

## President's Chat

**B**y the time you will be getting your Chat, fall migration will mostly be over. Our

Neotropical migrants – the colorful warblers, orioles and tanagers, mysterious thrushes, and fascinating shorebirds will hopefully be back safely on their wintering quarters. Because these birds breed in North America, we're accustomed to thinking of them as "our" birds and we can almost be tempted into thinking that they are taking it easy down south after the rigors of migration and the important business of breeding up here.

Extensive research tells us we should know better. Many Neotropical migrants have very specific wintering needs, and defend wintering territories which are suitable for them. They spend longer on their wintering grounds than they do on their breeding territories. And we've been aware for some time of the impact that habitat loss on wintering grounds has been having on the populations of these birds.

The recent devastating hurricanes in the Caribbean remind us that natural events can have a major impact on birds, just as much as man-made events. The islands of the Caribbean are important wintering grounds to many of our warblers, including Cape May, both waterthrushes, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Magnolia to name a few and of course the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. As well as severely impacting local fauna, these can damage already depleted local eco-systems. Central America is the wintering grounds of many other warblers – Blue- and Golden-winged, Tennessee, Nashville and Chestnut-sided, for example – and is a region that has seen a lot of habitat destruction, as well as efforts to preserve this and make



modern agriculture consistent with habitat that a range of birds can survive in.

This winter, let's keep our summer visitors in mind even though they are far away and think about what we can do to support birding habitat in the Caribbean and Central America which

are so critical to the birds that lighten our hearts when they come back each spring. We recently circulated on mailchimp a fundraising effort for the Gulf and the Caribbean by the American Bird Conservancy. This is one way we might be able to help. It would be good to see if there are other ways in which, as individuals and as a club and birding community, we can protect habitat in those areas which are every bit as critical to our birds as the habitat here in Montgomery County.

—Clive Harris

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# Upcoming Club Meetings

**November 8 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Greg Kearns on Wild Rice.** Greg is returning to follow up with a talk on his thirty-year program to establish wild rice in the Patuxent Bay. He has been successful in reestablishing the rice and making the Bay an important stopover for ducks and Soras.

**December 13 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Suzanne Dater on Tanzania.** Suzanne is a prize-winning photographer and her program will feature not just birds but some of the animals found in Tanzania. She took her first photography course in 2001 and has since been hooked on this art form, specializing in nature and travel photography to all seven continents. The slide show she will be presenting in December will cover a trip she took to the Serengeti in 2016—one of several trips she has taken to Africa photographing wildlife.

**January 17, 2018 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Jim Brighton on Maryland's Biodiversity Project.** As many of you know, Jim and Bill Hubick have been working, with lots of help from others, to catalogue all living things in Maryland. This will be an update on his progress.

**February 21, 2018 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. George Jett on Ethiopia.** George will be giving one of his inimitable programs on Ethiopia. Since retiring from the EPA thirteen years ago, George has been traveling the world taking pictures for conservation. He will share photographs from his trip to Ethiopia in May of 2011. The focus of his trip was on endemic birds and the Ethiopian Wolf, but he studied and photographed anything that would cooperate.

**March 2, 2018 (Friday) Montgomery Bird Club Annual Social.** The selection of the Member of the Year is announced; our favorite entertainment, members photographs and a delicious dinner for our annual get-together.

**April 18, 2018 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Mike Hudson on Red Knots.** Just in time for the Northward migration, Mike will be bringing us up to speed about the Red Knot story. Mike Hudson is currently a senior at Washington College, where he is studying Biology and English. In April 2017, he was appointed an editor of *North American Birds*, the American Birding Association's journal on bird status and distribution. When not in class or working on NAB content, he works as an intern bird bander at the Chester River Field Research Station, where he has been for seven consecutive seasons.

**May 16, 2018 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Gail Mackiernan on Madagascar.** Gail will give her highly anticipated program on Madagascar. Madagascar is the world's fourth-largest island and is often referred to as the "Eighth Continent". Its unique fauna and flora have evolved during millions of years of isolation and are a "naturalist's dream." Over 140 endemic species of birds (and five endemic bird families!) are found here, as well as a fascinating supporting cast of lemurs, chameleons, frogs, weird insects and even stranger plants. Gail Mackiernan will talk about her November 2015 trip, which explored this ancient land from south to north and recorded many of the island's most sought-after species.

