March Dinner Meeting

“Use the talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang the best” - Henry van Dyke.

The March meeting will be all about highlighting our talents as a club. We will be celebrating club members who have gone above and beyond for our organization. Yearly awards will be announced and clapping will take place. Maybe even a group photo for our social media sites.

We will continue the evening by highlighting young talent in the birding world. Three high school students will be sharing their birding experience. Harford Bird Club project grant winner, Ellie Andreen from Havre de Grace Middle will share how she utilized Harford Bird Club funds to create and maintain a bird box trail at Chapel Road Park for her girl scout silver award. The Harford Bird Club sponsored fourteen-year-old, Natural Resource Agriculture Science student at North Harford High School, Nick Spigler by providing a partial scholarship to Camp Avocet in Delaware last summer. Nick reached out to the club and asked to share his experience and photos from that adventure. Cole Ettenhofter, a past Horizon Award winner and Natural Resource Agriculture Science student at North Harford High School will be sharing his capstone project research about the arrival and departure dates of White-throated Sparrows based on forty years’ worth of Harford County banding data.

Speaker Biographies

- Ellie Andreen is an eighth-grade student at Havre de Grace Middle School. She is a Girl Scout with a passion for birds. Ellie is currently working toward achieving her Girl Scout Silver Award and is placing Eastern Bluebird boxes at Chapel Road Park in Havre de Grace. She received a small grant from the Harford Bird Club to complete her project and will be updating the club on her project and how the funds were used.

- Cole Ettenhofer attended his first bird banding at Eden Mill when he was 9 years old. He visited the station on and off working with Dr. Mark Johnson. During his first year of high school he was assigned a project to complete research about a natural science that interested him. Cole chose bird banding at Eden Mill because he had always liked birds. Cole learned all the basics of bird banding and absolutely loved the science behind it. Cole is now working on a capstone research project with short distance migrant summer birds such as

(Continued on page 2)
the White-Throated Sparrow.

Cole is now working on a capstone research project with short distance migrant summer birds such as the White-Throated Sparrow. Trends in the departure and arrival dates of the White-Throated Sparrow were analyzed to see if they suggest a correlation to global atmospheric warming trends. The data analyzed was from the years 1980-2012 at Harford Glen Banding station. The initial findings of the study reveal that the arrival date and departure date of the White-throated Species did change, but how? Come to the meeting to see if the species arrived early or late in correlation to the atmospheric warming trends.

- Nick Spigler is a 14 year old freshman in the Natural Resources Magnet at North Harford High School. He first became interested in birds in second grade when his second grade teacher, Mrs. Barbara Gasper, and the gifted and talented teacher, Mrs. Mary Murray, introduced him to a morning birding club called ‘Early Birds’. Mrs. Mary Murray also organized a small group of students to monitor bird feeders during lunch to submit data to Project Feederwatch. Ever since these events, he has been passionate about bird, birding, and nature. He has participated in many bird related activities since, such as having the honor of visiting Dr. Dove’s lab of forensic ornithology, receiving the youth birder of the year award from the Harford Bird Club, and participating in two Christmas Bird Counts. He is currently working on his freshman year project volunteering at the Susquehannock Wildlife Center and conducting bird surveys on their property.

Last summer, Nick received a partial scholarship from the Harford Bird Club to attend Camp Avocet in Delaware, hosted by the American Birding Association. He will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation about his time at Camp Avocet. Nick will cover the total species seen list from his time at camp, the interesting birds and rarities spotted and a summary of the events that unfolded while at camp.

In the future, Nick plans to pursue a career in the field of natural science. The Harford Bird Club is proud of Nick’s accomplishments so far in his 14 years and is honored to be a part of helping him to achieve his career goals.

The March Dinner meeting will be on Friday, March 1 at the Churchville Presbyterian Church. The meeting begins at 6:15 p.m. with a delicious dinner prepared by the members of church. HBC Awards will be featured and handed out during the business meeting. The yearly HBC Awards focus on members who have taken an active (visible or non-visible) roll in our club in the past year. A bucket raffle will allow the attendees to win fabulous prizes. The presentation will follow featuring our three youthful birders. The dinner reservation form is on Page 14. Please send your dinner reservation form to Johanne Henrickson by February 22.

