



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 23 Number 2

October, 2009

President's Perch

October 4, 1960 – Eastern Air Lines Flight 375 crashes shortly after takeoff into Boston Harbor killing 62 of 72 passengers. September 22, 1995 – a US Air Force plane crashes after takeoff at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska; none of the 24 crew members survive. January 15, 2009 – Captain Chesley Sullenberger becomes an instant national hero when he makes a successful emergency landing of US Air Flight 1549 on the Hudson River; only a few minor injuries are reported among the 155 persons on board.

What do these three incidents have in common? They all involved birdstrikes – mid-air collisions between aircraft and birds. At our November 6 meeting, you will get to learn about birdstrikes from our guest speaker, Dr. Carla Dove of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Dove is program manager for the Feather Identification Laboratory, and it is her group's responsibility to identify the bird species involved in any birdstrike accident that takes place in the United States based upon forensic evidence of feathers and other fragmentary remains known as "snarge". In the wake of Capt. Sullenberger's "Miracle on the Hudson", Dr. Dove's laboratory has received worldwide attention. It will be our distinct privilege to hear her presentation on a fascinating and provocative topic. The reservation form is on Page 9 and also on our webpage, www.harfordbirdclub.org. We hope that you will join us – and bring a friend!

Here's a sneak peek of other meetings that we have planned

On January 8, 2010, club members will take center stage with collections of favorite personal photos on "Amateur Night". The last time that we held an Amateur Night, most of the presenters selected their photos around the theme of their choice: e.g., birds at my feeder, birds from a favorite vacation/birding destination, or the laughable "birds biting my finger" taken by a licensed bander. Club members can add their name to the playbill by contacting any member of the Executive Board (see Page 2). To allow for several presentations, participants are requested to show a maximum of 10 photos.

Speaking of bird photography, at the March 5 meeting, well-known MOS member from Charles County, George Jett, will be our guest speaker entertaining us with images and tales from his 2008 Photographic Big Year in Maryland. As a fundraiser for the

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Visit our web site at www.harfordbirdclub.org

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Plan Ahead!

- Fri, Nov 6, Dinner Meeting, 6:15 PM, Churchville Presbyterian Church
- Sun, Nov 15, Field Trip Committee Meeting, 4 PM, Dennis Kirkwood's house
- Wed, Dec 2, Executive Board Meeting, 4 PM, Madeline Love-ra's house
- Sat, Dec 5, MOS State Board Meeting, Frederick County
- Sun, Dec 27, 38th Annual Rock Run Christmas Bird Count
- Fri, Jan 8, General Meeting, 7:00 PM, Churchville Presbyterian Church

Harford Bird Club Executive Board

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Dave Webb
410-939-3537

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Elaine Beery
410-272-6037

Recording Secretary

Susan Hood
410-877-0574

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410-457-4274

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410-734-4135

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Madeline Lovera
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Deborah Bowers
410-692-2708

State Board Members

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

Webmaster & Wrenderings Editor

Les Eastman
410-734-6969

American Bird Conservancy, George set out to take shots of as many different species of birds as he could within the state. Many of his pictures were captured here in Harford County during the MOS conference weekend. George's final tally and his portfolio will astound you!

The next meeting to mark on your calendar takes place on May 7 when our guest speaker is Officer Bart Roberts, a game warden with Aberdeen Proving Ground's Wildlife and Marine Law Enforcement Division. Using photos and rare film footage, Officer Roberts will discuss a Bald Eagle tagging and monitoring program recently conducted at APG under the direction of researchers from the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary.

We hope to see you at these upcoming meetings! -*dww*

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.

Members in the Media

Dave Ziolkowski was on the Kojo Nnamdi radio program back on Sep 16 -- the link <http://thekojonnamdishow.org/shows/2009-09-16/urban-wildlife> is still active.

Jean Wheeler's photograph of penguins in Antarctica was featured in the Baltimore Sun's travel section on Sunday, September 20. Her photo can still be seen by going to www.baltimoresun.com/travel, clicking on the "Best Shots" link and looking through the photo gallery.

