



# Wrenderings



*The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club*

**Volume 23 Number 1**

**August, 2009**

## **President's Perch: Fall Ponderings**

Although the autumn equinox is still a few weeks away, the "fall" migration of birds actually started in mid-July. Here in Harford County you may have noticed this as a subtle trickle of southbound Purple Martins high overhead, gradually progressing each late afternoon into streams of them heading toward communal staging areas. One of these staging areas is at Mariner Point Park in Joppatowne - on early August evenings the power lines seem to hang a wee bit lower than usual under the weight of hundreds of martins and other swallows. The birds congregate here to fatten up on airborne insects in an annual spectacle that gives birders the opportunity to brush up on the finer points of martin & swallow identification, including males vs females, and adults vs immatures.

For the meager price of a few mosquito bites, the Ducks Unlimited impoundment at Swan Harbor Farm rewards steadfast birders with a bounty of southbound shorebirds. These long-distance voyagers rest and gorge in the mud of Swan Harbor's shallow pools while en route from their Canadian breeding grounds to their Central/South American wintering territory. The annual parade of yellowlegs, peeps, dowitchers, plovers, and other waterbirds runs from late July to late October.

By the end of August, many of the neotropical migrant songbirds who breed in Harford County have already left us for their winter homes. Likewise, many of the adult songbirds that breed in New England and Canada, such as Tennessee and Nashville Warblers, have passed through our region by early September relatively undetected. The majority of warblers that we find in September and October are immatures, or "hatch-year" birds as the banders like to call them. These less colorful, but every-bit-as-active versions of their parents present identification challenges to birders of all skill levels. It's no wonder that Roger Tory Peterson dedicated two full plates of "Confusing Fall Warblers" to his epic field guide.

This brings me to a confession. Of all the seasons, I find birding in the autumn to be my least favorite. That doesn't mean that I don't enjoy it - I do! After all, I still enjoy Cookies 'n' Cream ice cream, but not as much as Coffee Heath Bar Crunch, Moose Tracks, or Chocolate Chip. Fall birds, in general, are duller and less vocal than they are in May. There are many more fall species (and plumage variations within those species) to keep in the back of one's mind than in the winter or summer. But that's where the bird club fits in - together we struggle to distinguish the Blackpolls from the Bay-breasteds, the Cooper's from the Sharpies, the female Greenwings from their Blue-winged counterparts. Often we are able to combine our observations and reach a consensus. But sometimes we fare no better than a collective shrug of the shoulders. This fall, make it a point to join the club for our annual picnic and one of our many field trips. Share in the camaraderie and the pure joy of all that nature has to offer us. Who knows, you just might see an immature female Cape May Warbler! - dww

Visit our web site at [www.harfordbirdclub.org](http://www.harfordbirdclub.org)

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## **Plan Ahead!**

- Executive Board Meeting, Thursday Sep 3, 2009 at 7 pm
- Annual Picnic: Saturday, Sep 12, 2009, 1:00pm
- Fall Bird Migration Count: Saturday, Sep 19, 2009
- October 2, End of Harford Birdlife reporting period begun on August 16
- October 12, Deadline for Wrenderings input
- 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 Executive Board

### President

Dave Webb  
410-939-3537

### Vice President

Elaine Beery  
410-272-6037

### Recording Secretary

Susan Hood  
410-877-0574

### Corresponding Secretary

Marty Crouse-Farley  
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### Treasurer

Marjie Heagy  
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### Past President

Russell Kovach  
410-457-4274

### Field Trip Chairperson

Tom Gibson  
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### Dinner Reservations

Eileen Nack  
410-272-7017

### Public Relations

*Vacant; to apply call:*  
410-939-3537

### Education Chairperson

Madeline Lovera  
410-879-6098

### Conservation Chair

Deborah Bowers  
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### State Board Members

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

### Webmaster & Wrenderings Editor

Les Eastman  
410-734-6969

## Carol Flora, Former Bird Club President, Dies

Carol Ann Flora, age 69, who resided in Bel Air, died of brain cancer July 7, 2009, at Frederick Memorial Hospital in Frederick, MD. She was a retired Harford County Public School teacher and counselor and longtime member of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church where she sang in the choir.

