



# Wrenderings



*The Newsletter of the Harford Bird Club*

Volume 26 Number 5

April, 2013

## President's Perch

When I wrote my President's Perch articles in October and December of last year, little did I realize that my predictions of irruptive species and "winning the bird-feeder lottery" would indeed happen in my own back yard. As most of you know, Jean and I hosted a first-year male Bullock's Oriole from February 10 through March 17. This is not only a first time bird for Harford County, it is only the third documented record for Maryland, and the first to visit a feeder where bird chasers like me could come and see the bird. To show what an unusual season it has been, there were also Bullock's Orioles at feeders in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia.

So, yes, we feel like we won the lottery because we did nothing differently this season than in past years. The excitement began on Monday, February 11 when I happened to notice a flash of yellow, black, and white on a larger than finch-sized bird. Given the northern irruptive year, my first thought was Evening Grosbeak, a bird that would certainly be an exciting visitor, as I haven't seen one in Harford County for 30 years. Since I didn't have my binoculars around my neck, I tried to get closer to the feeder to examine the bird. I then could see that it wasn't a grosbeak but some kind of oriole.

By then the bird had flown and I needed to take some quick action. I first grabbed my binoculars and looked for the camera. I next found three field guides so that I could compare orioles. One would assume that any lingering winter oriole would be a Baltimore Oriole as there are plenty of records for this species in Maryland in the winter. As I was figuring out how to turn on and focus the camera, I was also looking at the field guides. My bird had a black chin and I was pretty sure that a Baltimore Oriole never has that plumage stage. My next thought was Orchard Oriole as the first year male is yellow-green with a black chin.

In due time, the bird returned to my feeder and I quickly tried to take some pictures with little success. So then I tried to study the bird's features with my binoculars. It didn't have color on the belly and the yellow color tended to be more orange than green, which eliminated the Orchard Oriole. I slowly came to the conclusion that the only logical fit was a first-year male Bullock's. One guide didn't even show this plumage, so it pays to have several different sources to consult. As I switched from just looking at pictures to actually reading the text, I became even more convinced that my identification was accurate.



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## Plan Ahead!

- Fri. May 3, "Pizza" meeting at Harford Glen.
- 24-26 May 2013, MOS annual conference at Edgewood, hosted by Harford Bird Club.
- Sat. June 1, State MOS meeting at Marshy Point Nature Center, Baltimore County
- Fri. July 12, Annual Summer Social at the Maritime Museum in Havre de Grace.

My next steps were to start calling others who were better photographers than me and get other opinions to help verify my conclusion. Fortunately, Kim Hafner and Bob and Susan Hood were available to rush over and photograph the bird. Kim emailed pictures to Matt and he agreed with the identification. Then the fun began as we posted the sighting to the Maryland & DC birding website. That afternoon brought about 10 visitors and people continued to come for most of the next five weeks. I tried to keep a list of visitors but probably missed many. By my count, more than 175 enjoyed seeing the bird and adding it to one or more of their lists.

Some days the bird only showed up once and other days it came almost hourly. Why is it here and where did it spend the rest of the winter? Where else does it go to feed? Could it have been here all winter and I just didn't notice? The Bullock's in Pennsylvania is back for a third winter. Will my bird return next year? I used to tell my science teachers that teaching is not about getting them to give the right answers but getting them to ask the right questions. I like surprises and I like to investigate questions and discover something that the books don't tell me. I especially like to share my "lottery winnings" and I have made many new birding friends as a result of this experience. Not a bad way to spend a winter! Thanks Mr. Oriole for selecting my yard and sharing some excitement with me and my friends. You are welcome to come back next year. ~ *Dennis Kirkwood*

## Bird Droppings

### 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 410-879-6098 or email to [mlovera30@aol.com](mailto:mlovera30@aol.com).

### Welcome!

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!

