



MOS Calendar

January-February 2012

Sunday, January 1

- CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Chesterville.** Compiler: Maren Gimpel, 912-660-1541 or funkymoss@yahoo.com.
- CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Patuxent River.** Compiler: Andy Brown, 410-535-5327 or brownaj@co.cal.md.us.
- CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Fort Belvoir.** MD area compiler: Carol Gheblian, 301-753-6754 or gheblian@comcast.net. VA compiler: Kurt Gaskill, 703-768-2172 or kurtcapt87@verizon.net.
- CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Annapolis-Gibson Island.** Coordinators: Sue Ricciardi, 410-647-9513, and Hal and Lynn Wierenga, 410-647-7439.

Baltimore. Loch Raven. Start the New Year birding. Varied habitats including woods, fields, and the reservoir. Probably also birding other sites for a "Big Day" in Balt City and Co. Meet 8:30 AM along Stone Hill Rd. All cars need to park on the same side of the road. Leader: Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com or 410-557-2456.

Harford. Perryman Area. Celebrate the New Year/recover from New Year's Eve by birding the always-productive Perryman Area with leader Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net. Meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:30 AM.

Howard. Start Your 2012 List. Half day. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Meet 8 AM at boat ramp of Centennial Park. Expect moderate walking. Possibility of lunch stop, depending on the weather. Facilities at some spots. Leader: Bonnie Ott, 410-461-3361.

Indicates Field Trip

Montgomery. Earliest Bird Walk, Georgetown Reservoir and DC Hotspots. Half day. Start the New Year right. Meet 8 AM at Georgetown Res., DC, by the gate leading to the dike between the pools. Reservations required. Limit: 20. Leader: Mike Bowen, 301-530-5764 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com.

Monday, January 2

- CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Bowie.** Compiler: David Mozurkewich, 301-459-3375, or mozurk@bellatlantic.net.
- CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Sugarloaf Mountain.** Compilers: Helen Horrocks (Frederick), 301-831-6315 or hlh_37@yahoo.com, and Janet Millenson (Montgomery), 301-983-9337 or janet@twocrows.com.
- CHRISTMAS COUNT. **Calmes Neck, VA.** Compiler: Margaret Wester, 540-837-2799 or margaretwester@hotmail.com.

Wednesday, January 4

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Thursday, January 5

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Kate Weatherby* gave us a short version of this on Members' Night last year, and we asked for more. Tonight we'll get the full program of her trip to Senegal in Jan '11. Meet 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick.

Friday, January 6

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** Matt Whitbeck, a Wildlife Biologist at Blackwater NWR and the other

NWR's in the Chesapeake Marshlands refuge complex in Cambridge will explore "The Wonders and Management of Blackwater NWR." (This precedes a field trip to Blackwater the following day.) 8 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

Frederick. First Friday Morning Trip. Leader and destination TBA. Meet at Baker Park by Culler Lake at 8 AM. Return at approximately 11 AM. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

Saturday, January 7

Anne Arundel. Blackwater NWR. Wetlands, waterfowl, and Bald Eagles. Meet 8:30 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center. Bring lunch. Leader TBA. For info, contact Kathie Lambert, kbert59@yahoo.com.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. **Carroll.** Once again hosted by Splinter and Sue Yingling at 70 Ridge Rd in Westminster. If you've never attended before, now's the time to start. Everyone has a good time. 7:30 PM until ? For more info and to coordinate your potluck dish, contact Sue Yingling at 410-857-0902 or syingling@mac.com.

Harford. Conowingo. Gull and eagle watch. Les Eastman (410-734-6969 or les@birdtreks.com) leads this morning survey from Fisherman's Park just below the Conowingo dam on the Harford Co side of the Susquehanna. Meet 8 AM to begin the search for Bald Eagles, with some prospect for a Golden Eagle, various gulls, and waterfowl.

Kent. Kick off your birding year with a half-day at Eastern Neck NWR for waterfowl, eagles, and winter landbirds. Colby Hawkinson will also be on hand to provide add'l info about the refuge's wintering Tundra Swans. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General Store parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net and/or borealdee@baybroadband.net, and

Glenn Dulmage, 410-778-5166 or gdulmage@verizon.net.

