

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

September-December 2004

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

by Beth Kantrowitz
President PGAS

The summer of 2004 passed much too quickly. The birds are already heading south and we are set to begin a new year of Prince George's Audubon Society (PGAS) activities. We are also entering the fourth year of our mutually successful collaboration with the Patuxent Bird Club (PBC), part of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS).

For those of you who don't know the history of this two-clubs-in-one arrangement, a few years ago both clubs realized that attendance at monthly meetings was shrinking; both clubs were soliciting the same finite set of local speakers. There was extensive overlap among the board members and general membership between the two clubs. Beginning in the 2001-02 program year, PGAS and PBC decided to test an unofficial semi-merger, holding joint member meetings and collaborating on field trips, sharing the planning duties and saving money by alternating responsibilities for speaker fees between the clubs. Both PGAS and PBC maintained their own nonprofit status, their own officers and board of directors, their own members, their own relationships with their parent organizations (National Audubon Society and MOS, respectively), and their own unique identities.

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PGAS - Patuxent Bird Club Meeting September 14, 2004, 7:30 pm

Dr. Matthew Perry of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland will talk about the history of the Patuxent Refuge, with special emphasis on the bird studies conducted there.

The joint meetings of the local Audubon and MOS chapters are held at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the College Park Airport Annex off from Paint Branch Parkway east of Rte. 1.

FALL COUNT

Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004

This all-day state-wide count will be held on Sunday, September 19.

This is an opportunity to check out your favorite locations in the county to look for fall migrants.



Contact County Coordinator Dave Mozurkewich to cover your site (301 459-3375 or mozurk@bellatlantic.com).

Field Trips



Sept.4 (Sat.)	7:30-10:30 a.m.	FUNA
Sept. 11 (Sat.)	7:30-10:30 a.m.	G.B. Park
Sept.12 (Sun.) *	6:30-?? Meet at Beltway Plaza or at OHF parking lot (Contact Dave Mozurkewich)	Oxon Hill Farm
Sept. 18 (Sat.)*	7:00 a.m. All day trip. Meet at Bowie Park & Ride. (Contact Fred Shaffer)	Bombay Hook NWR
Sept. 25 (Sat.)*	7:30-11:30 a.m. Bird Banding with Danny Bystrak. Meet at Bowie P&R. (contact Fred Fallon)	Jug Bay
Oct. 2 (Sat.)	7:30-10:30 a.m.	FUNA
Oct. 16 (Sat.)	7:30-10:30 a.m.	G.B. Park
Oct. 30 (Sat.)*	7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. In search of field birds at Milltown Landing/Aquasco areas. Meet at Bowie P&R. (Contact Fred Shaffer)	So. PG County sites
Nov. 6 (Sat.)	7:30-10:30 a.m.	FUNA
Nov. 13 (Sat.)*	7:30 a.m.-noon Waterfowl. Meet at Bowie Park & Ride. (Contact Fred Fallon)	Horsehead Sanctuary
Nov. 20 (Sat.)	7:30-10:30 a.m.	G.B. Park
Dec. 4 (Sat.)	7:30-10:30 a.m.	FUNA
Dec. 5 (Sun.)	7:30-?? Meet at Beltway Plaza. (Contact Dave M.)	Piscataway Park

Check out the PGAS website, www.pgaudubon.org, for the latest on upcoming field trips and club meeting agendas. Featured speakers and presentations for future meeting were largely tentative when this edition of the newsletter went to press.



*Reservations required. Contact the designated leader for latest details. Times listed are exact times of departure and estimated times of return.

Fred Fallon 301 249-1518
Dave Mozurkewich 301 459-3375
Fred Shaffer 410 721-1744

FUNA is Fran Uhler Nature Area at the end of Lemon Bridge Road west of the Bowie MARC Station on Rte 197. GB Park is Governor's Bridge Park which is on Governor's Bridge Rd, 2 miles east of Rte 301 just south of Rte 50.



Bird Walks at Patuxent Research Refuge



**National Wildlife
Visitor Center**
(located on Powder Mill Rd)

Sept. 8 (Wed.)* 8-10 a.m.
Sept. 12 (Sun.)* 7:30-9:30 a.m.
Sept. 15 (Wed.)* 7-9 a.m.

Oct. 6 (Wed.)* 8-10 a.m.
Oct. 17 (Sun.)* 8-10 a.m.
Oct. 20 (Wed.)* 7-9 a.m.

Nov. 6 (Sat.)* 8-10 a.m.

North Tract
(located off Rte 198 east of BW Parkway)

Sept. 5 (Sun.) 8-10 a.m.
Oct. 24 (Sun.) 8-10 a.m.
Nov. 14 (Sun.) 8-10 a.m.

Register by calling 301 497-5887. For other activities on the refuge, check their website patuxent.fws.gov.

