



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 35 Number 1

February 2020

President's Perch

Inside this issue:

I guess like the groundhog I can't wait for spring. It is the period of renewal, when all outside greens up, it starts getting light earlier and starts getting noisier. I really don't get enough sleep as it is, but increasing daylength (referred to as photoperiod) is worth it compared the relative grayness of winter.

Most of our favorite songbird species can't help but sing when photoperiod increases – it is evolutionarily tied to fitness. Basically, the brain's third eye, the pineal gland, tracks the daily length of sunlight. After days of relatively short daylight, the pineal gland starts chemical cues to the male's primary sex organs to start growing and secreting hormone (androgens) through the blood. The brain, in turn, increases the bird's desire to sing. For many species singing comes at a cost, as it is energetically expensive to sing; think about how some House Wrens sing almost all day in the spring. Birds that sing past dawn are typically not mated, and so they keep trying. Food is often limited, and birds need to balance foraging with mating and then keeping an eye on their mate until eggs are laid, or risk not being the real parent. After the eggs are laid then both parents need to make sure they make it to hatch and then to fledge. This is very difficult for many species because nearly every predator eats birds or bird eggs (raccoons, snakes, mice, other birds, etc.). On top of that, relatively few fledglings make it back where they were born. This could be due to mortality from the long migratory journey or simply due to dispersal. New microtransmitters that transmit signals to cell towers that can be mounted to smaller birds may be able to help shed light on this question in the future.

So I am preparing myself to rise with the sun and take in the spring as best I can, hoping that some of that energy warms my body as much as my soul.

~Dr. Mark Johnson, President

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Plan Ahead!

- March 6– HBC Dinner and meeting. Speaker will be John Paul of the Harford Bird Club
- May 1-HBC Pizza Dinner and meeting. Speaker will be George Jett & Gwen Brewer: Birds of Brazil. The event will be held at Conowingo Visitors Center.
- 73th MOS convention to be held May 15 - May 17, 2020 at the Cumberland Ramada in Cumberland, Maryland .

Be there.

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!



John Buck of Bel Air
Melanie Dance of Fallston
Lynn Faulkner of Fallston
Susie Willenbrink of Havre de Grace
Susan Williamson of Fallston



MAY DINNER MEETING-VENUE CHANGE!



The pizza dinner, club meeting and presentation on May 1st will be held at Conowingo Visitor Center. This is **NOT** at the actual dam. It is located on Route 1. The address is:

4948 Conowingo Rd Conowingo , MD 21918



Harford Bird Club Executive Board

President	Mark Johnson	410-692-5978	MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com
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Field Trip Reports

Annual New Year Perryman Walk

January 1

Eleven birders tallied 51 species on the New Year's Day walk in Perryman. The weather was pleasant and the birders enjoyed themselves immensely. Highlights included Common Goldeneye, Northern Harrier, five species of woodpeckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

~ Phil Powers

Feeder Watch Social

January 11

A large and diverse turnout of HBC members was warmly received by Deb and Don Stewart. Their careful preparation and gracious reception set a pleasant, welcoming tone that contributed to a convivial morning for all. Scrumptious food provided by the hosts and many of the guests added greatly to the enjoyment. Many guests were interested in the newly installed backyard garden and plantings. Deb had wisely invited the garden's designer who was able to answer the numerous questions about plant selection and location. The variety of feeders also spawned questions about feeder types and location. Mother Nature did her part by providing unseasonably mild weather allowing guests to spread out to the spacious deck. That may explain why bird turnout was below normal but certainly had no dampening effect on the success of the event and the very nice time had by all.

~ Tom Gibson

Edgewood Area, Aberdeen Proving Ground

February 1

On the first day of February, 19 eager birders gathered for a special trip onto APG South (fka Edgewood Arsenal). A heavy fog blanketed the entire area for the first two hours after sunrise, forcing us to rethink our itinerary. We started by visiting historically good areas for winter songbirds, where we located some Chipping Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows and Hermit Thrushes mixed in among the usual winter denizens. However, the overall volume of songbirds seemed very low. Eventually, the fog dissipated enough for us to turn our attention back to the Gunpowder Neck peninsula's scenic shoreline for waterfowl. We found a raft of approximately 200 Ruddy Ducks on the Gunpowder River, accompanied by a few dozen Lesser Scaup and handful of Buffleheads. From the Bush River side of the peninsula we added Tundra Swan, Hooded Merganser and Common Goldeneye to the morning's list. Although the overall number of birds encountered seemed low, we ended up with a nice tally of 45 species.

