



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 27 Number 1

August, 2013

President's Perch

I would like to begin my term as president by thanking Dennis Kirkwood for the wonderful leadership he has provided the club (and me) over the last two years.

I am proud to serve as president of the club that was so integral to my start in birding. Many of you are already familiar with the story of how I became a birder through Spike Updegrave's biology class at C. Milton Wright High School. Spike recognized my enthusiasm and must have been very patient to listen to me tell him every new bird I saw before homeroom each morning. He let me accompany him, Joe Vangrin, and fellow student Joe Chronowski, to Michigan and Minnesota that summer for one of the most memorable trips of my life. If you were at the Summer Social this July, you heard that I eat healthier because of his advice. Indeed, it is not an exaggeration to say few people have had as much impact on my life as Spike Updegrave.

That first year, I learned so much about birding by attending club field trips led by Dave Webb, Les Eastman, Russ Kovach, and others. Dave Larkin and Rick Cheicante took me to Bombay Hook several times before I could drive. I spent a weekend with Jean and Larry Fry at Chincoteague. None of that would have been possible without the bird club and I certainly would not be writing this column without all their help and influence.

Fifteen years later, I am really happy to see some of the familiar faces still attending club meetings and field trips. Much more, I am glad to see new faces and even a few birders younger than I am! I hope the club continues to grow and we maintain the wonderful sense of community at our functions. Please contact me with any suggestions, questions, or concerns you have about the club. I could not do this without all of the amazing members who keep this club running smoothly.

I would like to finish by saying that, in addition to becoming president of the bird club, I am also becoming a father. Kim is due in mid-October and I hope to have our little boy coming to meetings soon after. We will probably wait until spring before his first field trip though. Thank you! ~

Matt Hafner

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Perch</i>	1
<i>Bird Droppings</i>	2
<i>Membership Renewal</i>	3
<i>Vacation Reports</i>	3
<i>Harford Birdlife</i>	4
<i>Field Trip Reports</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Field Trips</i>	5
<i>Membership Renewal Form</i>	6
<i>Sponsors</i>	7
<i>Harford Youth Birders</i>	7
<i>Picnic Announcement</i>	8

Plan Ahead!

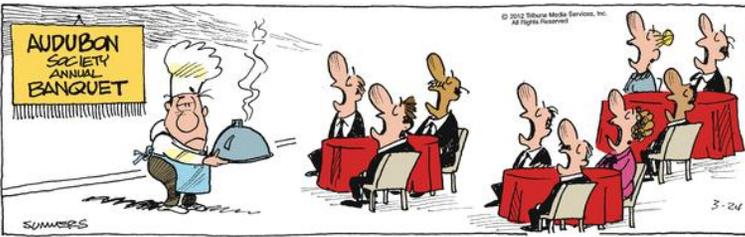
- Fall Picnic Sep 1, 1 PM.
- Fall Count, Sep 22
- Nov 1– November Dinner Meeting at Churchville Presbyterian Church

Harford Bird Club Annual Fall Picnic

Welcome autumn at the Club's Annual Fall Picnic on September 7. For the fourth year in a row, the picnic will be held at the Eden Mill Nature Center. We will provide roast beef, corn on the cob, baked beans, crab soup and watermelon. We would appreciate if you would bring a side dish or desert to add some variety to our menu. We also ask that you bring a beverage of your choice. The cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 16 or under.

Directions from the Bel Air area -- take MD 24 north through Rocks State Park to Rt. 165. Go ¼ ways around the circle and take Rt. 165 south for 2.1 miles. Turn right onto Fawn Grove Road. Drive 0.9 mile, and turn left into the parking area just before Eden Mill Road (also on left). Picnic is at the pavilion. The address is 1617 Eden Mill Road, Pylesville, MD 21132 for those who want to use MapQuest or a GPS to find the best way from their home.

The Reservation Form is on Page 7.



Bird Droppings

Club News?

Have news the club should know about? Births, deaths, marriages, or any other notable events that belong in the newsletter? Please contact Corresponding Secretary Madeline Lovera at 410-879-6098 or email to mlovera30@aol.com.

