Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Harford Bird Club as the President for the next two years.

My start in birding was in the 1990’s. I was an active member of the Harford Bird Club, serving in various committees and even took the role of Vice President. In the 2000’s, I became a less active birder and more involved in my career. But like all good birders, the passion has never gone away. I take time to notice what is around me every day. And, like you, I share my interest in birding. Isn't it wonderful when someone says, “I saw a bird and thought of you.”?

Over the course of my term you will notice our Vice President, Amanda Koss, will have a more active role. Amanda and I have decided to share in the President's responsibilities. You'll see both of us running dinner meetings, sending emails, making decisions and writing snippets for 'Wrenderings'. We hope for a collaboration that will be as beneficial to the club as it will be for us. Amanda's ability to make decisions and move forward with ideas about our mission will make us a great team. I hope you are as excited as we are to see this partnership unfold.

Recently, Amanda and I met to discuss various club related topics. As established in our bylaws, we have a board of directors who will guide us in club business. We have members with ideas and expectations. We sent a survey to begin to figure out what you want to see over the next two years from your club and how we can make that happen. Amanda and I will be meeting with the board soon and getting back to our members about the findings of the survey. We thank all who shared their feedback.

Amanda and I look forward to serving you and are thrilled to start the next chapter of the Harford Bird Club.

Deb Stewart, President

What was your “Gateway Bird”?

On a beautiful, early morning in late June, I boarded a boat from the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine to head to Eastern Egg Rock to see the Atlantic Puffin colony. I had no idea what an Atlantic Puffin looked like, but who wouldn’t be curious about a bird called the “Clown of the Sea”? As we approached the island, I heard the low growl of their chainsaw like call and saw the little birds buzzing the boat with

(Continued on page 2)
I observed the puffins sitting on the rocks and flapping their wings to dry off in the sun. It was something right out of a movie. I will never forget the excitement of seeing this bird and being hooked on watching how the birds interacted.

A “Gateway Drug” is defined as “a habit-forming drug that, while not itself addictive, may lead to the use of other addictive drugs”. The Atlantic Puffin on that June day in 2006 was my “Gateway Bird”. Seeing the Atlantic Puffins was not addicting. The realization that there were thousands of other birds out there that I needed to discover set me on a path to being a bird nerd.

Looking back on your birding career, what would you consider your “Gateway Bird”? Maybe it was a Northern Cardinal when you were a toddler because the red color just popped in your backyard. Maybe it was a Blue Jay because who wouldn’t love a big bird with amazing blue colors? Could it have been a Ruby-throated Hummingbird who buzzed around your garden like an insect? Was your “Gateway Bird” a flashback to your younger years or did you start birding as a hobby after your kids moved out?

Have you been involved in someone else’s “Gateway Bird”? In May 2017, I was working with Mary Murray, the HBC Education Coordinator, during a field trip for her Feathered Friends from Meadowvale Elementary. I was leading a session about bird banding and the next bird I was going to band was labeled Orchard Oriole (OROR). I started talking about the Oriole’s beak and how the beak is used to eat fruit. When I pulled the bird out of the bag, it was NOT an Orchard Oriole. Off the top of my head and being in front of fifty people, I had no idea what it could be, but I knew it wasn’t in the Oriole Family. I asked the students to bear with me as I consulted books and worked with the team of banders to get an ID on this stunning bird. Over all the noise in the pavilion, I heard a tiny voice say, “Female Scarlet Tanager?”. Our team had just come to the same conclusion! I spun around and asked “Who said that?” A tiny little hand went up. Her name was Zion and she was finishing up first grade. When I asked her how she knew the bird was a female Scarlet Tanager she replied, “I looked at the bird in your hand and compared it to the pictures in the field guide.” She was smiling from ear to ear. She was glowing with happiness. She was beaming with pride. I saw someone’s “Gateway Bird” moment.

How, as a club, can we provide more people with their “Gateway Bird”? How can we reach out to community members who have an interest and hook them into our passion? This should be in our minds as we lead or attend field trips. Can we provide a “Gateway Bird” moment for a future club member? As we meet for various events and gather for our picnic in September, I’d like to hear more stories about your “Gateway Bird” and ways we can provide this feeling for others.