*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](mailto: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.

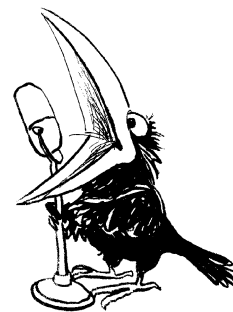
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Deadline for submissions is the 5th of the preceding month.

Send items to Patrick Newcombe, 12005 Smoketree Road, Potomac, MD 20854, phone: 301-424-3259, e-mail: [stonecroft5@verizon.net](mailto:stonecroft5@verizon.net)



# Field Trips

New Club members, new birders, and guests are welcome on every field trip. Because some trips offer an easier learning environment, we have marked them with an asterisks (\*). If in doubt, don't hesitate to contact field trip coordinator Linda Friedland at [linnet1@verizon.net](mailto:linnet1@verizon.net) or 301-983-2136 (before 9 p.m.).

**November 4 (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 10 (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, 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](mailto:lydia13621@gmail.com) or Linda Friedland [linnet1@verizon.net](mailto:linnet1@verizon.net)

**November 19 (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 raptors and migratory warblers, vireos, thrushes and flycatchers should be present, and rails and bitterns are possibilities. Meet at the parking lot in the center of the refuge at 7:30 a.m. Reservations required. Limit: 25. 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 LEFT 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.

**November 26 (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 [clivegharris@yahoo.com](mailto:clivegharris@yahoo.com)

**January 1 (Monday) EARLIEST BIRD WALK- GEORGETOWN RESERVOIR AND D.C./VA 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. Itinerary will be different this year due to new parking restrictions along the route. Reservations required. Strict limit: 20 participants who absolutely must be prepared to carpool. (No singletons!) LEADER: Mike Bowen [dhmbowen@yahoo.com](mailto:dhmbowen@yahoo.com) or 301-530-5764.

**January 21 (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 at [maineusa@comcast.net](mailto:maineusa@comcast.net) or 571-277-8406.

**January 28 (Sunday) WINTER WATERFOWL SEARCH.\*** Half day. Waterfowl search of Montgomery County waterways for ducks, grebes, and mergansers. Based on the unpredictability of winter weather conditions, the leader will decide on the meeting place a few weeks before the trip and use recent bird reports to decide best locations to visit. Bring a scope if you have one. Reservations required. For reservations and more information, contact LEADER: Andy Martin [martinap2@verizon.net](mailto:martinap2@verizon.net) or 301-529-2066.

**February 4 (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. LEADER: Mark England [markengland@canamcontractors.com](mailto:markengland@canamcontractors.com) or 240-375-4500 (cell).

**February 7 (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 [ctlovell1@yahoo.com](mailto:ctlovell1@yahoo.com) or 240-242-3235.

Field trips thru April 2018 are available at [www.montgomerybirdclub.org](http://www.montgomerybirdclub.org)

## Meet a Trip Leader: Mark England



Mark England leads the very popular field trips to Oaks Landfill in November and February. Besides being a regular trip leader, Mark England has been very active in the Montgomery Bird Club. Thank you for volunteering your valuable time, Mark!

**Year joined Montgomery Bird Club:** I'm not sure exactly, but it was about 1998.

### **Volunteer positions with**

**MBC:** I've been a Chapter Director twice, a State Director, and I have been on the Nominating Committee twice I think, chairing it once. I was Compiler of the Seneca Christmas Bird Count for nine years as well, before Jim Nelson graciously assumed the duties.

**Year began leading bird walks:** Again, it was probably about 1998, when I started leading some birdwalks, first with ANS (the Audubon Naturalist Society), and later the Montgomery Bird Club.

**Favorite bird:** I get asked that now and then, by non-birders mostly, and still don't have a ready answer. If I had to pick, then I guess the Short-eared Owl is my favorite bird. When seen in good light, it's beautifully marked, and exciting to watch in its low hunting flight. And, it has that certain unfamiliar mysterious quality that all owls possess.

