

Table of Contents

BoardMinutesCumulativeSept1995-May2018wTableOfContents

Table of Contents

dir1995_09_28	6
Dir1995_10_26	11
Dir1995_11_30	17
dir1996_01_25	22
dir1996_02_22	26
dir1996_05_23	31
dir1996_09_26	35
dir1997_01_23	40
dir1997_02_27_Rev 1	44
dir1997_03_27	49
dir1997_05_22	53
dir1997_06_19	58
dir1997_09_25	60
dir1997_10_23	65
dir1997_11_20	69
dir1998_01_22	73
dir1998_02_26	77
dir1998_03_26	82
dir1998_05_28	86
dir1998_09_24	91
dir1998_10_05	95
dir1998_11_19	102
dir1999_01_28	108
dir1999_02_25 wAttachments	113
dir1999_03_25	124
dir1999_04_22	129
dir1999_05_27	133
dir1999_09_23	138
dir1999_10_28	144
dir1999_11_18	150
dir2000_01_27	156
dir2000_02_24	161
dir2000_03_23	166
dir2000_04_27	175
dir2000_05_25	
dir2000_09_28	184
dir2000_10_26	190

dir2000_11_16a	195
dir2001_01_25	200
dir2001_03_01ReSchedFeb	205
dir2001_03_23	210
dir2001_04_26	215
dir2001_05_24a	220
dir2001_09_27	221
dir2001_10_25	225
dir2001_11_15a	230
dir2002_01_24	234
dir2002_02_21 final	239
dir2002_03_28	243
dir2002_04_25a	247
dir2002_05_23	252
dir2002_09_26	258
dir2002_10_24	264
dir2002_11_21_rev	269
dir2003_01_233a	273
dir2003_02_27_2003_03_06	278
dir2003_03_27_Rev1a	283
dir2003_04_24	287
dir2003_05_22	292
dir2003_09_25	298
dir2003_10_23	304
dir2003_11_20	308
dir2004_01_22	312
dir2004_02_26	317
dir2004_03_25	323
dir2004_04_22	327
dir2004_05_27_wTrRept	332
dir2004_09_23	336
dir2004_10_28	341
dir2004_11_18	349
dir2005_01_27_wAttachments	354
dir2005_02_24	360
dir2005_03_24b	365
dir2005_04_28	370
dir2005_05_26_wAttachments	375
dir2005_09_22_updated	381
dir2005_10_27_Rev1wAttachments	387
dir2005_11_17_wAttachments	400
dir2006_01_26_wAttachments	410
dir2006_02_23_wAttachments	421

dir2006_03_23_wAttachmentsREVISED	431
dir2006_04_27_wAttachments	441
dir2006_05_25_wAttachments	452
dir2006_09_28_wAttachments	458
dir2006_10_26_wAttachments	465
dir2006_11_16_wAttachments	474
dir2007_01_25_wAttachment	484
dir2007_02_22_Rev3wAttachments	489
dir2007_03_22_Rev2wAttachmentsRev2	500
dir2007_04_26_wAttachments	513
dir2007_05_24_wAttachments	527
dir2007_09_27_Rev2wAttachments	533
dir2007_10_25_wAttachments	537
dir2007_11_15_wAttachments	544
dir2008_01_24_wAttachments	552
dir2008_02_28_wAttachments	559
dir2008_03_27_Rev1wAttachments	564
dir2008_04_24_Rev1wAttachments	574
dir2008_05_22_wAttachments	581
dir2008_09_25_Rev4wAttachments	593
dir2008_10_23_Rev2wAttachments	601
dir2008_11_20_Rev1wAttachments	607
dir2009_01_22_Rev2wAttachments	616
dir2009_02_26_Rev1wAttachments	623
dir2009_03_26_Rev2wAttachments	631
dir2009_04_23_Rev2wAttachments	641
dir2009_05_28_Rev2wAttachments	648
dir2009_09_24_Rev2wAttachments	655
dir2009_10_22_Rev1wAttachments	664
dir2009_11_19_Rev1wAttachements	671
dir2010_01_28_Rev2wAttachments	677
dir2010_02_25_Rev1wAttachments	689
dir2010_03_25_Rev3wAttachments	695
dir2010_04_22_Rev1wAttachments1	702
dir2010_05_27_Rev1wAttachments	713
dir2010_09_23_Rev1wAttachments	724
dir2010_10_28_Rev1wAttachments	733
dir2010_11_18_Rev1wAttachments	746
dir2011_02_03_Rev1wAttachments	755
dir2011_02_24_Rev2wAttachments	768
dir2011_03_24_Rev0wAttachments	775
dir2011_05_26_Rev1wAttachments	782
dir2011_09_22_Rev1wAttachments	788

dir2011_10_27_Rev1wAttachments	797
dir2011_11_17_Rev2wAttachments	809
dir2012_01_26_Rev1wAttachments	816
dir2012_02_16_Rev1wAttachments	826
dir2012_03_22_Rev1wAttachments	833
dir2012_04_26_Rev1wAttachments	849
dir2012_05_24_Rev1wAttachments	855
dir2012_10_25_Rev1wAttachments	870
dir2012_10_25_Rev1wAttachments	878
dir2012_11_15_Rev1wAttachments	886
dir2013_01_25_Rev4wAttachments	901
dir2013_02_28_Rev2wAttachmentsNoteAdded	911
dir2013_03_28_Rev1wAttachments	922
dir2013_04_25_Rev1wAttachments	929
dir2013_05_23_Rev1wAttachments	941
dir2013_09_26_Rev1wAttachments	948
dir2013_10_24_Rev2wAttachments	956
dir2013_11_21_Rev2wAttachments	964
dir2014_01_30_Rev4wAttachments	977
dir2014_02_27_Rev1wAttachments	984
dir2014_03_27_Rev2wAttachments	993
dir2014_04_24_Rev1wAttachments	1000
dir2014_05_22_Rev1wAttachments	1007
dir2014_09_25_Rev1wAttachments	1014
dir2014_10_23_Rev1wAttachments	1038
dir2014_11_20_Rev1wAttachments	1050
dir2015_01_22_Rev5wAttachments	1060
dir2015_02_22_Rev3wAttachments	1067
dir2015_03_26_Rev2wAttachments	1078
dir2015_04_23_Rev2wAttachments	1086
dir2015_05_28_Rev1wAttachments	1094
dir2015_09_24_Rev7wAttachments	1102
dir2015_10_22_Rev3wAttachments	1111
dir2015_11_19_Rev2wAttachments	1124
dir2016_01_28_Rev1wAttachments	1137
dir2016_02_25_Rev1wAttachments	1147
dir2016_03_24_Rev2wAttachments	1159
dir2016_04_28_Rev3wAttachments	1165
dir2016_05_26_Rev3wAttachments	1175
dir2016_09_22_Rev3wAttachments	1188
dir2016_10_27_Rev2wAttachments	1198
dir2016_11_17_Rev2wAttachments	1205
dir2017_01_26_Rev1wAttachments	1214

dir2017_02_23_Rev1wAttachments	1227
dir2017_03_23_Rev2wAttachments	1238
dir2017_04_27_Rev1wAttachments	1244
dir2017_05_25_Rev3wAttachments	1251
dir2017_09_28_Rev4wAttachments	1258
dir2017_10_26_Rev1wAttachments	1268
dir2017_11_16_Rev2wAttachments	1274
dir2018_01_25_Rev3wAttachments	1283
dir2018_02_22_Rev2wAttachments	1298
dir2018_03_22_Rev3wAttachments	1312
dir2018_04_26_Rev2wAttachments	1327
dir2018_05_24_Rev2wAttachments	1333

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 1995

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (✓)]:

1995-1996 Club Officers:

President: Dave Harvey ✓
Vice-president: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) ✓
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat ✓
Treasurer: Shiras Guion ✓

Chapter Directors:

Elayne Metter (1st yr.) ✓
Hank Stanton (2nd yr.)

State Directors:

Jane Farrell
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh ✓
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) ✓

State Committees:

Education: Dave Kubitsky
Long Range Planning: Jo Solem ✓

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Publicity: Connie Bockstie
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Darius Ecker
Paula Ecker
Park Checklists: Jane Farrell
Conservation: Bob Solem ✓
Bookstore: Anne Marie Raterman
Others:

Location of Meeting:

Home of Don and Martha Waugh, 9522 Angelina Circle, Columbia, MD 21045. Total number of board members in attendance was nine.

Officer's Reports

President (Harvey):

As Dave first announced at the September club meeting, the November 9 meeting will begin at 7:45 PM to allow Jay Jones from the Montgomery County Chapter to speak for approximately 20 minutes on the Environmental Fund of Maryland, the collaborative effort of numerous environmental groups, of which MOS is one. Jay is the MOS representative to the group.

Dave reminded everyone that he still needs someone to volunteer to handle the projector and sound system for monthly meetings. It was proposed that a short notice should be placed in the next newsletter asking for volunteers.

Dave said that, as part of his annual check sheet of past club activities to monitor, he had talked to Eva Sunell about her rehabilitation efforts. His intent was to determine if she required any financial support at this time, as the club has tried to provide limited support as needed. She indicated that she has not had much activity and that she did not require any assistance at present.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck reported that he had received a copy of the minutes for the May 25, 1995 meeting from former secretary Peggy Erbe and would provide the President with a copy.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras passed out a copy of the treasurer's report for 5/1/95 to 9/28/95 (See attached). She is showing income and expenses for Jo Solem's book "Birding Howard County, Maryland" which the club published as a separate line item. The publisher's bill (\$4879) has been paid, and was \$500 less than the estimate, as the copy required far less time to prepare than they had expected. Jo Solem expressed belief that much of the credit for this should go to Sue Probst. The only significant outstanding bill is the state dues portion of membership dues which amounts to about \$1100. The seed sale income shown is for orders for the upcoming Fall sale, and thus also implies an outstanding expense to come. The only other item of mention was that the Publications expense includes newsletter mailing costs.

Jo Solem provided additional information on the status of book sales and publicity. The Baltimore Sun had an article within the past week on the nesting bald eagles on the Triadelphia Reservoir. They interviewed Jo and she identified herself as the "author of" thereby getting free publicity for the book. To date 106 copies have been sold to individuals and 197 to book stores. Borders has sold around 50 copies, and Audubon Naturalist, Wild Bird Center, and the Nature Nook have all reordered. The print run of 1000 really amounted to nearly 1100 good copies so will have about 100 free copies to sell if sell out. Early sales are good and Jo still optimistic that we will sell out in about 3 years.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Harvey):

Dave attended the most recent meeting of the MOS State Board of Directors at Annapolis on August 19 and mentioned the following items were of interest:

The Baltimore Chapter is hosting the 1996 State Convention at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County, June 7-9, 1996. They have asked the Howard County Chapter to provide leaders for field trips to as many Howard County locations as we can. Bret and Mary Byers (410) 686-7294 are the point of contact. Dave has asked Bonnie Ott to coordinate this effort for our chapter. Paul Zucker volunteered to lead a trip, and was told he should contact Bonnie.

Dave received a copy of the application for MOS education grants that he provided to Maud Banks. See New Business.

The state board is looking for someone to volunteer to chair the By-laws Committee.

At that meeting Will Tress asked all chapters with chapter brochures if they would provide him with copies so that he can provide individuals that contact the state organization for material on membership with information on nearby chapters. Dave asked Jo Solem to send a few copies of the "yellow" brochure to Will, and she agreed to do so.

At the state board meeting Joy Wheeler indicated that she used to receive the extra copies of Maryland Birdlife but had not been receiving them recently. Tom Strikwerda who coordinates the mailing used to bring them to the board meeting when he was a member. As he no longer attends arrangements to pick them up and take them to her will need to be made. Paul Zucker agreed to contact Tom and take copies to the next Board meeting (tentatively November 18). Dave will be on a trip at that time.

MOS is interested in forming a state-wide publicity committee and would like volunteers, especially anyone with professional experience in this area. Let Dave know if anyone is interested.

Gary Griffith, Elkton, Cecil Chapter is now the coordinator of the MOS Speakers Bureau.

The Patuxent Chapter has issued a challenge grant for FUNDAECO (the Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation). They will contribute \$1000 if \$2000 in contributions are received from the rest of MOS membership by November 30, 1995. (See Old Business.)

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

Dave Kubitsky was not present and Maud had nothing to report

Chapter Reports:

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present and had sent no reports. Jo reported that Bonnie will handle the hawk watch at Rockburn on same day as seed sale (see below) but she reassured me that most hawk flight activity shouldn't happen till after the sale is over. As noted elsewhere Bonnie will coordinate our support of Howard field trips for next June's MOS convention at UMBC. Jo also mentioned she is working to confirm site for Winter Count tally.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present but it was mentioned that she would still need help with arranging for programs later in year as Ralph's health is requiring her to relinquish some of these duties.

As an aside it was mentioned that Bob Solem had talked to Ralph on the phone and he is doing better but still gets tired quickly and that they have diagnosed additional complications that will require further treatment and possible surgery.

Publicity (Bockstie):

Connie was not present and no report was provided.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was not present but it was reported that she needs volunteers in all categories. The mailer announcing the sale, scheduled for October 21, has been received by all. Orders have been coming in.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

The Ecker's were not present but had asked Dave Harvey to announce that they are going to be out of town quite a bit over the next few weeks, and thus need material for the Nov.-Dec. newsletter almost immediately. The official cutoff date was September 22. They have not yet received very many articles, so that the newsletter may be fewer pages than recently. Please provide inputs as soon as possible.

The cutoff date for the Jan-Feb. issue will be November 30.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane was not present and no reports were sent

Jo Solem did mention that several records for the county had been resolved by the recent reports of the state records committee that were printed in The Maryland Yellowthroat. The Varied Thrush record was accepted and Clay-colored Sparrow no longer requires consideration by the state records committee. Likewise the recent American Avocet seen at Fulton Pond will not require consideration by the state under the new guidelines.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob mentioned that there is a great deal of activity on the national scene as we all are hearing in the news and from the national environmental organizations. He mentioned that they all have been making fairly strong pitches by mail and phone to solicit help in their efforts to confront the strong anti-environmental thrust in the

congress. Because this effort is getting this attention it is his plan to have his next newsletter deal with a more local agenda, the plight of the blue crab in the Chesapeake Bay.

Bob also mentioned the Font Hill wetlands mitigation contract has been awarded and that work is scheduled to start within a week. This project was one that Bob testified for on behalf of the club. Also a number of members wrote letters supporting the need to adhere to the rules requiring active restoration efforts to create wetlands in mitigation of those destroyed by development.

Bookstore (Raterman):

Anne Marie was not present and no related reports were made.

Old Business:

Marty Chestem completed the club display for the 50th Anniversary MOS Convention at Emmitsburg on time. This was supported with funds from last year's MOS Education grant.

Darius Ecker coordinated the staffing of the booth at the County Fair in August and was able to find sufficient volunteers using the method of leaving the booth unmanned during the day and when volunteers were unavailable that was used again this year. Elayne Metter asked if we had any problems with theft using this method. Jo Solem indicated that no specimens had been taken and the process has worked well. Several commented on the "touchability" of the turtle shell. Dave Harvey mentioned that the Audubon Society had a booth with an interactive display (electric lights) that indicated successful answers to various bird questions. When someone mentioned that next year we might be closer to front of building away from the honey exhibit, several people indicated that being next to the honey display provided for interesting evenings, e.g. broken honey bottles, theft, etc.

Secretary's note: The newsletter naming contest discussed at the previous meeting was not discussed, but for the record the contest was announced in the September-October newsletter. The deadline is February 21, 1996, and the new name will be effective with the September-October 1996 newsletter.

Discussion of a contribution to the FUNDAECO was resumed. This topic had been tabled at several prior meetings pending outcome of the book publishing as our cash flow after paying publishing costs up front was unsure. The hope had also been that the state MOS or others would issue a challenge that we could respond to, thereby increasing the worth of our contribution. FUNDAECO is a Guatemalan conservation organization dedicated to the protection of rain forest at Cerro San Gil and vicinity on the Atlantic Coast of Guatemala. Chan Robbins has been working with this organization for 4 years studying bird populations and training their personnel and Guatemalan university students. As reported at the State Director's meeting, the Patuxent Chapter has issued a challenge for an amount of \$1000. It was pointed out that in addition a national private organization (*Sec. note: the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*) had also issued a challenge whereby all contributions would be matched dollar for dollar, thereby doubling again the effect of any contribution. Shiras cautioned that the balances shown on her report included income from the fall seed sale, but not the corresponding expenses. The consensus discussion was that there would be little trouble if we approved a contribution of \$1000 but deferred announcing it or making the payment until near the end of the challenge period in late November, as this will be after settlement of the Fall seed sale expenses. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to contribute \$1000 to FUNDAECO in time to meet the Patuxent Chapter challenge. Paul Zucker will announce this contribution at the mid-November meeting of the MOS Board of Directors. The subject of an additional contribution, possibly our own challenge for next Fall, will be raised later, probably next Spring. (*Secretary's note: An article entitled "An Update on FUNDAECO" by Chan Robbins appears in the September/October 1995 issue of The Maryland Yellowthroat.*)

New Business:

Discussion of MOS Education grant. The grants are for up to \$200 per chapter per year. Last year we used the \$200 for preparation of display materials for such events as the 50th Anniversary Convention, County Fair, etc. Marty Chestem has coordinated this effort and Jo Solem indicated that Marty indicates funds to prepare an

additional display remain. Dave asked people to suggest items for a grant application for this year. Maud Banks stated that the committee had generally been generous in reviewing and awarding the chapters education grant applications. Jo mentioned the idea of having new carrying cases built for the specimens that we use at displays and school programs. It was felt that a volunteer with woodworking skills who would be willing to do the design and construction with the grant used for material costs was what was needed for this to be viable. Earlier proposals to have a young peoples group, such as the Boy Scouts, do the work was not considered viable as the amount of design and preparation required was excessive. Jo Solem agreed to prepare a brief item for the newsletter soliciting interest in volunteering to design and build the cases if we obtained the grant. If no volunteers appear it was felt another idea for the application would be needed. *(Secretary's note: Deadline for applications is April 1, 1996.)*

Miscellaneous Comments:

Jo Solem reported that she had received a thank you note from Dawn Morris for the card from the club that was circulated at the last meeting. (She has a severely smashed ankle.) News on others who were sent cards, included news that Tish Bell does have cancer and as mentioned above Ralph Geuder is improving slowly.

Future Board Meeting Schedule:

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

October 26, 1995	-	Shiras Guion
November 30, 1995	-	Eileen Clegg
December	-	NO MEETING
January 25, 1995	-	
February 22, 1995	-	
March 28, 1995	-	
April 18, 1995	-	(This is third Thursday)
May 23, 1995	-	

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting):

- Treasurer's Report for 5/1/95 to 09/28/95, HOW0995.XLS provided by Shiras Guion to all attendees.

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 1995

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1995-1996 Club Officers:

President: Dave Harvey √
Vice-president: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Jo Solem (*also State Long Range Planning*) √
Chapter Directors:
Elayne Metter (1st yr.) √
Hank Stanton (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Jane Farrell
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*)

State Committees:

Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Publicity: Connie Bockstie
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Park Checklists: Jane Farrell
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Bookstore: Anne Marie Raterman

Others:

Maureen Harvey √

Location of Meeting

The meeting was held in the home of Bill and Shiras Guion, but neither were available so Maureen Harvey had been asked by Shiras to be our hostess. Total number of attendees nine.

Officer's Reports

President (Harvey):

Dave had just returned from a business trip and did not have many items to present. He did relate several highlights of the birding in Oklahoma that he squeezed in amongst lost briefing packages and travel problems.

He had no official report other than an item on next State Board meeting (see below).

Vice President (Banks):

Maud was not present and sent no report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck had provided Dave with a copy of the previous minutes which Dave found satisfactory with only minor corrections. Chuck also indicated that he was working on a club calendar of events in the form of a spreadsheet that allowed sorting by date or type of activity. He confirmed several dates and asked that as people finalize plans he receive the dates. The calendar could be used to highlight such items as seasonal report cutoff dates and other items that might be included in the newsletter. (See Newsletter below.) The calendar should serve as a record at year end for Dave in preparing the annual chapter report for inclusion in Maryland Birdlife. It could also be the basis for a calendar on an electronic Bulletin Board System (BBS). (See New Business below.)

