



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 23 Number 6

June, 2010

President's Perch

The images are gut-wrenching. A pelican from the shores of East Grand Terre Island, Louisiana, drenched in a viscous brown slime, its wings outstretched and mouth wide open. The oil doesn't drip from the bird's feathers like vegetable oil would, but rather hangs from a few slowly stretching sinews like blackstrap molasses. Another snapshot shows a bird so heavily tarred that it is unrecognizable, perhaps a duck. One particularly horrific video captured the motionless body of a pelican in a stagnant pool of crude. I thought the bird was dead until it blinked -- then I wished it were dead and out of its misery.



As we've unfortunately come to expect, politicians, corporate executives, the media and self-professed pundits point their fingers and dole out blame. Among many questions that run through my mind, the one I would most like answered is why BP and other oil companies are allowed to drill in waters as deep as 8,000 feet without multiple contingencies in place for dealing with deep-sea catastrophes.

The Deepwater Horizon spillage amount is in dispute, but even the low-end estimates have the oil escaping at 800,000 gallons per day. At Prince William Sound, twenty years after the Exxon Valdez spilled 11 million gallons of crude, oil still coats rocks just inches below the surface and several key species to the local fishing industry have yet to return.

Eventually the leak will be capped. But I believe the ecological, economic and political ramifications of the Deepwater Horizon disaster will be felt for generations to follow. The effects on bird populations, not only breeding species of the Gulf Coast but also species that migrate through the region, will be closely monitored in future Christmas Bird Counts and Breeding Bird Surveys.

Meanwhile, in the two minutes that it took you to read up this point, over 1,100 gallons of crude oil spewed from a gaping wound on the floor of Mississippi Canyon Block 252.

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Calendar of Events

- Summer Social: Fri, Jul 9, 6:15 PM @ Leight Center
- End of Harford Birdlife reporting period begun on Jun 5: Sat, Aug 7
- Deadline for Wrenderings input: Tue, Aug 17
- MOS Board Meeting: Sat, Sep 11, 10:00 AM, site TBA
- Annual Fall Picnic: Sat, Sep 11, 1:00 PM @ Eden Mill
- Fall Bird Count: Sat, Sep 18
- November Dinner Meeting: Fri, Nov 5, 6:15 PM @ Churchville Presbyterian Church
- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Sun, Dec 26

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Harford Bird Club Summer Social

Once again the club will hold its annual Wine and Cheese Summer Social at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center in Abingdon on Friday, July 9th. Chat with your friends and make some new ones, starting at 6:15 PM. Then head downstairs for a brief business meeting and another exciting raffle. Capping off the evening, Amy Eveleth from the Maryland Zoo at Baltimore will introduce her special guests, Rise and Conquer. Learn about the lineage, training regimen, and distinct personalities of Baltimore's favorite mascots. Be a part of what promises to be a memorable evening! The Reservation Form is on Page 9.

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!

Mark & Shelley Magnani of Bel Air

Kelvin & Deb Mosley of Bel Air

Diane Robertson to be awarded for Bird of the Year

Diane Robertson will be awarded for spotting the club's Bird of the Year – a Snowy Owl. Diane works in an office at the Havre de Grace Marina that has a view of the water and also of the roof of the High and Dry Marina hanger. Sitting atop that hangar roof was a big white bird whose most notable feature, besides being all white, was that it was motionless. Diane's coworker spotted it first, but Diane decided to go get her camera and take a picture for husband Randy to see... and the rest, shall we say, is bird club history.

MOS Conference

The Harford Bird Club was well represented at the 2010 MOS Annual Conference held at Washington College in Chestertown from June 11-13. Fifteen club members joined other birders from around the state for a weekend full of exciting field trips, good food, interesting presentations, and constant camaraderie. With such a concentration of birders, good birds always are discovered at the conferences and this year was no exception -- several Brown-headed Nuthatches at Eastern Neck NWR, and a Little Gull at Bombay Hook NWR were among the highlights. Doug Gill gave a nice talk about the successful reintroduction of native grasslands at Chino Farms and the birds that utilize this distinct habitat. And at Saturday night's business meeting, Harford's own Mark Johnson was elected president of MOS. Congratulations, Mark! The organization is in good hands for another year. Make your plans to attend next year's conference -- May 20-22 at Wisp Mountain in Garrett County.

