



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 46 Number 22-1

April 2022

President's Perch

Inside this issue:

Despite some recent chilly weather, the days are growing longer, and spring is in the air. With it comes colorful flowers, budding green leaves, peepers peeping, and migratory birds. It's amazing to think about how they travel huge distances, thousands of miles over oceans, mountains, and other physical barriers to answer that captivating call of nature to breed. I once read an article stating that there are over 350 common species of migratory birds and flyways that are native to the Americas. However, not all birds return for spring migration. Several, such as cardinals, sparrows, finches, and some robins can be observed all year. Others, such as blue jays, might travel short distances to find more food sources.

I'm happy to report that in our backyard goldfinches are molting and acquiring their brilliant yellow plumage, woodpeckers are drumming, and in one of our bluebird boxes several eggs are nesting. This is a happy and exciting time for many birders!

To assist with bird migration, please review the first page of the [October newsletter](#) that mentions Birdcast. It provides local migration alerts in real time. Another quick way to use e-Bird that I found helpful, is to search the internet for "Harford,MD, US-eBird" and review the checklists submitted by local birders. I just bookmarked that on my iPhone and review it daily to see what's out there. Field trips are also very helpful, and the knowledge the capable trip leaders provide is extremely beneficial. I encourage you to attend as many trips as your schedule permits. Finally, participating in the MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas project is another useful way to expand your knowledge. Dennis Kirkwood, newarkfarm@gmail.com, and Matt Hafner, Hafner.matt@gmail.com, are co-leaders for Harford County and are willing to assist in any way possible.

We are going to conduct our May 6th HBC business meeting in person at the Churchville Presbyterian Church. This will be a good opportunity to welcome back members we haven't seen in two years as well as to become acquainted with new members! There will be a lite fair of free pizza, drinks, and dessert. The guest speaker will be of our own, Mr. Dave Webb and his topic is entitled "MOTHerhood: An Introductory Guide for Birders." Pizza will be served at 6:30 pm., with the presentation to begin approximately 7:00 pm. More specific information can be found later in the newsletter. Hoping you can attend!

~Joe Stevens, President

President's Perch	1
HBC Awards	3
Field Trip Reports	4
Harford Birdlife	8
Chimney Swift Conservation	10
Upcoming Field Trips	11
May HBC Meeting	15
Membership Form	16



Plan Ahead!

- May 6: HBC In Person Meeting
- May 20-22: In Person MOS Conference at Solomon's Island
- July 15: HBC Social at Anita Leight Nature Center

Be there.

Bird Droppings

Club News?

Have news the club should know about? Births, deaths, marriages, or any other notable events that belong in the newsletter? Please contact Secretary Deb Stewart: 410-879-2364 or debstewart1307@gmail.com.

New Members



A warm Harford Bird Club welcome goes out to the following new members.
Thank you for joining! We look forward to seeing you out there on our birding trips and at our meetings!

Carolyn Blazeck – Bel Air
Jean Johnson – Havre de Grace
Christine Riegel – Middle River
Karen & Michael Williams – Bel Air

Patrick Campbell – Havre de Grace
Roxanne Kalwa – Aberdeen
Nick Serafini – Bel Air

Steve Elinsky – Baldwin
Kenneth Paduch – Bel Air
Kelsey Weissner – Bel Air

Membership dues for the September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022 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 15. 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	Joe Stevens	410-734-7198	josephstevens@comcast.net
Vice President	Sue Procell	443-417-4919	procellmd@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Deborah Stewart	410-879-2364	debstewart1307@gmail.com
Treasurer	Eric Vangrin	443-417-7219	evangrin@msn.com
Past President	Mark Johnson	410-692-5978	MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com
Field Trip Chairperson	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	410-937-1174	johen24@gmail.com
Public Relations	Jane Scocca	410-272-8870	jane@scocca.org
Education Chairperson	Mary Murray	410-812-6621	murraymary@gmail.com
Conservation Chair	Deborah Bowers	410-692-2708	bowerspub@hotmail.com
Youth Coordinator	Vacant		
State Board Members	Dennis Kirkwood	410-692-5905	newarkfarms@gmail.com
	Diane Jones	410-404-9180	baltobirder55@gmail.com
Media Manager	Amanda Subolefsky	443-528-4306	AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com
Wrenderings Editor	Mary Beth Collins		Wrenderings@MDBirds.org

Annual Harford Bird Club Awards

The annual Harford Bird Club Awards were presented at our virtual March 4, 2022, meeting. If you know any of the following members, please congratulate them!