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras had provided copies of the treasurer's report (attached) to Maureen who provided copies to all attending. It covers the period from September 29 to October 26. The receipts from the seed sale are included but the bill for seed sale expenses has not been received. It was concluded after a question was raised that the column labeled YTD must not cover the calendar year but a club fiscal year, but no one present was sure of this. (*Sec. Note: The previous meeting treasurer's report was labeled 5/1/95 to 9/29 with no YTD column. This month's YTD column is the sum of the current column and that previous report. We should check with Shiras on what she views to be the club's fiscal year.*) The item that triggered this discussion was the small amount shown for meeting expenses. In that regard, it was mentioned that Mark Hoffman had declined financial compensation for his talk on the American Kestrel at the last meeting (as a state employee). However, he did gratefully accept a copy of Jo's book and, when urged to take something else, selected a copy of the warbler identification book as compensation for his giving the talk, especially with so little advance notice. The club was very grateful when he had stepped in with less than 24 hours notice after Greg Kearns had to cancel due to a death in the family.

(See Past President's report below for status of club published book sales.)

Past President (J. Solem):

Jo Solem reported on the status of sales of **Birding Howard County, Maryland**. At this time direct sales and copies in the hands of book stores total 360 copies. If sell approximately 500 copies club will break even and Jo estimates that will take about a year. She has been receiving 2-3 requests per week for copies to mail, but most of these are from local club members. The upcoming Christmas season should result in another surge in sales, and since no review has appeared in the Audubon Naturalist newsletter or ABA publications it is hoped that when they appear this would also lead to additional sales. She mentioned that she received a report that the local Sierra Club purchased 10 copies from Borders Books and donated them to the Howard County Library. (The Board had discussed doing something similar before publication and had decided to defer any such gift in an attempt to encourage early sales.) Lastly Jo mentioned that the club owes Grazina McClure a big debt of gratitude for her efforts at promoting the book at Borders Books where she handles the natural books section. She has kept the book displayed face out, which is a big plus, especially as the spiral bound style doesn't have the title on its spine. Apparently this was a concern raised by Jan Randle during book preparation as this reduces sales whenever the books are shelved normally in store. It was noted that the spiral binding is better for the birding user, even if not best for marketing. Jo indicated that was what they decided at the time.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Harvey):

No meeting since prior Chapter BOD meeting. The next meeting is November 18 at Horsehead Sanctuaru near Graysonville, Maryland. Maud Banks (VP) will attend for Dave as he will be on trip to South Africa. Jo Solem indicated she plans to attend as well.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

Neither Dave or Maud were present and no report was received.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present but had asked Jo Solem to announce that she still needs a leader for the first Centennial Sunday morning walk on November 5. Any volunteers? Bonnie also had asked the Board to provide feedback on interest in a winter feeder trip. If interest she would solicit those willing to host stops at their feeders. The consensus seemed to be that interest was only lukewarm. Jo suggested that the real idea was to find ideas for winter trips. Elayne Metter mentioned interest in the new Patuxent Wildlife National Visitor Center. This idea

generated considerable interest as having both indoor and outdoor activities that would be good for a winter trip. Consensus was that this should be pursued.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present and sent no reports. *(Sec. Note: Help in identifying programs still needed.??)*

Publicity (Bockstie):

Connie was not present and sent no report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was not present and sent no report. When asked Jo indicated the date of winter sale is not firm but likely will be last Saturday in January (1/27).

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula reported that several suggestions for newsletter names had been received, and read a few of them. The contest has some time to run (2/21/96) and the suggestions were not recorded by the secretary as formal consideration will begin after cutoff.

The publication and receipt of the Nov-Dec newsletter was acknowledged by several members. Two items that had been mentioned for short mention in the newsletter at last Board meeting were never submitted and should be planned for next issue. Paula took note of: 1) Request volunteers to build carrying cases for some of the bird specimens. 2) Need a volunteer for handling storage, setup, and transport of the projector and sound system to club meetings. (Chuck Stirrat has equipment right now on a temporary basis, as Dave's back was not up to handling it after last meeting, but would like a permanent volunteer to be found.) Chuck reported that the calendar he was working on (See Secretary above) might be a source for a newsletter regular topic on upcoming dates (e.g. cutoff dates for seasonal reports.) Chuck also asked Paula to provide him an electronic copy of club logos so can use them on letterhead for club letters. She agreed to provide them.

Darius proposed the idea of establishing a Howard County Bird Club Bulletin Board. (See new business.) *(Sec. Note: If this goes ahead we probably should announce it in the newsletter and at club meeting as appropriate.)*

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane was not present and no report was sent.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob introduced a new conservation funding initiative which was discussed at length. (See New Business below.) The recent newsletter contains the article on the plight of blue crab that he mentioned at last meeting. An item mentioned was that Federal Duck Stamps for use as access to refuges may be purchased at the Columbia Post Office, but be sure to request and fill out the form that indicates you are purchasing as a non-hunting user.

Bookstore (Raterman):

Ann Marie was not present. *(Sec. Note: Bookstore coordinator is not a voting member of board and will be deleted from minutes in future. Issue: Monitoring records of bookstore separate from club treasury.)*

Old Business

The club's plan to contribute \$1000 to FUNDAECO in time to meet the Jug Bay Chapter challenge, as passed at the last meeting, was reiterated. Dave stated the contribution should be announced by Maud at next state

MOS BOD meeting on Nov. 18. The contribution needs to be made by the end of November to qualify for challenge. Maureen promised to tell Shiras that she needs to prepare check in time to support this due date. (*Sec. Note: Following meeting Dave H. confirmed Maud will announce club contribution and check on procedure for making contribution at state MOS BoD meeting. Is a letter by secretary needed?*)

Jo Solem reported that she had checked on a location for the winter count tally. The Simon's will be unable to host this year, and she had expressed the club's thanks to them for the many years they had been hosting. The Board's consensus reaction was to second that expression of sincere thanks. Jo reported that Don and Martha Waugh had volunteered to host the tally for the count which will be held on February 3, 1996. Expressions of appreciation were made to Don in response to this announcement.

The use of MOS Education Grants was not discussed except to reiterate the idea of soliciting volunteers to build carrying cases for specimens (See Newsletter above). The idea was that asking for funds for material costs of this project would not be viable unless a volunteer is found. (*Sec. Note: Good idea to ask next club meeting for volunteers for this project or alternative ideas for grants as newsletter won't be out for some time.*)

New Business

Computer BBS Proposal - Darius Ecker proposed that he would like to setup a computer bulletin board for the club. He has a computer and phone line already available, but feels he would need help in creating the material to put on the board. Bob Solem and he had discussed the idea briefly and Bob expressed interest in helping him. A brief discussion ensued that attempted to share what such a BBS would involve and how it relates to other entities such as the Osprey Nest BBS run by Norm Saunders and the Baltimore Bird Club Home Page on the Internet World Wide Web. Generally this BBS would be more like the Osprey Nest in being a direct modem phone call not requiring access to the Internet. It also has the benefit of being a local phone call unlike the Osprey Nest which is long distance for many Howard County birders. The BBS would be a text based system with none of the graphical interface and point and click hypertext flavor of the World Wide Web. Mention was made that limited (text only) access to the Internet is available to the general public through the public libraries (SAILOR) but that it was difficult to use. This was mentioned after Chuck said he thought he had seen somewhere that the Baltimore Bird Club was interested in adding information about other chapters to their site. (*Sec. Note: I plan to see if I can find this and follow-up on it.*) Further discussion of the BBS idea centered on what might be possible things to include (*Sec. Note: I've added some since meeting not specifically mentioned during meeting.*):

- Club membership information
- Field trip results
- Calendar of club activities, meetings, and field trips
- Transcripts of the Voice of the Naturalist, Baltimore BC Hot-line, and other RBA transcripts downloaded from the Internet
- Electronic versions of newsletter articles
- BBS messaging with highlights and chat on birding in and around Howard County
- HOT-LINE announcements when a "rarity" is found or when weather conditions cancel a field trip
- Copies of Board of Directors Minutes

The idea seemed to have universal consensus as a worthwhile idea to pursue if Darius was willing to provide the computer and phone line. This is a separate machine from the one they use as their primary computer so that it would be available most of the time. Darius and Bob will proceed to setup a starting structure and experiment with idea with goal to have a system on-line around the first of year. Although not officially motioned the Board was unofficially giving permission to establish BBS representing itself as sanctioned by club. Phone number for this BBS will be (410) 312-5276. (*Sec. Note: Probably should bring up as old business next meeting and make this official.*)

Teaming with Wildlife: A Natural Investment - Bob Solem introduced a new Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative designed to identify an alternative/new source of funding to supplement existing funding to promote comprehensive wildlife conservation. Bob had discussed the initiative extensively with Glen Therres

(State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources) and provided copies of a brochure and fact sheet (See attachments). The need stems from lack of consistent year to year funding source for conservation of those “common” species not addressed as game species or “endangered” species (even support for this latter category is under attack). The proposal is to impose a small federal excise tax (variable percentage dependent on producer cost from 1/4% to not more than 5%) on outdoor recreational equipment that would support efforts across the country to conserve and enhance the resources Americans are most interested in. Examples of equipment and supplies proposed for taxation (at the producer) include bird seed, bird books, optics equipment, backpacking equipment, canoeing equipment, mountain biking equipment, and even 4-wheel drive vehicles. The proceeds would go directly to state conservation programs such as land acquisition and restoration, education and awareness programs, and conservation research and planning. This initiative is a nationwide coalition, spearheaded by seven conservation and scientific societies that has diverse support from State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, wildlife professionals and conservation organizations. The precedent for this form of funding are two acts directed primarily at game species:

- Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Restoration Act of 1938 placed a designated user fee on hunting supplies, and
- Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950 placed a designated user fee on fishing supplies.

These programs have worked and were introduced by hunters and sport fishermen as means to invest in their sport. This new initiative is a similar offer to let birders, hikers, etc. invest in their own recreation’s future.

Bob moved that the chapter support this initiative and ensure that it is introduced and discussed at the state MOS Board of Directors meeting. Chuck seconded the motion.

Bob stated that the initiative has a potential for success despite the current reluctance of the Republican congress to not spend any funds on the environment. The fact that the tax is directed at the groups who would benefit directly apparently makes this approach viable. Speaker Gingrich apparently is predisposed to accept the idea so that pursuing the initiative as 1996 legislation is a possibility, if he were not Bob feels that it would be an impossible task. The mention of Gingrich and his possible support led to expressions of how could it possibly be the right thing to do. Several member expressed the belief that further taxation was unwarranted. Bob and Jo both stated that this is simply a way of birders and others to show their willingness to accept a tax burden focused on preserving that which we find worthwhile. Birders have enjoyed the rewards of taxes imposed on hunters for years whenever we visit the wildlife refuges. Another theme to the discussion was the federal government always seems to be inefficient and wasteful and never does what we want. The benefits of voluntary contributions to organizations such as the Nature Conservancy were stated, and most present indicated they did do this. However it was pointed out that the voluntary funds do not provide a source of guaranteed long term funding so that long term plans and studies can not be undertaken. Bob stated we would all like to see a more responsive federal bureaucracy, but to throw up our hands and give up is not a very satisfying answer. You can always find “nay”-sayers who are afraid today’s actions will be reversed, but again that doesn’t lead the concerned individual or group from trying to do that which is the right thing to do today. Some expressed belief that they felt the state government was more effective than the federal, but the problem with that is you want to minimize the collection burden and that occurs at the production end, which is not necessarily the state where items are used. It was acknowledged that just as with the game programs a formula for distribution to the states will need to be negotiated (not yet done, and unlikely to be done before final legislation process).

After this rather lively discussion the motion was put to a vote and passed unanimously. Maud will be provided with material and will likely need support for presenting to the state BOD. It was agreed that if Rich Dolesh, the MOS conservation chairman, introduces the topic to board that would be fine, but that we should go on record as having voted to support the initiative. (*Sec. Note: Dave H. reported after meeting that he provided Maud Banks with information on this topic and she will bring up at state board meeting.*)

The last item concerning the initiative was to encourage individuals to contact retailers and producers of the items to be taxed and state that as a customer you personally would be willing to pay a small user fee on products to ensure a future that’s teeming with wildlife. Postcards with this message were handed out, and Bob

stated that one approach was to target a "local" business as a first step in this process. He proposed sending them to:

Wild Bird Center, Inc.
7687 McArthur Blvd.
Cabin John, MD 20818

Several board members took these cards and filled them out. Members were also urged to mention this to retailers and catalog sales organizations from whom they were making purchases. Some discussion was had of whether the club should write letters similar to this, as a formal club communication, but this was deferred for now. The attached material encourages individuals to talk up support for this new Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative.

Miscellaneous Comments

None.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 1995	-	Don & Martha Waugh
October 26, 1995	-	Shiras Guion
November 30, 1995	-	Eileen Clegg (President on travel to South Africa, VP to chair meeting)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 25, 1995	-	(NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HOST MEETINGS!)
February 22, 1995	-	
March 28, 1995	-	
April 18, 1995	-	(This is third Thursday)
May 23, 1995	-	

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report for 9/29/95 to 10/26/95 (HOW1095.XLS)
- Brochure: **TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE**, *a natural investment*. International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. (301) 897-9770, E-mail: tws@wildlife.org
- Fact Sheet: Teaming with Wildlife: A Natural Investment, Fish and Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative, prepared by The Wildlife Society. (202) 624-7890

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 30, 1995

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1995-1996 Club Officers:

President: Dave Harvey
Vice-president: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Jo Solem (*also State Long Range Planning*) √
Chapter Directors:
Elayne Metter (1st yr.) √
Hank Stanton (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Jane Farrell (*also Parks Checklist*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Publicity: Connie Bockstie
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg √
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Eileen and John Clegg, 6007 Flywheel Court, Columbia, MD. Total number in attendance was eleven members of board.

Officer's Reports

President (Harvey):

Dave was not in attendance as he was still on vacation to South Africa. He had arranged for Maud to chair meeting.

Vice-president (Banks):

Maud had no special topics to bring up. She had attended the state Board meeting see separate report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck passed around a copy of minutes and chimed in to ensure wrap-up of prior business but had no separate report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras distributed a copy of the treasurer's report which is attached. She announced that the fall seed sale profit was \$1640. The book proceeds are doing well. It was observed that sales are slowing down, and one reason was that Border's is no longer displaying book face out (Grazina McClure has a new position and is no longer responsible for the nature books which had allowed her to give the book special treatment.). Lastly Shiras responded to a question raised at the previous meeting by reporting that the club fiscal year begins on May 1.

Past President (J. Solem):

Jo announced that the cutoff for seasonal reports for the fall is Nov. 30, and that she needs reports by Dec. 3. She then reported on a meeting that club member Brigit Lund attended on Nov. 29 discussing planning for the new Meadowbrook Park in Brampton Hills. This new 77 acre county park is located southeast of the interchange between US 29 and MD 100. Brigit, who lives near the park, reported that most attending seemed to favor leaving as much of the park undeveloped as possible. There will be some ball fields but this position on limiting development was considered good news. The park area originally had a stream and wetlands that have been turned into a fenced pond during the intersection construction. It is unclear whether the pond will remain, or it may prove feasible to restore the stream which is also being considered.

On another topic Jo reported that the club membership renewal rate appears to be lower than in past years. Roughly 2/3 have renewed so far compared to a more typical 3/4 by now. In response to Elayne's question, Bob Solem explained the process by which second (final) renewal reminders are sent. Generally the initial membership blank is sent with first fall newsletter, there is an initial flurry, followed by waves around the time of September and October meeting. Then at Thanksgiving time Bob generates a single sheet version of the registration form with the individuals return address filled in so that all the recipient need do is fill out the form fold it over put a stamp on it and mail it along with check. This generally gets the majority of renewals to respond and allows him to use bulk mailing for this second notice, but avoids repeating call for membership to those who already renewed.. This fall he mailed out 102 second notices.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks):

Maud had no significant feedback from the meeting held November 18 at Horsehead Sanctuary near Graysonville. In response to prompting she did confirm that she had announced the club's pledge of \$1000 to the FUNDAECO project. Shiras was to write a check to Jeff Metter the state treasurer after meeting as he was in next room having come with Elayne. Additionally it was reported that Rich Dolesh, of the MOS Conservation committee, had introduced the state board to the Teaming with Wildlife program. He did not make any specific request of the state organization to take a stand at this meeting. We are leading the state in having our chapter already on record as supporting this initiative. No further direct action is planned immediately.

Elayne Metter reported that Phil Davis requested anyone with MOS license plates that would like to be registered in a database so that people would know who's car was who's could contact him for inclusion. This is a completely volunteer process. Someone commented that Dave probably has the application forms but that the rate was up from the amount shown on applications. (Now at least \$12.00)

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

Dave was not present and Maud made no report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present and had sent no report.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present and had sent no report.

Publicity (Bockstie):

Connie was not present and had sent no report. See Chapter Directors for one related item.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was pleased to hear the seed sale proceeds were as good as they were. She hadn't prepared an acknowledgment of volunteers for newsletter but provided one to Paula before end of evening. She discussed trying to schedule the next sale for the end of January. She will try and arrange for the church on Jan. 27. Eileen also reported that Jo Solem, Marty Chestem, and she had given a educational program as part of the Clemens Crossing Elementary School Fall Fest on October 26. The children had prepared certificates of thanks for all three of them and Eileen gave Jo hers. Lastly Eileen reported that she had received a phone call from someone looking for assistance with a program to help build bird houses out of recycled materials for a "pocke" park in Baltimore. She indicated to the caller that she didn't see how the club could help, and elected not to refer him to any other club officers or members. The sense of the board was that this was the correct decision. Eileen's address is on club brochure and thus she gets mailings and inquiries such as this. She passed along to the Ecker's several newsletters from other chapters and had several mailings for tours. It was agreed these could be placed on the "free" table at meetings, not as endorsement or advertising but simply as "information". If any of these groups offer a "free" trip we expect that Eileen will be the beneficiary, but general consensus was that no one on the board was going to lose sleep over this possibility.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

The newsletter is about to go to press. An announcement asking for volunteers to help with carrying cases for specimens will be included. If a volunteer is found we would apply for an MOS Education Grant for materials. Jane Farrell asked that an announcement that the due date for county annual list inputs would be Feb. 29 be included. Darius reported that his efforts to set up a BBS for the club were well along. This is a bulletin board system not an Internet or World Wide Web site like the Baltimore and Montgomery chapters have established. He is doing this because he has the computer and phone line for other purposes and can do this for no additional cost. He is attempting to arrange for a way to provide an Internet E-mail address capability for club members through the bulletin board (for those that don't have E-mail). He believes this may be a no cost effort since the club is non-profit. He will keep us informed. He has had to change the telephone number for the BBS. It is now (301) 596-2167.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane reported that the outstanding list to be worked is the one for the Columbia Lakes. Helen Zeichner and Marty Chestem are the coordinators but do not appear to be working it currently. Jane is currently computerizing her personal records and once she finishes that, she will make a first cut at lists if Helen and Marty don't have it done sooner.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that it appears the Congress efforts to weaken or do away with many of the environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act may not come to fruition in this session as they may simply not get around to it with the budget debates, etc. Bob intends for his next newsletter article to encourage individuals to write to their representatives. The sense of board was that this was a good idea.

He then turned to Maryland legislative matters. During the past year environmental legislation was about as good as could be expected. However Bob is much less positive on upcoming year. Governor Glendenning is basically a compromiser who wants to promote business and will likely due it at expense of environmental issues. Bob proposes to initiate a telephone campaign in February to try and get a strong club representation at the Maryland Legislative lobbying night. This is on February 19. On that date the legislature stays in session into the evening and all those who wish to influence legislation come to Annapolis for evening to support their causes. Howard County Parks and Recreation annually gets a bus that leaves from Ellicott City and goes to Annapolis to promote such legislation as Project Open Space. Bob would like to see MOS "fill that bus". Board seemed to see this as a worthwhile activity.

