



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 34 Number 1

December 2019

President's Perch

It is not uncommon for me to hear questions like "What has happened to all of the cardinals? I don't have them at my feeders anymore." The presence of some birds can be irruptive at times and typically when one or two people report fewer birds, others notice few changes. Birds fly and can be anywhere in the county in a few minutes. However, recently I have been taking a very unscientific poll wondering if people are noticing any changes at their feeders this winter. This year I am getting a lot of consistent responses reporting few birds this year at feeders. This is the first time in more than 20 years where I can watch for hours and see no birds visit my feeder. I'm hoping that things will pick up for me and for others, but I'm not optimistic. It feels like all of a sudden, the birds are gone, and the beginnings of ecological collapse is upon us. Maybe it's the urgency of climate change that is affecting my impressions of impending doom, or maybe it is the recent publication in *Science* (Rosenberg et al. 2019) that found more than a third of birds have disappeared in the last 30 years or so. Maybe it's partially due to my guilty conscience for driving a car that operates on petroleum and not composting the relevant portion of my garbage that I cannot recycle. It could also be influenced by my observations out the window of a jet flying at night seeing few places on the ground without lights. One thing for sure, there will be no one factor that will be a "smoking gun" cause for the disappearance of birds - it will ultimately be the net cause of many reasons that act together, as it has been my experience that biology is incredibly resilient. For this reason, it may happen rather slowly so we don't notice much. However, I am fairly confident that when it does happen, humans won't be far behind.

By now you're probably thinking, what a depressing thought (and possibly considering not reading these anymore), but there is lots of evidence for recovery of species where we take action. The increase in birds like Bald Eagles, turkeys, many species of hawks, and many other endangered species where efforts are specifically taken is remarkable. There is no doubt that when we focus, we can change detrimental outcomes and trends. We just need to act. We each can act by living responsibly and letting our elected representatives know that we care about nature and wildlife. We can also help by engaging young people to get outside more to experience nature. These are just a few ideas but like problems are rarely one-sided, so are solutions.

~Dr. Mark Johnson, President

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Plan Ahead!

- January 10 — HBC Dinner and meeting. Speaker will be Bruce Beehler, to discuss his 100 day adventure during spring migration.
- Christmas Bird Count— Saturday, December 28
- March 6— HBC Dinner and meeting. Speaker will be Dr. Greg Shriver from the University of Delaware. TENTATIVE
- 73th MOS convention to be held May 15 - May 17, 2020 at the Cumberland Ramada in Cumberland, Maryland

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-Bel Air, Maryland
Patricia & Italo Bastianelli-Churchville, Maryland
Steve & Melinda Chase- Jarrettsville, Maryland
Diane Chiaro-Fallston, Maryland
Phillip & Cheryl Cramer- Bel Air, Maryland
Laura Kurrle- Bel Air, Maryland
Karen Phillips- New Freedom, Pennsylvania
Rachel Roberts- Forest Hill, Maryland
Gabby & Landon Ross- Bel Air, Maryland
Elaine Scribner- Havre de Grace, Maryland



Dinner & Club Meeting: January 10th

The January Club Meeting will take place at Churchville Presbyterian Church at 2844 Churchville Road, Churchville, MD 21028 on Friday, January 10th.

The Harford Bird Club will feature a dinner prior to the meeting. Club members may RSVP to Johanne Henrickson by Friday, January 3rd using the reservation form on page 11. Dinner will begin around 6:15. The short club meeting will follow dinner at around 7pm. At the conclusion of the club meeting our speaker, Bruce Beehler will present 'North on the Wing-Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring'. See page 10 for Bruce's biography!

