



DNR Reports . . . by Glenn Therres

Aerial surveys are an effective method for counting wildlife. DNR utilizes this survey method for waterfowl, Bald Eagles, colonial waterbirds, and white-tailed deer. We occasionally search for radio-equipped black bears from the air as well. Most of this work is done from a small, fixed-wing airplane, though the deer surveys are done by helicopter.

Wildlife aerial surveys must be conducted from low altitudes so that we can see the animals. Thus, we are usually flying at altitudes of no more than 500 feet above the ground. Flying at such heights is dangerous and requires skilled pilots and aircraft in tip-top shape. The pilots and planes we have used over the years have met these requirements admirably.

Several types of aerial waterfowl surveys are conducted each year. Mid winter surveys are done to count all waterfowl species wintering in the Chesapeake Bay and its major tributaries. This is an important survey for determining population sizes in Maryland and throughout the Atlantic flyway. In recent times, we have been surveying the expanding Mute Swan population from the air. Last year over 3,600 Mute Swans were counted in our state. We also look for their nests during these surveys. Since 1977, we have annually monitored the state's nesting Bald Eagles from the air. This is the only efficient way to monitor over 300 nesting pairs of eagles throughout 20 counties in the State. We monitor Great Blue Heron colonies throughout the state by the same method. We also look for new colonies of other colonial nesting waterbirds from a small airplane. For deer, we fly night surveys using heat detecting equipment, called FLIR, to count deer in certain areas where we suspect an over abundance occurs. We do not try to estimate the total state population by this method.

Since 9-11 and now that the country is under a heightened alert for terrorist activities, wildlife aerial surveys have become more problematic or impossible to conduct in our state. Since September 11, 2001, there is now a 15-mile restricted zone around Washington, DC. Last year, small planes could obtain clearance into this area after getting the plane inspected by a law enforcement officer. This year, no small planes are allowed into this zone. In addition to this 15-mile no fly zone, there is now a series of Air Defense Zones (ADZ) around all major airports and around Washington, DC. These zones extend to 20 miles around the major airports and 30 miles around the nation's capital. Small planes can get authorization to enter the ADZ, but only after specific flight plans have been filed and approved. Once approved into the ADZ, each plane is assigned a special tracking number and the plane is tracked by radar while in the zone. Constant communication with air traffic controllers is also now part of the process. In addition to these zones, small planes are not allowed to fly near power plants.

In Maryland, these restricted zones cover most of the western shore and parts of the Eastern Shore.

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THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 23, NO. 3

MAY/JUNE 2003

The 2003 MOS Conference Draws Near! by Mike Callahan

The 2003 Annual MOS Conference and Business Meeting will be held May 24 -26, the Memorial Day Holiday Weekend, at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac. Please sign up now for what is looking to be a great weekend of birding and fellowship.

Kenn Kaufman, noted birder and author will be the Keynote Speaker and will also present a butterfly workshop on Saturday afternoon and will sign books following the Saturday dinner keynote speech. He is also donating items to the silent auction and raffle.

The Conference has not been held in Montgomery County for over ten years. Local Conference Coordinator Mike Bowen along with the hosting Chapters of Montgomery County, Howard County and Patuxent are sure you will enjoy the facility and the food. They have planned a busy weekend of birding, workshops and more for you. We expect fewer people will have to take off from work for the conference due to the new holiday weekend dates.

Montgomery County and the surrounding areas are packed with great birding area treasures. Field trip coordinator Linda Friedland has been hard at work organizing an extensive schedule of trips. There so many terrific birding spots in Montgomery County that the chapter recently published its *Birder's Guide to Montgomery County Maryland*, and many posts on the MD OSPREY have mentioned such places too. If you are interested in assisting trip leaders, contact Linda at linnet@erols.com Saturday afternoon workshops include the Kaufman Butterflies for Birders, and a Dragonfly workshop by Dr. Richard Orr.

This year's Silent Auction and Raffle proceeds will go to two worthy organizations: The new Youth Birding program of the Audubon Naturalist Society and Second Chance Wildlife Center, a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

The Wildlife Authority will be the bird and nature gift/book store vendor at the Bolger Center. Expect great items and prices. If you would like to get something specifically from them please contact them at 410-465-5007 or wildlifeauthor@aol.com



Harford Member is Maryland Conservationist and Environmental Educator of the Year—Dr. Dennis L. Kirkwood and Ann M. Regn (of Virginia) were named 2002 Conservationist and Environmental Educators of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). Dennis Kirkwood is a native of Harford County and a member of the Harford Chapter. He lives on and works a 140-acre family farm that he enrolled in Harford County's Agricultural Preservation District, the first landowner in the area to permanently preserve farmland through this program. Since 1998, he has been the Supervisor of Science for Harford County Public Schools making available hands-on field experiences, often in collaboration with CBF, for approximately 15,000 county students each year. Harford County students have won Maryland's "Envirothon" seven out of the last twelve years and they have ranked in the top five nationally three times.

Conservationist and Environmental Educators in Your County Could Get Free Tool—Talbot Chapter President Wayne Bell, assisted by colleague Martha Shaum, conducted a workshop on "Birds, Landscape, and Biodiversity" at the annual meeting of the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators in Ocean

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Nominations for 2003-2004 MOS Officers by Al Haury

For the coming year, 2003-2004, the current officers have all agreed to continue in office if re-elected. Following are the nominations that will be presented at the Annual Business Meeting for a vote by the membership.

President	Paul Zucker
Vice-President	Janet Millenson
Secretary	Janet Shields
Treasurer	Shiras Guion

Additional nominations can be presented at the Annual Business Meeting provided that the nominee has agreed with the nomination.

THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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Please send all calendar and article submissions to the President of MOS, Paul Zucker.

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the September/October issue are:

Sep/Oct Calendar Activities:
July 25

All Other Submissions:
August 1

Reorganizations and Vacancies by Paul Zucker



At its March 30 meeting, the Executive Committee approved a reorganization plan for the MOS committees. Following the recommendations of the working group at the MOS planning retreat, the new plan gathers all the MOS committees into five groups. Each group will have as its coordinator one of the Society officers, but each individual committee will still have a chair and will perform its allocated tasks. The concept here is for the committees in a group to have greater communication and cooperation with each other.

The proposed groups and coordinating officers are:

- Finance Group—Treasurer
- Administrative Group—Secretary
- Birds and Habitats Group—Past President
- Education Group—Vice President
- Communications Group—President.

Some new committees are under consideration, such as membership, development, outreach, and chapter programs. Others may have some of their functions changed or combined. The executive committee expects to have these ideas firmed up by the time of the conference and will share them with the membership there. A formal proposal will then be made to the board of directors' meeting in June. Final approval of the necessary by-laws changes will need to take place at the 2004 conference. Although the new structure will not officially take effect until September 2004, as president I plan to appoint ad-hoc committees for the new tasks and to request the existing committees to modify their functioning according to the new plan starting this September.

In order for these plans to come to fruition and improve the functioning of MOS, we need to fill the vacant committee chairs and find new members to serve on the State committees. Out of our retreat also came recommendations for the State organization to do more directly to support the chapters and the membership. Be a part of this exciting rejuvenation of our organization! President Kennedy's (approximate) words come to mind: Ask not what MOS can do for you, but what you can do for MOS. **Our Society is only as strong and vital as you make it.** It is up to all of us to pitch in according to our interests.

Please let me know (president@mdbirds.org) if you wish to discuss or consider any of the following openings:

- Executive Secretary (\$200 per month stipend)
- Yellowthroat Editor
- Conference Chair (Janet Shields has volunteered to assist)
- Sanctuary Chair
- Publicity Chair

or, if you might be interested in:

- Serving on a particular committee
- Serving as a member of one of the Groups mentioned above (participating on various committees within the group)
- Serving on one of the new committees under consideration.

Thanks.

Executive Secretary Needed by Paul Zucker

Starting this summer MOS needs to fill the post of Executive Secretary. The duties of this post involve administrative support for the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The current stipend for this work is \$200 per month. In addition, the Executive Secretary is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. As a result, the Executive Secretary has a leadership role in the Society and participates in the discussions and decisions on many interesting and timely issues facing MOS.

For more details please look at the description of duties in the MOS Manual of Operation (on the webpage at www.mdbirds.org). If you think you might want to consider this position, please contact me, Paul Zucker, at president@mdbirds.org. I will be glad to talk with you about it and to put you in touch with some people who have held this position.

DNR REPORTS*(continued from page 1, column 1)*

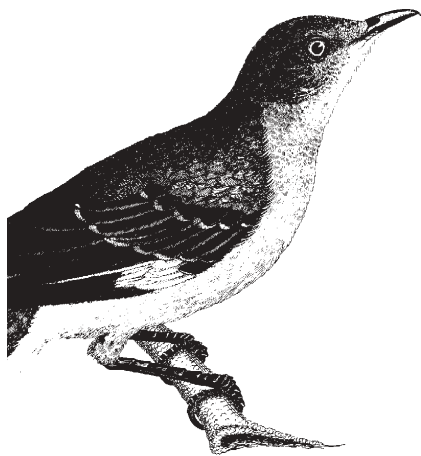
We just completed flying our annual eagle nesting surveys in March and one-third of all of our nest sites were within the ADZ. Though we were eventually authorized to monitor most of the nests inside the ADZ, we could not monitor 16 nests because they were within the 15-mile no fly zone or too close to power plants. This year we will not be flying colonial waterbird surveys on the western shore. No deer FLIR surveys were conducted. Our abilities to assess wildlife populations from the air are no longer routine.

You can help supplement these efforts, especially within the 15-mile no fly zone. Please report your observations of nesting Bald Eagles, colonial waterbirds, and Mute Swans in the DC area and beyond, including near power plants, to gtherres@dnr.state.md.us or call 410-260-8572. No deer reports please!

Locust Grove Bird Day Announced by Laura Rich

Get to know our feathered friends at Locust Grove Nature Center, 7777 Democracy Boulevard in Bethesda, Md. on Saturday, May 24, 2003. From 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., join a Locust Grove naturalist for family bird watching. You will learn simple techniques for observing and enjoying the birds around us. This event is FREE and for all ages, although it is strongly recommended for ages five and up. Reservations ARE required. Please call 301-299-1990 for more information.

From 10:45 a.m to 1 p.m., the good times continue at Locust Grove. Join the Friends of Locust Grove Nature Center for its first annual "Happy Bird Day!" You will be able to take guided Bluebird walks and try your hand at making a nest - it is harder than you think! You also can do other bird-related crafts and activities, and enjoy bird-related exhibits. Scales & Tales will be there to entertain and educate you. And of course, it would not be Happy Bird Day without cake! This event is FREE and open to everyone. Reservations are NOT required. For more information, please call 301-299-1990.

**CHAPTER CHATTER***(continued from page 2, column 3)*

City in early February. The workshop was designed to help teachers and environmental educators use birds as indicators of local changes in biodiversity. In particular, Bell and Shaum introduced several great sources of authentic information — MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project, North American Breeding Bird Survey, and Classroom Feederwatch — and showed the workshop participants how to access and interpret these data to explore the relationship between local biodiversity and changing land use. Through his role as Director of the Center for the Environment and Society at Washington College, Dr. Bell is making the workshop presentation, plus additional teaching resources, available to educators on a CD-ROM. To obtain a copy, email to wbell2@washcoll.edu with this information: name, mailing address, and school or organization. There is no charge.

Kent Chapter Meets the Challenge! How About Your Chapter?—The Kent Chapter of MOS (soon to be the Kent County Bird Club) has risen to the challenge put forth by the Howard County Bird Club to raise money for the Atlas Project. With a little help from their friends, they have raised \$250. Thanks to the generous matching funds from Howard, this will add \$500 to the Atlas Project! Peter Mann, president, says "Kent realizes that we have a special relationship to the Atlas Project, since we have the endemic Ellison Martins in our midst, but we would like to challenge all of you bigger clubs to match our donation."

