



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 22 Number 5

April, 2009

President's Perch: Election Season!

Bet you thought it was over in November... but you were wrong! Election season returns on Friday, May 1st when the Harford Bird Club will elect a new President and Vice President. In addition, all other officer spots are up for re-election. The currently proposed slate looks like this:

President—Dave Webb

Vice President—Elaine Beery

Recording Secretary—Susan Hood

Corresponding Secretary—Marty Farley-Crouse

Treasurer—Marjie Heagy

State Director—Randy Robertson

State Director—Tom Congersky

Nominations for positions can be taken from the floor, so if anybody else is interested in running for a position, please attend the May meeting to be heard!

In addition to the upcoming election, we have TONS of good birding opportunities in the upcoming weeks. Some members of the HBC will be heading down to the lower Eastern-shore for the Delmarva Birding Weekend. Big events in New Jersey and other surrounding states follow in addition to the MOS conference in Frederick; but local birding is also heating up with a new competitive venture sent forth by the Field Trip Committee and a great slate of field trips to boot.

Be sure to check out our upcoming trips later in this issue, and of course keep May 9th open for the annual Spring Migration Bird Count (is there a better Mother's Day gift than a day birding?). It is a great time to be a birder... and is also a great time to be a member of the Harford Bird Club as we have one of our own, world traveler and HBC member Lynn Feryus will share stories from her recent trip to Eastern Africa at our upcoming May general meeting. No dinner at this one, but Lynn's photos will certainly satisfy our appetite for birding, a presentation not to be missed! In the meantime... see you all out there on the birding trail, and as always, best birding wishes! ~**Russ Kovach**

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Plan Ahead!

- May General Meeting: Friday, May 1, 2009, 7:00pm
- Spring Migration Bird Count: Sat, May 9, 2009
- 2009 Annual MOS Conference - May 15 - 17, Frederick, MD
- Wrenderings Deadline: May 25th
- Summer Social: Friday, July 17, 2009, 6:30pm
- Annual Picnic: Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009, time TBA
- Fall Migration Bird Count: Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009
- November Dinner Meeting: Friday, Nov. 6, 2009
- Rock Run CBC: Sunday, December 27, 2009

Harford Bird Club

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See www.harfordbirdclub.org for email contact information.

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Bird Droppings

Club News?

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

Birdie Word Search

From the Wasatch Audubon Society

Hidden in the letters below are up to 37 different generic bird names. The birds can be listed diagonally, forwards, backwards, and in some cases can even be found within another bird name. In some cases, a bird name may appear twice! Answers listed elsewhere in this issue!

G S H L O N G S P U R S O R A
O H G A E K N I L O B O B M C
L E D E F L Y C A T C H E R R
D A M T L C U D U N U A H E E
E R C O H W R N U S D W U H H
N W I A C U O J I O I K M S C
E A T B N K A L W L N B M I T
Y T K N E V I L L O L R I F A
E E E I N T A N T E S A N G C
O R D A T R A S G F Y N G N T
W E N W K E E G B B F T B I A
R E D S T A R T I A I U I K N
W O O D P E C K E R C R R B G
C H A C H A L A C A F K D A T
B U F F L E H E A D B O O B Y

Havre de Grace Decoy Festival

May 1 – 3, 2009. Fri: 6 – 9pm, Sat: 9 – 5, Sun: 10 – 4. The show features over 140 artists exhibiting and selling their art work, food, and children's activities, live and silent auctions, retriever demonstrations, carving competitions and lots more. Show is located in the Havre de Grace Middle School, Recreation Center, and the museum. Free shuttle buses are available to all show locations and downtown Havre de Grace. Admission is \$6/day, \$10/weekend.

Spring Migration Bird Count (the May Count!)

Saturday, May 9th, all day. Contact Mark Johnson to participate or for additional information at 410-692-4978. It is not sprint until the May Count arrives; be sure not to miss this count smack in the middle of our annual 'migration spectacular'. See you all out there May 9th!

