



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 39 Number 6

December 2020

President's Perch

Inside this issue:

Hi everyone. Finally, there is some light as life may return to normal as new vaccines become available and the fear of COVID leaves us. Naturally, this will take some time and getting back to where we were before will take longer. Going outdoors still remains one of the safest activities we can engage in and is really essential for birdwatching. This year is proving to be an exceptional one for winter finches where some passerines that typically stay north are coming south, presumably for food resources. Many species that we do not always get in the winter are being reported in the area. These include Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Evening Grosbeaks, Red Crossbills, and Common Redpolls. Some come to feeders as they arrive and later switch to natural food sources. This is a great time to brush up on what they sound like, look like, and feed on to be able to find them as they fly by and perch.

As winter sets in and temperatures dip below freezing, open water becomes limited and a great place to find waterfowl. Birds not able to find open water farther north may dip southwards. Since I have already pulled the mower deck off of my lawn tractor and installed the snowblower and chains, I am forecasting very little snow this year.

Also think about participating in the many Christmas Counts in the area. Baltimore is having two on the 16th and 20th of December and the Rock Run Christmas Count is scheduled for 26 December. Sometimes these events can be more effort than what some have in mind, but there is always room to come and participate in part of one. Lastly, I hope everyone has safe and happy holidays – and keep your binoculars at the ready!

~Dr. Mark Johnson, President

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Plan Ahead!

- January 8th at 7pm is a virtual meeting and Happy Hour
- March 5th is a virtual meeting with guest speaker, Tony Celis, Acting Chief of the Bird Banding Lab

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!

Devi Abbott, Timonium
John Blake, Havre de Grace
Mary Lou Clark, Ellicott City
Irene Elder, Bel Air
Tom Hammen, Edgewood
June Mundis, Conowingo



Membership dues for the September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 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 17 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.

In Memoriam

The club wishes to send our condolences to our Treasurer, Eric Vangrin and his sisters Dawn and Bethany Vangrin on the passing of their mother, Carole Vangrin. Carole was a long time member of the bird club and served the club as corresponding secretary for several years. She and her late husband, Joe, often went on club field trips and always maintained their home off Grafton Shop Road for nature and for the birds. Carole retired from Harford County Public Schools where she taught Home Economics/Family and Consumer Science at both the middle and high school levels. She practiced her trade in many ways and was known as an excellent cook, seamstress, and party host.

She was very active in the community through her church, Bel Air United Methodist, Girl Scouts, Maryland and Harford farm fairs, and many other missions of care and empathy. A native of Clymer, Pennsylvania, she was the first in her family to receive a college degree, graduating from Indiana State Teachers College. She will be remembered as a dedicated wife and mother, talented teacher, and friend to so many, including those whom she touched but never met, with her many community service projects.

~ Dennis Kirkwood



[Carole's Obituary](#) may be found by clicking the link.

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

FREE MONEY?!?

Call for MORE Grant Proposals

As a non-profit dedicated to advocating for birds and their appreciation, the Harford Bird Club is accepting proposals for limited funding to groups to help assist with these goals. If you know of a cause that is in dire need of a donation, please send your proposal to Mark Johnson at marksjohnson2@gmail.com. The proposal template can be found [here](#). All ideas should be geared to help advance bird populations to birdwatching and a greater appreciation of birds and their habitats is welcomed. Proposals should be focused on the \$100-\$400 range, however, exceptions may be granted. Given the size of our organization, grants are limited. More information may be found on the Harford Bird Club website, [here](#).

RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

A big THANK YOU from our latest grant recipient! Harford Bird Club awarded a \$200 grant to Eagle Scout candidate Simon Murray (Troop 965) in support of his Eagle Scout project. Simon will be erecting a bird feeding station at Susquehannock Wildlife Center. Thanks to HBC's generosity, he was able to purchase all the needed bird feeders and a season's supply of seed and suet from the Mill in Bel Air. Look for Simon to present his completed project at an upcoming HBC meeting!



In addition to Simon, the Harford Bird Club also approved Amanda Subolefsky's grant proposal for \$150 to attend a virtual weekend workshop to fine tune her skills in identifying molt limits on birds she bands. The workshop is hosted by Power Mill Nature Reserve, a division of Carnegie Melon Natural History Museum. Identifying molt limits and using them as one of many ways to age a bird is her self-identified weakness and she is looking to improve her understanding, ability to identify the different age of feathers and the speed at which she can do so. She greatly appreciates the HBC's willingness to fund the workshop.

