

Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 23 Number 4

February, 2010

President's Perch

The winter of 2009-2010 will be remembered as the "whitest" on record in the Baltimore area. Three 19+-inch snowfalls (in a region that only had seven such storms since modern recordkeeping began in 1883) led the way for nearly seven feet of total accumulation for the season. As I shoveled out my driveway and patio during the Super Bowl blizzard, there was lots of time for my mind to drift. I couldn't help but think about the birds and how they were coping with the storm. Sure, those birds able to find feeder stations would probably be okay. So too, would waterfowl. But what about those truly "wild" birds living in more remote areas? How do they survive when their food supply is buried under two feet of snow? Would accipiters thrive feeding on weakened songbirds? Will Ring-billed Gulls be able to find any French fries in parking lots?

I wish I could boast that dozens of redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks descended on my feeders during this winter's storms. They didn't. But still I observed some interesting things. I quickly noticed that the birds at the feeder were less skittish, in that my proximity and motions did not frighten them as much as usual. I shoveled snow standing just 15 feet from a small flock of juncos and white-throats scavenging whatever they could find in the snow. And if I stayed motionless for about a half-minute a few feet from the feeders, the chickadees, nuthatches and titmice flew in as if I wasn't even there. In their effort to exploit a scarce resource, it was as if a temporary case of myopia had spread among the birds.

In the middle of the blizzard, I noticed a sparrow scratching frantically in the snow that was slightly larger than the other sparrows. It was a Fox Sparrow, looking a bit dull but certainly a welcome visitor after a two-year absence from the yard. And after the snow stopped later in the afternoon, I observed something that I don't ever recall seeing outside of the breeding season – for several minutes four different Downy Woodpeckers came to the feeders to tap the suet cake or steal a sunflower seed. I expected there to be a two-on-two all-out territorial war, but it never happened. Downies are not gregarious birds, and I can't recall ever seeing more than a pair at the feeders.

In the end, I still love snow ... but my shoulders and I have had enough for one season. Spring and the birds that it brings can't come soon enough.

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Calendar of Events

- Executive Board meeting:
Wed, Mar 3. 7 PM @
Yorkston's
- Earth Day: Sat, Apr 17, @
Aberdeen Centennial Park
- "Pizza" dinner meeting:
Fri, May 7, 6:15 PM
@ Harford Glen
- May Count: Sat, May 8,
- State Board meeting: Sat,
Jun 5, 10 AM @ Swan Har-
bor
- MOS Conference @ Ches-
tertown: Jun 11-13
- Summer Social: Fri, Jul 9,
6:15 PM @ Leight Center

**Harford Bird Club
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Wrenderings Editor**

Les Eastman
410-734-6969

Dinner Meeting March 5

The club's next gathering will be held on Friday, March 5, at Churchville Presbyterian Church. Sign up now (see page 9) to attend the pre-meeting dinner served by the Presbyterian Women starting at 6:15. The business meeting will start at 7:15, and include the presentation of 2009 club awards and another rousing raffle. The meeting will culminate with a fascinating presentation by noted Maryland birder George Jett on his 2008 quest to photograph 300 species in Maryland.

"The Big Picture"

by George M. Jett

Many hotshot birders have set out to see 300 species of birds in Maryland in a single calendar year. In 2008, George, believing that seeing 300 species in a year was highly overrated, set out to photograph 300 or more species of birds in Maryland. When George related this effort to some of the hotshots he was told he was crazy. Was he? One challenge was that each photograph needed to be at least "identifiable".

In order to justify the carbon footprint this effort would leave, George undertook this challenge to raise money for the American Bird Conservancy's efforts to protect the Blue-billed Curassow, a critically endangered species in central Colombia. How successful was George and how much money did he raise?

George will relate his experiences in this quest - the trials, tribulations, successes, and failures- and share some of his excellent photographs, many of which are field guide quality.

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.

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!

