



DC AUDUBON SOCIETY

January 21, 2017

Dear Members:

For many years, DC Audubon Society (DCAS), coordinated the annual Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Midwinter Bird Survey, or C&O Canal Count. During this time, the count became an increasingly demanding activity for our all-volunteer chapter, taking well over 100 hours to organize the effort, analyze the results, and report the findings.

As a result of a strategic planning process, informed in part by Board and member surveys, DCAS has decided to focus our conservation, education, and advocacy efforts on the birds and habitat issues in the District of Columbia. This decision was made with awareness the rest of the region is well-served by a number of robust birding and conservation organizations.

We therefore concluded that it is no longer feasible for DCAS to organize the C&O Canal Count, for which 98% of the data was collected outside the District's boundaries. This was a hard decision for long-time and new board members alike who recognize the value of the count's data and the tradition of this unique count in the treasured C&O trail habitat.

Our last organizing effort in January 2016 was accompanied by an announcement to participants of our intention to discontinue our relationship with the C&O Canal Count after the 2016 activity. We sincerely regret that this was not successfully communicated to all. For those who are interested in participating in future iterations of the C&O Canal Count organized by other organizations and individuals we recommend signing up for information at <http://www.mdbirding.com>

Currently DCAS is focusing on projects that produce useful data about the birds in DC. We will continue to organize and promote participation in the DC Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count, 2016's DC BioBlitz, and other programs. In addition we encourage everyone to enter their sightings into eBird. We invite everyone to join us for our free monthly field trips in DC. Registration is available through the link to our website: www.audubondc.org.

Happy Birding!

Zach Slavin
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