



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 42 Number 23-1

Winter 2023

President's Perch

Inside this issue:

In the Winter issue of Living Bird magazine, which is published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, there was a very informative article on the "2022 State of the Birds Report." It indicated that the report "documents continuing decline but also shows opportunities for bringing birds back-while aligning bird conservation with biodiversity protection, environmental justice and climate resilience."

Some of the highlights were:

"Three Billion Birds Lost

1 in 4 breeding birds have been lost from the United States and Canada in the past 50 years.

70 Tipping Point Species in the United States

These 70 species have collectively lost 2/3 of their populations in the past 50 years and are on track to lose another 50% in the next 50 years. Another 20 species were listed that had half of their population decline in the past 50 years.

Downward Trends Across the Board

Birds across the U.S. show downward trends in every habitat except in wetlands, where comebacks of waterfowl show the power of funding and policy investments."

[Read the full article here >>](#)

Based on that report, there seems to be a glimmer of hope, but it's obvious much more needs to be done on a local, state and national basis. The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is a great asset on our state level and is firmly committed to do what it can to help with bird conservation. The [American Bird Conservancy also had a brief article](#) about the report and mentioned some actions individuals could do,

Our **March Dinner meeting will be held on March 3, 2023**, at the Churchville Presbyterian Church, which is located at 2844 Churchville Rd, Churchville, Md. The meeting will begin at 6:15 pm with a delicious dinner prepared by the church staff. A brief business meeting will follow in which our annual awards will be presented to members and individuals who have contributed a great deal to our club and the birding community over the last year. This is the first time in several years that it will be done in person, so please plan on attending to honor them! The evening's presentation *Adventure Birding: New Zealand* will be delivered by two of our own members: Mark Johnson and Sue Procell. This promises to be an enjoyable evening for all. Hope to see you there!

~Joe Stevens, President

<i>President's Perch</i>	1
<i>National Bird-Feeding Month</i>	4
<i>Education Report</i>	5
<i>Harford Birdlife</i>	8
<i>Harford Bird Club Field Trips</i>	10
<i>Field Trip Reports</i>	15
<i>Antarctica Trip Report</i>	16
<i>Membership Form</i>	19



Plan Ahead!

- **The Great Backyard Bird Count: February 17—20th**
- **Fri, March 3, 2023**
Dinner Meeting
- **May 12—21, 2023**
MOS 75th Annual Convention, Wisp Resort, Garrett County, MD

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 Deb

Stewart: 410-879-2364 or debstewart1307@gmail.com.

New Members

A warm Harford Bird Club welcome goes out to the following new members:

Sarah Burgess—Abingdon

Rebecca Fyfe—Bel Air

Rose & Patrick Ostendarp—Forest Hill



****Membership dues for the September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023 year are past due.****

Please complete [the online form](#), or print and fill out the form on page 12. and mail your dues to Eric Vangrin. Remember 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.

HARFORD BIRD CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Joe Stevens	410-734-7198	josephstevens@comcast.net
Vice President	Sue Procell	443-417-4919	procellmd@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Deborah Stewart	410-879-2364	debstewart1307@gmail.com
Treasurer	Eric Vangrin	443-417-7219	evangrin@msn.com
Past President	Mark Johnson	410-692-5978	MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com
Field Trip Chairperson	Vacant		
May Count Coordinator	Vacant		
Rock Run Count Coordinator	Mark Johnson	410-692-5978	MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com
Dinner Reservations	Johanne Henrickson	410-937-1174	johen24@gmail.com
Public Relations	Jane Scocca	410-272-8870	jane@scocca.org
Education Chairperson	Mary Murray	410-812-6621	murraymary@gmail.com
Conservation Chair	Deborah Bowers	410-692-2708	bowerspub@hotmail.com
Youth Coordinator	Vacant		
State Board Members	Dennis Kirkwood	410-692-5905	newarkfarms@gmail.com
	Diane Jones	410-404-9180	baltobirder55@gmail.com
Media Manager	Amanda Subolefsky	443-528-4306	AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com
Wrenderings Editor	Mary Beth Collins		Wrenderings@MDBirds.org

The Great Backyard Bird Count: February 17th — 20th



The 26th annual [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) (GBBC) takes place Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20. Bird and nature lovers everywhere unite in the effort to tally as many of the world's bird species as possible over these designated four days.

LEARN MORE:

Read the [Event Guidance](#) detailing how to participate.

[Register to attend](#) a webinar about how to participate, being held **Wednesday, February 15 at 1:00 pm ET**.

Birdwatching — Good For Your Mental Health

What many bird lovers have known all along is once again supported by research. Time Magazine featured the many benefits of birdwatching to mental health and wellness in its November 14, 2022 article *Birdwatching Has Big Mental-Health Benefits. Here's How to Start*. The article details studies that validate the connection between happiness and the number of bird species around a person's home/town. Another study found that of all of the sounds in nature, people most likely associate birdsong with stress recovery. The article features a number of ways people can enjoy the love of birdwatching.

Learn more [by reading the full article](#).



75th Annual MOS Convention — “The Next 75”



MOS (Maryland Ornithological Society) is busy planning the annual convention for next year, to be held **May 19 - 21, 2023** at the [Wisp Resort](#) in Garrett County, MD. [Check the convention website](#) to keep up with the latest information!

