President’s Perch

Birds of a Feather

Having arrived at my penultimate perch, I am staring at a blank sheet of paper, and wondering what it is that binds us all together. Obviously, we share a love of birds, and harbor a passion to understand the world they occupy, and yet - - what discourse is there to fill my empty page, and satisfy that noble purpose? Perhaps an answer lies in the realm of bird banding, i.e., in the scientific practice of banding, recording, tracking and recapturing live birds. We do this for pleasure, but also because tracking birds over large spatial and temporal areas reveals invaluable biological information. It gives insight to understand the life history of birds, and to explore the population dynamics of migratory species. In keeping with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the permit (ed) process is managed by federal agencies that analyze and use the recovered data to facilitate improvements that benefit survival of native, threatened, and endangered species. North American banding is a collaborative effort regulated by the Bird Banding Laboratory at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center under the U.S. Geological Survey; and by the Bird Banding Office of the Canadian Wildlife Service. Absolute requirements for migratory research include (1) recording the location, date, age, and species of each bird banded at the encounter site; (2) knowing the breeding area, wintering area, and species fidelity to these areas; and (3) gathering enough data to determine navigational routes, directional movements, and migratory speeds of the species moving between these areas.

Unfortunately, traditional methods for banding, tracking, and recapture are inefficient. In the past century, 307,489 Wilson's Warblers have been banded, and only 289 (< 0.1%) have been recaptured. Fortunately, the ICARUS initiative (International Cooperation for Animal Research Using Space), and recent developments of miniaturized tracking technology have made it possible to determine global migratory routes and travel times for an increasing number of small bird species.

Geolocator chips, mounted on the backs of migratory birds weighing under 50 g (e.g., Purple Martins, Wood Thrush) are programmed to detect levels of light at sunrise, sunset, and midday in relation to an internal timer. When retrieved, the chip information is downloaded into a "Locator" program to calculate latitude, longitude, and geographic location along the migratory route based on the sun's arc and average elevation.

Radar echoes and satellite tracking are useful methods for detection of bird movements during migration, and for determining orientation, altitude, density, land speeds, and effects of atmospheric disturbances. It should be noted that electronic tracking devices are expensive, and their use is limited by their relatively large size and weight.

From the 2014 research of UCLA biologist Kristen Ruegg et al., we now know it is possible to map the global route of small (< 10 g) migratory birds from the DNA of a single

(continued on page 2)
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!

CALEB BROWN of BEL AIR
MICHAEL ECK & MARCI KEENER of ABINGDON
ROBERT & VALERIE LANGAN of JARRETTSVILLE
ANNE MEADOWS of MONKTON
JUDE WALTERS of ABERDEEN

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.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to our President, Dr. Robert Werrlein and his wife, Ann. Bob's father, Dr. Stephen Eaton passed away on February 16 after a long battle with complications due to aging.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the Hines family of Cedarvale Farm in Churchville, on the death of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Sarah Emily Coale Hines, passed away on March 6. Emily was a long-time member of the bird club who was liaison for the club with the Churchville Presbyterian Church where our dinners and meetings occur. We will miss her.

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to Ruth Bergstrom who's mother, Mary Joan Bergstrom, passed away March 17.

Happy Trails,
Bob Werrlein

Harford Bird Club Executive Board

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Pizza Dinner Meeting, 5 May
The Harford Glen’s gate opens at 6 p.m., and dinner begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. with rounds of pizza (various toppings), salads, fresh vegetables, dip, and soft beverages. Reservations are required for the pizza dinner - (see form, page 9). If you have questions contact Johanne Henrickson at (410) 836-8889; or johen24@gmail.com.
The short business meeting at 7:00 p.m. will headline Dave Webb and his "MOS Financial Roadshow," an informed discourse on how your dues and MOS assets are invested. Election of Chapter Officers for the 2017-2019 term will conclude the meeting.
The presentation: “Animals from Harford County’s Biomes and Riparian Habitats” is a photographic adventure captured by the keen eye and camera lenses of Frank Marsden, Director of the Eden Mill Nature Center, Pylesville, MD.
Directions to Harford Glen. From MD 24 near the Festival at Bel Air, turn southwest onto Wheel Road. Drive 0.9 mile to the entrance gate. Continue another 0.2 mile, and turn left to enter the parking area.

