



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 40 Number 7

February 2021

President's Perch

Our next meeting will occur on Friday, 5 March and again be another virtual one. Following a brief bird club meeting, Dr. Antonio Celis-Murillo, acting chief of the USGS Bird Banding Lab (BBL) will provide some background on the BBL and where it is going. Dr. Celis-Murillo has been a Biologist at the BBL since 2017 and has been working with the BBL team to strengthen the data management system for bird banding data, support research projects that use banding data, and coordinate efforts in the Americas. As Acting Chief, he works with the BBL team and BBL partners to ensure that the lab remains the premier resource for long-term bird banding and marking data in North America. Currently, his strategic goals include ensuring the BBL becomes a robust, integrated scientific resource that rapidly adapts to new science needs, study methods, and technologies to facilitate successful and effective bird management and conservation science.



Antonio earned a B.S. in Biology from the Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos in Mexico (2002) and a Masters in Integrative Biology (2008) and Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2015). He also held a postdoctoral research position at the Illinois Natural History Survey. He studied various aspects of avian ecology and behavior with the overarching goal of improving conservation efforts, including bird migration, movements, population dynamics of species of concern and bioacoustics.

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Plan Ahead!

- 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!

Ebmeier Family, Churchville, MD
Sharon & Richard Pearson, Churchville, MD
Elizabeth Tiemann, Havre de Grace, MD

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 16 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.

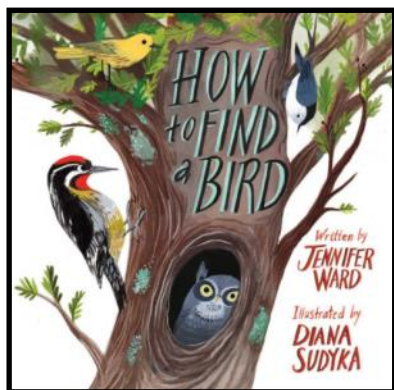


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Book Nook

By: Bethany Vangrin
Librarian, Harford County Public Library



How to Find a Bird
by Jennifer Ward

How do you find a bird? Where do you look for a bird? Start by listening, watching, and staying still, and you might spot something that was there the whole time. Look up in the sky, in a tree, on the water, or even on the power lines. Jennifer Ward's book features over 50 different birds in their natural habitats and will have children wanting to head outside to explore what they might spot. This book even contains information on how children can create a life list and become a citizen scientist.

Audubon Birding Adventures for Kids
by Elissa Wolfson and Margaret Barker

This book is part guidebook for the 25 most common birds and part activity guide for children and families interested in watching, feeding and attaching birds to their backyard. The National Audubon Society provides the perfect introduction to the world of birding through fun activities, games, and experiments.



Podcast Review

By Deb Stewart
On Being with Krista Tippett

An interview with Drew Lanham, 'I Worship Every Bird that I See'

"The ornithologist Drew Lanham is lyrical in the languages of science, humans, and birds. He's a professor of wildlife ecology, a self-described "hunter-conservationist," and author of the celebrated book *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*. His way of seeing and hearing and noticing the present and the history that birds traverse —through our backyards and beyond —is a revelatory way to be present to the world and to life in our time."

I found Drew Lanham's description of the joy of watching birds as very relatable and thought provoking. He articulates our shared experience as he places the context of birdwatching in the everyday and among life's challenges. It is joy he owns and joy that keeps him present. His knowledge of birds and his personal story make this a compelling interview.

I now look forward to reading Lanham's books. And, Drew Lanham has given me more to think about as I consider how, I too, "worship every bird that I see." The interview can be found at the On Being podcast or at [this link](#).



Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3



The Maryland DC Breeding Bird Atlas (MDDCBBA3) has begun year two of data collection and we hope to build on a very successful start last year. We encourage anyone to become involved even if it is only your back yard. Right now Great Horned and Barred Owls are nesting and within their “safe dates” so any sighting or vocal records can be entered into the ebird data collection site. In March, many of your local feeder birds like Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and many woodpeckers will also be in “safe dates”. Check out <https://ebird.org/atlasmdc/about> to enter your sightings and learn more.

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. The Maryland – District of Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas project began in 2020 and will run for 5 years.

