The recent meta-analysis from Rosenberg et al. (2019) reports North America has 3 billion fewer birds now than it did in 1970. This meta-analysis looked at many different data streams that helped to support this conclusion. This means that there was roughly a 29% decrease in most bird species in North America during this time - species we considered common included. More than 90 percent of the loss in abundance in the survey data was due to declines in 12 families, including sparrows, finches, and blackbirds. For many of us this study simply confirms our personal observations; that there are simply fewer birds to watch.

I remember having discussions with Dennis Kirkwood, David Webb and Matt Hafner when we were updating the Harford Checklist that there sure seems to be a lot fewer White-throated Sparrows - should we downgrade them from "abundant" to "common"?

It is very difficult to be certain about any estimate of avian density (i.e., the number of bird per unit area) in any given time period; however, Rosenberg et al. used a variety of long-term metrics that corroborate each other. Again, it has long been consistent with observations of us birders in the field, especially us "older" ones who remember better times. There's no one smoking gun for these declines which makes conservation actions very difficult, but there are many things we can do. Some ideas include:

1) Establish good bird habitat in our backyards by planting native trees shrubs/and flowering plants.
2) Keep our cats indoors (it's best for the cats also).
3) Try to find ways to minimize window strikes. (see the American Bird Conservancy website for ideas: [American Bird Conservancy: Stop Birds Hitting Windows](#))
4) Help report bird lists to eBird in important habitat areas that could be used as real data for local planning and zoning boards to help defend to not rezone to higher density areas,
5) It is okay to feed birds also.

Personally, I also think we need to continually let our representatives know that we care about birds, else decisions will be made to benefit short-term goals of special interests which are likely counter to those long-term interests that benefit our birds. I think it is now time for all of us to be activists or risk leaving our descendants a world a lot less beautiful and interesting than it was when we got it. 

Visit the Harford Bird Club website at www.harfordbirdclub.org

Be there.
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!

Kevin Garman, Havre de Grace  
Scott McDaniel, Edgewood  
Herb Lesser, Jarrettsville  
Jospeh, Mona & Anthony Parisi, Bel Air  
Barbara Pollitt, Havre de Grace  
Jim Provost, Havre de Grace

It's Time to Pay Your Dues
Membership dues for the September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020 year are past due. Please go to https://mdbirds.org/join/chapters/harford-bird-club/#toggle-id-1 or fill out the form on page 13 and mail your dues to Eric Vangrin. Last year there were some questions about the online payment process since it looked like you were joining the Maryland Ornithological Society and not the Harford Bird Club. The Harford Bird Club is a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Paying online or by check to Eric includes you on the club roster for both the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Harford Bird Club.

Harford Bird Club Executive Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mark Johnson</td>
<td>410-692-5978</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com">MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Deborah Stewart</td>
<td>410-879-2364</td>
<td><a href="mailto:debstewart1307@gmail.com">debstewart1307@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trip Chairperson</td>
<td>Tom Gibson</td>
<td>410-734-4135</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gibsonltd@aol.com">gibsonltd@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird Count Coordinator</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner Reservations</td>
<td>Johanne Henrickson</td>
<td>410-836-8889</td>
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<td>Public Relations</td>
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<td>Education Chairperson</td>
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<td>Conservation Chair</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com">AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com</a></td>
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</table>
Our sincere thanks to Les Eastman for his many, many years as the editor of the Harford Bird Club Newsletter, Wrenderings. Since moving to Arizona over seven years ago, Les continued to stay active in our club by gathering content and creating the newsletter each month. Beginning with this, October 2019, edition Amanda Subolefsky will be the editor. Please let her know if you wish to add anything to the document. If you read another newsletter and see a cool feature, let her know!  

AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com

Field Trip Reports

Harford Glen
August 17
Saturday’s heat and humidity sapped even the birds. Thirteen eager birders joined leaders Jane Scocca and Jean Wheeler for a morning bird walk at the usually “birdy” Harford Glen. There were several “newer” birders in the group, including one from Owings Mills. The group managed to eke out 39 species which included many fly by’s. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Green Heron, Eastern Wood Pewee, and a brief look at Yellow-billed Cuckoo were among the highlights. Butterflies and Dragonflies outnumbered the birds.  

