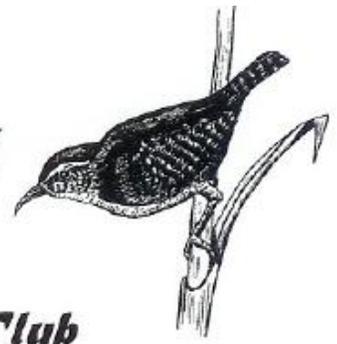




# Wrenderings



*The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club*

Volume 25 Number 3

December, 2011

## President's Perch

I hope that everyone had a chance to see the movie *The Big Year* starring Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson. Unfortunately it had a rather short life on the big screen but all the bird/movie watchers I talked to enjoyed laughing at our birding eccentricities while savoring the special locations and sightings that were highlighted in the film. My only concern is that the movie may have left a bad impression with some concerning our practice of listing, especially when it takes on a competitive nature.

During thirty plus years of activity with birds and birders, I have had many conversations about why people choose to keep lists or not as they engage in our hobby. From my observations, listing seems to have little to do with birding ability and/or intensity. I must admit that I cringed at the movie's implication that the "world's best birder" was the person with the longest list. Some of the best birders I have had the privilege to knowing, based on identification skills and wealth of knowledge about birds, never bother to keep a life list. They might reference a "life bird" but can't tell you how long their life list is. Conversely, some of the longest listers I've known are actually pretty deficient in identification skills and appreciate greatly having a guide to point out and confirm all those life sightings.

I will confess to being a lister of sorts. It is a way for me to recall pleasant memories of sightings and usually great comradery in the field. I still keep my North American list in the *Golden Guide to Birds of North America* by Chandler Robbins, et al., because that was the field guide that I got started with in 1977. As I thumb through the book, each bird that I have seen gives me a smile as I recall where and when it first crossed my path. I also keep a world list, a Maryland State list, a Harford County list, and a neighborhood list. For a lister, this is actually a modest number of tallies as many birders keep a state-by-state or every Maryland county list. For me, that extreme would begin to take away the enjoyment that I derive from this practice.

It can be argued that note-keeping of this sort is important science data that indeed most of the famous bird enthusiasts through history have engaged in. On occasions, my list has enabled me to report to certain scientific publications when and where I witnessed a special species or activity. While most of us do not expect to turn our hobby into a scientific endeavor, the contributions of "amateurs" to ornithology is as significant as almost any other professional science field. If you have ever done a Christmas count, you have helped to provide scientific data that is now a part of the record.

When new birders ask me about the value of keeping a list, I usually reply that if it adds to their enjoyment of the hobby, then they may want to consider it. If it becomes burdensome, then forget it. As far as competition goes, I have never done a big year and probably never will due to cost and other obligations. I have never known a birder who wasn't anxious to share sightings of rarities with other birders, knowing that one more "tick" on their list doesn't negate one on another's list. By knowing the length of someone's list, I can engage them in bird conversation on an appropriate level based on his/her experience. To me it is all a part of our funny and fun little hobby. Listers, nonlisters, partial listers, backyard feeder watchers – there is room for birders of all feathers!

~ Dennis Kirkwood

## Inside this issue:

<b>President's Perch</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bird Droppings</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Award Nominations</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Harford Birdlife</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Upcoming Field Trips</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Field Trip Reports</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>January Meeting Announcement</b>	<b>8</b>

## Plan Ahead!

- Rock Run Christmas Bird Count: Fri, Dec 30
- January Meeting @ Churchville Presbyterian Church. Jan 6. (Snow date Jan 13.)
- Sat Jan 28, 2012, MidWinter Bird Count
- State Convention Feb. 24-26, Ocean City
- March dinner meeting Mar 2, 6:15 pm @ Churchville Presbyterian Church.

