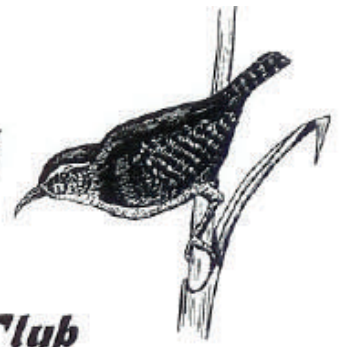




Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 22 Number 3

December, 2008

President's Perch: The Winter of Great Journeys

Of course by great journeys, I refer mainly to our scheduled trips to New Jersey, two of which adorn the upcoming field trip schedule. For those who have participated in the past, the weekend trip to the Ziolkowski shore house is sure to be one of the most treasured birding memories (and likely the coldest!). Pushing the trip back a bit to March will probably not change the birds likely to be seen, but will certainly make for a warmer trip... the best of both worlds! But don't worry, we still have plenty of trips scheduled that feature cold temperatures if that is what you are looking for.

My very first trip with the Harford Bird Club was on a trip Les Eastman lead along the southern New Jersey coastline and featuring a trip across the Cape May - Lewes ferry. Needless to say, that trip was one of the best hooks one could have into the 'sport' of birding, and I for one am very much looking forward to celebrating my 21st anniversary with the HBC by participating on Les' trip (plus it makes for a great birthday outing!). The combination of a snack shop with coffee and Northern Gannet flying in front of the windows is this birder's dream... a trip not to miss!



Speaking of trips, there is no better way to assure yourself of a speaking engagement with the Harford Bird Club than to mention in earshot of the president that you have recently traveled abroad. Jean Wheeler did just that, and low and behold is presenting at the January meeting! Her trip to Brazil with some fellow MOS members was clearly a thrill for Jean, and the photos that she and her trip mates acquired will help to warm us up during a winter of cold-weather birding. Jean, shown above in a photo by Tom Gibson (NOT taken in Brazil) always seems to find adventure in birding, so be sure not to miss her tales of birding "From Bel Air to Brazil" on Friday, January 9th at the Churchville Presbyterian Church.

On the birding front, the winter of 08-09 could turn out to be an interesting 'invasion year'. Many have reported Pine Siskin, and Purple Finches have been in the area pretty thickly. Be sure to keep an eye out for Common Redpolls and both White-winged and Red Crossbills. If you see a rare bird, be sure to let everybody know by registering for our Rare Bird Alert email chain. If you have not already done so, visit our website (www.harfordbirdclub.org) and click on 'local rare bird alerts' to register. It is quick and easy to do, and will keep you connected with others seeking rare sightings in Harford County. In the meantime... be sure to stay warm, and as always... best birding wishes!

~Russ Kovach

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Plan Ahead!

- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, Dec 28, 2008
- January General Meeting: Fri, Jan 9, 2009, 7:00pm
- Wrenderings deadline, Jan. 25th, 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, 7:00pm
- Spring Migration Bird Count: Sat, May 9, 2009
- Summer Social: Friday, July 17, 2009, 6:30pm
- Annual Picnic: Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009, time TBA

Harford Bird Club

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See www.harfordbirdclub.org for email contact information.

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410-939-3537

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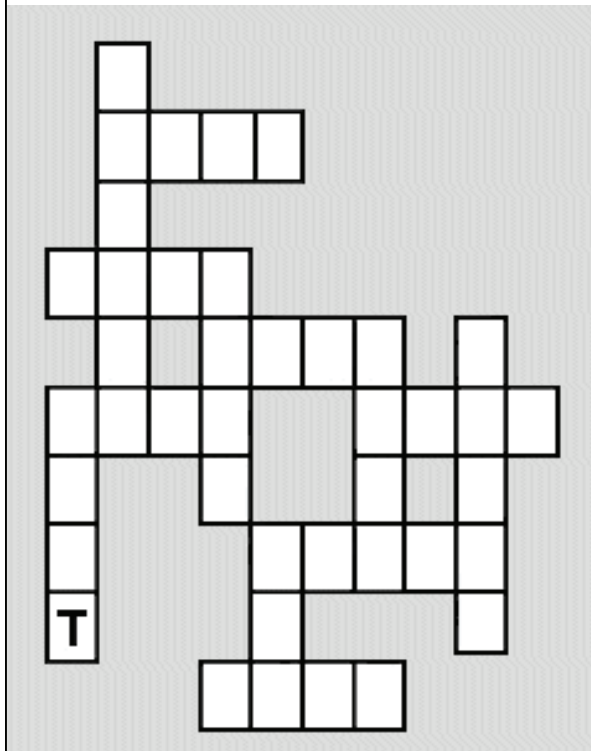
Wrenderings Editor

