



Prince George's
Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1311
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**Officers and
Board of Directors**
2015-2016 Roster

Officers

- President: Maureen Blades
mblades5@verizon.net
- Vice President: Ken Cohen
kvulture@aol.com
- Secretary: Sharon Williams
shrws@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Larry Williams
lwsms676@aol.com

Directors

- Jeanine Dorothy
codyozbrindle@yahoo.com
- Martha Duff
martha-duff@verizon.net
- Lynette Fullerton,
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birdzenbeads@yahoo.com
- Teresa Watson,
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- Beth Kantrowitz,
Conservation Chair & Webmaster
kantrowitz@comcast.net
- Kathleen Pape
katy63@closecall.com
- Lisa Bierer-Garrett
froglipp@gmail.com

Volunteer

- Carla Craddock,
Newsletter Design,
cdcaddock@yahoo.com

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The Bluebird

A Newsletter of the Prince George's Audubon Society (PGAS)

PGAS is a local chapter of the National Audubon Society

www.pgaudubon.org

The 2015 Breeding Bird Survey: How it Was Done and What it Found

*Presentation: John Sauer
7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 10th
College Park Aviation Museum,
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive*



At 13,000 acres (20 square miles!), the Patuxent Research Refuge contains a variety of habitats ranging from bottomlands along the Patuxent River to upland pine forests, swamps and upland hardwoods on lands that formerly were part of Fort George G. Meade. The Fort Meade lands, now called the North Tract, also contain various firing ranges still used by military and law enforcement agencies. Hunting also takes place there.

The refuge has a long history of bird studies facilitated by a system of grid markers installed over most of the refuge in the 1940s that forms a convenient framework for long-term studies; the same grid markers can be repeatedly sampled. Of course, these studies also benefit from having some of the best birders around on the staff at Patuxent who are willing to donate some mornings to counting birds!

In 2008, Dr. John Sauer organized a bird survey around the grid system, visiting grid markers 400 meters apart and conducting bird counts during breeding season. These counts were used to map bird distributions on the refuge, and to develop statistical models to evaluate the effects of management activities on bird populations. Last year (2015), the survey was repeated to analyze changes in bird populations over the 7 years.

This talk will focus on the joys and tribulations of organizing and conducting a bird survey. It rained almost constantly, and the roads on the refuge were often partially flooded. Many points were located beyond wading depth, causing a lot of frustration, but persistence and a high tolerance for wet feet led to a surprisingly complete survey. Parts of the refuge are generally closed to public access due to the active ranges; getting into these areas was a rare treat, although one that required a great deal of careful planning to minimize the possibility of the observers becoming targets themselves. Results of the study with maps of species distributions, and documentation of habitat associations with species, will be given.

Dr. John Sauer is a wildlife biologist and Senior Scientist at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, specializing in the analysis of changes in bird populations and author of hundreds of scientific papers. He is also an excellent birder.



Audubon's 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.



Photo Credit: George Grall

Calendar of Activities

The PGAS and the Patuxent Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, jointly plan programs and field trips.

Saturday, May 7: Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Bridge Road off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Saturday, May 14: Count all day at a park/WMA or just a few hours around your yard and neighborhood. Contact compiler Fred Fallon for information and coordination of areas covered.

Thursday, May 19: Walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at 6 pm in parking lot at end of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more information.

Saturday, May 21: Walk at the Governor Bridge Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 am at the parking lot off Governor Bridge Road, about 1 mile from Route 301. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Thursday, June 2: Walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at 6 pm in parking lot at end of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich or more information.

Saturday, June 4: Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Thursday, June 16: Walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at 6 pm in parking lot at end of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more information.

Saturday, June 18: Walk at the Governor Bridge Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 am at the parking lot off Governor Bridge Road, about 1 mile from Route 301. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Saturday, July 2: Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just

north of Bowie State University, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton or more information.

Thursday, July 14: Walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at 6 pm in parking lot at end of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more information.

Saturday, July 16: Walk at the Governor Bridge Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 am at the parking lot off Governor Bridge Road, about 1 mile from Route 301. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Thursday, July 21: Walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at 6 pm in parking lot at end of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more information.

Thursday, August 4: Walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at 6 pm in parking lot at end of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more information.

Saturday, August 6: Walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 am at the end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University, in Bowie. No reservations needed. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Thursday, August 18: Walk at Lake Artemesia. Meet at 6 pm in parking lot at end of Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Contact David Mozurkewich for more information.

Saturday, August 20: Walk at the Governor Bridge Natural Area. Meet at 7:30 am at the parking lot off Governor Bridge Road, about 1 mile from Route 301. Contact Bill Sefton for more information.