Cecil Bird Club Member Is a Published Writer—Pat Valdata, Cecil Bird Club member, wrote a short story, "House Hunting," a tale of how wildlife, specifically a pair of Wood Ducks, prompted a human decision to choose a particular house. The online publication *Amarillo Bay* is in its fifth year of publishing fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry. You can log on to the website at www.amarillobay.org/contents.

Birds Sing for the Tri-County Supper—At the annual March dinner, approximately 50 members and guests of the Tri-County Chapter were entertained by Jeff Gordon and his "Bird Grammy Awards". A Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours guide for 13 years, Jeff, from the Wilmington area, is fascinated by bird vocalizations and shared his passion with his audience. With his audio system, he provided examples of sounds in different "categories" such as ugliest call; biggest sounds from littlest birds; funniest call; best non-vocal performance and others. He also played simple calls, such as Henslow's sparrow, then slowed them down to reveal an astounding complexity. Voting in the different categories added to the entertainment as did Jeff's imitations and simulations of those birds. Guests who were not sure a sound program would interest them, are now making plans to get serious about conquering at least some resident bird songs. Another highlight of the evening was a special raffle on a painting of a Dickcissel by member Ellen Lawler. It garnered \$90 toward the Breeding Bird Atlas Fund.

Montgomery's Annual Dinner—On Friday, March 21, 80 members attended the Montgomery County Chapter's annual social at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society Headquarters in Chevy Chase. The banquet tables were artfully decorated with native plants from the area picked by Ellen Dashner. Judy McCartney designed name tags, each exhibiting a different bird species. The Guest of Honor was Lou DeMouy, honored for his years of service as Past President and Conference Chair for MOS. After dinner, Program Chair Mike Bowen had members show up to 10 slides each of birds seen on various trips in the USA and abroad.

Cecil Welcomes New Members—Luke Kenenske, Joe Styron, Lizzie Parker, Laura and Carey Belascio are new members of the Cecil Chapter. Lizzie Parker joined after seeing a field trip notice in *The Cecil Whig*. She joined Sean McCandless and a group on a cold, cold January field trip around Ocean City birding points. The Belascio's are members of the Delaware Ornithological Society and have already participated in many Elkton Christmas Bird Counts. They have their own special Phoebe, a 5 year old daughter.

Harford Bird Club Presents Annual Awards—The chapter newsletter *Wrenderings* honored the 2002 recipients of the Harford Bird Club Annual Awards. "Birders of the Year" were Macrina and Dave Seitz for their participation in club and Earth Day activities, bird banding contributions, outdoor education programs, and for gladly sharing their birding experiences with the Club. Volunteer of the Year was Jean Wheeler in gratitude for countless hours of dedication and service; cheerfully taking on any and all tasks and doing them quickly, ably, and enthusiastically. Rookie of the Year was Carol Pace, who learned about getting up before dawn, attention-to-detail, birding ethics, why three field guides aren't enough, atlasing, and the joys of being with really good friends. The Bird of the Year was a Painted Bunting hosted by Joe and Lydia Cook."

Look Out World (Series of Birding)—Andy Rabin reports "The Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes will compete again in the World Series of Birding on May 10, 2003, in Cape May, New Jersey. The team's lineup remains unchanged since last year: Marylanders and Montgomery Chapter members Jim Green "Heron" and team captain Don "Lord High Loggerhead" Simonson, Ex-Maryland Andy "Robin" Rabin, and New Jersey native Gordon "Plover" Gover. The team will be raising funds for Pronatura Veracruz, a Mexican non-profit dedicated to promoting the conservation of migrating birds and their habitat. Those wishing to make a pledge, either "per species" or a fixed amount, can now do so online. Visit the Shrikes' website at www.superpickle.com/shrikes."

It's Spring! Is that an Odonate?—Bob and Jo Solem, well-known intrepid Maryland birders, turned to the study of Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) seven years ago. (Jo is the author of that excellent reference book, *Birding Howard County, Maryland*, now heading toward its second printing.) With their usual enthusiasm, they began the Howard County Odonate Survey. Jo says they are fortunate that the Mid-Atlantic region has among the highest species diversity in North America. She adds,

(continued on page 18, column 3)



A Tale From the Field: Atlasing in Goldsboro-CE by Walter G. Ellison, Maryland/D.C. Atlas Coordinator

The quintessence of atlasing is exploration. Yes, one can do atlas work in a favorite and familiar local patch or a well-known birding hot spot, but the ultimate atlas experience is going somewhere unrecognized by the bird-finding guides and rare bird alerts. It was a revelation to me during my first atlas project that there were birds, even good birds, in the wide open spaces on the map between my pet birding destinations.

I had four assigned blocks last year, my home block in Kent County and three in the Goldsboro quadrangle in Caroline County. On July 7 last summer the day dawned clear and less than sultry with promised highs "only" in the mid-80s. I had decided to go to the Goldsboro-CE block surrounding the small town of Henderson near the Delaware state line at the headwaters of the Choptank. I had explored the block on three previous days in June. On this day I was going to walk into the eastern part of The Nature Conservancy's Eaton's Pond unit of the Crescent Preserve where I had gained permission from the Conservancy to do atlas study. On prior outings I had largely confined myself to canvassing all of the roads in the block with some short walks into Conservancy property. My partner Nancy Martin and I had already located 62 species of bird in Goldsboro-CE, but I felt a long walk among the Delmarva bays, woodlands, and soy fields in the southeast corner of the block would add birds and confirmations to our field card.

I passed through Henderson on Bee Tree Road and continued southeast to the eastern edge of the block. I found the overgrown farm road and gate flanked by the familiar oak leaf Nature Conservancy signs and carefully got all four wheels off onto the grassy road shoulder next to the gate. The voices of Indigo Buntings, Carolina Wrens, cardinals, and Red-eyed Vireos spiced the air. I tucked my pant cuffs into my socks – no use making things too easy for those stealthy ticks. I then walked around the gate into the young sweet gums, maples, and Virginia pines along the wood road into the preserve. Not long after entering the shade of the trees I heard the surging sweet trill of Pine Warblers in the pines overhead (new to the block), and the rapid wiry buzz of a Worm-eating Warbler in the understory shrubbery. After

I became attuned to the sounds around me I noticed squawking emanating from the pines to my right not far from the dry bed of Eaton's Pond. It was the sound of young herons demanding food. I struck off after the sound and soon spotted large flat stick nests in the pines. I had located a small Great Blue Heronry. Soon thereafter I found the lone occupied nest with two large heron chicks standing sentinel-like in it, wisps of down still clinging to their plumage. As I worked my way back through the catbriar and highbush blueberry to the road I found another sizable stick nest in a small maple. I identified it as a Green Heron nest, alas it was a nest from the 2001 nesting season, unsuitable for the UN confirmation category. I judged that in a wetter year Eaton's Pond might host Prothonotary Warblers, but not in the bone dry summer of 2002.

As I walked along the road again I found another Delmarva bay pond with a tiny stagnant pool in a drying ring of cracked muddy loam. I spent several minutes quietly watching birds including Carolina Chickadees, wood-pewees, and a Hairy Woodpecker without seeing any nesting activity. Suddenly a fawn streaked through the opening. A minute or so later an unattended Airedale terrier burst into the clearing and stopped; nonplussed at my silent presence. I hoped this interruption helped the young deer, but I will never know as the dog broke from my stare and returned to its guilty errand. The woods started to thin and I came upon a Conservancy boundary sign sharply curled by a crude attempt to remove it. In the curl sat a sleeping gray tree frog. This seemed a perfect photo op, but I had no camera. I consulted the property map the Conservancy mailed to me and noted new parcels had been acquired beyond the boundary marked by the sign so I proceeded.

The sign marked a habitat as well as land parcel transition because I now reached the edge of the woods and followed the road around the edge of soybean fields with distant shimmering horizons. The first birds providing evidence of the transition were Rock Doves (oh well) and the omnipresent Turkey Vultures of Eastern Shore farmland. As I walked I scanned the fields and sky for field and aerial birds and worked the forest

edge on my right. In the fields I could just hear the distant "cheer-cheer, there-there, whatchacallit, whereisit" of a Vesper Sparrow and the tinkling of Horned Larks. Along the wood's edge were Blue Grosbeaks, towhees, gnatcatchers, an Ovenbird, and lo and behold, a pretty female Black-and-white Warbler that was new for the block (as was the Vesper Sparrow).

After a long hike in the open I came upon some overgrown trails into the wood. There was no pine in these woods, indeed in a wetter year they might have been swampy. By this time birds had become less songful in the rising heat of the day requiring me to do some proactive 'spishing' to see what was around and to see if I could see adults with food or youngsters. Youngsters there were as I managed to stir up recently fledged Carolina Wrens and yellowthroats. I also got some great looks at Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Kentucky Warblers, and White-eyed Vireos. The latter seemed to be telling me to "Check! Ya got another tick!" The vireos were often right as I picked off a constant procession of lone star and deer ticks from my pants. Looking down at my legs helped me spot a beautiful slow box turtle stirring the grass along the path.

As the trees became taller I decided to try my Barred Owl hoot – as much to arouse cuckoos, woodpeckers and crested flycatchers as owls. I got several birds to respond to my call, although not an owl, the most surprising were the eight vultures that gathered overhead as I hooted. It was time to turn around. Back in the soy fields I added Grasshopper Sparrow, and saw a male and female Blue Grosbeak relaying food to an unseen nest. There were Laughing Gulls gliding over the fields, within safe dates but only "observed" so far from tidewater. The Bank and Tree swallows flitting by were already beyond their safe dates. The last new species for the block for the day I did not see in the flesh as I identified the distinctive three-pronged tracks of a Wild Turkey in the dirt roadway. I got back to my car at 2:30 PM footsore and thirsty. I was thankful for my slightly sun-wilted bag lunch stored under the dash, especially the boxed juice. It had been a successful outing – I added six species and four nesting confirmations

2003 Field Season Dedicated to the Memory of Rick Blom

Eirik A. T. Blom, better known as Rick to MOS members, died in mid-December of last year. Rick was a founding member of the breeding bird atlas movement in North America, and as Project Coordinator was a driving force behind the completion of Maryland and D.C.'s first atlas project from 1983 to 1987. Rick's passing was a great loss to the current Maryland and D.C. Breeding Bird Atlas, it's hard to imagine how many atlas records and writings we have lost. The MOS Breeding Bird Atlas Committee announces that the 2003 Field Season will be dedicated in Rick's name. Please remember Rick when you are out atlasing this year.