Sunday, January 8

Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for winter waterfowl, raptors, and passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Meet 9 AM at the Nature Center parking lot. Leaders: Bob Rineer, 410-252-6408 or rrineer1@jhmi.edu, and Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

COVERED DISH DINNER AND LECTURE.

Baltimore. 5 PM at Vollmer Center at Cylburn. Tonight's featured talk: "Changes in Birding in China over 25 years: 1982-2007," with *Don Messersmith*. Please contact Kevin Graff in advance, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, to let him know you are coming and what you plan to bring.

* AUDREY CARROLL MID-WINTER COUNT. **Frederick.** Meet at the Sanctuary at 6:30 AM. You may want or need waterproof boots. Compiler: David Smith, 410-549-7082.

Tri-County. MD and DE Coast. Full day. Search for winter specialties and perhaps a rarity from recent CBCs. Bring a lunch. Dress for the weather. Meet 7:30 AM Ward Museum parking lot. Contact leader Sam Dyke, 410-742-5497, for directions and more details.

Tuesday, January 10

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** *Sara Rothamel* will discuss "Territoriality and Habitat Composition of Cerulean Warbler Assemblages in Western Maryland." 7 PM in Rm 224 Compton Hall, Frostburg State U., Frostburg.

Thursday, January 12

MEETING. **Howard.** "When Bad Things Happen to Good Birds: The Decline of the Rusty Blackbird," by *Dr. Russell Greenberg*, head of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

Sunday, January 15

* FRED ARCHIBALD MID-WINTER COUNT.

Frederick. Meet at the sanctuary at 6:30 AM. Dress warmly and wear waterproof boots. Contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660 or Pres@FrederickBirdClub.org, for info.

Montgomery. Waterfowl for Beginners at Black Hill RP. Learn and review the basics of duck ID at this premier county spot for winter waterfowl. The trip will be geared to new birders but all are welcome. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet 7:30 AM at the pull-off next to the south side of Rte 121 bridge. Half day. No reservations needed. For more info or directions, call the leader, Dave Powell, 301-540-8776.

Wednesday, January 18

MEETING. **Montgomery.** "On a Clear Day, You Can See L.A.—Birding Opportunities near the Los Angeles Airports." You're flying into the metropolitan Los Angeles region for business, pleasure, or to catch another plane, and you have some time to go birding. *Jeff Metter* will tell us about some bird-watching opportunities relatively close to each of the metropolitan airports (except Ontario). 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info, contact Steve Pretl at stevep@takomavillage.org.

Thursday, January 19

MEETING. **Caroline.** "Alaska," presented by *Wayne Bell* and *Les Coble*. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Saturday, January 21

Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Wendy Alexander, 410-788-4080 or dado1bw@aol.com.

* MID-WINTER COUNT. **Baltimore.** To participate in post-migration bird count in your choice of location in Balt. City or Co, call Pete Webb,

410-486-1217 or 443-904-6314 (m) or pete_webb@juno.com.

* MID-WINTER COUNT. **Carroll.** Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas, to count resident and late migrant bird species throughout the county. Tally Rally will be hosted by Pat and Bill Ellis at their home; contact Bill at billellis@ellislist.com or 443-520-8809 to verify your bird-counting area, and to say if you will be attending the Tally. Please bring a cash donation or a food item.

* C&O CANAL COUNT. **Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Montgomery Counties, and DC.** Contact Peter Vankevich at petevankevich@gmail.com or 202-468-2871 for a stretch of the canal to cover. Each mile of the canal is counted separately. Make-up date will be Jan 22 if the weather is bad. If weather is extraordinarily bad (like winter '09-'10), count will be run following weekend. For Washington County, please contact county coordinator Shirley Ford at 301-241-3020.

Cecil. Ocean City area winter birding. Meet 6 AM at Big Elk Mall. Prepare for a long day and cold weather. Contact Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net, for info.

Harford. Blackwater NWR.

Blackwater is one of the most reliable birding locations in the state. Diverse habitat provides a broad variety of species with a focus at this time on wintering waterfowl. Meet at the Rte 155/I-95 P&R at 7 AM. Leaders are Tom Congersky, 410-658-4137 or jnjtcon@zoominternet.net, and Randy Robertson.

Monday, January 23

MEETING. **Tri-County.** "Birding in Australia and New Zealand" presented by *Mike Walsh* and *Chris Dominick*. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Fox Rm, south entrance, Camden Ave, Salisbury.