**Susan Austin of Bel Air**

**Danny and Carol Bennett of Edgewood**

**John T Calcagno & Jenny Flores of Havre de Grace**

**Roberta Eierman of Jarrettsville**

**Greg Futral of Joppa**

**Joel & Kelly Stewart of Forest Hill**

**Anita H. Tyler of Edgewood**

**Anne Walker of Jarrettsville**

Club condolences are extended to Mark Johnson on the death of his mother, Carol Johnson, on April 10.

### Harford Bird Club Executive Board

<b>President</b>	Dennis Kirkwood	410-692-5905	<a href="mailto:newarkfarms@gmail.com">newarkfarms@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Matt Hafner	410-971-3203	<a href="mailto:hafner.matt@gmail.com">hafner.matt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Jane Scocca	410-272-8870	<a href="mailto:jane@scocca.org">jane@scocca.org</a>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Madeline Lovera	410-879-6098	<a href="mailto:mlovera30@aol.com">mlovera30@aol.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marjie Heagy	410-557-9485	<a href="mailto:msheagy@zoominternet.net">msheagy@zoominternet.net</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Dave Webb	410-939-3537	<a href="mailto:porzana@comcast.net">porzana@comcast.net</a>
<b>Field Trip Chairperson</b>	Tom Gibson	410-734-4135	<a href="mailto:gibsonlld@aol.com">gibsonlld@aol.com</a>
<b>Bird Count Coordinator</b>	Rick Cheicante	410-803-2712	<a href="mailto:rickcheicante@cs.com">rickcheicante@cs.com</a>
<b>Dinner Reservations</b>	Eileen Nack	410-272-7017	<a href="mailto:jmnack@comcast.net">jmnack@comcast.net</a>
<b>Public Relations</b>	Donna Yorkston	443-562-8501	<a href="mailto:donnayorkston@hotmail.com">donnayorkston@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Education Chairperson</b>	Madeline Lovera	410-879-6098	<a href="mailto:mlovera30@aol.com">mlovera30@aol.com</a>
<b>Conservation Chair</b>	Deborah Bowers	410-692-2708	<a href="mailto:bowerspub@hotmail.com">bowerspub@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	Ruth Bergstrom	443-752-1967	<a href="mailto:ruthb22@yahoo.com">ruthb22@yahoo.com</a>
<b>State Board Members</b>	Tom Congersky	410-658-4137	<a href="mailto:jnitcon@zoominternet.net">jnitcon@zoominternet.net</a>
	Randy Robertson	410-273-9029	<a href="mailto:r.christian.robertson@gmail.com">r.christian.robertson@gmail.com</a>
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## Pizza Dinner Meeting May 4

Join us for the club's next gathering on Friday, May 3 when we enjoy an encore of last year's highly successful pizza dinner meeting. The meeting will again take place at Harford Glen (directions below), and the menu will consist of a variety of pizzas, fresh vegetables and dip, and beverages. The gate opens at 6 PM and dinner will be served promptly at 6:30 PM. The business meeting will start at 7:00 PM. The program for the evening will be **"The Great Minnesota Foray"**. HBC members Dave Ziolkowski, Mark Johnson, Dave Webb and Volney Ford will share their wild 5-day birding adventure in February to the Sax-Zim Bog and Lake Superior shore areas north of Duluth. Their trip targeted this year's widely reported boreal species invasion. Be ready for some spectacular photography, hard-to-get life birds, and great stories. There will also be tips on how to plan and organize time-compressed road trips from Harford County, on a shoestring budget. They've done it before, and they'll do it again!

Directions to Harford Glen. From MD 24 between Bel Air and Constant Friendship, turn southwest onto Wheel Road. Drive 0.9 miles to entrance gate. Continue for another 0.2 miles, and turn left to enter parking area beside dining facility. See map at [www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=3611133](http://www.gmap-pedometer.com/?r=3611133).

