



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

November 2016

Volume 47, No. 4

President's Chat

Fall migration is in full swing now. It was warm and dry for much of the late summer period but we've still had some great birds coming through our area. DC birders and listers who are club members no doubt particularly enjoyed the shorebird bonanza as the hydrilla mats returned to the Potomac after a long absence and provided the perfect spot for hungry migrating shorebirds to refuel and linger.

In my last *Chat* I mentioned the importance of volunteers in making this club work. I'd like to thank two members who stepped forward after the last Club meeting: Christel Milazzo, who will be taking over from Gemma Radko on producing the *Chat*, and Ed Vigezzi, who is helping Eric Skrzypczak maintaining the club's website. We're always looking for volunteers to help the club put together its activities, so please let me know if you are interested in helping. Speaking of which, we have a great set of field trips lined up for the last part of the calendar year. I'd like to thank all of the field trip leaders for their time, and also Linda Friedland for pulling the calendar together.

I hope by now you've renewed your membership. If not, please take time to renew it as soon as you can. Over half of your dues go to support the environmental and educational work of the Maryland Ornithological Society, of which the club is a chapter. The remainder is used by your club to support a range of birding activities in Montgomery County that we hope will be of interest to you. This includes this publication, the *Chat*; monthly meetings with informative speakers on bird-related topics held from September to May at Potomac Presbyterian Church; and social events run by the club, including the Picnic and the Social.



You will have seen that we are increasing communications with you through Mailchimp. As part of this you should see a very short survey soon on the club and its activities. We want to make sure that the activities we are offering are the ones you are finding interesting, and also see what other things we might do that would increase the value of the club to you.

Finally, we'd like to increase our engagement with the wider community who are interested in birds but not yet members of the club. If you have suggestions on how we might engage or which groups to work with, please let me know.

I hope to see you out in the field, enjoying fall migration, or at one of our club meetings. Good birding! ♪

— Clive Harris



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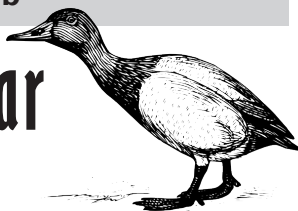


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Montgomery Bird Club

Winter Calendar



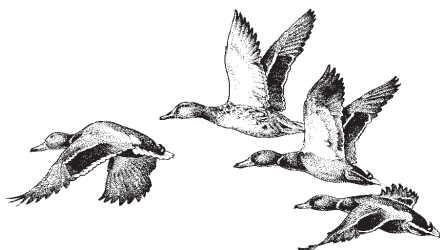
November 16 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. "Ospreys on the Patuxent" with Greg Kearns. Join us to learn about Ospreys, the common "fish hawk" of local rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Greg's program will cover Osprey biology on the Patuxent River, nesting platforms, and banding program satellite tracking.

December 14 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Lights Out Baltimore with Lynne Parks. Lynne will speak about the problem of birds and building collisions and how she uses art advocacy to bring awareness to the issue.

January 18 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Birding Wales with Mike Bowen. Mike will give a program about his native Wales and the birding there.

February 15 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Janet Millenson on Three Centuries of Birds - Artists and Writers before Audubon. Join us to learn more about the art and writing in early bird books (mostly mid-1500s to mid-1800s).

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 take place 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 Clive Harris, clivegharris@yahoo.com or 301-320-9769.



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

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Visit our homepage at 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: stonecroft5@verizon.net



Club News

We are very sorry to pass on the news that the MBC lost two long-time members on September 28th.


Joy Bowen passed away after suffering from dementia for more than eight years. Joy and Mike Bowen were married for 49 years. They met when they both worked for the DuPont Co. in Delaware in the 1960's and their first date was on a trip to see birds and horseshoe crabs along Delaware Bay. As well as a keen birder, she was also interested in skiing, Balkan line dancing, and stamp collecting, and was an avid reader. Joy was a regular on field trips and at meetings before her dementia set in. A memorial service will be held later this year. Donations to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (www.theaftd.org) would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Sam Freiberg passed away at the age of 92. Sam served the club as State Director and Vice President before serving as President from 2002-2004. An enthusiastic participant on club field trips, he had much to contribute with his knowledge of trees and wildflowers as well as birds. Sam was always looking for new ways to attract young people into birding, and he served several times as a judge for bird-themed entries at the Montgomery County Science Fair. After a stint in the US Army during WW II, Sam pursued a PhD in Plant Physiology at Rutgers. This led to a job with the United Fruit Company, and he and his wife Marcy spent several years in Honduras. It was there he first became interested in birding, a passion he never let go. Sam always had well-considered solutions to club problems, accompanied by a good sense of humor. He will be much missed by his many friends in the club.