BIRD OF THE YEAR: Snow Buntings - Issued to **Ben and Ruthie Magness** for graciously welcoming the Harford Bird Club members to view several snow buntings visiting their barn in February.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Leanne and Mark Pemburn - In grateful recognition for their interest and enthusiasm in learning about the birds of Maryland and participating in local field trips.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Mary Trotta - In recognition for her long membership in the Harford Bird Club. Over the years, she has been one of the quiet people behind the scenes who has participated in and supported the club in many ways. We proudly recognize her role on the Field Trip Committee. In addition to being a consistent attendee and contributor to the committee meetings, she also serves as the committee recorder. After a discussion of all trips suggested and described, she prepares a guide list to help seek volunteer leaders and to serve as a skeleton for developing the final text of trips for publication. While trip leaders are contacted and write-ups for new trips/events are developed by the Committee Chairperson, she digs deep into Committee files for historical write-ups and updates them. She then sends a rough draft of the listings to the Committee Chairperson who develops the final draft. She, along with several other Committee members, then helps proof the document to make sure it is accurate and suitable for publication. Once ready for distribution, she helps see that it reaches several media outlets. In addition, this year she resurrected the trip to the Audubon Center in Pennsylvania. The original trip, conceived and planned by Amanda Subolefsky, was cancelled because of the pandemic. There were many details and issues that had to be reworked in order to resurrect this event. She did all this largely on her own, and with outstanding organization and planning, resulting in a very successful and enjoyable event for all.

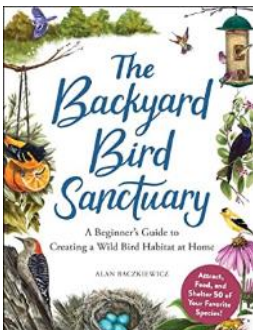
BIRDER OF THE YEAR: Amanda Subolefsky - In appreciation for her steadfast devotion to enhancing the life and spirit of the club with her unique creativity, outstanding leadership and exceptional innovation. We thank her for sharing her love and knowledge of birds with the community and the Harford County Public School students.

Congratulations

Book Review

Bethany Vangrin

The Backyard Bird Sanctuary: A Beginner's Guide to Creating a Wild Bird Habitat at Home
by Alan Baczekiewicz



New to birding and interested in enhancing your backyard to create a welcoming habitat for a wide variety of birds? Wondering about the preferred type of food or feeder for a House Wren or Eastern Bluebird? Want tips for attracting Ruby-throated Hummingbirds to your yard? Look no further! Alan Baczekiewicz provides the basics for 50 of the most common backyard birds in an easy-to-access guidebook for any beginner birdwatcher.

Trip Reports

Swan Harbor Farm December 11, 2021

Mark S. Johnson

Six birdwatchers tackled Swan Harbor on a windy, unseasonably warm December day. Fog was just above the tree line initially, and it remained overcast throughout the day. We started on the water where Mallards were common as were Canada Geese; a huge raft of ducks were just out of view to the west, even with a scope. A walk of the loop trail scared up some skulking Winter Wrens, and sparrows to include White-throated and Song. About 30 Wood Ducks were found at the east impoundment and Swamp Sparrows and two Rusty Blackbirds showed up. A less than cooperative Orange-crowned Warbler was up, then down in the east impoundment. Thirty-nine species were observed!

Perryville Community Park Bird Walk February 12, 2022

Sue Procell & Colleen Webster

Saturday, February 12th dawned with temperatures in the mid 40's; a perfect calm morning for a winter bird walk. Perryville Community Park delivered the perfect backdrop as a diverse group of participants, both familiar faces and first timers, gathered to share a fine morning of birding. Sixty-three "twitchers" and 3 trip leaders gathered with binoculars, scopes and tripods in tow. Colleen set the tone by reading a passage from Wendell Berry's poem "The Peace of Wild Things." As we spread out along the shoreline, a large flock of Tundra Swans passed overhead. Perched nearby, a red-tailed hawk watched as we worked on identifying a mixed flock of ducks rafted just offshore amongst honking Canada Geese. The magical morning delivered up more than 24 species of birds and lots of participant interaction. Ducks identified included Gadwall, Scaup, both Hooded and Common Merganser, Canvasback, Redhead, Widgeon, and Mallard. Most importantly, a good time was had by all!

