



Wrenderings

The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club



Volume 42 Number 9

June 2021

President's Perch

Finally spring is in the air and we have another natural wonder to observe. The seventeen-year cicada emergence has been spectacular at my house and it simply has been amazing. The sound of the males is deafening from the forest and I am confident that birds have more than they need to eat and provision their young. It is truly a period of renewal. The two field trips I have had the pleasure to lead were the two worst days I have had this spring birding; however, many other days were stellar. Maybe the emergence of this plentiful food source will help many birds be more productive this year at raising young leading to a better spring next year.

Experience the Morning Chorus

Recently, a colleague reminded me of the natural wonder known as the morning chorus. Initially I thought, "hey, I sleep with the windows open so I experience it often", but was reminded it is not the same. "You got to get up and position yourself in nature to get the real experience," he noted. So one morning we set our alarm for 0445 and rather than go into the woods, we settled for our chairs on the deck. Simply it was amazing! The sound of nearly all breeding birds in the area vocalizing was nothing short of incredible! Typically, it is only the males that sing and they stop singing once they have mates and are in the throes of breeding, EXCEPT just before dawn where they exert their presence to reaffirm their territories. It was nearly deafening, but it does not last long – about 10 minutes. I wondered what it was like 10,000 years ago or in North America before European settlers. If you have not done so, please consider setting your alarm clock and experiencing this phenomena. Do it soon since in a few weeks many species will be finished breeding and hence, stop singing. The morning chorus is something everyone who appreciate nature should experience.

This ends my term as president with this newsletter and I will hand off the office to our capable former vice president, Joe Stephens. I want to thank all on the Executive Committee for all of their help and support during this challenging time. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our summer get-together. Have a wonderful year!

~Mark Johnson, President

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| President's Perch | 1 |
| Book Review- 'Nature's Best Hope' by Doug Tallamy | 3 |
| Birding Podcasts | 4 |
| Education News | 5 |
| Harford Bird Life | 6 |
| Field Trip Reports | 7-8 |
| NEW! COVID 19- Field Trip Procedures | 8 |
| Upcoming Field Trips | 9-12 |
| Upcoming Field Trips | 11-12 |
| July 16th Outdoor Gathering | 12 |
| Membership Form | 13 |



Plan Ahead!

- July 16 is an in-person outdoor 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.

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!

Kelly May– Fallston, Maryland
Danette Moss & George Barnett– Bel Air, Maryland
Oliver Santos- Forest Hill, Maryland
Mary Renoll- Abindgon, Maryland



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.



Harford Bird Club Executive Board

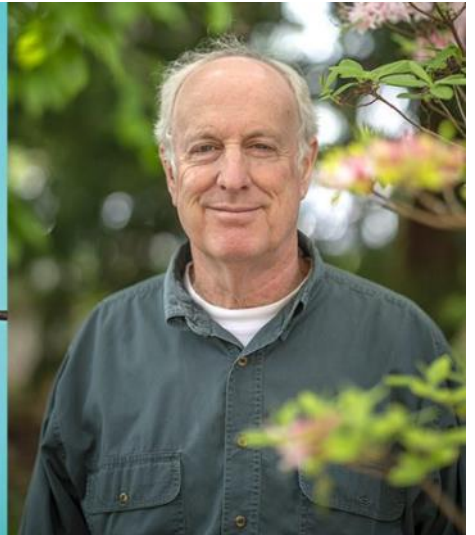
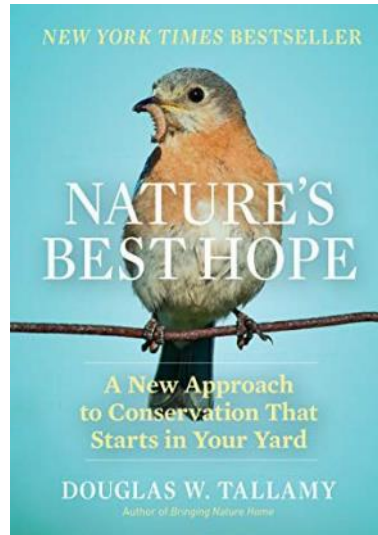
| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--|
| President | Mark Johnson | 410-692-5978 | MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Joe Stevens | 410-734-7198 | josephstevens@comcast.net |
| Recording Secretary | Jane Scocca | 410-272-8870 | jane@scocca.org |
| Treasurer | Eric Vangrin | 443-417-7219 | evangrin@msn.com |
| Past President | Deborah Stewart | 410-879-2364 | debstewart1307@gmail.com |
| Field Trip Chairperson | Tom Gibson | 410-734-4135 | gibsonl1d@aol.com |
| May Count Coordinator | Vacant | | |
| Rock Run Count Coordinator | Mark Johnson | 410-692-5978 | MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com |
| Dinner Reservations | Johanne Henrickson | 410-836-8889 | johen24@gmail.com |
| Public Relations | Deborah Stewart | 410-879-2364 | debstewart1307@gmail.com |
| Education Chairperson | Mary Murray | 410-812-6621 | murraymary@gmail.com |
| Conservation Chair | Deborah Bowers | 410-692-2708 | bowerspub@hotmail.com |
| Youth Coordinator | Rachel Ortt | 443-299-8384 | hebert.rachel2@gmail.com |
| 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 | Amanda Subolefsky | 443-528-4306 | AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com |