She loved gardening, golf and traveling, but bird watching was her passion. An enthusiastic member of the Harford County Bird Club for years, she served as club president from 2001-2003 and was a faithful supporter of countless club activities. Whether it was hosting committee meetings in her home, doing field work for the Atlas Study, or volunteering for ongoing jobs, she offered a willing hand. She enjoyed, especially, birding trips with club members, to regular Maryland and nearby hotspots as well as to far off places, such as Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, and Big Bend National Park and Lower Texas.

Carol is survived by her son, Michael Flora and wife, Trish, and their three children, Alyson, Tessa, and Charles, of New Market, MD, and her daughter, Leslie A. Flora and husband, Mark T. Boyle of Mt. Airy, MD. Her husband of forty years, Charles M. Flora, died in 2002.

## Bird Droppings

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.

### 2009 By-law Revision

Several suggestions for the Harford Bird Club by-law revisions have been received. These and any others offered will be discussed, and a vote of the executive board's recommendations taken on Sep 3. These results will then be published in the Wrenderings October issue. To complete the process, a final vote will be taken at our November dinner meeting.

It is important for a good turn out at this meeting, as a 20% quorum is required to even vote on the motion. If you would like to review the current by-laws, they can be located at the HBC website at [www.harfordbirdclub.org](http://www.harfordbirdclub.org).

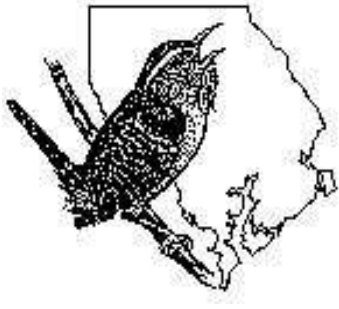
### Welcome!

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

**Rick Svehla of Jarrettsville**

### Autumn Migration Bird Count: September 19th!

The annual autumn migration bird count (the fall count) will take place all over Harford County on Saturday, September 19th. For count details, checklists, and area information, be sure to contact count coordinator Mark Johnson by email at mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil or phone at 410-692-4978.



# Harford Birdlife

By: Monroe Harden

This is a combined report for the May-June and July-August reporting periods, covering the dates from May 1st through August 8th, 2009.

## Geese, Ducks, Game Birds, Loons, Grebes

Local breeding **Canada Geese** started having their babies in May. KG and JD saw 15 birds, including 9 goslings, at Susquehanna SP on May 22nd. RR saw and photographed an apparent hybrid Canada/domestic Greylag Goose at Bynum Run Pond on July 22nd. Swan Harbor hosted a number of **Wood Ducks** this spring. EH saw two there on May 3rd, while HP and JG saw six on May 7th, along with a drake **Blue-winged Teal**. KJ also saw four **Blue-winged Teal** there on May 1st. JD saw a **Hooded Merganser** there on May 23rd. DL and PL saw four **Wood Ducks** in the marshy area by the Rt 24 entrance from US 40 in Edgewood on July 28th. MaH and MC saw a **Common Merganser** while kayaking on Broad Creek on June 13th.

HP and JG reported hearing a **Wild Turkey** calling at Swan Harbor on May 7th. HP and JG saw a **Common Loon** in breeding plumage at Lapidum on May 7th. KG and JD saw one at Lakeside on May 22nd. BJD, DL, and RC all saw it there on May 24th. DL last saw it there on June 28th.

KJ saw and heard two **Pied-billed Grebes** at Swan Harbor on May 1st. EH also saw two there on May 3rd, while HP and JG had one calling there on May 7th. SA saw one there on June 13th.

## Pelicans, Cormorants, Herons

MMP, BS, and his family saw and photographed a **Brown Pelican** just above Conowingo Dam on Aug 2nd.

KG and JD saw two **Double-crested Cormorants** at Lapidum on May 22nd. They also reported two possible flyover **Anhingas** from the Davis Tract of Susquehanna SP that day. MH had three **Cormorants** flying over his Havre de Grace home on June 26th.

**Bitterns** were seen at Swan Harbor in May. KJ saw single **American** and **Least Bitterns** there on May 1st. HP and JG saw three **American** and three **Least Bitterns** on May 7th. DW heard four **Least Bitterns** there on May 21st. On May 22nd, KG and JD saw two, while PL and DL reported hearing two. On June 13th, SA saw three, while DW saw five.