Volunteers are needed for registration check-in and leading field trips. If you are interested in volunteering, please [send an email](#) to MOS and provide your name, email address, phone number, and area of interest.

February is National Bird-Feeding Month

In 1994, Congressman John Porter (IL) established February as National Bird-Feeding Month due to the harsh conditions endured during one of the coldest months of the year. It's a great time to learn more about options and best practices when choosing to feed birds:

- The ultimate resource for enhancing your wild bird feeding experience is the National Bird-Feeding Society. [Visit their website](#) to explore the Best Backyard Bird-Feeding Practices.
- Greg Gillson featured Maryland in What Birds Are In My Backyard's 2021 article [Feeding Winter Birds in Maryland](#)
- The Cornell Lab website All About Birds provides a great overview of seeds in the blog: [Feeding Birds: A Quick Guide to Seed Types](#)



Arrowwood Viburnum Ranks Highest for Native Bird Food

Debbie Bowers, Conservation Chair



Migratory birds are on the decline and need our help more than ever! I recently did another search in nature literature for research on the best shrubs and plants to bring to my yard this spring for birds. When selecting new plants, I'd like to offer the best nutrient-rich berries. Fat, carbs, energy overall, and even antioxidants figure into the energy needs of birds. And, I'd like to pick shrubs that birds would find more accommodating for ease of nest building. I found plenty of advice on the food, not so much on the nesting. So I'll just say probably any native shrub providing berries also provides nesting possibilities.

Whereas last year I urged you to pick the serviceberry and the winterberry, I am adding to those because of a 2015 study by Susan B. Smith of the Rochester Institute of Technology and Scott R. McWilliams

of the University of Rhode Island. They studied bird activity in backyards with multiple native plant species compared to backyards with few. They concluded the focus should be on nutrition content of berries as well as berries that attract the highest number of species. Providing a variety of fruits is also important. We are talking native plants, of course. The authors urge us to have at least two of these five species: Arrowwood viburnum, Virginia creeper (yes, the native and noninvasive vine that turns red in the fall), Gray dogwood, Silky dogwood and Red Osier dogwood. Each of these plants provide berries rich in the nutrients birds need to make their long trip next fall after providing you with the pleasure of their company all summer.

The Arrowwood viburnum scores highest in the study, its fruits having the highest amount of all the nutrients and the richest antioxidant properties as well. Ranking second was the Virginia creeper, so if you have this growing on your property, do not mistake it for an invasive vine to be removed. So get ready for spring and find an Arrowwood viburnum at a nearby nursery and pick the spot for a new shrub!

Education News

Mary Murray

Bird Buddies Back to Birding!



After a two year hiatus, Churchville Elementary School has embraced the “bird bug” whole-heartedly this year. Due to the Covid shut down and aftermath, there was a long wait for fulfillment of their Harford Bird Club grant. Finally, this fall, they were able to purchase poles, feeders, seed and suet for 3 birding stations around the school. The whole school community participates in watching birds at the stations and recording the species on a large chart in the main hallway by the classroom of Mrs. Nicole Murray, school liaison to Harford Bird Club. The 35 members of the Bird Buddies Club have been meeting monthly for a program and bird walk around their campus. These budding birders have noticed an increase in the biodiversity of the birds who now frequent the campus, thanks to the new feeding stations.

A big THANK YOU to our presenters: Patrick Campbell who spoke on bird behaviors and adaptations and Dennis Kirkwood who shared the wildlife of Antarctica from his fall trip. We are thrilled to be working with these enthusiastic students again.



Students sharing their gratitude!



This changed Churchville Thanks :) - Henry F.

Con't p. 6

Education News continued

Owls for 4H

On January 18th, Mary Murray presented a program about owls to a group of 4Hers and their parents at the Maryland Extension Office in Street. Participants learned about the adaptations that make owls so unique. The presentation was followed by an owl pellet dissection and both children and parents were excited by the large bones and skulls found in the pellets. Special thanks to Greg Murray, Master Gardener, and Marylisa Schaedel, 4H Coordinator, for their assistance with this program.



HELP THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

You don't need to be a teacher - you just need a love for birds and desire to nurture the appreciation of nature and love of birding in our kids & teens.

We have everything you need to make it easy & fun!!!

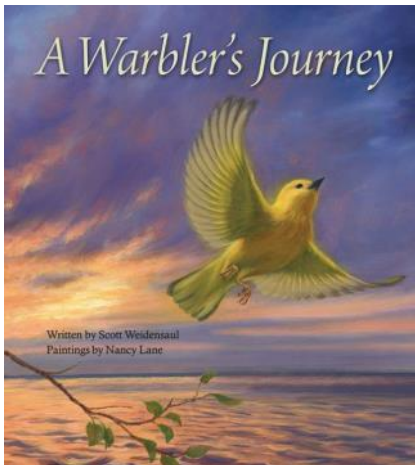
JOIN
US!

