

Chesupioc



Summer 2014 Newsletter

The Northwest Ohio Birding Festival

by Bryan MacKay

Imagine: three dozen birders jockeying for position on the boardwalk, hoping for a one second glimpse of a two ounce bird skulking through the underbrush.

On our annual drive west, Debi and I heard about the NW Ohio Birding Festival, also known as The Biggest Week in American Birding. It's organized by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. And so we stopped off to see if the hype could match the reality. In many ways, it did.

The focus of birding activity is Magee Marsh, part of the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, located on the shores of Lake Erie just east of Toledo, Ohio. In 2013, 60,000 birders descended on this one mile boardwalk over a 10-day period in the heart of spring migration. Sure enough, in 2014 the place was jammed from dawn to dusk, but everyone helped one another find birds. Each day, someone set out oranges, and orioles visited continuously from ten feet away. Still, the focus was on warblers. Many were at eye level, less than a dozen feet away, at many times during the day. Our most cooperative bird was the Prothonotary Warbler, which spent 5 minutes so close to us we could not use binoculars. When a male Blackburnian Warbler spent several minutes singing lustily from a branch a few feet over my head, the sound of cameras clicking and flashes flashing rivaled an Obama press conference. Still, warblers move fast, and you had to be handy with your binocs to catch a good view.

A \$20 registration fee at the Festival allowed you to sign up for field trips by van to more distant locations. However, these were all booked by the time we arrived; early registration is required. There were nightly talks, and major optics manufacturers were present so you could try out spotting scopes or binoculars. The only drawback to the Festival, besides the fully booked field trips, was the fact that the closest accommodations to Magee March were a 20 minute drive. Oh, and of course Lake Erie weather. When it starts to rain, it goes from a light drizzle to a waterfall in about 2 seconds.

So if you love birding and want to see warblers and other Neotropical migrants close-up, consider attending the NW Ohio Birding Festival next year.



Photograph by Bryan MacKay

What Have You Missed?

North Point State Park Field Trip March 29th

By Ruth Bergstrom

It was a rainy day but we spotted 33 species. Two recent arrivals, Tree Swallows and Eastern Phoebes, whirled and swooped around us while catching bugs. We heard Virginia Rail as we walked along the path, and spotted a Gadwall, a Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrows and Hooded Mergansers. Numerous Downy Woodpeckers chipped away at soft wood, and Flickers and Red-bellied Woodpeckers also made an appearance. The fog was too thick to see any birds on the Chesapeake Bay, but a Bald Eagle soared about us and disappeared into the mist. Bird walks at North Point park are a perfect place for beginning birders - join us on our next trip on July 12th. Visit our home page and click on "blog" to see more pictures of this trip and most of our other bird walks and events.



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Field Trips and Programs:

Some of the dates provide an opportunity to choose a trip or double up and participate in two. Beginner birders are welcome and encouraged to attend our walks! **Pre-registration with the field trip leader is required, unless noted in the event description.**

Sunday, June 15, 8:00am Baldwin, MD
Sweet Air Section of Gunpowder State Park
Leader: Hugh Simmons

Join National Audubon and CAS Board Member, Hugh Simmons, as he takes participants around the Sweet Air Section of the Gunpowder State Park. This area offers a great mix of habitats for birding and a very pleasant hike. Fields, edges, deep woods, and the Gunpowder River provide ample opportunities to find a good variety of birds. The walk will include uneven terrain and hills. There are often soggy areas so wear shoes that can tolerate getting wet. **Call Hugh Simmons at 410-456-0017 or ljenson-nature@gmail.com for meeting location and details.**

Sunday, July 6, 8:00am Mt. Washington, MD
Robert E. Lee Park Leader: Hugh Simmons

Join National Audubon and CAS Board Member, Hugh Simmons for a birding adventure at Robert E. Lee Park, also known as Lake Roland. This is a delightful oasis of nature just outside of the northern Baltimore City Line. A mix of woods, open grassy areas, a stream, and a lake provide opportunities to see a variety of birds. We will take an easy walk along park trails and paths looking for nesting species. **Contact Hugh Simmons at 410-456-0017 or ljensonnature@gmail.com for details.**

