

A quarterly newsletter for Volunteers and Friends of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Patuxent Research Refuge

# FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

Vol. 25 • No. 4

www.friendsopatuxent.org

Fall 2014

## WILDLIFE OBSERVATION WHEN?

Brad Knudsen, Refuge Manager

**A**mere 36 years ago, I was part-way through my first of three summers working as a summer employee for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, banding woodcock on state and federal properties in the northern part of the state. It is still, arguably, the most fun job I have ever had - day in and day out, spent tromping the northern aspen forests and boggy meadows, locating good

I know at least for me - and various studies/surveys bear this out for Americans in general - spare time to do what you want has dwindled in recent years. It is harder to plan a half day away from chores, let alone a weekend getaway or longer. So I have found myself thirsty for times to head out for a nearby and short-lived excursion to observe wildlife wherever I can.

It is certainly advantageous to be near a wild place like Patuxent Research

**One of my best spur of the moment outings to Patuxent resulted in my son and I observing a wild turkey, a red fox, two bald eagles, a northern harrier VERY up close and personal, four beavers, and a pileated woodpecker - all within a 60 minute timeframe.**

sites for mist netting and ground trapping woodcock as part of a long-term population monitoring study.

One of my heroes of those summer days was the area wildlife manager, who had grown up hunting and fishing in that part of the state. I will always remember his classic answer when a co-worker asked him if he goes fishing according to the Solunar tables, which subscribe to the theory that the moon and the sun determine the best time(s) of day and night to catch fish <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fish>. The manager's answer was, "I usually go fishing whenever I have the chance".

I can't help but think of that answer when I consider the current situation many of us have in our day to day lives.

Refuge. One of my best spur of the moment outings to Patuxent resulted in my son and I observing a wild turkey, a red fox, two bald eagles, a northern harrier VERY up close and personal, four beavers, and a pileated wood-

*Continued on page 9*

## Environmental Stewardship in Action

Diana Ogilvie, Volunteer Coordinator, Patuxent Research Refuge

**W**hat do you get when you combine a plot of ground overgrown with choking invasives and grasses, a Master Gardener, several cubic yards of compost, garden tools, drizzling to steady rain all day and more than 25 enthusiastic volunteers? Planting for Pollinators Day at Patuxent Research Refuge!



To make the day possible, the Friends of Patuxent applied for and received an environmental stewardship grant from the Governor's Office on Service and Volun-

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# CALLING ALL ARTISTS PRR STAFF USGS & FWS ART SHOW 2015

Mary Ann Hartnett, Gallery Coordinator

The John Hollingsworth Art Gallery at the National Wildlife Visitor Center has been reserved from **January 1 - January 31, 2015** for a special display of artwork by the current staff members of the USGS and FWS at the Patuxent Research Refuge. Artwork can be displayed on the wall, in one of the glass cases or on pedestals behind stanchions in the lobby. **We want to see your flat work (sketches, paintings, photography, etc...), needlework, carvings, castings, pottery, basketry, jewelry, etc..., that has a wildlife (native or non-native species) or habitat theme.** Artists should adhere to the same guidelines that our wildlife artists follow concerning subject matter. Acceptable themes would be wildlife, nature, and/or environmental conservation issues, endangered, threatened or native species, along with wetlands, oceans, woodlands, prairies or other habitats that are recognized as symbols of earth's vital resources. Examples of unacceptable subject matter

would be domestic animals, buildings, landscapes that do not support the mission of the Refuge System, images which reflect religious figures or overtones whether blatantly or subtly, or images which may have political ramifications. Artwork to be hung on the wall should be matted, framed and wired for hanging. Pieces will be attached to the wall by curtain hooks or traditional picture hooks depending on the weight of the piece (there is plywood behind the carpeted surface). Plan to provide a title for your artwork if appropriate, along with your name in a form that can be displayed with your artwork if it is not signed.

The wall has six panels that are 69" high x 63" wide. The display area of the large glass case is 41" high x 59½" wide x 23½" deep. It has two adjustable glass shelves. The display area of the small glass case is 32½" high x 47½" wide x 20" deep. Both glass cases can be secured. A large carving could be displayed in the lobby if a pedestal is provided for it.



