



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 28 Number 6

June, 2015

President's Perch

Well, this is it, my last column as President of the bird club. I am looking forward to seeing the great places the club will go under incoming President Bob Werrlein and Vice President Amanda Koss! I know they both have some ideas to keep our great club going in the right direction.

I want to take the majority of this column to thank everyone who helped make my time as President MUCH easier. I could not have done this job without the gracious and immense support from the entire club. Vice President Mark Magnani was always there to help when I was unavailable, and was invaluable running the social last summer. Past Presidents Dennis Kirkwood and Dave Webb were always there to help with letting me know how things worked in previous years, club protocol, and advice from many years of club service. Bob and Susan Hood have been my lifeline on more than one occasion in addition to being our wonderful AV department. I can't thank you all enough.

Our secretaries Jane Scocca and Madeline Lovera have donated so many hours to the club and I'm glad they are continuing on to help the new leadership. Treasurer Marjie Heagy is heading off into a well-deserved retirement after serving for 10 years. Her input into executive board matters will surely be missed, but the job is being taken over by the wonderful Eric Vangrin. I'd like to thank Johanne Henrickson and Eileen Nack for organizing the meeting reservations over my term. The potential for snow and rescheduled meetings the past 2 winters has made that job much more important! Elaine Beery deserves extra special thanks for continuing to gather excellent raffle prizes despite looking for a replacement since before I became President. Ruth Bergstrom has come up with some great ideas for the youth program, which has continued to grow, and I'm excited for the next generation of birders of Harford County. I had some ideas for the website and new webmaster Dick Harple was able to make them happen. The site looks great right now and hopefully we can continue to build on some of the projects we started. I hope to continue working with the club in that regard. This newsletter is put out faithfully every other month by Les Eastman (all the way from Arizona!), except those months it's done by Russ Kovach (like this one). Thank you Les! Thank you Russ!

Many people have served the club in positions for long before I was President and have continued to make the club run smoothly without me having to do anything at all. Thank you Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson for the annual picnic. Thank you Tom Gibson for running the Field Trip Committee. Thank you Debbie Bowers for watching the environmental news of the county as conservation chair. Thank you to everyone who has attended meetings, field trips, socials, and other club events over the last two years. You all remind me of why I love this club and am proud to have served as President.

The past 2 years have been quite a whirlwind in my life. Having a new baby will do that apparently. I didn't accomplish everything I wanted in the last 2 years, but that's okay. I'll still be around to work with Bob and Amanda and the rest of the club as we move forward into the future. Thank you all so much! ~Matt Haffner

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Plan Ahead!

- Summer Social, July 10.
- Annual Picnic, Aug 29
- Fall Bird Count, Sept 20
- Dinner Meeting, Nov 6

Bird Droppings

Condolences

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Dave, Marsha and Danny Webb on the death of Dave's mother, Gayle Webb, who passed away on April 28.

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: lovebluebird206@gmail.com



Let's just act like he's not there...

Wine and Cheese Summer Social!

One of our favorite events of the yearly calendar is our annual wine and cheese social. This year it will be held on Friday July 10, 2015. We will again be meeting at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum. The event will begin at 6:30 pm as we partake of the wine and cheese. Plenty of time will be available to socialize and tour the museum's current exhibits. Plan to attend this fun and informative evening.

Directions to the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum:

From I-95: Exit 89 East to Havre de Grace. Proceed 4.6 miles to Juniata Street. Turn right and proceed .9 mile to Revolution Street and turn left. At Union Avenue turn right. Proceed to the end of Union and turn left onto Commerce Street. Follow signs to the museum.

From Bel Air: Take 22 East to 155. Follow until 155 ends at Juniata Street. Turn right and proceed .9 mile to Revolution Street and turn left. At Union Avenue turn right. Proceed to the end of Union and turn left onto Commerce Street. Follow signs to the museum.

From Aberdeen / Edgewood: Take 40 East to Havre de Grace. Turn right onto Revolution Street. At Union Avenue turn right. Proceed to the end of Union and turn left onto Commerce Street. Follow signs to the museum.

