



# Wrenderings



*The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club*

Volume 21 Number 3

June, 2008

## President's Perch: Convention Recovery Time!

The Maryland Ornithological Society conference has not come and gone, and I think all will pretty much agree that it was perhaps the most successful MOS conference in many years, if not ever! In no small part the success was due to the hard work and dedication of the many Harford Bird Club members that labored to make the conference what it was, and not the least of which is Vice-president Dave Webb. A conference is first and foremost about birding and the birding trips that Dave coordinated both showcased our county, and of course offered great birding opportunities for all. Thank you Dave for all your work... without any doubt the success of our conference was a testament to the hours of detail work that you completed in the weeks prior!

In addition to Dave Webb, many other HBC members put time into the conference. Nearly every trip featured a leader or co-leader from the county. Some HBC members lead 3 or 4 trips on the weekend, birding every corner of the county and beyond! Back at 'conference headquarters', Dave Ziolkowski organized a poster presentation that highlighted several research projects, some of which were funded in part by MOS grants. Most amazing at the poster session however were two groups of school students that completed projects... one of them at our very own Harford Glen, where 6th grader Olivia Blondheim was part of a group of students that evaluated trends in bird capture data from the Hesselton's. Olivia's poster was a big hit, and we all look forward to the day when she becomes a standout member of the Harford Bird Club!

Speaking of kids... a pair of House Finches stole the wreath on our front porch this month and used it to build a nest! They had 5 young, and let me tell you, those little birds can produce quite a bit of 'birdie waste'. I am not sure if the House Finches that nested on our porch are typical for that species, but the 'stuff' left behind stacked up along the sides of the nest, such that by the time they fledged the nest was more than an inch higher around the sides than it had been before the young hatched! GROSS!!! It was fun however to keep daily track of the nestlings... for a while we could not use our front door (but could spy on the growing nestlings through the window). In about 4 weeks the little finches went from egg to fledgling, and the best part was that none of them were cowbirds!

Which brings us to the closing song sung by Bill Thompson at the MOS conference. Mr. Thompson's talk was certainly a departure from the past few keynotes at the MOS conference, and his humorous discussion about the 'Perils and Pitfalls of Birding' certainly reminded us all of moments in our birding past. Speaking of keynote presenters... be sure to be at the Anita Leight Estuary Center in July for the Harford Bird Club "Summer Social". HBC birders and world travelers Jean and Dennis Kirkwood will be sharing their pictures and stories from travels to Spain and Morocco (a trip that I am sure produced more than just a few life birds!). The only other way to see these birds is to go to Spain (an expensive proposition), so be sure to save a few dollars while reducing your carbon footprint, and join Jean and Dennis at the Summer Social instead! Until then... best birding wishes! ~Russ Kovach

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## Plan Ahead!

- Summer Social: Friday, July 18, 2008, 6:30pm
- November Dinner Meeting: Fri, Nov 3, 2008, 6:15pm
- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, Dec 28, 2008
- January General Meeting: Fri, Jan 9, 2009
- Mid-winter Bird Count: Sat, Jan 31, 2009
- March Dinner Meeting: Fri, March 6, 2009, 6:15pm
- May General Meeting: Friday, May 1, 2009
- Spring Migration Bird Count: Sat, May 16, 2009

## Harford Bird Club

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# Bird Droppings



## Are you a Bird Brain?

Many birders know that the Peregrine Falcon is considered the fastest bird on Earth... but the falcon's top speeds exceeding 200mph are obtained in a dive. What is the world's fast bird in level flight?

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](mailto:mhcf@msn.com).

## Birdie Anagrams!

Each of the 20 following strange groups of words was created by rearranging the letters of a specific bird name. It is your job to unscramble the letters to find the original name. For example, the letters of the word group *cabs jury* can be unscrambled to form the answer: *Scrub Jay*. The number of words in the groups shown is not related to the number of words in the bird name but where the group contains a hyphen (-) or apostrophe ('), the bird name does, too.

