

# President's Chat

By Scott Young

This will be my last end-of-summer *Chat* but, unfortunately, I feel compelled to return to events related to climate change that are increasing with time, as has been long foretold (1). The world is setting daily, weekly, and monthly average global temperature highs (2) and streaking toward an annual record high (see Figure 1 on next page). As I write this, there is a heat dome over the southern part of the United States during which various records fell, including the number of consecutive days going over 110°F (43.3°C) in Phoenix, Arizona. Parts of Sicily reached 117°F (47°C), and in April, parts of south and southeast Asia, where air-conditioning is often a luxury, experienced an intense heatwave, with record-breaking temperatures that passed 107.6°F (42°C) in Laos and 113°F (45°C) in Thailand.

Hundreds of thousands (above the historic average) of mostly marginalized people worldwide are dying now annually from the effects of global warming (3). Water temperatures around southern Florida and its Keys are so high that they are bleaching the United States' only continental coral reefs—a true emergency. Secondary to the Canadian forest fires this summer, the Air Quality Indices on several days in some American cities were the worst in the world. Tourists were evacuated from Rhodes and other islands in Greece due to forest fires there. A recent tragic wildfire in Maui led to over 100 deaths, perhaps several hundred.

A recent paper in *Nature Communications* (4) supported the hypothesis that “simultaneous harvest failures across major crop-producing regions are a threat to global food security.” I could easily provide more examples. “The era of global boiling has arrived,” the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, recently said figuratively. Let me just say that we seem to be approaching the opening scenario of Kim Stanley Robinson’s *The Ministry for the Future* where temperatures in a large city that largely lacks air-



conditioning for an extended time exceed the limit for human survival, resulting in massive fatalities.



How does this impact the activities of the Montgomery Bird Club? How does this affect birds locally and, perhaps, on your trips further afield? Birders in Phoenix, for example, are trucking water to help local wildlife, although this does not help if the food chain is disrupted by drought. Bird rescue operations there are reporting an increase in activity, especially of fledglings that are being pushed out of their nests as their parents struggle to feed themselves. I don't know if we will see this in our area soon or not, but it is something of which to be aware. As of July 10, a drought watch had been issued for Western Maryland and portions of Central Maryland based on lower-than-normal stream flows and groundwater levels for this time of year (5). If you have been birding along the Potomac River, you will have seen how unusually low it is now. We know that higher temperatures lead to mismatches in insect and plant availability for migrating birds.

What can an individual do? I would suggest one consider divesting from funds and banks that

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# President's Chat

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continue to support the fossil fuel industry that is driving the warming of our only planet. And supporting organizations that are trying to reduce greenhouse gases and deforestation and promote renewable energy production. I recently went shopping for clothes and was amazed at how chilly the stores were. If one could dress to tolerate less air conditioning in the summer and less heating in the winter, one could reduce one's energy usage. In this vein, solar panels and light-reflecting roofs are other means to reduce the need for fossil fuels. Perhaps one could reduce the number of non-local car trips to see birds already seen. Perhaps we will need to provide more water and food for birds that can eat seeds. One could eat less beef from methane-producing cattle. These are all personal choices that in a small way may help blunt the ongoing climate crisis.

