

2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

During the past year MOS has continued to meet the requirements of our mission while also meeting the needs of our members. Thanks to the many volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts, we are a dynamic organization that continues to change proportionally with our environment.

This year's conference in Ocean City was a resounding success — one that was scheduled in February when weather could have hampered attendance. Weather, however, was largely accommodating as were the birds at Assateague: Northern Saw-whet Owl and Lark Sparrow, as well as two Razorbills at the inlets, were seen by many. Our planned pelagic, however, did not occur due to rough seas. Our keynote was provided by David Brinker of MD DNR where he discussed dynamics in Northern Goshawk life histories. Maryanne Dolan provided a workshop on waterfowl and there were many to be seen afterwards.

Awards included Outstanding Service to our Records Committee Secretary, Phil Davis, and Exceptional Achievement Awards to our outgoing Yellowthroat editor and designer, Lydia Suzanne Probst and Lydia Schindler, respectively. Valued Service Awards went to both Kurt Schwarz and Tom Alderson for their work in keeping a vigilant approach to conservation issues not only in Maryland, but throughout the nation and the world where birds are concerned. Sincere thanks go out to all of you!

Sadly, we lost a past president, and longtime servant of the Society, Mr. John Malcolm. John has been involved with MOS for decades and had taken the Awards Committee to new levels because of his dedication and passionate service. John strongly believed that volunteers should be well recognized for all they do and he saw to it that officers and others were recognized for their efforts. John also did an excellent job of jurying the MOS pin contest where many anonymous judges were given objective criteria with which to score each entry. If all of this wasn't enough he also was the steward of the Merchandise Committee. John is survived by his partner Joy Aso and will be sorely missed.

Lastly, I want to thank many who give their service to the Society expecting nothing in return. Volunteers are the backbone of our organization and without them MOS does not exist. Thanks go out to all of you, especially Janet Shields, Dave Webb and our new president, Maureen Harvey. Thanks everyone for a successful term.

Mark S. Johnson, President

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

In even this truncated "year" the Conservation Committee has been quite active. Since the last meeting, we have submitted 22 letters, mostly at the Federal level. Comment letters have been directed to the Bureau of Land Management (2), the Department of the Navy (1), the Forest Service (2), the National Park Service (3), the Fish and Wildlife Service (8), Maryland's U.S. Senators (1), the entire Maryland U.S. Congressional Delegation (1), the Bureau of Off-Shore Energy, Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (1), the Army Corps of Engineers (1), and Charles County Commissioners (1). Topics included off-road vehicles, wind

power, endangered species, pesticides, land usage. Of local interest, we petitioned the Charles County Commissioners to halt the Cross-County Connector, which would have harmed the Assawoman watershed (and was a successful effort). They also commented on the George Washington National Forest and Chincoteague NWR in neighboring Virginia.

We also signed onto at least four joint letters: National Audubon concerning the National Petroleum Reserve, an international letter on bird trapping in Cyprus (thank you Maureen!), American Bird Conservancy regarding Spotted Owls, and the Center for Biodiversity on lead ammunition.

Lastly, about nine action alerts were sent to the MOS membership via the MOS listserv, which apparently did not reach a wide audience.

Kurt Schwarz, Chair

MARYLAND/DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECORDS COMMITTEE

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was held on 5 March 2011. Highlights of the meeting and of the past year's activities follow:

1. Official List Changes and Status. Golden-crowned Sparrow, Brown Booby, Barnacle Goose, and Cassin's Sparrow were added the Maryland Official List since last year's Annual Meeting.

2. Acceptance Rate. The committee's cumulative acceptance rate stands at 78.1 percent based on over 1,100 decisions.

3. Database Contents. Over 3,000 database records are being tracked. During the previous year, over 300 historical reports were added to the database from reports uncovered from the historical canvass and over 100 current reports were added.

4. ID Articles and Index. The committee now has approximately 916 identification and reference articles in its files for 116 taxa.

5. AOU Taxonomy Updates. Updates to the MD/DCRC database were made to incorporate the changes of the AOU's 52nd Supplement, including:

Splits:

- Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
- Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

Old World Common Moorhen is distinguished from New World populations by voice and by subtle differences in appearance and the English and scientific names of the North American birds changed. One record from the Aleutian Islands in fall 2010, if confirmed, will be North America's first Common Moorhen, adding a new species.