Want to Raise More Birds?

By Lynn Ferys

I highly recommend the book “Nature’s Best Hope, A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard” by Douglas W. Tallamy (2019). It has many suggestions to make a yard habitat friendly for insects and the birds that feed on them, think beyond seed feeders and grow more living bird food. No yard is too small to have an effect and even container plantings can help, however, a little less lawn has a lot of impact.

Doug Tallamy is an entomologist at the University of Delaware and has experience rehabbing the 10 acres around his house in Pennsylvania so his information is appropriate for Harford county. Even though Doug is a bug guy he cares about the connection of native plants and insects to birds. He and his grad students have done detailed studies on why you need caterpillars and a lot of them to feed yard birds. A chickadee was calculated to need 6,240 to 9,120 caterpillars to raise a clutch, not counting many more the parents need to find for the chicks post fledging. Reducing invasive species and concentrating on native plant selections when buying your next tree, shrub or perennial will grow much more bird food.



There are free [videos](#) that Doug has done for nature and gardening clubs based on his research. The videos can be found on YouTube at the hyperlink in the previous sentence.

Tallamy’s other books include, “Bringing Nature Home, How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens” (2007) which is more detailed on insects and their plant relations. I haven’t read his newest book released this March, “The Nature of Oaks.” He has always said if you can only plant one tree, chose an oak. Oaks are a keystone group as they can host over 500 caterpillar species and thus sustain many birds. There is a new specific oak video on YouTube available.

Doug has also started a website <https://homegrownnationalpark.org> with the goal of “Catalyzing a collective effort of individual homeowners, property owners, land managers, farmers, and anyone with some soil to plant in...to start a new habitat by planting native plants and removing most invasive plants.”

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](#).

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

Birding Podcasts

By Joe Stevens

As birders we are always trying to increase our knowledge about our feathered friends and the birding community in general. Besides the traditional methods of reviewing field guides, browsing through magazines and books, and going on field trips, I recently came upon a method that is new to me. Listening to bird podcasts.

The dictionary definition of a podcast is: “a digital audio file made available on the internet for downloading to a computer or any other mobile device.” Simply put, it is a radio show you can listen to at your convenience. The term podcast is a made up word from the blending of the words iPod and broadcast. On my iPhone I downloaded the podcast app and have been using it recently. For Android phones and tablets there are similar options. I also listened to a few on Alexa.

The podcasts cover a wide range of topics that deal with information about birding, travel, etc. The frequency varies from daily, to weekly, and monthly. The time also varies from several minutes to thirty plus minutes. A quick google search will reveal quite a number of podcasts. Listed below are several of the prominent ones that have been highly favored. Click on the blue hyperlink to take you directly to the podcast.