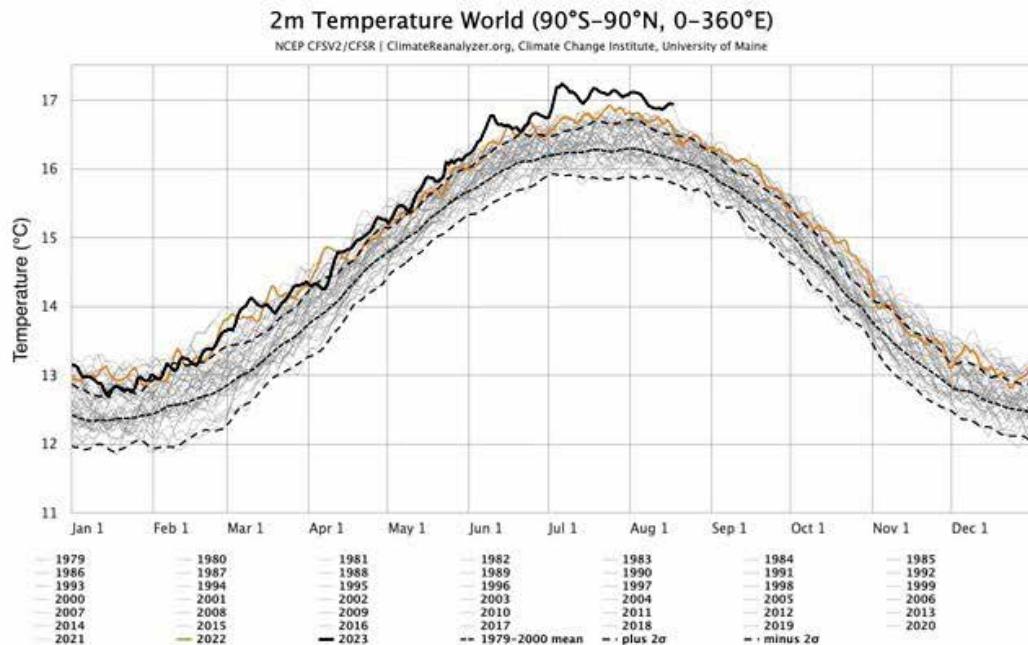


Figure 1. This chart provides time series visualizations of daily mean air temperature 2 meters above the Earth's surface from the NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFS) version 2 (April 2011-August 17, 2023) and CFS Reanalysis (January 1979-March 2011). The darkest line shows 2023 temperatures. (6)

## References:

1. Effects of climate change: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effects\\_of\\_climate\\_change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effects_of_climate_change)
2. When every day somewhere is a climate record: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/08/01/record-breaking-heat-2023/?utm\\_campaign=wp\\_evening\\_edition&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl\\_evening](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/08/01/record-breaking-heat-2023/?utm_campaign=wp_evening_edition&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_evening)
3. 250,000 deaths a year from climate change is a "conservative estimate," research says: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/16/health/climate-change-health-emergency-study/index.html>
4. Researchers: We've underestimated the risk of simultaneous crop failures worldwide: <https://www.sciencealert.com/researchers-weve-underestimated-the-risk-of-simultaneous-crop-failures-worldwide>
5. Maryland Department of the Environment encourages water conservation with drought watch for portions of the state: <https://news.maryland.gov/mde/2023/07/10/maryland-department-of-the-environment-encourages-water-conservation-with-drought-watch-for-portions-of-the-state/>
6. Daily 2-meter air temperature: [https://climateranalyzer.org/clim/t2\\_daily/](https://climateranalyzer.org/clim/t2_daily/)



# Editor's Corner

By Stella Tea

It seems like it was only yesterday that summer arrived and that my son Nathan came home from college for summer break. Nathan was excited about the inaugural summer program of the YMBC (Youth Montgomery Bird Club). Eager to meet local young birders, Nathan joined the June/July walks and had a great time. I tagged along and was equally as enthusiastic about birding with the kids and their grownups and getting to know these families. It was thrilling to talk to kids of all ages who are not only curious about birds but also the natural world at large. Most memorable finds for me were the skinks at Riley's Lock and the ghost pipes, a flowering plant, at Croydon Creek Nature Center. The YMBC organizers, Kathryn Carr and Tara Clifton, made sure the walks went smoothly. A bird species tally at the end of the walks teased out a few oohs and aahs from the participants. If kids could get excited about birding during the summertime when it is hot, humid, and less birdy, let us imagine the level of interest and excitement fall birding would bring. Turn to page 10 to learn about the YMBC program and ways you can contribute and inspire.

Whether you are a new birder, an experienced birder, or somewhere in between, the Montgomery Bird Club website, [montgomerybirdclub.org/](http://montgomerybirdclub.org/), offers a ton of resources, from an introduction to ornithology, the history of birding in Montgomery County and local hotspots, to bird conservation, birding ethics, and a curated list of other online resources, including the YMOS (Youth Maryland Ornithological Society). I hope you have found our quarterly newsletter, *The Chat*, a helpful resource as well. I look forward to discussing your suggestions and comments. Please contact me at [montgomerybirdclub@mbirds.org](mailto:montgomerybirdclub@mbirds.org). Happy fall birding. See you out in the field!



