



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 22 Number 2

October, 2008

President's Perch: A Rhapsody of Birding!

Sadly our annual picnic this year had to be cancelled compliments of the weather, but our desire to socialize with fellow birders was certainly not washed away! With this in mind, our November meeting will be a great opportunity to catch up with fellow Harford Bird Club members, not to mention enjoying a 'world famous' Churchville Presbyterian Church dinner! In fact, I have almost thought about skipping Thanksgiving Dinner because our November dinner meeting is so good! (Okay... I would never actually skip Thanksgiving Dinner, but that does not take away from the HBC gathering!).

November's meeting will feature well-known Maryland photographer Middleton Evans, who will feature photographs and stories from his recent book, *A Rhapsody in Blue*. Without any doubt the presentation should be a visual treat to all those in attendance, and will likely feature some birds photographed right here in Harford County!

Also at the November meeting I for one am looking forward to hearing reports from some of the interesting field trips scheduled for this autumn. What is sure to be the highlight of the autumn is a weekend trip to Waggoner's Gap offered by Dave Webb. Waggoner's Gap has become a premier hawk-watch (not to say that Turkey Point and Hawk Mountain are not great themselves!), and the extra time allotted with an overnight stay in Carlisle should allow for a bird count that we could not easily get in a one-day trip!

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Bird Profile: from Deb Bowers

Whiskered Owl

This is the whiskered owl, or "owlet" found in Peru early in 2007. The sighting in South America was similar in accomplishment to the Ivory-billed woodpecker, in that the owlet was sought after for more than 30 years by hundreds of birders.

According to The American Bird Conservancy, "the species is among the world's smallest owls. It is so distinct that it has been named in its own genus: *Xenoglaux* meaning "strange owl" on account of the long wispy feathers or whiskers that stream out from its wild-looking reddish-orange eyes. The owl inhabits the dense undergrowth of mountain forests in a remote part of northern Peru."



Back here in Maryland, the Maryland Ornithological Society is in the process of generating a map trail of birding in the state. Now is a great time to suggest map locations. If you would like to submit any locations, please contact Michael Bowen at dhmbowen@yahoo.com or Marcia Watson at mww@udel.edu. Certainly in the county one would think Eden Mill, Conowingo Dam, Swan Harbor, and Harford Glen will be highlighted; but are there any others?

Finally I would like to commend members that have submitted reports to the Wrenderings over the past few months. Hopefully the idea of 'Bird Profile' will catch on; if anybody has a bird to profile as seen here, please submit them to NikonF5user@aol.com at any time. And lastly it is time to start planning for the premier event of the birding year... the Rock Run CBC (see details on page 2).

Best Birding Wishes! -R. Kovach

Plan Ahead!

- November Dinner Meeting: Fri, Nov 7, 2008, 6:15pm
- Wrenderings deadline, Nov. 25th, 2008
- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, Dec 28, 2008
- January General Meeting: Fri, Jan 9, 2009, 7:00pm
- Mid-winter Bird Count: Sat, Jan 31, 2009
- March Dinner Meeting: Fri, March 6, 2009, 6:15pm
- May General Meeting: Friday, May 1, 2009, 7:00pm
- Spring Migration Bird Count: Sat, May 16, 2009
- Summer Social: Friday, July 17, 2009, 6:30pm

Bird Droppings

Harford Bird Club

Executive Board

See www.harfordbirdclub.org for email contact information.

President

Russell Kovach
410-457-4274

Vice President

Dave Webb
410-939-3537

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410-877-0574

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Jean Wheeler
410-879-7424

Field Trip Chairperson

Tom Gibson
410-734-4135

Dinner Reservations

Eileen Nack
410-272-7017

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Vacant; to apply call:
410-457-4274

Education Chairperson

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410-879-6098

Conservation Chair

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410-692-2708

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410-658-4137
Randy Robertson
410-273-9029

Webmaster

Les Eastman
410-734-6969

Wrenderings Editor

Vacant; to apply call:
410-457-4274

Birdie Boggle!

From the Wasatch Audubon Society: More than 20 bird species names are hidden in the square below. Start with any letter and move exactly one square horizontally, vertically or diagonally to get the next letter in the name. Squares may be reused but, when reusing a square in a given name, at least one other letter must intervene. For example, in the upper left corner you cannot spell out GULL because that would require using the L twice in a row. GULUG would be okay, if there were such a bird.

G	U	L	E	O	T
R	O	S	W	H	O
D	C	O	T	E	P
E	N	R	E	B	E
E	A	G	L	A	R
R	V	O	P	U	K

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.

Go Birding



and
Anita C. Leigh



37th Annual Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, December 28!

Last year the Rock Run CBC had all sectors of the count circle covered and overall was a very successful count. Count coordinator Jean Wheeler hopes to build on last year's success. All interested participants can email Jean at jswheeler44@msn.com or call 410-879-7424.

