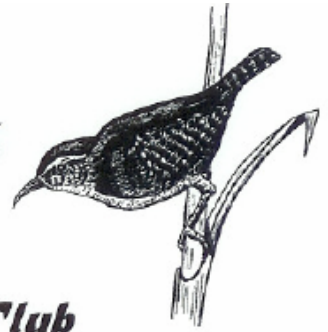




Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 20 Number 4

August, 2007

President's Perch: Picnic Time is Near!

It's true... picnic time is almost here! Hosted once again by Jean and Dennis Kirkwood at their beautiful Newark Farms North, this event offers not only a fantastic birding trip highlighted by cooperative Red-headed Woodpeckers, but also features the delectable grilling skills of Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson. If you have not attended in the past, I can highly recommend this as perhaps the most social event on our club calendar... a fun time to be had for all! To register for the picnic, see the announcement and registration forms elsewhere in this *Wrenderings* issue.

Speaking of socials, the Summer Social went off without a hitch this past July, thanks in no small part to Carol Flora who took care of all of the food and accompaniments purchases. In addition, Becky Gallo, who works for the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, stayed late to open and close up the building for us. We even had the honor of a visit from the MOS president Marcia Balestri and her husband, both of whom traveled all of the way from Frederick to join us! Speaker Bill Barber, who's license plate is appropriately called "GRAY J", gave a very engaging talk on birding in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. The "virtual tour" of Adirondack hotspots was very well laid out, and I more than certain that a few Harford Bird Club members will happen to find themselves birding the boreal bogs of the Adirondacks as a result of Bill's program.

Those fascinated by Bill's presentation will certainly want to be at our November meeting. Dr. Dennis Coskren will be joining us to discuss how local geology impacts Maryland's bird distribution and movement. From what I have heard Dr. Coskren is also an animated speaker, and thus the November meeting will be one not to miss. The remainder of 2007-2008 speaker season has also been scheduled. As announced in the last *Wrenderings*, Dave Ziolkowski will deliver our keynote in January, and old friends Jean and Larry Fry will be joining us in March. The May meeting features the return of Maryland Department of Natural Resources biologist Dave Brinker who will discuss conservation of Maryland biodiversity... a topic sure to be of extreme concern to Harford Bird Club members. Our season will end at the Summer Social in July featuring Jean and Dennis Kirkwood, who will take a break from hosting the club so that they can present to it! Their stories and photographs from a recent trip to Spain and Morocco will clearly make that evening one to mark in your calendars!

Last but certainly not least, this edition of *Wrenderings* features the pen and ink 'wrenderings' of member Linda Weeks. Four of her sketches adorn our articles, including the eastern chipmunk seen here in addition to a Golden Eagle, a bluebird at a nest box, and a very nice sketch of a Kentucky Warbler. With that being said... it is time to get away from the computer and go find an air conditioner! See you all in September at our annual Harford Bird Club picnic.



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Plan Ahead:

- HBC Picnic: Saturday, September 8; 1:00pm
- "Fall" Bird Count: Sunday, September 16
- *Wrenderings* Deadline: September 25
- November Dinner Meeting: Fri, Nov 2, 6:15pm
- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Sat, December 29
- January General Meeting: Fri, Jan 11, 2008, 7:00pm
- Mid-winter Count: Sunday, January 27, 2008
- March Dinner Meeting: Fri, Mar 7, 2008, 6:15pm
- May General Meeting: Fri May 2, 2008, 7:00pm
- May Count: Saturday, May 10, 2008

Best Birding Wishes, *Russ Kovach*

Bird Droppings

Harford Bird Club

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410-273-9029

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Les Eastman
410-734-6969

Wrenderings Editor

Vacant; to apply call:
410-457-4274



Are you a Bird Brain?

What is the oldest living wild bird ever recorded by a North American researcher?

Answer elsewhere in this issue!

Club News?

Have news the club should know about? Births, deaths, marriages, or any other notable events that belong in the newsletter? Please contact Corresponding Secretary Marty Crouse-Farley at 410-557-6786 or email to mhcf@msn.com.

Fall Migration Count

The autumn counterpart to the Spring Migration Count... the Fall Count is just around the corner! Anyone interested in covering a part of the county on Sunday, September 16th, 2007 is encouraged to contact count coordinator Mark Johnson to set up a block. Good luck... and see you out there for this much under-appreciated bird count that can have some great surprises for the intrepid birder!

Contact: Mark Johnson

at:

410-692-5978

or

Mark.Johnson@us.army.mil



Welcome!