Harford Bird Club Executive Board

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The Origin of the Christmas Bird Count

By Joe Stevens

The Christmas Bird Count began as an effort to change another tradition which was called the “Christmas Side Hunt.” The side hunt was a holiday tradition that began in the 1800’s and continued into the early 1900’s. A group of men would come together and choose sides or teams. They then would head out and hunt whatever wild animals and fowl they could find. Whichever side had the biggest bounty was declared the winner. Initially this was important because wild game was an important staple in people’s diet.



There was no refrigeration, and the cold winters would extend the preservation of the meat, along with other methods and store without spoiling. However, with the increasing use of the ice box, this did not seem as necessary or vital any longer. Also, the feathered Victorian hat fashion had an endless appetite for plumes. It was estimated that 5 million birds from 50 species were killed each year in the name of fashion. In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s the concept of conservation was beginning to emerge. Scientists were beginning to be concerned about the kind of impact this would have on wildlife and birds.

Frank M. Chapman, an ornithologist and member of a group that eventually became the National Audubon Society came up with the concept of a Christmas bird census to be held on Christmas day in 1900. His idea was to stop shooting the birds and just count them. He, along with 27 fellow birders in his group compiled a list of 90 birds that day. There was a total of 25 Christmas Bird Counts held on that day in various locations in the United States and Canada. Participants were encouraged to submit their lists to the Bird-Lore Magazine. This magazine was first published in 1899 by Mr. Chapman and eventually became the Audubon magazine. Christmas bird counts are held annually from December 15 thru early January under the direction of the Audubon Society.

The National Audubon Society and other organizations use the data collected to obtain a broad picture of how bird populations are doing and where species are living. Ornithologists can also use this data to monitor population changes because of climate, development, and other contributing factors.



Around the holidays is a great time to get outside. The annual Rock Run Christmas Bird Count (RRCBC) is scheduled for Saturday, December 26. On this historical event, counters are expected to count individuals as well as species in a 24-hour period. Effort spent in terms of hours and miles are also recorded. If you are interested, contact Mark Johnson and he will pair those interested with others in various sectors. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please drop me a note at MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com or call at 410-692-5978.

Trip Reports

Swan Harbor Farm

October 24, 2020

Dennis Kirkwood

Our usual fall trip to Swan Harbor started out with 15 participants and about 50 more birders who had come to see a Curlew Sandpiper at the pier. Parking became a bit of an issue but worth the trouble as the bird, a first for Harford County and the fifth record for the state, couldn't have been more cooperative. It fed and rested on the mat of algae right next to the pier, only 50 feet away. For most, it was an easy life bird and a state and county bird for the leader. To add to the record, a Stilt Sandpiper and a Long-billed Dowitcher were also present in the flock along with Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers. It is rare that shorebirds are that close and viewable without the need for a scope. The rest of the morning yielded few birds but it was a lovely morning for a walk along the wetland impoundments and the Loop trail. Swan Harbor has quickly become one of the most famous birding spots in the state and region and the Curlew Sandpiper easily attracted over 200 visitors. Unfortunately it was found dead a few days later but was collected and sent for preservation to a museum. With the County's purchase of neighboring 340-acre Belle Vue Farm, we can look forward to increased opportunities for birding and outdoor recreation on the Oakington Peninsula.

~Dennis Kirkwood

Conowingo Dam Gull & Eagle Watch

November 28, 2020

Dennis Kirkwood

The pandemic made our trip to Conowingo problematic as Exelon, owners of the dam, were not able to run their shuttle buses to additional parking. All available parking was full by 7:30 am due to the usual crowd filming the Bald Eagles, fishermen, and the others who like to hike and bike the trails. Only 4 people were able to find parking and attend the bird walk. Besides the eagles and vultures, we had a brief look at the resident Peregrine Falcon, another brief look at a Winter Wren, views of both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Common Merganser, and lots of Ring-billed Gulls and Double-crested Cormorants. It remains another beautiful, but crowded, spot for enjoying the outdoors and birdlife in Harford County.