I would like to begin to plan the layout for the exhibit in November 2014. **Please call 301-474-5572 or e-mail me, maryannhartnett@netscape.net with questions or information about your artwork - subject matter, material, size, or anything special you would like me to know about it by November 15th at the latest.** To assure that there is adequate space, I am asking that each artist **initially submit only two works.** If space is still available after the works are hung/displayed, additional pieces may be added. I will let you know at a later date when you should bring your artwork to the Visitor Center for the exhibit. 🐦

**Friends of Patuxent** is published quarterly and can be read online or mailed to our Friends upon request.

Many of the newsletter contributors and other assistants are volunteers. There are regular contributors, however, we welcome and encourage all volunteers and Friends to submit items for the newsletter by sending or bringing them to:

**Editor, Friends of Patuxent Newsletter**  
ATTN: Ross Feldner  
11811 Ivanhoe Street  
Wheaton, MD 20902

Or email to [ross.feldner@verizon.net](mailto:ross.feldner@verizon.net)

To become a member of the Friends of Patuxent or send a donation, please see "Membership Application" on page 9.

## New Faces

Hello! My name is Natasha Shangold. I am the Fall Environmental Interpretation Intern. You will be seeing lots of me helping with public programs, walking around the visitor center, or even hiking one or more of the lovely trails Patuxent Research Refuge has to offer. I graduated from Salisbury University on May 22nd, 2014 with a BA in Environmental Studies and minors in Biology and Religious Studies. I look forward to having a career in Environmental Education in the near future. I enjoy being around, educating, and learning from people of all ages. Most importantly, I love being an environmentalist on this beautiful planet, Earth.



# ARTISTS OF THE MONTH FOR HOLLINGSWORTH - FALL 2014

Faith Leahy-Thielke, Patuxent Research Refuge Volunteer

Fall's exhibits in the Hollingsworth Gallery will bring seasonal colors indoors. We'll snuggle into October with the Southern Comforters of Bowie, be thankful for Steve Girlie in November, and celebrate December with Jay Coleman.



The Southern Comforters Quilting Guild of Bowie was launched in 1982, by 10 women who met at "The Stitchery" (formerly a shop in Crofton), and has grown into a large active group of over 100 enthusiasts. The guild members gather twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday at CCPS (the Presbyterian Church on Belair Drive in Bowie) to "learn and share quilting techniques and ideas". Additionally, the guild sponsors demonstrations, workshops, retreats, block swaps, raf-

files, challenges and speakers. Many of the members still quilt in the "traditional" manner, but others "explore the fields of modern and art quilts". Quilts with a wildlife theme employ characteristics of both types, but tend to incorporate "mixed media" - materials such as buttons, beads, paint and fiber. Our contact member mentions that these quilts have not just won local recognition, but sold - nationally and internationally.

The guild includes novices as well as "pros" and always welcomes new members.

Jay Coleman is a local artist and educator. His online bio mentions degrees from Morehouse and Howard and studies at the Corcoran School of Art. He has taught in public and private schools, and is focused now on innovative methods for "engaging and educating" children with autism and other challenges. For example, Mr. Coleman developed Slickfish Education and Therapy, an aquatic science curriculum enabling students to build and maintain saltwater fish tanks. As a painter, he is part of Guerilla Arts Ink, an organization that is designed to bridge an educational gap to fill the void left by



cutting music and arts programs in the schools. Coleman's murals "bring color" to many D.C. schools and communities. His portrait of Rosa Parks hung at her funeral, and other of his portraits have been internationally as well as locally commissioned. His exhibit for Hollingsworth will "depict animal responses to the infringement on natural habitat by humans". The images will consist of colored pencil on mat board and "arbitrary" interpretations of the drawings in oil on canvas.

Let it be fall. 🦉

## Bio Notes

Lake Redington is on a draw down right now for fall waterfowl feed production. It will get pretty low, may be just a few small pools left. The vegetation will grow up, develop seed heads and then we can expect to see water levels rise some. This will help waterfowl in the fall as they make their migration. It can also benefit amphibians as they can lay their eggs in small pools with less predation by fish. We may see critter tracks as fox, otter, deer, raccoons and others investigate the pools, and birds of prey inspect the pools for fish. So while the draw down may seem detrimental, in some ways it is quite beneficial, and provides a new way to view wildlife!



# Ten Birds for Autumn

Helen Alexander, Patuxent Volunteer

**A**lthough birds are best known for singing to establish their territories in spring, many of them sing year-round. Others, of course, are silent or only give chipping communication notes as they migrate, which are indistinguishable to most but expert birders' ears.