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
Treasurer	Eric Vangrin	443-417-7219	evangrin@msn.com
Past President	Deborah Stewart	410-879-2364	debstewart1307@gmail.com
Field Trip Chairperson	Tom Gibson	410-734-4135	gibsonl1d@aol.com
Bird Count Coordinator	VACANT		
Dinner Reservations	Johanne Henrickson	410-836-8889	johen24@gmail.com
Public Relations	Deborah Stewart	410-879-2364	debstewart1307@gmail.com
Education Chairperson	Mary Murray	410-812-6621	murraymary@gmail.com
Conservation Chair	Deborah Bowers	410-692-2708	bowerspub@hotmail.com
Youth Coordinator	Rachel Ortt	443-299-8384	hebert.rachel2@gmail.com
State Board Members	Dennis Kirkwood	410-692-5905	newarkfarms@gmail.com
	Diane Jones	410-404-9180	baltobirder55@gmail.com
Webmaster	Amanda Subolefsky	443-528-4306	AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com

Email ListServ

Dedicated Harford Bird Club member and Arizona resident, Les Eastman has stepped down from his multidecade role as Newsletter Editor, but he continues to assist our club almost daily. Les stays in contact with Eric, our treasurer, and updates the email listserv. His consistency and attention to detail ensures the latest and greatest information gets to all the proper inboxes. Les' contribution to our club most likely goes unnoticed by most of our members, but we should all be aware and appreciate his skills and time he donates.



Field Trip Reports



Harford Glen

October 19

Saturday October 19th, Harford Glen: 4 birders faced a brisk morning for the first frost of the season, after the sun rose higher, feet and hands warmed up. We did well on woodpeckers. A yell of a "different one" turned out to be a juvenile Red-Headed - a nice find. Although not for lack of trying, we couldn't check off all the woodpeckers as we did not hear or see a Hairy. There were nice views of Palm warblers and a Towhee that came in close. A pair of kingfishers were on regular patrol along the water. Total number of species was 33. ~ Lynn Feryus



Waggoner's Gap

October 14

Six birders took the trip to Waggoner's Gap in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on a crisp, sunny, Columbus Day to participate in the hawk watch. We were greeted by the counters who provided us with a primer on landmarks. Very little wind made the conditions suitable for the counters, but birds were observed from various directions and relatively infrequent.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were very numerous and by far the most commonly observed species. A few Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks were seen as well as a kestrel and Peregrine Falcon. Bald Eagles were seen as we were leaving. The counters reported over 100 birds for the day. ~ Mark S. Johnson



Swan Harbor Farm

October 26

Two birders joined the leader for a beautiful fall morning at Swan Harbor Farm Park on Saturday, October 26. This time of year is great for sparrows of all types and we were able to find 6 species - Field, Savannah, White-throated, Song, Swamp, and Chipping. Lots of Eastern Bluebirds decorated the wires along the entrance road. Several large flocks of Canada Geese drifted by on their way to feed in the recently harvested fields. When we went down to the water's edge, a Palm Warbler was sighted in the grass under the willow trees. Waterfowl was distant but included

Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Pied-billed Grebe, and Double-crested Cormorant. A pair of Bald Eagles were seen near Tydings Island and Caspian Terns were resting on the mats of vegetation on the water. Plenty of diversity and pleasant company made for a lovely morning along the Bay ~ Dennis Kirkwood

Field Trip Reports

Eden Mill & Surrounding Vicinity

November 9

Seven birders came out on a cold but calm morning to explore the beautiful Eden Mill park, where we counted 39 species. Brown Creeper was a first-of-season sighting for many, and a Fox Sparrow was beautiful but shy. A Hermit Thrush was more cooperative in sitting still in good light, both Golden- and Ruby-crowned Kinglets flitted about, and Woodpeckers were very vocal, including Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. A flock of Cedar Waxwings posed nearby in a small tree for good looks, Belted Kingfishers flew back and forth between Big Branch and Deer Creek, a lone Wood Duck was flushed up, and a Bald Eagle flew overhead. Scores of White-throated Sparrows were back for winter, but only one Dark-eyed Junco was seen. The World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats didn't disappoint in hosting Horned Larks, and a Savannah Sparrow and Red-tailed Hawk completed the morning. ~*Diane Jones & Susan Hood*

