



MOS Calendar

March-April 2010

Tuesday, March 2

MEETING. Baltimore. Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: "Birds and Natural History in Queensland, Australia." *Pierre Henkart*, President of the Anne Arundel Bird Club, describes birds and birding "down under" in the Australian tropics. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. For more info, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217 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 in to 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 301-208-2393.

Wednesday, March 3

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Scopes useful. Automatically cancelled in bad weather (rain, sleet, snow, fog, etc.). (From I-695 southwest of the city, take I-95 north (exit 11), towards the city. Get off at exit 55, Hanover St. Turn right (east) on McComas St, left (north) on Key Hwy. Take first left onto Lawrence St and turn left onto Fort Ave, continue through gateway into the park. Meet outside the Visitor Center at 8 AM. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. Carroll. "Uganda," by *Gail MacKiernan*. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg MD. Contact

Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. Cecil. Program TBA. 7 PM at the Elkton HS. For more info, contact President Pat Valdata, pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

Thursday, March 4

MEETING. Frederick. Members' Night. This is a chance for members to bring in a few slides of a favorite birding activity to share with the group. Collectively, we travel far and wide and do lots of interesting things, so this will be your chance to share with the group. Call Kathy Calvert at 301-698-1298 if you would like to participate. 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See March 2 listing.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). The Prince George's Audubon Society (PGAS), along with members of the Patuxent Bird Club, will host mid-week bird walks every first and third Thursday at the newly-dedicated Luther Goldman Birding Trail. Meet 3 PM at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Call 301-459-3375 for more info.

Friday, March 5

DINNER MEETING. Harford. *George Jett* presents "A Photographic Big Year in Maryland." 6:15 PM dinner; 7 PM program at Churchville Presbyterian Church, MD 22 and MD 136. Contact Dave Webb at 410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net for add'l info.

Saturday, March 6

MOS BOARD MEETING. Hosted by Caroline Chapter. 10 AM at Adkins Arboretum. Contact Janet Shields, MOS Secretary at janetbill@prodigy.net for add'l info.

Anne Arundel/Patuxent.

Edgewater area for waterfowl and other beach birds. Meet at Parole P&R at 8 AM for this half-day trip. Leader: Fred Fallon, 301-249-1518.

Cecil. Eastern Neck NWR.

Full day. Meet 7 AM at Big Elk Mall, Elkton at Dunkin' Donuts parking lot area. Leader: Parke John, parke@del.net.

Harford. Harford Waterfowl Tour.

Visit several areas in the county to see a variety of waterfowl as they congregate prior to migrating north. Meet at the McDonalds in Edgewood on Rte 40 at 7 AM. Bring a photo ID for admittance to APG. Leader Dave Webb, 410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net.

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.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off MD 197, just north of Bowie State U and the MARC line. No reservations required. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

Tri-County. Western Wicomico County. We will visit the Nanticoke River and other spots in Western Wicomico. Bring snacks and drinks. Meet 7:30 AM in Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art parking lot on S Schumaker Dr on Beaglin Park Dr in Salisbury. Contact leader Ron Gutberlet, 410-334-2655, for more details.

Sunday, March 7

Baltimore. Loch Raven. Waterfowl and landbirds. Possible Bald Eagles

Calendar *continued from page 7*

and bluebirds. Scopes useful. Two mile level walk. Meet 8:30 AM along Stone Hill Rd. Beginning birders welcome. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or gt5s@bcpl.net.

Howard. Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. 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. Early waterfowl and lingering migrants likely. Meet 8 AM at west end parking lot. Leader: Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329, LBRoller@verizon.net. Facilities available.

Kent. Blackwater NWR, Dorchester County. Prime wintering waterfowl and eagle country. Full day, bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Talbot/Kent. Bluestem (formerly Chino) Farms. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002.

Monday, March 8

Baltimore. Poplar Island. Poplar I. is an environmental restoration project similar to Hart-Miller. When completed, it will provide approximately 570 acres of wetland and 570 acres of upland habitat. Poplar I. is reached by a 20-30 minute boat ride from Tilghman I. Meet 7 AM at Nursery Rd P&R or meet 9 AM at Tilghman I. Scopes helpful. Facilities available. Bring snacks if desired. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Reservations required. Limit 24. Leader: Robin Armetta. Coordinator: Kevin Graff, whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, March 9

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** *Marie Brady*, a graduate student at Frostburg State U, will discuss "Habitat Selection and Reproductive Success of Grassland Birds in Western Maryland." 7 PM at Compton Hall, Rm 224, Frostburg State U.

MEETING. **Kent.** "Brown-headed Cowbirds," by *David Curson*. 7:30 PM at Wesley Hall, Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown. For info, contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See March 2 listing.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** *George Jett* will present "The Big Picture." The formal program begins at 7:30 PM, but doors open at 7 PM for informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. Location: College Park Airport Annex. For more info, contact Fred Shaffer at glaucousgull@verizon.net.

Wednesday, March 10

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 6:30 PM at the Rte 155/95 P&R. Leader: Elaine Beery, 410-272-6037.

