



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

November 2019

Volume 50, No. 4

President's Chat

It's fall, and I hope that by the time you are reading this, we are finally experiencing weather that matches the calendar.

Thanks to all of you who have already renewed your membership. If you haven't yet renewed (What? Can that be?), you can download the form from this Chat, from our website or renew through the MOS website (mdbirding.org). Remember that your dues help our state organization, the Maryland Ornithological Society, to support their projects and also our own club projects, newsletter, and guest speakers.

More thanks are due to our volunteers. Whether you set up chairs, bring refreshments to our club meetings, or help with our numerous committees, all of your work is greatly appreciated.

Welcome to all of our new members. I hope you will have a chance to take advantage of the numerous field trips that are available. The leaders are knowledgeable, good-humored, patient, and always willing to share their expertise with all of us.

We have five local Christmas Bird Counts coming up (in December). These counts are open to all levels of birders, and everyone is invited and encouraged to join in. You will find more information on the CBCs at our meeting and in various newsletters. We will keep you informed!

Help celebrate the 75th year of MOS and its 73rd annual conference, May 15-17, 2020, in Cumberland, Maryland. More information will be forthcoming as we near registration time.

Good birding!

—Anna Urciolo



Welcome to our new President!

Anna Urciolo Elected as New Club President and Amendment to the MBC Constitution Adopted at September 18 Club Meeting

As explained in the August Chat, the MBC held a special election at its September 18 meeting to fill the Club President position left vacant by the death of Stephanie Lovell. The Nominating Committee nominated Anna Urciolo to serve as President for the remainder of the current term. There were no additional nominations from the floor, and Anna was elected unanimously by all the members voting. She will serve until the next Club election in May, 2020.

In addition, by a unanimous vote, the MBC members present voted to adopt an amendment to the MBC Constitution proposed by the MBC Council to provide for the automatic elevation of the Vice President to President in the event the President position becomes vacant between annual elections of officers.

—Jim Nelson



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Fall & Winter Meeting Calendar



November 13 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m., Clive Harris: How to ID Gulls. Do you find your heart sinking when facing a flock of gulls? Do you avoid them, particularly the immature ones that all look the same? Do you agonize that maybe you just failed to identify a life gull because you were too scared to look through the flock? If you answered yes to any of these questions you may have Larophobia, a recognized birding condition! The good news is that, with modern identification techniques, you can be cured. Just in time for winter, Clive Harris will take us through the common, and not so common, Gulls of the mid-Atlantic and provide some tips on how you can venture confidently out to the landfill.

December 11 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m., Wine & Cheese. Relax, meet other members and make new birding friends over Wine and Cheese. Then sharpen your visual and auditory bird identification skills for the traditional Bird Quiz that will be presented by Evelyn Ralston.

January 15 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. Gabriel Foley on BBA3 (Breeding Bird Atlas 3). Have you heard that we are in the first of 4 years of collecting data, compiling, and publishing the 2020-24 Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas? Gabriel Foley has been selected by MOS to be the Coordinator of the whole enterprise. He will tell us all we need to know to take part in this great enterprise. We will also meet our own County Co-Coordinator, Emily Huang and Karen Cyr.

February 19 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. David R. Curson, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Maryland-DC on Saving the Chesapeake's Shrinking Marshes. Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge lies at the heart of one of the largest tidal marsh complexes in the northeastern United States, which is recognized as an Important Bird Area (Southern Dorchester County IBA) supporting globally important populations of Black Rail and Saltmarsh Sparrow. Rapid sea level rise threatens the survival of this ecosystem during the current century. Learn how Audubon, working with Federal, State and NGO partners, ensures that Maryland's salt marshes and their birds do survive, by implementing innovative strategies.

March 13 (Friday), Montgomery Bird Club Annual Social. Save the Date! The announcement of the Member of the Year, members' photographs, and a delicious dinner are highlights of our annual get-together at Woodend.

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. Starting with February 2020 issue, please send items to Evelyn Ralston, evelynralston@icloud.com



Field Trips

New Club members, new birders, and guests are cordially welcome on every field trip. Don't hesitate to contact field trip coordinator Linda Friedland at linnet1@verizon.net or 301-983-2136 (before 9 p.m.). Registration for joint MBC/ANS trips is done online at ANShome.org/adults.

NOVEMBER 3 (Sunday) Oaks Landfill, Laytonsville. 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. For reservations and more information, contact the LEADER: Mark England at 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell).