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!

Connie and Tim Alexander, from Port Deposit

Alan and Marilyn Miller, from Abingdon

Kent Smith, from Bel Air

It's That Time Again!

Well... sure enough that time has come again. Pay up everybody! Dues are due for the 2007-2008 membership year. Please fill out the attached membership envelope and mail to Marjie Heagy at 1438 Sharon Acres Road, Forest Hill, MD 21050. Additional forms can be found on the Harford Bird Club website:

www.harfordbirdclub.org

Harford Birdlife

by: **Becky Gallo**



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What a hot start to summer! Thank you to all of you who sent sightings. If there is incorrect information or I spelled your name wrong please let me know. If you have never sent me sightings before – it is not too late to start, call or email me!

Goose, Ducks, Gamebirds

In May DLW saw 1 confused Canada Goose fly into the woods near their house in Street. JFG saw on May 30th 1 Wood Duck and 2 American Black Ducks. DZ saw a male Canvasback roosting near the Bush River in Perryman on June 10th. CW saw a lone Wild Turkey while visiting Susquehanna State Park on May 17th. On June 10th DZ heard Northern Bobwhites off of Chelsea Road.

Cormorant, Herons, Ibis, Vultures

Double-crested Cormorants were in their usual spots – Susquehanna State Park and the Conowingo Dam (MJH). Great Blue Herons were reported from Edgewood (GRP), Tydings Island (CW), Lakeside (DL), Anita Leight Estuary Center (RG), Conowingo Dam (MJH) and Swan Harbor (JRG, MJH). A Great Egret was spotted perched at the Ducks Unlimited Pond at Swan Harbor on May 4th (MoH). CW saw a Snowy Egret stalking his dinner on June 5th at the Havre de Grace Promenade. On May 12th DL saw a Green Heron at Lakeside and JFG saw 1 at Swan Harbor on May 30th. Black-crowned Night-Herons are nesting on Tydings Island according to CW (May 5 & 6). A Glossy Ibis was foraging at Swan Harbor on May 30th (JFG). MJH saw Black and Turkey Vultures throughout May.

Hawks, Falcon

Ospreys were seen at Tydings Island (CW), Lakeside (DL), Susquehanna State Park (MJH), Havre de Grace (MoH), and Swan Harbor (JG). Bald Eagles were also common – Tydings Island (CW), Lakeside (DL), Conowingo Dam (MJH), Swan Harbor (JRG) and Havre de Grace (MoH). JFG saw 1 Cooper's Hawk at Swan Harbor on May 30th. LD watched a Red-shouldered Hawk catch frogs from his pond on May 30th. CV has been watching a pair of Red-shouldered hawks with 3 babies near her home in Bel Air. In Susquehanna State Park on May 5th RC spotted 2 Broad-winged Hawks. JC saw 1 Red-tailed Hawk while biking at APG on June 19th. It was being harassed by a Northern Mockingbird.

Rail, Sandpipers, Gull, Tern

One Sora and 2 Black-bellied Plovers were seen by JFG on May 30th at Swan Harbor. Killdeer were common at Swan Harbor (MoH, JRG), Lakeside (DL) and Tydings Island (CW). DL reported from Lakeside 2 Spotted Sandpipers on May 6th and 4 on May 12th. Also from Lakeside on May 12th DL saw 2 Solitary Sandpipers, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, and 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers. MoH watched 1 Lesser Yellowlegs at Swan Harbor on May 6th. CW scared up a Whimbrel and Least Sandpiper while kayaking near Tydings Island on May 5th. On May 5th CW had to take fishing hooks out of a juvenile Great Black-backed Gull. DL saw 1 Least Tern at Lakeside on June 24th.

Harford Birdlife continued next page:



Interesting Fact: The heaviest tree nest ever found in Maryland was that of a Bald Eagle. Weighing in at over two tons, the nest was not only as big as the proverbial Volkswagen Beetle, but weighed almost as much as a Stegosaurus!

Harford Birdlife (continued from page 3)

Cuckoo, Swift, Hummingbird, Woodpeckers

RC heard a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Susquehanna State Park on May 5th. JRG heard one on a regular basis during June at Swan Harbor. MoH saw 3 Chimney Swifts in Havre de Grace on May 7th. Chimney Swifts are nesting in Aberdeen off of Route 40 (JRG). RC was the only one to report Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (3); he saw them in Susquehanna State Park. DK had a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers nesting at his farm again this year. LD saw a male Downy Woodpecker and a Pileated Woodpecker in Bel Air on May 8th. MoH saw 2 Downy Woodpeckers in Havre de Grace on May 21st and June 30th.