Thursday, March 11

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Lecture. Amazing Speaker TBA. 8 PM in the Blue Heron Rm at Quiet Waters Park. 600 Quiet Waters Park Rd, Annapolis.

MEETING. **Howard.** "Birding in the Land of the Thunder Dragon—Bhutan," by *Gail Mackiernan*. Open to tourism only since 1979, the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is one of the world's premier birding destinations. The country's enlightened environmental policies have protected its forests and wildlife. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Howard Co Rec and Parks, 7210 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. Info: Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

MEETING. **Talbot.** Speaker: *Kurt Schwarz*, MOS Conservation Chair. "Aimophila Adventures." Most birders travel to southeast AZ to seek such showy birds as Elegant

Trogon and Flame-colored Tanager. Kurt spent the summer of 2009 in the region, and did look for such birds, but he also took time to study those little brown jobs that make MD sparrows appear downright gaudy. Kurt will show uncharacteristically in-focus pictures of many of AZ specialties such as Scott's Oriole and the ultimate LBJ, Botteri's Sparrow. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, 501 Dutchmans Ln, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, 410-822-3451 or coopercw@goeaston.net.

Friday, March 12

ANNUAL SOCIAL. **Montgomery.** 6:30 PM at Woodend, Chevy Chase. *Gemma Radko* is our Guest of Honor. Reservations required. Contact Steve Pretl, stevep@takomavillage.org.

Saturday, March 13

Anne Arundel. Little Patuxent Oxbow Lake Preserve. Depart 7:30 AM from Parole P&R. Leader: Marcy Stutzman. For more info, contact David Gillum, 410-987-0674.

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: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

Carroll. Woodcocks at Morgan Run. Meet 6:30 PM at the parking lot for the south area of Morgan Run NEA at the end of Ben Rose Ln, accessed near the intersection of Bartholow Rd and MD 97. We will try to hear the calls and wing twitter of, and possibly see, American Woodcocks doing their courtship displays. We will bird during dusk until after dark (sunset about 7:15 PM, twilight ends 7:40 PM). Contact Jerry Tarbell at 410-857-1109 for more info.

H Howard. Waterfowl Search. Meet at Broken Land Pkwy P&R (west) at 8 AM. We'll carpool to search Howard Co waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers, and loons. A chance for early migrants. Leader: Kurt Schwarz, 410-461-1643 or krschwa1@verizon.net.

H Montgomery. Jug Bay, Prince George's County. Half day. Joint trip with ANS. Possible Rusty Blackbirds, migrating Wilson's Snipe, and courtship display of Osprey. Meet 8 AM. Call leader for details and driving instructions. Check ANS *News* for more info. Reservations required. Leader: John Bjerke, 240-401-1643.

H Patuxent. Patuxent River Locations. Waterfowl, sparrows, and other early migrants. Meet 7:30 AM. Contact Fred Shaffer for meeting place and reservations, 410-721-1744 or glaucousgull@verizon.net.

Sunday, March 14

H Anne Arundel. Wooten's Landing for woodcocks and breakfast. Meet 5:30 AM at Parole P&R. Leader: Kathie Lambert, 410-867-4056.

H Harford. Loch Raven Reservoir. Explore the beautiful surroundings of Baltimore's premier watershed for early migrant songbirds, waterbirds, and raptors. Meet at the Rte 147/152 P&R near Fallston at 8:30 AM. Leader is Dave Larkin, 410-569-8319 or dlarkin@towson.edu.

H Howard. Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. See Mar 7 listing. Leader: Jeff Culler, 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com. Facilities available.

H Talbot. Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (formerly Horsehead Sanctuary). Bring lunch. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM or meet leader at CBEC at 7:30 AM. Leader: Danny Poet, 410-827-8651.

Tuesday, March 16

H Montgomery. Informal Late Afternoon Walks until Dusk. See March 2 listing.

Wednesday, March 17

H Harford. Timberdoodle Search II. Join this evening watch for one of our most interesting (and elusive!) birds, the American Woodcock, as it performs its mating skydance. Meet at 7 PM at the Rte 155/95 P&R. Leader: Tom Gibson, gibsonlld@aol.com.

Thursday, March 18

MEETING. **Caroline.** *L.T. Short* will present "May Migration As Seen from Crane Creek State Park, Ohio." 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

H Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). See Mar 4 for details.

Saturday, March 20

H Anne Arundel. Pickering Creek Audubon Center. Waterfowl and late winter migrants. Meet 7 AM at Bay 50 Shopping Center parking lot for this all-day trip. Bring lunch. Leader: Tom Bradford, 410-987-0674.

H Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry. A continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. See Mar 3 listing for directions. Meet 8 AM in Visitor Center parking lot. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, etc). Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379.

H Cecil. Blackwater NWR and Beyond. Full day. A trip designed to see large numbers of waterfowl during the height of spring staging season. Bald Eagles are a bonus feature. Ospreys may be newly arrived and if so, will be setting up territories. Some early shorebirds might be on the move. Come take advantage of the peaceful Eastern Shore ambiance before the tourist season sets in. Meet 9 AM at the refuges's HQ. Bring breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Dress for possible extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Some easy walking on level ground. Leader: Sean McCandless, seanmccandless1@comcast.net.

