

The newsletter of the Montgomery Bird Club of the Maryland Ornithological Society

August 2015

Volume 46, No. 3

## President's Chat

Welcome to another new year for Montgomery Bird Club! As you read the *Chat* you are probably already seeing some early fall migrants.

So as we begin a new year at Montgomery Bird Club (MBC) you have to appreciate the very diverse group of birders in the club. We have new birders, folks who travel the world in search of birds as well as folks who are happy just to bird the county or their own little patch of it. This is what makes MBC so interesting—no matter where or how we do it, we are all coming together for birds. I would encourage everyone when possible to attend our great meetings and field trips.

The annual election of officers and directors was held at the May meeting. **Clive Harris** is continuing as vice-president, **Chris Wright** will be the new treasurer, and **Rae Dubois** is ably filling the role of secretary (thanks Sally Wechsler!). Chapter directors are **Woody Dubois**, **Evelyn Ralston**, **Gail Mackiernan**, and **Brooke Smith**. The state directors are **Bill Adams**, **Andy Martin**, and **Jim Moore**.

**Clive Harris** has lined up some wonderful speakers for the year. **Linda Friedland** will continue to put in an extraordinary effort (thanks Linda) in scheduling field trips and recruiting some great leaders for these trips. She has some



great trips scheduled for the upcoming year. Be sure to support the field trip leaders who donate their time and knowledge for these trips.

Welcome to **Kevin Ebert** who is now writing the “Birds of Note” section of the *Chat*. Thanks to **Andy Martin** for the many columns that he has written.

And, by the way, it is time to renew your membership; you will find the membership renewal form on the back of this newsletter. For several years now, members have been able to receive the *Chat* electronically. Please indicate on the renewal form if you would like to read the *Chat* and the *Maryland Yellowthroat* by mail, rather than receiving them electronically.

Thanks to all MBC members, and see you out in the field! ♪

— Ed Patten

CONTENTS	
Fall Calendar/Club News .....	2
Field Trips/Field Trip Tips.....	3-4
Trip Reports .....	5
A Week at Hog Island .....	6
YMOS Big Day Results.....	7-9
Birds of Note .....	9
Membership Application/Renewal .....	10

# Fall Calendar

Except for the September program, the fall calendar speakers' list is still tentative, but these are the dates to put on your calendar. Updated information will be emailed to you and included in the November issue of the *Chat*.

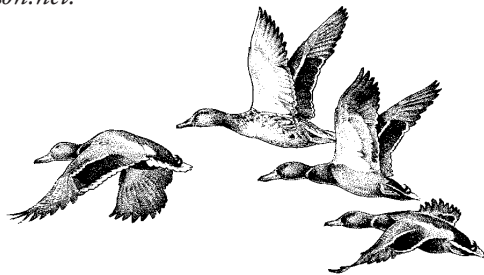
**September 16 (Wednesday)**, 7:30 p.m. Don Messersmith will give a talk on his trip to Alaska that began in Anchorage and took him through the Pribilof Island of St. Paul, Seward, and Homer on the Kenai Peninsula.

**October 21 (Wednesday)**, 7:30 p.m. TBD

**November 18 (Wednesday)**, 7:30 p.m. TBD

*Meetings take place at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac. From the Beltway, take Exit 39 (River Rd/Rte 190) toward Potomac. After crossing Falls Road (Rte 189), continue a quarter-mile to Gary Road on the right. Turn right on Gary Road, then take an immediate left into the church parking area. (OK to park in the adjacent elementary school lot as well.) Meetings are in the Fellowship Hall, ground level. Doors open at 7 p.m.*

*Cancellation policy: Club meetings are canceled if Montgomery County schools have been closed. If you have questions, contact Ed Patten at 301-948-5648 or epatten1022@verizon.net.*



## Club News

For several years now, members have been able to receive the *Chat* electronically, which reduces printing and mailing costs. Please consider reading the *Chat* online to demonstrate how “green” we can be. The membership form (on the back) now asks members to opt in to receiving a paper copy in the mail. ♪

### MBC Members Picnic

June 6th, 2015 may be remembered for the victory of American Pharaoh in the Triple Crown, but in the annals of MBC it will be remembered for its first Members Picnic.

Despite road closures and dire weather predictions, more than 35 members made it to Black Hill Regional Park and the weather remained delightful throughout the afternoon. The atmosphere was relaxed and the food varied and delicious!