Vacant; to apply call:
410-457-4274

Bird Droppings

Bird Gridiron

From the Wasatch Audubon Society: fill in the white squares in the grid below with North American bird last names, reading left-to-right and down. The same letter must appear in the names where they meet or cross. One letter has been given to get you started. Good luck! (answers on page 4; don't peek!)



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.

Where is our birdseed?

There have been several local business sponsoring our meeting raffles of late that sell bird seed, feeders, and related materials. Of course Wild Bird Marketplace, which has recently closed shop but still carries bird food, and the Mill of Bel Air, have been long time Harford Bird Club supporters (please see their ads elsewhere in this issue). Those in the Churchville area however have a newcomer to the bird seed market, Tharpe and Green Mill. Located on route 136 just south of town, Tharpe and Green Mill carries a selection of bulk seeds at competitive prices (and has smaller bags as well). For more information, contact Scott at Tharpe and Green Mill, 410-734-7772 or stop in and visit at 101 Calvary Road in Churchville.

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

Last year the Rock Run CBC, perhaps our signature bird club event, had all sectors of the count circle covered and overall was a very successful count. There are still blocks to be filled however for the 2008 count! All interested participants can email coordinator Jean Wheeler at jswheeler44@msn.com or call 410-879-7424.

Harford Senior Outings Club

A new club formed in Harford County in February 2008. The club provides a means for Harford seniors (age 50+) to informally get together for a variety of outings in the great outdoors. Activities include hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, birding, tubing, swimming. The outings are whatever volunteer leaders in the club elect to lead. An emphasis is placed on outings close to or in the county. There are no dues. This is just a "bare bones" club to enable seniors to share their common interests with others in the great outdoors. If you are interested in joining or have further questions, contact Jack Dettner at 410-638-1433.

Welcome!

A warm Harford Bird Club welcome goes out to the following new member, making the switch from baseball to birding. Thank you for joining... we look forward to seeing you out there on our birding trips and at our meetings!

TED WILLIAMS

by: **Monroe Harden**

Fall migration was in full swing during this period.
This report covers September and October of 2008.



Geese, Swans, Ducks



Canada Geese returned for the winter in large numbers across the county. Several Cackling Geese joined them. DK saw 5 at Turney's Pond on Oct 3rd and 1 on Oct 31st. CW saw 2 Mute Swans on the bay near Swan Harbor on Oct 27th. Our resident ducks were joined by early migrants from the north. DZ saw 10 Wood Ducks in the swamp near Routes 24 and 40 in Edgewood on Sep 7th. MH also saw 10 from his office parking lot on APG on Oct 23rd along with 5 American Black Ducks and 5 Mallards. TH and RB saw a Blue-winged Teal at Harford Glen on Sep 13th. KG and JD saw 10 Green-winged Teal at Broad Creek Scout Camp on Oct 24th. BJD had 6, including 3 male and 6 females, at Harford Glen on Oct 26th.

