



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 22 Number 6

June, 2009

President's Perch: Greetings from the New President

Greetings to all members and friends of the Harford Bird Club. As this is my premiere "President's Perch" column, I first want to share a few thoughts on what this club has meant to me over the years, thoughts that perhaps echo with some of you. My birding "career" started 21 years ago with Dennis Kirkwood's non-credit course at Harford Community College. I vividly recall standing in the school parking lot towards the end of his first lesson when someone asked Dennis to identify a bird that was flying in the distance. Dennis raised his binoculars and immediately called out "Blue Jay". I was flabbergasted. How could he identify a bird that was at least a quarter mile away so quickly? I realized that I had much to learn, and Dennis's level of expertise became my aspiration. Since then I have learned a good bit about birds and many other natural wonders that surround us. But each time that I go birding, I experience something new and am reminded that the learning never ends. It never will. It's what keeps my interest in this great hobby.

What keeps my interest in this particular Club are its members. The friends that I've made through the Harford Bird Club are a very special breed. For two decades, the Club has been my most cherished source of birding memories and wonderful friends. Some of these friends such as Bill McIntosh, John Wortman and Rik Blom are no longer with us, but each of them brings a smile to my face when I recall a humorous incident that we shared together – often together pursuing birds.

Whenever I meet members of MOS from other chapters, I am very proud to say that I am a member of the Harford Bird Club. The job that we collectively did in hosting the 2008 state conference is a tribute to the quality of our members, and the new benchmark for host chap-

ters. Our reputation for friendly, non-intimidating field trips is well-earned. I am honored to serve the Club as its new President.

The Executive Board has already had one meeting and is actively working to make the Club even better. Joining the Board is our new Vice President Elaine Beery, in whom I have full confidence to admirably perform her occasional "other duties as assigned". I am very pleased that all other Board members have agreed to serve in their previous position. Les Eastman will pull double-duty as our Webmaster and Newsletter Editor, the latter being the role that he elevated to new heights years ago.

In closing I would like to thank Russ Kovach who finishes his extended term as our Club President and now sits on the Board as our Past President. For more than three years, Russ arranged fascinating speakers for our meetings and presided over those meetings with the enthusiasm and poise of a veteran emcee. But more than anything, Russ stepped up during a challenging time for the Club to serve as both our President and our Newsletter Editor. As Russ enters the new world of fatherhood, we doff our caps to him for the countless hours that he has devoted to the Club. ~ **Dave Webb**

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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.

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!

Gary Davis of Havre de Grace

Plan Ahead!

- Summer Social: Friday, Jul 17, 2009, 6:30pm
- End of Harford Birdlife reporting period begun on June 13, Aug 8, 2009
- Deadline for Wrenderings input, Aug 18, 2009
- Annual Picnic: Saturday, Sep 12, 2009, 1:00pm
- Fall Bird Count: Saturday, Sep 19, 2009
- November Dinner Meeting: Fri, Nov 6, 2009, 6:15pm
- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, Dec 27, 2009
- January General Meeting: Fri, Jan 8, 2010, 7:00pm

Harford Bird Club Summer Social

Ronald Gutberlet

Presents:

"A Year on the Road with North American Birds"
in which he relates his adventures during his lower 48 Big Year in
2005

Friday, July 17th, 2009

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

(Reservation Form is on Page 7.)



Harford Birdlife

By: Monroe Harden

Ahhh, spring is finally here. Our winter birds head north and others return from their wintering grounds to settle in for breeding season. This means lots and lots of variety, so let's get to it. This report covers March and April 2009.

Geese, Swans, Ducks

The pair of young **Trumpeter Swans** spent most of March at the Lakeside Business Park. The pair was last seen by KS on Mar 21st. One of them remained a few more days and was last seen there by JG on Mar 31st. Large groups of **Tundra Swans** congregated in and around the bay in early March. CS saw about 100 at Gunpowder Neck on the Edgewood area of APG on Mar 10th, while KG saw 76 that day near Tydings Island. LE estimated a group of about 300 there on Mar 11th.