1. rob lawn
2. oink blob
3. eke drill
4. lead bagel
5. hush of nice
6. prince satan
7. mar upper lint
8. unbuilt lazing
9. idler hun quack
10. dark-white lead
11. the long word ear
12. bride knew string
13. begone grave sink
14. forced shellings
15. higher lakes gored
16. short her nonlever
17. maiden hike account
18. cow tram to holy lemon
19. insist on dole's water
20. recently bud-working

Anagrams compliments of the Wasatch Audubon Society. Answers elsewhere in this issue!

## Nature Conservancy Photo Contest



The Nature Conservancy is famous for, among other things, a beautiful calendar. They are currently holding a contest for photos in the 2010 edition. Specifically, the Nature Conservancy is looking for beautiful nature photography representing the diversity of life on Earth. Your own original digital

images of our lands, waters, plants, animals and people in nature are all eligible for the competition. If interested, please visit [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).

## Remember our Sanctuaries!

Among the specialties offered by the Maryland Ornithological Society is a host of properties set aside as 'bird sanctuaries'. Two of these sanctuaries are available for overnight use, Carrie Run in Garrett County, and Irish Grove in Somerset County. MOS members may stay in the houses at these two sanctuaries for a fee of only \$5 per evening... quite a deal compared to going hotel rates! To utilize these two great properties, MOS members are encouraged to reserve space ahead of time. For additional information, visit [www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/overnight.html](http://www.mdbirds.org/sanctuary/overnight.html). Each sanctuary house has a limited number of beds, a kitchen with stove, refrigerator and sink, bathrooms, and running water.

# Harford Birdlife

by: Monroe Harden



3

Spring is here! Our winter residents are leaving while our colorful spring migrants are moving in. That means a great variety of birds, so let's get started. This report covers March and April 2008.

## Geese, Swans, Ducks

Several observers noted flocks of Tundra Swans flying north. LE saw about 200 in 2 groups from Susquehanna SP on Mar 6th. GF saw large groups over Swan Harbor on Mar 9th, 10th, and 11th; and over Patterson Mill School on Mar 10th. KG saw 675 flying over Jarrettsville during a 2 hour period on Mar 11th. MH saw 2 Mute Swans in Edgewood on Apr 13th. Duck sightings include 2 American Wigeons seen by JG at Swan Harbor on Mar 15th. DZ saw 18 Gadwall at Forest Greens Lake on Apr 12th. CS saw 6 Black Ducks on APG on Apr 25th. Blue Winged Teal were seen at Swan Harbor by JG (2) on Mar 23rd, MaH (5) on Apr 24th, and MH (3) on Apr 25th. JG saw Green Winged Teal at Swan Harbor on Mar 10th (20+), Mar 11th (43), Mar 15th (80+), and Mar 23rd (over 100!). RC saw 4 Common Goldeneyes and 14 Common Mergansers near the mouth of Deer Creek at Susquehanna SP on Mar 14th. DZ saw 3 Common and 14 Red Breasted Mergansers in the Perryman area on Apr 12th. DL saw a Red Breasted Merganser at Lakeside on Mar 30th and a Hooded Merganser on Mar 23rd. KG saw 2 Hooded Mergansers at Jarrettsville on Apr 14th. JG saw Northern Pintail at Swan Harbor on Mar 9th (8), Mar 11th (6), and Mar 15th (4). He also saw 4 Northern Shovelers there on Mar 15th. DL saw Ring Necked Ducks at Lakeside on Mar 2nd (19), Mar 9th (6), Mar 23rd (5), Mar 30th (4) and Apr 6th (2). Wood Ducks were seen by JG at Swan Harbor on Mar 11th (2) and Mar 23rd (10, in the impoundment). CS saw 2 mating on APG on Apr 9th while LJ saw 2 at Susquehanna SP on Apr 10th. EBJs saw a Bufflehead at Conowingo Lake on Mar 17th and 13 Canvasbacks at Lapidum on Mar 15th. They also saw 16 Scaup there.

