2018: The Year of the Bird

One blustery February day in 1886, ornithologist and biologist Frank Chapman conducted a study that altered the natural-world. The research did not take place in the Amazon River basin, the mountains of Tibet or the outback of Australia. The data was collected in the concrete jungle of New York City. Chapman strolled along Manhattan’s most famous shopping district identifying birds not on trees, but on women’s hats. He took note of 542 hats displaying parts of birds or whole birds. The hats displayed feathers, beaks, eyes and tails of birds accented with leaves, twigs and moss. In total, forty individual species were identified, making Manhattan the most diverse bird watching location in the world.

Species such as herons, cranes, Roseate Spoonbills and egrets were pillaged for their feathers. The highest dollar could be fetched during mating and breeding season when the feathers of these birds were bright and most colorful. This feather harvest practice eliminated two generations of birds at once. The birds who were captured and killed for their feathers died, but so did their young or eggs on the nest who did not survive without the mature bird taking care of them.

In 1896, Harriet Hemenway, a prominent society woman from the Boston area read a report describing the gruesome human destruction to a local rookery all in the name of feathers. She rounded up her lady friends and began a movement to stop the use of bird feathers and bird parts in hats.

Harford County was not immune to the feathered hat fashion trend. In the early 1900’s women were often judged on how beautiful their hats were. The more beautiful the hat, the more beautiful the woman. Harford County boasted an amazingly beautiful bird that had feathers that changed color with the light. The iridescent feathers of the Wood Duck brought high dollar amounts to market hunters in our county. This fashion trend almost completely wiped out our Wood Duck population.

The actions of naturalists like Hemenway and Chapman led to the realization that birds needed to be protected and legislation was introduced which eventually turned into the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

The most significant day in birding history could be considered July 13, 1918. The MBTA was passed in 1918, ‘making it illegal for anyone to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any

(Continued on page 2)
migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid permit issued pursuant to Federal regulations.’ according to https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php.

It was this love of birds and the desire to halt a fashion trend that depleted bird populations that led Harriet Hemenway’s tea group to form an official club called ‘The Massachusetts Audubon Society’. In 1900, the group held a ‘Bird Day’ to promote the idea of fashion without bird feathers. The society members held workshops teaching women and young girls how to adorn hats with ribbons and materials that were not bird feathers. Other women from different areas soon started forming local chapters of Hemenway’s club and the National Audubon Society was born.

One hundred years of bird protection, bird research and bird data leads to us; here and now. Where would this world be without the foresight of the women in Hemenway’s tea group? How would our life lists look without the initial research of Chapman? Would we be checking off Roseate Spoonbill, Great Blue Heron or Cattle Egret today? The National Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Geographic Society and Bird Life International have collaborated to declare 2018 ‘The Year of the Bird’. Lately, the MBTA has come under fire by politicians. Without taking this Vice President’s Voice into a political realm, it is important to pay attention to the changes proposed to other bills and acts that could wreak havoc on the MBTA and the positive steps it has taken to insure the future of bird species.

What can we do? As voters, we can remain vigilant about the bits and pieces of legislation that hold potential to shatter the MBTA. We need to remember and remind others that at one point in the history of our country, voters believed in birds. We need to keep that belief in birds in the eye of the average citizen. We need to model political choices to keep the MBTA intact. We need to speak for the birds. ~ Amanda Koss

Photograph from: https://abcbirds.org/celebrating-the-migratory-bird-treaty-a-pact-that-transcends-borders/?gclid=EAlaIQoChMI1auP2fuR2QlVwSSGCh340ANnEAAYASAAEgJiqPD_BwE

Resources:
https://abcbirds.org/celebrating-the-migratory-bird-treaty-a-pact-that-transcends-borders/?gclid=EAlaIQoChMI1auP2fuR2QlVwSSGCh340ANnEAAYASAAEgJiqPD_BwE
https://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/MIGTREA.HTML
https://www.laphamsquarterly.org/roundtable/field-feathered-friends
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

Condolences go out to the family of long-time club member, Lorna Wortman, who passed away on March 14th at the age of 88.

