

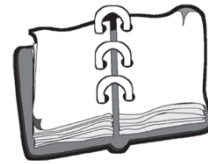
initiative entitled *Maryland's Green Infrastructure*, a mapped network of large blocks of intact forest and wetlands, linked together by linear features such as forested stream valleys, ridgelines, or other natural areas, called "corridors or habitat highways." The approach, based on principles of landscape ecology and conservation biology, provides an ecological network map (GreenPrint) which uses satellite imagery to characterize land cover, and has Geographic Information System (GIS) data on roads, streams, wetlands and other resource features, and links to biological databases. Non-natural gaps were identified as potential candidates for restoration activities.

The DNR Natural Heritage Program's Biodiversity Conservation Network (BioNet), has prioritized ecologically significant areas for the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, integrated its numerous "focal area" maps into a single map called Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs). These have been incorporated into the GreenPrint map product. GreenPrint also assists state programs in working together by offering a more comprehensive picture of areas important to DNR as a whole.

Such a process has taken many forms in other states, but all have faced the practical application of the next step: saving lands and waterways through targeted acquisitions, easements, and other interventions. Land conservation programs have been enacted, including agricultural preservation, private conservation easements, and regulations conserving wetlands and shorelines. However, they are piecemeal approaches, and much of North America's and Maryland's green infrastructure currently remains unprotected.

Not long ago, streaming flocks of waterfowl often darkened the skies over the Chesapeake Bay as swans, geese, and ducks filled the air with haunting music. Shorebirds swarmed over mudflats. In forests, songsters announced their spring arrival. They still come, but their numbers are greatly diminished. Such spectacles may soon only remain in the memories of the elderly. What will our grandchildren say if these treasures are no more, and we leave them a world without flight and song? We have the tools. What is needed is

concerted action. Dedicating ourselves to mobilizing civil society to help support conservation actions at personal and community levels. And, also dedicating ourselves to scale up gains on the ground so they may be realized at state and country levels.



**MOS Calendar:
Jan - Feb 2018
By Marilyn Veek**

Monday, January 1, 2018

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Bowie. Volunteers are needed to census birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in the vicinity of Bowie. Choose your own start and stop times, then come to a tally rally at the end of the day to share your data and socialize. Contact compiler David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, to volunteer and to receive an assignment.

♣ **Harford.** Perryman Area. Celebrate the New Year or recover from New Year's Eve by getting back to nature in the always productive Perryman Area. 8:30 AM. Meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot. Leader Phil Powers, 443-417-7520 or birdsinmd308@gmail.com.

♣ **Howard.** Start Your Year List. Easy walking on paved paths and woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year where every bird is new! Facilities available. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Howard Conservancy Mount Pleasant Farm. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

Wednesday, January 3

♣ **Baltimore.** First Wednesday Walk at Fort McHenry. One of a series of morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescopes useful. Canceled in inclement weather. 8 AM. Park outside the main entrance gate, in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

Thursday, January 4

MEETING. **Frederick.** Members Night/Quiz Night. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick.

♣ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot, at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, January 5

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Inwood, WV.** Compiler Bob Dean, bobdean52@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. **Smith Island, MD and Tangier Island, VA.** Dependent on availability of hotels, restaurants, ferries, etc. Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com for further information.

Saturday, January 6

♣ **Anne Arundel.** Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at Kinder Farm Park. Take the first left before the gatehouse (free entry). Meet at the last parking lot up the hill. Contact leaders Alan and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

♣ **Baltimore.** Middle Branch Park and Southwest Area Park. We'll begin at one of the city's best spots for winter ducks, Middle Branch Park. Five species of diving ducks probable, with hundreds of individuals on good days. Then we'll head to SWAP, a vast former landfill now a Baltimore County park. Reliable for dabbling ducks, raptors, woodpeckers, and sparrows. Uncommon species show up yearly. 8 AM. Meet at Middle Branch Park in the main parking lot by the city rec office, 3301 Waterview Ave. Canceled in bad weather. Leader Frank Morgan, flm003@gmail.com or 410-487-1110.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY. **Carroll.** Talk birds, eat, drink, and have fun with fellow birders. Sue and Splinter Yingling, hostess/host. 70 Ridge Rd, Westminster. 7:30 PM. Please coordinate with the

Yinglings to bring a dish at syingling@mac.com or 410-857-0902.

