



# Wrenderings

*The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club*



Volume 44 Number 11

October 2021

## President's Perch

## Inside this issue:

As of this writing, although the calendar indicates that autumn has arrived the weather doesn't feel like it. I'm sure that will eventually change.

Autumn will bring cooler temperatures, ripening harvests, spectacular fall colors, pumpkins, and shorter days. It's a great time to be outdoors and connect with birds and nature.

Fall migration has a different pace than spring migration for the birds. It's also a bit more challenging, especially for me, due to their non-breeding plumages. We've all heard the term "Confusing Fall Warblers", but according to one source, it stated that out of 53 species in North America, 43 look almost alike in spring and fall. Ten is still probably a fair amount to learn.

For me, one of the biggest challenges is having an idea when the movement of birds will occur over time. One tool that can help with that is called [Birdcast](#). It was created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to provide live and local migration alerts in real time. On their website there will be a map of the United States:

- Scroll down until you locate Migration Tools (a small box on the right).
- Continue to scroll down until you locate "Local bird migration alerts"
- Click on that and a [search box](#) will appear
- Type in the city and it will give you a 3-day prediction of what to expect.

Of course, [e-bird](#) is another source.

- Use the explore tab, then locate the [bar charts](#).
- Click on it and fill in the prompts to locate a particular region. You will then have a general idea of what and when to expect to see certain birds.
- In addition, under the [Explore Regions](#), type in ([Harford, Maryland](#)), click on the complete checklist tab, scroll down to any location and click on the number. It will list what that individual saw that day.

Scott Weindensal, author, and researcher had two interesting 30-minute podcasts that deal with migration in general.

⇒ [Episode 12: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds](#)

⇒ [The Astounding Flyways of Migratory Birds](#)

To enjoy fall migration and the variety of birds that pass through, we should go birding as frequently as time permits. Try and take advantage of our local field trips that are offered by experienced leaders. It's a worthwhile endeavor that will help enrich this spectacular season. ~Joe Stevens, President

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## Plan Ahead!

- November 5 at 7pm: November Virtual Meeting & Guest Speaker
- December 26: Rock Run Christmas Bird Count

# 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 at 410-879-2364 or send an email to [debstewart1307@gmail.com](mailto:debstewart1307@gmail.com).

## 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!

Leanne & Mark Pemburn– Bel Air, Maryland  
Robbin Rice-Pylesville, Maryland  
Ellen Winslow– Shrewsbury, PA



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

<b>President</b>	Joe Stevens	410-734-7198	<a href="mailto:josephstevens@comcast.net">josephstevens@comcast.net</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Sue Procell	443-417-4919	<a href="mailto:procellmd@gmail.com">procellmd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Deborah Stewart	410-879-2364	<a href="mailto:debstewart1307@gmail.com">debstewart1307@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Eric Vangrin	443-417-7219	<a href="mailto:evangrin@msn.com">evangrin@msn.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Mark Johnson	410-692-5978	<a href="mailto:MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com">MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Field Trip Chairperson</b>	Tom Gibson	410-734-4135	<a href="mailto:gibsonlld@aol.com">gibsonlld@aol.com</a>
<b>May Count Coordinator</b>	Vacant		
<b>Rock Run Count Coordinator</b>	Mark Johnson	410-692-5978	<a href="mailto:MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com">MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Dinner Reservations</b>	Johanne Henrickson	410-657-3914	<a href="mailto:johen24@gmail.com">johen24@gmail.com</a>
<b>Public Relations</b>	Jane Scocca	410-272-8870	<a href="mailto:jane@scocca.org">jane@scocca.org</a>
<b>Education Chairperson</b>	Mary Murray	410-812-6621	<a href="mailto:murraymary@gmail.com">murraymary@gmail.com</a>
<b>Conservation Chair</b>	Deborah Bowers	410-692-2708	<a href="mailto:bowerspub@hotmail.com">bowerspub@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	Vacant		
<b>State Board Members</b>	Dennis Kirkwood	410-692-5905	<a href="mailto:newarkfarms@gmail.com">newarkfarms@gmail.com</a>
	Diane Jones	410-404-9180	<a href="mailto:baltobirder55@gmail.com">baltobirder55@gmail.com</a>
<b>Media Manager</b>	Amanda Subolefsky	443-528-4306	<a href="mailto:AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com">AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com</a>
<b>Wrenderings Editor</b>	Amanda Subolefsky	443-528-4306	<a href="mailto:AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com">AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com</a>