[Birdnote](#): Daily, short (about 2 minutes) that deal with individual species or family of birds. I found the vignette [“How Hummingbirds get Their Sweet Tooth”](#) very interesting.

[American Birding Podcast](#): Weekly, about 35 minutes. Hosted by Nate Swick. Usually has guests that gives reviews on new books or research. They talk about rare birds and also birding travel.



Episode 92: An Interview with Scott Weidensaul

POSTED ON FRI, 14 MAY 2021 | EPISODE DURATION: 59 MINUTES, 56 SECONDS



[Out There with the Birds](#): Sponsored by Bird Watchers Digest. Bi-monthly, approximately 35 minutes. New episodes hosted by Dawn Hewit and Wendy Clark. Usually light-hearted and humorous dealing with wild birds in a conservational tone. A recent episode was an interview with Scott Weidensaul.

[Ray Brown's Talkin Birds](#): Weekly, 30 minutes. Interactive radio show about attracting wild birds to your backyard feeder and learning about them. Features a mystery contest based on clues and calls of a particular species.



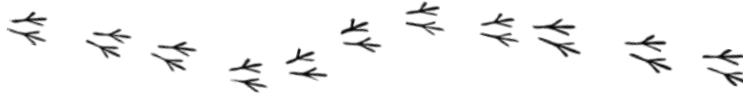
[Laura Erickson's For the Birds](#): Daily, 5 minutes. Began in 1986 and is the longest continual radio show dealing with birds in the U.S.

Explore a few and see if this might be another enjoyable way to add to your birding knowledge.

EDUCATION NEWS

Virtual Bird Is The Word! Harford Bird Club has provided several virtual educational presentations over the past few months.

In February, Mary Murray presented "Birdscaping Your School" to the Bel Air Middle School Eco Club, Panthers for the Planet. The club learned ways to make their school into a bird friendly habitat by supplying food, water, shelter, and space. The importance of planting native plants for insects, creating a water feature, setting up bird feeders, and choosing the correct type of nest boxes were all discussed. Subsequently, these students won first place in the "Caring For Our Watersheds" competition for the Chesapeake Bay region, which spanned across four states and involved high school and middle school proposals from hundreds of teams. They proposed a four-step action plan called "Turbidity Terminators" which included the establishment of a bird-scaped low mow zone. Congratulations, Panthers! Thanks for putting into action the information you learned!



Dear Mary,
Thank you so very
much for your
enthusiasm and
kindness in
giving such a
wonderful bird-
watching presentation
to the 4th and 5th
grade children in
Jack & Jill. Both the
adults and kids
learned so much
during your time
with us and we are
eternally grateful.
Warmly, Bethany

Dear Mrs. Murray
Thank you so much for
the awesome bird lesson
now I know about
birds! Also thank you
for the packet
you sent us I loved
it!
Thank you so so
soo much!!!
Love Julie
↓ ↓

In April, the Jack and Jill Club of Baltimore was treated to a Zoom presentation "Feathered Friends in Your Yard." The children learn the importance of creating a bird-friendly habitat that includes appropriate plants, bird feeders, and nest boxes. They also learned what to do if they find a baby bird in their yard. These children were very inquisitive and asked excellent questions! A special HBC bird "goodie bag" for each child was delivered to and distributed by their leader. It included an activity book, sticker, magnet, bird list, and bookmark. The Jack and Jill Club made a generous donation to Harford Bird Club to support our programs. Thank you!



Ms. Murray,
Thank you for
making time to present to our
4th-5th graders at Jack & Jill-Balt.
It was lively, engaging &
fulfilling because of you!
We all benefited from your
breadth of knowledge + depth
of expertise and your endless
passion for birds.
With much gratitude,
Lisa & Logan Armstrong
Co-hosts 4th-5th grade group

4/22/21
Dear Ms. Murray,
Thank you for sharing your love
of birds at the Jack and Jill event
on April 18, 2021. I learned a lot about
birds. The program inspired me to protect,
help, and observe birds.
Sincerely,
Alyssa