Dave Webb put the following comment on the Harford Bird Club Facebook site:

“Lorna loved to tell and hear a good story -- her laughter was exuberant. Her membership in MOS spanned six decades. As the hostess for dozens of Rock Run Christmas Bird Counts tallies, her hospitality, warmth and cheer were deeply appreciated by hundreds of CBC birders. Lorna wasn’t concerned about wet, snowy or muddy boots treading through her house, but rather that all of her guests warmed up with her beef stew and homemade bread. Memories of Lorna's friendliness towards all and cheerful, unselfish service will be passed on to future generations of Harford County birders. R.I.P. good friend.”

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!

JEFF RIERSON of ABINGDON

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Harford Bird Club Executive Board

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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Pizza Dinner Meeting, 4 May at Harford Glen

The Harford Glen’s gate opens at 6 p.m., and dinner begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. with rounds of pizza (various toppings), salads, fresh vegetables, dip, and soft beverages. Reservations are required for the pizza dinner - (see form, page 9). If you have questions contact Johanne Henrikson at (410) 836-8889; or johen24@gmail.com.

Lindsay Jacks is the Director of Lights Out Baltimore (LOB), a non-profit organization of the Baltimore Bird Club that strives to make Baltimore safe for migratory birds. LOB walks a 5 mile loop downtown during migration season every year to rescue injured birds and collect the dead ones that have fallen victim to light pollution and glass collisions. LOB works with the city of Baltimore and local organizations to reduce light pollution and advocate for bird-friendly building design. Since 2008, 3200 birds have been found dead and over 1000 rescued. Besides LOB, Lindsay has dedicated her career to the birds- she is a Senior Aviculturist at the National Aquarium caring for birds and fruit bats. Lindsay is also an apprentice at Phoenix Wildlife Center to become a Maryland wildlife rehabilitator. She enjoys caring for the injured birds she finds on her LOB walks and releasing them back to the wild. Some of the birds that have been rescued are pictured below.

How can you make your home bird-safe? It is estimated that 2-10 birds per year die from colliding with glass at each residential home. This talk will highlight building design problems, home owner solutions, and how supporting lights out programs in cities can save birds. Lights Out Baltimore is a project of the Baltimore Bird Club and has been featured in Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, and on WJZ, WBFF, and WMAR TV.

Black-and-white Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

Chestnut-sided Warbler
Timberdoodle Search  
March 19
The people who showed up for the short-notice Timberdoodle trip at White Marsh on the 19th had an enjoyable time as there was a great deal of activity. We had around 10 American Woodcocks peenting almost constantly between 7:35 and 8:00--and numerous display flights that were heard more than seen in the excellent weather conditions. The only thing that could have been better is if the moon was more than a pretty crescent shape, but the skies were clear. We tried our best to get a flashlight on some of the birds when they were on the ground peenting, getting ready to fly, but the birds were able to somehow evade our efforts. We did manage to see a couple of birds in flight up close. A fun time for all. ~ Tim Houghton

Perryman/Havre de Grace  
March 24
Only three people came out on a breezy March day which began at a frosty 27 degrees. We hit the impoundment on Ford Road where we found hundreds of Song Sparrows with White-throated Sparrows, and Field Sparrows mixed in. The impoundment now is full of saplings and contained no visible water. Along Cannery Road we found Northern Harrier and Horned-Larks, but waterfowl were very few. We were amazed how much construction has occurred in the area as the wooded fields near the BGE plant are no longer accessible. Two of us then went to Market Street in Havre de Grace where we found a few birdwatchers hoping to see the return of a Black-throated Gray Warbler which conveniently showed up about twenty minutes after we arrived. We found 43 species for the day ~ Mark S. Johnson

