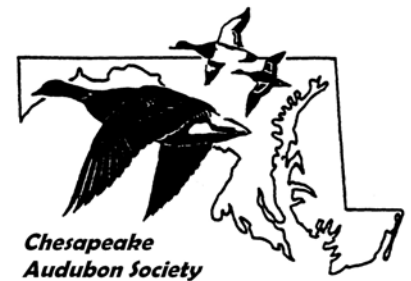


Chesupioc

Spring 2008 Newsletter

A local Chapter of National Audubon Society



Helping Injured or Orphaned Wildlife: Knowing the Answers *Before* Spring

By Kathy Woods

As spring approaches and we venture outside to appreciate the warmer weather, we often encounter a situation where wildlife is in distress. This article is meant to arm you with the knowledge of what to do if you find yourself in that situation; be cognizant of the myths, and know who to call before you act. Wildlife rehabilitators are professionals who can answer your questions and refer you if they cannot handle the situation.

Question: Is that fawn/bunny really orphaned?

A mother rabbit and mother deer leave their babies all day only to return at dusk to feed. A wildlife rehabilitator will tell you what to look for to determine if a baby has been abandoned.

Question: If I pick it up will the mother reject it?

No. This is one of the most popular myths around. A baby's BEST chance of survival is its parent. Put the baby bird back in its nest. If the nest has fallen, construct a new nest out of a berry basket or old small basket and tie it close to the location where it had been before. Put the babies together back in the nest.

Question: Should I give it water?

No, and NEVER squirt water down the throat of a tiny bird or mammal as they can drown. Baby birds and baby mammals get most of their water from their food.

Question: Who should I call if I get into trouble or feel uncomfortable with the situation?

Before you intervene, it is best to call your local wildlife rehabilitator. There is a great website under the Maryland Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (www.mwra.org) that lists rehabilitators by county. They also have an excellent guide to common wildlife situations.

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Sowing Seeds for Education and Habitat Preservation

By Robin "Excel-O-Mania" Schless

Our Fall/Winter Birdseed Sale raised over \$1,400 for the Chapter this year. Our profits are used to support education and preservation of important habitat at our three sanctuaries, Pickering Creek Audubon Center, Farm Creek and Highbanks.

We sold over 10,000 pounds of birdseed—twice what we sold last year. The favored seed choice was black-oil sunflower seed (in the shell), coming in over 2,700 pounds. Runner-up for favorite seed was shelled sunflower seed, coming in at 1,900 pounds.

Black-oil sunflower seed is the all-around favorite seed for birds in our area, and shelled sunflower seed is the 'filet mignon' of bird food. Bluebirds can be drawn to shelled sunflower seed in winter when insects are harder to find. We offered 3 types of general mixed seed for sale and sold a total of 3,800 pounds of the various mixed seed varieties. White millet is the basis of these generalized seed mixes, and some of our winter birds-- the juncos and white-throated sparrows-- love the millet. We sold 280 pounds of nyjer (thistle)—a specialty seed for all our resident finches. We also sold about 250 suet cakes and 350 pounds of woodpecker mix for those of us attracting our local varieties of woodpeckers and woodland birds. In addition, over 500 pounds of safflower was sold, a birdseed that squirrels and grackles are not fond of gobbling down.

We offered home delivery this year, and 24 customers took advantage of that service. Everyone else came to

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Go Green—get your newsletter by email and save trees! See page 7.

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Field Trips and Programs:

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 9

Loch Raven With Hugh Simmons

CAS President Hugh Simmons has found this location to be a great winter birding spot and would love to share it with you. For information about meeting location and time, and to register, call Hugh at 410-628-4246 before 9 PM or you can send an email to hughsimmons@comcast.net

Saturday, February 23, 8-9:30 AM

Patterson Park With the Patterson Park Staff

Join us to find out if any winter ducks are visiting the boat lake. Last year we saw Black Duck and American Widgeon. Will the Red-shouldered Hawk who's been here since October still be around? Join the Patterson Park staff at the fountain near the pagoda for their regular monthly walk and find out. No need to register but for more information you can call 410-558-2473.

