



Wrenderings

The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club



Volume 33 Number 1

August 2019

President's Perch

Inside this issue:

Hi everyone. To introduce myself, I've been involved with the HBC since I was a high school student back in the late 1970's (doing Warbler Walks). I did the HBC president role back in the early 1990's as a graduate student, and was fortunate to be elected president of MOS about ten years ago. I was an HBC Director with Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson back about 20 years ago where we hung out in the back of the MOS board meetings and kept each other from overreacting when others did (this is a long story). Being asked to do this again is a privilege because the HBC is simply my extended family.

You don't need a bird club to see birds, but I have found it more enjoyable doing it with others. I get it that some don't and also understand that there is a point where if the crowd is too big, the fewer birds one observes. The optimal number of people is probably somewhere between 4 and 10 if you are hiking in the woods and maybe larger for watching waterfowl and shorebirds. Still, getting outside in nature is essential for my soul and well-being, because I think creation links us all in a manner that is often indescribable and rarely adverse. I have read figures that the average American spends 90% of their time indoors. If this is accurate, I fear the adverse changes that are occurring in the environment due to our presence may not change until it becomes critical and possibly irreversible. I have personally met many children that are actually frightened when they are close to a songbird. Growing up, my parents kicked us outside and gave us no choice. I became one with the dirt, water, and sediment at times. I'm not sure if that happens much anymore, maybe because of concerns over safety whether real or perceived. Regardless, mentorship of others in educating children on nature can only help us all in appreciating what we have. I greatly acknowledge the efforts of Mary Murray, Rachel Hebert, Amanda Sobolefsky, and others in mentoring kids and exposing them to nature. I think it's the key to appreciating and protecting our environment and the best hope for future generations.

Days are getting shorter and soon summer will be over. I realize many like autumn but I am not a big fan. It's a reminder that winter is around the corner and it seems we just did that not too long ago. Spring is my favorite time of year because it is a time of renewal, evidenced by flowers, birds singing, insects emerging everything gearing for reproduction.

Enough musing. I thank everyone for this opportunity to serve once again, look forward spending time with many of you, and encourage all of you to stay active – that is how you stay happy.

Cheers! Mark Johnson

President's Perch 1

Bird Droppings 2

**Annual Picnic
Announcement** 3

Field Trip Reports 3

Harford Birdlife 4

Upcoming Field Trips 5

**Membership
Renewal Form** 7

Plan Ahead!

- August 24 — Hummingbird Happy Hour
- August 31—Annual Bird Club Picnic and Bird Walk at Eden Mill
- November 1 — HBC Dinner and meeting. Speaker will be Bruce M. Beehler, PhD from the Smithsonian Institution, author of *North on the Wing*, and other books about birds.

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 Secretary Jane Scocca at 410-272-8870 or send an email to jane@scocca.org.

New Members

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!



SUSAN AUSTIN

RON & JEANNE BRASEFIELD

PHILLIP & CHERYL CRAMER

JOHN MANGER

SHERRY MAXWELL

RACHEL ROBERTS

It's Time to Pay Your Dues



Dues are now due for the club year from September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020. The membership form is included on page 7. Please fill out the form, enclose your check made payable to HARFORD MOS and mail it to our Treasurer, Eric Vangrin or follow the directions there to pay online at the MOS website.

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. Thank You.

Harford Bird Club Executive Board

President	Mark Johnson	410-692-5978	MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com
Vice President	Joe Stevens	410-734-7198	josephstevens@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Jane Scocca	410-272-8870	jane@scocca.org
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Field Trip Chairperson	Tom Gibson	410-734-4135	gibsonlld@aol.com
Bird Count Coordinator	Vacant		
Dinner Reservations	Johanne Henrickson	410-836-8889	johen24@gmail.com
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Conservation Chair	Deborah Bowers	410-692-2708	bowerspub@hotmail.com
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State Board Members	Dennis Kirkwood	410-692-5905	newarkfarms@gmail.com
	Diane Jones	410-404-9180	baltobirder55@gmail.com
Webmaster	Vacant		
Wrenderings Editor	Les Eastman	410-688-1214	les@birdtreks.com

Harford Bird Club Annual Fall Picnic

The annual Harford County Bird Club picnic will be held (rain or shine) at the Eden Mill Nature Center (1617 Eden Mill Road, Pylesville, MD 21132) on August 31, 2019 at 1 pm.