## Harford Bird Club

### Executive Board

#### President

Dennis Kirkwood  
410-692-5905

#### Vice President

Matt Hafner  
410-971-3203

#### Recording Secretary

Jane Scocca  
410-272-8870

#### Corresponding Secretary

Madeline Lovera  
410-879-6098

#### Treasurer

Marjie Heagy  
410-557-9485

#### Past President

Dave Webb  
410-939-3537

#### Field Trip Chairperson

Tom Gibson  
410-734-4135

#### Bird Count Coordinator

Rick Cheicante  
410-803-2712

#### Dinner Reservations

Eileen Nack  
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

## Vice President Matt Hafner Speaks at the January Meeting

The January meeting will take place on Friday the 6th at 6:45 PM at Churchville Presbyterian Church. In case Harford County Public Schools are closed or let out early due to inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until Friday, Jan 13th at the same start time. Please note that the meeting is scheduled for the first Friday in January and not the second Friday as has been our practice in previous years. There will be no dinner but light refreshments will be provided.

Matt Hafner will give a presentation about his adventures looking for pelagic birds off the coast of the mid-Atlantic.

## 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](mailto: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!

**Paula Conoscenti of Newark, DE**

### Member News

Our condolences to Joe and Melody Stevenson the passing of Joe's dad. He was 96 and lived in PA.

Spike Updegrove had heart by-pass surgery on Oct. 15 and is now recovering well in Florida.

Kristin Kirkwood and Chester "Chet" Feldmann of Annapolis announced their engagement and the wedding will be in May at Swan Harbor Farm.

Heather Kirkwood passed the MD State Bar Exam and was sworn into the Maryland Bar on December 14.

Congratulations go out to Becky and John Gallo on the arrival of their new baby, Christopher Bruce, who arrived on November 15.

Former President and long-time Harford Bird Club member, Dr. Edgar Folk, brought a box of bird related literature to our last meeting as he is downsizing and needed to clear some space. The books will be available at the January meeting, compliments of Dr. Folk, for anyone to add to his/her collection. Limit one to a customer until everyone has had a chance to look over the collection.

### Some Dues Are Past Due

Some of you still have not paid your dues for the 2011-12 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 or [msheagy@zoominternet.net](mailto:msheagy@zoominternet.net).

## Award Nominations for 2010

Each year the club recognizes club members and community members who contribute to our mission through our annual award program. We are now accepting nominations for our 2011 awards which include: Bird of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Birder of the Year, Lister of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. The awards will be presented at the March 2012 dinner meeting. See page 5 of the bylaws at <http://harfordbirdclub.org/HBCBylaws2009.pdf> for a description of each award. In addition to our regular Lister Award, we also want to recognize any club member who maintains bird lists of any type and has reached a memorable milestone on their list (e.g., 100 backyard birds, 500 life birds, etc.) Please send your nominations to Dennis Kirkwood ([newarkfarms@gmail.com](mailto:newarkfarms@gmail.com)) with a brief explanation of why the individual merits recognition.

## Mid-Winter Count

The Harford County Mid-Winter Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday, January 28th. 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! Contact the coordinator, Rich Cheicante, at 410-803-2712 or [rickcheicante@cs.com](mailto:rickcheicante@cs.com) to let him know where you will be counting to avoid overlap. Thanks and good birding.

## November Meeting Trivia Question

According to the American Birding Association, which state has the largest list of birds sighted within the state and which state has the shortest list? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter.

## Don't Throw Out Those Christmas Cards



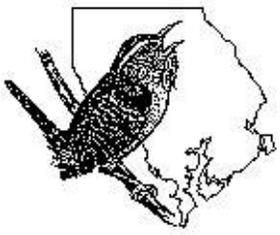
Recycle your used Christmas cards by donating them to the Harford Bird Club. Bring the fronts only to the January meeting. Then your cards will be turned into gift cards and bookmarks to be distributed whenever the club is exhibiting at local festivals and functions. The emphasis should be on bird and nature cards, but all will be accepted.

