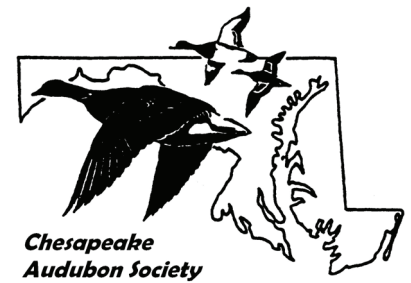


Chesupioc

Winter-Spring 2010 Newsletter

A local Chapter of National Audubon Society



Bird Friendly Building

News release October 28, 2009

In a historic move last October, Toronto became the world's first city to mandate bird friendly buildings. This applies to all new construction in the city, and is now mandatory. The standard is designed to eliminate migratory bird collisions with buildings both at night and in the daytime.

The Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) was started as a non-profit in 1993 to address the issue of bird collisions with human built structures. In 17 years of bird rescue, FLAP volunteers have recovered over 45,000 birds, 162 species, all victims of collisions with buildings. Forty (**40%**) percent of these birds were rehabilitated and released to continue their migration. If not for FLAP, likely none would have survived.

The major components of this initiative will be to ensure that glass is designed with a pattern to reduce collisions, and to reduce nighttime glare from exterior light fixtures.

Their work has convinced biologists, architects, designers, building owners, planners and politicians that radical steps are needed to be taken in Toronto and beyond.

In Baltimore these same initiatives are starting to take hold. Our very own group, Lights Out Baltimore (LOB) is headed by Wendy Olsson of the Baltimore Bird Club. She and her tireless volunteers are on the streets of Baltimore daily during peak migration. Of those birds found alive, many are later released south of the city, while others are rehabilitated and released following the FLAP protocol.

Working with the Office of Sustainability they are working to get Baltimore invested in bird-friendliness. Light pollution, which has been a growing problem in the city for decades, will start to diminish as we acknowledge the danger it poses for night-migrating birds, and create a healthier urban environment for everyone.

For more information visit <http://www.baltimorebirdclub.org> ■

Chesupioc is going digital! This means the Newsletter will be accessible electronically. See Important Notices on page 5 for details.

What I'm Reading

New Newsletter Column! Each newsletter, A Chesapeake Audubon Society board member will provide an overview of a book they have read and think may be of interest to our members.

All Things Reconsidered - by Roger Tory Peterson
Book Overview by *Marian Argentino*

Does the name Roger Tory Peterson sound familiar to you? If you're a birder, you probably own at least one of his field guides. Serious birders no doubt own more. I can quickly pick at least three off my own bookcase. Mr. Peterson revolutionized the way people look at birds, developing a system that has helped generations of bird-watchers identify birds at our feeders, spring and fall migrants, raptors that fascinate us, ducks that populate our beloved Chesapeake Bay, and those rare visitors that show up in places least expected. Many of today's well-known birding legends have paid homage to him in the forwards of their own excellent field guides.

For those of you less inclined to follow birds, Mr. Peterson's system of clear, accurate drawings uses arrows to point out pertinent field marks to help us determine what bird we are viewing. I can't possibly assign a number to the times I've referenced his page of "confusing fall warblers," or consulted his Empidonax complex to help me sort out similar looking flycatchers that are only identifiable by call notes. I have worn out or lost several Peterson guides, but always replace it immediately because to me—owner of a dozen or more

Continued on page 5

Newsletter Contents:	Page
Field Trips.....	2
Kid's Corner.....	4
Birdathon 2010 and Going Digital	5
Annual Spaghetti Dinner	6
What does Chesupioc mean?.....	7

Field Trips and Programs:

Some of the dates provide an opportunity to choose a trip or double up and participate in two; see asterisks**. Beginner birders welcome and encouraged to attend our walks!

Saturday, January 30th, 8 – 9:30am **Winter Ducks at Patterson Park**

Attend the first monthly walk of the year at Baltimore's Patterson Park. You'll be amazed at who visits the lake in this city park. Meet up at the fountain, no need to register! Please join us. We have binoculars if you don't! It is a fun family activity! Call (410)-558-Bird (2473) for more information.

Sunday, February 7, Day Trip **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge**

Leaders: Ruth Bergstrom & Tim Houghton

Meet us at 9 AM on Super Bowl Sunday at one of our most popular winter birding destinations! Come enjoy a wide variety of waterfowl in the waters off the marshes. We'll marvel at the Bald Eagles and search for the Golden Eagle and Brown-Headed Nuthatch. Dress warmly, bring lunch, and something hot to drink! Don't worry, **you can be back home in time for kick-off**. We will try to accommodate carpooling requests. Please let Ruth know you are coming by e-mailing her at ruthb22@yahoo.com, or call 443-752-1967.

