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Chesapeake
Audubon Society



Spring Issue 2019 Newsletter

Message from the President

Hugh Simmons

First, I would like to welcome new members. If this is the first time you have received this newsletter then you are a new member to Chesapeake Audubon, and likely a new member to National Audubon. Chesapeake Audubon is your local Audubon chapter, covering Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Due to costs and environmental impact, we only send out one paper newsletter per year. The rest of the year we publish an electronic newsletter that is available via email and on our website. To receive the electronic newsletter and get email notification of Chesapeake Audubon field trips and events, please send your email contact information to info@chesapeakeaudubon.org. You may also find out about our field trips and events by joining us on MeetUp.

We are always seeking members who are interested in getting more involved. If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to me at ensonnature@gmail.com. One exciting volunteer opportunity is a community science Project called Audubon Climate Watch. This is a National Audubon project for documenting the effects of climate change on birds. Volunteers go out and record the presence of target species: Bluebirds and Nuthatches. This is not a survey of all species so you do not have to be an especially skilled birder to participate. The surveys can be completed in one morning, and are done twice a year. Currently, Chesapeake Audubon volunteers are surveying 120 points around central Maryland but more volunteers are needed. If this sounds interesting to you, please email me at the above mentioned address. You can find more information about this project at <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/climate-watch>. We also need new members for our board and help with our website and social media (learn more on page 7).

In other news, our Farm Creek sanctuary, a 700 acre salt-marsh in Dorchester County, continues to be the focus of research into adaptation and mitigation strategies for the effects of sea level rise on our Eastern Shore marshes. Work has just finished on a new drainage channel to see if tidal flow can be restored to waterlogged high marsh. This work by Audubon Maryland-DC is considered to be on the leading edge of research into how saltmarshes can be aided in their response to climate change and sea level rise.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see an appeal for support of eco-camps at our two Maryland Audubon centers, Pickering Creek and Patterson Park. Please consider a donation to help a less privileged child attend one of these camps.

Finally, our annual Spaghetti Dinner is Saturday, April 27. The speaker this year is Sam Droege, a renowned

authority on bees and their important roll in the health of our ecosystems. ■

A Brief Guide to Spring Birding

By Bryan MacKay, with advice from Tim Houghton

The most exciting time of year for birders is spring migration, when many kinds of birds return to our area to breed and nest and other varieties move through on their way north. In general, peak spring migration in central Maryland is the last week in April and the first two weeks of May. Please join Chesapeake Audubon on one of our field trips, where our leaders not only locate birds but help you see them clearly and identify them. In addition, many folks like to go out on their own. Here is a short list of some of the best places to go birding in central Maryland and on the Eastern Shore during spring migration. (The emphasis is on seeing a variety of birds easily and well rather than locations hosting rarities.) Enjoy!

Inside the Baltimore Beltway (I-695)

Villa Nova Park (Millford Mill Rd. just inside the Beltway): This small park, located in a densely populated suburban neighborhood and adjacent to noisy I-695, is a surprisingly productive migrant trap. The one-mile trail, mostly alongside the Gwynns Falls, is partly paved and makes for easy walking and viewing. Warblers and resident/migrating songbirds.

Patterson Park (Eastern Ave. & S. Patterson Park Ave., east Baltimore City): The old boat pond is the heart of bird activity in this island of nature surrounded by dense urbanity. Although the pond is small, almost any bird species might show up in spring – raptors, ducks, gulls, water birds and songbirds.

Cylburn Arboretum (Greenspring Ave. near Northern Parkway and I-83, northwest Baltimore City): Warblers and songbirds are often present during spring migration. Habitats include open lawns, shrubby areas, and mature forests overlooking the Jones Falls valley.

Masonville Cove (Off exit 8, I-895, south Baltimore City): This recently-opened park borders the wide, tidal Patapsco River, featuring water birds and some migrating songbirds. Once an urban apocalyptic landscape, it has now been brought back to burgeoning life.

Continued on page 6

<i>Newsletter Contents:</i>	<i>Page</i>
Field Trips: Chesapeake Audubon.....	2
Pickering Creek Programs; Charlie Stine Obituary .	3
Annual Spaghetti Dinner; Springtime Birding	4
Fund a Child at Eco-Camp; Help Wanted.....	5
Brief Guide to Spring Birding continued.....	6
2018 Donors; Bird Seed Sale Results	7

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!