Conowingo Eagle Watch

November 30

A large crowd of 15 birders, including 3 middle/elementary students and 3 from the DC area, gathered below Conowingo Dam to enjoy a brisk but bright Saturday morning on Nov. 30. The eagles are always the star of the show and did not disappoint. We got to witness an apparent new nest being started on one of the electric towers when a mature eagle flew past with a large branch in its talons. The resident peregrine falcon pair could not be found during the trip but persistent and acute young eyes (one of the students) found it perched on the turbine building after the group had disbanded. Ring-billed and Great Black-backed Gulls, Great Blue Herons, and Double-crested Cormorants were fishing among the eagles and great numbers of Black Vultures manned the towers. We were lucky to see two scoring Turkey Vultures as they have been completely displaced from Conowingo by the more aggressive Black Vultures. As we walked down river along the trail, we were able to find 3 Mallards and several winter wrens. One Hermit Thrush perched for a scope view. Conowingo is always worth a visit! ~*Dennis Kirkwood*

Mariner Point Park

December 7

A dedicated group of six birders tackled Mariner Point Park on December 7th. Overall, we found 26 species. Highlights included a Northern Harrier, Yellow-bellied Sap Sucker and Eastern Towhee. The squirrels were as bossy and mischievous as ever. ~*Phil Powers*

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!

Christmas Count





Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

Fall transitions into winter and our birds migrate to their winter homes. This can mean visits from interesting rare birds. Keep your eyes open! This report covers the period from October 1st through November 30th, 2019.

Swans, Geese, Game Birds, Raptors, Cranes, Shorebirds

DK found a Cackling Goose on Turney's Pond on Oct 16th. The continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans at the Edge-wood Home Depot pond was seen numerous times during the period. They were last reported on Nov 18th. MJ heard a Northern Bobwhite at Gunpowder Falls SP on Nov 6th. AJ saw a Cattle Egret at the Home Depot pond on Oct 8th. DK spotted a Golden Eagle flying over the banding site at Harford Glen on Nov 7th, to the



delight of the others observing the banding that day. He also had a Merlin on his farm in northern Harford County on Nov 18th. RC counted 18 Sandhill Cranes flying over the Home Depot pond area on Nov 5th. JE found a Black-bellied Plover and a Dunlin on Battery Island on Nov 23rd. On Oct 25th he saw 4 Semipalmated Sandpi-
pers, a Western Sandpiper, and 7 Least Sandpipers on the Susquehanna Flats. MJ



found 2 American Avocets in Perryman on Oct 15th. DP saw 4 Stilt Sandpipers there on Oct 16th.

Gulls, Cuckoos, Owls, Goatsuckers, Flycatchers, Ravens, Thrushes



AJ found a Franklin's Gull at the Conowingo Dam on Nov 12th. It was seen several times through Nov 18th. JE saw a Black-billed Cuckoo at Swan Harbor on Oct 5th. MH heard and recorded a flyby Barn Owl at his Fallston home on Nov 10th. TH found a Least Flycatcher at Perryman Park on Oct 1st. RK saw 5 Common Nighthawks flying low and close to him on APG-South on Oct 2nd. MJ saw a Common Raven perched on a power line in Havre de Grace on Oct 5th. He also saw one flying over Churchville on Nov 5th. RC saw 2 flying near his Creswell home on Oct 11th. MJ saw a Swainson's Thrush at the Home



Depot pond on Oct 15th. TG had a Hermit Thrush in Aberdeen on Nov 24th.



Warblers, Sparrows



JE found a Golden-winged Warbler at Swan Harbor on Oct 5th. FS saw an Orange-crowned Warbler on Oct 13th. MJ saw one in Havre de Grace on Nov 21st. SH had a Pine Warbler in her Fallston yard on Oct 2nd. TH and JM saw 2 Connecticut Warblers at Swan Harbor on Oct 2nd. AJ found a Clay-colored Sparrow there on Oct 1st,

and MJ saw one there on Oct 13th. MJ also saw a Vesper Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Nov 21st. JM saw a Grasshopper Sparrow there on Oct 25th. AJ found a Snow Bunting on the beach of Battery Island on Nov 16th. TC had a Dickcissel at Swan harbor on Oct 1st.