Harford Bird Club
Slate of Officers for 2017-2019
President Deborah (Debbie) Stewart
Vice President Amanda Koss
Recording Secretary Jane Scocca
Corresponding Secretary Madeline Lovera
Treasurer Eric Vangrin

HBC Certificates of Recognition
On Friday, 3 March 2017, at our dinner-business and annual awards meeting, nine "Certificates of Recognition" were presented to 4 outstanding members, 2 highly-acclaimed associates, and 3 resident friends of the Harford County Bird Club (HBC). In all, the 2016 awardees distinguished themselves in varied services to our HBC mission by (1) promoting recognition, and enjoyment of Harford County birdlife (2) encouraging exploration and thereby conservation of our county’s diverse, species-rich habitats, and (3) fostering community interaction in HBC programs. To that end, five birding categories were considered, and in two of the categories, multiple awardees were found equally deserving. Certificates were presented at the Churchville Presbyterian Church, Churchville, MD.

"Birder of the Year" - Tom Gibson, was recognized for nine years of continuous, outstanding service as organizational chairman, champion, and tour de force of the HBC field trip programs that offer weekly outings to Maryland’s varied, species-rich habitats.
"Rookie of the Year" - Rachel Hebert, for developing two new HBC field trips at Ladew Topiary Gardens: "Birds & Blooms" in April, and "Butterflies & Blooms" in September; and for promoting an HBC-operated educational station during Ladew’s Children’s Day.
"Volunteer of the Year" - Elaine Beery, was recognized for her entrepreneurial ingenuity in developing and maintaining a fiscally productive raffle that has assured eight years of balanced financial growth and stability, and reliable management of HBC finances.
"Volunteer of the Year" - Amanda Koss, for selfless investment of her time and effort. She mastered all the technical, taxonomic, and recording skills needed to operate, and preserve the educational bird-banding program at the Harford Glen Environmental Center.
"Lister of the Year" - Matt Hafner, a world-class birder, and past president of the HBC, logged an impressive 300 species for his Harford County Life List. That is 92% of the 326 total species known and listed as Harford County Birds.
"Bird of the Year" - Brian & Mary Dulaney-James, granted HBC members access to the Chesapeake Bay via their "Old Bay Farm" property (Havre de Grace, MD) to view a rare Tufted Duck, and a Tufted x Ring-Necked Duck hybrid (found by Josh Emm on 29 Feb '16).
"Bird of the Year" - Jean Baynes, granted access to HBC birders to view 4 Baird’s Sandpipers (common in N.E. Siberia & American Arctic) that settled on the shores of Chesapeake Bay near Jean’s residence in Havre de Grace (found by Josh Emm on 22 Aug 2016).
"Bird of the Year" - Rob & Lisa Ann Fanning, expert birders from Morganville, N.J., spied a rare Black-throated Gray Warbler in Tydings Park, Havre de Grace, MD on 26 Nov 2016. The bird lingered, and was seen by other birders for several weeks.
"2017 Honorary HBC Membership" - Josh Emm, for adding the following rare, first-time birds to the list of Harford County species (Tufted Duck, Baird's Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Painted Bunting). Josh Emm was our first time recipient of this inaugural award.
This winter provided Harford County with some spectacular rare birds. I hope everyone got a chance to see the beautiful Painted Bunting in Aberdeen, the Common Teal in Edgewood, or the Yellow-headed Blackbird near Havre de Grace. This report covers the period from February 1st through March 31st, 2017.

Geese, Ducks, Grebes, Turkeys, Raptors
DK saw a blue-phase Snow Goose in Jarrettsville on Feb 21st. MJ spotted a Cackling Goose flying over Perryman Park with 8 Canada Geese. RB saw 4 male and 1 female Wood Ducks at Harford Glen on Feb 12th. TH saw 5 at Susquehanna State Park on Mar 29th. MJ found a female Blue-winged Teal at Swan Harbor on Feb 28th. DK and DJ took a boat on the bay on Feb 25th and saw several Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintail, Redheads, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye and Ruddy Ducks. The highlight of this excursion was the sight of huge numbers of Canvasbacks and Greater Scaup. MJ found a Eurasian Common Teal at the Home Depot Pond near Edgewood on Mar 6th. Others saw it there through Mar 13th. JG saw 2 Long-tailed Ducks near Lapidum on Mar 21st. DL saw one there the next day. It was associating with a Horned Grebe. TH saw a Red-breasted Merganser at Susquehanna State Park on Mar 29th.