Mrs. Carderella's First Grade at Hampden Elementary School in Baltimore City was treated to a special virtual program of "Beaks and Feet" to support their science unit on birds. Students learned a big new science word: Morphology. They discovered how to tell a seed eater, an insect eater, and a meat eater from the size and shape of the beak. They also learned how birds' feet have special adaptations that allow them to perch, swim, and climb trees. They were so excited about this new information that one little girl "took notes" during the presentation by drawing pictures of all the different kinds of beaks and feet! Although we looked at lots of bird pictures during the presentation, everyone hoped that we'd soon be able to meet for a real bird walk to check out those beaks and feet on birds in their neighborhood.

Word of our binocular loan program is spreading. Our binocular set spent the weekend of May 21-23 at Broad Creek Memorial Scout reservation where Marty Brazeau of the Baltimore Bird Club led a Scout Naturalist event. The scouts had a wonderful birding experience using the fine quality binoculars that the Harford Bird Club supplied. Remember, the binoculars are always available to HBC field trip leaders for loan to trip participants, too!





Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

I'm writing this in the middle of the 2021 Brood X cicada emergence. Dodging these insects adds a challenge to our birding adventures, but their presence in huge numbers might bring in some unusual bird visitors. Let's hope we get to see some of them. This report covers the period from April 1st through May 31st, 2021.

Swans, Pelicans, Wading Birds, Raptors, Rails, Cranes

JR saw 2 Mute Swans in Joppa on Apr 8th. He also saw 2 on APG South on Apr 27th. MJ saw 2 Trumpeter Swans at Swan Harbor on Apr 4th. He also saw 2 at the Home Depot pond in Edgewood. He has seen no evidence of any breeding activity with these continuing birds. MJ also reported an American White Pelican on the river opposite Susquehanna State Park on Apr 19th. This bird was seen by several others through Apr 23rd. BH saw a Snowy Egret and a Glossy Ibis at the Home Depot pond on Apr 17th. They were there on Apr 18th too. JM saw 3 Glossy Ibis at Swan Harbor on May 3rd.

AJ reported a Mississippi Kite flying near the Chapel Road Park in Havre de Grace, on May 26th. Others reported 2 there on May 27th and 3 on May 30th. FS also saw one in Havre de Grace on May 30th. MJ saw the resident Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk hybrid at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 2nd. This bird was seen by others throughout the reporting period. TH saw a female Merlin at Swan Harbor on Apr 12th. He saw a King Rail there on May 26th and a Virginia Rail on Apr 12th. KS found a Sandhill Crane in Perryman on May 30th.

Plovers, Gulls, Cuckoos, Nightjars, Flycatchers, Ravens, Nuthatches

MG saw a Black-bellied Plover at Swan Harbor on May 3rd. Others saw it there through May 5th. BF saw a winter adult Little Gull over the water near Havre de Grace on Apr 3rd. KD saw a Black-headed Gull near Lapidum on Apr 7th. MJ counted 7 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Swan Harbor on Apr 11th. This included 2 adult, 1 first cycle, and 4 second cycle birds. DB saw 2 Cuckoos near her Street home on May 31st. She didn't see the bill color. She also had several Common Nighthawks hunting insects near her home in early May. JR recorded 3 Eastern Whip-poor-wills on APG on May 25th.

DL saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Steppingstone Museum on May 23rd. TH had a Philadelphia Vireo at Susquehanna State Park on May 7th. He also heard a Common Raven at Steppingstone on Apr 5th. MJ saw 2 near the Woodley Road retention pond on Apr 25th. DB had a Red-breasted Nuthatch at her Street home on Apr 4th. JR saw one at Susquehanna State Park on May 9th, while RC had one at his Creswell home on May 14th.

Warblers, Tanagers, Finches

MJ saw a Golden-winged Warbler at Susquehanna State Park on May 9th. TH saw one there the next day. He also saw a Blue-winged, 3 Tennessee, a Prairie, and 2 Bay-breasted Warblers there that day. BS found a Brewster's Warbler at Lapidum on May 7th. TH also had one there that day. TC saw one near the Little Gunpowder Trail on May 15th. AM saw a Blackburnian Warbler in Havre de Grace on May 30th. TH saw at least 12 Cerulean Warblers at Susquehanna State Park on May 7th, along with a Wilson's Warbler. JH found a Mourning Warbler there on May 9th. TH saw one there on May 23rd. DK reported one at the Harford Glen banding station on May 25th.