May Count 2010

Weather started relatively warm and some experienced rain showers; however, that was followed by hard driving winds which kept many species quiet and hard to find. Those that started earlier before sunrise were treated to excellent conditions for night birds such as whips and rails. Participation was higher with fifteen birders making nine parties. The county was generally covered in most areas save Joppa and north-central Harford County. A total of 4257 individuals were counted comprising 131 species; the same number of species as last year and a greater number of individuals. Noticeably absent were Cooper's Hawk, Sora, Northern Bobwhite and Black-throated Blue and Bay-breasted Warblers. Gray Catbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Yellow-billed Cuckoo numbers were down. Party-specific summaries are as follows.

The "Daves" (Dave Webb and Dave Ziolkowski) took the lead finding 102 species in the APG-Aberdeen Area. Birds of note included three Summer Tanagers, Red-headed Woodpecker, Barn Owl and an American White Pelican!. They also found 15 warbler species.

Rick Cheicante and David Larkin found 76 species at Susquehanna State Park including 15 warbler species.

Dennis Kirkwood covered the northwestern Harford County region and found 72 species including Horned Lark, Willow Flycatcher and ten warbler species.

Mark Johnson and John Paul covered the Edgewood area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground and logged 70 species. They found 8 warbler species and the only Tennessee Warbler for the count.

Les Eastman and Diane Jones found 63 species in the northeastern Harford County area including both orioles, all three mimic thrushes and 8 warbler species.

Ruth Bergstrom counted the Harford Glen area in the afternoon and found 57 species including both orioles and 5 warbler species.

Spike Updegrave found 53 species in the Aldino area. He notes it was "...the worst May Count in 38 years!", but managed to find the only Dickcissel of the count.

Deidre DeRoia counted the Spesutie Island area of APG and found 53 species including 4 warbler species (high count for Yellow Warbler = 14) and six Mute Swans.

Susan & Bob Hood and Lynn Ferus counted the Fallston area of the Gunpowder State Park and found 48 species including Hermit Thrush and 4 warbler species.

Thanks to all who counted and I hope to see you next year! ~ **Mark Johnson**

Nightjars Continue to Thrive at APG

For the fourth year in a row, biologist Deidre DeRoia and I participated in the United States Nightjar Survey at Aberdeen Proving Ground over the last weekend in May. We run two routes in the middle of the night, each consisting of ten stops approximately one mile apart. At each stop we listen for Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows for six minutes. This year, Deidre conducted the first route solo, detecting 9 Whips. I joined her 24 hours later for the second route, where we tallied 16 Whips and a single Chuck at its usual location near Bridge Creek. Other highlights from this night were the boisterous begging calls of a recently fledged Eastern Screech-Owl and several Barn Owls still in their nest. ~ **Dave Webb**

Breeding Bird Atlas

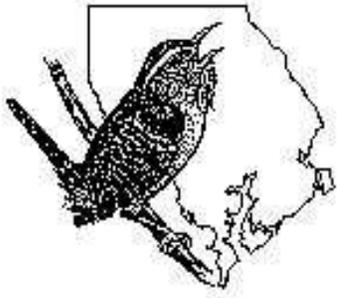
Jane Coskren, chair of the MOS Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) committee, reported at the most recent Board Meeting that the atlas should be in print by January of 2011. The cost will be \$75, although MOS members receive a 25% discount for advance orders. Check the MOS website, www.mdbirds.org, for an order form in the coming weeks. This invaluable resource for Maryland birders will make an excellent Christmas gift.