Contact Mary Murray for more information.
410.812.6621 murraymary@gmail.com



Book Review

Bethany Vangrin



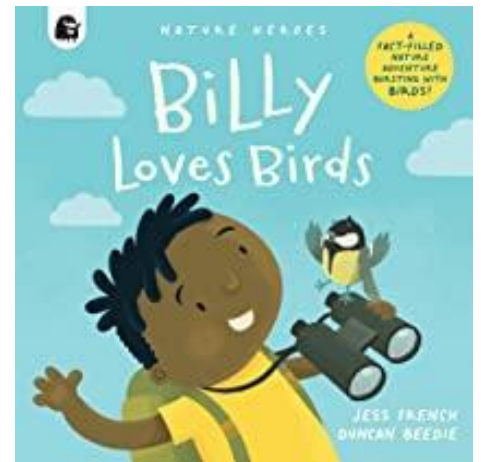
A Warbler's Journey by Scott Weidensaul

Renowned wildlife researcher and birder Scott Weidensaul takes the reader on an epic journey from South America to the tundra of Canada on the tiny wings of the yellow warbler. The oil painting illustrations and poetic writing help transport the reader on this journey and express a conservation message. Birding families will appreciate the information shared about easy ways to help warblers and migratory birds.

Billy Loves Birds by Jess French

Follow Billy as he travels to Forest School and explores his love of birds along the way. Start the morning by packing your backpack with gear. Don't forget the binoculars! Take a quick peek at the live stream of the hatching ostriches in Africa, and stop by your homemade bird feeder to fill it up for the day. Venture on to moving like a woodpecker, calling in a few bird friends and observing the flight pattern of geese high in the sky.

Billy Loves Birds is part of the *Nature Heroes* series and focuses on a group of friends who are passionate about nature and the great outdoors. Through fun text and illustrations, you will fall in love with Billy, the budding naturalist!



New Comprehensive Map of East Coast Stopover Spots

-Provides Insights for Conservation of Eastern US migratory landbirds-



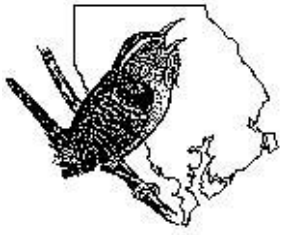
A new study published in the journal *Proceeds of the National Academy of Sciences* presents the first comprehensive map to feature stopover hotspots of landbirds in the eastern US. The map identifies where migratory birds stop to rest and refuel, spotlighting areas to consider for effective conservation efforts.

Learn more [by reading the January 9, 2023 Princeton University article.](#)

"It gives us a powerful new tool for identifying the key habitats these birds are using during their epic migrations"

- David Wilcove, professor of Public Affairs and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the High Meadows Institute and co-author of the study

Harford Birdlife



by Monroe Harden

Our new publication schedule resulted in a five month reporting period for this issue. That means a lot of bird reports. I hope everyone got a chance to see some of these nice visitors to our county. This report covers the period from September 1st, 2022 through January 31st, 2023.

Geese, Ducks, Grebes, Hawks, Falcons

MH found a Greater White-fronted Goose in Forest Hill on Nov 16th . Others saw it the next day. CK saw one at Swan Harbor on Jan 2nd . DK reported a Snow Goose there the next day. Many birders reported the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans throughout the period at the Home Depot pond in Edgewood. CK saw a Blue-winged Teal at Swan Harbor on Dec 27th . NF saw a Horned Grebe there on Jan 2nd , while MJ saw 2 at Lapidum on Jan 5th . MJ saw a late Great Egret in Oakington on Dec 30th . JR saw one on APG North on Jan 7th and 14th . MJ saw the long-term resident Red-shouldered x Red-tailed hybrid hawk at Susquehanna State Park several times during the period, including Oct 27th and Dec 9th . DK saw a Merlin that had recent caught a Red-winged Blackbird at his Newark Farm home on Jan 18th . SH reported a Northern Harrier at Belvedere farm on Dec 28th . She said that this was only the 3rd time she's seen one there in 30 years.

Rails, Cranes, Plovers, Sandpipers, Gulls, Terns

Jl found a Virginia Rail at Swan Harbor on Nov 6th . KE saw 15 Sandhill Cranes near rt 7 in Joppa on Dec 11th . The group of birds and birders grew between then and Jan 1st . The high count in the field was 43. RM saw 21 flying to the south near Conowingo Dam on Dec 28th . MJ heard 4 or more at Rumsey Island on Jan 8th . MJ saw a Black-bellied Plover at Swan Harbor on Sep 26th . SH saw a Killdeer in Fallston on Dec 26th . AJ and MA saw a Western Sandpiper in a group of Semipalmated Sandpipers at Tydings Park on Sep 12th . JS saw 4 there on Sep 15th . One was still present on Sep 17th . DK saw 2 Least Sandpipers near Little Deer Creek on Dec 28th . OP found a Stilt Sandpiper at Tydings Park on Sep 3rd . Jl saw 3 at Swan Harbor on Sep 15th . DK saw a Wilson's Snipe at Swan Harbor on Jan 3rd . DZ counted a remarkable 270 Laughing Gulls in Joppa on Dec 18th . CK saw an Iceland Gull at Tidewater Marina on Jan 6th . 2 were seen there on Jan 8th . MJ saw a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Tydings Park on Sep 12th . TH saw one at Susquehanna State Park on Nov 15th . CK saw a late Forster's Tern at Swan Harbor on Dec 27th . Jl counted 7 Black terns at Conowingo Lake on Sep 6th . MJ saw one the same day at the Woodley Rd Pond in Perryman. Jl also saw a juvenile at Swan Harbor on Oct 18th .