Amanda Koss , Vice President

(Continued from page 1)

### Harford Bird Club Executive Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tbody>
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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 443-425-3974 or send an email to lovebluebird206@gmail.com.

Condolences go out to Debbie Stewart and family on the death in July of their beloved mother, Audrey Crouch.

I would like to thank the Harford Bird Club members for their kind expression of sympathy on the passing of my mother this past July. Your thoughts and prayers were a comfort and very much appreciated. ~ Deb Stewart

Newsletter Mailing Update
The HBC Executive Board would like to change Wren-derings mailing from postage-paid, hard copies to primarily electronic. The cost savings will be significant in postage and printing. Most members have an email address and those without will receive a hard copy.
To help with this transition, please do the following:
If you need a hard copy, or if you have changed your email recently, please contact Eric Vangrin, Membership Chair at evangrin@msn.com or 443-417-7219

It's Time to Pay Your Dues
Dues are now due for the club year from September 1, 2017, to August 31, 2018. The membership form is included on page 7 or you can print it from the website at http://www.harfordbirdclub.org/pdfs/HARFORD%20COUNTY%20BIRD%20CLUB.pdf. Please fill out the form, enclose your check made payable to HARFORD MOS and mail it to our Treasurer, Eric Vangrin. 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. Thank You.

Harford Bird Club Annual Fall Picnic
Help us welcome autumn and a new birding year at the annual Harford County Bird Club picnic. The picnic will be held (rain or shine) at the Eden Mill Nature Center on September 23, 2017 at 1 pm. This year we turn back the clock to how the original picnic began some thirty years ago by hosting a pot luck menu. We ask you to bring your favorite side dish, dessert, or ... The club will provide plates, water, and utensils. We also ask that you bring your favorite beverage. There is no charge for this event.
The Eden Mill Nature Center address is 1617 Eden Mill Road, Pylesville, MD 21132

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 Deborah Stewart at debstewart1307@gmail.com or Les Eastman at les@harfordbirdclub.org.
Harford Birdlife
by Monroe Harden

The slow birding days of summer were interrupted by hummingbirds, terns, and White Ibis. This report covers the period from June 1st through July 31st, 2017.

Ducks, Game Birds, Loons, Wading Birds
MJ found a pair of Redheads at Tydings Park in Havre de Grace on July 12th. They were seen by others through July 21st. JE saw a Lesser Scaup at David Craig Park on July 30th. DZ had a calling Ring-necked Pheasant near Madonna on June 26th. PW heard a Northern Bobwhite calling on APG on July 30th. MJ was surprised to see a Common Loon near Lapidum on July 10th.

DL found a Tricolored Heron on Battery Island on July 13th. MH saw and photographed a juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron near Putnam Road on July 20th. He also saw a juvenile White Ibis flying over Harford Glen on July 3rd. DL saw 4 juveniles there on July 4th. These were seen by several others through July 9th. ND found a Glossy Ibis at Swan Harbor on July 28th. The next day, JE saw a Sora there.

Terns, Cuckoos, Owls, Goatsuckers
FS saw a Caspian Tern at the Gunpowder Marsh on June 25th. MJ counted 4 near Tydings Park on July 11th. He also saw one there on July 14th. DL found and photographed a Black Tern at Battery Island on July 13rd. DL also photographed one there on July 15th. RJ saw a Black Skimmer on Battery Island on June 19th.

JE saw a Black-billed Cuckoo at Harford Glen on July 4th. MJ saw one at Susquehanna State Park on July 10th. JE and JR heard 4 Whip-poor-wills on APG on June 1st. DW and DDR counted 35 on APG during their annual Nightjar survey. They also encountered several Barred and Great Horned Owls along with other non-avian night prowlers during the survey.

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers
SH saw a young male Ruby-throated Hummingbird chasing a Carolina Chickadee around her Fallston yard on July 22nd. Others have enjoyed watching, photographing, and video recording the hummingbirds at their feeders this summer. DZ found a Red-headed Woodpecker at an apparent nest site near Madonna on June 26th. JG saw an Alder Flycatcher near Castleton Rd on June 1st. MH found this bird on May 31st. SH saw an adult Eastern Phoebe feeding a chick on July 30th at her Fallston yard.