Timberdoodle Hunt at Mullins Park March 2, 2022

Joe Stevens & Tom Gibson

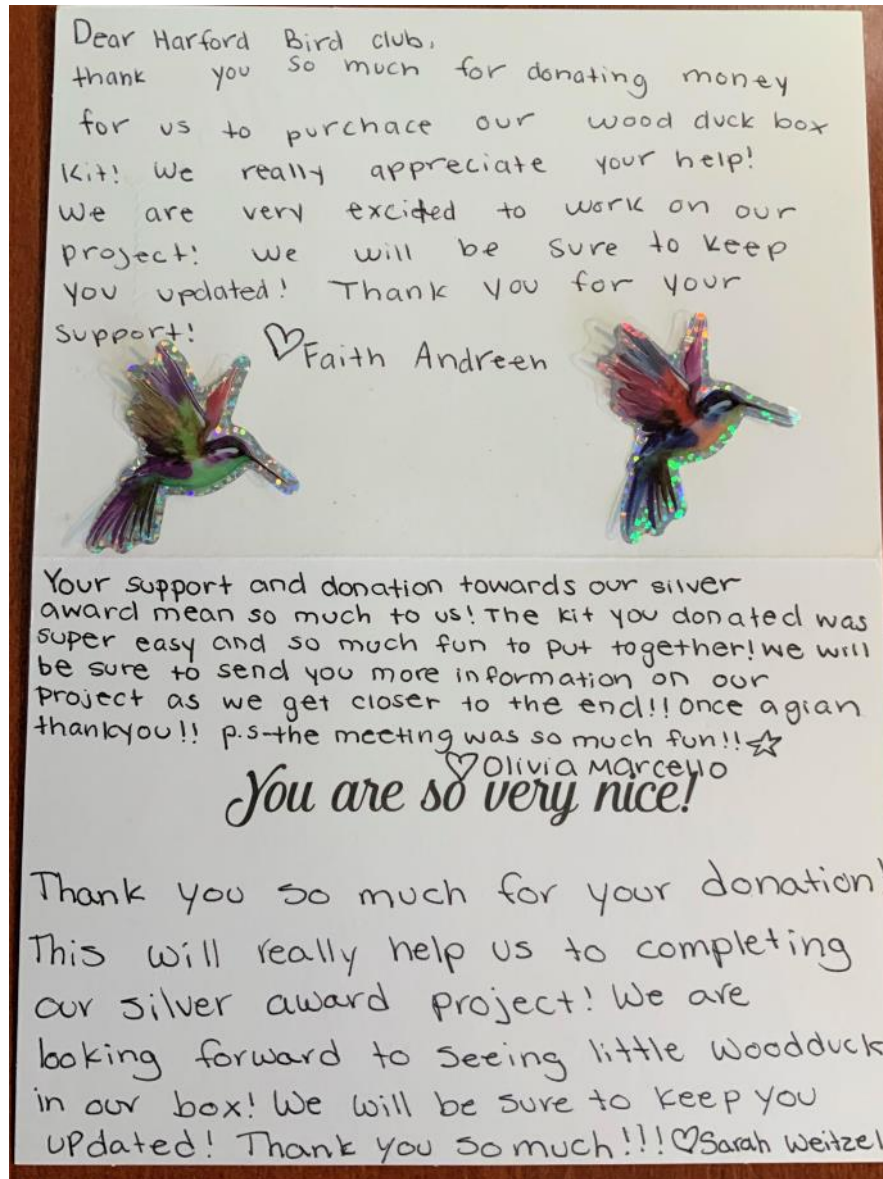
Four birders hiked to the interior of the little known Mullins Park. At about 6:17p.m. we heard our first buzzes and shortly after that the buzzes could be heard all around, letting us know that there were a number of woodcocks in the area. We then saw a few quick low-level flights but no circular high displays. However, the highlight of the evening was a woodcock that landed about 30 feet from the group on the paved surface. He was visible to the naked eye, and even better with flash-light and binoculars. The setting sun, a beautiful orange-yellow cast to the sky, and the relatively mild temperature made for a nice outing.

Lapidum and Susquehanna State Park March 26, 2022

Dennis Kirkwood, Ed.D

On a partly cloudy morning, nine birders joined the leader for the annual search for unusual gulls and other water birds along the Susquehanna River at Lapidum landing. Over one hundred Bonaparte's gulls were feeding along the water but most stayed closer to the Cecil side making it difficult to look for Little and Black-headed gulls. A single Caspian Tern worked its way up river and hundreds of Tree Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallows were very actively hawking insects. Double-crested Cormorants, Wood Ducks, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Fish Crows were also observed. We finished the morning by moving to the Deer Creek Picnic area and found the hybrid Red-tailed-Red-shouldered hawk that has been resident for several years now. Eastern Bluebird, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Juncos and other small passerines were working the edge of the forest. We ended the morning with a pair of Barred Owls that gave us spectacular views near the entrance gate. 38 species were seen and/or heard during the morning.

Girl Scouts Gratitude for Wood Duck Box Grant



Remembering William Alexander Russell, Jr.

William Alexander Russell, Jr., of Havre de Grace, MD, passed away on February 26, 2022. He was a member of the Boy Scouts of America and the Maryland Ornithological Society. He enjoyed volunteering, traveling, hiking, birding, and Civil War history. His love for his family, country, wildlife, and giving back to the community was beyond measure. He will be greatly missed by family, friends, and all who knew him.

For more information in his life and legacy, [Read Here>>](#)



Breeding Bird Atlas

Matt Hafner & Dennis Kirkwood Ed.D

We officially have some completed blocks in Harford County! This is great progress, but there is still plenty more to be done over the next 3 field seasons.

Continuing to atlas your local spots is great, but if you're looking to expand your efforts, here are some ways you can help:

- **Atlas in low effort areas** - Check out the [effort map](#) and focus on the areas in yellow and green. Be sure to toggle to the coded species map as well. A combination of the two maps can really help see where effort is needed. There are 10 blocks with less than 40 coded species.
- **Help blocks cross the finish line** - Using the coded species toggle on the effort map linked above, find the orange blocks and target a few species that are missing. There are 14 blocks that have over 60 coded species! Remember a block needs 70 coded species before we can check the other metrics for completeness.
- **Go night birding!** - Many atlas blocks have 0 hours of nocturnal birding registered. In Harford, we can only expect 3 species of owls, but they should be widespread and most blocks can have all 3.