Welcome!

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

Mary L. Trotta of Baltimore



by: **Monroe Harden**

Some uncommon visitors from the north spent time with us this winter. The chance of seeing a Crossbill or some Pine Siskins made it worthwhile to go out in the cold. This report covers January and February 2009.

Geese, Swans, Ducks

Many Canada Geese spent the winter in Harford County. MH saw a flock of about 50 Snow Geese flying in a Northeasterly direction on Feb 28th. DL found 2 immature Trumpeter Swans in the water at the Lakeside Business Park in Edgewood on Feb 8th. These birds stayed through the end of month and were seen and photographed by many observers.

MH saw a group of 7 American Black Ducks from his APG office window on Jan 2nd. KG saw 2, along with 6 Mallards, from Lapidum on Feb 24th. DL reported groups of up to 11 Ring-necked Ducks at Lakeside throughout the period. RR saw between 1 and 4 on various dates at the Bynum Run Pond. DS saw 2 males there on Feb 28th. CW saw several Scaup in the water near the Lantern Queen in Havre de Grace on Jan 26th. JB and RG saw 14 Greater Scaup south of Lapidum on Feb 22nd, while KG saw 2 there on Feb 24th. DL had a Lesser Scaup at Lakeside on Feb 1st.

JB and RG saw 2 male White-winged Scoters and 2 Common Goldeneye from Lapidum on Feb 22nd. KG saw one near the bridge south of there on Feb 24th along with 5 Bufflehead and 3 Common Goldeneye. DL saw a Bufflehead at Lakeside on Feb 1st, 15th, and 22nd. DL had 2 Hooded Mergansers at Lakeside on Feb 1st and Feb 8th. KG saw one in Jarrettsville on Feb 12th. PP saw 3 at Gunpowder State Park on Feb 15th. CW saw a group of approximately 50 Common Mergansers in the bay near the Lantern Queen in Havre de Grace on Jan 26th. SB saw a group of 90 near the Otter Point Picnic Area on Feb 16th.



Loons, Grebes, Cormorants, Herons, Vultures

KG saw a Common Loon in the Susquehanna River near Lapidum on Feb 24th. He also saw 2 Horned Grebes and 3 Double-crested Cormorants there that day. MH saw a Great Blue Heron at Swan Harbor on Jan 3rd. DL saw 2 at Lakeside on Jan 25th. He also saw one there on Feb 1st and 8th and 2 on Feb 22nd. The county hosted numerous Black and Turkey Vultures this winter. RK saw 2 of each in Darlington on Jan 1st.



Hawks, Falcons

Many Bald Eagles spent the winter in the area. MH saw 2 at Swan Harbor on Jan 3rd. He also saw 2 from his APG office window on Feb 27th. SB saw 2 at the Otter Point Picnic Area on Feb 16th. MH saw a Northern Harrier and a Red-shouldered Hawk at Swan Harbor on Jan 3rd. KG had a Cooper's Hawk and 2 Red-shouldered Hawks on their nest in Jarrettsville on Feb 12th. LD saw a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Merlin in Bright Oaks on Jan 1st. The Merlin was the first seen in their yard in 36 years. RK observed a Red-tailed hawk in Darlington on Jan 1st. At Lakeside, DL saw one on Jan 25th and Feb 22nd and two on Feb 8th.



Rails, Plovers, Gulls, Kingfisher

DL reported an American Coot at Lakeside on Jan 25th through Feb 15th. He also saw 2 Killdeer there on Feb 22nd. He saw 44 Ring-billed Gulls there on Jan 25th and 43 on Feb 1st. KG saw 4 Herring Gulls and 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Lapidum on Feb 24th. LE saw a Lesser Black-backed Gull at Conowingo Dam on Jan 16th. MH was surprised to see a Belted Kingfisher fly by his office window on APG the afternoon of Jan 20th. SH saw a male Belted Kingfisher at Laurel Brook in Fallston on Jan 30th and 31st.



Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Crows

KG saw Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Jarrettsville on Jan 16th and 28th. He also saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and single Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers on Jan 16th. On Jan 28th he also had the same numbers of woodpeckers, along with a Northern Flicker. BJD had 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers eating suet in their yard in Forest Hill on Jan 3rd. DL saw 7 Flickers at Lakeside on Feb 8th and a similar number there on Feb 22nd. DB saw a Pileated Woodpecker in an oak tree in Street on Jan 26th. She saw 2 of them flying in and out of her holly trees on Feb 2nd.



LE saw an Eastern Phoebe at Conowingo Dam on Jan 16th. MA saw one on a porch rail near Darlington Rd that same day. KG has had one as a regular in his Jarrettsville yard since 2001. He most recently reported seeing it on Jan 16th. JM had one in Darlington on Jan 26th. KG heard a Fish Crow in Jarrettsville on Jan 28th and saw one at Lapidum on Feb 24th.



Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets, Thrushes

KG saw 2 White-breasted Nuthatches and a Brown Creeper in Jarrettsville on Jan 16th. MH saw a White-breasted Nuthatch on APG on Jan 30th. SH saw a Winter Wren near Overshoot Branch in Fallston on Jan 10th, while KG saw one in Jarrettsville on Jan 16th and 28th. MH reported 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Swan Harbor on Jan 3rd. KG had a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Jarrettsville on Jan 28th.



JM saw 4 Eastern Bluebirds in her bird bath in Darlington on Jan 26th. DB had a Hermit Thrush visit her bird bath daily in Street. PP saw a Gray Catbird and a Brown Thrasher at Gunpowder State Park on Feb 15th. RK saw a Brown Thrasher at home in Darlington on Jan 1st. LE saw one near Craig's Corner Rd on Jan 18th.

Warblers, Sparrows, Blackbirds

DL saw a Palm Warbler at Lakeside on Feb 15th. Oddly, no one reported any Yellow-rumped Warblers during this period. MH saw an Eastern Towhee in the woods at Swan Harbor on Jan 3rd. CS noted 3 Chipping Sparrows at his office feeders on the Edgewood Area of APG on Jan 27th. They were there daily since early January in groups of up to 6. On Feb 20th he saw 15 elsewhere on the Edgewood area. DL saw one on Feb 8th along with 4 Field Sparrows, 24 or more Song Sparrows, and 12 or more White-throated Sparrows at Lakeside. MH saw a Savannah Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Jan 3rd. PP had a Fox Sparrow at Gunpowder State Park on Feb 15th. DL saw 3 Swamp Sparrows at Lakeside on Feb 1st, while KG saw one at Lapidum on Feb 24th. RK saw a White-crowned Sparrow at home in Darlington on Jan 1st.

KG saw 11 Red-winged Blackbirds and northbound groups of Common Grackles in Jarrettsville on Jan 28th. He also saw a Brown-headed Cowbird that same day. CS reported on Feb 20th that 2 bronze-typed Grackles were among the 10 or so that frequented the feeders near his office on the Edgewood Area of APG.

Finches

RK had 2 Purple Finches in Darlington on Jan 1st. LE had 2 or 3 daily through January at his home in Havre de Grace. They were mostly female birds. MB had a group of at least 12 in Churchville on Feb 14th. KA saw and photographed an albinistic House Finch on Feb 19th in Churchville.

White-winged Crossbills were reported in the county starting on Jan 26th. RC saw a group of about 20, most of which were males, near the top of a 100 foot Norway spruce tree on his property in Bel Air. That same day, DB saw about 6, including 1 male and 5 or more females, in a hemlock tree on her property in Street. She also saw them on Jan 30th and Feb 18th. On Jan 27th, KG saw one flying to the east from his home in Jarrettsville.