SH saw a group of 12 Wild Turkeys fly up into some high trees near her Fallston home. They were apparently spooked by a dog. FS saw an early Osprey at Mariner Point Park on Feb 25th. TH watched a male and a female Northern Harrier flying around Swan Harbor on Mar 30th. SH saw 2 Red-shouldered Hawk eyases near Laurel Brook Rd in Fallston on Mar 28th.

Yellowlegs, Gulls, Owls, Woodpeckers, Ravens
KS and HP saw a Greater Yellowlegs at Swan Harbor on Feb 23rd. TH also saw one there on Mar 30th. JE saw and heard a Lesser Yellowlegs there on Feb 23rd. MJ found 2 Little Gulls on the river near Lapidum on Mar 10th. FS saw one there on Mar 25th. DL saw a Black-headed Gull there on Mar 12th. RE saw the continuing Iceland Gull at Mariner Point Park on Feb 3rd. JE counted 6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the Tydings Flats on Mar 26th.

EW saw a Barn Owl near Pohickery Farm on Mar 14th. DK’s resident Eastern Screech-Owl was present on Newark Farms on Mar 30th and a few days before. BW heard a pair of Barred Owls hooting near the Bailey Rd pipeline during the last half of March. EW found a Red-headed Woodpecker near Pohickery Farm on Feb 14th.

JR saw one on APG South on Feb 22nd. He said that this was a reliable spot to see these birds. MH saw a Common Raven flying over his Fallston yard. This was his second yard record. KG saw one flying over the river near I-95 on Mar 19th.

Swallows, Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrushes
JE saw a Tree Swallow at Swan Harbor on Feb 22nd. MJ saw a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on Mar 10th. NDB saw the continuing Black-capped Chickadee at Mariner Point Park on Feb 4th. DM also saw one there on Mar 4th. SH and BW noted continuing pairs of Red-breasted Nuthatches at their homes in Fallston and Forest Hill. CS heard a Marsh Wren call several times at Swan Harbor on Feb 23rd. TH found a Hermit Thrush there on Mar 30th.

Warblers, Sparrows, Buntings, Blackbirds
DW found an Orange-crowned Warbler at Swan Harbor on Feb 4th. JE saw it there on Mar 5th. TH saw a Palm Warbler of indeterminate race at Swan Harbor on Feb 6th. DL saw Yellow and Western Palm Warblers there on Feb 26th. DK saw several American Tree Sparrows at Newark Farms on Feb 21st. JR found a Vesper Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Feb 18th. JH and DL also saw one there the next day. DW saw 3 Fox Sparrows at his Webster Village home on Mar 18th. He had 4 on Mar 26th. DL found a LeConte’s Sparrow at Swan Harbor on Feb 22nd. Others reported it there through Feb 25th. DB saw and photographed a leucistic Dark-eyed Junco at her Street home on Mar 14th. It had an odd-looking white face.

Many birders saw the male Painted Bunting at a private feeder in Aberdeen during the reporting period. The homeowners were very accommodating and welcoming and helpful to those of us visiting their property to see this excellent bird. MJ found a Yellow-headed Blackbird in a large flock of non-Yellow-headed Blackbirds near the Hopkins Farm Pond outside of Havre de Grace on Mar 20th. The bird was seen through Mar 22nd. TH saw 2 Rusty Blackbirds at Susquehanna State Park on Mar 29th.

Contributors

Photo by Monroe Harden
Field Trip Reports

World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats
February 4

On a sunny and cold February 4, 22 avid birders turned out for the annual winter trip to the World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats and its surrounding countryside. Participants came from Delaware, Virginia, and Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties. We visited three different large ponds for waterfowl and found single Cackling Geese at two locations. Ducks included Ring-necked, Mallard, American Black, and one hen Lesser Scaup. At the Flats we had two cooperative Horned Larks that looked too cold to move, giving us scope views of this special resident. Two adult Red-headed Woodpeckers were also very cooperative and provided a life bird for at least three of the participants. At the leader’s house, we were able to remove a rufous Eastern Screech-Owl from his roosting box and give everyone a close encounter with this super-cute bird of prey. The trip ended with the usual soup buffet and assorted treats. We totaled 28 species for the morning. ~ Dennis Kirkwood, Ed.D.