Our thoughts are with the families of Joy and Sam. ♪



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 or 301-983-2136 (before 9 p.m.).

November 5 (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 the leader for reservations and more information. LEADER: Mark England 240 207-3132 (home) or 240 375-4500 (cell)


 **November 11 (Friday) BASICS OF SPARROW ID AT HUGHES HOLLOW.** Sparrows are often referred to as LBJs (little brown jobs) because of the initial difficulty in sorting them out. Hughes Hollow is a good place to spend the morning learning and reviewing basic field marks that are key to identification. In addition to common species, like White-throated and Song and Swamp, we'll keep an eye out for less-likely White-crowned and Field. 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 lydia13621@gmail.com or Linda Friedland, linnetl@verizon.net.


November 20 (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 and Gerry Hawkins, 571-277-8406 or 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 Road and follow to the end.

November 27 (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.

JANUARY 1 (Friday) EARLIEST BIRD WALK- GEORGETOWN RESERVOIR AND D.C.


HOTSPOTS. Half day. Start the New Year right. Meet at 8 a.m. at Georgetown Reservoir, DC, by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. Reservations required. Strict limit: 20 participants who should be prepared to carpool. LEADER: Mike Bowen 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com.

 **January 11 (Wednesday) BLUE MASH.** A mid-week morning walk geared to new birders. We'll look for the expected winter birds: Cardinals, Towhees and sparrows as well as raptors (Northern Harrier a possibility) and ducks. Expect to walk (waterproof boots suggested!) about a mile on level trails. The trip will be cancelled or postponed in case of sleet, ice or rain. Start at 9 am. Reservations not necessary. For directions or more information call or e-mail the LEADER: Stephanie Lovell 240-242-3235 or ctlovell1@yahoo.com.


 **January 15 (Sunday) BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK.** All birders, but especially new birders, are welcome on this half day trip, which will focus on the identification of ducks at this premiere county spot for winter waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Visitors Center to Black Hill Regional Park, and bring a spotting scope if you have one. For reservations (which are required) and more information, contact the LEADER: Gerry Hawkins 571-277-8406 (cell) or maineusa@comcast.net.

continued next page

Field Trips

 **January 29 (Sunday) WINTER WATERFOWL SEARCH.** Half day. If conditions on the towpath look reasonable, we'll check the river for wintering ducks in a portion of the Urban Zone (a no firearms discharge area) between the mouth of Watt's Branch and Great Falls. Expect some winter passerines along the C&O Canal as well. Meet at 8 a.m. in the Swain's Lock parking lot at the end of Swain's Lock Road. Bring a scope if you have one. Trip will be canceled or changed to another venue if icy conditions along canal towpath make walking treacherous. Reservations required. For reservations and more info, contact LEADER: Andy Martin martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066.

February 5 (Sunday) OAKS LANDFILL, LAYTONSVILLE. Bundle up for a LATE AFTERNOON search for wintering sparrows and raptors, including possible Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls, at this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain with some ponds, which we will check if not frozen over. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. Limit 20. Meet at 3:30 pm. on landfill entrance drive at 6001 Rt. 108, Laytonsville, Md. Contact the leader for reservations and more information. LEADER: Mark England 240-375-4500 (cell) or markengland@canamcontractors.com.

 **March 8 (Wednesday); March 14 (Tuesday); March 16 (Thursday) INFORMAL LATE AFTER-NOON WALKS** until dusk. Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Meet promptly at 4 p.m. at the end of Seneca Road at Riley's Lock on the bridge. We will be checking out the river, then will leave Riley's for Hughes Hollow at 5:30 p.m. Highlights here will include waterfowl flying into roost. We will try for displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. Reservations not required- all are welcome. For more info call the leader. LEADER: Jim Green 301-742-0036 (cell).