Chapter Directors (Metter, Stanton):

Elayne asked how we advertised or promoted new members other than at the County Fair. Mention was made that bird walks, including those sponsored with Howard Parks and Rec., were one of best means. Also “yellow” brochures are on display at Central and Miller Branch of county library. Word of mouth is probably the primary means. Elayne proposed investigating having a non-profit organization free announcement on WBJC radio. She was encouraged to inquire whether this was possible and if so to place an announcement about the next meeting.

Old Business

Items of old business discussed elsewhere in individual reports were:

- Teaming with Wildlife initiative
- Bulletin Board System
- FUNDAECO gift
- MOS education grants

A volunteer to store and handle the projector and audio system for meetings stepped forward at last meeting. Dave Harvey has his name, address, and phone number. *Sec. Note: Dave I would include them if you give them to me.*

New Business

The annual potluck dinner was discussed briefly as it will be too late to wait until the January Board meeting to schedule a facility. The most likely dates to hold the dinner would be Feb. 24 or Mar. 2. The possibility of using an alternate site than the Florence Bain Senior Center was raised but none of the suggestions seemed as promising so if we can schedule the Center we should. Marty Chestem has made these arrangements in the past. Maud was to check with her about the procedure and explore if she would do this again. *Sec. Note: Dave your name was tossed around as possibly doing this but I think Maud was going to call. You should check on it though.*

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

Volunteers to host the rest of year’s board meetings were identified. See schedule below.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 1995	-	Don Waugh
October 26, 1995	-	Shiras Guion
November 30, 1995	-	Eileen Clegg
December	-	NO MEETING
January 25, 1996	-	Jo and Bob Solem
February 22, 1996	-	Maud Banks
March 28, 1996	-	Elayne Metter
April, 1996	-	NO MEETING (Club meeting is third Thursday, 18 April)
May 23, 1996	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer’s Report for 10/27/95 to 11/30/95 (HOW1195.XLS)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 1996

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1995-1996 Club Officers:

President: Dave Harvey √
Vice-president: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Jo Solem (*also State Long Range Planning*) √
Chapter Directors:
 Elayne Metter (1st yr.)
 Hank Stanton (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Jane Farrell
 Carol Newman
 Donald Waugh √
 Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*)

State Committees:

Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Publicity: Connie Bockstie
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Darius Ecker √
 Paula Ecker √
Park Checklists: Jane Farrell √
Conservation: Bob Solem √

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was ten board members..

Officer's Reports

President (Harvey):

Dave provided Shiras with copy of the bookstore sales summary from Anne Marie Ratterman. Jane Geuder reported to Dave that the school has been reserved through March for our meetings. Shiras indicated that she needs to get the bill for the school rental. Dave reported that he had found volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for this year. The committee members are Bonnie Ott, Shiras Guion, and Mary Jo Betz. The nominations will need to be received by membership 10 days prior to April meeting in accordance with by-laws. Typically try and mail with the membership directory that is mailed in early March.

In response to Dave question following up on last meeting responded that we have a slight drop in membership, but have just over 300 members who have paid dues.

The December and January meetings of the club were both canceled when inclement weather closed the schools. Dave reported that he had a video from Africa that he would have used as fall back as even if school had been open the January speaker had canceled anyway.

Vice-President (Banks):

Maud had nothing to report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

No report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras distributed the treasurer's report for interval since last meeting. (See attachment for 12/1/95 to 1/25/96) The report was in error due to failure to show payment of \$1000 payment to FUNDAECO rain forest campaign. This error was because date of check was same as previous Director's meeting but after she printed that report and didn't adjust date in this meeting's report. Shiras will contact Marty Chestem about paying bill for the Florence Bain Center for the upcoming potluck. She also will need the bill for school rental, but observed we don't need to pay rental for those times meeting was canceled due to weather.

It was observed that the seed sale proceeds have been dropping relative to previous years. Recently been netting about \$1500 but in subsequent discussion was felt that we don't want to exert any increased effort at promotion. Effort for coordinator is about right and attempts to compete with others holding sales not desirable.

Past President (J. Solem):

The sales of "Howard" book have been relatively quiet. Jo has mailed requests to those stores having books not paid for asking them to pay for them. The September '95 issue of Maryland Birdlife (contains Spring '94 report) has just been delivered for packaging and mailing. Jo asked the Board for direction on whether we should attempt to update County list for upcoming State MOS convention to be held in Baltimore County. Sense of Board was that this was not necessary and that if anything we should emphasize availability of the book.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Harvey):

There has been no state board meeting since last meeting.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

No report.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Publicity (Bockstie):

No report from Connie. Elayne Metter had reported that she had put announcements on the radio as discussed at the last meeting. She also place ad on the Howard County Cable system and wondered if anyone had heard or seen these. *(Sec. Note: I observed the announcement of upcoming meeting on Cable Channel 8 Electronic Bulletin Board during the following weekend..)*

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen asked Jo to report that the Nature Nook would not participate in this upcoming sale (Jan 27). As a result Eileen ordered some suet cakes to offer for sale. As discussed under treasurer although sales are dropping the sales, effort, and profit are about right. Generally felt that efforts to do further promotion are unwarranted.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

As announced in the newsletter the Goldfinch BBS and a Howard County Bird Club World Wide Web page are now realities thanks to Darius. He reported that approximately 30 members have established -E-mail addresses. Darius has worked with Erica Wilson and Jane Hill who maintain the Voice of the Naturalist to provide them Internet E-mail access. They will receive bird sightings for the Voice if you send them a message on the Goldfinch BBS addressed to ANS Voice or alternatively mail to the Internet address of voice@hcbc.abs.net.

Paula announced that the next deadline for the newsletter was tomorrow (Jan. 26). The subsequent newsletter cutoff is March 29 (for May/June).

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

The cutoff for annual lists is Feb. 29.

Jane is now ready to work on the next checklist which will be for the Columbia Lakes. She proposed two alternatives on how to handle production details but the consensus was to have the Columbia Association produce and distribute the list. We will control the product and then let them reproduce it (as we have done with County Parks and Recreation for other parks). This approach chosen rather than asking for a grant from CA and having to arrange for printing ourselves. Jane's plans are to work on the list for Schooley Mill Park after the Columbia Lakes list is finished.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that he still feels that on federal issues most productive activity is to encourage writing to legislators expressing general concern with environmental protection but not lobbying specific bills as the issues are so dynamic. (See his article in last newsletter).

On the state front he still is proposing that we encourage getting numerous members to attend legislative lobbying night in Annapolis on Feb. 19 to lobby "our" legislators. He will get more details when attends Conservation Committee meeting on Jan. 30. He cited several areas to promote:

1. MD Endangered Species Act extension. Currently only animals, not plants. Also needs reform as has words "can't kill", even inadvertent destruction: which is unreasonable.
2. Project Open Space (especially if Howard Parks & Recreation sponsors ride to Annapolis)
3. Extend Wildlands (Add 20,000 acres). Most of this addition is spread around state so not just aimed at logging/mining/development in western Maryland. Lands so designated become "Primitive".
4. State laws can and should be allowed to be more strict than federal regulations. A change has been proposed to adopt laws that preclude Maryland having rules more stringent. This is a thinly disguised attempt to limit control in face of weakening federal regulations.

Board expressed general agreement with all of these proposals.

Chapter Directors (Metter, Stanton):

Elayne had a family emergency and had sent word on publicity initiative see above. No the reports.

Old Business

No responses had been received on call for volunteer to build carrying boxes for specimens as an MOS education grant project. The call will appear in newsletter one more time.

No other old business than that reported in the individual reports.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

None.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 1995	-	Don Waugh
October 26, 1995	-	Shiras Guion
November 30, 1995	-	Eileen Clegg
December	-	NO MEETING
January 25, 1996	-	Jo and Bob Solem
February 22, 1996	-	Maud Banks
March 28, 1996	-	Elayne Metter
April, 1996	-	NO MEETING (Club meeting is third Thursday, 18 April)
May 23, 1996	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report for 12/1/95 to 1/25/96. (Note needs to be revised to show expense for FUNDAECO rain forest campaign of \$1000 paid 11/30/95.)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 22, 1996

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1995-1996 Club Officers:

President: Dave Harvey √
Vice-president: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Jo Solem (*also State Long Range Planning*) √

Chapter Directors:

Elayne Metter (1st yr.) √
Hank Stanton (2nd yr.)

State Directors: Jane Farrell (*also Parks Checklists*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Publicity: Connie Bockstie
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Maud Banks. Total number in attendance was eleven board members.

Officer's Reports

President (Harvey):

Dave chaired the board's review and choice of a new name for the club newsletter. The contest had resulted in the submission of 11 possible names. The Board discussed impressions and desires of the various names. Several of the names were rejected for such reasons as to close to the state emblem, somewhat general, harsh or too editorial, etc. Also some discussion centered on whether the masthead should contain the word "Howard" in some form. The consensus was that it should but that the layout would be left for Paula to prepare some samples for consideration. Finally a series of ballots were held to narrow and then select the winning name. The traditional club bird won out with the final choice being "GOLDFINCH". Paula reported that this name was submitted by Jo Solem.

Dave reviewed his President's action list for this time frame. The nominating committee is composed of Bonnie Ott, Shiras Guion, and Mary-Jo Betts. There will be no Discovery Day this year so we need not find people to work at it. The Garden Show may need a display. Status to be determined. Paul Zucker will be the May Count Coordinator. Need to confirm the site of tally. (*Secretary's Note: Subsequent to the meeting Dave confirmed the Randle's will again host the tally.*) The school reservations for third quarter have been requested. (Shiras reports no bills submitted.)

Vice-President (Banks):

Maud reported on the recent activities with the research swans that have been placed on the Columbia lakes. The male trumping ("Jim") on Lake Elkhorn died due to a fungus attack. Theory is that his immune system was weakened by his excessive aggressive behavior. There is at least one other incident of a similar death attributed to this aggressive tendency.. Plans had called for removing the pair 'Margaret & Adam' from the lake but those plans are under review. All of these birds are pinioned. She also mentioned that the whoopers on Lake Kittamaquundi although pinioned "disappear" periodically. Where they wander is a source of curiosity no one has solved.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck proposed that since no volunteers had come forward to build boxes to store the specimens in, as had been proposed for a potential education grant an alternative existed. He proposed that the efforts Darius Ecker had put forward on the Electronic Goldfinch BBS and Web Page were certainly educational in nature. If he has spent his own funds for equipment or software specifically for this that would also be a valid request for an education grant. Paula confirmed that Darius had in deed spent money tailored to this purpose. The Board expressed strong support for this idea. Paula was asked to have Darius identify the specific items he had purchased and that Maud would prepare the grant request. It may be worthwhile to use this same idea for next year's grant dependent on how much Darius has spent.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras passed out the treasurer's report for 1/26/96 to 2.22/96. (see attachment). Seed sale proceeds have again decreased. Bills are not final. Marty paid the bill for Florence Bain Center for potluck, and Shiras will pay her. The school rental bill has not yet been received. The proceeds of Howard County book have been doing very well and we are already at 75% reimbursement of club expenses. (All wished Shiras swift recovery from her appendix operation and condolences on having to cancel her trip to Costa Rica.

Past President (J. Solem):

Jo had no formal reports. During the course of discussion she asked Paula to include a thank you in the next newsletter for Norma Petersen for taking over monitoring of the sighting book at Centennial. Connie Bockstie is also to be commended for her prior service in this role.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Harvey):

Dave asked Elayne Metter to represent the club at the State Board meeting held February 10, the same day of the postponed winter count. She reported the following highlights: The next state board meeting is May 4 in Frederick County. Chapter reports are due 10 days before then or Convention? There was a report on the 18 sites selected for inclusion in the Maryland Wildlands project. Any inputs for the state budget are needed by mid-March. A person is needed for the By-laws committee. A new Conference Committee chair is needed. A study of the N. Sawhet Owl migration is underway. A sanctuary sign(s) effort is needed. Irish Grove cleanup is set for April 13-14. They are still looking for a MD Birdlife editor assistant. There is an effort underway to establish an MOS World Wide Web page. Mention was made of Darius's success and congratulations to him were expressed. The subject of restoration of the C&O Canal following the floods was made. Anyone wishing to contribute should forward checks made out to the National Park Foundation via the Montgomery Chapter so that the combined efforts of MOS will be recognized. A web page for the canal effort exists (<http://www.canal.com>). MOS is still looking for someone with professional experience to serve as the publicity committee. The main talk at meeting was a presentation by the American Bird Conservancy. MOS has joined as a voting member. Chapters may want to join as non-voting member (\$75). Someone has been identified as the state representative to upcoming meetings of the Conservancy. Phil Davis gave a report from the state records committee. He handed out copies of the material printed in a recent Yellowthroat listing guidelines and forms.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

No report. See Secretary's report for discussion of education grant.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

No report was sent.

Programs (Geuder):

No report was sent.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne has taken over these duties from Connie Bockstie. Her attempts to place announcement in the papers, cable TV, and radio stations have born some fruit. She has made arrangements with Patuxent Publishing Group. Will call Eileen Clegg and let her know as Eileen has been sending them notices. BBS notices did appear on Cable TV 8 in Howard County. Had bad luck that most announcements were for the meetings canceled by snow. Will continue efforts. Plan to use Bonnie's phone number as is done in newsletter for all field trips.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

No formal report. Shiras has been in contact with Eileen and will make final settlement. Proceeds decreasing.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula asked for date of fall count as she will place a short announcement in May newsletter asking people to reserve date of September 21.

She and Darius had met the people handling the Montgomery Chapter web-page and shared experiences. One caution was that Montgomery had some sensitivity expressed to using peoples names and phone numbers on the page. The Ecker's have been trying to be careful and use first names and rely on Bonnie's phone number as sole reference for field trips. Anyone with concerns or ideas should notify Darius. The Montgomery Chapter home page has a link to the Howard County page.

The March-April newsletter had just begun to arrive in people's mail as of this meeting date. Next (May-June) newsletter cutoff is March 29.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane had no items to report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob passed out a summary of the club membership recent history (see attachments). The peak occurred before the state raised dues in 1989. At the time a 10% decline was forecast and was realized. Declines since possibly reflect hard time. This years membership closed at 308. We don't want to fall below 300 or will lose one state board position. Generally we lose approximately half of new members each year (trial memberships). Need to recognize we need to bring in new members to replace normal attrition.

He then passed out a summary (see attachment) he had prepared in reviewing the Draft of the Executive Summary of the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan prepared by county parks & recreation

staff and scheduled for a briefing to the Park Board on March 10. Several items are of prime interest to the Club. He presented and we discussed several topics and it was agreed that Bob would prepare a draft of a letter setting forth club concerns. He will distribute draft to Dave and other officers for comment. He will highlight following:

1. Need for parks maintenance policy as we have been on record for in past.
2. Need for a policy on memorials in parks.
3. Greenway paths can be of different types with both different uses and differing maintenance approaches.
4. Support the concept of greenways.
5. Map sensitive natural resources. (??)
6. Club would be willing to participate in a task force exploring aspects of multiple trail use.

Bob provided a copy of the letter (see attachment) that was sent to County Council stating club position on the refuse collection charge and its implications on recycling. This was sent in response to a motion Bob made at the full club meeting on February 8. The motion passed with a quorum of 44 member present.

Chapter Directors (Metter, Stanton):

No formal report. See State Board report and publicity for Elayne's remarks.

Old Business

No old business other than that discussed in individual reports was brought forward.

New Business

None not addressed in individual reports.

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

Next Board meeting is at Metter's. Park on Chertworth Drive (address is Rolling Rd). Enter through kitchen.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 1995	-	Don Waugh
October 26, 1995	-	Shiras Guion
November 30, 1995	-	Eileen Clegg
December	-	NO MEETING
January 25, 1996	-	Jo and Bob Solem
February 22, 1996	-	Maud Banks
March 28, 1996	-	Elayne Metter
April, 1996	-	NO MEETING (Club meeting is third Thursday, 18 April)
May 23, 1996	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer's Report for 1/26/96 to 2/22/96, How0296
- Howard County MOS Membership Summary (Bob Solem)
- Howard County, MD, Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan, Summary prepared by Bob Solem

- Letter to Members of the Howard County Council, Subject: Testimony on CB-23-1996, Refuse Collection Charge
- Newsletter Name Suggestions Sheet

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 23, 1996

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1995-1996 Club Officers:

President: Dave Harvey √
Vice-president: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Jo Solem (*also State Long Range Planning*) √
Chapter Directors:
Elayne Metter (1st yr.) (*also Publicity*)
Hank Stanton (2nd yr.)

State Directors: Jane Farrell (*also Parks Checklists*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √

Others:

Mary Jo Betts √
Mike Kerwin √

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Jane Farrell. Total number in attendance was 13. This meeting is the annual meeting where current year's officers and next year's both attend. New officers present were Mary Jo Betts and Mike Kerwin. For the record the March meeting was canceled due to both the President and Vice-president being out of town on travel. Since we had no board meetings canceled due to bad weather this year, the meeting was not necessary to satisfy the by-laws. The April meeting had not been scheduled all year since club meeting was moved to 3rd Thursday.

Officer's Reports

President (Harvey):

Dave reported on several items from the most recent state board meeting. A Mute Swam management plan proposed by the state was briefed. Dave passed around a description of the proposed plan that had been presented. A program to honor Chan Robbins for 50 years of work at Patuxent Wildlife Center has been scheduled for Sunday, June 9, at the National Wildlife Visitor Center immediately following adjournment of the annual convention. The State has supported preparation of plaques to recognize Chan's contributions. Nominations for awards for outstanding service to MOS are solicited. We are reminded to consider submitting items for the silent auction at convention. MOS is supporting efforts for the restoration of C&O Canal that resulted from spring flood damage. Norm Saunders need chapter events for Yellowthroat calendar by August 1. Typically Bonnie Ott and Jane Geuder submit our field trip and program schedules respectively. Martha Waugh has volunteered to be author for the Chapter Chatter column in the Yellowthroat.

Dave had received a request for the club to officially join the Howard County Conservancy which is responsible for Mount Pleasant. After brief discussion it was decided that individuals should consider joining but that club does not normally join other organizations.

Vice-president (Banks):

The new President-elect had no formal report but received several comments about "Her time was coming".

Secretary (Stirrat):

For the record the club election of officer's was held at the regular club meeting on April 18. The slate of officer's presented by the nominating committee of Bonnie Ott, Shiras Guion, and Mary-Jo Betts was elected unanimously. The new officers are:

Maud Banks - President, Mike Kerwin - Vice-president, Shiras Guion - Treasurer, Chuck Stirrat - Secretary, Mary-Jo Betts - Chapter Director (Elayne Metter will serve second year of two year term as Chapter Director), Jane Farrell, Don Waugh, Paul Zucker, and Carol Newman - State Directors.

Chuck described Mike McClure's discussions with the new individual responsible for access to the Univ. of Maryland Central Farm (Robert Kratochvil). Mike has prepared a letter describing our prior agreements and a letter of permission for access (by authorized club representatives). (See attachments) Mike and I as secretary have signed these and Mike will deliver them for approval. The intent is to have these signed and provided to those on authorized list so that legal and formal access to farm is maintained. A copy of these letters with there color letterheads were passed around for board to view. Club was generally in favor of these efforts and supported the actions. (Mike Kerwin indicates his neighbor also has responsibilities at farm and if necessary we should contact him if we run into any resistance on access.) *Secretary's note: Mike subsequently reported that the letter was accepted and signed by the farm representative.*

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras provided copies of the Treasurer's annual report. (See attachment). The club's annual income was positive even with the contribution made to FUNDAECO. The book sales continue to do well and we are within \$700 of breaking even on the book. General expenses were \$90 negative, but with seed sale the overall net club budget was in the black.

Past President (J. Solem):

The next mailing of Maryland Birdlife is expected soon. Hope is to mail it in time to have delivered before the convention. The Winter Count next year will occur on February 1. The latest word on the Breeding Bird Atlas is that galley proofs will be available by 10 June and if reviewer can achieve a 4 week turnaround a December publication is possible. *Secretary's note: Will likely be few months later as announced at convention.*

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Harvey):

See the President's report for the items from meeting held in Frederick County in May.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

No report.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Publicity (Metter):

No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

No report.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Darius reported that the BBS is coming back on line after he resolved some problems. He has been having problems with newgroups. He will also make arrangements for staffing the display at Howard County Fair in August.

