

# Chesupioc

Chesapeake  
Audubon Society



## Spring Issue 2018 Newsletter

### Message from the President

By Hugh Simmons

As I write this a thin glaze of ice glistens on the branches outside my window. Winter is well upon us. But in a few weeks crocuses will be pushing up and Wood Frogs will be clucking in vernal pools where they are laying eggs. Some early signs of spring, and with spring, our avian migrants return to breeding territories from points south. Some will pass through giving us a brief rush of color and excitement. Others will stay to rear their young here in Maryland. There are a lot of good birding opportunities in Maryland and we have a full schedule of field trips listed in this newsletter to help you get out and enjoy the spectacle.

Spring also brings our annual **Spaghetti Dinner**. Held in Catonsville on April 28th, you can count on good food, good music, a good speaker and a room full of kindred spirits. I hope you will join us (see details on page 4).

**Did you know that we are in the Year of the Bird?** This is the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, perhaps the most significant piece of bird conservation legislation ever enacted. In celebration, Audubon, National Geographic, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and BirdLife International have partnered to designate this the **Year of the Bird**. Throughout the year, these partners, along with more than 150 other participating organizations, are celebrating birds across all of our channels—magazines, television, social media, and more **#birdyourworld** At Audubon, we are asking people to take one simple action for bird conservation each month. To receive Audubon's monthly action newsletter sign up here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/dS085IbtkSVsloby5h1ig2>

Research to understand and mitigate the effects of climate change and sea level rise on Maryland's saltmarshes continues at Chesapeake Audubon's 700+ acre Farm Creek Sanctuary in Dorchester County. You can read about it here: <http://md.audubon.org/news/audubon-and-partners-get-creative-save-dorchester-county-marsh>.

This winter, ten Chesapeake Audubon volunteers braved the chill to survey Eastern Bluebirds as part of National Audubon's Climate Watch program. 120 locations around Baltimore and Baltimore County were surveyed. These surveys are done every spring and winter and the data is used to document the effects of climate change on common species and to validate Audubon's Climate Report, which models the future climate compatible ranges of nearly all North American bird species. The modelling predicts that 314 North American species are under serious threat from climate change. To see animated maps of how climate is projected to affect the future range of each species go to: <http://climate.audubon.org/>.

If you are interested in volunteering as a Climate Watch surveyor email me at [lensonature@gmail.com](mailto:lensonature@gmail.com).

And speaking of volunteers, we really need help with our website and member emails. The person who has been doing this has moved away from the area and is unable to continue. If you are interested in helping with either of these needs please contact me at [lensonature@gmail.com](mailto:lensonature@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support of Chesapeake Audubon. I hope to see you on some of our field trips or at the Spaghetti Dinner. ■■

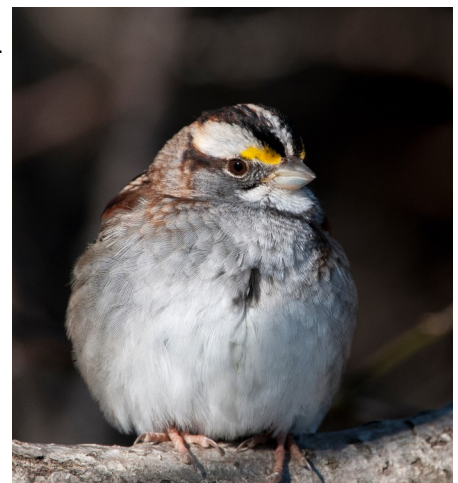
### White-throated Sparrows

By Bryan MacKay

"Oh sweet Canada, Canada, Canada" echoed through the March forest, and was answered by several other such whistled songs. The singers were white throated sparrows, a familiar bird at feeders and along brushy edges all winter long. By March, however, they are getting restless, singing persistently, almost ready to push north to their summer breeding grounds. Like the quack of a wood frog and the unexpected green of skunk cabbage leaves, the song of a white throat is a symbol of the imminent change in season.

Those who feed birds throughout the winter have no doubt seen white throated sparrows often. Their bodies are small and stocky, with a dull brown plumage that is unremarkable. The feathers of the head are more colorful. In addition to the eponymous white throat, there is a bright yellow patch between and just above the bill and eye, called the supraloral.

White striped, White-throated Sparrow. Compliments of Hugh Simmons



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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!

