It’s time to pass the gavel.

The past two years flew by quickly. In that time, our Board of Directors acted on a vision to move our club forward while respecting our mission and traditions.

Today, as in the past, it is the members who make our club shine. I would like to thank all of you for your efforts and support, for your commitment and service to the Harford Bird Club. Amanda and I could not be more proud of our wonderful organization.

On the 70th anniversary year of the Harford Bird Club, it is important to remember that this club is built on a strong foundation. We continue to be 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)

Best wishes to President elect, Mark Johnson and all of the officers of the incoming administration.

Deb Stewart
PS — It's been fun!

As Deb and I transition off the Harford Bird Club Executive Board we wish to leave you with the knowledge that we loved every second of our time serving you.

Deb and I may not have seen each other very often, but never a week went by where we weren’t in contact and checking on the status of various projects within our club. The survey you took in the summer of 2017 guided us in our decisions and helped the Executive Board focus on your vision for the club. Without further ado, we present an incomplete list of growth and the accomplishments of our club over the past two years...

-Added additional youth bird clubs at various elementary schools
-Took Wrenderings completely electronic eliminating print and stamp needs
-Embraced the new MOS online dues payment process
-Filled two vacancies on the club committees
-Redesigned and launched the all new HBC website

(Continued on page 2)
- Added new destinations to our field trip offerings
- Streamlined Executive Board positions
- Opened a limited time online store where you can buy HBC t-shirts and sweatshirts (orders must be in by August 1!)
- Bought banding supplies for the two banding stations in Harford County
- Switched up the raffle format from ‘draw and pick’ to ‘bucket raffle’
- Debuted a 50/50 cash raffle at every other meeting to mix up the fun a bit
- Redesigned the HBC display board for events
- Bought 10+ pairs of binocs for our education and outreach team making a total of 40 pair that are used on a weekly basis at club events.
- Modernized our HBC logo by digitizing it
- Used money gifted to us from the estate of Chan Robbins to create the HBC website
- Created handouts & bookmarks to pass out at events
- Increased Facebook presence to interact with members and potential members on a regular basis
- Piloted a joint leadership partnership. Having more of a co-President feel than a traditional President and Vice President team.
- We consistently relied on our amazing Executive Board and Committee Chairs to make decisions that moved our club in a forward direction.
- Co-sponsored a five day, four night Professional Development opportunity for a club member working toward a banding permit.
- Debuted a ‘Birding 101’ course—first intro to birding workshop held in collaboration with Susquehannock Wildlife Center.
- Continued the Youth Bird Count with greatly increased participation by our club members and local youth.
- Created a stunning display at the Bel Air Library to share our club’s events, mission and recruit new members
- HBC held its first ever outdoor movie in the gardens. Another movie will be offered this August.
- We filled the vacated Bird Count Coordinator position
- Co-sponsored Nick Spigler’s experience at ABA camp Avocet to feed his love of birds.
- Substantially increased membership
- Celebrated and Honored Tom Congersky for his 30 years of service to the club as a State Director.
- And much, much more!

I must thank Deb for everything over the last two years. She was willing to, at least, listen to my crazy ideas before saying, ‘Have you ever considered doing it this way?’ Or ‘Humm. Let’s table that for now.’ I appreciate her trusting me. When she accepted the nomination to be President I told her I’d help her every step of the way. I told her it would be more like co-presidents and that’s what we did! (*hears orchestra music playing me off the podium because this has gone on long enough) She is generous with her time, hosts great dinner/meetings and wants to make great things happen for our club. It was an honor to work with her. We are lucky to have Deb in our club! (*music plays louder)

Deb and I have endless people to thank for making all of this happen, but above all we would like to thank you! You make our club fun, relevant and a place where like minded, bird loving individuals can socialize, meet, share itineraries and appreciate stories. (*very loud music plays, microphone turned off)

Amanda Subolefsky

**Thank You**

Dear Harford Bird Club,

Thank you for donating a new 12 meter mist net to the banding operation at Harford Glen. We use 13 nets at our station through fall and spring migration. The nets need replacing every so often due to normal wear and tear. Recently, the net in lane 11 had a deer run though it. It was destroyed.