MARCH

Saturday, March 1, 8-10 AM

Cromwell Valley Park With Kate Manrodt

Winter is quickly coming to an end; come see what one of our favorite destinations has to offer. Join Kate at the Willow Grove parking lot. No need to register but for more information you can call Kate Manrodt, 6-9 pm, 410-254-1881.

Saturday, March 8, 8-10:30 AM

Pickering Creek With Marian Argentino

The Pickering Creek staff tells me this is a wonderful late winter destination. Let's check out this Eastern Shore hotspot before its cold-weather visitors fly back north to breed! Contact Marian Argentino for registration and directions at 410-852-9913 or by email, chesauduboninfo@aol.com

Friday, March 14, about 7pm

Gunpowder River With Tom Scollins

Tom will lead a field trip for frogs and salamanders on the Gunpowder River off of Ashland Road in Hunt Valley at the origin of the rail trail. We will meet at sunset. Hip waders or high boots are recommended. Email Tom to sign up and for more details on meeting location and time at trapguy@yahoo.com. If you don't have email you can also call Hugh Simmons at 410-628-4246.

Saturday, March 15, 8-10 AM

Cromwell Valley Park With Kate Manrodt

Return to Cromwell for our last walk of the winter season. There's no telling what you'll see but you can bet it'll be good! Join Kate at the Willow Grove parking lot. No need to register but for more information you

can call Kate Manrodt, 6-9pm, 410-254-1881.

Saturday, March 29, 8-9:30 AM

Patterson Park With the Patterson Park Staff

Come and look for early spring migrants among the daffodils! Typical March visitors to the park include towhees, Fox Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes and Eastern Phoebe. Join the Patterson Park staff at the fountain near the pagoda; no need to register but for more information you can call 410-558-2473.

Saturday March 29, Noon-2 PM

Signs of Spring Stroll With Bryan MacKay

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center holds its superb wildlife art festival this weekend. Take a break from looking at painted and carved birds to look at the real thing on this 2 mile stroll. There may even be a few early wildflowers or some amphibians. Please register with Bryan MacKay at 410 747 7132 evenings 6-10 pm.

APRIL

Saturday, April 5, 8 AM

Piney Run Park With Jerry Tarbell

Piney Run Park in southern Carroll County surrounds a nice sized lake with plenty of hiking trails. Bring a scope if you have one to check out the waterfowl that should still be plentiful on the lake. We may also get some early passerine migrants along the trails. There is an entrance fee: Carroll County residents pay \$5 per car; all others pay \$8 per car, so let us know if you want to carpool. Directions: Take Rt. 26 (Liberty Road) to White Rock Road. Head south on White, make a left onto Martz and drive through the park gate. We will meet in the parking lot to the left of the gate. Please register at ChesAudubonInfo@aol.com or call Marian Argentino at 410-852-9913.

Saturday, April 12, 8-11 AM

Harford Glen With Ruth Bergstrom

The "Glen" re-opens to the public just in time to welcome our spring migrants! Join Ruth Bergstrom along the trails of this beautiful park just outside Bel Air. Please register by sending an email to Ruth at ruthb22@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 19, 8-11 AM

Susquehanna Birds & Blooms With Hugh & Marian

Both sides of this path between the Susquehanna River and Deer Creek will be full of spring beauties of both the flora and fauna varieties. Come join Hugh Simmons and Marian Argentino and enjoy the show that Mother Nature offers each year in Harford County! Contact Marian for registration and directions at 410-852-9913 or by email, chesauduboninfo@aol.com.

Field Trips and Programs continued...

**Monday, April 21 Daytrip Earth Day Hike/
Old Rag Mountain With John and Kevin**
Celebrate Earth Day and enjoy the beauty of nature on the premier day hike in the Washington area. The climb is strenuous but not technically difficult. It is 7.5 miles round-trip and takes 6-7 hours, including time for lunch at the top. You will need well broken in walking shoes or boots with hiking socks, lunch, at least a quart of water, warm clothing and rain gear and a pack to carry it all in. Dinner in Warrenton, VA. We usually arrive back home after 8 pm. We meet at the new farmers' market parking lot in Sperryville, VA at 10 am. For more information or directions call John Love at 301-498-1978.