♣ **Cecil.** Perryville Community Park. One of Cecil County's prime duck viewing locations. Seeking out winter waterfowl at the Park and along the Susquehanna River. Dress for extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. A mix of driving and some walking. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the North East Community Park (at the end of Walnut St). Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Frederick.** Meet at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be prepared to visit all parts of the sanctuary's 129 acres. You may want your waterproof boots. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

♣ **Kent.** Friends of Eastern Neck NWR will sponsor a Refuge walk through areas normally closed to the public. A local birding expert or naturalist will guide the walk. Plan for a flat, two-mile outing of about two hours, with cocoa and cookies at Refuge HQ afterwards. Bring binoculars and a camera. Wear boots and dress warmly. No rain date. Registration is limited to 20, first-come, first-served. Children over 12 are permitted, but no dogs. Walks are free (with a tax-deductible donation payable to Friends of Eastern Neck appreciated to keep the program self-sustaining). To register at Eventbrite, go to: <http://bit.ly/2vWPDBt>. 8 AM. Meet at Refuge HQ. For more information, contact Gren Whitman, easternneckwalks@gmail.com or 443-691-9370.

♣ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

♣ **Tri-county.** Coastal Birding trip from Ocean City, MD to Cape Henlopen, DE for winter coastal birding. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Meet at the Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 AM or the OC inlet parking lot at 8:30 AM. Leader is TBA, in the meantime, for information, contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net.

Sunday, January 7

COVERED DISH DINNER AND LECTURE. **Baltimore.** Tonight's speaker is *Joe Hanfman* and the topic is "Birding Alaska." To reserve a place and tell us what you will bring, please use the website PerfectPotluck.com—detailed instructions will be sent out in December. 4:30 PM. Vollmer Center at Cylburn. For information, contact coordinator Kevin Graff at keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, or call Peter Lev at 410-823-2962.

Tuesday, January 9

BOARD MEETING. **Baltimore.** While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PGAS.** "Birding the Galapagos", presented by *Claudia Ferguson*. Join us to hear PGAS's own Claudia Ferguson speak about her adventures birding in the Galapagos Islands. To visit the Galapagos Islands was her wish for a long time and finally during September 2016, she had the opportunity to spend five days birding in several of the islands. She will share her photos and stories from her trip. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Thursday, January 11

MEETING. **Howard.** "Bird Sex and Breeding," by *Murray R. Bakst*. This talk will cover the biology of avian reproduction based on his career of nearly forty years at the USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Service. As wild bird populations decline, genetic diversity is threatened. Artificial insemination technologies used by the poultry industry are being utilized in the breeding of endangered and other captive populations. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Ctr, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Friday, January 12

MEETING. **Harford.** Program TBA. General meeting at 7:15 PM, presentation at 8 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd.

Saturday, January 13

♣ **Baltimore.** Harbor Duck Trip - Masonville Cove to Fort McHenry. After checking the water from Masonville Cove, we will work our way around the harbor, stopping at the Medstar Harbor Hospital parking lot and then Middle Branch Park before finishing up at Fort McHenry about noon. This trip offers a good selection of the wintering waterfowl that stay in the area, including a nice variety of ducks, grebes and the occasional loon. Bald Eagles are often seen, and rarities turn up regularly. 9 AM (half day). Meet at the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center, 1000 Frankfurst Ave. Leader John Robinson, 443-810-9059 (cell), 410-483-6620 (home), or jcrobin@jhmi.edu.

♣ **Carroll.** Ocean City Day Trip. Gluttons for punishment will enjoy this one. We will also probably see a lot of really good birds. All day. Meet at the P&R on Rt 32 just south of Rt 26 in Eldersburg. Contact Bob Ringler, 410-303-2792.