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Tuesday, January 24

POT LUCK DINNER AND MEETING.

Washington. Mount Aetna Nature Center. Pot Luck starts at 6 PM. Bring a dish to share along with your own drink, plate, and utensils. Meeting follows at 7 PM with the film, "A Murder of Crows." Call 301-797-8454 for directions.

Saturday, January 28

🏠 Cecil. Cecil Gulls. Meet 9 AM at North East Town Park. Contact Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net, for info.

✳️ MID-WINTER COUNT. **Harford.** Contact the local compiler, Rick Cheicante, 410-803-2712 or rickcheicante@cs.com, to participate in this opportunity to assess bird life quantity in our area. Feeder counters are especially welcome.

🏠 Kent. Ocean City, Worcester County. Our annual search for winter specialties, including gannet, sea ducks, alcids, gulls, Purple Sandpipers, and wintering songbirds. Full day. Dress warmly, bring lunch and warm beverages. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General Store parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Sunday, January 29

✳️ MID-WINTER COUNT. **Frederick.** Contact David Smith, 410-549-7082 or lacsmith12@comcast.net, to sign up. Tally Rally at the Smith's.

Wednesday, February 1

🏠 Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Trips to Maine and Canada, including Bonaventure Island and Nunavut" by *Robert Schaeffer*. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg. Contact Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117, for more info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Speaker: *Joanne Healey*, Adkins Arboreum. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton. For more info, contact President Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 2

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Kent Minichiello*, conservation philosopher, photographer, and naturalist, returns to speak, this time with a program on "Maya Meso-America: Natural and Cultural History." 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

Friday, February 3

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "Identifying Gulls in the Region: Making the Difficult Simpler" by *Clive Harris*, Master Guller, Montgomery County Bird Club. 8 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

🏠 Frederick. First Friday trip. Leader and destination to be announced. Meet at Culler Lake in Baker Park at 8 AM. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

Saturday, February 4

🏠 Anne Arundel. Gull Workshop. Take all that info from *Clive Harris's* presentation at Feb 3 meeting and put it to the test with a gull-watching trip. The location will depend on where the gulls are congregating. Bring lunch. Meet 8:30 AM at Parole P&R located on Harry Truman Pkwy, between Riva and South Haven Rds. Expect to be back in Annapolis at 2:30 PM. Contact: Gerald Winegrad at 410-280-8956 or gwwabc@comcast.net.

🏠 Harford. Bradenbaugh Flats. Enjoy a tour through NW Harford County's agricultural area to find wintering fieldbirds and waterfowl. Expect Horned Larks and Ring-necked Ducks, with possible Cackling Goose, longspurs, and Snow Buntings. Meet at Jarrettsville ES at 8 AM. The trip ends at the leader's house with hot soup. Contact Dennis Kirkwood, 410-692-5905 or dkirkw@verizon.net for further info.

✳️ MID-WINTER COUNT. **Howard.** Compilers: Joe Hanfman, auk1844@comcast.net or 410-772-8424, and Joe Byrnes, LBRoller@verizon.net.

Sunday, February 5

✳️ MID-WINTER COUNT. **Anne Arundel.** Take the day off from your usual chores and spend the day at your favorite birding spot hunting down and counting all the birds you can find. Contact Kathie Lambert for details at kbert59@yahoo.com.

✳️ MID-WINTER COUNT. **Kent.** Full day. Join the field crew or count in your neighborhood, anywhere in Kent Co. Contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net, for more info.

🏠 Montgomery. Winter Waterfowl on the Potomac. Meet at 8 AM in the Swain's Lock parking lot at the end of Swain's Lock Rd. Bring a scope if you have one. Trip will be canceled if icy conditions along the towpath make walking treacherous. For reservations (required) and more info, contact Andy Martin, martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066.

Tuesday, February 7

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. "Birding the Great North: Trips to Maine and Canada, including Bonaventure Island and Nunavut," with *Bob Schaefer*. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. For more info, contact Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or 443-904-6314 (m) or pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, February 8

MEETING. **Montgomery** "A Snapshot of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas—Going Digital" by *George Jett*. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info, contact Steve Pretl at stevepretl@takomavillage.org.