MARCH 11 (Saturday) PATUXENT RIVER PARK. Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince Georges Co., Half day. Joint trip with Audubon Naturalist Society. Waterfowl, Wilson's snipe, winter and early spring songbirds, Ospreys displaying. Meet at 8 am at the parking by the park headquarters. Wear muddy conditions footgear. Reservation required. Limit 15. LEADER: John Bjerke jbjerkel@mac.com.

Christmas Bird Counts

Christmas Bird Counts are just around the corner. If you can help out, please contact the compiler. The counts in Montgomery County include:

Saturday, December 17 - Triadelphia Reservoir CBC, MD. Compiler: David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com (preferred) or 410-730-7083 or 410-952-3584 (cell).

Sunday, December 18 - Seneca CBC, MD and VA. Compiler: Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net (preferred) or 301-530-6574.

Wednesday, December 28 - Central Loudoun CBC, VA and MD (this count includes five miles along the C&O Canal in Montgomery Co, MD). Compiler: Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542 or joecoleman@rstarmail.com. Sign up at www.loudounwildlife.org.

Monday, January 2 - Sugarloaf Mountain CBC, MD. Compiler: Janet Millenson, 301-983-9337 or janet@twocrows.com.

This year is the 117th year for the Christmas Bird Counts. Visit www.audubon.org/conservation/christmas-bird-count for a wide array of information on the Christmas Bird Count, including a history of the count narrated by Chandler Robbins. Other videos explain how Christmas Bird Counts help scientists and conservationists. ♪



Trip Reports

Bombay Hook, July 23. Leaders: John Bjerke and Cyndie Loeper. Participants: 14. Species: at least 62. The joint ANS/MBC trip to Bombay Hook encountered some of the hottest temperatures of the year with air temperature in the mid-90s and the “feels like” peaking at 104. But the breezes were good, keeping the insects off. The south bound migration for shorebirds was well underway and we found large numbers of peep, yellowlegs, and dowitchers. A Long-billed Dowitcher was mixed in with hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers. Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets provided relief from the more difficult ID challenges. Most people finally got a look at one of the singing Marsh Wrens. Although Great Blue Herons seemed to be everywhere, egrets were in somewhat smaller numbers than usual; several immature Little Blues were interesting to separate from the Snowys.

The fields near Allee House had several nice birds. Heard-only species included Grasshopper Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Birds seen included Bobwhite, Cedar Waxwing, Bank Swallow, and two breeding plumage male Bobolinks. Brilliant American Goldfinches were everywhere as they headed into peak breeding time for the species.



Pennyfield to Violette’s “Bird Stalk”, Sunday, September 25. Leader: Jim Nelson. Participants: 10, including leader. Weather: A lovely sunny day with temps rising from 50’s to 60’s. Total species: 40. This walk is for folks who generally cannot get out as early. We met at Violette’s Lock at 9:00 (birding around the parking lot as everyone gathered), carpooled down to Pennyfield Lock, and then walked upstream along the C&O Canal towpath back to Violette’s, ending at noon. The total species count was much better than last year in spite of the low numbers of land birds (few warblers and no sparrows or orioles). The sustained dry weather meant the second impoundment had only a little water and mud that failed to attract shorebirds, waterfowl, and large waders (just two Solitary Sandpipers). Highlights were Blue-winged Teal on the river, a kettle of Broad-winged Hawks, two Red-shouldered Hawks, a Cooper’s Hawk, an Osprey, two Bald Eagles, two Great Egrets, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, and Black-throated Green Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The complete checklists from the walk can be viewed in eBird.

Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince Georges County, September 10. Leaders: Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. Participants: 20. Total species: at least 42. This annual trip by Audubon Naturalist Society and MBC is a pontoon boat tour expertly guided by Greg Kearns. The goal is Sora and we were successful. The weather was hot and humid and the low tide was running higher than normal thanks, in part, to lingering effects of Tropical Storm Hermine. We saw at least eight Soras, most of them juveniles. At least four other Soras were heard. There were few mudflats so some patience was required in getting views of birds in the heavy stands of wild rice and cattails.