There were many reports of Pine Siskins this period. RK had one in Darlington on Jan 1st. LE saw 2-4 at his feeders on Jan 9th. DL had 7 on his feeders in Abingdon on Jan 24th. RC saw 2 at his feeders in Bel Air from Jan 12th through Jan 26th. JM had 5 at her feeders in Darlington on Jan 26th. DW had escalating number at his feeders at home in Webster Village. A small group of 1-6 birds was there in early January, but 21 appeared after he set up more feeders. The number grew to 27 on Jan 30th, 37 on Feb 2nd, and 48 on Feb 14th. JW reported 6 at her home, also in Webster Village.

Contributors

BJD- Bob and Jan Depuy, CS- Chris Starling, CW- Colleen Webster, DB- Debbie Bowers, DL- Dave Larkin, DS- Deborah Stewart, DW- Dave Webb, JB- Jim Brighton, JM- June Mundis, JW- Jean Wheeler, KA- Kay Atkins, KG- Kevin Graff, LD- Lynn Davis, LE- Les Eastman, MA- Marian Argentino, MB- Mike Burchett, MH- Monroe Harden, PP- Phil Powers, RC- Rick Cheicante, RG- Ron Gutberlet, RK- Russ Kovach, RR- Randy Robertson, SB- Sandra Byrd, SH- Susan Hood

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a better place for
plants & animals*

**Birdie Word Search Answers (from Bird Droppings, page 2)**

Bobolink, Booby, Brant, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Chachalaca, Chat, Eider, Flycatcher, Frigatebird, Gallinule, Gnatcatcher, Goldeneye, Hawk, Hummingbird, Ibis, Junco, Kingfisher, Kite, Knot, Longspur, Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Redstart, Roadrunner, Ruff, Shearwater, Sora, Teal, Tern, Woodpecker, Wren, Yellowlegs.

In addition to the above, some solvers pointed out that MEADOWLARK contains both OWL and LARK, YELLOWLEGS contains OWL, and MOCKINGBIRD hides KINGBIRD. So 37 birds are included in the puzzle overall.

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

April 26 (Sun.) - **Winter's Run Road Walk**. A quiet three mile stroll along this primary Harford County waterway boasts a low-traffic tree-lined pathway with some farmland and meadow habitat attracting a variety of birds with the promise of heron, kingfisher, and an abundance of passerines during the spring. Join leaders Dave Larkin and Lynn Davis at 7 am at the Route 24 and 95 Park and Ride. Call Lynn at (410) 569-0504 for more information.



May 2 (Sat.), Inclement weather date, May 3 (Sun.) - **First Annual Epic Birding Contest**. 6:30 AM. Susquehanna State Park, Rock Run Mill. To add a little challenge and excitement to your usual field trip experience, test your skills as a birder by entering this casual event. Sign up to be a team leader or team member at the May 1 Club meeting or arrive early to sign up at Rock Run Mill. Not a top birder? Never participated in a birding contest before? Not to worry, all skill levels welcome. Come join the fun. Teams will be balanced at a brief organizational meeting to be held just before the official start. A rally/celebration will be held shortly after the event at the Laurrapin Grille in Havre de Grace. Contact Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; gibsonld@aol.com).

May 9 (Sat.) - **May Count**. Contact Mark Johnson at (410) 692-5978 for more information.

May 10 (Sun.) - **Girls-Gone-Wildflower**. 7:30 AM. The ladies will guide you to verdant sites in Susquehanna State Park to witness its impressive assortment of wildflowers and early migrants, many in colorful spring plumage. Led by experienced birder Jean Wheeler and wildflower guru Colleen Webster, trip goers are likely to see and hear spring migrants and see and smell the fragrance of an array of beautiful wildflowers. Meet at the confluence of the Susquehanna River and Deer Creek. Contact Colleen Webster at 410- 942-0867 (cwebster@harford.edu) for additional information.