Conservation News and Notes

by Maureen Harvey, MOS Conservation Chairman



The Conservation Connection

MARYLAND NEWS

SUNDAY HUNTING BILL PASSES IN HOUSE. This bill (HB 679) allows deer hunting by permission on private property, on all Sundays in November (bow hunting) and the first two Sundays in December (firearms), and only in the less-populated counties. Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties, the cities of Baltimore and Frederick, and the southeastern portion of Frederick County are excluded. MOS objected to the bill in written testimony to House members. Senate hearings are scheduled for press time, and we will have presented our arguments in writing to key Senators as well. By the time you read this, the bill's fate may be decided. You may check on the internet at www.mlis.state.md.us by entering "HB 679" in the search box. The thrust of our letter, carefully reworded by our V.P. Janet Millenson from a similar letter last year, follows:

"The MOS is OPPOSED to allowing Sunday hunting in Maryland. We are not opposed to hunting itself, however. Many of our members are hunters, and we support efforts to reduce the state's deer population. We oppose extending hunting to Sundays for the following reasons:

- **Danger to birdwatchers.** Maryland has a long tradition of not allowing hunting on Sundays, ensuring at least one day a week to enjoy our state's abundant natural resources without fear for ourselves or our families. But people can't enjoy the outdoors if they're worried about being accidentally shot. Because birdwatchers try to be quiet and inconspicuous, avoiding bright colors and loud noises, hunters and birdwatchers may not notice each other in time to prevent a tragedy. We wish to continue to be able to spend part of our weekends enjoying safe recreation in the outdoors year round.
- **Economic impact.** According to the most recent survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in 2001 wildlife-watchers spent \$1.4 billion in Maryland, compared to only \$685 million by hunters. Birdwatchers patronize the state's restaurants, hotels, and gas stations. They spend money on outdoor equipment, clothing, books and boat rentals. They bring tourist dollars to rural areas and to resorts in the off-season. Sunday hunting would cause many birdwatchers to change their weekend plans, noticeably harming Maryland businesses.
- **Obstacles to scientific research.** Extending hunting to Sunday would have a devastating impact on bird counts and other seasonal field studies. Already in recent years, many Christmas Bird Counts (held mid-December to early January) have been rescheduled for Sundays to avoid the danger of conflicts with hunters. These century-old counts, sponsored by the National Audubon Society, provide

invaluable long-term data on bird population trends for wildlife managers and scientists. If hunting is allowed on Sundays, fewer bird counters will participate, compromising the quality of the database and possibly forcing some counts to be cancelled.

The MOS regrets that this bill puts us at odds with hunters, who are our allies in the battle to preserve and protect critical natural habitat in Maryland. However, we believe that it's neither right nor necessary to mandate deer management policies by legislation. We should allow the wildlife managers at the Department of Natural Resources to continue to make such decisions. We do NOT support HB 679, and we call on you to reject any legislation that would allow Sunday hunting in Maryland."

ALLEGANY CO. WINDMILL FARM TO BE MONITORED POST-CONSTRUCTION. The MD Public Service Commission approved U.S. Wind Force's proposal to place up to 25 giant electricity-generating windmills atop Big Savage Mountain near Lonaconing, Allegany Co. An agreement was negotiated by DNR and bird lovers (mainly Chan Robbins and Daniel Boone) for the company to contribute \$20,000 to fund a bird migration study to be conducted after the project is built. In addition, a partial shut-down of the wind turbines will be required if 100 birds or bats are killed in a 24-hour period. The Commission has yet to rule on a project proposed by Clipper Windpower to build 67 wind turbines on Backbone Mountain, Garrett Co.

NATIONAL NEWS

EPA SEEKS RULE CHANGE TO APPROVE PESTICIDE USE MORE QUICKLY. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) warned us of a new government proposal that would begin the erosion of the Endangered Species Act, the bedrock of endangered species conservation in the U.S. since 1973. Birds such as Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Piping Plovers are protected by this act, which is now under attack. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal agency that registers toxic pesticides. These hazardous chemicals can kill birds and other wildlife. To ensure that a pesticide will not impact endangered species and to help safeguard these rarest of animals, the EPA must currently consult with expert biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service. Now EPA wants to change the law so that they can exempt themselves from this procedure. They want to remove some of the checks and balances crucial to a fair and unbiased government. They formulated this proposal after lengthy consultations with representatives from the pesticide industry but with no input from the conservation community. The MOS signed on to a letter penned by the ABC to the EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, and other key regulators

expressing opposition to this and any other proposal that will weaken the Endangered Species Act.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION OR MORE EXPLOITATION? Just we heard the Army Corp of Engineers is a planning massive effort to restore the Florida Everglades, there's a new threat unfolding in the form of mining. Carol Schreter, Baltimore Bird Club Conservation Chair, recommends a visit to the Natural Resource Defense Council's website for information and an easy means to contact officials to express concerns about mining in this national treasure: www.nrdcwildplaces.org.

BIRDING CONSERVATION NEWS. Bird-related conservation news appears regularly on the on the "Birding News" page of the American Birding Association (ABA) website: www.americanbirding.org/news/birdnews.htm. ABA also has an electronic newsletter prepared by Paul Baicich, ABA's Director of Conservation and Public Policy. ABA members who would like to receive this E-newsletter may contact him at pbaicich@aba.org. Excerpts follow:

FY03 WILDLIFE FUNDING. The federal FY03 budget trimmed spending on State Wildlife Grants, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund, the National Wildlife Refuge budget, the National Parks budget, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The final figures were not as drastically trimmed as predicted, but they were still universally disappointing. Even the highly successful North American Wetlands Conservation Fund was trimmed. FY04 is upon us and that core bird-funding issues will have to be watched.

CORRECTING SUPREME COURT'S "ISOLATED WETLAND" INTERPRETATION. The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act will seek to remedy a 2001 Supreme Court decision (the so-called SWANCC decision, or Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). That court action removed federal protection for so-called "isolated wetlands" across the United States and impacts millions upon millions of acres of wetlands. The Supreme Court decision, as interpreted by the Bush administration, said that federal officials could not rely on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act - or the presence of migrating birds - as the sole factor when attempting to protect wetlands that are separated from navigable waterways or other wetlands. Essentially, the decision stripped federal protection from critical wetland habitat. Correcting legislation was presented last year in the 107th Congress by Rep. Dingell (D-MI.) stating specifically that such isolated wetlands should be protected for the benefit of migratory birds. Without support from the Bush administration, the bill died in committee. Again, proposed correcting legislation, the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act, was introduced in late February in the Senate (S. 473) and in the House (H.R. 962), cosponsored by Senators Boxer (D-CA), Feingold

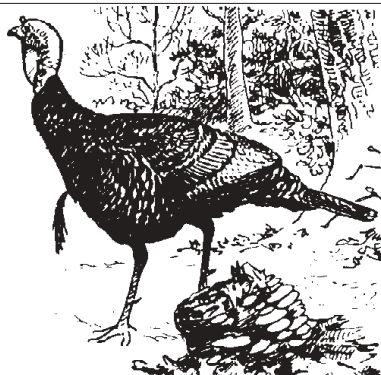
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CONSERVATION CONNECTION*(continued from previous page)*

(D-WI), and Jeffords (I-VT), and Representatives Boehlert (R-NY), Dingell (D-MI), Leach (R-IA), and Oberstar (D-MN). This legislative effort in both the House and Senate takes an important step forward in the effort to protect all wetlands, and it deserves the support of all bird conservationists.

AN EVOLVING DUCK STAMP? The Federal Duck Stamp Office of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is engaged in an effort to renovate the almost 70-year-old Duck Stamp Program. The office is asking key partner groups and related USFWS staff to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the program to help get a better understanding of the environment in which they are operating. This is part of the process of formulating a 5-year strategic business plan. The "duck" stamp (officially called the "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp") needs to be modernized to catch up with bird conservation evolution. An improved stamp should cover species in addition to waterfowl, address more habitat types in the refuges, address the needs of 21st century bird conservation planning and management, and embrace a broader constituency of birders, wildlife watchers, backyard wildlife enthusiasts and eco-tourists. When the stamp was created by bird-conservation visionaries in 1934, the waterfowl species were in deep trouble. The stamp and the refuge system succeeded magnificently in helping save them. Now other species are in trouble, and their plight needs to be highlighted. The USFWS report on "Birds of Conservation Concern" included 131 species of birds that need immediate help today. Some are in wetland habitats; others are in woodlands, deserts, or grasslands. An expanded, retooled, stamp could help raise the funds to make addressing their conservation possible.

ROAD RAGE - RS 2477. The Bush Administration is now relying on portions of a long-dormant Mining Act of 1866, known as RS 2477, to allow the transformation of little-used or abandoned wagon roads, cattle paths, dogsled routes, and mining trails into roads, some of them paved. We certainly do need sensible access for birding afield, but we don't need a spider-web pattern of Jeep and ORV trails running through vital habitats. The resuscitation of RS 2477 can seriously facilitate local right-of-way claims across federal lands, including those on national parks, national wildlife refuges, and proposed wilderness areas. Local claims are to be resolved by the Bureau of Land Management, without giving the public an opportunity to appeal. This will hand over lands owned by the public to localities, and the consequences could be particularly hard in Alaska and the West.

**Maryland Ornithological Society 2003 Scholarship Winners**

by Jean Fry

There were twelve well-qualified applicants for scholarships to Audubon summer workshops this year, and eight scholarships were awarded. The winners are not necessarily listed in the order of ranking. At least two or three winners who preferred Maine Field Ornithology camp had to change to a program at a later date due to so many snow days this school year.

Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship

(administered by Audubon Naturalist Society)
Maine Field Ornithology
Paula J. Batzer, Charles County Teacher, Earth and Life Science, Charles County Public Schools

Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship

Natural History of the Maine Coast
Kate Schroeck, Anne Arundel County Teacher, Biology and Human Physiology, North County High School, Glen Burnie

Eleanor Robbins Scholarship

Maine Workshop for Educators
Stacie Moon, Prince George's County Teacher, Honors Zoology and Honors Biology, North County High School, Glen Burnie

Helen Miller Memorial Scholarship

Maine Workshop for Educators
Robert W. Jones, Calvert County Park Ranger, Department of Natural Resources, Point Lookout State Park, Scotland, MD

Doris Oakley Memorial Scholarship

Maine Field Ornithology
Susan E. Payne, Baltimore Park Ranger, Kinder Farm Park, Millersville, MD

Gibson-Mendinhall Memorial Scholarship

(awarded by Kent County chapter to an Eastern Shore applicant) Maine Field Ornithology
Justin T. Benz, Newark, DE Director of Education, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Easton, MD

Frances Covington-Etta Wedge Memorial Scholarship

Maine Field Ornithology
Kate Manrodt, Baltimore Weekend and Summer Naturalist, Cromwell Valley Park, Baltimore, MD

John Wortman Memorial Scholarship

Maine Workshop for Educators
Thomas M. Smith, Harford County Teacher, Third Grade, Fountain Green Elementary School, Bel Air, MD

Birding Camps for Young People

by Jean Fry

The Maryland Ornithological Society is always seeking ways to involve young people in our organization. Attending a summer birding camp or workshop would certainly be an inspiration and incentive to a teenager who already has an interest in birds. There are a few state Audubon organizations as well as the American Birding Association (ABA) which offer summer workshops in ornithology for young people. Listed below is a sampling of the offerings. If you know of a teen who might be interested, please pass on this information.

Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens (ages 14-17) June 29—July 5, Hog Island, ME, \$825
Contact: Ms. Linda Ledoux, 1-888-325-5261 or camps@audubon.org

Ornithology Research (ages 14-18)

June 26—July 6, Vermont (Green Mts. And northeastern bogs), \$975 (limited scholarship available), Contact: Mr. Larry Berrin, 1-877-753-2165

Youth Ecology Adventure (ages 9-13) July 20-25, Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Wisconsin, \$345, Contact: 1-877-777-8383

Teen Stewardship Camp (ages 14-18) July 27-August 1, Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, Wisconsin, \$345, Contact: 1-877-777-8383 (This

camp will emphasize stewardship, natural resource careers, and birding.)

On the Wing: Studies in Field Ornithology (ages 12-16), June 28-July 9, Rocky Mt. Bird Observatory, Fort Collins, Colorado, \$1200 from Denver, Contact: Shelly Morrell, 970-482-1707 or onthewing@rmbo.org.

Camp Chiricahua: A Summer Camp for Young Birders (ages 12-17), July 8-July 19, Camp Chiricahua, southeastern Arizona, \$1575 from Tucson, Contact: info@ventbird.com

ABA provides scholarships to help young people attend summer camps, workshops, and other bird-related activities. Application information is available on the web at <http://americanbirding.org/programs/eduscho.htm> or from the ABA office in Colorado Springs. Phone: 719-578-9703. Scholarship application deadline is April 18, 2003.