H Frederick. Black Hill RP. Pat Caro will lead us on a trip to the lake at Black Hill RP in Montgomery Co, one of the best places for wintering waterfowl. Red-necked Grebes, Canvasbacks, and Redheads will be among the species we will be seeking. For more info, contact Pat at 301-845-6246.

H Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot for Governor Bridge Park. No reservations required. Park is located on Governor Bridge Rd, approximately 1 mile east of MD 301. If you have questions, contact trip leader Bill Sefton at kiwisuits@msn.com.

H Patuxent. Woodcocks! Evening trip to one of the local leks for displaying woodcocks. Location, meeting place, and time will depend on which location is most reliable during the previous week. Contact Dave Mozurkewich for info and reservations, 301-458-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

H Washington. Contact Linda Field, 301-797-6189, to attend this half-day trip to the Fort Frederick/Big Pool area.

Sunday, March 21

H Howard. Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. See Mar 7 listing. Leader: Jeff Culler, 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com. Facilities available.

H Talbot. Talbot County WWTP. Migrant waterfowl, gulls, Osprey, Wilson's Snipe, Rusty Blackbirds, pipits, and maybe an oddity or two. Co-leaders: Paul and Priscilla Thut, 410-745-6657. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Breakfast host: Patty Allen.

Monday, March 22

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING. **Tri-County.** 6 PM at Ward Museum of Wildlife Art, Education Rm. Program: "Tropical Birding" by *Jeff Gordon*. For more info, contact Betty Pitney at 410-543-1853.

Calendar *continued from page 9*

Tuesday, March 23

MEETING. **Washington.** *Cliff Brown* will tell us about the MD Wood Duck Initiative's mission to enhance Wood Duck populations and to generate a greater appreciation of the wetland habitats in which they live. 7:30 PM at the Mount Aetna Nature Center. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

Saturday, March 27

Anne Arundel. Naval Academy Dairy Farm. Grassland species and local birds. Half day. Meet 7 AM at Parole P&R. Leader: Janet Mackey, 410-923-3283.

Kent. Owl Prowl. Meet 7 PM at the Eastern Neck NWR Lodge. This field trip will hopefully bring us face to face with an owl or two after an introduction to local species and their calls. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Sunday, March 28

Harford. Brunch and Birding. Start at the Laurrapin Grill in HDG at 1 PM for fine eats followed by birding at Lapidum Boat Landing and other spots along the Susquehanna. This is prime time for unusual gulls (Little and Black-headed Gulls) and grebes, including Red-necked and Horned. If you can't make lunch, join the group at Lapidum at 2:30 PM. Let the leaders know if you will be at lunch so they can make reservations. Co-leaders, Mark Johnson, mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil, and Sue Procell, suzanne.procell@us.army.mil.

Howard. Centennial Park. 2-3 hrs. See Mar 7 listing. Leader: Jeff Culler, 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com. Facilities available.

Talbot. Cottingham/Duval Farm. Wetland and grassland restoration projects for sparrows, raptors, and early spring migrants. Leader: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002. Breakfast host: Margie Steffens. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM.

Wednesday, March 31

Washington. Woodcocks. Meet in Clear Spring for dinner and then take a short drive to Blair's Valley to look for displaying woodcocks. Call Dave Weesner, 301-302-6376, for starting time.

Thursday, April 1

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Mike Welch* Bird Quiz. Can you identify MD birds from photos and sound recordings? Last year we all demonstrated that we needed a bit of practice on this. We promise not to publish the results! 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). See Mar 4 for details, but meet at 6 PM.

Friday, April 2

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** *Paul Baicich*, co-author, *A Guide to the Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*, columnist for *Birding* and *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and co-editor of the popular monthly Birding Community E-bulletin, will present "The Travel-and-Birding Network in North America: How It Works and How It Evolved to Find Good Birds." 8 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

Saturday, April 3

Allegany/Garrett. Garrett County Ponds. Meet at Parkside School in LaVale at 9 AM and pack a lunch for a picnic at New Germany SP. We typically visit Finzel Swamp, Piney Reservoir, Meadows Lake and Campground, and New Germany SP. Call leader, Mary Huebner, 301-777-0545, for more info or to arrange for an alternate meeting spot (such as Finzel Swamp).

Howard. Alpha Ridge Landfill. Half day. Meet at Alpha Ridge Park at 7:45 AM to carpool to landfill. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. Vesper Sparrow and other field birds possible. Meadowlarks, kestrels, and other open country birds expected; rarities

possible. Leader: Ralph Cullison, RMCullison@comcast.net or 410-442-2181. Facilities available.

Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. See Mar 6 for details.

Sunday, April 4

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. A series of casual spring walks in Apr and May. Watch spring progress with a delightful variety of flowers, trees, and bushes along Cylburn's nature trails. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. No designated leader. Meet 8:30 AM at Mansion's front porch, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, 410-358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

Talbot. Bottomlands East of Rte 50 for Warblers. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Jan Reese, 410-745-2875. Breakfast host: Bill Novak.