Welcome!

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

Paul Gartelmann of Forest Hill

George and Jane Harple of Bel Air

Proposed Changes in the Chapter Bylaws

At the November 6 meeting, the chapter will take a vote on nine amendments to our by-laws that were recommended by the Executive Board at its September 2 meeting. These amendments are printed below; exact changes are underlined. Most of them are either clarifications (#1 and #8) or semantic/grammatical corrections (#2, #5, and #9) that have no effect on how the club currently functions. Others (#3, #4, #6 and #7) do impact how we operate as an organization. Please review these amendments and be prepared to cast your vote in November.

(continued on page 3)

Proposed Amendment #1: ARTICLE IV. (Sentence 1)

Current

A nominating committee of three members shall be appointed by the President at the January meeting of an election year.

Proposed

A nominating committee of three members shall be appointed by the President at the January meeting of an election year; elections shall be held in odd-numbered years.

Proposed Amendment #2: ARTICLE IV. (Sentence 2)

Current

This committee shall present the names of the candidate for Offices and State Directors at the March meeting of that year.

Proposed

This committee shall present the names of the candidates for Officers and State Directors at the March meeting of that year.

Proposed Amendment #3: ARTICLE IV. (Sentence 4)

Current

Election shall be by a two-thirds voice vote at the March meeting.

Proposed

Election shall be by a two-thirds voice vote at the May meeting.

Proposed Amendment #4: ARTICLE V, Section 1. (Sentence 2)

Current

The officers shall be elected at the March meeting of an election year for a two-year term which shall begin at the close of the May meeting of that same year.

Proposed

The officers shall be elected at the May meeting of an election year for a two-year term which shall begin at the close of the July meeting of that same year.

Proposed Amendment #5: ARTICLE V, Section 2. (Sentence 1)

Current

The President shall preside at all meetings of the club; shall appoint a replacement to fill any unexpired term of an Officer or Director; shall appoint and/or remove Standing Committee Chairs and coordinators as listed in Article VI; and shall coordinate and develop Club programs and activities.

Proposed

The President shall preside at all meetings of the club; shall appoint a replacement to fill any unexpired term of an Officer or Director; shall appoint and/or remove Standing Committee Chairs and coordinators as listed in Article VI and shall coordinate and develop Club programs and activities.

Proposed Amendment #6: ARTICLE V, Section 7. (Sentence 3)

Current

Directors shall be elected for a two-year term of office beginning at the close of the May meeting.

Proposed

Directors shall be elected for a two-year term of office beginning at the close of the July meeting.

Proposed Amendment #7: ARTICLE V, Section 8. (Sentence 1)

Current

The Executive Board, hereafter referred to as the Board, shall consist of all of the officers, the immediate past president, the state directors, chairpersons or coordinators of standing committees, the web site manager, and the newsletter editor.

Proposed

The Executive Board, hereafter referred to as the Board, shall consist of all of the officers, the most recent past president in good standing, the state directors, chairpersons or coordinators of standing committees, the web site manager, and the newsletter editor.

Proposed Amendment #8: ARTICLE VI, Section 6.

Current

This coordinator shall collect money for dinner reservations and confirm arrangements with the appropriate individual.

Proposed

This coordinator shall collect money for dinner reservations and confirm arrangements with the appropriate individual or organization.

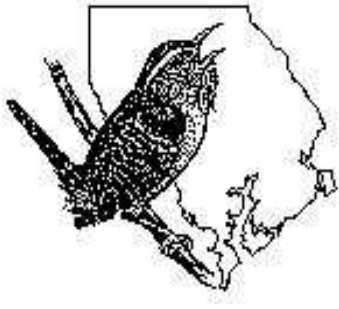
Proposed Amendment #9: ARTICLE VI, Section 8.

Current

The individual shall compile information about Club activities and produce a bimonthly newsletter.

Proposed

This individual shall compile information about Club activities and produce a bimonthly newsletter.



Harford Birdlife

By: Monroe Harden

Fall means migration- one of my favorite times of the year. You never know what you will find during a walk through the woods or fields. This report covers August 10th through October 2nd, 2009.