Flycatchers, Vireos, Lark

Three Acadian Flycatchers were seen in Susquehanna State Park on May 5th (RC). Two were seen at Swan Harbor Farm on May 30th (JFG). DK saw a Willow Flycatcher off of Harford Creamery Road in May. MJH saw 2 Eastern Phoebes while walking at Susquehanna State Park on May 13th. Great Crested Flycatchers were spotted at Susquehanna State Park by RC and near the Bush River by DGY. Eastern Kingbirds were reported from Susquehanna State Park (RC & JMH), Lakeside (DL) and Havre de Grace (MoH). While hiking at Susquehanna State Park on May 5th RC saw 2 White-eyed Vireos, 6 Yellow-throated Vireos and 5 Red-eyed Vireos. JMH spotted at Susquehanna State Park on May 13th 1 Warbling Vireo and 1 Red-eyed Vireo. JC saw a Red-eyed Vireo at APG on June 19th and JFG reported 2 from Swan Harbor on May 30th. Juvenile Horned Larks were spotted on the Bradenbaugh Flats by DK on May 29th. DZ heard a few Horned Larks while birding along Chelsea Road on June 10th.

Swallows, Gnatcatcher, Thrush, Mimic Thrushes

Tree Swallows are back at Swan Harbor and breeding according to JMH and JRG. Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Barn Swallows were spotted at Lakeside by DL and at Susquehanna State Park by JMH. JC was the only one to report Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and he saw it at APG on June 20th. RC saw 7 Wood Thrushes while walking at Susquehanna State Park on May 5th. JC saw 2 at APG on June 19th. A Brown Thrasher was spotted by MoH in Havre de Grace on June 2nd.

Waxwing, Warblers

JMH saw 2 Cedar Waxwings while walking at Susquehanna State Park on May 13th. JC saw 2 at APG on June 20th. On May 5th RC saw at Susquehanna State Park 1 Blue-winged Warbler, 10+ Northern Parula, 1 Cape May Warbler, 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, many Yellow-rumped Warblers, 1 Blackburnian Warbler, 1 Yellow-throated Warbler, 1 Prairie Warbler, 1 Palm Warbler, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 8 Cerulean Warbler, 3 Black-and-white-Warbler, 10+ American Redstarts, 1 Prothonotary Warbler, 2 Worm-eating Warbler, 10+ Ovenbirds, 1 Northern Waterthrush, 6 Louisiana Waterthrushes, 3 Kentucky Warblers and 4 Common Yellowthroats. On May 13th JMH spotted at Susquehanna State Park 1 Yellow Warbler, 1 Cerulean Warbler and at the Conowingo Dam 2 Yellow-throated Warblers. JFG saw 4 Blackpoll Warblers and 1 Northern Parula on May 30th. JC spotted at APG 1 American Redstart and 1 Common Yellowthroat on June 19th. On May 12th DL reported seeing 1 Louisiana Waterthrush at Lakeside. MDDW saw a Louisiana Waterthrush feeding a fledging cowbird along Rock Run on May 27th. DK reported a Hooded Warbler on his farm in May.



Tanagers, Sparrows, Grosbeaks, Blackbird, Orioles

On May 5th RC saw 5 Scarlet Tanagers at Susquehanna State Park and the number doubled on May 12th. JC saw a male Scarlet Tanager at APG on June 20th. LD reported 3 Chipping Sparrows at his house in Bel Air on May 8th, a first for them. DK saw Savannah Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows on Bradenbaugh Flats on May 29th. DZ had Grasshopper Sparrows and a White-throated Sparrow off of Chelsea Road on June 10th. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported in Bel Air (RC & JMA), Susquehanna State Park (RC) and in Street (DLW). Indigo Buntings were reported in Bel Air (RC), Susquehanna State Park (JMH), APG (JC) and Swan Harbor (JRG). DK saw 3 Bobolinks on his farm on May 21st. Orchard Orioles were seen at Susquehanna State Park (RC), Lakeside (DL), Swan Harbor (JRG) and near the Bush River (DGY). Baltimore Orioles were reported from Edgewood (GRP), Susquehanna State Park (RC, JMH, CW), Conowingo Dam (JMH), Street (DLW) and near the Bush River (DGY).