~ Jean Wheeler

Hummingbird Happy Hour
August 24
You know that any activity with a name like *Hummingbird Happy Hour* has to be fun. Add the bucolic setting of the lovely home of our gracious host, Diane Jones, with its rolling farm-country vistas and beautiful gardens with swarms of hummingbirds zipping about and a sprinkle of colorful butterflies and you have the perfect spot for a very enjoyable evening. In addition to hummingbird watching and congenial socializing there was also a delicious array of fried chicken, salads, desserts, and wines guaranteeing many return trips to the kitchen for seconds. Some birders preferred perching on the lineup of rockers and comfortable lawn chairs on the front porch for viewing the hummers zooming from feeder to feeder. Others seemed to favor the serenity of the screened back porch for viewing the showy display of butterflies and flowers. A deer wandering by added for them a surprise treat. The day's unseasonal drop in temperature and humidity combined with a gentle breeze provided the “icing on the cake” for a exceptionally pleasant night.  

~ Tom Gibson

Bird Banding at Eden Mill
September 2
The Eden Mill Bird Banding Team had a stellar opening day on September 2! Monitoring 14 nets for four hours, the crew netted 12 total species. Traill’s Flycatcher, Common Yellow-throat, Canada Warbler, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting, Ovenbird, Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal, Gray Catbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Many thanks to Mark Johnson, Bob Werrlein, Richard and Nick Spigler, Dennis Kirkwood, Jane Scocca, Sue Procell, Mike White, and Susan & Bob Hood for volunteering their time and expertise. ~Amanda Subolefsky
Field Trip Reports

Birds & Blooms at Ladew Gardens
September 21
Thirty birders enjoyed a beautiful morning at our annual fall migrant trip at Ladew Gardens with leaders Matt Hafner and Rachel Ortt. We observed 34 species, with a good portion being fall migrant warblers. Highlights included a Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstarts, Common Yellowthroats, Northern Parulas, and Black and White Warblers. The gardens were full of other wildlife and fall blooms, and a visit to the native Butterfly House provided an up-close opportunity for our birders to see the lifecycle of native butterflies. Thank you to Ladew for allowing us to visit once again! ~ Rachel Ortt

Bird Walk: Eden Mill to Falling Branch
September 26
Seven participants came to enjoy some early fall birding on September 26 on the road between Eden Mill and Falling Branch/Kilgore Falls. This two mile walk is along Falling Branch and Deer Creek and ends with a visit to the Falls, rated as the second highest in Maryland. One guest joined us from San Diego, California, proving that our website is used by many beyond our club. Warblers were still present but played a good game of hide-and-seek. Still Chestnut-sided, ovenbird, Blackpoll, and Magnolia were enjoyed as was a female plumaged Scarlet Tanager. It was a beautiful day for a walk and we ended with 32 species seen or heard. We also had the Falls all to ourselves, something pretty rare indeed. ~ Dennis Kirkwood

Rocks State Park
October 5
A group of six gathered on a chilly morning at the ranger station (low 40s) and walked up the trail to the King & Queen Seat, back across the ridge and down the west or south side of the ridge trail. In the woods we saw mostly woodpeckers but returning to the parking area we got a good look at a blackpoll warbler feeding in the remains of fall web worm nets. At Hill’s Grove Picnic Area we saw many more species including a bald eagle flying low over the creek corridor about 30 feet from us, yellow-bellied sapsucker, catbird, pileated woodpecker in flight, a good look at a blue-headed vireo and a great blue heron, also flying low in the creek corridor. We also saw in this area a blackpoll warbler, yellow-rumped warbler and magnolia warbler. In all, we saw 28 species between 7:30 and 11:30. ~ Deb Bowers, co-leader with Mark Magnani

HELP WANTED

The Harford Bird Club is still looking for a Bird Count Coordinator. This person would be responsible for solidifying dates for the yearly bird count events, assigning sectors and organizing the count data that comes in from each sector. Paperwork has already been created. Forms have been perfected. You would work with Mark Johnson on the 2019 Christmas Count and then take it from there for the May Count.

