



The Bluebird



This newsletter is published by the Prince George's Audubon Society,
a local chapter of the National Audubon Society for over 30 years.

www.pgaudubon.org

PRINCE GEORGE'S AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-AUGUST 2004

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Carolyn Sturtevant
President PGAS

In recent years, the marketing concepts "branding" and "product placement" have spread to other areas of our culture. If I understand it correctly, someone creates a product with distinct identity, gives it an easily recognized name and/or logo, and then places the product in prominent locations where the public will see the brand name and buy the products.

Branding and product placement came to mind on April 3 when six Auduboners showed up for the monthly FUNA birdwalk, combined this month with a trash cleanup. We saw plenty of brand name products in the field and along the roadway - Coke, Pepsi, Frank's Cola, Budweiser, Schlitz, and the other name, Black Label. Giant and Seven-Eleven made the scene, and there were remnants of a Happy Meal. Clearly, the empty bottles, cups, and boxes that carried these brands were misplaced products!

The birds were employing their age-old branding and product placement techniques. Cardinals gave their distinctive chip notes and warmer Spring songs - right where we expected to find them, among the briars. Juncos and white-throated sparrows flitted from bush to bush across the roadway - when are they going to take their brand of winter birdliness back

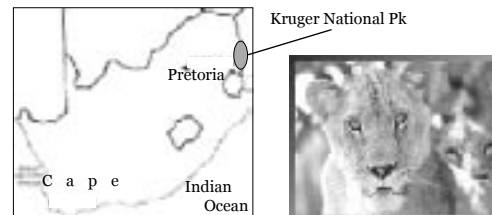
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MAY PROGRAM PG Audubon and Patuxent MOS

Kruger National Park

by Greg Kearns

Tues. May 11, 2004 7:30 pm
College Park Airport Annex Building
College Park, Maryland



Come and learn about the wildlife of the vast Kruger National Park in South Africa, visited by Greg Kearns in 2003. Enjoy outstanding slides, video and narration of his visits to Cape Town and Kruger National Park.

Annual Membership Picnic

Sat. June 5
Rosaryville State Park

Meet at Bowie Park & Ride at 7:00 a.m.
Bring a dish to share.
Contact Fred Fallon
for reservations and directions -
301 249-1518 or fwoffall@earthlink.net.



Field Trips



May 1 (Sat.) - 7:30 am

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD
Chan Robbins will lead this foray which replaces the the Fran Uhler monthly walk. Meet at the main gate at intersection of Powder Mill Rd and Rte 197. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED...contact Fred Fallon at 301 249-1518.

May 15 (Sat.) - 7:30 Monthly Governor's Bridge Park Walk
Meet at entrance gate on Governor's Bridge Rd.

June 5 (Sat.) - 7:00 am Annual member's picnic at Rosaryville SP.
Meet at Bowie Park & Ride or at the park. Bring a dish to share.

Call Fred Fallon for reservations & directions.

June 19 (Sat.) - 2d foray by Fred and Jane Fallon to a southern PG County park. Meet at Bowie Park & Ride; contact Fred for reservations and details (destination unknown at this time).

June 26 (Sat.) - 3d foray by Fred and Jane Fallon to a southern PG County park. Meet at Bowie Park & Ride; contact Fred for reservations and details (destination unknown at this time).

Trips depart from either the Bowie Park & Ride or Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Road at the time given. Please arrive earlier so the group can leave at the scheduled time. Call the field trip leader in advance for reservations.

Fred Fallon 301 249-1518

Fred Shaffer 410 721-1744

Fran Uhler Nature Area: 1st Sunday of every month except January and July. FUNA is located at the end of Lemon Bridge Rd off Rte 197 just north of bridge over AMTRAK RR line.

Governors Bridge Park: 3d Saturday of every month except December and July. GBP is located on Governor's Bridge Rd 2 miles from Rte 301, entrance at double gate.

Walks start at 7:30 a.m.; no reservations are required.

Local Birding Opportunities Patuxent Research Refuge

Bird Walk

May 1 (Sat.) 8-10 am
North Tract area of Patuxent Research Refuge. Call 301 497-5887 for registration and directions.

Owl Prowl

May 1 (Sat.) 7:30-9 pm
North Tract area of Patuxent Research Refuge. Call 301 497-5887 for registration and directions.

Bird Tours 8:15-11 am

May 6 (Thu.), May 10 (Mon.),
May 19 (Wed.)
North Tract area of Patuxent Research Refuge. Call 301 497-5887 for registration and directions.