Gamebirds, Grebes, Cormorants, Herons

TH and RB saw a Ring-necked Pheasant at Harford Glen on Sep 13th. CW found 5 Wild Turkeys at Susquehanna State Park on Sep 5th and 10 on the Edgewood area of APG on Sep 6th. DB saw 4 in a field in Street on Oct 29th. CW saw a Pied-billed Grebe on the bay near Swan Harbor on Oct 27th. Large numbers of Double-crested Cormorants remained in the county. DZ saw 11 on the Susquehanna Flats on Sep 7th along with 25 Great Blue Herons and a Great Egret. DL also saw a Great Egret and a Snowy Egret at Lakeside on Sep 28th. On Sep 7th, DZ saw 9 mostly juvenile Snowy Egrets along Rt 40 near Otter Creek and 12 more juveniles in the swamp near the intersection of Rts 24 and 40 in Edgewood. DL and PL had 4 Green Herons at Lakeside on Sep 7th. CW saw one the same day on the Susquehanna River near Havre de Grace. DL saw single Green Herons at Lakeside on Sep 28th and Oct 5th. JS and EB encountered a Black-crowned Night-Heron at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace on Oct 18th.



Hawks, Falcons

Our breeding Ospreys moved out for the winter during this period. PV saw one on the river by Havre de Grace on Oct 3rd that was displaying and calling as if it was springtime. CW saw single birds in the bay on Oct 15th and 26th. She also saw a group of 30 or more Bald Eagles over the bay on Sep 14th and at least 24 near Palmer/Garrett Island on Sep 15th. JS and EB saw a Northern Harrier at Swan Harbor on Oct 19th. They also saw 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks there. MH saw a Sharp-shinned and a Cooper's Hawk at Harford Glen on Oct 11th while BJD saw one of each there on Oct 26th. CW had a close encounter with a Cooper's Hawk on Rte 155 on Sep 11th. KG and JD saw 3 Red-shouldered Hawks at the Bradenbaugh Flats on Oct 24th. TH saw one at Ladew Gardens on Sep 22nd. MH had Broad-winged Hawks migrating over his home in Havre de Grace. He saw 13 on Sep 17th, 1 on Sep 18th, and another on Sep 19th. DL had 2 Red-tailed Hawks at Lakeside on Oct 5th and 1 on Oct 19th. KG and JD saw an American Kestrel at the Bradenbaugh Flats on Oct 24th. BS saw a Peregrine Falcon perched in a tree at Conowingo Dam on Sep 1st.

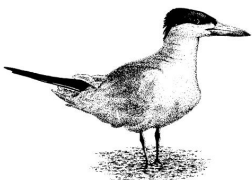


Rails, Plovers, Sandpipers

CW encountered 6 American Coots on the far side of Tydings Island on Oct 26th. A few remaining shorebirds were seen around the county this period. JS saw a juvenile American Golden-Plover, a Semipalmated Plover, and 8 Killdeer in the Perryman area on Sep 27th. On Oct 18th, he and EB saw 7 more Killdeer, 5 Greater Yellowlegs, and 5 Lesser Yellowlegs at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace. On Sep 14th, CW saw a Spotted Sandpiper over the bay, and the next day she saw 5 Lesser Yellowlegs walking on some algae on the river near the Concord Point Lighthouse. While looking for storm birds blown in from Tropical Storm Hanna on Sep 6th, DZ saw 4 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 19 Least Sandpipers on the Susquehanna Flats. The next day he saw 2 White-rumped Sandpipers and a Short-billed Dowitcher there.



Gulls, Terns, Doves, Cuckoos



While on storm watch on Sep 6th, DZ saw 3 Laughing Gulls in their second cycle basic plumage, along with about 100 Ring-billed, 60 Herring, and 50 Great Black-backed Gulls on the Susquehanna Flats. He also saw a Caspian Tern approximately 125 Forster's Terns, and 32 Black Terns there the same day. JS and EB saw a Franklin's Gull and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Tydings Park on Oct 18th, along with an estimated 450 (!) Forster's Terns. Swan Harbor continues to host several Rock Pigeons. JS and EB saw 18 there on Oct 19th and MH saw 2 on Oct 24th. KG saw a Yellow-billed Cuckoo flying south over Jarrettsville on Sep 7th. BJD saw one at Bosely Conservancy on Sep 14th.