## Grebes, Herons, Loon, Crane

KG had a Common Loon flying Northwest over in Jarrettsville on Apr 14th. DL saw a Horned Grebe coming into summer plumage at Lakeside on Mar 30th. He also saw single Pied-Billed Grebes there on Mar 23rd and 30th. Single Pied Billed Grebes were seen at Swan Harbor by MaH on Apr 24th and BH on Apr 26th. EBJs saw 12 at Lapidum on Mar 15th. RGWLSHD saw a Red Necked Grebe from Lapidum on Mar 2nd. Hundreds of Great Blue Herons were seen throughout the period on the Susquehanna River and near Conowingo Dam. CS saw Great Egrets at APG on Apr 21st (1) and Apr 25th (3). MH saw 3 at Harford Glen on Apr 13th. He also saw 6 Black Crowned Night Herons at the Havre de Grace Marina on Apr 4th. MaH saw a Green Heron at Lakeside on Apr 24th.

## Pelican, Cormorant, Crane, Rails

CW saw a White Pelican in the Tydings Marina in Havre de Grace on Apr 4<sup>th</sup>. A reliable second hand report via GS described a Sandhill Crane seen from a canoe off of Mariner Pt. Park in Joppatown on Mar 2nd. Double Crested Cormorants were common on the water, with hundreds seen near Conowingo Dam by numerous observers. EW saw several on the river on Apr 20th. BH saw a Virginia Rail and 3 Sora at Swan Harbor on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>. EBJs saw 3 American Coots at Swan Harbor on Mar 16th.

## Gamebirds, Raptors

DW and MCF heard 2 Wild Turkeys on the Davis Tract of Susquehanna SP on Apr 19<sup>th</sup>. RK saw one near his home near Hickory on Apr 21<sup>st</sup>. DZ saw 2 Northern Bobwhites at Perryman on Apr 12<sup>th</sup>. The large group of Bald Eagles continues to thrive at Conowingo Dam, with many sightings there and around the county. RT saw one on an Osprey nest near the dam, and GRP saw a pair in the nest at Belcamp by Rte 40. Single American Kestrels were seen by RC near the airstrip on the Edgewood Proving Grounds on Mar 4th and by CS at the APG airfield on Apr 7th, along with a Merlin and a Northern Harrier. DZ saw a Peregrine Falcon at Mariner Point on Apr 2nd, and PV saw one at Conowingo Dam on Apr 26th. DZ also saw 2 Kestrels and 2 Northern Harriers at Perryman on Apr 12th. Red Shouldered Hawks were seen at Susquehanna SP by LJ on Apr 10th and MH on several occasions. JN saw one at Harford Glen on Apr 12th. Red Tailed Hawks were seen by several observers throughout the area. DL saw a Rough Legged Hawk on Mar 10th on Rte 152 between Singer Rd and US 1. Osprey returned to the area during this period, with early reports from CS at APG on Mar 11th and DMW on Mar 15th. MH saw the neighborhood Cooper's Hawk in Havre de Grace on Mar 16th. DZ saw one at Mariner Pt Park on Apr 2nd. DMW saw a Sharp Shinned Hawk from Webster Village on Mar 15th, and MH saw one flying over Swan Harbor on Apr 10th. JNDS saw a Broad Winged Hawk at Harford Glen on Apr 26th.