Other highlights included hundreds of Tree Swallows in a migration flock, many sightings of Wood Duck, several Ospreys, a few Bald Eagles, one Northern Harrier, and a very brief view of a Peregrine Falcon harassing a small group of Caspian Terns.

We saw only one Canada Goose, a welcome relief from the hundreds that devastated the wild rice stands at Jug Bay in the 1990s. Thanks to very hard work by Greg and his teams over the years, the rice is back.



Little Bennett Regional Park, October 4. Leader: Gemma Radko. Participants: Five, including leader. Notable birds: seven warbler species including Black-throated Blue and Green, Magnolia, Black-and-white, Pine, Common Yellowthroat, and American Redstart. A nice assortment of thrushes included Veery, Wood, Swainson’s, and Gray-cheeked.

Members of the group also spotted Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, all three mimids (Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird), and some winter arrivals: White-throated Sparrow, both kinglets, and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Great day to be out!

Cerulean Warblers

Ask North American birders which species are on their wish lists, and chances are many will rank the charming Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) near the top. This diminutive, canopy-dwelling migrant is unique among wood-warblers in its distinctive coloration and its breeding biology. Living up to their name, males are a vivid cerulean blue with white underparts and sport a characteristic dark blue “necklace” or breast band. Females, though less flashy, have a beauty all their own, with a light aquamarine wash across the head and upperparts. Unfortunately, this species has also gained increased attention in recent years due to alarming population declines.

Once widespread and abundant breeders in eastern North American forests, Cerulean Warbler populations have dropped by nearly 3% per year since 1966, according to Breeding Bird Survey data. A petition to list the species as federally threatened was rejected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2006. However, they remain a USFWS priority species and are listed as “Vulnerable” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)’s Red List, which ranks the conservation status of flora and fauna across the world.

As with many imperiled songbird species, habitat loss appears to be the largest culprit in these declines. Cerulean Warblers are canopy nesters and generally require large tracts of mature deciduous forest in which to build their nests, which often range from 18-20 meters high. Approximately 80% of the breeding population is located in the Appalachian Mountains, meaning that habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation in this region is especially detrimental. The practice of mountaintop removal mining in the core of the Cerulean Warbler breeding range has destroyed valuable habitat for this and other species. However, while it was once thought that this species need an unbroken canopy for nesting, Cerulean Warblers have actually been found to be attracted to gaps in the forest canopy that result from forest fires, severe storms, small timber harvests, and other disturbances.

As long-distance migrants, Cerulean Warblers (and many other species) face a variety of threats while traveling between their breeding and wintering grounds. Migration is an inherently dangerous part



Artwork by Sabine Lette

of a species’ life cycle, but collisions with man-made structures such as windows, cell towers, and wind turbines can make the journey even more perilous. Loss of important “stopover” habitat—areas where hungry migrants can re-fuel enroute to their destination—can also play a role in population declines.

Cerulean Warblers spend their winters in South America; primarily on forested eastern slopes of the Andes. Here, too, habitat loss and fragmentation is of concern. However, Ceruleans have been found to use shade coffee plantations, indicating that sustainable agriculture can provide important habitat for migratory birds if done properly.

Despite the challenges, there are reasons for hope. Conservation groups ProAves and American Bird Conservancy have purchased land in Colombia to establish a Cerulean Warbler Reserve. Researchers are learning more about how to manage forests in ways that benefit the species. And ecotourism, both in the U.S. and abroad, can benefit local economies and encourage communities to preserve their natural resources.

According to the Maryland Biodiversity Project, Cerulean Warblers have been recorded in every county in Maryland. They only breed in limited areas of the state, primarily in the mountainous western counties. However, males on territory have been recorded at Susquehanna and Patapsco State Parks, and during migration you may be lucky enough to see one while birding your local patch—just don’t forget to look up! ♪

—Claire Nemes

Claire Nemes was a Montgomery Bird Club member for several years before completing her master’s degree studying Cerulean Warblers at Ball State University. She is grateful to the Maryland birding community for their support back when she was a beginning birder. Welcome back, Claire!