JR saw 2 Summer Tanagers on APG South on May 4th. RC also reported 2 in Edgewood that same day. Maybe these are the same 2 birds? TH saw a male Purple Finch at Susquehanna State Park on May 4th.

Contributors

AJ- Austin Jennings, AM- Alina Martin, BF- Bernard Foy, BH- Brad Heath, BS- Byron Swift, DB- Deborah Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- David Littlepage, FS- Fred Shaffer, JH- Jacob Hall, JM- John Manger, JR- John Rinker, KD- Kenneth Drier, KS- Kurt Schwarz, MG- Mike Gardner, MJ- Mark Johnson, RC- Rick Cheicante, TH- Tim Houghton

Trip Reports

Warblers & Wildflowers

April 17, 2021

Colleen Webster

So much blooming and singing and water down the river! We were a group of nature lovers out and about near Earth Day loving the Virginia Bluebells, Trillium, Blue Cohosh, and many violets! We found some early Golden Ragwort and loved the Wild Ginger and May Apples. Various species of birds were spotted including Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Mourning Dove, Ring-billed Gull, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black and Turkey Vulture, Louisiana Waterthrush, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Palm Warbler and Common Yellowthroat.



Jerusalem Mill

April 24, 2021

Mark Johnson

We started out on a beautiful spring morning at Gunpowder State Park hoping to see some new migrants. Unfortunately, there were few birds observed. Still, sixteen birdwatchers had a wonderful hike through the forest along the river with an extension down to the covered bridge. Although we seemed to be early for many migrants, we did find 39 species. At the covered bridge, we found singing Louisiana Waterthrush and Northern Parula.

Warbler Walk

May 1, 2021

Tim Houghton

Today's field trip greatly exceeded expectations, given the north wind, early cold, and higher than ideal winds. We got 86 species, including 20 warblers. The max of 14 observers lended their good ears and eyes and had a great time! Simply a ton of fun. We saw, Wood Ducks, Chimney Swifts, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Bonaparte's Gull, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Kentucky Warbler, American Redstart, Cerulean Warbler, 16 Northern Parula, and much more! Our favorite species of the day were the Cerulean, Blackburnian Warbler, Black Throated Green, Worm Eating Warbler, Prothontary Warbler, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Great-crested Flycatcher, Kingbird and White-Eyed Vireo.



Sweet Air

May 9, 2021

Mark Johnson

On a cloudy Sunday Mother's Day morning, fifteen came out to the Sweet Air section of Gunpowder State Park to catch observations of recent migrants. It was cool (around 40°F) when we started out. Eastern Towhees were common and convenient singing from conspicuous perches. Indigo Buntings were also common, but more difficult to see. Although warblers were common there yesterday, the cool, cloudy weather made observations difficult. Still, we found some sightings of Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers. Some had good looks at a singing Common Yellowthroat and Scarlet Tanagers. A Baltimore Oriole was difficult, but was seen by some. A total of 46 species were observed.

Trip Reports-Continued

Hidden Valley & Surrounding Areas

May 31, 2021

Dennis Kirkwood

A beautiful late spring morning greeted 15 participants at the annual Memorial Day bird walk at Hidden Valley in Northwest Harford on May 31. Deer Creek was flowing clear and crisp and the birds were very vocal. We had several first time participants including two guests from Baltimore. A Northern Parula showed very well in the parking lot to start the morning and we later found 2 frequenting what appeared to be a nest. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were hunting over the creek and seemed to enjoy our company, landing for photos very close to the group. Other warblers included Common Yellowthroat, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blackpoll, and American Redstart. Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos played hide and seek but Indigo Buntings and a male Scarlet Tanager were more visible. We proceeded on to the World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats and took a short walk to see a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers attending a nest site. Later we had a family of Horned Larks and a very cooperative Grasshopper Sparrow. We finished the morning at Turney's pond with its colony of Purple Martins and then Newark Farms where we were able to get the resident Virginia Rail to answer our tape but never give us a look. He got within 10 feet of us but stayed hidden in the cattails. A Willow Flycatcher was a nice bonus to end the morning with 60 total species seen/heard.



