



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 41 Number 8

April 2021

President's Perch

Spring is a time of renewal. Trees are flowering, leafing out, and birds have begun to sing. I find it interesting that breeding residents as well and some winter migrants are both singing. Duetting males (such as cardinals, titmouses, white-throated sparrows, chickadees) have excellent hearing where conspecific males can often be heard at a distance. If you mimic some you can get them started with little effort. I'm looking forward to seeing (and hearing) tropical migrants as they arrive and move through. I look forward to continuing my morning walks more frequently as the weather improves.

Most of our members that I have talked with have mentioned that they either have been vaccinated once or completed their vaccination sequence. I am hopeful our club can get back to normal soon, and we are tentatively planning to have our July meeting in-person.

It has been a challenge to our club working through this pandemic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all you who have helped see us through this. Especially, I would like to thank Tom Gibson, Amanda Subolefsky, Joe Stephens, Jane Socca, Eric Vangrin, Deb Stewart, Mary Murray, all of the executive committee and those of you who led trips these past two years. This organization is truly a group effort.

~Mark Johnson, President

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Perch</i>	1
<i>Book Reviews</i>	3
<i>Breeding Bird Atlas</i>	4
<i>Spring Birding Quiz</i>	5
<i>Grant Funding Project Update</i>	6-7
<i>Harford Bird Life</i>	8
<i>Field Trip Report</i>	9
<i>COVID 19- Field Trip Procedures</i>	10
<i>Upcoming Field Trips</i>	11-12
<i>The MOS Convention Details</i>	12
<i>Answers to Spring Birding Quiz</i>	12
<i>May 7th Virtual Meeting & Speaker Details</i>	13
<i>Membership Form</i>	14



Plan Ahead!

- May 7th is a virtual meeting with guest speakers, Paul J. Baicich & Soledad Pagliuca. Their presentation is titled 'Birding and Beyond in Cuba'.
- June 11-13 is the virtual MOS meeting
- July 16 is an in-person outdoor picnic/ social event at Susquehannock Wildlife Society

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.

Congratulations to Monroe Harden, the Harford Birdlife organizer, on the birth of his first grandchild. His family welcomed Amelia Joy Cobacha Schlessel in early April.



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!

Amy Bethke, Jarrettsville

Paul Converse, Baltimore

Elizabeth Stewart & Wienshet Teklu, Havre de Grace

Adel Wortman, Havre de Grace

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 13 and mail your dues to Eric Vangrin. Last year there were some questions about the online payment process since it looked like you were joining the Maryland Ornithological Society and not the Harford Bird Club. The Harford Bird Club is a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Paying online or by check to Eric includes you on the club roster for both the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Harford Bird Club.

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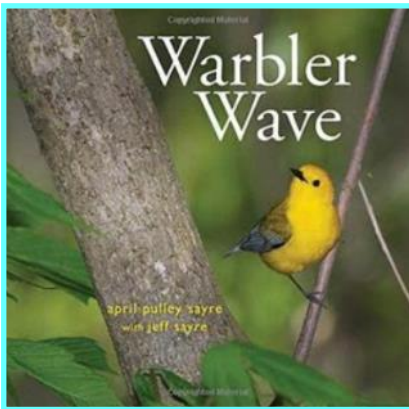
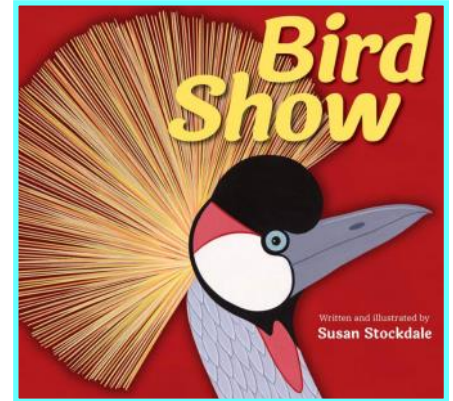
Book Nook