Ravens, Swallows, Thrushes, Sparrows
BM saw a Common Raven eating a Robin nestling on APG on June 7th. He heard a second Raven nearby. DK was able to establish 2 Purple Martin colonies this year. He had one with about 6 birds at his Newark Farm home and a second with about 8 birds near Turney’s Pond. DZ counted about 25 Cliff Swallows at the Broad Creek Bridge site on June 26th. He saw a Northern Rough-winged Swallow harassing them. SH noted on July 30th that the breeding Eastern Bluebirds in her Fallston yard had their fourth clutch. This was the fourth year she has seen them breeding in her yard. She also saw a Veery in Oaklyn carrying food. She suspected that this was the same bird she saw there in May. DZ found several breeding Savannah Sparrows at Oak View Farm on June 26th.

Contributors

“I TOLD YOU WE SHOULDN’T MIGRATE DURING THE RUSH HOUR, BUT NOOOOO YOU WOULDN’T LISTEN…”
Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

September 4 (Mon. Labor Day) – Ma & Pa Trail – Stroll a portion of this popular trail, walking from Annie’s Playground towards Tollgate Road in search of early migrants and local residents. The diverse habitats along the way promise a good variety of species. Meet at the parking lot near Annie’s Playground on Smith Lane off Connolly Road in Fallston at 7:00 AM. The leader is Elaine Beery (ehbeery@yahoo.com; 410-272-6037).

September 9 (Sat.) – Birding for Beginners at Harford Glen – Ruth Bergstrom is the leader for this pleasant walk along the wetlands, streams, and meadows of this beautiful outdoor education site. This trip is specifically designed for beginners. School age children accompanied by an adult are welcome as well. Meet Ruth at 8:30 AM in the Harford Glen parking lot. For further details contact Ruth at (443-752-1967; ruthb22@yahoo.com).

Sept. 30 (Sat.) – Emory Knoll Farm - This beautiful property in north central Harford County provides diverse habitat that promises good fall birding and a pleasant outdoor experience. Join Carey Rowsom, HBC member and Emory Knoll staffer, and Susan Hood (410-937-7552; susanjhood@comcast.net), Co-leader, as they guide you along the paths of the farm in search of resident species and fall migrants. Meet at 8:00 AM at the farm (3410 Ady Road, Street, MD 21154). Look for the sign at the end of the drive “Green Roof Plants”. Carpooling encouraged as parking space is limited.

October 4 (Wed.) – Havre de Grace Promenade Bird Walk - Join the Maritime Museum’s Environmental Center and the Harford Bird Club as both organizations lead you on an evening stroll along the beautiful Promenade with its spectacular views of the mouth of the Susquehanna River and the Susquehanna Flats. Meet the leaders, Colleen Webster of the HBC (cwebster@harford.edu; 410-459-4577) and Sarah Shpak of the Environmental Center at 5:30 PM at the Maritime Museum. Binoculars helpful but not required.

October 7 (Sat.) – Perryville Paddle Outing – Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up, etc. as we look for fall migrants and water fowl. Colleen Webster and Sue Procell will ply the waters in search of swimmers, divers and, of course, fliers. Meet at the Perryville Community Park at the Stump Point kayak launch ramp at 8:30 AM. We can help unload your craft. Call Colleen (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) or Sue at (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com).

October 9 (Mon. Columbus Day) – Waggoner’s Gap – Come out on Columbus Day to visit a premier hawk-watching spot near Carlisle, PA. Possible sightings include Ravens, Golden Eagles, Ospreys, along with Sharp-shinned, Cooper’s and Red-tailed Hawks. Bring a blanket or soft cushion as we will be sitting on a rocky outcrop. Also bring drinks and a lunch. Meet at the strip mall at Upper Cross Roads in Fallston (intersection of Rt.152 and Rt.165) at 8:00 AM. Leader is Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; markjohnson2@gmail.com).

October 14 (Sat.) – Rocks State Park. Spend the morning on the trails of beautiful Rocks State Park looking for wood-land species. Gather at the ranger station parking area on Rocks Chrome Hill Rd. at 8:00 AM. The leader is Mark Magnani (410-838-1778; mwmagnani@gmail.com).

October 21 (Sat.) – Swan Harbor Farm Park - This preserved area near the Upper Bay provides prime habitat for water fowl, song birds and marsh and field birds. The trip begins at 7:30 AM at the parking lot at the end of the driveway. Contact leader, Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com).