**Saturday, April 26, 8-11 AM Spring Hawk
Watch/Ft. Smallwood With Marian/Tekla**
Joined by a group from Patterson Park, Marian Argentino and Tekla Ayers will lead the group through this newly refreshed Anne Arundel County park recently named an Important Bird Area for its unusual concentration of Spring Hawks. Contact Marian Argentino for registration and directions at 410-852-9913 or by e-mail, chesauduboninfo@aol.com or if you want to carpool with the Patterson group, contact Tekla at 410-558-2473 or PPAudubon@gmail.com

Saturday, April 26, 6 PM Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Join the CAS Staff for this absolutely delicious dinner offering. See page 6 for details.



MAY

**Saturday, May 3
Lake Roland With Hugh Simmons**
This location at this time of year offers everything a birder could hope for! Join Hugh on this fantastic trip through one of Baltimore birders' favorite parks. For information about meeting location and time, and to register, call Hugh at 410-628-4246 before 9 PM or you can send email to hughsimmons@comcast.net

**Sunday, May 4, 8 AM Daytrip to
Patuxent River Park With Jerry Tarbell**
Another new location offered by new a Field Trip

Leader and one that has to make your to-do list every year. This time we'll head to Price Georges County to this very birdy park on the west side of Jug Bay during the peak of migration and according to Jerry, anything is possible and we'll be on the lookout for Ovenbirds, Hooded, and Prothonotary Warblers. We'll meet at the Nature Center shortly after the gates open at 8 AM. There is a wildlife drive that is only open on Sundays from about noon to 4 PM. It's a nice drive, with stops at a wetlands overlook and at an observation tower and it will take us over to Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary. To register and/or get directions, contact Marian Argentino at ChesAudubonInfo@aol.com or call 410-852-9913.

**Saturday, May 10, 8-11 AM
Adkins Arboretum With Ruth Bergstrom**
Join us on the Eastern Shore at this 400-acre native garden and preserve. Walk along a portion of the 4 miles of paths that pass through streams, meadows, and forests. Last year we observed almost 50 bird species including Yellow-breasted Chat, Baltimore Oriole, and American Redstart. After the walk you can join a docent guided walk or lighten your wallet at their famous spring native plant sale. Please register by sending an email to Ruth Bergstrom at ruthb22@yahoo.com

**Sunday, May 18, Day Trip
Bombay Hook NWR With Marian Argentino**
This Delaware Bay hotspot is one of our most popular trips and this is the weekend closest to the full moon which will increase of chances of seeing the very threatened Red-Knot. We'll meet at the Visitor's Center at 8 AM. Contact Marian for registration and directions at 410-852-9913 or by e-mail, chesauduboninfo@aol.com

**Saturday, May 24, 8-10 AM
Cromwell Valley Park With Kate Manrodt**
Breeding season is in full swing and the park is full of birds in all the beautiful spring colors! Join Kate at the Willow Grove parking lot No need to register but for more information you can call Kate Manrodt, 6-9pm, 410-254-1881.

Saturday, May 31 Oriole Day CAS Staff
Come join us at our annual get-together at Cromwell Valley Park Fun for the whole family!

Have you decided to GO GREEN and receive your newsletter by email and in color?! If so, fill out the form on page 7 and send it to us ASAP.



KID'S CORNER



By Kate Manrodt

Tweets and Treats

Spring is coming and the air will soon be alive with bird songs. Identifying birds without seeing them can be a real treat. But, how do you learn the songs? Field guides can be useful and CD's of bird songs are great, but sometimes "sound helpers" take the cake.

For example, the Carolina chickadee "says" its name – "**chickadee-dee-dee.**" Often seen with the chickadee is the tufted titmouse who announces its presence saying "**peter, peter, peter.**"



Now, I often get hungry when I'm out birding, so I tend to think of food when listening to bird songs. Consider the barred owl, which says, "**who cooks for you, who cooks for you all?**" Many people think the song of the Carolina wren sounds like "**teakettle, teakettle, teakettle.**" But, to me he sings "**cheeseburger, cheeseburger, cheeseburger.**"

The American goldfinch I like to call the "chip and dip" bird. Its song sounds like "**potato chip, potato chip, potato chip,**" and he dips when he flies.