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	lovebluebird206@gmail.com
Treasurer	Marjie Heagy	410-557-9485	msheagy@zoominternet.net
Past President	Dennis Kirkwood	410-692-5905	newarkfarms@gmail.com
Field Trip Chairperson	Tom Gibson	410-734-4135	gibsonlld@aol.com
Bird Count Coordinator	Rick Cheicante	410-803-2712	rickcheicante@cs.com
Dinner Reservations	Johanne Henrickson	410-836-8889	johen24@gmail.com
Public Relations	Vacant		
Education Chairperson	Madeline Lovera	410-879-6098	lovebluebird206@gmail.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	jnjtcon@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	410-688-1214	les@birdtreks.com



Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

Spring migration is my favorite time of the birding year. The colorful warblers and wayward rarities make every spring day a good day to get out there. This report covers Harford County bird sightings from April 1st through May 31st, 2015.

Ducks, Ibis, Kites

DL saw 3 Northern Shovelers at Swan Harbor on Apr 12th. 1 was seen there as late as May 3rd. MJ found a male Redhead at Tydings Marina on May 20th. CW saw it there on May 30th along with a possibly-injured male Canvasback. She has seen an accompanying female Canvasback in the vicinity in previous days. TH counted 7 Glossy Ibis at Swan Harbor on Apr 24th. DL and JS saw them the next day. TC spotted a Mississippi Kite flying along Rt 40 near Perryman on May 24th. SH also saw a Swallow-tailed Kite flying to the northwest over Fallston on May 8th. CW built an Osprey platform on a pole near her Havre de Grace home. She reported several Osprey investigating the structure and ended up with a nest and mating pair. The Osprey platform near Tydings Marina also had 4 chicks on May 30th.



Rails, Cranes, Sandpipers

TH saw a King Rail at Swan Harbor on Apr 24th. It was seen and heard by several others through May 12th. DL also saw a Virginia Rail there on Apr 19th. This bird was also seen on several other occasions through May 12th. MA saw 4 Sandhill Cranes flying northward over Fallston on Apr 7th.

LH also saw 2 near Jarrettsville Pike on May 21st. TC found 2 White-rumped Sandpipers at Swan Harbor on May 7th.



Cuckoos, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Thrushes

MJ saw and heard a singing Black-billed Cuckoo at Eden Mill on May 5th. MH had one singing in his Forest Hill yard on May 6th. DaL had Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Susquehanna State Park on May 13th. SH



reported her first Ruby-throated Hummingbirds of the year at her Fallston home on Apr 19th. Many others reported their first Hummingbirds on Apr 30th. DK noted that the Red-headed Woodpecker family continued near the Bradenbaugh Flats. He saw them on May 14th. MH saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher in Forest Hill on May 23rd. On May 27th, TH saw single Alder and Least Flycatchers near Green Rd. TH noted a late Hermit Thrush in Susquehanna State park on Apr 10th. DB had one at her birdbath on Street on Apr 12th.

Warblers, Sparrows, Finches

SH saw a Cape May Warbler in her Fallston yard on May 6th. She had a Bay-breasted Warbler there on May 8th. TH found a Blackburnian Warbler at Susquehanna State Park on May 14th. He also saw 6 Cerulean, a Wilson's, and a singing male Mourning Warbler there that day. TC also saw the Mourning Warbler. He had a Hooded Warbler at Swan Harbor on May 3rd, and another at Susquehanna State Park on May 7th.



DK saw 2 Vesper Sparrows on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Apr 10th. MH saw one at Harford Glen on Apr 18th. SH reported that she saw her last Dark-eyed Junco of the season in Fallston on May 1st. BW had 9 male and 8 female Purple Finches at his Forest Hill home from Apr 14th through Apr 22nd. He also saw 2 Pine Siskins at his feeder on Apr 3rd.



