



Wrenderings



The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club

Volume 25 Number 1

August, 2011

President's Perch

As I begin my term as president of the Harford Bird Club, I can't help but think about how far we have come as an organization and how much the hobby (sport?) of bird watching has changed since I last held this position in 1989. It is certainly my impression that Harford currently has one of the most active and participatory chapters in the State. While we are not the largest chapter in members, we regularly have 50-70 attendees at our meetings and our field trips are numerous, varied, and well-attended. Twenty-two years ago we were a small chapter in MOS and our field trip committee consisted of John Wortman and Mildred Gebhart.

Beyond local meetings and field trips, our club is well-represented at the state level with Dr. Mark Johnson beginning his second term as State President. Dave Ziolkowski and Matt Hafner both serve on the State Records committee, indicative of the home grown birding talent in our midst. Dave Webb will soon assume the role of state treasurer, managing the financial resources for the good of birds and birders.

I accepted the office this time around because of the tremendous momentum that the club has shown in recent times and I didn't want that progress to recede. Our past executive board, headed by Dave Webb, has done an outstanding job of keeping our focus on not only the enjoyment of our natural resources, but in improving the local environment, educating the next generation, and keeping our affairs in excellent working order. We certainly owe them all a big thank you for their generous effort on behalf of the club.

As we march into the future, please continue to approach our hobby with enthusiasm and to share our club activities with friends and neighbors. We have a lot to offer to the community and we should never hesitate to get involved with activities that promote our mission and enhance the quality of life we enjoy in Harford County. I hope you will have lots of suggestions as to how we can keep our club growing and thriving and I look forward to hearing them. Thank you for always making it a pleasure to bird and socialize at our many club functions. I look forward to a fantastic two years ahead! ~ *Dennis Kirkwood*

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Plan Ahead!

- Annual Fall Picnic: Sat, Sep 3, 1:00 PM @ Eden Mill
- MOS Board Meeting: Sat, Sep 10, 10:00 AM @ Cylburn
- November Dinner Meeting: Fri, Nov 4, 6:15 PM @ Churchville Presbyterian Church
- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Fri, Dec 30

Harford Bird Club

Executive Board

President

Dennis Kirkwood
410-692-5905

Vice President

Matt Hafner
410-971-3203

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Jane Scocca
410-272-8870

Corresponding Secretary

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410-879-6098

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410-557-9485

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410-939-3537

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410-734-4135

Bird Count Coordinator

Rick Cheicante
410-803-2712

Dinner Reservations

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410-272-7017

Public Relations

Donna Yorkston
443-562-8501

Education Chairperson

Madeline Lovera
410-879-6098

Conservation Chair

Deborah Bowers
410-692-2708

State Board Members

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

Webmaster & Wrenderings Editor

Les Eastman
410-734-6969

Harford Bird Club Annual Fall Picnic

Welcome autumn at the Club's Annual Fall Picnic on September 3. For the second year in a row, the picnic will be held at the Eden Mill Nature Center. However, this year the picnic will be held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend instead of the Saturday after. One thing that won't change is the menu which includes delicious roast beef, hot dogs, corn on the cob, baked goods, and homemade crab soup. Remember to BYO beverage. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under 16.

Directions from the Bel Air area -- take MD 24 north through Rocks State Park to Rt. 165. Go $\frac{3}{4}$ ways around the circle and take Rt. 165 south for 2.1 miles. Turn right onto Fawn Grove Road. Drive 0.9 mile, and turn left into the parking area just before Eden Mill Road (also on left). Picnic is at the pavilion. The address is 1617 Eden Mill Road, Pylesville, MD 21132 for those who want to use MapQuest or a GPS to find the best way from their home.

The Reservation Form is on Page 7.

Bird Droppings

Club News?

Have news the club should know about? Births, deaths, marriages, or any other notable events that belong in the newsletter? Please contact Corresponding Secretary Madeline Lovera at 410-879-6098 or email to mlovera30@aol.com.

Welcome!

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

Victoria Lee Macin of Bel Air

It's Time to Pay Your Dues

Dues are now due for the club year from September 1, 2011, to August 31, 2012. The membership form is included on page 6 or you can print it from the web site at <http://www.harfordbirdclub.org/harfjoin.html>. Please fill out the form, enclose your check made payable to HARFORD MOS and mail it to our Treasurer, Marjie Heagy. We would like to have all dues paid by November 1. You may pick up your membership card at the November meeting or they will be mailed to you. ***Please do not send dues with the picnic reservation form.*** Thank You.