Welcome!

A warm Harford Bird Club welcome goes out to the following new members. Thank you for joining... we look forward to seeing you out there on our birding trips and at our meetings!

Vella & Glenn Kendall of Monkton
Donna Benjamin of Port Deposit

Miniature Decoys For Sale

Some years ago, I had subscribed to a program marketed by the Franklin Mint and acquired 36 miniature ducks portraying every species of native North American duck (all to appropriate scale) and carefully hand painted by William J. Koelpin all in mint condition. Each duck is accompanied by a short descriptive folder. I formerly displayed them on a shelf in my library. Original cost was about \$400; suggested price \$350. Call 410-398-1196. ~
Ed and Pat Folk

Harford Bird Club Executive Board

President	Matt Hafner	410-971-3203	hafner.matt@gmail.com
Vice President	Mark Magnani	410-838-1778	mwmagnani@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Jane Scocca	410-272-8870	jane@scocca.org
Corresponding Secretary	Madeline Lovera	410-879-6098	mlovera30@aol.com
Treasurer	Marjie Heagy	410-557-9485	msheagy@zoominternet.net
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Field Trip Chairperson	Tom Gibson	410-734-4135	gibsonlld@aol.com
Bird Count Coordinator	Rick Cheicante	410-803-2712	rickcheicante@cs.com
Dinner Reservations	Eileen Nack	410-272-7017	jmnack@comcast.net
Public Relations	Donna Yorkston	443-562-8501	donnayorkston@hotmail.com
Education Chairperson	Madeline Lovera	410-879-6098	mlovera30@aol.com
Conservation Chair	Deborah Bowers	410-692-2708	bowerspub@hotmail.com
Youth Coordinator	Ruth Bergstrom	443-752-1967	ruthb22@yahoo.com
State Board Members	Tom Congersky	410-658-4137	jnitcon@zoominternet.net
	Randy Robertson	410-273-9029	r.christian.robertson@gmail.com
Webmaster	Dick Harple	410-879-5419	gharple@comcast.net
Wrenderings Editor	Les Eastman	410-734-6969	les@birdtreks.com

It's Time to Pay Your Dues

Dues are now due for the club year from September 1, 2013, to August 31, 2014. The membership form is included on page 6 or you can print it from the web site at <http://www.harfordbirdclub.org/harfjoin.html>. Please fill out the form, enclose your check made payable to HARFORD MOS and mail it to our Treasurer, Marjie Heagy. We would like to have all dues paid by November 1. You may pick up your membership card at the November meeting or they will be mailed to you. ***Please do not send dues with the picnic reservation form.*** Thank You.

Vacation Reports

If you traveled over the summer and had any good birding experiences, please write a concise report of a couple of paragraphs for inclusion in the next newsletter. Please send them to Matt Hafner at hafner.matt@gmail.com or Les Eastman at les@harfordbirdclub.org.



June Challenge 2013

The first annual Harford County June Challenge was a success! I had personally thought that 125 species was a reasonable goal for the project and Harford Birders were able to find an incredible **133** species this June!

Some of the highlights from this year:

10 species of waterfowl including Blue-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Common and Hooded Mergansers, and Ruddy Duck.

Ring-necked Pheasant and Northern Bobwhite – both species have interesting questions of origin, but we are counting them for the Challenge. The pheasant is likely to have wandered south from the Pennsylvania population and who knows how a bobwhite found its way onto an island in the Susquehanna River!

Dave Larkin found a rare summering Sharp-shinned Hawk Broad-winged Hawk was seen in the Broad Creek area and was actually documented nesting in July! See photos here:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S14746223>

Common Gallinule was present at Swan Harbor for the 3rd year in a row!

“Rare” Ring-billed and Great Black-backed Gulls were present all month at Tydings, in contrast to the last two years.

Barry Marsh found a pair of Common Terns on Gunpowder.

Dave Webb was able to hear Eastern Whip-poor-wills on the Proving Ground.