Florida’s Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge  
By Deborah Bowers
This is a 35-mile barrier island refuge located mid-way on the Atlantic coast, right next to the Kennedy Space Center. It’s a great place to go birding if you can’t hike far or you have a hurt foot like I had. Drive slowly along the one-way, 7-mile Black Point Wildlife Drive, a one-lane road of soft white pavement to see alligators and great numbers of water birds. I saw for the first time these wading and shorebird species: Tri-colored Heron, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Northern Shoveler, American Coot, Pied billed Grebe, Roseate Spoonbill, Common Gallinule, and Reddish Egret. I saw a flock of White Pelicans in flight- wonderful. Away from the refuge, in a typical backyard, I saw a Painted Bunting for the first time. There are places to stay in very nearby Titusville.

New Additions to the Harford Bird List for 2018  
- The Contest Continues  
By Dennis Kirkwood
Since 2017 was a bust for any new bird species to Harford, we are hoping for a few surprises in the new year. Nineteen people sent in their predictions with nine being new participants in the contest. Unless updates were provided, last year’s entries are rolled over for another year. Names will remain hidden to protect the innocent (and in some cases, mildly delusional). The top three guesses from last year continue to top the list - Northern Shrike, Lark Sparrow, and Crested Caracara, but a surprise top entry not even mentioned last year is a Roseate Spoonbill. Could the sighting last year in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania have something to do with that? It probably flew right over our heads but we missed it. Other new prognostications for 2018 include Limpkin, Brambling, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Wood Stork, Ross’s Gull, White-faced Ibis, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Common Pochard, White-winged Dove, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Magnificent Frigatebird, Great Grey Owl, Black Guillemot, Gray Kingbird, and Fieldfare. Counting both years combined we now have 53 possibilities for a grand winner. While ten of the guesses would also be first Maryland records, stranger things have happened. As they say, birds don’t read the field guides and they have wings. Stay turned for breaking news and remember - you know who to call first!
Winter usually brings rare birds. This one was no exception. Maybe these included some old friends back for a return visit? This report covers the period from February 1st through March 31st, 2018.

**Geese, Ducks, Grebes, Bitterns, Raptors**

MJ saw a Ross’s Goose in Jarrettsville on Feb 1st. DL saw one flying overhead in a group of Canada Geese on Feb 27th. JE found a Tufted Duck in the water near Swan Harbor on Feb 23rd. He and others saw it there through Feb 26th. He and others saw it there through Feb 26th. TH and BP saw 2 Red-necked Grebes in the river near Lapidum on Feb 14th. It was seen through Feb 20th. BM saw an American Bittern fly out of a marsh at Aberdeen Proving Ground-North on Feb 2nd. It flew across the road toward the golf course. EW also saw one in flight at Swan Harbor on Mar 19th. DW saw a Black-crowned Night Heron fly over his Webster Village home at dusk on Mar 29th. AT found an Osprey building a nest on a platform at Mariner Point Park on Feb 26th. BM saw his first of the year Osprey at APG on Mar 9th. SH saw a male Northern Harrier hunting in Fallston on Feb 12th.

**Rails, Sandpipers, Gulls, Terns, Doves**

BuP and a number of others heard a King Rail at Swan Harbor starting on Mar 1st. It was reliably heard on most days after that. RH also heard and recorded a Virginia Rail there that day. MJ saw Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs there on Mar 29th. They were standing near each other, allowing for a good size and shape comparison. MJ saw a Little Gull over the river at Lapidum on Mar 13th. The bird was seen there through Mar 28th. SW saw 3 Caspian Terns flying over the Home Depot Pond in Edgewood on Mar 25th. SH found a Mourning Dove egg on the ground in her Fallston yard on Mar 5th.