Getting hungry? On a walk in the woods you might hear a bird calling out "**pizza.**" It's not Domino's, it's the Acadian flycatcher. Getting thirsty? The eastern towhee reminds you to "**drink your tea-ee-ee.**" And then there is the yellow warbler you might hear along a stream or other wet areas, singing, "**sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet.**" He just makes us feel good!

So, get some snacks, a field guide, go outside and just listen. It may just open up a whole new world.

Visit this fun website! Enter your zip code and get 5 bird calls from your area (or you can choose 5 songbird calls); you identify the call by multiple choice answer.

<http://enature.com/challenge/BirdCallChallenge.asp>

Injured/Orphaned Wildlife continued

Question: My daughter/son wants to raise the baby. I think it will teach them a lot about nature. Can we do this?

No! Raising a baby animal is a long and tedious process. Baby wrens, for instance, must be fed every 20 minutes for 14 hours a day. Baby mammals can become tame, and worse can transmit diseases to the person caring for them. And, it is against the law for someone other than a licensed professional to care for orphaned wildlife.

"Those who wish to pet baby wildlife love them, but those who respect their natures and wish to let them live their natural lives, love them more."

Edwin Way Teale

In many instances, a person calling a wildlife rehabilitator has already picked up the bird/bunny/squirrel and transported it far from its home, or worse, taken it to a nature center thinking it is their best option. Please call a wildlife rehabilitator first; they will guide you as to the best option for that individual. Remember that you might get an answering machine (as we are busy feeding those baby wrens) but your call will be returned promptly. Please remember that they cannot leave their clinics to come pick up every animal so you will be asked to deliver your animal.

Kathleen Woods is a wildlife rehabilitator with state and federal permits in northern Baltimore County. She

rehabilitates all birds (including bald eagles), small mammals, and turtles. She can be reached at The Phoenix Wildlife Center at 410-628-WREN (9736). ■■

Sowing Seeds continued

pick up their seed at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church on Edmondson Avenue and were greeted by these smiling, enthusiastic, caffeinated, and carbo-loaded volunteers (without whom we would have no sale):

Owen "BamBam" Bamford
Ray "Travelin' Man" Bernhard
Bob "First String" Burchard
Eileen "U-R-A" Doll
Frank "Is Anybody Listening to Me?" Doll
Debbie "Ever Calm" Geisenkotter
Mark "Lagniappe" Hollis
Terry "First-Timer" Love
Kevin "Old-Timer" McCahill
Mary "Perfect-Timer" McCahill
Hugh "On-Time" Simmons
Priscilla "MUST HAVE COFFEE" Waldman
Dick "Under the Radar" Worsham

Cathy and Tom Franklin, owners of The Wildlife Authority store on Rt. 40 in Ellicott City ordered and arranged delivery of our birdseed at wholesale prices, allowing all profits to go to our Chapter. For those who purchased the "Wild and Free" no-hulls mix, that is a specialty mix made especially for the Wildlife Authority store, so visit them for refills! Until next year! ■■

Happenings on the Eastern Shore

Women in Science Institute Graduates First Class

Contact: Susanna Scallion Phone: 410-745-9283

The Women in Science Institute (WISI) was started one year ago at the Jean Ellen duPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary (Bozman, MD). The goal of WISI was to engage more girls in the sciences. This innovative program offers high school girls in Talbot County an opportunity to interact with female scientists, participate in hands-on science activities, explore academic opportunities and careers in science, and helps build their self-esteem. In September 2007 the first class of WISI students graduated from this year-long program. It "was a huge success," stated Amy Bourque, Audubon educator and coordinator of the WISI program. Students in this program met five times during the year. Each meeting focused on the sciences and combined hands-on projects, field trips, and guest speakers from the scientific community. The girls visited

wildlife veterinarians at Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research (Newark, DE) and toured Horn Point Laboratory. In addition, the students interacted with women from Environmental Concern, Inc., the National Aquarium in Baltimore, and with Audubon staff from the Shehan Sanctuary and Pickering Creek Audubon Sanctuary (Easton, MD). The WISI was partially funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, and Audubon hopes to continue the program. For more information about WISI and many other quality science education opportunities for students of all ages, visit the Audubon Maryland-DC website at <http://www.audubonmddc.org>.

