



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 23 Number 3

December, 2009

President's Perch

On the bird club's calendar, we save the best for last. Of course, I speak of the annual Rock Run Christmas Bird Count. As we approach December 27 and the 38th edition of this event, it is interesting to examine the history of CBCs.



The CBC concept was originated by New Yorker Frank Chapman at the beginning of the 20th century. Born in 1864, Chapman was a self-trained ornithologist who at age 22 abandoned a budding career in the banking industry to become an assistant curator of birds at the American Museum of Natural History. Chapman collected thousands of specimens on numerous expeditions over the course of his career, but was outraged by wanton amateur collecting, especially that which was driven by the exploding avian millinery trade. As a result, Chapman championed bird conservation for much of his life.

As a curator, author, editor, and conservationist, Chapman's influence in the birding world was vast. But perhaps his most far-reaching contribution is the CBC. In the December 1900 issue of *Bird-Lore* magazine, Chapman promoted the idea of teams of observers going outdoors on Christmas Day to count the number of individual birds in a given location. The CBC was Chapman's alternative to Christmas Day "side hunts" whereby hunters went afield after Christmas dinner to shoot anything with feathers that chanced to fly by.

Chapman's ambitious proposal grew from 27 observers in the 1900 count, to 59,813 participants in the 2008 network of 2,124 counts across the continent. Current rules specify that CBCs be conducted inside a 15-mile diameter circle and on a single day within 10 days of Christmas. A \$5 fee is collected from each participant to offset publication costs of the *American Birds* summary.

The Rock Run count started in 1972, under the leadership of club president Edgar Folk. The circle is centered at Susquehanna State Park, and is partitioned into 15 territories in Harford and Cecil Counties. A team of two to four birders is assigned to each territory, and on count day ventures afield to find as many birds as possible. Lorna Wortman hosts the post-count tally at her Webster Village home as she has done for nearly 30 years. Lorna's homemade breads and hearty beef stew are the perfect end to a chilly day in the field.

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Calendar of Events

- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, Dec 27, 2009
- January General Meeting: Fri, Jan 8, 2010, 6:45PM - Churchville Presbyterian Church
- Mid-Winter Bird Count: Sunday, Jan 31, 2010
- March Dinner Meeting: Fri, Mar 5, 2010, 6:15PM - Churchville Presbyterian Church
- May Dinner Meeting: Fri, May 7, 2010, 6:15PM - Harford Glen

Some Dues Are Past Due

Some of you still have not paid your dues for the 2009-10 membership year. Members not paid by February 1 will be removed from the membership list at both the state and local level. Since the next newsletter will come out after February 1, **THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER YOU WILL GET** if you don't renew your membership. If you are not sure if you have renewed, check the first line of your mailing label. It will say, "**Not renewed**" for those who have not renewed. If you have any questions about your membership, contact Marjie Heagy at 410-557-9485.

Harford Bird Club Executive Board

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410-939-3537

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410-272-6037

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410-877-0574

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

Webmaster & Wrenderings Editor

Les Eastman
410-734-6969

The CBC's appeal is multi-faceted. Some enjoy the light-hearted competition -- against other teams or against one's personal records -- that inherently comes with bird counting. Others seek the rush of finding a rare species not guaranteed to be found each year. However, the majority of birders will say the primary reason for participating is the camaraderie that CBCs naturally foster. The social rewards are the basis for the count's continued growth over a century later.

Whether you are a seasoned CBC veteran or have never experienced the fun of Frank Chapman's legacy, sign up for this year's Rock Run count by calling the coordinator, Mark Johnson, 410-692-5978 or emailing him at Mark.Steven.Johnson@comcast.net. See you at Lorna's!

Amateur Slide Night!