**Favorite bird book:** I mostly use the National Geographic guide now, as it has great artwork, good text and range maps, plus the handy tabs and quick-find index that are very helpful when you want to quickly show folks certain field marks. My little Sibley guide (autographed) served me well for years, and I've had to tape the spine to keep it intact. Among the big "stay-at-home" guides, I like to look at the Crossley photographic guide. When I was just starting birding, I was lucky to read *The Complete Birder*, by Jack Connor, a New Jersey writer and birder. It is very readable and informative, and in certain anecdotal passages, conveys the "experience" of birding better than any book I've read since.

**Favorite Montgomery County birding spot:** Nowadays, probably Blue Mash in the spring and early fall, and in the winter, Black Hill Regional Park. I'll always be fond of Little Bennett and have been there many times over the years, but just don't go there as much as I used to.

**How did you start birding:** This is a little convoluted, but, my wife was helping a friend with a newsletter in May 1995, when the friend asked if we would be interested in going on a birdwalk on their 200-acre tree-farm property near Emmitsburg, Md. I thought, "Sure, why not?" An expert birder from Frederick, Frank Schaff, had offered to lead the

trip. Frank quickly began naming distant birds like the Kentucky Warbler and Great Crested Flycatcher by their songs alone, and I was intrigued by that. Toward the end of the walk, Frank got a male American Redstart in his scope, and I had a good look at the spectacular warbler, and was hooked for life.

**Significant birding accomplishments:** I've been honored to help lead several ANS trips out west, and to inherit Don Messersmith's "Bird Life" class in the Natural History Field Studies program at ANS, which I've taught since 2005. But I guess I'm most proud of some work I did for the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas in 2006. Jim Green, the Montgomery County atlas coordinator, had sent out a message to all atlasers that we were seriously lacking information on Eastern Screech Owls. I thought it might be an interesting challenge, so Jim sent me the areas to search, and I went out for six consecutive nights after dinner till past 11 pm. With a response rate of only about 30%, I still found Screech Owls in 17 atlas blocks in the upper county in the last possible week of the five-year Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas, and several Great Horned Owls as well, though my nerves were frazzled for a few weeks from these nocturnal trips.

**Memorable birding experience:** There have been a lot, but this one also involves owls, and my late, great birding friend, Hugh Mahanes. Hugh had a life list of over 600 birds, but lamented having never seen a Long-eared Owl. One winter, he told me he had heard that Long-eared Owls had been found at the old Ace Nursery in Laytonsville on the Triadelphia Christmas Count. I decided to stop by there on a late Friday afternoon on my way home, not knowing where to even begin looking in the many overgrown conifer trees. Having no luck, I was heading back to my car just before sundown, when I looked toward a dense pine and saw the unmistakable backlit silhouette of an alarmed and elongated Long-eared Owl, near the trunk of the tree. Getting over my shock, I called Hugh to tell him I was looking at his nemesis bird as we spoke, and we relocated the owl the next day, though I had to grab Hugh by the shoulders and point him directly at the well-concealed bird before he saw it too.

**Something that inspires you about birding:** The resilience, self-sufficiency, and adaptability of birds, and how they are so attuned to their surroundings, knowing what they "need to do" on pure instinct and evolutionary memory.

### **Welcome New Members!**

Carole and Chuck Dilla

Joe Pecoraro

Dave and Rachel Simons

Jay Wolowitz



## 'Tis the Season: 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 16 - Triadelphia Reservoir CBC, MD.** Compiler: David Holmes, musicbndr@gmail.com (preferred) or 410-730-7083 or 410-952-3584 (cell).

**Sunday, December 17 - Seneca CBC, MD and VA.** Compiler: Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net (preferred) or 301-530-6574.

**Thursday, December 28 - Central Loudoun CBC, VA and MD** (this count includes 5 miles along the C&O Canal in Montgomery Co, MD). Compiler: Joe Coleman, 540-554-2542 or joecoleman@rstarmail.com or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org. Sign up at [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org).