Wetlands Restored

In the Fall of 2007 several restoration projects were undertaken at the 950-acre Jean Ellen DuPont Shehan Audubon Sanctuary in Bozman, Maryland. See article by Steve Nery, News editor, at <http://www.stardem.com/printarticle.asp?article=32125> and photos at http://www.stardem.com/Photos/32135_1098548.jpg

Chesapeake Audubon Society

Annual Spaghetti Dinner
6:00 p.m., Saturday April 26, 2008

"Birding Adventures in Kazakhstan"

Speaker: Hank Kaestner

Avid birder does not quite do justice in describing Hank Kaestner. Yet, how do you describe someone who chose a career as a spice buyer mainly as an avenue to travel the world and pursue his passion, birds. His business and personal travels have taken him to 127 countries, and resulted in a life list of 6,770 species. As you can imagine, he has many stories to tell. At our spaghetti dinner, Mr. Kaestner will present his "Birding Adventures in Kazakhstan," a birding trip made last May with his brother, Peter. Besides birds, Hank will also show scenery from the 22,000 foot Tien Shan Mountains in the south to the fertile steppes in the north, and provide a history of the country and its cultural changes.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 4713 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore (Directions: Close to the Baltimore City/County line off of Route 40, just past the convergence of Rte 40 and Edmondson Ave. The Church is on the right if you are traveling east from the county.)

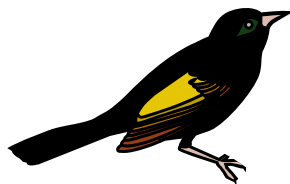
Cost: \$8.00/person—dinner and program, \$11.00 to add a glass of wine or beer. Dinner music by *Ten Directions* (jazz trio). Reservations required to ensure enough food is prepared and seating available.

Reservations: Please send checks payable to The Chesapeake Audubon Society PO Box 3173, Baltimore, MD 21228 or call 410-203-1819 and leave a message with your name, telephone number and number of people you will be bringing.

Oriole Day

Bird Walks

Bug Walks



Cromwell Valley Park

Saturday, May 31, 2008

7:30am to 3:00pm

Make your own t-shirts

Activities for the whole family



For more information contact ChesAuduboninfo@aol.com,
Or call Kate Manrodt at 410.887.3014 (or 410.254.1881)

EMAIL IS FOR THE BIRDS!

Get timely news and updates on CAS trips, events and activities. . .

Help us reduce paper and postage expenses. . . So we can use those resources for conservation, education, and nature activities!

Please send us your email address so we can keep in better touch.

Email us at: karen.e.meadow@verizon.net

We promise not to share your email address with any other parties or organizations, and to use it strictly for CAS news and announcements.

If you'd prefer to continue receiving this newsletter as a paper copy by mail, please let us know by filling out the form below and sending it to: Chesapeake Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3173, Baltimore, MD 21228

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City, Zip:** _____

Email(if any): _____

Notices

Sign up for the Bay Journal; it is free! Learn about efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Send a note to: BAY JOURNAL, P.O. Box 222, Jacobus, PA 17407-0222 requesting placement on their mailing list, or visit <http://www.bayjournal.com/subscribe.cfm> to subscribe online.

Join some of the programs at the Patterson Park Audubon Center. Programs are offered for Tiny-tots (children ages 2 to 5 years old with an adult present), adults, and families. The Patterson Park Audubon Center is located in the Canton neighborhood of East Baltimore City, and programs are held in a 180-acre park. To find out more details, call 410-558-2473 or email PPAudubon@gmail.com.