The January meeting will be held on Friday, January 8, 2010, at 6:45 PM at the Churchville Presbyterian Church. Remember that in January we do not have a dinner meeting, so you do not have to send a reservation form. The entertainment for this meeting will be a repeat performance of an idea that was a hit about 15 years ago -- an amateur slide show. The response to the call for volunteers has been tremendous. To date we have about 8 presenters, and are no longer accepting volunteers.

Presenters will show off up to 10 of their best photographs of a bird-oriented theme. Past presentations have ranged from razorbills to hummingbirds to "birds biting my fingers". If time permits we will also show some of the best bird-related viral videos from 2009.

Please remember our inclement weather policy: If Harford County schools are closed for the day or close one or two hours early, the meeting will be postponed one week until January 15. If schools open one or two hours late, the meeting will be held as scheduled.

*** If the January 15 meeting is also postponed, the meeting will NOT be re-scheduled. For this occasion, it's two strikes and you're out. If you have questions about whether the meeting has been canceled, please listen to the radio or call one of the officers.

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.

Larry Fry

Larry Fry is recovering from recent quintuple bypass surgery. If anyone would like to send him a get well card, his address is 6 MacAfee Court, Ocean Pines, MD 21811-3347 and his email address is ovenbird35@mchsi.com.

Wanted!

The club will be recycling bird-related Christmas cards into promotional bookmarks and gift tags to be given out at public exhibitions (e.g. Earth Day). A donation box will be available at the January meeting.

MEMBER PROFILE

Joyce Gorsuch

At the 2009 state conference in Frederick, Joyce Gorsuch was recognized as a 50-year member of MOS. Joyce served as Treasurer of the Club from the late 80's until 2005. She currently lives in Cokesbury Village, a retirement community in Hockessin, DE.

What got you started birding? In the late 1950's I was living with my mother in a duplex on Ontario Street in Havre de Grace. We had a feeder outside of the kitchen, and we enjoyed watching the birds that stopped by. The other residents of the duplex were a young couple. The wife's mother was a very skilled birder who lived in Cape Charles, Virginia, and she would often come up to visit. She would often point out to us the birds that came to the yard, many of which I was not familiar. I remember her showing me a Cedar Waxwing that was in a tree in the backyard. I was in awe – I didn't know that such a bird existed.

How did you learn more about the birds in your neighborhood? After seeing that Cedar Waxwing, I purchased a copy of Chan Robbins "Golden" field guide, and read it from cover to cover. Eventually I met Chan and we became friends. I still have the same copy of the Golden Guide after all these years. I also joined the Harford Chapter of MOS in 1959.

What stands out from your early years in the club? At one of the first dinner meetings that I attended, I was amazed to see John Wortman. I already knew John quite well as we were both choir members at the Methodist church in Havre de Grace. But I never knew that he was a birder! John was very sharp – he became somewhat of a mentor to me. If there was a question that I had about birds, John was the person I usually asked.

Did you travel much to see birds? I consider myself mainly a backyard birder, although I enjoyed going on field trips to Bombay Hook and Port Mahon with my friend, Mildred Gebhardt. I remember once driving thru Virginia with family members on vacation, although not to look for birds. We were in a wooded area near Jamestown, when I spotted a Pileated Woodpecker on the trunk of a tree. I was so proud and excited – it was the first time I'd ever identified one on my own – and I

yelled it out to everyone. Unfortunately no one else in the car appreciated the woodpecker as much as I did then.

What changes in bird populations have you noticed over your 50-year career? When I started birding, the House Finch expansion had just reached Maryland. It was very exciting for us to have a new species in the area. We enjoyed the challenge of distinguishing them from Purple Finches. Of course, House Finches are the more common of the two nowadays.

What optics have you used? I don't recall the brand, but I had an inexpensive brand of binoculars for many years. Then in the 80's I upgraded to a better pair. I had these nice binoculars for about two years, when one day my cat knocked them off the kitchen counter right into the dog's water bucket! To this day I still have a little moisture on the inside of one of the lenses.