Near sunset, Clive Harris led a bird walk to the public boat ramp and northern section of Seneca Lake. Seasoned birders and beginners enjoyed seeing Chipping Sparrows, a Baltimore Oriole singing and showing up beautifully in the late sun, a Canada Goose family with two goslings, mating Killdeers, and a few beavers (for biodiversity).

Hopefully this is the beginning of a new annual tradition. ♪

*The Chat* is published in February, May, August, and November by the Montgomery Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society.

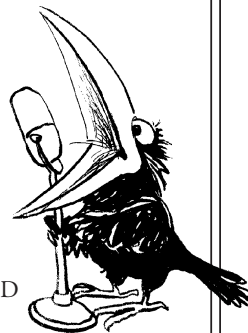
**Editor:** Patrick Newcombe    **Designer:** Gemma Radko

**President:** Ed Patten: 301-948-5648  
epatton1022@verizon.net


**Membership:** Helen Patton: 301-588-5418  
email: helen@dataprompt.com

Visit our homepage at [www.montgomerybirdclub.org](http://www.montgomerybirdclub.org)

Deadline for submissions is the 5th of the preceding month.  
Send items to Patrick Newcombe, 12005 Smoketree Road, Potomac, MD 20854. Phone: 301-424-3259, e-mail: stoncroft5@verizon.net.



# Field Trips


New Club members, new birders, and guests are cordially welcome on every field trip. Because some trips offer an easier learning environment, we have marked them with an . If in doubt, don't hesitate to contact field trip coordinator Linda Friedland at [linnetl@verizon.net](mailto:linnetl@verizon.net) or 301-983-2136 (before 9 p.m.).

**September 8 (Tuesday) ROCK CREEK PARK, D.C.** Urban birding at its best with one of Rock Creek Park's "Regulars." One-third day. Migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows. Meet 6:45 a.m. at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Road, 1/2 mile below Nature Center.) Reservations required. For reservations and directions call the LEADER: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.


**September 9 (Wednesday) WHEATON REGIONAL PARK.** Fall is the best time to find migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers (Yellow-bellied is a good possibility) in this interesting park. Reservations required. Limit: 10. For more information about meeting time and place and for reservations email the LEADERS Woody and Rae Dubois [denguel@verizon.net](mailto:denguel@verizon.net)


**September 12 (Saturday) ROCK CREEK PARK, D.C.** We've expanded our urban bird walks to include those who can meet only on weekends. One-third day. Same great birds: migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows. Meet at 6:45 am at Picnic Area 18 (on Ridge Road, 1/2 mile below the nature center) (Note the earlier meeting time necessary to secure a parking spot.) Reservations required. For reservations and directions call the LEADER: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859

**September 19 (Saturday) SNICKERS GAP HAWK WATCH (between Bluemont & Berryville, VA)** Two-thirds day. Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Peak time for Broad-winged Hawks. Meet at 10 a.m. at commuter parking lot at VA 7 and VA 601. Make reservations (required) with LEADERS: Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams at [icepeep@aol.com](mailto:icepeep@aol.com) or 703-734-1238 (home). Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, pack lunch, and rain/wind gear. Call leaders for directions.

 **September 20, 2015 (Sunday) PENNYFIELD TO VIOLETTE'S BIRD STALK.** Half day. For folks who prefer a somewhat later start to their birding, we will meet at 9 a.m. at the Violette's Lock parking lot, end of Violette's Lock Road. We will then carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk back up the C&O Canal towpath to Violette's Lock. This walk should net an interesting mix of late warblers, other land bird migrants, and probably a few early winter visitors, as we scan the skies and river for raptors and waterbirds. Limit: 12. To sign up, contact LEADER: Jim Nelson, [kingfishers2@verizon.net](mailto:kingfishers2@verizon.net) or 240-515-4517.

**September 26 (Saturday) PATUXENT RIVER PARK, JUG BAY NATURAL AREA, Prince Georges Co.** Half day; joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Driftboat on Patuxent River followed by trail walk. Search for Sora, also migrant and resident songbirds and waterbirds. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at park entrance gate (or visitor center parking lot if gate open). Bring fee of \$6 per person for park program; boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. LEADERS: Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. Reservations required (15-person limit). Make reservations with John Bjerke at 240-401-1643 or [johnbjerke@mac.com](mailto:johnbjerke@mac.com).