Event Contacts:

Bird Walk at Lake Artemesia:

Leader: David Mozurkewich
mzurk@bellatlantic.net, 301-509-5122

Fran Uhler & Governor Bridge Natural Areas:

Leader: Bill Sefton
kiwisuits@msn.com, 240-603-5201

May 14th Bird Count:

Count Compiler: Fred Fallon
fwallon@ymail.com, 410-286-8152

Contact Us:

 Facebook: <http://facebook.com/princegeorgesaudubonsociety>

 Meetup: www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society

 Twitter: [@pgaudubon](https://twitter.com/pgaudubon)

Local Birding Cams

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation compiled a map of web cameras around the Chesapeake Bay region: <http://tinyurl.com/jtlnu6>. All locations on their interactive map are approximate. (Where do they come up with those urls, anyway!?) Check them out and/or email mailto: chesapeake@cbf.org to let them know of a camera they should add!

You can also Google "Bay Weekly," the April 14-20, 2016 issue. The compilations include several bird cameras from different organizations on their page 3 under: *This Week's Creature Feature* by Kathy Knotts. The specific article title is: "Critter Cams Get You Up Close and Personal."

The cameras capture live footage of everything from the Peregrine Falcons on the office building in Baltimore to Great Blue Herons, Osprey, a Black Vulture, Eagles, and more.

This Spring there has been much ado about the eaglets at the National Arboretum. Did The chick names—Freedom and Liberty—and that of their parents—Mr. President and The First Lady—were chosen from something like 3,000 entries. Enjoy!



Credit: Cornell Lab of Ornithology

President's Perch

Migrations

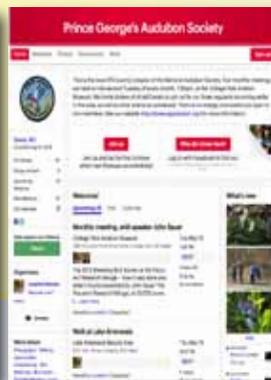
While the dogwood blossoms linger, bright green shoots sprout, and leaves unfurl on trees and shrubs, birds are on the move. Some pass through to breeding grounds to the north, while others drop by for a respite, and still others are busy courting, building nests, and laying eggs. On April 18, the *Smithsonian's Nestwatch* study reported nests already for Northern cardinal, Carolina wrens, American robin and Tufted titmouse, and to be on the lookout for Chickadee nests as well for their food web study. I was excited seeing my first Catbirds of the year a week later, followed by an ever-singing House Wren who has been checking out my Chickadee nest box since. That box was the successful site of many years of Carolina Chickadee nests and 7 Carolina chickadee fledglings two summers ago. That wasn't to be last summer and evidently not this either, though an unbanded Chickadee pair hung around our yard feeding and explored the box a few times. I like to believe that one was one of "my" unbanded fledglings, comfortable in the neighborhood and visiting the same trees. It will be interesting to see if someone else takes up residency in any of the four nest boxes around the house. What a great time of year!



Photo Credit: Linda Petersen

There is a wealth of opportunities to get out to enjoy our gardens, the weather, the birds and bees, butterflies, and so much more in this whole metropolitan area. Whether a beginner or more experienced birder, you will enjoy the varied habitats of our regular bird walks as you enhance your birding skills with other fun, friendly and helpful birders. Check out our upcoming May and June program speakers, and the Calendar of Activities within these pages for our walks and other events from now throughout the summer. Also, check out our website for additional information about activities and events, and look for PGAS and what members are doing on social media—Facebook, Meetup, and Twitter!

Maureen



Facebook: <http://facebook.com/princegeorgesaudubonsociety>

Meetup: www.meetup.com/Prince-George's-Audubon-Society

Twitter: @pgaudubon

Saturday, May 14th is International Migratory Bird Day 2016

The National Zoo and the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center will be hosting a festival to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day.

It is free and open to the public from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be family-friendly activities, bird banding demonstrations, bird walks, and opportunities to meet some of the exhibit birds. The Nestwatch project will have a booth set up to celebrate Backyard Wildlife.

Photo Courtesy of Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center



About Our Programs:

PGAS monthly programs are held the second Tuesday each month, September through June, in partnership with the Patuxent Bird Club, the Prince George's County chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Programs are open free of charge to all who are interested. (Bring a friend!)

The evening begins at 7:30 p.m., but doors open at 7:00 p.m. for informal conversation, refreshments, and exchange of birding news. Each program opens with brief statements from leaders of both clubs about upcoming events, items of interest and other club business, followed by the featured speaker with a question-and-answer period afterwards.



Getting There:

College Park
Aviation Museum
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Dr.,
College Park, MD
301-864-6029
<http://www.collegeparkaviationmuseum.com/home.htm>.

For directions to the venue and to confirm the schedule in the event of inclement weather, please check our website, <http://www.pglaudubon.org!>

June Program

Member-Share Photo Night, Smartphone Apps, & Part II, The Big Trip: Birding Across America

(Featured Speaker, Don Messersmith)

7:30 pm, Tuesday, June 14, 2016

College Park Aviation Museum,
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive

Not a member? Join us and share your favorite nature-themed photos and/or Smartphone apps.