By: Bethany Vangrin
Librarian, Harford County Public Library

Bird Show

by Susan Stockdale

Explore nature's most dazzling colors, diverse designs, and fashionable feathered features, from plain and fancy to spots and stripes in *Bird Show* by Susan Stockdale. Children will love to find the different patterns and learn more about which bird matches with the colorful feathers. During the upcoming MOS Virtual Convention, Stockdale will be presenting a seminar called **Bird Books for Kids! An Author/Illustrator Reveals Her Process.**



Warbler Wave

by April Pulley Sayre

It's Spring and the time for migrating warblers to flitter from branch to branch. It's also the perfect time to share *Warbler Wave* by April Pulley Sayre with a young birder. Through colorful photographs that express the active nature of warblers and poetic text, readers will appreciate the warbler's migration journey.

Harford Bird Club Awards

Bird of the Year: Rufous Hummingbird

Awarded to Brian Franks for hosting this rarity and graciously allowing the birding community access to his exceptional yard habitat.

Bird of the Year: Sedge Wren, Curlew Sandpiper, and Mountain Bluebird

Awarded to Austin Jennings for his excellent identification skills that helped put three new birds onto the official Harford County List.

Rookie of the Year: Elaine Scribner

Awarded to Elaine Scribner In grateful recognition of her volunteer spirit and enthusiasm of birding in support of The Harford Bird Club.

Birder of the Year: Dave Webb

In grateful recognition of his efforts in advancing the joy of birdwatching and for exemplary service in the betterment of the Harford Bird Club and the Maryland Ornithological Society.

Volunteer of the Year: John Gallo

In recognition of his steadfast and diligent work in supporting birdwatchers and the Harford Bird Club at Swan Harbor.





Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3

Spring is here! The Breeding Bird Atlas season is heating up! Many of your yard and feeder birds have already begun nesting activity and the neotropical migrants are on their way. While you're out watching for warblers, take care to note the nesting behaviors of your local chickadees, titmice, cardinals, and phoebes.

Also, Matt will be holding a virtual eBird Atlas refresher and Q & A session on Saturday 4/24 at 7pm. Please email Hafner.matt@gmail.com if you would like to attend. Registration reminders will be posted to the Harford Bird Club Facebook group and sent out to the HBCNews email list. This will be a good opportunity to remind yourself how to switch to the atlas portal, what breeding code to use, see what species need confirmation in a block, and ask any questions you may have about ebird or the atlas project. ~Matt Hafner & Dennis Kirkwood

In Our Own Words...

Our BBA3 journey started off in an unusual way. Back in March 2020, school as we know it, including our friends and teachers, came to a complete stop due to COVID-19. We were bored out of our minds! One day, when we were reading the Maryland Yellowthroat, we noticed an article about BBA3. While reading it, we discovered how important this volunteer work is to the conservation of birds. We were hooked! One day later, our mom set up a phone call with Mr. Dennis Kirkwood to discuss everything we needed to know about BBA3. Just a week after discovering BBA3, we adopted our own block, Phoenix NE.

For us, BBA3 is a family affair. We really enjoy going birding with our parents. Every time we have questions, Mr. Dennis is always there to answer them. We realized that we have covered all public areas, but a big chunk of bird habitat is on private property. Eventually, Mr. Dennis connected us to the Knickmans (Carol and Ed), and they were so kind to welcome us into their property so we could continue our BBA3 project. Occasionally, Mrs. Carol came birding with us too. On their property, we have gotten probable status for both Barred and Great Horned Owls. It was awesome to experience nocturnal birding!



Truly, BBA3 opened our hearts and minds to conservation efforts. Because of BBA3, now we are involved in Frogwatch USA, NestWatch.org, and we are finally about to embark on our new journey to help Anita C. Leight Estuary Center with marsh plant phenology research. All these efforts make us realize how delicate our ecosystem is, and how intertwined the plants and animals are. This delicate relationship is being disrupted because of climate change, and it is now more important than ever to help the scientists understand the health of our changing ecosystems. If you are wondering whether you should participate in BBA3, we would say to, "Go For It!" ~Nara & Tyme Anusonti-Inthra

(Nara is in 7th grade at Fallston Middle School. Tyme is in 4th grade at Youth's Benefit Elementary School)

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](#).