**Sunday, December 31 - Sugarloaf Mountain CBC, MD.** Compiler: Janet Millenson, 301-983-9337 or janet@twocrows.com.

This year is the 118th year for the Christmas Bird Counts. The website, <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/christmas-bird-count>, has a wide array of information on the Christmas Bird Count including a history of the count narrated by Chandler Robbins in Patuxent, Maryland. Other videos explain how Christmas Bird Counts help scientists and conservationists.



### Club News



The 2018 Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) Annual Convention will be held February 2-4, 2018 in Ocean City, Maryland.

Do you know a young birder? If so, be sure to let them know about YMOS ([www.ymos.org](http://www.ymos.org)). This active group of high schoolers and middle schoolers has trips

throughout the school year. Highlights in September and October included Assateague Island, Taylor's Island, Cape May, and a banding station visit. Every year, young birders from Montgomery County also participate in the World Series of Birding through YMOS.

In the August issue, the attribution for the article on Gemma Radko should have read Lydia Schindler, not Schlinder. Our apologies!

## Remembering Harriet "Heidi" Shinn

My friend Heidi Shinn passed away at Riderwood Retirement Community in late August. I first met her on a bird walk at Pennyfield many years ago, and we became instant friends. An ardent birder, she persuaded me to start attending the Montgomery Bird Club meetings. We also attended one of the MOS Conferences together.

But our friendship grew from our rides together to Potomac for the Bird Club meetings. She didn't like the long drive from her apartment near Strathmore, and I didn't like driving there by myself. She was a generous friend and a fantastic "listener." In fact, when I parted from her at the end of the evening, I often felt a little guilty that I had talked so much when she was a person of great depth and interesting experiences. I learned a little about this on our drives and more in the notice her children, Liz and Rob, wrote to announce her passing.

She had been a Foreign Service wife, living in Poland, Germany, France, and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. She had learned three languages while living abroad. Later in life, she wrote poetry, and her poems were compiled into a book in 2016. Every Christmas she would give me some small elegant, beautifully wrapped bird-themed gift for playing chauffeur, but the best gift she gave me was a copy of one of her poems "About the Wren", printed below.

Donations in Heidi's memory may be made to the Lewy Body Dementia Association or the Audubon Naturalist Society.

—Susan Hunt

### About the Wren

By Harriet Shinn

*Slowly soothes the flowing waters of the ruptured  
soul.*

*The fountain skirl beguiles the ears and mesmerizes  
this barely pulsing life, held like a wren within.*

*The water trembles across the walk and fumbles  
back.*

*If I hold gently the wren in my hands to let her hear  
the mist, might she sing again?*

*Might she sing?*





# Trip Reports

**Wheaton Regional Park September 14.** Leaders: Woody and Rae Dubois. Participants: 5. Species: 32. We had hoped for a number of warblers and other migrants after the rain, but the birding was somewhat quiet. We did, however, see several American Redstarts, Common Yellowthroats, a Magnolia and a couple of Black and White Warblers. The Northern Flickers and Brown Thrashers continued to move through and Ruby-throats were feeding on the Jewelweed.

**Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince Georges County, September 16.** Leaders: Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. Participants: 20. Total species: at least 36. The annual Audubon Naturalist Society/MBC trip on the Patuxent River was held in warm sunny weather. Greg has started a new project to band and track the migration of Soras. During the trip we stopped at 5 of his trapping sites and found 2 birds, 1 juvenile and 1 adult. Trip participants were thrilled to see this elusive rail in the hand. Greg and his research assistant explained the banding process and the value of the information gathered. He also talked about the new capabilities for tracking the birds. He expects to capture about 300 Soras this fall and will attach small radio frequency transmitters to 30 of them. He is participating in the MOTUS network, a series of antennas at sites from Canada through the US eastern seaboard. Using grant money, he installed antennas at Jug Bay. If a bird in a registered MOTUS project flies within a few miles of an antenna its identifying information is captured. In addition to the captured Soras we saw at least 4 others and heard another dozen. Other highlights included several small flocks of Blue-winged Teal, numerous Wood Ducks, and scattered sightings of Northern Harrier, Bald Eagles, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Solitary Sandpiper, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