KG saw a **Wood Duck** at the Sweet Air area of Gunpowder State Park on Mar 27th. RB saw 10 at Harford Glen on Apr 4th. She saw 30 while on a canoe trip through the Bosely Conservancy on Apr 5th, along with 7 **Northern Shovelers**. BH and ML saw an **American Wigeon** off Lapidum on Mar 29th. RB had 3 **Blue-winged** teal at Harford Glen on Apr 19th. DW counted 20 or more at Swan Harbor during a night visit on Apr 24th. MH saw a **Northern Pintail** at Swan Harbor on Mar 6th. LJ saw several there on Apr 2nd. DL encountered 3 **Green-winged Teal** at Lakeside on Mar 8th. On Mar 10th, CS saw 25 on Gunpowder Neck. DW also saw 25 on Lake Strauss at Broad Creek Scout Camp on Mar 22nd. DL saw numerous **Ring-necked Ducks** at Lakeside. He counted 14 on Mar 1st, 6 on Mar 8th, and 3 on Mar 15th. EB had 26 there on Mar 4th. DS saw 2 males at the Bynum Run Pond on Mar 1st and 2nd. KG saw 2 **Bufflehead** and 2 **Common Mergansers** near Tydings Island on Mar 10th. MH counted 30 **Common Mergansers** in the river near Susquehanna State Park on Mar 7th. On Mar 1st, DL saw 2 **Hooded Mergansers** at Lakeside.

Game Birds, Grebes, Herons

RB saw a male **Ring-necked Pheasant** in a corn field off Rte 152 in Fallston on Apr 11th. LE heard several **Wild Turkeys** near the entrance to the Susquehanna State Park campground on Apr 16th. JC saw one near Harford Community College on Apr 22nd.

SA viewed 2 **Pied-billed**, 2 **Red-necked**, and 5 **Horned Grebes** from Lapidum on Mar 28th. DW saw one at Swan Harbor on the night of Apr 24th, along with an **American Bittern**. DL saw a **Horned Grebe** in summer plumage at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th. BH and ML also saw a **Red-Necked Grebe** at Lapidum on Mar 29th. DL saw 3 **American Bitterns** at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th.

Great Egrets returned to the area in early April. RB saw one at Harford Glen on Apr 4th and two there on Apr 5th. DL had one at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th. RB also saw one at Harford Glen on Apr 19th, along with a **Little Blue Heron** and two **Green Herons**. RC saw two **Green Herons** there on Apr 25th. MH saw three **Black-crowned Night-Herons** on Tydings Island on Mar 10th. LJ saw two adults in the trees near Conowingo Dam on Apr 5th. BJD also saw one there on Apr 26th.

Hawks, Falcons

Our **Ospreys** returned to their platforms and cell phone towers in late March. DL saw one at Lakeside on Mar 21st. He reported two on a nest there on Apr 19th. LJ saw 8 **Bald Eagles** at Conowingo Dam on Apr 5th. BJD saw 5 there on Apr 26th. MH encountered a **Northern Harrier** at Swan Harbor on Mar 14th. KJ saw one at Sweet Air on Mar 27th.

MH saw his Havre de Grace neighborhood's resident **Cooper's Hawk** on Mar 12th and Apr 13th. RB saw one at Harford Glen on Apr 19th, along with a **Red-shouldered**, 5 **Broad-winged**, and 3 **Red-tailed Hawks**. RC saw a **Red-shouldered Hawk** in Creswell on Mar 23rd. MH witnessed a low altitude flyby of a **Broad-winged Hawk** at Harford Memorial Gardens on Apr 12th. DK had his first of the year **Red-tailed Hawk** at his home near Brandenbaugh on Apr 26th.

Swan Harbor Farms hosted two **American Kestrel** sightings. MH saw one on the wires there on Mar 14th, and LJ saw one there on Apr 2nd.

Rails, Plovers, Sandpipers

DW had a productive Rail night at Swan Harbor on Apr 24th. He reported a **King Rail**, a **Virginia Rail**, two **Soras**, and two **American Coots**. DL saw a **Virginia Rail** there on Apr 25th. Local Coot Counts topped out at 250 by SA at Tydings Marina on Mar 28th.

MH saw a flock of 20 **Killdeer** flying in and out of the fields at Swan Harbor on Mar 14th. BH and ML saw a **Greater Yellowlegs** flying northbound at Lapidum on Mar 29th. RB saw 3 on a canoe trip through Bosely Conservancy on Apr 5th. Numbers grew at Swan Harbor through the period, with DL reporting 15 or more there on Apr 25th. He also saw 3 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 1 **Solitary Sandpiper**, 12 Least Sandpipers, and 20 or more **Wilson's Snipes**.

that day. BJD saw a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Conowingo Dam on Apr 26th. DW saw 25 **Wilson's Snipes** at Swan Harbor on the night of Apr 24th. MH added 3 **American Woodcocks** on Mar 21st at sunset at Harford Memorial Gardens.