NOVEMBER 11 (Monday) Basics of Sparrow ID at Redgate Park. Sparrows—Little Brown Jobs, to some—can be tricky to identify. A morning at Redgate will provide a good opportunity to learn and review key field marks. 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. THE TRIP IS NOW FULL. To be on the waitlist, contact one of the LEADERS: Lydia Schindler at lydia13621@gmail.com or Linda Friedland at linnet1@verizon.net.

NOVEMBER 24 (Sunday) Lilypons/New Design Road. Half-day. Wintering field birds, targeting Fox and Tree Sparrows, possibly Virginia Rail and American Bittern. For reservations (required) and more information, contact the LEADER: Clive Harris at clivegharris@yahoo.com.

DECEMBER 8 (Sunday) Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. 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. For reservations and meeting place and time, contact the LEADER: Mark England at 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell).

JANUARY 1 (Wednesday) Earliest Bird Walk, Georgetown Reservoir and DC/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 car-pool. (No singletons!) For reservations, contact the LEADER: Mike Bowen at 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com.

JANUARY 11 (Saturday) Redgate Park. Come explore this "new" park on a former golf course. Offers multiple habitats, including a small marsh, wooded areas, and lots of meadow areas for potential winter sparrows. In its first few months as a park, birders identified 77 species. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot. Some areas have steep hills. If there are icy conditions, the trip will be postponed. Reservations required (no limit). For reservations and information, contact the LEADER: Anne Mytych at 240-506-0236 or amytych@yahoo.com.

JANUARY 12 (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 premier county spot for winter waterfowl. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Visitors Center to Black Hill Regional Park, and bring a spotting scope if you have one. For reservations (required) and more information, contact the LEADER: Gerry Hawkins at 571-277-8406 (cell) or maineusa@comcast.net.

JANUARY 18-19 (Saturday and Sunday) Eastern Shore. Explore the bird-rich Eastern Shore! Saturday morning we'll cross the Bay Bridge and check for Brown-headed Nuthatches at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center; then we'll head to Cambridge and Blackwater NWR for eagles, ducks, and Snow

Continued on the next page

Field Trips

Geese. We'll overnight in Ocean City. On Sunday, we'll take in Brant, loons, and gulls at Ocean City Inlet and, as conditions permit, check out Assateague Island. Trip is limited to 10. We will carpool. If a Nor'easter comes howling down, we won't go. For reservations and information, contact the LEADER: Cheryl Hogue at cheryl.hogue@gmail.com

JANUARY 26 (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. For reservations (required) and more info, contact the LEADER: Andy Martin at 301-529-2066 or martinap2@verizon.net.

FEBRUARY 2 (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 they aren't 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 p.m. on landfill entrance drive at 6001 Rt. 108, Laytonsville, Md. For reservations and more information, contact the LEADER: Mark England at 240-375-4500 (cell) or markengland@canamcontractors.com.

Calling All Birders: 'Tis the Season for Christmas Bird Counts

This year is the 120th year for the Christmas Bird Counts. The website <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count> has a wide array of information, including a history of the Counts narrated by Chandler Robbins in Patuxent, MD and videos explaining how Christmas Bird Counts help scientists and conservationists. Christmas Bird Counts are just around the corner. Below are the counts that are all or partly over Montgomery County. If you can help out, please contact the compiler.

Saturday, December 14: Triadelphia Reservoir CBC, MD. Compiler: David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com (preferred) or 410-730-7083 (home) or 410-952-3584 (cell)

Saturday, December 14: DC CBC, MD and DC. Sponsored by ANS. Compiler: Larry Cartwright. Includes a segment of the C&O Canal towpath that's in MD. Contact ANS through Carol.Hayes@anshome.org or 301-652-9188, extension 10

Sunday, December 15: Seneca CBC, MD and VA. Compiler: Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net (preferred) or 240-515-4517 (cell)

Saturday, 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. Sign up at www.loudounwildlife.org.

Sunday, December 29: Sugarloaf Mountain CBC, MD. Compiler: Janet Millenson, 301-983-9337 or janet@twocrows.com



Welcome to new members

Cheryl Lyn Dybas

Edwin Guld

Zeina & Tom Kubarych

Patricia Milligan

Tom Strikwerda

...and to Miles, Mark England's first grandchild!



Bird Club News

Save the Date! **May 15-17, 2020 MOS Convention.** Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Maryland Ornithological Society in Cumberland, Allegany County. Information coming soon at <https://mdbirds.org/join/annual-conference/>.