**KEEP OUR CLUB AT ITS BEST!**

*By Debbie Bowers*

Your bird club needs you! Our very able and talented President Deb Stewart and assistant Amanda Subolefsky will soon be stepping down from leading the Club, and several other positions will become open as well this spring. We need nominees for President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and State Director. We are very pleased to already have volunteers who will share in handling promotion and publicity, including the position of Corresponding Secretary, - Amanda Subolefsky and Deb Stewart will be sharing in this multi-faceted job of making sure the public knows about our activities through various media. As for the named above, to remain a vital club, we must have people stepping forward to give their time and talent. These positions can be easily learned and you will have help from those handing over the tasks. We need to keep our club functioning at its best! Please contact nominating committee co-chairs Debbie Bowers (bowerspub@hotmail.com or 410 913-8979) or Jane Scocca (jane@scocca.org) for details on your choice of position, or to recommend a nominee. Nominations will be announced at our March meeting. Voting takes place at the May meeting held at Harford Glen. We look forward to hearing from you!
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.

New Members
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!

Dr. Srim Bala & Patricia Majerik of Bel Air
Magnus Dowell, Melissa Dowell, & Christopher Jones of Havre de Grace
Linda Gettier of Baltimore
Stan & Jennifer Kukula of Forest Hill
Jodi Lovell of Bel Air
Thomas Trafton of Abingdon

Condolences
Lifetime Harford Bird Club member, Joyce E. Gorsuch, passed away on November 10, 2018. Joyce served as club treasurer for many years before moving to Cokesbury Village in Hockessin, DE. A Memorial service in celebration of Joyce’s life was held on Monday, December 3, 2018 at Cokesbury Village. In lieu of flowers, Joyce had requested that donations be made to the Acts Legacy Foundation for use at Cokesbury Village, 375 Morris Road, P.O. Box 90, West Point, PA 19486-0090.
One Small Step for the Internet... One Giant Leap for The Harford Bird Club
A Website Walk-Through
By: Amanda Subolefsky

Last month the new and improved Harford Bird Club website went live! There are some features from the old site that disappeared and there are some new features that will make your birding life easier! Read on for the highlights.

Since we like birds, people always ask us for guidance when dealing with a sick or injured bird. We should feel honored that they thought of us and trust us to guide them through a process to assist the bird. From now on, just share our website and ask them to click on the link at the top left. This click will take them directly to a page with clear steps to take to assist a bird.

What to do if you find a Sick or Injured Bird

If you discover a sick or injured bird please:
- Catch the bird protecting yourself with gloves and a towel
- Place the bird in a dark box and close the lid
- Do NOT give the bird any food or water
- Call Phoenix Wildlife Center at 410.625.9736 for advice and to schedule a drop off if the bird needs care or rehabilitation
- https://www.phoenixwildlifecentermd.org

If you need assistance collecting the bird please call one of the following:
- Harford County Animal Control at 410.638.3505
- https://harfordsheriff.org/services/animal-control/
- Susquehannock Wildlife Society at 443.333.WILD or 443.333.9453

Scrolling down on the home page will bring you to four sections. One of the sections is called ‘Get Involved...’. The ‘Join Now!’ link will take you to the MOS site and you can renew your membership to the Harford Bird Club online!
THIS IS GREAT! By clicking ‘Learn More’ in the Report County Sightings section of the home page, you can assess the rarity of your find by comparing it to the ‘Official Harford Bird Club Checklist’.

If your bird is not listed or is listed as rare for the season, submit a form. The form will be reviewed, and legitimate rarities will be communicated to club members!

FOR EXAMPLE... A Canada Goose is not a rarity. No need to send a rarity report on a Canada Goose. If you spot a Black-bellied Whistling Duck, please report it with the form.
The ‘About’ tab will take you to the membership information and link you to MOS to pay dues. The page also lists all HBC officers, chairmen, and state representatives with links directly to their emails so you can reach out directly to specific people.

The ‘Youth Birders’ page will connect you to resources offered by the Harford Bird Club specifically for students interested in birds. Apps, networking sites and assistance with achieving Green School status are all included in this page!
Click ‘Go Birding’ for an interactive map that will give you habitat descriptions, links to location websites and common species spotted at each hotspot. Click the bird icon on the map and a link to the most recent eBird checklists will appear. Use the eBird checklists to see what’s being reported right now at that location! What more could you want?!!