IMBD Listing Tour

May 15 (Sat.) 7-11 am
EXPERIENCED BIRDERS ONLY!
Help identify bird species found in the variety of habitats at North Tract on **International Migratory Bird Day**.
Call 301 497-5887 for registration and directions.

Warbler Hike

May 16 (Sun.) 8-11 am
Search for warblers during peak migration! North Tract area of Patuxent Research Refuge. Call 301 497-5887 for registration and directions.

Bird Walk

May 21 (Sun.) 8:15-10:30 am
National Wildlife Visitor Center
Led by PGAS member and refuge



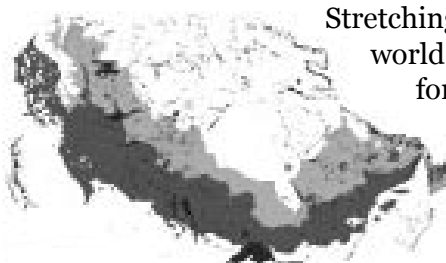
ANNUAL MAY COUNT

MAY 8 (Saturday)



Counts take place on this date throughout North America to determine patterns of migration. Call your local coordinator (PG County - Fred Fallon / fwfallon@earthlink.net or 301 249-1518) to sign up for your favorite birding area to avoid overlap. There are no prescribed boundaries or fees. Obtain a standard form (in May-June issue of MOS *Yellowthroat* or from the MOS website www.MDBirds.org...click on "bird counts"). All birders are welcome to count birds during this peak migration period.

Boreal Conservation Framework Lays Out Vision for Protecting Vital Breeding Grounds for Billions of North American Birds



Stretching from Alaska to the Atlantic Ocean, Canada's boreal forest is one of the world's largest forests. It accounts for 25 percent of the earth's remaining intact forests, covers 1.3 billion acres, and is larger than the Brazilian Amazon. With more fresh water than any place on earth, Canada's boreal forest supports some of the largest populations of wildlife such as grizzly bears and wolves, and provides vital breeding grounds for up to a third of North America's land birds and 40 percent of its waterfowl.

In December 2003, the Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI) announced a landmark vision to protect this global treasure. The Boreal Conservation Framework proposes a new approach to balancing conservation and economic development: the establishment of a network of large interconnected protected areas covering about half of Canada's boreal region, and the use of cutting-edge sustainable development practices in remaining areas. The Framework reflects an extraordinary alliance of conservation organizations, First Nations, and timber and oil companies who have signed on to the Framework. (Information about the Framework can be found at CBI's web-site: www.borealcanada.ca)

While vast tracks of the boreal region remain unspoiled at this point, the release of the Framework comes at a time when development is rapidly escalating and land use decisions in every Canadian province and territory will determine the fate of much of the boreal region within the next three to five years. With over 90% of the boreal under public ownership, a critical next step will be to persuade Canadian governments to play a central role in making the Framework's vision a reality.

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PGAS Members are invited to submit items of interest to fellow birders, including announcements of local bird-related activities (programs, walks, etc.), details of recent birding forays, or other tidbits of information. Send your input to *The Bluebird* editor, Steve Noyes (noyessh@yahoo.com) by the 5th of the month.

2004 Maryland Science Fair

by Carolyn Bonner

On March 27 the Maryland Science Fair was held at Prince Georges Community College. Joy Loomis and Carolyn Bonner, representing PGAS judged entries from PG County in earth science and environmental subjects. All girls and boys were well dressed, polite, and eager to talk about their project. With an entry on toxic runoff, Harolyn Phillips won the approval of most judges. She won a \$25 check, a one year subscription to Audubon, and a certificate from PGAS. Congratulations, Harolyn!

Prince Georges Community College has long hosted the science fair and treats the judges well. In addition to a continental breakfast, lunch was delicious catered Italian food and judges are welcome to take home a beautiful enamel pin with the date on it. Won't you consider being a judge next year for PGAS?

Early Bird Opportunities

May 15 (Sat.) &
May 23 (Sun.)

North Tract at the **Patuxent Research Refuge** will be opening its gate on these dates at **6:30 AM** for birding, hiking, fishing, biking, and wildlife observation. North Tract is located on Rte 198 between the BW Parkway and Rte 32.

The Best of the Chesapeake Bay

Join the Crisfield Heritage Foundation for an exciting week (Sunday through Friday) exploring the Chesapeake Bay and learning about its importance to small waterfront seafood towns like Crisfield, Maryland, one of the last working waterfront towns on the Bay.



See and learn how oysters and crabs are harvested and processed by fishermen in their Bay-built boats. Hear local colorful characters such as artists, storytellers, and watermen describe their local culture and heritage. Take two boat trip adventures to famous and unique Tangier and Smith islands. Enjoy meals provided by several local restaurants, most featuring the "catch of the day."