Spring Birding is in the Air

By: Joe Stevens

Spring is an enthusiastic time of year for birders. Some of the many signs of spring for birders to watch for are: Wrens gathering nesting material, Dark-Eyed Juncos flying north, Robins digging for worms, and male Goldfinches molting yellow. Mid-April through mid-May is the main time for spring migration in most of North America. This is why the May Count is officially held on the second Saturday of May in Maryland. According to M.O.S., Maryland birders have conducted this survey of bird population for over five decades.



To spur interest and appraise your knowledge, try this little quiz. The answers can be found on page 12.

1. How many known species of birds are there in the world?
(A) 10,000 (B) 5,000 (C) 15,000 (D) 30,000
2. According to the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, how many species of birds have been recorded in Maryland?
(A) 450 (B) 625 (C) 375 (D) 250
3. Maryland e-Bird lists the Northern Cardinal as the most common bird in the state throughout the year. Which bird is second?
(A) American Robin (B) Carolina Wren (C) American Crow (D) Carolina Chickadee
4. The Maryland Office of Tourism states that Maryland is lucky to be the home to the highest breeding concentration of what bird in the world?
(A) Bald Eagle (B) Osprey (C) Great Blue Heron (D) Baltimore Oriole
5. According to the Maryland Ornithological Society which of these species is declining dramatically in Maryland?
(A) Northern Bobwhite (B) Great Horned Owl (C) Northern Flicker (D) Blue Grosbeak
6. Which is the second most common bird found in Maryland in the winter months (December-February)?
(A) Blue Jay (B) Song Sparrow (C) White-throated Sparrow (D) Dark-eyed Junco
7. The Old Farmer's Almanac states that this common backyard bird is one of the best predators that spring is on its way, especially in the northern tier states.
(A) American Robin (B) Bluebird (C) Tufted Titmouse (D) American Goldfinch
8. Which two birds are tied for being the second most listed as seen in the summer months (June-July) in Maryland?
(A) American Goldfinch and Carolina Wren (B) Indigo Bunting and Carolina Chickadee
(C) Mourning Dove and American Robin (D) Gray Catbird and Blue Jay



Grant Funding Project Update

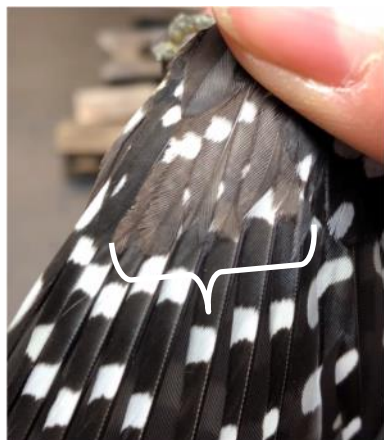
The Harford Bird Club recently financially supported my efforts to continually advance my education and learn as much as I can from as many different sources as possible. The weekend of March 5-7, I attended a 35 hour virtual class focusing on molt limits in passerines. The workshop was hosted by Powermill Nature Reserve-Avian Research Center located in western Pennsylvania. The course was taught by Annie Lindsay, who bands thousands of birds each season and is very versed in identifying molt limits and aging a bird based on the feather generations observed while the bird is in hand.

Birds molt once, twice or sometimes three times a year depending on the species. Investigating the feathers carefully, sometimes you can tell how old a bird is based on the quality and structure of the feathers. These data are vital to the banding process because aging a bird is one of the main data points collected during a capture-mark-recapture process.

During the class thousands of pictures of birds were shared and we had to be able to age the bird and explain what we saw and where. The rapid fire, repetitive nature of the workshop was exactly what I needed to reinforce my knowledge of molt limits and give me the confidence I need to use molt limits as a valid method to age a bird.