COVID will prevent us from having a spring training session again, but please contact County coordinators Matt Hafner (410.971.3203; Hafner.Matt@gmail.com) or Dennis Kirkwood (410.692.5905; NewarkFarms@gmail.com) if you would like to get involved or need some assistance navigating the website. The more participants, the more accurate the data will be and it is a good excuse to be out and about in these otherwise sheltered times. You can bird and record data anywhere in the County or State and do not have to be “assigned” to a block. Why not give it a try!

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](#). Ideas to help advance bird populations, birdwatching, and a greater appreciation of birds and their habitats are welcome. 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](#).

The History of Bird Banding

By Joe Stevens

Bird banding or bird ringing, as it is often referred to in Europe, is the process of putting a band or ring on a bird's leg to identify it at a later date. The data obtained from the sightings are used in a number of ways to help ornithologists study migration, population, feed behavior and a whole host of other aspects of a bird's life.

Bird banding may seem like a relatively new practice, but the idea of marking a bird for a purpose has been around for a really long time.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, there is evidence suggesting that Roman soldiers marked crows by tying threads around their legs which served as messages for fellow soldiers. This was about 200 B.C. during the Punic Wars.

During the Middle Ages it was a common practice for European falconers to fit plates or bands with seals on their legs to show ownership. One example cited was a Peregrine Falcon belonging to Henry IV being sighted in Malta which was approximately 1350 miles from his home in France.

John James Audubon made one of the earliest attempts at marking birds in North America. He banded several Eastern Phoebe in his yard with colored string to see who would return the following year. This happened at Mill Grove which is about an hour drive from here. In 1882, Ernest Thompson Seton in Manitoba, Canada used printers' ink to mark Snow Buntings.

The first truly scientific attempt at bird banding or ringing was credited to Hans Christian Mortenson, a Danish teacher and ornithologist. He originally used zinc bands but found they were too heavy and switched to aluminum rings. This was in 1899. Johannes Thienemann, a German pastor, and ornithologist established the Rossitten Bird Observatory in 1903, which was the first banding station. Soon others were founded in Hungary and Great Britain.

In North America, Dr. Paul Bartsch of the Smithsonian Institution is given credit for the first modern bird banding in the United States. According to several sources, in 1902 he banded 23 Black-crowned Night Herons at Washington D.C. using serially numbered leg bands with the year and a "Return to Smithsonian Institution" inscribed on them. Leon J Cole, a geneticist and ornithologist is regarded as the father of American bird banding because he was instrumental in helping to establish the American Bird Banding Association in 1909.

Bird banding techniques began to change dramatically in the early 1950's with mist-nets and the use of cannon-netting to capture shore birds and waterfowl. Modern technology has even furthered this endeavor.



Rock Run Christmas Bird Count 2020 Report

This year's Rock Run Christmas Count began as a cold morning and sort of stayed there. The low was 20° F and it warmed to 29° F. Winds were variable that made it difficult at times to find birds. Ponds were free of ice, since it was warmer the week earlier. There was every indication that species count could be high since it was turning out to be a good winter finch year. Although some were observed, other species such as Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills were not observed in the count circle. Most observers commented that it was unusually quiet, and bird numbers were generally much lower across the board. However, most did better in species and numbers than they did last year. In fact, our total for species was the highest since I have been tallying for the count (107). We had 50 observers (52 last year), 60 miles on foot (54 last year), 325 miles in the car, and 37 hours in the car (more than last year). In total, we found just over 47,500 birds, just slightly higher than last year.

Altogether, the group found 107 species including two found during the count week (Snow Goose and Lapland Longspur at Swan Harbor). Species found of interest include a cooperative Eurasian Collared Dove at Swan Harbor, Orange-crowned and Pine Warblers and Rusty Blackbirds found in Oakington, and several locations that turned up American Tree Sparrows. Fox Sparrows continue to be scarce (N=3) as do White-crowned Sparrows (N=4).

Team Sector Summaries

Sector 1 (Oakwood) Ken Drier, Cathy Carter and David Woodside provided data from their "back yard" finding 37 species including Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and a Tundra Swan.

Sector 2 (Rowlandville) – No report.

Sector 3 (Colora) Tom Congersky, Nancy Congersky, Rupert and Cynthia Rossetti – Tom and friends birded his big back yard and found a White-crowned Sparrow, Sharped-shinned Hawk, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch (38 species).

Sector 4 (Bainbridge) Deb Stewart and Jeff Effinger canvassed Bainbridge where they found Purple Finch, Brown Thrashers, Cedar Waxwings, and both accipiter species (55 species).