Tuesday, April 6

Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. Habitats include woods, lake, streams, and marsh. Meet 8:30 AM at footbridge. (From I-695, take Jones Falls Expy (I-83 south) to Northern Pkwy exit, and go left (east) to next light, Falls Rd. Go left (north) and stay in right lane, go past second light (Lake Ave), turn right (east) before south end of Falls Rd bridge (just north of Lake Ave), follow right-left-right turns to avoid Light Rail entrance and go 0.5 mile to intersection. Park and walk to footbridge. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. "Shorebird Identification" by *John Bjerke* and *Cyndie Loeper*. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. For more info, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217 or pete_webb@juno.com.

Wednesday, April 7

Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. See Mar 3 listing. Meet 8 AM at Visitor Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Brazil: Rio, the Patanal, and Iguazu Falls," by *Greg Kearns*. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg. Contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Program TBA. 7 PM at Elkton HS. For more info, contact President Pat Valdata, pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

Thursday, April 8

MEETING. **Howard.** "Birding South Florida, the Keys, and the Dry Tortugas," by *Kevin Heffernan* and *Karen Darcy*. Waders, the endemic Scrub Jay, ABA birds found most easily in FL, Caribbean vagrants, seabirds, established exotics, and FL subspecies all draw serious listers through casual birders to the Sunshine State. Hospitality and club bookstore 7:30 PM; meeting/program 8 PM at Howard Co Rec and Parks, 7210 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia. Info: Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

MEETING. **Talbot.** *Steve Goodbred*, formerly of Talbot Co, and son *Steven* will describe their birding in Ecuador in the cloud forests of the eastern slope of the Andes. The Choco Bioregion has many endemic species. Situated on the Equator, the country has the world's highest diversity of bird species. 7 PM at William Hill Manor Auditorium, 501 Dutchmans Ln, Easton. Info: Cathy Cooper, 410-822-3451 or coopercw@goeaston.net.

Saturday, April 10

Anne Arundel. Quiet Waters Park. Forest birds and early migrants. Meet 7:30 AM at Parole P&R. Leader: Pat Tate, 410-266-6043.

Cecil. Conowingo Wildflowers and Birds. Meet 7 AM at Fisherman's Park at Conowingo Dam. Bring scope if you have one. Wear sturdy footwear for walking trails that may be muddy.

Easy walking on a level, well-graded trail. Leader, Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

Kent. Terrapin Point Park, Kent Is. We will search the fields and woods for songbird migrants, including sparrows and early warblers, and the Bay for water birds. Bring lunch. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Washington. Bird Photography. Grab whatever camera you have and join Bruce Field as he guides us through photography basics for the casual bird photographer. Antietam Battlefield will be the trip's most likely destination. Call Bruce at 301-797-6189 for details.

Sunday, April 11

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

Frederick. Hughes Hollow. Jim Green will lead us around Hughes Hollow and nearby sites in northwestern Montgomery Co. This wetlands area is good for waterfowl, wintering song birds, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. For info, call Jim at 301-208-2393.

Harford. Perryman. Explore this locally popular birding destination known for its large fields and bayside access. The timing of this trip presents a great opportunity to find Wilson's Snipe, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Savannah Sparrow, and a good mix of puddle ducks. Meet Phil Powers at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart parking lot, NE corner. Contact him at birdsinmd@prodigy.net for more info and meet time.

Howard. UMD Farm. Half day. Search the wetland and dry fields for migrants. Expect difficult walking. Bring gear for multiple habitats. Knee boots a must and waterproof pants advisable. Limit: 12. No facilities. Contact Bonnie for meeting location and to sign up at bonnieott@verizon.net or 410-461-3361.

Patuxent. Piscataway Park. Late waterfowl and early migrants. Meet at Beltway Plaza at 7 AM. Contact Dave Mozurkewich for reservations, 301-458-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

Talbot. Urban Birding. We will bird the wetlands, fields, and wood margins around the new Target shopping center and vicinity in search of migrant and resident land, marsh, and waterbirds. Last year we found Purple Finches, Rusty Blackbirds, snipe, Rough-winged Swallow, and a nice assortment of other birds in our search in and near Easton. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132. Breakfast: Jean and Ralph Crump at Londonderry.

Tuesday, April 13

MEETING. **Allegany/Garrett.** Speaker: *Dave Harvey*. Title: "Winter Birding in New Mexico." Dave will describe a Feb 2007 trip that he and Chuck Stirrat made to Bosque del Apache, Sandia Crest, Albuquerque Nature Center, and other areas, mostly driving, between Bosque and Santa Fe. Big emphasis on Sandhill Cranes and Rosy-Finches. 7 PM at Compton Hall, Rm 224, Frostburg State U, Frostburg.

Baltimore. Lake Roland. Second in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of spring migration. See Apr 6 listing for directions. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

MEETING. **Kent.** "Turner's Creek and Sassafras NRMA," by *Wayne Gilchrest*. 7:30 PM at Wesley Hall, Heron Point, E Campus Ave, Chestertown. For info, contact Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568.