EH saw a **Great Egret** at Swan Harbor on May 3rd. JC saw one at Lakeside on May 6th. DL saw three there on May 10th. KG and JD saw one, along with a **Little Blue Heron**, there on May 22nd. JC saw a **Green Heron** at Friends Park Pond on May 1st. BJD saw two at

Lakeside on May 24th, while DL saw six there on June 7th. He saw more there throughout June and July. HP and JG also saw a **Black-crowned Night-heron** at Swan Harbor on May 7th. JoH saw two juveniles at Conowingo Dam on Aug 2nd.

## Hawks, Falcons

Our summer resident **Ospreys** bred on towers and platforms across the county. KG saw two **Ospreys** at Swan Harbor on May 1st. DL saw one on its nest on May 31st at Lakeside. The nest had two adults and three young on July 12th. PL and DL saw four **Bald Eagles** at Swan Harbor on May 22nd. Single birds were reported around the county on numerous occasions. JH saw an adult **Bald Eagle** pretty much every morning perched on a light pole near the swampy area at the intersection of US 40 and Rt 24. KG and JD saw a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at the Davis Tract on May 22nd. They also saw single **Red-shouldered** and **Red-tailed Hawks** at Swan Harbor that day. KG also saw four **Red-shouldered Hawks** at a nest in Jarrettsville on May 22nd. The two young in the nest were being fed frogs and snakes by the adults. KG had a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** flying south over Jarrettsville on Aug 8th. He also saw a resident **Cooper's Hawk** and a Red-shouldered Hawk that day.

KJ saw an **American Kestrel** at Swan Harbor on May 1st. HP and JD saw a **Peregrine Falcon** there on May 7th. DK reported an American Kestrel on the Bradenbaugh Flats from July 27th through Aug 7th.

## Rails, Plovers, Sandpipers

KG and JD saw a **Virginia Rail** at Swan Harbor on May 22nd. PL and DL heard one there that day too. KJ heard a **Sora** there on May 1st, as did EH on May 3rd. DL and PL saw a juvenile **King Rail** and heard another in a different part of the marsh there on June 28th. KJ saw a **Semipalmated Plover**, a **Greater Yellowlegs**, 2 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, a **Dunlin**, at least 35 **Least Sandpipers**, and 14 **Wilson's Snipes** at Swan Harbor on May 1st. EH saw a group of shorebirds at Swan Harbor on May 3rd, including 2 **Greater** and 4 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, a **Solitary Sandpiper**, 10 **Least Sandpipers**, and a **Wilson's Snipe**. CS saw six **Solitary Sandpipers** at the horse stables on the Edgewood area of APG on May 5th and 6th. DL saw six **Spotted Sandpipers** at Lakeside on May 10th, along with several other shorebirds. TH saw eight at Susquehanna SP on May 12th.

### **Gulls, Terns, Owls, Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfisher**

KG and JD reported a number of gulls on May 22nd. At Tydings Park they saw 11 **Ring-billed** and 2 **Herring Gulls**, along with a **Great Black-backed Gull**. They also saw a **Forster's Tern** there. HP and JG saw 18 **Caspian Terns** at Susquehanna SP on May 7th, along with a **Forster's Tern**. On May 10th, SC saw 35 **Caspian Terns** there. BJD and RC separately reported two **Least Terns** at Lakeside on May 24th. RB saw two at Harford Glen on May 31st. One was being chased by a swallow and then a Red-winged Blackbird. DL and others saw up to three **Least Terns** at Lakeside through August 2nd.

SC saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and four **Chimney Swifts** at Susquehanna SP on May 10th. KG and JD had a **Barred Owl** at the Davis Tract on May 22nd. DB had several **Great Horned Owls** near her home in Street this summer. She also had a group of adult and young **Barred Owls**. The young would wait near the feeders for a fresh meal. KG saw a **Common Nighthawk** at 8:05 PM on May 7th in Jarrettsville. DW had one flying over Swan Harbor on May 21st.

MH saw two **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at Susquehanna SP on May 9th. DL had two in his Abingdon garden on May 10th. SC saw six at Susquehanna SP also on May 10th. GRP got some 3-D photographs of one at his feeders in Edgewood this summer; it was there throughout the reporting period. MB noted that the hummingbirds in his Aberdeen yard would take refuge from the rain on a sheltered string near the feeders. The two male and one female would drain his feeder every week.

SH saw two **Belted Kingfishers** near the Little Gunpowder River in Fallston on July 13th.