May 17 (Sun.) - **Harford Glen**. Visit this easily accessible Harford County natural gem to hike the forests and wetlands with leader Lynn Davis in search of shorebirds like Spotted, Solitary, and Least Sandpipers and migratory songbirds including Warblers, Vireos, and Orioles. Harford Glen habitat offers the added promise of summer wildflowers like Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Wild Ginger, and Wild Geranium to delight flower enthusiasts. See first hand how the recent clearing of the 25 acres of 60-year old beetle-infested pines has changed the landscape and natural activity. Follow Wheel Road to its western end and meet at the upper parking lot at 7:00 AM (gate opens to the public then). Contact Lynn at (lynnd@iximd.com) or 410-569-0504 for more information.

May 23 (Sat.) - **Susquehanna State Park**. 7:00 AM at Rock Run Mill. This lush riverside park is famous for northbound migrants and late spring natural history. Bird list could include Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, Bay-breasted and Blackburnian Warblers, and Cape May and Cerulean Warblers along with late wildflowers and Zebra Swallowtails to boot. Contact leader Les Eastman (410-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com) for more information.

May 25 (Mon.) - **Hidden Valley / Upper Deer Creek**. Administered by Rocks State Park, the lightly used trails of this area recall an Appalachian park as they wind around large hemlocks and substantial cliffs. Join local resident and natural historian Dennis Kirkwood in a search for Worm-eating Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Grasshopper Sparrow, Willow Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager. Meet at Hidden Valley (N. end of Madonna Rd.) at 7:00 AM. For further information, contact Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; dkirkw@verizon.net).

May 29 (Fri.) - **Eden Mill Park**. 8:00 - 11:00 AM. Join master bird bander Mark Johnson to see a variety of migrants and resident nesters up close and personal. Excellent for beginning birders and young naturalists! Meet at the Vangrin Banding Pavilion on Eden Mill Road just past the bridge over Big Branch. Contact Mark for further information (410-692-5978; mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil).

May 30 (Sat.) - **Conowingo Dam**. Meet at Fisherman's Park at the end of Shures Landing Road at 7:00 AM. Always full of surprises, this venue offers everything from eagles to gulls to Prothonotary Warblers to pileated woodpeckers. Contact Les Eastman (410-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com) for further information.

June 7 (Sun.) - **Jerusalem Mill**. 7:00 AM. Meet at the Mill on Jerusalem Road along the Gunpowder Falls. This beautiful spot on Harford's western border has a bounty of nesting songbirds. Contact Phil Powers (410-679-4116; birdsinmd@prodigy.net).

June 20 (Sat.) - **Broad Creek Scout Camp**. 6:30 AM. Meet at Dublin Elementary School. One of Harford's largest contiguous woodlands, this nature reserve is blessed with great habitat for woodland species as well as water and wetland dwellers. Contact Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) for more information. Marjie Heagy will co-lead.

July 19 (Sun.) - **Delaware Shorebirds**. 7:00 AM. Meet at the 155/95 Park and Ride. Fall migration begins early for shorebirds and this trip will look for the usual and the rare along the Delaware coast. Trip returns in the late afternoon/early evening. Bring plenty of sunscreen, fluids and lunch. Contact Dave Larkin (410-569-8319; dlarkin@towson.edu) for more information. Dave Ziolkowski will co-lead.

July 25 (Sat.) - **Hummingbird Banding**. 8:00 AM. Meet at Les Eastman's house at 4034 Wilkinson Road near Susquehanna State Park to watch and maybe help a master bird-bander mark our tiniest feathered friends. Contact Les (410-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com) for more information.

WBM Open Saturdays

Call ahead for birdseed purchases!

410-836-5000  wbm@clearviewcatv.net

WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE



Harford Bird Club May General Meeting



African Travels

Presented by:

Lynn Feryus

Friday, May 1st, 2009

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Free for all... bring a friend!

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