This past February, Montgomery Bird Club member **Bruce Beehler** spoke to us about his book, *North on the Wing: Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring*, and recounted his 2015 trip to follow songbird migration from Texas to Northern Ontario. He has recently written two opinion pieces for the **Washington Post**: on August 16, "Why gloom and doom won't help us fight climate change" (https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/why-doom-and-gloom-wont-help-us-fight-climate-change/2019/08/16/0d0bf0fa-b880-11e9-a091-6a96e67d9cce_story.html) and on September 11, "It's September: Seize the Moment" (https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/its-september-seize-the-moment/2019/09/11/f76616f2-d4c4-11e9-9610-fb56c5522e1c_story.html).

The **2019 Presidents' Walk** led at Blue Mash by Andy Martin on October 26 was a great success, with 17 participants and 47 bird species observed, from Kinglet to Bald Eagle. Below, former presidents Lydia Schindler and Linda Friedland chat with Jane De Mouy, widow of late president Lou De Mouy. Right, Blue Mash in Fall colors was at its best with large flocks of Canada Geese flying over the group of birders.



Trip Reports

Oaks Landfill, Laytonsville, June 29. Joint MBC/ANS trip. Leader: Mark England. Participants: 16, plus leader. Species: 27 seen and 5 heard only. Weather: 70s at the 6:45 a.m. start, but mid-80s when we left about 9:15. Sunny and clear. We got underway about 7 a.m. and found singing male Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak early on and noted numerous Common Yellowthroats and Red-winged Blackbirds as we drove around. We had good looks at a nesting Willow Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, and Eastern Kingbird, but the two male Dickcissels that had appeared in early June must have left. There were Barn and Tree Swallows roosting together on a fence near the leachate ponds, and we found a semi-concealed female Wood Duck on the big pond, along with four Killdeer and a Great Blue Heron.

Oaks Landfill, Laytonsville, July 6. Leader: Mark England. Participants: 21, plus leader. Species: 37. Weather: 70s at the 6:45 a.m. start but high 80s when we left about 9:30. Sunny and clear. Like on June 29, male Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak early on in great light, close looks at three Willow Flycatchers, male and female Orchard Orioles, a Brown Thrasher, and two Eastern Kingbirds, but again we had no Dickcissels or Grasshopper Sparrows, which had been seen a few times in June. The presumed same female Wood Duck seen the week before now had two young, and there were a few each Green and Great Blue Herons. When we got out of the cars at the tarp-lined leachate ponds we found four Killdeer, three Spotted Sandpipers, and a surprising Lesser Yellowlegs, easily the best bird of the morning.

Wheaton Regional Park, September 5. Leaders: Woody and Rae Dubois. We met at 7:00 a.m. Including the leaders, we were a group of 10 and picked up two more interested birders as we went along. As is often the case during the fall migration, Wheaton Regional Park has quite a few species to offer, and today was no exception in spite of an overcast sky. In the “meadow”, we found two perched adult Red-shouldered Hawks, a Baltimore Oriole, a female Scarlet Tanager, and a lone Cedar Waxwing in addition to the usual American Robins, Northern Flickers, Mourning Doves, etc. Scott Young’s camera was invaluable in helping identify birds in the poor light. The scattered shorter trees in the meadow were active with Black-and-white Warblers, American Redstarts, a Magnolia, a Chestnut-sided, and at least one Blackburnian Warbler as well as Chickadees and Red-eyed Vireos. Finally, at Pine Lake we found several Common Yellowthroats, a Green Heron, a Belted Kingfisher, and inside the woods a Northern Parula. Our usual Mallards and Wood Ducks were unaccountably missing. We ended the walk about 10:00, having seen 47 species, 7 of which were warblers.



Black-and-White Warbler (left) and Blackburnian Warbler (right), photos courtesy of Scott Young.

Rock Creek Park, Beginner’s Bird Walk, September 15. Leader: Clive Harris. The leader and 5 participants met at the Nature Center at 7:00 a.m. sharp. After making sure everyone had binoculars and knew how to work them, we started looking for migrants. It was not the best day as it was slightly overcast and the winds had not been favorable for migrants either. We did find American Redstart and Black-and-white Warbler, as well as many Robins in the tall trees by the center. After all developed “warbler neck,” we headed on down to the Maintenance Yard. The Yard itself was quiet but the parking lot was very productive with nice views of Veery feeding on berries, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Red-eyed Vireo. Heading back to our starting point, we had two Yellow-throated Vireos counter-singing and got great views of one of them. A quick check of the Dog Run turned up a Common Yellowthroat bringing our species total to 28. Not many birds, but most of the participants got a few lifers.