Loch Raven Reservoir Bird Walk

Date: Saturday, March 2, 8:30AM

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 secondary dam and perhaps 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 occasionally shown up here. Park on 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: Bradphoebus@gmail.com or **443-415-9776** with any questions, to REGISTER, and to confirm the meeting location.

TBA: Sometime during the first half of March Woodcock Watch

Leader: Tim Houghton

Check the website and look for Announcements; go to www.chesapeakeaudubon.org.



Photographing Nature

Date: Saturday, April 6, 9:00AM

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: gpferd@gmail.com or **443-752-5607**.

Signs of Spring Walk

Date: Saturday, April 6, 10:00AM to noon

Leader: Bryan MacKay

Location: Patapsco Valley State Park

Join naturalist Bryan MacKay for a 2-mile hike 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 walk 300 yards uphill on a rocky trail to view a beautiful cascade, then continue upstream on a rough trail. There is a small fee to get in the park. To REGISTER please contact Bryan: mackay@umbc.edu, at LEAST A DAY IN ADVANCE.

Feathers and Flowers

Date: Saturday, April 20, 8:30AM

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: **410-459-4577** or cwebster@harford.edu.

Friend us on 

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, April 27, 6:00PM to 9:00PM

For more than thirty years, Chesapeake Audubon has held an annual spaghetti dinner, with delicious homemade red sauce, tasty desserts, and an interesting speaker. Details elsewhere on the website and in the newsletter, but for now be sure to put this date on your calendar!

National Arboretum

Date: Sunday, May 5, 8:00AM to 1:00PM

Leader: Bryan MacKay

Location: Washington, DC

National Arboretum is one of DC's treasures, and never more so than at the height of azalea season. 60,000 azaleas will be in bloom! We'll also look at spring wildflowers at Fern Valley. While this is primarily a botanical walk, we will surely see some good birds at prime migration season. The Arboretum is closer than you think, only a 30 minute drive down the Parkway from Catonsville. Bring lunch, water, and binoculars. Details and directions from Bryan MacKay, mackay@umbc.edu.

Warblers & Other Songbirds

Date: Saturday, May 4, 8:00AM

Leader: Brad Phoebus

Location: Milford Mill (Villa Nova Park)

Directions: I-695, right on Liberty Rd., right on Washington Ave., right on Milford Mill Rd., right into parking area immediately after going under I-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**.

North Point State Park Bird Walk

Date: Saturday, May 11, 8:30AM

Leader: Fred Brundick

North Point is a 1,310 acre park on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay

(Edgemere, MD). 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 or

443-752-5607. All levels

of birders welcome, scope

helpful if you have one.



Pileated Woodpecker
North Point State Park, 2018
Photo by Fred Brundick

Susquehanna State Park Bird Walk

Date: Sunday, May 12, 7:00AM

Leader: Tim Houghton

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 or call 410-510-7504. Meeting place will be at Rock Run Mill (corner of Stafford Rd. and Rock Run Rd.).

Programs: Pickering Creek Audubon Center [Easton, Maryland]



Birds and Blooms Paddle

Date: Thursday, April 18, 5:00PM-7:00PM; **\$20/person**
Come explore Pickering Creek from the water! Springtime is here and our Ospreys, Barn Swallows, Purple Martins and many other birds are arriving again in Maryland after their long migration. We will be canoeing our waterways looking for wildlife and spring blooms along the creek. Canoes, basic instruction, and PFD's provided. Please wear closed-toe shoes that secure tightly to your feet (no flip-flops!). [REGISTER](#) by Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 12PM.

4th Annual Community Plant and Seed Swap

Date: Saturday, April 20, 10:00AM-noon; **FREE**
Celebrate Earth Day outdoors at Pickering Creek. Bring a few treasures and treats from your garden to the community swap. Native plants are highly encouraged. Bring plant divisions, cuttings, seeds, or seedlings of your favorite native garden plants and exchange them for FREE with other community members. Annuals, perennials, herbs, fruits/vegetables, shrubs, and trees are all welcome. Stay and picnic or walk the grounds of Pickering Creek Audubon Center, which is open free of charge from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year. Check out some of Pickering Creek's bird-friendly garden spaces for ideas and inspiration. Master Gardeners, Chesapeake Herb Society members, and volunteers will be available to answer all of your gardening questions.

Spring Migration Up Close!