MEETING. **Patuxent.** *Mike Bowen* will present "Warbler ID Seminar with Slides and Sound." The formal program begins at 7:30 PM, but doors open at 7 PM for informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. Location: College Park Airport Annex. For

Calendar *continued from page 11*

more info, contact Fred Shaffer at glaucousgull@verizon.net.

Thursday, April 15

MEETING. Caroline. *David P. Blazer* will present "Offshore Wind in the Mid-Atlantic Region." Producing alternative and sustainable sources of energy has been in the news a great deal lately. Come hear how Bluewater Wind LLC is moving forward now to develop the first offshore wind park in the US off the coast of DE and later, of MD. 7:30 PM, Caroline Co Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). See Mar 4 for details. Except Meet at 6 PM.

Saturday, April 17

Anne Arundel. Pocomoke River Canoe Trip. Early spring migrants. Bring lunch. Contact Leader, Larry Zoller, 410-987-9354, for more details.

Cecil. North East and Elkton Town Parks. Amble around two town parks that offer spectacular habitat for birds. Good walking conditions on mostly level ground. Meet 7 AM at North East Town Park, at the end of Walnut St in North East. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. Bring scope if you have one. Trip leader: Richard Donham donhamr@zoominternet.net.

Frederick. Blue Mash. Helen Horrocks will lead us on a trip to this very birdy site in Montgomery Co. If weather has been wet, waterproof boots might be a good idea. Contact Helen at 301-831-6315 to attend.

Montgomery. Blue Mash. Half day. Waterproof boots helpful. Meet 7:30 AM at Zion Rd parking lot. Call leader for reservations and directions. Limit: 8-10. Leader: Mark England, 240-207-3132 (home) or 240-375-4500 (cell).

Patuxent. Governor Bridge NA. See Mar 20 listing for details.

Tri-County. Nassawango Preserve. Migrating and resident vireos and warblers and other special birds of the swamp forest. Bring snacks and drink. Meet 7 AM in Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art parking lot on S Schumaker Dr on Beaglin Park Dr in Salisbury. Leader: Betty Pitney, 410-543-1853.

Sunday, April 18

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

Kent. Turner's Creek and Sassafras NRMA. A smorgasboard of waterfowl, terns and gulls, raptors, early migrant swallows, and sparrows and warblers. Meet 8 AM at Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Montgomery. Hugh Mahanes Presidents' Walk at Hughes Hollow and Vicinity. Half day. Our traditional Presidents' Walk in a new season! Meet 7 AM at the Hughes Hollow parking lot. Reservations required. For more info and reservations, contact leader: Jim Nelson, 301-530-6574 or kingfishers2@verizon.net.

Talbot. Hope House. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Leader: Les Roslund, 410-763-8169. Breakfast host: Carolyn Roslund.

Tuesday, April 20

Baltimore. Lake Roland. Third in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of Spring migration. See Apr 6 listing for directions. Leader: Debbie Terry, 410-252-8771 or dterry12@verizon.net.

Wednesday, April 21

Howard. Bon Secours. 2 hours. Meet 8 AM at visitor lot at the top left of the entrance road. Moderate to easy walking through the grounds of this mixed habitat adjoining Patapsco SP. Leader: Michele Wright, 410-465-6057 or WrightM_29067@msn.com. Facilities available.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Wildlife and History of Five Remote Tropical Island Refuges" by *Doug Forsell*. Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuges are our most remote refuges, lying within 100 miles of the equator in the Central Pacific Ocean. Doug was manager of these refuges. 7:30 PM at Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd, Potomac. For more info, contact Steve Pretl at stevep@takomavillage.org.

Saturday, April 24

Baltimore. Huntley Meadows, VA. Bring picnic lunch for three-quarter day trip to northern VA woods and freshwater marsh with boardwalk trail for resident wildlife and early spring migrants. American Bittern and Sora both possible. Three-hour level walk on paved paths and boardwalks. Meet 7:30 AM at Nursery Rd P&R, Leader: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or pete_webb@juno.com.

Cecil. Spring at Fair Hill. Spring at Fair Hill means migrants: we'll be looking for early warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and sparrows. Meet 8 AM at the Covered Bridge parking lot at Fair Hill. Parking fee required. Honor system in use; bring small bills to pay fee (\$3 MD residents, \$4 out-of-state visitors). Wear shoes or boots good for walking. Leader: Meta Little, meta368@Juno.com.

Harford. Pish and Pedal. Combine two interests of the outdoors by pedaling in the flats of southern Cecil Co. Support vehicles will be carrying non-bikers as well as equipment for birding. Make reservations with the leader, Dave Webb, porzana@comcast.net. The meeting place will be the Rte 155/95 P&R at 7 AM.

Howard. Mt. Pleasant. 2 hrs. Meet 8 AM at parking lot near the barn. Easy walking through the fields of Mt. Pleasant farm. Tree lines, hedgerows, and streams provide opportunity for non-meadow species. Great opportunity for flyovers. Facilities available. Co-leaders: Mike Kerwin 240-357-7625 or m63kerwin@verizon.net and Scott Berglund, 410-750-2568 or Business250@yahoo.com.