## Officer Nominations for 2013-15

According to our club by-laws, we elect a new slate of officers every two years. At our March meeting, the names of club members who have agreed to serve for the next term was announced. At our May meeting we will have a vote on the proposed slate and then the newly elected officers will be installed at our July social.

The nominations for club officers are:

President – Matt Hafner

Vice-President – Mark Magnani

Recording Secretary – Jane Scocca

Corresponding Secretary – Madeline Lovera

Treasurer – Marjie Heagy

State Directors – Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson

A special thank you is offered to these individuals for their willingness to serve the club in this important way.

## June Challenge!

by Matt Hafner

The June Challenge is an event started by the Alachua Audubon Society in Florida. The purpose is to get more people birding in the month of June, but I also feel it will be a great way to better understand birds in Harford County. For example, the last two years, I have lead a June field trip for the bird club traversing the entire county and I've been surprised not to see a single gull species all day. Are there really no gulls in the county in June? Were we just unlucky? The Breeding Bird Atlas Project is over, but that doesn't mean we know all about the breeding birds of Harford County. Anyone know where to find Red-headed Woodpeckers? Vesper Sparrows? Northern Bobwhite?

How to participate? Go birding in Harford County in June! Everyone is welcome and I encourage everyone to get out there. I am leading a June Challenge kick-off trip on June 1st where we will try to find some of the more uncommon breeding species in the county and look for a few late migrants and rarities found by the conference. So if you go birding in June simply send your sightings to me (or better yet, use the club listserv and ebird!) and I will keep a tally of all the species reported to the county in June. If you see a species listed as rare or accidental in summer in the Harford County Checklist

([www.harfordbirdclub.org/HarfordChecklist.pdf](http://www.harfordbirdclub.org/HarfordChecklist.pdf)), please include a couple sentences on the location and identification. People may want to chase it! I will post weekly updates to the listserv on the progress and try to include some suggestions on where to find new species.

At the end of the month, send me your list ([hafner.matt@gmail.com](mailto:hafner.matt@gmail.com)) and I will publish the results of the first ever Harford County June Challenge!

## MOS Conference

The Harford Bird Club is sponsoring the 2013 MOS Conference in Edgewood May 24-26, but so far, registration by Harford members has been low. If you have not already done so, please register and support this fun bird activity. The registration form can be found online at

[www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/MOSConf13.pdf](http://www.mdbirds.org/activities/conference/MOSConf13.pdf)

## 2012 Annual Awards Presented

At the March 1 dinner meeting, the club continued the tradition of recognizing members and friends who have made a special contribution to our organization during the past year. We wish to thank Joy Aso of the Montgomery MOS chapter for her beautiful certificates that she created this year for each awardee.

The first award was **Birder of the Year**, presented to Les Eastman for his many contributions to our club. Les has served as Vice-President in the past, regularly leads field trips, and hosts an annual "Hummingbird Happy Hour" in August when his 25+ feeders are humming with action. He has been the creator and manager of our website since the 1990s and also edits and compiles our newsletter, *Wrenderings*. With all this activity on behalf of the club, it is only appropriate that he also gets many outstanding birds to visit his feeders. Congratulations Les!

The next award was **Volunteer of the Year**, presented to Eileen Nack for her long-time service in organizing the dinner meetings, including preparing nametags, collecting the money, coordinating with the Women's Society at the church, and any other duties as assigned. She is a very willing worker and an extremely pleasant lady. For all these generous gifts of time and talent, we thank you and congratulate you Eileen!

Our **Rookie of the Year** was presented to Josh Emm of Havre de Grace. Josh got turned on to birding this past fall and has been a regular attendee on most field trips and club events. He regularly reports his findings on the Maryland and Harford List Serves and often accompanies the reports with beautiful photos. His excitement and enthusiasm are contagious. Best wishes Josh and congratulations!