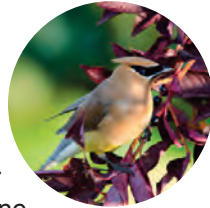
## 1. Common Grackle

Most people would not call the vocalizations of the Common Grackle song. Perhaps music is in the ear of the listener in this case. The harsh croaking/squeak of the Grackle can surely only be music to one's fellow Grackle.



## 2. Cedar Waxwing

Cedar Waxwings do not really sing. They do communicate with each other with very high, twittering notes that can be a bit difficult to distinguish from other birds' foraging communication twitters; one especially thinks of Tufted Titmice and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. When you hear a light, sometimes barely audible twittering, look for movement and try to judge the size of the bird. Cedar Waxwings are considerably bigger than the smaller Titmice and Gnatcatchers. Eventually, you will learn to recognize the different twitters as they have different frequencies. Just be patient.



## 3. Fish Crow

A hoarse Crow is a Fish Crow. Some have said they sound like herons, but the cadence of the Fish Crow's call is definitely a hoarse "caw-caw" very unlike the harsh squawk of a Heron.



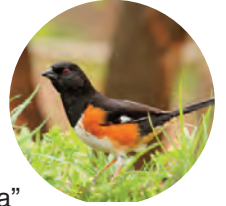
## 4. American Crow

The American Crow's loud "Caw-caw, Caw-caw" resounds over the fields and through the woods as these birds go about their daily lives, poking their beaks into every other bird's business with dire consequences for some hatchlings. Blue Jays and Crows sometimes seem to have cawing and screaming contests as they jockey for space in the fields and woods of the Refuge.



## 5. Eastern Towhee

A common sound on the refuge is the song and call of the Rufous-sided Towhee. The shrill ascending call of the Towhee is heard more often than the song. Often rendered as "Drink your tea" the song of the Towhee starts slowly and emphatically and ends the "tea" part of the song with a musical trill that sounds a bit metallic. Look for this bird in the dense undergrowth of the woods or down by the bird blind.



## 6. Dark-eyed Junco

The Dark-eyed Junco can most often be heard giving short, emphatic little 'chips' as they forage in the grass, or on the gravel at the sides of the parking lot and on the margins of the entrance road. It has a warbling spring song that is rarely heard.



## 7. White-throated Sparrow

The famous paraphrase of the White-throated Sparrow's song is "Poor Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody." The song is whistled and can be imitated by a good human whistler.



## 8. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Most often heard giving their nasal, but not very large calls, you can find these birds foraging for insects in the Pin Oaks on the Refuge. They are found on the edges of the forest in other trees as well.



## 9. Red-tailed Hawk

When you hear a hoarse sounding "Keer" look up and search for a Red-tailed Hawk soaring over the Refuge. They take advantage of autumn thermals to soar high above at this time of year.



## 10. Red-shouldered Hawk

A clear, loud descending "kee-year, kee-year, kee-year" is the call of a Red-shouldered Hawk, the hawk most often heard on the Refuge. Look above to see him also soaring on the autumn thermals. 🦅



# New Friends Policy and Logging Your Hours

Diana Ogilvie, Volunteer Coordinator, Patuxent Research Refuge

**A**s you probably already know, a new federal policy was released in April that will change some of the ways we do business at the Refuge.

In the past we have always counted and reported Friends and FWS Volunteer activities and hours together, but now, in light of the new federal policy, the volunteer coordinator will report Friends volunteer and FWS volunteer activities and hours separately. You, as a volunteer, will still log your hours, the hours will still count toward volunteer awards, but the volunteer coordinator will report them separately.

This policy is changing our normal routines, and we are in a transitional period now. Friends and Volunteers have been great about figuring out new ways to accomplish what we need to while keeping Friends activities and FWS activities separate. As we make the transition, if you have questions about recording your hours, let me know and I will start a Frequently Asked Questions page for everyone to refer to.

For example:

## FWS Volunteer hours

**Refuge System Birthday Bash** - FWS event, log time in MyVolunteerPage.com, Visitor Services/Recreation, Event Support; wear Service volunteer identification

**Patuxent Wildlife Festival** - FWS event, log time in MyVolunteerPage.com, Visitor Services/Recreation, Event Support; wear Service volunteer identification

## Friends Volunteer hours

**Holiday Bazaar** - Friends of Patuxent event,

log time in MyVolunteerPage.com, Administrative, Friends of Patuxent Activities; wear Friends identification

**Friends Special Programs** - Friends of Patuxent event,

log time in MyVolunteerPage.com, Administrative, Friends of Patuxent Activities; wear Friends identification

If you are staffing a **Friends table** at a **FWS event**, you would log your time as Friends volunteer time. MyVolunteerPage.com, Administrative, Friends of Patuxent Activities; wear Friends identification.