ABA also sponsors the ABA/Leica Young Birder of the Year Contest. This annual contest runs from April through September, but registrations will be accepted as late as June 14, 2003. The deadline for submission of completed modules (Field Notebook, Bird Illustration, Bird Essays, or Bird Photography) is October 17, 2003. Registration details can be found at <http://americanbirding.org/programs/ygbc.htm>

A Remembrance of Rick Blom by Gene Scarpulla

When I was asked to write a short article about Rick Blom, I knew that an article about his accomplishments would be pretty straightforward, but a more subjective one would give more insight into Rick the person.

It is easy to list Rick's accomplishments. Some of these are as follows:

- Project Coordinator – Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia
- Co-Chief Consultant – National Geographic Society Field Guide to the Birds of North America (1st & 2nd Editions)
- Editor – Birding
- Co-Editor – American Birds (Mid Atlantic Region)
- Contributing Editor – Bird Watcher's Digest (Blom on Birds, Quick Takes, Species Profile, Book Notes)
- Researcher and Writer – The BWD Skimmer
- Researcher and Writer – Backyard Bird News
- Major Contributor – Bird Watching for Dummies
- Adjunct Faculty – The Johns Hopkins University (continuing education bird watching courses)

It was in one of the Johns Hopkins bird watching courses that I first met Rick some 14 years ago. Little did I know that from that course we would develop a close friendship over the years. One of our first Hopkins field trips was to Conowingo Dam to observe Bald Eagles in the fall. At that time he told our class about how spectacular Conowingo could be for observing gulls in the dead of winter. My first thoughts were that this man was insane. No one in their right mind would stand at Conowingo Dam from sunrise to sunset in the dead of winter to look through a mass of 50,000 swirling gulls to attempt to pick out a rare one. The rest as they say is history. My fondest memories of Rick are of our weekly, daylong trips to Conowingo. Some days we would stay till after dark, still picking out gulls illuminated by the spotlights below the dam. After awhile it became almost second nature for us to direct each other to an unusual gull. We could almost read each other's mind when attempting to locate the bird. Rick always delighted in finding aberrant gulls that we could not put an age or name on. It wasn't the identification of the gull that was important; it was the discussion and analysis of why it didn't seem to fit into any category that brought him joy.

Rick was born the son of Pat and Lee Blom. He was named Eirik after his father's Norwegian heritage. As was their family tradition, at age 14 Rick was asked to choose the remaining parts of his name. Rick chose Eirik Adam Tecumseh Blom. He chose Adam since he was the firstborn of the four Blom sons and Tecumseh in honor of his maternal grandfather, Christopher Charles Cole. Christopher Cole did Native American surveys and knew the wife of Chief Tecumseh.

Throughout his life Rick was a voracious reader, usually reading 7 to 10 books each week. When he was 8 years old, the first book that he checked out of the non-children's part of the library was an autobiography of the social reformer, Lincoln Stefens. At home, he always had a book in his hand. He read while he walked, as well as when he ate. According to his mother, on one occasion he accidentally got into the shower while still reading a book.

Rick was an accomplished and prolific wordsmith. Routinely he would send me drafts of his Bird Watcher's Digest articles to proofread and copyedit. Inevitably, he would use words that I had never heard of. When I would question him about the use of such an obscure word, he would tell me that it was a common word that everyone used. To which I would reply, if it is so common, why have I never seen or heard this word in 55 years. I repeatedly accused him of including obscure words in the articles just to get a rise out of me.

With Rick it was always the discussion that was important. He loved to play devil's advocate. He would disagree with you just to engage a spirited dialogue. The topic wasn't important; it could be highly significant or inane. Rick would expound on subjects for hours, occasionally allowing you to get a word in that he would quickly refute. I miss these discussions the most. They defined our relationship.

Every Christmas, Rick would chastise me for putting Christmas music on my answering machine. He would threaten to refuse to call me until after New Years if I persisted with the Christmas music. I have just recently found out from Rick's mother and brothers that he actually loved to sing Christmas carols at their family gatherings. In fact Rick sang the loudest and the longest, being the only family member that could remember and sing all five verses of "Good King Wenceslas."

Rick was a devoted father to his daughter, Jess. He always spoke of Jess' academic accomplishments. When Rick was first diagnosed with cancer, one of his goals was to live long enough to see Jess graduate from high school. Rick was exceedingly grateful to see Jess not only graduate from high school, but to also receive a full scholarship to the University of Delaware and graduate from there after three years.

I credit Rick for instilling a gull-watching passion in me. He is also the reason that I started doing bird surveys at Hart-Miller Island. For that, the Hart-Miller Island South Cell Environmental Restoration Project owes a debt of gratitude to him.

Rick was a true icon in the Maryland birding community. Always outspoken, often controversial, you knew what you had when you met Rick. He never hid his thoughts or opinions.

For those of us who were lucky enough to know Rick, he will live on in our memories. Although he may be physically gone, his legacy will remain with North American birders forever.

Rick Blom Memorial Fund Announced

Bill Thompson, Editor of Bird Watcher's Digest, writes to us:

Bird Watcher's Digest has created a memorial fund in Rick Blom's name. In order to get the Blom fund activated, we need to generate \$2,500 in initial donations and we have just over \$2,000 at present.

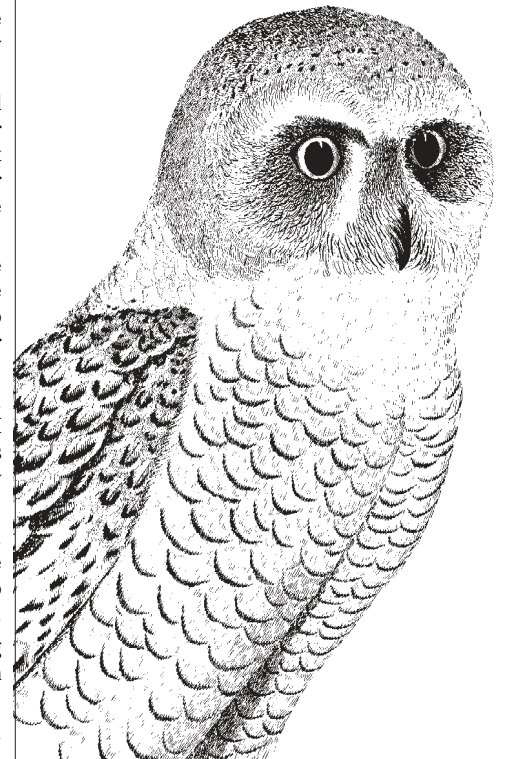
My hope (and Rick's, I believe) was that the donations would permit the fund to make a nominal award once each year to a deserving organization that is communicating worthwhile information to birders. I will work in conjunction with the Blom family to manage the fund and create the award.

I will continue to work with the Marietta Community Foundation to, I hope, create a legacy for Rick that will last well into the future.

Here is the address for the fund:

Eirik A.T. Blom Memorial Fund
Marietta Community Foundation
PO Box 77, Marietta, OH 45750

Ed. note: If you feel that MOS as an organization should participate in this memorial, please contact your Chapter President and Chapter Directors and ask them to bring this up at a future State MOS Board Meeting. What better way could there be to honor an individual of national stature who, at the same time, never forgot his home state.



Pelagic Birding For Landlubbers

by Sam Dyke

Sixty to one hundred miles offshore from the Delmarva Peninsula, two great oceanic "rivers," the Gulf Stream and the Labrador Current, meet and create ideal feeding grounds for some 30 species of truly pelagic birds—albatrosses, petrels, shearwaters, storm-petrels, phalaropes, skuas, jaegers, gulls, terns, and alcids. These birds migrate through the offshore waters, totally sustaining themselves at sea and come to land only to nest in the Arctic or South Atlantic regions.

Getting offshore to see these fascinating birds is not easy. Walk-on fishing boats seldom go far enough offshore. Pelagic birding trips are occasionally offered from Cape May, NJ, or from Lewes, DE, but time offshore is limited on day trips, and sea conditions can make viewing difficult or cause cancellation of the trip.

Weather disturbances over the ocean sometimes offer opportunities for birders to see pelagic species from land. Sustained offshore winds—"nor'easter" storms and hurricanes—can force these birds inshore or even over land areas.

Finding these storm-blown wanderers is a matter of timing, location, and good luck. The time to be afield is during the later stages of the storm or immediately after the storm has passed. Pelagic birds driven inshore will quickly head back out to sea as soon as the unfavorable winds change. Viewing conditions during storms are

sometimes severely limited by rain and wind, while tidal flooding and or storm damage can make vantage points inaccessible (and dangerous!). By checking the wind direction, storm track, and tidal conditions, one can decide where to go during those critical hours as the storm passes. This does not always mean heading for the coast. During a September hurricane in 1960, 48 Sooty Terns circled over the rooftops of Salisbury and later that same day a Bridled Tern was seen with Sooty Terns near the Salisbury Airport, and an exhausted Leach's Storm-Petrel was on the Wicomico River off Riverside Drive.

Unless the storm center passes over the Delmarva land area, these coastal viewing locations are usually the best:

1) The **Cape May/Lewes Ferry** can yield species such as Wilson's Storm-Petrel (June-September), Parasitic Jaeger (September-October), and Razorbill (January-February).

2) **Cape Henlopen State Park**, with several ocean and bay overlooks, is a good place to search for jaegers and rare terns.

3) The **Indian River and Ocean City Inlets** have strong tidal flows that provide feeding opportunities for many seabirds including storm stragglers. The viewing areas are excellent if weather conditions allow access. These inlets are

good for the alcids and Black-legged Kittiwakes in winter.

4) **Coastal ponds**, such as Gordon's Pond in Henlopen State Park, Silver Lake in Rehobeth, Mulberry Pond at Assawoman Wildlife Area, West Ocean City Pond, and the Rum Pointe and Eagle's nest Golf Course ponds are attractive to Red and Red-necked Phalaropes.

5) **Ocean Overlooks** along Delaware's Seashore State Park and the Assateague Island National Seashore offer additional seawatch opportunities. In May of 2000, a Yellow-nosed Albatross showed up in the Assateague surf without any apparent storm assistance.

6) **Coastal Bay** vantage points in Sussex and Worcester Counties are worth checking.

7) **Large Ponds and Flooded Farm Fields** offer resting areas for exhausted storm migrants.

8) **Rivers and Chesapeake Bay Headlands** like Vienna, Bivalve Harbor, and Roaring Point on the Nanticoke River, and Haine's Point at Deal Island are good vantage points.

So, when a storm moves in, turn on the weather radio, get out the DeLorme maps, plot your strategy, and hope for good luck. At least you will not have to worry about seasickness! (*ed. note: This article is reprinted from the Tri-County Bird Club Newsletter with the kind permission of the author.*)

Why Buy Shade-Grown Coffee?

by Carol Schreter

The world's second most valuable export product, after oil, is coffee. Today, two-thirds of the world's coffee is produced in Central America and the Caribbean. So when coffee growing methods change and threaten bird habitat, that is bad news for birds that breed in North America and winter in the tropics.

Coffee is grown in the world's tropical rainforest regions on hillsides at 500 to 1500 meters above sea level. Coffee is one of the few large-scale commodity crops that can be grown in relative harmony with native forest. Until the 1970s, nearly all coffee was grown on multi-crop coffee plantations — in the understory of wild fig, avocado, mango, lychee, citrus fruits, nut or other trees.