Thursday, Feb. 18, 7 PM Winter Bluebirds **with Katharine Patterson**



Location: Towson Library Meeting Room, 320 York Road Towson, Maryland 21204

Katharine Patterson, an avid birder, has been studying bluebirds for the past 15 years on her property and as a bluebird trail monitor. She has been the trail coordinator for 9 years at Oregon Ridge Nature Center and a volunteer naturalist and trustee at Irvine Nature Center. Katharine holds a degree in Early

Childhood Education from the University of Delaware and a Certificate of Environmental Studies from Johns Hopkins. She believes strongly in getting kids outside and educating them about the natural world. Katharine's bluebird presentation will include a history of the "Bluebird Movement" and the establishment of the North American Bluebird Society, the natural history of bluebirds, their habitat, nesting, nest box design, predators and competitors, trouble shooting, gardening for wildlife, and the importance of monitoring nest boxes. Participants will receive several resource handouts and construction plans for an Eastern Bluebird nest box.

Saturday, February 27 Double Feature

8 AM West Side: Lake Centennial

Leaders: Ruth Bergstrom and Larry Brammer

One of Howard County's prime birding locations is Columbia's Lake Centennial; it always holds some nice surprises. American Tree Sparrows are regulars as are the beautiful Hooded Mergansers that usually dot the lake. We'll take a trip around the shoreline and find out who is visiting this late winter morning. Register with Ruth at ruthb22@yahoo.com or by calling her at 443-752-1967.

8 – 9:30am East Side: Patterson Park

The monthly walk will focus on birds wintering in the park. Meet up at the fountain, no need to register! Please join us- we have binoculars if you don't! It is a fun family activity! Call (410)-558-Bird (2473) for more information.

Thursday, March 25, 7 PM. "The Secret Love **Life of Amphibians" with Charlie Stine**

Location: Catonsville Library Meeting Room, 1100 Frederick Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Come join us for an evening of entertaining learning from a Baltimore legend who has expertise in amphibians and animal behavior. **Dr. Charlie Stine** will give a talk entitled "The Secret Love Life of Amphibians" (Note: "G" rated, suitable for anyone over the age of 2!). The discussion will include the taxonomy of amphibians, how they relate to other organisms, their ecological setting and reproductive behavior.



Dr. Stine has conducted a dental practice for nearly 60 years, and taught ecology and animal behavior at The Johns Hopkins University for over 35 years. He continues to conduct field studies and research concentrating on amphibian species in the area as well as lead canoe trips to various sites in the Mid-Atlantic region. Anyone who has attended one of Charlie's many presentations will attest to his ability to entertain as well as teach, particularly on the topic of amphibians. Don't miss this one!

Saturday, March 20, 8 AM **Cromwell Valley Park**

Leader: Hugh Simmons

Come join Chesapeake Audubon President Hugh Simmons for this first day of spring walk through the Willow Grove area of this popular Baltimore-area park. Resident songbirds will be starting their breeding activity and early migrants will be passing through. Hugh will meet us at the parking lot where we will begin our morning search for birds in the surrounding trees. Contact Hugh Simmons at 410-628-4246 call before 9:00PM please or send e-mail to hughsimmons@comcast.net.

Continued on page 3

Field Trips and Programs continued...

Saturday, March 27 **Spring Migrants at Patterson Park**

This month's walk at Baltimore's Patterson Park will focus on early spring migrants. You'll be pleasantly surprised at who visits this city park. Meet up at the fountain, no need to register! Please join us. We have binoculars if you don't! It is a fun family activity! Call (410)-558-Bird (2473) for more information.

Saturday, April 10, 8 AM **Harford Glen Environmental Center** Leader: Ruth Bergstrom

Please join us for an easy walk around the environmental education center of Harford County in Bel Air. We'll walk the trails that skirt the many ponds and streams and look for Wood Ducks, early migrating Warblers, and other gems. Let Ruth know you're coming by e-mailing her at ruthb22@yahoo.com or call 443-752-1967.