How did you get to be the club's treasurer? No one else wanted the job. Mildred knew that as a former mathematician at Aberdeen Proving Ground I had a knack with numbers, and so she recommended me for the job to President Bill McIntosh. I held on to the position for almost 20 years.

What are your fondest memories of the bird club? I got to know a good group of people that I would never have otherwise met. One example took place about ten years ago during Mark Johnson's presidency while seated at the head table of a dinner meeting. During the raffle, there were just two items left to give away. I had my heart set on one of them, a mobile of a Great Blue Heron. Mark's wife, Denise, seated next to me, desperately wanted the other. Denise's number was called next, and I realized that I had just one chance left. Denise came back to the table with the mobile and gave it to me. I was so touched by her kindness. It hangs to this day at my beach house in Bethany Beach.



Book Review

The Life of the Skies: Birding at the End of Nature

By Jonathan Rosen

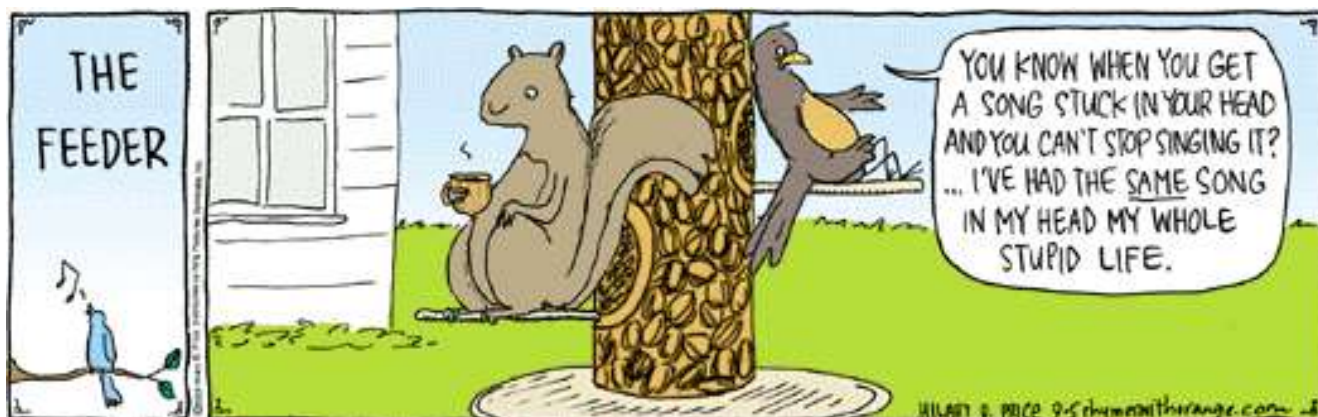
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. 300 pages.

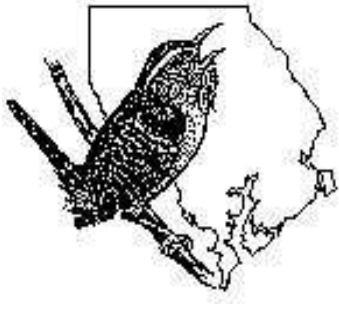
Disclaimer: this book reviewer is first an unabashed lover of literature and more recent convert to birding. The following review cannot possibly be taken as objective.

Oh my gods and goddesses of words and birds. Go out now and get this book, from the library, at the local used book seller, on Kindle, on audio books. Jonathan Rosen, a New Yorker of the city kind, has delivered up a multi-leveled read that encompasses, one, his entry to birding, of which he writes “On one of the two birding field trips that came with my introduction to birding class...it was simply the pleasure of looking that hooked me.” Two, his chapters also trace the known and not-so-well known ornithologists and budding evolutionists, from Frank Chapman to Charles Darwin to Henry David Thoreau, and Walt Whitman, Alfred Russell Wallace. And three, (please notice how I am restraining my exuberance) Rosen is a good writer, by which I mean he knows the literary tradition that stretches back before his words dried on the page, or cooled from the printer. He laces the book with references not only to writer/naturalist Thoreau, but also with Wallace Stevens, Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, Harold Bloom, Bill McKibben, and Thomas Hardy. And we get gems of their works within Rosen’s, for example; Ralph Waldo Emer-