Our **Local Lister of the Year** was awarded to our Vice-President Matt Hafner for seeing 229 species in Harford County during 2012, believed to be the second highest Harford big year count. Matt is one of the state's most active field birders, leading trips throughout the state and even on the Atlantic Ocean as a pelagic bird trip organizer and leader. We are fortunate to have him and his wife, Kim, back in Harford County and involved with the Harford Bird Club. Congratulations Matt! In addition this year, President Dennis Kirkwood was recognized for reaching 2000 World Life Birds during his summer trip to Peru.

Our final award is **Bird of the Year**. This award is centered on a bird but also recognizes the discoverer and/or host of the species for their hospitality to bird and birders. Because 2012 was another good year for new birds to Harford (several species were added to the County all-time list), the executive board had a tough choice. Our recipient was the Rahll Family of Fallston who hosted several (we think 3) Henslow's Sparrows in their farm field this past April and May. Kim and Matt Hafner are neighbors of the Rahlls and discovered the singing males. When approached, the Rahlls gave permission for visiting birders to enter and observe the birds. This species was once more common in central Maryland but has not been present for about 50 years. We have high hopes that the birds will return and possibly establish themselves once again locally. The Rahlls were unable to be at the March meeting but we hope to be able to present their award at our May gathering. Thank you for your hospitality and preservation of open space and grassland habitat.

### What My Student Finds Amusing

By Colleen Webster

--for Dennis Kirkwood, teacher and birder extraordinaire

I am one of those people  
who wake up excited  
to put on my clothes  
and go out to spy on birds

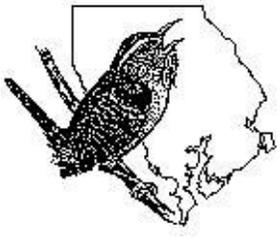
It is true

Today I stretched into fleece  
layers, collected scope, binoculars  
and guide books so I could find  
swans, buffleheads, scaup and wigeon.

These white, gray, and black  
beings daubed their presence  
on the frozen tip of the Chesapeake  
between geese, ducks, and eagles

The scope trained on them  
I invited two young fishermen to see  
what I saw—one looked at swans  
but when I said *eagle*, both looked

This is how we woo  
the world back to itself, one  
young person at a time, looking  
through a tiny lense  
at what goes on



# Harford Birdlife

by Monroe Harden

Harford County had a good winter for birds this year. Let's hope spring is just as good. This report covers the period from January 26<sup>th</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

## Geese, Swans, Ducks

DK had a **Cackling Goose** and a blue **Snow Goose** at Turney's Pond in northern Harford County through most of the period. TH found 15 **Northern Shovelers** at Swan Harbor on March 15<sup>th</sup>. He saw 13 there on March 26<sup>th</sup>. SH saw a male **Redhead** on a pond near Tollgate Road on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. It was still there on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. BM saw one on the Susquehanna River on Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>, along with several **scaup**. JE identified a **Greater Scaup** on the river on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. DL saw 4 at Lakeside on Mar 17<sup>th</sup>. LE saw a mixed flock of about 200 **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** from Lapidum on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. He saw 50-60 more near the Rock Run mill. JoH and JE saw a **White-winged Scoter** on the river near Lapidum on Mar 17<sup>th</sup>. JE saw a female **Red-breasted Merganser** from the Havre de Grace waterfront on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. GF found one at Lakeside on Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>. PP had a **Ruddy Duck** at Mariner Point Park on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Hawks, Falcons

JE saw his first **Osprey** of the year over the Susquehanna River on Mar 14<sup>th</sup>. JAS saw two near the APG-South airfield on Mar 15<sup>th</sup>. LB had a **Bald Eagle** spend a few days in late February on the ground in and around her Bel Air yard before it moved on. SH saw a pair of **Red-shouldered Hawks** mating in her yard on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. LE saw an **American Kestrel** near the intersection of Rock Run and Craig's Corner Roads on Mar 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Woodcocks, Gulls, Hummingbirds

TH found 3-4 **American Woodcocks** near Beard's Hill Road in Aberdeen at sunset on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. He saw and heard 3-4 others at the former Swan Creek Country Club on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. MH found a **Little Gull** over the river near Lapidum on Mar 18<sup>th</sup>. JoH and JE saw a **Black-headed Gull** in the same general area on Mar 17<sup>th</sup>. DL noted about 75 **Ring-billed Gulls** and a **Herring Gull** at Lakeside on Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>. LE hosted a wayward first year male **Rufous Hummingbird** at his home near Havre de Grace all winter. By the end of March, it had almost completely molted into its breeding plumage.