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Vireos, Ravens, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrushes

BH saw 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers at Swan Harbor on Nov 19th . Others saw one through Dec 1st . JM and MJ saw a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Perryman on Sep 17th . JM also saw one at Susquehanna State Park on Oct 9th . He saw a Least Flycatcher at Perryman Park on Oct 5th . MH found a Philadelphia Vireo in Forest Hill on Sep 25th . BP saw one at Sweet Air the same day. JM also saw one at Steppingstone on Sep 28th . DB heard a Common Raven several times near her Street home on Jan 1st . SH saw one harassing a Bald Eagle in Fallston on Jan 20th . JM found 2 Black-capped Chickadees at Mullins Park on Nov 20th . He also saw 2 there on Jan 25th and one at Friends Park on Nov 25th . SM saw one in Jarrettsville on Dec 27th . DB's nephew saw 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches at her Street home on Oct 30th and 4 on Oct 31st . He also saw a Hermit Thrush there on Oct 31st . MJ saw a Marsh Wren on Rumsey Island on Jan 8th.

Con't p. 9

Harford Birdlife, continued

Warblers

JM found a hybrid Lawrence's Warbler in Perryman on Sep 4th. We had many reports of Orange-crowned Warblers this season, including one in Sweet Air seen by Brad Phoebus on Oct 9 h , one at Perryman Park seen on Oct 18th by JI and seen there by others through Nov 1st , and another sighted in Perryman on Jan 30th by AJ. MJ saw a Yellow-throated Warbler in Susquehanna State Park on Sep 15th . MA saw one at Eden Mill on Sep 15th . DK had a Pine Warbler at his feeder at Newark Farm from Dec 28th through Jan 25th . JR also saw one on APG North on Jan 2nd . TH saw a late Palm Warbler at the Woodley Rd Pond in Perryman on Dec 19th . He had a Prothonotary Warbler at Susquehanna State Park on Sep 7th . JM saw one in Perryman on Sep 10th and Oct 8th . BP saw a Connecticut Warbler at Sweet Air on Sep 5th and again on Oct 9th . JI saw 2 at Swan Harbor on Sep 15 th . He saw one there on Sep 20th . BP also saw an adult male Mourning Warbler at Sweet Air on Sep 25th . MJ reported a Wilson's Warbler at Susquehanna State Park on Nov 13th .

Sparrows, Blackbirds, Orioles, Finches

MJ found a Clay-colored Sparrow at Perryman Park on Oct 6th . TH saw 2 there on Oct 10th . He also saw one at the Woodley Road Pond in Perryman on Oct 24th , Nov 2nd , and Nov 9th . MJ saw a Grasshopper Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Sep 19th . He also saw one the Woodley Road Pond on Oct 8th and 6 there on Oct 15th . CK found a Lincoln's Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Dec 27th . PG had a leucistic Dark-eyed Junco in Churchville on Jan 20 th and 21 st . DK found a Lapland Longspur with a group of Savannah Sparrows and Horned Larks near Harford Creamery Road on Jan 10th . BT saw a Dickcissel at Perryman Park on Oct 9th . BP saw one at the Woodley Road Pond on Nov 1st. DK counted 9 Eastern Meadowlarks on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Dec 29th . He some them there through Jan 6th . DZ saw a Yellow-headed Blackbird at his Joppatowne home on Jan 22nd . He last saw one there in 2016. DWN had a Baltimore Oriole at her feeder daily from Dec 25th through late January. DL saw a Purple Finch at Harford Glen on Sep 10th. He had 3 there on Sep 24 h. BF saw an Evening Grosbeak in Magnolia on Nov 3rd .

Contributors: AJ- Austin Jennings, BF- Brian Franks, BH- Beth Hamilton, BP- Brad Phoebus, BT- Braeden Travers, CK- Colin Krug, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- David Littlepage, DWM- Deborah Wilson-Matusky, DZ- Dave Ziolkowski, JI- Jonathan Irons, JM- John Manger, JR- John Rinker, JS- Joe Schell, KE- Kelly Ernstberger, MA- Matt Addicks, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson, NF- Neville Fernandes, OP- Oliver Patrick, PG- Paul Gardner, RM- Rachel McKay, SH- Susan Hood, SM- Scott McDaniel, TH- Tim Houghton



We are looking for volunteers in these important roles: Field Trip Committee Chair, May Count Chair, and Youth Coordinator. For more information or to discuss contributing to HBC in this valuable way, [contact Joe Stevens](mailto:joe.stevens@harfordbirdclub.org). Please consider volunteering!

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

February 25 (Sat.) Swan Harbor Farm Park — Swan Harbor is a preserved area near the Upper Bay and provides prime habitat for waterfowl, song birds, and marsh and field birds. This Harford County gem has a commanding view of the bay and three impoundments, wooded trails and open fields to explore. The farm, with its varied habitat, has developed into a fine location for a broad spectrum of birdlife including marsh specialties, raptors and sparrows. The leader is experienced birder, Dr. Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com). Meet at **8:00 AM** at the parking lot at the Agricultural Education Center at the end of the driveway.