Harford County Hotspots:
- Tydings Memorial Park
- Swan Harbor
- Susquehanna State Park
- Perryman Park
- Harford Glen
- Forest Green Lake Preserve
- Eden Mill
- Conowingo Dam
- Bradenbaugh Flats
- Anita C. Leight Estuary Center
The ‘Events & Trips’ tab will take you straight to a calendar that is developed by our Field Trip Committee. Hover your mouse over the event and a short description will pop up. Click on the event and a more detailed description with leader contact information appears. You can even add it to your Google Calendar right from the HBC website!
To conclude, the all new Harford Bird Club website is now live and available to the general public. Feel free to use it as a reference, share it with your friends and return often to find out what’s happening with the club. Photographs on the website were donated by Joe Subolefsky and Scott Moody. Many hours of time went into resizing the photos to optimize them for website use and still maintain the clarity and crispness of the photograph. Scott Moody of Labrador Designs (http://labradordesign.com/index.php/who-we-are/) poured his heart into giving us the best possible site. He drastically discounted his rates to work within our budget and meet our goals. If you need a website, please consider him for the job. Many thanks to everyone who gave feedback along the way, sent links to sites that had features we should mirror and crafted content for the site.
2018 Rock Run Christmas Bird Count
By Mark S. Johnson, RRCBC Coordinator

This year’s Christmas Count was clear and relatively warm (~50° F) sandwiched between two exceedingly rainy days in a very wet year – the wettest on record. Unfortunately, birds were hard to come by, even in this ‘finch year’. Ninety-nine species were observed, with 53 observers logging over 51 miles on foot 15 miles by boat, and over 366 miles in the car. Fourteen hours and 63 miles were spent at night. Many waterfowl species were missed, possibly due to the relatively warm weather and the rushing, swollen Susquehanna River. No Snow Geese, bay ducks, Red-breasted Mergansers or teals were reported and only three species of gull were found. Kinglets were scarce as were Fox Sparrows and Brown Creepers.

Some good birds were seen; however. Phil Powers, birding with Dave Larkin, found a Magnolia Warbler where a Black-throated Gray Warbler has been reported in previous years. Dr. Beth Olsen, birding with Gene Scarpulla at the dam found a Northern Goshawk. Davey Z found a couple Orange-crowned Warblers and Matt Addicks and Eric Vangrin had a nice look at an American Woodcock. At the end of the day it was great to catch up with everyone at MacGregors. Thanks to all who helped out and if anyone next year is interested, please let me know. Team summaries are provided as follows.

Sector 1 (Oakwood) and Sector 2 (Rowlandville) Ken Drier – Ken pulled double-duty to hit both of these northeastern Cecil County sectors. He found four species of woodpeckers, four species of sparrows, three species of raptors, and the only Mute Swan of the count (31 species).

Sector 3 (Colora) Tom Congersky, Robert Stevens, Frank Bansky, Annellen Hughes, Rupert and Cynthia Rossetti – Tom and friends birded his big back yard and found a Sharped-shinned Hawk, three Ruddy Ducks, 3200 Canada Geese and one (yes, ONE) European Starling (34 species).

Sector 4 (Bainbridge) Marcia Watson, Deb Stewart, Jeff Effinger – These go-getters got 4 Eastern Screech-owls, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows, and a Common Raven (40 species).

Sector 5 (Perry Point) John Hughes, Derek McGuirk – This duo found three raptor species, two merganser species, 250 Lesser Scaup, and 34 Canvasback (49 species).

Sector 6 (Swan Creek) David Ziolkowski, Dave Littlepage, Matt Anthony – These top-notch birders found the only Cackling Goose, Orange-crowned Warblers, and our only Merlin and Brown Thrasher for the count (73 species).

Sector 7 (Harve de Grace) Dave Larkin, Mark Magnani, Phil Powers, Al Conrad – The Harford Glen Banders found both kinglets, four raptor species and a new one for the count, Magnolia Warbler (47 species).

Sector 8 (Aldino) Jack Fuller, Nancy Gillis – Their second year counting this section, this duo found three thrush species, Purple Finch, three Pileated Woodpeckers, and Great-horned Owl and 15 Horned Larks (32 species).

Sector 9 (Susky St. Park) Mark Johnson, Volney Ford, John Paul, Bob Werrlein, Tim Houghton – These guys found a roost of 71 and 150 Black and Turkey Vultures, respectively, a calling Eastern Screech-owl, and seven sparrow species (50 species).

Sector 10 (Rolling Green) David Webb, Jean Wheeler, Deb and Colin Mosley – This “inland” team found two Lesser Scaup, four raptor species, Killdeer, and the only Northern Saw-whet Owl and Eastern Meadowlark for the count (53 species).