It seems complicated, but once we get used to it, keeping track will get easier. Please let me know if you have questions.

Regardless of whether your volunteer hours are Friends or Service volunteer hours, we appreciate all the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. 🦋

## North Tract Closures During Hunting Season - Sept. 1st-Jan. 31st

All trails are open for hiking, biking, jogging and fishing except Lake Allen*	Sept. 1st-Oct. 15th, Oct. 26th-Nov. 28th Dec. 14th-Dec. 19th, Jan. 5th-Jan. 8th Jan. 12th-Jan. 31st
Open to vehicle access only	Oct. 16th-Oct. 25th Dec. 20th-Jan. 3rd
Closed to all visitation	Nov. 29th-Dec. 13th Jan. 9th-Jan. 10th
No Fishing	Fridays and Saturdays Sept. 1st-Jan. 31st
Open to all visitation	Every Sunday

\*Please call 301-497-5770 for Lake Allen schedule

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Join us to celebrate upcoming National Wildlife Refuge Week with The Big Sit!

National Wildlife Visitor Center

Saturday, October 11, 2014

9:00am-2:00pm

The idea is simple - we'll identify a 17 foot diameter circle near the National Wildlife Visitor Center, set up chairs and binoculars, and identify as many birds as we can.



No special equipment or experience is needed, but bring your binoculars and a field guide if you have them! No registration necessary.

**FREE** • Visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/patuxent/> or call 301-497-5887

For more information about this international event visit

<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirds/bigsit/bigsit.aspx>



## Patuxent Wildlife Festival

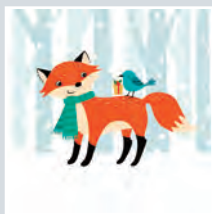
Saturday, October 18, 2014

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

National Wildlife Visitor Center

Enjoy live animals, children's crafts, shuttle tours, scientific demonstrations, and behind-the-scenes research tours of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. See where endangered Whooping Cranes and Sea Ducks are raised and studied.

**FREE** • 301-497-5763 • <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/>



## Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 15, 2014

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

National Wildlife Visitor Center

Shop for wild and not-so-wild, new and gently-used treasures. Visit Candy Cane Lane (kid-friendly) shop, see live animals, crafts, and more while supporting the Patuxent Research Refuge and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. **301-497-5789** • [www.friendsofpatuxent.org](http://www.friendsofpatuxent.org)

**The National Wildlife Visitor Center** is located off of Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore/Washington Parkway and MD Rt. 197 south of Laurel.

Visit <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent/>

or call **301-497-5763** for more information.

**Event participants with special needs should contact the Refuge at 301-497-5763 at least two weeks prior to an event to request special accommodations.**

# Dragonflies Captivate Friends Members

Jeanne Latham, Friends Membership Committee Chair

**O**n July 19, 2014, the lively group pictured here took advantage of an exciting chance to witness quick, hungry dragonflies at Patuxent’s North Tract. Were you aware that the state of Maryland is home to 182 species of dragonflies and damselflies? And there are about 111 species that can be found at Patuxent Research Refuge.

The guest program leader for the Friends members, was Richard Orr, who is considered by many entomologists and conservation biologists as the leading authority on dragonflies and damselflies in the Mid-Atlantic Region. (In the above photo, he is on the far right.) He maintains the historical and current species records for the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia. Mr. Orr is the current President of the Mid-Atlantic Invertebrate Field Studies (MAIFS). He has conducted numerous ecological, taxonomic, and distributional research projects on dragonflies and other arthropods for the U.S. Fish and



Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and The Nature Conservancy along with a wide variety of other environmental consulting companies and state and local agencies. Richard Orr has over 70 publications and presentations on arthropods. He has provided annual courses on drag-

onflies and other aspects of natural history since 1990.