From now until mid-August, if you play an owl song and get a response, that's a T code! We should be able to get owls to Probable status in most blocks.

In Person MOS Convention

As of April 2022, the MOS Convention will be an in-person event held at Solomons Island from May 20-22, 2022. The location is the now Solomon's Inn Resort and Marina; *formerly the Holiday Inn Solomons Island*, renamed earlier this year. The address for the hotel is: 155 Holiday Drive Solomons, MD 20688.

There will be field trips, speakers, a poster session, raffle, photo contest and social.

Registration will remain open until **May 3rd**; to register, visit:

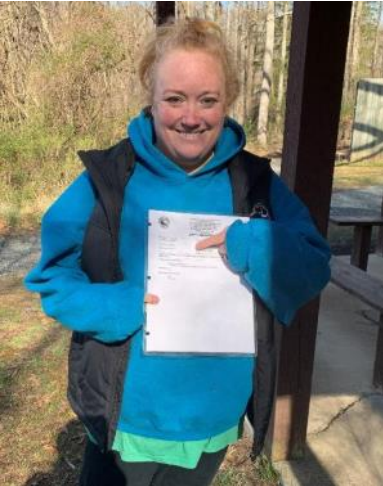
<https://www.mosconvention.org/registration-info/> There is a special room rate for attendees, *only available until April 29th*. The details can be found:

<https://www.mosconvention.org/accommodations-3/> If you are looking for a roommate, feel free to complete a form with your name and information so that you can put you in touch with a potential compatible roommate:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSen1_aLTa1W4tL3EQxhWUllhVepT77bJCzRib1-a6q27etm2g/viewform



Amanda Subolefsky Awarded Master Bander Permit



Congratulations to Amanda Subolefsky for being awarded her Master Bander Permit! Amanda has worked at the banding stations at Harford Glen since 2006 and at Eden Mill since 2017. After an intense apprenticeship under Mark Johnson, Amanda was able to obtain her own permit. She continues a 42 year old tradition of bird banding at Harford Glen, where she collects important population data and evaluates the relative abundance and habitat use of migratory passerines in a forest fragment affected by urban development over time. When students are in attendance, she educates them about the importance of collecting data on bird populations and models the scientific process of data collection.

Anita C Leight Estuary Center Volunteers Needed

A few volunteers are needed to help with monitoring bluebird boxes this year here at Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. This is a great opportunity for anyone who would like to check boxes on the property and help collect data for Cornell's "Nestwatch."

Please contact Matt Addicks if interested:

maddicks@harfordcountymd.gov.



Consider Taking the Birds-Safe Buildings Pledge

Lights Out Baltimore organizes collision monitoring efforts in downtown Baltimore to find and help birds that have collided with buildings during spring and fall migration. They have been a leader in raising awareness around Bird-Safe Buildings since 2008. The National Audubon Society, Patterson Park Audubon Center, and other partners are working together to engage residents, businesses, schools, local governments, and other organizations in learning more about the issue of collisions and the variety of ways we can prevent them.

If interested in joining their efforts to save migratory birds by creating safe passage at your home, business, school, commercial building, or elsewhere in your community, [Learn More Here>>](#)



Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

With a new newsletter schedule beginning in 2022, this report covers most of the 2021-2022 winter and the start of spring migration. Regardless of season, there are always great birds out there! Go find them! This report covers the period from December 1st, 2021 through March 31st, 2022.

Geese, Swans, Ducks, Hawks, Falcons

MH saw 2 Greater White-fronted Geese flying over Bel Air on Feb 6th. DK reported an immature Snow Goose at Newark Farm on Feb 21st. This was the first Snow Goose he had seen there. Many observers reported the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans at the Edgewood Home Depot pond throughout the period. MA saw 3 male and 2 female Wood Ducks at Swan Harbor on Dec 26th. MJ saw 2 at the Edgewood Home Depot pond on Jan 4th and 7 at Perryman on Feb 13th. DL saw 2 Gadwall, 12 Ring-necked Ducks, and 4 Hooded Mergansers at Lakeside on Jan 16th. He saw similar numbers there on Jan 23rd. JM found a Long-tailed Duck near Conowingo Dam on Jan 22nd. It was seen nearby through Feb 2nd. MJ saw a late (or early?) Great Egret at Hopkins Farm pond on Dec 3rd. TB saw an early Osprey at Mariner Point Park on Feb 23rd. TH reported a pair of Bald Eagles throughout the period in and around his tulip trees in North Bel Air. SH witnessed a Red-shouldered Hawk in an apparent standoff with a goat in a field in Fallston on Jan 23rd. She also saw a Merlin flying by low and fast that day. MJ noted the return of the long-resident Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk hybrid at Susquehanna State Park on Jan 12th. This bird has been seen in that area for a number of years. DK saw a Merlin at Turney's Pond on Mar 27th. He also saw a Peregrine Falcon near the Bradenbaugh Flats on Feb 22nd.