Sunday, April 25

Baltimore. Druid Hill Park. Just about anything could show up in this large, urban park with varied habitats. Meet 8 AM. (Take the Druid Hill Park exit from I-83, which puts you onto Druid Park Lake Dr. Turn right into the main park entrance on Swan Dr and park on road margins at the northwest corner of the lake.) Leader: Bryce Butler, 410-728-0646 or capitano.bryce@verizon.net.

Baltimore. Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

Baltimore. Chimney Swifts at Dusk. The swifts occasionally switch nightly roosting sites between the Hampden and the Conservatory (Druid Hill Park) chimneys, so we will post which chimney is being used on Apr 22 at <http://baltimorebirdclub.org>. Come at 7 PM if the weather is cloudy or gray; cancelled if raining. Leader: Joan Cwi, 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net.

Carroll. Spring Migrants at McKeldin Area of Patapsco Valley SP. Meet 7:30 AM at the parking lot on the west side of Marriottsville Rd, on the north side of the railroad tracks, just south of the South Branch of the Patapsco River (at the Howard-Carroll Co line). Contact Bob Ringle at 410-549-6031 for info.

BIG DAY. Frederick. This is our second annual Big Day. Help us find as many species as possible in Frederick Co in one day. We will put together teams to try to cover the county and try to top last year's total of 134 species. You can start at any time and finish at any time. Call Mike Welch, 301-685-3561, if you would like to participate.

Harford. Winters Run Road. A quiet 3-mile stroll along this primary Harford Co waterway. A low-traffic, tree-lined pathway with some farmland and meadow habitat attracts a variety of birds, with the promise of heron and kingfisher and an abundance of passerines during the spring. Join co-leaders Dave Larkin

and Lynn Davis at 7 AM at the Rte 24/I-95 P&R. Call Lynn at 410-569-0504 for more info.

Howard. Fulton South Bio-Blitz. Half day. Meet 8 AM at Reservoir HS in Fulton. Take the first right into the school parking lot. Car pooling is required. This trip will focus on herps, wildflowers, mushrooms, fungi, insects, and birds. Help to establish baseline data for undeveloped county parkland. Leaders: Sue Muller, 410-313-4697 or smuller@howardcountymd.gov, and Bob and Jo Solem, 301-725-5037 or odenata@msn.com.

Talbot. Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Sanctuary for early migrants. Leader: Vince DeSanctis, 410-886-2009. Depart Easton Acme parking lot at 7 AM. Breakfast hosts: Jacqui Bonomo.

Monday, April 26

MEETING. Tri-County. "Cranes and More! Birding in New Mexico" by *Ellen Lawler*. 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church, Fox Rm, south entrance, Camden Ave, Salisbury.

Tuesday, April 27

Baltimore. Lake Roland. See April 6 listing. Leader: Ruth Culbertson, 410-825-1379.

MEETING. Washington. "Birding Alaska" by *Kevin Heffernan* and *Karen Darcy*. 7:30 PM at the Mount Aetna Nature Center. Call 301-797-8454 for more info.

Thurs, April 29 and Sun, May 2

Montgomery. Bird Photography for Beginners. On Thursday we will meet in Bethesda from 7:30 to 9 PM and discuss photographic technique, equipment, and philosophy pertinent to enjoying bird photography. On Sunday we will meet for a field trip from 8 AM to 12 noon to photograph any and all birds that cooperate. Limited to 6-8 participants. For more info and reservations, contact leader: Evelyn Ralston, 301-493-4132 or evelynsr@verizon.net. Rain date: May 9.

Friday, April 30

Washington. Sideling Hill. For more info and to register for this popular trip, call Dave Weesner at 301-302-6376.

Saturday, May 1

Baltimore. Soldiers Delight. Warblers, flycatchers, and tanagers are featured as spring migration heats up in this globally rare ecosystem. Meet 7:30 AM. (From I-695 Beltway exit 18 Liberty Rd, go west 4 miles, bear right onto Deer Park Rd just before traffic light and water tower, go 2 miles to historical marker, overlook, and gravel lot on left.) Leader: Keith Eric Costley, 443-985-6849 or oriolekec1@comcast.net.

Cecil. Elk Neck State Forest. Traverse the quiet wooded lanes of one of Cecil's prime birding gems, Elk Neck SF, with our own Parke John. Meet 7 AM at the State Forest office parking lot off Irishtown Rd. Leader: Parke John, parke@del.net.

Frederick. Little Bennett RP. We will look for migrating warblers and other returning species in this lovely area in Montgomery Co. Call Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894, for further info.

Howard/Montgomery. Pigtail, Triadelphia Reservoir. Also in conjunction with WSSC. Meet 8 AM at the Green Bridge Rd parking lot off Triadelphia Mill Rd in Howard Co. The cove is bordered on three sides by deciduous and coniferous woods. Extensive mudflats may exist, holding out the possibility of shorebirds. Facilities available (rustic). Leader: Joe Hanfman, auk1844@comcast.net or 410-772-8424.