Cape May/Lewes Ferry
February 11

Six birders set out on a moderate winter morning bound for Cape May and the “mini-pelagic” trip across the Delaware Bay on the Cape May - Lewes Ferry. The first stop took place at Matt’s Landing, a large marsh adjacent to the bay at the mouth of the Maurice River. Great views of a splendid male Long-tailed Duck and several female Common Goldeneye highlighted this location. Our next stop provided the surprise of the day, and would lead to the bird of the trip without question. A couple of local birders asked if we have yet to see the Pink-footed Goose hanging out at the Cape May County Zoo! We hadn’t, and a wild goose chase ensued, culminating with the bird group climbing a small mountain (a dirt pile) to overlook a pond containing about 250 Canada Geese, several American Coot, a Common Loon, a Double-crested Cormorant, and many Ruddy Ducks. And oh yeah, one Pink-footed Goose!!!

Following over 30 minutes of Pink-footed viewing pleasure, the group moved on to Cape May where we cleaned house in puddling ducks minus Northern Pintail, and was later treated to spectacular views of Northern Gannet trailing the ferry out of the Cape May terminal. Along the boat trip literally thousands - maybe even tens of thousands - Black Scoter with many hundreds of Surf Scoter mixed in provided the birding entertainment. Both Gray and Harbor Seals were spotted on the ice-breakers as we approached Lewes, along with distant views of Great Cormorants on the breakwater. Back on shore we struck out on the hoped-for Snow Buntings but ended the day with an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull on the beach at Cape Henlopen. On the whole it couldn’t have been a better day of birding - good weather, great companionship, lots of common birds, a few rarities, and one absolutely colossal Pink-footed Goose! ~ Russell Kovach

Lapidum
April 1

Four hardy birders, including one guest from Baltimore County, joined the leader for our annual search for rare gulls along the Susquehanna River on April 1. We had well over 100 Bonaparte’s Gulls moving up and down the river but the elusive Little Gull and Black-headed Gull did not make an appearance. We enjoyed a distance look at a Long-tailed Duck, a Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, and thousands of Tree Swallows hunting over the water. Bald Eagles and Osprey were present also. We concluded the trip with a quick visit to the Conowingo Dam where a Peregrine Falcon was enjoying breakfast from a shelf near the fish ladder overlooking plenty of Double-crested Cormorants, around 30 eagles, Black Vultures, and a few more gulls. A cold but enjoyable morning! ~ Dennis Kirkwood, Ed.D.
Harford Bird Club Field Trips
Field trip schedule compiled by Tom Gibson

April 22 (Sat.) – Feathers and Flowers at 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), Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219), and Josh Emm.

April 30 (Sun.) – Jerusalem Mill – Visit this appealing stretch of the Little Gunpowder River marking Harford County’s western border. Meet at the parking lot by the mill on Jerusalem Road at 7:00 AM. The leader is Mark Johnson (marksjohnson@gmail.com; 410-692-5978).

May 6 (Sat.) - Ninth Annual Epic Birding Challenge at Susquehanna State Park – The previous competitions have been well-attended and a lot of fun, so make room on your calendar to join us. We will meet at the Rock Run Mill at 6:30 AM for team selections and rules review. Counting will begin at 6:45 AM and end at 11:30 AM. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and will be made to feel comfortable. A rally celebration will be held at noon at the Laurarrin in Havre de Grace. Family members and others are welcome to join the contestants for the celebration. The coordinator is Tom Gibson (410-734-4135, gibsonlld@aol.com).

May 13 (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; rickcheicante@cs.com), for assignments.

May 14 (Sun.) – Susquehanna State Park – Warbler Walk – Join us during prime birding season in a beautiful location. Leader Tim Houghton will guide you to various hot spots depending on the status of the spring migration and what birds are being seen at the time. There is a good chance for Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and yellowthroats. Expect a variety of passerines along with waterfowl and waders out on the river. A few eagles should fly over as well. Meet at the Rock Run Mill at 7:30 AM. Contact Tim at (timhoughton@comcast.net; 410-510-7504).

May 19, 20, 21 — MOS State Conference – See separate listing of trips and events to be posted by MOS.