## **Pennyfield to Violette's "Bird Stalk", September 24.**

Leader: Jim Nelson. Participants: 6, including leader. Weather: A sunny day with temps rising from high 60's to 80's. Total species: 36. This walk is for folks who generally cannot get out as early. We met at Violette's Lock at 9:00, carpoled down to Pennyfield Lock, and then walked upstream along the C&O Canal towpath back to Violette's, ending just after noon. The total species count was a bit lower than last year with low numbers of land birds (few warblers and no sparrows or orioles) and few water birds or waders, not surprising given the unusually warm weather in the days before the walk. The sustained dry weather meant the second impoundment had only a little water and mud that failed to attract shorebirds and waders (just one Killdeer). Highlights were a cooperative Green Heron, an immature Bald Eagle, at least 30 Broad-winged Hawks flying high and

heading south, an Empidonax flycatcher that was very yellow below but refused to come down to give us views of the upperparts, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, elusive vireos and a distant thrush that couldn't be further identified, Black and White Warbler, Northern Parula, and a late Canada Warbler flagged by eBird. Before the walk while waiting at Violette's Lock for everyone to arrive, the leader and one participant had quick views of a fly-over Red-headed Woodpecker. The complete checklist from the walk can be viewed in eBird at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39367892>.

**Montgomery's Big Sit, October 7.** Leader: Chuck Parker. Participants: 7. Species: 47. The Saturday morning Big Sit at Black Hill Regional Park was attended by seven birders who were treated to perfect weather and fresh coffee and donuts provided by Ed Vigezzi. A total of 47 species were seen and the highlights included a Great Egret that hung around the entire day, Bald Eagle, great views of wood ducks and a Nashville Warbler

## **Blue Mash, October 10.** Leader: Stephanie Lovell.

Participants: 3. Species: 23. An intimate group we were as the three of us walked around Blue Mash on a damp dreary morning. It promised rain any minute, but held off until we finished our tour. Temps were in the low 70's and it was very humid. First off, of course, a Carolina Wren let its presence be known, and then several Blue Jays harassed a large hawk, probably the resident Red-tailed Hawk, but he flew off before we could ID him. The first pond was totally dry, half a dozen or so Killdeer inspecting the flats, but no ducks, with no water! The second pond only held a Great Blue Heron, and looked very scummy. We heard Towhees, Cardinals; saw a Field Sparrow and a Song Sparrow; Kinglets were about, both Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Golden-crowned Kinglet; a Yellow-rumped Warbler showed himself; and a well-hidden Mockingbird gave a symphony of bird calls! Fly overs included a Cooper's Hawk, Canada Geese and American Crows. We ended up with not a bad list for a very gray day where it was hard to distinguish color.



# Birds of Note (July—October 2017)

A juvenile **Sabine's Gull** found during the first week of September on the Potomac River highlights this issue of Birds of Note. Initially spotted by Dave Czaplak on September 7 in the vicinity of Sycamore Landing, the bird was subsequently seen through September 13, in various locations along the river between Edward's Ferry and Violette's Lock. The last Montgomery County record of a **Sabine's Gull** was from September of 2012 at Triadelphia Reservoir. Dave noted "I think this is the third (record of this species) for Montgomery, but the first juvenile. All records from September." Additional gull sightings reported by Dave over the last few months include a flock of 7 **Laughing Gulls** that dropped in on the Potomac River at Violette's Lock on September 11, which fed briefly on mayflies before departing down river and a **Greater Black-backed Gull** on July 5 also near Violette's Lock.

Paul Fearn observed 12 **American Black Ducks** at Dierssen WMA near Pennyfield Lock on July 8, an unusual sighting for the time of year. An adult male **Bufflehead** was photographed in the Germantown area by Ninad Thakoor on July 4.