Contributors

AJ- Austin Jennings, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DP- Dave Powell, FS- Fred Shaffer, JE- Josh Emm, JM- John Manger, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson, RC- Rick Cheicante, RK- Randy Kimmett, SH- Susan Hood, TC- Tim Carney, TG- Tom Gibson, TH- Tim Houghton



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

January 1 (Wed.) – Annual New Year Perryman Walk – Celebrate the New Year or recover from New Year's Eve with a tour through the always productive Perryman Area. The leader is Phil Powers (birdsinmd308@gmail.com or 410-679-4116). Meet at the parking lot of the Aberdeen Walmart on Rt. 40 at **8:30 AM**.



January 4 (Sat.) - Youth Christmas Count – Young birders between the ages of 4 and 16, join Rachel Hebert Ortt, Mary Murray, and the Harford Bird Club at Swan Harbor Farm Park. Contact Rachel (harfordbirdclubedu@gmail.com or 443-299-8384) or Mary (murraymary@gmail.com or 420-812-6621) for details. Registration required. The count runs from **9:00 AM – 11:30 AM**.



January 11 (Sat.) – Feeder Watch Social – Join our annual feeder social to visit the private home of one of our members. This year Deb and Don Stewart have invited us into their home to watch the avian visitors who come to their bird feeders. Perhaps you will get some new ideas for attracting more birds to your yard. Light refreshments will be served and contributions are always welcome but not required. This is winter birding at its best, watching birds from a warm and cozy spot with yummy food and drink while socializing with fellow birders. Contact Deb at (debstewart1307@gmail.com or 410-879-2364) and please leave a message. Also, please copy to Tom Gibson (gibsonltd@aol.com). **This event is open to HBC members and their guests only.** Reservations required. The event

begins at **8:30 AM**.

January 18 (Sat.) – Conowingo Eagle Watch – Birders, bring your binos and/or scope for great views of our majestic national bird which shows up in great numbers during this season. Photographers, this is also a great opportunity for excellent shots of gulls and waterfowl as well as eagles. The leader is Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905). Meet at Fisherman's Wharf below the dam at **8:00 AM**.

January 25 (Sat.) – Perryville Community Park Winter Waterfowl Bird Walk – This is a leisurely birding excursion on mostly paved surfaces along the shores of historic Stump's Point to look for swans and winter ducks bobbing on the waters of Mill Creek and Furnace Bay. The leaders are Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577) and Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919). Meet at the far end of the park at **9:00 AM**.

February 1 (Sat.) - Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground. Meet the leader, experienced birder and naturalist, Dave Webb (porzana@comcast.net; 410-939-3537) at the parking lot of the Edgewood McDonalds at the corner of Rt. 40 and Edgewood Road at **7:30 AM**. A variety of waterfowl is expected as well as songbirds. Bring a photo ID for admission to the Proving Grounds.

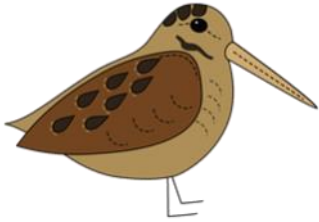
February 8 (Sat.) – Bradenbaugh Soup Tour – Trip begins at Jarrettsville Elementary School parking lot. From there Dennis Kirkwood leads us on a pleasant tour through NW Harford County's agricultural area to find wintering field birds and waterfowl. Expect Horned Larks, along with Ring-necked Ducks and maybe a Cackling Goose. The trip ends at the leader's home where you will enjoy hot soup, homemade breads, good conversation and maybe even a brief glimpse of the resident screech owl. Contact Dennis at (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905). The trip begins at **8:00 AM**.