February 22 (Thurs.) Timberdoodle Hunt — The Woodcock is 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. Leader is Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net). **5:30 PM**

March 11 (Sat.) Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge — Watch waterfowl with long-time birder, Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com ; 443-417-7219) at this accessible waterside park. Meet at **7:30 AM** at the Park-N-Ride at Rt. I-95 and Rt. 155. Targets include Snow Geese, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Brown-header Nuthatch.

March 25 (Sat.) Lapidum Boat Launch, Susquehanna State Park — Join us for a morning scan of the river in search of lingering winter visitors, early spring arrivals and resident species. Little Gull and Black-headed Gulls are possible. Leader is Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com). Meet at the Lapidum boat launch at **8:00AM**

April 22 (Sat.) Warblers and Wildflowers at Susquehanna State Park — Enjoy discovering the beauty of colorful spring wildflowers and the gorgeous spring plumage of migrant and resident bird species. Leaders are Colleen Webster (410- 459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu), Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com ; 443-417-7219), and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Meet at **8:00 AM** at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill.

April 29 (Sat.) Susquehanna State Park — The second of three trips to focus on warblers in one of the best migration spots in the county. Join Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com) walking the trails at this historic location. Targets are Yellow-throated Warblers, Baltimore Oriole, and Louisiana Waterthrushes. Meet at the parking area at Rock Run Mill at **7:00 AM.**

May 6 (Sat.) Warbler walk at Susquehanna State Park — Meet at the parking area at Rock Run Mill at **7:00AM.** Take a stroll through the park in search of spring migrants, especially the beautiful but, difficult to find and ID 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 (410-510-7504; timhoughton@comcast.net).

May 13 (Sat.) Harford Glen — We will begin this tour with sightings from the parking lot, then proceed to the triple riparian habitat of the Atiskisson Reservoir, the faster flowing Winters Run and the Plumtree Run tributary. The woodland trails and the open meadows offer great opportunities for good birding. Join expert birder Lynn Feryus (443-910-5570 [lfery@verizon.net]) who will be leading our trip. Meet at the Harford Glen parking lot at **7:30 AM.**

May 20 (Sat.) Eden Mill — Join expert birder, Matt Addicks while walking the trails along Deer Creek. Expect to see warblers, breeders, and some of the raptors that breed in the surrounding area. Contact leader Matthew Addicks (maddicks@harfordcountymd.gov) for questions. Meet at the Nature Center at **7:30 AM.**

Harford Bird Club Field Trips, continued

May 29 (Mon.) Hidden Valley (and surrounding areas) — Meet at **7:00 AM** in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Road where it crosses Deer Creek. Parking space is limited. The trip will proceed along the aptly named Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream running through a beautiful stand of the now rare mature hemlocks. From there the walk will proceed to the Bradenbaugh Flats, with stops along the way at any other sites with potential. Leader is Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com).

June 3 (Sat.) Fair Hill, Cecil County — With over 5,600 acres of forests, fields and wetlands, Fair Hill NRMA offers spectacular scenery and some of the best birding in Cecil County. We will explore Fair Hill's diverse habitats for a variety of breeding species including its crown jewel, the Bobolink. This grassland species migrates over 4,000 miles every spring to breed in hayfields specifically managed to support the Bobolinks' nesting cycle. Other likely species are Eastern Meadowlark, Veery, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Yellow-breasted Chat. In the interest of safety and to ensure we see target species during their peak activity, this trip starts early. Carpoolers can meet at **5:55 AM** at Darlington Park (4549 Conowingo Rd.) or individual drivers can meet at 6:30AM at Parking Lot #3 (2941 Appleton Rd.). Bring small bills to pay parking fee (\$3/vehicle MD residents; \$5 out-of-state). Also bring water, snacks, repellent, sunscreen and hiking boots if it has rained recently. This is an all-morning trip, although heat might cause us to stop early. Trip leader is Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net).

June 10 (Sat.) Atlas Block Buster — 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 for the event to be announced later. Check the website calendar two-week before or with Harford County directors for the Atlas Project: Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905/newarkfarms@gmail.com) and Matt Hafner (410-971-3203/hafner.Matt@gmail.com).

June 17 (Sat.) Perryville Paddle at Perryville Community Park — Bring your kayak, canoe or stand-up to ply the usually serene waters in the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bay in search of swimmers, divers, and of course, fliers. Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead; songbirds and woodland birds frequent the shoreline; and waterfowl and heron are common sightings as well. Meet at **8:00AM** at the Stump Point launch at the far end of the Perryville Community Park. Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com).

****[Review Harford Bird Club Field Trip Policies](#)****



Rock Run Christmas Bird Count 2022

Mark S. Johnson, RRCBC Coordinator

The Rock Run Christmas Bird Count was on Saturday, December 31st. Briefly, it was the worst count in decades. The weather contributed to the poor results as temperatures were in the low 40s most of the day (colder near the river) but all areas were in a constant fog accompanied by light rain, particularly in the afternoon making visual observations extremely difficult. This was particularly frustrating when the weather was near perfect the days before and after. Relatively few waterfowl were observed, although their presence was sometimes heard through calls and gunshot from nearby hunters. Positive results for COVID kept two sectors from being covered and we had other sectors open as well. Nothing was found that was particularly out of the ordinary, except for a winter Wood Thrush found in the field adjacent to Steppingstone on Quaker Bottom Road and a Pine Warbler at a feeder near Palmer State Park. Still, thanks to the skills of our volunteers we were able to tally 87 species.