~Dave Webb

Bradenbaugh Soup Tour

February 8

Twenty birders assembled on Saturday, February 8, to tour NW Harford County and enjoy some warm soup for lunch. Guests included 3 members of the Baltimore Bird Club and one from Cecil County. A special guest was Lee Peterson from Kennett Square, PA who is the son of famed birder Roger Tory Peterson. We visited various locations looking for waterfowl, raptors, and wintering songbirds. Great views of Hooded Mergansers were found at the first three stops. We checked a box along Little Deer Creek and found a red Eastern Screech Owl at home.

Lots of photos followed. At the next stop we found mallards, American Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, and Gadwall. The highlight was a Bald Eagle on the nest, confirming the species for the recently activated Atlas Project. A stop in the middle of the World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats found the expected Horned Larks, nicely posing for great looks through the scope. Our final stop found the Red-headed Woodpecker at home. 37 species were seen or heard and yes, the soup was well-received.

~Dennis & Jean Kirkwood

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.

April 25: Earth Day Celebration

The Harford County Earth Day Committee has invited the Harford Bird Club to join in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day on **April 25, 2020** from 11:00 am-4:00 pm at Festival Park in Aberdeen.

Deb Stewart is coordinating the Harford Bird Club display again this year and seeking volunteers to assist. It is a fun day sharing information about birds and sharing our passion for birding. To volunteer, **Contact Deb Stewart, 410 971 1913**. Please select your availability: 10:30 am to 1 pm or 1 pm to 4pm or all day. Festival Park is located at 60 N. Parke Street in Aberdeen.

Click, Click, Hooray!



Harford Bird Club member, Joe Subolefsky's photograph of a Canvasback has been 'shortlisted' in the International Bird Photographer of the Year Competition. He is up against some of the most well know bird photographers in the world in the 'Birds in Flight' category, so just being shortlisted is a huge honor! Check out all of the spectacular photos at <https://www.birdpoty.co.uk/2020-birds-in-flight-shortlist> . Vote for his photo to win 'People's Choice' at: <https://poll.tryinteract.com/#/5e429c5de9501e0014d286ba>

Choose New Trees & Shrubs for the Birds!

Spring planting season will soon be upon us! Please remember to think first about whether the tree or shrub you would like to plant offers food or effective shelter for birds. It's easier than ever to find out what are the best things to plant in our yards in terms of being bird-friendly and not contributing to the spread of invasive species. Some good sources or websites for learning the best species to plant are the Alliance for the Bay, Maryland DNR, iNaturalist, and many others. You can also go directly to our local providers such as Kollar Nursery or the Maryland Native Plant Society. Planting new trees and shrubs is the best way to help birds survive during breeding season. Also, consider a new or additional bird bath for your yard. Happy birding! ~Debbie Bowers, Conservation Chair



Rock Run Christmas Bird Count 2019 Summary



This year's Rock Run Christmas Count started on a clear day and was relatively warm (~60°F high). Ponds were free of ice, there were relatively few waterfowl, winter finches were non-existent – no Purple Finches, siskins, or Red-breasted Nuthatches were found. Fog initially covered the river valley making observing waterfowl and gulls difficult. Still, we were able to tally 104 species! Fifty-two observers logged over 101 hours and found over 45,000 individuals. Counters logged 54 miles on foot and over 255 miles in the car. More than 8 hours were spent nocturnal birding and more than 10 hours by boat. Over eight hours were spent watching feeders in the count area.

Interesting some unexpected species were found. A Dickcissel and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were found at Swan Harbor; four species of warblers were observed. Kinglets were relatively scarce as were Fox Sparrows and Brown Creepers; a repeat of last year. White-crowned Sparrows, once regular seem not to be found anymore. Still, it was good catching up with old friends at MacGregor's and the beer was greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who helped out and I welcome the new recruits who came out to give it a go. I look forward to next year. Team summaries are provided as follows.

Sector 1-Oakwood

Chris Starling canvassed Oakwood area and found 55 species including 3 Fish Crows (a species sometimes missed on the count) and a kestrel. Ken Drier provided data from his back yard and feeder while recuperating from surgery.