 **October 4 (Sunday) LITTLE BENNETT R.P.** All are welcome on this half day trip but we especially encourage new members and those new to birding to join us. Meet at 7:30 a.m. We'll slowly walk some of the woodland trails looking for migrant and resident birds. Reservations required. Limit: 8. For reservations and directions contact the LEADER: Gemma Radko 301-514-2894

 **October 10 (Saturday) BIG SIT 2014!** Join the Sitting Ducks at Black Hill RP starting at dawn and continuing until? Come for the day or just a few hours. Meet at the dike across the road from the park boat ramp. For more information or directions contact the LEADER: Chuck Parker at 240-446-8423 or [chparker@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:chparker@access.k12.wv.us)

**October 31 (Saturday) BLACKWATER NWR.** Full day (to dusk). Early waterfowl and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Brown-headed Nuthatch possible. Bring lunch and drinks. Reservations required. Limit: 12. Contact one of the leaders for meeting place and time. CO-LEADERS: Mark England 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell) and Ed Patten 301-948-5648.

*continued next page*

# Field Trips

**November 7 (Saturday) OAKS LANDFILL.** Explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views and one hill climb of moderate difficulty. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this “closed to the public” landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 16. Meet at 8 a.m. Contact one of the leaders for reservations and more information. CO-LEADERS: Mark England 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell) and Ed Patten 301-948-5648.

**November 11 (Wednesday) LBJs at BLUE MASH NATURE TRAIL.** Half day. Blue Mash is a good place to work on the basics of sparrow ID. In addition to the common species, like Song, Field, and Chipping, we’ll keep an eye out for less-likely White-crowned and Swamp. This trip is primarily for beginners but all are welcome. Limit 8. For reservations, time, and directions, contact one of the CO-LEADERS: Lydia Schindler, [lydiaschindler@verizon.net](mailto:lydiaschindler@verizon.net) or Linda Friedland, [linnetl@verizon.net](mailto:linnetl@verizon.net)

**November 15 (Sunday) LOIS Y. GREEN PARK: Remembering Lou.** The third annual walk in honor of former MBC president and all-round naturalist Lou DeMouy who passed away in November, 2012. The trip will be led by current president Ed Patten. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Reservations required. For more information and reservations contact Ed Patten 301-948-5648.

**November 22 (Sunday) OCCOQUAN BAY NWR.** Half day. Explore the diverse habitats in this one-square mile refuge at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers in Woodbridge, Virginia. A variety of migratory ducks and boreal migrants should be present. Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge at 8 a.m. Reservations are necessary. LIMIT: 20. For reservations and more information, call one of the LEADERS: Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or [dhmbowen@yahoo.com](mailto:dhmbowen@yahoo.com), and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or [maineusa@comcast.net](mailto:maineusa@comcast.net). **Directions:** From Maryland, take Rt. 495 south to I-95 south to Exit 161 (Woodbridge), follow Rt. 1 south, cross the Occoquan River, turn left at the light onto Dawson Beach Rd. and follow this road to the end.

**December 6 (Sunday) LILYPONS/NEW DESIGN ROAD.** Half day. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree Sparrows, possibly Virginia Rail and American Bittern. Call leader for reservation (required) and more info. LEADER: Clive Harris [cliveharris@yahoo.com](mailto:cliveharris@yahoo.com).

## Field Trip Tips

With fall migration underway, MBC kicks off the birding season with an array of trips, thanks to leaders who volunteer their time and expertise. Let’s remember that, as trip participants, we too need to do our part. By following these tips, we can help make the trips enjoyable for all.

- ✚ Call or email the leader well in advance for a sign-up trip—and call again if you can’t make it.
- ✚ Never show up for a reservations-only trip without a reservation.
- ✚ Plan to arrive a little in advance of the starting time, appropriately dressed for the weather.
- ✚ No pets, please!

- ✚ Once on the trail, remember to stay with the group, keep talking to a minimum, and walk with a soft tread.
- ✚ Let the leader lead. Don’t walk ahead; don’t pish. And don’t monopolize the leader’s attention.
- ✚ As you eyeball that gorgeous warbler or thrush, be mindful that shorter folks may be behind you!
- ✚ When the leader has a bird in the scope, form a line, look briefly, and move aside so others may enjoy.