Thirty-eight observers logged over 98 hours and found over 9,800 individuals (52,000 individuals last year). Counters logged 41.5 miles on foot and over 199 miles in the car. More than 16 hours were spent nocturnal birding and more than 30 hours were spent stationary (e.g., at feeders or the dam). The level of effort this year and last was similar.

A big thank you to all who gave their time and effort and persevered. I encourage others who are interested to please consider getting involved this year (when the weather has got to be better!).

Summaries:

Sector 1 (Oakwood) Ken Drier canvassed Oakwood area and found 29 species including Swamp Sparrows, six out of seven woodpecker species and a Winter Wren.

Sector 2 (Rowlandville) Newcomers Patrick and Selona Baker counted their home sector and found 21 species including Ruby-crowned Kinglet and 27 Mallards.

Sector 3 (Colora) Tom Congersky, Rupert and Cynthia Rossetti, and Nancy Congersky covered his home base and found 28 species. Highlights included high count for American Robin (70), Ringed-neck Duck and the only Red-breasted Nuthatch for the Count.

Sector 4 (Bainbridge) – Not covered

Sector 5 (Perry Point) Tom Trafton, John Hughes, Derek McGuirk, Alex Brewer – This seasoned team was also frustrated by the fog, yet found 46 species including Yellow-rumped Warbler, Brown Creeper, and Tundra Swan.

Sector 6 (Swan Creek) David Ziolkowski – Davey rang the bell again finding 59 species in difficult conditions. Highlights included Rusty Blackbird, both kinglets, and all three mimic thrushes.

Sector 7 (Harve de Grace) Dave Larkin, Phil Powers, Jane Socca, Jeremy Rehm – The Harford Glen Banders found 44 species (higher than last year!). Highlights included a Common Goldeneye, both kinglets and a House Wren.

Sector 8 (Aldino) - Not covered.

Sector 9 (Susky St. Park) Mark Johnson, Suzanne Procell, John Paul, Lizanne Smith, Craig and Deanna Harkins – The team was scraping to get by (36 species). They found Winter Wren, Fox and Field Sparrows, and the only Wood Thrush for the count.

Sector 10 (Rolling Green) David Webb, Jean Wheeler, Jack Fuller, Braeden Travers, Joe & Melody Stevens, and Karen Kennedy (three parties) covered the Rolling Green sector and 42 species. Highlights included Barred Owl, Purple Finch, Wilson' Snipe and Killdeer (the only one for the count).

Con't p. 13

Rock Run Christmas Bird Count 2022, continued

Sector 11a (Deer Creek) - Not covered; though Joel Donnelly who lives in this sector watched his feeder and turned up six species including the only Pine Warbler for the count.

Sector 11b (Darlington) – Not covered.

Sector 12 (Dublin/Berkley) - Not covered.

Sector 13 (Conowingo) Gene Scarpulla and Marcia Watson braved the cold fog and found Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull and Golden-crowned Kinglet (22 species).

Sector 14 (River flats) The boat crew included Dennis Kirkwood, Diane Jones, Nancy Ann Sayer, Nancy Ann Sayers, and John Canoles where they navigated the fog around the flats (40 species). They found American Coot, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-crowned Night-Heron (and somehow a Brown Creeper) from the boat.

Sector 15 (Swan Harbor) Matt Addicks found 37 species at Swan Harbor to include Buffleheads, a Cooper's Hawk, and our only Savanna and Tree Sparrows.

[To access bird counts, click here>>](#)

Maryland Girl Scout Self-Publishes Local Bird Guide

Maryland Bird Guide, by Xaviana Leis

Xaviana Leis wrote and illustrated her own bird book, an extension to her Girl Scout Bronze Award Project! The hardcover bird book has over 50 watercolor illustrations and bird facts. Profits go to Owl Moon Raptor Center, a wildlife rehabilitation center in Boyds, MD that specializes in birds of prey.

If you are interested, and are willing to pick up the book from the Edgewater, MD area, [you can order directly](#).

Doing so allows a larger donation to be made to the center!

Otherwise, purchases can also be made [through Amazon](#).