**Walks led by club members and refuge volunteer naturalists Steve Noyes or Jay Pape or Earl Harrison.*

Annual Patuxent Wildlife Festival

Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, MD
Held at the National Wildlife Visitor Center

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2004

10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Family activities, live cranes, tram tours, bus tours of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (normally closed to the public). Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Visitor Center, 65th anniversary of the Patuxent Research Refuge, and 12th anniversary of the U.S. Geological Survey (provides the scientists for the research conducted on the refuge).

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 (baea43@earthlink.net) by the 5th of the month.

President's Perch

Continued from page 1

After the first experimental year ended, both PGAS and PBC agreed that the arrangement was mutually beneficial, and the collaboration has been renewed by both governing boards each year since. This summer, for the first time, both the PGAS and PBC boards met together to begin planning the 2004-05 program and field trip schedule, and the board members of both clubs have established an e-mail list to keep in regular touch about planning scheduling matters. We also accepted the field trip structure established last year, wherein the Patuxent Bird Club plans, schedules, and provides trip leaders for all field trips except the regularly-scheduled monthly bird walks at the two properties for which PGAS shares responsibility with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: the Fran Uhler Natural Area and the Governor's Bridge Natural Area, both part of Patuxent River Park. The two clubs still share a board

member, Tom Loomis, and the relationship will be further strengthened by a new designation on the PGAS board - liaison to the PBC board, a role I've asked outgoing president and current board member, Carolyn Sturtevant, to fill.

I suppose I shouldn't end my first "President's Perch" column without introducing the rest of the 2004-05 PGAS board which took office on July 1, 2004. After serving one year as a board member and then two years as Vice President, I was elected by PGAS members to be the new President. Carolyn Sturtevant, who very ably and successfully led our organization for the past two years (reaching the club's established term limit), will remain on the PGAS board; I will try to fill her presidential shoes. Board member and Publicity Coordinator Lynette Fullerton was elected Vice President; Bill Sefton stays on as our Treasurer; and past president Mike Callahan will be the PGAS Secretary. Continuing with terms on the PGAS board are Doug Bolt, our Membership Coordinator, and Tom Loomis, who handles the

mailing and distribution of this newsletter. Our sole new board member is the person who stepped forward months ago to fill our *Bluebird* editorial vacancy, Steve Noyes, who has brought an updated design and great enthusiasm to his position as Editor and who will be a welcome new voice on our board.

Our other means of communications with members, the club website www.pgaudubon.org, underwent a change of web hosts and an unfortunate stretch of down time this summer, but it is back, reliable, and features the most up-to-date information on our club and the joint PGAS/PBC programs and field trips. I remain the sites's webmaster and, as always, I welcome any comments and suggestions you may have at info@audubon.org.

We hope you enjoy the wonderful programs and field trips we have planned for you this Fall, and I look forward to a successful year as President. Keep listening for birdsong and keep watching the sky!

Kudos - Thanks to Dave Mozurkewich for volunteering to organize visits to some new places (see "Field Trips" on page 2). Show your support by attending a field trip.

Monthly Meetings

PGAS and Patuxent Bird Club joint meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the College Park Airport Annex at 7:30 p.m. Following are the dates for the period September through December 2004. Mark the dates on your calendar and join fellow birders for an evening program.

- Sept. 14 (Tentative) Matt Perry will talk about the history of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland.
- Oct. 12 (Tentative) Bonnie Ott will talk about one of her favorite subjects- sparrows. Check our website (www.pgaudubon.org) for updates.
- Nov. 9 Hawaiian Birds... presented by Rob Fleischer.
- Dec. 14 Subject not available when this issue went to press. Check our website (www.pgaudubon.org) for updates.

New 2004-2005 PGAS Board

OFFICERS:

President: Beth Kantrowitz bkantrowitz@olg.com
V-President: Lynette Fullerton ladyhawke20@lycos.com
Secretary: Mike Callahan raptorsrule@juno.com
Treasurer: Bill Sefton wsefton@northrupgrumman.com

BOARD MEMBERS:

Doug Bolt (Membership) dbolt@boltassociates.com
Steve Noyes (Newsletter editor) baea43@earthlink.net
Carolyn Sturtevant crstur@aol.com or cast@loc.gov
Tom Loomis loomist@atlantech.net

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 baea43@earthlink.net by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication. You may reach PGAS officers through the website: www.pgaudubon.org or by e-mail at mailinfo@pgaudubon.org.

OFFICERS 2003-04

President: Beth Kantrowitz bkantrowitz@olg.com
Vice-President: Lynette Fullerton ladyhawke20@lycos.com
Secretary: Mike Callahan raptorsrule@jun.com
Treasurer: Bill Sefton wsefton@northrupgrumman.com



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