**Saturday, March 3, 8:30am**

### Loch Raven Reservoir

**Leader:** Brad Phoebus

**Location:** Baltimore County

Join Brad for a birding trip focusing on ducks at various locations around Loch Raven Reservoir, starting at Loch Raven Point and then moving to other spots such as Peerce's Cove and the old picnic area. Rare birds such as Eurasian Wigeon, Cackling Goose, and Greater White-Fronted Goose have shown up here. Park along Loch Raven Road at the beach area near the bridge. A scope is not necessary, but if you have one, do bring it, along with binoculars. Contact Brad Phoebus **443-415-9776** or **Bradphoebus@gmail.com** with any questions and to register and confirm the meeting location.

**Wednesday, March 14, 7:00pm**

### Evening Woodcock Watch

**Leader:** Tim Houghton

**Location:** Swan Harbor Farm, 401 Oakington Rd., Havre de Grace, Maryland

Meet Tim at Swan Harbor Farm. As you enter, drive nearly to the end of the long entrance road and park in the lot on the left just past the first building. Bring a good flashlight if you have one, as well as binoculars. Waterproof shoes might be a good idea.

Contact Tim by e-mail at **timhoughton@comcast.net** (**preferred**) or call 410-510-7504 to register or ask questions.

**Sunday, March 18, 8:00am**

### Birding Basics

**Leader:** Hugh Simmons

**Location:** North Point State Park

Birding Basics is a series of walks for those new to bird watching, slower paced and focused on developing your bird watching skills. With a mix of habitats including open fields, mature forest and freshwater/brackish tidal wetlands, Black Marsh provides opportunities to see a good variety of species. To register contact Hugh Simmons at **lensonnature@gmail.com** or **410-456-0017**.

**Saturday, March 31, 10:00am – noon**

### Signs of Spring Walk

**Leader:** Bryan MacKay

**Location:** Patapsco Valley State Park

Join naturalist Bryan MacKay for a 2-mile stroll along the paved Grist Mill Trail as buds begin to swell and birds begin to sing. Learn about early season plants and the history of the valley; we may even see a few birds! We will also walk 300 yards uphill on a trail to see a beautiful cascade. To register please contact Bryan at **mackay@umbc.edu**, at least a day in advance.



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**Saturday, April 7, 9:00am**

### Photographing Nature

**Leader:** Fred Brundick

**Location:** Cromwell Valley Park

Bring your camera and binoculars—Fred Brundick will take you around wonderful Cromwell Valley Park. This will be a great way to get into practice just as the flowers, butterflies, and birds are beginning to show their stuff. To register, contact Fred at **gpferd@gmail.com** or **443-752-560**

**Saturday, April 14, 8:30am**

### Feathers and Flowers

**Leader:** Colleen Webster

**Location:** Susquehanna State Park

An ideal time to enjoy emerging wildflowers, as well as early migrant songbirds and lingering winter visitors. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill at 8:30 AM. No registration necessary. If you have any questions, contact Colleen at **410-459-4577** or **cwebster@harford.edu**.

**Sunday, April 15, 8:30am**

### Birding Basics

**Leader:** Hugh Simmons

**Location:** Fort Smallwood Park

Birding Basics is a series of walks for those new to bird watching, slower paced and focused on developing your bird watching skills. Fort Smallwood Park is a renowned spring hawk migration count site and is a nice overall birding location. We will start with a stroll around the park and end at the hawk count site. Hawks tend to get up later in the morning so for those wanting the full hawk count experience you should plan to stay longer than two hours. \$6.00 fee to enter the park. To register contact Hugh Simmons at **lensonnature@gmail.com** or **410-456-0017**.

**Saturday, April 21, 10:00am-1:00pm**

### Wildflower Walk

**Leader Bryan MacKay**

**Location:** Gunpowder Falls State Park, Bel Air Road at the river, between Kingsville and Perry Hall  
Spring wildflowers are the glory of the Maryland spring, and this beautiful trail along the Big Gunpowder Falls hosts a variety of early blooms. From BelAir Road, we'll stroll upstream on a flat but muddy trail for more than a mile before returning by the same route. Bring a hand lens if you have one. Please register with Bryan MacKay, at **mackay@umbc.edu**, at least a day in advance.