# Rock Run Christmas Bird Count



The date for our Rock Run Christmas Bird Count is for Sunday, December 26, 2021. Teams attempt to count every bird in sectors divided up from a 10 km radius from the Rock Run Mill in both Harford and Cecil Counties in a single 24-hour period. Traditionally, individuals who counted sectors previously have preference for returning to them again; however, we appreciate all the help we can get and we often have open sectors that are not counted (click [here](#) to see the sectors in more detail). More information can be found on the Christmas Count [website](#). If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978 or [MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com](mailto:MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com).



## Public Relations



On October 2nd, The Harford Bird Club attended **The Harford Land Trust** open house event at Belle Vue. **Dennis Kirkwood** offered two birding walks which were well attended. The club's binoculars were available making this a more inclusive experience. For some, it was their first time birdwatching on a walk.

Visitors to the HBC display were impressed with the wide range of activities of our club. President and wife, **Joe and Melody Stevens** (who coordinated with HLT), **Eric Vangrin** (who created a new club banner) and **Deb Stewart** represented the club at the morning long event.





# Trip Reports

## Paddle Around Garrett Island/Concord Point Park

August 21, 2021

Sue Procell & Colleen Webster

Joined by special guest leader Tom Leckey, a dozen birders launched their kayaks and paddle boards into the SAV laden waters off of Concord Point Park in historical Havre de Grace, MD. While SAV is a paddler's challenge, it's the perfect foraging venue for migrating shorebirds. It was with amazement and delight that we gathered around a mixed flock of lesser and greater yellowlegs, watching them as they high-stepped about the SAV (Submerged Aquatic Vegetation), quickly jabbing at any small invertebrates they stirred up. Feeding intently, they did not seem to notice as we quietly approached for some up close and personal views. At last they were stirred to flight by a red-shouldered hawk, although they quickly returned when the danger had passed. Across the cove we caught views of several great egrets and great blue herons. We finally paddled around Park Island, enjoying views of both land and shore birds including bald eagles, osprey, mallards, gulls, terns, cormorants and a green heron.

## Bird Walk on Ma & Pa Trail

September 6, 2021

Susan Hood

A dozen cheerful birders enjoyed a beautiful sunny Labor Day stroll down the paved path from Annie's Playground in Fallston, to Heavenly Waters Park, where the stream is under restoration; and back up the hill, chatting along the way and admiring a variety of migrants and residents. We saw more raptors than usual, the most exciting being a Merlin, which perched and posed for pictures, atop the same sycamore tree snag which it occupied two days earlier. We also saw 2 Bald Eagles (an adult and immature); Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed Hawks, as well as Black and Turkey Vultures. Four Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were feeding as they migrated, as well as eight Eastern Wood-Pewees and a single Empidonax Flycatcher (most likely Acadian). A few Warbling Vireos were singing, which have been seasonally regular all along the stream around Winters Run. Purple Martins and Tree Swallows trickled by on their journeys, and a House Wren lingered with the numerous resident Carolina Wrens. There were two pairs of Brown Thrashers this time, in addition to a dozen Gray Catbirds. Warbler activity was scant, but we did spot a Common Yellowthroat and an American Redstart. We tallied 41 avian species, as well as a Monarch butterfly laying eggs on Milkweed.