Wine Tasting and Nighthawks

Sitting atop the heights of Havre de Grace overlooking the Chesapeake Bay, Mt. Felix Winery is a spectacular setting for a vineyard and watching birds migrate. Owners Mary and Peter Ianniello invite you to



enjoy both at their historic manor on Saturday, August 21. A one-hour private wine tasting begins in the early evening, followed by a relaxing search of the skies for southbound Common Nighthawks. Cost is \$12, which includes cheese and complimentary glass. For further details or to register, call Marsha Webb, 410-939-3537, by Saturday, August 14.



Harford Birdlife

By: Monroe Harden

We had some great rarities visit Harford County during this spring. This month's column covers the period from Mar 29th through Jun 3rd, 2010.

Geese, Swans, Ducks

LS and JT found a **Snow Goose** in a group of **Canada Geese** at Swan Harbor on Apr 15th. CS saw 12 or more **Wood Ducks** there on May 1st. The last 2 **Blue-winged Teal** were seen there on May 15th by RB, TH, and KJ. They saw 2 **Common Mergansers** at Susquehanna State Park (SSP) that same day. CS found 2 female **Red-breasted Mergansers** on the Susquehanna River on Apr 10th.

Loons, Grebes, Herons, Ibis

Several people noted 1 or 2 **Pied-billed Grebes** at Swan Harbor. CS saw 2 there on May 1st. RC found 3 **American Bitterns** there on Apr 12th. DK had one at his farm in northern Harford County on Apr 15th. KJ reported 9 at Swan Harbor on Apr 29th, along with a **Least Bittern**. JG also saw one there on Apr 26th. He found a **Cattle Egret** on the property on May 1st. RC saw a **Great Egret** at Lakeside on May 14th and a white immature **Little Blue Heron** there on May 16th. DL saw a **Green Heron** there that same day. CS and JG both saw a **Glossy Ibis** at Swan Harbor on May 1st.



Vultures, Hawks, Falcons, Rails

JH saw a group of about 50 **Black Vultures** at Conowingo Dam on May 8th. RB, TH, KJ, and RC all saw a **Mississippi Kite** at SSP on May 15th. SH reported a **Peregrine Falcon** at Swan Harbor on May 4th. RB, TH, and KJ saw one in Perryman on May 15th.

The "Voice of the Naturalist" included reports of a **Yellow** and **Virginia Rail** at Swan Harbor. These could not be substantiated, and follow-up searches did not find these birds. RB, TH, and KJ had a probable sighting of a **King Rail** at Swan Harbor on May 15th, along with 3 **Soras**. JG, DZ, and DW had 8 **Soras** there during a night session on Apr 16th. MB and DM saw a **Common Moorhen** on and among the cars at Bel Air Nissan on May 15th.



Plovers, Sandpipers

DL reported a **Little Stint** in a pond near Canning House Rd in Perryman on May 12th. He and PL also saw 8 **Black-bellied Plovers**, 2 **American Golden-Plovers**, 21 **Semipalmated Plovers**, 3 **Ruffs**, 2 **Red Knots**, 1 **Sanderling**, 5 **Pectoral Sandpipers**, 1 **Long-billed** and 3 **Short-billed Dowitchers**, and numerous other common shorebirds in the same area. RB, TH, and KJ had good views of a **Western Sandpiper** at the Canning House Rd pond on May 15th. KG had a **White-rumped Sandpiper** there on May 16th. DK had an **American Woodcock** on his farm on Apr 15th.

Gulls, Terns, Cuckoos, Owls, Goatsuckers

LJ saw a **Bonaparte's Gull** at SSP on Apr 1. She saw 4 **Caspian Terns** there on Apr 8th. DL saw 3 or more **Least Terns** at Harford Glen on Apr 22nd. CS saw 4 on the Edgewood Area of APG on May 7th. He saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** there on May 3rd. RC had one at SSP on May 7th and one at Lakeside on May 16th.