A cluster of ghost pipes (left) and toothy skink (right). Photos by Stella Tea

## Welcome New Members

By Moira Davenport

**Douglas Chang**

**Diana Colangelo**

**Gaurav Kapoor and Sarah Reddinger**

**Merberg Family**

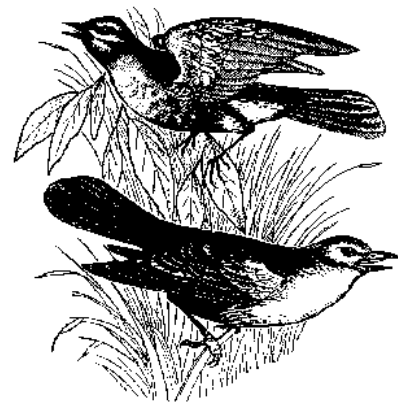
**Sofie Rhoads**

**Carolina Salazar**

**Brenda Seidman**

**Victoria Turco**

**Madhura Valverde**





# Who's Who?

We want our members to know how important our Council members and other volunteers are to the Club's vitality. In past issues, we introduced the current President and Vice-President, State Directors, and Chapter Directors. In this issue, we want to introduce the Club's new Treasurer and the Club's Secretary, who is also a Breeding Bird Atlas 3 (BBA3) co-coordinator for Montgomery County.

## Elected Officers

- President: Scott Young
- Vice-President: Emily Huang
- Treasurer: Lisa Norwalk
- Secretary: Karen Cyr
- Past President: Evelyn Ralston

## Committee Chairs

- Field Trips: Linda Friedland
- Membership: Moira Davenport
- Conservation: Gail Mackiernan

## Webmaster

- Ed Vigezzi

## State Directors

- Mark England
- Cheryl Hogue
- Jim Ivett
- Janet Millenson
- Ed Vigezzi

## Chapter Directors

- Josephine Cox
- Francesca Grifo
- Roy Howard
- Brooke Levey

## Lisa Norwalk, Treasurer



Lisa moved to Montgomery County in 1997. She was always interested in the natural world, but she didn't really pay attention until she started taking her daughter to Locust Grove Nature Center more than 20 years ago. Soon Lisa joined Nature Forward (formerly Audubon Naturalist Society) and started to venture out on field trips. It was then she saw the pure joy experienced by

birders like Mark England, and she became inspired to observe birds more closely. When Lisa is not birding, she provides financial services such as bookkeeping and tax preparation. She also volunteers at House With a Heart Senior Pet Sanctuary in Gaithersburg.

## Karen Cyr, Secretary



Karen has always enjoyed the outdoors, though early on her love of gardening led her to focus on identifying wildflowers. Her spark bird was the Evening Grosbeak, which gathered in noisy flocks at her home window feeders in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in the 1970s. She moved to the Washington, DC, area to work for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, retiring

in 2009 after serving as General Counsel for 15 years. Her interest in local birds grew when her husband Bruce started photographing birds in Rock Creek Park, identifying 20 species of warblers during walks with their dogs. After retiring, she and Bruce traveled to hotspots for birding in the US, their favorite being Magee Marsh in Ohio. Lately, travel for birding has focused on seeking out new lifers, such as the Atlantic Puffin. But mostly she and Bruce happily spend time birding their local patch of Maryland.



# Annual Review and Financial Report for 2022-2023

By Chris Wright

I am pleased to report that the Club finished the 2023 year with a remarkable 361 memberships (just one less than last year's banner enrollment) and \$18,563.90 in its bank account. This sterling performance is undoubtedly due to an energetic program of bird walks, a combination of in-person and Zoom monthly meetings, a lively and informative monthly email newsletter, and the quarterly *Chat*. The annual Social Dinner, held as always at Woodend Sanctuary courtesy of Nature Forward, was a great success with 75 attendees. The Claudia Wilds Fund, which represents donations and income other than annual dues, increased by \$1,401, thanks to a number of generous donors.

Since my term as treasurer ended in May, this report is my final report to the Club. I want to wish my successor, Lisa Norwalk, the best of luck in what I found to be a most enjoyable job. And I want especially to thank the most recent Club officers who have made the role of treasurer a real pleasure: Emily Huang, Scott Young, and Evelyn Ralston.