Date: Saturday, May 4, 6:30AM-noon; **\$85/person**
Rain Date: Saturday, May 11, 2019
Join Pickering Creek educators for an incredible field trip to Chestertown to visit Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory and witness bird banding up close! Listen for the distinctive *bob...white!* song while visiting restored grasslands to hear about recovering quail and sparrows. Learn directly from skilled field ecologists as they measure and band migratory and local birds in the middle of the spring season. Get an up-close look at warblers, vireos, thrushes and more and hear how the data collected at Foreman's Branch tells a story about bird patterns, health and future. Limit of 11 participants. Meet at Pickering Creek at 6:30AM before departing in the Pickering Creek van. Some snacks will be provided. The van will return to Pickering Creek by noon. [REGISTER](#) by Friday, May 3, 2019 at noon.

Herb Garden Tour and Tea

Date: Wednesday, May 22, 5:00PM-6:30PM; **\$5/person**
Tour the herb garden at Pickering Creek with Chesapeake Bay Herb Society members. Breathe in the fragrant spring air as you learn about commonly known culinary herbs. Wander the winding garden pathways and look for visiting pollinators like butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. Enjoy some Herbal Tea and Herbal Cookies and take home some herbs. [REGISTER](#) by Monday, May 22, 2019 at 5PM.

"Down by the Bay" at Pickering!

Date: Tuesday, May 28, 4:30PM-6:30PM; **\$5/person**
Pickering Creek leads into the Chesapeake Bay and is home to many different aquatic species. Want to know more about the different types of fish that live in the Chesapeake Bay? Have you ever wanted to try out fishing and wanted some instruction? Learn how to fish and seine and practice identifying what you find with Pickering Creek naturalists! Come on out for this fun hands-on activity for all ages!

Fishing rods and bait provided. [REGISTER](#) by Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at noon. ■

Obituary: Charlie Stine An Appreciation [May 8, 2018]

By Bryan MacKay



Charlie Stine passed away May 13, 2018 at the age of 92. Professionally, he was a dentist in northeast Baltimore for decades. Charlie's real and lifelong interest was nature. He probably inspired more people to learn about nature in Maryland than anyone else I can think of. If you never had the opportunity to spend a weekend afield with Charlie, you've missed a unique experience. And Charlie shared his enthusiasm and expertise; he was a field trip leader *par excellence*.

I got to know Charlie in the late 1970's, when he organized and led full weekend field trips for Chesapeake Audubon Society to Assateague, the Pocomoke River, Garrett County, and the Pine Barrens; and day trips to the Gunpowder River, Blackwater NWR, Delaware Bay, the Potomac and Dam Number 4 cave, Jug Bay, and several other locations throughout Maryland.

In addition to being an inspiring field trip leader and a fine teacher, Charlie's greatest contribution to Audubon was his participation in establishing Pickering Creek Audubon Center near Easton, MD. Charlie led the very first field trip to Pickering, doing water quality testing from the dock, identifying wetland plants in the marsh, and paddling his fleet of canoes out to the beaches of Wye Island for some seine netting of fish. This trip made the property owner, George Olds, realize how valuable Pickering might be for environmental education. George soon donated the property to CAS, an environmental education program was established, and today, almost 40 years later, PCAC is a well-respected Audubon center servicing more than ten thousand schoolchildren and adults annually.

Charlie acquired a fleet of canoes and trailered them all over the mid-Atlantic for field trips, charging almost enough to cover gasoline but not much more. His *modus operandi* was to get all the canoes in an eddy or sheltered spot and deliver a short talk, illustrated by some creature he had just captured or some view he could explain. Once in the Pine Barrens, we were stuck in an eddy for 45 minutes as an endless line of rental canoes floated by; Charlie never ran out of things to talk about. Once on the nontidal Pocomoke, we bashed our way down a section of river with many poison-ivy-laden trees spanning the creek; we portaged, ducked, and squeezed past them, with stops to examine crossvine or listen for Prothonotary Warblers.

Continued on page 7

CAS Annual Spaghetti Dinner

"An Introduction to Maryland's Other Bees"

Featuring:

Sam Droege, M.S.

Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.



Dianthidium simile
Photo compliments of Sam Droege

Beewatching. Yes, it is a thing, and something that can add enjoyment in the 3 seasons that flowers bloom. We have in the neighborhood of 450 bee species in Maryland. They inhabit all our habitats, including saltmarshes, and come in as many diverse sizes and shapes as the flowers with which they co-evolved. Sam will introduce you to the bees (both native and honey) with plenty of high-definition photographs, and point you in the direction of how to use your binoculars when bee watching. You can learn more by following the Native Bee Lab on Instagram @USGSBIML.

