

# Great Backyard Bird Count brings students out to Adkins Arboretum

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**RIDGELY** — Love birds, or at least the love of birds, filled the air on Valentine's Day at the Adkins Arboretum, where local bird-watchers came out in the chilly morning to hike through the woods and identify birds for the Great Backyard Bird Count, a program organized by the Audubon Society in cooperation with Cornell University.

The dynamics of bird populations on the Eastern Shore are constantly changing with the seasons. It is difficult to determine the abundance of different species in the wild, but with the help of the public, the GBBC aims to get a snapshot of bird populations throughout the nation.

Jim Wilson, leader of the Caroline County Owlets and Eaglets Birding Club, organized the trip to the Arboretum and supplied lists of common (and not-so-common) local birds for participants to identify and count.

While initiated by the bird club, the trip was led by students from Kennard Elementary and Centreville Middle schools. With binoculars in hand and a keen eye for slight movements in the tree branches, the students helped representatives from local birding clubs of Caroline and Talbot counties get a picture of the local bird populations



Students lead groups of birdwatchers on a hike through Adkins Arboretum to identify species for the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 14. Back row, from left, Ann Reinecke, Jim Wilson and Randy Nelson. Front row, from left, Ethan, 12, of Centreville Middle School, Gavin and Austin, 10, of Kennard Elementary, and Camille, representing the Talbot County Bird Club.

that call Adkins home.

At the end of the two-hour search, the students said they had seen the most of the dark-eyed junco and Canada Geese. They had also found large populations of mourning doves, red-bellied woodpeckers and cardinals, among many other birds that were not so prevalent in numbers like the common grackle and the white-throated sparrow.

"These kids," said Dave Reinicke, who participated in the hike and bird count, "their interest in birds is just amazing."

The identifications and

numbers are entered into an online database at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>, said Wilson, and anyone can participate by spending as little as 15 minutes in their own backyard and paying attention to the species that live there.

While the official GBBC weekend is over, anyone who wishes to include their birds may do so until Feb. 28.

According to the GBBC website, over 128,000 checklists were submitted this year alone, with 4,681 species identified and 16,544,157 individual birds counted.



PHOTOS BY LAURA WORMUTH

Adkins Arboretum hosted members of Caroline County's Owlets and Eaglets Birding Club during the annual Backyard Bird Count, an Audubon Society initiative to get an idea of bird populations across the state, on Saturday Feb. 14, 2015.



Kids search the sky and trees at Adkins Arboretum for birds on Feb.14.

## Kohl's Cares accepts nominations

**EASTON** — Kohl's Department Stores' Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program recently announced it will award nearly \$400,000 in scholarships and prizes to more than 2,500 students who have made a positive impact on their communities. Nominations for children ages 6 to 18 will be accepted until March 13 at [kohlskids.com](http://kohlskids.com).

"Children around the country are doing inspiring work in their communities every day and Kohl's is proud to reward these future leaders through the Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program," said Bevin Bailis, Kohl's senior vice president, communications and public relations. "We encourage parents, teachers, neighbors and friends to

nominate the outstanding youth in their lives, so we can honor and acknowledge young volunteers for their time, innovation and passion for helping others and making a difference this year." For more information or a list of last year's Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program winners, visit [kohlskids.com](http://kohlskids.com).

## Salisbury U graduates local students

**SALISBURY** — Some 20 Queen Anne's County students recently graduated from Salisbury University. They were among the 645 students who received 547 bachelor's degrees and 73 master's degrees during a ceremony at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center.

Centreville area residents include Shannon Dean, M.S.W.; Stephanie Donohue, B.S., nursing; Kenneth Kerr, B.S., management; Erich Liebig, B.S., management

and marketing, summa cum laude; Hannah Lingenfelter, B.S., information systems; Shelly Mozingo, B.A., English; Leah Palmer, B.A., history; and Amy Stoops, M.S.W.

Chester area residents include Catherine Herrman, B.S., nursing; Kellie Kroneberger, B.S., nursing; and Kathleen Traversari, M.S.W.

Stevensville area residents include Ashley Belluomo, B.A., psychology; Kristen Loetz, B.S., nursing, cum laude; John Quandt Jr.,

M.Ed., curriculum and instruction; and Ben Schaffle, B.S., information systems.

Grasonville area residents include Andrew Smith, B.F.A.; and Rachael Spigone, B.A., psychology.

Queenstown area residents include Joseph Bozek, B.A., English; and Jonathan Marvel, B.S., management.

Other area residents include Lindsay Anderson, B.S., nursing, of Henderson.

### SCHOOL MENUS

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**  
**Breakfast:** Cinni Mini's, cereal with toast, fresh fruit, fruit juice and low fat milk  
**Lunch:** Spaghetti with meatballs and garlic bread, hot dog, Italian sub, chicken Caesar salad, PB&J, steamed broccoli, diced pears, fresh fruit, vegetables and low fat milk  
**Thursday, Feb. 26**  
**Breakfast:** French toast, cereal with toast, fresh fruit, fruit juice and low fat milk  
**Lunch:** Nachos supreme, chicken patty sandwich, Italian sub, chicken Caesar salad, PB&J, refried beans, fruit cocktail, fresh fruit, vegetables and low fat milk  
**Friday, Feb. 27**  
**Breakfast:** Mini waffles, cereal with toast, fresh fruit, fruit juice and low fat milk  
**Lunch:** Cheese and pepperoni pizza, fish sticks with roll, Italian sub, chicken Caesar salad, PB&J, corn, diced peaches, fresh fruit, vegetables and low fat milk

**Monday, March 2**  
**Breakfast:** Mini French toast, cereal with toast, fresh fruit, fruit juice and low fat milk  
**Lunch:** Chicken nuggets with roll, cheese quesadilla, turkey and cheese sandwich, garden cheese salad, PB&J, carrot coins, fruit cocktail, fresh fruit, vegetables and low fat milk  
**Tuesday, March 3**  
**Breakfast:** Breakfast pizza, cereal with toast, fresh fruit, fruit juice and low fat milk  
**Lunch:** Mini corn dogs, hamburger, turkey and cheese sandwich, garden cheese salad, PB&J, baked beans, diced peaches, fresh fruit, vegetables and low fat milk  
**Wednesday, March 4**  
**Breakfast:** Cinni Mini's, cereal with toast, fresh fruit, fruit juice and low fat milk  
**Lunch:** Soft shell taco, hot dog, turkey and cheese sandwich, garden cheese salad, PB&J, corn, applesauce, fresh fruit, vegetables and low fat milk