## Vacation Report

By Susan Hood

In mid-summer I had the pleasure of meeting my three sisters in the Canadian Rockies for a hiking trip. I've been frustrated going on trips with non-birders when I'm not allowed to spend enough time seeking locational specialties, but my sisters are somewhat tolerant of my hobby and I was rewarded with great looks at some high-elevation northern species. I saw three new "life birds" and two new mammal species, but also enjoyed great looks at some previously seen critters in magnificent new settings at times when I really needed a mental and physical break from the rigors of long, steep hiking, sometimes in the rain. I picked up Boreal Chickadee and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches in Banff, as well as Ermine (Short-tailed Weasel). I found Black Swifts soaring above Maligne Canyon in Jasper, after searching for their nest sites along narrow walls of rushing waterfalls. Loud scolding birds alerted me to an American Marten hunting in a tree, in an area loaded with Columbian Ground Squirrels. A Golden Eagle soared above a shrinking glacier, and we encountered a "peck of Pikas" on their huge rock pile. A female Harlequin Duck added to my enjoyment of a gorgeous sunrise at Lake Louise, and many juvenile Clark's Nutcrackers begged incessantly at the huge Chateau there. An

American Dipper entertained all of us while it fed in a tiny stream right on a steep trail, and further on I encountered a Black-backed Woodpecker, then a lone Barrow's Goldeneye on a pond not far from a Hoary Marmot just below the snow-covered Sentinel Pass, which we slogged up for an incredible view. Other close encounters included a White-tailed Ptarmigan calling to her four chicks, a Golden-crowned Sparrow singing uniquely and flashing a gleaming golden crown, a trio of Merlins cavorting near our river lodge, and a Dusky Grouse feeding with chicks on the side of the road. A Black Bear scared us near our car in the hotel parking lot early one morning, so I was glad we didn't have any close encounters with Grizzlies after all the warnings we'd heard. The only "touristy" thing we did was take a "snow coach" tour up on a glacier so that we could get out and stand upon the diminishing "river of ice" and appreciate the clear cold color of glacier blue, in contrast to the many amazing glacial lakes which are surreal in their opaque aqua color. Our adventure concluded in Calgary where we walked around the University, site of the Winter Olympics, where I added another "lifer", a White-tailed Jackrabbit, an overgrown hare grazing contentedly on the lawn, uninhibited by our presence. It was an exhausting week, but such a memorable experience!



# Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

We had several nice rarities this fall, demonstrating the value of staying out and alert after most of the fall migrants have passed by. This report covers the period from Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> through Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011.

## Geese, Ducks, Grebes, Bitterns

MA saw about 20 **Snow Geese** at Swan Harbor on Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. They were with a larger group of **Canada Geese**. DK had 3 or 4 **Cackling Geese** among many Canada Geese at Turney's Pond off Harford Creamery Road starting on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> and continuing into early December. CS reported 5 **Wood Ducks**, 2 **Blue-winged Teal**, and 12 **Pied-billed Grebes** in the waters around the Edgewood Area of APG on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.



MA saw 3 **Redheads** and 2 **Common Goldeneyes** in the new retaining pond at Swan Harbor on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. The Redhead group grew to about 15 by the end of the month.

DK had 3 drake **Bufflehead** at Turney's Pond on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. SH saw an **American Bittern** at Swan Harbor on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. PV saw one there on Nov 28<sup>th</sup>.



## Raptors, Sandpipers, Owls

RB saw a late **Osprey** at Harford Glen on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. DW and his family saw a group of 5 **Bald Eagles** on the ground in Churchville on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. There was no sign of any recent carcasses nearby. On Nov 26<sup>th</sup>,



DK saw about 100 **Bald Eagles** at Conowingo Dam. RK, AK, and AnK saw an **American Kestrel** at their Darlington home on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. BG had a **Merlin** at Swan Harbor one day during the week of Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.