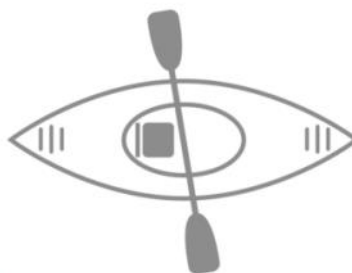
## Perryville Paddle

September 11, 2021

Colleen Webster & Sue Procell

Joined once again by special guest leader Tom Leckey, the group shared a patriotic poem, [The Names by Poet Laureate on 9/11, Billy Collins](#) and a nature reading, [The Peace of Wild Things by Wendell Berry](#) before launching into the serene waters of Mill Creek. Mirrored reflections dazzled the eye and the late summer song of cicada's brushed the air as a dozen boating birders observed winged migrants and locals hunting and feasting at nature's table. The challenge of identifying swallows (Tree, Rough-winged, Bank, Barn, Purple Martin and Chimney swift) as they flitted about was balanced by the steady stream of migrating monarchs fluttering past (35 counted during our paddle) interspersed on occasion with red admirals and spicebush swallowtails. We were treated to the rare sight of a belted kingfisher hovering, then diving for fish as we paddled about. A ruddy duck gave us good looks as it foraged in the SAV, and a scarlet tanager before slipping away. The morning was ducks, herons, gulls, terns, flycatchers and

in winter plumage caused a brief stir rounded out by bald eagles, osprey, wood woodland birds.



## Vice President's Voice

### Bird Therapy – a form of nature therapy!

By: Sue Procell

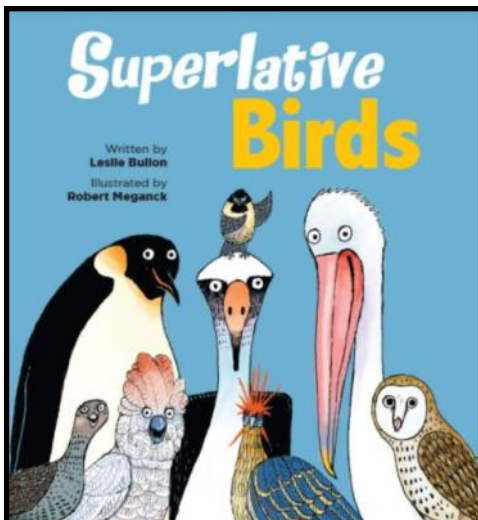


Have you ever noticed how delightful our fellow club members are? Personalities and backgrounds vary, but the sense of fun and adventure when we gather for a fieldtrip or a social event is tangible. I think it's because we all spend time in nature, but not just in nature – we savor it, absorb it, we watch, listen and feel it. While out in nature pursuing a glimpse or special moment with a feathered friend, we are also getting the benefit of eco or nature therapy. Do it with others, and you reap the additional health benefits that come with companionship and sharing. According to Psychology Today, our modern lifestyles have distanced us from the natural world of our ancestors. This distancing, or urbanization, is linked to increased anxiety and depression in people who are removed from green spaces. A Stanford-led study

looking into the relationship between nature and mental health also discovered increased performance on cognitive tests with folks who walked in nature rather than on an urban street. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) webpage has several articles that discuss research linking the benefits of being in nature to improvements in the cognitive and mental health of older adults. Well, it's no wonder that birders are, for the most part, friendly, helpful, interesting people who eagerly share their joy and knowledge of birds with others. We've inadvertently discovered the elixir for good mental health – spending time outdoors in nature!



## Book Review



By: Bethany Vangrin

Librarian

Harford County Public Library

You might know which bird has the longest bill (Austrian Pelican) or the fastest (Peregrine Falcon), but do you know which has the fanciest courtship? Or which has the widest field of view? Or which bird has the longest toes? Leslie Bulion's combination of poetry and informative facts provide a unique view into the life of birds from all over the world. The illustrations add to the charm of this fun read for all ages.