#Overheard

At the end of the first Early Bird Meeting at Prospect Mill Elementary, a parent volunteer and club member, Danielle Spigler overheard an Early Birder talking to his mom...

Kid: “The worst part was the end...”
Mom: “Why?”
Kid: “Because it was over!”

#GOALS
Swans, Ducks, Falcons, Shorebirds and Terns
Several people reported the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans in the Home Depot pond in Edgewood. These birds were seen regularly during the entire reporting period. We also had a lingering Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead at the Woodley Road pond. They were last reported on Sep 15th.

DK reported up to 8 American Kestrels around the Bradenbaugh Flats are the last two weeks of September. JE and AJ found a Black-bellied Plover on Battery Island on Sep 2nd. DL saw a juvenile Ruddy Turnstone and a Sanderling there on Aug 22nd. The Sanderling was seen through Aug 31st. MH and AJ also saw an adult Sanderling there on Aug 25th. JE saw 3 juvenile Western Sandpipers on the Susquehanna Flats on Aug 31st. JH and DL also saw one at the Woodley Road pond on Sep 15th. SH and BS reported a Least Sandpiper on BS’s Fallston farm on Aug 16th. MJ found a Red-necked Phalarope at the Woodley Road pond on Sep 14th. Several others saw it there through Sep 18th.

JE saw a Least Tern at Tydings Park on Aug 25th. MiH and CT counted 54 (wow!) Black Terns off the pier at Swan Harbor on Sep 2nd.

Cuckoos, Owls, Goatsuckers, Flycatchers, Vireos, Ravens
RK found a Black-billed Cuckoo on APG-South on Aug 30th. MJ saw one at Susquehanna State Park the same day. SH had a family of Yellow-billed Cuckoos in and around her Fallston yard throughout August. DB heard an Eastern Screech Owl near her Street home on Aug 17th. She also heard one on Sep 17th. She had a Great Horned Owl there on Sep 16th. SH saw 3 Common Nighthawks fly by her Fallston home on Sep 4th.

MJ saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Swan Harbor on Aug 11th. He also had a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Susquehanna State Park on Aug 31st. JE and AJ found one at Mullins Park on Sep 8th. EW found and photographed a Gray Kingbird at Swan Harbor on Sep 27th. It did not appear to stay for very long. AJ saw a Philadelphia Vireo at Swan Harbor on Sep 28th. One was also seen there on Sep 30th. SH saw a Common Raven near her Fallston yard on Aug 21st. It was being mobbed by a group of crows. MJ saw 2 at Susquehanna State Park on Sep 6th.

Warblers, Sparrows
JE and AJ found a Golden-winged Warbler at Perryman Park on Sep 8th. They also saw a Yellow-throated Warbler at Susquehanna State Park on Sep 1st. MJ found a Prothonotary Warbler there on Sep 6th. DB saw an American Redstart in her Street yard on Sep 21st. AJ saw a Connecticut Warbler at Perryman Park on Sep 17th. One was seen there through Sep 29th. JM had one at Mullins Park on Sep 28th. DL found a Lark Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Sep 13th.

Contributors
October 26 - (Sat.)— 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 Eden Mill between the hours 8:00 AM -11:00 AM. Contact Amanda Subolefsky at (443-528-4306; AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com) if more information is desired.

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 Leaders Sue Procell or Sean McCandless for directions (procellmd@gmail.com or SeanMcCandless1@gmail.com ; Sue at 443-417-4919 or Sean at 443-945-4124). 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)

November 16 (Sat.) — Waterfowl Tour — Don’t miss the chance to search a variety of spots to see the diverse species of waterfowl that inhabit Harford County’s many waterways. The trip will start at Swan Harbor Farm Park at 8:00 AM. The leader is John Rinker (231-769-8114; john.rinker@gmail.com).