♣ **Cecil.** Ocean City Area & Beyond. A classic trip to THE prime Maryland winter birding hotspot. The Ocean City inlet hosts an unequaled variety of wintering ducks, possibly including all 3 scoters, Long-tailed, Harlequin, mergansers, and maybe even an eider or two. Add to that Red-throated and Common Loons, a grebe or two, Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, Purple Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, and possibilities of rare gulls or a Razorbill or Murre. Over at the 4th St mudflats, there could be some lingering shorebirds, and Brant should be about. The ponds in the vicinity should hold an assortment of Canvasback, Redhead, Wigeon, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Ruddy, Teal, Shoveler – a great chance for good views to study the plumages at the time of year when their colors are brightest. Depending on locations visited, there could also be good opportunities for wintering sparrows – maybe even a rarity like LeConte's or Snowy Owl. Bring breakfast, lunch and snack, or money to buy take-out food on the way. Dress for extreme cold and wind. Bring scope if you have one. Easy walking on level ground. 6 AM (full day). Meet near Dunkin' Donuts in Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rt 40 and Rt 213 in Elkton. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

♣ **Howard.** Blackwater NWR. Plan to stop at the Choptank River Bridge for ducks and coffee.

Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly. Entrance fee or Duck Stamp required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. We will carpool. Facilities at some spots. Accessible. Leader Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

Sunday, January 14

♣ **Anne Arundel.** Quiet Waters Park. David Gillum will lead this monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

♣ **Baltimore.** Loch Raven Point and Dams. Trip for winter waterfowl and other birds. Telescopes useful for distant waterfowl. 8:45 AM (half day). Meet at Morgan Mill Rd parking area just before Loch Raven Dr. Leader Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net.

♣ **Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Trip for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Frederick.** Meet at the Fred Archibald Sanctuary at 6:30 AM, and be ready to cover 140 acres. Don't forget waterproof boots. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

Wednesday, January 17

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership: A United Voice for Maryland's Birds" with *Chris Eberly*. Chris will present how the Partnership is working and how you can become involved in conserving Maryland's birds. 7-9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

MEETING. **Montgomery.** *Jim Brighton* on "Maryland's Biodiversity Project". Jim and Bill Hubick have been working, with lots of help from others, to catalog all living things in Maryland. This will be an update as to his progress. Doors open at 7 PM, refreshments 7:30 and meeting

starts at 8. Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Rd.

Thursday, January 18

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

♣ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Saturday, January 20

♣ **Anne Arundel.** Thomas Point and Annapolis Neck. We will carpool to Hillsmere first to check along South River Bay Front for water birds. From there directly to Thomas Point Park as the gate should be open between 8 and 9 AM. Next we will do the neighborhoods of Arundel on the Bay and Oyster Harbor. Continuing from there into Bay Ridge to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to walk the short trail back into Black Walnut Cove. From there back around the entire Bay Ridge peninsula for great views of the Bay, the Bridge and Severn River. A great location for Long-tail Ducks. 7:45 AM (half day). Meet at Giant Shopping Center on Bay Ridge Rd, near Wells Fargo Bank on the side by Georgetown Rd. Contact Judy Brennan, 410-991-2412 or el.judith@gmail.com.

♣ **Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescopes useful. Canceled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309.

♣ **Baltimore.** Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at 3001 East Dr. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Carroll.** Parties of counters will set their own schedules in their pre-arranged areas to count winter bird species throughout the County. Contact Don Jewell to verify your bird

counting area (jewelldg@gmail.com or 410-259-4716). Tally Rally will be hosted by Amy Hoffman at her home. RSVP to Amy (410-549-3598) no later than Wednesday, January 17 and plan on bringing a food item or cash donation (\$5).

♣ **Frederick.** Audubon Society of Central MD Nature Walk. 9-11 AM. Audrey Carroll Sanctuary, 13030 Old Annapolis Rd, Mt Airy. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

♣ **Harford.** Bradenbaugh Flats. Dennis Kirkwood leads us on a pleasant tour through NW Harford County's agricultural area to find wintering field birds and waterfowl. Expect Horned Larks, Longspurs and Snow Buntings, Ring-necked Ducks, and maybe a Cackling Goose. The trip ends at the leader's house where you can enjoy hot soup, homemade breads, good conversation and maybe even a brief glimpse of the resident screech owl. 8 AM. Meet at the Jarrettsville Elementary School parking lot. Contact Dennis at newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905.