**Saturday, April 28,**

**6:00pm**

### Annual Spaghetti Dinner

See details on page 4



**Saturday, May 5,**

**8:00am**

### Warblers & Other Songbirds

**Leader:** Brad Phoebus

**Location:** Milford Mill (Villa Nova Park); [695, right on Liberty Road, right on Washington Ave., right on Milford Mill Rd, right into parking area immediately after going under 695] Join Brad at this excellent warbler migrant trap along a creek and woods; an easy mile loop. Often during the first half of May this spot is popping with warblers and other songbirds. To register—and ask questions about location or anything else—contact Brad at **bradphoebus@gmail.com** or **443-415-9776**.

## Field Trips and Programs continued...

**Sunday, May 6, 7:00am**

### **Birding Basics**

**Leader:** Hugh Simmons

**Location:** Cromwell Valley Park

Birding Basics is a series of walks for those new to bird watching, slower paced and focused on developing your bird watching skills. OK, I know 7:00am is early but the best birding is in the first two hours after sunrise. Migration will be ramping up and missing that hour of sleep will be rewarded with more birds. Cromwell Valley Park is a terrific place for spring migrants. To register contact Hugh Simmons at [lensonnature@gmail.com](mailto:lensonnature@gmail.com) or **410-456-0017**.

**Sunday, May 12, 8:30am**

### **North Point State Park**

**Leader:** Fred Brundick

**Location:** Edgemere, Maryland

North Point is a 1,310 acre park on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. We'll be searching for spring migrants and resident birds on the Marsh Trail and bay front. Park entrance fee is \$3/vehicle (have exact change). To register, contact Fred at [gpferd@gmail.com](mailto:gpferd@gmail.com) or **443-752-5607**. All levels of birders welcome, scope helpful if you have one.

**Sunday, May 13, 7:00am**

### **Susquehanna State Park**

**Leader:** Tim Houghton

**Location:** Meet at Rock Run Mill (corner of Stafford Rd. and Rock Run Road)

Susquehanna State Park is Harford County's (and maybe the state's) best place to find Cerulean Warblers and other warbler and songbird species. This park has a little bit of everything. E-mail Tim for information and to register at [timhoughton@comcast.net](mailto:timhoughton@comcast.net) or call **410-510-7504**.

**May 18-20, 2018**

### **Baltimore Birding Weekend**

Sponsored by the Patterson Park Audubon Center, this is three days of birding walks and events around Baltimore. Last year this weekend event was a big success, and it was named Best New Eco Event of 2017 in Baltimore Magazine. Find out more at [baltimorebirding.com](http://baltimorebirding.com).

## White-throated Sparrows continued...

Of more interest are the three cranial stripes: one on each side of the head, sometimes referred to as "eyebrows", and a median strip atop the head, reminiscent of a Mohawk haircut. On about half the birds in any large group, these feathers are white; on the other half, tan. Either sex can have tan stripes or white stripes.

A casual observer might suspect the tan striped birds are a different species from the white striped, or are at least evolving toward that end. Unfortunately, that casual observer would be wrong; the reality is far more interesting.

It turns out that a tan striped bird will mate only with a white striped bird; this rule applies to both sexes. Known as a disassortative mating system, the white stripe results from a genetic anomaly (or deviation for this bird type) called a chromosomal

inversion. (Chromosomes are how DNA, the genetic material in plants and animals, is packaged to fit into the nucleus of the cell.)

A large segment of chromosome 2 somehow got turned around and then was reinserted backward into the location on the chromosome it had just left. Birds with the normal chromosome have tan stripes; birds with the inversion have white stripes. Since white is dominant over tan, 50% of all offspring will be white and 50% tan (on average), thus maintaining the feather variation in the population.

But there are many other genes on this inverted chromosome, and one or more affect behavior. Scientists have observed that tan males invest heavily in parental care of the young and in guarding their mates from the attentions of other males. Conversely, white males spend much time advertising their presence by singing from a perch, intruding themselves into the territories of other mated pairs, and even sneaking in a surreptitious copulation with another male's female mate. Tan females also invest heavily in parental care of nestlings, while white females tend to be promiscuous. It's a classic case of a trade-off in reproductive strategy: will a White-throated Sparrow leave more genes with the next generation by reproducing often with poor parental care, or by reproducing less often with good parental care? Of course, animals (and even humans) don't actually think about reproductive strategies, but our behavior indicates that we make such choices without conscious thought, and those choices are based in our genetic heritage. It's hard to believe that a common winter visitor to our bird feeder could provide us with a window into how we live. ■ ■

## Maryland Bird Safe Buildings Act



Chesapeake Audubon Society is joining a coalition of conservation organizations including Audubon Maryland-DC and Lights Out Baltimore to support the Maryland Bird Safe Buildings Act (HB 986, SB 1009). This bill in the Maryland legislature would require that new construction or major renovations of State buildings or buildings built with State funds would done with bird safe designs. Making a building bird safe during the design process adds little to the cost and can have significant returns in terms of conserving birds.