Rails, Cranes, Gulls, Woodpeckers, Ravens

MJ heard a King Rail at Swan Harbor on Dec 31st. He saw it on Feb 22nd and twice in March too. He saw 5 Sandhill Cranes near Rumsey Island on Dec 9th. He also heard 2 at Gunpowder Falls State Park on Jan 19th. He saw a Little Gull from Lapidum on Feb 17th. The bird was also seen from there on March 9th and 12th. Several observers reported 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers in the Perryman area throughout the period. BL saw one near Conowingo Dam on Dec 9th. DK saw 2 at their usual location on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Jan 1st. DB had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at her Street home on Dec 30th. She also saw it there on Feb 15th. TH saw Hairy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers near his Bel Air home throughout the period. DB saw 2 Common Ravens flying over Street on Dec 29th. CR saw 2 near Perryman Park on Mar 13th. DK saw on being chased by a crow at Harford Glen on Mar 22nd.

swallows, Wrens, Pipits, Warblers

JR counted 12 early Tree Swallows flying over the Bush River on Feb 22nd. DL saw 2 Brown Creepers and a Golden-crowned Kinglet at Lakeside on Jan 23rd. DB saw a Brown Creeper in her Black Walnut tree in Street on Mar 3rd. She also had a Hermit Thrush around her Street home throughout the winter. MJ saw a Marsh Wren at Swan Harbor on Dec 2nd. It was seen several times through Jan 5th. DK saw 3 American Pipits on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Jan 18th. MJ found an Orange-crowned Warbler at the Woodley Rd pond in Perryman on Dec 1st. It was also seen there on Mar 4th and 7th. MA saw one at Swan Harbor on Dec 26th. It was seen there through Jan 17th. SB also saw one on APG on Jan 8th. MJ saw a Pine Warbler in Oakington on Dec 5th. DK had 2 at Newark Farm on Jan 20th. DB saw one on her suet feeder in Street on Mar 27th. MJ saw a Palm Warbler at the Woodley Rd pond on Dec 1st. It was also seen there on Dec 5th. DL saw one at Lakeside on Jan 23rd. MJ saw a Common Yellowthroat at Mullins Park on Dec 20th and 29th.

GD saw 2 American Tree Sparrows in Perryman on Feb 13th. KJ saw one at Swan Harbor on Feb 15th. DL had a Field Sparrow at Lakeside on Feb 6th. MJ found a Vesper Sparrow at Perryman Park on Dec 1st. BP saw 2 at the Sweet Air part of Gunpowder State Park on Mar 26th. DB saw a Fox Sparrow at her bird bath in Street on Dec 10th. *Con't p.13*



UPDATED Field Trip Policies

Revised 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!

Circle Your Calendar: HBC Social July 15th

We hope you can join us for a HBC Social on July 15th at 6:15 pm at the Anita Leight Nature Center. Enjoy cold beverages and a variety of delicious appetizers along with some stimulating conversation.

More details to come in the June newsletter!



HBC Education & Community Event Volunteer Opportunities!

Volunteering is a work of the heart, and the HBC needs a few volunteers from time to time. Mary Murray, our Education Chairperson, often does some bird walks and talks with school age children. Sometimes the groups can be a little large, so she could use some assistance. To volunteer for these student activities, please contact Mary: 410-812-6621 or murraymary@gmail.com.

Occasionally, the HBC is asked to set up a display table for a local event. We have all the materials but might need some individuals to monitor the table for a short time. If interested in getting involved and sharing your love of birds with others, contact our Public Relations Coordinator Jane Scocca: 410-272-8870 or Jane@scocca.org.

HBC Supports Chimney Swift Conservation

Imagine these aerial insectivores flying all day long dipping down to drink from a water source, resting at night when roosting in a chimney. Aren't you in awe of its migratory journey, too? Within two weeks of return to their breeding grounds, chimney swifts begin pairing and will display aerial courting behavior. They nest in chimneys and other structures as old growth forest have diminished.

Large groups (sometimes 1000s) form in late August / early September getting ready to travel to South America. This is the time that chimney swifts can be seen gathering, circling and in one quick descent, enter a chimney for the night.

This year, a new *HBC chimney swift conservation committee is planning its first steps. For now, we will be in search of breeding behavior and of roosting sites and ask the club members for help. Please contribute to this effort as we want to track all nesting and roosting sites in Harford County. We also welcome members to the committee.*

There are some conservation efforts you can take now to ensure nesting sites.

- If you have an older brick chimney, uncap it for the season (and close the flue).
- Any chimney cleaning should be held off until after nesting season.
- Building a chimney swift tower is also an option. Designs are available from the North American Chimney Swift Nest Site Research Project. [Learn More Here>>](#)



*Photo by Deb Bowers, HBC member.
Husband Steve assisting friend
Mike Coomes on the ladder.*

Contact Deb Stewart for more information, debstewart1307@gmail.com, or committee members Debbie Bowers, Jane Scocca, Sue Procell.