♣ **Howard.** Alpha Ridge Landfill. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. We will search for Short-eared Owls with no guarantee of finding one. Other possibilities are Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Eastern Meadowlark. If we finish early, we may go to Mount Pleasant and look for wintering sparrows. Facilities at Alpha Ridge Park. Limited to a maximum of five cars. Reservations required. Carpooling is required. Half day. Contact Joe Hanfman for reservations, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

♣ **Kent.** Ocean City. 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 at 8 AM at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

♣ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed.

For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, January 21

♣ **Montgomery.** Black Hill RP. All birders, but especially new birders, are welcome on this trip, which will focus on the identification of ducks at this premier county spot for winter waterfowl. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Visitors Center. For reservations (which are required) and more information, contact leader Gerry Hawkins, maineusa@comcast.net or 571-277-8406.

Monday, January 22

MEETING. **Tri-county.** "Besides your Binoculars & Bird Book: A Look at the Resources of Today's Birder" presented by *Mike Hillman*, Chincoteague Bay Field Station. 7 PM. MAC Education Ctr, off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net, for more info.

Tuesday, January 23

POTLUCK DINNER AND MEETING. **Washington.** Enjoy a potluck dinner starting at 6 PM, followed by the film "Watching Warblers" at 7. Bring your own place setting, drink, and a dish to share. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Road, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 with any questions.

Saturday, January 27

♣ **Baltimore.** Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.org.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Frederick.** This is the last, but not the least, of our winter counts! The reward afterwards is the enjoyable tally-rally at David and Carol's house. Compiler David Smith, 410-549-7082.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Harford.** Compiler TBA. Details and contact information will be publicized by email, social media and on the website prior to the event.

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Howard.** Compiler Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com or 410-772-8424.

Sunday, January 28

MID-WINTER COUNT. **Kent.** Join the field crew or count in your neighborhood, anywhere in Kent County. Contact Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com for more information.

♣ **Montgomery.** Winter Waterfowl Search. 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. Reservations required. Half day. For reservations and more info, contact leader Andy Martin, martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066.

Thursday, February 1

MEETING. **Frederick.** *Bonnie Ott*, an expert on "Sparrows," will help us ID and appreciate those Little Brown Jobs. 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick.

♣ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, February 2 – Sunday, February 4

MOS CONVENTION. Ocean City. Join fellow birders from around the state for a full weekend of talks, field trips and social interaction. Check the MOS webpage for further information: <http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/annual.html>.

Saturday, February 3

♣ **Anne Arundel.** Kinder Farm Park. The park has a lot of trails and diverse habitat with fields and wooded areas to explore. Alan produced a checklist of the birds of the Park and walks and explores this area regularly. 7:30 AM (half day). Meet at Kinder Farm Park. Take the first left before the gatehouse (free entry). Meet at the last parking lot up the hill. Contact leaders Alan

and Susan Young, 410-991-8300 or alnmyoung@aol.com.

♣ **Harford.** Eagle Watch at Conowingo Dam. Bring your camera for a chance at many excellent shots of a large number of Bald Eagles, various gulls, waterfowl, and shore birds. 9 AM. Meet at Fisherman's Park just below the Dam on the Harford County side of the Susquehanna. Leaders Colleen Webster, cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577, and Sue Procell, procell1@comcast.net or 443-417-4919.

♣ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Fran Uhler Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rt 197 just north of Bowie State University. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

Sunday, February 4

♣ **Montgomery.** 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 not 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. 3:30 PM. Meet on landfill entrance drive at 6001 Rt 108, Laytonsville. Contact the leader for reservations and more information. Leader Mark England, 240-375-4500 or markengland@canamcontractors.com.