Thursday, February 9

MEETING. **Howard.** "All You Need to Know about Herps!" by *Sue Muller*, Howard County Dept. of Recreation

and Parks. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

Saturday, February 11

H Baltimore. Henlopen, DE, to Ocean City, MD. Full day. Targeting loons, gannets, sea ducks, Great Cormorants, and Purple Sandpipers. Razorbill possible. Bundle up; this trip is usually brutally cold and windy. Meet 7 AM at Nursery Rd P&R, off I-695 exit 8 (not 8A). Alternate meeting place 9:30 AM at the Lewes-Cape May Ferry passenger lot. Bring lunch. Possible optional extension of trip into Sunday or Monday (overnight at motel in Ocean City area). Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or 443-904-6314 (m) or pete_webb@juno.com.

H Frederick. Pt. Lookout SP. Full day. This trip has great potential for unusual or rare birds. Time permitting, we'll search for waterfowl and other winter visitors elsewhere in St. Mary's Co. Leader: Marcia Balestri, 301-473-5098.

H Howard. How to Find an Owl. Meet 1 PM (possibility of birding till dusk) at Annapolis Rock Rd horse trailer parking lot, midway between Hipsley Mill Rd and Rte 94. Learn how to find owls by habitat and signs. Leader Jay Sheppard is an expert at finding owls and will share his skills and knowledge as to how to find different species. Our targets include Long-eared Owl and Saw-whet. No facilities. Contact Jay to sign up so participants can be advised of weather-related changes. JMSheppard@aol.com, 301-725-5559.

H Montgomery. Somerset Marshes. Full day (to dusk). Bring food, water, and warm clothing. Visit the amazingly under-explored wilderness of Somerset Co's marshes. Emphasis will be waterfowl and uncommon wintering species such as Short-eared Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, and American Bittern. Leaders: Bill Hubick and Jim Brighton. Reservations

required. Limit: 14. For reservations and directions, contact Bill Hubick, bill_hubick@yahoo.com.

Sunday, February 12

H Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half day. Waterfowl, raptors, and passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Crk. Boots advisable and scopes useful. Meet 9 AM at Nature Center parking lot. [Directions: exit Balt. Beltway (I-695) at Rte 702 S. Take 2nd exit, Chase/Eastern Blvd. Go 6 miles. Turn right at Marshy Pt. sign. Go 0.25 mile and turn left into parking lot.] Leaders: Bob Rineer, 252-6408 or rineer1@jhmi.edu, and Brent and Mary Byers, 626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

H Harford. Loch Raven Reservoir. Explore the beautiful surroundings of Baltimore's premier watershed for wintering migrant songbirds, waterbirds, and raptors. Meet at the MD 147/152 P&R near Fallston at 8 AM. Co-leaders: Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or dlarkin@towson.edu and Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net.

Monday, February 13

H Washington. Join Judy Liga, 301-432-2276, for this half-day trip to check for waterfowl on the Shenandoah.

Tuesday, February 14

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Tom Matthews, a retired wildlife biologist with the MD DNR, will discuss national efforts to improve habitat conditions for woodcock, Golden-winged Warblers, and a host of other wildlife species that have declined due to loss of young forest habitat. 7 PM in Rm 224 Compton Hall, Frostburg State U., Frostburg.

Thursday, February 16

MEETING. **Caroline.** Program: Movie TBA. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Friday-Monday, February 17-20

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Anyone can take part, from novice birdwatchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes on one or more days and reporting the sightings online at www.birdsource.org/gbbc/. Add'l online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

Saturday, February 18

H Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309.

Y MOS and BALTIMORE ORIOLES JUNIOR BIRDING CLUB. Dorchester County Youth Birding. Levels: Beginning to Advanced. 8 AM-5:30 PM. The group will meet at 8 AM at the Sailwinds Center immediately south of the Choptank River Bridge in Cambridge. Baltimore group will meet at 6 AM to carpool down to Blackwater. We'll spend time looking at the large array of ducks on the Choptank before heading south to Blackwater NWR, and to Shorter's Wharf to look for Short-eared Owls and Rough-legged Hawk. Bring a lunch and money for dinner and plenty of warm clothing. For more info, contact George Radcliffe at radclifg@gmail.com. Baltimore Orioles Junior Birding Club members contact Marty Brazeau at 410-583-0275, tropicbirder@verizon.net, for more info and carpooling.