Kent. Beginner's Bird Walk at Heron Point. 2 hrs. Meet 9 AM in the main parking lot at Heron Pt. for a leisurely walk along the river, looking for early spring migrants: swallows, warblers, vireos, and sparrows. Leaders: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

Calendar *continued from page 13*

H Patuxent. Fran Uhler NA. See Mar 6 listing for details.

Sunday, May 2

H Baltimore. Cylburn Self-Guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

*** Frederick.** FRED ARCHIBALD MAY COUNT. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Contact Bob Schaefer at 301-831-5660 or robert.schaefer@gmail.com for further info.

H Montgomery. Little Bennett RP. Half day. Near peak migration for warblers and vireos, including those breeding in this varied habitat. Contact the leader for time and directions. Reservations required. Leader: Gemma Radko, 301-514-2894.

H Talbot. Pocomoke Swamp. Full day. We will bird the edge of Nassawango Creek Preserve in search of migrant and resident songbirds with a focus on warblers. Help us find a new bird or two. Leader: Terry Allen, 410-822-8132. Bring lunch, drinks, and insecticide. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 6:30 AM.

Tuesday, May 4

H Baltimore. Lake Roland. Fifth in a series of weekly walks to follow the progress of Spring migration. See Apr 6 listing for directions. Leader: Kevin Graff, 410-557-2456 or whitemarlin2001@yahoo.com.

MEETING. **Baltimore.** Tuesday Evening Lecture at Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave. Tonight: Speaker and topic TBA. Doors open at 7 PM for socializing and snacks, show starts about 7:15 PM. For more info, contact Pete Webb at 410-486-1217 or pete_webb@juno.com.

H Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC. Early migrant warblers, vireos, etc. Meet 7 AM at Picnic Area #18, one-half mile below the Nature Center on Ridge Rd. Call the leader for more info and for specific directions. Limit: 8. Reservations required. Leader: Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859.

Wednesday, May 5

H Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Fort McHenry. See Mar 3 listing. Meet 8 AM at Visitor's Center. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** Program TBA. 7:30 PM at South Carroll Senior Center, 5928 Mineral Hill Rd, Eldersburg MD. Contact Dave Harvey 410-795-3117 for more info.

MEETING. **Cecil.** Program TBA. 7 PM at the Elkton HS. For more info, contact President Pat Valdata, pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

H Montgomery. Exploring Calvert County. Sue Hamilton will guide us as we cover some of the birding hotspots of Calvert Co. Participants will meet 7 AM at the road leading to Flag Ponds. Limit: 10. Call the coordinators for detailed directions and more info. Leader: Sue Hamilton. Coordinators: Lydia Schindler, 301-977-5252 and Linda Friedland, 301-983-2136.

Thursday, May 6

MEETING. **Frederick.** John Bjerke and Cyndie Loeper will present an abbreviated version of their well-received workshop on "Shorebird Identification," to help prepare us for the tricky identification challenges of shorebird migration in July and August. 7 PM at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick.

H Patuxent. Lake Artemesia (Luther Goldman Birding Trail). See Mar 4 for details, but meet at 6 PM.

Friday, May 7

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "All You Need to Know about Reptiles and Amphibians but Were Afraid to Ask." Scott Smith, Maryland DNR, State Herpetologist. 8 PM at Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center, 975 Indian Landing Rd, Millersville.

DINNER MEETING. **Harford.** "Bald Eagle Tagging and Monitoring at Aberdeen Proving Ground" by OFC Bart Roberts. 6:15 PM dinner; 7 PM program at Harford Glen, 502

W Wheel Rd, Bel Air. Contact Dave Webb at 410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net for add'l info.

H Montgomery. Birding by Ear along the C&O. The emphasis is on listening so tune up your ears for this half-day canal walk. Migrant and nesting landbirds. Meet 7 AM at the end of Pennyfield Lock Rd. Reservations required. For more info and reservations call the leaders. Leaders: Cyndie Loeper, 301-530-8226, and Ann Lucy, 301-229-8810.

Saturday, May 8

*** MAY COUNT. Allegany/Garrett.** To participate in Allegany Co, contact J.B. Churchill, jchurchi@atlanticbb.net, 301-689-8344 or 301-697-1223 (cell) to be assigned an area to count. To participate in Garrett Co contact Fran Pope, fpope@gcnetmail.net or 301-334-4908.

*** MAY COUNT. Anne Arundel.** Contact (by May 5) compiler Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336 for more details.

*** MAY COUNT. Baltimore.** All-day count of birds in Balt City and Co. For area assignments call compiler Joel Martin, 410-744-9211 or jcdlmartin@aol.com.

*** MAY COUNT. Caroline.** Compiler, Debby Bennett. Contact her at firefly5845@hotmail.com for more info.

*** MAY COUNT. Carroll.** All Day. Individual parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas. The Tally Rally will be hosted by Jerry and Laura Tarbell at their home. Contact Bill Ellis to coordinate count locations at 443-520-8809. RSVP to Jerry and Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109 if you will be attending the Tally. Please bring a cash donation or a food item.