The need for someone to serve as host/hostess for monthly meetings was mentioned. Will include request for volunteers in next newsletter. Paula had prepared potential newsletter banners as proposed at last meeting, see Old Business for details.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane reported that the new "Yellowbook" with Maryland checklist and abundance dates is expected to be published and available by the convention in June. *Secretary's Note: It was available.*

Jane has prepared a draft of the checklist for the Columbia Lakes (Kittamaquidi, Wilde, and Elkhorn) based on her personal records. She will provide to Marty Chestem and Helen Zeichner in hope the project will proceed more promptly. She indicated we should solicit volunteers to work on cover art for list (newsletter item).

Conservation (R. Solem):

Tongue in cheek Bob reported that congress had narrowly passed a resolution that 'there will be an environment'.

Chapter Directors (Metter, Stanton):

No report.

Old Business

The club's request for an education grant from the MOS Education committee for funds to subsidize the Goldfinch Electronic BBS was denied as more advertising than educational. (Similar responses were given to other chapters with similar requests.) Next year we need to identify a project early and submit it in time to provide an alternate if we are turned down. One idea was to consider sponsorship of the "Envirothon". *Sec. Note: A list of the projects approved this year was obtained at the convention and is attached to these minutes.*

A lively discussion of the numerous proposed newsletter banners ensued after Paula passed around her samples. The outcome was to be something like:

The Howard County Bird Club

The Goldfinch

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

with the fonts to be those in sample number 6 of Paula's examples.

New Business

As a conservation organization in the county we have been asked if we have any inputs concerning the proposed county Nature Center to be located in the house on the Collins property on Vollmerhausen Road at one end of the Wincopin trails. After discussion we did not identify any specific requirements for utilization of the facility. We did wish to express the desire to not sacrifice habitat at the site for parking (minimize paving). Also feel should ensure the trails at center should be connected formally to those in the adjacent Savage Park. Chuck agreed to draft a letter to Howard Parks and Recreation (Philip Norman) conveying these few points.

It was observed that the club's 25th anniversary should be approaching. Planning for this event should be considered. Whether it was next fall or a year later was unclear and I agreed to check past newsletters for confirmation of date. *Secretary's Note: The 25th Anniversary will be in the fall of 1997 so one task for the coming year will be planning events for then. Chan was the speaker at 20th Anniversary meeting, Oct. 8, 1992.*

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

None.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM. Preliminary plans for the 1996-97 year were made.

September 26, 1996	-	Don Waugh
October 24, 1996	-	Mary Jo Betts
November 21, 1995	-	Mike Kerwin (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 23, 1997	-	?
February 27, 1997	-	?
March 27, 1997	-	?
April 24, 1997	-	?? (Club meeting may be third Thursday, 17 April)??
May 22, 1997	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Treasurer's Final Report - 5/1/95 to 4/30/96
- Letter to Mr. Robert Kratochvil, Central Maryland Research and Education Center Headquarters
- Draft of letter authorizing access to University of Maryland Central Farm for nature study
- MOS Education Committee, 1995-96 Annual Report (*obtained at MOS annual convention in June*)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 1996

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1995-1996 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Dave Harvey
Chapter Directors:
Elayne Metter (2nd yr.) (*also Publicity*) √
Mary-Jo Betts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Jane Farrell (*also Parks Checklists*)
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*)

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem√
Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Darius Ecker
Paula Ecker
Conservation: Bob Solem√

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Don Waugh. Total number in attendance was seven.

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud stated that she had received a request for our support of the Howard County Envirothon as our nomination for an MOS education grant for next year. This is consistent with discussions of the Board held after our last year's proposal was denied. Patricia Murphy of the Howard County Soil Conservation District submitted a letter indicating costs that are incurred for program and requesting the club's support via an education grant. The letter highlighted the fact that Howard County has taken the lead by including middle school students as well as high school. The Envirothon will be held in April. The board concurred that Maud should complete an application for a state grant citing this request and supporting it.

Maud asked for direction on how to respond to receipt of a review copy of the new Stokes Field Guide. Eileen Clegg received as one whose address is listed for club, and she passed to Maud. Maud has used on several recent field trips. Jo stated that the usual response is that the publisher expects a brief written review to be sent back and then the copy is the Club's for its use as it sees fit. Maud will respond with brief review. (*Sec. Note - Was this really the response?*)

The discussion of club book's triggered a discussion of previous donations of books made to the club. Most are in Maud's basement (??) pending a decision of what to do with them. The public library requirements are such that they have not been receptive or a likely recipient. It has been a club belief that ultimately a county nature center which might house the collection would be one possibility. The new county nature center to be housed at the Collins' property at Volmerhausen Road might serve such a purpose. It has to be accepted that any such location for the collection assumes various risks such as theft and deterioration, but would allow the books to be used, primarily by students. (See secretary's report for additional information on the Collins' property.)

Maud also made mention of the recent break-in to Bob Ringler's car while birding at Soldier's Delight which sparked a brief discussion that no place, however remote, is at risk and that we as birder's need to be alert and careful when we venture out birding.

Vice-President (Kerwin):

Mike was not present and sent no report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck acknowledged that he had not drafted a letter offering a club position on the new county nature center to be housed at the Collins' property on Vollmerhausen Road as he had agreed to at the May board meeting. He stated his intention to draft such a letter prior to the next meeting. He will add some reference to the possibility of contributing toward a library at the center with books given to the club as bequests, etc.

He also presented a proposal that Mike McClure had requested be considered on participating in a charette dealing with environmental issues at Benson Branch. (See New Business.)

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was not present but sent a copy of the treasurer's report for 5/1/96 to 9/25/96 (attached). It is worth noting that the proceeds from sales of the Howard County birding guide have now recovered all club expenses in publishing it. Future sales will all be profits for the club. Both Border's and Barnes & Noble in the county have continued to order copies. Membership applications are about normal for this time of year but no actual statistics were provided.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave was not present but had sent notes from the last State Board meeting. (See State Board Meeting.)

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks):

Maud was unable to attend the last State Board meeting held at Patuxent Wildlife National Visitor's Center in Laurel., but Dave Harvey had provided her a written summary which she shared. These highlights included:

- MOS needs a new secretary.
- The cost of the new "Yellow Book" will be \$1.25 for chapters.
- Teaming with Wildlife is supported by the state MOS board and they are interested in Chapters endorsing.

Chuck reminded the board and it was concluded that we should notify the state board that the Howard Chapter Board of Directors considered the Teaming with Wildlife initiative at our October 1995 meeting and unanimously passed a motion for the chapter to support the initiative.

The next meeting of the State Board is scheduled for November 23 in Carroll County.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

Dave was not present and other than Maud's discussion of our chapter plans for this year's request for a grant there was no further report.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo reported that we might receive a request from the Howard County Conservancy to consider providing feeders and seed for them for Mount Pleasant. When they asked her about idea she suggested that they draft a letter formally requesting our assistance. No letter has yet been received.

State Director Reports (Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

Don requested that volunteers be solicited for someone to refill the bird feeder at the main branch of Howard County Library in Columbia. Don now uses the library in Owen Brown and it is not convenient to refill them. It was decided to ask for volunteers at club meetings and in the newsletter. The board members expressed their thanks to Don for his and Martha's many years of providing this service for the club and community. *(Consider publishing a thank you and request for volunteers in next newsletter.)*

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present and sent no report.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present and sent no report.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne asked to receive feedback on how people find out about the club. She would like any feedback on how her publicity efforts are working.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was not present and sent no report. The next sale is scheduled for October 19.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula and Darius were on their way to Cape May for the weekend. Elayne collected a disk from Paul Zucker for Paula with his May Count results on it. Chuck reported that he and Mike McClure were anticipating no problem completing the Fall Count compilation in time to get it in the newsletter.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane was not present and sent no report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob indicated he had no additional conservation items not discussed during others reports.

Chapter Directors (Metter, M. Betts):

Mary-Jo had no report and Elayne stated that she wanted to recognize the wonderful job being done by Anne Marie Ratterman and Mary-Jo in running the club bookstore. Others present agreed, except that Mary-Jo expressed belief that Anne Marie was primary person responsible..

Old Business

In discussing the treasurer's report and fact that the book is paid for the subject of our next contribution to a worthy conservation/environmental cause was raised. We had made the one gift to Fundaeco last year but planned to make another gift when balances in our accounts would permit. Elayne stated her firm belief in Nature Conservancy programs. It was decided we can defer discussion till next meeting. It was suggested that a request for ideas should be solicited from members at general meeting. (*Sec. Note: This was not done at October meeting.*)

New Business

Charette Proposal - Chuck introduced a topic that Mike McClure had asked be considered by the board. Chuck read a statement that summarizes an initiative to petition Howard County Recreation and Parks to fund a charette for environmental groups to provide input on the development/use of County park property. The initial focus of this initiative is the Benson Branch Park (Environmental Area). The primary motivation for this initiative is Joyce Kelly of the Woodmark Community Association. The statement is attached. The precedent for this effort is the prior funding of a charette for the Columbia Soccer Association to define their desires/requirements for County parklands. The request was to ask whether the Howard County Bird Club would participate in such an initiative.

Bob Solem added some of his insight and reactions. The concept of a charette is one that recently has been popular with the county government. (Charette - A sharing of ones thought, desires, goals.) The primary product of effort will likely be a document. The County process for parks required hearing on the 5 year plans for Parks and Recreation. Recent process was very poor (ineffective) and generally did not produce much. Status of whether the plan was actually adopted is unknown. The process provides for a Master Plan for each park, and there already is one for Benson Branch. Whenever we (Bob in our stead) attempts to testify on these matters we are perceived as negative. In fact the process is geared towards development, so when our preference is for making minimal changes to the environment we run counter to most of the bureaucracy.

General discussion centered on we come to these issues with environmental concerns and cannot fail to participate or take a position on environmental matters when they arise.

A digression on the needs of the Soccer Association occurred that discussed fact that the portion of Mt. Pleasant sold to the County for a neighborhood park (corner of Woodstock & MD 99) has been proposed for major soccer facility. Board did not find this desirable and hoped the Howard Conservancy would be able to uphold the conditions on use originally attached to sale. Board may need to have further discussion as this issue evolves.

Chuck moved that the club would desire to participate in a charette for environmental groups to provide an input on the development/use of County park property if Howard County Parks and Recreation sponsors it. Elayne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Lyme Disease - It was stated that recent findings suggest that Lyme disease and expanding deer populations may be the public health issue that ultimately leads to dealing with deer populations. This was a follow-up to the rather heated discussion on expanding deer bow hunting areas in the Patapsco State Park area that occurred at the last general club meeting. It was evident from comment made the board had no intention of dealing further with that issue.

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

None.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 1996	-	Don Waugh
October 24, 1996	-	Mary Jo Betts
November 21, 1995	-	Mike Kerwin (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 23, 1997	-	?
February 27, 1997	-	?
March 27, 1997	-	?
April 24, 1997	-	?? (Club meeting may be third Thursday, 17 April)??
May 22, 1997	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer's Report for 5/1/96 to 9/25/96
- Charette Proposal dated September 16, 1996

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

September 16, 1996

Charette Proposal - Submitted by Mike McClure for Board Consideration

Plans are being set in place to petition Howard County Recreation and Parks to fund a charette for environmental groups to provide input on the development/use of County park property. The precedent for this has been provided by Recreation and Parks which funded a charette for the Columbia Soccer Association to define their desires/requirements for County parklands.

Initially, the Benson Branch property will be the focus since that is where the Soccer Association has expended it's charette effort. However, if any success is obtained from this target location, then some success may be obtainable on a County wide basis.

The petition, to have any chance of being accepted, will have to indicate a large interest base. As such, the petition will have to present a number of Homeowner's Associations, and environmental groups (such as the Bird Club, Audubon, Sierra, etc.) as participants. Should Rec. and Parks agree to fund a charette, then a representative from these groups will be required to attend meetings and represent the interests of their constituency.

Will the Bird Club participate?

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 1997

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1995-1996 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Dave Harvey √
Chapter Directors:
Elayne Metter (2nd yr.) (*also Publicity*) √
Mary-Jo Betts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Jane Farrell (*also Parks Checklists*)
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem
Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg √
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Maud Banks. Total number in attendance was eleven.

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud reported that although she did not have exact numbers from Bob Solem, the membership enrollment appears to be down this year. It is very likely we will not reach the 300 member level required to retain 4 Directors on the state MOS board.

The reservations for the Pot Luck have been made at the Florence Bain Center. It will be held Saturday evening, March 1. Mary Jo Betts is acting as coordinator. Shiras had not yet received bill for renting Center, Maud will check with Marty Chestem who made the reservation. Mary Jo will call and ask Mike McClure if he will coordinate the slide program. Paula is including an article in newsletter that goes to press about Feb. 1, but it may well not reach all members by March 1. Will announce at Feb club meeting. The opportunity to announce at January meeting was lost when snow closed schools and canceled meeting.

Jane Geuder had called with a request to have board consider agreeing to exceed the nominal honorarium of \$50 for a potential speaker. She has been in touch with Paul Spitzer from Oxford, MD on the Eastern Shore. He is a loon researcher and asks for a \$200 donation to support his research in return for speaking. If approved Jane would invite him for fall program, probably September. Board discussed and agreed we could treat this as funding education, research just as we have done for habitat. Dave Harvey mentioned the need to be sure the September program needs wide appeal (research charts and graphs sometimes a little dry for some) since usually largest turnout of potential new members. Maud said she would share this discussion with Jane and if appropriate we would discuss further at next Board meeting.

Vice-President (Kerwin):

Mike was not present and sent no report. Mike Kerwin was not present to report the results of his inquiry into the role of Chapter Directors that was broached at previous meeting. (See old business for another topic.)

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck provided Maud a copy of the letter sent to Howard Count Recreation & Parks on nature center for her records. The letter was sent in mid December.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras passed out a Treasurer's report for Nov 22 to Jan 22. See attachments. She reported that the seed sale held the previous Saturday had gross sales of \$2600, compared to previous year's second sale volume of \$6700, which was considered small. She anticipates no more than \$500 profit for use in contributions. See Seed Sale for further discussion.

Shiras reported that she had made arrangements for the \$1000 check for FUNDAECO to be hand carried to Guatemala by an associate of Chan Robbins. The check was accompanied by a letter drafted by Chuck. (Copy attached.) She had not been provided details and thus had not written checks for Wild Bird Rescue, Inc. and The Nature Conservancy as authorized at last meeting. See Old Business.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave passed out a copy of an article from World Birdwatch (attachment) reporting on attacks being made on Andean Condors in Venezuela. The article called for a letter writing campaign. Dave proposed members individually write. Dave moved and Shiras seconded that a letter from the club be written as well stressing the club contained many members who traveled and enjoyed ecotourism and would enjoy seeing free flying condors and there absence would discourage spending their travel dollars in areas that threatened the same. The motion passed unanimously. Dave agreed to draft the letter, and Chuck agreed to assist in preparing the letter.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks):

The State Board met November 23 in Carroll County at Hashawa Nature Center. Paul Zucker reported the following highlights of the meeting. A checklist of birds from FUNDAECO was provided. Maude will report on this at next meeting. Future articles for Maryland Birdlife are requested to be provided in electronic form using WordPerfect file format. Emily Joyce the chairman of the budget committee requested that all committees submit budget requests soon. The convention in 1997 is scheduled for an Ocean City hotel the first weekend in May. Only 75 rooms are reserved at the special convention rate. The 1998 convention is tentatively set for Wisp Ski Area near Deep Creek Lake in May or June. The Holiday Inn on Solomon Island is being considered for 1999. The Breeding Bird Atlas is in printing and expected soon. The most hotly discussed topic was that of chapter web pages including phone numbers for individuals (primarily that of trip leaders). Concerns over privacy issues have been raised. The Board proposed that a committee be formed to study this and make a recommendation, but until they report the individuals maintaining web sites were asked to remove any phone numbers. Don Waugh volunteered to be on the committee. Darius reported that the Howard web page has had a policy of not including numbers unless specifically authorized by the individual.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

Maud reported the committee is supporting an Anne Arundel effort to produce a video for use in classrooms. Our proposal to support the local Envirothon received support and the committee proposes to ask those chapters with no alternative proposals to consider a similar support of local or state Envirothon.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo was ill and sent no reports.

State Director Reports (Farrell, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

See Board Meeting report above.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present and sent no report.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present but had called with request for Board to consider additional compensation of potential speaker in form of grant to support research for Paul Spitzer. (See President's report). She also reported that Richard Smith has been rescheduled for April meeting (following January snow cancellation) and Dave Harvey will give his South Africa program in May.

Publicity (Metter):

No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen confirmed the very small sales volume for January seed sale. She has been coordinating sales for club for close to 20 years and this is by far smallest sale since initial start up efforts. She cited fewer birds, more seed sources, Audubon club's continued ability to sell at a lower price, and fact that mailing went out at peak of holiday mail and there may have been a considerable number of mailings not delivered or late as possible causes. She has also had fewer and fewer volunteers willing to work loading at sale. She only had two volunteers this time, and feels that in part the decrease in volunteers reflects the average age of club membership is increasing. The supplier was unwillingly to leave trailer, as only warranted panel truck that was unloaded by Eileen and two volunteers at beginning of morning. We have been using the smaller room in church since the large hall was \$200. We have been contributing \$100 for the smaller room the last few times, but with the reduced income of this sale she felt compelled to provide only the minimum contribution asked for, which is \$25. In light of these facts Eileen raised the possibility that the club should consider holding only a single seed sale in the Fall.

The Board discussed this proposal at length. Made points that most retail outlets are higher, but that the Audubon price is usually significantly lower. Some buy from us because the proceeds go to a worthy cause but many probably are swayed by price and option to give to cause separately. Importance of advertising shift to single sale early and often if we choose to go with single sale was stressed. Decline in volunteer participation is major reason to consider change. With two sales we were able to stress membership on first sale mailer and worthy habitat preservation purpose and use on second, if only one sale will have to balance or focus on only one purpose.

Shiras moved, and Dave seconded, that we hold only a single seed sale in the fall next year as a trial to see how that works. The motion passed unanimously.

Eileen said she will investigate a limited expansion of the products offered including suet and feeders as one way of increasing the amount raised from this single sale. Other potential income producing ideas were mentioned during the discussion. These included potential for a silent auction (primarily used at MOS convention), club sponsored and organized yard sale, and possibility of a program with a "big name" speaker with enough draw to warrant collecting admission for program. Further discussion of other fund raisers was deferred to another time.

Eileen provided Shiras with a letter from the Howard County Library indicating they had not received the September newsletter. Shiras will follow-up with Bob Solem on whether address is adequate. Suspect newsletter is not being processed properly when received by library rather than not being sent.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

The deadline for next issue of the newsletter is January 25 as Paula needs to complete preparation and get to printer by February 1. Paula asked if she should include any information on the letter received from the Principal of Longfellow Elementary discussing instances of vandalism potentially associated with community users of the school. Board generally felt letter was inappropriate in implying club might in any way be guilty of such acts, and including it in newsletter was not necessary. Maud mentioned it during meeting in December and will do so one more time but that is deemed sufficient.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane was not present and sent no report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob was not present and sent no report. (Jo was ill.)

Chapter Directors (Metter, M. Betts):

Elayne asked if anyone ever formally counts attendance at club meetings. Seems like a good idea to record attendance as measure of what programs produce most response. (*Sec. Note: Should we solicit a volunteer to do this count and record results? I could collect the results in Secretary's files.*)

Old Business

When the subject was raised Maud reported that she had been in touch with Dee Thompson about a possible donation to Wild Bird Rescue. She indicated that she needed additional wire for cages that cost approximately \$200 for a roll. Since the previous meeting we authorized up to \$200 for this purpose, Shiras was provided an address and asked to prepare a check.