Sam Droege grew up in Hyattsville, Maryland. He received an undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland and a Master's at the State University of New York – Syracuse. Most of his career has been spent at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He has coordinated the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program, developed the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the Bioblitz, Cricket Crawl, and FrogwatchUSA programs and works on the design and evaluation of monitoring programs. Currently his team is running an inventory and monitoring program for native bees, developing tools and techniques manuals, along with online identification guides for North American bees at www.discoverlife.org. They are also reviving the North American Bird Phenology Program, and producing public domain hi-resolution photographs of bees, insects, and flowers @USGSBIML.



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 (Route 40, Baltimore National Pike east, towards Baltimore.) Take Route 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.

Springtime Birding: Warblers and other Migrant Songbirds

Early May is peak warbler migration, when millions of tiny songbirds arrive in our area from the Neotropics. On their way to breeding grounds either here or farther north, warblers and other songbirds migrate at night, stopping wherever dawn or nighttime storms overtake them. To most people who are not birders, this dramatic event is mostly unnoticed, but for naturalists and birders, this is the most exciting, and frenzied, week of the year.

Many bird species that nest in North America spend the colder months in Central America, northern South America, and the Caribbean, where food is more plentiful and environmental conditions less stressful. In contrast, the

increased nutritional demands of raising a brood of young require an abundant food source and freedom from the competition of the species-rich tropics. The pulse of insects that appears when trees leaf out provides that extra food, but requires a long migration, of hundred or even thousands of miles. That migration brings its own set of complications and stresses. Still, many species of birds obviously find that twice-yearly journey worthwhile.

Known as Neotropical migrants, the cast of characters includes such well-known birds as hummingbirds, orioles, swallows and thrushes. But by far the most numerous are the several dozen species known as wood warblers: small, brightly colored insectivores with distinctive songs. Some warblers arrive in early May and nest here; examples are

Continued on page 7

**Help send a child to summer camp to learn about the natural world
and how to protect it.**

The summer eco-camps at Pickering Creek Audubon Center (Talbot County) and Patterson Park Audubon Center (Baltimore City) provide children with exposure to an understanding of the natural world that they would not otherwise have. We at Chesapeake Audubon believe that there are few efforts more important than instilling a sense of wonder, joy and appreciation for nature in the next generation. Some children may access the natural world easily. These scholarships are for those who cannot. Please make a donation to send a child, or two, or three to a week of eco-camp at either or both of these locations. You may specify which you would like to support, if you choose.

Our **Pickering Creek National Audubon Center** is in Easton, MD on the Eastern Shore, where a **week of summer camp costs \$165 per child.**

- ◆ \$33 will send one child for a day
- ◆ \$66 will send a child for 2 days
- ◆ \$165 will support a child for a week
- ◆ \$_____ whatever you wish will be helpful and appreciated.

Our **Patterson Park Audubon Center** is in Baltimore City (Canton), and **summer day camp costs \$65 for a week per child.**

- ◆ \$13 will support one child for a day
- ◆ \$26 will send a child for 2 days
- ◆ \$65 will support a child for the week
- ◆ \$_____ whatever you wish will be helpful and appreciated.

Please send your check in the envelope provided, or to P.O. Box 3173, Baltimore, MD 21228.

Help Wanted!

Chesapeake Audubon could really, really use several volunteers. Make a difference for birds and conservation by volunteering for just a few hours each month! See below for details; contact us at info@chesapeakeaudubon.com.

Web site updater: One or two hours per month after training. We need a person who can keep our web site up to date by adding information (provided to you) about events, including field trips, and deleting when outdated. See our web site (www.chesapeakeaudubon.org). Ambitious? National Audubon suggests all chapters use the Squarespace template to construct a consistent web presence; we are not required to do that, but we could if you are comfortable with web site construction. Basic computer skills necessary; training available.

Email communicator: CAS has an email list of about 1600 members and friends (not every member gives us their email info). We aspire to send out an update every other week. It would be fairly short – about 1 or 2 screens – focusing on Maryland conservation news, and our near-term schedule and events. Basic computer skills necessary; training available.

CAS Board of Directors: As our dedicated Board members age, we can use one or more wise, collaborative, and thoughtful individuals committed to furthering CAS's mission and overseeing the business of the Society. We meet six times annually, the second Wednesday of even-numbered months, in the Mt. Washington neighborhood of Baltimore City. **Thank you!**

A Brief Guide to Spring Birding continued...