Vacation Reports

If you traveled over the summer and had any good birding experiences, please write a concise report of a couple of paragraphs for inclusion in the next newsletter. Please send them to Dennis Kirkwood at dkirkw@verizon.net or Les Eastman at les@harfordbirdclub.org.





Harford Birdlife

by: Monroe Harden

There weren't many reports for this period. I'll blame that on the oppressive summertime heat. Let's hope that the heat breaks in time for fall migration. This report covers the period from June 4th through July 30th, 2011.

Grebes, Herons, Hawks, Falcons

MH saw a **Pied-billed Grebe** at the new impoundment at Swan Harbor on Jul 24th. MaH saw single adult and juvenile **Little Blue Herons** at Harford Glen that same day. DL reported a **Green Heron** at Lakeside on Jul 10th. He also saw up to four **Osprey** on the nests there. On Jun 19th he saw a **Northern Harrier** there. He noted that these are not common here in the summer. MB had a **Broad-winged Hawk** near Peach Orchard Rd on Jul 1st. BH and SH saw an **American Kestrel** at the Bradenbaugh Flats on Jul 25th.

Sandpipers, Terns, Cuckoos

CS saw a **Spotted Sandpiper** at the Edgewood area of APG on Jun 28th. He also saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**. MJ reported one **Spotted**, one **Pectoral**, and five **Least Sandpipers** at Perryman Park on Jul 25th. He also saw a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** along with the sandpipers. MB saw and heard a singing **Black-billed Cuckoo** near his home in Darlington on Jul 1st. DL saw three **Least Terns** at Lakeside on Jun 19th. RB saw four near Otter Point Creek on Jul 29th.

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Larks

LE saw at least 20 **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** at his home near Havre de Grace on Jun 11th. This was the most he has seen this early in the season. On Jul 2nd, they had 48 new hummingbirds and 13 returning ones during a day of banding. This was a new record high number for a single day. BH and SH saw an adult **Red-headed Woodpecker** chasing at least one young bird around the Bradenbaugh Flats on Jul 25th. BiH reported a singing **Willow Flycatcher** along Bradenbaugh Road on Jul 16th. He also saw several **Horned Larks** near Harford Creamery Rd. DL saw a **Willow Flycatcher** at Lakeside on Jul 4th. He saw a **Great-crested Flycatcher** there on Jul 10th.

Swallows, Thrushes, Warblers

DL saw 2 **Northern Rough-winged** and 22 **Barn Swallows** at Lakeside on Jul 4th. He had 9 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** there on Jul 10th. MaH saw a group of about 60 **Bank Swallows** on the Oakington Peninsula. This was a pure group of Bank Swallows. SH

saw 10 **Cliff Swallow** nests occupied at a location along Broad Creek on Jul 16th. LE saw and heard a singing **Veery** at the Susquehanna State Park campground on Jun 30th. MH saw a scruffy looking **Brown Thrasher** along the access road to Swan Harbor on Jul 24th. SH saw a pair of **Ovenbirds** near Bottom Road on Jul 18th. The female performed the distraction display.

Tanagers, Sparrows, Orioles

SH saw a **Scarlet Tanager** singing in her Fallston yard on Jun 12th. MJ reported a young **Eastern Towhee** trying to sing in Perryman Park on Jul 25th. It was not doing a very good job with the song. BiH saw and heard a **Savannah Sparrow** singing along Bradenbaugh Road on Jul 16th. DL noted an **Orchard Oriole** at Lakeside on Jun 19th. SH saw an adult male **Baltimore Oriole** chasing two young ones near Annie's Trail in Fallston on Jun 9th.

Contributors

BH- Bob Hood, BiH- Bill Hubick, CS- Chris Starling, DL- Dave Larkin, LE- Les Eastman, MH- Monroe Harden, MaH- Matt Hafner, MB- Mike Burchett, MJ- Mark Johnson, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, SH- Susan Hood.

Conservation Concern

By Debbie Bowers, HBC Conservation Chair

The Harford County Dept. of Parks and Recreation is conducting an online survey as part of its update to the county's Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The emphasis, as stated in a recent Aegis article, is to "acquire more land and to use the land to develop community centers." In my opinion, the county executive's idea for recreation goals sounds more like a building and construction (read economic development) plan than a parks plan. The county needs to hear from you that open and wooded land is needed for passive recreation, such as walking and bird watching, especially in our more populous areas. You may wish to add that part of the plan should include the planting of indigenous trees and shrubs that provide food and shelter for wildlife. Please go to the [Harford County Parks & Recreation](http://www.harfordcountyparks.com) website and click on the LPPRP Survey link and give the Department your views on recreational needs in the county. Your responses will take about 7-10 minutes.