Chimney Swift Facts**



- Nest in chimneys or other hollow structures (mostly chimneys in urban and suburban areas).
- Common throughout the eastern half of the United States.
- Migrate to South America for the winter (the upper Amazon basin of Peru, Ecuador, Chile and Brazil) Identifiable by their slender, cigar-shaped body and long, narrow wings.
- Long claws and bristly feathers help them cling to vertical surfaces.
- Nests are held together and to walls with saliva.

The Partners in Flight Population Estimates Database documents a 67% population decline in Chimney Swifts from 1970-2014.

***Source: National Audubon Society*

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

April 23 (Sat.) Warblers and Wildflowers at Susquehanna State Park — Enjoy discovering the beauty of colorful spring wildflowers and the gorgeous spring plumage of migrant and resident bird species. Leaders are Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu), Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219), and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Meet at **7:30AM** at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill.

April 24 (Sun.) — The 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 leader Dr. Dave Larkin 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 lunch and sufficient drink for the day. Contact Dr. Larkin at (410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net).

April 30 (Sat.) — Palmer State Park — The leader for this walk is experienced birder, Mark Johnson, (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com). This little known park is actually one of Harford County's gems. Meet at the parking lot at Old Forge Hill Road at **7:00 AM**.

May 7 (Sat.) — Warbler walk at Susquehanna State Park — Meet at the parking area at Rock Run Mill at **7:00AM**. Take a stroll through the park in search of spring migrants, especially the beautiful but, difficult to find and ID warblers. While warblers will be the focus of the trip, there should be plenty of other songbirds, as well as waterfowl and waders out on the river. The leader is Tim Houghton (410-510-7504; timhoughton@comcast.net).

May 13 (Fri.) — Eden Mill — An underbirded spot, Eden Mill hosts a variety of habitats along Deer Creek. Expect to see warblers, breeders, and some of the raptors that breed in the surrounding area. This is a County Parks and Rec led program and will require free registration ahead of time to ensure the trip runs. Register online here: <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/parksrecreation>. Contact leader Matthew Addicks (maddicks@harfordcountymd.gov) for questions.

May 21 (Sat.) — Sweet Air Area of GSP — Join experienced birder, Dr. Mark Johnson, as he strolls through the rolling hills of the Sweet Air area of the Gunpowder State Park in search of migrants and breeding birds. Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers and various warbler species are the target birds. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Dalton-Bevard Road at **7:00 AM**. Contact information (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com).

May 28 (Sat.) — Perryville Paddle at Perryville Community Park — Bring your kayak, canoe or stand-up to ply the usually serene waters in the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bay in search of swimmers, divers, and of course, fliers. Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead; songbirds and woodland birds frequent the shoreline; and waterfowl and heron are common sightings as well. Meet at **8:30AM** at the Stump Point launch at the far end of the Perryville Community Park. Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com).

May 30 (Mon.) — Hidden Valley (and surrounding areas) — Meet at **7:00 AM** in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Road where it crosses Deer Creek. Parking space is limited. The trip will proceed along the aptly named Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream running through a beautiful stand of the now rare mature hemlocks. From there the walk will proceed to the Bradenbaugh Flats, with stops along the way at any other sites with potential. Leader is Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com).

Continued, p.12

Harford Bird Club Field Trips, continued

June 4 (Sat) — Heartwood Nursery, Felton, PA — The Heartwood specializes in native shrubs and trees. They are especially proud of their collection of native hollies. The property also features preserved forest and meadows planted to attract birds and butterflies. There will be a brief tour of the production area of the nursery as well as a birding walk. Late warbler migrants will be among the target birds as well as resident species. So, mark your calendars. *Final details including carpooling/caravanning, etc. will be announced closer to the event.* A special thanks to Rob Winslow, HBC member and employee at Heartwood, and to the owners and management of Heartwood Nursery for their assistance with this new project. If traveling alone or in a carpool, plan to arrive at the nursery by **7:30 AM (Warblers feed early!)** Trip leader is Rob Winslow (717-779-9568 / erwinslow@comcast.net)

June 11 (Sat) — Atlas Block Buster — Help our volunteer scientists determine breeding bird populations in Harford County. These data will be added to the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas project data collection sponsored by MOS. Details for the event to be announced later. Check with Harford County directors for the Atlas Project. They are Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905/ newarkfarms@gmail.com) and Matt Hafner (410-971-3203/ hafner.Matt@gmail.com).

June 25 (Sat.) — Tydings Park Baby Birds Paddle, Havre de Grace — Ply the interesting waters of Havre de Grace with experienced birder and outdoor enthusiast, Colleen Webster (410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu) and co-leader and naturalist, Sue Procell (443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com). 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 eagles are also almost guaranteed. We will be making a special effort to find and ID young birds.