Birds of Note (July through September 2016)

Post-breeding dispersal caused some interesting waders to turn up in the county in the late summer and early fall. On September 11, Eric Christian found a pair of **White Ibis** while kayaking on the Rocky Gorge Reservoir. Later in the day, Joe Hanfman found them again near Browns Bridge, where many birders from both Howard County and Montgomery County were able to enjoy them. On August 3rd, Dave Czaplak spotted a **Little Blue Heron** at Violette's Lock. Joshua Heiser found another Little Blue Heron at Riley's Lock on September 3. Later in the month, on September 18, Anne Cianni and Michael Bowen spotted a **Snowy Egret** that was also at Riley's Lock. Dave Czaplak spotted a **Cattle Egret** flying past Violette's Lock on August 28.

Some nice shorebirds were found in the county on their southbound migration, most notably a **Willet**. When he spotted it on July 15, Dave Czaplak was not only able to identify it to species and get photo documentation as it flew past; he also noted the Willet was of the "Western" subspecies. This represents the first Montgomery County record of Willet in eBird. Also at Violette's Lock, Dave Czaplak had **American Golden-Plovers** fly by on several days in late August to mid-September. His highest count was a flock of 8 heading downriver on September 16. Woody and Rae Dubois spotted an **Upland Sandpiper** at Hughes Road Polo Fields on August 5. On September 1, Dave Czaplak had a pair of **Sanderlings** go by Violette's Lock. On September 18, John Pangborn found a **Stilt Sandpiper** in a flock of shorebirds at Blue Mash Nature Trail. At the Hughes Road Polo Fields on August 28, Dave Czaplak and Mary Ann Todd noted a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**. Though it only stayed for a couple of days, many birders were able to chase and enjoy this uncommon

grasspiper. On September 1, Dave Czaplak had a **Short-billed Dowitcher** fly by Violette's Lock. On July 30, Woody and Rae Dubois found a **Short-billed Dowitcher** at Blue Mash Nature Trail that stayed for a few days.

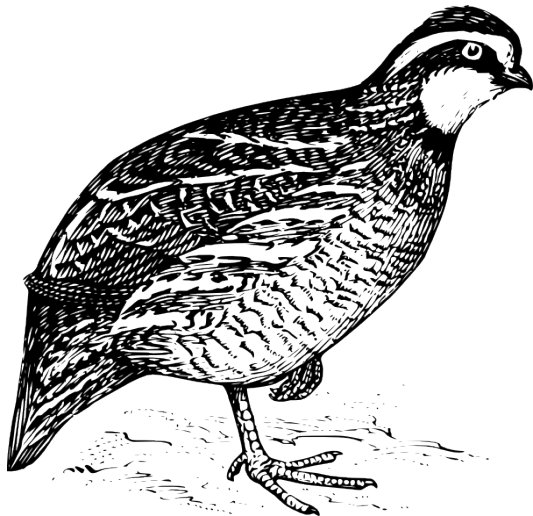
On August 28, Lauren Flesher and Reid Rumelt spotted a **Mississippi Kite** flying over Hughes Hollow. On September 5, Patti Armistead found another **Mississippi Kite** over Wheaton Regional Park. On September 25, Don Simonson had a high count of 2,434 **Broad-winged Hawks** over his home during a dedicated four-hour hawk watch. This incredible tally is not only a high count for his yard, but also for the county. On July 16, Thomas Doebel heard a **Northern Bobwhite** on Hughes Road. He managed to get a recording of the bird calling, but was unable to see it because it was on private property.

On August 18, Linda Friedland, Lydia Schindler, Moira Davenport, and Susan Hunt had an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Pennyfield Lock. Dave Czaplak had another **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Violette's Lock on September 7. An additional **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was found by Gail Mackiernan on September 21 at Wheaton Regional Park. Also at Wheaton Regional Park, Gail Mackiernan had **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** on September 2 and September 3.