MJ reported about 150 **Killdeer** near the intersection of Aldino Road and Rt 155 near Havre de Grace on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. He also saw a **Lesser Yellowlegs** and 2 **Pectoral Sandpipers**. RK and his family heard a **Barred Owl** calling near their Darlington home on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>. A day later, they had an **Eastern Screech-Owl** and a **Great Horned Owl** there. DB also heard a **Barred Owl** near her home in Street on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. DP and several others found a



**Short-eared Owl** at Swan Harbor on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Pipits

The Kellar family in Darlington is hosting a hatch year female **Rufous Hummingbird**. It was been visiting their feeder since October 23<sup>rd</sup>. MW reported a lingering **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** at their Webster Village



feeder on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. RB found a juvenile **Red-headed Woodpecker** at Harford Glen on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. DK reported 2 near Harford Creamery Road on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. TH saw 3 **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** at Ladew Gardens on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>. SH had a **Brown Creeper** at her Fallston yard on

Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. She also saw a **Winter Wren** at Eden Mill on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. DK had 2 at Conowingo Dam on Nov 26<sup>th</sup>. MH noted a **Marsh Wren** at Swan Harbor on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. DK had a group of 65 **American Pipits** on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Oct 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Warblers, Sparrows, Blackbirds

TH saw 5 **Tennessee**, 2 **Nashville**, and 2 **Worm-eating Warblers** at Ladew Gardens on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. MH had 1 Western and 2 Yellow **Palm Warblers** at Swan Harbor on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. On Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, MH found a brightly colored **Nelson's Sparrow** at Swan Harbor. It was singing an odd whisper song. This bird was also seen on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. He and several others also found a **Le Conte's Sparrow** there on Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. This bird was seen and photographed by many others in the following days. Photos show that it lost its tail between Nov 26<sup>th</sup> and Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. While looking for this bird on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, DL and PL saw a **Clay-colored Sparrow** near the same area. There were also several **American Tree, Savannah, Song, and Swamp Sparrows** in the vicinity. CS reported several **Rusty Blackbirds** on the Edgewood Area of APG on Nov 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Contributors

AK- Annie Kovach, AnK- Andrew Kovach, BG- Becky Gallo, CS- Chris Starling, DB- Debbie Bowers, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL, Dave Larkin, DP- Dave Palmer, DW- Dave Webb, MA- Matt Anthony, MH- Matt Hafner, MJ- Mark Johnson, MW- Marsha Webb, PL- Peter Lev, PV- Pat Valdata, RB- Ruth Bergstrom, RK- Russ Kovach, SH- Susan Hood, TH- Tim Houghton

# Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Lynn Davis

**December 30 (Fri.) – Christmas Bird Count.** Contact the count coordinator, Rick Cheicante (410-803-2712; [rickcheicante@cs.com](mailto:rickcheicante@cs.com)) to participate in this traditional count.

**January 1 (Sun) Perryman Area.** Celebrate the new year/recover from New Year's Eve by birding the always productive Perryman Area with leader Phil Powers (410-679-4116 or [birdsindm@verizon.net](mailto:birdsindm@verizon.net)). Meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot at 8:30 AM.

**January 7 (Sat.) Conowingo Gull/Eagle Watch.** Les Eastman (410-734-6969; [les@birdtreks.com](mailto:les@birdtreks.com)) leads this morning survey from Fisherman's Park just below the Conowingo dam on the Harford County side of the Susquehanna. Meet at 8:00 AM to begin the search for Bald Eagles, some prospect for a Golden Eagle, various gulls and waterfowl.

**January 14 (Sat.) – Annual Feeder Tour** – A great way to enjoy birds and the fellowship of other birders from the comfort of a warm home complete with breakfast goodies. Join us in the Abingdon/Edgewood area as we visit the homes of club members. For further information and to reserve your spot contact Ruth Bergstrom (443-752-1967; [ruthb22@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthb22@yahoo.com)) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; [Suzanne.a.procell.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Suzanne.a.procell.civ@mail.mil)). Don't forget your bins.