Changes to species names:

- Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis philadelphia* formerly *Oporornis philadelphia*
 - MacGillivray's Warbler *Geothlypis tolmiei* formerly *Oporornis tolmiei*
 - Kentucky Warbler *Geothlypis formosa* formerly *Oporornis formosus*
- [note change in spelling of species name]
- Hooded Warbler *Setophaga citrina* formerly *Wilsonia citrina*
 - Kirtland's Warbler *Setophaga kirtlandii* formerly *Dendroica kirtlandii*
 - Cape May Warbler *Setophaga tigrina* formerly *Dendroica tigrina*
 - Cerulean Warbler *Setophaga cerulea* formerly *Dendroica cerulea*
 - Northern Parula *Setophaga americana* formerly *Parula americana*
 - Tropical Parula *Setophaga pitiayumi* formerly *Parula pitiayumi*
 - Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia* formerly *Dendroica magnolia*
 - Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea* formerly *Dendroica castanea*
 - Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca* formerly *Dendroica fusca*
 - Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechia* formerly *Dendroica petechia*
 - Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica* formerly *Dendroica pensylvanica*
 - Blackpoll Warbler *Setophaga striata* formerly *Dendroica striata*
 - Black-throated Blue Warbler *Setophaga caerulescens* formerly *Dendroica caerulescens*
 - Palm Warbler *Setophaga palmarum* formerly *Dendroica palmarum*
 - Pine Warbler *Setophaga pinus* formerly *Dendroica pinus*
 - Yellow-rumped Warbler *Setophaga coronata* formerly *Dendroica coronata*
 - Yellow-throated Warbler *Setophaga dominica* formerly *Dendroica dominica*
 - Prairie Warbler *Setophaga discolor* formerly *Dendroica discolor*
 - Grace's Warbler *Setophaga graciae* formerly *Dendroica graciae*
 - Black-throated Gray Warbler *Setophaga nigrescens* formerly *Dendroica nigrescens*
 - Townsend's Warbler *Setophaga townsendi* formerly *Dendroica townsendi*
 - Hermit Warbler *Setophaga occidentalis* formerly *Dendroica occidentalis*
 - Golden-cheeked Warbler *Setophaga chrysoparia* formerly *Dendroica chrysoparia*
 - Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens* formerly *Dendroica virens*
 - Fan-tailed Warbler *Basileuterus lachrymosus* formerly *Euthlypis lachrymosa*
- [note change in spelling of species name]
- Canada Warbler *Cardellina canadensis* formerly *Wilsonia canadensis*
 - Wilson's Warbler *Cardellina pusilla* formerly *Wilsonia pusilla*

6. Historical Canvass. A number of related initiatives are still underway to capture all historical “reviewable” reports. Overall, this project is approximately 98 percent complete and should be completely finished by next year’s Annual Meeting.

7. MOS MD/DCRC Web Page Updates. The Secretary has continued to update and publish MD/DCRC data products to the committee’s web pages on the MOS web site. The link to the committee’s web pages is: <http://www.mdbirds.org/mddcrc/rcindex.html>.

8. Review List Changes. No changes were made to the DC Review List. The following changes were implemented to the MD Review List:

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|---------------------------|--|
| Northern Goshawk | Added to the MD Review List in category 2, reviewable anywhere in MD |
| Roseate Tern | Moved into Category 2, reviewable anywhere in MD |
| Brewer's Blackbird | Restored to the list in Category 2, reviewable anywhere in MD |

10. Elections

• **New members.** Members completing their voting terms were Tyler Bell, Gwen Brewer, and Mikey Lutmerding. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years. Special thanks to Tyler for agreeing to rejoin the committee after a short break to take over the term of a member who resigned. Also, thanks to Stan Arnold who was recently re-appointed to the committee to fill another vacancy. The new members elected for three-year terms were: Patty Craig (St. Mary's), Rob Ostrowski (Anne Arundel), and Dan Small (Queen Anne's).

• **Chair.** Bill Hubick was re-elected as the Chair.

• **Secretary.** Phil Davis was re-elected as the Secretary.

Phil Davis, MD/DC Records Committee Secretary

**MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, APRIL 30, 2012**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Income:</u>		
Membership Dues	18,000	24,742.50
Interest on Operating Funds	6,782	4,312.69
Interest on Non-Designated Funds	3,538	5,734.49
Earth Share Mid-Atlantic & Other Charitable Campaigns	2,600	3,018.14
General Donations	100	2,315.00
Conservation-earmarked Donations	-	470.00
Sales/Publications	500	338.30
Miscellaneous	100	750.90
Total Income	\$31,620	\$41,682.02
<u>Operating Expenses (*):</u>		
Officers' Expenses	2,575	800.00
Affiliations & Memberships	250	350.00
Audit / Review	9,000	10,150.00
Awards	1,360	2,160.75
Bulk Storage	3,240	2,723.52
Chapter Reimbursement for Meetings	200	200.00
Database Management	500	500.00
Liability Insurance	3,400	3,459.00
Management Training	300	149.00

* No budget or actual expenses for the following committees: Bylaws, Library, Nest Records, Nominating, Publicity, & Seasonal Counts.