## Harford Birdlife (continued from page 3)

### Owls, Kingfisher, Woodpeckers, Hummingbird, Swift

EBJS saw 2 Barred Owls at Perryman on Mar 15th. JN heard 2 calling in the woods at Harford Glen on Apr 12th. MJ saw adult and chick Great Horned Owls behind Harford Community College on Mar 28th. DZ saw an adult and 3 young about to fledge at Mariner Pt Park on Apr 2nd. Belted Kingfishers were seen at Harford Glen on Apr 12th by RB and Apr 13th by MH. MCF saw a Pileated Woodpecker in Jarrettsville on Mar 15th. RC saw one in Bel Air on Apr 6th, while RK saw one at his home near Hickory on Apr 13th. RB saw 1 at Harford Glen on Apr 12th, along with a Red-Bellied Woodpecker and a Northern Flicker. MH had a pair of Downy Woodpeckers at his feeders in Havre de Grace all winter. KG saw 2 in Jarrettsville on Mar 11th and 3 on Apr 14th. RK saw one at his home on Apr 13th. KG also had a Hairy Woodpecker in Jarrettsville on Mar 11th and Apr 14th, while RK had one at home near Hickory on Apr 13th. MH also saw a Yellow Bellied Sapsucker at Susquehanna SP on Mar 16th. LE had his first Ruby Throated Hummingbird at his feeders in Havre de Grace on Apr 21<sup>st</sup>. MarH saw 2 at her feeders in Forest Hill on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>. DL saw a Chimney Swift at Harford Glen on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Shorebirds, Gulls, Terns

Migrating shorebirds made their appearance during this period. Greater Yellowlegs were reported in the area in early April, with DL seeing 3 at Lakeside on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 8 on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Lesser Yellowlegs also returned in April, with CS finding one at Mulberry Point on APG on Apr 7<sup>th</sup>. DMW (and Danny) saw 2 Woodcocks peenting and displaying near their home in Webster Village. CS saw 22 Wilson's Snipe at Mulberry Pt in APG on Apr 7<sup>th</sup> along with a Pectoral Sandpiper. EBJS had 48 at Swan Harbor on Mar 16<sup>th</sup>. MH found a Least Sandpiper at Swan Harbor on Apr 25<sup>th</sup> and a Solitary Sandpiper at Harford Glen on Apr 27<sup>th</sup>. DL saw a Spotted Sandpiper and 2 Killdeer at lakeside on Apr 13<sup>th</sup>. On Apr 27<sup>th</sup> he saw 5 Least Sandpipers and 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Lakeside among the other listed birds. BH saw a Dunlin among the other shorebirds at Swan Harbor at dawn on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>. DL saw a Black Headed Gull from a point near the Havre de Grace lighthouse on Apr 5th. EB, MaH, and TF saw a Glaucous Gull from Lapidum on Mar 16th. MH saw 10 Bonaparte's Gulls at Lapidum on Mar 23rd. LJ saw one at Susquehanna SP on Apr 10th. EBJS had 2 Herring Gulls, 1 Great Black-backed Gull, and 20 Ring Billed Gulls at Conowingo Dam on Mar 15th. They saw a Little Gull, 35 Bonaparte's Gulls, and many Ring-Billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls at Lapidum that day. Caspian Terns arrived in April, with LJ finding 2 at Susquehanna SP on Apr 10<sup>th</sup> and DZ seeing 1 across from the Home Depot in Edgewood. DMW saw 4 Least Terns on Otter Point Creek on Apr 25<sup>th</sup>. DL saw one at Harford Glen the same day.

### Flycatcher, Vireos, Larks, Swallows

The first Eastern Phoebes of the year arrived. DL saw one at Lakeside on Mar 2. RC saw one at Susquehanna SP on Mar 14th and one in Bel Air on Mar 15th. KG had 2 at a nest under a barn roof in Jarrettsville on Apr 14th. White Eyed Vireos were seen by DZ at Perryman on Apr 12th and DL at Lakeside on Apr 15th. LJ saw 2 at Susquehanna SP on Apr 24th along with 2 Blue Headed Vireos. BH saw a Red Eyed Vireo at Swan Harbor on Apr 26th. That same day he saw 4 Warbling Vireos at Susquehanna SP. DL saw a Yellow Throated Vireo at Lakeside on Apr 15th, and MH saw and photographed one at Harford Glen on Apr 27th. Horned Larks continued to be seen throughout the area, with 4 seen at Swan Harbor by JG on Mar 23rd and 15 at Perryman, seen by DZ on Apr 12th. BH saw and heard 20 singing in the fields at Swan Harbor on Apr 26th. DL saw 12 Tree Swallows at Lakeside on Mar 9th, with numerous reports coming in after that. He also saw a Barn Swallow at Lakeside on Apr 6th. MH saw one at Swan Harbor on Apr 10th. DZ saw a Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Mariner Pt Park on Apr 2nd. LJ saw 3 at Susquehanna SP on Apr 24th. DW saw 6 Cliff Swallows at the MD 623 bridge over Broad Creek, where they have been nesting in recent years, on Apr 26th.