UPDATED Field Trip Policies

May 25, 2021

by Tom Gibson and approved by the HBC Executive Board

Considering recent CDC recommendations and local jurisdictional changes as well as common practices of other outdoor activities groups, we are making the following modifications to the HBC field trip protocols implemented at the

onset of the pandemic. Our goal is to provide safe, healthful and enjoyable outdoor experiences in a welcoming atmosphere. Participants are asked to keep in mind that trip leaders are free to cancel or change trips and protocols as needed.

- ⇒ There is no cap on the number of participants unless the leader so designates.
- ⇒ Masks are not required for participants who have been vaccinated and reached full immunity. Unvaccinated participants are welcome but asked to wear a mask — honor system.
- ⇒ Carpooling is permitted for those fully vaccinated and those within the same family unit. Because of the confined space, masks are suggested for those unvaccinated. The driver and riders may adjust this according to the needs and comfort levels of all riders.
- ⇒ 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.

→Check [HarfordBirdClub.org](https://www.harfordbirdclub.org) and the [Harford Bird Club Facebook Group](#) (Click on Events) for the most recent trip information. Cancelled trips will be updated no later than the Wednesday before the trip was scheduled to take place, unless it's a weather cancellation.

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



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

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

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.

August 7 (Sat.) — Family Nature Walk at Harford Glen — The Glen is always beautiful and offers diverse habitat in a compact area. Do not miss a chance to see the variety of wildlife species found in this Harford County gem. Our two experienced and knowledgeable leaders, Scott McDaniel of the Susquehannock Wildlife Society and Matt Hafner of the Harford Bird Club, will help you find and learn about the herps, insects, mammals and birds that this exceptional site offers. They will meet you in the parking lot of the Glen at **9:00 AM**. Contact Matt Hafner (410-971-3203; hafner.matt@gmail.com).

August 8 (Sun.) — Movie Night — Join us at the home of Tika and Steve Dannenfelser for what has quickly become one of our most anticipated events. This year because of the pandemic, we are asking all to bring their own chair, food and drink — **no dishes to share. Club members and invited guests only.** Good food, interesting films and videos and a lovely outdoor setting, how can you beat that? Specific details and directions will be released closer to the event. (tikad805@gmail.com).

August 14 (Sat.) — Hummingbird Happy Hour — The ever popular Hummingbird Happy Hour will again be held on the relaxing porches overlooking the beautiful gardens of Diane Jones's lovely country home. Watch hummers and butterflies zip and flit among the feeders and blooms. This year because of the pandemic we are asking all to bring your own food and drink — **no dish sharing**. Don't forget your "bins" and camera. The gathering will start at **5:00 PM**. For additional info and directions contact Diane (410-404-9180; baltobirder55@gmail.com).

August 21 (Sat.) — Paddle around Garrett Island — Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up, etc. to the Jean Roberts Park in Havre de Grace. From there we will circle the island looking for Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagles and any other creatures we may encounter. Meet leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com) **at 8:00 AM**. No rentals available.

September 4 (Sat.) — Annual Club Picnic and Bird Walk — Enjoy a traditional picnic with your fellow club members at the Eden Mill Nature Center pavilion overlooking the beautiful Deer Creek Valley and waterfalls at the mill. This year because of the pandemic, bring your own picnic feast and drink — **no dish sharing**. Contact Tom Congersky for details (410-658-4137; jnitcon@zoominternet.net).