Pennyfield to Violette's "Bird Stalk," September 23. Leader: Jim Nelson. Participants: 13, including leader. Weather: Sunny, 65 -83 F. Total species: 38. This walk is for folks who generally cannot get out as early. We walked upstream along the C&O Canal towpath from Pennyfield to Violette's, ending after noon. The total species count was close to last year's rainy walk but with a very different species mix. Our hot, dry September affected the presence of migrants—only one warbler, one vireo, and no tanagers, thrushes, or orioles. The second impoundment was nearly dry but gave us two good shorebirds—Least and Pectoral Sandpipers—as well as a Great Egret, a Green Heron, and a Great Blue Heron putting on a remarkable demonstration as it processed and then consumed a not-so-small snapping turtle. Other highlights were a Spotted Sandpiper, a low kettle of Broad-winged Hawks accompanied by a Red-shouldered and a Northern Harrier, an Osprey, a Bald Eagle, and two very vocal and active Red-headed Woodpeckers as we approached Violette's Lock. The complete checklist from the walk, including photos of the Great Blue Heron eating the turtle (one of which is here), can be viewed in eBird at <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S60027961>.



Croydon Creek Nature Center, Rockville. September 28. Co-leaders: Anne Mytych and Emily Huang. Participants: 17, including co-leaders. Weather: Overcast, dry, 68 to 75 degrees. Total species: 34. This walk was to expose birders to a Montgomery County "hidden gem". We met at the nature center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and ended around 10:30 a.m. The feeders and the vines behind had a flurry of activity, notably Canada Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Yellowthroat, and Black-and-white Warbler. We headed down the trail along the stream and came out into the open field, where we got another flurry of activity, including Chimney Swifts overhead, dozens of American Robins, Red-eyed Vireos, a Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbirds, multiple Woodpeckers, a couple of quiet Flycatchers, and a Veery heard giving his "veer" call but not seen. The complete checklist from the walk can be viewed in eBird at <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S60173492>.

Little Bennett Regional Park, October 4. Leader: Gemma Radko. Participants: 3. I was joined by Ed and Karen Escalante. We walked the Kingsley Schoolhouse Trail and parts of the Wilson Mill trail from 7:30 a.m. to around 10:45 a.m. Finally, some fall-like weather! We had 33 species total, including a smattering of winter arrivals (Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Ruby-crowned Kinglet) and nine warbler species, including Black-and-white, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Black-throated Blue and Green, Magnolia, Cape May, Chestnut-sided, and Pine.

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, Kenilworth Park, DC, October 6. Leaders: Mike Bowen and Gerry Hawkins; 17 other participants. Weather: Mild and overcast, with some challenging viewing conditions due to poor light. Species count: 47. Highlights: Perched female Merlin—the "Bird of the Day"—and a stunningly close Savannah Sparrow, both in Kenilworth Park. We also had a perched Cooper's Hawk. Chimney Swift numbers were estimated at 175, American Robins at 250, and European Starlings at an impressive 500, which may have been on the low side. There were mercifully few Canada Geese, two flybys of Double-Crested Cormorants, a dozen Mallards, and a flyover by three drake Wood Ducks. Five Great Egrets and a Great Blue Heron were feeding in the shallow pools at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Sparrows were a little harder to find than expected, but we did see Song, Swamp, the Kenilworth Park Savannah, and (first of the fall season for many) a rather shy White-throated Sparrow. We did not do well with warblers, some of which "got away" but we did identify Yellowthroat,

Some editorial cuts have been made to the longest reports to save space. The original version can be found on the MBC website:

<http://www.montgomerybirdclub.org/TripReports.php>

Birds of Note, July to Early October

The best bird of the late summer would have to be a **Brown Pelican** found August 28 on the Potomac River at Violette's Lock by Dave Czaplak and MaryAnn Todd. Frederick Attwood was the only other birder on hand to witness this first county record (at least according to eBird). The bird was seen only for a short time. First, it perched on a mid-river snag and then did a little fishing before disappearing out of sight. A little later the same morning, DC birder Dan Sloan reported a Brown Pelican at Hain's Point—most likely the same bird.