The \$150 course fee was funded by the Harford Bird Club. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to advance my education and work with banders from all over the western hemisphere for the weekend.

~Amanda Subolefsky



Looking at the wing of this Downy Woodpecker, you can clearly see the contrast between the newer feathers and the very old, faded juvenile feathers. Observing several generations of feathers tells the story of a bird's age.

This Rose-breasted Grosbeak tells a similar story. The bird is an after second year male as the two faded secondary feathers are remaining from the bird's basic molt the previous year. There are no signs of juvenile feathers.



Grant Funding Project Update



On Saturday, March 13 Simon Murray of Boy Scout Troop 965 completed his Eagle Scout project at Susquehannock Wildlife Society in Darlington, Maryland. He designed and built a bird feeder station for the viewing enjoyment of guests to the center. Simon's project was partially funded through a grant from the Harford Bird Club. The Harford Bird Club paid for the feeders and seed.

Scott McDaniel, Executive Director at Susquehannock Wildlife Society said it best.

"He created a beautiful bird feeder station so we can not only provide a valuable food source for our local and migrating birds, but it will allow our future guests and researchers and opportunity to observe many different species of birds in an easy to view location. Simon put a lot of thought into the project and despite all of the many delays he faced, maintained a positive attitude while displaying the leadership skills that the scouting programs work to develop. The feeder station includes predator guards, native shrubs for hiding, a loose substrate below the feeders for foraging, nearby water source and shelter, a design to make refilling seed more convenient, and a mix of feeder types to accommodate a variety of birds at different times of the year."

The Harford Bird Club looks forward to working with other organizations to provide grant funding for their local projects.



Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

Spring is here; the hummingbird feeders are up; and the birds are coming. I look forward to our spring migrants over the next few weeks. Maybe we'll get some rare ones? This report covers the period from February 1st through March 31st, 2021.

Swans, Geese, Ducks, Raptors, Cranes

DL saw a Snow Goose at Swan Harbor on Feb 6th. MJ saw the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans at the Rt 24 marsh in Edgewood on Feb 26th. They were seen by others through the end of the period. MJ also saw 3 Blue-winged Teal flying over Perryman Park on Feb 25th. AJ saw 2 Long-tailed Ducks on the bay near Havre de Grace on Feb 4th. 1 or 2 were seen several times through Feb 23rd. MJ saw a female near Lapidum on Feb 16th. He also saw a Common Loon there.

HO saw an early Osprey at Mariner Point Park on Feb 14th. MJ saw one there on Feb 27th. MJ relocated the Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk hybrid at Susquehanna State Park on Feb 24th. Others saw it through the end of March. JP saw 6 Sandhill Cranes near Joppa on Feb 14th. JH had a flyover view of one near Havre de Grace on Feb 24th. RC counted 33 near his Creswell home on Feb 27th. GR reported 15 flying to the northwest in small groups over Abingdon on Mar 1st. She also saw 6 flying over on Mar 26th.

Gulls, Doves, Owls, Ravens Chickadees, Thrushes

TH found a Little Gull on the river opposite Lapidum on Mar 30th. AJ saw an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Tidewater Marina in Havre de Grace on Mar 9th. JH saw the continuing Eurasian Collared-Dove at Swan Harbor on Feb 6th. AJ also saw a Short-eared Owl at Hopkins Farm on Feb 28th. MJ reported 2 Common Ravens near the Woodley Rd ponds in Perryman. One was carrying a stick. TC saw a Black-capped Chickadee at Swan Harbor on Feb 6th. Others saw it there through Feb 25th. JM saw one at Mullins Park on Feb 21st. TH had 2 Hermit Thrushes at Susquehanna State Park on Mar 30th. DL saw a flock of about 50 American Pipits at Swan Harbor on Feb 6th.