H Cecil. Bombay Hook NWR. Meet 8:30 AM Dunkin' Donuts parking lot at Elkton Mall. Snow Geese and ducks. Bring lunch and snacks. Contact Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com, for more info.

H Harford. Swan Harbor Farm. Visit this beautiful county park to find wintering song birds and waterfowl. Meet at the parking lot by the Agricultural Education Center at 8 AM. The leaders are Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com, and John Gallo.

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Kent. Larks, Longspurs and Others, Kent Co. We'll survey the open fields of Kent County in a search for Horned Larks, sparrows, pipits, longspurs, and possibly Snow Buntings. Raptors and geese as well. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General Store parking lot, Chestertown. Contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net, for more info.

Sunday, February 19

Montgomery. Oaks Landfill, Laytonsville. Bundle up to explore this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Should be mostly open terrain with some ponds. Possible wintering 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 AM. Contact leader for reservations and more information. Leader: Mark England, 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell).

Friday-Sunday, February 24-26

MOS WINTER CONFERENCE. Clarion Resort-Fontainebleau Hotel, 10100 Coastal Hwy, Ocean City. Contact Janet Shields, MOS Secretary, at janetbill@prodigy.net for add'l info, or see brochure with registration form at <http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/MOSConf12.pdf>.

Monday, February 27

MEETING. Tri-County. Program TBA. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Fox Rm, south entrance, Camden Ave, Salisbury.

Tuesday, February 28

MEETING. Washington. Program TBA. Call 301-797-8454 for further info. 7 PM at the Mount Aetna Nature Center.

Thursday, March 1

MEETING. Frederick. Members' Night! This popular evening features a variety of short presentations of photos, slides, and/or videos from our members. Please let Bob Schaefer know in advance if you want to be on

the agenda. 7 PM at Homewood at Crumland Farms (7407 Willow Rd) in Frederick. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

Friday, March 2

Frederick. First Friday trip. Leader and destination to be announced. Meet at Culler Lake in Baker Park at 8 AM. For info, contact Bob Schaefer, 301-831-5660.

Saturday, March 3

Carroll. Piney Run Park. Meet 8:30 AM at the parking lot outside the gate to Piney Run Park on Martz Rd. Moderate walking around Piney Run Lake, 'scoping for waterfowl, exploring mixed forest, and checking open field edge for late migrants and winter resident birds. For info, call Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117.

Harford. Broad Creek Scout Camp. Explore diverse habitats of this Harford Co treasure for wintering songbirds and possible raptors. Meet at Dublin ES on Rte 136 north of Rte 1 at 8:30 AM. Co-leaders are Colleen Webster, 410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu, and Sue Procell, 443-417-4919 or suzanne.a.procell.civ@mail.mil.

Howard. Winter Sparrows. Search the wetland and dry fields in this intensive search for as many sparrows as possible. Previous years have turned up non-sparrow rarities. Limit: 12. Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some spots. Contact Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net or 410-461-336, to sign up and get info.

Kent. Blackwater NWR. Prime wintering waterfowl and eagle country. Perhaps even American White Pelican or Short-eared Owl. Full day, bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General Store parking lot, Chestertown. Contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net, for more info

Sunday, March 4

Howard. Centennial Park. 2-3 hours. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Meet 8 AM at west end parking lot. Leader: Jeff Culler, cullerfuls@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006. Facilities available.

Tuesday, March 6

MEETING. Baltimore. Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Program: "Project OwlNet: Revealing the Migration Mysteries of Northern Saw-whet Owls," with *David Brinker* from the MD DNR. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. For more info, contact Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or 443-904-6314 (m) or pete_webb@juno.com.

Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. Joint MBC/ANS trip. Meet at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge" at 5 PM. After checking out the river, we will proceed to Hughes Hollow to observe 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. For more info, call Jim Green at 301-742-0036 (cell).

Wednesday, March 7

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. A continuing series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Scope can be useful. Cancelled in inclement weather. Meet 8 AM in the park, outside the Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. Carroll. "Finding Rare Birds in Western Australia" by *Don Messersmith*. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg. Contact Dave Harvey, 410-795-3117, for more info.

K Indicates Field Trip

MEETING. Cecil. Program and Speaker: TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS, 110 James St, Elkton. For more info, contact President Maryanne Dolan, maryanne.dolan@gmail.com.