~Dennis Kirkwood

Waterfowl Trip

December 12, 2020

Dave Webb

One might think that an overcast day in mid-December with temperatures around 50 and no wind are the backdrop for some potentially awesome waterfowl watching. However, when you add dense fog to the equation, it can be the exact opposite. Such was the case for the Harford Waterfowl Tour, attended nonetheless by nine enthusiastic birders. Starting at the "Home Depot pond" in Edgewood we found about 8 Ring-necked Ducks, a few Swamp Sparrows, a Belted Kingfisher and Shy Cosmet Moth larvae, a winter food source for Downy Woodpeckers. When we arrived at Forest Greens, the fog had receded allowing us to enjoy 10 Hooded Mergansers, 20 Gadwall and 3 American

Wigeon. However after about 15 minutes the fog returned and the ducks were no longer visible. Turning our attention to birds in the nearby woods, we got good looks at Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Brown Creeper. We finished the morning at Swan Harbor. Dense fog shrouded the fishing pier and kept us from spotting a single duck or goose on the Susquehanna Flats. The trip ended with decent looks at a pair of White-crowned Sparrows foraging in the pathway by the north impoundment. In all, 32 bird species were found.

~Dave Webb



Quantifying Migration Success of Collision Birds

By Lindsay Jacks and Kathleen Woods

How often do you hear, “Oh the bird flew into my sliding glass door, but it eventually flew away, so it must be fine”? We are hoping to finally answer that question. Do the collision birds recover well? Do the birds migrate successfully after the head trauma or end up on the wrong navigational path? From a 2014 study by Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, it is estimated that up to 1 billion birds are affected by building collisions in North America each year.

In early 2019, Luke DeGroote, Avian Research Coordinator at Powdermill Nature Reserve of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, contacted Lights Out Baltimore (LOB) to see if we would be interested in participating in a research project tracking the migration success of collision birds. Powdermill Nature Reserve is the home for the Powdermill Avian Research Center (PARC) where one of the oldest year-around banding stations can be found. Banding since 1956, PARC also focuses on various research including collision work. American Bird Conservancy and PARC collaborated to build the first-ever flight test tunnel to research the effectiveness of bird safe products. Birds are caught in mist nets and then flown in the test tunnel (a renovated storage unit) to test the various products on the other end of the tunnel. Don't worry; there is a net to catch the birds, so they do not collide with the product or control side. This flight tunnel testing allows products to be rated for effectiveness. All products that are rated effective aka bird safe are then promoted on American Bird Conservancy's website and literature.



In addition to the flight test tunneling, PARC, led by Luke DeGroote, has developed a first-of-its-kind, three-year study into the long-term effects of what happens to birds after they have survived a collision with a building. The study involves banding and fitting the collision bird with a nanotag, a digitally encoded radio transmitter, upon release from rehabilitation. Birds are rescued daily during migration months by LOB volunteers and then rehabilitated by Phoenix Wildlife Center. Usually, 1-2 days prior to the determined release date, Kathleen Woods, Executive Director and licensed wildlife rehabilitator of Phoenix contacts both PARC and Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory located on Washington College campus to let them know what species we are planning to tag and release.

CONTINUED...

Quantifying Migration Success of Collision Birds- Continued

By Lindsay Jacks and Kathleen Woods



Foreman's Branch banding station is the control for the LOB collision birds in the study. Once Foreman's has caught, banded and tagged the species we are planning to release, Kathy is contacted and then the collision rehabilitated bird is banded (collecting vital info including sex, age, wing chord, and weight) and fitted with a transmitter and released. The comparison of the LOB birds with the wild caught Foreman's birds both fitted with transmitters to track migration will help tell the story of collision birds. Do both birds follow the same migratory path? Does the collision bird take a few days to recoup and then travel? Do both birds reach their destinations?

The tagged birds are tracked by Motus Wildlife Tracking System. Motus is Latin for *movement and originated in Canada*; the Motus Wildlife Tracking System now has more than 500 stations tracking migratory birds, bats, and monarchs. In addition to collaborating on this one-of-a-kind research, Phoenix Wildlife Center also houses a Motus tower on its new center, a completely renovated farmhouse located off Sweet Air Road on Gunpowder State Park on land owned by the Department of Natural Resources.

There are seven target species identified to tag in the study: Common Yellowthroat, Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, White-throated Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Wood Thrush, and American Woodcock. Once one of the



seven target species has been rescued downtown during LOB monitoring shifts, rehabilitated at Phoenix Wildlife Center and deemed ready for release, the work begins. In Fall 2019, our first year in the project, LOB and Phoenix banded and tagged a juvenile Gray Catbird, American Woodcock, and White-throated Sparrow to contribute to the study. Our second year in the study was different due to COVID; LOB did not monitor but instead transported collision birds picked up by Baltimore City Animal Control, so only one bird was tagged and banded- an American Woodcock. In the fall, daily LOB migration monitoring resumed as usual, with masks, of course. In the fall, three birds were added to the study, a Wood Thrush rescued after colliding with a residential home near Patterson Park, an Ovenbird, and an American Woodcock.