Thanks again for your kind donation.

Amanda Subolefsky
**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!

**GINNY CARMAN of BELCAMP**
JUNE MULLHAUSEN of CHURCHVILLE

**Summer Social Meeting July 12**

Head on over to the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center at 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, MD for the club's perennially popular Summer Social on Friday, July 12. The doors open at 6:30 for this opportunity to chat with friends old and new about the latest happenings, while sampling a fine selection of wine and cheeses. There will be plenty of other munchies to enjoy from our bountiful vegetable and fruit trays, plus snacks, desserts, and sodas. Following the social, we will migrate downstairs for our bi-monthly meeting.

The presentation will be given by Colleen Webster who will perform *A Living History: Rachel Carson*. Members may know Colleen Webster as a college English professor and naturalist who leads trips for the club. She also performs a living history of artists like Frida Kahla, Emily Dickinson and Dorothy Parker. Colleen will offer an interpretation of scientist, author and pioneer of the modern environmental movement, Rachel Carson. Please join us as Colleen "creates an interactive experience that transports her audiences back in time, helping them truly understand and identify with these brilliant artists in a manner that simply cannot happen through the written word or pictures alone." [https://livinghistoryperformances.com](https://livinghistoryperformances.com)

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It's a Small "Birder's" World
By Deb Stewart

On May 23, the American Birding Association offered a bird camp for adults for the first time, West Virginia Warbler Extravaganza. HBC members, Susan and Bob Hood, Diane Jones and my husband and I enjoyed 3 days of birding and "camping" in wild, wonderful West Virginia (New River Gorge area). We were impressed the ABA president and his wife, Jeff and Liz Gordon would lead this trip. The other guides were unknown to me until arrival. Imagine my surprise when guide, Nate Swick, was introduced. He is the very person I quoted in my last president's perch essay. I was able to thank Nate for his insights about birding a patch from 10,000 Birds blog. Nate is currently working for ABA.

A special guest joined us, Katie Fallon, author of "Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird." Katie had her own highlight of the trip viewing, and recording for the first time, a female Cerulean Warbler on nest. The trip was one of the best led I have been on. Opossum Creek Retreat "camp" was not too shabby--Tents, no. Indoor plumbing, yes. Hot tub, yes. Food, AMAZING! Overall, we had all the makings of a great trip--Nicest people, beautiful area, excellent guides and successful birding!

Deb Stewart thanks Nate Swick for his inspired writing.
Did you know the Harford County Public Libraries have several birding themed kits available for check out as part of their children’s collection? Summer is a perfect time to explore with a young budding birdwatcher!

For preschoolers, explore the *I Am a Birdwatcher Kit* which contains books, plush birds and interactive items such as a sparrow’s nest, owl skull and peacock feathers. The kit also includes experiments to further explore birds and the great outdoors.

For elementary children and older, try the two LEAP Science kits. The *Binocular Kit* includes 8X binoculars and two books for young birders to learn the basics of the use of binoculars as well as birdwatching.

The *Getting to Know Birds Kit* also includes binoculars as well as items to assist in the identification of bird sounds like the Birdsong Identifier.

For more information on these kits, see the library’s webpage for Special Collections: [https://hcplonline.org/specialcollections.php](https://hcplonline.org/specialcollections.php)

Bethany Vangrin, Children’s Librarian, Harford County Public Library – Bel Air Branch
Eleventh Annual Epic Birding Challenge
May 4
Despite less than optimal weather and visibility conditions, two spirited teams searched far and wide across the varied terrain and habitats of Susquehanna State Park resulting in a combined total of 68 species (Including 13 warblers) sighted by at least two team members. A number of additional species were heard but not seen or were seen by only one team member but, alas, by contest rules do not count in the team point total. Only 9 points separated the teams testifying to how well balanced the teams were. Consensus was that it was a good day of birding and that fun was had by all. All are looking forward to the 12th annual Birding Challenge and hope you can join in the fun next year. ~ Tom Gibson