Participants in the program were thrilled to learn so much about the fascinating world of dragonflies. One attendee was inspired to share some of what she learned with visitors who rode the tram the next day! We appreciate Richard taking the time to share his knowledge, experience and stories with us. 🦋

## Schoolyard Habitat News

Madeline Beaudry, Girl Scout Gold Award Candidate and Patuxent Volunteer

**A**s you may have noticed, there have been many changes in the Schoolyard Habitat Garden at the National Wildlife Visitors Center over the last several months. What are all the tarps doing smothering a large area of the pollinator garden? Why are there so many new plants, and why is there a new hose making the trail all wet?! Well, the answer to all of those questions is that the pollinator garden is currently undergoing a replanting to ensure its future success. The plants for the garden have been sourced from seeds grown in our area so they are used to our climate and recognizable by pollinators. These plants were also chosen for their wildlife value, especially for butterflies and insects. Teams of volunteers have been weeding, watering, and spraying the garden with great care to deter deer, and ensure that it is ready for the enjoyment of pollinators and visitors. So next time you stop by the Refuge, make sure to stop by the Schoolyard Habitat Garden and check out our new plants and insect visitors!



Photo by Ross Feldner

## Environmental Stewardship in Action

Continued from page 1



**Holy Trinity Community Action Group tackles clay and Bermuda grass to prepare garden for planting.**



**New volunteers work in the rain on September 13.**

teerism. The grant helped fund the purchase of native plants that were placed in the garden and the equipment to maintain them after the big day.

On one of the hottest days of the summer, members of the Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church Community Action Team began the initial preparation of the designated garden segment the week before Patuxent's Planting for Pollinators Day. In anticipation of the big day, they tirelessly battled Bermuda grass, invasives and clay, then covered

the area with cardboard to discourage weed growth.

On Saturday, September 13th, in support of the Maryland Day to Serve and the September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance, many hands made difficult work easier as volunteers broke up more heavy clay, amended the soil with compost, and planted the native plants in the second segment of the pollinator garden restoration project. The first segment had been restored in the spring of this year with the help of Girl Scout Madeline Beaudry as she fulfilled the requirements to earn her Gold Award.



**Newly planted pollinator garden.**

During breaks from work on both group volunteer days, Master Gardener Ann Coren presented information sessions to volunteers about the benefits of landscaping with native plants.

Other Patuxent volunteers have begun surveying the pollinators that visit the garden regularly. Paths through the garden allow visitors to get close to the action as pollinators visit each plant. The paths will also help volunteers maintain the garden until the new plants become established.

Come to the Visitor Center and watch our Schoolyard Habitat Garden grow! Many, many thanks to the Friends of Patuxent and the volunteers, both returning and brand new, who made the day possible! 🐦



# A NEW LOOK FOR WILDLIFE IMAGES NATURE STORE

By Evelyn Kirby

## Have you noticed the changes to the Wildlife Images Nature Store?

The most dramatic change is that Wildlife Images will no longer sell consignment art, notecards and other items. In their place, the store offers many new gifts, books, and products more closely related to area wildlife for your enjoyment and educational purposes.

Also, customers are able to view samples of wildlife videos, thanks to a TV monitor donated by Clarence "Sparky" Sparks.

In order to make us more visible to passers-by our hours of operation are now displayed on the sign at the entrance to the Refuge.



**Stop by to say hello and see what's new!**

## WILDLIFE OBSERVATION WHEN?

*Continued from page 1*

pecker - all within a 60 minute time-frame. Prompting my son to say - "Dad, this is too easy!!".

Well, it is not ALWAYS that easy - but you don't have to be rewarded with that many observations to make it a successful venture. I recently took a short hike along a bike trail paralleling a local golf course and was treated to a close view of an very unaware woodchuck chowing down on clover for a good five minutes. Not much else of note was observed on that occasion, but that was enough for me.

While there is little doubt there are better times of day and better places to observe wildlife, if those times and places are hard for you to experience, don't give up the desire to experience nature, even in small doses. So, the next time I am asked, "When is the best time to observe wildlife?", I am going to respond, "Whenever you have the chance". Given that chance, nature rarely disappoints.

## JOIN TODAY!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(E-mail address will not be sold or shared. It will be used for Friends and Refuge announcements only.)*

Phone: (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

- New    Renewal    Individual (\$15/yr)    Family (\$20/yr)    Contributor (\$50/yr)
- Sponsor (\$100/yr)    Life (\$500)   Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Make check to "Friends of Patuxent" and mail to address on page 12.

Check here if you would like save a tree by reading our quarterly newsletter online.