# My Week on Hog Island

By Scott McDaniel

I am writing with great gratitude for the opportunity given to me through a scholarship by the Maryland Ornithological Society to further my knowledge in ornithology. I grew up loving wildlife but being hyper focused on reptiles and amphibians, I certainly had some gaps in my understanding and skills as it pertains to birds. In recent years I have gained a great interest in birding and increased my understanding of bird biology since becoming a Master Naturalist, creating educational content and programs for the public, and perhaps most importantly, by surrounding myself with many great birders. When I learned about the available scholarship I was very excited for the potential for more formalized learning. Once I received the news that my application was accepted, I was incredibly excited. Not only would I be in a rich learning environment but the Audubon camp would allow me to explore a new area of Maine, one of my favorite places that I have ever traveled to.



My time on Hog Island came and went in a blink but I'll never forget it. Not only did I get to spend a week in such a tranquil and historically unique place, but I was surrounded by incredible people who truly wanted to teach and others like me who were eager to learn. When I applied for the field ornithology course scholarship I hoped to be able to increase my knowledge of birds that I could then share with others through my educational programs and any future research I might be able to contribute to at Susquehannock Wildlife Society and with our partners.

I didn't realize until after I was there just how valuable the wealth of knowledge that we were given the gift of having access to was. In our small group we had world renowned authors, professors, researchers, and artists that have all made a significant mark in the world of ornithology and done amazing things throughout their careers. Best of all, none of our instructors had an ounce of ego and answered even the most basic level questions with great love and patience. Being the way I am I have benefited immensely from asking lots of questions of experts that know far more than me. I certainly took advantage of the opportunity to learn about their careers, insight on an array of topics they presented, and sought to gain a better understanding of all things birds from those who have spent a lifetime studying them.



I am lucky to have had great birder friends over the years, many much younger than me. They have stoked my interest beyond my previous comfort zone and helped me to not only gain a passion but become better at understanding biology, behavior, and most importantly conservation needs of these fascinating species. This camp in Maine exposed me further to mist netting and bird banding, seabird restoration and conservation, bird behavior and biology, song identification, technological tools, and lots of focus on habitat and connectivity with other wildlife which I have always had a strong interest in. The quality of the program

and staff running the camp to run the shuttle boat, prepare the delicious food, upkeep the facilities and ensure all of our needs were met, were all world class. The island was donated by the Todd family to Audubon and I can attest it's in great hands and I have no doubt it will remain so for countless generations to come. I am still amazed at how many activities and amenities were packed into a relatively isolated space that is incredibly quite representative of a wonderful slice of many coastal Maine habitats and ecosystems in an easy to access series of trails and access points. It is truly a gem that needed to be protected and treasured for the gift that it is.



# My Week on Hog Island-Continued

By: Scott McDaniel



One of my favorite moments from the trip was when we first stepped off the boat from the mainland and walked onto the island to see several Northern Parulas darting around fruit trees and then see an active nest in a highly visible location. Shortly after we saw the male and female Parulas upclose flying in and out of the woven moss hanging from a branch right next to our lodging. Each would take turns bringing food to the fledgling warblers and even carrying off fecal sacks. A few days later we were observing and photographing the nest when much to our horror a Red Squirrel was sneaking up on it. Then it unsuccessfully raided the nest, knocking the young birds onto the ground but did not get to make a meal of them. The distressed babies were rescued by the staff and placed in a basket that was hung off the deck so that the parents could continue caring for them until they fledged. It was a wonderful visual natural history lesson that unfolded right before our eyes. The squirrels were already well fed so a little bit of intervention felt appropriate in this case.

Other than the birding hikes we did around the island, the activity that was the most meaningful for my education was our boat ride out to Eastern Egg Island. On this trip we got a true Maine experience. We noted many fascinating species of birds including several Gulls, Terns, Guillemots, Razorbills, Eiders, Loons, and finally, Atlantic Puffins circling around the experimental nesting island restoration site that became a historic conservation success story. After talking to a few of the incredible resident research biologists that briefly joined us on board to talk about their work, we docked on another island, getting to see an active lobster operation and setup to mist net and band songbirds. It was valuable for me to get to see and experience being in the shoes of true field ornithologists.