Dave Czaplak, birding from the Maryland side of the Potomac River near Violette's Lock on the morning of July 29, spotted a **Snowy Egret** flying upriver and into the golf course ponds at the Trump National Golf Course. This bird continued to be seen in and around the Violette's/Riley's Lock area by Montgomery birders through mid-August. John Pangborn found a **Glossy Ibis** in the "big" pond at Blue Mash on August 23. This bird cooperatively "hung" around Blue Mash for others to see through September 6. Additional **Glossy Ibis** sightings came from the Potomac at Violette's Lock by Dave Czaplak on August 9 and at the Battleview (formerly called Patton) Turf Farm by Rob Hilton on August 13.

Bryan Henson noted a "heard only" **Sora** from the Hughes Hollow within McKee-Beshers WMA on July 17.

On August 24, John Pangborn picked out a **Stilt Sandpiper** among a mixed flock of shorebirds (Least, Semipalmated, and Spotted Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs) feeding in the "big" pond at Blue Mash. Flyover **American Golden-Plovers** were observed by Dave Czaplak on September 23 near the Trump National Golf Course on the Virginia side of the Potomac across from Violette's Lock. An Audubon

Naturalist Society walk on September 3, led by Tony Fitcher and Floyd Murdoch produced a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** as well as 2 **American Golden-Plovers** at the Summit Hall Turf Farm.

Dave Roberts observed 6 **Black Terns** at Violette's Lock on August 11. Additional **Black Tern** reports came from this same vicinity between August 15 and 24. During July, August and September, Montgomery's stretch of the Potomac produced sporadic reports of southward migrating **Common, Forster's, and Caspian Terns**.

The same Audubon Naturalist Society walk on September 3 referenced above that produced some good shorebirds at the Summit Hall Turf Farm, also netted (figuratively speaking) a **Black-billed Cuckoo**. Joe Hanfman found a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Riley's Lock on August 13 and Dave Czaplak observed one at Violette's Lock on September 12.

September produced reports of **Olive-sided Flycatchers** from various locations in Montgomery including Blue Mash, Little Bennett and Wheaton RPs, and Hughes Hollow. A "getting late" **Great-crested Flycatcher** was found by Tom Kimbis at Seneca Creek SP near Clopper Lake on September 30.

While chasing the Blue Mash **Glossy Ibis** on September 3, Jim Staz found an immature **Connecticut Warbler**. Birding the Great Seneca Greenway Trail between Huntmaster and Brink Roads on September 10, Brenton Reyner and Thomas Doebel got great looks and photographic evidence of not only a **Connecticut Warbler** but also a **Mourning Warbler**. Dave Czaplak reported a **Mourning Warbler** from the Hughes Hollow on September 7. Thomas Doebel observed a **Golden-winged Warbler** at McKee-Beshers WMA on September 9. Gail Mackiernan and Barry Cooper reported a **Brewster's Warbler** (Blue-winged X Golden-winged hybrid) from Wheaton Regional Park on September 18.

**Dickcissels** that originally showed up the Oaks Landfill near Blue Mash in mid-May, continued to be reported from that location through July 27. Scott Baron noted a high count of 14 **Dickcissels** in this location on July 12. **Summer Tanagers** continued to be reported through August along the Potomac River corridor from Pennyfield to Riley's Lock.

As of October 2, a total of 241 species have been reported in Montgomery County so far this year.

— Andy Martin

the Chat





The Chat

MBC/Maryland Ornithological Society

429 Hamilton Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20901

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL 2017-18

I/we wish to join the Montgomery Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, for the year beginning September 2017 and enclose dues for:

\_\_\_\_ Individual—\$30 (\$10 Chapter/\$20 State)

\_\_\_\_ Sustaining—\$70 (\$20 Chapter/\$50 State)

\_\_\_\_ Household—\$40 (\$15 Chapter/\$25 State)

\_\_\_\_ Life—\$1,200 (\$200 Chapter/ \$1,000 State)

\_\_\_\_ Junior—\$6 (\$1 Chapter/\$5 State)

\_\_\_\_ Associate\*— \$8

\*member of MOS through another chapter

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Dues**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Donation to Claudia Wilds Fund** (To augment the club's regular income for promoting local understanding of birds and the need for habitat protection.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **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 Maryland Yellowthroat by mail. Otherwise, you will be notified when The Yellowthroat is posted on the MOS website.