### Titmice, Nuthatches, Wrens, Kinglets, Thrushes

KG saw 5 Tufted Titmice on Mar 11th in Jarrettsville and 4 at the same place on Apr 14th. White Breasted Nuthatches maintained their presence in the area, with RC seeing 1 at his home near Bel Air on Mar 15th. RB saw 1 at Harford Glen on Apr 12th. Red Breasted Nuthatches were seen through early April, with the last being reported by RC on Apr 6th in Bel Air. RC, DW, and MaJ had them at their feeders through March. Our Carolina Wrens sang their hearts out around the county during this period. DL saw a House Wren at Lakeside on Apr 26th. MaH saw 3 Marsh Wrens at Swan Harbor on Apr 24th. LJ saw a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Susquehanna SP on Apr 10th. KG saw one in Jarrettsville on Apr 14th. RT saw 2 Hermit Thrushes at Conowingo Dam on Apr 8th. DL had a Swainson's Thrush at Harford Glen on Apr 25th. Cedar Waxwings were seen at Lakeside by DL on Apr 13th (21) and at Jarrettsville on Apr 14th (16) by KG.

410-836-5000  wbm@clearviewcatv.net

**WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE**®

**Bird Brain Answer:** *There is considerable debate over which bird is fastest in level flapping flight. In addition to the aforementioned Peregrine Falcon, which can reach speeds approaching 106mph in level flight, Australia's White-throated Needletail may give strong competition. Clocked at 105mph, this swift certainly gives the Peregrine a run for its money!*

## Warblers

Yellow Rumped Warblers continued to spend their winter in our area. Migrating warblers coming north started to arrive in April. RC saw a Louisiana Waterthrush near Bel Air on Apr 6th, and LJ saw one at Susquehanna SP on Apr 10th. DMW heard a Northern Waterthrush on Otter Point Creek on Apr 25th. On Apr 12th, RB saw Northern Parula (1), Yellow-rumped (1), Pine (1), and Palm (30) Warblers at Harford Glen. KG had 2 yellow Palm Warblers on Apr 14th in Jarrettsville. DW saw a Blue Winged and a Hooded Warbler at Broad Creek on Apr 26th. CS saw a Common Yellowthroat, a Prairie Warbler, and an Ovenbird on APG on Apr 25th. BH saw Northern Parula (1), Yellow-rumped (4), Black and White (1), Ovenbird (1), and Common Yellowthroat (3) Warblers at Swan Harbor on Apr 26th. He also saw a Worm-eating Warbler and an Ovenbird near Lapidum. He added Black Throated Green, Yellow-Throated, Prairie, and Prothonotary Warblers at the Deer Creek part of Susquehanna SP. Finally, he saw a Yellow Warbler at Conowingo Dam. On the same day, DL saw Blue Winged and Yellow Rumped Warblers at Harford Glen.