July 2 (Sat.) — Fair Hill, Cecil County — With over 5,600 acres of forests, fields and wetlands, Fair Hill NRMA offers spectacular scenery and some of the best birding in Cecil county. We will explore Fair Hill's diverse habitats for a variety of breeding species including its crown jewel, the Bobolink. This grassland species migrates over 4,000 miles every spring to breed in hayfields specifically managed to support the Bobolinks' nesting cycle. Other likely species are Eastern Meadowlark, Veery, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Yellow-breasted Chat. In the interest of safety and to ensure we see target species during their peak activity, this trip starts early. Carpoolers can meet at **5:55 AM** at Darlington Park (4549 Conowingo Rd.) or individual drivers can meet at **6:30 AM** at Parking Lot #3 (2941 Appleton Rd.). Bring small bills to pay parking fee (\$3/vehicle MD residents; \$5 out-of-state). Also bring water, snacks, repellent, sunscreen and hiking boots if it has rained recently. This is an all morning trip, although heat might cause us to stop early. Trip leader is Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net).

July 15 (Fri.) — Summer Meeting/Social at Anita Leight Nature Center — Enjoy cold beverages and a variety of delicious appetizers along with lively conversation in the Anita Leight Nature Center. The affair begins at **6:15 PM**. Check the HBC website or future emails for additional details.

July 17 (Sun.) — 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 leader Dr. Dave Larkin 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 lunch and sufficient drink for the day. Contact Dr. Larkin at (410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net).

August 27 (Sat.) — Havre de Grace Shoreline Evening Paddle, Tydings Park — Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up to the launch ramp at Tydings Park. The harbor areas of Havre de Grace are home to a great variety of water-related species such as ducks, geese, swallows, osprey, gulls, terns, heron and many others. Add pleasant scenic paddling in the low light of dusk and you have a perfect combination for a truly enjoyable evening. *Con't, p.13*

Harford Birdlife, continued

swallows, Wrens, Pipits, Warblers, *continued from p.8*

DK saw a Lapland Longspur on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Feb 13th. It was still there the next day. BP reported an Indigo Bunting at Sweet Air on Jan 19th. CS found a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Mariner Point Park on Feb 6th. This bird was seen by many others through Mar 21st. Photos indicate that there might have been 2 separate birds there- one appeared to have an obviously mis-shaped bill, while another bird seemed to have a normal bill. DL reported a Rusty Blackbird at Lakeside on Feb 6th. DWM reported the return of a female Baltimore Oriole to her Forest Hill home on Dec 17th. It was there daily through March.

Contributors

BL- Brian Lineaweaver, BP- Brad Phoebus, CR- Carey Rowsom, CS- Carroll Smith, DB- Deborah Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DWM- Deborah Wilson-Matusky, GB- Glenn Dalby, JM- John Manger, JR- John Rinker, KJ- Kye Jenkins, MA- Matt Addicks, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson, SB- Steven Buhler, SH- Susan Hood, TB- Tanya Burnett, TH- Todd Holden

Harford Bird Club Field Trips, continued

August 27 (Sat.) — Havre de Grace Shoreline Evening Paddle, Tydings Park , *continued from p.11*

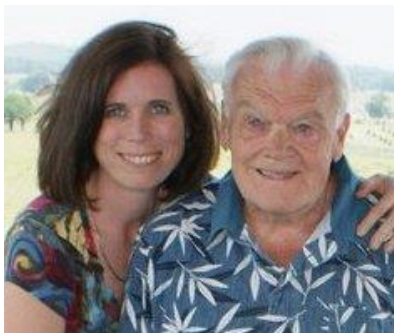
Meet at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace at **5:00 PM** (dusk). Lighting requirements for paddle craft call for a single white light visible from all directions (360 degrees). Contact Colleen for info for light purchase or check on line and at local marinas. A few loaner lights may be available. Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577 or cwebster@haford.edu) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com).

September 3 (Sat.) — Annual Bird Club Picnic and Bird Walk Enjoy classic picnic foods with your fellow club members at the pavilion of the Eden Mill Nature Center overlooking the beautiful Deer Creek Valley and waterfalls at the mill. Join us at **1:00 PM**. Due to COVID concerns bring your own lunch and drink. Paper and plasticware will be provided. Weather permitting, a bird walk may follow.

Introduction to New HBC Newsletter Editor: Mary Beth Collins

Mary Beth Collins is a life-long bird lover, in great part because of her father William (Bill) Collins. He was a member of the Harford Bird Club and participated in the Cecil County Migration Count for 20+ years. Bill and his wife spent their retirement travelling the world — always including a birding expedition in the itinerary — and afterwards he would give presentations featuring the birds they'd enjoy during their adventures.