November 23 (Sat.) — Eastern Neck Wildlife Preserve — A trip to see ducks, swans, pelicans and other waterfowl at this little known Eastern Shore gem. Just the scenic ride down and the beautiful, classic, Eastern Shore diverse habitat of the refuge make this trip worthwhile. Add the likely variety of waterfowl, shore birds, raptors and passerines and you have a must-do trip. Leaders are Tom Congersky (jnitcon@zoominternet.net; 410-658-4137) and Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219). Meet at the Havre de Grace Park and Ride (I-95/Rt.155) at 8:00 AM).

November 30 (Sat.) — Conowingo Eagle Watch — Meet at 8:00 AM at Fisherman’s Park downstream end of the parking lot near the trail head. Bring your camera for a chance at many excellent shots of large numbers of eagles along with other shorebirds and waterfowl. The leader is Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com; 410-692-5905).

December 7 (Sat.) — Mariner Point Park — Take a leisurely walk along the scenic 1.1 mile paved, level trail in this often over-looked park in Joppatowne. Its location along the Gunpowder River draws a variety of birds. You might spot a fox and black squirrels as well. The leader is Phil Powers (birdsinmd308@gmail.com; 410-679-4116).
December 11 (Wed.) — Screening of ‘The Messenger’— 7:00pm Join the Maritime Museum in Havre de Grace as they show a fascinating film about the impact of humans on song bird populations. The Messenger is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of the imperiled songbird, and what it means to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them. Humans once believed that birds could carry messages, that their presence was meaningful. They have helped predict the change of seasons, the coming of storms and the rise of toxins in the food chain. Ancient peoples believed that the flights and songs of birds foretold the future. Once again, birds have something to tell us. The Messenger explores our deep-seated connection to birds, and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own.

Moving from the northern reaches of the Boreal Forest to the base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, The Messenger brings us face-to-face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks and many other airborne music-makers. On one level, the film is an engaging emotional journey, one that mixes its elegiac message with hopeful notes and unique glances into the influence of songbirds on our own expressions of the soul. On another level, it is the artful story about the mass depletion of songbirds on multiple continents, and about those who are working to turn the tide. Following the screening, a discussion will be held to share thoughts and views. See a preview of the film at https://tockify.com/hdgmaritimemuseum/detail/128/1576108800000 This is a free community event.

December 28 (Sat.) — Annual Christmas Count — Contact the Coordinator, Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com; 410-692-5978) for details.

January 1 (Wed.) — Perryman Area — Celebrate the New Year and recover from the old by getting out in nature and birding the always productive Perryman Area with experienced leader Phil Powers (birdsinmd@gmail.com; 410-679-4116).

January 11 (Sat.) — Annual Feeder Watch — Join your fellow club members at a private home to watch birds at the feeders from the comfort of a warm and cozy spot while enjoying a variety of delicious breakfast goodies (Contributions welcome but not required). It is always fun to exchange bird stories and ideas about how to attract birds to your own feeders. Our hosts will be Deb and Don Stewart (debstewart1307@gmail.com; 410-879-2364).
The address is 1307 Gibbs Court, Bel Air, MD 21014.

Volunteer Corner

Ladew Topiary Gardens— 20th Anniversary of their Nature Walk

On Saturday, September 14, Ladew Topiary Gardens held a 20th anniversary celebration of their Nature Walk. Guest explored the trail and visited various learning stations along the way. The Harford Bird Club was asked to represent the Club and birdwatching at their new bird blind. Maureen Cornett, Kristie Sjoholm-Sierchio, and John Ireland joined me for the afternoon at the blind. We greeted guests of all ages and interests sharing our love of birds and club events. We identified 24 birds at the feeders and woods around the blind. Thank you volunteers for a fun afternoon representing our club. Ladew staff wrote: "You all helped to bring the day and the bird blind to life! It was great to have you here." ~Deb Stewart
Did you see the Fall 2019 issue of Harford magazine in the Baltimore Sun? The HBC school bird club kids have the featured story. Our own Nick Spigler (recipient of a scholarship to attend Camp Avocet) graces the cover and Ellie and Faith Andreen (grant recipient and Youth Birder of the Year winner, respectively) are interviewed in the story. All the students featured in the article are graduates of the HBC elementary school bird clubs. It’s so great to see the next generation enjoying this wonderful hobby. If you missed the article, you can check it out online at http://bit.ly/YoungFlock