Contributors

JMA – John & Michelle Amoriello, JC – James Chappell, RC – Rick Cheicante, LD – Lynn Davis, JFG – John & Frank Gallo, JRG – John & Rebecca Gallo, JG – John Gallo, RG – Rebecca Gallo, MJH – Monroe & Joyce Harden, MoH – Monroe Harden, DK – Dennis Kirkwood, DL – Dave Larkin, GRP – Glen Randers-Pehrson, CV – Carole Vangrin, MDDW – Marsha, Danny & Dave Webb, CW – Colleen Webster, DLW – Dan & Linda Weeks, DGY – Donna & George Yorkston, DZ – Dave Ziolkowski Jr.

I want to thank everyone who contributed. The next article will have sightings from July 1 – August 30 2007. You can call me with sightings - 410-459-8873 or email me – scout564@msn.com. Please send the reports to me as you see them. Thanks and Happy Birding!

FIELD TRIP REPORT:

Rocks State Park on July 14th, 2007

by: Carol Flora

Eight birders met at the Park Office Headquarters on Chrome Hill Road. It was sunny and clear and a chorus of birds greeted us waiting to be identified. We saw or heard thirty species. Most notable were: Ovenbirds, a pair of Scarlet Tanagers, a Louisiana Waterthrush, a Veery (adult singing, young spotted), Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, a Hooded Warbler, and an especially good look at a Yellow-throated Vireo. We were also privileged to witness several species feeding young – Acadian Flycatchers, Gray Catbird, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee, Red-eyed Vireo and Tufted Titmouse. Birding along the road was good and the trails were well-marked and easy to walk.



Bird Brain Answer: *The National Geographic News service reports that Maryland's very own Chan Robins recording a banding of a Laysan Albatross on Midway Island in 2003 that was born in 1952, making the 51 year old bird the oldest North American wild bird ever banded. The previous North American record holder was a 42 year old of the same species. The most accepted record for oldest wild bird ever was a Royal Albatross nicknamed "Grandma" that was 62 years old when she was last seen in the vicinity of New Zealand in 1989!*

6 Harford Bird Club Field Trips: Field trip schedule compiled by: Colleen Webster

Saturday, August 18 Bombay Hook. Join Dennis Kirkwood on a 3/4 day adventure to this birding mega-hotspot for shorebirds and the hottest rarities. Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Stilt Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalarope top the list of regular fall highlights but that's not all as this is also a great time to pick up seaward strays and western vagrants. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and lunch. Scopes helpful, but not necessary. Meet at 7:00 AM at the MD 155 and I-95 park-n-ride. Contact Dennis Kirkwood at (410) 692-5905 for further information.

Sunday, August 19 Harford Shorebirds. Join experienced shorebirder and Swan Harbor Caretaker John Gallo to see that southbound shorebirds, such as Semipalmated Plovers, Solitary, and Pectoral Sandpipers aren't all plain brown. Beginners interested in learning the basics of shorebird identification and experienced watchers searching for rarities will enjoy this morning trip to Havre de Grace and neighboring sites. Scopes are helpful, although not necessary. Meet at Swan Harbor at 8:00 AM and contact John Gallo at (410) 459-0548 for details.

Saturday, August 25 Twilight Canoeing at Eden Mill. Take in a warm summer evening of natural history and easy exercise along one of upper Deer Creek's most scenic stretches. Dave Ziolkowski and natural historian/expert canoeist Frank Marsden interpret the sights, sounds, and smells to make this a multi-sensory experience. Trip meets at 4:30 PM but space is limited so make reservations before trip date. \$5 fee goes towards club donation to nature center. Contact Dave at (443) 299-8453 for information and reservations.

Saturday, September 1 Swan Harbor. Meet leader Dave Webb, one guy who really knows his shorebirds which should be within easy viewing at this great Harford location for migrants. Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the ponds looking for birds who rely on this varied habitat for a significant stop as they head south. Start at the lot at the end of the lane on the left at 7:00 am. Call Dave at 410-939-3537 for more information.

Sunday, September 2 Harford Glen. Join co-leaders Lynn Davis and Dave Larkin on a trip through the marshes, fields, and forests of this perennial club favorite. Always a productive location, Blue-winged Teal, Veery, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and Chestnut-sided Warblers are likely with Empidonax flycatchers a noteworthy possibility. Meet at the first lot (pond-side) at 7:00 AM. Contact Lynn at 410-569-0504 for more information.

Saturday, September 8 Annual Club Picnic. Enjoy the great food and company at this annual fun filled and birdie event! Generously hosted this year once again by the Kirkwood family at their family farm near the world famous Bradenbaugh Flats!). Join us at 1:00 pm with Tom Congersky, head chef, ladling out eats, followed by a fun bird walk. Contact Jean or Dennis at 410-692-5905 for additional information or directions.