FM reported a **Barred Owl** in SSP on May 16th. MB saw a **Common Nighthawk** fly over Bel Air Nissan on May 15th. RC had one perched on a tree in his Creswell yard that same day. KG counted 31 flying over his Jarrettsville home early in the evening on May 20th. DDR and DW found a **Chuck-will's Widow** and 15 **Whip-poor-wills** on the Aberdeen area of APG on May 31st. DDR had 9 Whip's there on May 30th.

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Vireos

DK saw a **Red-headed Woodpecker** near Harford Creamery Rd from Mar 29th through Apr 23rd. LS saw and heard 2 **Alder Flycatchers** at SSP on 17 May. RB, TH, KJ, and RC saw a **Willow Flycatcher** at SSP on May 15th. DL had one at Lakeside on May 16th. LJ saw a singing **Least Flycatcher** at SSP on May 14th.

CS counted 11 **Great Crested Flycatchers** and 3 **Eastern Kingbirds** on the Edgewood area of APG on May 7th. Several people saw **White-eyed Vireos** at SSP, including TH on May 2nd. He had a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at the

park on May 4th. LJ also saw one there on Apr 30th as well as **Blue-headed** and **Red-eyed Vireos**. RC saw 3 **Warbling Vireos** near the Rock Run Mill on May 7th.

Swallows, Wrens, Thrushes

LJ had 12 **Tree Swallows** and a **Barn Swallow** at Tydings Park on Apr 1. She saw 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** at SSP on Apr 8th. RC found 4 **Bank Swallows** at Swan Harbor on Apr 12th. DW spotted a **Cliff Swallow** flying by Perryman Park on May 12th.

TH saw a **Brown Creeper** at Ladew Gardens on Apr 2nd. RB, TH, and KJ had 10 **Marsh Wrens** at Swan Harbor on May 15th.

RC had 3 **Veeries** at SSP on May 7th. RB, TH, and KJ saw a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at SSP on May 15th. FM saw one there on May 16th. He also saw a **Swainson's Thrush** there that day. KG had one in his Jarrettsville yard on May 20th.

Warblers

Warblers migrated through our area with great numbers and variety this year. The highlights included a male **Golden-winged Warbler** at SSP on Apr 30th. LJ and TH both saw it. DZ, TF, and GK saw 4 **Tennessee**, 16 **Chestnut-sided**, 15 **Magnolia**, 3 **Cape May**, 24 **Blackburnian**, 13 **Bay-breasted**, 32 **Blackpoll**, 12 **Canada**, and 12 **Cerulean Warblers** there on May 16th. DW heard a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at SSP on Apr 11th. DB had several **Prairie Warblers** at her Street home throughout May. DG saw 6 **Palm Warblers** at Harford Glen on Apr 3rd. RC saw 4 **Kentucky Warblers** at SSP on May 7th. LJ found a **Mourning Warbler** at SSP on May 14th. DW heard one at his Webster Village home on May 17th. LS also had one at SSP on May 17th. LJ, RB, TH, and KJ saw a **Wilson's Warbler** at SSP on May 15th. DL saw one at Lakeside on May 16th.