**Owls, Ravens, Swallows, Wrens, Thrushes**

MLC saw a Snowy Owl in Havre de Grace on Feb 3rd. It was also seen on Mar 23rd. SaW saw one flying at Swan Harbor on Mar 4th. DW saw 3 Short-eared Owls hunting at dusk near Phillips Army Airfield on APG on Feb 1st. MJ saw 2 Common Ravens apparently fighting in flight near Oakington on Feb 26th. DL saw one in Susquehanna State Park on Mar 4th. MJ saw one in the park on Mar 16th and he heard one at Swan Harbor on Mar 17th. TC saw 2 in the State Park on Mar 18th.

RJ saw 2 Purple Martins at Susquehanna State Park on Mar 23rd. DB found 4 Tree Swallows at Swan Harbor on Feb 11th. DeB had a Brown Creeper in her Street yard on Mar 24th. She also noted that she has had both Kinglets and a Hermit Thrush as regular visitors to her feeders and yard this winter.

**Warblers, Sparrows**

JE found an Orange-crowned Warbler and a Pine Warbler near the Havre de Grace Lock House on Feb 6th. The Orange-crowned Warbler was seen there through Feb 15th. He also found a Black-throated Gray Warbler in a different part of Havre de Grace on Mar 21st. It was seen by him and many others through Mar 30th. SH saw a Louisiana Waterthrush on the Little Gunpowder River near Fallston on Mar 30th. TH and BP found an American Tree Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Feb 14th. It was seen there through Feb 16th. SH saw a Savannah Sparrow near her Fallston home on Mar 25th. This was the first one she had seen in her neighborhood. CR found 5 White-crowned Sparrows at Emory Knoll Farm on Feb 12th. She saw 2 there on Feb 21st. DL saw a dark-liced individual at Swan Harbor on Feb 16th. CR saw it there the next day. DK found a Lapland Longspur on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Mar 22nd.

**Contributors**

Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

April 21 (Sat.) – Susquehanna State Park – An ideal time to enjoy emerging wildflowers, early migrant songbirds, including warblers, and lingering winter visitors. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill at 8:30 AM. The leaders are Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com) or 443-417-4919) and Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com) and Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu 410-459-4577).

May 5 (Sat.) TENTH Annual Epic Birding Challenge at Susquehanna State Park – The previous competitions have been well-attended and a lot of fun. So make room on your calendar to join us for our 10th anniversary. We will meet at the Rock Run Mill at 6:30 AM for team selections and rules review. Counting will begin at 6:45 AM and end at 11:30 AM. A rally celebration will be held 12 noon at the Laurrapin Grille, 209 N. Washington Street, Havre de Grace. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration. The coordinator is Tom Gibson (gibsonlld@aol.com or 410-734-4135). Birders of all skill levels are welcome. The rules allow all to contribute to the fun and success of each team.

May 17 (Thur.) - Havre de Grace Promenade Bird Walk - This event is jointly sponsored by the Environmental Center at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum and the Harford Bird Club. Meet at the Museum at 5:30 PM where you will be welcomed by Sarah Shpak (Environmental staff) (envirocenterathdgm@gmail.com) and Colleen Webster (HBC member)(cwebster@harford.edu; 410-459-4577). Beginners and young birders welcome. A limited number of loaner binoculars will be available. Enjoy a stroll along the shores of the mouth of the Susquehanna River and the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay.

May 19 (Sat.) – Birds and Blooms Walk at Ladew Gardens – Meet at 7:30 AM in the Ladew Topiary Gardens main parking lot. Rachel Hebert (HBC member and Ladew staff member) is the leader for this morning stroll through the gardens to look for spring migrants while enjoying the beautiful 22 acres of gardens. Pre-registration is preferred for this trip. Contact Rachel (hebert.rachel2@gmail.com; 410-557-9570, ext.261) for further information.

May 26 (Sat.) – Eden Mill Nature Center - Banding Demonstration – Meet at 8:00 AM at the banding pavilion. Long-time bird bander and accomplished birder and naturalist, Dr. Mark Johnson, and his able crew of volunteers will demonstrate and explain banding and scientific data collection techniques with actual in-hand birds. This is a great opportunity to get close-up looks at species we often only get to see from a distance or through deep thickets. It is a wonderful and unique outdoor experience for children. Join them at the Vangrin Bird Banding Station from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Contact Mark for further details (marksjohnson2@gmail.com or 410-692-5978).