Field Trip Reports

Harford County Breeder's Cup

By Matt Hafner

On June 11, 2011, at 3am, Susan Hood, Dennis Kirkwood, Dave Webb, and I met in Aberdeen, listening to a **Northern Mockingbird**, to start Harford County's first Breeder's Cup competition. Well, because we were the only people competing, it was less of a competition and more of just a fun day of birding Harford County.

We began the morning "under Dave's escort" heading onto the Proving Ground to listen for Eastern Whip-poor-wills. The Whips didn't cooperate for us, but a **Yellow-breasted Chat** and a very loud mockingbird kept the night from being silent. Next up for predawn was Swan Harbor where the impoundment was alive with frogs, **Marsh Wrens**, and surprising flock of roosting **Barn Swallows**. Unfortunately, many of the specialties were quiet; fortunately, it gave us good reason to come back later in the day.

We arrived at Perryman just a little too late for American Woodcock and Wild Turkey to be calling, but there were several **Chats**, **Brown Thrashers**, **Blue Grosbeaks**, and **Field Sparrows** to listen to as we hoped for a Northern Bobwhite to sound off. Dave had heard a Bobwhite here a few weeks ago, so I have hopes they are still breeding in the area, but they eluded us this day.

As we were leaving Perryman, we stopped at Michaelsville, a small collection of houses near the fence for the Proving Ground. Dave mentioned that, on the May Count, Dave Ziolkowski called up a **Cooper's Hawk** from this area and that we should stop and play a Cooper's Hawk call. I played one call of Cooper's Hawk on the iPod and sure enough a hawk comes out from the pines near the houses and calls back to us. Wow!

On the way to Susquehanna State Park we swung through Havre de Grace picking up some new waterbirds and **Bank Swallow**. Susquehanna was productive as always with specialty birds like **Cerulean Warbler**, **Yellow-throated Vireo**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, and **Louisiana Waterthrush**. We knew Yellow-throated Warbler would be difficult this time of year and were not surprised to miss them. We were surprised that we couldn't find a Kentucky Warbler though. The best bird we found was a young **Broad-winged Hawk** soaring near the pump station on Craig's Corner Road. Young Broad-wings are often later migrants and many just wander, so this bird was not likely breeding in the area.

We had missed Black-crowned Night-Heron in Havre de Grace so we decided to make run through Conowingo. On the way down Shuresville Rd, stop the car! Did you hear that? **Kentucky Warbler!** Awesome! When you're birding with a Big Day mentality, these little moments can really increase your energy level.

After scanning through the trees on Roland Island and not seeing any night-herons, Dennis spotted one on the shoreline rocks. We made a quick count of the **Bald Eagles** on the towers and rocks, 48! Right as we were about to leave we spotted a **Peregrine** on top of the dam. Are they nesting locally this year? If you know, please tell us!

A run through the Broad Creek area was next as we picked up **Hooded Warbler**, **Cliff Swallow**, and **Pine Warbler**. The Cliff Swallows made us sweat it out a bit. We didn't see any for the first 10

minutes we were there and there were no nests on the northeast side of the bridge. Finally, 3 Cliff Swallows came down and were attending a nest we could not see on the southwest side.

We headed west across the county stopping at various fields and finding **Eastern Meadowlarks** and **Horned Larks**. A stop at Eden Mill produced our only **Prairie Warblers** and **Hairy Woodpecker** of the day. Also our first **Downy Woodpecker** at 11:30am! Dennis took us to one of his secret spots, the old Madonna Landfill. Three **Blue-winged Warblers** showed well for us here, but we could not find an Eastern Towhee. We can't miss towhee in a full day of birding, right?

Next up were the World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats. Dennis had staked out some **Red-headed Woodpeckers** for us and we were able to count at least 3 present. As we went back to the car, Dave Webb's sharp ears noticed an out-of-place song coming from White Pines across the wheat field. **Blue-headed Vireo!** First summer record for Harford County! It took some searching, but eventually we were all able to get good looks at this singing male that appeared to be of the Appalachian subspecies *alticola*.