### **Woodpeckers, Flycatchers**

JoG saw a **Red-headed Woodpecker** near the intersection of Rt 439 and Rt 23 on June 3rd. On May 7th, KG saw single **Red-bellied, Downy**, and **Hairy Woodpeckers** near his home in Jarrettsville. TH saw a **Hairy Woodpecker** at Ladew Gardens on May 13th. On May 22nd, KG and JD reported a **Northern Flicker** at the Havre de Grace rock quarry. They also saw a **Pileated Woodpecker** at the Davis Tract. SA had one at Lakeside on June 13th. SH had three in her yard on July 31st.

SC saw 2 **Eastern Wood-Pewees**, 10 **Acadian Flycatchers**, 2 **Eastern Phoebes**, 3 **Great Crested Flycatchers**, and 4 **Eastern Kingbirds** at Susquehanna SP on May 10th. KG and JD saw **Eastern Wood Pewees** at Lapidum (1), Susquehanna SP (2), and Swan Harbor (1) on May 22nd. They also saw 2 **Acadian Flycatchers** at Lapidum and 3 more at Susquehanna SP. DW saw two singing **Willow Flycatchers** in Patriot Village on APG on May 30th. DL saw one at Lakeside on May 31st and June 7th, along with single **Eastern Kingbirds** each day. SA had a singing **Willow Flycatcher** at Lakeside on June 13th. TH reported several **Great Crested Flycatchers** at Susquehanna SP

on May 1st. HP and JG saw two there on May 7th. BJD saw single birds in Jarrettsville May 18th-28th.

### **Vireos, Ravens, Swallows**

HP and JG saw two **White-eyed Vireos** at Susquehanna SP on May 7th, along with two **Warbling Vireos**. On May 10th, SC saw single **White-eyed**, four **Yellow-throated**, five **Warbling**, and twelve **Red-eyed Vireos**. CS reported a **Blue-headed Vireo** and a large number of **Red-eyed Vireos** on the Edgewood Area of APG on May 6th. SA saw two **Yellow-Throated** and one **Warbling Vireo** at Susquehanna SP on June 13th. BJD saw six **Warbling** and two **Red-eyed Vireos** at Conowingo Dam on June 2nd.

HP and JG reported hearing a **Common Raven** calling at Susquehanna SP on May 7th. They saw **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at Otter Point (2) and on Pennington Rd (3) that day. At Swan Harbor they reported 12 **Tree**, 3 **Bank**, and 9 **Barn Swallows**. They also saw 2 **Purple Martins** on Thomas Run Rd. KG and JD saw a **Horned Lark** at Swan Harbor on May 22nd. They also found seven **Bank** and eight **Barn Swallows** at the Havre de Grace quarry that day. BJD saw 10 **Purple Martins** near Thomas Run Rd on May 3rd. MH had a group of at least 20 chasing dragonflies over his Havre de Grace home on August 8th. He also noted about 200 **Tree Swallows** on the wires at Swan Harbor on July 18th. DL saw a **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at Lakeside on July 27th, along with 17 **Barn** and 12 **Tree Swallows**.

### **Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrushes, Mimids, Waxwings**

KG saw two **White-breasted Nuthatches** in Jarrettsville on May 7th. He also had 3 **Carolina Wrens**, 2 **House Wrens**, and a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** there that day. HP and JG saw two **Marsh Wrens** at Swan Harbor on May 7th. PL and DL heard two there on May 22nd. SA saw four there on June 13th. MH saw a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Harford Glen on July 18th.

KG and JD reported two **Eastern Bluebirds**, a **Swainson's Thrush**, and a **Wood Thrush** at the Davis Tract on May 22nd. SC saw a **Veery** at Susquehanna SP on May 10th, along with five **Wood Thrushes**. TH had a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** there on May 12th. MH saw two **Wood Thrushes** at Harford Glen on July 18th. DB had an injured **Gray Catbird** at her home in Street on June 30th. It eventually recovered and flew away.

DL saw a **Brown Thrasher** at Lakeside on May 10th. He also saw one there on June 7th. MaH had one hanging around near, but not on, her feeders at home in Forest Hill on May 13th. SC reported 13 **Cedar Waxwings** at Susquehanna SP on May 10th. MH saw 2 there on May 13th. Not to be outdone, KG and JD had 15 on May 22nd near the Rock Run Mill. KG also saw 1 near his house in Jarrettsville on June 14th, and 2 there on August 8th.