Saturday, July 12, 8:00am Edgemere, MD
North Point State Park Birdwalk for Beginners
Leader: Ruth Bergstrom

Take a walk along the wetlands, Chesapeake Bay shoreline, and woods to search especially for egrets and herons and other resident birds. This walk is mainly for fledgling birders, but all are welcome! Entrance fee of \$4 for Maryland residents. **No need to register but email Ruth at ruthb22@yahoo.com or calling 443-752-1967 if you have questions. We will meet at the first parking lot to the left after you pass the entrance.**

Saturday, August 9, 10:00am-12:30pm Harford County
Wildflowers and Birds by Kayak @ Bosely Conservancy
Leader: Ruth Bergstrom

Paddle with us on this freshwater tidal marsh where we'll learn about native wildflowers like Swamp Milkweed, Green-headed Coneflower, and Ironweed, while spotting Osprey, Bald Eagle, Forster's Tern, and many other birds. All equipment is provided: \$10 per person, ages 8-15 welcome with adult. **Register with Ruth Bergstrom at ruthb22@yahoo.com or call 443-752-1967. Limited to 16 participants.**

Saturday, August 23, 7:30am Havre de Grace, MD
Butterflies, Dragonflies, Flowers & Birds @ Susquehanna State Park
Leader: Colleen Webster

Join naturalist, Colleen Webster, for an enjoyable time at one of Maryland's great, dynamic parks. Colleen has led many trips—introducing people to a variety of nature's wonders—and thoroughly knows this location. Meet at the parking area near the walking bridge on Stafford Road. **For information and to register, contact Colleen at 410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu.**

Sunday, September 14, 8:00am Owings Mills, MD
Soldiers Delight Leader: Kye Jenkins
 September is an excellent time to see Fall migrants in this globally rare ecosystem. Soldiers Delight is a 1,900-acre state park in the Owings Mills area of Baltimore County. We hope to find many southbound species, including wood warblers, hawks, flycatchers, and thrushes. **Contact Kye at kyebird46@yahoo.com.**

Sunday, September 21, 8:00am Harford County
Ladew Gardens Leader: Tim Houghton
 Tim will lead us on a search for southbound migrating songbirds in this nearby beautiful Harford County location. Ladew management has waived the entrance fee as long as we remain on the nature trail. Should you care for lunch, we could eat (no entry fee) at Ladew's little cafe, which opens at 11:00am. We'll meet in the parking lot on Rt. 152, which is directly across from Ladew. **Register with Tim: thoughton@loyola.edu or 410-510-7504 (phone).**

Saturday, September 27, 8am Baltimore County
Cromwell Valley Park Walk Leader: Tim Houghton
 Take a walk with Tim Houghton in search of migrating songbirds. Cromwell Valley is a 426-acre stream valley park in Baltimore County. Last Fall, no place was better for migrating birds. There are cultivated gardens, pasture land, woods, hedgerows, orchards, and wood piedmont hills—diverse habitat for bird species and mammals. The park is a mile or two from the Cromwell Bridge exit (exit 29) of I-695. Beginners are welcome! **Contact Tim at thoughton@loyola.edu or 410-510-7504.**



PATTERSON PARK **Audubon**
 CENTER

Patterson Park Urban Bird Watching Walks

More than 200 bird species visit Patterson Park and more than 50 species are permanent residents. Stroll and search for resident and migrant birds with Audubon. The park is an urban oasis, with 44 native plant species in Audubon-maintained habitat gardens, and 50 species of trees. Friday walks are led in partnership with Chesapeake Audubon Society and Saturday walks are led by Audubon MD-DC's conservation director.

Walks are from 8:00am to 9:30am and all ages are welcome. Free. No registration required. Meet at the fountain in the northwest corner of the park. No need to RSVP but contact Patterson Park Audubon if you need to borrow binoculars; either email ppaudubon@gmail.com or call 410-558-2473. Walks are scheduled on the following dates:

	Friday	Saturday
June	13	28
July	11	26
August	8	30
September	12	27

Visit us at



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Volunteer Opportunities!

Build Baltimore's Bird Habitat with Paterson Park Audubon Center!