As required by the bylaws, a financial report and proposed budget approved by the Council on June 13, 2023, are presented below:

<b>Montgomery County Bird Club, Financial Summary and Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>		
<b>Status of Funds as of June 7, 2023</b>		
	<b>2022-2023 Final</b>	<b>2023-2024 Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Dues</b>	\$5,189.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Wilds Fund</b>	\$1,401.00	\$900.00
<b>Social/Picnic</b>	\$1,980.00	\$2,100.00
<b>Site Guide/Misc</b>	\$0.00	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,570.00</b>	<b>\$8,050.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>MOS</b>	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b><i>The Chat</i></b>	\$1,939.69	\$2,100.00
<b>Web</b>	\$353.40	\$350.00
<b>Office Supplies/Misc</b>	\$403.02	\$400.00
<b>Rent/Speakers</b>	\$3,061.55	\$3,000.00
<b>Social/Picnic</b>	\$1,976.70	\$2,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,734.36</b>	<b>\$8,050.00</b>



# Birds of Note (May to Mid-August)

By Andy Martin

Matt Felperin reported a **Roseate Spoonbill** near Riley's Lock on July 12. It was still being seen as late as August 21. This is the third occurrence of this species to be found in the county since 2018. Stephen Davies noted



two **Glossy Ibis** in flight over Blue Mash Nature Trail on May 6. John Pangborn found a **White Ibis** (also at Blue Mash) in the "big pond" on July 15. An additional **White Ibis** was observed at the Summit Hall Turf Farm on July 30, and the same bird (most likely) was reported again in the vicinity of Violette's Lock into the first few

days of August. Jim Ivett found a **Little Blue Heron** on May 12 near the Black Hill RP boat ramp. Additional **Little Blue Herons** were reported from Blue Mash Nature Trail on July 19 and along the Potomac River near Riley's Lock on August 4.

It's been another good year for **Mississippi Kites** in Montgomery, with many birds having been seen at various points across the county between early May and August. Jared Fisher noted one of the first **Mississippi Kites** of the season over the Potomac River adjacent to Violette's Lock on May 6. A few weeks later on May 25 and in the same location, Dave Czaplak reported an astounding 14 individual birds in flight over the Potomac! And it appears that a pair of **Mississippi Kites** attempted to nest in the Rockville area for the third year in a row. Rob Hilton scored a two-kite species day at Welsh Park in Rockville, reporting two **Swallow-tailed Kites** along with two Mississippi Kites on May 12.

Some shorebirds species of note in the county over the last few months include a **Ruddy Turnstone** and a **Red-necked Phalarope** found by Jared Fisher and Dave Czaplak, respectively, at Violette's Lock on May 21. Dave also reported an **Upland Sandpiper** at the Hughes Rd polo fields on July 4. Violette's Lock produced seven **American Avocets** for John Sojda on July 23. Stephen Davies reported two **White-rumped Sandpipers** at Blue Mash Nature Trail on May 11 and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** also at Blue Mash on July 30.

Jared Fisher reported two tern species (**Black and Common**) along the Potomac River near Violette's Lock on May 21. Philip Aguiar found a **Forster's Tern** at the same location on July 7.

Jared Fisher noted the night flight call of a **Bicknell's Thrush** over his house near Darnestown on May 23.

Leah Haywood and Matt Cohen found a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Wheaton Regional Park on May 12. Stephen Davies noted one of the first southbound migrant **Black-billed Cuckoos** at Blue Mash Nature Trail on July 26.

Gemma Radko found a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Blue Mash Nature Trail on May 6. Gabe Urso noted a **Mourning Warbler** at Woodstock Equestrian Park on May 11. David Grebowski, reported an immature **Mourning Warbler** in the sunflower fields at McKee-Beshers WMA on August 6. A **Cerulean Warbler** was found by Dave Roberts along Persimmon Tree Rd on May 6.

Hisao Yatsunami reported an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Long Branch Trail near Takoma on May 9. John Sojda found an **Alder Flycatcher** along the C&O Canal near Sycamore Landing on May 14.