May 27 (Sat.) – Havre de Grace Paddle Outing - Bring your floating glory (kayak, canoe, stand up) as we look for migrants, mating species and already hatched babies. Colleen Webster and Josh Emm will ply the waters for swimmers, divers and of course, flyers. Meet in Havre de Grace at the Tydings Park boat ramp at 9:00 AM. We can help unload your craft. Call Colleen (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) for details. No rentals available.

May 29 (Mon. Memorial Day) — Hidden Valley/World Famous Bradenbaugh Flats — Leader Susan Hood will guide us to the aptly named Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream surrounded by a beautiful stand of mature hemlock. Carpooling is encouraged because of limited parking space. The trip will proceed from there to the Flats. Meet at 7:00 AM in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Rd. where it crosses Deer Creek. Contact Susan at (susanjhood@comcast.net; 410-877-0574).

June 11 (Sun.) – Susquehanna State Park – Warbler Walk – Catch the last of the migrating warblers along with resident flycatchers and orioles. Look for some nesting warblers as well. Meet in the parking area of the Mill at Rock Run at 7:00 AM. Contact leader, Tim Houghton, (timhoughton@comcast.net; 410-510-7504) for details and likely and recent sightings.

June 17 (Sat.) – Swan Harbor Farm Park – Evening on the Rail Trail – Join experienced leader Dave Webb on the sunset trail for sightings of rails, bitterns, and other nocturnal species at Swan Harbor Farm Park, one of Maryland’s “hot spots” of birding. Additional sites may be visited depending on what is being seen and where. Owls are also a possibility. Meet at the parking lot by the Agricultural Education Center at 7:30 PM. For further information contact Dave (porzana@comcast.net; 410-939-3537).

June 24 (Sat.) – Perryville Community Park – Paddle Outing — Join leaders Sue Procell, Colleen Webster, and Tom Gibson at 9:00 AM at the launch at Stump Point to paddle the usually serene waters of the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bay. Eagles and Osprey are often seen soaring overhead, songbirds and wetland birds frequent the shoreline, and heron and waterfowl are common sightings. No rental boats available. Contact Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com) or Colleen Webster (cwebster@harford.edu; 410-459-4577) or Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; gibsonlld@aol.com).

July 16 (Sun.) – Bombay Hook – This beautiful reserve in Delaware with its diverse coastal wetland habitats offers great promise for a variety of shorebirds, water birds, wading species, raptors and songbirds. Meet leader Russ Kovach at the commuter lot near Havre de Grace on Rts. 155/I-95 at 7:30 AM (russell.kovach@gmail.com; 443-386-4787). Because of the trip length and the lack of local eateries, bring a lunch and sufficient drink for the day.
53rd Annual Rock Run Christmas Bird Count
By Rick Cheicante
CBC Count Coordinator

On Saturday, December 31, 2016, we were met with a pretty seasonal kind of day; temperatures stretched into the mid 40’s with a cloudy to partly cloudy deck. Inland streams, ponds, lakes and impoundments were all open following another unseasonably warm autumn and early winter. A total of 45 counters covered 14 of our sectors, logging 80.3 miles by foot, 356 miles by car and 15 miles by boat. For their efforts, the Rock Run CBC team tallied 108 species for a total of 35,839 individuals. The 108 species is second all-time high behind the 1999 effort producing 109 species, and zoomed past the previous second high total of 105 as recent as 2013.

The theme is getting familiar, and we did it again this year; we found more first-timers ... and a slew of rarities! Start with Matt Hafner and Josh Emm ensuring we tallied that HDG mega-rarity, the Black-throated Gray Warbler. Tom Trafton, Dennis Kirkwood and teams landed a first-timer Trumpeter Swan in Perryville and Swan Harbor produced its continually sighted Palm Warbler for another first-timer. Two Sandhill Cranes also made the rarity list, glimpsed by Dave Ziolkowski in the Swan Creek area.

We produced all-time high counts for six birds — Pied-billed Grebe (48), Double-crested Cormorants (88), Bald Eagle (261), Merlin (4), Peregrine Falcon (4), and American Robin (996). That said, in all of that feel-good news, our 35,839 individuals was in fact our lowest total over the last six years, down over 25% from normalized years, subtracting for one mega-blackbird year. Aside from waterfowl being substantially up from a year ago, almost every passerine family was proportionally down, unlike a year ago when the same was true for increases. Winter “irruptives” were mostly missing again this year.