## Sparrows, Grosbeaks

We had several sightings of Chipping Sparrows around the county. MJ had one at a feeder in Baldwin on Mar 15th, and RAK had one at their feeder in Berkley on April 3rd and 5th. DL saw Field Sparrows at Lakeside on Mar 2nd and Apr 15th. DZ had a big sparrow day at Perryman on Apr 12th. He saw 14 Field, 130 Savannah (not a typo- 130!), 17 Song, 23 White Throated, and 16 White Crowned, one of which was a Gambel's. RC had a Fox Sparrow in Bel Air on Mar 2nd, and DZ had one at Mariner Pt Park in Joppatown on Apr 2nd, along with 2 Swamp Sparrows. JN also had a Swamp Sparrow at Harford Glen on Apr 12th. MaH saw 24 Savannah, 6 Song, and 18 Swamp Sparrows at Swan Harbor on Apr 24th. White Throated Sparrows stuck around through the end of April, but the Slate Colored Juncos pretty much left. MH had his last one in Havre de Grace on Apr 18th. KG had 7 in Jarrettsville on Apr 14th. DL saw a Blue Grosbeak on Apr 25th at Harford Glen. He saw a Rose Breasted Grosbeak there on Apr 26th. RC also saw one at his feeder in Bel Air on Apr 26th.

## Blackbirds, Orioles, Finches

RC saw an Eastern Meadowlark near the Edgewood PG airstrip on Mar 4th. DZ saw 3 at Perryman on Apr 12th. CS saw 2 Rusty Blackbirds on APG on Apr 8th and 75-100 there on Apr 9th. MH saw 10 at Swan Harbor on Apr 10th. A few Orchard Orioles arrived on Apr 26th, with DL seeing one at Harford Glen and BH seeing one at Conowingo Dam. DW had Purple Finches at his feeders in Webster Village on several occasions in March and April. RC also had one in Bel Air on Apr 6th, and KG had 2 in Jarrettsville on Apr 14th. LE had several Pine Siskins at his home in Havre de Grace, and DW had 1 at his feeder in Webster Village on Apr 19th.

## Contributors

BH- Bill Hubick, CS- Chris Starling, CW- Colleen Webster, DL- Dave Larkin, DMW- Dave and Marsha Webb, DZ- Dave Ziolkowski, EBJS- Ed Boyd and Jim Stasz, EW- Eileen Wise, GF- Gallo Family, GRP- Glenn Randers-Pehrson, GS- Gene Scarpulla, JG- John Gallo, JN- Jim Nelson, JNDS- Jim Nelson and Debbie Stewart, KG- Kevin Graff, LE- Les Eastman, LJ- Lin Just, MCF- Marty Crouse-Farley, MH- Monroe Harden, MaH- Matt Hafner, Maj- Mark Johnson, MarH- Marjie Healy, MJ- Mike Jones, PV- Pat Valdata, RAK- Russ and Annie Kovach, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, RC- Rick Cheicante, RGWLS DH, RK- Russ Kovach, RT- Robin Todd, TF- Tom Feild.

### Anagram Answers (from page 2)

1. rob lawn = Barn Owl
2. oink blob = Bobolink
3. eke drill = Killdeer
4. lead bagel = Bald Eagle
5. hush of nice = House Finch
6. prince satan = Caspian Tern
7. mar upper lint = Purple Martin
8. unbuilt lazing = Lazuli Bunting
9. idler hun quack = Harlequin Duck
10. dark-white lead = Red-tailed Hawk
11. the long word ear = Great Horned Owl
12. bride knew string = Western Kingbird
13. begone grave sink = Evening Grosbeak
14. forced shellings = Lesser Goldfinch
15. higher lakes gored = Loggerhead Shrike
16. short her nonlever = Northern Shoveler
17. maiden hike account = Mountain Chickadee
18. cow tram to holy lemon = Common Yellowthroat
19. insist on dole's water = Townsend's Solitaire
20. recently bud-working = Ruby-crowned Kinglet

# 6 Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Colleen Webster

## Saturday, June 28

Secretive Marshbirds. This is your opportunity to hear and see some of those shy rails, Least Bitterns and other camouflaged birds that squirrel away in the ponds at Swan Harbor Farm. Meet leaders Tom Gibson and John Gallo at the Swan Harbor parking lot at 7:30 pm and call Tom at (410) 734-4135 for more information.