According to the 2014 State of the Birds Report building and glass collisions are the second leading cause of bird mortality behind outdoor cats. You can help by letting your State legislators know that you support these bills.



# CAS Annual Spaghetti Dinner

## Discovering Unknown Migrations – Including Our Chesapeake Bay

### Featuring:

**Autumn-Lynn Harrison, PhD**  
**Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center**

Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us as Dr. Autumn-Lynn Harrison takes us on an adventure across hemispheres, oceans and our Chesapeake Bay using cutting-edge technology to discover unknown migrations to help save our species. Dr. Harrison is a Research Ecologist with the Smithsonian and the Program Manager of the Migratory Connectivity Project. While she has lived, gone to school, and worked in Australia, Kenya, and South Africa, Autumn-Lynn grew up on the Maryland's Eastern Shore, where her family has roots dating back to the 1600's.

Autumn-Lynn describes migration as one of the most engaging phenomena of the animal world. She will talk about some of the activities of the Migratory Connectivity Project (website: <http://www.migratoryconnectivityproject.org/mcp-projects/>), such as understanding and tracking animal movements to identify and conserve habitats important to species survival. Think about animal migration as a way to connect cultures; the bird you see migrating overhead in the spring, may have flown over a jaguar just weeks before. Our knowledge about why, how, when and where most of earth's migratory animals migrate is still just in the early stages...leaving a lot still to be discovered.



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



**Cost:** \$10.00 per person for dinner and the program, \$13.00 if you would like a glass of wine or a beer with dinner.

**Reservations:** We ask that you reserve your meal ticket(s) in advance so we can plan for food—call (443) 423-1847—leave your name, telephone number, and number of people; specify if you prefer vegetarian sauce. Please send checks payable to the Chesapeake Audubon Society, PO Box 3173, Baltimore, MD 21228.

**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.

**We are again extremely fortunate to have a local guitarist and songwriter, Sean McCahill, performing for your listening pleasure.**

## In its Centennial Year The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is Under Assault

In February, the Chesapeake Audubon Society joined more than 300 Audubon chapters, and more than 500 groups in total nationwide, in a letter calling on Congress to defend and uphold the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) as we celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

The MBTA is one of the Audubon Society's earliest victories, and has protected millions if not billions of birds in its century-long history. Congress passed the MBTA in 1918 in response to public outcry over the mass slaughter of birds, which threatened egrets and other species with extinction. Today, this law protects birds from 21st-century threats, which has led to commonsense solutions like covering oil pits and flagging transmission lines that protect countless birds each year from otherwise needless deaths. In all, the MBTA prohibits killing or harming more than 1,000 species of America's birds.

The MBTA is currently facing the most serious attack on the law in its one hundred years. In November, Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) introduced a measure to gut the MBTA as an amendment to H.R. 4239, a bill written to weaken environmental protections in order to facilitate oil and gas drilling. The bill is currently awaiting a vote in the House. Three days before Christmas, the administration followed suit when the Office of the Solicitor within the Department of the Interior released an interpretation of the law saying it will no longer enforce the MBTA in cases of incidental bird deaths, effectively giving a blank check to industry to avoid gruesome and preventable bird deaths. Had H.R. 4239 been in effect in 2010 BP would not have been held responsible for the one million bird deaths that resulted from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

**Continued on page 7**

# SPRING IS HERE! Wisdom from a Wildlife Rehabilitator

by Kathy Woods

Spring is here and with Spring comes baby birds, squirrels, and bunnies. As one of your local rehabilitators, I invite you to access our website at [phoenixwildlife.org](http://phoenixwildlife.org) if you have questions after hours; otherwise, we are open 365 days a year and are happy to answer questions at 410 628 9736.

One of the most common problems we get called about are baby birds falling out of nests. Did you know it is a myth that the mother won't take them back if they are touched by humans? The best thing to do is to put the *nestling* back in the nest; if the nest has been destroyed, place a berry basket or old Easter basket in a tree or bush, affix it to the tree, put the nestlings back in the basket without anything except a few small branches, and the mom will come back to feed them! Watch carefully from inside so as to not spook her! *Fledglings* are babies learning to fly; they belong on the ground hopping after the parent.