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

February 29 (Sat.) – Swan Harbor Farm Park - Meet at the parking lot at the Agricultural Education Center at the end of the driveway at **8:00 AM**. Visit this Harford County gem with its commanding view of the bay and explore the three impoundments, wooded trails and open fields. The farm, with its varied habitat, has developed into a fine location for a broad spectrum of birdlife, including waterfowl, marsh specialties, raptors and sparrows. The leader is Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net).

March 4 (Wed.) – Timberdoodle Hunt - Meet at the I-95/155 Park and Ride at **6:00 PM**. From there the guides will lead this evening trip to a well-known site for Woodcocks, one of our most interesting and elusive birds. Hopefully you will see the fascinating Woodcock sky dance mating display as well as hear their distinctive call notes. Leaders are Tom Gibson (410-734-4135 or gibsonltd@aol.com) and Jane Scocca (410-272-8870 or jane@scocca.org).



March 12 (Thur.) – Timberdoodle Hunt – Meet at the southwest corner of the parking lot of the Home Depot on Rt. 40 in Edgewood. From there the experienced guide will lead this evening trip to several known sites near the store for Woodcocks, one of our most interesting and elusive birds. Hopefully you will see the fascinating Woodcock sky dance mating display as well as hear their distinctive call notes. The leader is Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504). Time is **7:00 PM**. **Note: The location and date may change on a last minute basis depending on what site offers the best chance for viewing.**

March 14 (Sat.) – Harford Waterfowl Tour – Don't miss a 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 the Swan Harbor Farm parking lot at **8:00 AM**. The itinerary will be based on recent sightings. The leader is John Rinker (johnrinker@gmail.com or 231-769-8114).

March 21 (Sat.) – Lapidum Gull Watch Susquehanna State Park-- Join us for a morning scan of the river in search of lingering winter visitors, early spring arrivals and resident species. Little Gull and Black-headed Gull are possible. The leader is Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905). Meet at the Lapidum boat launch at **8:00 AM**.

April 4 (Sat.) – A special trip to Mill Grove Audubon Center in Pennsylvania - Visit the place J.J. Audubon called home for four years after he arrived here from France at age eighteen. It was here that he became captivated by the beauty and variety of the many birds around him and that the seed was planted for a lifetime of studying and painting these stunning winged creatures. Although best known for his brilliant and original images of birds, he is also the father of bird banding and the discoverer of chimney swallows' winter roosting spots. He became the foremost ornithologist in America as he pursued his field studies as well as his painting techniques. The interactive museum is as interesting as the man with many displays and hands-on activities.

6:45 AM -Meet at Darlington Park on Rt. 1 in Darlington. Volunteers needed to drive.

8:15 AM – Arrive at Mill Grove Audubon Center - Bathroom Break

8:30 AM – A bird walk with one of the naturalists

9:30 AM – Walk to the house

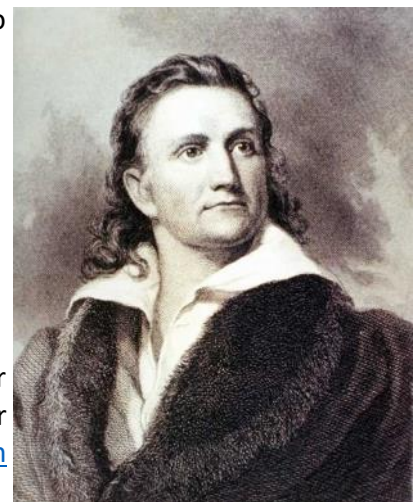
9:45 AM – House tour with docent

10:30 AM – Break and a snack (which will be provided)

10:45 AM – Free time to explore the museum

11:45 AM – Departure (We can go straight home or stop for lunch)

Cost for this trip is \$15.00. Please bring **CASH** as it will expedite getting our group into the museum. **Pre-registration required by March 28.** Contact our coordinator, Amanda Subolefsky (amandasubolefsky@gmail.com or 443-528-4306).