Geese, Ducks, Herons

DK found an early **Snow Goose** at Turney's Pond on Sep 27th. ROBH saw five **Wood Ducks** at Tydings Marina in Havre de Grace on Aug 20th. They also counted 118 **Mallards** and a **Green Heron** there. DL saw two **Great Blue Herons** and a **Great Egret** at Lakeside on August 16th. RB saw five **Great Egrets** at Harford Glen on Aug 23rd. RR saw an immature **Black-crowned Night-Heron** throughout August at the Bynum Pond in Bel Air.

Hawks, Falcons

DL saw a single **Osprey** at Lakeside on Aug 16th. ROBH saw two at Tydings Marina on Aug 20th. They also saw six **Bald Eagles** there. DB saw two **Bald Eagles** near her home in Street. MH spotted a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** at Swan Harbor on Sep 18th. TH saw one at Ladew Gardens on Sep 27th. He and his Chesapeake Audubon group also saw a **Cooper's Hawk**, a **Red-tailed Hawk**, and a **Broad-winged Hawk**. During an earlier trip to Ladew Gardens on Sep 14th, he saw a **Cooper's Hawk**, a **Red-shouldered Hawk**, and two **American Kestrels**. SH saw a **Red-shouldered Hawk** near Laurel Brook Road in Fallston on Sep 19th. MA saw two **Red-shouldered Hawks** fighting with two **Red-tailed Hawks** in the skies over Havre de Grace on Sep 25th. On Sep 21st, CS saw two **Broad-winged Hawks** in the county. One was on the Edgewood Proving Ground, and the other, a dark morph bird, was seen from I-95.

Plovers, Sandpipers, Gulls, Terns

The Aldino Sod Farm hosted significant numbers of shorebirds this period. DZ and JS saw 12 **Killdeer** there on Aug 30th, along with 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** in juvenile plumage. DZ saw 22 there on Sep 12th, and 35 more in a nearby field. He also saw 12 juvenile **Least Sandpipers**

that day. LE had a **Greater Yellowlegs** at the sod farm on Aug 29th, and CW saw a **Yellowlegs** (type unknown) there on Sep 14th. On Aug 20th, ROBH saw a **Solitary Sandpiper** and a **Least Sandpiper** at Tydings Marina. They also reported 56 **Ring-billed Gulls**, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, 9 **Caspian Terns**, and 137 **Forster's Terns** there that day.

Cuckoos, Owls, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers

TH saw one **Black-billed** and two **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** near the Rock Run Mill on Sep 18th. He also saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Ladew Gardens on Sep 27. ROBH had an **Eastern Screech-Owl** at Lapidum on Aug 20th.

LE had between five and ten **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at any time at his feeders in Havre de Grace during most of August. Shortly before dusk, these numbers grew to between ten and twenty. He had one immature male there on Sep 26th and two hummingbirds on Oct 1st. MA had one in her crepe myrtle in Havre de Grace on Sep 23rd.

ROBH saw single **Belted Kingfishers** at Tydings Marina and Lapidum on Aug 20th. TH saw one near the Rock Run Mill on Sep 23rd. SH had one near the Ma and Pa trail in Fallston on Oct 2nd.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Vireos

RB found a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Harford Glen on Sep 19th. LE saw a **Red-bellied Woodpecker** bring its two fledglings to a suet feeder at his Havre de Grace home on Sep 3rd. TH had a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** and a **Pileated Woodpecker** at Ladew Gardens on Sep 27th. He saw a **Hairy Woodpecker** at the Rock Run Mill on Sep 23rd. SH saw two **Pileated Woodpeckers** near

Laurel Brook Road on Sep 19th. DK saw three near his home in Northern Harford County on Sep 28th.

MH saw surprised to see an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** outside his APG office window on Sep 17, along with a **Red-eyed Vireo**. TH saw an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at Ladew Gardens on Sep 14th. He saw and heard a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Rock Run Mill on Sep 23. ROBH saw two **Eastern Kingbirds** at Swan Harbor on Aug 20.