Lake Roland (Off Falls Rd. near I-83, Baltimore County, north of the City): A variety of habitats (open water, fresh-water marsh, mature upland and riparian forest) and a good trail system permit fine views of resident and migrating raptors, water birds, warblers and songbirds.

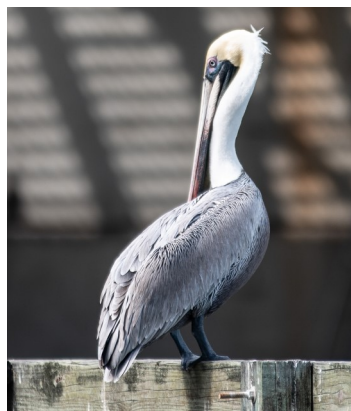
Outside Baltimore Beltway (I-695), Central Maryland

Susquehanna State Park (near Havre de Grace): Perhaps the best place in Maryland to see a diversity of warblers. Migrating songbirds, waterbirds, and bald eagles are also common. Check the picnic area, the mill, and area around the footbridge near the mouth of Deer Creek.

Cromwell Valley Park (just north of I-695, exit 29): A reliable location with a variety of habitats to see songbirds (especially Baltimore orioles), warblers, and raptors.

North Point State Park (exit 42, I-695 on east side of Baltimore County): Its location on the Chesapeake Bay ensures a variety of birds, from gulls to sparrows. Black Marsh, within the park, is a pristine freshwater tidal wetland.

Patuxent Research Refuge, North Tract (off Route 198 near Laurel, MD): Halfway between Baltimore and Washington, a green oasis in this heavily developed corridor, this large tract lies between the arms of the Patuxent and Little Patuxent Rivers. Extensive forests hold woodland species, while the riparian corridors attract warblers and waterbirds.



Brown Pelican
Photo by Fred Brundick

Fort Smallwood Park (off Route 100, Anne

Arundel County): Fort Smallwood is famous for one thing: its springtime raptor flights, which on some days with the right wind direction, can be spectacular. There is a hawk-watch there where volunteers census the birds; they can often help you identify birds.

Central Eastern Shore

Pickering Creek Audubon Center (near Easton): OK, Chesapeake Audubon owns Pickering Creek, so maybe we're a little prejudiced. Even so, PCAC has a variety of habitats, including freshwater nontidal ponds and marshes, a mile of shoreline, old growth forest, and shrubby second growth that episodically attracts some really unusual species.

Tuckahoe State Park (off Route 404 near Queen Anne): There are few large tracts of hardwood riparian forest set among the agricultural fields of the mid-Shore, so Tuckahoe attracts a good variety of songbirds and warblers in migration. For a different birding experience, rent a canoe or kayak from the park at the millpond and paddle up-stream as far as possible, birding as you go.

Terrapin Nature Park (near Queenstown just off Route 50, eastern end of the Bay Bridge): This small park, in

conjunction with Sandy Point State Park at the western terminus of the Bay Bridge, hosts a surprising diversity of songbirds in forest and scrub, and gulls and terns along the Bay shoreline.

Eastern Neck NWR (near Chestertown): Although better known for its early winter congregations of ducks, geese and swans, Eastern Neck's forest and fields still abound with songbirds in spring.

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (near Cambridge): Blackwater is best known for huge flocks of geese in winter and bald eagles year-round, but spring can be rewarding as well, as songbirds return to the forests and waterbirds to the marshes.

Further afield on the Eastern Shore (Maryland and Delaware)

Delaware Bay (near Slaughter Beach and Port Mahon, DE): A 30-mile stretch of Delaware Bay coastline is the site of one of North America's last great wildlife spectacles, an event not to be missed by anyone who loves birds and wildlife. During the last two weeks of May, peaking at the full moon, horseshoe crabs by the tens of thousands crowd ashore to lay eggs on the high tide beaches. That in turn attracts thousands of shorebirds, stopping over to gorge on crab eggs as the birds migrate from South America to the high latitude tundra of Canada.

Bombay Hook NWR (near Dover, DE): Not far from Delaware Bay and frequently combined with a trip to see horseshoe crabs and shorebirds, Bombay Hook is alive with all kinds of birds in the spring. While every part of the refuge hosts birds, the mature forest near Finis Pond is especially good in spring for warblers and songbirds.