After stopping at Subway for lunch, we headed down to Harford Glen, hoping to pick up **Wood Duck** and **Least Tern**. Both species were present, but the highlight for me was seeing 3 Baltimore Checkerspot butterflies. Glad to see the reintroduction and restoration efforts are working!

After a disappointing morning, we had to go back to Swan Harbor. We arrived around 4pm and walked straight down to the pier hoping for something...anything. There were 2 **Mute Swans** out so far that there was legitimate discussion over whether or not they were birds. That was fun. We made our way over to the impoundments by walking the wooded edges hoping for Eastern Towhee. Did we really go the whole day without seeing or hearing one? We had added up our list and decided that our goal was 105 species and we needed 3 more to make that happen. We still had good shots for Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, and Eastern Towhee.

It took 2 different birds flying across the impoundment before all of us saw one, but **Least Bittern** was our first new bird. As we walked around the back of the impoundment we spotted a raptor soaring over to the trees to the north, **Northern Harrier!** Sweet! That was my first summer record for Harford and it is listed as accidental on the county checklist. It was not long after this a **Common Moorhen** began calling from the cattails. We thought if we went around to the other side of the impoundment we would be able to see this elusive bird. That began our 45 minute failed attempt to see the 2 Common Moorhens that were taunting us from the reeds. There have not been Common Moorhens present in Harford County during the breeding season for many years so this is especially exciting. As you visit Swan Harbor this summer be on the lookout for little moorhen chicks so we can confirm this rare bird as breeding in the county!

We decided to call it day at 105 species with our 3 new birds added at Swan Harbor. Wait a minute, I forgot to check off Eastern Meadowlark. 106 species! It was a great day with fantastic company and I look forward to trying it again next year.

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Dennis Kirkwood

August 20 (Sat.) – Nighthawks and Owls. A dusk and twilight trip to look for some of our more elusive birds. Meet at the Jarrettsville Elementary School parking lot at 7:00 PM. Bring a lawn chair for a sky watch to start on the Bradenbaugh Flats. Then the trip will move to Hidden Valley and attempt to find three species of owls. The leader and contact person is Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; dkirkw@verizon.net).

August 27 (Sat.) – Cape May NJ. A visit to one of the best birding locations on the East Coast at prime time for migrating warblers. Meet at 5:30 AM at the 155/95 Park and Ride. Leaders are Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) and Randy Robertson (410-273-9029; r.c.robertson@comcast.net).

Sept. 3 (Sat.) - Annual Fall Picnic at Eden Mill. (Social – 1:00 PM; Food served – 2:00 PM). Join congenial fellow club members for a pleasant end of Summer, beginning of Fall celebration featuring pit beef and other delicious dishes and a short bird walk along beautiful Deer Creek to work off some of those calories.

Sept.10 (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 habitats 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; susanjhood@comcast.net).

Sept. 18 (Sun.) – Winters Run Road. This quiet back road provides beautiful rural scenery and great habitat for migrating songbirds. Meet at the route 24/95 park and ride in Edgewood at 7:00 AM. Leaders are Lynn Davis (410-569-0504; lynnd@iximd.com) and Ruth Bergstrom (858-204-5953; ruth22@yahoo.com)

Sept. 21 (Wed.) – Falling Branch Road. One of Harford's most pristine streams, Falling Branch, will be explored on foot with a view of the falls at the end. Expect lots of migrant songbirds and raptors. The leader is Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; dkirkw@verizon.net). Meet in the lower parking lot of The Eden Mill Nature Center at 7:30 AM.

September 25 (Sun.) – Swan Harbor Farm Park. This Harford County Gem has developed into a fine location for a broad spectrum of bird life, including waterfowl,

marsh specialties, raptors, and sparrows. Meet at 7:30 AM at the parking lot adjacent to the Agricultural Education Center (near end of driveway). Contact the leader, Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) for additional information.

October 1 (Sat.) - Eden Mill Park. A bird-banding demonstration will be followed by a walk along Deer Creek to enjoy the bird-rich habitats of this area. This trip is especially attractive for beginners and children. Expect warblers, kingfishers, and Wood Ducks. Meet at the banding station on Eden Mill Road at 8:00 AM. Leaders are Les Eastman (410-734-6969; les@birdtreks.com), Sue Procell (410-676-6602; procell1@comcast.net) and Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; mark.s.johnson@us.army.mil).