The first part of the program will be the conclusion of Don Messersmith's November presentation The Big Trip: Five Months Birding Across America.



Tips for sharing your photos:

The easiest way for photos is to load them onto a flash card to be plugged into the facility's laptop and shown with its projector. E-mail Fred Fallon at (fwfallon@ymail.com) in advance with your intention to bring photos to help allocate time, so that all can be accommodated before the 9:15 p.m. closing time.



Election of PGAS 2016-2017 Officers & Board of Directors

As required by our bylaws, the following slate will be presented at the May 10th annual meeting for a vote. Current PGAS members of the National Audubon Society are eligible to vote or run for office. Nominations are welcome from the floor, or can be called in by May 9th to 301-262-5148.



2016-17 OFFICERS:

President.....Kenneth “Ken” Cohen
 Vice-President..... Beth Kantrowitz
 Treasurer Ikumi Kayama
 Secretary Kathleen “Katy” Pape

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Maureen Blades (Incumbent) ★ Rick Borchelt* ★ Jeannine Dorothy (Incumbent)
 Lynette Fullerton (Incumbent) ★ Claudia Ferguson* ★ Lisa Bierer-Garrett*
 Karen Jackson* ★ Teresa Watson (Incumbent)

* Appointed to fill vacancies

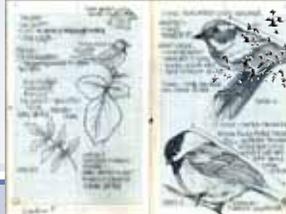
Good-bye and Thanks!

Many thanks to outgoing board members Sharon Williams, Larry Williams, and Martha Duff. Sharon has ably served as Secretary, Larry has ably served as Treasurer, and both have been linchpins in the Community Outreach Committee whose members have been the face of our chapter at PGAS tables at community festivals, events and libraries. All three helped this chapter put our chapter’s mission into practice by reaching out and taking on such new projects as the planting of the Monarch Waystation/pollinator garden at Lake Artemesia. The Williamses are soon moving permanently to their home in Waynesboro, PA, where they are already enjoying bird walks and have volunteered to lead them! Martha brought her good reasoning and thoughtful, sound judgement to all issues before us - and her sense of humor. She also volunteered to serve as Treasurer in Larry’s shoes, but an opportunity arose she couldn’t resist. She is in the process of moving back to her hometown of Lexington, KY—where the University of Kentucky’s Arboretum is near and she hears the Lexington Cemetery has good birding.

PGAS and our entire community greatly benefited from the talents, dedication, hard work, enthusiasm, and friendliness of each of these board members.

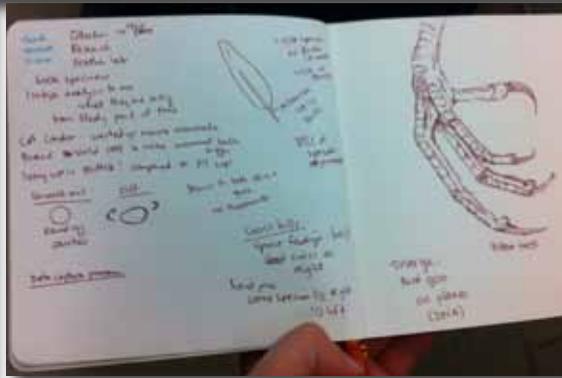
We wish them well and hope to see them around!

Maureen



¡Viva La Audubon!

The Audubon web site is now available in Spanish (<http://www.audubon.org/es>) as well as English—and importantly, all 800 species in the online bird guide are available in Spanish as well: <http://www.audubon.org/es/guia-de-aves>.



PGAS-sponsored Field Trip: Tour of the Smithsonian Museum's Bird Collection

This February a small group of birders met with Chris Milensky at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History to view the 2015 Nature's Best of the Best Photography Exhibit and tour the museum's vast bird collection. Here the group is assembled in front of several displays including one of a Ivory-billed woodpecker. Group member, Ikumi Kayama, took notes and illustrations of a bittern that was displayed there.

Membership

Join the National Audubon Society for an introductory rate of \$20.00, and receive these benefits:

- Audubon magazine 6 issues a year
- Membership in the local chapter (PGAS)
- PGAS newsletter, *The Bluebird*
- Free monthly programs
- 4 free monthly bird walks for all skill levels at local area parks
- Free local and Mid-Atlantic field trips



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Please make check payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to: PGAS, P.O. Box 1311, Bowie, MD 20718.

Your membership fee is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. 40% up to a maximum amount of \$10 is directed to *Audubon* magazine. To join using a credit card, please visit our website (www.pgaudubon.org) and follow the link under Membership. Enter chapter code: C2ZL010Z.