Darius Ecker had contacted the Maryland/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy about potential local (state) projects to designate as potential recipient of our gift of \$750. He had provided the material to Mike Kerwin who had agreed to do this research and report back to the board. Darius had not brought the material and Mike was not present so further action was deferred. Darius mentioned they have one property on the Howard/Anne Arundel border and they would be eager to arrange a field trip there if we were interested. (*Sec. Note - Mike needs to be reminded of this task before next meeting.*)

New Business

See seed sale report for discussion of change in plans for future year seed sales and possible alternative fund raising activities.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 1996	-	Don Waugh
October 24, 1996	-	Mary Jo Betts
November 21, 1995	-	Mike Kerwin (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks
February 27, 1997	-	Jo Solem
March 27, 1997	-	Possibly Metter's?
April 24, 1997	-	?? (Club meeting may be third Thursday, 17 April)??
May 22, 1997	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer's Report for 11/22/96 to 1/22/97
- "Condors under attack in Venezuela", World Birdwatch, December, 1996
- Letter to Howard County Department of Recreation and Park on Nature Center on Collins property
- Letter accompanying gift to FUNDAECO

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 27, 1997

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1996-1997 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Dave Harvey √
Chapter Directors:
Elayne Metter (2nd yr.) (*also Publicity*) √
Mary-Jo Betts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Jane Farrell (*also Parks Checklists*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*)

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem √
Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 12.

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud read the letter prepared by Dave and Chuck expressing to the Governor of the Venezuelan State Mérida our protest of the shooting of released Andean Condors. (Letter attached.) Maud made the point that the 1997-1998 club year will be our 25th year and we will need to plan accordingly. She mentioned that the Yellowthroat had arrived and contained the registration form for the MOS Convention to be held in Ocean City, May 2-4. She passed around a request from the MD coalition soliciting the club to register as an organization supporting the Teaming with Wildlife initiative. Since the Board had already gone on record supporting this effort (10/26/95) it was unanimously agreed with no discussion that she should complete and submit the forms. (*Sec. Note - Maud do I have this right, or were there two requests, one dealing with Teaming with Wildlife and one referred to as the MD Coalition?*)

She pointed out that the International Migratory Bird Day is May 10, day of May Count. We don't promote it as such but the count is part of this international program.

Vice-president (Kerwin):

Mike completed assembling the slate of officers for next year during the meeting. Jane Farrell indicated she would not be displeased if someone else was nominated for State Director in her place. Elayne Metter volunteered and thus the slate became:
President-Maud Banks; Vice-president-Mike Kerwin; Secretary-Chuck Stirrat; Treasurer-Shiras Guion; State Directors-Elayne Metter, Carol Newman, Don Waugh, and Paul Zucker; and Chapter Directors-Suzanne Probst and Mary-Jo Betts [2nd year of 2-year term].

Secretary (Stirrat):

No report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was not present but had sent her treasurer's report with Maud (see attached). Elayne asked about financial reports for the bookstore. Jo indicated that a reconciliation between bookstore (which basically sells at cost) and club accounts. Shiras has to pay state sales tax. Several positive comments on the job Anne Marie Ratterman is doing with bookstore were offered and all present seconded that impression.

Jo summarized the treasury report stating we don't know exactly how much money we have to donate this year but that it is certainly multiple thousands.

Past President (Harvey):

No separate report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks, etc.):

No board meeting since prior chapter board meeting, but one was coming up Saturday, March 1.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

No report.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo reported that the State MOS Gifts committee would like inputs and suggestions on uses for gifts and bequests that have been made to MOS. Jo asked for permission to give away the out-dated electric typewriter belonging to the club. It was agreed that since ribbons were no longer available there was no reason to keep it.

She pointed out the article in the recent Maryland Yellowthroat describing the state's deer management study. Most present seemed in favor of more management, but concluded club best not take any formal stance.

Jo reported that she had received an inquiry about placing bluebird boxes at the new Timbers at Troy Golf Course in eastern Howard County. Mark Wallace has volunteered to build the boxes and Bob Bogden who lives near by has volunteered to monitor the boxes. Jo moved and Jane seconded that the club spend up to \$100 for poles and materials for this project. The motion passed.

State Director Reports (Farrell, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

No reports.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present and sent no report.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane Geuder was not present. Sent information on Paul Spitzer, who was discussed at previous meeting. He will give a program titled "Dark Side of the Loon" at next October's meeting. We have agreed to donate \$200 to support his research efforts with Loons.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne will retain publicity duties even though she will be a State Director next year. Consensus discussion that what she has been doing has been working. The Sun sending reporter and photographer on Landfill trip almost certainly arose from Sun having our field trip schedule.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was not present and sent no report. Bob had drafted a brochure for the single seed sale next fall. He passed it around and asked for suggestions. He used Microsoft Publisher.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Darius announced he has discontinued the BBS. The computer supporting it failed and would cost significant amount to repair. The BBS use has been fairly limited anyway. The web page will continue to be maintained and he asked for suggestions on how to improve it. E-mail communications and announcements for Board will become standard for those who have an e-mail address.

Darius passed around an information sheet on the Little Oxbow Nature Conservancy Preserve in Laurel. It is in Anne Arundel County near the Howard County line on the Little Patuxent River between US 1 and the BW-Parkway north of MD 198. It encompasses 70 acres, largely wetlands. Mike moved and Jane seconded that we designate our gift to the Maryland/DC Chapter of the Nature Conservancy to this preserve as a "local" one. We approved an amount of \$750 at the November 1996 Board meeting, but had deferred designating a specific project. They agreed to lead us on field trip there on July 12, wet one mile, 2 hour hike. *(Sec. Note - At the March club meeting Darius indicated that the Conservancy may have transferred management of this reserve, in which case they would not actually be able to apply gift directly, but could accept it toward general preservation of Maryland habitat. Darius was to have further discussions with them.)*

Paula indicated that the cutoff for the next newsletter is March 21 as she will be away at end of month.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane said that the effort on Columbia Lakes brochure was resuming. There was a change in POC at Columbia Association.

She proposed we purchase some kind of light for podium so that speakers at club meetings could see their notes when lights are off. Generally felt was a good idea, Mike Kerwin agreed to investigate what type of clamp would be needed and report back.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob gave his annual membership summary report. (See attachment.) The bottom line is that membership is down fairly dramatically (~10%). This is being observed statewide. Possible causes are decreasing environmental activism, more demands on peoples time, club has fewer outreach activities than earlier, county fair booth less successful. One cost of reduction is we may lose one state board director if remain below 300 members for extended period. Although we would like to attract and retain new members there was some expressions that we did not want to exert extraordinary efforts on recruiting for recruiting sake. Propose to challenge members to bring a "guest" to a meeting, encourage new faces at bird walks to join/participate, make effort to welcome new faces at meetings, promote seasonal counts as opportunity to involve new people, etc.

Bob passed out a listing of the beneficiaries of our gifts over the life of club. (Attached.)

We discussed merits of tracking attendance at club meetings. It was agreed that the Vice-president will count attendees at meetings and supply secretary with results for recording. *(Sec. Note - I will include number and subject of program in minutes of next Board meeting following meeting as well as keep a spreadsheet with cumulative.)* The subject of what constitutes a quorum was raised and Mike agreed to look up by-laws for answer.

See new business for another conservation topic Bob introduced.

Chapter Directors (Metter, M. Betts):

Mary-Jo reported that approximately 50 people were expected at the pot luck on Saturday March. 1.

Old Business

Bob reported on follow-up with library reporting not receiving newsletter. He thinks he has address sufficiently specific for copies sent to Central and Miller Branch. There are now four other library branches and we

agreed we should send copy to all branches. (Newsletters cost us about 10 cents a sheet for production and mailing.) When asked he mentioned others who receive free copies: County Executive, 5 Councilmen, Rec. & Parks (7 for each park with an office), WSSC, Rich Dolesch (State Conservation Chair), Glenn Therres (State Natural Resources). Jo has had feedback from WSSC staff that they actually read and enjoy the newsletter, a big plus over previous relationship.

A brief discussion following up on issue of web pages and privacy was triggered by an article in the latest Yellowthroat. Darius has been careful in running the club's page to generally not include phone numbers unless someone specifically agrees to it. He uses last names only as an added precaution. However the club believes that if we are not to publish phone numbers of members in newsletter or listing the individual must actively state their desire to not have it published. The membership survey has a question asking if they do not want published.

New Business

Bob Solem reported on the status of the efforts to preserve the Belt Woods an area of old growth forest in Prince George's County that had been threatened by development. An article in the Yellowthroat reports that the Baltimore Bird Club has given \$5000 to help cover the final \$95,000 shortfall needed to save the woods (as of 12-31-96). Bob stated that this shortfall had been covered and the woods were "saved" but that now funds were needed to clean up and restore the woods. The Western Shore Conservancy has identified the needed work but requires funds to accomplish this. Bob moved and Mike seconded that the club should give a gift of \$2000 to The Western Shore Conservancy for conservation and preservation of the Seton Belt Home Farm. The Board approved this unanimously. It was decided that Maud should announce our decision and issue a challenge to the other Chapters to contribute at the State Board Meeting on March 1. This is not a matching challenge as plans are to make gift to someone from conservancy at the April 10 meeting before the outcome of challenge will be known. (See attached letter sent by Bob shortly after this meeting.) (*Sec. Note - Maud should we try and get someone to photograph/report this as good publicity?*)

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

The next meeting will be held at Elayne Metter's in Catonsville on March 27. There will be no meeting in April.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 1996	-	Don Waugh
October 24, 1996	-	Mary Jo Betts
November 21, 1995	-	Mike Kerwin (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks
February 27, 1997	-	Jo Solem
March 27, 1997	-	Elayne Metter
April 24, 1997	-	NO MEETING
May 22, 1997	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Letter to Venezuela protesting shooting of Andean Condors
- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer's Report for 1/23/97 to 2/26/97
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) 1997
- Summary of Contributions to Environmental/Conservation Organizations & Projects Funded by Club
- Letter to Western Shore Conservancy notifying them of our gift for conservation and preservation of the Seton Belt Home Farm (Belt Woods)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 1997

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1996-1997 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin√
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat√
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Dave Harvey
Chapter Directors:
Elayne Metter (2nd yr.) (*also Publicity*) √
Mary-Jo Betts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Jane Farrell (*also Parks Checklists*)
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem
Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Elayne Metter. Total number in attendance was eight. Attendance at the previous regular club meeting held March 13 was 67 people. David Holmes gave the program entitled "Sights and Sounds of Early Migration." Before starting the meeting the group went outside to observe the Hale-Bopp comet.

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud reported that she had completed and sent in the registration material for Teaming with Wildlife. Maud informed the board that at the previous MOS State Board meeting Sybil Williams had passed out handouts soliciting items for the Silent Auction to be held at the Convention in May at Ocean City. She had also received an announcement of the Anne Arundel Chapter fund raising meeting to be held April 3. The program costing \$5 was Donald Messerschmidt on "Antarctica, Its Birds and Other Wildlife", to be held at Quiet Waters Park. She passed out copies of the brochure for the DELMARVA Birding Weekend, April 26,27. Maud announced that she was going to Texas to visit family and would not be able to host the next club meeting. Mike Kerwin will host the meeting. We discussed the desirability of pictures being taken for publicity when we give the gift to Belt Woods. Darius agreed to bring his camera to the meeting. Martha Waugh had asked Maud to request ideas for her Chapter Chatter column. Maud had received an inquiry from a reporter with FOX-45 TV about our field trips. He had been triggered by the article in Sun about the Landfill field trip. His name was Eric McKinny?? His interest was somewhat less when he learned we were not going back to landfill till next Winter. He may call back, but we will await inquiry. Belief was that TV would find our normal pace somewhat slow and less interesting.

Vice-president (Kerwin):

No special report items.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck had prepared a letter based on Darius's e-mail forwarding the gift to The Nature Conservancy and stated he would deliver it to Shiras for sending with check. Copy of letter is attached. He also brought Maud several sheets of club letterhead per her request. *Sec. Note: The letterhead is available in Microsoft Word format if any board members would like the file please ask.* Chuck also mentioned the meeting coming up on April 2 to reestablish the Middle Patuxent Valley Association. Bob Solem had sent an email with details to board members. No one volunteered to attend.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was not present and had sent no report. She was viewing the Sandhill Crane migration in the Midwest.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave was not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks, etc.):

Paul Zucker reported on the meeting held the previous Saturday, March 22 at the Salisbury Zoo. The annual budget was submitted and approved. (The Budget Committee that Paul is a member of had met the prior Saturday and finalize their proposal.) The major change made was to add a line item of \$4200 for the Education Committee. The intent is that whenever it is proposed to spend more than the budgeted amount a specific request and consideration by the full board is required. The education committee began when a bequest of approximately \$30,000 was made. The fund is down to \$16,000? The budget committee felt that the dispersal last year from this fund was quite high as there seems to be a must spend attitude. The practice of spending principal is likely to be raised, but was deferred in lieu of adding line item for now.

Other items announced at the meeting included the fact that the Ocean City Spring Fest will be the same weekend as the Convention. Remember that the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Walk is that Sunday and one span will be closed till late afternoon. Funds raised by the Silent Auction and raffle will go to Belt Woods. Next year's convention will be held in mid-May at WISP in Garrett County. Chapter Reports for Maryland Birdlife need to be submitted to Chan no later than the Convention. Mike Calahan is the new MOS publicity chairman. The subject of coordinating a policy for MOS chapter web pages was raised but not much done. Darius asked that whatever is done in this area needs to involve the individual WebMasters. Irish Grove work days are April 5-6.

A \$16,000 bequest from the estate of Larry Zeleny was discussed. The Education committee has received a request for \$2500 for a Montgomery County Parks proposal to study/develop habitat for bluebirds. This appeared to be a responsible proposal and given Larry's love for bluebirds it was likely the newly reconstituted Gifts Committee will consider this as a potential use for part of the bequest.

Mike Kerwin asked those present what the feeling was towards bequests and spending the principal rather than treating them as endowments. An informal vote suggested the sense of board was that almost always should treat them as endowments and not spend principal unless the gift stipulated how money was to be spend, e.g. land purchase.

.State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

Deadline approaching but our proposal to support local Envirothon received strong support.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo was not present.

State Director Reports (Farrell, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

See State Board meeting for Paul's report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present. Report was that David Holmes trip to Alpha Ridge Park & Mt. Pleasant on previous weekend found few birds.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present.

Publicity (Metter):

Our hostess had no formal report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was not present.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Darius reviewed the fact that our gift to Nature Conservancy could not be earmarked specifically for the Little Patuxent Oxbow Sanctuary as formal management of this property has been transferred to Maryland DNR. However our gift will go to the Stewardship Endowment Fund which might spend small amounts at this preserve or other similar ones throughout the State. A field trip to the Sanctuary is planned for July 12.

Paula reported the newsletter went to the printer today (Mar. 27) ahead of her earlier schedule because she will be on travel. She asked that someone explain to Dennis Coskren that she had received his wonderful article on the geology of the area, but did not have space in this newsletter but will include it next fall.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Jane was not present.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob was not present. He had drafted a letter inviting Pamela Cooper of the Western Shore Conservancy to the April 10 club meeting to receive our gift of \$2000. *Sec. Note: I finalized this letter and mailed it to her shortly after this meeting. A copy is attached.*

Chapter Directors (Metter, M. Betts):

Mary-Jo reported that she had taken the list of non-renewing members that Bob had prepared and performed a wonderful service for the club by making follow-up phone calls.. She personally called each of these people to find out there reasons for non-renewal and invite them to continue to participate in meetings and field trips whenever they could even if they didn't renew. She obviously left a lot of messages on answering machines but made personal contact with quite a few. Several indicated they did not intend to quit and asked to have membership forms sent. Mary Jo provided this list of names to Bob by e-mail shortly after the meeting. Others stated they were just too busy, getting older, or weren't participating sufficient to keep up membership. She had one particular response that we discussed, the Shomette's who described themselves as active birders, said they did not renew because they found the club unfriendly, the meetings boring (cited the mockingbird song program), that they did not receive rare bird alert calls (although had registered), and missed copies of the Yellowthroat and Maryland Birdlife.

The board discussed this reply, and agreed although you can't always please everyone, we did feel it worthwhile to try and emphasize welcoming and involving visitors and new members at meetings. Maud made plea for value of having a hospitality volunteer to handle some of this. Proposed to try name tags at next meeting. (Mary Jo to obtain.) Mike said he will make point to welcome guests at next meeting.

Lastly the rest of board expressed our sincere thanks to Mary-Jo for this Herculean effort. It was agreed this is a great practice and we should do it every year, but should share the burden next year. WELL DONE MARY-JO!!

Old Business

All old business was discussed as part of various officer reports.

New Business

No new business was introduced.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 1996	-	Don Waugh
October 24, 1996	-	Mary Jo Betts
November 21, 1995	-	Mike Kerwin (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks
February 27, 1997	-	Jo Solem
March 27, 1997	-	Elayne Metter
April 24, 1997	-	NO MEETING IN APRIL!!
May 22, 1997	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting or letters sent by Secretary)

- Letter to Mr. Nat Williams, Nature Conservancy of MD/DC delivering gift of \$750.
- Letter to Ms. Pamela Cooper, The Western Shore Conservancy inviting her to April 10 meeting

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 1997

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1996-1997 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Dave Harvey √
Chapter Directors:
Elayne Metter (2nd yr.) (*also Publicity*) √
Mary-Jo Betts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Jane Farrell (*also Parks Checklists*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem √
Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Jane Farrell. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the prior regular club meetings held April 10 was 54 people, Richard Smith gave the program entitled "Butterflies for Birders" and on May 15 was ?? people with the program being given by Dave Harvey entitled "Safari to Kruger National Park, South Africa. At the April 10 meeting the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee was approved in a unanimous election. The slate elected was: President - Maud Banks, Vice-president - Mike Kerwin, Secretary - Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer - Shiras Guion, State Directors- Elayne Metter, Carol Newman, Don Waugh, & Paul Zucker. Chapter Directors - Suzanne Probst. Mary-Jo Betts will be serving second year of a two year term as a Chapter Director.

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud asked how the last meeting attempts at involving new members and guests had gone, since she was away. Impressions expressed were that Mike Kerwin's welcome and the use of name tags had been positive and we should continue to do similar things in fall.

Maud reviewed the "summer calendar" items. Maud will notify Tom Strikwerda that we would like him to arrange for the booth at Howard County Fair again. Darius will solicit volunteers, the fair dates are August 9-16.

She had received another request for club involvement with the Middle Patuxent Valley Association planning for the Environmental Area. Bob Solem advised that if anyone wanted to get involved they could but that in general the process was in the initial stages and as club it was appropriate to adopt a "holding pattern" posture.

Maud had received a letter from Joyce Kelly, requesting the club's assistance in preparing a checklist of the birds for Mt. Pleasant, the Howard Conservancy property. She would like to have a full blown brochure like we have done for parks. I pointed out that Mike McClure and I had provided a preliminary list that they could use for initial version. It was felt we could do this but would have to reach agreement that we would do field work, design

brochure, and our involvement would need to be recognized on list as it has for park lists. The Conservancy would have to agree to do printing, etc. Although Joyce requested abundance data, it was agreed the field data to support that level of presentation, might never be available, and an approach similar to other park lists would be appropriate. Only birds seen on the property would be listed but for those the seasonal abundance data used is that observed county wide, as was done with the Rockburn Branch list. Chuck agreed to send an email copy of the list he and Mike had supplied Joyce earlier this spring, so that others could check their records for additions.

Vice-president (Kerwin):

Mike reported he had a blue grosbeak at Alpha Ridge Park.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck passed around a letter of thanks from Doug Samson, Director of Science and Stewardship for the Maryland/District of Columbia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy thanking us for the gift of \$750 allocated to the Chapter's Stewardship Endowment Fund. (Letter attached.) The fund helps science and stewardship staff manage thirty-one nature preserves and over forty-five cooperative sites throughout the state of Maryland, including the Little Patuxent Oxbow area.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras provided copies of the final report for the club's fiscal year (5/1/96 - /4/30/97). She made note of the \$1350 profit from sale of the Birding Howard County book. The net gain for the year was \$2135.31. She noted that without the book income our normal expenses (less contributions) would have shown a slight loss, but that overall our financial situation is sound.

She has been informed that the printing expense for the newsletter will increase by \$100 next year, but that is the first increase in 4 or 5 years and seemed reasonable.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave had no report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks, etc.):

The annual member meeting and elections were held at the MOS Convention in Ocean City on May 3.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

In appreciation of our \$200 gift (state grant) to the Howard County Envirothon, the Howard Soil Conservation District gave club an Envirothon T-shirt, which Bob Solem presented to Maud Banks, who is both club president and a member of the state Education Committee. Shiras had forwarded this gift in early April along with a request that Pat Murphy the county coordinator provide the club with a recap of the event and activities. (Letter attached.)