Margaret Poethig reported a **Dickcissel** from the Potomac River's Selden Island on June 5.

As of August 11, there have been 240 species of birds reported in Montgomery County this year. The top five county listers are Jared Fisher, John Sojda, Mary Ann Todd, Dave Roberts, and Roy Howard.



# Fall Meetings

By Emily Huang, Vice-President

For general Club guidance on in-person events including COVID restrictions and inclement weather changes, please visit [montgomerybirdclub.org/](http://montgomerybirdclub.org/).

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m.**

## **Birds of Ecuador: Mindo and the Galápagos Islands by Roy Howard**



Roy will share his recent trip to Ecuador and the Galápagos. Mindo is a small village in the rainforest of Ecuador north of Quito. It has an extraordinary diversity of birds for such a small region. Highlights include Golden Tanagers, Red-headed Barbets, Orange-bellied Euphonia, and especially the Andean Cock-of-the-Rock. The group spent a couple of days birding in Mindo before traveling around the Galápagos Islands on a 16-passenger boat. In addition to the always enjoyable Blue-footed Boobies and the Magnificent Frigatebirds, among Roy's personal favorites were the Red-billed Tropicbird, Galápagos Dove, and the Brujo Flycatcher (related to his "spark bird"—the Vermilion Flycatcher).

Roy Howard lives in North Potomac and is a member of the Montgomery Bird Club Council. The company of birds, combined with the company of other convivial birders, is truly his sweet spot.

**OCTOBER 18, 2023 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m. (virtual only)**

## **From Mountains to Saltmarsh: Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries by Marcia Watson**



The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) owns 10 sanctuaries, totaling almost 3,000 acres, spanning the state from Garrett County in the western part of the state, to Somerset County on the lower Eastern Shore. The sanctuaries represent a microcosm of the habitats for birds in Maryland and are open every day of the year at no charge. Carey Run and Irish Grove Sanctuaries provide an opportunity for overnight visits, but the other sanctuaries are seldom visited. Marcia will show maps and photos of all the sanctuaries, discuss the birds and habitats found there, and cover some of the challenges MOS faces in managing the properties.

Marcia Watson is a longtime member of the Maryland Ornithological Society. As a member of the MOS Sanctuary Committee, she works to foster awareness of the sanctuaries. Marcia is retired from an academic career, and she and her husband Gene Scarpulla (editor of *Maryland Birdlife*) recently moved to a home adjacent to Loch Raven in Baltimore County.

**NOVEMBER 15, 2023 (Wednesday), 7:30 p.m.**

## **On Land and on Sea: The Wonderful Birds of Central California by Anne Mytych**



Anne will share her birding adventures in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, from the coast to the eastern mountains and every place in between. During this trip, Anne saw her 500th life bird—a Golden-crowned Sparrow. Other highlights included Long-billed Curlew, Heermann's Gull, White-tailed Kite, and Pacific-slope Flycatcher.

Anne grew up in Vermont and has lived in Maryland since 1989. She started birding in 2015 after finding a Red-shouldered Hawk in her neighborhood. She currently works as an executive assistant for a company in Georgetown.



# Fall Field Trips

By Linda Friedland, Field Trip Coordinator

Reservations are required for all MBC field trips unless otherwise noted. Contact trip leaders for reservations, directions, and other information. For recent field trip reports and Club guidance on in-person events including COVID restrictions and inclement weather changes, please visit [montgomerybirdclub.org/](https://montgomerybirdclub.org/).