Susquehanna State Park
May 11
A great and friendly group of 22 birders started out the day at the Mill area and maintained a good attitude even though the foliage was denser than I ever remember seeing it at this time, making it tough to actually see the birds. Tons of Northern Parula, for instance, but a few of us only saw one at the end of the day. Same for Cerulean Warblers--lots out there, only one seen by a couple of people. More of us managed good looks at Red-Breasted Nuthatch, Kentucky Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and both Orioles, to name a few. ~ Tim Houghton

Hidden Valley
May 27
The annual Memorial Day trip to NW Harford began at Hidden Valley. Thirteen people enjoyed a beautiful morning along Deer Creek with excellent views of Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Warblers included Worm-eating, Northern Parula, and a very cooperative Black-and-white. We moved on to the World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats and were treated to scope views of a perched Horned Lark after finding a Willow Flycatcher at Magness’s wetlands. After a short walk we found a beautiful male Baltimore Oriole and a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers. A Grasshopper Sparrow also gave us a scope view from a distance while an Indigo Bunting was much closer. At Turney’s pond a singing Warbling Vireo and an Orchard Oriole provided excellent looks. The resident Purple Martins were also glad to see us. The morning total was 53 species and we also saw a snapping turtle laying eggs, a red fox and white-tailed deer. Thanks to all the private landowners who provided access to their property. ~ Dennis Kirkwood

HBC Movie Night
August 10th
Come join us for a touch of Colombia as we sample traditional Colombian foods, are entertained by indigenous Colombian music and screen the documentary “The Birders: A Melodic Journey through Northern Colombia”. We will have a list of the birds in the movie, recipes for the food and lists of tour companies that will be helpful if members decide to organize a trip there. Feel free to wear your best Colombian attire and be ready for a special evening. This is a rain or shine event so mark those calendars! See more details in the Field Trip schedule on Page 8.
Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

One of the members who sent me a report of their sightings said that this was the most wonderful time of the year. If you are a birder, it’s hard to disagree- spring migration is wonderful. This report covers the period from April 1st through May 31st, 2019.

Swans, Ducks, Turkeys, Wading Birds, Raptors
MJ reported that the continuing pair of Trumpeter Swans was still present at the Edgewood Home Depot pond on Apr 7th. The birds were seen there through May 17th. He also saw one at a pond near 12 Stones Rd on May 9th. AJ found a drake Canvasback and a drake Greater Scaup at Tydings Park on May 13th. TH saw 2 Wild Turkeys near Susquehanna State Park on May 14th. SH saw one flying by at Eden Mill on May 15th. JH heard a Least Bittern at Swan Harbor on Apr 21st. It was heard there through Apr 30th. MJ saw a Little Blue Heron and 2 Cattle Egrets in Perryman on Apr 26th. AJ had a Little Blue Heron at Swan Harbor on May 3rd. BH saw a Cattle Egret at the Home Depot pond on May 17th. MJ saw a Glossy Ibis near the Woodley Rd pond on May 28th. TB saw a leucistic Turkey Vulture in his Abingdon yard on May 25th. AJ saw 2 Mississippi Kites circling overhead on Bel Air on May 20th. JC also saw one in Bel Air on May 22nd. This bird was flying near a group of Turkey Vultures.

Cranes, Plovers, Sandpipers, Cuckoos, Goatsuckers, Woodpeckers, Ravens
MAF saw a Sandhill Crane flying over I-95 on May 18th. AJ saw a Black-bellied Plover on Battery Island on May 23rd. The next day, MA found and photographed 15 Whimbrels and 4 Ruddy Turnstones there. MJ saw a Short-billed Dowitcher in Perryman on Apr 24th. SH had a Black-billed Cuckoo at Eden Mill on May 10th. JR heard 2 singing Eastern Whip-Poor-Will’s on APG on Apr 18th. DK reported that several Red-headed Woodpeckers had been seen throughout the period in the Bradenbaugh area. CS saw a Common Raven flying over I-95 on Apr 4th. There were several other reports of Ravens seen at Swan Harbor, Gunpowder Falls State Park, and Susquehanna State Park throughout the period.