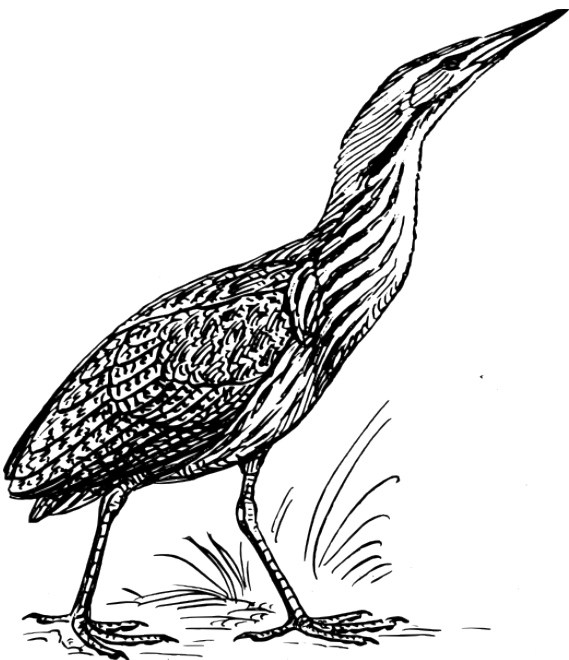
—Linda Friedland, Field Trip Coordinator



**Blue Mash Nature Trail and Oaks Landfill, April 25.** Leader: Mark England. Weather: 42-50 degrees, cloudy and overcast mostly. Participants: 10. Species seen: 44. Early on we had chilly weather, but there was little wind, which resulted in a good mix of songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors when we ended about noon at the Oaks Landfill.

We had 32 species at Blue Mash, including a singing male towhee in the scope, a large group (20 plus) of migrating Double-Crested Cormorants, Belted Kingfisher, Green-winged Teal, and close looks at singing Prairie Warblers and Common Yellowthroats. The best birds were a low-perched Barred Owl and two American Bitterns, which flushed from the small pond as we were looking at a Great Egret. Scott Young got an especially good photo of the flying American Bittern at eye level, and also one of the Barred Owl from some distance.

After using the restrooms at the Oaks Landfill, we went off searching for some different species, and found a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks nest-building near Riggs Road and 108, both male and female American Kestrels, Red-tailed Hawk, Brown Thrasher, three female Bufflehead, Killdeer, and Chipping, Savannah, and Vesper Sparrows, whose white outer tail feathers caught our eyes as at least two of them flitted around in a hedgerow.



**Occoquan Bay NWR, Sunday, May 3.** Leader: Gerry Hawkins. Weather: warm and sunny. Participants: several. Species: 66. We usually walk a long circular route at this refuge but closures of Charlie Road due to nesting Bald Eagles and Fox Road due to nesting foxes required us to do some backtracking to cover targeted areas and perhaps do a little more walking than usual. Highlights included eight well seen warbler species, which included many Yellow-breasted Chats, Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroats. The chats were particularly prominent as this typical skulker was often seen singing from nearby treetops and at one point we saw two interacting on the ground in front of us. Other highlights included a single but well seen Rusty Blackbird, several Savannah Sparrows on the trail in front of us, several recently-arrived Indigo Buntings, Purple Martins at Martin houses in a residential yard on Occoquan Bay, Bald Eagles at two nests and the numerous nesting Osprey at this refuge. There was no remaining migratory waterfowl on Occoquan and Belmont Bays but we did see a couple of Common Loons, American Coots and Caspian Terns.



**Little Bennett Regional Park, Sunday, May 3.** Leader: Gemma Radko. Weather: sunny and hot. Participants: 12. Species: 62. We tried a new route this year, starting at the Lewisdale Road trailhead. We saw and heard many lingering winter species as we hiked through the woods, including a small group of Hermit Thrush, a Blue-headed Vireo, and Red-breasted Nuthatches calling. A big surprise was hearing the call of a Common Loon flying overhead!