MaryAnn Todd reported a **Snowy Egret** at Riley's Lock on July 22.

No Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from the Hughes Road Polo Fields this fall, but an **American Golden-Plover** was noted there by James Broughton on September 7. Additional American Golden-Plovers were seen at polo fields through September 13. CJ DeMarco was the first to note the presence of a **Stilt Sandpiper** in the "big pond" at Blue Mash on September 22. An **American Avocet** was seen flying over the Potomac River at Violette's Lock by Dave Czaplak on August 1. Bryan Henson reported 11 American Avocets on the Potomac River on September 27. These birds were viewed feeding on a sandbar near the Virginia shoreline from Algonkian Regional Park.

Dave Czaplak observed **12 Laughing Gulls** at Violette's Lock on August 26.

It's always a challenge to identify "empid" flycatcher species in the field unless they are calling. However, a vocalizing **Alder Flycatcher** was cooperatively doing just that for Dave Czaplak at Violette's Lock on the morning of September 23. A few **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were noted around the county in September. Vickie Baily found one at Lake Frank on September 5. Robin Skinner and Brenton Reyner found a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher along Goshen Branch below Huntmaster Road in far eastern Gaithersburg on September 10. Ben Plume reported an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** on some dead snags in his Wheaton area yard on September 16. Robin Skinner and Brenton Reyner noted an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Laytonsville Pond area on September 17.

Anne Mytych spotted Montgomery's first of the season **Philadelphia Vireo** at Wheaton Regional Park on August 31. Additional fall migrant Philadelphia Vireos sightings came from Lake Needwood, Violette's Lock, and Woodstock Equestrian Park. Dave Czaplak found a **Connecticut Warbler** at Black Hill Regional Park on September 5. Vickie Baily found two **Orange-crowned Warblers** at Redgate Park in Rockville on September 25 and Gail MacKiernan reported one from Wheaton Regional Park on October 2.

Dave Czaplak and MaryAnn Todd noted a **Dickcissel** at Woodstock Equestrian Park on September 19. Robin Skinner's home yard hosted one September 27 through 30.

—Andy Martin



Youth Birding

All young birders are welcome to join the trips organized by YMOS, the youth branch of MOS, which includes several Montgomery Bird Club members. Upcoming trips include Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Patuxent. Planning for the World Series of Birding is underway!

Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium

YMOS, the youth branch of MOS, is partnering again with the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership to unite the expertise of professional conservationists and the passion of youth birders to discuss the status of and threats to Maryland's birds and their protection. Last January's first symposium exceeded 120 people and featured keynote speaker Mike Parr, president of the American Bird Conservancy. All, including members of the Montgomery Bird Club, enjoyed a day of fascinating presentations and meeting fellow birders. The Symposium also launched the Maryland Avian Research & Conservation (MARC) Fund for Youth. After Symposium expenses are covered, sponsorship proceeds go directly into the MARC Fund. The 2020 Symposium, scheduled for January 25, will be held at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center. Registration opens soon at <https://marylandbirds.org/2020-bird-conservation-symposium>.

Maryland Avian Research & Conservation (MARC) Fund for Youth

Exciting opportunity! The MARC fund empowers youth to conduct avian research or conservation. Projects must include one or more of the 143 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (as documented in Maryland's State Wildlife Action Plan) and take place on breeding or non-breeding grounds for the selected species. Three types of projects are considered: research/monitoring, conservation, and community engagement. A member of the MARC Fund Committee will be available to mentor a project. Do you know a young birder interested in avian research or conservation? The MARC Fund is now accepting applications (deadline: February 28 2020)! Find information at <https://marylandbirds.org/marc-fund-faqs>. To donate to the fund, please go to <https://marylandbirds.org/about-the-marc-fund>. This fund is the first of its kind in Maryland and, possibly, the Mid-Atlantic.

Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth

Where can you learn about the conservation use of eBird, lines and colors in bird drawings, filming birds, telemetry, and ornithological careers all in one day? In

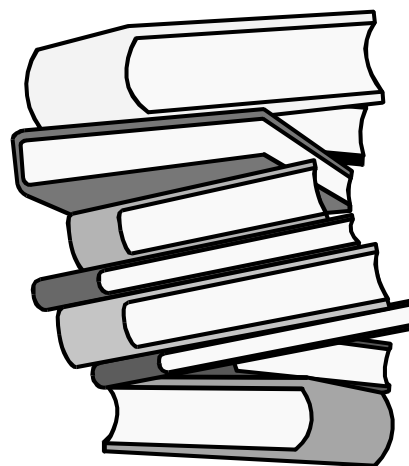
September, some members of the Montgomery Bird Club attended the Frontiers in Ornithology Symposium at Ashland Nature Center in Delaware. This fast-paced event allowed participants to choose from a variety of presentations given by professionals. Other fascinating presentations included bird strike identification at the Smithsonian, GPS data loggers, and a panel on cutting-edge technology. Additional activities included bird-banding, the Hawk Watch station, and field trips.

Scott Weidensaul, ornithologist and author, gave the keynote speech, which covered his work on Project OwlNet and Project SNOWstorm. Two members of YMOS gave the youth keynote speeches: Claire Wayner and Patrick Newcombe.

If you missed this year's symposium, you can sign up to receive updates about the 2020 Frontiers in Ornithology Symposium at <https://www.frontiers-in-ornithology.org/2020-symposium>.

Maryland Birds: Ecology & Conservation Summer Program

YMOS and Washington College's Center for Environment & Society held this residential program this past June in Chestertown. Youth studied birds and their ecology, habitat requirements, conservation status, and protection of these habitats through intensive field trips. Students learned to "identify birds by sight and sound, recognize and document breeding bird behavior for atlas-ing, collect data for research purposes, explore career options relating to wildlife, and contribute to bird conservation activities."



Good Wind, Patrick!

Do you know that for the past 4-5 years, our Chat has been edited by arguably the youngest editor of any of the MOS Chapters' newsletters? Patrick Newcombe has done a great job, collecting and requesting contributions to the Chat, interviewing trip leaders, and bringing to the attention of those of us just a little less young than himself the activities of YMOS of which he has been a most active member. He has done research on bird migration that has earned him a first authorship publication in the British journal *Biology Letters* ("Migratory Flight on the Pacific Flyway: Strategies and Tendencies of Wind Drift Compensation," *Biol. Lett.* 15:20190383). And, oh yes, he also found time to go to school and is now applying to college. This Chat is the last one edited by Patrick. There will be a search for a new editor and designer before the end of the year, and I know we will miss Patrick. Below is his goodbye message to the Club. Thank you, Patrick, and warm wishes from all of us!

—Evelyn Ralston

At the end of 2014, I responded to a request in the Chat to help distribute the newsletter. When I spoke with then president Ed Patten about helping, he said that the Club was going to outsource the job to the printer and asked if I would be interested in editing the Chat. I jumped at the chance and have enjoyed editing ever since. With college in the near future, I am going to have to hand the job on.

I would like to give a special thanks to Gemma Radko for her design and layout as well as our regular contributors—Linda Friedland, Andy Martin, and Club presidents Ed Patten, Clive Harris, and Stephanie Lovell, as well as trip leaders who were so willing to share their reports.

The Montgomery Bird Club made such a difference as I developed as a birder. Our Club's members helped and reached out to me, always willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for birding. Thank you for giving me such a great introduction to birding.

Good birding,

—Patrick



Patrick (arrow) surrounded by the YMOS group, Cape May, 2018.



Binoculars for Kids

When I was in Peru last summer, I did some birding with a local guide who mentors young birders. He was describing how difficult it is to take a group birding because there are not enough binoculars. In the area, ecotourism is a significant source of employment, and birding skills are therefore incredibly valuable. Furthermore, exposure to birding should help local youngsters to become more aware of nature and more interested in conservation. I have been fortunate to learn from many opportunities for young birders, including from the generosity of the Montgomery Bird Club, and I want to make a similar impact on kids in Peru. Many of the birds we see here migrate south to Peru, so I would love to make a connection to the future young birders of Peru. I am trying to put together birding kits including binoculars, bird books in Spanish, and bird-related activities. Any donations of used binoculars, books etc. to support this endeavor would be very much appreciated. Please contact me at stonecroft5@verizon.net to donate to this project. Thank you!

—Patrick Newcombe

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ RENEWAL 2019-20

Note: You can now join or renew using the MOS website and pay with a credit card or PayPal.

Select "Membership" at <https://mdbirds.org/join/chapters/montgomery-bird-club>

I/we wish to join the Montgomery Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, for the year beginning September 2019 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 *Maryland Yellowthroat* by mail. Otherwise you will be notified when the *Yellowthroat* is posted on the MOS website.



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