Flycatchers, Swallows, Nuthatches, Thrushes, Warblers, Sparrows, Finches
TH saw a Least Flycatcher at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 30th. He saw single Willow Flycatchers at Susquehanna State Park on May 14th and near Turney’s Pond on May 22nd. MJ saw one at Schucks Park on May 8th. TH found a Cliff Swallow at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 30th. He also had a Red-breasted Nuthatch there on May 14th. SH heard a singing Hermit Thrush near Fallsmont Drive on Apr 18th. She also saw 2 Cape May Warblers in her Fallston yard on May 12th. TH saw several in Susquehanna State Park on May 14th, along with several Blackburnian and Bay-breasted Warblers. SH saw a Bay-breasted Warbler in her Fallston yard on May 13th. TH saw 5 Cerulean Warblers at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 29th. SH saw a singing immature male at Eden Mill on May 17th. TH had a Lincoln’s Sparrow at Susquehanna State Park on Apr 29th. MJ saw a late Dark-eyed Junco at Gunpowder Falls State Park on May 3rd. DK reported several Bobolinks on the Bradenbaugh Flats on May 2nd along with several Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. AJ saw an adult male Purple Finch there on May 15th. AJ saw a Pine Siskin there on May 14th. SH had 2 in her Fallston yard on May 15th.

Contributors
Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

July 21 - (Sun.) – Bombay Hook – Visit one of the East Coast’s best sites for shorebirds and waterfowl. This beautiful reserve in Delaware with its diverse coastal wetland habitats offers great promise for a variety of shore birds, water birds, wading species, raptors and songbirds. Meet experienced leader Dave Larkin at the Havre de Grace commuter lot near Rt. 155/I-95 at **7:30 AM**. Because of trip length and the lack of local eateries, **bring a lunch and sufficient drink for the day**. Contact Dave (410-569-8319; larkin3003@comcast.net) for further details.

July 27 – (Sat) - Hummingbird Banding - At the home of Diane Jones (3825 Wilkinson Rd, Havre de Grace, 21078) watch from her expansive porch overlooking beautiful gardens as experienced bird bander Bruce Peterjohn skillfully and delicately bands our smallest bird. (Contact Diane 410-404-9180; baltobirder55@gmail.com) for best observation times and directions.

August 3 – (Sat.) – Family Nature Walk at Harford Glen. The Glen is always beautiful and offers diverse habitat in a compact area. Do not miss a chance to see the variety of wildlife species found in this Harford County gem. Our two experienced and knowledgeable leaders, Scott McDaniel of the Susquehannock Wildlife Society and Matt Hafner of the Harford Bird Club will help you find and learn about the herps, insects, mammals and birds that this exceptional site offers. They will meet you in the parking lot of the Glen at 9:00 AM. Contact is Matt Hafner (410-971-3203; hafner.matt@gmail.com).

August 10 – (Sat.) – Movie Night at the Dannenfelser Home (805 Old Joppa Rd., 21085). The evening begins at **6:00 PM** with socializing over a potluck picnic. Bring a main dish and drinks for yourself and family/guests, a side dish/dessert to share, and a folding chair. The movie will start after dinner as darkness sets in. The movie will feature a birding tour of Colombia accompanied by indigenous music. Bring your binos since the lovely property and gardens have plenty of feeders. Further details to follow closer to the date of the event. Contact Steve or Tika Dannenfelser (410-688-9127; tikad805@gmail.com or swdjoppa@gmail.com) for details and directions.

August 17 – (Sat.) – Harford Glen Bird Walk. A stroll through the wetlands, streams, and meadows of this beautiful outdoor education site. The preserve offers great opportunities for seeing a variety of bird activity. There are woodland trails through rolling hills, a boardwalk and some open meadow as well. The tour begins with sightings from the parking lot. Meet here at **7:30 AM**. Leaders are Jane Scocca (410-272-8870; jane@scocca.org) and Jean Wheeler (410-838-6774; jswheeler3@verizon.net).