Wednesday, February 7

♣ **Baltimore.** First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry. Continuing a series of monthly morning surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Telescope can be useful. Can celled in bad weather. 8 AM. Meet outside the park front gates and park in lot on left hand side. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769.

MEETING. **Carroll.** "Mom's Big Year" by *Nancy McAllister*. Meeting begins at 7 PM with a brief period for socializing, followed by the guest lecturer. Afterwards, there will be a short business meeting. Carroll Nonprofit Center, 255 Clifton Blvd, Westminster. Contact Don Jewell, jewelldg@gmail.com.

♣ **Howard.** Lake Elkhorn. Easy walking along the lake and to Forbay Pond. Waterfowl, sparrows and winter finches are possible. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. No facilities. Accessible. 8 AM, 2-3 hrs. Meet at Dockside Parking lot. Leader Allen Lewis, allenlewis@gmail.com.

Thursday, February 8

MEETING. **Howard.** "Common Sparrows of Central Maryland," by *Bonnie Ott*. Learn how to identify common sparrow species of the Maryland Piedmont. Bonnie will explain habitat preferences and seasonal movement. She will give tips on how to tell similar species apart by behavior. Hospitality 7 PM; meeting/program 7:30 at Robinson Nature Ctr, 6692 Cedar Ln, Columbia. Info: John Harris, 240-755-0183.

Saturday, February 10

♣ **Baltimore.** Loch Raven Point and Loch Raven Dam. Morning trip to see ducks, grebes, coots and other water birds. Scopes useful. Trip canceled in snow, rain, or slippery conditions. 8:45 AM. Meet at the Morgan Mill Rd parking area just before Loch Raven Dr. Leaders Debbie Terry, 443-578-8243 or dterry12@verizon.net, and Peter Lev, 410-823-2962 or plev@comcast.net.

♣ **Tri-county.** Dorchester County, for waterfowl, raptors, other winter residents. Bring lunch and snacks. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Royal Farms on Rt 50 west of Salisbury. For more information, contact trip leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net.

Sunday, February 11

♣ **Anne Arundel.** Quiet Waters Park. David Gillum will lead this monthly walk through the park exploring woodland trails, edge habitat, and views of the South River. A lovely habitat for birding throughout the year and could be very good for migrant birds. \$6 per car Park entry fee. 8-11 AM. Meet at Blue Heron Center. Contact David Gillum, 410-266-8775 or dagmapper@verizon.net.

♣ **Baltimore.** Marshy Point Nature Center. Trip for winter waterfowl, raptors, passerines. Half-mile trail leads to point overlooking Dundee Creek. Boots advisable, telescopes useful. 9 AM (half day). Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, 410-626-7294 or baypuffin@hotmail.com.

♣ **Howard.** Blandair Park North. Walk the trails along scrubland and woods. Sometimes non-winter birds over-winter here. No facilities, boots recommended. 8 AM. 2-3 hrs. Meet at the south end of Summer Hollow Ln, Columbia. Leader Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com.

Tuesday, February 13

BOARD MEETING. **Baltimore.** While only authorized Board members have a vote, any Club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Call any club officer or board member for details. 7 PM. Held at the Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.

MEETING. **Patuxent/PGAS.** "What a wonderful bird is the pelican ... The expansion of Brown Pelicans into the Chesapeake Bay region", presented by *Dave Brinker*. During the mid-1900s, Brown Pelicans seriously declined along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States and were eventually listed as a threatened species. Historically, pelicans had never been recorded as a nesting species in Maryland or anywhere to the north. As pelican populations were recovering from the impacts of DDT, Dave discovered Maryland's first Brown Pelican nesting in 1987. Since wandering into the Middle Atlantic States, Brown Pelican populations have increased dramatically. The remarkable expansion of local Brown Pelicans in the region will be described. Come learn how adults feed tiny chicks, and where Maryland nesting pelicans spend their winters, along with other snippets of the natural history of this facilitating water bird. Free and open to the public. Doors open at 7 PM for 7:30 PM meeting start time. College Park Airport Operations Bldg, 2nd Fl, 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park.