## Thrushes, Thrasher, Longspur, Blackbird, Oriole, Finches

JH saw a flock of **Eastern Bluebirds** near her Bel Air home on Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>. DB had a **Hermit Thrush** in her Street birdbath Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. JE saw an early **Brown Thrasher** in Perryman on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. MH found a **Lapland Longspur** near Bradenbaugh Rd on Mar 25<sup>th</sup>. JE saw about 65 **Rusty Blackbirds** near Clubhouse Road in Perryman on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. DK hosted an immature male **Bullock's Oriole** at his home in northern Harford County from Feb 11<sup>th</sup> through Mar 17<sup>th</sup>. Over 175 people came to his home during this time to see this beautiful bird. SH saw 5 **White-winged Crossbills** near her Fallston home on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. MH saw 6 in the same place on Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>. JE and LE saw a **Common Redpoll** at LE's feeder on Mar 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. There were also several **Pine Siskins** there throughout the period.

## Contributors

BM- Brian Marshall, DK- Dennis Kirkwood, DL- Dave Larkin, GF- Greg Futral, JAS- Jeffery Arbenz-Smith, JE- Joshua Emm, JH- Jan Hamill, JoH- John Hubbell, LB- Lisa Burke, LE- Les Eastman, MH- Matt Hafner, PP- Phil Powers, SH- Susan Hood, TH- Tim Houghton

## HBC Website Gets a New Webmaster and a New Look

After 15 years of creating, updating, and maintaining our Bird club website, Les Eastman, 2012 Birder of the Year, has asked to be excused from that important duty. The club has benefited greatly from Les' generous time commitment and his technological expertise. Thank you on behalf of all club members and web surfers! Fortunately, we have another club member who has stepped up to take on this special role. Dick Harple has enthusiastically tackled the website responsibility and will launch an updated version with the same web address - [www.harfordbirdclub.org](http://www.harfordbirdclub.org) - on or about April 21. Please check out the new version and offer your critique so that our website can provide timely and useful information for club members and future club members. Dick can be contacted at [gharple@comcast.net](mailto:gharple@comcast.net). Thanks again to Les for his faithful service and to Dick for sharing his talents and time.

# Harford Bird Club Field Trips

Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson and Lynn Davis

**April 20 (Sat.) – Susquehanna State Park.** An ideal time to enjoy emerging wildflowers, early migrant songbirds, 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 8:00 AM. The leaders are Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; [cwebster@harford.edu](mailto:cwebster@harford.edu) ) and Sue Procell (410-676-6602; [suzanne.procell@us.army.mil](mailto:suzanne.procell@us.army.mil) ).

**April 21 (Sun.) - Anita Leight Estuary Center.** One of three estuary centers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Leight Center provides attractive habitat for passerines, shore birds and waterfowl. Leader Phil Powers invites you to stroll the trails, visit the water's edge, or just sit to enjoy the avian activity on the grounds of the Center. You can contact Phil with questions at (410-679-4116 or [birdsindm@verizon.net](mailto:birdsindm@verizon.net)).

**April 26 (Fri.) – Jerusalem Mill.** Visit this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River marking Harford's western border. Meet at the Mill on Jerusalem Road (not far west of Rt. 152) at 7:30 AM. The leader is Phil Powers (410-679-4116 or [birdsindm@verizon.net](mailto:birdsindm@verizon.net)).