Migrants included Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Black-throated Blue and Green Warblers. Most of the park's resident species were on territory, including Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, and Ovenbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Yellowthroat, Prairie and Yellow Warblers, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

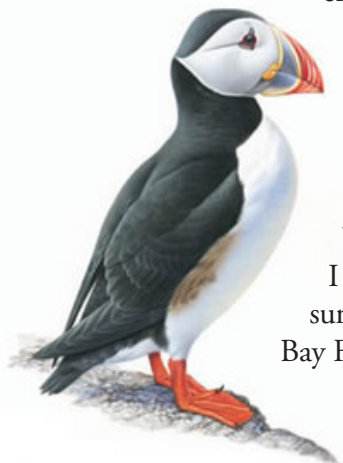
# A Week at Hog Island

**M**y trip to Hog Island was a remarkable experience. I arrived at the dock and was greeted by enthusiastic birders. We climbed aboard the lobster boat and quickly made our way over to Hog Island. Once we were given our lodging information, we went to the Fish House for general introductions.

The well-educated staff explained the itinerary, a flexible schedule which was somewhat determined by the weather. After dinner, we started our music program with Paul Winter. I volunteered to be in the first quartet as I played my pennywhistle with Paul and two others. Our music program let us explore music and nature; we also explored movement with music and music from the body (voice, hands, feet).

The first full day was spent with a lot of good birding instruction, such as binoculars and how to optimize our use of them. We learned what to look for when identifying birds (i.e. shape, size, sound, behavior, color, habitat). We took a cruise around part of the island to practice birding by boat, and we saw Common Eiders, guillemots, a Bald Eagle, Black Scoters, Laughing and Herring gulls, Ospreys, and harbor seals. I also had the chance to walk around part of Hog Island, which was stunningly beautiful.

The second full day of birding instruction taught us how to create bird-friendly communities, the art of pishing taught by Pete Dunne, a wonderful feather workshop, an entertaining raptor workshop, and a lecture on the important conservation efforts of Project Puffin.



The third day included an all-day field trip on the mainland led by wonderful birders who brought scopes to supplement our binoculars. We also stopped briefly in the meadow to draw.

I drew a view of the meadow surrounding the pond at Great Salt Bay Farm.

The final full day included a boat trip to Egg Rock

to see the lovely Atlantic Puffins, guillemots, and three types of terns (Roseate, Common, and Arctic).

On the way over we also spotted harbor seals, Double-crested Cormorants, a Great Cormorant, as well as the ever-present Laughing and Herring gulls.

After good views of those birds, we headed over to Harbor Island where we reached shore via a dory. On that island, we ate lunch and split into groups. My group learned about the geology of the island and also caught some wonderful glimpses of Yellow and Yellow-rumped warblers, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat, saw Bald Eagles playing in the sky, Common Eiders, and much more.

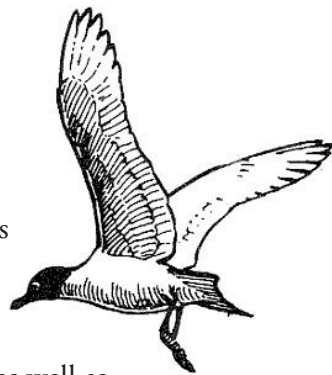
The next day we ate breakfast and then headed back to the mainland with our wonderful memories to last a lifetime. I ended up seeing 65 bird species, 11 of them for the first time.

I learned many things on this trip, including how to be a better birder and educator. The staff was very knowledgeable not only in the bird biology and identification, but also in how to make classes interactive, which I think is very important in birding and nature education.

The programs were not just sitting there and taking in information, but included practicing with our binoculars, holding feathers and bird wings, learning to pish to attract birds (and learning the ethics of this practice), and holding our arms out at different angles and flapping at different speeds to learn differences among raptors.

I had fun, learned a lot, and will retain a lot because the learning experience was so interactive. I look forward to bringing the interactive birding experience to my local nature center this summer as I help out with summer nature camps for children. Getting kids interested in birds and conservation at a young age can make a positive difference in their lives. †

—Carolyn Smith



# World Series of Birding 2015

*Several members of the MBC participated in the World Series of Birding through the youth section of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Read on for a description of their experiences.*

## The YMOS Marsh Giggers

At 11:57 p.m. on May 9, 2015 the YMOS Marsh Giggers Middle School team, made up of Daniel Irons, Jonathan Irons, Jack Pearse, and Patrick Newcombe tumbled out of the car for the first stop on our Big Day. Our first bird was Canada Goose in the Lewisburg Marsh. We ticked off Barred and Great-horned Owls, as well as a number of night migrants including both cuckoos, an Indigo Bunting, and an unexpected Least Sandpiper by flight calls.