September 6 — (Mon.) Labor Day — Bird Walk on the Ma & Pa Trail — Stroll a portion of this popular trail walking from Annie's Playground towards Tollgate Road. We will search for early migrants and local residents. The diverse habitats along the way promise a good variety of species. Meet at the parking lot near Annie's Playground on Smith Lane off Connolly Road in Fallston at **7:00 AM**. Leader is Susan Hood (410-937-7552; susanjhood@comcast.net).

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

September 19 — (Sun.) Turkey Point Bird Walk — The view from the Turkey Point Peninsula during the southern migration of raptors and other birds is truly spectacular. The Northeast River on the northwest side, the Chesapeake Bay to the south and the Elk River to the east funnel the fall flocks to the peninsula. We should see a variety of species which might include some of the stickier ones such as Bay-breasted, blackpoll, and Cape May. It is prime viewing for birds and a prime view of the headwaters of the Bay. Meet Tim Houghton (410-510-7504; timhoughton@comcast.net) at the Turkey Point parking lot of Elk Neck State Park at **8:00AM**.

September 22 (Wed.) — Falling Branch — Leader and veteran birder, Dennis Kirkwood, will take you for a two mile walk from Eden Mill to Falling Branch. Enjoy the beautiful rolling hills, farmland and country scenery as you walk between these two iconic nature sites in northern Harford County. The varied habitat promises equally varied bird sightings. We will start from the Eden Mill Nature Center parking lot off Eden Mill Road. Meet near the pavilion at **7:30 AM**. Contact Dennis at (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com).

September 25 (Sat.) — Perryville Paddle — Bring your kayak, canoe or stand-up to ply the usually serene waters in the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bay at the top of the Bay. These pristine, protected flat water sites make for a very enjoyable paddle and, hopefully, good birding. We will be in search of swimmers, divers and, of course, fliers. Bald Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead; songbirds and woodland birds frequent the shoreline; waterfowl and heron are common sightings; and hopefully swans will make an appearance. Meet at Stumps Point at the far end of the Perryville Community Park at **8:00 AM**. Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919). No rental boats available.

October 2 (Sat.) — Birding Tour of Harford Glen — We will begin this tour with sightings from the parking lot, then proceed to the triple riparian habitat of the Atkisson Reservoir, the faster flowing Winters Run and the Plumtree Run tributary. The woodland trails and the open meadows offer great opportunities for good birding. Veteran birders Jane Scocca (410-272-8870; jane@scocca.org) and Jean Wheeler (410-838-5774; jswheeler3@verizon.net) will be leading our trip. Meet at the Harford Glen parking lot at **7:30 AM**.

October 9 (Sat.) — Rocks State Park — Spend the morning on the trails of this Deer Creek woodland to enjoy the fall avian spectacle. Some hiking on hilly trails is involved. After the main walk we will visit one or more picnic areas that will require a \$3.00 fee. Gather at the Ranger Station parking lot at **7:30 AM**. The leader is Mark Magnani (443-324-1136; mwmagnani@gmail.com).

October 16 (Sat.) — Swan Harbor Farm Park — This preserved area near the Upper Bay provides prime habitat for waterfowl, song birds, and marsh and field birds. The trip begins at **8:00 AM** at the parking lot at the end of the driveway. Contact leader, veteran birding guide Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com).

October 23 (Sat.) — Mariner Point — Avian activity will be surveyed with an emphasis on waterfowl and song birds at this estuarine location. Meet **at 8:00 AM** at the Mariner Point parking lot. Our leaders are experienced birders Phil Powers (443-417-7520; birdsinmd308@gmail.com) and Dave Larkin.

October 30 (Sat.) — Audubon Center at Mill Grove, PA. Save this date. Details to follow.



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

November 6 (Sat.) — Stoney Demonstration Forest — Meet at the Park and Ride off MD 22 and I-95 on Mechanical Drive in Aberdeen at **8:00 AM**. From there we will carpool to a secondary site with limited parking. Leaders, Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) and Jane Scocca (410-272-8870; jane@scocca.org) will lead you for a short walk along scenic Aldino Stepney Road to the Forest entrance. This will be the Club's first trip to the Harford Land Trust's recent success story — a massive 905 acre forested property along the I-95 corridor. We should find a nice assortment of raptors, woodpeckers and songbirds. The trip is planned to cover 2 to 3 miles of unpaved logging roads and foot paths.