Late migrant Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Blue Warblers were found by Tim Carney and Matt Addicks, respectively.

Josh Emm was able to find lingering White-throated Sparrow and Pine Siskin.

We only have 5 lists reported this year, but lots of people contributed sightings. I hope next year to have more people submit their personal month totals. And your winner is....

Josh Emm – 118

Matt Hafner – 104

Dave Larkin – 98

Tim Carney – 86

Matt Anthony – 81

Congratulations Josh!



Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

Our normally quiet summertime was punctuated with a few nice rarities. This report covers the period from June 1 through August 5, 2013.

Ducks, Game Birds, Herons

TC and RJ found a male **Blue-winged Teal** at Swan Harbor on June 3rd. KH and MH found a **Ring-necked Duck** on a pond in Madonna on June 22nd. It was there through June 29th. TM saw a **Bufflehead** offshore near Swan Harbor on June 9th. DZ found a **Ring-necked Pheasant** near Madonna on June 24th. JE saw a male and female there on June 29th. JA saw a female **Wild Turkey** with 5 poults near the Edgewood area airfield of APG on June 14th.

JE and MH saw 3 **Least Bitterns** (2 adults and 1 juvenile) at Swan Harbor on July 22nd. TH, DL, and PL also saw one there on July 26th. JE saw a **Great Egret** at Harford Glen on July 15th. MA saw one at Tydings Park on July 18th. TC and RJ saw an immature **Black-crowned Night Heron** at Susquehanna State Park on June 4th. JD found and photographed a **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** at Harford Glen on July 14th.

Rails, Sandpipers, Terns

JE and MH saw and heard a **King Rail** at Swan Harbor on July 22nd. DL and PL saw it there on July 26th. They also saw 5 **Killdeer** and 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**. They had a **Solitary Sandpiper** there on July 19th. TC found a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Perryman Park on June 4th. MA reported a **Least Sandpiper** at Swan Harbor on July 18th. He saw 1 and possibly 2 **Forsters Terns** at Tydings Park on July 18th. JE and MH saw 4 there on July 22nd.

Owls, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Larks

LE heard a **Barred Owl** near his Havre de Grace home on June 8th. He continues to host large numbers of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** there. The banding team counted 48 there on June 29th, including a female banded in 2007. SH had 2 male and 1 female at her Fallston home on June 15th. DZ saw several **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in the Madonna area on June 24th. PV saw and heard a **Horned Lark** near the Harford County Airport on June 2nd.

Warblers, Tanagers, Meadowlarks

GF saw a **Blue-winged Warbler** at Eden Mill on June 15th. DZ saw one in Madonna on June 24th. SH saw and heard a singing **Northern Parula** in Fallston on June

22nd. TC and RJ found a male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** in Susquehanna State Park on June 4th. SH saw a male **Scarlet Tanager** in her Fallston yard on June 18th. RC noted that an **Eastern Meadowlark** had been seen repeatedly near the Edgewood area airfield on APG. He saw it on June 7th.

Contributors

DL- Dave Larkin, DZ- Dave Ziolkowski, GF- Greg Futral, JA- Jeff Arbenzsmith, JD- Jared Drewen, JE- Josh Emm, KH- Kim Hafner, LE- Les Eastman, MA- Matt Anthony, MH- Matt Hafner, PV- Pat Valdata, PL- Peter Lev, RC- Rick Cheicante, RJ- Ryan Johnson, SH- Susan Hood, TC- Tim Carney, TH- Tim Houghton, TM- Terry Miller



Field Trip Reports

Bombay Hook July 21st.

