



Wrenderings

The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club



Volume 43 Number 23-3

Summer 2023

President's Perch

Inside this issue:

By the middle of June peak migration is over, and birds are now into their normal routine of raising their young and beginning the preparation for fall migration — which won't be that far away. Sometimes it's hard to comprehend how quickly time does pass by. I say that because I realize that my term as president is coming to an end, and our very capable Vice-President Sue Procell has graciously agreed to step up as president for the next two years beginning in July.

I do want to thank the other officers and members of the Executive Board for their support and guidance with the activities of the club, making my job an easier one. They are the heart and soul of the bird club and know how to keep things running smoothly. In addition, a special thanks to those volunteers who stepped-up and helped in various ways, such as leading field trips or staffing a table at one of the many events we were asked to attend, such as Earth Day in Aberdeen and the Fall Fest at Eden Mill. They all help to make our organization a strong and vibrant one.

Thanks everyone. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve the Harford Bird Club these past two years.

On a much sadder note, I wish to recognize the passing of a great individual and long-time member of the bird club, Robert (Dr. Bob) Werrlein. He passed away at his home on May 29, 2023, at the age of 85. We were grateful for his unwavering support and devotion of time, resources and expertise as past president and member of the Executive Board. "Dr. Bob" also assisted with bird banding duties at Eden Mill for over fifteen years. His attitude, enthusiasm, and scientific keenness toward the study and observation of birds were well known.

At our July 14th Summer Social, we are going to take a few minutes to honor him. Members could share stories about him or just express their feelings about him or the contributions he made to the club. We would also like to set up a memorial fund in his honor. Since he was closely associated with Eden Mill and a great lover of birds, a suggestion was made to have a Great Blue Heron mounted with a plaque "In Honor of Dr. Robert Werrlein." The cost of the mount is \$400.00.

Checks or payment can be sent to our treasurer, indicating the *Robert Werrlein Memorial Fund*: Eric Vangrin; 1100 Barkley Place; Bel Air, MD 21014

Have a pleasant summer and hope to see you at our Summer Social on July 14th!

~Joe Stevens, President

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Plan Ahead!

Friday, July 14th, 6 - 9 pm
HBC Summer Social
Havre de Grace Marina
100 Bourbon St, HdG

Saturday, September 2nd, 1pm
Birding Picnic
Eden Mill Nature Center
Picnic Area

Be there.

Bird Droppings

Wrenderings Distribution Schedule

Harford Bird Club Wrenderings is a quarterly newsletter:

Winter - Feb
Spring - April

Summer - June
Fall - Oct

We strive to bring you important area news, updates on HBC activities, and other bird-related information.

Please reach out to [Wrenderings Editor Mary Beth Collins](#) if you have any suggestions/recommendations of something to include.



****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 found at the end of the newsletter, 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.

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TIDEWATER MARINA, THE REGATTA ROOM 100 BOURBON ST, HAVRE DE GRACE

This will be a great opportunity to chat with friends old and new about the latest happenings while sampling a selection of wine and cheeses. A fruit, vegetable, and meat tray, plus some desserts and soda will be available. There will be a short business meeting, which will include the introduction of our new officers.

The Regatta Room is behind the store near the pier. A sign will be posted near the gate entrance for further directions. There is ample parking in the marina.



The Harford Bird Club Summer Social Reservation Form

Please cut, complete, and return form with payment by Friday, July 7, 2023.

Please make checks to Harford County MOS.

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

To contact: johen23@gmail.com or 410.937.1174

_____ Number of adults (\$12.00 each)

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

Print your name (names) as you would it to appear on the name tag (s).



FAREWELL TO DR. BOB WERRLEIN

-MARK JOHNSON, Ph.D.

It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of Dr. Robert Werrlein on Monday, May 29th. "Dr. Bob" was a kind, articulate friend who joined the banding crew at Eden Mill from introduction by Jerry Strickroth nearly 15 years ago. Bob was a steadfast volunteer who could be counted on not only to help retrieving birds from the nets but also to do the less glamorous grunt work that involved weed wacking on hot July mornings and would often keep the net lanes free from leaves during the fall by raking them ahead of the crew. He rarely missed a day in the field.