Sunday, April 18, 8 AM **"Eat, Greet, and Tweet" in Windsor Mill** Leader: Robin Schless

Come walk in the woods at Robin's house in Windsor Mill (21244), looking for spring migrants and early wildflowers--everybody's welcome. Beginners like myself are encouraged to come!! Meet other Chesapeake Audubon members in an informal setting with coffee, juice, and sweets for energy. Talk about bird feeding, viewing, and outdoor interests. Bring binoculars—Call for directions. Robin Schless, 410-277-9213 or rjschless@gmail.com

Saturday, April 24, 6 PM CAS Annual Spring Spaghetti Dinner Location: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 4711 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21219

Join us for the 27th edition of CAS' Spring Spaghetti dinner. The speaker will be **Dr. Pete Marra** of the Smithsonian Institution's Migratory Bird Center He will give a talk entitled "Science in the Urban Jungle." See announcement elsewhere in newsletter for more information. Register early; seats go fast!!!!

Sunday, April 25, 8 AM **Ladew Gardens in Harford County** Leader: Tim Houghton

Tim will lead us in a return walk to beautiful Ladew Gardens to search for songbirds migrating to their breeding grounds. The bird walk is free as long as we remain on the nature trail and that's where the birds are! (There would be an additional fee to view the gardens should you choose to do that on your own after the bird walk.) There's a little cafe on the grounds which opens at 11:00 should you care to have lunch. Register with Tim by either email (thoughton@loyola.edu) or phone (410-510-7504).

Sunday, May 2, 8 AM Rock Run Mill, **Susquehanna State Park**

Leader: Tim Houghton

Get ready for a walk that in Tim's own words was awesome last spring. It's become his favorite place for migrants and warblers. Orioles will be returning to nest along with flycatchers and vireos. This is one local area where the Cerulean Warbler reliably nests year after year. The park itself is beautiful and worthy of a visit on its own. Register with Tim by either email (thoughton@loyola.edu) or phone (410-510-7504).

Saturday, May 8, 8:30 AM Adkins Arboretum Leader: Ruth Bergstrom

Meet us on Maryland's Eastern Shore for our annual walk that coincides with the Arboretum's spring native plant sale. Audubon MD-DC has designated the Arboretum as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Come explore the woodland and meadow paths with us in this 400-acre native plant garden. Register by emailing Ruth at ruthb22@yahoo.com or calling her on 443-752-1967.

Weekend, May 15 & 16, Birdathon Day – see details elsewhere in newsletter

Join in the fun either by birding yourself or by sponsoring your favorite birders!

Saturday, May 29 Daytrip **Bombay Hook and Horseshoe Crabs.** Leader: Hugh Simmons

Any visit to this refuge near the Delaware Bay is sure to bring wonderful birds on the water, in the trees, and on the ground. Join Hugh for our annual spring visit that will feature shorebirds, waders, songbirds and more.

We'll also visit other bayfront areas to look for horseshoe crabs. Bring lunch and snacks for the day with you. Please register by May 26. Contact Hugh Simmons at 410-628-4246; call before 9:00PM please or you send e-mail to hughsimmons@comcast.net



Be A Volunteer!

Volunteering is an excellent opportunity for school students to complete community service. Of course, adults are always welcome and encouraged to volunteer. See page 5 for an upcoming volunteer opportunity. To learn about future events, send an email to chesapeakeaudubon@aol.com to be put on the e-mail list. ■■

KID'S CORNER



Make a Pinecone Feeder

You can attract many different kinds of birds by offering them pinecones stuffed with a peanut butter mixture.

What do I need?

- ◆ Large, open pinecones
- ◆ String or yarn
- ◆ Newspaper or a cookie sheet
- ◆ Smooth peanut butter
- ◆ Cornmeal
- ◆ Coarsely chopped unsalted nuts (optional)
- ◆ Butter knife or spoon

Directions:

- ◆ Work over a newspaper or cookie sheet for easy cleanup.
- ◆ Gently tie the string or yarn around the wide end of the pinecones – about 3 sections down.
- ◆ Mix equal amounts of peanut butter and cornmeal together.
- ◆ Spread the mixture over the cones using the knife or back of the spoon. Be sure to push some mixture deep into the cones.
- ◆ Roll cones over chopped nuts (optional).
- ◆ Hang the cones from a tree branch outside.

What birds will eat from my new feeders?

You may see some of these local birds. Be sure to listen to their whistles and calls (some are listed here) while noting their colors and shapes. Practice trying to identify them while your eyes are closed! You can keep a list of birds you see in a journal. Can you match the pictures with the bird names listed below? (answers on page 7)

Carolina Chickadee "chicka-dee-dee-dee"

Tufted Titmouse "peter peter peter" (no picture)

White-breasted Nuthatch "yank"

Downy Woodpecker "pik"

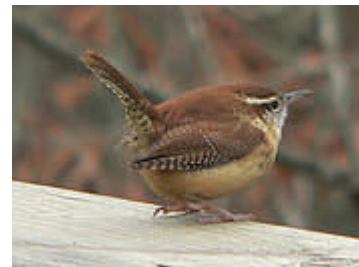
Red-bellied Woodpecker "chig chig" or "churr"

Carolina Wren "teakettle teakettle teakettle"

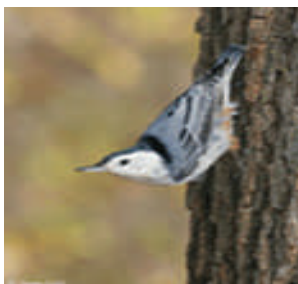
1



2



3



4



5



What I'm Reading continued...

field guides—Peterson's *Birds of Eastern and Central America* is irreplaceable.