CONTINUED...

Quantifying Migration Success of Collision Birds- Continued

By Lindsay Jacks and Kathleen Woods

The research collaboration of LOB and Phoenix Wildlife Center is one of three organizations contributing to the study. The other organizations are Lights Out Cleveland and Fatal Light Awareness Program in Canada. We still have another year of rescuing, rehabbing, banding and tagging birds before we can finally answer what happens to birds after colliding with buildings. More importantly, we hope to prove that both the rescue by Lights Out Baltimore and rehabilitation by Phoenix Wildlife Center contribute to the birds' successful migration.

Special Thanks

The Harford Bird Club would like to extend special thanks to Lindsay Jacks, Lights Out Baltimore and Kathleen Woods, Phoenix Wildlife Center, for crafting the very informative article on the previous two and a half pages. Both local organizations are doing amazing work in the areas of bird research and the health and well being of our avian (and other) population.

If you would like to donate to either program, please use the links below.

Phoenix Wildlife Center: <https://www.phoenixwildlife.org/donate-now> Scroll to the bottom of the page and click '[DONATE](#)'. Minimum donation of \$10. If you have a skill that can be used at the center, you may click the same link and on the right, 'Click for Gifts in Kind'.



Lights Out Baltimore: BaltimoreBirdClub.org The Baltimore Bird Club collects donations for Lights Out Baltimore. Simply follow this link and scroll halfway down until you see the '[DONATE](#)' button. There's a ton of text, but the button is obvious. In the PayPal note, type 'For Lights Out Baltimore' and they shift the funds to Lights Out Baltimore.

↙ This is what it looks like when you go to the page.

- **NEW** We are grateful to Book Karnjanakit for letting us put up a pdf of [BIRDLAND](#), a short comic she created about birds and people in Baltimore, 2019.
- Do you have concerns about four-legged visitors to your bird feeders? Here are two articles by Kirsten Held on [Bird Feeding and Unwanted Urban Wildlife](#)
- The results of the [2019 BBC Survey](#) (thank you to all who participated)
- Results of the [2018 BBC Christmas Bird Count](#)
- Please consider making a donation to [Lights Out Baltimore](#) this year via Paypal. Please indicate in the note section that your donation goes to "Lights Out Baltimore." Saving birds and advocating for a bird friendly Charm City is our goal. Thank you for helping us save our feathered friends.
- Our checklist of [Baltimore Birds](#) now has clickable links to species accounts for each bird found in Wikipedia and in All About Birds.
- The [BBC Facebook Page](#).
- Looking for good places to bird? The [Birder's Guide to Maryland and DC](#), a project of the

Donate

Harford Glen Bird Banding Station Fall Stats

Submitted by Amanda Subolefsky

The bird banding team at Harford Glen barely squeezed in a season before schools closed and volunteers were no longer permitted on school property. Here are some quick stats from the station this season:

- New bands were applied to 336 birds.
- 48 birds revisited the station to check in as recaptures.
- 787.43 net hours were logged. 52 birds per 100 net hours.
- The busiest day was November 5th when 50 birds were caught. Not coming anywhere close to Eden Mill's busiest day of over 100 birds!
- The slowest day was September 22nd with only 17 birds caught.
- There was 1 raptor captured in the season. A Sharp-shinned Hawk landed in a net on November 10th. Shout out to Phil Powers for holding the hawk while Amanda wrapped up her virtual lesson. The students did get to see the hawk, virtually, during class.
- The busiest net was number 16 producing 61 the birds this season. The second busiest net caught 51 birds in net 21.
- The slowest net was number 11 only catching one bird. Net 17 stunk too, only catching 3 birds.
- Based on the number of new bands the top ten species are:

10. Hermit Thrush- 8

8. Swamp Sparrow- 9

8. American Goldfinch- 9 } Tied for 8th place

7. Field Sparrow- 10

6. Carolina Wren- 12

4. Song Sparrow- 16 } Tied for 4th place

4. Chipping Sparrow- 16

3. Gray Catbird- 29

2. Northern Cardinal- 50

1. White-throated Sparrow- 91 (the first one arrived on October 6th)



Meme credit: Pete Murray

- The most important number of all... The Harford Glen Bird Banding Team logged a minimum of 730.95 volunteer hours this fall.
- The team cannot run without the dedicated volunteers who show up in all weather conditions and do whatever crazy thing is asked of them. Thank you to Al Conrad, Mark Johnson, Dennis Kirkwood, Dave Larkin, Mary Murray, Phil Powers, Jane Scocca, Nick Spigler, Katie Stoltysiak, Mary Trotta, Jean Wheeler and Mike White.

thank
you!



Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

We are closing out yet another season under COVID restrictions. We had some excellent rarities and the return of our fall residents during this period. I personally got 2 life birds at Swan Harbor. This report covers the period from October 1st through November 30th, 2020.

Swans, Grebes, Ducks, Frigatebird, Cormorant

DK saw his first Cackling Geese of the year on Turney's Pond on Oct 14th. SB found 13 Mute Swans at APG North on Nov 2nd. JM reported the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans at the Home Depot pond in Edgewood on Oct 4th. JH also saw the continuing Redhead hen at Tydings Marina on Oct 2nd. JE found a Greater Scaup hen near Battery Island on Oct 19th and a Long-tailed Duck at Swan Harbor on Nov 21st. BH saw a Red-breasted Merganser swimming in the cove there on Nov 6th.

AD saw a Horned Grebe near Tydings Park on Oct 18th. MG saw a Magnificent Frigatebird flying downriver from the Conowingo Dam. I saw a photo of this bird, presumably taken by him, later that day. JaH saw a Great Cormorant on the dock at Swan Harbor on Nov 19th. Several others saw it in the same area through Nov 22nd. MJ counted 10 Sandhill Cranes near Rumsey Island on Nov 21st. JM saw 6 flying over Perryman Park on Nov 27th.

Plovers, Sandpipers, Owls, Hummingbirds

JE found a Black-bellied Plover on Battery Island on Oct 17th. He also saw 2 Hudsonian Godwits and a Stilt Sandpiper on the Tydings Flats on Oct 16th. Others saw the Godwits there through Oct 19th. WW saw a Long-billed Dowitcher in the same area on Oct 26th. Many birders saw the Curlew Sandpiper near the pier at Swan Harbor starting on Oct 23rd. The bird was misidentified earlier as a Dunlin. Photos show that the bird was present as early as Oct 17th. Sadly, it was found dead after several days.

JE saw 2 Short-eared Owls on Battery Island on Nov 14th. RC saw a Common Nighthawk soaring northward over the Creswell area on Oct 14th. JE had a Ruby-throated Hummingbird fly around him at Swan Harbor on Oct 14th. BF had a Rufous Hummingbird at his feeder in Abingdon starting on Nov 13th. He graciously allowed a number of others to see this bird. MH reported on Nov 20th that there was another Rufous Hummingbird at an undisclosed location in Aberdeen.

Flycatchers, Vireos, Ravens, Nuthatches, Bluebird

MJ saw a Least Flycatcher at Swan Harbor on Oct 5th. TC found a Philadelphia Vireo at Swan Harbor on Oct 1st. AJ saw one at Mullins Park on Oct 3rd. MJ saw 2 Common Ravens along the railroad tracks in Perryman on Oct 11th. SH saw one in Fallston on Oct 26th, Oct 31st, and Nov 17th. JE saw 2 Black-capped Chickadees at Swan Harbor on Nov 14th and 15th. SH saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch in Fallston on Nov 27th. BW had one at his Forest Hill home throughout the period. AJ found a Mountain Bluebird at Swan Harbor on Nov 8th. The bird was visible along the wires and trees next to the entrance road through at least Nov 22nd, allowing many visitors to see and photograph this wayward visitor.

Sparrows, Finches, Grosbeaks

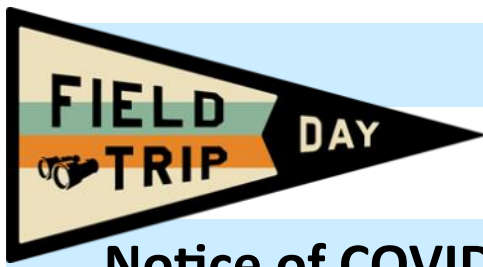
MJ found a Clay-colored Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Oct 1st. He also saw a Grasshopper Sparrow there on Oct 30th and a Vesper Sparrow at Perryman Park on Nov 12th. JE saw a Nelson's Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Oct 14th. JoH found a Lapland Longspur there on Nov 21st. JE also found 2 Snow Buntings on Battery Island on Nov 24th. MJ reported a drab first year female Dickcissel at Swan Harbor on Oct 5th.