H Harford. Timberdoodle Search. Join this evening watch for one of our most interesting (and elusive!) birds, the American Woodcock, as it performs its mating dance. Meet 6 PM at the Rte 155/I-95 P&R. The leader is Tom Gibson, 410-734-4135 or gibsonlld@aol.com.

Thursday, March 8

MEETING. Anne Arundel. "The Amazing World of Skunks." *Dr. Jerry Dragoo*, Evolutionary Biologist at the U. of New Mexico and Founder and Director of the Dragoo Institute for the Betterment of Skunks and Skunk Reputations, will tell us all about the natural history and behavior of skunks. His presentation will spray us with factoids about these remarkable but misunderstood creatures. 8 PM at Quiet Waters Park, 600 Quiet Waters Park Rd, Annapolis.

H Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See Mar 6 listing.

Saturday, March 10

H Anne Arundel. Wooten's Landing for Woodcocks. Last year's afternoon trip was so popular that we're going to tempt fate and do it again! We'll tour the park before camping out at a spot and wait for the woodcocks to appear. Meet 4 PM at Parole P&R. Leader: Kathie Lambert, kbert59@yahoo.com.

H Baltimore. Middle Creek WMA. All-day trip (bring lunch) to visit this major gathering place north of Lancaster, PA for Snow Geese and other waterfowl. There is also an excellent display of mounted birds at the Visitor Center. Note: Trip may go elsewhere if Middle Creek is frozen over. Meet 8 AM at Timonium P&R on Greenspring Dr/Deereco Rd off Timonium Rd just east of I-83. Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or 443-904-6314 (m) or pete_webb@juno.com.

H Baltimore. Youth Birding at Loch Raven. Ages 8-15 with parent. Waterbirds and landbirds. Possible Bald Eagle, Common Loon. Two-mile level walk. Meet 8 AM along Stone Hill Rd. Leader: Marty Brazeau at 410-583-0275, tropicbirder@verizon.net.

H Carroll. Woodcock Walk at Audrey Carroll. Meet 6 PM at Mount Airy P&R on Rte 27. The leader will be Ray Bourgeois, 240-285-4331.

H Frederick. Timberdoodles at Audrey Carroll. David Smith will lead us on a search for American Woodcocks. Bring a flashlight. For info, call David at 410-549-7082.

H Howard. Waterfowl Search. Meet at Dockside Parking lot, Lake Elkhorn at 8 AM. We'll carpool to search the Howard Co waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers, and loons. Chance of an early migrant. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643 or krschwa1@verizon.net.

Sunday, March 11

H Baltimore. Marshy Point Nature Center. Half-day trip for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Meet 9 AM. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, scopes useful. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

H Harford. Harford Glen. Experience a variety of habitats and a great variety of birds at this neighborhood site. Meet at the Glen (west end of Wheel Rd) at 8 AM. Co-leaders are Phil Powers, 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net, and Ruth Bergstrom, 443-752-1967 or ruthb22@yahoo.com.

H Howard. Centennial Park. 2-3 hours. Easy walking on paved path around Centennial Lake. Woodlands, fields, and water host a wide variety of species. Great view of the sky for flyovers. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Meet 8 AM at west end parking lot. Leader: Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net or 410-461-2408. Facilities available.

And then at the Arboretum I was attacked by a groundhog. At least that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

The groundhog's version may go something like this: "I was just minding my own business feeding in the brush, when this guy surprised the heck out of me and I had to make a mad dash to my burrow. The problem was that my burrow was between me and him, about 3 feet away from both of us. I think the guy may have been just as surprised as me as he yelled and then tried to take a few steps backwards (downhill, I might add) and then tripped on some vines and came crashing down on his butt. I really wish I had my camera with me; that fall would have gone viral on YouTube."

— Paul Pisano
reporting from the
National Arboretum,
Washington DC

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plants and for animals (by county) and birds (by season) recorded in or near the park.

"The C&O Canal towpath offers hikers and bikers a superlative, virtually level avenue through nature and history," Shelton writes. At Mile 127.3, he says, a prominent anticline is visible on the berm: a formation called the Devil's Eyebrow. It's an arch of sandstone and shale above a small cave, the "eye." That's just one of the author's tidbits that will lure me back to the canal, with *Potomac Pathway* in my pocket.

— Cecily Nabors
Montgomery Bird Club