MARYLAND BIRDS AND BIRD HABITATS

Using Authentic Data to Assess Environmental Trends

For Maryland Educators

June 24- 29, 2012
Washington College
Chestertown, MD

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

Field Work with Trained Ornithologists GIS Mapping Habitat Management

Program Overview

Birds, aside from being a fascinating part of the natural world, provide a critical insight into the quality of different habitats in the environment. They are easily accessed by anyone in any area of the State, and there exists a significant amount of authentic and area-specific data that can be used in the classroom and other learning venues.

Too often programs focus exclusively on identification, a skill requiring years of experience. Fear of misidentification and lack of optics prevent many from venturing into the field. However, bird behavior and song are much easier to observe and involve little need for expensive equipment. The workshop will show participants how birds can be easily incorporated into a wide variety of curricula and experiences.

During the week, participants will both work in the field and classroom. They will both collect and learn to access numerous available on-line data sources. In the field they will get involved with several data collecting projects and research activities that can be done with children. All participants will develop a small project which incorporates the world of birds and authentic data and which can be used in the classroom or in an applicable field program.

The program is being offered to both adults and students going into Grades 7 – 12. Both groups will work together in the field, but will be offered different experiences in the classroom.

Trips Nest Box Monitoring Bird Research

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

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

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

Location: Washington College, Chestertown, MD

Lodging and Meals: Participants will be housed in Washington College dorm rooms and will take all meals in the college cafeteria. Staying onsite is strongly encouraged because of evening sessions and early morning starts.

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

Transportation during the Workshop is provided.

Program Costs and Scholarships: $350
Full scholarships are available from the Maryland Ornithological Society.

Project Development Accessing Local Data Night Birding

Tentative Program Schedule

Sunday, June 24
3:00 PM – Check in and Orientation
4:00 PM – GPS and GIS Practicum
Evening Session - Birding by Ear and by Habitat

Monday, June 25
AM Field Session - Birding by Habitat
PM Session – Introduction to eBird Monitoring
Evening Session – Night Bird Hunt

Tuesday, June 26
All Day Field Session – Bombay Hook Refuge
Aquatic and Marsh Birds
Evening Sessions – Bird Breeding Atlasing

Wednesday, June 27
AM Field Session – eBird Monitoring
PM Session/Nestbox Monitoring and Mapping
Evening Session – Night Bird Hunt

Thursday, June 28
AM Field Session – Elk Neck State Park Birding
PM Session – GIS/Computer Work
Evening Session – Developing Programs and Activities

Friday, June 29
AM Field Session – Bird Banding
12:00 PM- Program Wrap-up and Evaluation
1:00 – Participants Depart

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

No previous birding experience is required for this program. The program will be adapted for the level of experience of each participant. Binoculars will be available for loan to participants.

Program Outcomes

Participating teachers/program leaders will:

- Get field experience identifying and monitoring birds.
- Learn to access and analyze local data sources.
- Develop an activity to be used in their classroom/program

Program Activities

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

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

- **Name**
- **Organization/School**
- **Home Address**
- **Your County**
- **Phone**
- **eMail**
- An explanation of how you might incorporate birds and/or authentic data into your program.

Application Deadline: April 16, 2012

Applications which pair a student and adult from the same school or county are especially encouraged.

To Submit Application:
Email to George Radcliffe at
radclifg@gmail.com
Or mail to:
YMOS c/o
George M. Radcliffe
1663 Hudson Rd
Cambridge, MD 21613