A number of birders reported Purple Finches at their feeders, including SH on Nov 1st, DK on Nov 2nd, and BW throughout most of November. Several people also reported Pine Siskins, including MH on Oct 4th, AJ on Oct 6th, DK on Nov 2nd, and SH on Nov 27th. RC counted 10 Evening Grosbeaks at his Creswell home on Oct 31st. MH had 8 at his Fallston home on Nov 2nd and 16 on Nov 8th. DK had 2 at Newark Farms on Nov 2nd, and BW saw 1 male at his feeder in Forest Hill on Nov 16th.

Contributors

AD- Art Dragulis, AJ- Austin Jennings, BF- Brian Franks, BH- Brad Heath, BW- Bob Werrlein, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, JaH- Jack Hutison, JE- Josh Emm, JH- Joe Hanfman, JM- John Manger, JoH- John Hubble, MG- Matthew Gutt, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson, RC- Rick Cheicante, SB- Steven Buhler, SH- Susan Hood, TC- Tim Carney, WW- Warren Wolf





FIELD TRIPS ARE BACK!

Field Trip

Notice of COVID-19 Precautions and New Trip Protocol

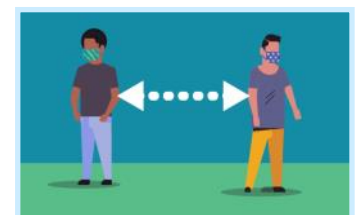
by Tom Gibson and approved by the HBC Executive Board

The Executive Board of the HBC has voted to resume certain activities and trips on a restricted basis conforming to national, state and local regulations as well as in compliance with recent position statements from MOS. All trips will need to conform to the following protocols in order to strive to make trips as safe as possible.



- ⇒ Meet at the field trip site. No carpooling will be permitted.
- ⇒ Maintain six foot distance on hikes.
- ⇒ Wear a mask when six feet of distance between people is not possible. Please have a mask readily available to put on at a moment's notice when grouping close together to see birds.
- ⇒ Share use of scopes only when disinfected between use. Scope owner should be the only one disinfecting the scope. It's possible that chemicals in disinfectant could severely damage and ruin sensitive optics if used incorrectly.
- ⇒ No more than nine participants plus the trip leader (ten total) per trip.
 - Leaders will be responsible for keeping the groups less than ten participants. For trips larger than ten, the group must split up and must stay separated from the other group.
 - It is strongly suggested that participants contact the trip leader prior to the trip and share your name and contact information.
- ⇒ As has always been the case, group leader will have the final say as to whether a trip takes place as scheduled, even at the last minute or during the course of the trip. Whether complying with COVID-19 precautions, weather conditions or field conditions, safety is always the number one priority.
- ⇒ If a trip needs to be cancelled, leaders should notify the Field Trip Chairperson, Tom Gibson and text or cc Amanda Subolefsky on the cancellation email.
 - HarfordBirdClub.org and the Facebook Event for the cancelled trip will be updated no later than the Wednesday before the trip was scheduled to take place.
- ⇒ These procedures are subject to change as the situation evolves.

Tom Gibson, the trip leaders and the entire HBC Executive Board thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and looks forward to seeing you enjoy field trips again!



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

December 26 (Sat.) — Annual Christmas Count. Coordinator is Mark Johnson(410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com). See the article on page 2.

~~**CANCELLED January 1 (Fri.) — Annual New Year Bird Walk — Perryman.**~~ Our leader is veteran birder Phil Powers as we celebrate the new year or recover from New Year's Eve with a tour through the always productive Perryman Area. Meet at the parking lot of the Aberdeen Walmart on Rt. 40 at 8:30 AM. For details contact Phil at (410-679-4116; birdsindmd308@gmail.com)

~~**CANCELLED DUE TO IT BEING HOSTED AT A MEMBER'S HOME January 16 (Sat.) — Feeder Watch Social.**~~ This event is open to HBC members and their guests only. ~~Reservations encouraged.~~ Event begins at 8:30 AM.