Owls, Goatsuckers, Swifts, Hummingbird, Kingfishers



RAK had an Eastern Screech-Owl, a Great Horned Owl, and a Barred Owl calling simultaneously near their home in Darlington. JS and EB saw an Eastern Screech-Owl at Swan Harbor on Oct 19th. KG saw 2 Common Nighthawks and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird flying south over Jarrettsville on Sep 7th. MH saw small groups of 1-3 Chimney Swifts over his home in Havre de Grace daily in September, through the 25th. DL saw 2 at Lakeside on Sep 28th. LE banded 9 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at his home in Havre de Grace on Sep 13th and more than 30 on Sep 20th. MH saw his last one for the year (so far) at home in Havre de Grace on Sep 28th. SH saw one at home in Fallston on Oct 9th. Several observers reported belted Kingfishers. DL and PL saw one at Lakeside on Sep 7th. CW saw 1 in the bay on Oct 26th and another on Oct 27th. BJD saw one at Harford Glen on Oct 26th.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers

October brought us Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. On Oct 19th, JS and EB saw one at Swan Harbor, along with 8 Red-bellied and 1 Hairy Woodpeckers. BJD saw one in Forest Hill on Oct 20th while KG and JD had 2 in Broad Creek Scout Camp on Oct 24th. They also had 2 Red-bellied, 2 Downy, 2 Pileated, and 2 Hairy Woodpeckers there. KG saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Least Flycatcher, and an Eastern Kingbird in Jarrettsville on Sep 7th. TH saw an Eastern Wood-Pewee and an Eastern Phoebe at Ladew Gardens on Sep 5th. JS had 4 Eastern Wood-Pewees and an Alder Flycatcher at Conowingo Dam on Sep 27th.



Vireos, Crows, Larks, Swallows



DL and PV saw single White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos at Lakeside on Sep 7th. TH saw a White-eyed Vireo at Ladew Gardens on Sep 22nd and a Blue-headed Vireo there on Oct 10th. On Sep 5th he saw a large number of Red-eyed Vireos there. JS and EB saw about 50 Fish Crows at Tydings Park on Oct 18th. DL saw single Fish Crows at Lakeside on Oct 19th and Oct 26th. JS had 20 Horned Larks in Perryman on Sep 27th. KG and JD saw 4 in the Bradenbaugh Flats area on Oct 24th. Swan Harbor hosted a few lingering Tree Swallows. JS and EB saw 9 on Oct 19th and MH saw 6 on Oct 24th.

Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens



DB reported a Black-capped Chickadee in Pylesville on Oct 28th. She said it was noticeably larger than the Carolina Chickadees normally seen around here. MH was entertained by 1 or 2 Tufted Titmice outside his APG office window throughout October. DW saw 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches at home in Webster Village on Sep 21st. JS and EB saw a White-breasted Nuthatch at Swan Harbor on Oct 19th. TH saw one at Ladew Gardens on Oct 29th. SH saw a Brown Creeper in Fallston on Oct 17th. JS saw a House Wren at Conowingo Dam on Sep 27th. TH saw one at Ladew Gardens on Oct 29th. JS and EB saw a Winter Wren at Swan Harbor on Oct 19th while BJD saw one at Harford Glen on Oct 26th.

Kinglets, Thrushes, Starlings, Pipits

Our winter resident kinglets arrived in October. JS and EB reported 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Swan Harbor on Oct 19th. BJD saw 3 at Harford Glen on Oct 26th. TH saw a large number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Ladew Gardens on Oct 10th. RAK saw 5 in their yard in Darlington on Oct 16th. BJD saw a Gray-cheeked Thrush in their yard in Forest Hill on Oct 20th. This was the first one they'd seen in their yard. TH saw a Swainson's Thrush at Ladew Gardens on Sep 22nd. JS and EB saw 7 Hermit Thrushes on Oct 19th along with 2 Brown

Bird Gridiron Answers:

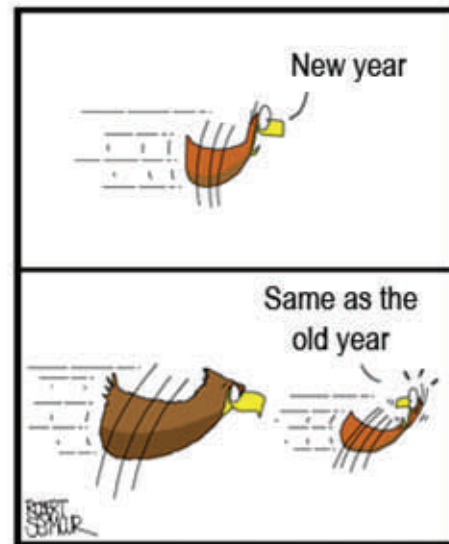
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Thrashers at Swan Harbor. KG and JD saw 3 Hermit Thrushes at Broad Creek on Oct 24th. MH saw a large group of about 2000 European Starlings at Harford Glen on Oct 11th. He also saw an estimated 500 at Swan Harbor on Oct 24th. KG and JD saw 25 American Pipits on Amos Rd in the northern part of the county. DW heard 2 calling over a stubble field on Oct 27th.

Warblers

TH and RB saw a Tennessee Warbler at Harford Glen on Sep 13th. They also saw a Northern Parula. JS saw 5 at Conowingo Dam on Sep 27th, along with a Chestnut-sided Warbler. TH saw single Chestnut-sided Warblers at Ladew Gardens on Sep 5th and 22nd. On Sep 5th he also saw individual Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Black-and-white, and possibly Blackpoll Warblers. Magnolia Warblers were seen by DL and PL at Lakeside and KG in Jarrettsville on Sep 7th. DL saw one at Lakeside on Oct 19th along with a Palm Warbler. BS saw a Black-throated Blue Warbler along the Conowingo Dam Greenways Trail on Sep 1st. TH saw one at Harford Glen on Sep 13th (with RB) and at Ladew Gardens on Sep 22nd and Oct 10th. Many Yellow-rumped Warblers arrived in October. RK saw his first of the season at home in Darlington on Oct 11th. KG and JD had 35 at the Bradenbaugh Flats on Oct 24th. BS saw single Black-throated Green and Yellow-throated Warblers on the Greenways Trail on Sep 1st. JS also had a Yellow-throated Warbler at Conowingo Dam on Sep 27th. On Sep 13th, TH and RB saw a Pine and a Black-and-white Warbler at Harford Glen. Numerous Palm Warbler sightings happened during this period. DL saw 1 at Lakeside on Sep 28th and 6 there in Oct 5th. KG and JD saw 3 of the Western race at Bradenbaugh Flats on Oct 24th. TH saw an American Redstart at Ladew Gardens on Sep 5th. SH had 2 in her yard in Fallston on Sep 13th. KG saw an Ovenbird in Jarrettsville on Sep 7th. BJD saw one at Bosely Conservancy on Sep 14th. TH saw several Common Yellowthroats in September. He saw 1 at Ladew Gardens on the 5th and 22nd and 1 at Harford Glen on the 13th (with RB). DL saw 4 at Lakeside on Oct 12th. TH saw a Canada Warbler at Ladew Gardens on Sep 5th. BJD saw one at Bosely Conservancy on Sep 14th.



Tanagers, Sparrows, Buntings

SH saw a Scarlet Tanager in her yard in Fallston on Sep 4th and 5th. TH saw a female at Ladew Gardens on Sep 22nd. On Oct 19th, DL saw an Eastern Towhee at Lakeside while JS and EB saw 4 at Swan Harbor. KG saw 6 Chipping Sparrows in Jarrettsville on Sep 7th. JS and EB saw 3 at Swan Harbor on Oct 19th, along with 2 Field Sparrows, 2 Vesper Sparrows, 40 Savannah Sparrows, 20 Song Sparrows, 1 White Crowned, and 5 Swamp Sparrows. On Oct 26th at Lakeside, DL saw a mixed sparrow flock including a Field, 40+ Song, 20+ White-throated, and 1 Swamp Sparrows. White-throated Sparrows returned to the area in force starting in early October. RK saw his first of the season in his Darlington yard on Oct 9th. MH saw 10 at Harford Glen on Oct 11th. SH saw her first Dark-eyed Junco of the season at her Fallston home on Oct 15th. BJD had their first ones in Forest Hill on Oct 20th.