Thursday, February 15

MEETING. **Caroline.** *Steve Westre* will present "Overview of Caroline County's Christmas Counts 1950 to the present". 7:30 PM. Caroline County Public Library, 100 Market St, Denton.

♣ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellAtlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, February 16 – Monday, February 19

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Count one day or all four! gbbc.birdcount.org/

Saturday, February 17–Monday, February 19

♣ **Frederick.** Eastern Shore weekend. A casual and fun trip to visit some of the best birding spots on the East coast. Contact leader Tom Humphrey for details, 240-793-2508.

Saturday, February 17

♣ **Baltimore.** Saturday Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry. Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Telescope can be useful. Cancelled in bad weather. 8 AM (half day). Park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate. Leader Ben Poscover, 410-882-1309.

♣ **Baltimore.** Druid Hill Park. Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park! From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. 8–9:30 AM. Meet at 3001 East Dr. To borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or <http://baltimore@audubon.com>.

♣ **Frederick.** Audubon Society of Central MD Nature Walk. 9–11 AM. Fred Archibald Sanctuary, 6011 Boyers Mill Rd, New Market. For more information contact Crystal Kunst, hckunst@qis.net or 443-536-3071.

♣ **Howard. Lake Kittamaquidi.** Easy walking around the newly paved path. Waterfowl, gulls and sparrows expected. Facilities available. Accessible. 8 AM. 2-3 hrs. Meet in the top side lakefront fountain near Whole Foods off Little Patuxent Pkwy. Leader Clayton Koonce, cg.koonce@verizon.net.

♣ **Kent.** Blackwater NWR. Prime waterfowl and eagle country; pelicans and other surprises? Dress warmly & bring lunch. 8 AM (full day). Meet at the Dollar General parking lot (off Philosopher's Terrace) in Chestertown. If you have questions, please contact leaders Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568 or borealdee@gmail.com.

♣ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Governor Bridge Natural Area. Monthly walk. 7:30 AM. Meet at the Natural

Area parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd, 1 mile E of Rt 301. No reservations needed. For more information contact Bill Sefton, kiwisuits@msn.com.

♣ **Washington.** Black Hill Regional Park. 9 AM (half day). 9 AM. Leave from the Rt 66 P&R. Call Doris Berger at 301-739-8907 to participate.

WINTER COUNT. **Y.M.O.S.** Dorchester County. 8 AM Meet at the Sailwinds Center immediately across the Choptank River Bridge in Cambridge. We'll spend time looking at the large array of ducks, before heading south to Blackwater NWR and Shorter's Wharf to look for Short-eared Owls and the Rough-legged Hawk. Bring a lunch and money for dinner and plenty of warm clothing. Email George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) of your intent to go at least 2 weeks in advance of the trip.

Sunday, February 18

♣ **Cecil.** Fair Hill NRMA. Fair Hill is one of Cecil County's loveliest birding spots. A variety of habitats, including woods, fields and wetlands, means that we will see a number of different winter residents. Portions of the trail may be muddy or icy, so boots are recommended. Dress for extreme cold and wind. 8 AM (half day). Meet at the Foxcatcher Farm Covered Bridge parking lot near the Nature Center on Tawes Dr. There is an honor system daily fee (\$3 Maryland residents; \$4 out-of-state visitors). Birders age 62 and older are eligible for a Golden Age Pass. Leader Ken Drier, kdrier@zoominternet.net.

Wednesday, February 21

MEETING. **Anne Arundel.** "Youth Birding in Maryland", presented by Y.M.O.S. members from AABC. Winning repeated top honors at the annual World Series of Birding, Maryland youth birders have made a name for themselves and a significant impact on the State birding world. Y.M.O.S. is open to kids elementary through high school ages, and represents all areas of Maryland. This presentation highlights the many facets of the Y.M.O.S. program: their numerous and varied trips and competitions, and their research and conservation initiatives. The program is illustrated with the students' spectacular photography and art work. Come and show your support for Y.M.O.S., and bring a youngster! 7-9 PM. Harvest Hall, Kinder Farm Park. Contact