MH found a **White-eyed Vireo** at Susquehanna State Park on Aug 15th. TH saw one at Ladew Gardens on Sep 14th. He also saw a **Blue-headed Vireo** there on Sep 27th. LE saw one near his home in Havre de Grace on Sep 26th.

Larks, Swallows, Creepers, Wrens, Kinglets

DZ and JS saw 18 **Horned Larks** in a field near the Aldino Sod Farm on Aug 30th. Some were newly fledged. On Sep 12th DZ saw 55 at the sod farm. ROBH saw 20 **Purple Martins** at Tydings Marina on Aug 20th. JBC saw an estimated 2000 on the wires near the Rite Aid complex in Perryman on Aug 24th. ROBH also saw 5 **Bank Swallows** and 30 **Barn Swallows** at Tydings Marina on Aug 20th.

DW saw his first **Brown Creeper** of the season at his Webster Village home on Sep 30th. The day before, he saw a **Winter Wren** in his flower garden. TH found a **House Wren** and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Ladew Gardens on Sep 27th. He also saw a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Rock Run Mill on Sep 18th. ROBH had a **Marsh Wren** at Swan Harbor on Aug 20th.

Thrushes, Mimids, Waxwings

LE had a **Swainson's Thrush** at his home in Havre de Grace on Sep 26th. DB found a **Hermit Thrush** in her birdbath at home in Street on Oct 2nd. MH saw a **Wood Thrush** at Susquehanna State Park on Aug 15th. TH saw one at Ladew Gardens on Sep 27th, along with a **Brown Thrasher**. He also saw a large number of **Cedar Waxwings** moving through the area. SH saw six in Fallston on Sep 19th. DB reported large numbers of them moving through her Street neighborhood during September.

Warblers

On Sep 18th, TH saw single **Tennessee, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Bay-breasted, Black-and-White, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat**, and **Canada Warblers** at the Rock Run Mill area. He also saw three **Prothonotary** and five **Wilson's Warblers** there. SH saw one **Magnolia**, one **Black-throated Blue**, and two **Black-throated Green Warblers** near Laurel Brook Rd. TH saw a **Blackpoll Warbler** among others at Ladew Gardens on Sep 14th. He had an **Ovenbird** there on Sep 27th. RB saw two **Black-and-White Warblers** at Harford Glen on Aug 23rd.

Tanagers, Sparrows, Grosbeaks, Blackbirds, Orioles

TH saw a **Scarlet Tanager** near the Rock Run Mill on Sep 18th. MH saw two **Eastern Towhees** at Susquehanna State Park on Aug 22nd. SH had one along Laurel Brook Rd on Sep 19th. ROBH saw one **Chipping** and three **Song Sparrows** at Swan Harbor on Aug 20th. TH found individual **Field** and **White-throated Sparrows** at Ladew Gardens on Sep 27th.

MA saw a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at her feeder in Havre de Grace on Sep 15th. TH saw single birds at Rock Run Mill on Sep 23rd and at Ladew Gardens on Sep 27th. DL had two **Blue Grosbeaks** in his Abingdon garden on Aug 16th. EB saw one at Aldino Sod farm on Sep 7th, along with hundreds of **Red-winged Blackbirds**. ROBH saw four **Indigo Buntings**, four **Red-winged Blackbirds**, and an **Orchard Oriole** (on a corn stalk) at Swan Harbor on Aug 20th. TH had a **Baltimore Oriole** at Rock Run on Sep 18th.

Contributors

CS- Chris Starling, CW- Colleen Webster, DB- Deborah Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DW- Dave Webb, DZ- Dave Ziolkowski, EB- Elaine Beery, JBC- John and Becky Gallo, JS- Jerry Strickroth, LE- Les Eastman, MA- Marian Argentino, MH- Monroe Harden, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, ROBH- Robert Ostrowski and Bill Hubick, RR- Randy Robertson, SH- Susan Hood, TH- Tim Houghton.