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

April 18 (Sat.) – Warblers and Wildflowers Walk – Susquehanna State Park - Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill. Enjoy discovering the beauty of colorful spring wildflowers and the gorgeous spring plumage of migrant and resident bird species. The leaders are Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577), Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com or 443-417-7219) and Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919). **Time 7:30 AM.**

April 25 (Sat.) – Jerusalem Mill – Visit this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River marking Harford County's western border. Join experienced leader and birder, Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com or 410-692-5978) and meet at the parking lot by the mill on Jerusalem Road at **7:30 AM.**

May 2 (Sat.), Inclement Date - May 3 (Sun.) - Eleventh Annual Birding Challenge Susquehanna State Park – The previous competitions have been well-attended and a lot of fun. So make room on your calendar to join us for our 11th year. We will meet at the Rock Run Mill at **6:30 AM** for team selections and rules review. Counting will begin at **6:45 AM** and end at **11:30 AM**. A rally celebration will be held 12 noon at a local Havre de Grace eatery. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration. The coordinator is Tom Gibson (gibsonltd@aol.com or 410-734-4135). Birders of all skill levels are welcome. The rules allow all to contribute to the fun and success of each team.

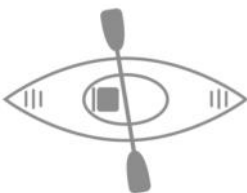
May 9 (Sat.) – Warbler Walk Susquehanna State Park - Take a stroll through the park in search of spring migrants, especially the beautiful but elusive warblers. While warblers will be the focus of the trip, there should be plenty of other songbirds as well as waterfowl and waders out on the river. Meet at the parking area at Rock Run Mill at **7:30 AM.** The leader is Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504).

May 13 (Wed.) – Bombay Hook – Visit one of the East Coast's best sites for shorebirds and waterfowl. This beautiful reserve in Delaware with its diverse coastal wetland habitats offers great promise for a variety of shore birds, water birds, wading species, raptors and songbirds. If you have never been to "The Hook," this is a must-do trip. Meet experienced leader Dave Larkin (larkin3003@comcast.net or 410-939-3537) at the Havre de Grace commuter lot near Rt. 155/I-95 at **7:00 AM.** Bring a lunch and sufficient drink for the day.



May 16 (Sat.) - Emory Knoll Farm - Join Carey Rowsom, HBC member and Emory Knoll employee, as she guides you along the trails of this beautiful northern Harford County farm. The open fields and woods of this lovely property are excellent habitat for songbirds, woodpeckers and both resident and migratory warblers. Meet at the Farm at **8:00 AM.** Parking is limited so please consider carpooling. For further information contact Carey at Emory Knoll Farm Inc., 3410 Ady Rd. (Rt. 543), Street MD 21154 (410-452-5880; crowsom@greenroofplants.com).

May 25 (Mon.) Hidden Valley – (and surrounding areas) - Leader, Dennis Kirkwood, (Newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905) will guide us to the aptly named Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream running through a beautiful stand of the now rare mature hemlock. The trip will proceed from there to the Bradenbaugh Flats, stopping along the way at other sites with potential. Carpooling is encouraged due to limited parking space. Meet at **7:00 AM** in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Rd. where it crosses Deer Creek.



May 30 (Sat.) - Paddle at Tydings Park, Havre de Grace - Ply the interesting waters of Havre de Grace with experienced birder and outdoor enthusiast, Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu; 410-459-4577) and co-leader and naturalist, Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com; 443-417-4919). Join us at **8:30 AM** at the boat launch ramp with your kayak, stand-up or canoe as we search for waterfowl, waders, peeps and song birds. Osprey and Bald Eagle are also almost guaranteed.