**April 27 (Sat.) Ma and Pa Trail.** Explore the newest section of this popular trail walking from Annie's Playground to Tollgate Road and back. Field, forest marsh and water make for a variety of habitats and birdlife. Meet at the parking lot at the playground on Smith Lane off of Connolly Road in Fallston at 7:30 AM. The leader is Susan Hood (410-937-7552, [susanhood@comcast.net](mailto:susanhood@comcast.net)).

**May 4 (Sat.) Fifth Annual Epic Birding Contest. (Inclement weather date, Sun., May 5) –** The first four of these contests have each been a real hoot (although we haven't had an owl, yet)! So make room on your calendar to join us at Susquehanna State Park. We'll 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 occur at approximately 12 noon at the Tidewater Grill in Havre de Grace. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration. Coordinators are Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; [gibsonld@aol.com](mailto:gibsonld@aol.com) ) and Sue Procell (410-676-6602 or [suzanne.procell@us.army.mil](mailto:suzanne.procell@us.army.mil))

**May 11 (Sat.) – Statewide May Count.** Help Harford County contribute to this important data collection day and monitor migration throughout our locale. Contact the coordinator, Rick Cheicante (410-803-2712 or [rickcheicante@cs.com](mailto:rickcheicante@cs.com) ) for assignments.

**May 18 (Sat.) – Anita Leight Estuary Center.** Spend a leisurely morning observing the spring migration from the grounds of the center. You may remain in one spot for the duration of this event, wander in the vicinity of the building,

or stroll the nearby trail. The facility will provide chairs. You may want to bring some food and a drink. Meet leader Phil Powers (410-679-4116 or [birdsindm@verizon.net](mailto:birdsindm@verizon.net)) at the Estuary Center at 7:30 AM.

**May 24 -26 - MOS Conference.** Hosted by the Harford Bird Club. If you have never attended a conference before, this is a great opportunity to meet and bird with folks from across the State. We have a great variety of field trips planned and the keynote speaker is our own David Ziolkowski, Jr. All important information and registration material can be found on the MOS website at [www.mdbirds.org](http://www.mdbirds.org). Hope to see you there.

**May 27 (Mon.) - Upper Deer Creek Valley.** Use the morning of this Memorial Day to visit rural NW Harford County with its avian-friendly waterways and its World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats. Expect to see warblers, Horned Larks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Willow Flycatchers. Meet at the northern end of Madonna Road where it crosses Deer Creek at Hidden Valley at 7:00 AM. Leader is Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; [newarkfarms@gmail.com](mailto:newarkfarms@gmail.com))

**June 1 (Sat.) – June Challenge Kickoff.** See article on page 3.

**June 8 (Sat.) – Havre de Grace kayaking for birds.** Ply the waters from [Tydings Park or the end of Congress Avenue] in the River City using these popular watercraft to maneuver for better views of water fowl, shorebirds, and other birds. Meet leaders Sue Procell and Colleen Webster at 8:00 AM at the park. Contact Colleen ([CWebster@harford.edu](mailto:CWebster@harford.edu) or 410-459-4577) for more details and reservations. Birders wishing to rent a kayak should contact Old Town Parasail (410-688-2397) in advance of the trip to make arrangements.



**June 18 (Tue.) – Jerusalem Mill.** Visit this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River marking Harford's western border. Meet at the Mill on Jerusalem Road (not far west of Rt. 152) at 7:30 AM. The leader is Phil Powers (410-679-4116 or [birdsindm@verizon.net](mailto:birdsindm@verizon.net)).

**June 22 (Sat.) – Anita Leight Center.** Enjoy a pontoon boat cruise on the waters adjoining the Anita Leight Estuary Center on the Bush River seeking the abundant birdlife and other wildlife of the area. Meet the leader Phil Powers at the Center at 7:45 AM. The cruise will start at 8:00 AM and end at approximately 10:30 AM. The cost is \$6.00 per person with a trip limit of 15. Advance reservations required. Contact Phil Powers directly at 410-679-4116; [birdsindm@verizon.net](mailto:birdsindm@verizon.net) ). Please do not call the Anita Leight Estuary Center.