The elementary school Bird Clubs are up and running for the 2019-20 school year. We continue to work with students at Prospect Mill Elementary, Churchville Elementary, and Meadowvale Elementary. Approximately 75 students have signed up this year to come to school an hour early to enjoy birding. During our first meetings, we shared our summer birding experiences, including our “best birds”, practiced some common bird ids, and then walked the school campuses, collecting data to be sent into eBird. Highlights were a Northern Parula, a Palm Warbler, and a pair of Eastern Bluebirds. A great start to the year! We would like to expand this program, as other schools have expressed an interest. If you would be willing to work with these kids (see the article above for the kind of wonderful kids they are!) please contact Mary Murray at murraymary@gmail.com or 410-812-6621.

NEED GUEST SPEAKERS! There are still dates open in March and April for guest speakers for the elementary bird clubs at Churchville Elementary School and Meadowvale Elementary School). Do you have a birding topic you’d like to share with young birders? Photos from a birding trip you took? Your favorite bird? Tips for identification? Anything that makes you excited about birding is an appropriate topic for these curious and enthusiastic kids. Our club meetings consist of a 20-30-minute presentation, and then a 20-minute bird walk around the school campus. We are completely finished by 8:45 am, so it won’t even take up your whole day. Dates are below. If you would like to help out, please contact Mary at murraymary@gmail.com or 410-812-6621.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Churchville Elementary School</th>
<th>Meadowvale Elementary School</th>
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<tr>
<td>2935 Level Rd, Churchville, MD</td>
<td>910 Graceview Dr, Havre de Grace, MD</td>
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<td>Wednesdays, 7:30 -8:30 am</td>
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Gabriel Foley: November Dinner Meeting Presenter

MD-DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 Presentation Summary

Breeding Bird Atlases are a great way for birders to explore new birding areas, learn more about the behavior of their local birds, and contribute directly to bird conservation! On January 1, 2020, Maryland and DC are beginning their 3rd Breeding Bird Atlas, or BBA3. BBA3 will be a survey of the birds breeding in Maryland and DC. It will rely on volunteer citizen scientists for its data collection. BBA3 will use the popular website eBird for data collection, so collecting data for BBA3 will be different from previous atlases. Gabriel Foley, Coordinator for BBA3, will be discussing what the Atlas is, how it is used to conserve birds and their habitats, and how you can get involved.

Gabriel Foley is an avid birder from the prairie province of Saskatchewan, Canada, located north of Montana and North Dakota. He received his bachelor’s degree in biology at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan. For his master’s thesis, also at the University of Regina, he researched nighthawk habitat use in Canada’s boreal forest. Gabriel has also published research on acoustic analysis and interactions between bats and nighthawks around the Washington Monument in D.C. Over the past decade, birds have taken him around the world. He studied White-browed Sparrow-Weaver nest-building behavior at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, as a visiting researcher. He has worked on research projects in Alaska, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut, coordinated Saskatchewan’s nightjar surveys, and hosted a weekly nature radio show, The Prairie Naturalist. Now, he is excited to be the Coordinator for the 3rd Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas. You can connect with him on Twitter and Instagram at @birdnirdfoley.

The Harford Bird Club Dinner Reservation Form

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Johanne Henrickson, 2014 Tiffany Terrace, Forest Hill, MD 21050 by Friday, October 25th, 2019 if you plan on attending.

__________ Number of adults (at $14.00 each)

__________ Number of children 16 and under (at $6.00 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: ____________________________

____________________________________________

____________________________________________
Eden Mill Annual Shrimp and Bull Roast

Eden Mill is hosting their annual Shrimp and Bull Roast fundraiser on Sunday, January 26 from 1 PM to 5 PM at Jarrettsville Gardens. This is always a smashing good time! Great food, hanging out with bird friends, supporting Eden Mill, bidding on rad prizes, music and more!! See the flyer at the back of this newsletter for more information!