*** MAY COUNT. Cecil.** Assist the Cecil Bird Club as we participate in the annual, continent-wide International Migratory Bird Day. Must contact compiler (to be named) ahead of

H Indicates Field Trip

time for assignment to an area and for reporting forms and instructions. Note: If you are interested in volunteering to be compiler of the May Count, please contact Pat Valdata, pvaldata@zoominternet.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Frederick.** Join the crowd for our local countywide count. Contact Mike Welch at 301-685-3561 to assist.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Harford.** Contact Compiler, Mark Johnson at Mark.Johnson@apg.amedd.army.mil.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Howard.** Call Bonnie Ott to sign up at 410-461-3361.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Kent.** An all-day effort to census all birds in Kent County. Join a field party or count in your neighborhood. Contact one of the leaders for details. Info: Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or rossgull@baybroadband.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Montgomery.** Compiler: Andy Martin, apmartin2@comcast.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Patuxent.** Contact Fred Fallon, 410-286-8152 for info.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Talbot.** Please contact compiler to coordinate count areas. Compiler: Les Coble, 410-820-6165 or lescoble@hughes.net.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Tri-County.** Everyone can participate. Contact Ellen Lawler for details and checklists at 410-546-9056.

✿ **MAY COUNT. Washington.** Contact Dave Weesner, 301-302-6376, to help with the local effort.

🏠 **Baltimore. Saturday Monitoring Walks at Fort McHenry.** A continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. See Mar 3 listing for directions. Meet 8 AM in Visitor Center parking lot.

Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain, etc). Leader: Jim Peters, 410-429-0966.

Sunday, May 9

🏠 **Anne Arundel.** Reptiles and Amphibians at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, and Birds, Too. Follow-up to May 7 club meeting. DNR's Scott Smith will lead with help from Chris Swarth. Meet 8 AM at the Jug Bay Visitor Center. Contact: Gerald Winegrad, 410-280-8956.

🏠 **Baltimore.** Cylburn Self-guided Walk. 2 hrs. See Apr 4 listing.

🏠 **Frederick.** Audrey Carroll May Count. Meet at the Sanctuary at 6 AM. Call Dave Smith at 410-549-7082 for further info.

🏠 **Talbot.** Nomini Farm, Trappe. Depart Easton Acme parking lot 7 AM. Co-leaders: Wayne Bell, 410-820-6002, and Paul Spitzer.

Birding Safari to South Africa

November 20–December 4, 2010

Group size: 12

Dr. Mark Abdy invites fellow MOS members to join him on a birding tour of his South Africa homeland next fall. Since 2000, Mark has led annual safaris to southern Africa, including a 2007 trip with fellow Washington County MOS members. This year's trip targets the region's birdlife, and Mark would particularly like to assemble a compatible group of birders from the MOS family and friends.

A combination of good infrastructure, excellent accommodations, and an exciting variety of birds makes South Africa one of the world's top birding destinations. Of the approximately 850 bird species recorded in South Africa, 95 are considered endemic or near-endemic. In addition, it's a phenomenal cultural experience.

This two-week itinerary includes visits to five different ecosystems and provides an excellent opportunity to view many of the birds during their breeding season. (Some of the targeted species include the elusive *Pel's Fishing Owl*, *Bat Hawk*, *Taita Falcon*, *Short-clawed Lark*, *Blue Swallow*, *Cape Parrot*, *Narina Trogon*, *Green and Pink-throated Twinspots*, *Black-fronted Bush-Shrike*, *Tinkling Cisticola*, *Gurney's Sugarbird*, *Neergaard's Sunbird*, and *Denham's Bustard*.) The safari also includes two days in one of Africa's premier game reserves, Sabi Sand, allowing for very close encounters with Africa's big game as well.

The tour is organized by Eyes on Africa, a Chicago firm, and includes a 24-7 birding specialist guide, local guides, all meals, transport (in a comfortable 21-seater bus), and entry fees. The accommodations, all with en suite facilities, are equivalent to 3½-4 stars on the US scale. While the food is in many ways similar to American fare, the group can anticipate enjoying a classic South African BBQ, called a "braai." In Mark's words, "You will not lose weight on this trip."



The African Harrier-Hawk (aka *Gymnogene*) is one of many raptors expected on the trip. Mark Abdy captured this image as the bird took off from a waterhole and flew straight toward the viewers. More usually he sees them flying from tree to tree in search of nests, rodents, etc; they have a very flexible ankle joint that allows them to probe backwards and forwards in nests, holes, etc, often while hanging upside down

While the final few details of the itinerary are still being worked out, the goal is to keep the LAND price around \$5,200 per person. (As is customary for the organizer, the overall cost incorporates Mark's cost.) South African Airways flies daily from Washington-Dulles to Johannesburg. The cost for this flight varies; while you should budget \$2,000 for an economy seat, current online prices are considerably less.

For more details and to get a copy of the detailed itinerary, please contact Mark (mjabdy@yahoo.com) or Vanessa at Eyes on Africa (Vanessa@eyesonafrica.net).