Save the date! June 14th at 10:00 am in Library Square
Patterson Park Audubon Center needs enthusiastic volunteers to roll up their sleeves and plant colorful, flowering Maryland natives for the habitat/teaching garden at Library Square!



The garden will be located in the vacant lot next to the beautiful mural that features diverse community members tending to local plants and birds (Lakewood & Pulaski). Our partners at Civic Works are preparing the site with heavy lifting so that it's ready for Audubon and volunteers to plant on Saturday, June 14th at 10:00 am. What a perfect day to create a bird and butterfly garden and show it off at the fair in the Square that follows!

e-Bird Monitoring at Pickering Creek

8:00am -10:00am

June 21, July 7, July 19, August 4, August 16

E-bird monitoring, led by members of the Talbot County Bird Club, takes place on the first Monday and third Saturday of each month. A census of birds taken on those days is recorded on the eBird site and used to accumulate a historical record of bird species and numeracy, and to provide Pickering with a specific record of its bird populations, especially important as we increase wetland habitat. Volunteers are needed to assist the leaders by spotting birds and assisting in the recording of data.

Pickering Garden Days

Thursdays, starting on April 24, 3-4:30 pm

Pickering Creek has a number of small garden areas that feature, primarily, native plants which flourish with regular TLC. Lend helping hands to Pickering gardens and enjoy the company of fellow volunteers as we plant and prune (and weed) for an hour or so in the garden beds at the Center entrance, Byron House, and near the office.

Call 410-822-4903 for additional project details and registration for e-Bird Monitoring and Garden Days.

Chesapeake Audubon Society

Are you interested in joining the Chesapeake Audubon Board as our secretary? The board meets every other month and needs a secretary to take minutes and participate in any other activities that meet your feathered fancy! Please consider this worthwhile opportunity (see page 6 for contact information)! Visit our Web site to learn about other volunteer opportunities: <http://www.chesapeakeaudubon.org/>.

Tour, Toast & Taste

Celebrating 31 years of connecting
people with nature at the Pickering
Creek Audubon Center

June 14, 2014

5:30 PM



Don't miss an elegant evening at Forrest Landing

Join us and enjoy:

- A tour of the first floor of the Forrest Landing private estate
- Drinks and delicious heavy hors d'oeuvres along the waters of Pickering Creek
- Nationally recognized hammered dulcimer and clawhammer banjo virtuosos **Ken & Brad Kolodner**
- Live Raptors
- The first ever Pickering Creek "Angry Bird" Tournament
- Bidding on live and silent auction items and purchasing seats at unique dinners and events to be held throughout the year!

Tickets are \$125 each. Visit <http://www.pcevents.org> to purchase tickets and find out more information about this event.

Kids, Tweens & Teens Get Outside!



For 10-year-olds, Eve and Rebekah, nothing matches the excitement of summer and its long-awaited promise of adventure. The Chesapeake Bay offers unique week day, week long, and weekend opportunities to paddle, bike, and hike your way through nature, visiting birds and other critters, nose to beak, or nose to nose.

Patterson Park Audubon Center on the Western Shore and *Pickering Creek Audubon Center* on the Eastern Shore, are magical portals to summer discovery whether you are a Kid, Tween, or Teen. For a thrilling fun-filled summer, follow National Audubon's Society's year-round rallying cry to "Get Outside"!

Pickering Creek Audubon Center



Observe Pickering Creek birds - 222 bird species on record!

Register for EcoCamp (grades K-7) and discover exciting wildlife and habitat secrets.

Join the Junior Naturalist Club (grades 7-12), a year-round youth conservation leadership club.

Paddle Pickering Creek: Canoes are available to supporters and Audubon members M-F, 9am to 5pm. Water access for individuals to launch canoes or kayaks.

Hike Pickering Creek: Four trails wind through 3.3 miles of woods, wetlands, and farm land. Curiosity welcome!

See <http://pickeringcreek.audubon.org/learn-explore> and click on activity or 410-822-4903 or [facebook.com/PickeringCreekAudubonCenter](https://www.facebook.com/PickeringCreekAudubonCenter).