Anna, Mike and Ben Nusca of Abingdon

Donate Your Old Binoculars

Is there an old pair of usable binoculars in your house gathering dust? Consider donating them to the club! Donated binoculars will be loaned to beginning birders for use on field trips and bird counts. Your generous contribution may be the spark that allows a new birder to see the beauty of birds up close and inspires them to take up a lifelong hobby. For further information, contact Field Trip Chair, Tom Gibson at 410-734-4135. Tom will be happy to collect your donations at the club meeting or on a field trip.

Earth Day

Volunteers are needed to man the club's booth for one or more hours at the Earth Day Celebration in Aberdeen's Centennial Park on Saturday, April 17. Contact Publicity Chair, Donna Yorkston, at donnayorkston@hotmail.com.

Youth Birdwatching Contest

The Youth Birdwatching Contest will soon be under way. If you know of a child aged 10-17 who is eager to learn about the outdoor world, it is not too late for them to join the competition. See the link on the club's website at for more details and registration information.

Help the Broad Creek Scout Camp

The Harford Bird Club has a great opportunity to support and promote birding, inspire young folks to get involved in birding and nature, and provide a service to the community. We are seeking 6 to 8 male or female volunteers to lead birding walks with scouts ages 10 to 18 on Saturdays through May at the Broad Creek Camp in Whiteford. The two- to three-hour walks would begin at 8:30 AM with a brief (10 to 15 minutes) orientation to birding, expected sightings, binocular use, etc. Leaders should bring binoculars, guides enthusiasm and a desire to teach boys about birds, habitat and birding. Leaders do not have to be "A list" birders nor experienced with scouting and teaching. Adult scout leaders will accompany each field trip with groups limited to no more than 15 participants (most will probably be smaller). Final details such as meeting locations, schedule, sites to be visited, routes, etc. for each trip will be determined before each trip based on weather, participant numbers, group interests and needs, etc. Interested HBC members and those wishing further information can contact Tom Gibson by email or at (410) 734-4135. Please consider supporting this new and worthwhile HBC activity.

Thanks.

MOS Conference

Make your plans now to attend the 2010 MOS Conference at Chestertown on June 11-13. Enjoy a weekend celebration of birds and birding, featuring field trips to prime hotspots of the northern Delmarva Peninsula led by top birders from across the state. A brochure with registration information and more details will be mailed shortly; or visit the MOS website, www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/annual.html.

A Bird Came Down

A bird came down the walk
He did not know I saw;
He bit an angle-worm in halves
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew
From a convenient grass,
And then hopped sidewise to the wall
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all abroad,
They looked like frightened beads, I thought;
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,
I offered him a crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,
Too silver for a seam,
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,
Leap, splashless, as they swim.

Emily Dickinson



Book Review

The Shorebird Guide

By Michael O'Brien, Richard Crossley,
and Kevin Karlson

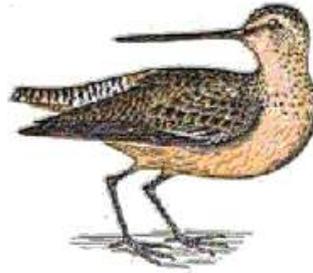
Houghton Mifflin, 2006. 477 pages.

Review written by Dave Ziolkowski

In retrospect, it's not surprising that the field guide concept was hatched and experienced its greatest success with birds. After all, the underlying idea of a field guide is to illustrate species as unique types, and this is a good fit for birds because the variation between species is generally orders of magnitude greater than the variation seen within species (a real luxury in the world of biology). But then, what's the matter with those darned shorebirds – why don't they fit the mold? Well sure they're incomparably accommodating, seasonally predictable, habitually reliable, and numerically gregarious – but even with all this in your corner you might still find yourself going batty trying to fit a shorebird to a field guide illustration.