Tanagers, Sparrows, Grosbeaks, Finches

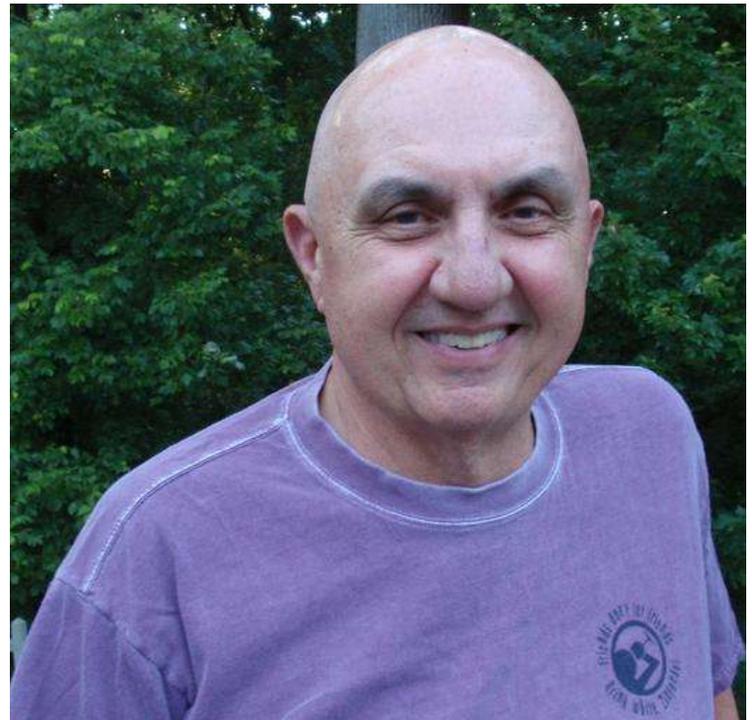
CS reported 8 **Scarlet Tanagers** on the Edgewood area of APG on May 3rd. DG saw a female **Eastern Towhee** at Harford Glen on Apr 3rd. LE saw several singing **Chipping Sparrows** along Wilkinson Rd on Mar 30th. KG saw a **Grasshopper Sparrow** at the Canninghouse Rd pond in Perryman on May 16th. DK saw several in the grassy fields in the northern part of the county throughout May. DW counted 42 **White-throated Sparrows** in his Webster Village yard on Apr 30th. He had zero the day before, so these were probably migrants passing through. DK had 5 **White-crowned Sparrows** along Bra-

denbaugh Rd on Apr 3rd. RB had one at her Bel Air feeder on May 16th. RB, TH, and KJ saw a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at SSP on May 15th. FM saw one there on May 16th. DK saw about 25 **Bobolinks** on and around his farm from Apr 27th through May 15th.

CS saw an **Eastern Meadowlark** on the Edgewood Area of APG on May 3rd. DL had a **Rusty Blackbird** at Harford Glen on Apr 24th. RC saw 2 male **Purple Finches** singing in the treetops at Lakeside on May 16th.

Contributors

CS- Chris Starling, DB- Debbie Bowers, DDR- Deidre De Roia, DG- Dave Gigliotti, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, DM- Dave McCollum, DW- Dave Webb, DZ- Dave Ziolkowski, FM- Frank Marengi, JG- John Gallo, GK- Geraldine King, JH- Johanne Henrickson, JT- Joe Turner, KG- Kevin Graff, KJ- Kye Jenkins, LE- Les Eastman, LJ- Lin Just, LS- Leslie Starr, MB- Mike Burchett, PL- Peter Lev, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, RC- Rick Cheicante, SH- Susan Hood, TF- Tom Field, TH- Tim Houghton



Tom Congersky is the subject of this month's Member Profile starting on the next page.

MEMBER PROFILE

Tom Congersky

Tom Congersky has long served on the bird club's Field Trip Committee as well as serving on the state board since 1989. Tom and his wife Nancy lived for many years in Edgewood Meadows, but moved to Cecil County several years ago to a new neighborhood with conserved land adjacent. He has feeders and birdbaths placed by the edge of the woods that comes up to his back yard. Debbie spoke with Tom at his home on June 7, during a dinner for Nancy's book club, held on their lovely deck overlooking the birdwatching area.

Debbie: Tom, when and where did you become a birder?

Tom: It probably started in the early 70's, taking field trips with Maryland science teachers on the Chesapeake Bay, and we saw Black-bellied Plovers, and I thought they were saying black-bellied flubbers, and I'd say, 'oh yeah, I see a couple more of those flubbers,' [laughter] – I just didn't have a clue... and so basically that was the start.

Debbie: So how did you continue?