Warblers, Sparrows, Blackbirds, Orioles, Finches

MH found an Orange-crowned Warbler at Forest Lakes on Feb 10th. AJ saw one in Havre de Grace on Feb 12th. JW reported on Feb 12th that she has had a Pine Warbler coming to her suet feeder for weeks during this winter. MJ saw one in Oakington on Feb 15th. He saw 2 adult males there on Feb 28th. JE saw an adult male Common Yellowthroat on Battery Island on Feb 26th.

DL saw an American Tree Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Feb 6th. MJ saw 2 in Perryman on Feb 13th. He also saw a Vesper Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Mar 22nd. JE saw 2 Lapland Longspurs in Perryman on Feb 1st. AJ reported 2 on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Feb 7th. DK found 2 Snow Buntings there on Feb 11th. They were seen by others through Feb 24th. DW had a flock of Rusty Blackbirds visit his yard daily in Webster throughout February. The peak count during that period was 68. DWM had a female Baltimore Oriole visiting her feeder in Forest Hill daily throughout the reporting period. MJ saw a Purple Finch in Gunpowder Falls State Park on Feb 14th.

Contributors

AJ- Austin Jennings, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DW- Dave Webb, DWM- Deborah Wilson-Matusky, GR- Gabby Ross, HO- Henry Ortiz, JE- Josh Emm, JH- Joe Hanfman, JM- John Manger, JP- Julio Perez, JW- Jean Wheeler, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson, RC- Rick Cheicante, TC- Tim Carney, TH- Tim Houghton

Trip Reports

Swan Harbor Farms Bird Walk

February 20, 2021

Dave Webb

Temperatures in the 20's and a stiff westerly breeze couldn't keep five hardy birders from assembling at Swan Harbor Farm for some winter birding. We started at the Casa Gallo feeders hoping to catch glimpse of a recently reported Black-capped Chickadee. Besides the usual suspects, we found Rusty Blackbird, White-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and Purple Finch. Our patience was eventually rewarded when the Black-cap showed up and gave us good views of its white greater covert edges, shaggy bib, and bright white cheeks. From the fishing pier, we found a raft of several hundred Canvasbacks, along with some Greater Scaup, Ring-necked Ducks, Tundra Swans and Pied-billed Grebes. As the morning progressed, the winds intensified to 20+ MPH, and so we stopped after just two hours having seen 40 species. ~Dave Webb

Timberdoodle Hunt

March 11, 2021

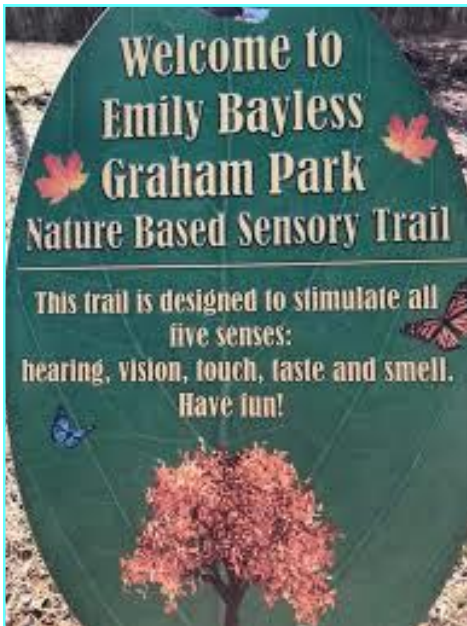
Tim Houghton

A group of about 18 had a really good time observing woodcocks this evening at Mullins Park. Five or so woodcocks peented and flew--and most of the flights (8-10 I'd say) were very close to us and nicely visible--we couldn't have asked for better conditions. Perhaps the highlight was a timberdoodle that stood in the path where I could shine a light on it--it was clearly visible to everyone. ~Tim Houghton