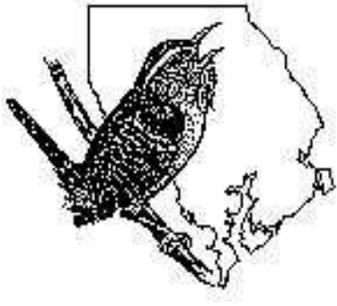
Truth be told, an important step in becoming a stronger birder is to learn to recognize that the simplistic field guide system IS the exception, and that circumstances like shorebirding are actually the rule. As students of the Cape May school of birding like to point out, we're highly effective at identifying other people under all sorts of circumstances, and we're not slave to a limited set of diagnosable field marks to do so. Just as there are more clues pointing towards your identity than just your hair color, there are many more giveaways for shorebirds than the plumages illustrated in field guides. No book better elucidates these tells than O'Brien, Crossley, and Karlson's Shorebird Guide. Not the kind of guide you're accustomed to, the aim of this book is to help you develop a mental image for each species based on a combination of relative proportions, overall structure, shape, and size. The execution is pedagogically masterful and the beautiful photographs, specifically sized and placed to emphasize certain characteristics, along with the short but succinct captions are so easy to work through that you won't even realize how much you're gleaning from the pages. Especially empowering is the sense of both the authors' vision and

thinking processes conveyed throughout, care of myriad of questions scattered unceremoniously amongst the photograph captions. These questions cultivate holistic observation and condition the critical eye, all the while reinforcing information learned from the other species sections by prompting the reader to actively identify other birds in the photographs. All this great material is bookended by an introductory section that's short and sweet (and not to be skipped) and a section of narrative species accounts that are about as useful and succinct as a birder could hope for.



Is this going to be the book that cures all of your shorebird woes...yeah, sure, why not? But expect that it's going to take some time and practice (you might consider sleeping with it on your head for more expedient results). One thing that is realistic to expect from just your first reading is a sense of confidence that, just by owning this book, your shorebird learning curve has jumped onto the fast track – and that's an optimism you can believe in. The book is so well written that you'll find yourself thumbing through the pages regularly each spring and fall, if not more often.

So what does this mean for your old field guides? Well, don't toss them out yet! Years down the road, after inevitably making a few embarrassing snap decisions based solely on shorebird size and shape (don't worry, you'll be in good company), you'll be certain to revisit that complicated plumage stuff – only this time from a much different perspective. And that perspective, wherein active observation trumps the rote task of simply fitting birds to field guide illustrations, is the first step to mastering gulls and other challenging complexes...but why rush these things, right?



Harford Birdlife

By: Monroe Harden

Happy New Year! We had some interesting birds drop in this season. Read all about them here. This report covers the period from December 5th, 2009 through January 29th, 2010.

Geese, Swans, Ducks

DK saw 3 **Snow Geese** on Turney's Pond off of Harford Creamery Road from Dec 28th-30th. On Jan 15th he saw a blue **Snow Goose** there. He saw a **Cackling Goose** on that pond on Dec 10th and Jan 15th-21st. DMW had about 35 **Snow Geese** fly over their Webster Village home on Jan 20th. KG saw a pair of **Mute Swans** on the water near the US 40 and MD 24 intersection in Edgewood on Dec 11th. CS saw 200 **Tundra Swans** on the Gunpowder River on Dec 18th. He saw 10 there on Dec 21st.



CS also saw about 50 **Gadwall** on the Gunpowder River on Dec 18th. They were joined by 50 **Black Ducks**, about 100 **Mallards**, 1 **Ring-necked Duck**, and about 50 **scaup**. On Dec 11th, KG saw 2 **American Wigeon**, 2 **Northern Shovelers**, and 2 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Forest Green park in Perryman. He also saw 17 **Black Ducks**, 2 **Bufflehead**, and 2 **Common Mergansers** at Conowingo Dam that same day. Continuing his duck tour that day, at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace he saw about 50 **Mallards**, 4 **Canvasbacks**, 62 **Lesser Scaup**, and 6 **Bufflehead**.

DL had a **Northern Shoveler** on a pond by Clubhouse Road on Dec 24th. He also saw 9 **Ring-necked Ducks** at Lakeside on Dec 25th. DK saw a **Northern Pintail** on a pond by Harford Creamery Road on Jan 13th. He saw a **Green-winged Teal** on Turney's Pond on Dec 30th. There was a **Ring-necked Duck** there throughout December. RR had a **Ring-necked Duck** at Bynum pond from Jan 18th-25th. MH saw 5 **Common Mergansers** while running through Susquehanna State Park on Dec 13th. DK had a **Ruddy Duck** on a pond off of Madonna Road on Jan 11th.