Trained in microbiology, he took great joy in the natural world especially in bird watching and joining in during our tropical forays looking for avian biodiversity. He was the driving force in initiating a trip to Costa Rica where he was often found photographing birds, insects, and other biota. Bob also served as a president of the Harford Bird Club where he contributed excellent observations in the President's Notes section of the newsletter. His writing abilities were simply incredible and he did so elegantly with all of his correspondences whether it be a letter or a simple "thank you" card.

Due to a struggle with esophageal cancer, Bob was unable to join in the banding activities this past spring, and the crew greatly missed his presence. Now he is at peace, we can only hope we can keep alive his excellent passion for nature.

*To learn more about how Harford Bird Club would like to honor Dr. Bob,
read the President's Perch on p.1.*

The World Series of Birding Adventure

Tyme and Nara Anusonti-Inthra

Team: YMOS Non-Petroleum (Carbon Free Division)

The croak of a Yellow-breasted Chat greeted us at Pond Creek Marsh, and then joined the ensemble of the Chuck-will's-Widow, the ping-pong ball-like call of the Field Sparrow, and the morning flight call of the Lesser Yellowlegs. The sun peeked over the horizon, illuminating the four team members of the YMOS Non-Petroleum, a carbon-free team (bikes only) in the 2023 World Series of Birding. We span from grades six to ten, and live in Harford, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel Counties in Maryland. Our goal was to get 110 species from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Our strategy was to bike and stay on Cape Island in Cape May County, New Jersey, in order to cover as many diverse habitats as possible. To catch the rest of the morning flight, we went to the Coral Avenue Seawatch, a wooden platform nestled in the sand dunes

near the edge of the beach. We saw a plethora of great birds including Surf, White-Winged, and Black Scoters, Northern Gannet, American Oystercatcher, and peculiarly inshore Parasitic Jaegers.

As we biked to our next stop, a member of another YMOS team driving by alerted us of a Curlew Sandpiper, a rarity, at a nearby stop. We raced to find the bird, adrenaline coursing through our veins. Finally at the bird blind where it was visible, we gazed through the spotting scope at a brilliant brick red Curlew Sandpiper. On the other side of the marsh, a Common Gallinule poked its head out of the cattails as if saying good morning, enabling us to add another great bird to our list.

Two Mile Island, which was one of our essential seabird stops, was the furthest away (our only stop off of the island). It was around seven miles, one-way, from our previous stop to Two Mile Island, ending with an extremely steep and narrow bridge. Once we got there, it started to rain, the raindrops getting bigger and more foreboding by the minute. Halfway through our arduous journey back from Two Mile Island, torrential rain fell down on us, soaking us from head to toe. By that time, we were all bone-weary, but our parents came to the rescue with hot and steamy Philly cheesesteaks at the next stop. They were the perfect morale boost and something to warm us all up.

Then, we biked three miles to Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area to identify our reliable Purple and Spotted Sandpipers at the tip of the jetty. We continued to bike around Cape Island targeting some species that we missed. As more time passed, it was getting harder to identify new species.

Traditionally, at the end of the day all teams head to the Meadows. Dusk was right around the corner, and the colors were quickly fading. Jokingly, our team captain mentioned that someone always seems to find an owl with a scope. Moments later, we heard a shout of "Great Horned Owl in the scope!" Not believing our luck, we looked in the scope and there was an owl to add to our list. Our last species was Brown Thrasher, which we got close to the back where

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The World Series of Birding Adventure, continued



they are known to nest. At this point, the sun was gone and we submitted our checklist. Our day was done! In total, we biked and walked about 30 miles, recording 120 species.

At the end of the competition, our team was exhausted but satisfied that we exceeded our goal by ten species. We knew that the tiredness would be gone in the morning, but the memories of this World Series of Birding would last forever.

If you ask us, one thing that we truly enjoyed from this experience is the collaboration from birders of different ages and teams from different places. All in all, every birder comes to enjoy each other's company, to support bird conservation efforts, and simply to share the love of birds. We would like to thank Mr. George Radcliffe for supporting our team, and we look forward to challenging ourselves next year!