At 12:20 a.m., we raced back to our car and headed to Wood Duck Trail, where our patience paid off with a Sora. We picked up a surprise Least Bittern at Rockport Marsh, then ticked off Eastern Screech Owl. We then heard a Barn Owl shriek—an amazing and unexpected find!

After ticking Grasshopper Sparrow, we headed back to the Wantage Grasslands, where we added Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. It was now dawn and we already had 40 species—a great start.

We raced through High Point State Park, where we caught a brief look at an Eastern Whip-poor-will, and were pleased to hear the muffled, vibrating sound of the Ruffed Grouse at the exact same time as the Cornell Redheads. Both teams sprung into their cars, and Cornell speed off in the other direction.

As we flew along the road, my head sticking out of the sunroof, we continued hearing more and more warblers and other migrants. We heard a chipping Canada Warbler in Stokes State Forest. Culvers Lake gave us multiple new species for the day including House Sparrow and European Starling. We heard a White-crowned Sparrow in the Layton Grasslands. Van Auken Road gave us a Belted Kingfisher, and we added Common Merganser at the nearby Dingmans Ferry. We added Winter Wren at Bluett Track, Worm-eating Warbler on Pompey Road, and Cliff Swallow at the old DOT Barn. We left the north with a satisfying 123 species.

We sighted Merlin on the drive south, then added Summer Tanager at the Railroad Tracks. We found many more marsh and south-only birds at Turkey Point and Strawberry Avenue, then quickly checked off a Horned Lark at Paper Mill Road. Heisslerville produced multiple new shorebirds including Whimbrel. A Cattle Egret was at the former Retirement Center.

A quick stop at the meadows yielded Stilt Sandpiper, American Oystercatcher, and Gadwall. Due to the frustrating fog, our sea watch produced only Black Scoter and Common Tern. We worked our way up the coast to Stone Harbor, where we added a Piping Plover which blended into the sand and fog incredibly well. We also added Sanderling and Purple Sandpiper.

Avalon yielded a Yellow-crowned Night Heron before we made the drive up to Forsythe NWR. We had 186 species, and our goal had been to hit 178, the new middle school record for the World Series. Forsythe was disappointingly slow due to the fog, but we still managed five new species including Gull-billed Tern, Ruddy Turnstone, Blue-winged Teal, and Saltmarsh Sparrow. At dusk, we heard a “peenting” American Woodcock, in addition to the numerous Eastern Whip-poor-wills.

We opted to stop birding and head to the finish line because safety is number one, and our driver had driven the whole scouting week as well as the Big Day and was understandably tired. Just making it through the Big Day as a driver was a truly incredible feat.

We ended the day with 191 species, the new Middle School record for the World Series of Birding! We came in first place in the middle school division and fourth place overall. The Big Day was very memorable; not only because of the birds we found, but because of the way we operated as a team. In the years to come, it is our teamwork that I will never forget. ♪

—Patrick Newcombe



# World Series of Birding 2015

## The YMOS Raucous Gulls

The members on the YMOS Raucous Gulls for this year's competition were Matthew Addicks, Kevin Ebert, and Alex Wiebe. We scouted the north for a full week before the big day, starting in the south and heading up to scout the north on Monday. Thanks everyone who helped us before and during scouting!

As we walked into the entrance of Great Swamp NWR, another team showed us a pair of calling Long-eared Owls! At midnight we walked out into the marsh, where we heard a Common Gallinule bleating, a species we did not expect to find there. We stopped to hear a stakeout Sora and picked up a Savannah Sparrow by flight call. Continuing north, we had several Black-billed Cuckoos and a few other birds fly over at Wolfpit Road. At about 4:10 a.m., we picked up a Brown Thrasher, and drove to the Kuser Bog in High Point State Park.

At the Kuser Bog, some tooting produced a calling Northern Saw-whet Owl at about 4:40 a.m., and we waited for our first daytime songbirds of the day: Hermit Thrush, Northern Waterthrush, and Canada Warbler. On our way out, we tallied the stakeout Dark-eyed Junco singing upslope from the bog.