Game Birds, Grebes, Hawks, Falcons

EB saw a female **Ring-necked Pheasant** near Wetlands Golf Course in Aberdeen on Jan 16th. CS saw 10 **Wild Turkeys** on

the Edgewood area of APG on Dec 23rd. He saw 4 there on Dec 30th. KG saw a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Tydings Park on Dec 11th. He also saw 66 **Black Vultures** at Conowingo Dam that morning.



KG counted 53 **Bald Eagles** at Conowingo Dam on Dec 11th. He had 1 in Darlington that day too. DK saw one at Turney's Pond from Jan 17th through Jan 26th. CS saw a female **Northern Harrier** at the Edgewood area of APG on Dec 30th. He also saw a very lightly colored **Red-tailed Hawk** and an **American Kestrel** there that day. KG had a **Cooper's Hawk** and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** at his Jarrettsville yard on Jan 5th. SH also had single **Cooper's**, **Red-shouldered**, and **Red-tailed Hawks** at the Ma and Pa trail in Fallston on Jan 27th.

CS reported a **Northern Goshawk** flying low over the Edgewood area of APG on Dec 18th. KG saw an **American Kestrel** at Perryman on Dec 11th. He had a **Peregrine Falcon** at Conowingo Dam that day too. MW saw a **Kestrel** along Rt 155 in Churchville on Jan 29th. JBG and their kids watched a **Peregrine Falcon** dive bomb their feeders on Jan 25th. It did not catch anything during the attack.

Rails, Cranes, Gulls, Owls

KG saw 6 **American Coots** at Tydings Park on Dec 11th. MJ saw 3 **Sandhill Cranes** flying low from east to west over I-95 near Aberdeen on Dec 12th.

KG also had a **Bonaparte's Gull**, 206 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 94 **Herring Gulls**, and a third-winter **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Conowingo Dam on Dec 11th. DL reported 150 **Ring-billed Gulls** at Lakeside on Dec 25th, which is a large number for this location. They were joined by a single **Herring Gull**.

DB had a pair of **Great Horned Owls** calling near her Street home during the late afternoon of Dec 11th. LD had one in a tree by his home in the Bright Oaks area of Bel Air on Jan 14th. The bird was visible there for over 3 hours starting about 10:30 AM that day.

Kingfishers, Woodpeckers, Larks, Nuthatches, Creepers

SH saw a **Belted Kingfisher** at the Little Gunpowder Falls on Dec 14th. She saw another one along the Ma and Pa trail in Fallston on Jan 27th.

DK saw a **Red-headed Woodpecker** along Harford Creamery Road opposite Turney's Pond on Jan 16th. KG saw 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 1 **Hairy Woodpecker**, and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at his Jarrettsville yard on Dec 19th. SH had a **Hairy Woodpecker** on her suet feeder in Fallston on Dec 17th. MaH saw a **Hairy Woodpecker** and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** on her suet feeder in Coopstown on Jan 4th. DB heard a calling **Pileated Woodpecker** in Street on Jan 26th. RAK had a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at their home in Darlington on Jan 16th.

DK had 25 **Horned Larks** on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Dec 6th. CS saw 3 on the Edgewood area of APG on Dec 23rd. DL also had 3 along Canning House Road on Dec 24th. DK had a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at his home feeders in northern Harford County throughout January. KG had 2 **White-breasted Nuthatches** in his Jarrettsville yard on Jan 5th. He also had a **Brown Creeper** there on Dec 20th. LD reported the first **Brown Creeper** seen in their yard in Bel Air in the 35 years they have been watching their backyard birds. BJD had one at their suet feeder in Forest Hill throughout January.