Tyme and Nara Anusonti-Inthra have joined the HBC Wreatherings staff as youth columnists. Nara is a 9th grader at Aberdeen High School and Tyme is a 6th grader at Fallston Middle School. Look for their perspective on birds and birding in every issue!

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.

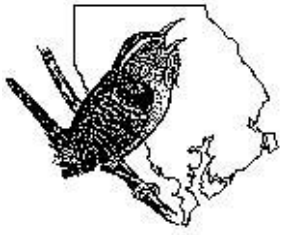
We have everything you need to make it easy & fun!!!

JOIN
US!

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



Harford Birdlife



by Monroe Harden

April and May feature the main movements of our spring migrants. Little warblers, big waders, and trees filled with song make spring my favorite time of year for birds. This report covers the period from April 1st through May 31st, 2023.

Geese, Ducks, Herons, Hawks, Gulls, Terns

MJ and several others reported the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans in the marshy area near Rt 40 in Edgewood throughout the period. No one has reported any breeding behavior. DL saw 2 male and 3 female Blue-winged Teal at Lakeside Business Park on April 16th. MJ and BP saw 1 female Red-breasted Merganser at the Woodley Rd pond in Perryman on May 1st. MJ also saw 2 flying upriver from Susquehanna State Park on May 2nd. DK saw up to 8 Wild Turkeys on Newark Farm starting on April 14th through the end of May. MJ saw 3 Little Blue Herons at Swan Harbor on April 15th. Others saw one there on April 21st and 22nd too. JR saw one at the Woodley Rd pond on May 21st. RC found a Cattle Egret on APG-South on May 1st. JK saw a Mississippi Kite at Susquehanna State Park on May 12th. JM saw the continuing Red Shouldered x Red-tailed hybrid hawk there on April 8th. JK also reported a Common Gallinule at the Edgewood Home Depot pond on May 3rd. AJ and MH spotted a Little Gull flying upriver from Lapidum with a group of Bonaparte's Gulls on May 1st. They also saw a Common Tern there that day. DL saw approximately 12 Caspian and 18 Least Terns at Lakeside on May 14th.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Ravens, Nuthatches, Thrushes

DB had a Red-headed Woodpecker eating cracked corn at her home in Street on May 1st. DK saw 2 or 3 on the Bradenbaugh Flats on May 27th. TC found an Olive-sided Flycatcher near Steppingstone on May 11th. JR saw one at Perryman Park on May 25th. MJ saw a Least Flycatcher at Susquehanna State Park on May 6th. AJ saw and heard 2 Common Ravens flying over Oakington while calling to each other on April 2nd. MJ saw one eating something on the road in Havre de Grace near I-95. TC saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Rocks State Park on May 11th. DK caught a Gray-cheeked Thrush and a Bicknell's Thrush at the Harford Glen banding station at the same time on May 18th. They were able to compare the birds side by side. MJ saw an auduboni group Hermit Thrush near Grays Run on April 13th. The bird's drab gray color made it stand out from other Hermit Thrushes. DB saw a Brown Thrasher at her Street home on April 4th.

Warblers, Sparrows, Siskins

TC saw a Golden-winged Warbler at Susquehanna State Park on May 11th. JM saw an Orange-crowned Warbler at Swan Harbor on May 10th. SH saw several warblers near her Fallston home, including Chestnut-sided and Cape May Warblers on May 9th, a Black-throated Blue on May 6th and 18th, an Eastern (yellow) Palm Warbler on April 6th, a Bay-breasted Warbler on May 18th, and a Canada Warbler on May 23rd. RC saw a Cape May Warbler flying by his Creswell home on May 25th. DK saw 7 Prairie and 3 Hooded Warblers at the Street Serpentine Barrens on May 31st. DB had a Palm Warbler land on her patio in Street while she was sitting out there on April 6th. JM found a Mourning Warbler at Gunpowder Falls State Park on May 18th. One was also seen there on May 23rd.

DK saw 2 Grasshopper Sparrows on the Bradenbaugh Flats on May 11th. MJ saw a Lincoln's Sparrow at Perryman Park on May 26th. MH saw a flyover Dickcissel at Susquehanna State Park on May 12th. DK had about 50 Bobolinks at his Newark Farm on May 6th. SH noted a young male Pine Siskin at her Fallston home on May 7th.

Contributors: AJ- Austin Jennings, BP- Brad Phoebus, DB- Deb Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, JK- James Kielek, JR- John Rinker, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson, RC- Rick Cheicante, SH- Susan Hood, TC- Tim Carney

Avian Influenza Concerns Continue

In May, an announcement confirmed that the bird flu concerns persisted, with more than 100 black vultures found dead at Fisherman's Park near Conowingo Dam, according to the US and Maryland departments of agriculture. "Raptors, vultures, migratory waterfowl and poultry seem to be the species that are carriers for the disease," Deputy Maryland Agriculture Secretary Steve Connelly said. Poultry farms on the Eastern Shore are also concerned.

WBAL-TV shared its impact at the Maryland Zoo: " 'It's scary because our No. 1 priority for us is our bird collection safety,' said Jen Kottyan, curator of birds at The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore....For the first time, Zoo officials are enacting bird flu protocols.'We're trying to keep any of the wild birds away from the collection of birds, so you'll notice that some of the exhibits have empty pools or they have shade cloth or limited access, or even in the case of our penguins, no access. We're just going exhibit to exhibit and trying to assess what the risks are,' Kottyan said." Connelly is optimistic that the summer weather should bring some relief and help manage the situation: "The temperature is warm, up for prolonged periods of time -- warm or hot weather -- but that will help decrease the viral load that's out in the wild birds."



Help us make Wrenderings better for YOU!

We are considering taking the printed newsletter online.

Please complete this single question survey.

We want to hear your thoughts on this possibility!

[Click here to take the survey>>](#)



If interested in this important opportunity with the Harford Bird Club, [contact Joe Stevens.](#)

Please consider volunteering in this meaningful way!

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

June 17 (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 8:00 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. No rentals available.

August 18 (Fri) Hummingbird Happy Hour — Bringing back this favorite get-together at Suzanne and Larry Procell's **starting at 5 PM**. It's a pot luck so please bring an appetizer to share and your favorite beverage while we take in the avian activity off their deck (79 Dant La., Elkton, MD 21921). Contact Sue with questions (443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com).

August 19 (Sat) Paddle around Garrett Island — Bring your kayak, canoe, or stand-up to the Havre de Grace Marina. From there we will circle Garrett 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 23 (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 good birding. We will be in search of swimmers, divers and, of course, fliers, including migrating monarch butterflies. Bald Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead; song-birds and woodland birds frequent the shoreline; and waterfowl and heron are common sightings. 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; procellmd@gmail.com). No rentals available.

September 2 (Sat) Harford Bird Club Picnic — Join us at the pavilion at Eden Mill Nature Center for a pot luck picnic. **Starts 1 PM** and includes a local bird walk. For more information, contact Eric Vangrin (443-417-7219, evangrin@msn.com).

September 6 (Wed) MA & PA Trail – Annie Playground — Join Susan Hood for a walk along the old railroad bed in search for fall migrants. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Smith La (off of Connolly Rd.) **7:00 AM**. Contact Susan for details (410-937-7552 or susanhood@comcast.net).

September 16 (Sat) Rocks State Park — Join Dr. Dennis Kirkwood on a walk through the Rocks. Meet at the ranger's station at Rocks Chrome Hill Rd. at **7:30 AM**. Contact Dennis for details (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com).

September 8 (Fri) Eden Mill — Stop by the banding pavilion for a brief banding demonstration then hike the trails at Eden Mill with birding expert Matt Addicks in search of migrants. Meet at the banding pavilion at **8 AM** (just past the bridge at Big Branch on the left). Contact Matt for details (443-987-7208 or maddicks13@gmail.com).

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Harford Bird Club Field Trips, continued

September 9 (Sat) Harford Glen – Join Lynn Feryus for a walkthrough Harford Glen in search of fall migrants in the ecologically-diverse area in Bel Air. Meet at the Harford Glen parking lot **at 7 AM**. Contact Lynn for details (443-910-5570 or lfery@verizon.net).