## SEPTEMBER 9 (Saturday) WHEATON REGIONAL PARK

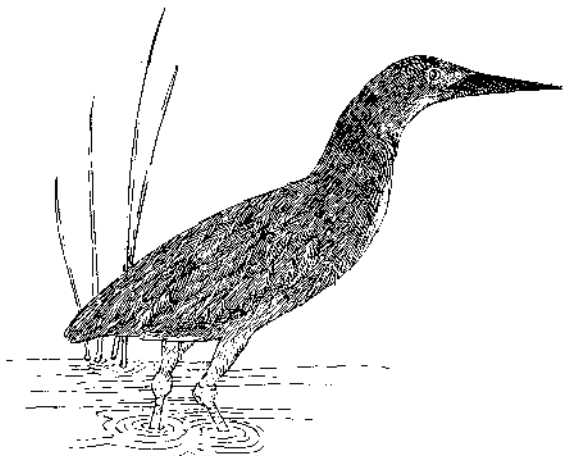
On this walk, aimed at new birders but open to all, we'll spend a morning exploring Wheaton RP (accessible by Metrobuses Y2 and Y8). Starting at 7:30 a.m., we'll use our eyes and ears to identify forest birds, likely some waterfowl, and perhaps early migrants. Limit: 16. LEADER: Cheryl Hogue at [cheryl.hogue@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.hogue@gmail.com). Lisa Norwalk will co-lead.

## SEPTEMBER 10 (Sunday) HUGHES HOLLOW

This half-day trip is targeted at newer birders. We will start at Hughes Hollow parking lot in the McKee-Beshers WMA at 7:30 a.m. We will explore the wetlands and fields of Hughes Hollow. Species to be expected include migrant warblers, Green Heron and other water birds, and possibly raptors. Limit: 8. LEADER: Clive Harris at [cliveharris@yahoo.com](mailto:cliveharris@yahoo.com).

## SEPTEMBER 13 (Wednesday) PENNYFIELD TO VIOLETTE'S BIRD STALK

Half day. We will meet at 8 a.m. at the Violette's Lock parking lot at the end of Violette's Lock Road. We will then carpool to Pennyfield Lock and walk back up the C&O Canal towpath to Violette's Lock. This walk should net an interesting mix of late warblers, other landbird migrants, and maybe a few early winter visitors, as we scan the skies and river for raptors and waterbirds. Because we will be carpooling, do not sign up if you are not vaccinated against COVID-19 or if you are uncomfortable carpooling. Limit: 10. LEADER: Jim Nelson at [kingfishers2@verizon.net](mailto:kingfishers2@verizon.net).



## SEPTEMBER 17 (Sunday) RICKMAN/WOODSTOCK EQUESTRIAN PARK

Join us as we explore this location for some early morning autumn birding at the Equestrian Park on the west side of Route 28 (<https://rb.gy/qpdqda>). We'll bird the broad fields and separating woods, beginning at 7:30 a.m., for warblers and sparrows, vireos, woodpeckers, and raptors. Limit: 12. LEADER: Scott Young at [scott4aves@icloud.com](mailto:scott4aves@icloud.com). Dave Roberts will co-lead.

## SEPTEMBER 23 (Saturday) CROYDON CREEK NATURE CENTER

Come discover (or rediscover) a Montgomery County birding gem; 140 species of birds have been recorded in this park! Some moderate hiking. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Nature Center parking lot. Limit: 12. LEADER: Emily Huang at [ephuang@verizon.net](mailto:ephuang@verizon.net).

## OCTOBER 4 (Wednesday) OAKS LANDFILL

Explore in carpools this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Shorebirds are possible if there are mudflats at the big pond. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We will meet at 8 a.m. Limit: 16. LEADER: Mark England at [englandmark@comcast.net](mailto:englandmark@comcast.net) or 240-308-4114.

## OCTOBER 7 (Saturday) WHEATON REGIONAL PARK

Early and mid-October can be quite productive in Wheaton Regional Park, which is often particularly good during fall migration. Warblers, vireos, thrushes, and sparrows are all possible. All are welcome, and beginners are particularly encouraged to join. We will begin at 7:30 a.m. and finish around 10 or when bird activity drops off. Limit: 10. LEADER: Rob Hilton at [rob.hilton.2010@gmail.com](mailto:rob.hilton.2010@gmail.com). Lisa Shannon will co-lead.





**OCTOBER 8 (Sunday)**  
**HUGHES HOLLOW**

Join us for a morning of fall marsh and woodland birding. Targets are warblers, sparrows, ducks, and other fall migrants. Beginner and young birders are encouraged to join, but all are welcome. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Hughes Hollow parking lot. Limit: 10. LEADER: Lauren Carey at ljcarey011@gmail.com.

**OCTOBER 14 (Saturday)**  
**OAKS LANDFILL**

Explore in carpools this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views. Possible sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. Shorebirds are possible if there are mudflats at the big pond. Leader will have scope for distant birds. We will meet at 8 a.m. Limit: 16. LEADER: Mark England at englandmark@comcast.net or 240-308-4114.