## Saturday, July 26

Hart-Miller Island Learn from the master as Gene Scarpulla leads you on a journey to one of the premier birding hotspots in Maryland. Summer specialties at Hart-Miller include Common Moorhen, Peregrine Falcon, and a spectacular assortment of herons, terns, and shorebirds. Participants will take a boat out to HMI at 7 AM, and not leave the island until 5 PM. The day will be spent hiking between 6-8 miles with rest rooms and water available at only one location. Insect repellent, sunscreen, a spotting scope, appropriate clothing and a supply of water/food are all necessary. This all-day excursion is not a trip to be taken lightly, but the rewards can be unforgettable -- come prepared! Space is limited. Call Dave Webb at 410-939-3537 to register and obtain rendezvous information.

## Saturday, August 2

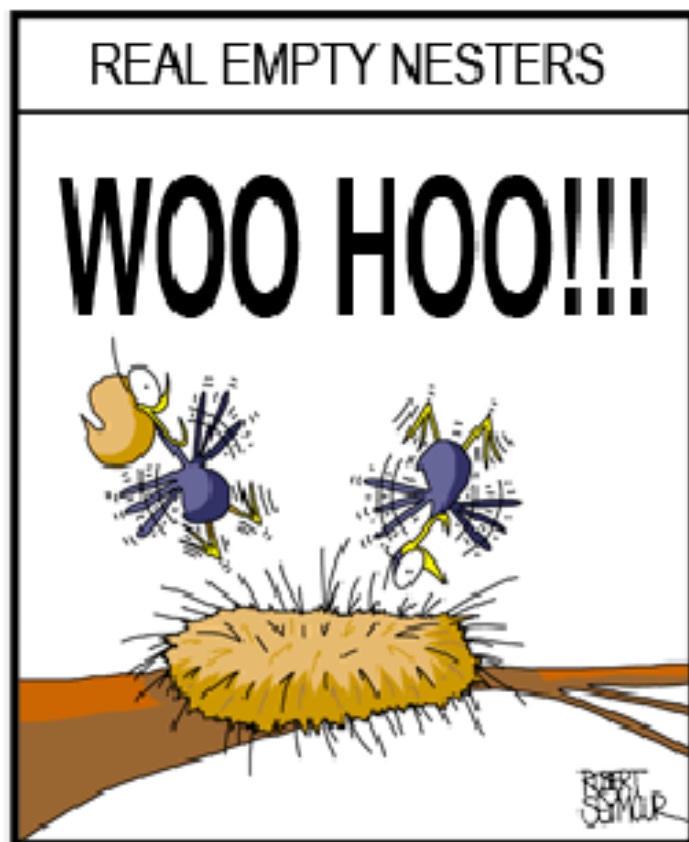
Stream Cleanup, Summer Picnic and Birding, what a combo! Join us for a unique, fun, wet and worthwhile field experience. We will be giving back to the environment and community by cleaning up a stretch of one of our favorite birding streams (specific site to be announced later). This first time event will be held at 10:00 AM with a break for a picnic lunch at 12:30 PM and wrap up around 3:30 PM or whenever the job is done. Bring an outfit you do not mind getting wet and dirty, work gloves, and don't forget your binos and a picnic lunch and drinks for the day. Call or email Tom Gibson for further details or to confirm your participation at 410-734-4135 or [gibsonlld@aol.com](mailto:gibsonlld@aol.com). Last minute participants welcome.

## Saturday, August 16

Shorebird Rarity Chase at 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 at (410) 692-5905 for further information.

## Saturday, August 23

Butterflies and Dragonflies of Harford County Join Rick Cheicante for this very leisurely half day foray to one of Harford County's local butterfly and dragonfly haunts. Butterflies may include the showy swallowtails, Monarch, and Viceroy as well as the diminutive hairstreaks and challenging grass skippers. Odonate hopefuls include Common Green Darner, Eastern Pondhawk, Black Saddlebags and the resplendent Halloween Pennant. Contact Rick Cheicante at (410) 803-2712 for all the details. Sunny day only!