September 23 (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 good birding. We will be in search of swimmers, divers and, of course, fliers, including migrating monarch butterflies. Bald Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead; songbirds and woodland birds frequent the shoreline; and waterfowl and heron are common sightings. 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; procellmd@gmail.com). No rentals available.

October 8 (Sun) Elk Neck State Park – Join birders Matt Addicks and Suzanne Procell for a search of migrants, residents and hawks at this peninsula in the Chesapeake. Meet at the Turkey Point parking lot **7:30 AM**. Contact Matt (443-987-7208 or maddicks13@gmail.com) or Sue for details (443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com).

October 14 (Sat) Mariner Point Park – Join the Cornett's for leisurely birding in this wetland park in the Gunpowder. Sparrows and later migrants. Contact French Cornett (410-676-4428 or Frenchcornett@comcast.net) for further details. **Meet at 8:00 AM** at the Mariner Point parking lot.

October 28 (Sat) Swan Harbor – Check out this County hot spot with Dr. Dennis Kirkwood with hopes of finding rare sparrows, waterfowl and herons. Meet at the parking lot **at 8:00 AM**. Contact Dennis for details (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com).

November 5 (Sun) Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge – Join Dr. David Larkin scoping pools and flats for waterfowl, herons, and hawks at this Eastern shore park. Meet at the RT. 155/195 Havre-de-Grace Park and Ride **at 7:30 AM**. Bring lunch. Contact Dave for details (410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net).

November 18 (Sat) Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge – Expert Eric Vangrin will lead a trip to this Chesapeake favorite in search of waterfowl, Brown-headed Nuthatches and possibly Red Crossbills. Meet at the RT. 155/195 Havre-de-Grace Park and Ride **at 7:30 AM**. Contact Eric at 443-417-7219 or evangrin@msn.com.

November 25 (Sat) Conowingo Dam – Watch Bald Eagles, gulls, and waterfowl and walk the trail for Winter Wren and woodpeckers with Dennis Kirkwood. Meet at the parking lot at Fisherman's Park (end of Shuresville Landing Rd.) **at 8:00 AM**. Call Dennis for details (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com).

December 2 (Sat) Delaware Marshes – Join veterans David Webb and Mark Johnson while they try out their waterfowl skills at spots along the Delaware coast with hopes of making it to Cape Henlopen. Meet at the RT. 155/195 Havre de Grace Park and Ride **at 7:30 AM**. Contact David (443-417-5385 or porzana@comcast.net) or Mark (410-692-5978 or MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com) for questions. Bring a lunch.

Dec 30 (Sat) Rock Run Annual Christmas Bird Count – Partake in this tradition where teams split up long 14 sectors all within 10 km radius of the Rock Run Mill in Susquehanna State Park counting all birds seen or heard in a 24 hr period. Contact Mark for details – rain or shine (or fog, I hope not!) 410-692-5978 or MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com.

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

For last minute notifications about HBC trips, visit the Harford Bird Club [Facebook Page](#) or [website](#).

HBC Member Sightings & Sharings



Top Left: Wood Duck, 3/25, Vivek Raj

Top Center: Red Shouldered Hawk, 6/7, Christina Thomas

Top Right: Rump Yellow Warbler, 5/30, Deb Stewart

Mid Upper Right: Cardinal, 5/12, Amber Snider Beall

Mid Lower Right: Babies! 5/24, Anita Syricek Rogers

Bottom Right: Tree Swallow, 5/13, Crystal Blumberg

Bottom Center: Rosebreasted Grosbeak, 5/9, John Kenzelman

Bottom Left: Great Blue Heron, 5/24, Frank Marsden III

Mid Lower Left Left: Bobolink, 6/3, Tom Hammen

Mid lower Left Right: Common Yellowthroat, 6/12, Keven Burroughs

Mid Upper left: Black-Necked Stilts, 6/3, Kimberly Olivier

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



Field Trip Reports

Warblers and Wildflowers at Susquehanna State Park — April 22, 2023

Tom Gibson

Instead of a report, a small collage has been provided



Harford Glen Bird Walk—May 13, 2023

Lynn Feryus

Seven birders were not daunted by the iffy weather forecast. There were some light sprinkles but luckily the harder rain held off until the end. It was a surprisingly slow morning for the time of year perhaps due to the weather, more were heard than spotted. Since the Merlin app is becoming well known, new and experienced birders were listening by ear and/or app. We walked the woods and water edges to find 36 species. Three warbler species were heard only. A lone (of course) Solitary sandpiper was feeding in the shallows. An interesting sighting was watching a rough-winged swallow going in and out of one of two holes in the stream bank.