The hot humid weather that we had experienced of late abated a little for the field trip to Bombay Hook. Three of us made the trip. Our first stops were at Woodland Beach and Taylor's Gut. At Taylors Gut there were small numbers of peeps among which we were pleased to find three **Pectoral Sandpipers**. Raymond pool at Bombay Hook had large numbers of shorebirds but even with scopes they were too far away for identification. **Blue Grosbeak** were very plentiful at Bombay, as were calling **Clapper Rail**, though we were unable to see the rails. The total number of species seen was 64. ~ *David Larkin*

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Lynn Davis

September 2 (Mon.- Labor Day) – Ma and Pa Trail. We return to this newest segment of Harford County's iconic rails-to-trails Ma & Pa conversion project. We'll start at Annie's playground at the west end and stroll east to the Equestrian Center at Tollgate Road. Diverse habitat along the way promises a variety of birds. Meet at Annie's playground on Smith Lane off Connolly Road in Fallston at 7:30 AM. The leader is Susan Hood (410-877-0574; susanhood@comcast.net).

September 7 (Sat.) - Rocks State Park. Take in one of the fine Maryland forest preserves; it flanks Deer Creek not far from its headwaters, offering extensive bird-friendly woodland habitats. Meet leader Dennis Kirkwood ((410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com) at the park headquarters parking lot on Rocks Chrome Hill Road at 7:00 AM.

September 15 (Sun.) – Perryville Community Park & Elk River Park. These two parks have become attractive sites for interesting and elusive species – especially passerines and waterfowl. Take advantage of these two hot spots and meet leaders Dave Larkin (410-569-8319; larkin3001@comcast.net) and Phil Powers (410-679-4116; birdsindmd@verizon.net) at 7:00 AM at the park & ride at Md Rt 155 and I-95.

Sept. 21 (Sat.) - Susquehanna State Park. Visit this ornithological treasure trove to marvel at the resident populations embellished by the fall migrants. Leaders are Les Eastman (410-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com) and Josh Emm (410-937-6790; apistopanchax@gmail.com) Meet at 7:00 AM at the Rock Run Mill.

Sept 22 (Sun.) Fall Count – Contact Rick Cheicante for details (410-803-2712; rcheicante@cs.com).

Sept. 25 (Wed.) – Eden Mill – Join us for a mid-week walk along scenic Falling Branch Road. Various migrants should be seen in the rural habitats we will pass. Meet with leader Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com) at the Park Pavilion at 7:00 AM.

September 28 (Sat.) – Harford Glen. The Glen offers varied habitat attractive to many avian species, especially at this migration time. Don't miss this prime season and location for some great bird-watching! Join leader, Phil Powers (410-679-4116; birdsindmd@verizon.net) at the lower parking lot at 7:00 AM.

October 5 (Sat.) Swan Harbor Farm Park. This preserved area near the upper bay provides prime habitat for waterfowl, song birds, and marsh and field birds. The field

trip begins at 7:30 AM at the parking lot at the end of the driveway. Contact leader Dave Webb (410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net) for further information.

October 13 (Sun.) – Cromwell Valley Park. Expect surprises during late fall migration at this Baltimore County park. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Park and Ride on Fallston Rd (Rt. 152) just north of Harford Road (Rt. 147). The leader is Phil Powers (410-679-4116; birdsindmd@verizon.net).

October 14 (Mon.) – Waggoners Gap. Enjoy miles and miles of spectacular fall views from this beautiful Pennsylvania mountain top perch as you also scan the horizon and sky for a variety of migrating raptors. Contact leader Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; mark.steven.johnson@comcast.net) for further details and carpool info. Meet at the shopping center at Routes 165 & 152 (Upper Crossroads) at 8:00 AM.

October 19 (Sat.) – Havre de Grace kayaking for birds. We will launch kayaks from Tydings Park to maneuver for better views of waterfowl, shorebirds, and other birds along this shoreline of the upper Bay. Meet leaders Sue Procell and Colleen Webster there at 8:00 AM. **Reservations required.** Contact Colleen (cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577) for information about kayak rental, reservations, or other details.