The traditional method of growing coffee is now called shade-grown coffee — because an alternative called "sun-grown" or "full-sun" coffee was created. A full-sun coffee plantation looks like an orchard. The rainforest is cleared. The land is thickly planted with hedgerows of a hybrid coffee plant that produces 30 percent more coffee per bush. Full-sun coffee plantations require more agrochemicals and more maintenance. The naked slopes are vulnerable to erosion. By contrast, coffee grown in the rainforest protects freshwater resources; trees and their roots store rainwater, reduce flooding and landslides, and help recharge underground aquifers.

Ornithologists find that in full-sun coffee plantations, the number of bird species is cut by half, and the number of individual birds is cut by as much as two-thirds. According to Jeffrey A. McNeely, Chief Scientist at the World Conservation Union, "the widespread conversion

to sun-grown coffee is particularly troubling considering that 13 of the world's 25 biodiversity hot spots are in coffee country."

Since 1980, over 40 percent of the coffee area in Columbia, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean has been converted to sun coffee, with another 25 percent of the area slated for conversion. This transition to full-sun coffee was encouraged by funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID) and local governments when world coffee prices were at their highest. Now the market is flooded with coffee and coffee prices are at a 100-year low.

In 1995, Partners in Flight first publicly connected the decrease in the number of migratory birds in the Americas to the increase in sun-grown coffee. In 1998 the American Birding Association (ABA) partnered with Thanksgiving Coffee Company of California to promote and distribute "Song Bird Coffee," verified by the ABA as shade grown. The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center now certifies and promotes a similar product called "Bird Friendly Coffee." When shade-grown coffee is sold without formal certification, the coffee plantation may not meet the same standards, or it may not even be identified as "shade grown."

Organic coffee marketed to health conscious consumers is grown without pesticides and fertilizers. Some organic coffees are grown in the shade, but not all. You may have to ask.

Because shade-grown coffee grows more slowly than full-sun coffee, it costs a bit more. The major players, known as "the cans" in industry lingo (selling Folgers, Maxwell House, and

Nestle), have not yet started to pay attention because of price. But MOS is serving shade-grown coffees at MOS conventions and it is served at the National Aquarium.

What Coffee Drinkers Can Do:

1. Learn about the issue from:
Seattle Audubon Society:
www.seattleaudubon.org/coffee
Rainforest Alliance:
www.rainforest-alliance.org
Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center:
nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Coffee
2. Buy shade-grown coffee for your home. Convert your office to brewing only shade-grown coffee. Ask your retailer to carry it.
3. Educate friends by giving them a gift of shade-grown coffee.

Shade-Grown Coffee is sold at:

Coffee Shops: Starbucks, Seattle's Best,
Grocery Stores: Trader Joe's, Whole Foods Market

Mail order small packages: American Birding Association: phone 800-634-7736

Mail order 2-5 lb. bags: Equal Exchange:
www.equalexchange.com
Java Journey Coffee Roasting Co. in Baltimore:
www.javajourney.com
Spoons Coffee House/Roastery in Baltimore. Call (410) 539-6751

MOS State and Locality List Report - 2002

by Norm Saunders

This marks the seventeenth year MOS has compiled state and locality list totals submitted by its members. For 2002, 74 observers submitted list totals, down 5 from last year. Of these 74, five were first-time submissions (one fewer than last year). Currently 191 observers are in the database, reflecting that not everyone submits updated list totals each year. Sixty-four observers now have list totals that are more than five years old and these totals have been removed from the compilation (though not from the database).

State Lists

Maryland Lifetime List. The big news is that Jim Stasz (Calvert) located two Maryland lifers and moved into a second-place tie with Paul O'Brien (Montgomery), with 379 species each and just one species behind leader Mark Hoffman (Carroll). Don't get complacent, Mark, they're breathing down your neck!

Two awards for "Most Improved List" go out this year, the first to Fred Shaffer (Anne Arundel), who added 28 species to his state life list to move up to 302, and to Dave Powell (Harford), who located 23 lifers this year across the state, improving his Maryland life list to 310 species

In the 2002 **Maryland Year List** category, Jim Stasz outdid everyone else in just about every category (more on this later) as he tallied 314 species this year, the only birder in the state to best that magic 300 in 2002. The bridesmaid's spot went, once again, to Matt Hafner (Harford), who tallied 295 species for the second year in a row. Matt, you just have to break out of this rut! Two other busy birders in 2002 were Gary Smyle and Marcia Balestri, both of Frederick County. Gary tallied 279 species last year and Marcia tracked down 261 to finish fourth in the annual Maryland listings.

Ottavio Janni (Italy), though still living out of the country, remains at the top of the **DC Lifetime List**, with 262 species. Rob Hilton (Montgomery) added 2 to his DC total in 2002 to move to 255 and remain firmly in second place. Paul Pisano (Virginia) topped the **DC Year List** category with 189 species found in 2002, closely followed by John Hubbell (Montgomery) with 183 species!

The **Maryland/DC Big Tick** enters its second year with 15 birders now jumping into the big number category. Last year Dave Perry (Anne Arundel) led the Annual Big Tick with an impressive 3,322 birds for 2001. I made an offhand remark in last year's report that the gauntlet had been thrown down for Jim Stasz. Well, not only did Jim take up the gauntlet, he also challenged Maryland birders to make pledges to the Breeding Bird Atlas program based on his 2002 Big Tick tally. A number of birders accepted that challenge on the condition that he saw at least 3,000 species. Well, Jim Stasz had one of the most incredible years ever in 2002, one that may never be equaled in these record books and one that cost a few of us a lot of money! Jim tallied an amazing 4,086 species and increased his Life Big Tick Total to 5,873 species, up 102 species and an average of 255 species per Maryland County. Way to go, Jim! Bob Ringle (Carroll) remains in second place, averaging 219 species per area, and third place continues to be held down by Marshall Iliff (California), who averages 211 species per area (a Big Tick of 5,060). Stasz was clearly the "Busiest Birder of 2002" but the next highest Annual Big Tick was 1,641 species tallied by Dave Powell (Harford).

Ed note: *Several list report participants noted that since the MOS Records Committee saw fit to separate the District of Columbia from Maryland, so should I, with the Big Tick list. I suppose there are arguments in both directions, but I have decided that beginning with 2003, the MD/DC Big Tick will officially become the Maryland Big Tick. If anyone has comments on this issue, please feel free to raise them with me.*

Yard Lists

Remaining at the top of the **Maryland Lifetime Yard List** is Harry Armistead (PA), with 262 species seen at his weekend home in Talbot County. Harry mentioned that he added Olive-sided Flycatcher and Black Skimmer this past year. John Gregoire (NY) moves into second place with 218 species tallied at his Prince George's homestead while two folks are tied for third place, Ethel Engle (Caroline) and Marshall Iliff, both with 212 yard birds. Ethel added a Red-shouldered Hawk and a pair of Common Redpolls to her yard list in 2002! Patty Craig (St. Mary's) writes that she added Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, and a flyover Long-tailed Duck to her yard list in 2002, raising it to 204 species.

In the annual **Maryland Year Yard List** category, Patty Craig once again leads the pack with 158 species, 5 species fewer than her 2001 tally. Norm & Fran Saunders (Montgomery) took second place with 135 species tallied at their Worcester County retreat. Rod Burley (Prince George's) and Dave Powell each managed to see 120 species at their feeders in 2002.

The top **DC Yard List** goes to Ottavio Janni, with 114 species, followed by the only other DC reporter, Byron Swift, with 55 species. Norm Saunders' Work/Other list covers three small but contiguous parks that lie between Union Station and the U.S. Capital. Over the past ten years his "other yard" list in DC has grown to 89 species.

County Listing

In the "**All County**" category (species seen in all 23 Maryland counties), Jim Stasz added eight new species to his "closeout" list to raise his total to 165, 73% of the species which can be so seen. Marshall Iliff remains in 2nd place with 118 while Bob Ringle added 15 new species to keep his hold on third place with 113. Very few people report annual All County totals but Jim Stasz managed to see 83 species in all 23 counties in 2002.

Allegany County. It is with some sadness that we note the death this past year of Jim Paulus (Allegany), who will nonetheless continue to hold top honors with 273 county species for a long, long time to come. Ray Kiddy (Allegany) holds down second place with 236 species, while Jim Stasz moves into third place with 220 species. Stasz also reported 167 species for the year, qualifying him for highest annual list in Allegany County.

Anne Arundel County. Jim Stasz added three new species for a lifetime total of 291. For the annual honors, Rod Burley again capped the list with 209.

In **Baltimore City/County**, we are also saddened to note the death this past year of Rick Blom (Harford). Rick and Jim Stasz are tied at 308 species for the top spot, followed by Bob Ringle with 301 species. For 2002, Jim Stasz also captured

top honors with 162 species in the county for the year.

Calvert County. Jim Stasz remains at the top of his home county with a life total of 295 species. During 2002, Arlene Ripley (Calvert) saw 186 species to top the annual tally, closely followed by Stasz, who saw 180 species.

In **Caroline County** a neck-and-neck battle is underway for the top spot. Jim Stasz added two new species to move to 241, still the top number in the county. Ethel Engle (Caroline), however, making a real contest of it, located three new species last year to jump to 240, only one behind Stasz. For the year, Jim ticked off 171 species.

Carroll County. Bob Ringle remains the top Carroll County lister with 270 species and the high Annual Tally of 188 species. Rick Blom ended his career here with 250 species and second place in the county, and Dave Harvey (Carroll) is third with 243.

In **Cecil County**, Marcia Watson-Whitmyre (Cecil) remains at the top of the list with 258 species. Rick Blom's high career count was 246 species, followed closely by Jim Stasz with 245. The high for the year was seen by Parke John (Cecil), who reported 186 for 2002.

Charles County. County resident George Jett remains in first place with 253 species (two species added) and 178 seen for the year. Jim Stasz added four species to his county life list in 2002 to remain in 2nd place at 236. Newcomer Gwen Brewer (Charles) has catapulted herself onto the Charles County list for the first time, with 205 species...don't look back guys, she might be gaining on you!

In **Dorchester County**, Harry Armistead remains in first place with 296 species, followed by Jim Stasz at 270. The high for the year was reported by Stasz, who saw 212 species this past year.

In **Frederick County**, leader Paul O'Brien added one species to remain in the lead with 258. Top annual honors go to Gary Smyle, who reported 207 species and added 67 new species to his Frederick County life list in 2002.

Garrett County. During 2002, Jim Stasz added five more species to his county life list for a total of 226. Marshall Iliff, making a strong run for the lead, added six new species but reached only 224, still two behind the charging Stasz. J.B. Churchill (WV) remains in third place in the county but now shares that spot with Bob Ringle who located two new species this year. The high for the year goes to (no surprise here) Jim Stasz, who reported 198 species in 2002.

Harford County. Rick Blom finished out his career with 284 species here, a tally that will likely stand for a good few years to come. Dave Webb (Harford) is in second with 265 species, up three from last year. The high-for-the-year honors go to Matt Hafner, who managed 200 species in 2002, nine ahead of Jim Stasz.

Howard County. Resident Jo Solem (Howard) remains the top lister in Howard, with 273, while Bonnie Ott (Howard) added one new species this year to move into sole ownership of 2nd place at 262, followed closely by Jane Coskren (Howard) at 261. Rod Burley took top 2002 honors with 206 species.

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2002 LIST REPORT*(continued from previous page)*

Kent County. Floyd Parks (Kent) still commands the top of the list with 278. Jim Stasz increased his lifetime total by fifteen to 245, and newcomer Walter Ellison (Kent) firmly asserted his presence with third-place 223 species. Walter's 223 species also easily qualified him for the high spot in 2002.

Montgomery County. The triumvirate of O'Brien, O'Brien, and Mudd continues to dominate the heights of the Montgomery list. Paul O'Brien added three new species this year to increase his lead over son Michael (NJ) to 290 vs. 281. Harvey Mudd (Montgomery) remains at 262 species for the number three spot. Top honors for 2002 go to Dave Powell, with 179 species, and to Jim Stasz, with 163.