HBC Member Sightings & Sharings



Upper Left: Red-tailed Hawk, 1/22/23 Stephanie DiForte Schuh

Upper Right: Eastern Bluebird, 1/13/23, Frank Marsden III

Mid Left: Carolina Wren, 1/20/23, Vitek Photography

Mid Center: Red-shouldered hawk, 1/7/23, Kathy Shirk

Upper Mid Right: Kingfisher, 1/9/23, Kimberly Oliver

Lower Mid Right: Sandhill Cranes, 12/19/22, Marc Butt

Bottom Left: Red Bellied Woodpecker, 12/23/22, Marc Butt

Bottom Right: Tundra Swans, 2/8/23, Kimberly Oliver

****These photos have been shared with the group
by posting on the HBC Facebook Page****

Field Trip Reports

Swan Harbor—December 10, 2022

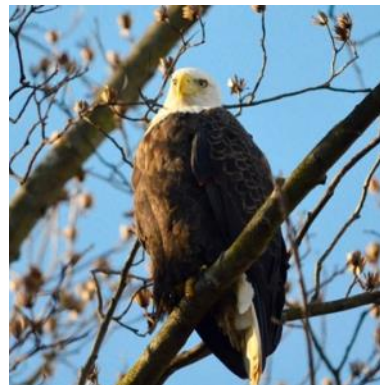
Mark S. Johnson

Ten individuals came out to Swan Harbor farm on a cool, clear morning. Temperatures began at 27 degrees and warmed up to low 40s with light winds. We began looking at water fowl and found a few Cackling Geese with the Canadas on the water. Mallards, Bufflehead, Ruddy Ducks, and a couple female Hooded Mergansers were found. Along the shore we found Belted Kingfisher and Great Blue Herons. More than six Pied-billed Grebes were also seen. The brush at the entrance of the pier erupted with many passerine species to include both kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Song and White-throated Sparrows. Nuthatches, titmouse, chickadees were also in the flock. Hikes around the impoundments turned up Green-winged Teal, goldfinches, Swamp and Savanna Sparrows. Round the loop trail we found towhees, Winter Wren, and numerous woodpeckers. Raptors included Bald Eagles, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks. A total of 48 species were observed.

New Year's Day Trip at Newark Farms and the Little Deer Creek Valley — January 1, 2023

Dennis Kirkwood, Ed.D

The New Year began with beautiful sunny and warm weather for the Club's annual tradition of starting the next year with fellowship and finding cool birds. Fifteen participants, including guests from the Baltimore Bird Club and new members and members-to-be of the Harford Bird Club. Beginning at the leader's house, we found Hermit Thrush, American Robin, and Eastern Bluebird all taking advantage of the abundant holly berries in the yard. Huge flocks of mixed blackbirds moved overhead. We moved to the Bradenbaugh Flats and were treated to great looks at a small flock of Horned Larks. A flock of about 60 Ring-billed Gulls flew over and mixed in were 4 Herring Gulls that stood out with their larger size. Moving next to Turney's pond, we found several Cackling Geese among 500 Canada Geese. On the pond itself were a pair of beautiful Hooded Mergansers, one female Bufflehead, and a Great Blue Heron. We walked to the wetlands on Newark Farms and found 3 sparrow species and a small flock of very cooperative Cedar Waxwings. After checking several Wood Duck boxes, we located a red morph Eastern Screech Owl who reluctantly posed for pictures. Our final stop was at the large pond on Little Deer Creek where 2 Killdeer and 2 Least Sandpipers were a surprise. This was the first winter sighting of the Least Sandpiper for NW Harford County. Everyone's year list got off to a good start with 44 species total for the morning. Obviously a good omen for a fantastic birding 2023!



***American Bald Eagle, November 26, 2022
Susquehanna Valley, Photographer: Tom Gibson***

Antarctica Trip Report

Jean Wheeler



Dennis Kirkwood and I waited four long years for our “trip of a lifetime” to Antarctica! The Pandemic messed up a lot of things and this was one! But in the end it was so well worth the wait!. I arrived in Ushuaia, Argentina on Tierra del Fuego for a two-day pre trip searching for Magellanic specialties like Magellanic Woodpecker. Dennis arrived the night before we embarked on the *Ocean Diamond*, a Quark vessel. Originally conceived as an ABA trip, by sailing time we were led by Rockjumper with many guides including mine Alvaro Jaramillo and Ricardo Matus along with George Armistead and Peter Kaestner (9700 + birds and counting). The 20-day cruise was a fantastic pelagic trip. Guides were on deck spotting pelagic birds from 5 AM. The ship was surrounded by many species of albatross, petrel, prion, skua, giant petrel. Sailing eastward to the Falklands, our first zodiac landings were on Carcass and Westpoint Island where we encountered passerines like pipit, long-tailed meadowlark, Cobb’s Wren and Blackish Cinclodes. Magellanic penguins were seen and the Black-browed Albatross and Rock-hopper Penguin colony was a highlight.

South Georgia Island is a jewel in the middle of the Southern Ocean. Craggy ice and snow-clad peaks reach 9000ft. Elephant and fur seals litter the beaches as handsome King Penguins make their way around and through the bodies to come ashore or jump back into the sea. At Elsehul rough seas prevented a landing, so we viewed the Macaroni Penguin colony from the zodiac. We made four zodiac landings including three to huge King Penguin colonies of 150,000 to 300,000! In Grytviken, a former whaling and sealing station, we toasted Sir Ernest Shackleton who is buried there. After our final landing at Gold Harbour, the most picturesque of the King Penguin colonies, we set sail for Antarctica.

As we passed S. Georgia, there were thousands of seabirds especially Antarctic Prions. Guides estimated the massive number of birds to be millions! During our 2nd day sailing south we encountered the iceberg A-76-A which at the time was estimated to be 170 km by 25 km and nine stories high! It is a remnant of the Ronne ice shelf that broke off Antarctica in 2021. It took five hours to sail past!