November 14 (Sun.) — Trip to Delaware Shore — Visit one of the East Coast's best sites for shorebirds and waterfowl. Delaware's diverse coastal wetland habitats offer a variety of shore birds, water birds, wading species, raptors and songbirds. Meet experienced leaders Dr. Dave Larkin and Phil Powers at the Havre de Grace commuter lot near Rt.155/I-95 at **7:30 AM**. Because of trip length and the lack of local eateries, **bring a lunch and sufficient drink for the day**. Contact Dave at (410-569-8319; larkin3003@comcast.net) for further details.

November 20 (Sat.) — Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge — Join experienced birders Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219) and Tom Congersky (410-910-6182; injitcon@zoominternet.net) as they explore this little known Eastern Shore gem. Just the scenic ride down and the classic Eastern Shore diverse habitat of the refuge make the trip worthwhile. Add the likely variety of raptors, waterfowl, wading birds, passerines and shore birds and you have a "must do" trip. Meet the leaders at the Park and Ride in Havre de Grace (I-95 and Rt.155) at **7:30 AM**.

November 27 (Sat.) — Conowingo Dam Gull and Eagle Watch — This morning survey begins at Fisherman's Park just below Conowingo Dam on the Harford County side of the Susquehanna River. Meet at **8:00 AM** to begin the search for Bald Eagles, Black and Turkey Vultures, various gulls, water fowl and herons. Leader is Diane Jones (410-404-9180; baltobirder55@gmail.com).

December 11 (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, Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com). Meet at **7:30 AM** at the parking lot at the Agricultural Education Center at the end of the driveway.

December 26 (Sun.) — Annual Christmas Bird Count — Details to come in the future

January 1 (Sat.) — Annual New Year's Day Birdwalk at Perryman — Join us to welcome in the New Year with a tour through the always productive Perryman area. Our leader is veteran birder Phil Powers (443-417-7520; birdsinmd308@gmail.com). Meet at Aberdeen Walmart parking lot on Rt. 40 at **8:30 AM**.

January 15 (Sat.) — Feeder Watch — Join your fellow club members as we happily resume our annual feeder watch in the comfort of the home of Mark and Denise Johnson. Enjoy watching the bird activity at their various feeders and conversing with your fellow birders. Final details will be announced closer to the date via email, social media and the HBC website. (marksjohnson2@gmail.com; 410-692-5978)



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

January 22 (Sat.) — Traveling the Bradenbaugh Flats — The tour begins at Jarrettsville Elementary School parking lot at **8:00 AM**. From there leader Dennis Kirkwood takes us on a pleasant tour through NW Harford County's agricultural area to search out wintering field birds and waterfowl. Expect Horned Larks, along with Ring-necked Ducks and maybe a Cackling Goose. The trip finishes up at the leader's home where you will enjoy hot homemade soup, homemade breads, good conversation and maybe even a brief glimpse of the resident screech owl. Contact Dennis at (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com).

SPECIAL NOTICE: We are working on additional paddling plans for the 2021 summer season. Details to be determined and announced later.

July 16th: In Person Outdoor Summer Social

After a long year of isolation, we are planning for our summer get-together at the Susquehannock Wildlife Society located at 1725 Trappe Church Rd. in Darlington. Come out and join old friends and bring your binoculars to watch birds off the deck and on the grounds. We plan to start at 6:00 PM on Friday 16 July where we will get a tour of the gardens and facility by Scott McDaniel, Executive Director. We respectfully ask all who intend to come to please reserve your spot by filling out the [RSVP form](#). The RSVP form will close at 9pm on Friday, July 9 as we need to be sure we have sufficient accommodations and refreshments. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Johnson at MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com. All who are not vaccinated are asked to wear a mask.



B.Y.O. 

Please bring your own camp/lawn chairs to this event.

If you would like to learn more about the Susquehannock Wildlife Society you can check out their web site at:

<https://www.susquehannockwildlife.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

() 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.