Sector 2 -Rowlandville

Tim Carney – Tim pitched in and found 32 species including both kinglets, all three mergansers and 2 Hairy Woodpeckers (another species now difficult to find).

Sector 3-Colora

Tom Congersky, Randy Robertson, Robert Stevens, Deborah Perry, Rupert and Cynthia Rossetti – Tom and friends birded his big back yard and found a Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Kestrel, and the only Mute Swan for the count (34 species).

Sector 4 -Bainbridge

Deb Stewart and Jeff Effinger are starting to find their way around this sector where they found Brown Thrasher, Wood Ducks, Myrtle Warblers, Screech-owls and Great Horned Owls (49 species).

Sector 5 -Perry Point

John Hughes, Derek McGuirk, Alex Brewer – This team found four raptor species, Eastern Phoebe, eleven species of waterfowl, and the only Lesser Black-backed Gull for the count (57 species).

Sector 6 -Swan Creek

David Ziolkowski – Davey soloed this area and left no leaf (or reed) unturned. He found Common Yellowthroat, Pine and Orange-crowned Warblers, and our only Sora, American Woodcock, and Virginia Rail for the count (83 species).

Rock Run Christmas Bird Count 2019 Summary– Continued



Sector 7 -Harve de Grace

Dave Larkin, Peter Lev, Phil Powers, Al Conrad – The Harford Glen Banders found Cackling Goose, Gray Catbird, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (45 species).

Sector 8 -Aldino

Jack Fuller, Nancy Gillis – Their third year counting this section, this duo found three raptor species, four woodpeckers species, and Great-horned Owls (29 species).

Sector 9 -Susky St. Park

Mark Johnson, Bob Werrlein, John Paul, Craig and Deanna Harkins – These guys found vulture roosts, a calling Eastern Screech-owl, Winter Wrens, and six sparrow species (46 species).

Sector 10 -Rolling Green

David Webb and Jean Wheeler – This duo celebrated their >20-year anniversary canvassing this area and found four raptor species, six out of seven woodpecker species and a daytime Great-horned Owl (50 species).

Sector 11a -Deer Creek

Mary Murray, Greg Murray, Gabriella Ross, Tina Boyd, Colin Krug, Spencer Grishkot, Nick and Richard Spigler, Kevin Kane– This group found six sparrow species, three raptor species, Hermit Thrush and Cedar Waxwing (36 species).

Sector 11b-Darlington

Josh Emm, Austin Jennings, John Garrison – Josh and team found 3 species of owls, a Cackling Goose and the only Wilson’ Snipe and Fox Sparrows of the count (56 species).

Sector 12 -Dublin/Berkley

Scott Rosenfeld, Madelyn and Jonas Kaplin, Evelyn Holmes, and Katherine Jefferies – These first-timers found four woodpecker species, two kingfishers, and 17 Northern Cardinals (22 species).

Sector 13 -Conowingo

Beth Olsen, Elaine Scribner, Katie Van Allsburg – These three covered the dam and found Cedar Waxwing, 81 Turkey Vultures, yet few gulls on this relatively warm day (23 species).

Sector 14 -River Flats

Dennis Kirkwood, Coleen Webster, Jeanne Sisk, Peter and Sarah Jay – The boat people covered the open water cleaning up waterfowl and others within sight and found all three mergansers, both scaup, and the only Black-crowned Night-Heron for the count (45 species).

Sector 15 -Swan Harbor

Matt Addicks, Sierra Revels - This duo scoured Swan harbor Farm and got a Dickcissel, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Rusty Blackbird and a Horned Grebe (63 species).

~Mark S. Johnson, RRCBC Coordinator



Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

I didn't get a lot of submissions for this period. We did, however, get some Ravens and Warblers. This report covers the period from December 1st, 2019 through January 31st, 2020.

Geese, Swans, Ducks, Game Birds, Raptors, Gulls:



DK saw 2 Cackling Geese at Turney's Pond on Dec 11th. He counted 10 there on Jan 5th. This was his second highest count ever for that location. Several members reported the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans at the Edgewood Home Depot pond. They were present for the entire reporting period. DK saw an adult male Wood Duck at Turney's Pond on Dec 6th. RK found a female Long-tailed Duck on APG-South on Jan 14th. It was seen there through Jan 28th. JE saw a male Ring-necked Pheasant fly across White Hall Rd on Jan 29th. He

noticed a second when he stopped to look at the first one.