**January 21 (Sat.) – Blackwater Wildlife Refuge** – Blackwater is one of the most reliable birding locations in the state. Diverse habitat provides a broad variety of species with a focus at this time on wintering waterfowl. The leaders are Tom Congersky (410-658-4137; [jnitcon@zoominternet.net](mailto:jnitcon@zoominternet.net)) and Randy Robertson. Meet at the commuter lot on Route 155 at the intersection with I-95 near Havre de Grace at 7:00 AM.

**January 28 (Sat.) – Mid Winter Bird Count.** Contact the local compiler, Rick Cheicante (410-803-2712; [rickcheicante@cs.com](mailto:rickcheicante@cs.com)) to participate in this opportunity to measure birdlife abundance in our area. Feeder counters are especially welcome.

**February 4 (Sat.) – Bradenbaugh Flats.** Take a pleasant tour through NW Harford County's agricultural area to find wintering field birds and waterfowl. Expect Horned Larks, Ring-necked Ducks, with a chance for Cackling Goose, longspurs and Snow Buntings. The trip ends at the leader's house with hot soup. Meet at Jarrettsville Elementary School at 8:00 AM. Contact Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; [newarkfarms@gmail.com](mailto:newarkfarms@gmail.com)) for further information.

**February 12 (Sun.) - Loch Raven Reservoir.** Enjoy the rich habitat of Baltimore's premier watershed for wintering migrant songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Meet at the

Route 147/152 Park-and- Ride near Fallston at 8:00 AM. Co-leaders are Dave Larkin (410-569-8319 or [dlarkin@towson.edu](mailto:dlarkin@towson.edu)) and Phil Powers (410-679-4116 or [birdsindm@verizon.net](mailto:birdsindm@verizon.net))

**February 18 (Sat.) – Swan Harbor Farm Park.** This Harford County gem with three impoundments, a commanding view of the Bay, wooded trails, and open fields has developed into a fine location for a broad spectrum of bird life, including waterfowl, marsh specialties, raptors, and sparrows. Meet at 8:00 AM at the parking lot adjacent to the Agricultural Education Center (near end of driveway). Leaders are Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; [gibsonlld@aol.com](mailto:gibsonlld@aol.com)) and John Gallo.

**March 3 (Sat.) – Broad Creek Scout Camp.** Explore the diverse habitats of this extensive and beautiful camp for wintering songbirds and possible raptors. Meet at Dublin Elementary School on Rt. 136 north of Rt. 1 at 8:30 AM. Co-leaders are Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; [cwebster@harford.edu](mailto:cwebster@harford.edu)) and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; [suzanne.a.procell.civ@mail.mil](mailto:suzanne.a.procell.civ@mail.mil)).

**March 7 (Wed.) – Timberdoodle Search.** Meet at 6:00 PM at the commuter lot at Rt.155 and I-95 and proceed to a nearby location that has reliably produced fascinating woodcock activity as darkness begins to descend. Leading is Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; [gibsonlld@aol.com](mailto:gibsonlld@aol.com))

**March 11 (Sun.) – Harford Glen.** Meet at the Glen (west end of Wheel Road) at 8:00 AM. Begin this tour with sightings from the parking lot, then proceed to survey the triple riparian habitats of Atkisson Reservoir, the faster flowing Winter's Run, and tributary Plumtree Run. Add the woodland trails and some open meadow to offer great opportunities for good birding. Co-leaders are Phil Powers (410-679-4116 or [birdsindm@verizon.net](mailto:birdsindm@verizon.net)) and Ruth Bergstrom (443-752-1967; [ruthb22@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthb22@yahoo.com)).