At the AT&T Tower in High Point State Park, we found Cooper's Hawk and Common Raven on nests and heard a Purple Finch sing. We drove down to our Ruffed Grouse spot on Sawmill Rd at 5:30 a.m. and heard it drum at 5:35 a.m. A quick stop at Clove Road got us a Golden-winged Warbler. Back in High Point, we drove down Ridge Road, picking up most of our forest breeders like Hairy Woodpecker and Least Flycatcher, along with a few nice migrants, including Nashville and Tennessee Warblers.

In Stokes State Forest, we ran into the Steammill Campground to scope our Broad-winged Hawk on a nest; then at the entrance to the Ocquittunk Campground, we heard a couple Brown Creepers and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. We also heard Winter Wren and picked up a bonus Eastern Wood-Pewee.

As we pulled into the Layton Grasslands, we heard an Eastern Meadowlark singing. We also heard a White-crowned Sparrow and saw a couple Eastern Bluebirds here. We heard a Wilson's Warbler singing and stopped at Dingman's Ferry to pick up Common Merganser and Spotted Sandpiper.

Heading south, we stopped at the Blewett Tract, where we called in a Red-breasted Nuthatch and heard a Golden-crowned Kinglet. On to the Delaware Water Gap, where we heard our first Blackpoll Warbler of the year, and also had the usual Worm-eating Warbler. At the DOT Barn we picked up Cliff Swallow and Orchard Oriole. We crossed the I-80 at 9:50 am with 137 species, but then tallied Mallard, Rock Pigeon, and Black Vulture to make it 140.

Our one stop before the south was in Westville, where we whistled up a Northern Bobwhite in three minutes. Driving into Dividing Creek, we picked up Blue Grosbeak and White-eyed Vireo, but missed Kentucky Warbler. At Railroad Avenue we quickly swept through the rest of the southern breeders, including Prothonotary Warbler and Summer Tanager. Shortly after stepping out of the car at Strawberry Avenue, we heard a Yellow-breasted Chat.

We were running a little late coming into Heislerville, and we picked out White-rumped Sandpiper, Red Knot, and Ruddy Duck. We stopped at the Paper Mill Sod Farm to pick up Horned Lark, before heading over to Jakes Landing Road, where we found a Northern Harrier and Seaside and Saltmarsh sparrows. We got a Cattle Egret from the car and were on our way to Cape May!

At the Meadows, we picked out a pair of Gadwall and ran to the beach, where we encountered the fog for the first time. I picked out a first-year Lesser Black-backed Gull on the jetty, a flock of Black and Surf Scoters, and a small group of Ruddy Turnstones. In the next fifteen minutes, we managed to pull most of our seawatch targets out of the fog, including Royal Tern, Red-throated Loon, Parasitic Jaeger, and a Northern Gannet Matt picked out in the fog.

On Stone Harbor Boulevard, we picked up the nesting Green Heron at the Wetlands Institute. At Stone Harbor Point, we ran all the way out to get Purple Sandpiper on the jetty and Piping Plover down the beach. We drove up to get the Yellow-crowned Night-





# World Series of Birding 2015

*continued from page 8*

Heron at the 37th Street colony and were on our way to Brigantine!

When we arrived at Brigantine at 6:40 p.m., the fog was really rolling in. We saw a Caspian Tern fly by and heard an American Coot calling from the edge of the impoundment, but birding was getting really tough. At a pond at the end of the loop, we found Bufflehead and Ring-necked Duck, and we had one of our biggest surprises of the day, a Sharp-shinned Hawk that flew behind us, chasing an Eastern Kingbird. A second time around the loop gave us a

flyby Wilson's Snipe, and we heard our Chuck-will's-widow near the refuge exit.

The fog prevented us from getting a Common Nighthawk at Brigantine, so we drove north to their breeding grounds in Wharton State Forest, where we heard one call. We made our way back to Cape May County to pick up the Black Rail at Stipson's Island Road. At 11:49, we heard a Blue-winged Teal, and decided to submit our checklist. We had totaled 216 species, breaking the existing high school record of 215 species! We placed first in the youth division and shared the Urner Stone Cup for first place overall with Cornell's Redheads, who won the adult division with 208 species. What a day! †

— Alex Wiebe

---

## Birds of Note (mid-January through late March 2015)

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was seen by Dave Czaplak at Patton Turf Farm on April 3rd.