Sector 5 (Perry Point) Tom & Debbie Trafton, John Hughes, Derek McGuirk, Alex Brewer – This seasoned team found two Eastern Screech-owls, White-crowned Sparrow, and eight Mute Swans (54 species).

Sector 6 (Oakington/Swan Creek) David Ziolkowski – Davey again killed this area (this time, without his canoe) and found Rusty Blackbirds, the only ravens, Pine and Orange-crowned Warblers, and our only American Pipit (85 species).

Continued on page 7

Team Sector Summaries, Continued

Sector 7 (Harve de Grace) Dave Larkin, Phil Powers, Jane Scocca – The Harford Glen Banders found Pine Siskin, Fish Crow, and a Greater Scaup (39 species).

Sector 8 (Aldino) Jack Fuller, Jo Fuller, Nancy Gillis – This team covered this section finding Field Sparrows, Eastern Towhees, Bald Eagle and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (31 species).

Sector 9 (Susky St. Park) Mark Johnson, Bob Werrlein, John Paul, Craig and Deanna Harkins – This team spent most of their time on foot, finding Winter Wrens, the only Gray Catbird, and six sparrow species (46 species).

Sector 10 (Rolling Green) David Webb, Jean Wheeler, Karen Kennedy, Joe & Melody Stevens, and Ann Helton – This team started their next decade counting this area finding Brown Thrasher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, five Eastern Screech-owls, American Kestrels, and six out of seven woodpecker species (46 species).

Sector 11a (Deer Creek) Nick and Richard Spigler, Mike and Emma Thomas - This group found five sparrow species, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, and Golden-crowned Kinglet (29 species).

Sector 11b (Darlington) Josh Emm, Rick Cheicante, Austin Jennings, Scott Rosenfeld, Madelyn, Jesse, and Jonas Kaplin – This group turned up Brown Thrasher, six out of seven woodpecker species, four raptor species, and 35 Common Goldeneyes (47 species).

Sector 12 (Dublin/Berkley) Matt Hafner and Russ Kovacs – This expert team turned up Pine Siskin, Purple Finches, Barred Owl, Bonaparte's Gulls, seven Winter Wrens and the only Chipping Sparrow and Long-tailed Duck (68 species).

Sector 13 (Conowingo) Gulls were numerous this day on the Susquehanna. Steve Elinsky soloed the Conowingo Dam and found Ring-necked Duck and four gull species including two Glaucous Gulls (17 species).

Sector 14 (River flats) Dennis Kirkwood, Kristin Kirkwood, Peter Jay, and Diane Jones – The water team covered the open water areas cleaning up waterfowl and others within sight and found all three mergansers, Peregrine Falcons, and the only Wilson's Snipe, Common Loon, and Black-crowned Night-Herons for the count (54 species).

Sector 15 (Swan Harbor) Matt Addicks – Matt covered Swan Harbor Farm and picked up the Eurasian Collared Dove, Purple Finches, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Larks, and the only Savannah Sparrows found in the count - nine sparrow species in total (64 species).

~Mark S. Johnson, RRCBC Coordinator



Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

We're finally getting a real winter! These cold snowy days are nice for the geese, ducks, cranes, and longspurs this season. This report covers the period from December 1st 2020 through January 31st, 2021.

Geese, Swans, Ducks, Cormorants, Raptors

JE found a Greater White-fronted Goose on a pond near Martindale Lane on Dec 23rd . DK had 10 at Turney's Pond on Jan 1 st . He also saw 23 Cackling Geese, 2 Hooded Mergansers, and a Ring-necked Duck there on Dec 1st . One Cackling Goose stayed there throughout the period. SB saw 5 Mute Swans on the water off APG-North on Dec 12th . He reported similar numbers several times though Jan 10th . BS saw the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans at the Edgewood Home Depot pond on Dec 12th . They were seen there throughout the period. MH saw a drake Long-tailed Duck at Conowingo Lake on Dec 26th . RC saw and photographed a Great Cormorant near Swan Harbor on Dec 5th . MJ saw one- probably the same one- near Tydings Park in Havre de Grace on Jan 5th . NS found a leucistic Turkey Vulture at the Country Walk neighborhood on Dec 1st . TH had an American Kestrel at Swan Harbor on Jan 1st . DK saw a Peregrine Falcon at the Bradenbaugh Flats on Jan 24th .