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo had no report.

State Director Reports (Farrell, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

The board had not met since last meeting. The next meeting is June 14 in Baltimore. Paul Zucker will be on vacation and asked Mike Kerwin to attend as his proxy. Emily Joyce on behalf of the Budget Committee may promote a discussion of increased emphasis on using bequests as endowment funds vice spending the principal. Mike had been very interested in this subject when we discussed it at March Board meeting.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Not present and no report sent.

Programs (Geuder):

Not present and no report sent.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne reported that she had contacted Zip Publishing who publish the advertising flyer "Ellicott City 51042/43" about publishing announcements of our meetings and field trips. She will include them on her list, and we will see if they use any of the material. It was mentioned that the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge-North Tract was very actively promoting field trips and getting considerable print space in the papers. Possibility exists that their success might promote interest in birding and potential interest in our club.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Not present and no report.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula announced the deadline for the first fall newsletter is July 18. Darius reported that they had 16 people attend the Lake Elkhorn field trip the preceding weekend and 7 or 8 of those were new people.

Parks Checklists (Farrell):

Activity on the Columbia Lakes checklist has been minimal. Their had been a change in personnel with Columbia Association, she will need to call and remind them of plan.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the calling of non-renewals that Mary Jo did resulted in 12 to 15 additional renewals. It appears obvious that this should be repeated next year, perhaps slightly earlier. Mary Jo is willing, and we can decide if another volunteer is needed or she feels comfortable with all dependent on how many names involved. She would like to have the renewal forms available to send out directly to anyone who indicates interest immediately. Bob will supply these to her. The form is available on the club web page.

Bob mentioned the effectiveness of rare bird alert had been a possible issue, and it was suggested that an e-mail option might be established as a parallel or alternative form of alert. It was proposed we set up a "rare bird e-mail group" and when the alert was triggered a message could be sent to all in the group with one message. It was proposed that an option for this be added to the annual membership survey form in the area on rare bird alert. In addition it was proposed we find out from Bea Newkirk if an alternative backup was needed when she was unavailable. How do we ensure the phone "chain" is not broken. Asked if the network needed review or revamping. Jo agreed to call Bea Newkirk and discuss how the alert works and what fallbacks exist. Chuck made the mistake of proposing a short article for the newsletter discussing the e-mail alert idea. Upon urging, he "volunteered" to draft such an article.

Chapter Directors (Metter, M. Betts):

No specific reports.

Old Business

Maud reported on the idea of possibly using the Owen Brown Village Center as the site for the annual potluck. Maud is a member of the Owen Brown Village Board and one of the "perks" of that job is the free use of a village facility once a year. The Hopewell Room handles 90-100 and the Dasher Green?? 80-??. This will be 25th anniversary year potluck, and we need to plan accordingly. Would like to avoid the hassle of not being able to book facility in time to include in newsletter as happens with Florence Bain Senior Center. Owen Brown permits up to one year advance. Desire that Monica Botsai have tour and comment on adequacy of kitchen facilities. Also would be desirable to permit wine or alcohol at potluck, someone should inquire on this. Board agreed to have Maud do inquiries and if acceptable authorized her to book for late February/early March Saturday evening.

New Business

The next topic discussed was initial planning for next year's programs and activities which need to recognize that in September the club will celebrate it's 25th (Silver) Anniversary. A wide ranging brain-storming discussion of possible ideas for events, activities and approaches ensued. The following list of ideas is captured here in no particular order:

- Don't limit to anniversary month, focus on a variety of "anniversary" events throughout the year.
- A special extended field trip, possibly even rent a bus.
- Consider what our intent is in celebrating this event. Is it:
 - Publicity?
 - Honor/recognize some of members who have given much to club?
- County Council/Executive proclaim Howard County Bird Club day/week/month
 - Cite club in general
 - Honor individual members
- History of Club - Prepare synopsis by year (continue from prior anniversary efforts). Publish in newsletter.
- Attempt to contact/involve former members who have left area
- Possibly wider mailing for "special" newsletter
- Anniversary Cake at one meeting
- Awards & recognition ceremony at some event
- Special speakers at regular programs
 - Tradition argues we should try and schedule Chan Robbins as speaker once during year
 - Paul Spitzer, "Dark Side of the Loon" is scheduled for October meeting (donation to his research)
- Anniversary Picnic in fall or spring
 - special guest like founding members
 - good "birding" location/time(migration) for picnic (APL picnic grounds used for 20th Anniversary)
- Select a "special anniversary" contribution for an environmental cause
 - Need to decide what/where/how much?
 - Probably focus on a Maryland cause
 - Belt Woods was mentioned as one cause (possibly arrange an anniversary visit to Belt Woods, but need to be aware there is a size limit with every trip visiting this area)
- Should have material describing "anniversary" activities to include in the SINGLE seed sale mailing

The conclusion was that planning needed to begin sooner than the first Board meeting in September, and ideally would support the deadline for the first fall newsletter (July 18). An anniversary committee consisting of the Board and additional volunteers will need to finalize plans. Marty Chestem has already volunteered to assist. An initial meeting of this planning committee is scheduled for June 19 at Mike Kerwin's home.

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

Planning for next Fall's Board meetings was completed for the first two meetings that need to be published in the first fall newsletter. Other meetings will be scheduled later.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---------------|--|
| September 25, 1997 | - | Mary Jo Betts | |
| October 23, 1997 | - | Maud Banks | |
| November 20, 1997 | - | | (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving) |
| December | - | NO MEETING | |
| January 22, 1998 | - | | |
| February 26, 1998 | - | | |
| March 26, 1998 | - | | |
| April 23, 1998 | - | | |
| May 28, 1998 | - | | (Joint meeting with new and old members) |

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM. This concludes the 1996-1997 club year. The following Board meetings were held at homes of indicated Board members. Thanks go to these hosts and hostesses for their generous hospitality.

September 26, 1996	-	Don Waugh
October 24, 1996	-	Mary Jo Betts
November 21, 1995	-	Mike Kerwin (this was 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks
February 27, 1997	-	Jo Solem
March 27, 1997	-	Elayne Metter
April 24, 1997	-	NO MEETING
May 22, 1997	-	Jane Farrell (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard Bird Club Treasurer's Final Report 5/1/95 to 4/30/97
- Letter from Maryland/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, April 16, 1997
- Letter to Howard Soil Conservation District providing grant for Envirothon, April 7, 1997

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Following attended: Maud Banks, Mary-Jo Betts, Martha Chestem, Darius Ecker, Jane Geuder, Shiras Guion, Mike Kerwin, Elayne Metter, Suzanne Probst, Bob & Jo Solem, Paul Zucker.

The Kerwin's provided a pleasant outside meeting place complete with refreshments. Thanks from all.

We began by talking about the Rare Bird alert. Bea Newkirk has requested to either be replaced, or have a co-coordinator for the RBA. She and her husband travel more, and are frequently out of town. Darius agreed to get this mentioned in the newsletter. Bob Solem is putting together a new "e-mail" RBA, and will create a mailing list of all people who want the e-mail RBA. Darius Ecker and Chuck Stirrat will act as backups for this alert. Darius will also post the alert to the Web page as soon as he gets it.

Next, this aggressive schedule of activities was slated for the upcoming 25th Anniversary year of the Howard County Bird Club.

1. A picnic will be held in the spring. Birding in the morning, with a brunch ending the festivities. Since neither Dave Harvey, Chuck Stirrat or Paula Ecker were at this meeting, we quick came to the conclusion that Dave Harvey should be in charge of planning the picnic, Chuck will help out, and Paula will remind Dave to plan the picnic. The Applied Physic's Lab has a location which may be used.
2. Several special programs will be offered. "The Dark Side of the Loon", by Dr. Paul Spitzer, will be a special presentation. Darius volunteered to write a short newsletter article describing this presentation, and to write a letter to other chapters inviting them to the presentation. Jane also announced additional programs, one was an African presentation (Marty suggested "Life List of the Lowland Gorilla" as the title), also Dave Brinker will present a new presentation on the Saw Whet Owl.
3. Jo Solem suggested we get Chandler Robbins for one of the open presentations. All thought it was an excellent idea, and that we should get Chan for whichever date his schedule allows. We suggested we call Chan sooner rather than later, since his schedule is sometimes full over a year in advance. Jo Solem volunteered to call Chan in Jane Geuder's absence.
4. Mike Kerwin suggested he would try to get an official commemoration from Howard County, perhaps a declaration of "Howard County Bird Club Day". He will contact Chuck Ecker or other officials to try and make this happen.
5. Marty suggested we try to get Larry Hood, one of our original members, now a retired wildlife enforcement officer, to come and talk at the Pot Luck. Depending on the length of his presentation, it may replace our regular slide program at the pot luck.
6. Elayne Metter has selected several old newsletter articles to reprint. Consensus seemed to be that a regular "Blast from the Past" article could be added to the newsletter for the 25th year, but there was concern that we don't use too much older material, and that we keep this article short (I'll suggest half a page at the most ?).
7. Elayne also suggested creating certificates to present to all our remaining 25 year members. Darius volunteered to produce the certificates. We would need to purchase some frames. Where these will be presented is to be determined.
8. Jo Solem suggested we have a special fund raising effort and donation for the 25th year. After much discussion on what this should be, we agreed that two donations will be made to emphasize that habitat in the Maryland and in Central America is equally important for the welfare of the neotropic

migrants. A donation to Belt Woods and a donation to Sierra De Las Minas in Guatemala was decided upon. The fall seed sale will be the major fund raiser. Amounts will be decided at a later date.

9. Darius will lead a special "all day" trip to Bombay Hook in Delaware in early October, and a half day trip to Sandy Point St Park in November. Bonnie has asked Ralph Geuder to lead a trip to Wagoner's Gap in PA, but I'm not sure what the date is, or if he's agreed. Maud is going to call Bonnie to get her to ask Greg Kerns to lead a "Sora Rail" field trip.

10. The Columbia Lakes Checklist may be out during the 25th year, but we were not convinced this was a sure thing, since Jane Farrell is having trouble getting CA to move.

We adjourned around 9:30. The next board meeting may be in August.

Minutes taken by Darius Ecker.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 25, 1997

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1997-1998 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Dave Harvey √
Chapter Directors:
Mary-Jo Betts (2nd yr.) √
Suzanne Probst (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter (*also Publicity*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem √
Education: Dave Kubitsky

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Mary-Jo Betts. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the prior regular club meetings held September 11 was 65 people, Mike Mennett gave the program entitled Birds of Prey, Adaptation and Natural History.

Note that a special meeting of part of the Board was held June 19 at Mike Kerwin's to address plans for the club's 25th Anniversary year. The secretary was on travel and Darius Ecker recorded the minutes.

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud passed around galley's of the Columbia Lakes Bird Checklist. It was proposed, and generally accepted, that we should formally present the final checklist to "someone" from the Columbia Association at an upcoming meeting when the list is finally published. The list is being printed in a very nice 3-color format. Speculation was that CA would send Chick Rohdehommel for any such presentation.

Maud announced that Sue Probst had volunteered to be the club's representative to the Middle Patuxent Valley Association. (See Chapter Director's reports.)

Vice-President (Kerwin):

Mike described recent Broadwinged Hawk flights he had observed. He speculated that a major flight was due in the next few days. *Secr. Note: No major flight occurred over the next few days.* Mike also speculated that it would be very interesting if a "picket line" of hawk observers could be established across Maryland that would truly know if the hawks are just missed of "go around" the state.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck shared a concern that had been expressed about the font size used in the latest club Directory. Bob Solem stated he agreed that it was too small and he would correct it next year. He also mentioned the font used in the Coskren article on geology in the latest newsletter as being too small. Paula stated that this had been a special case where an article had been delayed previously and she was reluctant to postpone publishing it since Dennis was to lead a field trip on the geology of the county before the next newsletter went to press. It is her intention to not use such a small font routinely.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was on a trip but had sent a copy of the treasurer's report that was distributed to the board and is attached.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave was present but had no special report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks,etc.):

Paul Zucker provided a report on the latest board meeting held Sept. 6 at Greenbrier State Park in Garrett County. Club attendees besides Paul, included Don Waugh, Elayne Metter, and Dave Harvey.

Betsy Taylor presented a report on the MOS insurance policy. Activities of the officers and directors that report directly to the President of MOS are supposedly covered. The status of chapter activities is less clear. Mike Kerwin reviewed the policy prior to this Board meeting and stated the opinion that the policy is basically dealing with bodily injury and does cover MOS sponsored trips (e.g. at Convention) but that it might not include club sponsored trips. He was quite sure that the club's officers and directors are not covered for their exposure to liability as officers. Mike was asked to consider attending a state board meeting to share his concerns in this area.

MOS has issued its first press release. It deals with MOS being cosponsor of Habitat guidelines. See MOS website for details.

Paul reported that he has been elected chairman of the MOS standing committee on Budget. As such he is automatically a member of MOS Board of Directors. Howard may be entitled to another director, but we will wait and see if our membership justifies four directors at time of next year's elections.

Dave Harvey is serving as the chairman of the State MOS nominating committee. He is hopeful of bolstering his committee above the minimum of three members. He asked if anyone had suggestions for individuals from the Eastern Shore to contact.

Announcements were made at the state MOS meeting dealing with:

- By-laws ?
- Latest convention had a \$3000 surplus. Elayne Metter raised idea of should scholarships be provided for few who could not attend conventions without financial support.
- Plans are underway to republish the sanctuary brochure
- Irish Grove has multiple maintenance and long-term planning needs. Work day Oct. 25
- Volunteers are needed for the Scholarship, Long-term Planning, & Education committees
- There are plans to redo the MOS "blue brochure"
- Announcement on the Horseshoe Crab "crisis"
- Endangered Species?

- Larry Frye, chairman of the Investment committee proposed desire for interaction with the Budget Committee and Treasurer. Club has \$60,000 in funds that are not allocated. MOS needs to decide what long term goals are for such funds.
- Specific issues associated with the Education Committee chaired by Linda Bystrack on whether should be spending principal or only interest on funds designated for education.

The next state board meeting is scheduled for December 6 in Montgomery County.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

Dave was not present and has asked that the club seek a new representative to the state education committee.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo asked for permission to investigate reproducing a limited number of copies of the club's "Bluebird Handbook". She proposes to make 40-50 copies vice a "larger" printing. The board concurred and Jo was told to go ahead with this project.

Jo has told the state that this will be her last year as chairman of the state's Long Range Planning Committee and they need to search for a new volunteer to chair this group.

The Winter Count will be held February 7.

State Director Reports (Metter, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

See Paul Zucker's report from the Board meeting above.

Don Waugh passed along Martha's request for ideas for her Chapter Chatter column in the "Yellowthroat". It was suggested our celebrating 25 years as a chapter might be a topic. Several positive remarks about the quality of Martha's efforts on this column were volunteered.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne mentioned that she met the new state Publicity Chairman at the state board meeting in September and that he was impressed with her efforts. He asked that she serve on a state publicity committee as well.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was not present, but the only seed sale the club will hold this year is scheduled for Saturday, October 25. The mailing had just been received prior to this meeting.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula asked that the location for the November Board meeting be established so she could include it in the upcoming newsletter. Mike Kerwin volunteered to host the meeting. The need to finalize a date for the pot luck was also raised. Maud was directed to finalize date with the Owen Brown Village Center. *Secr. Note: Finalized on date of February 28.*

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren):

Jane was not present, but Jo reported that now that the Columbia Lakes checklist project was nearing completion, Nancy Magnusson was actively beginning work on the checklist for Schooley Mill Park. All who have records were asked to send them to Nancy.

It was also discussed that Bonnie still has not been able to recover her computerized records on the parks. Darius volunteered to contact her and offer his assistance in trying to recover files.

Jo reported that she was responding to a request from Mark Raab of County Rec. and Parks to have data on bird sightings in Font Hill Wetlands Park for a brochure to be used at upcoming dedication for the park. She asked anyone with records to send them to her. *Secr. Note: An article on this topic appears in the Nov-Dec newsletter. As of printing 104 bird species and 35 species of dragonflies/damselflies.*

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob raised the subject of how and when the club would respond to the recent changes included in the 41st amendment to the AOU checklist. It was decided that we could not make changes in time for fall count, but that if possible the Winter Count checklist and records should reflect the changes in sequence.

Bob also informed the board that the Maryland Public TV network had chosen not to air the Stokes series on birding. Individual members were encouraged to contact MPT and express their dissatisfaction with this decision. The Washington PBS station WETA will carry it beginning Nov. 19.

Chapter Directors (M. Betts, Probst):

Mary-Jo had no report but volunteered to help Dave and Chuck with phone calls if any needed for planning for the 25th Anniversary picnic to be scheduled at APL next Spring.

Sue Probst reported on the meetings of the Middle Patuxent Valley Association she has attended. She is participating on the Education Environmental Committee of the MPE Foundation. The property in question is roughly 600 acres. Currently Howard County Rec. & Parks is managing property. They are looking to hire a steward (Park Mgr.). Deer (& deer ticks) are a concern. Visitors to property are impressed with browse line caused by deer resulting in no understory. The Community College has environmental projects planned for area. Longer term the area may be site for an Environmental Education Center (similar to those in other nearby counties, that currently Howard County pays to use for its students.)

Bob Solem moved, and Dave seconded, that Sue Probst be officially named the Howard County Chapter of MOS's representative to the Middle Patuxent Valley Association. This motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Chuck asked to clarify the issue of club support for preparing a bird checklist for the Howard Conservancy property at Mount Pleasant. Maud had received a phone call from Joyce Kelly who has recently been elected president of the Conservancy. At the May meeting we discussed a request from Joyce for support but did not formally respond and Maud's initial response to Joyce was that we were reluctant to support her request. After discussion we restated Board's desire to support as long as we retained fundamental control of the content (technical and editorial), were given recognition for our contributions, and the Conservancy would agree to finance publication/reproduction costs. The Board restated belief that records and degree of coverage would not support abundance data specific to Mt. Pleasant and that the checklist would include only generic Howard County

abundance data for those species seen at Mt. Pleasant. (similar to the Rockburn Park checklist). In order to provide a single point of contact for discussing this subject with Joyce, Mike McClure was nominated to serve as the club's spokesman. *Secr. Note: Following meeting Mike agreed to serve in this capacity.* For discussions on plant checklists Joyce should be directed to Bob Solem.

New Business

See member reports.

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

None.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 1997	-	Mary Jo Betts	
October 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks	
November 20, 1997	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 1998	-		
February 26, 1998	-		
March 26, 1998	-		
April 23, 1998	-		
May 28, 1998	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS - Treasurer's Report for 5/1/97 to 9/25/97

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 1997

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1997-1998 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Dave Harvey √
Chapter Directors:
Mary-Jo Betts (2nd yr.) √
Suzanne Probst (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter (*also Publicity*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem
Education: ???

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Maud Banks. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the prior regular club meetings held October 9 was ?? people, Dr. Paul Spitzer gave the program entitled "The Dark Side of the Loon: Migration and Winter Biology of the Common Loon.

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud announced that the date for the annual potluck dinner had been set for February 28. Mary-Jo Betts is coordinator for the dinner. Maud indicated they are still hoping to invite Larry Hood to speak.

Maud informed the Board that Jane Geuder had requested extra copies of the current newsletter for those who went on the Galapagos trip last summer, since Ralph is speaking on the trip at the November meeting. The tour members plan to meet in the school gymnasium prior to meeting for a potluck supper and reunion of tour participants.

Volunteers for hosting upcoming Board meeting were solicited and are shown in schedule at end of minutes. Traditionally Jane Coskren has hosted May meeting and someone proposed adding her adding her was deferred till she volunteers. Jane is no longer a State Director so she has not been attending regularly, although her role as Checklist Coordinator makes her a Board member, it seems appropriate to ask rather than just assume.