Gulls, Terns, Owls

DW saw two flocks of **Laughing Gulls** flying over his home in Webster Village on Apr 20th. One flock had 25 birds and the other had 20. JH and four Howard County birders found an adult **Little Gull** among the numerous **Bonaparte's Gulls** over the river near Lapidum on Mar 24th. MH and SA saw one there at different times on Mar 28th. WM also saw one there on Mar 29th. BH and ML saw a **Black-headed Gull** on the river south of Lapidum on Mar 29th. EH also saw one there on Mar 31st.

Caspian Terns returned to the county in April. LJ saw one at Swan Harbor on Apr 2nd. RC saw 12 or more near Rock Run Mill in Susquehanna State Park on Apr 24th. RC saw three **Least Terns** at Harford Glen on Apr 25th.

PP found and photographed an unexpected **Snowy Owl** on a mailbox in an apartment complex on the Havre de Grace waterfront on Mar 8th. Several local birders saw it that evening and the next day. It was last seen on Mar 10th. DK noted several **Eastern Screech-Owls** in wood duck boxes in and around the Bradenbaugh Flats area. MH heard a pair of **Barred Owls** calling back and forth at Harford Memorial Gardens on Mar 21st. TH saw one at Susquehanna State park on Apr 28th.

Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers

RB saw a **Chimney Swift** at Harford Glen on Apr 19th. RC saw three there on Apr 25th. MH saw his first of the year over his Havre de Grace house on Apr 27th. LE saw the first of hopefully many **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at his home in Havre de Grace on Apr 23rd. On Apr 25th, BJD saw one in Forest Hill; RC saw one at his home in Creswell; and SH saw a male at her feeder in Fallston. She saw a male and female there on Apr 27th. MH saw a **Belted Kingfisher** at Harford Glen on Apr 4th. RB saw one there on Apr 19th.

KG saw a **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, and three **Northern Flickers** at the Sweet Air section of Gunpowder State Park on Mar 27th. LJ saw two **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 17th. TH saw a large number of **Northern Flickers** and a **Pileated Woodpecker** at Ladew Gardens on Apr 8th. RC had two **Pileated Woodpeckers** at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 24th. BJD saw four there on Apr 25th.

TH saw an **Acadian Flycatcher** and a **Great Crested Flycatcher** at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 28th. MH had two **Eastern Phoebes** there on Mar 21st. On Mar 23rd, RC had one calling in

his Creswell yard. JG saw two near Lapidum on Mar 31st. RC reported an **Eastern Kingbird** at Harford Glen on Apr 25th.

Vireos, Ravens, Larks, Swallows

MJ saw a **White-eyed Vireo** at Eden Mill on Apr 18th. SH saw one there on Apr 24th. DL had two at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th. TH had two at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 28th, along with a **Yellow-throated Vireo**, two **Warbling Vireos**, and several **Red-eyed Vireos**. RC saw a **Blue-headed Vireo** at Rock Run Mill on Apr 24th. He also had a **Warbling Vireo** at Harford Glen on Apr 25th.

SA reported a **Common Raven** in Havre de Grace on Mar 28th. It flew over the Harford side of the Route 40 bridge.

MH saw a **Horned Lark** at Swan Harbor on Mar 14th. DK noted a large number of them singing throughout the week of Apr 24th near Harford Creamery Rd. DL saw one at Perryman on Apr 25th. He also saw two **Purple Martins** at Swan Harbor that day. MH saw his first **Tree Swallow** of the season on APG on Mar 9th. CS saw six on the Edgewood Area of APG on Mar 10th. LJ saw a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Tydings Park on Apr 2nd. She saw several more at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 17th. On Apr 2nd she also had a **Barn Swallow** at Swan Harbor.

Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers

MH was almost hit in the head by a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in the Susquehanna State Park picnic area on Mar 21st. KG saw one at the Sweet Air part of Gunpowder State Park on Mar 27th. MH saw a **White-breasted Nuthatch** out his APG office window on Mar 19th. RB saw four at Harford Glen on Apr 19th. BJD had a resident **Brown Creeper** in Forest Hill Mar 4th-25th.