Tom: Well, then, actually what happened was, of all the biology courses I had, I never had an ornithology class. And so in the early 80s I was getting out of coaching, I was interested in noncredit courses, and I saw a class on birds, and thought maybe I should take it, because my students would ask me about birds, and I just had no clue. This course was taught by "D. Kirkwood" – and I just had no clue. I ended up attending a teacher's meeting and I see Kirkwood on the list of people who were going to this science meeting. And so they said there was going to be a coffee break, and I stood up and said, "who in here is Kirkwood?" And it was Jean – who said Dennis would be so happy to have someone who was not a senior citizen, who would actually pay for the course. I took the course first, and Les Eastman took it the next semester. The interesting thing is, Nancy is the one who signed me up for the class – so she got me into birdwatching, so she can never complain... [laughter].

Debbie: What's your favorite bird?

Tom: That's interesting.... I'm going to say towhee.

Debbie: Really?

Tom: Yeah.

Debbie: What's so special about a towhee?



Tom: It was actually one of my first birds ...I think I it saw up in the Poconos, I didn't even see it around here, what happened was, when we moved here I used to hear towhees...

Debbie: It's a nice sound isn't it?

Tom: Yes, my grandsons say, oh, there's the drink-your-tea bird...

Debbie: OK, let me ask you, what was the best birding trip you ever took?

Tom: Oh, Texas.

Debbie: Why, what did you see there?

Tom: About 85 new birds. I don't have a number, but it was close to that. You know, you think you're never going to see a Vermilion Flycatcher, that kind of stuff, and every day you see 25 of them. All the orioles – not the Baltimore, and the Orchard oriole, but Bullock's and Scott's Orioles, and roadrunners, and just so many neat birds.

Debbie: When did you join the club?

Tom: I think about 1984.

Debbie: Tell me about the club back then.

Tom: I didn't attend many meetings, but I did go on field trips. John Wortman was leading a lot of them. It wasn't every weekend though, only about one field trip a month.

Debbie: Tom, what advice so you give to new birders?

Tom: Join the club and go on field trips.

Debbie: That's the best advice for learning, isn't it?

Tom: Yes, it really is...

Tom's Most memorable field trip: Tom said his most memorable field trip happened recently, when he invited a neighbor to go with him on the World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats field trip. The neighbor asked if she could bring a friend, whose name was Lee, who, when Tom met him "looked vaguely familiar." Lee was keen on seeing Horned Larks, which he had never seen, and Tom said he could almost guarantee they would see them. The day went well, and Horned Larks were spotted, even one Lee had particularly asked for – one showing its "horns." Back at the home of Dennis & Jean Kirkwood for a soup supper, Dennis Kirkwood struck up a conversation with Lee, and afterward excitedly told Tom something about his neighbor's friend. The birder's full name was Lee Allen Peterson, son of Roger Tory.

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

June 26 (Sat.) – Churchville Farm Tour. Visit two farms in the area that support great bird habitat. Expect meadowlarks, woodpeckers, field sparrow, and Yellow-breasted Chat. Meet at the Churchville Rec Center off Glenville Rd. at 7 am. Leader is Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net)

July 18 (Sun.) – Bombay Hook. Fall migration for shorebirds is in full swing and something rare always shows up. Meet at 7 am at the 155/95 Park and Ride. Leaders are Dave Larkin (410-569-8319; larkin3001@comcast.net) and Tom Gibson.

July 24 (Sat.) – Hummingbird Banding. See our smallest birds up close as host Les Eastman and bander Bruce Peterjohn trap and band Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Meet at 8:30 am at the Eastman residence. Call Les for directions (410-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com).

July 31 (Sat.) – Conowingo Dam. Search for terns, gulls, warblers, and shorebirds along the Susquehanna. Meet at the new observation deck near the dam at 7:30 am. The Leader is Russ Kovach (410-457-4274; Russell.kovach@gmail.com.)