Tom Congersky and Eric Vangrin will provide fried chicken and pulled pork BBQ. We ask you to bring your favorite side dish/dessert (to share) and your favorite beverage. The club will provide water, plates, and utensils.

There is no charge for this event.

A SignUpGenius invite should arrive in your email and we ask you to use this to inform us on who's coming and an idea of what they are bringing or you can see it [here](#).

OR email Tom Congersky – injitcon@zoominternet.net or Eric Vangrin – evangrin@msn.com



Newsletter Editor Wanted

After nearly forever, Les Eastman is seeking another person to edit our regular newsletter. Les was our editor while in Harford County and continued when he moved to Arizona nearly 7 years ago. Since he intends on staying in Arizona, he has asked if someone else could take over. Microsoft Publisher is used, but could also be done in MS Word or other publishing software. Content is not an issue since many others provide that – just some organizational skills regarding layout is needed. Les will be available to help with the transition. If you think you may be interested, please consider stepping up. Contact Mark Johnson at MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com or 410.692.5978 if you may be interested.

Field Trip Reports

Bombay Hook

July 21

Sunday July 21st. was a blisteringly hot day and not surprisingly no one turned out for the field trip. The trip leader decided to give it a shot and drove first to Woodland Beach, then to Port Mahon and finally Bombay Hook. By mid-afternoon the weather got the best of the trip leader and he quit. There were some interesting birds to be seen including **Virginia Rail**, **Gull-billed Tern** and **Tri-colored Heron**. Overall 49 species were recorded for the three quarter day trip. ~ David Larkin





Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

We had some long term seasonal rarities sharing Harford County with us this period. Fall migration starts soon. What will we find then? This report covers the period from June 1st through July 31st, 2019.

Swans, Ducks, Game Birds

TC reported a pair of **Trumpeter Swans** in the Edgewood Home Depot pond on July 20th. Others reported them there and in nearby ponds through July 31st. MJ found an **American Black Duck** in a pond near Woodley Rd in Perryman on June 5th. It was also seen there on June 12th. RK saw one in Havre de Grace on June 11th and JG saw one near Tydings Park on July 2nd. MJ saw a continuing female **Lesser Scaup** on the Woodley Rd



Pond on June 1st. It was seen there frequently throughout the reporting period. A male **Bufflehead** was also there from June 26th through July 31st. BW had a family of **Wild Turkeys** visit his yard in Forest Hill during the summer. They started with 9 poults but later the count dropped to 7. SM saw a **Northern Bobwhite** near the Edgewood Home Depot on June 5th.



Herons, Falcons, Plovers, Terns, Cuckoos, Hummingbirds

LM saw 2 **Yellow Crowned Night-Herons** from the train passing through Havre de Grace on June 9th.

DK saw a **Peregrine Falcon** on the silo at his Newark Farm on July 8th. He also saw 2 **American Kestrels**

on the Bradenbaugh Flats from July 20th through July 27th. AJ found 2 **Semipalmated Plovers**

on Battery Island on June 4th. RK had a juvenile **Forster's Tern** on APG-South

on July 3rd. DB reported several **Black-billed Cuckoos** calling in the woods near her

Street home. SH saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** near her Fallston yard on July 15th. It

continued through the end of the month. She also noted seeing new **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**

at her feeders starting on July 23rd. BW had 8 or more at his feeders in Forest Hill

late in July.



Woodpeckers, Ravens, Warblers, Finches

DK saw 2 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** near the intersection of Hitchcock and Harford Creamery Rds

throughout the period. SH had a family of 4 **Pileated Woodpeckers** in her yard on

July 17th. JB heard a **Common Raven** in Havre de Grace on June 12th. DL saw one

in Rutledge Park on June 20th. Mark Johnson saw 2 in Perryman on June 26th. SH

had an **Ovenbird** singing loudly and nearby in her Fallston yard on July 15th. DZ reported seeing a

Hooded Warbler in the White Hall area in late June. SH had **Pine Siskin** at her Fallston home on

June 3rd.