**FRIENDS OF PATUXENT**



# Friends of Patuxent Wildlife Holiday Bazaar

**Saturday, November 15, 2014  
9AM to 4PM  
National Wildlife Visitor Center**

**Shop for wild and not-so-wild new and gently used treasures**

**Visit Candy Cane Lane (Kid-friendly) shop**

**Have lunch in the Crane Café & take home a treat from the Bake Sale**

**MEET LIVE ANIMALS  
DOOR PRIZES EVERY HOUR  
TRAM RIDES**

(weather permitting)

**Make origami ornaments ■ Play Wildlife Bingo ■ Enjoy wildlife story time**

Find unique gifts from local crafters and our own 'crafty' Friends...

...and at the same time support the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center  
and the Patuxent Research Refuge

Cash, checks, and credit cards.

For more information visit:

**[www.friendsofpatuxent.org](http://www.friendsofpatuxent.org)**

or call **301-497-5772**



# U.S. Geological Survey & Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

Please Note: The information below has been taken from the document, *Seven Continents of Science: Patuxent's Global Impact & Partnerships 1946 - 2014*, produced by USGS PWRC. To read the full document, please visit: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/References/SevenContinentsofScience2014.pdf>

**T**he Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC) has created a broad body of scientific publications, global databases, and international partnerships over the past 75 years. The far-reaching scope of Patuxent's scientific achievements spans seven continents and 76 countries, involving literally generations of scientists, partners, and students. The global impact of these scientific products, observations, data, insights, education, training, and mentorships represents both a long-lasting legacy and a promise for the future.

Two major programs at Patuxent represent long-term collaboration with agency partners in other countries: the North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Bird Banding Laboratory.

## North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS)

International in scope since its inception in 1966, the North American Breeding Bird Survey is an on going long-term, large-scale avian monitoring program designed to provide scientifically credible measures of avian populations. These measures include population trend estimates, relative abundance estimates, and distribution information about more than 420 bird species. These observations are used, with other indicators, by federal, state and provincial government agencies and other conservation practitioners for regional and national population assessments. Jointly coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Canadian Wildlife Service through 2007, the BBS became a truly North American program in 2008 when the Mexican National Commission



for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity joined the partnership and initiated the BBS expansion into northern Mexico. Today more than 200,000 sample locations are distributed among 49 U.S. states, 13 Canadian provinces and territories, and 5 Mexican states which provide over 1,000,000 unique data records annually.

## USGS Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL)

Began in the 1920s, the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory has collaborated with the Bird Banding Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service to jointly administer the North American Bird Banding Program. Each banding office is responsible for administering the bird banding permits issued in their respective country, developing a long history of close communication between the offices to meet the ever evolving needs of the North American bird banding community. In addition, the BBL supplies most of the bands used by Canadian bird banders. The BBL also manages and maintains an electronic data management system that houses over 12

million Canadian bird banding records obtained since 1960 and approximately 500,000 encounters of Canadian banded birds. This close cooperation continues as a new Memorandum of Understanding between the USGS and Environment Canada is nearing approval that will formalize future collaborative efforts between the USA and Canada in the management of the North American Bird Banding Program.

The bird banding and band encounter databases maintained by the BBL provide a valuable resource of the status, distribution, and movements of birds at an international scale. While most bird banding data have been obtained within the USA and Canada, there have also been important collaborative banding efforts with scientists in Antarctica and Russia. US bird banders have also conducted banding projects in a number of countries in the Western Hemisphere, most notably in Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, the Bahamas, and Jamaica. Reports of birds wearing USGS bird bands have been received from every continent, demonstrating the global patterns of movements of North American birds. 



## FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

National Wildlife Visitor Center  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel MD, 20708-4011

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LAUREL, MD  
PERMIT NO. 2408



## FRIENDS OF PATUXENT

National Wildlife Visitor Center  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop  
Laurel MD, 20708-4011

Phone: 301-497-5789  
[www.friendsofpatuxent.org](http://www.friendsofpatuxent.org)

# WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN!

**Friends of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and Patuxent Research Refuge, Inc** is a designated Section 501(c)(3) public charity. It is a membership organization whose mission is to financially support the research of the PWRC and the environmental education, outreach and recreational missions at the PRR. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our Maryland Charitable Organization Registration Number is 2348.

***Your membership/contribution helps support the mission and programs at Patuxent. You also receive the following benefits:***

- Quarterly newsletter (mailed on request or go to [www.friendsofpatuxent.org](http://www.friendsofpatuxent.org))
- 10% discount in our Wildlife Images bookstore and other area refuge bookstores
- Attendance at member functions
- Participation in on-site educational programs
- Sense of accomplishment in providing many opportunities for wildlife-related recreation, education and research