Sector 11a (Deer Creek) Mary Murray, Ruth Eisenhour, Melanie Kane, Nick and Richard Spigler, Kevin Kane, Gabriella Ross, Greg Murray – This group found six out of seven woodpecker species, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe and only Gray Catbird for the count (42 species).

Sector 11b (Darlington) Josh Emm – Josh covered this area finding Pine Siskin, both kinglets, Winter Wren, and Black Duck (52 species).

Sector 13 (Conowingo) Gene Scarpulla, Beth Olsen — If there were more than three species of gull these two would have found them. Still, they found two Peregrine Falcons and the only Northern Goshawk on the count (26 species).

Sector 14 (River flats) Dennis Kirkwood, Bruce Kovacs, Jeanne Sisk, Pater and Sarah Jay — The boat people covered the open water areas cleaning up waterfowl and others within sight 250 Canvasback, Greater Scaup, 15 Bald Eagle, and the only American Coot for the count (where are all the coots?). They also report observing a coyote (as did our next group; 47 species).

Sector 15 (Swan Harbor) Matt Addicks, Eric Vangrin — This team scoured Swan harbor Farm and got a great look at an American Woodcock, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, and seven sparrow species (42 species).

Field Trip Reports

Bradenbaugh Flats
February 2
A hardy group of 15 birders turned out on a single digit morning to do some birding in NW Harford County. Many of the ponds we visited were almost completely frozen over but this tended to concentrate the waterfowl. At our first stop, we saw a Bald Eagle sitting watching and waiting for the geese and ducks to make a wrong move. In addition to the Canada Geese, we also saw Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, and Ring-necked Duck. Because the geese were so close together and often with tucked heads, picking out a Cackling Goose became impossible. At the next pond, we added Mallards and American Black Ducks before being surprised to find 2 Wilson’s Snipe pretending to be ducks, sitting fully exposed on the edge of the ice. When we drove to the Bradenbaugh Flats, the Horned Larks were waiting for us in the middle of the road, a flock of about 50 birds. At our last stop we had a scope view of a first year Red-headed Woodpecker. A nice morning finished with 37 species and a variety of hot soup. The snow and cold actually helped us find the birds with greater ease, even though it made for a cold morning. ~ Dennis Kirkwood, Ed.D.

Other Harford Bird Club News
On Saturday, March 2 from 10 am until 12 noon, the Harford Bird Club will host the MOS State Directors quarterly meeting at the Darlington Fire Hall, 2600 Castleton Rd, Darlington, MD 21034 (just off Route 1).

Diane Jones and Deb Stewart would like assistance of two more members as a hospitality committee. We will provide light fare for the morning meeting. Also, if interested in learning more about MOS activities and programs or the role of a State Director, please join us for the meeting. Contact Deb for more details.

The May meeting will be at Harford Glen on Friday, May 3. The meeting will include the election of officers for 2019-2021. The presentation will be ‘Birds of Australia’ by Bob & Susan Hood, Dennis & Jean Kirkwood and Jean Wheeler.

Many thanks to the HBC members who graciously took cases of hummingbird nectar pods the last week in January. 200+ cases were given out. 2,553 pounds of debris was saved from the landfill which is approximately 1.25 TONS!
Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

Special thanks to DK, DB, and SH for providing inputs to this report. Everything else here came from alternate sources. This report covers the period from December 1st, 2018 through January 31st, 2019.

Geese, Ducks, Osprey, Cranes, Gulls, Owls

AJ found a Greater White-fronted Goose in Fallston on Dec 5th. Others saw the bird on Dec 7th and 18th too. DK reported 1-3 Cackling Geese on Turney’s Pond between Dec 6th and Jan 9th. He also saw 3 on a pond in Jarrettsville on Jan 29th. He also had a Canvasback on Turney’s pond on Jan 29th. EH saw a Long-tailed Duck in the bay at Havre de Grace on Dec 21st. MJ saw one, a female, at Lapidum on Jan 13th.

DL saw an Osprey flying upriver near Hydes on Dec 9th. JB saw on in Havre de Grace on Jan 4th. CR found a Virginia Rail at Swan Harbor on Jan 27th. JE and AJ heard 6 Sandhill Cranes near Gunpowder Falls SP on Dec 8th. MJ heard and recorded 2 there on Dec 11th. SW reported a Lesser Black-backed Gull and a Glaucous Gull flying upriver at the Conowingo Dam on Dec 30th. DB had a calling Great Horned Owl near her Street home from Dec 23rd through Dec 26th. She heard a Northern Saw-whet Owl there on Dec 27th.

