

MARYLAND BIRDS AND BIRD HABITATS

Using Authentic Data to Assess Environmental Trends

For Maryland Educators

June 20- 25, 2010

**Washington College
Chestertown, MD**



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

Field Work with Trained Ornithologists GIS Mapping Habitat Management

Program Overview

Birds, aside from being a fascinating part of the natural world, provide a critical insight into the quality of different habitats in the environment. They are 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 8 – 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 20 – Friday, June 25

Instructors:

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

Location: Washington College, Chestertown, MD

Lodging and Meals: Participants will be housed in Washington College dorm rooms and will take all meals in the college cafeteria. 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. Indicate if you will need financial support in order to attend.

Project Development Accessing Local Data Night Birding

Tentative Program Schedule

Sunday, June 20

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

Monday, June 21

AM Field Session - Birding by Habitat
PM Session – Developing a Classroom Project
Evening Session – Night Bird Hunt

Tuesday, June 22

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

Wednesday, June 23

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

Thursday, June 24

AM Field Session – Bird Breeding Study and Mapping
PM Session – Classroom Project Development
Evening Session – Initiating Research

Friday, June 25

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

No previous birding experience is required for this program. The program will be adapted for the level of experience of each participant.

Binoculars and Field Guides will be available for loan to each participant for the duration of the program.

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

To 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.

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