**March 14 (Wed.) - Timberdoodle Search.** Join this evening watch for one of our most interesting (and elusive!) birds, the American Woodcock, as it performs its mating sky dance. Meet at 6:45 PM at the 155/95 Park and Ride. The Leaders are Elaine Beery (410-272-6037; [ehbeery@yahoo.com](mailto:ehbeery@yahoo.com)) and Jane Scocca.

**March 17 (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. If we are lucky, we will arrive in time to see the blackbird megaflocks arise and the ducks stir. Bring a photo ID for admittance to APG. The leader is Dave Webb (410-939-3537 or [porzana@comcast.net](mailto:porzana@comcast.net)).

# Field Trip Reports

## Cromwell Valley Park

A beautiful day greeted eleven birders at Cromwell Valley Park. If you have not visited, please add it to your list of birding sites for 2012. This location is very good for both spring and fall migration. A small creek creates an ideal view for warblers, sparrows and woodpeckers. Forty-six was our count for the day which included Brown Creeper, Brown Thrasher, Chestnut-sided Warbler and American Kestrel. Probably the best looks for the day were four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. There is also a daily hawk migration tally at the park in the fall.

~ Phil Powers



## Chino Farms.

Eleven people joined me to bird the research grassland fields at Chino Farms. It was quite foggy and chilly when we arrived, but soon became quite warm. We walked a 2 mile loop around the fields finding 11 species of sparrows including several White-crowns and 2 brief views of Lincoln's. Grasshopper Sparrows gave excellent scope views in the morning, perching with the many Savannah Sparrows. As we were heading back to the cars, we spotted the adult Northern Shrike, which had just arrived 2 days prior, returning to these fields for its fifth winter! The shrike was a life or state bird for many of the participants. After leaving the farm and having lunch, we birded the Chestertown Sewage Ponds where we had fun trying to spot the several Cackling Geese mixed in with the Canadas. Jean Fry spotted an adult Greater White-fronted Goose with 2 White-front x Canada Goose hybrids. We also made stops at Chesapeake Farms and Great Oak Pond before heading home.

~ Matt Hafner

## Eden Mill Owl Prowl

A rare October snowfall couldn't stop the O'Brien-MacLellan family from venturing outdoors for an owl prowl at Eden Mill. We started near the Joe Vangrin Memorial Pavillion and within a couple of minutes heard an Eastern Screech-Owl calling from the vicinity of Big Branch and later from a small stand of evergreens near the pavilion. After an unsuccessful stop at Hidden Valley, the unrelenting weather and some sleepy youngsters made it an easy decision to head in the direction



of our homes, making one last stop along Robinson Mill Road at Broad Creek. We were rewarded with another screech-owl who like the other bird, called incessantly but remained out of view. Despite our best attempts, we did not attract Barred or Saw-whet Owls at our roadside stops.

~ Dave Webb

## Susquehanna State Park

On November 5th 17 people showed up to observe the birds of Susquehanna State Park. 15 of these people attended the dinner meeting the night before (Good commercial message Tom Gibson). We were all delighted to see all of the local woodpeckers but the Red-headed. The river was not very active but we did see Common Mergansers and a few common gulls. We also saw Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered, and Red-tailed Hawks. The cherry on top of the cake was a Winter Wren. The total count was 37 Species.

~ Tom Congersky



## Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Six of us met at the I95/Rte.155 park and ride on an unusually mild late November morning. Our first stop was at Woodland Beach a few miles north of our destination. There we observed, Northern Harrier, a late first year Laughing Gull, several late Forster's Terns and Killdeer. From Woodland Beach we made our way to Bombay Hook. While we saw large flocks of Snow Geese in the air, on the horizon, there were no large flocks at Bombay. Bombay did however have a number of interesting birds for us; a Belted Kingfisher which sat on a post and gave everyone great views; large flock of American Avocets among which we found three Marbled Godwits and on the same pond two very late Black-necked Stilts. While eating lunch a spectacularly well marked Savannah Sparrow gave everyone great views. A Great Egret with bright green wing tags got our attention; subsequent investigation revealed that the bird was tagged as a young flightless bird last July at Notawasaga Island in Georgia Bay Lake Huron, Ontario Canada. On returning to the headquarters building at Bombay we all remarked how few sparrows we had seen but there waiting for us were two magnificent White-crowned Sparrows that gave everyone just perfect views. Overall we had 56 species with several of the group getting life birds.