Cranes, Gulls, Doves, Owls, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Phoebe, Raven

GF saw 3 Sandhill Cranes fly over his Joppatowne yard several times in December. A large group was found to be frequenting a field near Philadelphia Rd and rt 152. LP counted 55 Sandhill Cranes in that group on Dec 29th . They were reported several times through Jan 8th . DZ saw a Laughing Gull near Joppa on Jan 2nd . JG found, or re-found, a Eurasian Collared-Dove at Swan Harbor on Dec 20th . This bird was seen many times through the end of January. DK had 1 red and 1 gray morph Eastern Screech Owl at Newark Farms during the period. DB had 2 Great Horned Owls calling in her Street neighborhood on Jan 15th . DK also heard one at Newark Farm on Jan 30th . JE saw the continuing Rufous Hummingbird in Magnolia on Jan 2nd . Others saw it through Jan 25th . BW had a Pileated Woodpecker digging an apparent nesting cavity in a tree right outside his home in Forest Hill. Let's hope for plenty of reports and photos of a new woodpecker family this spring. DB had an Eastern Phoebe at her Street home on Dec 1st . DK saw one at Newark farm on Jan 21 st . SH saw and heard a Common Raven in Fallston on Dec 25th .

Chickadees, Nuthatches, Gnatcatchers, Warblers, Sparrows, Meadowlarks, Orioles, Finches

DK saw a Black-capped Chickadee at Newark farm on Dec 25th . TC saw one at Swan Harbor on Jan 8th and BH had one at Mariner Point Park on Jan 11th . DK also had a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Newark Farm throughout the period. SB saw 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at APG North on Dec 21st . MH identified an Orange-crowned Warbler at a family member's feeder in Forest Lakes on Jan 25th . The bird had been visiting the feeder since late December. MJ saw one in Perryman on Dec 27th . JM had a Pine Warbler in Oakington on Jan 3rd . JH found a Lark Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Dec 18th . Other also saw it there through Dec 22nd , including DK. He saw it on Dec 18th , making it his 300th Harford County bird! TH saw several American Tree Sparrows at Swan Harbor on Jan 1st . SH saw 3 or 4 Chipping Sparrows at her Fallston home throughout the period. DK had a Fox Sparrow at his feeders at Newark Farm on Dec 21st . MJ found a Lincoln's Sparrow in Aberdeen on Jan 10th .FS saw and heard a flyover Lapland Longspur at Swan Harbor on Dec 1st . JE saw 6 in a flock of Horned Larks there on Dec 17th . DK had one on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Dec 23rd . TH also had one at Swan Harbor on Jan 1st . DK saw 7 Eastern Meadowlarks near Bradenbaugh Rd on Dec 23rd. He also saw 4 near there on Jan 13th . DWM had a female Baltimore Oriole at her Forest Hill feeder through the period. It seemed to favor the grape jelly there. JE found a Common Redpoll at Swan Harbor on Jan 30th . SH had 20 Pine Siskins at her Fallston feeder on Jan 8th . And BH saw 2 Evening Grosbeaks at the Bosely Conservancy on Jan 12th .

Contributors

BH- Brad Heath, BS- Byron Swift, BW- Bob Werrlein, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DWM- Deborah Wilson-Matusky, DZ- Dave Ziolkowski, FS- Fred Shaffer, GF- Greg Futral, JE- Josh Emm, JG- John Gallo, JH- Joe Hanfman, JM- John Manger, LP- Lynne Parks, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson, NS- Nicholas Stone, RC- Rick Cheicante, SB- Steven Buhler, SH- Susan Hood, TC- Tim Carney, TH- Tim Houghton

Trip Reports

Bradenbaugh Flats

January 23, 2021

Dennis Kirkwood

Ten hardy souls turned out on a cold and windy Saturday for the annual World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats field trip. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to finish the trip with the traditional soup buffet. The regular attendees that didn't show this year proved that they only come for the soup and the birds were secondary. Oh, well, maybe next year. We were delighted to have 4 guests from Baltimore County.