DB saw 3 Bald Eagles eating a raccoon carcass near her Street home on Jan 29th. She is also hearing a Great Horned Owl and Pileated Woodpeckers there too. JG saw a Rough-legged Hawk near Whiteford on Jan 28th. TC found an Iceland Gull at the Tidewater Marina in Havre de Grace on Jan 25th. It was also seen on the 28th. Another sighting of a possibly different individual happened on Jan 30th.



Ravens, Wrens, Warblers, Orioles:

We had a number of Common Raven sightings around the county this period. They were seen or heard at Gunpowder Falls State Park, APG-South, Swan Harbor, Churchville, Perryman, Fallston, and Edgewood. JM found a House Wren at Perryman Park on Jan 11th. MJ saw one there on Jan 15th. JM also saw a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher at Swan Harbor on Dec 26th. Others saw it there through Dec 31st.



MJ had an Orange-crowned Warbler in Aberdeen on Dec 21st. This was the same spot he saw one last year (2018). This year's bird (2019) was seen there several times through Dec 29th. JE saw one on APG-North on Jan 19th. He also saw a female Pine Warbler at Gunpowder Falls State Park on Dec 15th. JR had one (of unreported sex) on APG-South on Jan 29th. MA found a Western Palm Warbler, a Common Yellowthroat, and a Dickcissel at Swan Harbor on Dec 28th. MJ saw another Western Palm Warbler at Oakington on Jan 11th. The Dickcissel was seen by others through Jan 1st.



JS reported seeing a number of Bronze Common Grackles at her Aberdeen home during the second half of January. She said these were noticeably different from the usual ones and were very pretty. MJ saw an adult male Baltimore Oriole in Churchville on January 7th.



Contributors

DB- Deborah Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, JE- Josh Emm, JG- John Garrison, JM- John Manger, JR- John Rinker, JS- Jane Scocca, MA- Matt Addicks, MJ- Mark Johnson, RK- Randy Kimmet, TC- Tim Carney

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

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 gibsonld@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

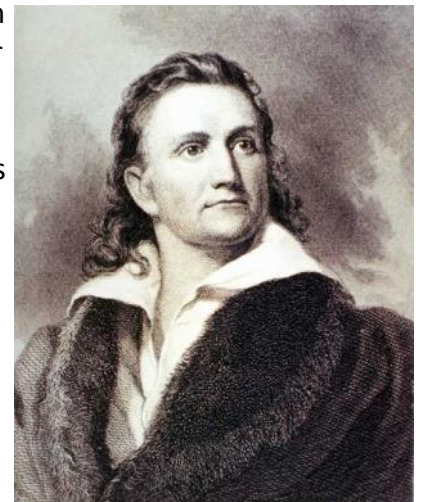
10:30 AM – Break and a snack (which will be provided)

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 coordinators, Amanda Subolefsky (amandasubolefsky@gmail.com or 443-528-4306) and Eric Vangrin (Evangrin@msn.com)



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 22 (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.



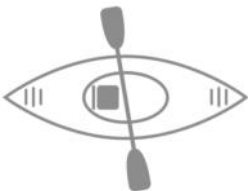
April 25 (Sat.) – Jerusalem Mill – Visit this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River marking Harford County's western border. Join experienced leader and birder, Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com or 410-692-5978) and meet at the parking lot by the mill on Jerusalem Road at **7:30 AM**.

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 (gibsonlld@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 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

Our elementary school bird clubs are expanding! Congratulations to Jana Somers, fourth grade teacher at Red Pump Elementary School, for her willingness to lead a new group of young birders. Their inaugural meeting will be February 18th. Mary Murray will present a Birding 101 lesson and teach the students how to use binoculars. If you would be willing to be a guest speaker for this new club, please contact Mary (murraymary@gmail.com).

Gabby Ross did an encore presentation of her Winter Birds for the Bird Buddies at Churchville Elementary School at their January meeting. We had an epic bird walk that day, with 11 species spotted – a record for the club. Highlights were a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a large flock of American Robins. Thank you, Gabby, for leading the group!