October 8 (Sat) – Cromwell Valley Park. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Park and Ride on Fallston Rd (Rt 152) just north of Harford Road (Rt. 147). This Baltimore County park always has surprises during late fall migration. Contact leader, Phil Powers at 410-679-4116 or birdsinmd@verizon.net.

October 9 (Sun) – Broad Creek Pontoon Boat Excursion. Join leader Dennis Kirkwood for this unique birding and boating experience along Scenic Broad Creek and the Conowingo Lake. Because space is limited, advanced reservations are required. Contact Dennis at 410-692-5905; dkirkw@verizon.net. Meet at the Broad Creek boat launch on Caselton and Paddrick Roads at 2:00 PM.

October 23 (Sun.) - Chino Farms This Eastern Shore location offers diverse habitat promising an array of avian species with a focus on sparrows. This ¾ day trip will include a lunch stop and some other nearby possible hot spots time permitting. The leader is Matt Hafner (410-971-3203; mh1920@aol.com)

October 29 (Sat.) Owl Prowl at Eden Mill – Search for owls during this Saw-whet eruption year at this reliable location for these nocturnal hunters. Banding of Saw-whets will take place. Meet with leader Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) at the Mill at 7:00 PM.



HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

It's time to renew your membership for the 2011-2012 membership year. To renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, please detach this page and mail completed form along with check to:

Marjorie Heagy
1438 Sharon Acres Road
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Membership Year - September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012

- Individual \$33.00 Sustaining \$63.00
 Life (see below) Household \$39.00
 Junior \$10.00

OR

Memberships for those who are either members of another MOS Chapter or are MOS Life Members.

- Individual \$13.00 Household \$19.00

Please indicate your MOS membership status:

- MOS Life Member (After 9/1/90)
 Member of _____ MOS Chapter

_____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Make Checks payable to Harford County MOS)

- New Harford Bird Club Membership* Renewal

Please give names below as they should appear on the membership list.

Married couples should give both names.

Name _____

Street & # _____

City, State _____

Zip Code _____ Telephone _____

Email Address _____

- Check here if this is a new address, phone number or email
 Check here if you object to having your name, address, and phone number listed in the state directory.
 Check here if you would like to receive your Harford Chapter newsletter by email.

*If a new member, how did you find out about the Harford County Bird Club?

An "Individual" membership is anyone 18 or older.

A "Junior" membership is someone younger than 18 whose parents are not members (i.e., not part of a household membership)

A "Household" membership is all persons residing at the same address. (A student who is away at school and wants publications mailed to the school address must be in the Individual class.)

Life Membership dues are: State \$1000.00 and Chapter \$300.00.

New life memberships have the option of paying \$11.00* per year chapter dues in lieu of the \$300.00 lump sum. Life

memberships effective prior to September 1, 1990, are exempt from any further chapter dues payment.

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

WBM Open Saturdays
Call ahead for birdseed purchases!



Wild Bird Marketplace

Forest Hill, MD
Phone # 410-836-5000
Email: wbm@clearviewcatv.net



The Olive Tree Restaurant

1005 Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen
Phone # 410-272-6217
Hours: Sun-Sat 11-11



The Greene Turtle

1113 Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen 21001
Phone # 410-942-4020
Hours: Sun-Sat 11-2 am



The Laurrapin Grille

209 N Washington St, Havre de Grace
Phone # 410-939-4956
Hours: Tue-Thu 11-10, Fri-Sat 11-2 am,
Sun 12-5



Lyons Pharmacy

328 St. John Street, Havre de Grace
Phone # 410-939-4545



Harford Lanes

20 Custis Street, Aberdeen
Phone # 410-272-3555
Visit on the web at bowlharfordlanes.com
for hours



Fast Eddie's Pit Beef

1834 Pulaski Highway, Havre de Grace
Phone # 410-306-6539
Hours: Sun-Sat 10:30-9



The Harford Bird Club Annual Picnic Reservation Form

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Crestmont Drive, Aberdeen MD 21001 by Friday, August 26, 2011 if you plan on attending.

_____ Number of adults (at \$12.00 each)
_____ Number of children 16 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 ANNUAL PICNIC

Featuring the BBQ Prowess of
Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson

Saturday, September 3rd, 2011

Social Hour - 1:00 PM

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

Location: Eden Mill Nature Center
1617 Eden Mill Road
Pylesville, MD 21132



Mail To:

If unable to deliver, please return to:
Madeline Lopera
2068 Brandy Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050