Since the camp I have used many of the tools that I learned both with my personal birding and during my interactions with the public and on our various social media outlets. I truly feel that my time at Hog Island made me a better naturalist and opened my eyes up to appreciate something that I already loved even more than ever before.



## Looking for Bird Walk Friends?



The Pemburn's—Leanne and Mark—have lived in Harford County since 2003, but until recently, their interest in birding has been dormant. As active members of the Baltimore Bird Club in the 1990s, they participated in field trips, May and Christmas Counts, and excursions to faraway places for the love of birds. Recent adventures in Arizona with an old friend has rekindled their interest, and they would now like to learn the ways of their home county. If anyone would be interested in weekend walks in their favorite places with this couple, please contact Mark at [mpemburn@gmail.com](mailto:mpemburn@gmail.com) or call 410-375-5877 and leave a message. Bonus: they live on the border of Stoney Forest, and know some little-traveled paths.



# Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

Late summer and early fall often bring rare birds to our area. We had some nice ones this year. This report covers the period from August 1st through September 30th, 2021.

## Swans, Ducks, Herons, Egrets, Hawks, Gallinules

MJ reported the recurring pair of Trumpeter Swans at the Home Depot pond in Edgewood on Aug 28<sup>th</sup>. They were seen by others through the end of September. AJ saw a Ruddy Duck near Battery Island on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Greater Scaup on the bay near Havre de Grace on Aug 19<sup>th</sup>. MJ saw a first year Tricolored Heron at Perryman Park on Aug 11<sup>th</sup>. AJ had a Cattle Egret at Tydings Park on Aug 12<sup>th</sup>. John Canoles saw 600 or more Broad-winged Hawks moving to the southwest over his Kingsville home on Sep 19<sup>th</sup>. SB found a Common Gallinule in the water near APG on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>. SM saw one on the bay near Havre de Grace on Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, and AJ saw a juvenile on the bay on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. JE saw one from the pier at Swan Harbor that day too.

## Plovers, Sandpipers

JE heard a Black-bellied Plover flying over the bay on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. AJ saw a Western Willet on Battery Island on Aug 11<sup>th</sup>. DL found a Spotted Sandpiper at Harford Glen on Sep 1<sup>st</sup>. JE saw a Marbled Godwit and 2 adult female Western Sandpipers on the bay near Havre de Grace on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. He also saw an adult Sanderling and a Dunlin on the bay on Aug 24<sup>th</sup>. JE and AJ saw a Western Sandpiper, a Stilt Sandpiper, and a Ruff on the bay near Havre de Grace on Aug 12<sup>th</sup>. DI found a Baird's Sandpiper on the Susquehanna Flats on Aug 24<sup>th</sup>. JE saw one, along with a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, at the Aldino Airpark on Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>. MJ saw a Stilt Sandpiper at the Woodley Rd pond on Aug 7<sup>th</sup>. He also saw one at the Aldino Airpark on Sep 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Gulls, Terns, Cuckoos, Flycatchers, Vireos, Ravens, Warblers, Dickcissel



AJ saw a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Tidewater Marina on Sep 17<sup>th</sup>. JE saw 9 Black Terns on the bay near Havre de Grace on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. He saw 31 there on Aug 17<sup>th</sup> and 6 on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. MA counted 25 on Aug 21<sup>st</sup>. PL and DL saw a Black-billed Cuckoo at Harford Glen on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>. DL also saw 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos there on Aug 30<sup>th</sup>. MJ saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Susquehanna State Park on Sep 7<sup>th</sup>. He also saw a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher near Steppingstone Museum that day. BP saw a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher there on Sep 14<sup>th</sup>. JM found a Philadelphia Vireo at Eden Mill on Sep 13<sup>th</sup>. BM saw one at Susquehanna State Park that same day. EB saw a Common Raven near Abingdon on Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>. JM saw and heard one at Harford Glen on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>. DB saw Magnolia and Pine Warblers in her Street yard in late September. She also saw a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. MJ saw a Connecticut Warbler at Susquehanna State Park on Sep 7<sup>th</sup>. TC saw one there on Sep 15<sup>th</sup>. JB had a Dickcissel in Darlington on Aug 10<sup>th</sup>. BP saw one at Perryman Park on Sep 12<sup>th</sup>.