Cont p.13

Antarctica Trip Report, continued

On the 3rd day at sea we crossed the Antarctic Sound into the Weddell Sea and headed to Snow Hill Island at latitude 64.4 degrees. The ship sailed slowly through a narrow path full of brash ice with dazzling icebergs on either side. Craggy and ice clad mountains peaked above the bergs. We were on the hunt for the Emperor! The excitement was palpable! Almost everyone was on deck checking out bergs for resting wildlife. A few Adelie were sighted, but finally the cry went up "There! There! it's the Emperor!" What an exhilarating moment - hoped for, but not guaranteed. Passengers were whooping and hollering, hugging and giving high-5's! Two were on an ice sheet close to the ship. They waddled, they tobogganed, they were visible! Just then a pair of Antarctic Petrel flew over the ship, another hoped for rarity. We were not far from Snow Hill.



The Captain sailed cautiously back through the ice and the next day we landed on Paulet Island to enjoy a large Adelie Penguin colony. Then we crossed the sound and visited Cuverville Island for Gentoo Penguins and Half Moon Island for Chinstrap Penguins. Deception Island was a miss because of a storm and high winds. We then sailed through the infamous Drake Passage in a "shake" for 21 1/2 days. It was my second time to Antarctica and this trip was even more thrilling than the first. Dennis reports he "had 72 species with 50 lifers and seeing 8 out of 8 penguins was a highlight." Not wanting to sit around in the airport in Ushuaia he found a local guide to "take me around Tierra del Fuego National Park on the last day before flying home and I found another 11 lifers including the Magellanic Woodpecker."

Dinner Meeting — Save the Date!



Friday, March 3, 2023 at 6:15 pm

We will provide a delicious dinner prepared by the church staff.

Annual awards will be presented to members and individuals who have contributed a great deal to our club and the birding community over the last year.

Join us to honor them!

The Harford Bird Club Dinner Reservation Form

To RSVP: please cut, complete, and return with payment **by February 23rd.**

Please make checks payable to Harford County MOS

Mail to: Johanne Henrickson, 128 W. Ring Factory Road. Apt. 1120, Bel Air, MD 21014

To contact: johen24@gmail.com, 410-657-3914

_____ Number of adults (\$15.00 each) _____ Number of children 16 and under (\$7.00)

Print name (s) as you would like on your name tag(s)

March Meeting Speakers

Adventure Birding: New Zealand

Presenters: Mark Johnson and Sue Procell



MARK S. JOHNSON is the Director of Toxicology at the U.S. Defense Centers for Public Health – Aberdeen, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. He received his B.S. in Biology from Towson University, his M.Sc. in Entomology and Applied Ecology from the University of Delaware, and Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology at the Virginia-Maryland School of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. At Delaware, his research investigated the effects of habitat and age on the breeding ecology of Wood Thrushes in a forest fragment. His Ph.D research at the Virginia-Maryland School of Veterinary Medicine focused on the development of species of mole salamanders (*Ambystoma ssp.*) as a model to investigate toxicity and exposure to xenobiotics in soil. His past research included an evaluation of the toxicity of military unique compounds to wildlife species and development and evaluation of sensitive indi-

cators of stress (e.g., immunotoxicity) for use in field applications and toxicity testing for some terrestrial wildlife species. Other work has included the development of a process to derive toxicity reference values for wildlife and application of spatially-explicit exposure models for risk assessment applications. Dr. Johnson has operated a migratory bird monitoring banding station at Eden Mill Nature Center since 2000 and has assisted the USGS in banding activities in Belize and Guatemala.

Dr. Johnson is a past president of the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Associate Editor of Maryland Birdlife. He is also chair of the Tri-Service Toxicology Consortium and past president of the American Board of Toxicology. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America, on the USEPA Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals, and on multiple NATO Science Technology Organization groups.

SUE PROCELL, a supervisory chemist, manages the Chemical Agent Standard Analytical Reference Material (CASARM) Program for the U.S. Army DEVCOM Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), MD. As a working mom, she earned an Associate of Arts degree in Laboratory Science Technology in 1987 from Harford Community College, then a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry in 1999 from Towson University. Her certifications include lead auditor to ISO 9001, ISO 17025, and LSS Black Belt. She is a member of the Army's Acquisition Corp., the Chemical Corp. Regimental Assn. Order of the Dragon, and the American Chemical Society.

Mrs. Procell is also the founder and coordinator of the Kids & Chemistry program at APG which she formed in 2000 with a handful of volunteers, a simple plan, and a nonexistent budget. Over the years, the program has been recognized for its quality hands-on approach to promoting science education at the primary grade level in schools, libraries, and local nature centers in Harford County, Maryland.

Sue became an avid birder after participating in a bird count on APG in 1992. She was Dr. Mark Johnson's first volunteer when he began banding migratory birds in Harford County, MD. She is an active member of the Maryland Ornithological Society and the Harford Bird Club (HBC). She and her husband, Larry, enjoy traveling the world with friends they have met through HBC, seeing and learning about birds on other continents.

An active Christian, Sue continues to strive to balance her work and volunteer time with her greatest treasure – her family. An Army brat, Marine Corps mom, mother of three and grandmother of eight, she is looking forward to retirement and more time to visit family and friends, and to explore nature's treasures.





HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to join or renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, please print this page and mail the completed form along with a check to:

Eric Vangrin
1100 Barkley Place
Bel Air, MD. 21014

Membership Year - September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023

- () 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.