Members of the Harford Bird Club that wish to support Eden Mill may purchase their tickets through me. Tickets are $40 per person. I'll submit the payment to Eden Mill in one lump sum and this will guarantee we all sit together at the event. I'll even share the bucket raffle tickets I earn for filling tables with you!! You may send your checks (made out to Eden Mill) to me at: Amanda Subolefsky 1615 Deerfield Road Darlington, MD 21034. Please email me (AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com) and let me know you plan to attend so I can reserve tables. This event sells out, so checks should be in my possession by January 1. ~ Amanda

Numbered Markers at Swan Harbor

Nicholas Pappas, an Eagle Scout candidate in Troop 809, has been diligently working on his project to assist birders at Swan Harbor. Nicholas has mapped and erected thirteen markers around the impoundment on the right as you drive in. These stakes will be placed along the trail and will be numbered to allow birders to more clearly share the locations of birds around that area. Now instead of saying, “The rarest bird you can ever imagine was in the bush to the left of the smaller, lighter greenish bush around back.” birders can report, “The rare bird was seen five feet to the right of marker seven.” This should give birders a more accurate method of describing the location of the species around the trail. Nicholas will also be posting QR codes so birds along the trail can be reported. In the coming months, these Swan Harbor reports will be housed on the Harford Bird Club Website.

Christmas Count

Get your teams ready for the Annual Christmas Count!! December 28th is the big day. Sectors are going fast, so email Mark Johnson at MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com to participate. Birders of all levels are welcomed! More information coming soon...
Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Frontiers in Ornithology: A Symposium for Youth event. The symposium took place at the Ashland Nature Center in Hockessin, Delaware. This event was hosted by Bill Stewart, Chair Red Knot Outfitters Birding Guides, Holly Merker, Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, Chris Eberly, Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership, Mary-Therese Grob, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Joe Sebastiani, Delaware Nature Society, and Mollee Brown, Nighthawk Advertising Solutions.

The purpose of the symposium was to educate young birders from the Mid-Atlantic region about new technologies in ornithology and how real people are using them in the name of conservation. There were many speakers on this topic including two keynote speakers. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Some of my favorite speakers were Matthew Halley and his presentation on thrushes and Scott Weidensaul with his owl presentations. Deciphering which thrushes were related to one another was like a puzzle and was fascinating. I also learned the best places to look for jobs in the field of ornithology, which credentials were better than others, and that volunteer hours mean everything. A technology we learned about in multiple talks was new tracker/GPS technology. It allows ornithologists to record birds’ flight paths, allowing migration habits to be monitored. I had the chance to learn straight from experts in the field of ornithology as well as meet new people with the same passion for birding as I have. I would 100% recommend going if you plan to pursue a career in the field of ornithology or even if you would just like to learn more about how modern technology is mixing with ornithology.  ~ Nick Spigler (North Harford High)

Bird Book Recommendations

Two recent children’s picture books celebrate birds, birdwatching and how young children can be citizen-scientist in their own neighborhoods. Both titles (and many more bird related books!) are available for check out from Harford County Public Libraries.

**Bird Count**
by Susan Edwards Richmond
What birder does not feel the anticipation of what might be seen on the morning of a bird walk? How about on the morning of the annual Christmas Bird Count? Young Ava and her mother set off to participate with their birding pal “Big Al” and start identifying birds from the first moments. This picture book highlights the day’s sightings along each page and ends like any great bird count – with a party! Hints for identification of birds along with descriptions of each bird sighted are included.

**Ruby’s Birds**
by Mya Thompson
On a walk in her neighborhood’s park, Ruby, a young girl growing up in the city, discovers the wonder of bird right before her eyes. She dreams of their amazing colors and songs all night long. She can’t wait to wake up to discover more varieties and show the birds to her family, including the often heard but not seen warbler. The book provides a wonderful introduction for young birding families and includes information from Celebrate Urban Birds ([https://celebrateurbanbirds.org/](https://celebrateurbanbirds.org/)) which is a Cornell Laboratory citizen-science project.

~ Bethany Vangrin (Harford County Public Library)
11th Annual Shrimp & Bull Roast

Looking for something to do the weekend before the Super Bowl? Beat the winter blahs and support Eden Mill Nature Center at the same time!