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!

TIM HOUGHTON
BOB & SUSIE WOODS



*Making the world
a better place for
plants & animals*

Be sure not to miss our

Winter Bird Feeding Seminar

Thursday, November 6th, 6:30 - 8:30pm.

Call any of our stores for meeting location and additional details!

Harford Birdlife

by: Monroe Harden

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Summertime and the birding is... hot. Our local breeders are raising their babies and the first signs of fall migration sneak in to the end of the period. This report covers July and August 2008.

Ducks, Game Birds

Several groups of Wood Ducks were seen in the county. RB saw a female at Harford Glen on July 4th. CW saw a female and 2 young off of Garrett Island on August 15th. MH saw 6 Black ducks on the river at Susquehanna SP on August 8th. The usual groups of Mallards were also seen in their usual places, including the Havre de Grace Promenade area. CW saw 5 Wild Turkeys near the camp ground at Susquehanna SP on August 22nd. MH heard a Northern Bobwhite in a field at Perryman, near the Rite Aid warehouse, on July 13th.



Loons, Bitterns, Herons

JB is 95% sure that he saw a Red Throated Loon near Tydings Marina in Havre de Grace on July 9th. He also saw a Least Bittern at Swan Harbor on the same day. DL and PL saw 5 Least Bitterns there on July 17th. Great Blue Herons were abundant throughout the area. DL saw one at Lakeside on July 13th, and he and PL saw another at Swan Harbor on July 17th. There were also many Great Egrets in the county. RB and MH saw one at Harford Glen on July 4th and July 13th respectively. While kayaking, CW saw 4 on Tydings Island. CS saw a group of 17 in the flooded woods area off of Route 40 in Edgewood on August 27th. DL saw 2 Snowy Egrets at Lakeside on August 26th. He saw a Green Heron there on July 13th and 20th. MH saw one flying over Harford Glen on July 19th.

Raptors



Many resident Ospreys were raising their young during this period. MH saw active nests on Route 40 near the entrance road to Swan Harbor and on a cell phone tower by the entrance to the Greenway Farm neighborhood in Havre de Grace. DL saw one on its nest in Lakeside on July 13th, and 2 there on July 20th. BG saw a Bald Eagle at the front gate to Swan Harbor on August 22nd. MH also saw one flying over Swan harbor on August 30th. CS saw a Cooper's Hawk apparently migrating to the south over Edgewood on August 27th. MH watched 2 Red Shouldered Hawks over Susquehanna SP on August 8th and 1 over Swan Harbor on August 30th. RB had a Red Tailed Hawk over Harford Glen on July 4th. JG saw at least 1 American Kestrel daily at Swan harbor during the period.

Rails, Shorebirds

JB heard a King Rail and a Virginia Rail calling at Swan Harbor on July 9th. DL saw 8 Killdeer at Lakeside on July 13th and 4 on July 20th. RB saw a Solitary Sandpiper at Harford Glen on July 27th, and MH saw one there on July 19th. RB also saw a Spotted Sandpiper at Harford Glen on August 9th. CW saw several on the bay from her kayak between Swan Harbor and Havre de Grace on August 17th. On July 17th, DL and PL saw a Stilt Sandpiper at Swan Harbor.



Gulls, Terns, Cuckoos, Owls



Ring Billed Gulls started making their return in numbers to the area. DL saw 11 at Lakeside on August 26th. MH saw a Herring Gull and a Forsters Tern at Tydings Marina in Havre de Grace on August 30th. RB saw Least Terns at Harford Glen on July 4th (2) and July 6th (5-the most she's ever seen there). RB saw one at Lakeside on July 13th and 20th. MH saw a Yellow Billed Cuckoo at Harford Glen on July 13th and BJD had one at the Bosely Conservancy in Edgewood on August 20th. JG and BG heard a pair of Eastern Screech Owls calling before dawn on August 24th. MH heard a Barred Owl calling from suburban Havre de Grace in the early morning hours of July 3rd, August 14th, and August 24th. DB heard several Barred Owls calling throughout August from her home in Street. Most interestingly, DL reported being surprised at the sight of a Long Eared Owl at Lakeside on August 26th.

Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers

DL saw 3 Chimney Swifts over Lakeside on August 26th. MH saw groups of 4-8 over Havre de Grace pretty much daily throughout the summer. LE's Ruby Throated Hummingbird spectacular continued this year. He reported 68 new birds banded and 17 recaptures during Saturdays in July. MH also saw one at Susquehanna SP on August 8th and another at his home feeder in Havre de Grace on August 24th. Harford Glen hosted a number of Belted Kingfishers. RB saw 4 on July 4th and MH saw 2 on July 13th and July 19th. He also saw 2 at Susquehanna SP on August 8th. DK hosted a family of Red Headed Woodpeckers at his farm in Northern Harford County. RB saw a Northern Flicker at Harford Glen on July 4th. MH witnessed single Pileated Woodpeckers at Harford Glen on July 13th and Susquehanna SP on August 8th.