Sunday, September 16 Winters Run Road (SW Harford County). Join Lynn Davis and Dave Larkin on this leisurely walk along a quiet and scenic county road. True to its namesake, this road meanders along the cool clear waters of Winters Run. Great time to catch migrant songbirds with excellent opportunities for viewing them all along the way. Meet at the park-n-ride on MD 24 just ½ mile south of I-95 at 7:00 AM. Contact Lynn at 410-569-0504 for further information.

Saturday, September 22 Falling Branch, Eden Mill Nature Center. Meet up with Dennis Kirkwood at EMNC to visit one of the mythological sites in Harford County. Put into the park system by the work of school kids and naturalists, the state's second highest waterfall is only one of the attractions along this trail that should afford looks at fall migrants and maybe even a late calling amphibian or two. Arrive at the lower parking lot, by the picnic pavilion at 7 am to carpool to the smaller lot at Falling Branch. Contact Dennis at 410-692-5905 for more information.

Sunday, September 23 Eden Mill Nature Center. Meet up with Mark Johnson as he bands south-bound migrants. Get up-close and personal with a variety of species with emphasis on the younger and harder to identify. Banding takes place at the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavilion with intermittent walks to check the nets. Set up starts at 7 am with first net runs around 8 am. Call Mark at 410-692-5978 with questions.

Sunday, September 30 Palmer State Park. Join Russ Kovach to scout the under-appreciated trails of this park along the upper Deer Creek. Forest to open clearing, to water area, this park will offer a mix of migrants, from warblers and hawks. Meet at the Wawa on I36 and Rt. I at 7:30. Contact Russ at 443-386-4787 for more information.

Have a story, drawing, or poem (or anything else) you would like to submit to Wrenderings? Send submissions to Russ at NikonF5user@aol.com

Harford Bird Club Field Trips (continued from page 6)

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Sunday, October 7 Susquehanna State Park. A perennial favorite of the club, this trip sends off the last of the fall migrants and welcomes the arrival of some "cold weather" residents. Join Les Eastman to see thousands of Tree Swallows amassed over the river on their southbound journey and search the forest for Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes, Blue-headed Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Brown Creeper and kinglets. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Rock Run Mill. Contact 410-734-6969 for more information.

Monday, October 8 Waggoner's Gap. Fantastic locale near Carlisle, PA for close views of migrating raptors and beautiful overlooks of fall foliage. Southeasterly winds make this location excellent for early migrating hawks. While all eastern raptors (including Merlin and Northern Goshawk) are possible, this site has a reputation for being the leading watch on the East Coast for Golden Eagles. Stationary watch, ¾ day trip; bring lunch. Meet leader Mark Johnson at 7:30 AM at the MD 152 and MD 147 park-n-ride. Contact Mark at 410-692-5978 for more information.

Saturday, October 13 Swan Harbor. Spend a little morning time watching for migrants in the trees and in the marsh and waters at this bird-favorite location. Gain

the expertise of resident John Gallo and birder Tom Gibson as they lead a walk around the ponds and through the fields searching wires, weeds and open spaces for anything from waterfowl to warblers to eagles. Meet at the parking lot at end of lane on left at 7:30 and call John at 410-459-0548 for more information.

Saturday, October 20 Rocks State Park. Double trouble with Dave Webb and Randy Robertson, or double luck, if you like. These two long-time birders will do their best to flush some good migrants and early winter birds from the trees. Meet at Chrome Hill Road lot at 7:30 and contact Dave at 410-939-3537 for more information.

Sunday, October 21 Eden Mill Nature Center. Meet up with Mark Johnson and Les Eastman as they band south-bound migrants; particularly sparrows. Swamp, Field, White-crowned and Lincoln's possible. Banding takes place at the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavilion with intermittent walks to check the nets. Come ready to walk and check those nets from 8 am to noon. Contact Mark at 410-692-5978 for more information.



The Harford Bird Club Picnic Reservation Form

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Cresmont Drive, Aberdeen MD 21001 by Friday, August 31, 2007 if you plan on attending.

_____ Number of adults (at \$12.00 each)

_____ Number of children 12 and under (at \$5.00 each)

Please make checks payable to Harford County MOS.

Print your name(s) above as you would like it to appear on your name tag!

List address and phone number below if you would like transportation to the meeting.

TEL: _____