May 28 (Mon) – Hidden Valley and World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats – Leader, Dennis Kirkwood (Newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905) will guide us to the aptly named Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream running through a beautiful stand of mature hemlock. The trip will proceed from there to the flats. Carpooling is encouraged because of limited parking space. Meet at 7:00 AM in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Rd. where it crosses Deer Creek.

June 2 (Sat.) – Susquehanna State Park – Warbler Walk – Join us at a beautiful location during prime birding season. Leader Tim Houghton will guide you to various hot spots depending on the status of the spring migration and what birds are being seen at the time. There is a good chance for Cerulean, Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers. Expect a variety of passerines along with waterfowl and waders out on the river. A few eagles and osprey should fly over as well. Meet at the Rock Run Mill parking area at 7:30 AM. Contact Tim for details (timhoughton@comcast.net; 410-510-7504).

June 9 (Sat.) – Perryville Community Park Paddle Outing – Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up, etc. Colleen and Sue will ply the usually serene waters of the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bay in search of swimmers, divers and, of course, fliers. Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead; songbirds and woodland birds frequent the shoreline; waterfowl and heron are common sightings. Meet at 9:00 AM at Stumps Point at the far end of the Perryville Community Park. Contact leaders Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577) or Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com or 443-417-4919). No rental boats available.

June 15 (Fri.) – Owl Pursuit – Join experienced leader Dave Webb as he pursues those elusive nocturnal hunters at various sites in eastern Harford County. Meet at the Park & Ride at Rt.152 and I-95 in Havre de Grace at 8:30 PM. For further information contact Dave Webb (porzana@comcast.net; 410-939-3537).
In a cooperative project with Harford Bird Club and Harford County Master Gardeners, students in the Hands on Highlands program created an Eastern Bluebird nest box trail throughout their campus. The project took two weeks: one week in construction of the boxes, and the second in erecting the boxes and learning the protocols for monitoring. Mary Murray, Education Coordinator for HBC, her husband, Greg Murray and Highlands teacher, Jane Howe, both master gardeners worked with the students from grades 3 through 11. Everyone had a great time and the Highlands students are ready to begin being Citizen Scientists.
Churchville Elementary School’s new bird club, "Bird Buddies", is off to a great start. The January club meeting was an introduction to the club rules, a lesson on the correct use of binoculars, and a bird walk to practice birding etiquette. In February, the club had a lesson from the Cornell Bird Sleuth curriculum on learning to identify birds by their silhouettes. The Bird Buddies then took a bird walk to practice. They are getting very good at spotting birds. The highlight of the walk was a Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker high in a tree on their campus!

The Harford Bird Club Dinner Reservation Form
Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Johanne Henrickson, 2014 Tiffany Terrace, Forest Hill, MD 21050 by Friday, April 27th, 2018 if you plan on attending.

__________ Number of adults (at $7.00 each)
__________ Number of children 16 and under (at $4.00 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: ________________________

The Harford Bird Club has a group on Facebook. Check it out at https://www.facebook.com/groups/116785841751195/

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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WILD BIRD MARKETPLACE
OPERATING OUT OF 3765 SALEM CHURCH ROAD
IN JARRETTSVILLE
410 836-5000

The Mill
www.themillofbelair.com

The Harford Bird Club has a group on Facebook. Check it out at https://www.facebook.com/groups/116785841751195/
Harford Bird Club
May Meeting

How Can You Make Your Home Bird-Safe?
by
Lindsay Jacks
Director of Lights Out Baltimore

Friday, 4 May, 2018
Pizza Dinner - 6:30 p.m.; General Meeting - 7:00 p.m.,
Location: Harford Glen Environmental Education Center
502 West Wheel Road
Bel Air, MD 21015