Baby bunnies are born in a shallow depression in your lawn. The nest is lined with fur from the mother rabbits' chest, and she has her babies in that spot. Sometimes there are dogs in the yard. If there are dogs, place an old milk crate over the nest during the day when the dogs are out, and remove it at night. Mother rabbits only feed at dawn and dusk; you will never see her. She lays on top of the nest, nurses them quickly, licks them clean and leaves them for the day. If you have to handle them, we suggest wiping your hands on the grass first. Rabbit nests cannot be relocated. If they are fat, please let the mother raise them; they are very frail in a wildlife rehabilitation setting, and will be gone in three weeks.

Baby squirrels are often problematic as we do spring pruning (which should actually be done in the fall). If a nest falls out of a tree, or if you have felled the tree in which a nest resides, place the babies in a tall box at the base of the tree where they were (even if the tree is gone). Put a hot water bottle, rice sock, or hot hand warmers in with them. The mother can build a new nest (called a dray) in about 2 hours, and she WILL come back for them. Do not leave them out overnight and again, call for assistance.



## Chesapeake Audubon Society Needs You

### Chesapeake Audubon Seeks New Board of Directors Members

Would you like to make a difference for conservation in Maryland? Do you enjoy setting direction and goals, prioritizing spending, and making management decisions? Are you willing to volunteer your time and expertise for a few hours each month to Chesapeake Audubon? More than half of our Board of Directors members have served faithfully for decades. It's time for new faces and fresh ideas!

Chesapeake Audubon owns Pickering Creek Audubon Center, 400 acres of farm, forest, and wetlands that services thousands of school children annually, and has ultimate responsibility for its success. We also own Farm Creek Sanctuary, about 800 acres used for research into climate change and its effects on birds.

The Board meets for about two hours, six times a year on the second Wednesday of even months near north Baltimore. Applicants should be members of the National Audubon Society, and support the mission of both NAS and CAS. We welcome application from anyone interested in furthering the mission of Chesapeake Audubon but a legal background and website knowledge are skill sets that are especially needed and appreciated. Please contact President Hugh Simmons at [lensonnature@gmail.com](mailto:lensonnature@gmail.com) Thanks!



# Chesupioc Kids Tweens Teens

## Art and Architecture—Baltimore Oriole Nests

Get Outside—Orienteering at Cromwell Valley Park

by Susan Hutson Illustration by Eve

**Art.** Ivy's favorite pink hair ribbon had been woven into the Baltimore Oriole's nest. *Pendulous*. Ivy giggled at the silly sounding word. But there the *sock-like* nest was, hanging on a slender forked twig about 30 feet overhead, barely visible in the leafy treetop. Through Grammy's spotting scope, Ivy and Noah watched the nest take shape, helpless to retrieve the pink prize.

**Architecture.** To build the artful nest that now show-cased Ivy's ribbon, the female Baltimore Oriole had woven together **200** slender fibers, put in **10,000** stitches, tied **thousands** of knots and loops using **20,000** shuttle movements of her head and bill. The nest was built over 5 days, totaling more than 20 hours!



Attach	Weave	Stitch	Line
FIRST 3 HOURS	DAY 2, 10 HOURS	DAY 3, 20 HOURS	DAY 4 AND DAY 5
The female attaches slender fibers such as grass to 2 then 3 attachment points on a slender forked twig.	The female weaves a 3 to 4 inch rim extending downward 6 inches with one side of the nest remaining open.	The nest is completely outlined, the walls thin. The nest is secured at 6 points.	The walls are lined with soft materials such as milkweed seed pods, or feathers. The flexible, breathable nest expands as the 4 to 5 chicks grow.

Step-by-step, Baltimore Oriole Nest Building, from Avian Architecture: How Birds Design, Engineer & Build, Peter Goodfellow, 2011.

Also check out [www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/baltimore-oriole](http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/baltimore-oriole).



## Update on our Partners

Chesapeake Audubon partners with and supports three other Audubon entities in Maryland. We are truly one with the Pickering Creek Audubon Center in Easton since we own the property. Dave Curson, PhD, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Maryland-DC, is conducting research on how to mitigate the effects of sea level rise on Maryland's salt marshes. A primary study site for this work is another Chesapeake Audubon property, the nearly 800-acre Farm Creek Marsh in Dorchester County. Finally, Patterson Park Audubon Center is right smack-dab in the middle of our chapter's territory, and some of our members volunteer for their activities. When you make a donation to Chesapeake Audubon, you are helping us also support these programs so we thought you would like to have a small sampling of what they have been up to.