Harford Birdlife (continued from page 3)

Flycatchers, Vireos

DK saw an immature Olive Sided Flycatcher near his home in Northern Harford County on August 13th. BJD saw an Eastern Wood-Pewee and an Eastern Phoebe at Bosely Conservancy on August 20th. DL had 4 Eastern Kingbirds at Lakeside on August 24th. RB saw a Yellow Throated Vireo at Harford Glen on July 6th. BJD saw an adult Red Eyed Vireo feeding a young one at Bosely Conservancy on August 20th. MH also saw one at Swan Harbor on August 30th.

Swallows

DL and PL saw several Purple Martins at Swan Harbor on July 17th. CW also saw several over the bay between Havre de Grace and Swan Harbor. Tree Swallows were forming their large pre-migration flocks starting in July. CS saw 200 or more at APG on July 7th. These birds were about evenly mixed between adult and juvenile birds. DL and PL also saw a large number at Swan Harbor on July 17th. CW saw several hundred on the wires near Conowingo Dam on August 28th. DL saw 5 Northern Rough Winged Swallows at Lakeside on July 13th. He and PL saw many more at Swan Harbor on July 17th, along with a large number of Bank and Barn Swallows.



Titmice, Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrushes

MH and family saw a Tufted Titmouse at their backyard feeder in Havre de Grace on July 16th. RB saw 2 White Breasted Nuthatches at Harford Glen on July 4th, and BJD saw 1 at Bosely Conservancy on August 20th. MH saw a House Wren at Harford Glen on July 19th, while JB saw several Marsh Wrens at Swan Harbor on July 9th. BJD had 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Bosely Conservancy on August 20th. MH saw single Eastern Bluebirds at Harford Glen on July 13th (along with a Wood Thrush) and at Swan Harbor on August 8th. He also saw 2 more Wood Thrushes at Harford Glen on July 19th. DL saw a Brown Thrasher at Lakeside on August 31st and a juvenile Cedar Waxwing there on August 26th.

Warblers

BJD saw a Blue Winged, a first year Chestnut sided, 3 Black and White, a Redstart, and 2 Northern Waterthrushes at Bosely Conservancy on August 20th. MH saw his first of the season Yellow Rumped Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat at Susquehanna SP on August 29th. BD had a Black and White Warbler in her front yard in Street on August 31st. Watch this space next time for many more reports of migrating warblers!



Tanagers, Sparrows, Buntings, Oriole



MH saw a molting Scarlet Tanager high in a tree at Susquehanna SP on August 8th. He also saw 2 Chipping Sparrows at Harford Glen on July 19th and a Savannah Sparrow at Swan Harbor on August 30th. DL saw a Vesper Sparrow at Lakeside on August 26th. RB saw 2 Indigo Buntings at Harford Glen on July 4th. MH saw one there on July 19th and 2 at Susquehanna SP on August 8th. And finally, RB saw 3 Baltimore Orioles at Harford Glen on August 9th.

Contributors: BG- Becky Gallo, BJD- Bob and Jan Depuy, CS- Chris Starling, CW- Colleen Webster, DB- Deborah Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, JB- Jim Brighton, JG- John Gallo, LE- Les Eastman, MH- Monroe Harden, PL- Peter Lev, RB- Ruth Bergstrom

WBM Open Saturdays

Call ahead for birdseed purchases!

410-836-5000  wbm@clearviewcatv.net

WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE

Birdie Boggle Answers: AUK, CONDOR, COOT, CRANE, CREEPER, CROW, EAGLE, EGRET, ERNE, GOOSE, GREBE, GROUSE, LARK, LOON, OWL, PARULA, PEEP, PETREL, PEWEE, PHOEBE, PLOVER, RAVEN, SCOTER, SORA, TEAL, TERN, and TOWHEE.

BirdBreath



What about OUR vote?

The Beginning of a Birder⁵

Many of you may know that a certain long-time HBC member recently retired from the Harford County Public School system, opening up much more time for his birding hobby! But how did Dennis Kirkwood get started with birding? Let's get a glimpse compliments of Dennis's daughter Heather Kirkwood:

Though it may be hard to believe, my father was not born a birder. He first became interested while completing his master's degree at Northern Illinois University back in the 70s. Thanks to his faithful correspondence home, and his excitement about what turned out to be his favorite course, we are now able to enjoy reading about Dennis Kirkwood's early development into the bird authority he is today.

Nov. 14, 1976

"It looks like I'll be taking an ornithology course (birds) next semester".