Finally, we also had four ‘Count Week’ birds: American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser and Orange-crowned Warbler. Notable misses: Green-winged Teal, Wild Turkey and Pine Siskin.

As always, I’d like to thank all of our continually dedicated and faithful sector leads and counters. Also a warm welcome to Mark Johnson (2) for picking up Sector 2 and also for our recent additions to Sector Leads who continued on this year. A special thanks goes out to Dave Webb for organizing our Quest for 100 Tally Happy Rally Hour in Havre de Grace afterwards. Final note, for anyone who likes looking at count data, all of our Rock Run counts, current and historic, can be found at http://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation. Highlights were as follows:

Oakwood: (43 species) Kevin Smith, Ken Drier, Cathy Carter. Kevin and team members continued anchoring our Oakwood sector. They far and away had the high for Snow Goose with 60! Team Blackbird also landed our Common Grackle high with 5,000. Oakwood was one the few sectors producing Swamp Sparrow and Cooper’s Hawk.

Rowlandville: (45 species) Mark Johnson 2. New sector lead Mark Johnson (a.k.a Mark Johnson 2) brought home the Rowlandville area for us this year. Mark had a remarkable high for Eastern Screech-Owl with 10! He also had a shared high for Yellow-rumped Warbler with four and one of two sectors with Chipping Sparrow. Mark, welcome, and thanks for joining us!

Colona: (39 species) Tom Congersky, Randy Robertson, Lee Peterson, Ann Ellen Hughes. Tom and company found our only lovely White-crowned Sparrows (4) for the count. They also had a high for American Crow (75) and second highs for American Goldfinch (32), Carolina Chickadee (30) and Tufted Titmouse (22). The sector was one of three with Savannah Sparrow.

Perry Point: (58 species) Tom Trafton, Debbie Trafton, John Hughes, Jay Killian. The Perry Pointers had an amazing waterfowl day glimpsing Rock Run CBC first-timer Trumpeter Swan. They also had highs for Mallard (375), Ring-necked Duck (125), Hooded Merganser (150) and Ruddy Duck (146). Mute Swan was also only found here. Tom and folks also maintained their annual high for Golden-crowned Kinglets with 29.

Swan Creek: (62 species) Dave Ziolkowski. Dave struck gold finding two Sandhill Cranes, formerly a ‘Count Week’ bird only. Swan Creek produced the only Rusty Blackbirds (7) for the count along with highs for Savannah (45) and Song Sparrow (91). It was one of the few sectors sporting a Merlin.
**Havre de Grace:** (80 species) Rick Cheicante, Matt Hafner, Dave Larkin, Josh Emm, Dominique Bayne, Jack Fuller, Erica Fuller. Okay, with two parties covering HDG and Swan Harbor, anything under 80 would have been unacceptable. With HDG experiencing the Patagonia Picnic Table Effect, Matt and crew staked out Rock Run CBC first-timer Black-throated Gray Warbler. Way to go! The Swan Harbor gang added the continuing Rock Run CBC first-timer Palm Warbler and a high for American Tree Sparrow (5) along with count singletons of Vesper Sparrow and Cackling Goose.

**Aldino:** (43 species) Phil Powers, John Taylor, Al Conrad, Amanda Koss. Heading inland now, Phil and his team were one of the few sectors hammering out all the expected woodpeckers. They also maintained their reign over Blue Jays (44). Team Aldino also had our only Gray Catbirds (2) and were one of but two sectors hosting Black-capped Chickadee and Fox Sparrow.

**Susquehanna:** (46 species) Mark Johnson, Bob Werrlein, Susan Hood, Joel Donnelly. Susquehanna State Park was home to a high for Common Goldeneye (18), Turkey Vultures (49), Eastern Bluebird (28) and hosted ten of our 11 total Cedar Waxwings. An early morning guest included one of our two Northern Saw-whet Owls!

**Rolling Green:** (55 species) Dave Webb, Jean Wheeler, Karen Kennedy, Ann Helton. The other Northern Saw-whet Owl was found here by Dave’s veteran team, who also had Eastern Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls making them the only team with the owl Grand Slam. Nice going! They also located two falcons: American Kestrel and Merlin. Team Rolling Green also had our only Eastern Meadowlark (1) and the only other sector with Snow Goose.