RC saw a **House Wren** at his home in Creswell on Apr 26th. BH and ML had a singing **Winter Wren** at Conowingo Dam on Mar 29th, along with a **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. RB saw one at Harford Glen on Apr 19th. DW had a **Marsh Wren** at Swan Harbor the night of Apr 24th. TH saw 12 or more **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at Ladew Gardens on Apr 8th. RK saw a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at home in Darlington on Apr 19th. RB had 12 at Harford Glen on Apr 19th, while RC saw 20 or more At Rock Run Mill on Apr 24th.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers returned to the county in early April. RB saw 6 at Harford Glen on Apr 5th. DL saw 5 at Lakeside on Apr 12th. RK had one in the mixed group that visited his yard on Apr 19th.

Thrushes, Mimids, Waxwings

SH saw four newly-hatched **Eastern Bluebirds** in Fallston on Apr 26th. JG saw a **Hermit Thrush** in Lapidum on Mar 31st. LE had one singing in Susquehanna State Park on Apr 1st. DL saw three **Wood Thrushes** at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th. RC saw one that

same day near his home in Creswell. RC encountered a **Gray Catbird** at the Rock Run Mill on Apr 24th. DL had one at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th. RB saw a **Brown Thrasher** at Harford Glen on Apr 19th. MH reported four Cedar Waxwings at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 18th. DL had 12 or more at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th.

Warblers

LJ saw a **Northern Parula** in Susquehanna State Park on Apr 17th. RK also saw one in his Darlington yard on Apr 19th. BJD had 12 at Susquehanna State park on Apr 25th. DL saw 2 **Yellow Warblers** at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th, along with at least 12 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** and a **Black-throated Green Warbler**. TH had a huge warbler day at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 28th. He saw 1 **Yellow**, 3 **Chestnut-sided**, many **Yellow-rumped**, 3 **Yellow-throated**, 5 **Cerulean**, 2 **Black and white**, and at least 4 **Prothonotary Warblers**. He also had 6 or more **Ovenbirds**, a **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and a **Common Yellowthroat**. Wow. RC saw a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at home in Creswell on Apr 25th. He heard a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Rock Run Mill on Apr 24th. He also saw 4 **Louisiana Waterthrushes** and 5 **Palm**, 2 **Cerulean** and 2 **Black and white Warblers**. BJD saw a **Pine Warbler** in Forest Hill on Mar 16th. It was a regular visitor there through April 15th. DW saw one singing at the Saffron Camp area of Broad Creek Scout Reservation on Mar 22nd. TH saw about 10 in a mixed flock with a similar number of **Palm Warblers** at Ladew Gardens on Apr 8th. MJ and SH saw a **Prairie Warbler** at Eden Mill on Apr 24th. BJD encountered two **Prothonotary Warblers** at Conowingo Dam on Apr 26th. RC saw one at the Bush Declaration area on Apr 26th. BJD saw 3 **Ovenbirds** and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Susquehanna State park on Apr 25th. RB had several **Ovenbirds** at Harford Glen on Apr 26th. LE had a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 1st and again on Apr 16th. MH saw two near Rock Run Mill on Apr 18th. RC saw three **Common Yellowthroats** at Harford Glen on Apr 25th and another at Bush Declaration on Apr 26th.

Tanagers, Sparrows

BJD saw a **Scarlet Tanager** at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 25th. TH saw one there on Apr 28th. RC had an **Eastern Towhee** at home in Creswell on Mar 23rd. MH saw and photographed one in his Havre de Grace backyard on Apr 7th. RB saw six at Harford Glen on Apr 19th. RK had several **Chipping Sparrows** and a **Field Sparrow** at his home in Darlington on Apr 19th. RB saw two at Harford Glen the same day. MH saw and heard a **Field Sparrow** at Susquehanna State Park on Mar 21st. DL had 3

Savannah Sparrows at Lakeside on Apr 12th and again on Apr 19th. He saw 20 or more at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th. DK saw his first **Grasshopper Sparrow** of the season in the Bradenbaugh Flats area on Apr 25th. DL saw a **Fox Sparrow** at Lakeside on Mar 8th. He noted that it looked almost as red as a Cardinal. He also saw over 60 **Song Sparrows** there that day. MH saw 7 **Swamp Sparrows** at Swan Harbor on Mar 14th. DL had 3 at Lakeside on Mar 15th and 6 at Swan Harbor on Apr 25th. Large numbers of **White-throated Sparrows** gathered before heading north to breed. KG counted 27 at the Sweet Air part of Gunpowder State Park on Mar 27th. RB had 12 at Harford Glen on Apr 19th. KG also saw 22 **Dark-eyed Juncos** at Sweet Air on Mar 27th. MH saw his last two Juncos at home in Havre de Grace on Apr 18th.