## Wood Warblers

TH started the month off on May 1st with 2 **Blue-winged**, a **Northern Parula**, several **Yellow** and **Yellow-rumped**, 5 **Black-throated Green**, 8 **Palm**, 5 **Cerulean**, a **Prothonotary**, and 3 **Black-and-white Warblers** at Susquehanna SP. MH saw and photographed a **Blue-winged Warbler** there on May 9th. He also saw individual **Magnolia** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** near the park's picnic area. JC reported a **Golden-winged Warbler** near Plumtree Rd on May 6th. SC saw and heard a singing **Tennessee Warbler** at Susquehanna SP on May 10th. He also saw 6 **Northern Parulas**, 4 **Yellow**, a **Magnolia**, 3 **Black-throated Blue**, 15 **Yellow-rumped**, 3 **Black-throated Green**, 5 **Blackpoll**, 7 **Cerulean**, 2 **Black-and-white**, 6 **American Redstart**, 1 **Prothonotary**, a **Worm-eating**, a **Kentucky**, and a **Wilson's Warbler**. On June 2nd, BJD saw 2 **Northern Parulas**, 3 **Blackpoll Warblers**, 2 **American Redstarts**, 1 **Prothonotary Warbler**, and 1 **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Conowingo Dam. They also heard a **Prairie Warbler** from the BJ's parking lot in Abingdon on June 4th.

HP and JG saw a **Yellow Warbler** at Swan Harbor on May 7th. They also saw 2 **Ovenbirds** and a **Louisiana Waterthrush** there. KG and JD reported a **Yellow Warbler** at Tydings Park on May 22nd. On May 12th, TH saw single **Cape May**, **Blackburnian**, **Bay-breasted**, **Prothonotary**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, and **Hooded Warblers**. He also saw a **Yellow-breasted Chat**. The next day, May 13th, he saw single **Magnolia**, **Black-throated Green**, **Blackpoll**, **Black and White Warblers**, **Ovenbird**, **Louisiana Waterthrush**, and **Common Yellowthroat**.

CS reported a **Prairie Warbler** and two **Common Yellowthroats** at the Edgewood Area of APG on May 6th. On May 7th, HP and JG saw a **Prairie Warbler** near Harmony Church Rd. They also saw a **Blackpoll Warbler** near Chesapeake Dr in Havre de Grace that day. They had two **Cerulean Warblers**, a **Prothonotary Warbler**, and an **Ovenbird** near Oakington Rd.

MH reported an **American Redstart**, an **Ovenbird**, and two **Common Yellowthroats** at Susquehanna SP on May 9th. TH saw one **Northern** and three **Louisiana Waterthrushes** there on May 1st. KG and JD saw six **Kentucky Warblers** in various parts of Susquehanna SP on May 22nd. MH and JH saw one near the picnic area on May 31st. JC saw a **Canada Warbler** near Winters Run on May 14th. On May 7th, HP and JG saw individual **Yellow-breasted Chats** in Susquehanna SP and near Harmony Church Rd.

## Tanagers, Sparrows

DL saw a **Summer Tanager** at Lakeside on July 12th. CS saw a **Scarlet Tanager** on the Edgewood Area of APG on May 6th. MH saw three at Susquehanna SP on May 8th. SC had ten there on May 10th. KG and JD saw one at the Davis Tract on May 22nd. They also saw an **Eastern Towhee** there. On May 7th, KG saw two **Chipping Sparrows** and a **Song Sparrow** near his home in Jarrettsville. He

also saw five **Chipping Sparrows** there on June 14th and nine on August 8th. TH reported a **Field Sparrow** at Ladew Gardens on May 13th. BJD heard one from the BJ's parking lot in Abingdon on May 7th. MH saw three **Savannah Sparrows** at Swan Harbor on May 9th. HP and JG saw a **Swamp Sparrow** there on May 7th. MH also saw one in Susquehanna SP on May 9th.

Lingering **White-throated Sparrows** continued into May. CS saw four at the Edgewood Area of APG on May 6th. KG had two in Jarrettsville on May 7th, and MH saw his last of the season at home in Havre de Grace on May 8th.