## Contributors

AJ- Austin Jennings, BM- Brian Moyer, BP- Brad Phoebus, DB- Debbie Bowers, DI- Daniel Irons, DL- Dave Larkin, EB- Elaine Beery, JB- John Blake, JC- John Canoles, JE- Josh Emm, JM- John Manger, MA- Matt Addicks, MJ- Mark Johnson, PL- Peter Lev, SB- Steven Buhler, SM- Sean McCandless, TC- Tim Carney



Visit the Harford Bird Club website at [www.harfordbirdclub.org](http://www.harfordbirdclub.org)





# UPDATED Field Trip Policies

October 9, 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 asked to wear a mask — honor system.
- ⇒ Carpooling is permitted for those fully vaccinated and those within the same family unit. The driver and riders may adjust this according to the needs and comfort levels of all drivers.
- ⇒ 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](https://www.facebook.com/HarfordBirdClub) (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!

## Trip Reports Continued

**Turkey Point**  
**September 19, 2021**  
Tim Houghton

The weather couldn't have been better today at Turkey Point. We were fortunate in that regard--but also lucky that a lot of migrants came into the area last night. Twelve of us had a very enjoyable time. Perhaps most noticeable were the high numbers of warblers, a few species in particular: Redstart, Magnolia, Black-and-White, Cape May, Blackpoll, and Blackburnian. The participants had excellent looks at those and many other birds.

**Harford Glen**  
**October 2, 2021**  
Jean Wheeler

Nine birders including the two leaders enjoyed a beautiful, but cool morning at Harford Glen. Four persons were relatively new to birding and the club. One of these couples said that each of their children had developed an interest in birds and birding (which they still enjoy) because they had Mr. Updegrave in high school. These parents became interested in birding through that experience of their children. Way to go Spike! All enjoyed the walk and were quite impressed by the Glen.

We explored the woods behind the banding area and were treated to Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Flickers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and more! We then walked the lower trail to the boardwalk and across the stream. We spotted our first White-throated Sparrow of the season. All together we only had 30 species. A highlight was a Chestnut-sided Warbler which was seen by everyone.

# Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

**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; [birdsindmd308@gmail.com](mailto:birdsindmd308@gmail.com)) and Dave Larkin.

**October 30 (Sat.) — Audubon Center at Mill Grove, PA.** See details on page 11. Trip Leader is Mary Trotta ([MTrotta303@gmail.com](mailto:MTrotta303@gmail.com)).

**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](mailto:porzana@comcast.net)) and Jane Scocca (410-272-8870; [jane@scocca.org](mailto: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; [larkin3001@comcast.net](mailto:larkin3001@comcast.net)) for further details.

**November 20 (Sat.) — Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge** — Join experienced birders Eric Vangrin ([evangrin@msn.com](mailto:evangrin@msn.com); 443-417-7219) and Tom Congersky (410-910-6182; [injitcon@zoominternet.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 on page 3.

**January 1 (Sat.) — Annual New Year's Day Bird Walk 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; [birdsindmd308@gmail.com](mailto:birdsindmd308@gmail.com)). Meet at Aberdeen Walmart parking lot on Rt. 40 at 8:30 AM.

# Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

**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](mailto:marksjohnson2@gmail.com); 410-692-5978)

**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](mailto:newarkfarms@gmail.com)).

**January 29 – (Sat.) – Perryville Community Park** — On a leisurely excursion on mostly flat paved surfaces we will be in search of swimmers, divers, and fliers. There should be good views of ducks on Mill Creek and possible sightings of swans on Furnace Bay. Eagles are also often seen flying overhead. Historic Stumps Point also provides beautiful views of the Susquehanna Flats and the North East River as well as Furnace Bay and Mill Creek. Take the entrance road to Stumps Point at the far end of the Perryville Community Park. We will meet there at **9:00AM**. Convenient parking and toilets are available. Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; [cwebster@harford.edu](mailto:cwebster@harford.edu)) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919).