All Things Reconsidered is not another field guide. It is a collection of Peterson's birding adventures pulled from the many columns he wrote for the *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and edited by Bill Thompson III whose parents founded the digest. Through these columns and this book, I learned who Roger Tory Peterson was not just what he did. First and foremost, he was an educator and that message comes through time and time again throughout this book. Second, he was dedicated; you will learn that simply in his volume of work.

Peterson writes about Charley Broley who retired to Florida

at the age of 60 and began banding the eagle population. You'll be amazed at the story about a rogue wave off Western Egg Rock that dumped Peterson at the age of 81 into the cold Atlantic Ocean during a photography expedition. In a 1988 column, Peterson considered his search for the Ivory Billed Woodpecker to be his most exciting bird experience; read about it in his own words. Travel with him to the Galapagos, the Isle of Wight, the Serengeti, Lapland, a bar in Botswana, and all across the United States. Meet his wife, who shared in his adventures, the peers he respected, and those he called friends. Along the way, learn about the birds, their habits, and their habitats.

But more importantly, learn about Roger Tory Peterson and what made him one of the world's greatest naturalists.

I hope you enjoy the book as much as I did! ■■

Important Notices

***Chesupioc* is going digital**

After the next issue we will no longer be mailing paper copies of our newsletter, *Chesupioc*. This will save Chesapeake Audubon about \$3,000 per year in printing and postage costs. These funds can be put to better use supporting our educational and conservation programs. And, of course we will be saving a few trees.

Chesupioc is already available electronically on our website at www.chesapeakeaudubon.org. Please go there and take a look. The electronic version is in color, in pdf format, and can be easily printed. You can also print only the pages you need to have in hard copy, the event and field trip lists or the Kids Corner, for example.

After the next issue there will be two ways you can get *Chesupioc*. You can go to our website or you can receive an email with it attached. If you want to receive our newsletter by email please send us an email to ChesAudubonInfo@aol.com saying that you want to be added to the newsletter distribution.

If you do not use email or the internet and still want to receive a paper copy of *Chesupioc* please send us a note to that effect at: Chesapeake Audubon Society, PO Box 3173, Baltimore, MD 21228.

Thank you for your understanding and your support of our efforts to conserve.

Patterson Park Boat Lake Cleanup, Baltimore City, Saturday, April 3, 8-10AM

Chesapeake Audubon will be joining Patterson Park Audubon and Friends of Patterson Park volunteers for the monthly clean up of Boat Lake. Meet at the lake at 8:00 AM for coffee and donuts and then we'll get to work picking up trash in and around the lake and weeding the native butterfly garden. We have all the necessary supplies- we just need YOU! Please email Ruth Bergstrom at ruthb22@yahoo.com, or phone her at 443-752-1967, to let her know you are coming or if you need directions. See you by the Lake!

Birdathon 2010!

An enjoyable time was had by all last year as we searched for and counted birds to raise money for environmental education programs at Pickering Creek and Patterson Park. We genuinely thank all of you who supported our efforts. The friendly competition yielded 80 species for the Chesapeake Audubon Team and we are determined to find more in 2010.

The official count days this year are May 15th and May 16th, and we encourage you to form your own team and start a fun, yearly tradition. You can even count birds in your own yard! A birdathon is like a walkathon, but pledges are collected for bird species seen rather than miles walked. If you prefer, you can sponsor an already established team. Details, forms, and rules will be posted on our website at <http://www.chesapeakeaudubon.org>.

Please contact Birdathon coordinator Ruth Bergstrom if you would like to form a team or have any questions. Contact Ruth at ruthb22@yahoo.com or 443-752-1967.