Eden Mill—May 20, 2023

Matthew Addicks

9 people made the northward trek to Eden Mill on May 20th. We managed to tally up 57 species with some great highlights! We watched a female Ruby-Throated Hummingbird gather nesting material from a willow, fledgling Eastern Phoebes being tended to by their parents, a family of Wood Ducks, and a surprise Kentucky Warbler singing away. We were able to contrast the Kentucky song with the similar-sounding Carolina Wren singing nearby. It was a great morning enjoyed by all!

Hidden Valley — May 29, 2023

Dennis Kirkwood, Ed.D

The traditional Memorial Day bird walk in the Upper Deer Creek Valley began with beautiful sunshine and 7 eager participants. Hidden Valley yielded its usual forest birds including Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Parula, Scarlet Tanager, and Indigo Bunting. Worm-eating Warbler and Black-and-white Warbler were heard but not seen. A Blue Grosbeak pair was sighted near Carico Lane and Amos Road. At the World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats great looks were given by both Horned Larks and Grasshopper Sparrows. The usual Red-Headed Woodpecker site produced a pair of birds entering a nest hole. At Turney's pond, the Purple Martin colony has almost filled three boxes and Tree and Barn Swallows were also present. We finished with views of Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Flickers, and a Red-tailed Hawk. We finished the day with 53 species seen and/or heard and plenty of great conversation and interaction with the natural world.

Field Trip Reports, continued

Fair Hill , Cecil County—June 3, 2023

Dave Webb

Seven club members and guests convened for a bird walk at Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area on the first weekend in June. The first half of the trip was spent walking thru the "Hundred Acre" field near Parking Lot #3 that is managed by DNR for nesting Bobolinks and other grassland breeders. The field was teeming with Bobolinks - mostly males -- that awed and entertained us for nearly an hour. Dozens of males sprung from the field to defend their territory, flying about in full song with characteristic shallow wingbeats and then gracefully dropping back into the tall grass with their wings held in a slight dihedral. Some of the males sang their bubbly, rambling songs from nearby treetops, giving us extended views of their handsome black, gold and white plumage. We only saw a few of the buffy females -- most of them were incubating on their well-concealed nests. Other birds found in the field or on its margins included Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, and Yellow Warbler.

Offering a stark contrast to the sunny expanse of the grassy field, the second half of the trip was a one-mile meandering hike through a mature hardwood forest. Most of the birds that we encountered along the well-shaded trail were only heard, but our persistence paid off with views of Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, and American Redstart. The trail ended near Big Elk Creek and the 163-year-old Foxcatcher Farms Covered Bridge, where we padded our species list with Warbling Vireo, Great Crested Flycatcher and Northern Parula.

Photographer: Joe Kielek



Vice President's Voice

Sue Procell



Late spring is the time of year when many of our feathered friends have young that are fledging from the nest. These young birds, while fully feathered, are still learning the nuances of flight. Even perching on a branch can pose a challenge the first time it's attempted, and there's a lot of fun to be had in watching the acrobats that can arise as they learn to navigate their environment.

I'm learning also! This week I learned that the behavior of fledglings can be mistaken for the behavior of a bird that is injured. Yesterday I found myself responding to a call to help an injured Great Horned Owl that was hopping about on the ground on a wooded lot in Bel Air. The homeowner had been standing guard for a couple of hours to protect the injured bird from a family of local foxes that were frequenting the area. When I approached the bird, it hopped, then flew deeper into the woods. We were all relieved to discover that the bird was okay, but also a tad embarrassed to have thought we had an injured bird on our hands.

All I can say is, whoooo knew?!



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.