**OCTOBER 21 (Saturday)**  
**BLUE MASH: REMEMBERING OUR PAST PRESIDENTS**  
Join us for this year's annual walk in honor of former MBC presidents. We will especially remember those who are no longer with us. Longtime birders and new birders, new members and nonmembers—all are welcome. We will meet at 8 a.m. LEADER: Andy Martin at martinap2@verizon.net or 301-529-2066.

**OCTOBER 28 (Saturday)**  
**REDGATE PARK**  
Come explore this "new" park on a former golf course. The area offers multiple habitats, including a small marsh, wooded areas, and lots of meadow areas for potential winter sparrows. In its first 10 months as a park, birders identified 147 species. Some parts have steep hills. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot. Limit: 10. LEADER: Anne Mytych at 240-506-0236 or amytych@yahoo.com.

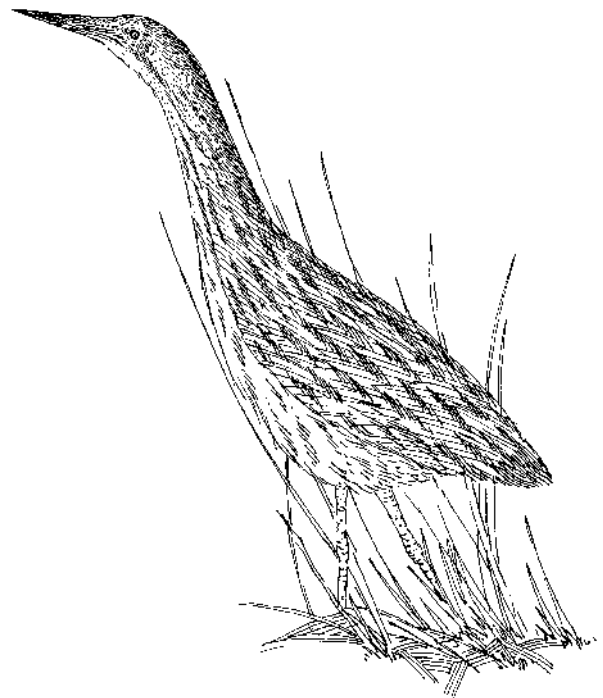
**NOVEMBER 4 (Saturday)**  
**ROCK CREEK'S NORTH BRANCH STREAM VALLEY**  
Discover upper Rock Creek's watershed with a variety of habitats. We will start along open fields and marshy areas next to Bowie Mill Park with the opportunity to see a variety of sparrows, hawks, fall migrants, and turkeys if we're lucky. Previous lists included 8 species of sparrows including Fox, White-crowned, Swamp, and Savannah Sparrows. In 2022, we had great views of meadowlarks and a raven flyover. Depending on the weather, we'll opt to explore a section of the stream valley for woodpeckers and other resident woodland species. Meet at 8 a.m. at Bowie Mill Park (<https://tinyurl.com/yswz6v95>) next to Sequoyah Elementary School. Limit: 16. LEADER: Jo Cox at jobird11@gmail.com or 240-506-1723. Kathy Reitz will co-lead.

**NOVEMBER 7 (Tuesday)**  
**LOIS Y. GREEN CONSERVATION PARK**  
Morning walk through the woods. We'll be looking for overwintering songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot at 8711 Snouffer School Road, Gaithersburg, Md. Limit: 12. LEADER: Mark England at englandmark@comcast.net or 240-308-4114.

**NOVEMBER 11 (Saturday)**  
**REDGATE PARK: SEEKING SPARROWS**  
If you are just starting to sort out the sparrows, join us for our annual Veterans Day walk. We'll work on ID-ing familiar species such as Song and White-throated Sparrow, while looking for less common ones like White-crowned and Swamp. This trip is geared to beginners, but all are welcome. Limit: 8. LEADER: Jo Cox at jobird11@gmail.com.