Grosbeaks, Blackbirds, Orioles, Finches

RC saw a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** and an **Indigo Bunting** at his home in Creswell on Apr 26th. On Apr 25th, BJD saw an **Indigo Bunting** at Susquehanna State Park while DL saw two at Swan Harbor. DK saw several **Bobolinks** on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Apr 27th. On Apr 28th he saw several **Eastern Meadowlarks** on territory near the intersection of Bradenbaugh and Amos Rds. RB had a **Rusty Blackbird** at Harford Glen on Apr 19th. RC saw an **Orchard Oriole** at Harford Glen on Apr 25th and another at his home in Creswell on Apr 26th. DK had a **Baltimore Oriole** in Bradenbaugh on Apr 26th. TH saw one at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 28th. TH saw two **Purple Finches** at Ladew Gardens on Apr 8th. BJD had two male **Purple Finches** in Forest Hill on Apr 19th. They had a male and female there on Apr 25th. JoH reported male and female **Red Crossbills** in Harford Glen on Apr 5th. KG saw two **White-winged Crossbills** at Sweet Air on Mar 27th. SH saw two females along Laurel Brook Rd in Fallston on Mar 30th. DL had one at his feeders in Abingdon on Apr 20th.

LE had a group of 40-50 **Pine Siskins** at his home feeders in Havre de Grace on Mar 11th. DW saw 3 at Camp Saffron on Mar 22nd. MH saw his last **Pine Siskin** at home in Havre de Grace on Apr 21st. SH saw her last ones at home in Fallston on Apr 23rd.

Contributors

BH- Bill Hubick, BJD- Bob and Jan Depuy, CS- Chris Starling, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DS- Debby Stewart, DW- Dave Webb, EB- Ed Boyd, EH- Elaine Hendricks, JC- John Cupp, JG- Jim Green, JH- Joe Hanfman, JoH- Johanne Henrickson, KG- Kevin Graff, KS- Kurt Schwarz, LE- Les Eastman, LJ- Lin Just, MH- Monroe Harden, MJ- Mark Johnson, ML- Mikey Lutmerding, PP- Phil Powell, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, RC- Rick Cheicante, RK- Russ Kovach, SA- Stan Arnold, TH- Tim Houghton, WM- Will McPhail

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

July 17 (Fri.) – Summer Social at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center. 6:30 PM.

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 bander mark our tiniest feathered friends. Contact Les (410-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com) for more information.

August 8 (Sat.) - Hummingbird Happy Hour. Join Beth and Les Eastman at 5:00 PM at their gracious home to experience the buzz and flight of dozens of hummingbirds feeding from their many feeders. Participants are invited to bring a dish to share and a beverage of their choice to enjoy in the early dusk of this favored occasion of the bird club. For more information contact Les (410-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com)

August 15 (Sat.) - 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 and Ride. Contact Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; dkirkw@verizon.net) for further information.

August 22 (Sat.) – Conowingo Dam. 7:00 AM. Meet at Fisherman's Park at the end of Shures Landing Road. Join the Three Amigos for looks at waterfowl, waders, and early migrating warblers. Leaders include Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net); Tom Congersky (410-658-4137; ijnitcon@zoominternet.net); and Randy Robertson (410-273-9029; r.c.robertson@comcast.net).

August 30 (Sun.) – Shorebird Banding – 7:30 AM at Swan Harbor Farm Park near Oakington. It's a rare treat to see shorebirds in the hand so don't miss this opportunity to study these confusing identities up close and personal. Contact Mark Johnson for further information (410-692-5978; mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil).