Jan. 29, 1977

"I spend most of my free time bird trapping and banding. My bird course is very interesting...I made a tape of the calls of the screech owl, great horned owl, and the barred owl so I can call them in at night. Also taped a ruffed grouse, ring-neck pheasant, and bobwhite, and wild turkey."

Feb. 12, 1977

"We learned how to skin a bird and then stuff it for the NIV collection. We must do five birds as part of our grade for the course."

Mar. 27, 1977

"We had our bird lecture test last week and I did a lot of studying for it. It was 3 hours of writing. This Thursday we have a skin quiz on the prepared specimens. We must be able to recognize 136 birds. The rest of the class is in the field. We have about 9 trips to take."

No date

"Only one day left in bird class and I think I've earned another A...We see at least one new bird each day so my all time list is still growing."

Apr. 24, 1977

"This week is my last group and also my last class. Our Thurs. we have our final identification test in bird class. We must be able to recognize over 200 birds and know the family name, order, habitat, and status (migrant, permanent resident, etc.) I'm pretty confident and actually anxious to take it."

Dad returned home to Harford County to a teaching position at Fallston for the fall of '77. I think the rest is history...

MOS Membership Information:

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.

6 Harford Bird Club Membership

To renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, please detach this page and mail completed form along with check to:

Marjorie Heagy
1438 Sharon Acres Road
Forest Hill, MD 21050



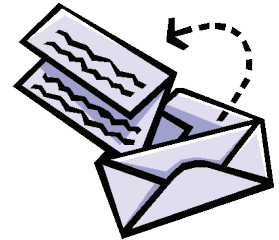
Membership Year - September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2009

- 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

Dues for New Memberships paid after March 1 are one half the listed amount.

_____ 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.
 Check here if you would like to receive your Harford Chapter newsletter by email.

*If a new member, how did you find out about the Harford County Bird Club? _____

Harford Bird Club Field Trips ⁷

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

Saturday, October 18

Eden Mill Park - Join the banding crew for up-close looks at migrant birds. Meet at the Vangrin banding pavilion on Eden Mill Road at 8 am. Contact Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978.

Saturday, October 25

Harford Glen - Bird a very popular area for a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at the Glen at 7:30 am. Contact leaders Dave Larkin and Lynn Davis at 410-569-0504.

Friday, October 31- Sunday, November 2

Waggoner's Gap Weekend - Enjoy Hawk watching during the day and owling at night. For accommodations and meeting location, contact Dave Webb at 410-939-3537.



Saturday November 8

Eden Mill Park - Saw Whet Owl Banding - Come see our smallest Eastern Owl during its peak migration time. Meet at the Mill on Eden Mill Rd. at 7 PM. Contact leader Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978.

Sunday November 16

Harford Waterfowl Tour - Search for common and rare ducks, geese, and other water birds. Meet at Swan Harbor Park near Havre de Grace at 7:30 am. Contact Russ Kovach at 410-457-4274.



Saturday November 22

Bombay Hook - Visit one of the best birding spots in the East for waterfowl, migrants, and shorebirds. Meet at the 155/95 Park and Ride at 7 am. Contact leaders Randy Robertson and Tom Congersky at 410-273-9029.

Saturday November 29

Conowingo Eagle Watch - Celebrate the Thanksgiving Weekend with great looks at our national bird as well as other surprises. Meet at Fisherman's Park at the base of Conowingo Dam off of Shures Landing Road at 8 am. Contact the leader Dennis Kirkwood at 410-692-5905.



Saturday December 6

Delmarva Shore Trip - A visit to hotspots on the Delmarva Peninsula for rarities and shore specialties. Meet at the 155/95 Park and Ride at 7 am. Contact leader Russ Kovach at 410-457-4274.



Sunday December 28

Rock Run Christmas Bird Count - The annual count centered in Susquehanna State Park. Contact Coordinator Jean Wheeler for assignment to a team for counting. 410-879-7424.

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

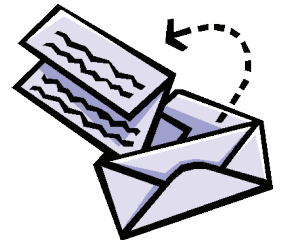
The Harford Bird Club November Dinner Meeting Reservation Form



Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Cresmont Drive, Aberdeen MD 21001 by Friday, October 31, 2008 if you plan on attending for dinner.

(No charge and no reservation necessary for the general meeting!)

_____ 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!

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:



Harford Bird Club November Dinner Meeting



Rhapsody in Blue:
A Celebration of North American Waterbirds

Presented by:

Middleton Evans

Friday, November 7th, 2008

Dinner - 6:15pm - General Meeting time 7:15pm

Location: Churchville Presbyterian Church

2844 Churchville Road

Churchville, MD 21028