Education Report from Mary Murray

We've had many exciting speakers for our elementary bird clubs during the months of November and December. First in November the Prospect Mill ES Early Birds were treated to a fascinating lesson on bird wings by Amanda Subolefsky. Amanda explained how wings are like a birds' arm, and taught the young birders the location of primary, secondary, and coverts feathers. Next, Dennis Kirkwood presented the Churchville ES Bird Buddies with a fascinating travelogue to the Southwest and the avian species who reside there. Dennis shared beautiful photos and fascinating stories from his trips. Finally, Gabby Ross explained how birding in the winter differs from birding in the spring and summer to the Meadowvale ES Feathered Friends. The children learned how birds molt to get ready for winter migration, and compared summer and winter plumage in a variety of common species. As always, the speakers joined us for a bird walk after their presentations. Highlights in November were an Eastern Towhee, a Brown Thrasher and a Northern Harrier. White-throated Sparrows abound!



In December, Ruth Eisenhower and Melanie Kane, from Harford Glen, played a fun game with the young birders. Students moved across the classrooms to "Fact" or "Fiction" signs in response to a statement about bird behavior in the wintertime. The children learned new information like not all American Robins migrate in the winter and Carolina Chickadees get only 25% of their food from backyard feeders. Highlight of the bird walks was a flyover by at Bald Eagle at the Prospect Mill meadow!



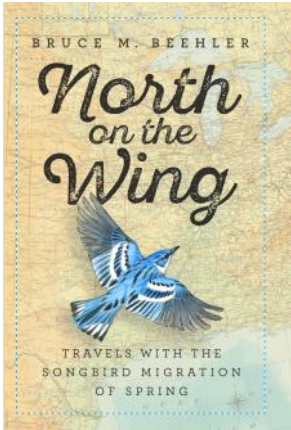
NEED GUEST SPEAKERS! There are still dates open in April and May for guest speakers for the elementary bird clubs at Churchville Elementary School and Meadowvale Elementary School. Do you have a birding topic you'd like to share with young birders? Wouldn't you love to share your birding passion with these young ornithologists? Spring is such a lovely time to go birding! Come and help our young birders to greet the spring migrants! 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.



Churchville Elementary School 2935 Level Rd, Churchville, MD Wednesdays, 7:30 -8:30 am	Meadowvale Elementary School 910 Graceview Dr, Havre de Grace, MD Thursdays, 7:30 – 8:30 am
May 13	April 16
	May 14

Bruce M. Beehler: January Dinner Meeting Presenter

North on the Wing—Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring



In this illustrated lecture, naturalist and ornithologist, Bruce Beehler, will recount his hundred-day-long 2015 field trip following the spring migration of songbirds from the coast of southeastern Texas up the Mississippi and thence into the boreal forests of northern Ontario— breeding ground of many of the beautiful and vocal North American wood warblers. Along the way, Beehler visited various migratory bird field projects as well as scores of local, state, and national parks and refuges critical for the preservation of the migration phenomenon. He also spent time in an array of eclectic and beautiful rural communities from southern Louisiana and Mississippi through the Heartland and to the northern limit of roads in Ontario, land of the Cree and Ojibwe First Nations peoples. Beehler’s informal goal was to spend time with all thirty-seven eastern wood warblers on their prime breeding habitat. In pursuing this objective, he saw a lot of deeply rural North America. His presentation touches on wildlife, nature conservation, migration research, American history, and rural culture.

Bruce Beehler is a naturalist, ornithologist, and conservationist—currently a Research Associate in the Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. He conducts research and writing about nature and natural history. Beehler has spent much of his scientific career studying and working to conserve birds and their forest habitats. After conducting doctoral fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, Beehler worked for ten years at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, followed by stints at the Wildlife Conservation Society, U.S. Department of State, Counterpart International, Conservation International, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Beehler is an elective Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union, and has served on the boards of the American Bird Conservancy, RARE, and the Livingston-Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy. Currently, Beehler serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Rainforest Trust and is a Research Associate of the American Bird Conservancy. Beehler has published thirteen books and authored more than a hundred technical and popular articles about birds and nature. In 2007, Beehler was featured in a 60 -Minutes piece highlighting an expedition he led to the Foja Mountains in the interior of western New Guinea in which scores of new species of plants and animals were discovered. In 2016 Beehler received the Bicentennial Medal from Williams College for his conservation work in the Pacific. In 2017 Beehler received the Scientific Achievement Award from the National Museum of Natural History. Today, Beehler carries out natural history studies and writing focused on wildlife and natural places in North America.