Barbara Johnson, 410-703-4664 or
barbarajohnson222@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 24

✿ **Baltimore.** Patuxent River NAS. Half-day trip to a restricted Naval base for winter delights. Guaranteed to get lots of Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, Wilson's Snipe and a variety of waterfowl. Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur, Short-eared Owl, and Peregrine Falcon are possible. Limit 10 people, by reservation only. Optional lunch at a waterfront restaurant on way home. The trip is open only to US citizens and all attendees must possess a photo ID. Meet at Nursery Rd/Hammonds Ferry Rd P&R at 6 AM sharp or at the visitor center parking lot outside of NAS Gate #1 (northernmost gate) at 8. It's on the right, about 100-200 yards after you turn left off SR 235. Email leader Kyle Rambo, kyle.rambo@navy.mil, to make reservations. Email Coordinator Kevin Graff, keyweststyle2001@gmail.com, for carpooling or directions to the site.

✿ **Baltimore.** Patterson Park. Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in SE Baltimore. With more than 205 species on record, the park is full of surprises. 8-9:30 AM. Meet at the fountain, near intersection of E Lombard St and S Patterson Park Ave. For directions or to borrow binoculars, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center, 410-558-2473 or baltimore@audubon.com.

✿ **Carroll.** Black Hills Regional Park, Montgomery Co. Join Bob Ringler to scope out the waterfowl here. Meet at the P&R on Rt 32 just S of Rt 26 in Eldersburg. Contact Bob at 410-303-2792.

✿ **Cecil.** Gulls at North East Community Park. Whether you think gulls are gorgeous or hopelessly confusing, do we have a location for you! Join local gull expert Sean McCandless for a session of gull watching and identification. With numbers ranging from the hundreds to a couple of thousand, you might spot a rare Iceland or Lesser Black-backed Gull among the crowd. You never know what will show up! 9:30 AM (two hours). Meet in the park's parking lot. Leader Sean "Bird Dog" McCandless, seanmccandless1@gmail.com.

✿ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Ponds of Prince George's County for Wintering Waterfowl. Join leader Fred Fallon in a pot-luck potpourri to see what the ponds of Prince George's County might hold. A special target bird will be the PBC logo bird, Hooded Merganser. Exact locations to be visited will depend on current reports. Bring snacks and drinks. 8 AM. Meet at the Bowie P&R (¾ day). Contact Fred Fallon, fwfallon@ymail.com, for more information.

Sunday, February 25

✿ **Harford.** Loch Raven. A leisurely walk to enjoy the rich habitat of Baltimore's premier watershed for wintering migrant songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. 7:30 AM. Meet at the P&R on Rt 152 just north of Rt 147 near Fallston. Leader Dave Larkin, larkin3001@comcast.net or 410-569-8319.

Monday, February 26

MEETING. **Tri-county.** "The Northern Bobwhite in Maryland" presented by *Bob Long*, MD DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service. 7 PM. MAC Education Center, off Snow Hill Rd, Salisbury. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net, for more info.

Tuesday, February 27

MEETING. **Washington.** "Monarch Migration" with *Sandy Sagalkin* from the Monarch Alliance. 7 PM. Mt. Aetna Nature Center, 21905 Mt. Aetna Road, Hagerstown. Call 301-797-8454 for details.

Thursday, March 1

MEETING. **Frederick.** Renowned Smithsonian ornithologist *Carla Dove* will explain the role of feather forensics in aviation safety in "When Birds Collide." 7 PM. Homewood at Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Rd, Frederick.

✿ **Patuxent/PGAS.** Lake Artemesia Natural Area. Semi-monthly walk. Wheelchair-accessible. 3 PM. Meet at parking lot at intersection of Berwyn Rd and Ballew Ave in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich, mozurk@bellatlantic.net, for more information.

Friday, March 2

DINNER/MEETING. **Harford.** Speaker/topic TBA. Dinner at 6:15 PM, general meeting at 7:15 PM, presentation at 8 PM. Churchville Presbyterian Church, 2844 Churchville Rd.