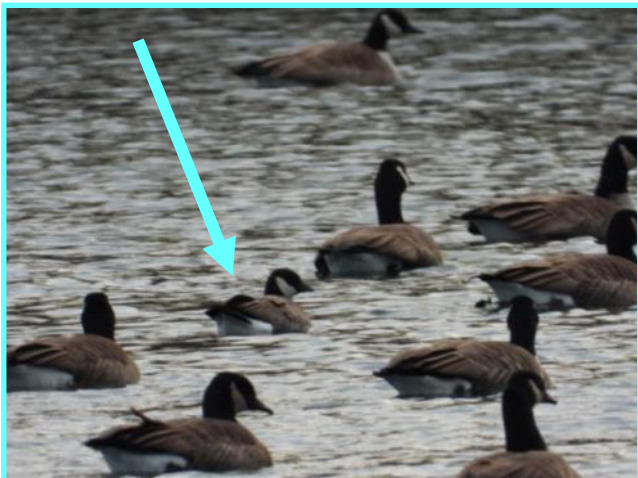
We tried to focus on the more unusual birds and modified the itinerary due to the wind and cold. Our first stop produced a Cackling Goose at the Jarrettsville Recreation Office pond and another Cackling Goose was found at a pond on Harford Creamery Road. At the center of the famous Flats, a single Horned Lark was very cooperative, providing scope views from about 50 feet away. At our next stop, we were able to convince a Barred Owl to respond and fly over our heads,

landing in a tree. He/she graced us with its iconic call, always a treat. Our final stop gave us a Gray Eastern Screech Owl and a Red-breasted Nuthatch at the leader's house. We finished the morning with 32 species, several of which were life birds for trip participants.

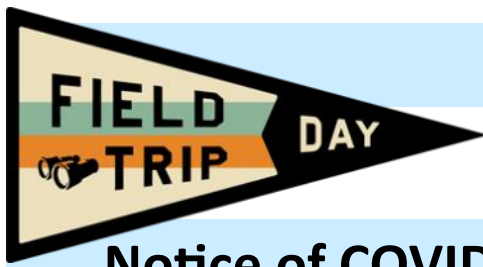
~Dennis Kirkwood



Eastern Screech Owl and Bradenbaugh Flats photos compliments of Alison Ferrer. Cackling Goose and Red Breasted Nuthatch photo compliments of Phuriwat Anusonti-Inthra



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



FIELD TRIPS ARE BACK!

Field Trip

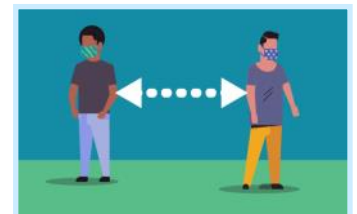
Notice of COVID-19 Precautions and New Trip Protocol

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 (family units exempted).
- ⇒ 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

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@scocca.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).

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).

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

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 song-birds, 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 (gabbycamarata@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.

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.

I Bird. I Vote.

By Deb Stewart

If you have an interest in the environment and ways to protect birds, I recommend attending "I Bird. I Vote." I was able to attend in person 2 years ago where I heard from scientists, conservationists, and lay people about the efforts to address issues related to the protection of bird species around the state. It was an impressive day in which I felt better informed of the issues, policies, and laws and the people involved. Registration is free, and sessions are optional.

Audubon Maryland-DC invites you to take action with us at the 6th annual "I Bird. I Vote." Conservation Summit, which will be held virtually on Friday evening, February 26, and Saturday, February 27, 2021. Registration is free. [I Bird. I Vote. website](#)

Please sign up to participate for each session as listed below. Donations are welcome. Closed captioning will be available.

Scientists, conservationists, and legislators will address the latest priorities for protecting birds in our communities, state, and region. Summit speakers from Maryland's elected leadership, Audubon, and our partner organizations will discuss how each of us can become a better advocate for people and birds.

Click the links to register for each session, and invite your friends on [Facebook](#).

Friday, February 26, evening session: 5:30 – 7:00 pm ET

Join Friday evening to learn about federal priorities for bird conservation legislation and the science behind it. Speakers including Charlotte Runzel, Connie Sanchez, and Shilo Felton from the National Audubon Society will join a panel discussion on topics including coastal conservation, bird-friendly buildings, and offshore wind power as they interact with audience members on effective ways we can all work for laws that benefit people and birds.

Click the link to register for Friday night: <https://act.audubon.org/a/i-bird-i-vote-2021-evening-session>

Saturday, February 27, morning session: 10:00 – 11:30 pm ET

On Saturday morning, find out about local and state bird advocacy priorities for 2021. State Senator Clarence Lam, along with representatives from the state's top environmental organizations, will highlight bird-relevant bills in Annapolis this session, and audience participation will be welcome during a panel discussion, moderated by Kristen Harbeson of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters.