Contributors

AJ- Austin Jennings, BW- Bob Werrlein, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- David Littlepage, DZ- Dave Ziolkowski, JB- John Blake, JG- Jim Grieshaber, LM- Luke Malanchuk, MJ- Mark Johnson, RK- Randy Kimmett, SH- Susan Hood, SM- Scott McDaniel, TC- Tim Carney



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

August 24 – (Sat.) – Hummingbird Happy Hour and Potluck. The shaded porch, the views of lovely gardens with attractive plantings, tasty food, refreshing beverages, convivial camaraderie and the swarms of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make this a truly unique and pleasant afternoon. Diane Jones is our gracious host. Contact her at (410-404-9180; baltobirder55@gmail.com) for details and directions. Contributions to the potluck dinner and refreshments welcome but not necessary. The event begins at **5:00 PM**.



August 31 – (Sat.) – Annual Bird Club Picnic and Bird Walk. Enjoy classic picnic foods with your fellow club members at the pavilion of the Eden Mill Nature Center overlooking the beautiful Deer Creek Valley and waterfalls at the mill. Join us at **1:00 PM** and bring a dish to share and drinks for yourself. Paper and plastic ware, condiments and some basic picnic foods will be provided. Contact Tom Congersky for details (410-658-4137; jnitcon@zoominternet.net).

September 2 - (Mon.) Bird Banding at Eden Mill . Long time bird bander and accomplished birder and naturalist, Dr. Mark Johnson, and his able crew of volunteers will demonstrate banding and scientific data collection with actual in-hand birds. This is a great way to get close looks at birds that can be seen only from a distance or through dense leaves and branches. It is a fascinating wildlife experience for children and adults alike. Meet at the Vangrin Bird Banding Station at the Eden Mill Nature Center between the hours **8:00 AM -11:00 AM**. Contact Mark at (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com) if more information is desired.



September 7 – (Sat.) – Paddling at Jean Roberts Park - Havre de Grace. An early morning paddle during a beautiful time of the year. The actual course will be determined by wind, current strength and what birds are being seen and where. The trip begins at **7:30 AM**. Leaders are Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com).



September 21 – (Sat.) – Ladew Gardens Birds and Blooms Walk - Meet promptly at **7:30 AM** in the Ladew Topiary Gardens main parking lot. Gates will close behind us so please be prompt. Rachel Ortt will lead this morning's stroll as we explore the beautiful grounds of Ladew to look for resident bird life and other fall visitors and inhabitants of the gardens. Pre-registration is preferred for this trip. Contact Rachel at harford-birdclubedu@gmail.com.

September 26 – (Thur.) – Bird Walk Eden Mill to Falling Branch - Meet at **7:30 AM** in the parking lot near the pavilion at Eden Mill. The leader is veteran birder Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com). Enjoy the beautiful rolling hills, farmland and country scenery as you walk between these two iconic nature sites in northern Harford County. The varied habitat promises equally varied bird sightings.



September 28– (Sat.) – Cromwell Valley Bird Walk. Take a walk through the rich habitat of one of Baltimore County's premiere birding spots for migrant songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. This trip frequently yields a variety of sightings from Golden-crowned Kinglets to Kestrels and Merlin. The leaders are Dave Larkin (410-569-8319; larkin3001@comcast.net) and Al Conrad (410-838-4435; macconrad@yahoo.com) . Meet at **7:30 AM** at the Park and Ride at Rt. 152 just north of Rt. 147 near Fallston.

October 5 (Sat.) — Rocks State Park — Spend the morning on the trails of this Deer Creek woodland to enjoy the fall avian spectacle. Some hiking on hilly trails is involved. After the main walk we will visit one or more picnic areas that will require a \$3.00 (\$5.00 out-of-state) fee. Gather at the Ranger Station parking lot on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd. At **7:30 AM**. The leaders are Mark Magnani (mmagnini@peoplepc.com; 410-838-1778) and Debbie Bowers (bowerspub@hotmail.com; 410-913-8979).