MEMBER PROFILE

Kermit “Spike” Updegrave

Spike Updegrave has lived in Harford County since September 1967, and currently lives outside of Bel Air. Spike taught biology for 13 years at Bel Air High School and 24 more years at C. Milton Wright. He is well-known for the assignment that he gave in which students had to go out and find as many birds as they could, and then write a full-page description of each bird. Students who documented 50 or more birds received an “A” from the project. In his retirement, Spike remains active as the varsity softball coach at Fallston High School. This past summer in Alaska, Spike reached a lofty milestone when he spotted his 700th ABA lifer, an Aleutian Tern.

When did you first get into birding? I always loved nature but I never thought I’d become a birder, perhaps because of the stereotype portrayed by Nancy Kulp’s character in the old Bob Cummings TV program. Back in 1971, I remember that every morning at 4:15 this bird would start singing and wake me up. I got to the point where I would wake up at 4:10 and go outside to try to scare it off. I got a field guide from the public library and narrowed it down to either a mockingbird or a nightingale. Of course, it was a mockingbird. At the same time I was excited to learn anything I could about the outdoors, and so I figured that since I had this field guide I might as well learn to identify some other birds. Shortly afterwards I joined the bird club.

Who were some of your early mentors? I learned a lot from Colonel Devore, Dave Smith, Mildred Gebhardt and John Wortman. John would often take me to Rock Run or APG. I also went on a fantastic weekend birding retreat at Rock Run, led by Jean and Elmer Worthley. Jean was the host of the children’s nature show “HodgePodge Lodge” on PBS.

Some birders stick with the hobby for only a few years.

What kept your interest for so many years? As a teacher, I had long summer breaks during which I would take birding vacations to destinations all over the country. These helped build my life list and fueled my passion for the hobby.

What was your most memorable destination? There are so many, but perhaps it was McGregor Marsh in Minnesota. I went there with Joe Vangrin, Matt Hafner and two other students from C. Milton Wright. We were there at 1 AM standing in a foot and a half of swamp water playing tapes for Yellow Rail. Over the sound of millions of mosquitoes we got two of them to come closer and closer and closer towards us. Eventually we had one of the birds surrounded, but it was so dark and the grasses were so tall that we could not see it. All at once we turned on our flashlights, and the bird flushed, and flew away right over my shoulder. I can still hear the sound of its wing beats as it passed within inches of my ear.

Do you have a favorite local hotspot? I like to go to the Bush Declaration Natural Resources Management Area near the intersection of MD 136 and MD 7. It is a very wild and natural area that very few people visit or even know about. I found a Brewster’s Warbler there once!

Are you a backyard feeder watcher? Oh, definitely. I use about six feeding stations and four suet containers. I just use nyjer thistle, black oil sunflower seeds, and medium cracked corn. I also sprinkle some seed on my deck railing. We have lots of pokeberry bushes in the yard that the birds just love, and we also grow about 50 sunflowers. I still get a kick out seeing my first junco of the winter or that first August hummingbird show up.

What optics do you use? I use a pair of Nikon 8x30 binoculars. My scope is a trustworthy 1970’s Bushnell that I have just about completely covered with decals.

The birding project that you assigned to your students is legendary. How did that assignment come to be? I was actually hesitant to do it at first, because I didn’t want to be accused of pushing something that I liked upon my students. But a supervisor once told me to teach what I love to do and so I started to give the assignment. I was a tough grader, but the students seemed to really enjoy the project. Even now I run across previous students who tell me that they still keep it in their school memorabilia.