January 23 (Sat.) — Bradenbaugh Flats. Trip begins at Jarrettsville Elementary School parking lot at **8:00 AM.** From there our experienced leader, Dennis Kirkwood, leads us on a pleasant and varied 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. No carpooling. Contact Dennis at (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com).

January 30 (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 in the waters of Mill Creek and Furnace Bay. The leaders are Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Meet at the far end of the park at **9:00 AM.**

February 20 (Sat.) — Swan Harbor Farm Park — Waterfowl — Meet at the parking lot at the Agricultural Education Center at the end of the driveway at **8:00 AM.** Explore this Harford County gem with three impoundments as well as wooded trails, open fields, and its commanding view of the Bay. 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 10 (Wed.) — Timberdoodle Hunt — Meet at the I-95/155 Park and Ride near Havre de Grace 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 gibsonl1d@aol.com) and Jane Scocca (410-272-8870 or jane@scoocca.org).

March 17 (Wed.) — Timberdoodle Hunt — Meet at Nottingham Drive (Baltimore County) at **7:00 PM** for a second try at 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. Prior to the event contact the leader, Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504). **Note: The location and date may change on a last minute basis depending on what site offers the best chance for viewing.**

March 20 (Sat.) — Lapidum Gull Watch — Meet at the Lapidum boat launch at the southern end of Susquehanna State Park at **8:00 AM** and 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).

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

April 10 (Sat.) — Emily Bayless Graham Park — Meet leader Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905) at 7:30 AM at the park located at 15 E. Wheel Road just opposite the side entrance to The Festival at Bel Air. Harford County's newest park features a gravel loop trail with several side trails, a paved parking lot and portable toilets. In addition to the usual woodland residents, some early migrants could be passing through.

April 17 (Sat.) — Warblers and Wildflowers — Susquehanna State Park — Meet at 7:30 AM 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).

April 24 (Sat.) — Jerusalem Mill — Meet at the parking lot by the mill on Jerusalem Rd. at 7:30 AM. Explore this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River, which marks Harford County's western border, with experienced leader and birder Dr. Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com); 410-692-5978).

May 1 (Sat.) — Warbler Walk — Susquehanna State Park — Meet at the parking area at Rock Run Mill at 7:30 AM. 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. The leader is Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net or 410-510-7504).

May 9 (Sun.) — Sweet Air — Join accomplished leader, Dr. Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com); 410-692-5978), as he strolls through the rolling hills at the Sweet Air area of the Gunpowder State Park in a search for migrants and breeding birds. Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers and various Warbler species are the targets. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Dalton-Bevard Road at 7:00 AM. Call Mark with any questions.

May 15 (Sat.) — Emory Knoll Farm — Join Carey Rowsom 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. For further information contact Carey (carey@greenroofplants.com or 410-452-5880). Emory Knoll Farm Inc., 3410 Ady Rd.(Rt. 543), Street, MD. 21154.

May 22 (Sat.) — Warbler Walk — Susquehanna State Park — Between the presence of numerous migrant visitors as well as resident species, birding is always good at Susquehanna State Park. The focus of this trip will be on late migrant arrivals. The leader is experienced birder, Gabby Ross (gabbycammarata@gmail.com; 410-688-1578). Meet at the Mill parking lot at 7:30 AM.

May 29 (Sat.) — Paddle at Perryville Community Park — Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu; 410-459-4577) and Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com; 443-417-4919) are both experienced paddlers and birders. Meet them at historic Stump's Point at the far end of Perryville Community Park at 8:30 AM. The beautiful peninsula is surrounded by the pristine and well protected Mill Creek, the larger and historic Furnace Bay and the expansive Susquehanna Flats. Eagles and Osprey are almost always seen; passerines are common in the surrounding trees; waders and waterfowl are common throughout.

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

May 31 (Mon.) — Hidden Valley (and surrounding areas) — Meet at **7:00 AM** in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Rd. where it crosses Deer Creek. Parking space is limited. The trip will proceed from there to the aptly named Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream which runs through a beautiful stand of the now rare mature hemlocks. From there the trip will proceed to the Bradenbaugh Flats, with stops along the way at any other sites with potential. Leader is Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905).

June 5 (Sat.) — Atlas Blockbuster — 7:30 AM — Help our volunteer scientists determine breeding bird populations in Harford County. These data will be added to the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas project data collection sponsored by MOS. Details to be announced for the event later. Check with the Harford County directors for the Atlas Project, Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905) and Matt Hafner (hafner.Matt@gmail.com or 410-971-3203).

