Guy Foulks,
 Oxon Hill Farm, 10/24/21,
 Macaulay Library ML382399911



Connecticut Warbler, photo by Marisa
 Rositol, Oxon Hill Farm, 10/10/21,
 Macaulay Library ML376699361

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:

<p>Chapter and State combined membership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Household \$33</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Junior (Age < 18) \$6</p>	or	<p>Chapter membership only: (must be a full-paying member of another MOS chapter - indicate primary MOS chapter: _____)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Household \$8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Junior \$1</p>
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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 with 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!