On September 5, Tim Carney found a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Little Bennett Regional Park. On September 3, Gail Mackiernan found a **Brewster's Warbler** (Golden-winged X Blue-winged Hybrid) at Wheaton Regional Park. On September 22, Dave Czaplak found a **Connecticut Warbler** at Violette's Lock. A day later, on September 23, Brenton Reyner found another **Connecticut Warbler** at the Green Hill Farms Wetland.

In "twitching news", according to eBird, Montgomery County birders have reported 245 species as of September 25, only four behind 2015's total of 249. The top five listers (technically seven) in the county so far include Dave Czaplak at 231, Mary Ann Todd at 214, Thomas Doebel at 212, Woody and Rae Dubois at 201, and Mike Ostrowski tied with Robin Skinner at 197. ♣

—Kevin Ebert



An Irruptive Year for Red-breasted Nuthatches

In the last 10 years, the abundance of Red-breasted Nuthatches peaked on the week of September 22 in Montgomery County, according to eBird data. This year, their abundance has continued to rise past that average peak period.

This means that there are a lot of Red-breasted Nuthatches in Montgomery County this year. The same phenomenon has been noticed in many areas, indicating that pines in the northeast produced a bad crop of pinecones, forcing birds south. When there is a good crop of pinecones, birds tend to stay and feed on them instead of venturing south for the winter. If Red-breasted Nuthatches are being forced south in search of food, this could be a good year to look for other boreal songbirds.

To follow the Red-breasted Nuthatch irruption in more depth, one can visit eBird's line graph section under "Explore Data" and select a species, date range, and location to view data for. ♪



Montgomery Bird Club 2016 Annual Report of the Treasurer

The club ended its fiscal year on April 30 within budget, as shown in the table below. The largest outlay was the pass-through of membership dues and individual contributions to the Maryland Ornithological Society. Activities of the club supported by members' contributions included the rental and speaker honoraria for the eight Wednesday night meetings, and printing and mailing *The Chat* four times per year. The cost of the Annual Social in March is largely covered by participants. After accounting for late transactions and the forward payment of rent for next year's meeting space at Potomac Presbyterian Church, the club finished the year with \$5203.83 in its checking account and \$30,491 in a Vanguard investment fund (derived primarily from the sale of *A Birder's Guide to Montgomery County*).

Expenditures for the coming year are expected to be slightly higher due to an increase in rent for the meeting hall but still within the budget so long as the membership does not decline. According to Membership Chair Helen Patton, the club had 174 members, including 114 individuals, 48 households and 12 student/adjunct. These included 137 renewing members and 37 newcomers. However, this is a troubling drop from 2014, with over 120 members failing to renew in that period. It will be important, both for the organizational and financial health of our club, that we encourage our friends and acquaintances to join or renew in the coming year.

The financial report and proposed 2017 budget on the next page were approved by the club council at its meeting on June 9, 2016. ♪

—Chris Wright, Treasurer

Montgomery Bird Club 2016 Annual Financial Summary and Proposed Budget

	2016 Budget	2016 Actual (rev 7/14)	2017 Budget
INCOME			
Dues	6,050.00	6,413.00	6,300.00
Wilds Fund	850.00	602.00	600.00
MOS Extra	0.00	420.00	400.00
Social/Picnic	1,200.00	1,140.00	1,200.00
Site Guide/Misc	500.00	340.50	100.00
Total	8,600.00	8,915.50	8,600.00
EXPENDITURES			
MOS	3,700.00	4,475.00	4,200.00
Chat	1,030.00	1,386.55	1,150.00
Web	250.00	177.00	100.00
Office Sup/Misc	200.00	146.40	150.00
Rent/Speakers	800.00	843.88	1,500.00
Social/Picnic	2,000.00	1,783.68	1,700.00
Total	7,980.00	8,812.51	8,800.00

Welcome New Members!



Scott Baron
 Michael Cunningham
 Heiser Family
 Jeanette Johnson
 Cindy Lostritto
 Patrick and Esther Malloy
 Christel Milazzo
 Richard Pollard
 Diane Schwarz
 Pat Scully
 William and Sara Tangren
 Pat Wellington





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL 2016/17

I/we wish to join the Montgomery Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, for the year beginning September 2016 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