**February 19 - (Sat.) - Eastern Neck Wildlife Preserve** — On this trip we will be looking for ducks, swans and other waterfowl at a little known Eastern Shore gem. Just the scenic ride down and the refuge's beautiful, classic, Eastern Shore diverse habitat make this trip worthwhile. Add to that the variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and passerines you will likely encounter and you have a must-do outing. Leaders are Eric Vangrin ([evangrin@msn.com](mailto:evangrin@msn.com); 443-417-7219), Tom Congersky ([injitcon@zoominternet.net](mailto:injitcon@zoominternet.net); 410-658-4137) and Tom Gibson at ([gibsonlld@aol.com](mailto:gibsonlld@aol.com); 410-734-4135). Meet at the Havre de Grace Park and Ride (I-95 and Rt.155) at **8:00AM**.

## SPECIAL FIELD TRIP: Audubon Center at Mill Grove

**October 30 - (Sat.) - Audubon Center at Mill Grove** — This trip is open to club members only. The admission price is \$15/person. There is a 15 person limit, so register early (before October 15) by email with Mary Trotta ([MTrotta303@gmail.com](mailto:MTrotta303@gmail.com)). Please mail your \$15 check to Eric Vangrin (1100 Barkley Place Bel Air, MD 21014).

The visit includes a bird walk around the 750 acre grounds with one of the staff naturalists followed by a tour of the house with a docent. After the house tour we will take a short break for a snack on the patio or the pavilion. The rest of the time you are free to explore the museum on your own.

6:15AM – Participants meet at Darlington Park on RT. 1 in Darlington (Carpooling suggested at drivers discretion) Departure time will be 6:30AM.

8:15AM – Arrival at Audubon Center at Mill Grove (bathrooms available)

8:30AM – Bird walk on the grounds with naturalist

9:45AM – Meet back at house (Audubon's home from 1803-1806) for the docent-led tour. Mask Required.

10:30AM – Break and snacks (provided by leader) but please supply your own beverage. There is a porch and a patio with picnic tables available.

10:45AM to 11:45 AM – Tour of museum on your own. Mask Required. Be sure to check out the 10 minute film. Shows on a continuous loop.

- Museum exhibits include getting banded

- Stepping into the sound Forest

- Peeking inside real birds' nests and using a magnifier to examine feathers.

- Tracing the migration patterns of different species on a light-up flyway map.

- Viewing an early edition Double Elephant Folio of The Birds of America

11:45AM – Depart the Audubon Center and have lunch locally or go straight home.



# November 5: Virtual Meeting & Presentation



After reviewing the results of the survey, the majority of respondents indicated that they would prefer the November meeting to be virtual as in the past. Based on that, our November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting once again will be virtual.

On November 5th at 7:00pm, the Harford Bird Club will be hosting a brief meeting followed by a presentation by Gwen Brewer & George Jett, on Google Meet.

Please register for the virtual meeting using this [form](#). At approximately noon on November 5th, the registration form will be closed and all who registered will receive a link via email for the evening's event. At 6:30pm the event will open to allow you to have time to get in and get settled before the event officially begins at 7:00pm.



Blue Diadem  
By George Jett

## Ghana, West Africa: Birds, Butterflies and Mammals

Both George Jett and Gwen Brewer have led Maryland field trips and presented talks on their travels for bird clubs for over 20 years. Gwen manages the science program for rare species at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and previously was a professor at Frostburg State University. George is retired from the Environmental Protection Agency and is an avid nature photographer-check out his photos at [georgejett.com](http://georgejett.com). When not looking for birds, mammals and herps in far-off places, they enjoy birding and kayaking their property near Jug Bay in southern Anne Arundel County.



Pied Kingfisher  
By George Jett



Black Bee-eater  
By George Jett



Black-headed Heron  
By George Jett



# 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

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Membership Year - September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020

- ( ) 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.