Woodpeckers, Ravens, Wrens, Warblers, Sparrows, Finches

DK reported 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers at a relative’s home on Hitchcock Rd throughout the period. AJ saw a Common Raven soaring with some vultures over Harford Community College on Dec 12th. MJ saw 2 scavenging roadkill near Aldino-Stepney Rd on Jan 1st. JE saw 3 near Poole Rd on Jan 3rd, while he, AJ, and MJ saw one being mobbed by crows in Whiteford on Jan 6th. DK saw up to 75 Horned Larks on the Bradenbaugh Flats throughout the period. DB had 5 Red-breasted Nuthatches at her feeder in Street on Jan 31st.

DL saw 2 House Wrens at Mullins Park on Dec 29th. DL found an Orange-crowned Warbler in Aberdeen on Dec 29th. It was seen by others through Jan 5th. He also saw one in Mullins Park on Dec 29th. DK had 2 Pine Warblers alongside his pond at Newark Farms on Jan 1st. MH saw an adult male Wilson’s Warbler at Sweet Air park on Dec 17th.

SH had several Chipping Sparrows at her feeders in Fallston throughout the period. DB saw a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at her feeder in Street on Dec 24th. She also had several Purple Finches there throughout the period along with 1-3 Pine Siskins. DK noted that a large flock of Common Grackles seen regularly on the Bradenbaugh Flats included 4-6 mostly white ones.

Contributors

Book Review

Snowy Owl Invasion! By Sandra Markle

Who wasn’t excited about the increase of Snowy Owls in our region during the winter of 2013-2014? Relive this excitement and share how technology played a part in understanding this “invasion” of our friends from the north. This new children’s book, available at Harford County Public Libraries, provides outstanding photograph and background on the begins of research happening today through Project SNOWstorm (https://www.projectsnowstorm.org/). Highly recommend for children of any age!

Bethany Vangrin
Children’s Librarian, Harford County Public Library – Bel Air Branch
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 (markjohnson2@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.

March 10 (Sun.) – Loch Raven – Enjoy the rich habitat of Baltimore’s premier watershed for wintering migrant songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Meet at the Park & Ride on Rt.152 just north of Rt.147 near Fallston at 8:00 AM. The leader is Dave Larkin (dlarkin3001@comcast.net; or 410-569-8319).

March 30 (Sat.) – Gull and Waterfowl Search – Susquehanna State Park. Meet at the Lapidum Boat Launch at 8:00 AM for a morning scan of the river in search of lingering winter visitors, early spring arrivals and resident species. Little Gull and Black-headed Gull are possible. The leader is Dennis Kirkwood (newarkfarms@gmail.com; 410-692-5905).

April 6 (Sat.) – Ma and Pa Trail – Explore this popular trail, walking from Annie’s Playground to Tollgate Road and back. Field, forest, marsh and water habitats bring a variety of birdlife to this spot. Meet at the playground parking lot on Smith Lane off of Connolly Road in Fallston at 7:30 AM. Susan Hood (susanjhood@comcast.net or 410-937-7552) is leading the walk.

April 13 (Sat.) – Emory Knoll Farm – Carey Rowsom, Emory Knoll staff member and HBC member, will guide you along the trails, fields, meadows and woods of this lovely northern Harford farm. In mid-April there should be plenty of warblers and other spring migrants as well as resident species in bright spring plumage. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Emory Knoll Farm at 3410 Ady Road (Rt. 543) in Street, MD. Parking is limited so carpooling is strongly encouraged (FYI, there is a Park & Ride nearby at the end of Rt. 543 where it meets Rt.165). Contact Carey Rowsom (crowsom@greenroofplants.com; 410-452-5880) for further information.

April 20 (Sat.) - Warblers and Wildflowers – Susquehanna State Park - Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill. Enjoy discovering the beauty of colorful spring wildflowers and the gorgeous spring plumage of migrant and resident bird species. The leaders are Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219), Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu or 410-459-4577) and Sue Procell (procellmd@gmail.com; 443-417-4919). Time, 8:30 AM.
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, February 22nd, 2019 if you plan on attending.

__________ Number of adults (at $14.00 each)

__________ Number of children 16 and under (at $6.00 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: ________________________________

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The Harford Bird Club has a group on Facebook. Check it out at

https://www.facebook.com/groups/116785841751195/

Find us on facebook®