Mary Murray presented an informative lesson on owls to the Prospect Mill Early Birds and the Meadowvale Feathered Friends. Students learned about the amazing adaptations of these remarkable birds, including their keen eyesight and silent flight. The Early Birds' walk was completely washed out because of rain, but the Feathered Friends were treated to a huge flock of American Robins on their playground.

Harford Bird Club Education would like to thank Harford Glen for finding storage space for all the HBC educational materials and binoculars. We are so lucky to have such a cooperative partner. THANK YOU!

Mary Murray and her husband Greg did two birding presentations in January. These are collaborations between Harford Bird Club (Mary) and the Maryland Master Gardeners (Greg). The first was at Brightview Assisted Living in Bel Air, where the topic was Feeding Birds in the Winter. The second presentation was at the Maryland Master Gardeners general meeting. The topic was Hosting Eastern Bluebirds. Both presentations were well received.

Ruth Eisenhower and Melanie Kane of Harford Glen and Mary Murray enjoyed a great afternoon of birding with the Ecology Club students at Edgewood Middle School. There are over 60 students in the club, so our bird walks were done over two days. The students were wonderful – polite and enthusiastic. Highlight of both days were the eight Killdeer who were feeding on the baseball fields behind the school. Thank you to Edgewood MS teachers Kristie Smith and Jennifer Knoll for sharing your delightful students. And thank you to Ruth and Melanie, our always supportive Harford Glen friends. Plans are in the works to return in the spring for another birding adventure.



Kudos

A giant thank you to Mary Murray for her willingness to step in and assist the team at Harford Glen during the week of February 3-7. The team of four teachers were operating on a reduced capacity due to a planned absence and a staff member getting the flu. Mary jumped in and led Binocular Trek lessons with Halls Crossroads Elementary and Fountain Green Elementary. Her passion for teaching and her love of birds was infectious (see what I did there? flu ... infectious...). Because of Mary, these classes did not miss out on an important piece of curriculum and got to experience the excitement of birding with a pro!



Thank You!

At the Wild Bird Dinner, hosted by The Mill, on Wednesday, February 12th a special raffle was held with 100% of the proceeds being donated to The Harford Bird Club. The raffle winner received a beautiful framed photograph of a Northern Cardinal by Harford County resident and Eden Mill volunteer, Frank Marsden.

The raffle raised \$125 to be donated on behalf of The Mill. Moyer & Son, the company that has developed new custom bird seed blends for The Mill, stepped up and matched the \$125 with an additional \$125. Between the generosity of Moyer & Son and The Mill the Harford Bird Club received a generous donation of \$250! Thank you to The Mill and Moyer & Son for their kindness toward our club!



INTRODUCING MILL BIRD SEED BLENDS!

Premium seed at a great price.

Backyard Best Blend
Backyard Conservation Mix
Chesapeake Blend
Woodpecker Blend



March 6: Dinner & Club Meeting

The March Club Meeting will take place at Churchville Presbyterian Church at 2844 Churchville Road, Churchville, MD 21028 on Friday, March 6th.

The Harford Bird Club will feature a dinner prior to the meeting. Club members may RSVP to Johanne Henrickson by Friday, February 28 using the reservation form at the bottom of this page. Dinner reservations are required. Prepayment is necessary. Money for dinner will not be accepted at the event. Dinner will begin around 6:15. There will be a 50/50 raffle (\$5/square– winner takes \$100 cash!) The short club meeting will follow dinner at around 7pm. At the conclusion of the club meeting our speaker, John Paul will present **‘Birds of the Antarctic Peninsula’**.

Birds of Antarctica:

A travelogue about a cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula aboard the Russian oceanographic vessel Akademik Ihoffe during February 2019.

John Paul (BS Biology, MA Systematics And Ecology, BA Biology Education/History) has been retired since 2016. He was the Wildlife Biologist at APG for 10 years. Prior to that he acted as Project Manager for Risk Assessment in the APG Installation Restoration (Superfund) Program. He was also a Research Associate in the Department of Entomology and Applied Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he worked on studies of Wood Thrushes, box turtles and Yellowjacket wasps.



The Harford Bird Club Dinner Reservation Form

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page with your check to Johanne Henrickson, 2014 Tiffany Terrace, Forest Hill, MD 21050 by Friday, February 28, 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)



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.