In **Prince George's County**, both Jim Stasz and John Gregoire added a single new species, leaving the one-two spots unchanged from last year. Fred Shaffer (Anne Arundel), however, added 16 new species this year to pole-vault himself from 6th place to third! Annual high count reported goes to Fred Shaffer, with 210 species, but followed very closely by Rod Burley's 208.

In **Queen Anne's County**, Jim Stasz added two to his life list, edging up to 260 species. Jim also topped the 2002 tally with his report of 187 species this past year.

Saint Mary's County. Resident birder Patty Craig (St. Mary's) added Cave Swallow and Marbled Godwit to her county life list, closing out at 306. Hard-charging Kyle Rambo (St. Mary's), however, added three new species and jumped into a tie with Patty for the top spot in the county. Holding down a distant third is Jim Stasz with

265 species. For the year, Patty ticked off 238 species and Kyle had 224.

In **Somerset County**, Jim Stasz remains at the top with 270 species. Sam Dyke (Wicomico) remained at his second-place tally of 252. The high count for the year goes once again to Jim Stasz, who saw 191 in 2002.

Talbot County. Henry Armistead (263) and Jim Stasz (252) lead the ranks of birders here. For 2002, Stasz reported 199 species, while Wayne Bell (Talbot) was second with 189 and Les Roslund (Talbot) followed, with 187 tallied in 2002.

Washington County. Jim Stasz added one species to his county life list, bringing his total to 218. High count for 2002 was tallied by Stasz, with 149 species reported.

In **Wicomico County**, resident Sam Dyke added one species to his county life list for a new total of 285. Don and Carol Broderick (Wicomico) continue to hold down the second and third spots. Sam Dyke reported 207 species for 2002, leading the annual list, while Don and Carol each tallied 199 for the year.

Worcester County. There were no changes to the top standings or levels in Worcester this year. The top annual list total for 2002 goes to Dave Powell, with 193, followed closely by Stan Arnold (Anne Arundel), who racked up 191 in the county for the year.

Other Lists

Peter Osenton's (Anne Arundel) "Tree Bird List," a list of birds seen in his 80-100 year old pin oak next to the deck of his home, jumped to 59

species last year, as he located Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and Scarlet Tanager there in 2002.

Don Simonson (Montgomery) reports that he had the amazing luck to see 5 outstanding species on his 2-acre Montgomery County property this past year: Western Tanager, Philadelphia Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and Black-crowned Night-Heron. Even more remarkable, Don saw a melanistic Japanese Green Pheasant, which he elected NOT to report to the MD/DCRC.

On a more grim note, the variety of species dead from West Nile Virus seems to have taken a jump in 2002. We should all do our best to minimize mosquito breeding habitat, to protect the birds and our neighbors!

Let's hope that 2003 blesses all of us with many wonderful natural experiences that we'll be able to share this time next year.

Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond to the 2002 list report form. Good birding to all in 2003 and God bless!

[Ed.note: Only the narrative section of the 2002 list report appears in the newsletter in order to save money on printing costs. The full list report is available on the MOS website, www.mdbirds.org, in the Members section. Enjoy!]

Norm Saunders
MOS County List Compiler
(301) 989-9035
marshhawk@att.net

**Hart-Miller Island
South Cell Restoration Project
Calendar of Events: 2003
by Gene Scarpulla**

Update—The Hart-Miller Island South Cell Restoration Project is steadily progressing, with the bulk of the work expected to be completed in 2003. The contract was awarded to Geo-Con construction, with Meadville Land Service as the vegetation contractor. Geo-Con demobilized for the winter since the conditions were much too wet to do any earthwork. They expect to be up and running again in April, with the initial flooding scheduled for July. The following chart shows the planned activities for the year.

January-Feb 2003:	—Completion of shop drawings —Site drying/Site preparation —Sign preparation —Completion of nesting island	July 2003:	—Initial site flooding —Dedication ceremony (tentative)
April 2003:	—Re-mobilization of construction equipment —Construction of earthwork, watering system, & spillway	August 2003:	—Upland Phragmites control (aerial spraying) —Begin mudflat monitoring
May 2003	—Physical completion of berm, watering system	September 2003:	—Upland Phragmites cutting and burning
June 2003:	—Site preparation for initial flooding —Preparation of restoration manual	November 2003:	—Upland grass plantings
		December 2003:	—Complete plantings

Minutes of the MOS Board Meeting December 7, 2002

President: Paul Zucker
Vice President: Janet Millenson
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Secretary: Janet Shields
Executive Secretary: Eric Sprague

Atlas: Jane Coskren
Budget: Helene Gardel
Conference: Mike Callahan
EFM: Marcia Balestri
Investments: Martha Waugh
Long-range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Research: Gwen Brewer
Sanctuary: Dotty Mumford
Scholarships: Jean Fry

Allegany: Gwen Brewer, Barbara Gaffney
Anne Arundel: Janelle Dietrich, Al Haury, Dotty Mumford,
Baltimore: Helene Gardel, John Landers, Ben Poscover, Ruth Poscover
Caroline: not represented
Carroll: not represented
Cecil: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Frederick: Marcia Balestri, Doug Parker, Nancy Parker, Michael Welch
Harford: Jean Fry, Larry Fry
Howard: Mary-Jo Betts, Mike Callahan, Jane Coskren, Karen Darcy, Kevin Heffernan, Kurt Schwarz, Martha Waugh
Kent: Walter Ellison
Montgomery: Sam Freiberg, Don Messersmith
Patuxent: Fred Fallon
Talbot: Ed Armstrong, Shirley Bailey
Tri-County: not represented
Washington: Shirley Ford, Anna Hutzell, Judy Lilga

President Paul Zucker called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Paul thanked the Washington County Chapter members for doing such a good job with the food and also for providing such an attractive meeting place at the Mt. Aetna Camp & Retreat Center in Hagerstown.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: The minutes of the previous board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Shiras Guion gave the Treasurer's report.

President's Remarks: The exciting thing that happened in November was that MOS held an all-day retreat in Howard County. With over fifty participants including members at large and board members, there was a wide spectrum of views and attitudes. It went quite well. It was found that there was an enormous commonality of feelings across the board. Marcia Watson-Whitmyre will give a complete report later today, and we will begin the process of putting together a plan of action based on recommendations that came out of the retreat.

Review of Action Items: Janet Millenson reviewed the actions items from the previous board meeting and the progress made since then:

1. We had an excellent turnout for the retreat. Chapter presidents did a good job of informing their members of the retreat date.
2. Dotty Mumford was to gather more information on the conservation easements

- for the Eastern Shore sanctuaries and report back to the board. Dotty was not here and could not report on this.
3. Recommendations were given for legal help with the proposed DNR contract and an attorney was hired.
4. Applications are still need to be submitted for education scholarships. The deadline is January 31st.
5. Chapter presidents announced to their membership the need to fill the positions of Sanctuary Coordinators for eastern Maryland and western Maryland.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conservation: Maureen Harvey was not able to attend but submitted a written committee report. Paul Zucker explained that the report focuses mainly on the proposed issue of wind farms on two mountain ridges in Western Maryland. Dan Boone, Chan Robbins, and other MOS members have been actively participating in preliminary hearings to fast track this proposal and expressing MOS concerns. Chan pointed out that we know very little about the migrating songbirds. The songbirds migrate at night coming down the ridges; this is the big issue with this program. Paul attended a meeting with DNR to talk about these issues. Paul explained that the MOS position has been that the state needs to study this issue more and get the right data before deciding what permits to issue. The idea of wind farms is very attractive as a way to have nonpolluting fuel but the location of these facilities has become a real issue. The environmental community needs to make sure the environmental costs are evaluated. There is great concern that these wind farms with their tall towers could be really devastating to our migrating songbirds.

One of these companies is proposing to install an array of 24 x 425 ft. windmills on the border of Garrett and Allegany Counties. The windmill blades are 100 ft. long. This is considerably taller than the recommended height limit of 250 ft. for communications towers. Such windmills are potentially lethal for migrating birds. Paul Zucker will send letters to the Maryland Public Service Commission as official MOS comments on the proposed projects.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is considering Cerulean Warblers for the "Threatened" List and reviewing its status. They are seeking additional information from the public on the Cerulean Warbler and threats to its habitat. Maureen Harvey is going to submit a statement to USFWS and is in the process of gathering any pertinent information that we have to accompany the statement.

Education: Van Vogel sent a brief report to Paul Zucker. Van's report stated that this fall the Education Committee held its fall "Birds and Burgers" at Turkey Point in Cecil County. Eleven teens and five adults attended. Highlights included terrific views of a hovering Peregrine and several Ospreys. Next week the committee will reconvene for its winter "Birds & Burgers" at Fisherman's Park (Conowingo Dam) in Harford County.

In regard to youth issues, Paul Zucker announced that David Farner, who is senior naturalist at the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS), is starting a youth program of birding trips. Paul spoke with him and determined that David is very happy to get all the support and cooperation from MOS that he can get and recognizes our participation and partnership in this project. Several of our Montgomery County members have already volunteered to be involved in this program. David is a former MOS scholarship winner.

Investment: Martha Waugh reported that it is not a good time for investments and stated that this would be a good time to remind everyone that we cannot expect to enjoy large returns on our investments in the near future and perhaps even longer. MOS has an advantage over individual investors, as we do not pay taxes on our gains. But, in today's investment world it is difficult to realize returns that will even outpace inflation.

The Investment Committee's goals are safety, income, continuity, and transparency. Since Martha's last report to the MOS Board, the committee has completed the sale of a number of our stocks and equities, which were literally not making any money for us. In addition, several of our bonds matured. She noted that they have replaced these stocks and bonds with equities they chose for as much safety as possible, realizing that MOS also needs to generate income to support its activities. Once again Martha reminded the board that we will not be able to realize the income for those activities that MOS has earned in the past. We want to be as fully invested as possible at all times but the current economic and market climate seems to encourage the prudent investor to wait for a better time. When that time comes, we will be able to quickly convert our money market and bond funds into more profitable equities. To encourage continuity and transparency, Martha has made available copies of the MOS position in each fund as of October 25, 2002. In addition, she gave a more detailed report on the October 25 position for each chair of a committee with a fund. This fund report includes notations on what we have bought, sold, and redeemed since the last report.

Sanctuary: Because Dotty Mumford was delayed, Paul Zucker gave the Sanctuary Committee report. In November there was a sanctuary planning meeting at Irish Grove. This was the third of the planning meetings to go over the general sanctuary policies and, in particular, items that the Partners in Flight group had recommended. Paul felt that some of these issues will be superseded by our discussion on sanctuary policy that came out of the retreat.

Doug Parker reported that there was a work party at Carey Run a week ago to combat problems caused by the heavy ice storm. As a result of the storm, quite a few trees came down on trails. This is a cause for concern because the state mowers use these trails to get to the fields they mow for us. The work party was able to do a fair amount of work that day and was quite happy with what they were able to accomplish.

Scholarship: Jean Fry had reports from 2002 scholarship winners for board members to look over. Jean always gets glowing responses from

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DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

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the winners. Information sheets regarding the 2003 scholarships were sent out to all chapter presidents and representatives in September and reminder letters were sent in early November. In addition, Jean sent letters to all science supervisors of all the school systems. There have not been too many responses. Marcia Balestri, as MOS liaison to EFM, will send the scholarship information to the nineteen EFM member organizations. The scholarship deadline is January 31. Last year there were sixteen applicants and ten scholarships were awarded.

Atlas: Walter Ellison reported that 644 blocks have been assigned on the computer, which is a little less than half of the blocks available. There are 456 blocks with data saved. There have been 190 species reported. The average number of species per block based on the total number of reported sightings Walter has received and the number of blocks with data entered comes to 45 species per block. He is pleased with this progress for the first year.