KG and JD reported a Snow Bunting at Broad Creek on Oct 24th. It was a male bird, in winter plumage. Its head was a bit ragged and it appeared to have dried blood on it. This battle-scarred visitor was not seen again. JS saw an Indigo Bunting at Conowingo Dam on Sep 27th.

Blackbirds, Finches



DL and PL saw 4 Bobolinks at Lakeside on Sep 7th. At Swan Harbor, JS and EB saw 6 Eastern Meadowlarks on Oct 19th. MH saw 5 there on Oct 24th. DL saw his first ever at Lakeside on Oct 26th. MH saw large groups of Common Grackles on APG Oct 21st-23rd. And last, but certainly not least, KG and JD saw 9 Pine Siskins fly by at Broad Creek on Oct 24th.

Contributors

BJD- Bob and Jan Depuy, BS- Bob Schutsky, CW- Colleen Webster, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DW- Dave Webb, DZ- Dave Ziolkowski, EB- Ed Boyd, JD- John Dennehy, JS- Jim Stasz, KG- Kevin Graff, LE- Les Eastman, MH- Monroe Harden, PL- Peter Lev, PV- Pat Valdata, RAK- Russ and Annie Kovach, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, RK- Russ Kovach, SH- Susan Hood, TH- Tim Houghton

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

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WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE

Harford Bird Club Field Trip Reports

Winters Run

September 21, 2008

The weather was cool and clear at 7am and warm by noon. The action was subdued for long intervals, but then intense at a number of locations on this quiet country road. We got a brief but clear view of the posterior of an adult Bald Eagle flying down Winter's Run about 20 feet above the water. A Kingfisher perched nicely for us on a snag above the water. We had sightings of Great Blue Heron and a Snowy egret perched on a midstream rock, and soaring Red Tailed and Red Shouldered Hawks. Warblers included Chestnut-sided, American Red Start, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Black & White, and Common Yellowthroat. Three species of Vireo, Yellow-throated, White-eyed, and Red-eyed, made appearances. Tree trunk crawlers included Downey, Red-bellied, and Pileated Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker and White Breasted Nuthatch. Adding in all the more common birds brought us to a total of 49 species. ~*Lynn Davis and Dave Larkin*

Harford Glen

October 25, 2008

The two trip leaders and one other birder turned out for this field trip. A cold damp drizzle may have kept other potential participants at home. The drizzle turned into a light rain as we stood in the parking lot and the lighting was abysmal. Despite the weather there were lots of bird activity in the trees around the parking lot. With great difficulty we identified Eastern Bluebird, Yellow-rumped warbler and Chipping sparrow in the trees. Though other unidentifiable species were also present. Concentrating on identifying these birds we did not notice at first that the rain had stopped leaving gray skies and poor lighting for the rest of the morning. The reed beds yielded the usual Red winged blackbirds but also a small flock of Rusty blackbirds. Overhead we had a formation of Tundra swans and on one of the small ponds a few Pintail together with a few Wood duck flying around. Other birds of interest were Palm warbler and Eastern phoebe. Given the weather we were surprised to find that we had a total of 43 species for the day which proves you can have a good days birding in the worst of weather. ~*Lynn Davis and David Larkin*

Waggoner's Gap Weekend

October 31 - November 2, 2008

On Halloween Day, three club members headed north for a full weekend of birding in south-central Pennsylvania. George and Donna Yorkston welcomed the trio into their cozy cabin in the lush hills of South Mountain near Biglerville. After a hearty lasagna dinner, we all went out into the starry night to find owls and were successful in finding a lone Barred Owl.