Wrens, Kinglets, Thrushes, Waxwings

DB saw a **Winter Wren** along the banks of Deer Creek in Street on Jan 16th. She also had a **Golden-crowned Kinglet** in her yard in Street on Dec 11th. KG saw 1 **Ruby-crowned** and 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at Conowingo Dam on Dec 11th. He also saw a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Forest Green Park in Perryman that same day.



DB had a group of **Eastern Bluebirds** in the woods edge at her Street home throughout the period. She had a **Hermit Thrush** in her hemlock tree on Dec 23rd. CS saw 2 that same day at the Edgewood area of APG. DB also saw one at her birdbath on Jan 27th. KG reported 2 **American Robins** at Forest Green Park on Dec 11th and 3 from his home in Jarrettsville on Dec 20th.

DK saw 25 **American Pipits** on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Dec 5th. He saw 50 there on Dec 6th. CS also saw one on the Ed-

gewood area of APG on Dec 23rd. KG had 3 **Cedar Waxwings** at home in Jarrettsville on Jan 5th.

Warblers, Sparrows, Longspur

KG had 2 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at Forest Green Park on Dec 11th. LD was surprised to see one at home in Bel Air on Jan 3rd. BJD saw a **Pine Warbler** at their suet feeder in Forest Hill throughout January.

KG reported an **Eastern Towhee** in Darlington on Dec 11th. He also saw a **Field Sparrow** and a **Fox Sparrow** there. SH saw 88 **Chipping Sparrows** at home in Fallston on Dec 6th. DK had one at his home in northern Harford County from Dec 9th through Dec 11th. DL also had one at his Abingdon feeder on Dec 24th. DL saw 12 **Savannah Sparrows** on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Dec 6th. He saw a **Lapland Longspur** there that day too. On Dec 21st, CS saw 10 **Savannah** and 2 **Fox Sparrows** at the Edgewood area of APG. MaH had a **Fox Sparrow** at her feeder in Coopstown for several days in early January. DL saw 2 **Swamp Sparrows** at Lakeside on Dec 25th. KG had a **White-crowned Sparrow** in Perryman on Dec 11th.

Cardinals, Blackbirds, Finches

RAK saw 12 male **Northern Cardinals** at one time in their Darlington yard on Jan 16th. KG saw 18 **Red-winged Blackbirds** flying by his Jarrettsville home on Dec 20th. On Dec 19th he saw a **Rusty Blackbird** there. There were also 64 **Common Grackles** (including one Bronze) and 2 **Purple Finches** there that day. CS saw 30 or more **Rusty Blackbirds** on the Edgewood Area of APG on Dec 23rd. DK had 4 **Eastern Meadowlarks** on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Dec 21st.

KG reported seeing and hearing an **Evening Grosbeak** in his Jarrettsville yard on Dec 20th. It stopped for about a minute, allowing him to see the bird's field marks. He also had a single **Purple Finch** in his yard that day.



Contributors

BJD- Bob and Jan Depuy, CS- Chris Starling, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DMW- Dave and Marsha Webb, EB- Elaine Beery, JBG- John and Becky Gallo, KG- Kevin Graff, LD- Lynn Davis, MaH- Marjie Heagy, MH- Monroe Harden, MJ- Mark Johnson, MW- Marsha Webb, RAK- Russ and Andrew Kovach, RR- Randy Robertson

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

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 7 (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 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 13 (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 6:45 am. Bring a photo ID for admittance to APG. The leader is Dave Webb (410-939-3537 or porzana@comcast.net).

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 Laurrapin Grill in HDG at 1 pm for fine eats followed by bird-

ing 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).

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).