# Field Trip Reports

## Loch Raven

February 24

It was a beautiful late winter's day; sunny with temperatures in the mid 40's. Eight of us walked the Loch Raven watershed, first taking the path through woodland to the fisherman's dock and then partially retracing our steps through woodland down the peninsula to the reservoir again. On our woodland walk we encountered a number of mixed flocks of small birds; **nuthatches**, **Carolina Chickadees**, both **Golden-crowned** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **Eastern Bluebird** and five species of **woodpecker** including **Hairy**. Sparrows were not plentiful and **Chipping Sparrow** was a good find. On the reservoir, while duck were not abundant, seven species were identified along with **Hooded Merganser** and **Pied-billed Grebe** both of which were present in numbers. Overall 47 species were identified.

~ Phil Powers and Dave Larkin.

## Gunpowder Waterfowl Trip

March 16, 2013

The weather forecast threatened of rain and snow, so four of us went onto APG-North to scope out waterfowl because low pressure systems seem to favor birds on the water. It remained cloudy all day with soft rain mid-morning. Luckily the winds were calm and the water was like glass. Rafts of **Lesser** and **Greater Scaup** were found off Hoadley Road as well were **Tundra Swans**, **Common Mergansers**, and **Ruddy Ducks**. **Bald Eagles** were seen throughout the day. Dr. Bob Werrlein spied a very nice **Red-throated Loon** up close off of Kings Creek that afforded an excellent chance for observation. As we were on fire, we went to Perryman to see what was at the ponds on

Ford Lane. On the way, **Horned Larks** danced over the hood of my van, splitting off and landing about 10m equidistant from my van on either side allowing very close looks for observers in all seats. The ponds had little water but the trip allowed us to pick up **American Kestrel** and **Northern Harrier**.



A recently deceased white-tailed deer had more than 40 **Black Vultures** attracted by it and we observed as they worked through the carcass. A quick pass by the marsh on Rt. 40 across from Home Depot was also productive where we picked up **American Wigeon**, **Gadwall**, and the resident **Mute Swan**. We accumulated 57 species for the day and really didn't want to stop. ~ Mark S. Johnson

## Eden Mill Nature Center

March 23

Nine birders gathered at Eden Mill eager to shed the lingering BLAHS of winter. In a good start, we were greeted by a pair of **Hooded Mergansers**, a rising **Red-tailed Hawk**. a cacophony of **Canada Geese**, a drumming of resident **woodpeckers**, and signature songs of waking passerines. The air was crisp and still, the sky was blue and nearly cloudless, and the morning sun accented the brilliant colors of every showy plumage. Near the mill, **Pileated Woodpeckers** put their great size and flaming red crests on review. We walked for 3.5 hrs on riparian, marshy and woodland trails which were frequently quiet, but came alive at intervals with passing groups of skulking sparrows, a drilling **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, foraging **White- & Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Brown Creeper**, and **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. All together, we listed 37 species in our wanderings, and enjoyed good looks at iced-in egg masses of a Wood Frog and a Spotted Salamander. Can spring be far behind? ~ Bob Werrlein



## The Harford Bird Club Dinner Reservation Form

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Eileen Nack, 8 Crestmont Drive, Aberdeen MD 21001 by Friday, April 26, 2013 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Harford Bird Club May Dinner Meeting

## “The Great Minnesota Foray”

by

**Dave Ziolkowski, Mark Johnson, Dave Webb and Volney Ford**

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Pizza Dinner - 6:30pm - General Meeting time 7:00pm

Location: Harford Glen Environmental Education Center

502 West Wheel Road

Bel Air, MD



Mail To :

If unable to deliver, please return to:  
Madeline Lovera  
2068 Brandy Drive  
Forest Hill, MD 21050