## Grosbeaks, Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, Orioles, Finches

BJD had a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in their Forest Hill yard on May 1st. JG saw one near Thomas Run Rd on May 7th. RC saw five males and a female in a group at his home in Creswell that same day. SA saw and heard a singing **Blue Grosbeak** at Lakeside on June 13th. DL had one in his Abingdon garden on June 21st and two there on June 28th. DL saw an **Indigo Bunting** at Lakeside on May 10th and two there on June 7th. SC reported seeing 11 in Susquehanna SP on May 10th. HP and JG saw six **Bobolinks** near the blind by the impoundment at Swan Harbor on May 7th. They also saw an **Eastern Meadowlark** near Pennington Rd that day. KG and JD saw one at Susquehanna SP on May 22nd.

HP and JG saw individual **Orchard Orioles** at Otter Point and near Thomas Run Rd. MH saw one in Susquehanna SP on May 8th while SC saw four there on May 10th. BJD had three at Conowingo Dam on June 2nd along with four **Baltimore Orioles**. JC saw a **Baltimore Oriole** at Friends Park Pond on May 1st. RB saw two near the Abingdon Library on May 30th.

KG saw two **Pine Siskins** at his home in Jarrettsville on May 7th. BJD had six at their Forest Hill home on May 5th, along with two on May 19th and 20th.

## Contributors

BJD- Bob and Jan Depuy, BS- Bob Schutsky, CS- Chris Starling, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DW- Dave Webb, EH- Elaine Hendricks, GRP- Glenn Randers-Pehrson, HP- Helen Patton, JC- Jon Cupp, JD- John Dennehy, JG- Jim Green, JH- Joyce Harden, JoG- Joann Gochnour, JoH- John Hubbell, KG- Kevin Graff, KJ- Kye Jenkins, MB- Mike Busse, MC- Marty Crouse, MH- Monroe Harden, MaH- Marjie Heagy, MMP- Mike and Marty Pell, PL- Peter Lev, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, RC- Rick Cheicante, RR- Randy Robertson, SA- Stan Arnold, SC- Steve Collins, SH- Susan Hood, TH- Tim Houghton

**Annual Club Picnic**  
**Saturday, September 12**  
**Details on back of newsletter**

# Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

September 13 (Sun.) – Jerusalem Mill. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Mill on Jerusalem Road. Search the Little Gunpowder for early migrants and residents in this beautiful valley. Leader Phil Powers (410)-679-4116 or [birdsinmd@prodigy.net](mailto:birdsinmd@prodigy.net)

September 19 (Sat.) – Annual MOS Fall Count. Help cover Harford County and count in your favorite birding spot. Contact the compiler, Mark Johnson, for further instructions. (410)-692-5978 or [mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil](mailto:mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil).

September 20 (Sun.) – Winters Run Road. Meet at the Park and Ride at Route 24 and I-95 at 7:00 AM. Join veteran leaders Dave Larkin and Lynn Davis to enjoy one of Harford's rural landscapes and the fall songbird migration. Contact Lynn Davis at (410)-569-0504 or [lynnd@iximd.com](mailto:lynnd@iximd.com).

September 26 (Sat.) – Early bird canoeing at Eden Mill. Take in a cool summer morning of natural history and easy exercise along one of upper Deer Creek's most scenic stretches. Dave Ziolkowski interprets the sights, sounds, and smells to make this trip a multi-sensory experience. Trip meets at 7:30 AM but space is limited so reservations are first come first commit. \$5 fee goes towards club donation to nature center. Call Dave at (443)-299-8453 or [dziolkowski@yahoo.com](mailto:dziolkowski@yahoo.com) for information and reservations.

October 10 (Sat.) – Rocks State Park. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Park Office on Rocks-Chrome Hill Road. Explore this scenic area for turkeys, warblers, and hawks. Contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood, at (410)-692-5905 or [dkirkw@verizon.net](mailto:dkirkw@verizon.net)

October 18 (Sun.) – Cromwell Valley Park. Meet at 7:30 AM at the 147/152 Park and Ride. This county park always has surprises during late fall migration. Join leaders Dave Larkin and Lynn Davis in search of the unexpected. Contact Dave Larkin at (410)-569-8319 or [dlarkin@towson.edu](mailto:dlarkin@towson.edu) or contact Lynn Davis at (410)-569-0504 or [lynnd@iximd.com](mailto:lynnd@iximd.com).