Cape Henlopen State Park (near Lewes, DE): All those birds they find at Cape May, NJ had to start somewhere, didn't they? Cape Henlopen is due south, at the southern mouth of Delaware Bay. Lots of dunes, beaches, marshes and maritime forest make Henlopen a fascinating place.

Assateague Island National Seashore and State Park (near Ocean City, MD): Atlantic beaches, back bay salt marshes, maritime forests, interdune scrub – different bird habitats just a few yards apart. Bayside campground often hosts migrating warblers and songbirds in early May.

Pocomoke River (near Berlin, MD): Pocomoke forests host Maryland's largest number of breeding warbler species. You can view them dry-shod from the nature trail at Furnace Town (Nassawango Iron Furnace), but for a more adventurous birding trip, rent a canoe or kayak in nearby Snow Hill and paddle the Pocomoke from Porter's Crossing back to the outfitter. Prothonotary warblers abound in the first mile in early May.

All twenty of these locations are wonderful birding venues, but the easiest and best place to fall in love with birds and birding is your own back yard. It's surprising what you can see out your back door. Our CAS vice president, Frode Jacobsen, has recorded 179 species from his back deck in a townhouse development near Windsor Mill! Set out a variety of feeders (and keep them filled), install a water feature or bath, add shrubs and small trees for cover and food, and you'll see lots of birds in spring and at every season. ■

DONORS

Chesapeake Audubon society would like to thank the following donors for their generosity in 2018.

Donald Allen
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Great Crested Flycatcher
Photo by Fred Brundick

Bird Seed Sale Results

Our Fall 2018 Birdseed Sale feathered the educational programs at both Audubon Centers – Patterson Park and Pickering Creek. Our members raised \$1,700 for those important programs by loading up on over 9,000 pounds of seed and 630 suet cakes. Thanks to Meyer Seed, our muscled volunteers, our delivery chauffeurs, and all the loyal, generous members who made the event both profitable for Chesapeake Audubon and a great bunch of fun! A special thanks to Robin Schless for her hard work in organizing the seed sale and making it a success.

Obit. Charlie Stein continued...

In addition to using these canoes on CAS field trips, Charlie often used them for classes at the Johns Hopkins University. For almost two decades, he taught popular short courses in what became the Odyssey Program, combining classroom lectures with field experiences.

Once on such a trip, we were taking a break on the rocks at Swallow Falls in Garrett County when a lady walked up to Charlie and said, "Do you know there's a snake in that bush next to you?" She clearly thought Charlie would be startled. But he astonished her by plucking the snake from the bush, gathering students and tourists alike, and expounding on the biology of hog-nosed snakes. Charlie's interests were catholic, but his specialty was herpetology. For many years he studied the state-endangered tiger salamander, authoring several papers and reports on the species.

Charlie's energy and enthusiasm were legendary. After a full day of tromping through knee-deep sucking bog mud to examine sundews and turning over logs to look for salamanders, Charlie rallied the troops for a night hike in search of singing amphibians and calling whip-poor-wills.

At a campfire the next night, the park ranger's uninspired attempt at campfire songs was enlivened by Charlie leading an impromptu conga line of children and adults to "The Ants Go Marching".

I learned much of what I know about Maryland and its ecology from Charlie in the late 1970's to early 1980's. Some of my favorite places to visit, detailed in my guidebooks, I discovered from Charlie's field trips. I was not alone; hundreds of Audubon members, JHU students, and others learned much about nature from Charlie. Few Marylanders have contributed as much to our appreciation of our natural heritage as did Charlie Stine. That legacy characterizes a life well-lived.

Charlie is survived by his wife Joan, 5 children, and 7 grandchildren. ■

Springtime Birding continued...

yellow warblers, Northern parulas, American redstarts, prothonotary warblers, common yellowthroats, ovenbirds and Louisiana waterthrushes. Other species are merely passing through on their way to nesting grounds to the north.

Most of these birds, weighing only an ounce or two, fly nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico, making landfall on the Gulf coast in mid-April. After refueling on the abundant insect life, these feathered pilgrims launch themselves into the sky at dusk, forming virtual rivers of birds in the sky. At dawn, the birds land in suitable habitat and feed voraciously; this is when birding is most profitable and enjoyable, with new discoveries every few minutes. At dusk, these birds once again move on, replaced at the next dawn by a new set of migrants. Warbler migration starts in earnest in the last week of April and is mostly over by the end of the second week in May - a short but exciting and wonderful season.

From: *A Year Across Maryland*, by Bryan MacKay, Johns Hopkins University Press 2013

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