**Palmer SP:** (38 species) Ruth Bergstrom, Timothy Houghton, Scott McDaniel, Andy Adams, Phyllis and Joel Donnelly. Ruth and friends landed our one and only Pine Warbler – a bird we always think we are going to get, but a really tough pull every year, if we get it at all. Way to go! Nice one. Team Chipping Sparrow never disappoints; chalk them up for their annual count high with 20! Hey, but wait, there’s more - how about a count high for Field Sparrow (10) too. Nice going team.

**Darlington:** (36 species) Colleen Webster, Tom Leckey, Marcia Watson. In addition to seeing a lot of Bald Eagles, Colleen, Tom and Marcia easily had our high count for American Black Duck with 110! They were one of the few counts with Common Goldeneye and no Conowingo Wildflower Trail walk would be complete without a bunch of cute Winter Wrens bopping around.

**Dublin:** (49 species) Alicia Farrell. Alicia oversaw Dublin (not Ireland) and some of Conowingo Lake finding a wide range of birds. Highlights included two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, one Peregrine Falcon, and but one of two sectors hosting Ring-necked Duck. Here too was the high count for Fish Crow (9). And Alicia definitely has the hotspot for Dark-eyed Junco (141), another count high.

**Conowingo Dam:** (29 species) Gene Scarpulla, Marcia Watson. Mr. Maryland Gulls stood watch over the waters beneath the Conowingo Dam. No gull rarities this year, one Bonaparte’s Gull, but exactly like last year, Gene and Marcia recorded highs again for Great Blue Heron (42), Black Vulture (353) and Rock Pigeon (300). For so many, every Conowingo winter count comes with a spectacle of Bald Eagles (97); another count high! Two Peregrine Falcons also put in a showing.

**Susquehanna River/Flats:** (61 species) Dennis Kirkwood, Peter Jay, Rachael Hebert, Diane Jones, Peter Kaestner. Naturally, Dennis and boatspersons had an amazing day on the water, to include also glimpsing mega-rarity Trumpeter Swan. They secured highs for Gadwall (75), Bufflehead (60), Common Merganser (60), Bonaparte’s Gull (10) and Double-crested Cormorant (27). They also found our only Redheads, Greater Scaup and Long-tailed Duck!

To all, thank you again, a spectacular and memorable effort all around!
**Education News**

On April 3, Girl Scout Troop 2 invited Mary Murray, Education Coordinator, to help them select sites for the Eastern Bluebird boxes they built as part of their Bronze Award project. The girls chose eight locations at the Box Hill North Community Center to erect the boxes. Mary also spoke about the importance of monitoring the boxes and left a notebook of monitoring instructions and data collection sheets for the girls to use.

**ATTENTION ALL BIRD CLUB MEMBERS:** We're looking for volunteers to speak at the Early Birds (Prospect Mill Elementary School) and Feathered Friends (Meadowvale Elementary School) bird club meetings for the 2017-18 school year! Have you taken a fabulous birding trip? Do you have a favorite bird you can talk about? Do you know a lot about bird feeders? We need happy birders to share their passion with the kids. It's an easy 20-30 minute talk or activity, followed by a bird walk (weather permitting). These kids are lots of fun and very excited about birding and would love to hear from YOU! Contact Mary at murraymary@gmail.com or 410-812-6621.

Want a sneak peek at these great Kid Birders? Come join us at on May 17 from 9:00 am until 11:45 am when the Early Birds and Feathered Friends will be birding at Harford Glen. We'll be taking bird walks through the meadow, down by the wetlands, into the woods, and spend a little time in the new bird hide. If you can join us, email Mary at murraymary@gmail.com.

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**The Harford Bird Club Dinner Reservation Form**

Please cut and mail the bottom portion of this page to Johanne Henrickson, 2014 Tiffany Terrace, Forest Hill, MD 21050 by Friday, April 28th, 2017 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: _______________________
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Harford Bird Club
May Meeting

"Animals from Harford County's Biomes and Riparian Habitats"
by
Frank Marsden, Director
Eden Mill Nature Center

Friday, 5 May, 2017
Pizza Dinner - 6:30 p.m; General Meeting - 7:00 p.m., with a presentation
"MOS Financial Roadshow" by Dave Webb, MOS Treasurer
Location: Harford Glen Environmental Education Center
502 West Wheel Road
Bel Air, MD 21015