October 26 (Sat.) – Turkey Point Owl/Hawk Watch. We have planned a double raptor treat with this trip. Bird bander Ken Heselton will meet the group at 5:00 AM at his motor home that will be parked in the Turkey Point Trail parking lot of Elk Neck State Park. If he has had a successful night netting and banding owls he will be able to show us examples of these always fascinating nocturnal birds. There are few experiences more memorable in birding than seeing an owl in hand. For those for whom the owling is a bit too early, we will regroup at 6:30 AM in the same parking lot and bird our way along the trail until reaching Turkey Point with its spectacular views of the North East River and the Susquehanna Flats to the west, the Elk River to the east and the Chesapeake Bay to the south. Looking up, it is also a wonderful place to see raptors as they work their way south. If you are not familiar with the route, call for directions. Meet leaders Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; gibsonlld@aol.com) and Josh Emm (410-937-6790; apistopanchax@gmail.com) at the Turkey Point Light House Trail parking lot at either 5:00 AM or 6:30 AM.

HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

It's time to renew your membership for the 2013-2014 membership year. To renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, please detach this page and mail completed form along with check to:

Marjorie Heagy
1438 Sharon Acres Road
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Membership Year - September 1, 2013 - August 31, 2014

- Individual \$33.00 Sustaining \$63.00
 Life (see below) Household \$39.00
 Junior \$10.00

OR

Memberships for those who are either members of another MOS Chapter or are MOS Life Members.

- Individual \$13.00 Household \$19.00

Please indicate your MOS membership status:

- MOS Life Member (After 9/1/90)
 Member of _____ MOS Chapter

_____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Make Checks payable to Harford County MOS)

- New Harford Bird Club Membership* Renewal

Please give names below as they should appear on the membership list.

Married couples should give both names.

Name _____

Street & # _____

City, State _____

Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Email Address _____

- Check here if this is a new address, phone number or email
 Check here if you object to having your name, address, and phone number listed in the state directory.
 Check here if you would like to receive your Harford Chapter newsletter by email.

*If a new member, how did you find out about the Harford County Bird Club?

An "Individual" membership is anyone 18 or older.

A "Junior" membership is someone younger than 18 whose parents are not members (i.e., not part of a household membership)

A "Household" membership is all persons residing at the same address. (A student who is away at school and wants publications mailed to the school address must be in the Individual class.)

Life Membership dues are: State \$1000.00 and Chapter \$300.00.

New life memberships have the option of paying \$11.00* per year chapter dues in lieu of the \$300.00 lump sum. Life memberships effective prior to September 1, 1990, are exempt from any further chapter dues payment.

Harford Youth Birders View Hummer Banding

Harford Youth Birders were amazed at the number of hummers buzzing around feeders as they waited to see experts catch and band these flying jewels. Thank you to Les Eastman, Bruce Peterjohn, and Diane Jones for educating our youth about a process that is not only fascinating, but essential for scientists to study birds' habits. Each participant was able to release a banded bird, and Bruce explained the process as he weighed, measured, and examined each tiny bird.

The next event for youth birders is Sept. 22nd at Harford Glen counting birds for the HBC fall count. Please see the new Harford Youth Birder website for details. <http://harforyouthbirding.org/>.



Support Our Sponsors

The following businesses generously donated prizes for the raffle at past meetings. Please patronize them and thank them for their support of the club.



WBM Open Saturdays
Call ahead for birdseed purchases!

410-836-5000  wbm@clearviewcatv.net

WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE



The Harford Bird Club Annual Picnic Reservation Form

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Crestmont Drive, Aberdeen MD 21001 by Friday, August 30, 2013 if you plan on attending.

_____ Number of adults (at \$10.00 each)
_____ Number of children 16 and under (at \$5.00 each)

Please make checks payable to Harford County MOS.



Print your name(s) above as you would like it to appear on your name tag!

Include address and phone number if you would like transportation to the meeting.

TEL: _____

Address: _____



Harford Bird Club ANNUAL PICNIC

Featuring the BBQ Prowess of
Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson

Saturday, September 7th, 2013

Social Hour - 1:00 PM

Eating Time - 2:00pm - Please bring a side dish or salad - Bird Walk to Follow!

Location: Eden Mill Nature Center
1617 Eden Mill Road
Pylesville, MD 21132



Mail To :

If unable to deliver, please return to:
Madeline Lopera
2068 Brandy Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050