Beehler will be selling and signing his popular book, *North on the Wing* (Smithsonian: 2018), as well as the just-released *Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019) after the lecture.



Visit Bruce Beehler’s blog at: <https://birdsandnaturenorthamerica.blogspot.com>

Visit Bruce Beehler’s website at: bruceabeehler.wixsite.com/bruceabeehler

6th Annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids

DATE: Saturday, January 4, 2020

TIME: 9:00 – 11:30 am

LOCATION: MAEF Education Building on Swan Harbor Farm at 403 Oakington Rd, Havre De Grace, MD 21078



Open to young birders ages 4 to 16 years old – no experience necessary.

We'll start with birding basics, then go birding in teams to identify and count as many birds as we can, ending the morning with a tally of birds seen while enjoying refreshments.

Binoculars provided; parent or guardian must be present.

Free, but registration is required by emailing Youth Birding Coordinator, Rachel Ortt at harfordbirdclubedu@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Harford Bird Club and MAEF

Breeding Bird Atlas

What is a Breeding Bird Atlas? A **Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA)** is a population survey project designed to cover large geographic areas using a grid based system and is generally organized at the state or provincial level. Each participant in the project, referred to as an observer or 'atlaser', is assigned one or more blocks (grid cells) in which to conduct extensive area searches. They record any breeding evidence observed for each bird species; this evidence is categorized as "confirmed", "probable" or "possible". The results can be mapped and will then provide comprehensive information about the distribution of breeding birds in the region covered. For more information on BBAs see the North American Ornithological Atlas Committee (NORAC) website.

The Maryland – District of Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas project begins in 2020 and will run for 5 years. A steering committee has been created and a core group has met several times to plan the project. One key feature will be the use of eBird to collect and submit field data. Another key step has been the hiring of a project coordinator. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity please contact Matt Hafner (410.971.3203 Hafner.Matt@gmail.com) or Dennis Kirkwood (410.692.5905 NewarkFarms@gmail.com).

An Atlas training session for all observers will be held on March 22 from 1:30-3:00 pm at the Churchville Rec Center.



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, January 3rd, 2020 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: _____

The meeting will take place at: Churchville Presbyterian Church (2844 Churchville Road Churchville, MD 21028)

FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP



Maryland Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Program

When: 11:00 am– 1:00 pm, Saturday, January 11, 2020

Where: Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
700 Otter Point Rd, Abingdon, MD 21009

Cost: FREE!

The recovery of our national symbol, the Bald Eagle, is considered one of the greatest conservation successes of the 20th century. From an all-time low of 44 nesting pairs in the state in 1977, more than 1500 pairs currently breed in Maryland. Today, the Chesapeake Bay region is home to the largest concentrations of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states.

In 2007, The Bald Eagle was removed from the federal threatened and endangered species list and annual surveys of Maryland's Bald Eagle population were discontinued. Maintaining an active monitoring program is vital to knowing when and where changes to breeding eagles are taking place. The **Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership's** (MBCP) citizen-science monitoring program documents the nesting success and productivity of Maryland's Bald Eagle population to help us know what conservation actions may be needed in the future.

We need YOUR HELP in this effort!

This workshop will give you the basics on Bald Eagle life history (did you know it takes 4-5 years for eagles to attain the white head and tail?) and how to monitor eagles, collect data, and submit your observations. We hope to have a **live Bald Eagle** at the workshop! Presenters are eagle expert **Craig Koppie** and MBCP Executive Director **Chris Eberly**.



Please register for a workshop at <https://marylandbirds.org/bald-eagle-nest-monitoring>

Dead Trees are filled with Life!



Leave stumps, fallen branches and leaves. They create important habitat.





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.