**DECEMBER 2 (Saturday)**  
**BLACKWATER NWR**  
Full day (to dusk). Early waterfowl and lingering migrants plus late afternoon marsh watch. Brown-headed Nuthatch possible. Bring lunch and drinks. Limit: 12. LEADER: Mark England at englandmark@comcast.net or 240-308-4114.

**DECEMBER 6 (Wednesday)**  
**LILYPONS/NEW DESIGN RD**  
Half day, targeting Fox and Tree Sparrows and possibly Virginia Rail and American Bittern. Limit: 8. Meet at 8 a.m. at the entrance to Lilypons. LEADER: Clive Harris at cliveharris@yahoo.com.



# Youth Birding

By Ryan and Kathryn Carr

This summer we had three awesome Youth Montgomery Bird Club (YMBC) bird walks at Riley's Lock, Croydon Creek Nature Center, and Violette's Lock. Our mentors this summer were amazing, and even with the summer heat we saw and heard a lot of great birds. Big shout-outs to Dave Powell, Nathan Tea, Jo Cox, Andy Martin, Lauren Carey, Bob Cantilli, and Stella Tea!

Our YMBC walks have been fully booked with waitlists and include many new birders! We would like to be able to loan binoculars to youth who don't yet have a pair, and if possible, we would also like to be able to offer a field guide to each new family. If you have any extra binoculars or field guides you no longer use, please let us know and we can arrange for pickup. We are also looking for a sturdy tripod for our donated spotting scope. Contact us at youth.birding@gmail.com or call/text 724-683-8272. Many thanks to Douglas Chang, Mark England, and Becky Cromwell for donating so far!

We are also looking forward to our fall YMBC walks. You can RSVP for them here: <https://tinyurl.com/YMBCFall23>. If you are interested in being a mentor on a walk, please reach out to us at youth.birding@gmail.com.

The Youth Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) has also released the 2023-2024 youth birding schedule. On Saturday, September 23, the group will be meeting at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge in Laurel, which is not too far from Montgomery County, and it is a great trip for new youth birders. For more information and the complete schedule, please reach out to George Radcliffe at radclifg@gmail.com.

## **SEPTEMBER 24 (Sunday)** **WHEATON REGIONAL PARK**

8 to 10 a.m. We'll be looking for fall migrants. Park in the north lot off of Shorefield Road (coordinates: 39.054581048683566, -77.0432617288355). The walk will cover approximately 2 miles on paved paths and grass/natural trails. MENTORS: Andy Martin and Bob Cantilli.

## **OCTOBER 22 (Sunday)** **OAKS LANDFILL**

7:45 to 10:30 a.m. Explore in carpools this now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Mostly open terrain on a gravel road, including two pond views. In addition to sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl, shorebirds are possible if there are mudflats at the big pond. We will meet at the entrance to the landfill at 7:45 a.m. All parties must enter and exit the landfill together, so latecomers/leaving early cannot be accommodated. This trip is best for youth ages 8 and up due to the frequency of getting in and out of the car. MENTORS: Mark England and Becky Cromwell.

## **NOVEMBER 5 (Sunday)** **BLACK HILL REGIONAL PARK**

8 to 10 a.m. A premier county location for migrating waterfowl. We will meet at the Visitor's Center. The walk will cover approximately 2 miles on paved and grassy/natural trail areas. MENTORS: Lauren Carey and Dave Powell.

## **DECEMBER 3 (Sunday)** **PENNYFIELD LOCK**

8 to 10 a.m. Meet in the parking lot (turn left at the end of Pennyfield Lock Road). The walk will cover approximately 2 miles on the towpath and some grassy/natural trail areas. MENTORS: Jo Cox and Lisa Wilcox Deyo.



Dave Powell (far left) and Nathan Tea (far right) led a YMBC walk at Riley's Lock in June. Photo by Kathryn Carr







Jo Cox (second from right) and Andy Martin (not pictured) led a YMBC walk at Croydon Creek Nature Center in July. Photo by Kathryn Carr



Bob Cantilli (far left in back row) and Lauren Carey (next to Bob) led a YMBC walk at Violette's Lock in August. Photo by Kathryn Carr



The Chat  
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9825 Moyer Road  
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*The Chat* is published in March, June, September, and December by the Montgomery Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society.

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Deadline for submission to the Editor is the 10th of the month before publication.

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