

# MARYLAND BIRDS AND BIRD HABITATS

## Field Research in the World of Birds

A Program for Maryland Students Grades 8 - 12

June 20- 25, 2010

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 8 – 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 key websites 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.

*Trips    Nest Box Monitoring    Bird Research*

### Program Sponsors:

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

**Dates:** Sunday, June 20 – Friday, June 25

### Instructors:

Dr. Wayne Bell, Washington College  
George Radcliffe, Coordinator of YMOS,  
Youth Division of MOS  
Amanda Spears, Student, World Series of  
Birding Champion

**Location:** Washington College, Chestertown, MD

**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 20

1:00 - 2:00 PM – Participants arrive.  
2:00 PM – Check in and Orientation  
3:00 PM – GPS and GIS Practicum  
Evening Session - Birding by Ear and by Habitat

### Monday, June 21

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

### Tuesday, June 22

All Day Field Session in Western MD  
Evening Sessions – Habitat Management

### Wednesday, June 23

AM Field Session – Species-Area  
Research/Habitat Management  
PM Session/Nestbox Monitoring and Mapping  
Evening Session – GIS/Computer Work

### Thursday, June 24

AM Field Session – Bird Breeding Study and Mapping  
PM Session – GIS/Computer Work  
Evening Session – Initiating Research

### Friday, June 25

AM Field Session – Bird Banding  
1:00 PM- Program Wrap-up and Evaluation  
2:00 – Participants Depart

***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. Students will be working with scientists and professionals as well as other students.***

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

- Name
- Age
- Current grade level in school
- School
- Home Address
- Your County
- Phone
- eMail
- A 100 – 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.

**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 breeding status for different species.
5. Accessing Local Environmental Data – MD/DC Bird Breeding Atlas, NA Bird Breeding Survey, eBird
6. Designing Authentic Science Research Projects Using Birds as a Focal Point

## To Submit Application:

Email to George Radcliffe at  
[radclifg@gmail.com](mailto:radclifg@gmail.com)

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