June 19 (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 or 410-459-4577) and co-leader and naturalist, Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com or 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 songbirds. Osprey and Bald Eagle are also almost guaranteed.

July 17 (Sat.) — Walls-Cook Trail — Meet at the Harford Community College Observatory, just south of the Thomas Run Road traffic circle across from the HCC main campus at **6:30 AM**. This trail wiggles its way through a mile-wide tract of unspoiled forest near Bel Air's eastward sprawl, connecting HCC to Prospect Mill Park. Dozens of forest-interior dwelling species abound in the woods surrounding the trail, which was only officially opened to the public in 2013. Join leaders Dave Webb (410-939-3537) and Jean Wheeler for about 3 miles of hiking and blockbusting among towering hardwoods and clear-running streams. In the event of recent rains, wear appropriate footwear.



Education Report

On October 24, Mary Murray, Education Coordinator, led a group of Cub Scouts from Pack 999 on a socially-distant bird walk at Harford Glen. Although the weather was cloudy, the girls were polite and enthusiastic birders. Our list capped at 26 species, with highlights being a Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebirds, and 23 Turkey and Black Vultures.

(Photo credit: Jen Synder, Den Leader)



School may be virtual, but that doesn't mean that learning about birds stops! Kudos to the Harford Glen Environmental Educators, Amanda Subolefsky, Melanie Kane, Ruth Eisenhour, and Chris Burley for continuing to teach their birding lessons to fifth graders throughout the county in spite of online learning. Amanda is demonstrating bird banding through livestreams from the Harford Glen banding station. Melanie is moderating the class and helping to answer questions. Although students like the Northern Cardinals the best (because they bite Amanda!), they've also gotten to see Hermit Thrushes, Field Sparrows, Northern Flickers, Blue Jays, and even a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Also, Ruth and Amanda are co-teaching a lesson on bird seed, bird feeders, and fostering birds in your backyard. The students have been very engaged in these lessons, and often are joined by their parents. Wonder how many bird feeders are on Christmas lists this year?

Natural Resource/Ag Science student, Nick Spigler, is studying the banding process and the data banders collect for his capstone project. He is interning with Amanda at the Harford Glen Bird Banding Station. He brings his laptop and attends classes online between banding birds. ~Mary Murray



January 8th: Virtual Meeting & Happy Hour



On January 8th at 7:00pm, the Harford Bird Club will be hosting a brief meeting followed by Happy Hour hosted by Harford Bird Club President, Mark Johnson.

Please register for the virtual meeting/happy hour using this [form](#). At 10am on January 8th, the registration form will be closed and all who registered will receive a link via email for the evening's event. At 6:30pm the event will open to allow you to have time to get in and get settled before the event officially begins at 7:00pm.

BE ADVISED...

From time to time you may receive an email like the one below from an officer of the bird club asking you for some odd request because they are out of town, don't have their 'mobile phone' and can't do what needs to be done. **IT'S A PHISHING SCAM! DO NOT FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS IN THE EMAIL.** An officer of the Harford Bird Club will not ask things like this using the phrases you see in the email below.

The email addressed that have been mimicked are no longer active email addresses. These addresses were closed almost two years ago to hopefully stop the emails, but they still trickle in. Most of your email hosts have identified these as spam, but if it gets to your inbox, do not take action with the sender and report the email to your email host as spam. No need to let anyone in the Harford Bird Club know, we have exhausted all possible ways of stopping this type of thing from happening, but they are scammers and are good at their jobs— you just have to be smarter than them!

Always check the incoming email address... This says the email came from Deb Stewart, but the email address doesn't match the email Deb uses. PLUS, she's no longer the president.

Harford Bird Club Request

Inbox x



Deborah Stewart <presorg@cumerservicearm.com>

to

9:28 AM (10 minutes ago)



Amanda,

Are you available to assist? I am out of the State now and I've got credence in you to take care of this. I would have called your phone but I presently do not have access to my mobile phone.

Harford Bird Club needs some gift cards for donation to Veterans at Hospice and Palliative care units for preventive items from Corona Virus(COVID 19). I have decided to make it a personal duty. I will be responsible for the reimbursement.

Deborah Stewart

President

PLUS, she's no longer the president.



HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to join or renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, you may use a credit card and pay online at this [link](#) or 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, 2020 - August 31, 2021

() 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.