Patterson Park Audubon Center

Observe Patterson Park's birds - 200 species on record!

Register your youngest nature lover for Tiny Tot Safaris (ages 2-5 + adult).



Sign-up for Youth Birding (middle and high school students). Learn to find and identify birds, and record scientific data on eBird. Binoculars are available to borrow.

Join Audubon's Habitat Team to tend our flowering gardens in the urban oasis of Patterson Park, Baltimore. Earn service hours!

See <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/family-programs-1> and click on "printable program calendar" for upcoming dates.

Contact <http://pattersonpark.audubon.org/> Registration is required for most programs: ppaudubon@gmail.com or 410.558.BIRD. To stay current in PPAC activities and birds, like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/PattersonParkAudubonCenter](https://www.facebook.com/PattersonParkAudubonCenter).



Welcome New Members! Welcome to the Chesapeake Audubon Society (CAS)! We are your local Chapter of the National Audubon Society. We are dedicated to carrying out the Audubon mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. As a member of Chesapeake Audubon, you are invited to participate in our numerous field trips and member events. EVERYONE, regardless of knowledge, skill level, or age is welcome and encouraged to come have some fun on one of these field trips. We hope you'll join us at some of our events and meet like-minded people who all share an interest in, respect for, and awe of nature. Welcome!

Charles	Adams
Elizabeth	Adams
Alice	Baker
A.	Ballenger
Linda	Bardo
Carol	Barger
Carol	Barger
Chris	Bartlett
Josephine	Batters
A Thomas	Baumgartner
Stan	Becker
Joan	Bejshak
Jesse	Birdsall
Patricia	Blanchard
Melvin	Blontz
Jennifer	Boehles
Amy	Boker
Rae & Doug	Borden
Janet	Borden
Erin	Bounds
Lori	Bramble
Thomas	Brooks
Laetitia	Brooks
Karin	Brown
Olga &	Bruce King
Nancy	Bryant
Debra	Bulgher
Tom	Bulleit
Gregory & Emily	Burdick
John & Paulina	Burgess
John	Burk
Linda	Burkins
Gloria	Buzi
Mindy	Camponeschi
Carol	Carnett
Marion	Carroll
Suzeann	Carroll
Christine	Chen

Mary	Chesnut
L.	Ciotola
Laura	Clayton
Edna	Cobb
Elaine	Cofske
Elaine	Cofske
J.	Collins
William	Commins
Kevin	Conlon
Deborah	Copeland
William	Corba
Nicolaas	Cornelisse
Maria	Cortes
Lucy	Cory
Mary	Cotton
Susan	Courtney
Susan	Covey
Carroll	Cramblitt
Joanne	Day
Andrea	Deurquiza
Beverly	Diaz
Debra	D'Onofrio
Adam	Dottle
Carolyn	Douglas
Jacqueline	Eiting
Bradley	Evans
Patricia	Evans
Meredith	Finch
Bailey	Fine
Susan	Fitzgerald
Miriam	Fleury
Marilyn	Gabor
Lalit	Gadhia
Melissa	Gerr
Robert	Gibson
Pat	Goodwin
Luise	Graff
Anne	Haas
Marymargaret	Hartley
Jobi	Hasse

Louise	Hawkes
Sybil	Hebb
Trevor	Heburn
Carl	Hecht
Nancy	Henderson
Dvonne	Henderson
Nellie	Henry
Ronald	Henry
William	Herrman
Anne	Hock
Michael	Hollingshead
Henry	Honick Iii
Peter	Houck
Anna	Hurd
Sandra	Hutchins
Deborah	Jones
Joan	Juvan
Joann	Kappeler
Michael	Kauppinen
Jocelyn	Kavanagh
Jennifer	Kenney
Virginia	Kerley
Lenore	Kilby
Elaine	Kimos
Ann	Kleiber
Owen	Kleis
J.	Kniffin
Jennifer	Kreis
Barbara	Lamb
Marvin	Lang
Helen	Langa
William	Lavietes
Patricia	Lawton
Jennifer	Leatherman
Chin	Lien
Nancy	Liss
Margaret	Little
Mary	Louise Roberts
Helen	Magida
Dean	Mahlstedt