Field Trip Reports

Winters Run Road

April 26, 2009 -

Seven of us met at the commuter lot on Rt 24 and I-95 where we tallied a half-dozen birds before shuttling to Rt. 7 and Winters Run Road, then shuttling the 3 miles to Singer Road, starting the return walk in the early morning cool. Highlights include a pair of apparently competing male **Baltimore Orioles** giving a nice aerial show in and around the same tree that also harbored an **Orchard Oriole!** We were alerted to the call of a **White-eyed Vireo** in the dense undergrowth just a few feet off the road. It continued to call until we could locate it for a good view. Although the **Wood Thrush** were nearby and also calling repeatedly, we never got to see them. There were several flyovers by **Great Blue Heron** and two sightings of **Bald Eagle**. A disappointment was the failure to encounter the usually reliable Belted Kingfisher. We ended the morning with a count of 34 species seen and 2 more calling. ~ *Lynn Davis*

Harford Glen

May 17, 2009

Uncertain weather conditions probably accounted for the low turnout to tour this Harford County birding jewel - five of us faced a slow drizzle at 7am. However, there was only a brief period of heavier showers and

then all precip ended about 8:30. Despite early complaints of foggy/wet optics we enjoyed some very nice sightings, lingering at several "hot spots" and even tracking a few times. Highlights included: #10 view of a low-perching **Swainsons Thrush**, nice looks at 4 **Vireo** species (including **Yellow-throated** and **Warbling**), **Great Crested Flycatcher**, several **Baltimore** (one nice look at an immature male) and **Orchard Orioles**, multiple large flocks of **Cedar Waxwings**, warblers - **Black Poll** (especially good view), **Common Yellowthroat**, and **American Redstart**; calling only were **Ovenbird** and **N. Parula**. Wetland/shore birds included **Great Egret**, **Great Blue** and **Green Heron**, **Solitary Sandpiper**, **Mallard**, and a pair of **Wood Ducks**. Although we saw one soaring **rey**, there were no Buteo, no Accipiter, and no Eagle seen. We finished a very satisfying morning with a total of 51 species seen. ~ *Lynn Davis*

Susquehanna State Park

May 23, 2009

Highlights of this delightful Spring walk was the discovery of two **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** nests and an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** nest along Stafford Road. Other birds seen were both **Oriole** species, **Parula**, **American Redstart**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush**. ~ *Les Eastman*

(Continued on Page 8)

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 10, 2009 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.



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: _____

Field Trip Reports (Continued)

Hidden Valley

May 25, 2009

About 12 people came to the Upper Deer Creek Valley on Memorial Day for the annual bird walk. We had one guest from the Baltimore Chapter and one guest from the Howard Co. chapter. **Baltimore Orioles** were active near the parking area and a **Pileated Woodpecker** flew by. Warblers were vocal but very shy about being seen. Our next stop was on Carico Lane where we had **Indigo Buntings** next to a **Blue Grosbeak**. **Grasshopper Sparrows** gave us a good look through the scope. At the newly created wetlands on the Magness Farm on Amoss Road we saw **Eastern Meadowlark** and **Solitary Sandpiper**. At the World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats, the **Savannah Sparrow** was in full song. This remains Harford's only known nesting site for this species. **Horned Larks** and another **Grasshopper Sparrow** and **Eastern Meadowlark** sang in the fields. In the Little Deer Creek Valley on Harford Creamery Road, the **Willow Flycatcher** was at his usual spot and **Orchard Orioles** and **Baltimore Orioles** were active. A **Warbling Vireo** sang but couldn't be seen. **Yellow Warblers** and **Common Yellowthroats** were also present and counted. At the lane into Newark Farms and Turney's pond, a **Green Heron** posed for all and **Eastern Bluebirds** were flying. At the end of the lane we played a tape for the **Red-headed Woodpecker**

and he came darting out of the corner of the woods and perched briefly on a utility pole for all to see. A great morning with around 60 species including many specialties of the area.

~ *Dennis Kirkwood*

Conowingo

May 30, 2009

The highlight of this trip was over 100 **Bald Eagles**, an unusual occurrence for this time of year. Other highlights were excellent views of a **Yellow-throated Warbler** sitting on the trail in front of us, several **Prothonotary Warblers**, a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** and a **Scarlet Tanager**. Lots of **Orioles** of both species were also seen. ~ *Les Eastman*

Broad Creek Scout Reservation

June 20, 2009

There were 9 brave souls that met at 6:30 AM even though the weather was "iffy". Our first stop was at the Flintville Road bridge to view the nesting **Cliff Swallows**. Then on to the scout reservation where we were able to walk a good distance on the trail before we heard thunder and hurried back to the cars just as the rain started. After waiting about 10 minutes for the rain to subside, we decided to call it quits. It wasn't a total wash as we identified about 35 different species, mostly by sound. ~ *Marjie Heagy*



If unable to deliver, please return to:
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