August 14 (Sat.) – Hummingbird Happy Hour. Enjoy your favorite snack and beverage while watching dozens of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Meet at the Eastman house at 5 PM. Call Les for directions and info. (410)-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com.)

August 21 (Sat) – Wine Tasting & Nighthawks. Sitting atop a hill overlooking Havre de Grace and the Susquehanna flats, Mt. Felix Winery is a great location for a vineyard and birding. Combine these two passions into one fun-filled evening. Participants will sample 8 - 10 wines and receive a complimentary wine glass. Cost is \$12. Other details TBD. Point of contact is Marsha Webb, (410) - 939-3537.

August 22 (Sun.) – Dragonflies, Butterflies and Birds. Join leaders Terry Haley (terry.haley@charming.com) and Jean Wheeler (jswheeler44@msn.com; 410-838-6774) at 9:00 AM as they search for some of nature's most beautiful flying critters at the habitat diverse HCPS

environmental education center, Harford Glen. Harford Glen is located at the west end of Wheel Road off of Route 24. Meet in the upper parking lot.

August 28 (Sat.) – Kayak Trip at the Bosley Conservancy (Meet at the Bosley parking lot at the north end of Perry Ave. in Edgewood). Join staff from the Anita Leight Center and the Harford Bird Club and enjoy the final four hours of daylight paddling the calm waters of the Conservancy and Otter Point Creek. Expect a wide variety of species including herons, shorebirds, migrant songbirds, and much more. One and two person kayaks and gear will be provided by the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center for an \$8 fee per person – sorry, no BYO Kayaks. If you have never kayaked before, do not worry. There will be people there to help you. It is easy and the course we will be following will be well suited to beginners and experts alike. Bring a picnic meal and drinks. Contact the Leader, Dave Webb for details and reservations (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net). Lynn Ferrys will assist with bird identification.

Sept.4 (Sat.) – Ma and Pa Trail. Explore the newest section of this popular trail walking from Annie's playground to Tollgate Road. Field, forest, marsh, and water make for a variety of habitat and birdlife. Meet at Annie's playground on Smith Lane off Connolly Road in Fallston at 7:30 am. The leader is Susan Hood (410-877-0574; susanhood@comcast.net.)

Sept. 11 (Sat.) - Annual Fall Picnic/Social starting at 1:00 PM at the Eden Mill Pavilion – Join fellow club members for a delicious cookout featuring fantastic pit beef and other grilled meats. If you wish, bring a favorite dish to be shared. Food will be served starting at 2:00 PM. There will be a short bird walk along Deer Creek to work off a few calories.

Sept. 19 (Sun.) – Winters Run Road – This quiet back road provides great habitat for migrating songbirds and fall views of farms, estates and the always scenic Winters Run. Meet at the Route 24/95 Park and Ride in Edgewood at 7 am. The leader is Dave Larkin (410-569-8319; larkin3001@comcast.net).

Field Trip Reports

Perryman Area.

April 11

Perryman provides for a variety of habitat and seven of us ventured out on a beautiful Sunday. The first stop gave a great look at a Brown Thrasher and a Wood Duck. We then went to Perryman Park, probably the least known in the county. It has a paved walkway around the pond. Savannah Sparrow, bluebirds, ducks and shorebirds may be found. The park is at the end of a dead end dirt road. Horned Larks were located in two places. We were pleased to find four immature Bald Eagles. Good birding, good friends and 43 species equal a good day. ~ *Phil Powers*

Pish and Pedal

April 24

Six club members participated in the inaugural "Pish-n-Pedal" field trip -- a leisurely bicycle ride on the level roads of rural southern Cecil County, with birding stops along the way. We left our four-wheeled vehicles behind at Chesapeake City Park, with V.P. Beery always nearby driving the "sag wagon". En route to Courthouse Point MHA, we found a small flock of 7 Greater Yellowlegs in a flooded field. Once there, we added Purple Martin, White-eyed Vireo and Field Sparrow, but little else of note. Birds that we identified while pedaling included Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and House Wren. Near our final destination of Bethel MHA, we stopped at Sammons Pond and found our best birds of the morning -- an American Kestrel, 2 Great Egrets, 8 Cattle Egrets and a beautiful adult Little Blue Heron. Although the weather was great and the 15-mile ride very pleasant, our species count of 44 was low for a late April morning. ~ *Dave Webb*