son said if stars appeared in the sky only every thousand years, we would “preserve for many generations the remembrance of the city of God.” (I still recall Dennis Kirkwood remarking “it’s too bad Mallards are so common, for they really are beautiful birds, and we overlook that.”) Fourth and last, this collection of essays is also tied together by Rosen’s ethnic and religious identity; he is Jewish. Through his words, readers can visit the Middle East, not just to trace the migration patterns of birds in that corner of this world, but also to link the struggle between science and nature that Darwin’s stunning book sparked, even if that evolutionist needed a spark himself to finally write that theory into history.

So why should you read this book? For the same reason I read any book. I want to know myself better. I want to know my world better. I want to feel familiarity with the author (hey, this guy loves the “common” birds and finds no trash birds, to which many beginning birders can relate) and I want to be awakened by someone who can make connections that help me see more clearly. As someone who came to birds only after many other pursuits, I often wonder why they hold such sway over me. Rosen wonders too, and his answer is a good one: “Birding offers...a way of bridging disparate worlds—continents, the air and the earth, the symbolic and the actual, the scientific and the religious.” When I started birding eight years ago, I not only followed many good leaders into the woods, I read amazing books, because words are my first language. I am still doing both, and I recommend **The Life of the Skies** as the days are short and reading is a joy of winter’s dark. ~ Colleen Webster





Harford Birdlife

By: Monroe Harden

We had some interesting sightings in Harford County this fall. You never know what will drop in during fall migration. This report covers the period from October 3rd through December 4th, 2009.

Geese, Ducks

Wintering **Canada Geese** arrived during this period. On Nov 28th, DK saw 300 at Turney's Pond by Harford Creamery Rd, along with a single **Cackling Goose** and a blue **Snow Goose**. SH saw a leucistic **Canada Goose** in Fallston on Nov 26th. RK heard a flock of **Snow Geese** flying over Darlington on Nov 4th

TRMO saw **Wood Ducks** at Swan Harbor (3) and Lapidum (10) on Nov 1st. At Swan Harbor, they also saw 4 **Black Ducks** and single **American Wigeon**, **Lesser Scaup**, and **Hooded Merganser**. They saw 2 more **American Wigeon**, 3 **Black Ducks**, 6 **Surf Scoters**, 2 **Black Scoters**, and 15 **Bufflehead** at Lapidum. At Tydings Park that day, they saw 1 **Blue-winged Teal** and 6 **Northern Shovelers**. They added a **Northern Pintail** at Harford Glen too. RB saw 4 **Green-winged Teal** at Harford Glen on October 25th and 3 on November 1st. DL saw **Ring-necked Ducks** at Lakeside on Nov 15th (2), Nov 22nd (2), and Nov 28th (4). He also saw a **Ruddy Duck** there on Nov 15th.

SH and BH were surprised to find a female **Surf Scoter** in a pond behind the Tollgate recycling center in Bel Air on Nov 14th. MJ also saw it and took photos to confirm the identification. The bird was not there on Nov 15th.

Grebes, Cormorants, Hawks, Falcons

TRMO saw 6 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Swan Harbor on Nov 1st. DL saw groups of 1-3 at Lakeside throughout November. RR reported that a **Double-crested Cormorant** was present on and off at the Bynum Pond in Bel Air during the last two weeks of November.

TRMO saw about 20 **Black Vultures** and 45 **Bald Eagles** at Conowingo Dam on Nov 1st. LE had a similar Bald Eagle count on Oct 27th. DK counted over 100 there on

Nov 28th. JS and his group from Pennsylvania had over 150 on Dec 2nd. They also reported a large number of **Black Vultures** and a **Red-tailed Hawk**. RB saw a **Bald Eagle** at Harford Glen on Nov 1st. SH saw one overhead in Fallston on Nov 28th. She said that they are seldom seen in her neighborhood.

PV saw two **Northern Harriers** fighting near the Harford County Airport in Aldino on Oct 18th. She also saw an **American Kestrel** on the wires alongside Rt 156 near there. RB saw a female **Harrier** and a **Kestrel** at Swan Harbor on Nov 8th. They were not fighting. TRMO saw 4 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** at Swan Harbor on Nov 1st, along with 3 **Red-shouldered Hawks**. They also saw single **Cooper's Hawks** at Tydings Park and Harford Glen that day. DL saw 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** at Lakeside on Nov 8th and Nov 15th. He saw one on Nov 28th.

BC reported a **Northern Goshawk** behind the Safeway shopping center by the intersection of Todd Rd and Vanguard Way east of Bel Air on Oct 24th.

Sandpipers, Gulls, Owls, Kingfishers

TRMO saw 41 **American Coots** at Tydings Park on Nov 1st. They also saw a **Greater Yellowlegs** there. At Swan Harbor, they saw a **Wilson's Snipe**. DB flushed an **American Woodcock** from the grass near the roadway by her home in Street at about 11 PM on Oct 26th. It flew up in the characteristic Woodcock way, which was odd to see in October.

TRMO had about 100 **Laughing Gulls** at Tydings Park on Nov 1st. They saw 11 **Herring Gulls** at Swan Harbor that day, along with a **Forster's Tern** and a **Belted Kingfisher**. JS and his group saw several **Herring** and **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Conowingo Dam on Dec 2nd.

TRMO also had an **Eastern Screech-Owl** respond to a recording on the trail leading away from the Conowingo Dam parking lot. MH heard a **Great Horned Owl** near his Havre de Grace home on Oct 9th.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Vireos

DK saw a **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Turney's Pond on Nov 28th. He also saw a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Conowingo that day. JS and his group saw one there on Dec 2nd. They also saw several **Downy** and **Hairy Woodpeckers** on the trail from the parking lot. TRMO saw 1 **Pileated**, 2 **Downy**, and 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers** at Harford Glen on Nov 1st. They also saw 6 **Northern Flickers**. DW saw 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers** in his neighbor's yard in Webster Village on Nov 20th.

DL saw **Eastern Phoebes** at Lakeside on Oct 4th (1), Oct 11th (6), and Oct 25th (3). RK saw one in Darlington on Oct 18th. DL reported a **Red-eyed Vireo** at Lakeside on Nov 8th.

Crows, Nuthatches, Wrens, Kinglets

DL saw single **Fish Crows** at Lakeside on November 15th and 28th. SH found a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at the Sweet Air section of Gunpowder State Park on Oct 25th. MH saw a **White-breasted Nuthatch** along the Ma and Pa trail in Bel Air on Nov 21st.

JS and his group saw 2 **Brown Creepers**, 3 **Winter Wrens**, and several **Ruby-** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at the Conowingo Dam trail on Dec 2nd. SH saw a **Winter Wren** near Shield Rd in Fallston on Oct 21st, and another one at her home in Fallston the next day. DL saw one in Lakeside on Nov 15th, and DL found 3 at Conowingo Dam on Nov 28th.

BJD saw a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in their Forest Hill yard on Oct 10th. TRMO saw single birds at Swan Harbor and Harford Glen on Nov 1st. RK saw a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at his Darlington home on Oct 18th. DK saw 1 **Ruby-crowned** and 6 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** along the trail from Conowingo on Nov 28th.

Thrushes, Warblers, Tanagers

DL saw an **Eastern Bluebird** at Lakeside on Nov 15th. BJD had a **Hermit Thrush** and 4 **Cedar Waxwings** in their

Forest Hill yard on Oct 10th. DL saw a **Gray Catbird** at Lakeside on Oct 4th and 2 there on Oct 11th.

DL reported an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Lakeside on Oct 4th. He also saw 3 **Common Yellowthroats**. On Oct 25th, he saw a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** there. He also saw a **Common Yellowthroat** and 3 **Palm Warblers** at Lakeside on Oct 11th. RK saw 15 or more **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at his Darlington home on Oct 18th.

BJD saw a **Scarlet Tanager** on the Ma and Pa Trail in Bel Air on Oct 8th.

Sparrows

TRMO saw 2 **Eastern Towhees** at Harford Glen on Nov 1st. They also saw 7 **Savannah Sparrows** and 17 **Swamp Sparrows** at Swan Harbor that day. DL reported 1 **Chipping**, 4 **Field**, 9 **Song**, and 12 **White-throated Sparrows** at Lakeside on Nov 15th. On Nov 28th he saw 2 **Savannah**, 3 **Fox**, 9 **Song**, 2 **Swamp**, 1 **White-crowned**, and 7 **White-throated Sparrows** there. RK estimated 50 or more **White-throated Sparrows** outside his bedroom window in Darlington on Oct 18th. BJD reported their season's first **White-throated Sparrow** in Forest Hill on Oct 25th. They had their first **Dark-eyed Junco** of the season on Oct 24th. SH had her first **Junco** of the season in Fallston on Oct 15th. She also saw a **White-crowned Sparrow** from the Ma and Pa trail in Fallston on Dec 4th.

Cardinals, Meadowlarks, Finches

JH and several others have seen a leucistic **Northern Cardinal** along the Ma and Pa Trail in Bel Air. JH reported it on Nov 5th and 19th. TRMO saw 2 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at Lakeside on Nov 1st. MJ had a **Purple Finch** at the Eden Mill banding station on Oct 23rd.

Contributors

BC- Bill Collins, BH- Bob Hood, BJD- Bob and Jan Depuy, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DW- Dave Webb, JH- Johanne Henrickson, JS- Jim Smith, LE- Les Eastman, MH- Monroe Harden, MJ- Mark Johnson, PV- Pat Valdata, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, RK- Russ Kovach, RR- Randy Robertson, SH- Susan Hood, TRMO- Tim, Rob, Mike Ostroski

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

January 1 (Friday) – Perryman Area. Start your 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 Wal-Mart in Aberdeen. 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 from the indoors at cozy HBC member homes. Light refreshments will be offered. Contact Jean Wheeler (410-838-6774) or jswheeler44@msn.com for meeting time and site.

January 16 (Sat.) – Conowingo Gull and Eagle Watch. Visit the premier spot in the Mid-Atlantic to see our national bird and wintering water birds from farther north. Join leader Les Eastman (les@birdtreks.com; 410-734-6969) at 9 am at Fisherman's Park at the end of Shure's Landing Road. This trip is a joint trip with the Harford Land Trust, our local non-profit dedicated to preserving land and habitat in Harford County.

January 23 (Sat.) – Cambridge/Blackwater Waterfowl Trip. Search for unusual wintering waterfowl in the Cambridge harbor area, Blackwater Refuge and Hooper's Island, site of last year's Tufted Duck and Barrow's Goldeneye. Bring snacks if you like. We will stop for a fast food lunch. Meet at the 155/95 Park and Ride at 7 am. Leaders are Tom Congersky (410-658-4137) and Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; gibsonlld@aol.com)

January 31 (Sun.) – Mid Winter Bird Count. Contact the local compiler, Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil) to participate in this opportunity to assess birdlife quantity in our area. Feeder counters are especially welcome.

February 6 (Sat.) – Bradenbaugh Flats. Enjoy a tour through NW Harford County's agricultural area to find wintering field birds and waterfowl. Expect horned larks, ring-necked ducks, with possible cackling goose, longspurs and snow buntings. The trip ends at the leader's house with hot soup. Meet at 8 am at the Jarrettsville Elementary School. Contact Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; dkirkw@verizon.net) for further information.