### Pickering Creek Audubon Center

Pickering's Samantha Pitts, Mary Helen Gillen and Mark Scallion teamed up with NOAA's Coreen Weilminster to present a day-long workshop, "**Communicate and Motivate for Hopeful Action on Climate Change**," to 15 educators at the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators Conference in Ocean City, Maryland.

The Center was recently awarded a \$29,000 Chesapeake Bay Trust Outreach grant to partner with **Habitat for Humanity Choptank**. The project goal is to raise awareness among diverse communities in Talbot and Dorchester counties of ways to be stewards of the Bay watershed via native plantings, and help landowners' make good choices in their own outdoor spaces.

Mark Scallion, Director of Pickering Creek Audubon Center, received a Governor's Citation in November at the **Project Green Classrooms** leadership team meeting. The citation thanks Mark and his peers for promoting outdoor experiential activities and environmental education for Maryland's youth and their families through a coalition of agencies and organizations.

### Audubon Maryland-DC Salt Marsh Work at Farm Creek

In January, a short version of a new documentary "**High Tide in Dorchester**," by Tom Horton, Dave Harp and Sandy Cannon-Brown, was released. The film describes the impact of sea level rise on Dorchester County, and features Dave Curson searching for Saltmarsh Sparrows! See the film at <http://e360.yale.edu>. The full length film will premiere at the DC Environmental Film Festival on March 22, 2018.

Chesapeake Audubon provided five remote sound recording devices that were deployed in Farm Creek Marsh in 2017 to detect the presence of the now rare Black Rail. A contract wildlife technician recently started analyzing the sound files.

Work will start soon to remove water from the flooded high marsh areas at Farm Creek in an effort to return it to high marsh habitat. The U.S. Geological Survey has installed surface water monitors, which will be in place throughout the life of the project. Also, baseline ingrowth bags, which measure root growth of marsh plants were harvested and measured (information is forthcoming).

Dr. Curson is working with National Audubon's Science Department on the regional spatial analysis to identify tidal marsh sites with similar hydrological characteristics to Farm Creek Marsh. The analysis is going well and we will have a draft map of results soon, which will be reviewed by experts.

### Patterson Park Audubon Center

The Patterson Park Audubon Center conducted a record **420 programs and 12,000 program contacts** in 2017. Many programs are in Spanish or are bilingual. Audubon's Green

Leaders, middle school advocates for a Baltimore that's better for birds and people, led the inaugural, bilingual event with 120 community members conversing about the threats of climate change to birds and people.

Susie Creamer, Director of Urban Education and Conservation, was named one of 30 Baltimore Visionaries by *Baltimore Magazine*. Patterson Park Audubon Center staff continue to offer **wildlife gardening workshops** around the city. Check their website for dates on locations. Pre-registration is required.

February 10-11 was the first winter Baltimore Birding Weekend. It was a great success in spite of soggy, cold weather. Get ready for more birding fun around the city during the spring Baltimore Birding Weekend, May 18-20. ■■

## Bird Seed Sale Results

A big thank you to all who bought bird seed during our annual bird seed sale fundraiser. We sold 7,835 lbs. of seed and 444 suet cakes, raising a net of \$1,600, which will be split between the educational programs at Pickering Creek Audubon



Center and Patterson Park Audubon Center. A special thanks to Robin Schless, for all her work in organizing the seed sale and making it a success.

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act Under Assault continued...

Chesapeake Audubon is united with other Audubon chapters and organizations from across the country who want to see this Congress build on our nation's 100-year conservation ethic and reject misguided efforts that would undo the progress our country has made in conserving birds.

**You can help too.** Contact your members of Congress to tell them that you want them to defend and uphold the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Audubon makes this easy. Do a search on **Audubon's Action Network** where you will find links that allow you to write to lawmakers on several issues with just a few clicks. If you join the Audubon Action Network you will get notifications when Audubon needs you to add your voice to an issue.

And while you are on the Audubon website click on the **Year of The Bird** link. In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act Audubon, National Geographic, The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birdlife International have designated this the **Year of The Bird**. Audubon will be suggesting a conservation action that you can take for birds each month. Sign up to be kept up to date on Year of The Bird Activities. ■■

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