Harford Glen

May 23

Although the weather forecast and the overcast conditions dimmed the prospects for good birding, the rain held off for the most part and our party of eight was treated to another fine birding experience at Harford Glen. As the gate slid open, our short caravan proceeded through but halted less than 100 feet in to

observe a **Pileated Woodpecker** (one of two for the day) near the road. We were treated to a broad spectrum of bird groups: **raptors** -- 2 adult **Bald Eagles** perching then flying; 2 **Osprey**, 1 flying, the other perched, but soaked; and a **Red-tailed Hawk** soaring; **flycatchers** -- **Great Crested**, 1 **Empidonax** seen, **Willow** and **Acadian** calling, **Pewee**, **Phoebe**, and **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**; **warblers** -- **Yellow** (M & F), many **Blackpoll**, **Magnolia** (great view of a gaudy male, only about 15 feet up), several **Common Yellowthroat**, **Cape May** (2 female), **Kentucky**, **American Redstart**, and **Ovenbird** calling repeatedly but never seen; **swallows** -- **Barn**, **Tree**, **Northern Rough-winged**, and **Chimney Swift**; **shore birds/waterfowl** -- **Least Tern** circling/dipping continuously over the lake, **Great Blue Heron**, **Great Egret**, a **Least Bittern** calling clearly and repeatedly early on in the morning but escaping our diligent attempts to view, and **Wood Duck** pair, paddling; **woodpeckers** -- **Downy**, **Red-bellied** (one went through several cycles of partially emerging from and then retreating back into a nest hole), **White-breasted Nuthatch**, and the two **Pileateds**; **other nice passerines** -- **Bluebird** (male & female), **Kingfisher** (flying, perching, calling), **Baltimore and Orchard Orioles** (including one on a nest that was confirmed 2 weeks later when both male and female were seen at the nest), **Scarlet Tanager**, **Indigo Bunting**, **Wood Thrush**, **Song & Chipping Sparrows**, **House & Carolina Wrens**, very nice view of **Rufous-sided Towhee**, **Red-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated Vireo** (calling only), several groups of **Cedar Waxwing** including two nesting birds, and **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**. So, with most of the more common species included (no House Sparrow and no House Finch!), we had a very fruitful day at the Glen with a total of 58 species identified as present, 53 seen and 5 calling only. ~ *Lynn Davis*

Conowingo Dam

June 6

Five club members met on a nice morning to see or hear 39 species of birds. Highlights were 50 Bald Eagles, lots of Orioles of both species and great looks at several Prothonotary Warblers and a very cooperative Louisiana Waterthrush. ~ *Les Eastman*

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.

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The Harford Bird Club Summer Social Reservation Form



Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Crestmont Drive, Aberdeen MD 21001 by Friday, July 2, 2010 if you plan on attending.

_____ Number of adults (at \$6.00 each)
_____ Number of children 12 and under (free!)

Please make checks payable to Harford County MOS.



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

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

TEL: _____

Address: _____



Harford Bird Club Summer Social Meeting

"Rise and Conquer: The Ravens of Baltimore"

by

Amy Eveleth, Maryland Zoo at Baltimore

Friday, July 9th, 2010

Meeting Time: 6:15 PM

ALL ARE ALSO INVITED FOR A BIRD WALK TO BEGIN AT 5:30!

Location: Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD 21009

(Reservation Form is on Page 9.)



www.harfordbirdclub.org

Visit us on the web:

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Martha Crouse-Farley

If unable to deliver, please return to:

