HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE PRESIDENT’S PERCH

This holiday season, I am thinking of all of the Harford Bird Club members with gratitude for our mutual interests in birds and birdwatching. We are so fortunate to share in the joy, awe, and wonder of birding.

Rather than an article from the President’s Perch, I am sending you a link to a beautiful video, “A Grateful Day.” I have viewed it many times since family friend and HBC member, Steve Dannenfelser shared “A Grateful Day” with me years ago. Now I would like to pass this video forward to you. The message is a reminder of the value of gratefulness and the importance of the present moment. The photography is outstanding.

I hope you find a few moments to take a deep breath, be present, and view “A Grateful Day.” Enjoy!


Found on grateful.org.

VP, Amanda and I are wishing you
Season’s Greetings! Merry Christmas!
And a Happy New Year
filled with the joy, awe, and wonder of birdwatching!

Deb

“We are a community of birdwatching enthusiasts who promote the knowledge of birds and their behavior, encourage the conservation of natural habitats and resources, and share information about birdlife.” HBC BYLAWS

Visit the Harford Bird Club web site at www.harfordbirdclub.org
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.

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

**LUCY ALBERT OF HAVRE DE GRACE**
**ROB & GLORIA BRUCH OF EDGEWOOD**
**MIKE & BETH WHITE OF BEL AIR**

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Rachel Hebert & Neal Ortt on their marriage on November 2, 2019

**Condolences**

Barbara “Bobbie” Seibens, former club secretary, passed away on Nov. 10 at the age of 96. She was an active member in the 1990s and traveled often to view nature and worldly culture. She retired from Harford County Public Schools as a hearing impaired specialist/consulting teacher and spent her last years at Broadmead in Cockeysville, MD. She donated much of her property along Deer Creek near Eden Mill to the Harford Land Trust. She is survived by 6 children and 7 grandchildren.

Mary Murray's father, John E. (Jack) Beyer, passed away at age of 92. Mr. Beyer was known to the Harford Bird Club for his devotion to bluebirds. He made hundreds of bluebird houses that are found at Harford Glen, Eden Mill, Swan Harbor, Rockfield Park, Anita Leight Estuary Center, Susquehannock Wildlife Center, several schools, and many private properties in the Mid-Atlantic region. Mary shares her father's love of nature and has taken on monitoring and placement of bluebird boxes. A memorial mass will be held on January 8 at 11 am at St Margaret Church, Bel Air. [https://www.parkviewfh.com/notices/John-Beyer](https://www.parkviewfh.com/notices/John-Beyer)

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January Meeting

The next club meeting is on Friday, January 11, 2019 at Churchville Presbyterian Church (2844 Churchville Road Churchville, Maryland 21028). This launches our new birding year and year of great speakers, meetings and trips! We will gather at 6:45 PM with a congenial social gathering around homemade cakes, snacks, soft drinks, and as past president Bob says, "Hail Good Fellow" exchanges. Followed by a short business meeting at 7:10 PM. Please let Amanda (AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com) know if you can bring a dish to share (cookies, brownies, cake, veggies and dip, chips and dip, pretzels…). If Harford County schools are closed for the day, or close early due to weather, the meeting will be postponed until Fri. Jan. 18.

The program for the evening will be presented by club member, Dr. Mark Johnson. Mark is the Director of Toxicology at the U.S. Army Public Health Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. The topic is "Birds and Ecology of the Hawaiian Islands - A Vacationer's View." Typically, tropical areas have habitats that are rich in species diversity, with birds being no exception. However, islands, because of their relatively small size and remoteness, are relatively sensitive to environmental stressors and perturbations. The Hawaiian islands are volcanic islands that are over 1000 miles from any continent, yet have influences from nearly all of them. The presence of humans, from Polynesia to North America, have drastically changed the avifauna on the islands where changes are occurring at an accelerated level. Additionally, the remoteness of the islands in the Pacific makes them suitable nesting areas for seabirds. These changes and stressors will be discussed in addition to predictions for the future.

Kudos Tom Congersky for Three Decades of Service

Each chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society is entitled to representation by elected members known as Directors. Directors attend quarterly MOS Directors meetings held around the state of Maryland hosted by the chapters. Directors are responsible for voting on behalf of their chapter, sharing chapter information at meetings and bringing MOS information back to their chapter.

HBC member, Tom Congersky has been a director representing the Harford Bird Club FOR 30 YEARS!!! Thank you Tom for your commitment to this position and for your service and loyalty to the Harford Bird Club. Tom has been invaluable for his wealth of information and guidance. He has also been a member of the HBC field trip committee for about the same length of time. Tom will be respectfully vacating the Director position in 2019. Congratulations Tom Congersky on 3 decades of service!

HBC Membership Renewal Notice

Urgent!: Some members have still not paid their dues for the 2018-2019 Membership year. If you have not paid by February 1, your membership will expire, and your name will be removed from both the State (MOS) and local (HBC) list of members. We do not want to lose you! Since the next newsletter will come out after February 1, this is the last notice you will get to remind you not to let your membership lapse. If you have questions about renewal, please contact Eric Vangrin at evangrin@msn.com or 443-417-7219.

Rock Run Christmas Count

Tired of being inside? Feel the and deep desires of your soul to get outside and connect with nature? Why not come out on Saturday, 29 December to count birds on the Rock Run Christmas Count. Birders of all levels are welcomed. You can lead a sector or join a team. In an effort to be comprehensive, many of us will begin in the dark and end that way, but plan to catch up at the rally at MacGregor’s in Harve de Grace around 4 PM. So far, it is turning out to be a great winter finch year. Help us make 100 species in 2018. Contact Mark Johnson for more information at 410-692-5978 or MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com
WINNER, WINNER - CHICKEN DINNER!

Our drought of new bird species for Harford County has ended after an almost two year wait. Sharp-eyed Rick Cheicante discovered a Hudsonian Godwit on October 21 on a small puddle next to a pond on 12 Stones Drive near Creswell for a first Harford County record. This large shorebird appears annually in Maryland and the East Coast in general after breeding along the Hudson Bay, in Northwest Canada, and Alaska. Like several other shorebird species, it tends to migrate through the interior of the US during spring migration and occurs infrequently along the east coast during fall migration. As a result we only get to see the bird in basic plumage and not its rusty breeding coloration.

Over 20 people had made their best predictions on what would be the next addition to Harford’s list. Three individuals selected this long expected species. Matt Hafner mentioned it as one of several add-ons to his first three picks so we must acknowledge his forethought but eliminate him from the winner’s circle. Two other prognosticators included the HUGO (banding code for the Godwit) in their choice of three: Rick Cheicante and Susan Hood. Congratulations to both for their uncanny ability to predict the future (and their amazing luck)!

In case you are wondering if Rick somehow got his hands on a Godwit and planted it in Creswell just so he could claim bragging rites, we who know him well will vouch for his impeccable birding integrity as well as his skills at finding birds and new locations for watching birds. How nice that so many people were able to see this most cooperative specimen as it stayed steady for 5 days with only brief lapses to puddles unknown. It also kept identification very easy, as it was the only bird in the puddle!

What will show up next in Harford? If you have not entered the contest previously, we will start another round in 2019. You can let me know your top 3 guesses and you should dream big because birds don’t read the books and they have wings! ~ Dennis Kirkwood

MOS Media Update

The format of MOS publication, The Yellowthroat has been updated and improved. The content continues to provide important state and chapter information. The recent issue included an article by HBC member and professional photographer, Joe Subolefsky on “Cameras, Cold Weather and Waterfowl.” Jean Wheeler described her recent birdwatching trip to Brazil in our chapter’s section. Jean submits HBC chapter news so if you wish to share a birding adventure, please let her know. All chapter trips and meetings are presented on the new, well designed calendar of events. The Yellowthroat is being sent via email.

Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium

January 26, 2019,
Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center
Laurel, MD
https://marylandbirds.org/2019-symposium

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) and Youth Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) will unite the expertise of professional conservationists and the passion of youth birders to discuss the status of and threats to Maryland’s birds and their protection at the first-ever Maryland Bird Conservation Symposium.

Presentations and Q&A sessions will help identify needed bird conservation actions to secure populations of Maryland’s birds and their habitats. The keynote speaker is Mike Parr, President of American Bird Conservancy.

The Symposium marks the launch of the Maryland Avian Research & Conservation Fund for Youth! This fund is the first of its kind in Maryland, and possibly the Mid-Atlantic, that empowers youth to conduct avian research or conservation that benefits one or more of Maryland’s 143 Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

For more information and to register, visit https://marylandbirds.org/2019-symposium.
Harford Birdlife
by Monroe Harden

Special thanks to DK, DW, DB, and SH for providing inputs to this report. Everything else here came from alternate sources. This report covers the period from October 1st through November 30th, 2018.

Geese, Ducks, Egrets, Falcons, Shorebirds
MH reported a Ross’s Goose near Fountain Green Road on Nov 17th. AJ and JE saw 8 Long-tailed Ducks from Line Bridge Road on Oct 27th. DK had a female Hooded Merganser on Turney’s Pond throughout most of November. BP found a Cattle Egret at Swan Harbor on Oct 24th. MH saw one there on Nov 5th. DW saw one on APG-North on Nov 7th. DK saw a Peregrine Falcon on his Newark Farms property on Nov 23rd. It was the second ever sighting for the farm. RC found a juvenile Hudsonian Godwit in a little drainage pond near 12 Stones Road on Oct 21st. The bird was seen by several others through Oct 25th. CS saw a Stilt Sandpiper in the Perryman area on Oct 3rd. TC saw one at the Woodley Road pond that same day. There were also sightings there on Oct 4th and 6th. AJ had one on APG-North on Oct 4th while DZ had one at the Eastgate Industrial Park on Oct 6th.

Gulls, Owls, Woodpeckers, Ravens, Larks, Nuthatches
JS found an adult Lesser Black Backed Gull at Tydings Park on Oct 24th. He also saw a Short-eared Owl at Swan Harbor on Oct 25th. SH saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Laurel Brook on Oct 27th. MJ reported Common Ravens at Harford Glen on Oct 6th, Swan Harbor on Oct 9th, up the hill near Lapidum on Oct 13th, and at Perryman on Nov 4th. DB saw and heard one near her Street home on Oct 28th. DK saw 25 Horned Larks on the Bradenbaugh Flats on Nov 15th. DB had a Red-breasted Nuthatch at her home in Street from Oct 8th through Nov 13th.

Thrushes, Warblers, Sparrows, Blackbirds, Finches
JE heard 4 Veeries and a Bicknell’s Thrush during night migration on Oct 6th. DB saw a Hermit Thrush in Street on Oct 24th. SH had two in Fallston on Nov 12th. JS found an Orange-crowned Warbler at Swan Harbor on Oct 25th. GR saw one there on Oct 31st. JE and MH saw a Nashville Warbler at Perryman Park on Nov 12th. MJ found a Connecticut Warbler at Perryman Park on Oct 3rd. It was also seen on Oct 4th. BP saw a LeConte’s Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Oct 31st. It was seen by several others through Nov 4th. MJ found a Dickcissel at Swan Harbor on Oct 9th, while DL saw one at Perryman Park on Oct 17th. AJ saw a Rusty Blackbird at Swan Harbor on Oct 12th. SH had a male Purple Finch at her feeder in Fallston for a few days in late October. JC had up to 18 Purple Finches at his home in Kingsville in mid October. DB had several at her feeders from Oct 28th through Nov 13th. JC also had 16 Pine Siskins at his home on Nov 6th.

Contributors
**Bombay Hook**  
**November 4**

Three Harford Bird Club members made the field trip to Bombay Hook. November 4th was a sunny cool fall day. Our first stop was Woodland beach where we found some lingering summer birds, **Glossy Ibis** and **Great Egret**. We next stopped at the Park Headquarters where we found **Palm Warbler**, **Chipping Sparrow**, **Eastern Phoebe** and some smart looking **Swamp Sparrows**. The ponds initially looked almost deserted but a more careful scan with scopes found abundant shorebirds including **Marbled Godwit**, **American Avocet** and **Western Sandpiper**. **Snow Geese** were conspicuous by their absence. The highlight of the trip was the sighting of a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** being followed around by three juvenile birds. For the trip 56 species were observed. ~ **David Larkin**

**Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge**  
**November 10**

Ten birders braved the cool temps and blustery winds of an otherwise sunny and beautiful fall day. Despite the wind and rain of the previous day, gorgeous fall colors were still on display and added to the enjoyment of the excursion. There is no doubt that the wind, which whipped up frothy whitecaps on the open waters, kept our waterfowl and passerine numbers down. However, we did have some not everyday sightings too. We stopped to observe a large flock of **American Goldfinches** feeding on dried sunflower pods suddenly make a panicked escape to a nearby woods as a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** passed over. We also watched several murmurations of mixed flocks of blackbirds swirl over vast classic Eastern Shore farm fields. One flock, consisting largely of **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, whirled around our car in such numbers that we had to stop and just let them do their thing. Upon arrival at the reserve we struggled to identify the specific species of **gulls**, **geese**, **terns** and **ducks** as they bobbed in the choppy waters. In a calmer side bay, **Tundra Swans** and a varied raft of **ducks** proved easier to identify. Overall we did quite well with ducks. Some participants saw 8 or 10 species including a very large flotilla of **Northern Shovelers**. Despite the failure to find trip usals like **Brown-headed Nuthatches** and **Snow Geese**, the species we did see, the beautiful Eastern Shore fall scenery and the camaraderie of fellow birders made for a good experience for all. ~ **Tom Gibson**

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**Eden Mill Annual Shrimp and Bull Roast**

Eden Mill is hosting their annual Shrimp and Bull Roast fundraiser on Sunday, January 27 from 1 PM to 5 PM at Jarrettsville Gardens. This is always a smashing good time! Great food, hanging out with bird friends, supporting Eden Mill, bidding on rad prizes, music and more!! See the flyer at the back of this newsletter for more information!

Members of the Harford Bird Club that wish to support Eden Mill may purchase their tickets through me. I'll submit the payment to Eden Mill in one lump sum and this will guarantee we all sit together at the event. I'll even share the bucket raffle tickets I earn for filling tables with you!! You may send your checks to me at: Amanda Subolefsky 1615 Deerfield Road Darlington, MD 21034. Please email me (AmandaSubolefsky@gmail.com) and let me know you plan to attend so I can reserve tables. This event sells out, so checks should be in my possession by January 1.

I have 12 spots left at the reserved HBC tables as of December 18. ~ **Amanda**
**January 1 (Tues.) – Annual New Year Perryman Walk** – Celebrate the New Year or recover from New Year’s Eve with a tour through the always productive Perryman Area. The leader is Phil Powers (birdsinmd308@gmail.com or 410-679-4116). Meet at the parking lot of the Aberdeen Walmart on Rt.40 at **8:30 AM**

**January 12 (Sat.) – Feeder Social** – Join our annual feeder social to visit the private home of one of our members. This year Steve and Tika Dannenfelser have invited us into their home to watch the avian visitors who come to their bird feeders. Perhaps you will get some new ideas for attracting more birds to your yard. Light refreshments will be served and contributions are always welcome but not required. This is winter birding at its best, watching birds from a warm and cozy spot with yummy food and drink while socializing with fellow birders. Contact the Dannenfelsers at (tikad805@gmail.com or 410-688-9127) and copy to Tom Gibson (gibsonlld@aol.com). This event is open to HBC members and their guests only. Reservations required. The event begins at **8:30 AM**.

**January 12 (Sat.) – Youth Christmas Count** – Young birders between the ages of 4 and 16, Join Rachel Hebert Ortt, Mary Murray and the Harford Youth Bird Club at Swan Harbor Farm Park. The Count runs from **9:00 AM to 11:30 AM**. Contact Mary (murraymary@gmail.com; 410-812-6621) or Rachel (harfordbirdclubedu@gmail.com or 443-299-8384) for details. Registration required.

**January 19 (Sat.) – Conowingo Eagle Watch** – Meet at Fisherman’s Park below the dam at **9:00 AM**. Bring your binos and/or scope for great views of our majestic national bird. Photographers, this is also a great opportunity for not only excellent shots of the likely numerous eagles but also gulls and waterfowl. The leader is Dave Webb (porzana@comcast.net) or 410-939-3537).

**January 26 (Sat.) – Bird Walk at Perryville Community Park, Stump Point.** This is a leisurely birding excursion on largely paved surfaces to look for swans and winter ducks. The leaders are Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577) and Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com; 443-417-4919) . Meet at the far end of the park at **9:00 AM**.

**February 2 (Sat.) – Bradenbaugh Soup Tour** – Trip begins at Jarrettsville Elementary School parking lot. From there Dennis Kirkwood leads us on a pleasant tour through NW Harford County’s agricultural area to find wintering field birds and waterfowl. Expect Horned Larks, Longspurs and Snow Buntings along with Ring-necked Ducks, and maybe a Cackling Goose. The trip ends at the leader’s house where you will enjoy hot soup, homemade breads, good conversation and maybe even a brief glimpse of the resident screech owl. Contact Dennis at (Newarkfarms@gmail.com or 410-692-5905). The trip begins at **8:00 AM**.

**February 17 (Sun.) – Lewes, Delaware - Indian River Inlet** –This trip begins at the Havre de Grace Park & Ride (I-95 & 155) at **7:00 AM**. The leaders will guide you to several birding hot spots along the coast of the Delaware River and Bay in search of overwintering and resident species. Contact the two experienced leaders, Dave Larkin (dlarkin3001@comcast.net; 410-569-8319) and Russ Kovach (russell.kovach@gmail.com) closer to the event for further details.

**February 23 (Sat.) – Swan Harbor Farm Park** – Meet at the parking lot at the Agricultural Education Center at the end of the driveway at **8:00 AM**. Visit this Harford County gem with its commanding view of the bay and explore the three impoundments, wooded trails and open fields. The farm, with its varied habitat, has developed into a fine location for a broad spectrum of birdlife including waterfowl, marsh specialties, raptors, and sparrows. The leader is Mark Johnson (marksjohnson2@gmail.com; 410-692-5978).

**March 6 (Wed.) – Timberdoodle Hunt** - **Meet at the I-95/155 Park and Ride.** From there the guides will lead this evening’s trip to a well-known site for Woodcocks, one of our most interesting and elusive birds. Hopefully you will see the fascinating Woodcock sky dance mating display as well as hear their distinctive call notes. Leaders are Elaine Beery (ehbeery@yahoo.com or 410-272-6037) and Dave Larkin (dlarkin3001@comcast.net; 410-569-8319). **TIME 6:30 PM.**
BIRD BRAIN BENDER

Rearrange the letters in each row to spell a word relating to avian fauna and place it in the corresponding row in the diagram. Rearrange the letters in the squares with the number 1 to form the first word of a quotation, those with the number 2 to form the second word, and so on for all ten words in the quotation. Rearrange the letters in the squares with the number 11 to find the name of the author of the quotation.

AVIAN FAUNA:

NWSA
GREET
CLAFNO
SKELERT
GOLFNIMA
FINDCLOUGH
SKRINHIGEF
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By Mary Murray, Harford Bird Club Education Coordinator

The school bird clubs have got off to a great start in October. There are clubs in Prospect Mill, Churchville, and Meadowvale Elementary Schools this year, serving almost 50 students.

Dennis Kirkwood was the guest speaker for the school bird clubs in November. At Churchville Elementary School, he gave a talk about accipiters and buteos, then led the students on a walk around the campus. Right on cue, the big birds showed up. By the end of the walk, the group had seen, two **Red-tailed Hawks**, a **Red-shouldered Hawk**, a **Northern Harrier**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, and a **Merlin**. Way to call them out, Dennis!

Mary worked with the Webelos Scout from Den 3 Pack 800 from Fountain Green Elementary School to meet some of their requirements for the Into The Wild achievement. During their den meeting, the boys learned about migration along the Atlantic Flyway, and ran an obstacle course simulating the hazards of migration. The following Saturday, Mary and HBC youth member Nick Spigler led the boys and their families on a bird walk at Mariner Point Park. Fifteen species were spotted with the highlights being two **Great Blue Herons**, a **Brown Creeper**, and -- a **Merlin**.

Harford Bird Club has awarded a grant to Girl Scout Ellianna Andreen to help fund her Silver Girl Scout project. Ellianna is working under Mary’s mentoring to construct and monitor a Bluebird nest box trail at Chapel Hill Park in Havre de Grace. She will use the grant money toward the purchase of boxes. Ellianna sent the club this nice thank you note.
5th Annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids!
Saturday, January 12, 2019
9:00 – 11:30 am

MAEF Education Building on Swan Harbor Farm in Havre de Grace, MD

Free with Registration: harfordbirdclubedu@gmail.com

Open to young birders ages 4 to 16 years old – no experience necessary.

We’ll start with birding basics, then go birding in teams to identify and count as many birds as we can, ending the morning with a tally of birds seen while enjoying refreshments.

*Binoculars provided; parent or guardian must be present.*

Free, but registration is required by emailing Youth Birding Coordinator, Rachel Ortt at harfordbirdclubedu@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Harford Bird Club and MAEF.

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**Harford Hummer Haven for Rent**

Scene of many Hummingbird Happy Hours and the banding of almost 2000 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Les Eastman’s house, located next to Susquehanna State Park, is for rent. The house has four bedrooms, three and one half bathrooms, dining room, family room, living room and a large basement. Large decks and a gazebo give ample room to feed and observe birds. The rent is $1975/month. Utilities are not included. If interested, please contact Les Eastman at 410-688-1214 or les@birdtreks.com.

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**BIRD BRAIN BENDER ANSWER:** “It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds.” - Aesop
10th Annual Shrimp & Bull Roast

Looking for something to do the weekend before the Super Bowl? Beat the winter blahs by joining us for the 10th anniversary of our fundraising event benefiting Eden Mill Nature Center!

Menu: Pit Beef & Turkey, Steamed & Fried Shrimp, Shrimp Creole, Winter Meatballs, Red Potatoes, Green Beans, Salads, Dessert, Beer, Wine, Soda, No BYOB

DJ: Friendly Entertainment
Entertainment: Prizes, Raffles, Money Wheel, 50/50, & Dancing!

Date: Sunday, January 27, 2019
Time: 1 - 5 pm
Place: Jarrettsville Gardens
Price: $40 per person
(must be at least high school age to attend)

No sales at the door. Tickets must be purchased by 1/11/19. Buy your tickets early as we sell out! If you sell a table of 10, you will receive 10 free raffle tickets to use at the event!

Reserve your tickets by calling 410-836-3050 or emailing edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com Visit us at www.edenmill.org