Most classes are held overlooking the docks of the largest state-owned marina in Maryland. Free time is available for fishing, kayaking, touring, **birding**, etc. Four time frames are open: June 6-11, June 20-25, October 3-8, and October 24-29. Sound interesting? It is! Call Dan or Maureen Blades at 301-262-5148 for details and to register.

“Boreal Conservation..”

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Much of the resource development in the boreal is being driven by U.S. consumption. The U.S. is the leading importer of Canadian forest products and oil and gas. Eighty-one percent of Canada's forest products go to the United States, and most of the wood cut in Canada's boreal is used to make paper, including catalogs, junk mail, magazines, and newspapers. And the U.S. buys more of its oil and gas from Canada — 60% of which is produced from the boreal — than any other single source.

Of the 298 bird species that have some of their breeding grounds in the boreal forest, at least 40 species of land birds and several species of ducks are already experiencing population declines in part due to habitat loss from logging and oil and gas development.

While American consumption is largely responsible, it also means that American citizens and companies can influence the fate of this global treasure. The boreal is perhaps the greatest forest conservation opportunity left on earth.

An international campaign focused in the U.S. is emerging. The Boreal Songbird Network is a new network of conservation groups that include: the Boreal Songbird Initiative, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the American Bird Conservancy. These groups are working to build a broad base of international support for boreal conservation and the adoption of the Boreal Framework.

For more information on how you can help protect the boreal forest, please go to the Boreal Songbird Initiative website at www.borealbirds.org.

The Boreal Songbird Initiative is a new project dedicated to educating bird conservationists and naturalists throughout the United States about the importance of North America's boreal forest to migratory birds.

“President's Perch”

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to the place where they belong, far to the north? The newly arrived migrant Eastern Phoebe took the direct approach, advertising its own “phoebe” name repeatedly, down by the railroad bridge over the Patuxent River.

While we gathered smashed parts of computer and coin machine from the soggy open field, Jane said, “Cleaning up trash should make us feel good, but seeing this junk doesn't make me feel very good about the people who threw it here!” We can be proud that the Prince George's Audubon Society did its bit to live up to the Audubon brand of environmental concern. Dennis was on hand early to receive the paperwork and the garbage bags from the Parks and Planning staff, and carried the bags as they grew heavier. Bill and Sister Mary Jo clambered up the steep slopes to retrieve the cans and bottles far above the trail. Carolyn B. had her cane in one hand while she collected trash with the long-handled grabber she borrowed from her mother - thanks, Mom!

While we know that we can't control the willy-nilly littering of popular brand products in the places we value, we can always try to improve

Nominees for PGAS Officers and Board Members for 2004-05 Election at May 11 Meeting

President: Beth Kantrowitz
Vice-President: Lynette Fullerton
Secretary: Mike Callahan
Treasurer: Bill Sefton

Board Members:
Carolyn Sturtevant -2 year term
Doug Bolt - 2 year term
Tom Loomis - 2 year term

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join the **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY** for an introductory rate of just \$20.00 and receive these benefits:

- 4 issues of **Audubon** magazine
- Membership in the local chapter (PGAS)
- The PGAS newsletter - **The Bluebird**



NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 E-MAIL _____

Please make check payable to: **National Audubon Society** and mail to:

PGAS
 P.O. Box 693
 Bowie, MD 20718

Prince George's Audubon Chapter L01 7XCH

The Prince George's Audubon Society (PGAS) was established over 30 years ago as a chapter of the National Audubon Society to serve northern Prince George's County. Incorporated in the State of Maryland, PGAS is a non-profit organization of about 650 members with officers elected by the general membership. Membership in PGAS comes from joining the National Audubon Society; members from northern P.G. County automatically become members of PGAS and will receive the award winning *Audubon* magazine and this newsletter, *The Bluebird*, which advises members of field trips, monthly program meetings, other activities and topics of environmental interest. A membership application is included with this newsletter for your convenience.

The Bluebird is published by the Prince George's Audubon Society. To contribute to the newsletter, please contact the editor **Steve Noyes** at 301 937-6499 or by e-mail to noyesh@yahoo.com by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication. You may reach PGAS officers through the website: pgaudubon.org or by e-mail at mailinfo@pgaudubon.org.

OFFICERS 2003-04

President: Carolyn Sturtevant / phone: 301 513-0006 (h)
 Vice-President: Beth Kantrowitz / phone: 301 484-1977 (h)
 Secretary: (Acting) Lynette Fullerton
 Treasurer: Bill Sefton / phone: 301 776-5997



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