Feb. 13 (Sat.) Bird Box Workshop. See the article on the next page.

February 20 (Sat.) – Broad Creek Scout Camp. Explore diverse habitats of this Harford county treasure for wintering songbirds and possible raptors. Meet at Dublin Elementary School on route 136 north of Route 1 at 8:30 am. Leaders are Sue Procell (410-676-6602; suzanne.procell@us.army.mil) and Marjie Heagy.

February 28 (Sun.) - Delaware/Maryland Shore. This trip will cover Cape Henlopen to Ocean City for winter regulars and rarities lurking offshore. This all-day trip will leave from the 155/95 Park-and-Ride at 6:30 am. Bring snacks if you like. We will stop for a fast food lunch. The estimated return time is 8:00 pm. Contact the leader Les Eastman (les@birdtreks.com; 410-734-6969) for further information.

March 6 (Sat.) – Harford Waterfowl Tour. Visit several areas in the county to see a variety of waterfowl as they congregate prior to migrating north. Meet at the McDonalds in Edgewood on Route 40 at 7 am. Bring a photo ID for admittance to APG. The leader is Dave Webb (410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net).

March 10 (Wed.) – Timberdoodle Search. Join this evening watch for one of our most interesting (and elusive!) birds, the American Woodcock, as it performs its mating skydance. Meet at 6:30 pm at the 155/95 Park and Ride. The Leader is Elaine Beery (410-272-6037).

March 14 (Sun.) – Loch Raven Reservoir. Explore the beautiful surroundings of Baltimore's premier watershed for early migrant songbirds, water birds and raptors. Meet at the 147/152 Park and Ride near Fallston at 8:30 am. Leader is Dave Larkin (410-569-8319 or dlarkin@towson.edu).

March 17 (Wed.) - Timberdoodle Search II. Join this evening watch for one of our most interesting (and elusive!) birds, the American Woodcock, as it performs its mating skydance. Meet at 7:00 pm at the 155/95 Park and Ride. The Leader is Tom Gibson ((410-734-4135; gibsonlld@aol.com)).

March 28 (Sun.) – Brunch and Birding. Start at the Laurapin Grill in HDG at 1 pm for fine eats followed by birding at Lapidum Boat Landing and other spots along the Susquehanna. This is prime time for unusual gulls (Little and Black-headed Gulls) and grebes, including Red-necked and Horned. If you can't make lunch, join the group at Lapidum at 2:30 pm. Let the leaders know if you will be at lunch so they can make reservations. The leaders are Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil) and Sue Procell (410-676-6602; suzanne.procell@us.army.mil).

April 11 (Sun.) – Perryman Area. Explore the open country of Southern Harford County for sparrows, larks, and other field birds. Meet at the Aberdeen Wal-Mart in the NE corner of the parking lot at 7:00am. The leader is Phil Powers (410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@prodigy.net).

Bird Box Workshop

The Harford Bird Club and the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center will team up for a bird box work shop to be held on Saturday, February 13 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Leight Center. For a minimal price to cover the cost of materials (wood and hardware), you can order a fragrant rot-resistant western cedar nest box. On the day of the workshop pick up your prefabricated kit at the Leight Center for immediate assembly (You will need a hammer and Philips screwdriver. Amiable Bird Club coordinators will assist you.) or, assemble it at home. This is a great opportunity for families with children and scout/youth organizations. All are welcome. Instruction will be provided for mounting the boxes. You may choose from two bird box plans.

1. House Wren, Prothonotary Warbler, Nuthatch, Chickadee, Titmouse box - \$12.00.
2. Bluebird box – \$16.00

Orders for boxes must be placed no later than Friday, January 29 by calling the Leight Center weekdays between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM at 410-612-1688. Checks (No cash, please) should be made out to the Harford Bird Club (Not the Estuary Center) and mailed or delivered to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009.