Jane Coskren updated the board on Atlas funding. Howard County has a challenge grant for all of the chapters for up to \$1,000 a year (calendar year not fiscal year) for the five years of the atlas. This means that Howard will match total atlas money donated by the chapters up to a maximum of \$1,000 each atlas year. They have received donations from Harford, Frederick, Allegany, Tri-County, which have been matched by Howard. Patuxent will be sending a donation, which will bring the donated money up to \$1,000 for 2002. A \$5,000 grant has been received from Maryland Coastal Bays. Also, there is a \$20,000 a year contract with the State of Maryland. An attorney has been hired to review this contract, paying special attention to the need for unrestricted publication of the results.

EFM: Marcia Balestri and Paul Zucker discussed how to use the amounts of EFM money coming into MOS every year. One of Marcia's suggestions was the possibility of using it as seed money to establish a Maryland Birding Trail. A lot of states are doing this. Texas was the first state to institute their trails in 1996 and is continuing to add more trails. The goal is to cover a lot of diverse habitats. Trails bring conservation, education, recreation, and eco-tourism together in one place. They increase public awareness of natural areas. They contribute to tourism in the state and, with MOS as a sponsor, might bring revenues in to us. There are a lot of different ways to fund this and it does not necessarily come out of our pocket. There is a company, used by Texas, which handles this type of project. They will write the grants and do whatever is necessary to complete the project. Some groups have relied on their own internal resources. Some have gotten their state bureau of tourism involved. Resources need for this are funding, a coordinator to run the show, a good writer, local birders involved, and a GIS specialist.

Advantages to MOS of such a project include bringing visibility to birding as a whole and to MOS as an active organization (thereby increasing our stature and political voice within the state). We could make good use of our sanctuaries as part of such an effort. If MOS decides to take this on,

we definitely need a strategic plan, a mission statement, and a marketing plan. Then we would need to obtain funding.

Paul Zucker commented that at our June meeting the board was in favor of pursuing a birding trail for Maryland. After listening to Marcia's presentation, Paul asked if the board wanted to go ahead with this. Because of our resource and personnel needs for the atlas, it was felt it would be difficult to take on another commitment at this time and that it might be better to table the birding trail project until the data collection portion of the atlas is completed. It was also suggested that MOS should get the organizational changes suggested at the November retreat in place, see if we can function more efficiently over the next six months, and then look at the birding trail project in nine months to a year. Paul summed up by saying we want to do some planning and keep it in our minds without making any commitments yet, figuring any bigger commitment would be further down the road, in order not to conflict with other activities.

Conference: Mike Callahan informed the board that there had been contract problems with the Bolger Center and the contract is in the process of being renegotiated by Paul Zucker and Mike Bowen, the local conference coordinator. Paul told the board that there was a major misunderstanding with the Bolger Center resulting from the contract signed with them in May 2002. This contract has extremely high room rates (50 per cent more than Wisp) and very stiff penalties for either backing out of it or not filling as many rooms as were promised.

The Bolger Center was sorry to hear there was a misunderstanding and has been extremely eager to work with MOS to have the conference held there. Yesterday the Bolger Center representative came up with two alternate plans. One was with the same dates and one was to have it during the Memorial Day weekend. Bolger could make it a much better deal for us if it was on the Memorial Day weekend because they otherwise would be vacant during that holiday. This change of dates would give us more reasonable rates and avoid traffic problems. The Bolger facility is a magnificent facility right in the heart of Montgomery County. Other places were looked at in Montgomery County but there could be substantial penalty charges if we attempted to break the Bolger contract. There was a motion to change the conference dates to Memorial Day weekend (Saturday, Sunday, Monday on May 24 - 26) and stay with the Bolger Center. This was seconded and approved.

Long-range Planning: Marcia Watson-Whitmyre reported on the November 9th retreat, which examined some of the issues identified by the Long-planning Committee as needing input from the general membership. There were four main issues that were discussed during the day, which were:

1. What role should the sanctuaries play in the future of MOS?
2. Would a different committee structure better enable MOS to accomplish its goals?
3. How can the state MOS organization best serve the local chapters?
4. How can MOS strengthen its membership?

Six breakout groups with morning and afternoon sessions were used to examine these issues. After an hour of discussion, all participants reconvened, and a spokesperson from each breakout group presented the results of the group's discussion.

There was general agreement among the five groups discussing the sanctuaries that the sanctuaries should be retained, that usage should be promoted through appropriate publicity, that MOS should seek to acquire more large parcels of land for sanctuaries, and that we should study the benefits of replacing the existing houses with some other type of facility that would be more user-friendly. The groups also strongly expressed the importance of using sanctuaries as a visible sign of our commitment to habitat conservation. It was felt this habitat should be used by both people and the birds.

The group discussing the MOS committee structure favored grouping the committees into clusters in order to share committee members and to communicate better on related issues. A possible grouping scheme was presented.

The groups discussing MOS service to local chapters agreed that MOS can help chapters by expanding services that would be of use to chapters (such as a speakers bureau) and by providing assistance in the form of grants and equipment. The groups noted that such services from the state organization would assist with member recruitment, so there would be a benefit to MOS as a whole, not just the chapters.

The groups focusing on strengthening the membership recognized the role that local chapters play in bringing in members, so many of the recommendations were complementary to those of the groups focusing on services to local chapters. Recurring ideas included establishment of a statewide committee on membership, and an overall need for better publicity and presentation of the MOS presence in the state.

The retreat ended with a wrap-up lead by Joe Hickey, the retreat facilitator. The wrap-up discussion led to formation of a consensus to revise the current MOS mission statement. The sense of the group was that the statement should be shortened by removing the bulleted items, leaving the existing one-sentence preface as the entire statement. The bulleted items could be preserved as a separate statement of MOS activities. In addition, participants felt that the idea of "conservation" should be added to the one-sentence mission statement.

The Executive Committee agreed to study the recommendations of the discussion groups, to select recommendations for implementation, and to appoint appropriate individuals or committees to implement the recommendations.

Paul Zucker concluded by thanking Marcia Watson-Whitmyre for organizing this very successful retreat. Paul also added that one of the things that came out of what the state organization should do and what was needed for membership was for the state organization to sponsor various statewide activities. Paul mentioned two things that we can get started on right away. One of the suggestions in the membership category was to put together a compilation of best practices to share with all the chapters. Paul asked our

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DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

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membership task force, headed by Janet Millenson, to put together this list. The second thing that came out was a lot of problems in communication between the committees and between the chapters. Paul asked Eric Sprague, who heads up our electronic media task force, to investigate the possibility of list servers to help handle this problem. The Executive Committee will deal with the bulk of the recommendations from the retreat over time. As they process them, they will be brought to the board for action.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Requests: Helene Gardel should receive budget requests from committees by February 1st. These are used by the Budget Committee to prepare a budget to present to the board at the March meeting.

Sanctuary Coordinators: It was thought we would be able to find someone to look after our sanctuaries and pay them \$200 a month. This did not work out. It was then thought someone was needed for eastern Maryland and someone for western Maryland, paying them each \$100 a month. This, also, did not work out. The suggestion has been made that perhaps we should ask for a volunteer and agree to reimburse them for mileage up to the \$2,400 per year. Paul Zucker wanted the board to be aware of this. The Sanctuary Committee will explore this possibility and a recommendation will be brought to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Carey Run Sanctuary: One of the recommendations from the Partners in Flight's report for Carey Run is that MOS contact Mr. McKenzie, owner of a block of land adjacent to our land, and see if he would be willing to trade his block for one of our Carey Run blocks that is somewhat disjointed from the rest of our sanctuary land. Barbara Gaffney, Allegany Chapter, met Mr.

McKenzie's daughter in the course of her Grantsville community volunteer work and asked the daughter if her father would be interested in a property exchange. Mr. McKenzie called Barbara to tell her he is not interested in an exchange but would like to purchase a block of our Carey Run land. He would use the land for hunting rights and eventual timbering. Paul Zucker wanted the board to be aware of this and referred the matter to the Sanctuary Committee for study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOS Speakers List: Al Haury will be updating the MOS speakers list. He would appreciate the names of any people who should be added to the list. If anyone is interested in helping Al with this project, please contact him.

March Board Meeting: Paul Zucker announced that the next board meeting will be March 8, 2003, in Montgomery County at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society headquarters.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

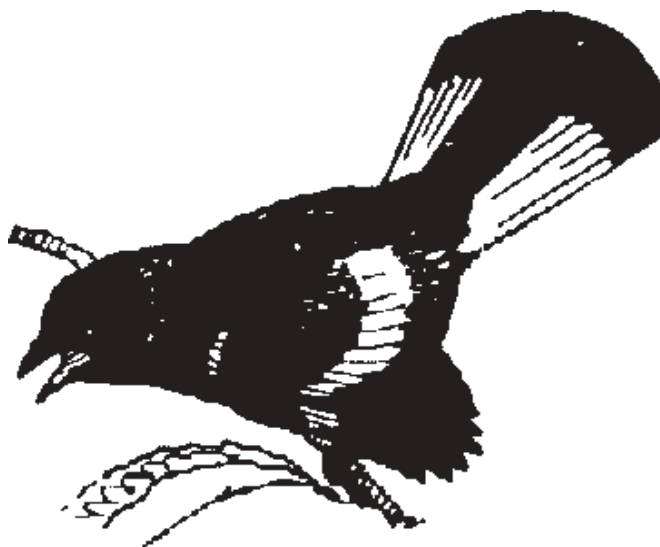
1. Chapter presidents should make people aware that Jean Fry must receive scholarship application by January 31st accompanied by a letter of recommendation by an MOS member.
2. Marcia Balestri will make EFM members aware of the MOS scholarships.
3. Chapters should be asked by their presidents to consider making a donation to the atlas to be put towards the Howard County matching grant. Also, members should be urged to make individual donations of cash as well as time and data.
4. Chapter presidents need to announce the change in date of the conference to Memorial

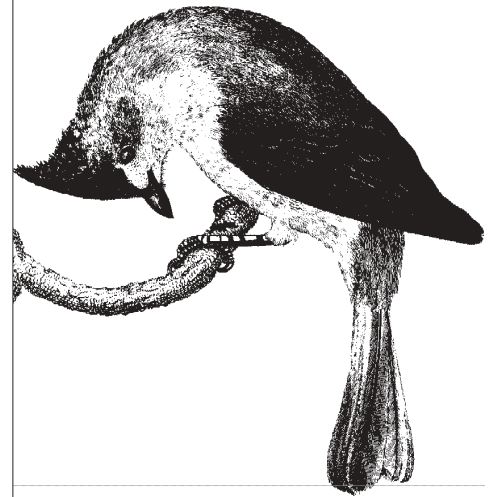
Day weekend. This will also be put on the website and on Osprey.

5. Chapter presidents are reminded to distribute MOS brochures where possible. The brochures are available from Eric Sprague.
6. Paul Zucker will be sending a letter to the Maryland Public Service Commission stating the MOS position on wind farms.
7. Marcia Balestri will continue investigating a plan for Maryland birding trails.
8. Janet Millenson will be collecting chapter information on best practices and disseminating it to the membership.
9. Eric Sprague will be investigating options for an MOS list server.
10. Paul Zucker will assemble a group to discuss the MOS committee structural changes proposed at the retreat and make a recommendation to the board.
11. Committee chairmen should note that budget requests are due February 1st to Helene Gardel.
12. The sanctuary committee will make recommendations regarding paying mileage for two sanctuary volunteers (who undertake an increased role) and regarding Mr. MacKenzie's proposals about a Carey Run land deal.