October 12 (Sat.) — Perryville Paddle — Bring your kayak, canoe or stand-up to ply the usually serene waters of the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bay in search of swimmers, divers and, of course, fliers. Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead: songbirds and woodland birds frequent the shoreline; waterfowl and heron are common sightings; and hopefully, monarch butterflies in migration will make an appearance again this year. Meet at **8:30 AM** at Stump Point at the far end of the Perryville Community Park. Contact leaders Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu; 410-459-4577) or Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com; 443-417-4919). No rental boats available.



October 14 (Mon.) — Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap — Join us for a visit to a premier hawk-watching spot near Carlisle, PA. Possible sightings include Ravens, Golden Eagles and Ospreys along with Sharp-shinned, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks during their fall migration. Bring a blanket or soft cushion as we will be sitting on a rocky outcrop. Also bring drinks and a lunch. The leader is Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com ; 410-692-5978). Meet at **8:00 AM** at the strip mall at Upper Cross Roads in Fallston (intersection of Rt.152 and Rt.165).



October 19 (Sat.) — Harford Glen — We will begin this tour with sightings from the parking lot, then proceed to survey the triple riparian habitats of Atkisson Reservoir, the faster flowing Winter's Run and the Plumtree Run tributary. The woodland trails and open meadows offer great opportunities for good birding. Meet at the Glen (West end of Wheel Rd.) at **7:30 AM**. Our leader will be Lynn Feryus, (lfery@verizon.net; 410-877-7928).



October 26 (Sat.) — Swan Harbor Farm — This preserved area near the Upper Bay provides prime habitat for water fowl, songbirds and marsh and field birds. The leader is Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com; 410-692-5905). Meet at **8:00 AM** at the parking lot at the end of the driveway.



November 2 (Sat.) — Turkey Point — We will look for birds along the trail from the parking lot of Elk Neck State Park until we reach 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. At this height, it is a wonderful place to see raptors as they work their way south. Contact Leader Sue Procell for directions (procellmd@gmail.com; 443-417-4919). We will meet at **8:00 AM** at the Turkey Point Light House Trail Parking lot.



November 9 (Sat.) — Eden Mill and Surrounding Vicinity — Included will be parts of the nearby Harford County Land Trust property, the beautiful Hidden Valley, and other secret spots. We will be looking for wintering birds and the possibility of owls. The leaders are Diane Jones (baltobirder55@gmail.com; 410-404-9180) and Susan Hood (susanjhood@comcast.net; 410-937-7552)





IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO
THE HARFORD BIRD CLUB
A CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020

RENEWAL OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED TWO WAYS:

ONLINE

- LOG ONTO MDBIRDS.ORG/JOIN
- CHOOSE TO JOIN A CHAPTER (HARFORD) FROM THE STATE MAP
- CHOOSE MEMBERSHIP FROM THE HARFORD CHAPTER PAGE
- CHOOSE YOUR LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP BY CLICKING REGISTER

OR

MAILING

- COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION
- INCLUDE A CHECK PAYABLE TO: **HARFORD COUNTY BIRD CLUB**
- MAIL TO CLUB TREASURER:

ERIC VANGRIN
1100 BARKLEY PLACE
BEL AIR, MD 21014

NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE ZIP _____

TELEPHONE #(S) _____

EMAIL (S) _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL - ANNUAL DUES

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$33.00 (IS ANYONE 18 OR OLDER)
- ☐ HOUSEHOLD \$39.00 (IS ALL PERSONS RESIDING AT THE SAME ADDRESS)
- ☐ JUNIOR \$10.00 (IS ANYONE YOUNGER THAN 18, WHOSE PARENTS ARE NOT MEMBERS)
- ☐ AFFILIATE \$19.00 - h (IS ANYONE WHO IS A MEMBER OF ANOTHER MOS CHAPTER)
 \$13.00 - i MOS CHAPTER: _____

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