Violette's and Riley's Lock had quite a few notable birds this spring. Up to four **White-winged Scoters** and seven **Red-necked Grebes** stayed until April 20th. On May 16th, David Roberts spotted a **Mississippi Kite** at Violette's Lock, but it unfortunately did not stick around. Violette's and Riley's Locks both had a **Red-necked Phalarope**, on May 26th and 31st, respectively. These beautiful birds, both spotted by Dave Czaplak, were both one-day wonders. On the 26th, a **Black Tern** was also present at Violette's Lock. Continuing for another year, the **Neotropic Cormorant** was found on May 9th by Mike Ostrowski. It was seen from both locks until it was last seen on June 20th.

The **Trumpeter Swan** ("Harvey") at Lake Churchill is still cooperative and continuing. It has been seen almost daily May 1st to June 25th.

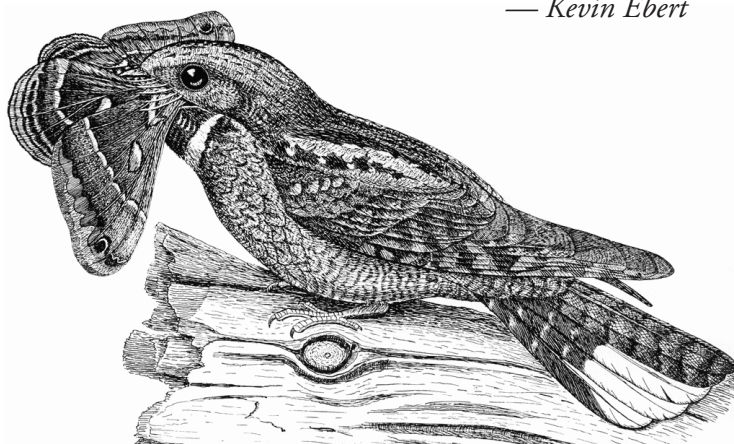
Hughes Hollow was a productive area this Spring. Mary Ann Todd found a **Snowy Egret** and a **Glossy Ibis**, on April 14th and April 17th, respectively. A very cooperative **Virginia Rail** and a **Common Gallinule** stayed for nearly the entire end of April. A **Marsh Wren** was found by Ryan Fink on April 29th. A singing **Alder Flycatcher** was found May 17th by Mike Ostrowski.

Tim Boucher recorded a singing **Chucks-will's-widow** on Halbert Hook Road on May 8th. Unfortunately, no one else was able to find this rare nightjar, which was eBird's first record in Montgomery County.

**Olive-sided Flycatchers** were found along the Potomac by Linda Friedland and Lydia Schindler, who found one at Pennyfield on May 5th, and by Mike Ostrowski, who found another at Hughes Hollow on May 20th. The last sighting this spring was one by Dave Czaplak at Violette's Lock on May 23rd.

A beautiful male **Golden-winged Warbler** was found at Little Bennett Regional Park on May 3rd by Mike Ostrowski. †

— Kevin Ebert





# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL



I/we wish to join the Montgomery Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, for the year beginning September 2015 and enclose dues for:

- Individual—\$30 (\$10 Chapter/\$20 State)
- Sustaining—\$70 (\$20 Chapter/\$50 State)
- Household—\$40 (\$15 Chapter/\$25 State)
- Life—\$1200 (\$200 Chapter/ \$1000 State)
- Junior—\$6 (\$1 Chapter/\$5 State)
- Associate\*— \$8

*\*member of MOS through another chapter*

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Dues**
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation to Claudia Wilds Fund**
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Additional Donation to MOS**
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total enclosed**

New Membership  Renewal

Total number of Club members \_\_\_\_\_  
(Household, Sustaining, or Life memberships)

Please make check payable to MBC/MOS and mail to:  
Helen Patton, 429 Hamilton Avenue, Silver Spring, MD  
20901

NAME(S)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

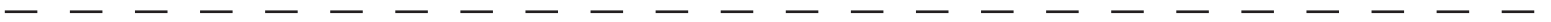
Check if you **DO NOT** want your email address listed on the members-only section of our website.

List your cellphone here if you **DO** want it listed on the members-only section of our website. \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you would like to receive *The Chat* by mail. Otherwise, you will be notified when *The Chat* is posted on the club website.

Check if you would like to receive *The Maryland Yellowthroat* on the Internet instead of receiving it by mail.

Check if you would like to work on a committee.



The Chat  
MBC/MOS  
429 Hamilton Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20901