Vice-President (Kerwin):

Mike was not present and sent no report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck reported that Mike McClure had agreed to act as the club's Point of Contact with Joyce Kelly regarding the preparation of a bird checklist for Mt. Pleasant, as proposed at prior meeting. Mike had not yet met with Joyce to discuss the list.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras passed out copies of the treasurers report (attachment). She made note of the several gifts received with the seed sale orders. At that time the seed sale gross was about \$8600, which she characterized as "good" but "not great". This should lead to a profit of approximately \$1500.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave had no report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks,etc.):

There has been no meeting of the State Board since our last Chapter Board meeting. Next meeting is in December.

State Education Committee (Banks):

Maud reminded the Board we are still in need of a volunteer to serve on the State Education Committee.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo was not present and sent no report.

State Director Reports (Metter, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

Elayne asked if a substitute could be found for her for the December State Board meeting as she will be unavailable. It was proposed that Mike Kerwin be asked to attend since the subject of insurance was one topic expected to be addressed.

Don asked if we were still to contact someone if we observed birds with conjunctivitis. No one knew the answer at the meeting. He had observed a robin with the disease that was blind at the Oakland Mills garden plots.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Darius spent 3 hours helping Bonnie get her birding database program (Data Hawk) running. Thus the club's park and trip records are again available. Bonnie has a backlog of about 1.5 years data to enter. Darius made a backup set of disks and kept them as well.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present but see comments by Maud about meeting that Ralph is speaking at.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne had no publicity items. Don mentioned that Martha is always looking for suggestions for her Chapter Chatter column in the Yellowthroat.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was not present but had passed along a few words about the seed sale which was to be the next Saturday (Oct. 25). She did not yet have enough volunteers, and indicated she planned to hire her teenage son and his friends if necessary. The Board agreed this was appropriate. Someone asked if students might not do this as part of community service requirements.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula reported she had several volunteers to be artists for the Schooley Mill checklist. She mentioned Ruth Pechenko and Carl Brudin III. Possible birds for the cover were discussed, and included Blue Grosbeak, Eastern Bluebird, and Prairie Warbler. Sue Probst stressed you needed one with strong markings if rendering in black and white line drawing. The warbler might be best for this reason. Paula agreed to call Nancy Magnusson and Jane Coskren to give them artist names and tell them to decide on a process to determine who does cover.

Paula also asked whether we still plan to have a presentation of the Columbia Lakes Checklist to someone from the Columbia Association at an upcoming meeting, as she would want to include something about it in the appropriate newsletter.

Parks Checklists (Coskren):

Jane was not present but see discussion by Paula above.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob was not present and sent no report.

Chapter Directors (M. Betts, Probst):

Mary-Jo reported she had a red-breasted nuthatch at her feeder. She also volunteered to Paula that she had picked up a book of bird quizzes that could be used as filler material in newsletters if needed.

Sue reported that she had misses the latest Middle Patuxent Valley Environmental Association meeting. She did state the group was currently working on the deer over-population problem in area.

Old Business

All old business was covered in individual reports.

New Business

No new business.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 1997	-	Mary Jo Betts	
October 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks	
November 20, 1997	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 1998	-	Shiras Guion	
February 26, 1998	-	Dave Harvey	
March 26, 1998	-	Elayne Metter	
April 23, 1998	-		
May 28, 1998	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS - Treasurer's Report for 9/26/97 to 10/23/97

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 1997

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1997-1998 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Dave Harvey √
Chapter Directors:
Mary-Jo Betts (2nd yr.) √
Suzanne Probst (1st yr.)
State Directors: Elayne Metter (*also*
Publicity) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget*
Committee)

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem √
Education: ??

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Darius Ecker
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Mike Kerwin. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the prior regular club meetings held November 13 was 74 people, Ralph Geuder gave the program entitled "A Trip to the Galapagos Islands".

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud suggested that notes of thanks should be sent to those who sent contributions with their seed sale orders. At end of meeting Board members wrote thank you notes that were addressed with labels that Bob had prepared.

Maud had received a call from bird rehabilitator Judy Holzman. She is looking for potential "foster parents" for young birds that have been brought to her as a rehabilitator. She had attended a meeting where a theory suggesting the need to reintroduce young birds into an existing nest was essential to their survival. The belief is this is required so that they will learn songs, etc. It was proposed that she could prepare a newsletter article, but that the club would not endorse the proposal, since it is unproven and there are worries the practice might increase predation, if humans visited nest frequently. The practice is fairly common with bluebird boxes where data on young ages is well known, but is much less certain with other species.

Maud relayed a comment from one attendee at the September meeting who asked if we had considered purchasing a "hand-held" microphone. We believe she was referring to a "wireless" microphone. The woman making comments stated that one could be purchased for less than \$30, however Board members expressed doubt about the quality of one priced this low. The consensus was that Board members should encourage speakers to use the existing microphone and not defer to the speaker's preference to discard microphone. It was proposed we speak up and imply we can't hear when speaker says "You can all hear me?" This is needed because the speaker often lowers voice as they proceed and those with poor hearing often don't speak up.

The above discussion reminded Mike that it had been proposed a light be purchased for the podium. He was to explore this but had not. It was decided that such a light should be purchased. Mary Jo will decide on light and purchase it. Shiras will then reimburse her for purchase. Consensus was to look for one with a cord vice a battery type.

Maud reminded Board that the deadline for applications for the MOS scholarships was the end of January. She was going to propose to a couple of people who went on the Galapagos trip that they might want to apply.

Lastly she had been informed there was a \$50 security deposit and \$27 staff charge for the use of the Owen Brown Community Center where we will hold the annual pot luck dinner. Shiras prepared a check to the Owen Brown Community Association and Maud took it to deliver.

Vice-President (Kerwin):

Mike agreed that he was planning to attend the next state Board meeting scheduled for Dec. 6.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck reported that Mike McClure had been in touch with Joyce Kelly informing her that he would be the club's point of contact for preparing a Bird Checklist for Mount Pleasant.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras provided a handwritten treasurer's report (attachment). Her printer was malfunctioning. She pointed out the \$1900 profit on seed sale and the \$643 in special donations. Note the intention to send Thank You notes to these contributors mentioned earlier by Maud. (Several Board members were in this group and expressed no need to acknowledge their contribution further, thereby limiting the number of thank you notes needed.)

Past President (Harvey):

Dave passed along word that Maureen was attending the steering group for Teaming with Wildlife at the Patapsco State Park Headquarters, Hollofield area, Rt. 40 this evening. She is representing the Carrol Chapter, but she would like us to try and solicit a representative from the Howard Chapter. The belief is that if this initiative is successful the participants will have a role in deciding how the money raised is to be spent. Dave agreed to ask Maureen for further information on what a volunteer would be required to do so that an article requesting a volunteer could be published in the newsletter. Maud indicated she was receiving regular mailings on the Teaming with Wildlife initiative.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks,etc.):

No meeting since last Chapter Board meeting. Next meeting is December 6.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

No report. We are still seeking a volunteer from Chapter to serve on this State Committee.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

No report.

State Director Reports (Metter, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

Elayne stated she had called the State President, Bob Reineer, and left word on his answering machine indicating the chapter's interest in having the matter of insurance placed on the agenda so that Mike Kerwin could express some of our concerns about coverage.

Don Waugh pointed out that he was still looking for someone else to volunteer to fill the feeders at the Central Library as he no longer regularly visited there. He will continue to fill them for now.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

No report.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne is experimenting with posting the field trip schedule on the bulletin board at the Bagel Bin at Enchanted Forest. Mike Kerwin asked if anyone felt the club brochures left at the Library's was cost effective. He keeps the slot at Miller Branch filled but wonders if it pays off. Cost is 7-8 cents per brochure. Agreed difficult to assess but seems we have to keep trying, especially as the County Fair as a recruitment location is more in doubt.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen indicated to Shiras or Jo that she still had some seed left and that a call for additional purchases might be placed in next newsletter.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula stated the deadline for next newsletter was the coming Friday, November 28.

Mary Jo then complemented Paula on her appearance on the All Bird TV program on the Animal Planet cable station. Paula was interviewed while visiting one of the Arizona hummingbird preserves. Elayne was present but did not agree to be interviewed (although her "hat" was visible). It was suggested this was a likely topic for an upcoming "Chapter Chatter" item by Martha Waugh in the Yellowthroat.

Parks Checklists (Coskren):

No report. *Secr. Note: The Columbia Lakes Checklist has been published.*

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob mentioned the recent discussion on Bird Chat that had pointed out the reason no/limited range maps existed for Mexico was that there really isn't any data to support them.

Bob reported he will send have the list of those who have not renewed ready by the end of November. These will receive reminder mailing. Mary Jo will want a list of these to continue her efforts to contact non-renewing members.

Bob also mentioned the column in latest newsletter from the Howard County Conservancy indicating they have plans to develop a Grasslands Bird management project at Mount Pleasant. He mentioned a Habitat Management Guidelines document to be published by the Fish & Wildlife Service that is cosponsored by MOS. This had been introduced by Fred Fallon at the last state board meeting. It was felt a copy of this should be

provided to Mt. Pleasant and potentially Howard County Recreation and Parks. *Secr. Note: Following the meeting Jo contacted Fred Fallon and confirmed that the Fish & Wildlife Service will publish these guidelines by the end of year. MOS will get several copies and each chapter will receive around five copies. We will send one of ours to the Howard County Conservancy (Mt. Pleasant) for use in planning their grasslands area. If the booklet is not ready by the end of December, Fred Fallon will send Jo an advance copy that we can provide Mt. Pleasant so that they don't get off on the wrong foot with a grassland management program.*

Chapter Directors (M. Betts, Probst):

Mary-Jo had no report. Suzanne had called to say she was unable to attend.

Old Business

None other than that included under board member entries above.

New Business

None.

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

It was agreed that the Board will discuss membership recruitment methods during one of our Spring meetings. We all agreed we should attempt to invite any new people attending walks to attend club meetings and consider membership.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 1997	-	Mary Jo Betts	
October 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks	
November 20, 1997	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 1998	-	Shiras Guion	
February 26, 1998	-	Dave Harvey	
March 26, 1998	-	Elayne Metter	
April 23, 1998	-		
May 28, 1998	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter MOS - Treasurer's Report for 10/24/91 - 11/20/97

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 1998

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1997-1998 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Dave Harvey √
Chapter Directors:
Mary-Jo Betts (2nd yr.) √
Suzanne Probst (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Elayne Metter (*also Publicity*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh √
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem √
Education: ??

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren

Others:

Marty Chestem √

State Committees:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Maud Banks. Total number in attendance was fourteen. Attendance at the regular club meetings held December 11 was 50 people, Craig Sholley gave the program entitled "Maasi Mara to the Mountains of the Moon". Attendance at the meeting held January 8 was 61 people, Hank Kaestner gave the program entitled "Cinnamon Buns and Cinnamon-rumped Trogans".

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud announced that we will have to change the date of the regular club meeting in April. The school's are closed that day for Holy Thursday. Actually the school's are closed for two Thursday's in a row. We will have to have meeting on first or fourth Thursday. The Geuder's have responsibility to make arrangements with school and speaker.

Bonnie Ott had informed Maud she proposes to hold the annual Spring Sunday morning walks at Centennial beginning the last two Sundays of March and first two of April. Primary reason that the park gets so crowded later in Spring.

We received a letter from the Institute for Bird Populations asking for volunteers to handle bird banding responsibilities (MAPS Project) at sites such as NSWC Dahlgren, Patuxent River, Indianhead, etc. Funding cuts have forced these to become volunteer projects. Volunteers will receive training (\$550 value) but the time commitment will be fairly high and the sites are not very close to Howard County. A newsletter article with announcement will appear in newsletter.

Norm Saunders is seeking a volunteer to serve as MOS state liaison person to the Environmental Fund of Maryland. Fund recently had a distribution of \$2000 to MOS. A newsletter notice asking for volunteers will be prepared.

Vice-President (Kerwin):

Mike stated that he had almost written a letter to the Editor of the free paper "21042" complaining about the article on deer hunt with headline "Hunters Kill 1 Year Old" due to its obvious bias. He didn't because of his association with the club. Board felt if he doesn't sign as officer or represent that he is speaking for club he still can speak out as an individual.

Mike is proposing to set up a regular hawk watch at Centennial this fall. Hopefully it could be manned each Saturday and Sunday beginning in September. He wants to gain more accurate data on the Broadwinged Hawk migration through the area.

Secretary (Stirrat):

No comments.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was not present and had not sent a report.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave is still trying to find a volunteer for the state MOS office of Vice President, but not having much success. He also mentioned the fact that Maryland Public TV had responded to public interest and was now broadcasting the Stokes Birding series.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks,etc.):

No meeting since last chapter Board meeting. Next meeting is March 14.

State Education Committee (?? & Banks):

We still need a volunteer to serve on this committee.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo mentioned upcoming Winter Count. She proposed that the club present a copy of the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission in recognition of their support in providing access to WSSC reservoir and watershed property for counts. Board concurred unanimously.

Jo mentioned the subject of providing bird records to Jim Statz and Marshall Illif. They would like to receive "all" records in electronic format with more detail than regularly available and potentially without the quality control review traditionally provided for inputs in past. She has been discussing with Chuck and others and will proceed slowly since has concerns that they may end up with "records" that have not been accepted by county.

State Director Reports (Metter, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

Paul reported that the state Budget Committee met and will present budget at next MOS Board meeting. Don reminded people to call Martha if planning to attend Winter Count tally.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Not present but see proposal under President's report.

Programs (Geuder):

Not present.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne asked Board to report to her whenever we see announcement of club activities as a form of feedback so she finds out what is working. She sends to the former Patuxent Publishing papers, Washington Post, Howard Sun, Cable 8.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

No report.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Darius announced that the Triadelphia Christmas count results have been posted on the Howard County web site. He has also posted the Howard County Odenate list and will post the state list as soon as Bob forwards it.

Paula announced the newsletter deadline was the next day.

Parks Checklists (Coskren):

No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

The membership year is closed. He is preparing the new member directory with a larger font. It will include the officer nominations as well to save mailing costs. The mailing list is roughly 170 so print and mail 200 copies which is level that gets price break with post office (Mike Kerwin gets extra, his Postman probably loves it.)

Chapter Directors (M. Betts, Probst):

Suzanne reported that the Middle Patuxent Valley Association Education committee is working with the school Gifted & Talented Committee, a meeting was scheduled for the next Monday. The deer hunt in the Middle Patuxent Valley has begun. Suzanne has had a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker coming to her yard.

Mary-Jo reported that the potluck preparation is proceeding for February 28. Thirty people signed up at January club meeting.

Old Business

The Solem's had obtained the advance copy of the Habitat Management Guide for Mt. Pleasant as discussed at last meeting. (Letter attached.) A copy of this is posted on the state MOS web site. Mt. Pleasant has lost all of its full time staff and is making due with volunteers only at present.

Marty Chestem reported that she had received a letter from Larry Hood responding to her invitation to have him participate in an anniversary event (meeting, picnic, etc.). He is interested but has a lot of travel commitments. The most likely date appears to be having him speak at the May 14 club meeting. We may have to offer to help defray his travel costs from Illinois(?).

New Business

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 1997	-	Mary Jo Betts	
October 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks	
November 20, 1997	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 1998	-	Shiras Guion	
February 26, 1998	-	Dave Harvey	
March 26, 1998	-	Jo Solem	(This is a change announced at Feb. club meeting)
April 23, 1998	-	NO MEETING	(Regular club meeting date changed this month.)
May 28, 1998	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies available on request)

- Letter to the Howard County Conservancy - Deliver Habitat Management Guidelines for the Benefit of Land Birds in Maryland

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 26, 1998

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1997-1998 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Dave Harvey √
Chapter Directors:
Mary-Jo Betts (2nd yr.) √
Suzanne Probst (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Elayne Metter (*also Publicity*)
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem √
Education: ??

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker √
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren

Others:

Maureen Harvey √

State Committees:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Dave Harvey. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meetings held February 12 was ?? people, Dave Brinker gave the program entitled "Saw-whet Owl Migration: What we know and Don't Know".

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud reminded Board we needed to finalize our charitable contributions for the 25th Anniversary year. We had discussed gifts to the Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation (FUNDAECO) at Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve in Guatemala and to the Western Shore Conservancy for Belt Woods preservation. Shiras had pointed out that we should limit the gift to the profit from the seed sale and special 25th Anniversary gifts, since we are currently spending our dues on club support. (Potentially operating at a deficit). Dave Harvey moved that we donate \$1500 to the Belt Woods project and \$1000 to FUNDAECO. This motion passed unanimously. The gifts were to be presented to Chan Robbins at the next regular meeting.

The April meeting will be held on second Tuesday as normal, since despite the children don't attend school that day, there will be an in-service period for teachers so the building will be available.

Maud reviewed the slate of officers the nominating committee presented for the Board. The slate is:

President – Mike Kerwin
Vice President – Don Waugh
Treasurer – Shiras Guion
Secretary – Chuck Stirrat
State Directors– Mary Jo Betts, Elayne Metter, and Darius Ecker

Chapter Directors – Suzanne Probst (2nd year), Kurt Schwarz (1st year)

The election will be held at the April 9 regular meeting. The slate will be mailed to membership with the annual membership directory in early March. Our membership had declined to level where we are only entitled to three state directors. Since Paul Zucker is now Chairman of the state's budget committee he is on State Board in that role so we simply did not find a replacement for him.

Vice-President (Kerwin):

Mike was not present.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck had no report. He agreed to re-send the prior meeting minutes to those who did not receive them.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was out of town but sent her written report. It is attached to the minutes.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave reported that he has reserved Picnic Area C at JHU Applied Physic Laboratory for June 27 from 8 AM to 4 PM. This is the site down by the Middle Patuxent River. It was decided that rather than formally organize a picnic we will advertise this as a "bring your own" Brunch Picnic. Dave will lead a bird walk beginning at 8 AM and then we will have brunch. The site does not have grills. We have permission for wine and beer although this may be of less concern with brunch. Mary-Jo volunteered to coordinate phone calls, but with this plan it will probably not be necessary. A copy of map showing location was given to Ecker's for potential use in newsletter. Plan is to meet at the ball field at entrance to picnic area at 8 AM for walk and then coordinate transportation down to Area C.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks,etc.):

There had been no state board meeting since last meeting.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

No report. Still need volunteer for this committee.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo reported that WSSC had been delighted at prospect of the club presenting them with a copy of the new Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas in appreciation for their support in permitting access. The letter Jo wrote confirming the plans for the presentation to be held at 11:30 AM on March 6 is attached. Jo, Maud, Mike Kerwin, and Jane Coskren will make presentation. *Secretary's Note: This presentation was made and was highly successful.*

Jo then requested the Board's approval to use club letterhead in making a formal request of WSSC for access to the watershed in order to do a formal survey of dragonflies and damselflies (odonates). She plans to stress how useful this may prove in monitoring water quality. The board then passed a resolution we were on record as supporting this survey effort as a club activity. *Secretary's Note: A copy of the letter Jo subsequently sent and the favorable response she received are attached to the minutes.*

Jo had one other topic to discuss. The supply of club brochures is about exhausted and she wants to print more, but had several modifications to discuss. She proposed and we agreed that reference to co-sponsoring field

trips with Howard County Parks & Recreation and Bluebirds in the Park should be deleted since that is no longer done. Other corrections include deleting the phone number for computer bulletin board, single vice two seed sales, etc. She then asked about the reference to County Fair exhibit since we have not found a volunteer to coordinate this since Darius said he could no longer do this.

The Board discussed the subject of fair exhibit and decided not to delete the reference this time. We will try to find multiple volunteers to do the various jobs rather than having one person "do it all". Primary needs are for someone to make phone calls to schedule people to man the booth., and someone to volunteer to take down the exhibit on the last night. Darius will setup the first Friday night, Tom Strikwerda needs to call fair management and arrange for space. Lastly someone suggested trying to have an exhibit on field and grassland birds since the agriculture community can most help these birds. Someone will mention this idea to Marty who usually puts together the display.

State Director Reports (Metter, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

No reports.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

No report.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Publicity (Metter):

No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

No report.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula announced the next newsletter deadline is March 26. A representative from the Middle Patuxent Association had contacted them asking for volunteers willing to help establish and monitor woodcock habitat. The first cleanup is March 8. Bob mentioned that finding someone to resume the breeding bird census survey area in Middle Patuxent that first Chan Robbins and then Jerry Einem had been conducting would be of more scientific value. This effort has been dormant for 3-4 years.