Chesapeake Audubon Society

Annual Spaghetti Dinner
6:00 p.m., Saturday April 24, 2010

Featuring

Pete Marra
Senior Research Scientist, The Smithsonian's Migratory Bird Center

"Science in the Urban Jungle"

The most serious threat facing animal populations in North America today is habitat destruction. Rampant urbanization in the eastern United States has caused declines or regional disappearance in many migratory songbird populations. Ironically, we know little about bird populations remaining in urban centers. The **Neighborhood Nestwatch Program** addresses this problem by using a citizen science approach not just to gather important scientific data on birds, but also to give people a closer glimpse of wildlife found in their own backyard. Dr. Pete Marra will talk about the Neighborhood Nestwatch Program, and will **discuss some exciting findings provided by citizen scientist on birds living in our urban midst.**

Dr. Marra is a Senior Research Scientist at **The Smithsonian's Migratory Bird Center (MBC)**, and is the founder and lead scientist of the **Neighborhood Nestwatch Program**. Pete's research focus at MBC **involves the isolation of factors that control population abundance** in migratory and resident birds. He has published numerous scientific papers in this area, including several on the effects of West Nile Virus on bird populations, the influence of climate change on bird migration, and the migratory connectivity of birds.



Where: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church,
4713 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore, MD

Cost: \$9.00 per person for dinner and the program, \$12.00 if you would like a glass of wine or a beer with dinner.

Reservations: Call (410) 203-1819; specify if you prefer vegetarian sauce. 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.

Directions: Take Baltimore beltway to exit 15A (Rte. 40, Baltimore National Pike east, towards Baltimore.) Take Rte. 40 about 2 miles, just past the convergence of Route 40 and Edmondson Ave. The Church is on the right.

Please note: we ask that you reserve your meal ticket in advance. As always, walk-ins are welcome, but we can't guarantee there will be enough food for them.

Search and Find:

Find the hot spots for bird watching. (Words in parenthesis not included in puzzle.)

Cromwell Valley Park
Blackwater (Wildlife Refuge)
Patterson Park
Ladew Gardens
Bombay Hook
Windsor Mill

Adkins Arboretum
Harford Glen (Environmental Center)
Rock Run Mill
Susquehanna State Park
Patapsco (State Park)
Turkey Point

Z I P B N B C D Q I D D F R V A T V K J I K L O
K R A K R O C K R U N M I L L I P M R D V B B O
R O A U W W L D L U P K W Y D R R T A I N N L G
A S N B G C N W E T L P O E D R L N P W A B A C
P N M M O K L U C A A Q Y C A H I O E O D E C N
Y E O P M M B T H T G A S T S D S Y T R K R K T
E C T R G I B F F S O Q C B L P U D A A I R W V
L N R A T L L A P N M E L F G R A A T N N I A E
L S E A J S O L Y A N B K U S K T T S G S E T L
A C I O G I V Y E H B N P V C W H D A E A W E G
V T N A C W I N D S O R M I L L O E N P R O R A
L E H L O F F N E K S O L L O T L T N L B M P O
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E C T U R K E Y P O I N T T N B E K H C R E V E
W Q M S F O D C X C V F H U J Z R O E E E P C E
M O P A T T E R S O N P A R K I U P U N T S Q D
O L O N G R Y S H M N A X O L P D P Q F U P A O
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C R M O R S F D G P J K I Q W S A D U E Q R C L
A H A R F O R D G L E N M N R P Q O S D N X B R
N U R W B O Z C N A H D S R T V W O N O O S P E

What's in a Name?

Some of you may be wondering how the Chesapeake Audubon Society came up with the name of their newsletter, Chesupioc. Actually, Chesupioc is the Algonquian Indian word for the Chesapeake Bay. In the records from Raleigh and Percy's explorations in the late 1500's and early 1600's they refer to the Chesapeake as the Bay of Chesupioc.

Kid's Corner (answers)

1. Downy Woodpecker; 2. Carolina Wren; 3. White-breasted Nuthatch; 4. Carolina Chickadee; 5. Red-bellied Woodpecker

Chesapeake Audubon Society
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President: Hugh Simmons
Vice President: Ruth Bergstrom
Treasurer: John Love
Secretary: Norman Meadow, Ph.D.
Field Trips Chair: Marian Argentino
Conservation Chair: Norman Meadow, Ph.D.
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Finance Chair: Karen Meadow
Newsletter: Christine Holzmueller, Owen Bamford, Ph.D.
Original artwork: Mary Kokoski

Directors at Large:

Dick Worsham	Kevin McCahill
Mary Kokoski	Stuart Strahl, Ph.D.
Robin Schless	Richard Schurmann

Director Emeritus: Rodger Waldman
Wildlife Rehabilitator: Kathy Woods phone: 410-628-9736
phoenixcenter@comcast.net

Visit our website at
www.chesapeakeaudubon.org
CAS e-mail: ChesAudubonInfo@aol.com