Contributors

BW- Bob Werrlein, CW- Colleen Webster, DaL- Dave Littlepage, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, JS- Jane Scocca, LH- Lani Hyde, MA- Matt Addicks, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson (Aberdeen), SH- Susan Hood, TC- Tim Carney, TH- Tim Houghton

Harford Youth Birding

Meadowvale Elementary School starts the Feathered Friends Bird Club

April 16, 2015 was the inaugural meeting of the Feathered Friends Bird Club at Meadowvale Elementary School in Havre de Grace. **Fifty-three** students participated in the first meeting. Led by HBC members, Ruth Bergstrom and Mary Murray, the students learned binocular basics, birding etiquette, and then went on a bird walk around the school campus. Fourteen species were sighted, include two beautiful ospreys flying off the Bay. MVES has set up an e-bird account with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology where they will record and track data taken on the bird walks. Mrs. Debbie Freels, school principal, reports that students have been checking out a record number of bird books from the library since the meeting. The Feathered Friends met three more times during the month of May, learning about identifying birds through silhouettes, calls, and flight patterns. We're looking forward to many more adventures with our Feathered Friends next school year!



Introducing the Harford Bird Club YOUTH BIRDER OF THE YEAR!



Congratulations to Harford Bird Club's Youth Birder of the Year - Adeline Murray! Adeline is a 4th grader at Meadowvale Elementary School in Havre de Grace, and was instrumental in forming their bird club this year which boasts about 50 members! She is also a loyal monitor for the Bluebird Brigade at Harford Glen. Adeline won the MOS backpack which includes a pair of binoculars, bird guide, checklist, and a year's membership to the bird club.

Abingdon Library Explorer Club

The Explorer Club at Abingdon Library learned about migration and the Moonbird (Red Knot B95) before heading outside for a field trip around the campus. They spotted 20 species including a Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Kingbird, and Cedar Waxwing. Thank you to Ruth Eisenhour and Al Conrad for helping with this fun group.

Special Thanks!

The Harford Youth Birders would like to thank Johanne Henrickson for her generous donation of a new pair of Eagle Optics Denali binoculars. These young birders really appreciate the growing supply of useable binoculars for their events.



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

June 20 (Sat.) – Harford Glen. Meet at the Glen (west end of Wheel Rd.) at 7:30 AM. The tour will begin with sightings from the parking lot then proceed to scout the triple riparian habitats of Atkisson Reservoir; the faster flowing Winter’s Run; and the tributary, Plumtree Run. The woodland trails, varied water habitats and some open meadow offer great opportunities for good birding, including the possible sighting of a pair of Great Horned Owls. Ruth Bergstrom (443-752-1967; ruthb22@yahoo.com) will be leading our trip.

July 10 (Fri.) – Beginning Birders. Phil Powers will lead a group of beginners through Harford Glen, a beautiful valley with streams, wetlands, forested hills and meadows. The trip will begin at 8:00 AM. Contact Phil at 410-679-4116; birdsinmd@verizon.net for more details.

July 19 (Sun.) – Bombay Hook. Shorebird migration at this time of year offers a fine prospect for a rarity or two along with the usual wealth of shorebird activity at Bombay Hook. Meet at 7:00 AM at the 155/95Park and Ride. Leader is Dave Larkin (410-569-8319; larkin3001@comcast.net).

July 25 (Sat.) – Hummingbird Banding. Watch as experienced bander, Bruce Peterjohn, skillfully and delicately bands our smallest bird. The event will be hosted by Diane Jones at her home. Contact Diane (410-404-9180; diane.v.jones@ssa.gov) for directions and details.

August 8 (Sat.) – Hummingbird Happy Hour. Bring your favorite snack and beverage to enjoy and share during this Ruby-throated Hummingbird Showtime. Meet at Diane Jones’ home at 5:00 PM. Call Diane for directions and information (410-404-9180; diane.v.jones@ssa.gov).



Fun Bird Fact: The phrase ‘light as a feather’ may be a misnomer for many birds. In many songbirds the weight of the feathers exceeds that of the birds’ skeleton, which is often only 5% of the bird’s mass!