May 1 (Sat.) – Second Annual Epic Birding Contest. Join a team to compete for bragging rights on finding the most species at Susquehanna State Park. Meet at the Rock Run Mill at 6:30 for team selections and rules review. Counting will begin at 6:45 am and end at 11:30. Rally celebration will occur at 12 noon at the Laurrapin Grill in Havre de Grace. Coordinators are Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; gibsonlld@aol.com) and Sue Procell (410-676-6602; suzanne.procell@us.army.mil)

May 8 (Sat.) – Statewide May Count. Help Harford County contribute to this important data collection day and monitor migration throughout our locale. Contact the coordinator Mark Johnson for assignments. (410-692-5978; mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil)



Field Trip Reports

Perryman Jan 1, 2010

Four birders started the New Year with a morning field trip to Perryman where a thick blanket of fog tested our skills at birding by silhouette. We began at the Forest Greens Preserve and spotted Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Swamp Sparrow. With the visibility along Canning House Road limited to a couple of hundred yards, we considered ourselves lucky to spot a few Horned Larks and American Pipits in the surrounding fields. At Chelsea we ended the morning with White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows, and a male Northern Harrier. Of the 38 species that we found, our most unexpected discovery was a Gray Catbird at a residential backyard along Park Beach Drive. ~ Tom Gibson

Conowingo Gull and Eagle Watch Jan 16, 2010

This joint trip of the Harford Bird Club and the Harford Land Trust was attended by 4 members of the HLT and 12 members of the HBC (some where also members of the HLT.) There were few gulls present and no rarities were found. However, Bald Eagles were there in abundance and everyone got good views of many of them. A walk down the old tow path gave good views of Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser. A total of 23 species was found on the trip. ~ Les Eastman

Celebrate Earth Day
on Saturday, April
17 at the Aberdeen
Centennial Park

Eastern Shore Waterfowl Trip Jan 23 2010

A large and enthusiastic group of 14 HBC birders piled into four cars for a leisurely and scenic trip primarily along MD Routes 213 and 50 making stops at Chestertown, Cambridge, the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, and Hoopers Island, as well as several other stops along the way. After a quick pause for breakfast in Chestertown, we searched nearby unsuccessfully for a few reported rarities (Northern Shrike, White Fronted Goose) before moving on. Arriving at the Cambridge City Marina, usually a waterfowl hot spot, we got distant views of a few ducks and gulls, but not the number or variety one would expect. However, our birding fortune picked up as we made several stops along the waterfront. Our persistence paid off with good looks at a variety of ducks including Canvasback, a beautiful Red-head, Ruddy Duck, showy American Wigeon, Greater Scaup, and the always popular Bufflehead, to name a few. On the way to Blackwater we were treated to not only beautiful Eastern Shore scenery but also an added

bonus of a large field filled with Tundra Swans. We picked up additional species and lots of pretty marsh vistas at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Enjoyable side hikes into the woods failed to yield Brown-headed Nuthatch. Our last stop was Hoopers Island, a site that many of the birders had never visited. The quaint setting, 360 degree Chesapeake views from the causeway, beautiful (For January) weather, and waterfowl (Including Long-tailed Duck) bobbing in the calm waters made for a memorable conclusion to a very enjoyable outing. We logged imately 50 species with over a dozen varieties of ducks. ~ Tom Gibson



Support Our Sponsors

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.



Seasons Pizza

866 Otsego Street, Havre de Grace
 Phone # 410-942-0001
 Sun-Thu 9:30am -11 pm
 Fri & Sat 9:30am – midnight

WBM Open Saturdays
 Call ahead for birdseed purchases!

410-836-5000    wbm@clearviewcatv.net

WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE

Wild Bird Marketplace

Forest Hill, MD
 Phone # 410-836-5000
 Email: wbm@clearviewcatv.net
 Open Sat; call ahead for birdseed purchases



Capt. Bob Jobes Decoys

721 Otsego Street, Havre de Grace
 Phone # 410-939-1843
 Cell # 443-243-1108
 Buy, Sell, Trade Decoy Appraiser



Java by the Bay

Purveyors of Fine Coffees and Teas
 118 N. Washington Street, Havre
 de Grace
 Phone # 410-939-0227
 Mon-Fri 7 am - 4 pm; Sat 7 am - 3:30 pm

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, February 26, 2010 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 March Dinner Meeting



The Big Picture

by

George M. Jett

Friday, March 5th

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:

Jarrettsville, MD 21084

3500 Advocate Hill Drive

Martha Crouse-Farley

If unable to deliver, please return to:



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Wanderings