Field Trip Reports

Delaware Shore

On July 19, eight of us met at the Rte. 155/195 Park and Ride on a cool and unusually pleasant July morning. A two hour drive brought us to Silver Lake, near Rehobeth, where two of our party had scoped out a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** for us, the target bird for Silver Lake. We were now a party of ten. Navigating our way through Rehobeth we had a minor disagreement with the local constabulary about the identification of a left turn sign. Leaving Rehobeth our party reassembled at Cape Henlopen where excellent views of **Piping Plover** with chicks were had. The presence, together at Henlopen, of both **Common** and **Forster Terns** gave the opportunity to enjoy the finer points of identifying these two very similar terns in different plumages. From Henlopen we proceeded north to Prime Hook for a leisurely lunch. After lunch an intensive survey of the fields along the entrance road resulted in excellent views of **Grasshopper Sparrow** but alas - Dicksissel was not found. Continuing our way north we stopped first at Port Mahon, finding **Royal Terns** and **Great Black-backed Gulls**, and then on to Bombay Hook. The ponds at Bombay held large numbers of shore birds and good views were had of **Stilt Sandpiper** and **Hudsonian Godwit**. From Bombay Hook we drove north to the ponds on Rte 9 at Woodland Beach finding **Seaside Sparrow** and a fleeting look at a **Gull-billed Tern**. Our journey north ended at the C&D canal where we observed **White Pelican** but could not locate Roseate Spoonbill. The opportunities for identification challenges abounded and we highlighted the potential for identifying a Song Sparrow as a Seaside Sparrow and a Forster Tern as a Gull-billed Tern. All in all, the party positively identified 76 species for the field trip. Several of the field trip members had a life bird - congratulations to those members. Overall a very long but successful trip. ~David Larkin and David Ziolkowski.

Bombay Hook

Ten birders made the annual trek to Bombay Hook on August 15 to enjoy the spectacle of fall migration for shorebirds. We ended the trip with 71 species and several participants were able to add a life bird or two in the process. Good looks at a **Pectoral Sandpiper** and **Stilt Sandpiper** were noteworthy as were the 200+ **American Avocets** in Raymond Pool. A **Clapper Rail**

pranced on the mudflats and then decided to take a bath giving everyone a fantastic look at a normally elusive bird. Plenty of sunshine and relatively few bugs made the day a pleasure to share with fellow bird enthusiasts. ~Dennis Kirkwood

Jerusalem Mill

On September 13, eight birders met at the parking lot at Jerusalem Mill. As we walked along the edge of the field, we were rewarded with fleeting glimpses of various **warblers, vireos** and **flycatchers**. Some of us got a good look at a **Scarlet Tanager**. Later, a flock of **Robins** and **Eastern Bluebirds** entertained us for a few minutes. A walk through the historical areas provided some history but few birds. ~Les Eastman

Winters Run

On September 20th eight of us walked Winters Run road on a cool sunny early Fall day. The sun was barely up when we started and few birds were moving. A **Carolina Wren** called followed by a **Blue Jay** and several **Carolina Chickadees** but for some time that was all that we saw or heard. As the morning warmed more birds began to move but still the numbers were small except for **Blue Jays** which became numerous and raucous. A number of our group used the time to pick up trash as we walked along the road depositing it in bags which were picked up later. Coming to some open fields we found numerous **Eastern Bluebirds** and **Eastern Phoebes** using the fence posts around the fields. The morning continued in

this manner with few birds but this was compensated by the very pleasant conditions of the walk which was enjoyed by everyone. Overall we saw 33 different species and left Winters Run with considerably less trash.

~Lynn Davis and David Larkin

BirdBreath



Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

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 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.

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. Contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood at (410)-692-5905 or dkirkw@verison.net.

November 21 (Sat.) – Harford Glen. Meet at the Glen parking lot at 7:30am. 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 or Dennis Kirkwood (410)-692-5905 or at dkirkw@verizon.net.

November 29 (Sun.) – Conowingo Dam. Meet at 7:30 am at Fisherman's Park below the dam. Eagle numbers are at their peak with the possibility of Golden Eagle as well as 100+ Bald Eagles. Waterfowl and early winter songbirds should also be present. Contact Leaders Dave Webb at (410)-939-3537 or at porzana@comcast.net or Colleen Webster at cwebster@harford.edu

December 12 (Sat.) – Delaware Coast. Meet at the 155/95 Park and Ride at 6:30am. This trip will visit several hotspots along the Delaware Bay for wintering specialties. Contact leader Russ Kovach for further details. 410-457-4274 or russell.kovach@gmail.com

December 27 (Sun.) – Rock Run Christmas Bird Count. This annual count is a part of the National Audubon Society's continent wide effort. Contact the compiler Mark Johnson (410)-692-5978 or mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil to volunteer and be assigned to a group.