October 25 (Sun.) – Eden Mill Park – A joint trip with the Harford Land Trust to highlight properties protected in part by the efforts of the Trust. Join us at 8:00 AM for a morning of birding along Deer Creek and Big Branch. Waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds are expected. The leader is Les Eastman (410)-734-6969 or [les@birdtreks.com](mailto:les@birdtreks.com).

October 31 (Sat.) – Halloween Owl Prowl. Join leaders Sue Procell and Donna Yorkston as they search the Edgewood/Joppatowne area for our local hat-trick of owl species – Eastern Screech, Barred, and Great Horned. Black cats and goblins also likely. With a little luck, some other surprises may make an appearance. Call Sue at (410)-676-6602 or Donna at (443)-562-8501 for time and meeting place.

November 14 (Sat.) – Swan Harbor Farm Park. A joint trip with the Harford Land Trust to highlight properties protected in part by the efforts of the Trust. This property is well-known for eagles, field birds, waterfowl, and marsh specialties. Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking lot adjacent to the Agricultural Education Center. Contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood, at (410)-692-5905 or [dkirkw@verizon.net](mailto:dkirkw@verizon.net).

November 21 (Sat.) – Harford Glen. Meet at the Glen parking lot at 7:30 AM. This trip is especially designed for beginning birders. Join two former educators who are ready to share their skills and knowledge with those who are ready to enjoy a new hobby. Bring your binoculars and your curiosity. Contact the leaders, Tom Gibson (410)-734-4135 or at [gibsonlld@aol.com](mailto:gibsonlld@aol.com) or Dennis Kirkwood (410)-692-5905 or at [dkirkw@verizon.net](mailto:dkirkw@verizon.net).



## Field Trip Reports

### Hummingbird Banding

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, about 15 people showed up at Les Eastman's house to watch Bruce Peterjohn and David Holmes band Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. During the banding session, 14 new hummingbirds were banded and 2 birds that had been banded in previous years were caught. ~ Les Eastman

### Hummingbird happy Hour

On Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> about 30 people came to the Hummingbird Happy Hour at the home of Les and Beth Eastman. There were lots of hummingbirds to see and lots of good food and a good time was had by all. If you missed this yearly event, please plan to come next year.

~ Les Eastman

# HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

It's time to renew your membership for the 2009-2010 membership year. 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, 2009 - August 31, 2010

- 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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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?

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

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.

## Counting Goatsuckers

By Dave Webb

The United States Nightjar Survey is a conservation project coordinated by The Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary. The survey's objective is to collect data on the population distribution and trends of nightjars across the nation. In the mid-Atlantic, the nightjars include Whip-poor-wills, Chuck-will's-widow, and Common Nighthawk. "Whips" breed in the eastern half of the U.S. and southeastern Canada; Aberdeen Proving Ground has the greatest concentration of breeding whips in Maryland. "Chucks" are primarily a species of the southeastern U.S. In Maryland, they are found in the southern part of the state and the Eastern Shore. There are a few records in Harford County, most recently a single bird at the Edgewood Area of APG on May 2, 2008.

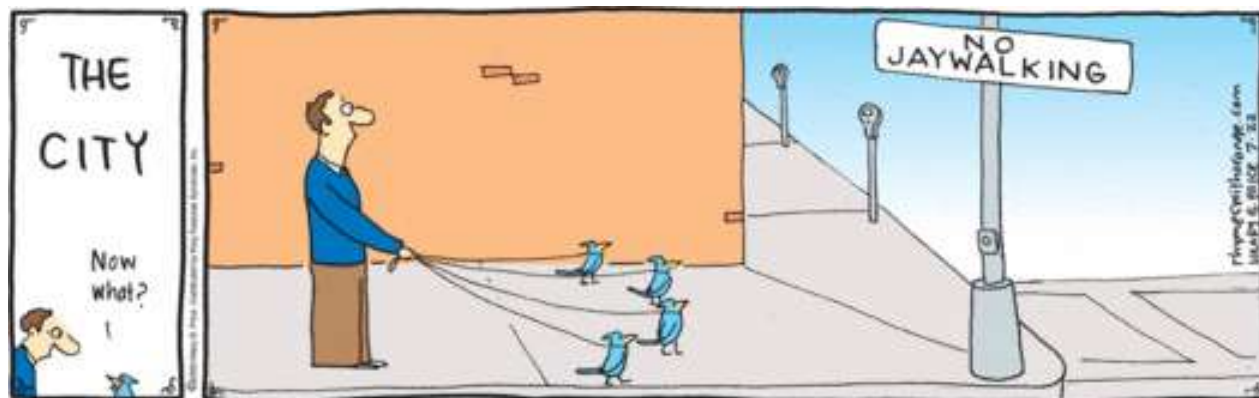
Since its inception in 2007, Harford County has participated in the survey, with two routes at the Aberdeen Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. A route consists of ten roadside stops, each stop located one mile apart from any other to avoid double counting of individual birds. "Observers" note all nightjars heard during each minute of a six-minute interval.