April 24 (Sat.) – Pish and Pedal. Combine two interests of the outdoors by pedaling along the flats of southern Cecil County. Helmets required. Support vehicles will carry non-bikers as well as equipment for birding. Make reservations with the leader Dave Webb (410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net). The meeting place will be 155/95 Park-and-Ride at 7 am.

April 25 (Sun.) - Winters Run Road. 7 am. Meet at the Park and Ride at Route 24 and I95. Join veteran leaders Dave Larkin and Lynn Davis to enjoy one of Harford's rural landscape and the spring songbird migration. Contact Lynn Davis (410-569-0504; lynnd@iximd.com) or Dave Larkin (410-569-8319 or dlarkin@towson.edu).



Mid-Winter Count

One thing about birders, they can't seem to stay indoors for long periods of time! The Harford County Mid-Winter Bird Count is scheduled for Sunday, January 31st. The Mid-Winter Count is a bit more flexible than the Christmas Count in that you can bird anywhere you wish in Harford County, and it's free! The only requirement is that you call the coordinator, Mark Johnson, to help reduce overlap. Communicate where you intend to bird. Feeders are ok. Spreadsheets for filling out the number of species and individuals along with effort data can be obtained from the coordinator or from the web at www.harfordbirdclub.org. Effort data includes number of hours and miles spent counting. If you would rather join a group just let me know and I will be happy to coordinate. Thanks and good birding!

Mark Johnson
410-692-5978
3204 Bryson Ct.
Baldwin, MD 21013
mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil

Field Trip Reports

Eden Mill October 25

Twelve birders showed up at Eden Mill on a beautiful fall morning to hike around this county park and look for migrant birds. The group got excellent views of several Palm Warblers and Swamp Sparrows. Woodpeckers were in abundance with Downy, Hairy, Red-bellied, Pileated Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker being seen. Raptors included several Bald Eagles and a Cooper's Hawk. A flock of Tundra Swans flew over as we were returning to the parking area. In total, 38 species were found. ~ *Les Eastman*

Harford Glen November 21

Thirteen adults including several beginner birders plus three children enjoyed a beautiful (if a bit chilly) fall morning hiking and birding among the great variety of habitats at Harford Glen. The focus was not on the number of birds seen (Although we did identify 30 plus species.) but rather on developing and honing basic birding skills. As we encountered each habitat, birds common to or likely to be found in that habitat were identified. Novice as well as more experienced birders learned distinguishing plumage, behaviors, songs and calls. Sparrows were particularly cooperative and al-

lowed us good and contrasting views of White-throated, Song, Fox and Swamp Sparrows. We also found most of the woodpeckers as well as many of the common woodland species. A good time was had and much was learned by all skill levels. ~ *Tom Gibson*

Conowingo Dam November 29



Birders have long known Conowingo Dam as a prime location to view Bald Eagles. Digital photographers now know also, as proven by the scores of "big lens" cameras lining the fence at man's Park. There were ty of eagles for everyone to

enjoy - we counted about 145 of them from one tion. The highlight of our morning was a pair of Peregrine Falcons perched atop one of the towers on land Island. A brief walk along the Greenways Trail turned up five species of woodpeckers, a lone Bonaparte's Gull, and a few songbirds, including Winter Wren and both kinglets. Our group of seventeen included several guests and beginning birders.

~ *Dave Webb & Colleen Webster*

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The following businesses generously donated prizes for the raffle at the last meeting. Please patronize them and thank them for their support of the club.



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Call ahead for birdseed purchases!

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WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE



Harford Bird Club January General Meeting



Amateur Slide Night!

Friday, January 8, 2010

Meeting Time: 6:45 PM

Location: Churchville Presbyterian Church

2844 Churchville Road

Churchville, MD



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