January 1 (Friday) – Perryman Area. Start your New Year list off with a visit to the woods and fields of Southern Harford County. Meet the leader Dave Webb at 8 am at the Walmart parking lot in Aberdeen (Rt. 40). Contact Dave at (410)-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net.

January 9 (Sat.) – Annual Winter Feeder Tour. Enjoy birding out of the elements as we watch feeders at three of our members' cozy homes. Contact Jean Wheeler (410)-879-7424 or jswheeler44@msn.com for meeting time, routes and sites.

Christmas Count is Coming!



Christmas time is here! Well, it will be before you know it. With the holiday comes our annual Christmas Bird Count. As usual, it will take place on the Sunday between the holidays on December 27th. Everyone is welcomed to participate. We are assigned a discrete area within the 10 km radius of the old Harford Bird Club meeting house (close to Rock Run) in Susquehanna State Park and count all of the individuals of each species seen in that day. This circle includes areas from Swan Harbor to Havre de Grace and Conowingo as well as many areas in Cecil County also. This year our dedicated and resilient coordinator for the last eight years, Jean Wheeler, has passed her duties onto another. Regulars please contact Mark Johnson (new count coordinator) as well as anyone else interested in participating. New birders are especially welcomed. There is a \$5 donation collected for each participant to cover printing of the data which includes a copy of American Birds. Come out and shake off the indoor blues with the camaraderie of birdwatching!

Contact Mark at Mark.Steven.Johnson@comcast.net or call (410)-692-5978) to sign up or for questions. Many thanks to Jean for doing such an excellent job for the last eight years!!

Fall Count 2009 Results

This year Harford County had its largest number of Fall Counters – five who covered four separate areas of the county. Together, counters covered northeast and western parts of the county, west-central, and central Harford County. Only the southern areas of the county were not covered. Most counted between the hours of 0800-1200 and 70 species were tabulated.

Few waterfowl were observed, likely due to a lack of open water in these respective areas. Eleven warbler species were observed, and most common birds were **Canada Goose** and **Common Grackle**. **European Starling** was a close third. Birds of particular note included a **Philadelphia Vireo** observed by Les Eastman and Bruce Peterjohn and **Red-headed Woodpecker** observed by the Eastman Team in the northeastern area of the county and by Ruth Bergstrom in the Harford Glen area. Good numbers of **Broad-winged Hawks** were observed by the Eastman Team also. Dennis Kirkwood found **Eastern Meadowlark**, **Horned Lark** and three **Kestrels**, and Susan Hood found both **Black-throated Blue** and **Black-throated Green Warblers**. Ruth Bergstrom found the most species at 40, followed by the Eastman Team at 40, then Susan Hood at 34 and Dennis Kirkwood at 33. As always, thanks to all of you who counted and for the returning in the tally sheets in a timely manner!

Mark S. Johnson – Count Coordinator

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS



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 to arrange a bird seed purchase. Bird club members receive a 10% discount on purchases.

Membership Dues Are Due

Annual membership dues are now overdue for the Harford Bird Club year from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010. If you have not yet renewed, the membership form was included in the August issue of Wrenderings or you can print it off the web site at <http://www.harfordbirdclub.org/harfjoin.html>. Please contact Marjie Heagy at (410)557-9485 if you have any questions about your renewal. Please fill out the form, enclose your check made payable to HARFORD MOS and mail it to Marjie. We would like to have all dues paid by December 31, 2009.

The Harford Bird Club Dinner Reservation Form



Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Cresmont Drive, Aberdeen MD 21001 by Friday, October 30, 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.



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 November Dinner Meeting

**When Birds Collide - Birdstrike Identification at the
Smithsonian**

by

Dr. Carla Dove, Program Manager
Smithsonian Institution
Feather Identification Laboratory

Friday, November 6th
Dinner - 6:15pm - General Meeting time 7:15pm
Location: Churchville Presbyterian Church
2844 Churchville Road
Churchville, MD 21028



www.harfordbirdclub.org

Visit us on the web:

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