Click the link to register for Saturday morning: <https://act.audubon.org/a/i-bird-i-vote-morning-session>

Saturday, February 27, afternoon session: 1:00 – 2:30 pm ET

Saturday afternoon will be an up-close look at Audubon Maryland-DC's bird conservation accomplishments. Participants will learn about coastal conservation in Maryland, Baltimore's Patterson Park Audubon Center and join a panel discussion by Audubon Green Leaders. Plus, we will hear from chapter leaders and Audubon staff about accomplishments around Maryland and DC, and how the merger will affect our work in the coming year.

Click the link to register for Saturday afternoon: <https://act.audubon.org/a/i-bird-i-vote-afternoon-session>

March 5th: Virtual Meeting & Presentation



On March 5th at 7:00pm, the Harford Bird Club will be hosting a brief meeting followed by a presentation by Dr. Antonio Celis-Murillo, acting chief of the USGS Bird Banding Lab (BBL). Dr. Celis Murillo will provide some background on the BBL and where it is going.

Please register for the virtual meeting/presentation using this [form](#). At 10am on March 5th, 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.



MOS Virtual Convention

MOS's Annual Convention will be held virtually this year, June 11 - 13, 2021, with the Breeding Birds of Maryland as the theme.

Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, the format will be different from the last convention. There will be no formal field trips with leaders; instead, we will encourage self-guided trips with follow-up chat rooms to discuss what was seen. There will be speakers, both live and recorded, as well as two keynote addresses. The pin contest and photo contest will both be held, but with appropriate new rules.

We are updating the convention website now, so the most recent information is available at <http://www.mosconvention.org/>. We are in need of volunteers in the areas listed below, so if you are interested in helping out, please email conference@mdbirds.org. Thank you.



MOS Conference Pin Contest

RULES FOR THE 2021 MOS CONVENTION PIN DESIGN CONTEST

Entrants must be members of MOS. To join MOS, please go to: <https://mdbirds.org/join/how-to-join/>

Due to the pandemic, the convention will not be held in-person. Therefore, the usual rule that said the bird must be consistent for the time and location is suspended for this year. However, the virtual convention will have a theme, Breeding Birds of Maryland. The bird must be from the list of Maryland breeding birds found in all counties. Click here to [view](#) the list.



- Designs shall include a bird and the phrase “**vMOS**” and the year of the convention in four-digit format (i.e., 2021). No other wording can appear on the front of the entry (species, entrant’s name, etc.). **Please be sure to include the “v” next to “MOS” as we are differentiating this pin from other pins since this convention will be virtual.**
- Submission shall be rendered in color as finished artwork and not framed or matted. Submission shall be submitted in “hard copy” (i.e., not submitted electronically)
- The entrant’s name, address, chapter affiliation, phone number and email address and the species of bird shall be written on the back of each entry.
- Entrants may not use others’ work or material copyrighted by others.
- An Entrant may submit more than one design.
- All entries will be returned to the entrants. By entering the contest entrants agree that if their design wins it becomes the property of MOS, which has the right to use the design to promote the conference and for other MOS promotional and historical uses.
- The winner will receive several of the finished pins for a personal portfolio.
- The winner will not announce or mention the results of the contest until he/she is officially announced in *The Maryland Yellowthroat* or at the convention.

The contest coordinator works closely with the pin company to ensure that the final pin is an accurate representation of the winning entry and of the species depicted. Decisions regarding the company’s draft design are made by the pin contest lead. On rare occasions the company may want us to ask the winning entrant for permission to make minor changes in the design, in order to accommodate the manufacturing process. If the entrant is unwilling to make these minor accommodations, we will select another design.

The deadline for entries will be announced in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, and for the 2021 Virtual Conference is March 15, 2021.

The pin contest lead is not one of the judges. The names of the judges are not revealed publicly, and a judge does not know the identities of the other judges.

Send entries to: Meg Harris, 6400 Ripe Apple Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

If you have questions, please contact Meg Harris at meg.harris@mdbirds.org.



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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$33.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$63.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (see below) | <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$39.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior \$10.00 | |

OR

Memberships for those who are either members of another MOS Chapter or are MOS Life Members.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$13.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Harford Bird Club Membership* | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.