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

# Field Trip Reports <sup>7</sup>

## Loch Raven Reservoir - February 24, 2008

Ten of us met at the Rte 152 – Harford road Park and Drive on a crisp sunny winter’s morning. We were joined at Loch Raven by two members of the Baltimore club so we were a party of twelve. It was a pleasure to have the Baltimore members with us. We parked near the golf club and walked from there taking the trail to the old picnic area. The trail was disappointing for the lack of sparrows only Song, Field and White throated being found. This area in the past was excellent for sparrows but in recent years there has been a sharp drop in numbers and species. We did however find Yellow-bellied sapsucker and Pileated woodpecker. On reaching the water large rafts of duck were observed. Setting up our scopes we then had a great time going through the flocks of duck and identifying them; Bufflehead, Red headed duck, Gadwall, Common merganser, Hooded merganser, Coote, Ring necked duck, Mallard, Black duck, American wigeon. From a vantage point on a narrow sandy beach we watched a red fox stroll out onto a nearby sand spit and return. At the same location we were treated to great views of Eastern bluebirds perching at the woods edge taking advantage of the warmth of the early morning sun. Good views were also had of Bald eagle and Yellow-rumped warbler. Several of our party had life birds and it was great to participate in their excitement. Herring gulls were also seen a somewhat unusual bird for Loch Raven. Overall 40 species were found. ~*David Larkin and Lynn Davis*

## Winters Run Road - April 28, 2008

Our first spring excursion at this location interrupted our succession of annual fall visits with ideal weather conditions - it was cool and overcast. Among our congenial group of 7 we were glad to have Phil Powers and George Yorkston. In about a month George will be leading an MOS group on a field trip here during the MOS Conference. (And thanks, George, for hauling your scope the whole way - it gave us good close-ups of some very nice birds.) Among those was a good long look at a cooperative male Eastern Towhee, and an equally cooperative male Pileated Woodpecker busily shredding a nearby snag. We were treated to good looks at 3 male Baltimore Orioles, a single bird at the half way point and then another near the end who was joined by a 2nd - the two foraged together for several minutes about 40 feet up, close enough together to easily keep them both in the binocular field of view. We identified 3 different swallow species, both R.C. and G.C. Kinglets, Eastern Kingbird, and Kingfisher; raptors included Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and an adult Bald Eagle. Our only warbler was a Black and White. From the birm around the wetland at the Industrial Park near Rt. 7, we got a brief but clear view of a Common Snipe. Other good finds were male Eastern Bluebird, Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, and White-eyed Vireo. With all the other interesting but more common species our total number came to 44. ~*Lynn Davis and David Larkin*

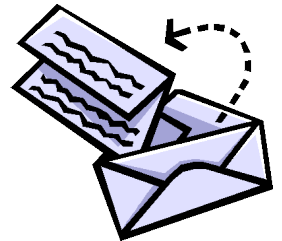


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### **The Harford Bird Club Summer Social Reservation Form**

✂ Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Cresmont Drive, Aberdeen MD 21001 by Friday, July 11, 2008 if you plan on attending.

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of adults ( at \$6.00 each )  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of children 12 and under ( free! )



**Please make checks payable to Harford County MOS.**

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

**Include address and phone number if you would like transportation to the meeting.**

**TEL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



If unable to deliver, please return to:  
Martha Crouse-Farley  
3500 Advocate Hill Drive  
Jarrettsville, MD 21084

Mail To:

Visit us on the web:  
[www.harfordbirdclub.org](http://www.harfordbirdclub.org)



## Harford Bird Club Summer Social

Jean and Dennis Kirkwood  
and Macrina Seitz



Present:

# The Nature and Culture of Southern Spain and Morocco

Friday, July 18th, 2008

Meeting Time: 6:30 PM

*ALL ARE ALSO INVITED FOR A BIRD WALK TO BEGIN AT 5:45!*

Location: Anita C. Leight Estuary Center

700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009