

MARYLAND BIRDS AND BIRD HABITATS

Field Research in the World of Birds

A Summer Program for Maryland Students Entering Grades 7 - 12

June 24- 29, 2012
Washington College
Chestertown, MD



A Joint Program of
The Maryland
Ornithological Society
and
The Washington College
Center for Environment
and Society

Field Work with Trained Ornithologists GIS Mapping Habitat Management

Program Overview

Birds, aside from being a fascinating part of the natural world, provide a critical insight into the quality of different habitats in the environment. They are the best bioindicators of the quality of our environment and are a major focus of research in every country on our planet.

There are a number of research projects where student involvement is essential. Using GIS technology to map and simple field strategies, anyone can help collect data and further research. Students will work in the field with scientists and other students learning how to identify birds by ear and by habitat, map breeding areas and nest boxes with GPS and GIS technology, and initiate actual research projects.

During the week, participants will both work in the field and classroom with trained ornithologists and researchers. They will both collect and learn to access the numerous available data sources.

The program is being offered to both adults and students going into Grades 7 – 12. Both groups will work together in the field but will be offered different experiences in the classroom. Students will learn the basics of ornithology, use GIS and GPS, and see how to access eBird to download and upload data.

Students need not have any birding experience, but should have a love of nature and the outdoors. A considerable amount of time will be spent in the field in a variety of habitats from upland forests to swamps and marshes. All participants will be loaned binoculars for the week and will be given a field guide to keep.

Trips

Nest Box Monitoring

Bird Research

Program Sponsors:

Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)
 Washington College Center for
 Environment and Society

Dates: Sunday, June 24 – Friday, June 29, 2012

Instructors:

Dr. Wayne Bell, Washington College
 George Radcliffe, Coordinator of YMOS,
 Youth Division of MOS

Location: Washington College, Chestertown, MD

Important: *This is not a camp but a rigorous academic program for students interested in the world of birds and willing to get fully involved in the rigorous field work.*

Lodging and Meals: Participants will be housed in Washington College dorm rooms and will take all meals in the college cafeteria.

Transportation to and from Workshop is the responsibility of each participant.

Program Costs and Scholarships: \$400
 Many scholarships will be available from the Maryland Ornithological Society and many of the local birding chapters. Information will be provided upon acceptance. Please indicate if financial assistance will be necessary for your participation.

“Birds are indicators of the environment. If they are in trouble, we know we’ll soon be in trouble.”

- Roger Tory Peterson

Online Data Sources Accessing Local Data Night Birding

Tentative Program Schedule

Sunday, June 24

3:00 PM – Check in and Orientation
4:00 PM – GPS and GIS Practicum
Evening Session - Birding by Ear and by Habitat

Monday, June 25

AM Field Session - Birding by Habitat
PM Session – Introduction to eBird Monitoring
Evening Session – Night Bird Hunt

Tuesday, June 26

All Day Field Session – Bombay Hook Refuge
Aquatic and Marsh Birds
Evening Sessions – Bird Breeding Atlasing

Wednesday, June 27

AM Field Session – eBird Monitoring
PM Session/Nestbox Monitoring and Mapping
Evening Session – Night Bird Hunt

Thursday, June 28

AM Field Session – Elk Neck State Park Birding
PM Session – GIS/Computer Work
Evening Session – Initiating Research

Friday, June 29

AM Field Session – Bird Banding
12:00 PM- Program Wrap-up and Evaluation
1:00 – Participants Depart

For a program video and a more detailed look at the program activities, check out the ymos.org website.

Program Outcomes - Participating students will:

- Get field experience identifying and monitoring birds.
- Learn to access and analyze local data sources.
- Develop a research project that can be continued in the school year



Program Activities

1. Birding by Habitat – Learn local habitats and birds found within each.
2. Birding by Ear – Learn to identify birds by call and song
3. Nestbox Monitoring – Monitoring bluebird boxes, mapping, and accessing data
4. Breeding Determination – Use behavioral clues to determine bird breeding status
5. eBirding – What to do with your data
6. Accessing Local Environmental Data – MD/DC Bird Breeding Atlas, NA Bird Breeding Survey, eBird
7. Designing Authentic Science Research Projects Using Birds as a Focal Point

To apply, on a separate sheet of paper, please send in the following information:

- **Name**
- **Current grade level in school**
- **School**
- **Home Address**
- **Your County**
- **Phone**
- **eMail (optional)**
- **Parent email**
- A 150 – 200 word **essay** explaining why you are interested in this program

Have either a teacher or a member of a local bird club email or mail separately a letter of **recommendation** to the address to the right.

To Submit Application:

Email to George Radcliffe at
radclifg@gmail.com

Or mail to:
YMOS c/o
George M. Radcliffe
1663 Hudson Rd
Cambridge, MD 21613

Application Deadline: April 16, 2012