On June 8 & 9 APG biologist Deidre DeRoia and I once again conducted this year's surveys. This date was chosen to coincide with the full moon, since nightjar activity is greatest during this phase of the lunar cycle. With temperatures in the low 70's and little or no wind, we anticipated lots of activity. Deidre and I heard fifteen whips on each of the two surveys, however these numbers were slightly lower than in past years.

We were very ecstatic to find a lone Chuck-will's-widow calling for several minutes in an area near Bridge Creek – the same location where a single chuck was heard during May Counts in 2002 and 2004-2006. This begs the question whether or not this bird has a mate and is breeding on APG.

Our other exciting encounter was with a family of Barn Owls. A pair of Barn Owls have bred in the same abandoned observation tower for at least the last 4 years. During this year's May Count, Dave Ziolkowski and I counted 6 nestlings, aka "fuzzballs", hunkered on the floor underneath a dilapidated wooden countertop. Fortunately, one of our nightjars survey stops is just 100 yards from this tower. As soon as Deidre and I stepped out of our vehicle we heard the begging calls of a couple of chicks. A moment later all of the owlets joined in a raucous chorus of hisses and cries as one of the parents must have flown in with food. Sure enough, we then saw one of the adults glide out from the tower and fly into the woods to begin another hunting sortie.

In 2006, a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Defense and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service was signed stating that the DoD will cooperate, when possible, with national organizations designed to coordinate bird monitoring projects. Let's hope that as a result of this, many more generations of Whip-poor-wills, Barn Owls and other bird species continue to prosper at APG.





## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The following businesses support the Harford Bird Club and donate items for the raffles. Please support them with your business.



**Garry Lang** owns and operates [Chesapeake Optics](#) at 54 North Main Street in Bel Air. He stocks a good selection of binoculars and spotting scopes and offers a discount for bird club members.



[www.themillofbelair.com](http://www.themillofbelair.com)



Chesapeake Cycle & Sport is located at 101 N Washington St, Havre de Grace, MD 21078 and their phone number is

410-939-8735 and their web site is [chesapeakeport-cycle.com](http://chesapeakeport-cycle.com). They feature quality bike and kayak sales and rental.



**John and Linda Ireland** own and operate the Wild Bird Marketplace. They

have limited their hours of operation to Saturday only but you can call them at (410) 836-5000 or contact them by [email](mailto:wbm@clearviewcatv.net) at [wbm@clearviewcatv.net](mailto:wbm@clearviewcatv.net) to arrange a bird seed purchase. Bird club members receive a 10% discount on purchases.

If you feed birds, butterflies, squirrels or deer, The Mill is your source for feeds and supplies. We carry a large and ever-changing selection of feeders, houses and accessories. Seed mixes formulated to attract a range of birds, and seeds to attract specific species, as well as grains, are available in small and large quantities. We also stock nectars for hummingbirds, orioles and butterflies. The Mill carries a wide selection of Deer and Squirrel feed, supplies, scents, and repellents.

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### The Harford Bird Club Annual Picnic Reservation Form

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Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Cresmont Drive, Aberdeen, MD 21001 by Friday, September 4, 2009 if you plan on attending.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.**

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

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

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



# HARFORD BIRD CLUB



## ANNUAL PICNIC

Featuring the BBQ Prowess of  
Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson

Hosted by:

Nancy and Tom Congersky

Saturday, September 12th, 2009

Social Hour - 1:00 PM

Eating Time - 2:00pm - Please bring a side dish or salad - Bird Walk to Follow!

Location: 71 North Friendship Court  
Colora (Cecil County), MD 21917



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