On Saturday we made the one-hour drive further north to the Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch near Carlisle. In the first 90 minutes, not a single raptor passed by and we "settled" for a nice assortment of songbirds -- both kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, and numerous Pine Siskins -- in the trees nearby and flying overhead. Eventually the hawks began to trickle in, and continued to do so for the next five hours. In all we probably saw close to 100 raptors on this unseasonably warm day that saw the midday temperature reach 70 degrees. Most of the raptors were either Sharpies and Red-tails, but a few Cooper's, Red-shoulders, an American Kestrel, and several Common Ravens made appearances. Certainly the highlight of the day was getting good looks at 2 Northern Goshawks and approximately 10 Golden Eagles migrating along the Kittatinny Ridge.

That evening we visited the King's Gap Environmental Education Center for a program on owls and with the hope of seeing Northern Saw-whet Owls at the banding station. Although this is not a particular strong year for Saw-whets to migrate into the mid-Atlantic, one of them flew into the banding nets. Master Bander Gary Shimmel brought the cute little owl inside to record the banding data, and explain the entire process to the spellbound audience of over 75 people.

On Sunday morning, our group said goodbye to the Yorkston's cabin and headed off to the Strawberry Hill Nature Center near Fairfield. This beautiful 609-acre property on the edge of South Mountain has several hiking trails passing thru a variety of habitats. In a brief one-hour walk we came across several good birds, including Pileated Woodpecker, more Pine Siskins, Brown Creeper, Fox Sparrow and Blue-headed Vireo. Our final stop was along a rural road outside of Gettysburg where we found about a half-dozen or so Red-headed Woodpeckers in a couple of small oak groves. Our final tally for the trip was a satisfying 54 species, several of which were lifers for several of the attendees. Special thanks go out to George and Donna for being such generous hosts for the weekend! ~*Dave Webb*

Saw-whet Owl Banding

November 8, 2008

It was a relatively warm evening when many came out in hope of seeing a Northern Saw-whet Owl during our banding activities at Eden Mill Nature Center. It was in the 40's and generally overcast; conditions historically poor for capturing these little owls. Thirty-five nature enthusiasts came out for the event, and we trekked from the Nature Center to the nets nearly every forty minutes until 10:30 PM without success. Efforts at other nearby banding stations reported similar results for the season so far, suggesting movements of these owls are variable between years. Between net runs we kept occupied learning about night vision and in general conversation. Better luck next time! ~*Mark Johnson*

Bombay Hook, Delaware

November 22, 2008

Five hearty birders braved the cold and wind at Bombay Hook on November 22. Despite the chilly conditions the sun shone and provided some wonderful lighting for #10 looks. Noteworthy observations included beautiful Green-winged Teal and Pintail; Bufflehead and Ruddy Duck; two immature Bald Eagles; many Northern Harriers (one great look at an adult male); lots of winter plumage Dunlin; Tundra Swans and both Snow and Canada Geese. Savannah and Fox Sparrows were seen along with a red-phase Screech Owl sunning in the opening of a Wood Duck box – the same box location that Dennis Kirkwood was able to find and capture a Screecher many years ago for an "in-the-hand" look! The box is mounted on a taller pole now so I was unable to duplicate Dennis' feat. ~*Randy Robertson*

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

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.

Saturday January 10

Harford County Feeder Tour. What better way to start your year off, and get into birding? Join leader Lynn Feryus and other hosts as they point out all that beginner birders need to know when looking out their home windows onto feeder areas. From the meeting location we'll carpool to our first host's home where we'll perch in the warmth and overlook their bird feeder spread for an hour or so before migrating on to the next. Participation is limited though, and beginner birders are particularly welcome, so please contact Lynn at (410-877-7928) to reserve your spot and receive further information for this fun event!