August 24 – (Sat.) – Hummingbird Happy Hour and Potluck. The shaded porch, the views of lovely gardens with attractive plantings, tasty food, refreshing beverages, convivial camaraderie and the swarms of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make this a truly unique and pleasant afternoon. Diane Jones is our gracious host. Contact her at (410-404-9180; baltobirder55@gmail.com) for details and directions. Contributions to the potluck dinner and refreshments welcome but not necessary. The event begins at **5:00 PM**.

August 31 – (Sat.) – Annual Bird Club Picnic and Bird Walk. Enjoy classic picnic foods with your fellow club members at the pavilion of the Eden Mill Nature Center overlooking the beautiful Deer Creek Valley and waterfalls at the mill. Join us at **1:00 PM** and bring a dish to share and drinks for yourself. Paper and plastic ware, condiments and some basic picnic foods will be provided. Contact Tom Congersky for details (410-658-4137; jnjtcon@zoominternet.net).
Education News

The school bird clubs wrapped up their year with a presentation by Harford Bird Club member Gabby Ross. Gabby spoke about her experiences as an avian field researcher, studying Golden-winged Warblers and American Woodcocks. All the groups had great bird walks after their meeting, especially the PMES Early Birds, who had the highest count ever. In 20 minutes, they saw 19 species, including a Scarlet Tanager and Louisiana Water Thrush. It was the first time either of these species were spotted on their campus.

MARY WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE HARFORD BIRD CLUB MEMBERS WHO CAME OUT TO DO PRESENTATIONS TO THE SCHOOL BIRD CLUBS. THE STUDENTS LOVE TO HAVE YOU SHARE YOUR PASSION AND THEY LEARN SO MUCH FROM YOUR EXPERTISE. HUGE THANKS TO:

DENNIS KIRKWOOD
RACHEL ORTT
AMANDA KOSS
GABBY ROSS

We’re always looking for enthusiastic birders to share their passion with kids. Please let Mary know if you’d be interested in presenting to the young birders next school year.

From Faith Andreen, our Horizon winner

Youth Benefit Elementary School included the Harford Bird Club in their Earth Day celebration in April. Seven classes of 5th graders went birding around the school. Raptors were the birds of the day, with sightings of Bald Eagles, a Red-Shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, and American Kestrel. Harford Bird Club member and YBES teacher, Tina Boyd coordinated the students and helped keep the list. Thank you, Tina, for a great birding day!

Mary Murray
A Volunteer’s View

It was sunny with wind gusts this past Earth Day at Aberdeen Town Park on April 26, and the community turnout was enthusiastic. Mary Murray, Education Chair and I were joined by Jane Scocca for a day of promoting our bird club and providing conservation education.

Our table was assembled for education with bird feed, books and giveaways. The new trifold represents our active club with photos and captions of what we have to offer—field trips, citizen science, youth birding, education. Our logo looks great on top. Mary brought bird feeders and samples of seeds and dried worms in small containers that would provide education to interested visitors. The book marks with our logo worked well as a link to our website and Facebook. The most important giveaways for children were the stickers and tattoos of birds. One hundred activity books disappeared in no time.

People love to talk about the birds in their yard and had questions about identification. We had a bird guidebook, but it was the phone app, Merlin that was put to the test answering the frequent questions posed. We walked through the Merlin steps waiting for the usual response, “That’s it, that’s the bird!”

We connected with parents and youth, lovers of nature and backyard birdwatchers. The volunteers and I were pleased with the conversations we experienced and teaching we provided. You know it is worth the effort when one person said, “I didn’t know there was a bird club in Harford County.” She then took a membership form and promised to sign on. ~ Deb Stewart

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

The Harford Bird Club Summer Social Reservation Form

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Johanne Henrickson, 2014 Tiffany Terrace, Forest Hill, MD 21050 by Friday, July 5th, 2019 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: ___________________________

 ___________________________

 ___________________________

 __________________________________