Food
Pit Beef, Pit Turkey, Steamed & Fried Shrimp, Shrimp Creole, Winter Meatballs, Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Beer, & Soda
Cash Bar

Details
$40 per person
Sunday, January 26, 2020
from 1 - 5pm
Jarrettsville Gardens

Entertainment
DJ: Friendly Entertainment
Prizes, Raffles, Money Wheel, 50/50, & Dancing

Tickets
Tickets must be purchased by 1/17/20. Tables hold 10.
No sales at the door!
Call 410-836-3050 or email edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com
Many of Maryland’s finest teachers and naturalists have expanded their ecology and birding knowledge through these workshops. Join educators from around the country for a hands-on wildlife or ornithology camp.

Ecology and Ornithology Workshops
The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is accepting applications from Maryland teachers, youth leaders, park rangers and nature center staff for scholarships to attend week-long ecology and ornithology workshops on Audubon’s beautiful Hog Island in Maine. Each award covers the cost of tuition, room and board for an intensive course of field study and instruction covering ornithology, ecology, conservation and natural history.

Scholarship Information
MOS will award multiple scholarships each summer. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the recipient. For additional information check the MOS website links (below) or contact the Scholarship Chair.

Three workshops are offered in 2020. These may be subject to change.

June 7 – 12: Building Better Birding Skills
June 21 – 26: Field Ornithology
July 12 – 17: Sharing Nature: An Educators’ Week

Application Process and Requirements
Applicants need not be members of MOS, but must be endorsed by a member or chapter. Applications for the workshops must be submitted via electronic mail by November 15, 2019. Recipients will be notified in December 2019. Please refer to the MOS website for the complete application process.

For more information and application process for the Maine camps please refer to: https://mdbirds.org/scholarships/

For more information about the Audubon workshops, please refer to: http://hogisland.audubon.org/programs/

Scholarship Chair: Scholarship@mdbirds.org
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2020 TEACHER/NATURALIST
SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP CHOICES

**Building Better Birding Skills** - *June 7 to June 12, 2020*
During this camp, we will focus on building upon your birding skills to help make you a better birder. Our emphasis will be on how to find birds, identify them, understand the habitats they use, while developing and expanding your skills in identifying birds by ear through their vocalizations and song.

You will have opportunities to learn how to contribute to citizen science projects and instruction on how to use apps to enrich your knowledge and experiences as a birder.

We will explore habitats along the Maine coast seeking birds to study and provide you with the tools you’ll need to take back home and apply to birds around you. On trips around Hog Island, the mainland, and Muscongus Bay you will see Atlantic Puffins, Black Guillemots, Common Eider and more.

**Field Ornithology** - *June 21 to June 26, 2020*
Take a week of riveting field trips to habitats as diverse as offshore puffin islands (observed by boat), windswept blueberry barrens, lush grasslands, and sphagnum bog forests. Add some of the most respected bird experts in the country, and you have Field Ornithology on Hog Island – a layman’s exploration of all things avian, from basic bird biology to nesting behavior, songs, migration and conservation.

**Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week** - *July 12 to July 17, 2020*
Learn practical approaches and add inspiration to your environmental education curriculum during this action-packed program. Our experienced and enthusiastic instructors share their favorite approaches, methods, and activities for engaging both children and adults with nature.

Workshops using techniques in art, music, theater, journaling and other disciplines will be presented, as well as a host of classic Audubon Camp field trips, including a boat trip to the restored Atlantic Puffin and Tern colony on Eastern Egg Rock, intertidal explorations, and hiking through Hog Island’s unspoiled spruce-fir forest. We’ll be exploring citizen science, creating some inquiry-based lessons on birds and other topics, and demonstrating both low and high-tech methods of teaching.”

For more detailed information about these workshops, please refer to the Audubon Website: [http://hogisland.audubon.org/programs/registration](http:// hogisland.audubon.org/programs/registration)

Photos by Joe Subolefsky
HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to join or renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, please print this page and mail the completed form along with a check to:

Eric Vangrin
1100 Barkley Place
Bel Air, MD. 21014

Membership Year - September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020

( ) 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.

*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.