Saturday, January 17

Conowingo Gull Watch. Just when the post-holiday season blues have got you in their sights, you can count on Les Eastman to get you some gulls up at the dam. The hydroelectric fish cuisinart rarely disappoints pulling in good numbers of waterfowl and Bald Eagles as well as such rarities as Black-legged Kittiwake, Glaucus, Iceland, Thayer's, and Black-headed Gulls - A fine time for a variety of those high-flying fish-eaters, despite the cold and wind. Bundle up and meet Les at the parking lot closest to the dam at 8 am. Call for more information at (410 734-6969).



Sunday, January 25

Broad Creek Scout Camp. Join leaders Suzanne Procell and Marjie Heagy to search for winter finches among the evergreens at this popular reserve. In past years, crossbills, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and other winter visitors have surprised the group. Meet at Dublin Elementary School on route 136 in Dublin. Call Suzanne at 410-676-6602.



Saturday, January 31

Harford Mid-Winter Count. Choose your location. Feeders are ok. Contact Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978 for more information.

Saturday, February 7

World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats. Another good morning for regulars and beginner birders alike. Bradenbaugh born and raised, Dennis Kirkwood is the premiere guide to escort you through the bustling hedgerows and large open fields of this winter birding wonderland. The trip consists mostly of drive-and-stop birding, followed by a wrap-up at the Kirkwood's house featuring delicious homemade soup and breads. Ring-necked Duck, Horned Lark, and White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows, as well as Cackling Goose, are regulars but American Pipit, Snow Bunting, and Lapland Longspur are distinct possibilities. Meet at Jarrettsville Elementary School at 8:00 AM. Contact Dennis at 410-692-5905 for more information.



Saturday, February 14

Swan Harbor Park. Searching for open field birds, waterfowl, and winter sparrows, Leaders Tom Gibson and John Gallo will walk the park to find what is wintering in this interesting habitat. Dress for the weather including wet footing. The group will gather in the parking lot by the Ag Education Center at 7:30 AM. Contact Tom Gibson at 410-734-4135.



Saturday, February 21

Cape May, NJ to Lewes, DE via the Ferry. Leader Les Eastman will take the group over to NJ and ride the Ferry for a mini-pelagic trip back to Lewes. Along the route, we will look for wintering specialties and any rarities being reported. Gannets and kittiwakes are possibilities. Meet at 6:30 am at the 155/95 Park and ride near Havre de Grace. Contact Les at 410-734-6969 for information on this full day trip.



Sunday, March 1

Loch Raven. Join veteran leader Dave Larkin to explore one of Baltimore's most scenic waterscapes. Just six miles north of downtown Towson, this water reservoir and its surrounding forest is a magnet for pine-loving songbirds and waterfowl. Ring-necked Duck, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Fox Sparrow are likely to be seen. Meet at 7:30 at the MD 152 and MD 147 park-n-ride. Contact Dave at 410-569-8319 for more details



Saturday and Sunday, March 14 and 15

Barnegat Light House and Brigantine Refuge.

Loomed over by a 172' lighthouse and renowned among boaters as being central Jersey's most treacherous waterway, the ever changing rips and tides of Barnegat Inlet have earned a reputation for producing the unexpected almost expectedly. Add to that a stop at the famous Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge on the second day and you have the makings of an outstanding 'trip to remember'. Good close views of Harlequin Duck and 'Ipswich' Sparrow can be expected (bring your camera) with Northern Gannet, Snow Bunting, Eiders, Great Cormorant and a plethora of other northern winter birds sure to fill the list! Trip departs at 7 AM Saturday with expected return by 5 PM Sunday. All are welcome but co-leaders Dave Ziolkowski and Les Eastman have a limited number of without charge overnight spots for club members on a first call (first commit) basis. Contact Dave at 443-299-8453 for more information.



Go **Birding** at

and
Anita C. Leigh

Estuary Center



Harford Bird Club January General Meeting



From Bel Air to Brazil: A Trip for the Birds

Presented by:

Jean Wheeler

Friday, January 9th, 2009

General Meeting time 7:00pm

Location: Churchville Presbyterian Church

2844 Churchville Road

Churchville, MD 21028



Mail To:

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