October 29 (Sun.) – Bombay Hook – Visit one of the East Coast’s best sites for shorebirds and waterfowl. The refuge is beautiful at this time of year with an exciting array of migrating birds. Bring a lunch and drink. Meet at the MD 155/I-95 Park and Ride near Havre de Grace at 7:30 AM. Leader is Dave Larkin (410-569-8319; larkin3001@comcast.net).

November 4 (Sat.) – Blackwater Wildlife Refuge – Don’t miss this opportunity to visit the Eastern Shore’s 28,000 acre national wildlife refuge. Established in 1933, its fresh water impoundments, brackish tidal wetlands, open fields, and mixed forests attract thousands of birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. The refuge is also home to many local species and Eagle and Osprey cams which can be viewed online. Meet at the Havre de Grace Park and Ride lot at the Intersection of I-95/155 exit at 7:30 AM. Leaders are Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; gibsonlld@aol.com), Tom Congersky (410-658-4137; jnjtcon@zoominternet.net) and Bob Werlein (410-692-5180; we2rein@gmail.com).

November 11 (Sat.) – Wild Card Waterfowl Tour – The leader, Dave Webb, will determine trip sites based on recent sightings. Contact Dave (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net) for specific details about start time and location as well as possible sightings.

November 18 (Sat.) – Sweet Air section of Gunpowder Falls State Park. Explore a variety of trails that meander among pines, deciduous woods, open fields, and riparian habitats. Meet at 8:30 AM in the Dalton-Bevard Rd. parking area west of Routes 165 & 152. The leader is Susan Hood (410-937-7552; susanjhood@comcast.net).
MOS Convention
February 2-4
Ocean City MD

Our next convention will be held on Fri–Sun, Feb 2-4. This mid-winter date is meant to maximize our chances for waterfowl, alcids (Dovekies, Razorbills, etc), gulls, and rarities. While an unusual time for an MOS convention, these dates duplicate our successful conference in Ocean City, 2012. Our meeting will be hosted at the newly-renovated Holiday Inn on 66th St, reasonably close to the Ocean City inlet and jetty. We plan to have the jetty covered by observers through-out the convention, with any rarities reported to convention headquarters. We plan the usual full program of field trips, research posters, a birding supply store, and several seminars, along with a few innovations. Our Friday post-banquet speaker will be well-known MD ornithologist Dr Peter Marra, Head of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. The annual MOS business meeting will be held after Saturday dinner. Note the change in name, “convention” rather than “conference”, as better denoting the spirit of the event.

The customary brochure outlining the schedule of events and prices, and containing the mail-in registration form will be e-mailed to members this year, for savings in time and postage, from their chapters by mid-October. (Those members not served by e-mail will receive their brochures directly from MOS by surface mail, as in the past).

Support the Harford Land Trust

The Harford Land Trust was organized in 1991 by local residents to ensure that important natural systems and our most productive landscapes remain intact. Since its inception, the Harford Land Trust provides for development that meets community needs for housing, jobs, recreation and services and insists that such development respect and complement the values of natural lands.

The Trust is a private, membership-based organization. Contributions to the organization directly impact conservation in Harford County with 90% of all donations devoted to land preservation and management. Harford Land Trust's flagship annual fundraiser, the Harvest Moon Dinner & Auction, will be held on October 21 at the Bel Air Armory. Attendees will enjoy live and silent auction items along with dinner and entertainment. Tickets are on sale now; visit www.harfordlandtrust.org for more information.

Kristin Kirkwood, MOS Board Member Dennis Kirkwood's daughter, recently became Executive Director of the Harford Land Trust. Contact her for more information about the Trust (kkirkwood@harfordlandtrust.org or 410-836-2103).
HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like to join or renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, please print this page and mail the completed form along with a check to:

Eric Vangrin
1100 Barkley Place
Bel Air, MD. 21014

Membership Year - September 1, 2017 - August 31, 2018

( ) 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.
Harford Bird Club
ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, September 23rd, 2017
Social Hour - 1:00 PM
Eating Time - 2:00 PM
Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share
Bird walk to follow!
Location: Eden Mill Nature Center
1617 Eden Mill Road
Pylesville, MD 21132