Mary Beth unplugs from long days working at the National Association for Children of Addiction (NACoA), a national nonprofit committed to healing children impacted by parental addiction, by enjoying a great variety of birds that visit her backyard or the woods behind her property. She also has co-founded and is vice chairperson of the nonprofit PREP4Gold to



raise awareness about the importance of prevention of childhood cancer and to increase services for childhood cancer survivors. She has over 30 years of experience in communications and 15 years of experience in nonprofit leadership supporting children's issues. Over the years, she has additionally advocated for increased understanding and support for children with learning differences, behavioral disorders, executive dysfunction, and autism. In her free time, Mary Beth enjoys her two adult sons (her oldest, a childhood cancer survivor of 23 years), works in her garden, always has music playing, and tries to get to the beach regularly. She is thrilled to be able to support the Harford Bird Club as the new *Wrenderings* editor, and extends her appreciation to Amanda Subolefsky for her incredible support and assistance during the transition.

HBC Appreciation

Thank you to Kit and Glenn Brown for their kind donation of a scope, a pair of binoculars and boxes and boxes of bird and garden themed books. The scope is at Harford Glen for use with the students during their Binoc Trek lesson. The binocs have been added to the class/loaner set and the books are being donated to an Eagle Scout project at Harford Glen. The Eagle Scout is building two tiny libraries and the books from the donation will be the first ones in the tiny library for the public to take, swap or borrow. Kit and Glenn were long time members of the Harford Bird Club and Kit worked at Harford Glen teaching students about trees. They are thrilled their collection is being put to good use.

~Amanda Subolefsky



A special thanks to the Harford Bird Club Public Relations Team and the Harford Glen Bird Banding Team for volunteering at Harford Glen's first 'Opening Day' Event.

Held on Saturday April 2, several hundred members of the public flocked to Harford Glen to celebrate the start of the spring season. The Harford Bird Club had an informational table where Joe Stevens, Melody Stevens, Jane Scocca, and Deb Stewart talked up the club and encouraged people to get out and bird. Thanks to Greg Murray for leading the charge at a table where families could build bird feeders donated by Home Depot. Mike White, Dave Larkin, Jean Wheeler, Mary Trotta and Mary Murray ran the bird banding station. Kids and adults were mesmerized by the process and in awe of the beauty of birds up close.

~Amanda Subolefsky

From the bottom of my heart I'd like to thank the Harford Bird Club members and Executive Board for their continued support during my quest to earn a Master Bander Permit. The club has sponsored new nets at Harford Glen on and off in various years. I received a HBC grant to attend a virtual 'Aging and Molt Limit' workshop in March 2021 and the countless hours club members have shared with me at both Harford Glen and Eden Mill helping me fine tune the necessary skills. Thank you to Dennis Kirkwood and Mark Johnson for being references on my application and speaking highly of me in their recommendations to the Bird Banding Lab.

Above all, I'd like to thank Mark Johnson for taking me under his wing (pun intended) and teaching me on the fly (again, pun intended) when an emergency situation came up in August 2017. At that time, it looked like banding at Harford Glen would be stalled or even closed, losing the continuity of 37 years worth of data. Mark stepped up and answered my tearful cry for mentorship and a fresh start. He gave me his undivided attention and hundreds of hours of teaching me mountains of useful information. Without his passion for banding and his desire to make sure the craft continues through mentoring new banders the Harford Glen banding station would be closed. I worked hard to become a Master Bander, but Mark made it possible. Endless thanks to Mark and the Harford Bird Club.

~Amanda Subolefsky

May 6th Meeting



Free pizza and dessert – 6:30 pm, General Meeting 7:00pm

Churchville Presbyterian Church
2844 Churchville, Road
Churchville, MD 21028

Kindly RSVP to the May 6th meeting [Using This Google Form>>](#)

We'd like to know how much pizza to order and how many chairs to have ready!

The form will close at 9 pm on May 4th.

May Meeting Speaker

MOTHerhood: An Introductory Guide for Birders **By Dave Webb**

Dave has been a member of HBC for the last 33 years. He participated in all but three Rock Run CBCs during that time. Taught birding classes at Harford Community College and Longwood Gardens (Kennett Square, PA). For 15 years, he conducted the Van Bibber route of the USGS Breeding Birding Survey. Since 2007 has conducted whip-poor-will surveys at Aberdeen Proving Ground in support of the Nightjar Survey Network run by the Center for Conservation Biology, a research group within The College of William and Mary and Virginia Commonwealth University. Served as HBC President from 2009-2011, and MOS Treasurer from 2011-2019. Currently serving as a Contributing Editor for the Maryland Biodiversity Project and BugGuide.net, focusing on nocturnal arthropods, including ... moths.

MOTHerhood: An Introductory Guide for Birders will be presented by Harford Bird Club member, Dave Webb, a birder for over three decades who seven years ago went over to the “dark side” to study other colorful flyers, namely moths. Similar to the multitude of differences in birds, moths vary tremendously in size, structure, maculation, behavior, habitat needs, and life histories. We'll explore this diversity in moths, and focus on the many ways that moths and their larvae have evolved to avoid traveling down the gullet of a hungry bird.



Change in Wrenderings in 2022

The HBC newsletter has typically been distributed digitally to members every other month or six issues a year. Beginning in 2022, the new format is four issues a year. **Look for the next issue in June!**



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, 2021 - August 31, 2022

- () 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.