~ David Larkin

## Field Trip Reports (con't)

### Conowingo Dam Eagle Watch

On November 26, about 10 members and two guests from Montgomery County gathered at Conowingo Dam for a post-Thanksgiving eagle watch. The eagles didn't disappoint us as about 100 were seen in the trees, on the towers and rocks, and flying around the area. The national bird was probably outnumbered by the 100+ birders and photographers who were out in force enjoying a beautiful sunny and mild late fall day. After watching the activity near the dam, we took a stroll down river on the trail and found 2 Winter Wren, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and Carolina Chickadees. When the word reached the group that the Le Conte's Sparrow had been seen that morning at Swan Harbor, we ended our eagle watch and relocated to begin a sparrow search. Fortunately for us, the bird was performing when we arrived and everyone got nice looks at a Harford County first record. Our guests, Charles and Martha Durfor, sent me a link to the photos he took while at Conowingo and encouraged me to share it with the club members - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/45888646@N02/sets/72157623660430482/>.



~ Dennis Kirkwood

### Go Green

How would you like to help the environment and save money for the Bird Club at the same time? You can do this by electing to receive your newsletter by email instead of snail mail. By doing so, you will reduce the printing and mailing expense to the club and cut down on the number of trees sacrificed to make paper. If you are not already receiving your newsletter by email and would like to do so, please contact Les Eastman at [les@birdtreks.com](mailto:les@birdtreks.com).



Answer to trivia question: California (643) and West Virginia (357).

## 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.

John and Linda Ireland own and operate the Wild Bird Marketplace. They have limited their hours of operation to Saturday only but you can call them at (410) 836-5000 or contact them by email at [wbm@clearviewcatv.net](mailto:wbm@clearviewcatv.net) to arrange a purchase of bird seed or merchandise. Bird club members receive a 10% discount on purchases.

**WBM Open Saturdays**  
Call ahead for birdseed purchases!

410-836-5000



[wbm@clearviewcatv.net](mailto:wbm@clearviewcatv.net)

**WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE**

**TIDEWATER  
GRILLE**

Ralph M. Shapot  
Owner

ON THE WATER  
300 Franklin Street  
Havre de Grace, MD 21078

410-939-3313

FAX 410-939-4860

410-575-7045

[www.tidewatergrille.com](http://www.tidewatergrille.com)

[tidewatergrille@yahoo.com](mailto:tidewatergrille@yahoo.com)

**FLAGSHIP CINEMAS**

See you at the movies!

ADMIT ONE

**The Movie Hotline**  
410-734-9000

Campus Hills Shopping Center  
2408 Churchville Road, Bel Air  
Get a FREE movie on your birthday!  
[www.flagshipcinemas.com](http://www.flagshipcinemas.com)

**Bill Bateman's Bistro**

Just Wingin' It

**Christian Giansante**

Owner

2021H Pulaski Hwy (Rte 40)

(410) 939-7667

(410) 939-0016

[batemanshdg@comcast.net](mailto:batemanshdg@comcast.net)

[billbateman.com](http://billbateman.com)





# Harford Bird Club January Meeting

## "Pelagic Birding in the Mid-Atlantic"

by

**Matt Hafner**

Friday, Jan 6th, 2011

Meeting Time: 6:45 PM

(If Harford County schools are closed for the day or close early, the meeting will be postponed until Jan 13th.)

Free for all... bring a friend!

Location: Churchville Presbyterian Church

2844 Churchville Road

Churchville, MD 21028



Mail To:

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