August 22 (Sat.) Harford County Shorebird Search. Explore several Harford County shorelines to see a variety of shorebirds and waterfowl. Beginners interested in learning the basics of shorebird identification and experienced watchers searching for rarities will enjoy this morning trip. Meet at 8:00 AM at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace. For more information contact either co-leader: Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com) or Josh Emm (410-937-6790; apistopanchax@gmail.com).

August 29 (Sat.) Susquehanna State Park. Explore the park for early migrant warblers with leaders Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) and Josh Emm (410-937-6790; apistopanchax@gmail.com). Meet at 7:00 AM at Rock Run Mill.

August 29 (Sat.) – Annual Club Picnic and Birdwalk at Eden Mill. 1:00 PM.

September 7 (Mon.) – Ma and Pa Trail. Explore the southernmost segment of this popular trail, walking from Annie’s Playground towards Tollgate Road and back. Diverse habitat along the way supports a variety of birds. Meet leader Susan Hood at the parking lot on Smith Lane off Connolly Road in Fallston at 7:00 AM. (410-937-7552; susanjhood@comcast.net).

September 12 (Sat.) – Tydings Park Kayak Trip. Enjoy an evening on the upper Bay with Colleen Webster and Sue Procell as your guides. Waterbirds, shorebirds, gulls and terns can be expected. Bring your own boat and meet at the boat launch in the park. Contact Colleen (cwebster@harford.edu; 410-459-4577) for information.

Sept. 19 (Sat.) – “Big Sit.” Matt Hafner (410-971-3203; hafner.matt@gmail.com) is the organizer of this new event. Details will follow via e-mail and the HBC website (www.harfordbirdclub.org).



Sept. 20 (Sun.) – Fall Bird Count. Contact Rick Cheicante for details (410-803-2712; rcheicante@cs.com).

Field Trip Reports

Saturday April 25—Wildflowers and Warblers, Susquehanna State Park

On this chilly morning over 30 bundled up walkers joined Sue Procell and Colleen Webster to wind our way over Deer Creek, spotting a Bald Eagle on nest on the island in the river, enjoying Rough Wing Swallows, Osprey and a diving Double Crested Cormorant. But the show was really the singing warblers and spring ephemerals. Some of the stars were Northern Parula, Yellow Rump, Yellow-throated, and Blackpoll. One Prothonotary gave us an up close and personal rare look when he landed at eye level as we ended our walk. The flowers were near peak and while the Virginia Bluebells are show-stoppers, we also enjoyed Dutchman's Breeches, Cutleaf Toothwort, Spring Cress, Spring Beauty, Ginger and our rare Sessile Bellwort and Squirrel Corn. All had an eye-opening time! ~*Colleen Webster*



Saturday May 23—Kayak Tour of Furnace Bay, Perryville Park

Sue Procell and Colleen Webster are definitely responsible for the chilly weather this spring, as we led another group out on an unseasonal cold and windy morning, this time braving a paddle! Before we even were in our boats, we were watching Bluebirds fly into their nest hole, listening to Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Blackpoll and many more. A total of 10 intrepid kayakers paddled out into the west wind and hugged the shore which gave us great looks at both Orioles and two dangling globe nests. As we crossed to a wind-sheltering shore we found four pair Least Terns feeding and as we enjoyed their wet firework display we found Barn, Tree, Bank and Rough Wing Swallow and Chimney Swifts plying the aerial insects. Spotted Sandpiper, Warbling and Red Eyed Vireo helped add to what would be a total of 40 species—not bad for a morning's leisurely boat ride. ~*Sue Procell*

Monday May 25—Hidden Valley / WFBF:

The annual Memorial Day trip to Northwest Harford County brought beautiful weather and 18 participants out for a very productive and enjoyable morning. Guests from Baltimore and Howard Counties as well as long-time member, Les Eastman, back from Arizona joined the group. The morning started at Hidden Valley on Deer Creek where we got to watch a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird construct her nest over the corner of the parking area. Warblers seen and heard included Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Parula, Common Yellowthroat, and Worm-eating Warbler. A flock of 12 Double-crested Cormorants flew through the valley. Indigo Buntings were common. We moved up hill to the former Madonna Landfill and had a very cooperative Blue-winged Warbler give everyone great looks. Two Scarlet Tanagers also made an appearance. As we made our way through the World-Famous Bradenbaugh Flats, we had great looks at Grasshopper Sparrow, Horned Larks, Willow Flycatcher, Red-headed Woodpecker, and both Orioles. A distant singing Eastern Meadowlark showed that they are still holding on as a breeder in the area. We ended at Turney's Pond where we saw Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warbler, and Warbling Vireo. The tally for the morning was 66 species. ~*Dennis Kirkwood*



Saturday, May 30—Susquehanna State Park

The Harford Bird Club trip started out with 15 of us at the Mill, doing our best to pick out birds up high in bad lighting conditions, but we got some nice ones like great-crested fly, orioles, red-shouldered hawk, and yellow-throated warblers. The weirdest bird at the Mill was a prothonotary away from the river and HIGH in a locust type of tree—highest I've ever seen a prothonotary, I think. Weird. As Susan Hood pointed out, our first proth was high and our last one was in the dirt, on the wildflower trail.

Our best bird was a singing skulking Mourning Warbler at the picnic area, the main trail behind the pine trees at the parking area. A couple of people got brief glimpses—luckily, it sang its basic song a number of times. We didn't get it again when we walked back on the same trail, but Brad Phoebus found it a 2nd time after he left early. Also nice but short views of a male and female Kentucky warbler. Today the ceruleans were not cooperative; they were around but always far away it seemed.



We finished at the wildflower trail and walking bridge where we had rough-winged swallows, a hummer, and—our last bird—a yellow-billed cuckoo singing nicely on the ridge. A good enjoyable day. ~*Tim Houghton*

Saturday, June 6—Conowingo Wildflower Trail:

Six birders joined Russ Kovach and me for a pleasant walk along this lively path adjacent to the Susquehanna River below the dam on June 6th. There wasn't much species diversity over the water, but a great number of Black Vultures and Bald Eagles, and the usual Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, and Osprey fishing. Before leaving the parking lot we were happy to find nesting Yellow-throated Vireos and Baltimore Orioles, and a pair of Eastern Kingbirds aggressively chasing a crow. Further down the trail a nest of red twine was dangling in the breeze, presumably used by orioles in the past. We were also treated to several bright Prothonotary Warblers, singing and flitting about, and one on the ground in the path. A first-year American Redstart was seen with some dark head feathers, persistently singing and challenging others. We also heard Blackpoll, Cerulean and Yellow-throated Warblers, as well as Northern Parula and Ovenbird. The usual flycatchers and residents were observed, as well as a quick look at a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Mark Magnani got an intriguing glimpse of a falcon-like flyover. Was it a Merlin or a Mississippi Kite? I dubbed it a "Misslin", a mystery which will remain unsolved. We tallied 49 avian species, but also enjoyed many butterflies, green frogs and a garter snake. ~*Susan Hood*



FREE BLUEBIRD BOXES STILL AVAILABLE!

Top-of-the-line, hand-crafted bluebird boxes are available for free from Jack Beyer. Please contact Mary Murray (murraymary@gmail.com) to order. Specifications and pictures available. Yes, they are really FREE!



Raffle Sponsor:

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The Harford Bird Club Summer Social Reservation Form

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Johanne Henrickson, 2014 Tiffany Terrace, Forest Hill, MD 21050 by Friday, July 3rd, 2015 if you plan on attending.

_____ Number of adults (at \$7.00 each)
 _____ Number of children 16 and under (at \$4.00 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 Summer Social



Wine and Cheese Summer Social

at the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

Friday, July 10th - 6:30pm

Location: Havre de Grace Decoy Museum

215 Giles Street

Havre De Grace, MD 21078



Mail To :

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