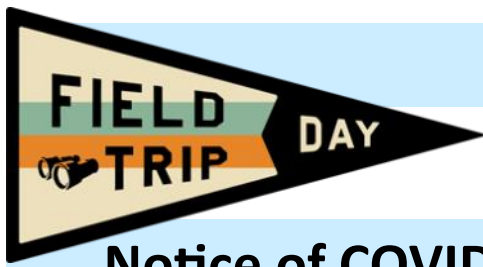
Emily Bayless Graham Park Bird Walk

April 10, 2021

Dennis Kirkwood



The Harford Bird Club explored some new territory on April 10 by hiking the trails at the newly created and newly opened Emily Graham Park off Wheel Road in Abingdon. This park is about 80 acres of second growth forest border on the east and west by Routes 924 and 24. It is almost a Central Park to the development envelope! The weather was very damp and foggy to start the morning and lighting was very poor. The 14 participants managed to find most of the common species with Robins and White-throated Sparrows being most abundant. We decided to finish the morning by visiting nearby Harford Glen and we were treated to a brighter sky which allowed us to look up as well as down for birds. Swamp Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Belted Kingfisher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pileated Woodpecker, and Tree Swallows were added to the morning list and we finished with a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest in a pine within the driveway circle. We ended the morning with 32 species. ~Dennis Kirkwood



FIELD TRIPS ARE BACK!

Field Trip

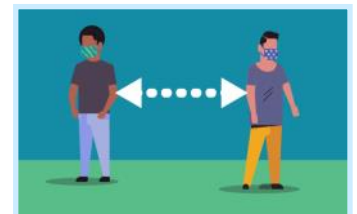
Notice of COVID-19 Precautions and New Trip Protocol

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

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.

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).

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

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.

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.



Spring Birding is in the Air Answers
1.(A) 2.(A) 3.(B) 4.(B) 5.(A) 6.(C) 7.(B) 8.(C)

May 7th: Virtual Meeting & Presentation



On May 7th at 7:00pm, the Harford Bird Club will be hosting a brief meeting followed by a presentation called 'Birding & Beyond in Cuba' by Paul J. Baicich & Soledad Pagliuca.

Please register for the virtual meeting/presentation using this [form](#). At 10 am on May 7th, 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.



"Birding and Beyond in Cuba" - will allow us to "visit" a number of key bird-locations on the island - Viñales, Zapata, Guanahacabibes, Cayo Coco, Baracoa, Topes de Collantes, and Havana - as well as examine opportunities for "connecting" with our counterparts in Cuba. We will look at these fascinating birds, places, and people in terms of advancing bird-education, conservation, and responsible eco-tourism. Our two presenters wish to convey to you some of the birds, nature, and potential on the island, opportunities that can be found at one of our country's closest neighbors.

BIOGRAPHIES

Paul J. Baicich has been an active birder since his early teens in New York City. His concerns include an interest in bird conservation and policy, as well as studies in avian breeding biology, waterfowl, and the practice of bird feeding over the decades. Among his many activities, he worked for the American Birding Association in multiple roles, has worked for the National Wildlife Refuge System on a consultant basis on issues of popular birding and parallel refuge receptiveness, and has led (or co-led) trips from Alaska to Cuba. In addition, Paul co-edits (with Wayne Petersen)

the popular monthly *Birding Community E-bulletin* and writes a regular column, "Quick Takes," for *Bird Watcher's Digest*. In 2014, Paul received the Ducks Unlimited "Wetland Conservation Achievement Award" in the category of Communications.



Soledad Pagliuca spent ten years in human rights efforts in Central America (U.N. High Commission for Refugees in Honduras, Peace Brigades in Guatemala, Quakers in Nicaragua), taught at the University of Salerno, Italy, worked in the Philippines on the elimination of the exploitation of women in the international sex trade and other women's health issues, and is the Projects Director of the Friendship Association (of St. Augustine). The Association sponsors delegations to Cuba in support of their conservation projects, and related educational and cultural events in Cuba and in the U.S. Soledad is also the Managing Editor of [Ediciones Nuevos Mundos](#), the publishing branch of the Friendship Association, which has pioneered publications on the birds, culture, and natural history of Cuba.



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.