Merchandise & Sales Tax	100	93.75
Office Supplies	200	119.56
Postage	200	200.53
Printing & Duplication	200	92.05
Telephone	800	606.34
Contingencies / Miscellaneous	50	152.13
<u>Committees & Projects:</u>		
Alternate Energy	25	—
Bird Trail	25	—
Birds of North America Online	—	475.00
Budget	25	—
Communications:		
Maryland Birdlife	—	—
Yellowthroat	7,500	8,398.08
MOS Website	120	9.95
Member Listserve	240	153.00
Other Publications	350	350.00
Conservation	700	550.00
Development/EFM	25	—
Historian	10	—
Investments	25	—
Long-range Planning	25	—
Membership	125	—
Records	50	—
<u>Board-approved Post-budget Expenses:</u>		
Yellow Books (additional)	—	1,236.16
Custom Print Merchandise	—	226.55
Piscataway Signs	—	223.66
Sanctuary Signs	—	1,138.50

Total Expenses:	\$31,620	\$34,517.53
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Special Funds & Committees:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Add'l Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Atlas	1,822.32	1,751.90	832.56
Education			
Statewide Education	2,871.43	0.00	602.77
Youth Programs	2,871.44	2,825.75	6,670.41
Research	2,401.81	140.00	2,400.00
Sanctuary	15,867.00	1,638.00	14,089.40
Scholarship	8,048.77	795.00	7,244.40

Dave Webb, Treasurer

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

With the toll of ongoing belt-tightening beginning to dry up funding pools in the greater research community, MOS's research grants continue to provide much needed support to those students and scientists who are working on our state's birdlife. The research committee received a good number of grant proposals in the 2011 fiscal year and spent its annual budget in support of four particularly impressive projects. The committee's allocations included \$340 for DNA sequencing supplies to Sarah Manor (UMBC graduate student) who is studying Marsh Wrens in Maryland (and range-wide) in order to better elucidate the evolutionary processes of coastal marshes. Sara Rothamel (Frostburg State graduate student) also received a \$500 grant in support of mist nets, color bands, and other field materials needed to commence a study of territoriality and breeding behavior of Cerulean Warblers in Western Maryland. The committee continued support of Clark Rushing's (UMCP graduate student) ambitious work, allocating \$1,200 to his research aimed at understanding the causes and consequences of natal dispersal in local migratory birds, such as the American Redstart. Lastly, Dan Small (Ecologist at the Chester River Field Research Center) received \$360 for radio transmitters that will permit the CRFRC to track Grasshopper Sparrows at the former Chino Farms site throughout the species' cryptic post-fledgling period. As always, on behalf of our grant recipients and the research review committee, we express great appreciation to our MOS membership for supporting research efforts that allow us to better understand Maryland's birds.

David Ziolkowski, Chair

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE (No Report)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The MOS scholarship committee received six applications to attend Audubon workshops on Hog Island this summer; one applicant subsequently withdrew during the review process. Five awards were made this year, and two recipients from 2011 program were funded for programs this summer since their workshop choice for last year had filled up by the time the committee had made final selections. The mailing of flyers and submission deadlines for the scholarship program were shifted several months earlier this year to better synchronize with the earlier registration Project Puffin began last year. Because the scholarship funds for scholarships were much reduced from prior years, the distribution of the flyer was limited to avoid the potential of many disappointed applicants. The Audubon Naturalist Society and the Kent County Bird Club supplemented the scholarship budget. A portion of the Scholarship budget is used for the summer workshop for teachers operated for the past several years by George Radcliff and Wayne Bell at Washington College.

There were four choices offered for teacher workshops this year: "Field Ornithology," "Joy of Birding," "Sharing Nature – An Educator's Week," and "Maine Seabird Biology and Conservation." Project Puffin/National Audubon operates the first three and the last one is

operated by the Road Scholar organization (previously known as Elderhostel). The “Sharing Nature” workshop continues to be the most popular program.

The committee encourages MOS members to spread the word and to seek applicants such as teachers, park rangers, environmental educators, and community volunteers who would benefit from the scholarship program. A scholarship is the “gift that keeps on giving.”

Tom Strikwerda, Chair

SANCTUARIES COMMITTEE

Carey Run

As in the past several years we had no structured official workday to open the house and start the season. The workdays were discontinued due to low attendance and the local volunteers felt it was easier to prepare the site on their own schedule. Thus, a few dedicated local club members readied the site for visitors. The house is open for guests normally from the end of April until October. Over the summer season there were eight reservations to stay overnight at the Carey Run house. The reservations included individuals, family groups, and several youth groups. The duration of the visits included overnight to weeklong stays. The number of day visits is unknown.

Irish Grove

Irish Grove had 18 reservations so far this year. Most visits are during the low mosquito season, late Fall to early Spring, but some hardy souls stay there during the summer months as well. The House is open for guests year round, however the well system is disconnected during the winter so guests need to bring their own water for washing as well as drinking water.

Two workdays were held at Irish Grove this year. The spring work weekend was on April 9–10 and the fall work weekend was on October 11–12. Both weekends were used for trail maintenance, yard work, and housekeeping activities. A pending major project at Irish Grove is replacement of the house roof. The roof is over 20 years old and is due for replacement. This job is too big a project to undertake with our aging small group of volunteers. We are looking for a local contractor to undertake the job for us.

I have focused on our reservations because this is the only way we really have to gauge the usage of these properties. While the numbers are not large the number of visits appears to remain steady over the years. From the comments in the guest books I have seen that the same visitors return year after year. While these houses may not be the most modern of accommodations they are appreciated and enjoyed year after year by members of the MOS. These rustic farm houses give our members a great opportunity to spend time with nature literally at your door step.

Brent Beyers, Chair