President Paul Zucker declared the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Shields, Secretary





CHAPTER CHATTER

(continued from page 3, column 3)

Odonates, besides being strikingly beautiful and highly beneficial, share other similarities with birds. A few dragonflies migrate; most have distinct habitat preferences; species may wander from elsewhere producing rarities; variations in weather may impact their numbers; and there is still much to learn about their habits, life histories, and ranges." Their beauty is exceeded only by their colorful names: Vesper Bluet, Stream Cruiser, Variable Dancer, Twin-spotted Spiketail, Carolina Saddlebags, Common Baskettail, and Dragonhunter, for example. More and more birders are taking a look at Odonates as well as birds. To help the beginner, check the Howard Bird Club's web page, www.howardbirds.org. From the "Dragonflies and Damselflies of Howard County Checklist" heading, you can download (in Adobe Acrobat format) "Selected Howard County Odonates: a Pictorial Guide to 24 Common Odonates." If you find a rare one in Howard County, contact Bob or Jo at 301-725-5037 or odenata@msn.com.

Cecil Birders Migrate at the Perfect Time—Chris and Crystal Starling, Chris's parents and his brother, and Crystal's parents flew to the Turks and Caicos Archipelago in late January, trading 15 degree chill for 80 degree Caribbean sun. They stayed at the Allegro Resort in Grace Bay on the small island of Providenciales (Provo). Birding, however, was hampered by blustery, though warm winds. They did find Bananaquit, Common Ground Dove, Bahaman Woodstar (a Provo native hummingbird), American and Caribbean Coots, Least Grebe, and White-cheeked Pintail. Chris also saw Greater Flamingo, "the most eye-catching wild birds I had ever seen." In addition, he found old favorites, American Kestrel, Cattle Egret, Laughing Gull, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Ruddy Duck, Ring-necked Duck, American Widgeon, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Northern Mockingbird, Royal Tern, Great Blue Heron, American Oystercatcher, Yellow Warbler, Palm Warbler, Killdeer, Osprey, and Black-bellied Plover. Chris used *A Guide to Birds of the West Indies* (Princeton's).

Youth Bird Club Fledges—David Farmer, a Montgomery Chapter member and Senior Naturalist for the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) organized a club for young birders between the ages of 10 and 17. Fourteen young people have already signed up and, at this writing, have been on five birding trips. Any young birders who might be interested are urged to contact David for more information. Try him by email at dfarner@audubonnaturalist.org or 301-652-9188x37. Trips will begin from Woodend, the ANS headquarters in Montgomery County. Carpooling arrangements are possible for the travel to the trip destination.

Baltimore Birders Host a Fly-in From Denmark—Lars Vilhelm Hansen, a Danish birder, visited Baltimore on business for five days in early March, with two days on the week-end for birding. To prepare for his visit, he found the Baltimore Bird Club on the Internet and ordered the Chapter's *Birder's Guide to Baltimore and Baltimore County* through Joe Lewandowski. Lars also asked whether any local birders might want to show him around. Steve Stanford, Keith Costley, and Gail Frantz volunteered. In northern Baltimore, Keith "performed some magic and found a Saw-whet Owl buried very deeply within a small spruce tree," the first American owl species for Lars. They saw a number of Red-bellied Woodpeckers plus a colorful adult Red-shouldered Hawk, both species lifers for Lars. Another lifer, a well-lit male Eastern Bluebird, "produced quite a memorable exclamation from Lars when it flew around and showed its blue color in full glory. On the second day, Lars, Gail, and Steve headed for Cambridge and Blackwater NWR, targeting Bald Eagles and waterfowl. Their first Bald Eagle "evoked another even more emphatic exclamation from Lars." They even managed great looks at eight Wild Turkeys. All in all, the visitor added 23 species to his life list. Steve says he learned a lot about European birds and the Danish language, especially since Lars gave him a beautiful guide book in Danish. If you ever go to Denmark and want some local birding help, Lars invites you to email him at

LVH@LD.DK. Great pictures of European birds are available on the Danish website <http://www.netflugl.dk>. Steve says, "If you ever have an opportunity to show a visiting foreign birder around, grab it! You should have at least as much fun as the visitor, you'll learn a lot, and you'll gain a greater appreciation of our own birds."

Anchors Aweigh, Howard!—Bonnie Ott reports on a Howard field trip. "There is an ongoing joke that the Howard Bird club never leaves its home county. This spring we proved that idea wrong when we birded as far away from Howard as possible and still remain in the state of Maryland! A small but brave group ventured onto a boat for an early spring Pelagic trip. We assembled on the dock in the inky blackness armed with our backpacks filled with saltines, water, ginger ale, ginger snaps, dried ginger and more saltines. A favorable omen was the delightful singing of a Song Sparrow as we double checked our gear. We were given the privilege of boarding first (maybe they wanted to get us on quick before anyone chickened out)? Being the most experienced pelagic birder in our group, Nancy Magnusson immediately took up the watch on the upper deck and there she stayed for the full 13 hours of the voyage. Getting a handle on ocean birding was an experience for the rest of us. We all learned to tell 'time' very quickly since we soon discovered there are no landmarks at sea (except the occasional floating bottle). A call of alcid at 9:00 a.m. sent all of us scurrying across the deck to try for a glimpse. Rolling waves and rolling boat made standing upright and holding binoculars a challenge! The sights were thrilling with fin whales and common dolphins taking top billing. Of course there were birds and a group of 80 Northern Fulmars feeding on a carcass was spectacular. Atlantic Puffin and Dovekies made the trek out to the Baltimore Canyon worthwhile. Razorbills, Common and Thick-Billed Murres and Red Phalaropes bumped up our state and life lists. A tired but satisfied group stumbled off the boat that evening. The 'peent' of a Woodcock was a fitting end to an experience that we "land-locked" Howard countians will not soon forget."

Maryland's "300 Club"

Rank	Name	County	Life
1	Mark Hoffman	Carroll	380
2	Paul O'Brien	Montgomery	379
2	Jim Stasz	Calvert	379
4	Michael O'Brien	(NJ)	371
5	John Gregoire	(NY)	365
5	Harvey Mudd	Montgomery	365
5	Paul Pisano	(VA)	365
8	Rick Blom	Harford	360
8	Samuel Dyke	Wicomico	360
10	Mary Ann Todd	Montgomery	358
11	George Jett	Charles	357
12	Bob Ringler	Carroll	356
13	Lynn Davidson	Anne Arundel	352
14	Donald Broderick	Wicomico	351
15	Marshall Iliff	Anne Arundel	350
16	Carol Broderick	Wicomico	349
17	Leo Weigant	Anne Arundel	347
18	Norm Saunders	Montgomery	346
19	Phil Davis	Anne Arundel	345
19	Eddie Slaughter	Baltimore	345
21	Jane Coskren	Howard	342
21	Ottavio Janni	(Italy)	342
21	Gail Mackiernan	Montgomery	342
21	Fran Saunders	Montgomery	342
25	Dave Harvey	Carroll	336
25	Kyle Rambo	St. Mary's	336
27	Henry Armistead	(PA)	335
28	Barry Cooper	Montgomery	334
28	Marion Mudd	Montgomery	334
30	Matt Hafner	Harford	332
31	Stan Arnold	Anne Arundel	328
31	Jo Solem	Howard	328
33	Patty Craig	St. Mary's	327
34	Rob Hilton	Montgomery	322
34	Steve Sanford	Baltimore	322
36	Peter Osenton	Anne Arundel	321
37	David Perry	Anne Arundel	320
38	John Churchill	(WV)	319
38	Shirley Geddes	Baltimore	319
38	Elliot Kirschbaum	Baltimore	319
38	Lola Oberman	Montgomery	319
42	Tyler Bell	St. Mary's	318
43	Dotty Mumford	Anne Arundel	317
44	Paul Nistico	Charles	316
45	Kye Jenkins	Baltimore	315
45	Charles Vaughn	Wicomico	315
47	Jane Kostenko	St. Mary's	314
48	Al Haury	Anne Arundel	313
48	Wade Stephen	Prince George's	313
50	Dennis Kirkwood	Harford	310
50	David Powell	Harford	310
50	Gail Vaughn	Wicomico	310
53	Amy Hoffman	Carroll	309
53	Floyd Parks	Kent	309
55	Rod Burley	Prince George's	308
56	George Armistead	(PA)	307
57	Nancy Magnusson	Howard	306
58	David Walbeck	Anne Arundel	305
59	Sue Hamilton	Calvert	302
59	Fred Shaffer	Anne Arundel	302
59	Michael Welch	Frederick	302
62	Frank Schaff	Frederick	300

Listing includes all those who have sent in their Maryland life list total within the past five years with a total equal to or in excess of 300 species. If you belong on this list, let us know by submitting your list report for 2003.

So Long and See You in the Field!

Well, here it is, my 50th issue! I want everyone to know that the *Yellowthroat* has been very much a team effort. So many people have contributed over the past decade that I could never possibly remember all of them. There are a few though that I wish to thank individually:

Harry Armistead has written some remarkable pieces for the *Yellowthroat* on local bird names and birding from boats. His pieces never cease to entertain and amaze me with his skill with words.

Rick Blom offered numerous articles over the years, all of them demonstrating his vast knowledge of birds, birding, and Maryland.

Phil Davis, up until last year, handled the Annual List Report, one of *my* favorite features in the *Yellowthroat*, and continues to provide timely information from the MD/DC Records Committee.

Les Eastman has been the calendar editor for the same ten years I have and I know what a tough job it can be because I did it for the three years prior to taking over the *Yellowthroat*.

Helen & John Ford handled the mailing of the *Yellowthroat* for eight years, and a big job it was.

I'd like to think that toting all those heavy boxes to the post office must have helped John's golf swing, at least a little.

Maureen Harvey has been doing a good job as MOS's Conservation Chairman and has also provided a string of columns keeping us all up to date on the tough issues.

Mark Hoffman, my predecessor as *Yellowthroat* Editor, gave me a yardstick to measure myself against. I hope I have lived up to your trust and your expectations, Mark.

Marshall Iliff, one of the finest young birders to come out of Maryland since Mike O'Brien, has provided a constant flow of information and analysis about birds and birding in Maryland.

Bob Ringler has done so much for the *Yellowthroat* over the years that I'm not sure where to begin. He's taken on book reviews, articles, obituaries, and the responsibility for any number of features.

I have to include Jim Stasz here simply because he turned down my requests for articles more often than anyone else, usually with the phrase, "Get Marshall to write it."

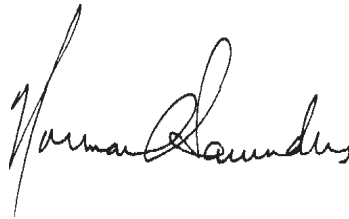
Glenn Therres has provided 49 columns on the happenings at DNR. His only miss was one that was due about the time he and his wife were in the hospital having their first child.

Martha Waugh has put together Chapter Chatter since 1996, and a wonderful job she has done rooting out obscure pieces of member info that would never otherwise have come to our attention.

The team from Tri-State Printing, Kathy Harple, Sam Wright, and Pete Wright, have been a wonderful support over the years, a group that has gone out of their way to work with me to improve the look of the *Yellowthroat*. Pete's hospitality during the Annual Meeting a few years back in Hagerstown has become the stuff of legend, as have his harmonica renditions at Helen & John Ford's house.

Most of all, of course, I thank my wife Franny for her unswerving support over the years, for all the columns and other articles she provided for the newsletter, and for tolerating my craziness.

Thank you, all of you.



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Cylburn Mansion
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The copy deadline for the Sep/Oct issue of the *Yellowthroat* is July 25 for chapter activities and August 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for September and October to:
MOS President
Paul Zucker

Please send all other submissions to:

MOS President
Paul Zucker

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