Darius reported he had been called by Steve _____ a reporter for the Baltimore Sun about doing an article on bird watchers. He was given trip list, and most probable are the Centennial walks. Darius also apologized for not getting the field trips turned in time to be published in the Yellowthroat this time, they are one month out of synchronization with our publication schedule.

It was proposed that the next newsletter should include a thank you and recognition of those volunteers working on the Maryland Birdlife mailings and those who bring baked goods to meetings.

Lastly Paula would appreciate help responding to co-workers who assert that "Ducks quacking doesn't echo!". They insist that she as a birder should know if this is true or false.

Parks Checklists (Coskren):

No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob presented the final membership report for the club year (attached). The final total is 263 voting members. Mary-Jo called those not renewing as she did last year. She called roughly 40 homes and as a result there were 10-15 more renewals. The message in report is that we need to concentrate on making “new” members feel welcome and involved as well as inviting them to join in first place. Dave reminded us that the field trip leaders need to “educate” since this is how new birders become involved. It was pointed out we got far fewer new members from the Wild Bird Store since the Davis’s left.

Chapter Directors (M. Betts, Probst):

Mary-Jo reported on plans for the potluck planned for February 28. She expected around 60-65 people to attend. Nanine Rhinelanders has agreed to give a short talk on the club founding at the potluck. Since we will be allowed to have wine and beer at the Owen Brown Village Center, Rod Botsai and Don Randle had approached her about bringing the beverages including wine. Mary-Jo was unclear if they expected to be reimbursed by the club. It was expressed that for tally rally’s people brought wine if they wanted to but it was not purchased. Some thought this had been the case when we used to have wine at the potluck as well and Mary-Jo said she would convey this to Rod and Don. *Secretary’s Note: Prior to the potluck Mary-Jo talked to them and found that in the past the club had reimbursed them, so they only brought soft drinks. The Board may want to discuss this further at the next meeting.*

Mary-Jo also stated she had purchased more nametags and that we should all help ensure they are used at the March regular meeting, since she is busy with bookstore. Mary-Jo had a Yellow-breasted Chat in her yard on Feb. 15.

Sue reported on the latest meeting of the Middle Patuxent Valley Association she had attended. The deer hunt had taken roughly 50 deer and may well be repeated in the fall. They are considering taking a deed survey using aerial infrared cameras. Ticks taken from the deer taken during the hunt were sent to FDA. The MPEA is about to hire a resource manager for the area. The Board of Education plans for a major facility in the area to provide children an overnight experience has not been funded. The Parks and Recreation plans are in three stages, plan, study, construct. The representative from the Village of River Hill asked Sue if we would lead bird walks in the area. We would generally be responsive to holding one of our regular walks there. Sue also says she has invited students from her school’s environmental club to attend our meetings. If they come suggested they be introduced.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Miscellaneous Comments (and other continuation items)

Note that the club’s regular May meeting is May 14, which is after May Count and the evening before the MOS annual convention starts in Garrett County.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 1997	-	Mary Jo Betts	
October 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks	
November 20, 1997	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 1998	-	Maud Banks	
February 26, 1998	-	Dave Harvey	
March 26, 1998	-	Jo Solem	
April 23, 1998	-	NO MEETING	
May 28, 1998	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS – Treasurer’s Report for 11/21/97 to 2/24/98
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)
- Letter to Larry Iager, WSSC Watershed Protection Supervisor from Jo Solem confirming plans to present copy of “Atlas” to WSSC, February 23, 1998
- Letter to Larry Iager, WSSC from Jo Solem requesting access for odonate surveys, March 5, 1998
- Letter to Jo Solem from Larry Iager, approving WSSC access for odonate survey by Jo & Bob Solem, Nancy Magnusson, and Jay Sheppard, March 9, 1998

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 26, 1998

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1997-1998 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Dave Harvey
Chapter Directors:
Mary-Jo Betts (2nd yr.) √
Suzanne Probst (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter (*also Publicity*)
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem √
Education: ??

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Darius Ecker
Paula Ecker
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren

Others:

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 9. Attendance at the regular club meetings held March 12 was 71 people, Chandler Robbins gave the 25th Anniversary program entitled "What's New in Central America: Protecting Birds in their Habitat".

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud discussed need to identify a chapter request for the State Education Committee grant. After discussion Bob moved we ask for \$200 to give to the Howard County Envirothon for this year. Motion was approved unanimously, but we decided the Board would like to hear a description of this program next year.

Vice-President (Kerwin):

No special report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

No special report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras handed out a treasurer's report (attached). FUNDAECO check had not been written yet. *Secr. Note: Subsequent to meeting Shiras wrote check and I provided letter to forward gift via Chan Robbins who is about to visit Guatemala.*

Mike asked for assistance in reviewing expenses and income to formulate an estimated budget. Mike took notes and the secretary recorded following (may need further refinement):

Income:

How Co Book	300
Interest	300
Membership dues	3500
Publications	50
Seed Sale	9500
Special donations	750
Donations received	50

Expenses:

Donations to Env. Causes	2500
Bird Counts	150
Meeting Expenses	400
Miscellaneous	50
Publications (newsletter)	1100
Potluck	180
Speakers	425
State Dues	2200
Seed Sale	7500
Taxidermy(license +)	25

It was noted that we always donate the seed sale profits and any donations received to support environmental causes.

Past President (Harvey):

Dave was not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks,etc.):

Paul Zucker summarized the meeting held March 14 at the Edgewood & Otter Creek Estuarine Center in Harford County. People in Queene Anne county want to form a new chapter centered around the Horsehead Sanctuary. A breeding bird survey is being organized along the C&O Canal. A \$5000 grant was given to Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to build a model Eastern Bluebird conservation area at the Agricultural History Farm Park, in the Derwood area of Montgomery County. Funds for this came from the Larry Zeleny estate gift. A number of MOS press releases have been released, they are accessible on the MOS web page. No direct action was taken on the issue of liability insurance (Mike pointed out the officers must be indemnified). A biodiversity conference is scheduled for May 12. The MOS brochure has been updated. The budget was submitted and approved. The committee cut funding which has not routinely been being spent. The proposal was made to allocate \$16000 currently in Education fund plus an extra \$2500 and then limit the fund outlay to the annual interest earned on this principal ensuring a long term fund for education. Conservation report mentioned dredging and Hart-Miller. Most of the proposed by-law changes were approved. Items on electronic media and another on publicity committee were tabled. A warning sign about physteria was posted at Irish Grove. Slate of officers include Norm Saunders as President and Karen Morley as Vice President. The records review committee has added an "unreviewable" category for some historical records. Note that current list has 407 species compared to the 327 speices in original Stuart & Robbins. MOS was asked to sponsor a World Series of Birding team headed by Hal Wirenga (\$300 registration fee) with plan being to solicit pledges as a fund raising. Executive committee was to make final decision. (*Secr. Note: Team was sponsored.*) Received 19 scholarship applications, more than could be funded. The Education Committee needs a new chairman. The 1999 MOS convention will be held at Solomons May 14-16.

State Education Committee (Kubitsky & Banks):

No report.

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo is retiring as chairman of this committee after many years of service. She has the reprinted club brochures. She reported the presentation of an Atlas to WSSC was a great success. The article appearing in the

WSSC newsletter had several mistakes (introduced by the corporate process). A photo was provided for use in our newsletter. Jo reported that the request for access to WSSC property by the Solem's ,Nancy Magnusson, and Jay Sheppard to do dragonfly and damselfly surveys was approved.

State Director Reports (Metter, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

See section on state board meeting.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

No report.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Publicity (Metter):

No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

No report.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

No report.

Parks Checklists (Coskren):

No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob gave a brief summary of why physteria is such a problem. Senate bill put forward by Sen. Gunns is useless. A compromise conference bill was put together behind closed doors. How to address excessive phosphorus from chicken manure is problem. One proposal is to truck it to western shore of Cheasapeake which could use the phosphorus. Sewage sludge is also an issue. The bill may not pass this year because the politicians may feel its better to run for reelection on the "absence" of a solution. In general excess nutrient is going to be an issue.

Chapter Directors (M. Betts, Probst):

Mary-Jo mentioned we need to remember to set-up and turn on the podium light so that speakers are aware of it being available. She reported the pot luck was a great success. She agreed to coordinate again next year. We discussed the decision to not purchase wine. In general for liability reasons the club will not purchase wine nor announce that it is permitted because that could appear to be encouraging its use. If someone asks about this policy we will refer them to Mike Kerwin.

Sue Probst reported that Howard Recreation and Parks have hired a Natural Resource Manager for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Jeff Duguay has a Ph.D. in wildlife biology from West Virginia. He has done a good deal of bird research. *Secr. Note: Jeff was on the club field trip to the MPEA on May 24. He would welcome help from volunteers. His phone number is 410-313-4726 and his office is at the Department of*

Recreation and Parks, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046-1677. Sue reported that an airborne infrared survey of the MP deer population was being done following the hunt. She also mentioned that Erick Neupert is teaching a course on birds as part of the Community College continuing education program.

Old Business

Karla Pearce volunteered to handle the coordination of volunteers for the Howard County Fair.

New Business

See reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 1997	-	Mary Jo Betts	
October 23, 1997	-	Maud Banks	
November 20, 1997	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 1998	-	Maud Banks	
February 26, 1998	-	Dave Harvey	
March 26, 1998	-	Jo Solem	
April 23, 1998	-	NO MEETING	
May 28, 1998	-	Shiras Guion	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report for 2/25/98 to 3/26/98
- Letter forwarding \$1000 gift to FUNDAECO, March 31, 1998
- Copy of MOS press release, "MOS Presents \$5000 Grant to MNCP&PC for Bluebird Conservation Area, 27 January, 1998

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 1998

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1997-1998 Club Officers:

President: Maud Banks (*also State Education Committee*) √
Vice-president: Mike Kerwin√
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Dave Harvey
Chapter Directors:
Mary-Jo Betts (2nd yr.) √
Suzanne Probst (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter (*also Publicity*) √
Carol Newman
Donald Waugh
Paul Zucker (*also State Budget Committee*) √

State Committees:

Long Range Planning: Jo Solem√
Education: ??

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Darius Ecker
Paula Ecker √
Conservation: Bob Solem√
Parks Checklists Jane Coskren

Others:

New chapter director: Kurt Schwarz√

Location of Meeting

Meeting was held in home of Shiras Guion. Total number in attendance was twelve. This was the annual meeting of the board with both old and newly elected officers present. Attendance at the regular club meetings held April 9 was 57 people, Greg Kearns gave a program entitled "A Photo Safari to the Texas Gulf Coast" and an update on his Sora research project. The regular meeting held May 14 had an attendance of 47 people. The program was given by founding club member Larry Hood who had returned from his current home in Illinois to reminisce about early club days and give a talk on "Birding in England".

The annual election of officers was held at the regular club meeting on April 9. The Nominating Committee slate of officers was elected unanimously. The slate of officers for the 1998-1999 year are: President - Mike Kerwin; Vice-president – Don Waugh; Secretary – Chuck Stirrat; Treasurer – Shiras Guion; State Directors – Mary-Jo Betts, Elayne Metter, and Darius Ecker; and Chapter Directors – Kurt Schwarz, Suzanne Probst (2nd year of two year term).

Officer's Reports

President (Banks):

Maud mentioned that Jeff Duquay, the new Natural Resource Manager for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, had attended the club's walk at the area the preceding Sunday. He is looking for volunteers to help with a number of projects. It was decided a future newsletter announcement of this request would be appropriate.

Vice-President (Kerwin):

Mike announced that one focus he has for his term as President will be to attempt to increase club membership. He observes we have no one formally serving as a membership chairman. Mary-Jo mentioned she met a new member who had learned of club via web and email. Maud mentioned that all of us need to continue to

try and recruit new members. It was suggested that membership might be a focus for new Chapter Director. Kurt is already acting as the caretaker for club's audio visual equipment. Mike stated we should define what the functions of a membership chairman would be and recruit someone to act as membership chairman. Mention this on annual membership survey as a possible role, also consider as a newsletter item. It was pointed out that many of the functions involved have been being handled by Jo and Bob but they plan to be traveling more in future and may not be available as readily.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck mentioned that our "membership" in The Nature Conservancy we got for last year's gift to Maryland/DC Chapter was expiring. As secretary he has received multiple requests to renew, but ignored them.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras distributed the attached Treasurer's Report. She noted that the check from State MOS for Education Grant was received after the close of fiscal year. She had also received the refund of our damage deposit for the pot luck facility. Net proceeds from regular operations for the year was \$122.92. Expenses for renting the school for April meeting were larger than normal since it turned out to be a school holiday.

Mike asked the Board to consider whether the resultant balance in our accounts (more than \$9000) was a greater cushion than we should or need to retain. It was pointed out that more than \$2000 of this is seed sale profit which we will donate in the coming year. As for the rest having such a balance has allowed the club to provide for such projects as the publishing of the Finding Birds in Howard County book. A project that will come much sooner than we might realize is another Breeding Bird Atlas. Mike proposed that during the next year we consider a long range planning activity to examine such issues. Whether we do this as a formal structured process or informally it was generally agreed we should do this. Shiras agreed to put together a five year summary of our financial expenses.

Past President (Harvey):

Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Banks,etc.):

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13 at Nanjemoy, Charles County. Paul will not attend as his son-in-law is graduating. Maud and Elayne will attend and take notes, but stated they would not match Paul's standards.

State Education Committee (Banks):

Maud announced that Paula Ecker has agreed to be our representative on the State Education committee. *Secr: Note: The latest Yellowthroat indicates that Maud Banks is the Chairman of State Committee. I don't recall this being mentioned at this meeting.*

Long Range Planning Committee (J. Solem)

Jo had no report. She is retiring as the chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee as of the annual conference.

State Director Reports (Metter, Newman, Waugh, Zucker)

Paul summarized some highlights of the state budget committee deliberations. *Secr. Note: A complete report appears in the May/June 1998 Yellowthroat.*

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present. Kurt Schwarz asked why our club fieldtrips seldom are published in the Yellowthroat. It was explained that our newsletter cycle is a month out of phase with the Yellowthroat and Bonnie usually does not have a final list ready by our deadline let alone the Yellowthroat deadline. In discussing it was suggested we might try and submit partial or incomplete inputs for example without trip leader name. Will discuss with Bonnie, some of trips are pretty reliable as to date such as Centennial walks, even if the leader hasn't yet been set. Mike proposed we discuss possibility with Bonnie.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Publicity (Metter):

Elayne is not able to provide publicity material to papers on the schedule they need it if we expect it to be included regularly. As a result Board is looking for a volunteer to handle this responsibility.

Elayne asked about whether Mt. Pleasant was to get new tenants. Response was yes primarily so that security enhanced by having someone on property at night. She wondered why, if our association with them was so strong, why we couldn't use the house for meetings. It was explained that the property is owned and managed by the The Howard Conservancy, and what she proposed was probably not worth pursuing.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

No report.

Newsletter (P. & D. Ecker):

Paula announced the deadline for next newsletter is July 24. A brief discussion was held about the club's official address on newsletter being Eileen Clegg's home. Paula offered to have it be her address. The reason Eileen Clegg's address is used is that it is the address on our non-profit permit (which is under the State MOS umbrella). It would be easier to not change this, but if Eileen would like to change we should look into change.

Parks Checklists (Coskren):

No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the check for \$200 grant from State Education committee had been received and will be provided to Pat Murphy Weaver. She indicated the funds will be used to support the county's Junior Envirothon this coming fall. She has agreed to come to a club meeting (regular or board?) and explain the program (needs about 20 minutes).

See New Business for discussion of deer population.

Chapter Directors (M. Betts, Probst):

Board welcomed the newly elected chapter director, Kurt Schwarz.

Mary-Jo indicated that she was concerned the publicity for the upcoming 25th Anniversary picnic did not stress that it was “bring-your-own” Brunch. We all agreed to remind anyone we saw of this fact.

Suzanne stated she was disappointed she had to miss the field trip to the Middle Patuxent Valley Environmental Area, and hoped to go on another one soon.

Old Business

See Officer reports.

New Business

During Mary-Jo’s report she asked if we had considered getting more or different Club T-shirts to sell at the Bookstore table. The discussion indicated strong interest in this idea. Suzanne indicated she has done T-shirts for several other projects. She was willing to work on a design and several ideas were discussed. She agreed to investigate cost and relative order size price breaks etc. Mike offered that we might want to lay out about \$650 to produce a supply. Agreed that probably should only by L and XL sizes. Small sizes don’t have much demand. Also agreed quality should be better but probably not the very best.

Bob Solem had sent an email to the Board prior to the meeting asking that we discuss the impact of white-tailed deer in Howard County. Bob explained that there is a Task Force preparing a report on this matter. There was general consensus that the deer population is excessive, is destroying forest breeding-bird habitat (understory), is increasing the potential for tick borne Lyme disease, and are an increasing hazard for accidents on the county highways. In discussing one of the frequent concerns about a hunting solution, Mike Kerwin recited insurance industry statistics supporting the assertion that hunting is a safe activity. The Board recognized that although we all might have personal opinions about what steps this problem requires, we were sure that the opinions of the club’s membership would cover a wide spectrum. We decided that the Board would publicize this matter educate its membership of the facts in this matter but not officially endorse a solution. We would also encourage the individual club members to share their opinions with responsible officials. Bob agreed to draft a letter to Task Force stating the club’s belief that the problem concurs the deer are having the negative impacts mentioned, but not offering a position on the solution. He also agreed to write an article for the Goldfinch providing information to the membership on this matter. Our approach is education first, and only take an organizational position on solution if the feedback from membership is overwhelming in one direction.

Action Items

- Investigate costs of T-shirt and think about design (S. Probst)
- Work on ideas for long-term financial plan (Kerwin)
- Prepare 5 year history of past finances (Guion)
- Seek a person to serve as Publicity Chairman (All)
- Seek a person to serve as Membership Development Chairman (All)
- Investigate how we might provide field trip information to Yellowthroat (Kerwin)
- Contact Pat Weaver about the Envirothon (Banks)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 1997 - Mary Jo Betts
October 23, 1997 - Maud Banks

November 20, 1997 - Mike Kerwin (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December - NO MEETING
January 22, 1998 - Maud Banks
February 26, 1998 - Dave Harvey
March 26, 1998 - Jo Solem
April 23, 1998 - NO MEETING
May 28, 1998 - Shiras Guion (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting and other for the record items)

- Howard Bird Club 5/1/97 to 4/30/98 Treasurer's Final Report
- WSSC Newsletter Page – Article 'This Story "It's for the Birds"' Reports on presentation of Atlas to WSSC

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 24, 1998

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1998-1999 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin
Vice-president: Donald Waugh
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
 Suzanne Probst (2nd yr.)
 Kurt Schwarz (1st yr..)
State Directors: Elayne Metter
 Darius Ecker
 Mary-Jo Bett

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*)
Conservation: Bob Solem
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren
Records: Jo Solem
Membership: ??
Publicity: ??

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Mike Kerwin. Total number in attendance was _____. Attendance at the regular club meetings held September 10 was ___ people, _____ gave a program entitled _____.

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Vice-President (Waugh):

Secretary (Stirrat):

Treasurer (Guion):

Past President (Banks):

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks):

Budget Committee (Zucker)

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Programs (Geuder):

Publicity (??):

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren):

Conservation (R. Solem):

Chapter Directors (Probst, Schwarz):

Membership (??)

Old Business

New Business

Action Items

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 1998	-	Mike Kerwin	
October 22, 1998	-		
November 19, 1998	-		(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 1999	-		
February 25, 1999	-		
March 25, 1999	-		
April 22, 1999	-		
May 27, 1999	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

-

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Monday, October 5, 1998

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1998-1999 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
 Suzanne Probst (2nd yr.) √
 Kurt Schwarz (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker √
 Mary-Jo Bett √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Mike Kerwin. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meetings held September 10 was 57 people, Dr. David Messersmith gave a program entitled "Desert and Tropical Birds of Queensland, Australia." The agenda for Board meeting is attached to minutes

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike began by asking for a discussion of the "rare bird alert" process, meaning the phone calling list alert, not the email alert. It was explained to him that the alert has been used only when a "truly" rare bird with a reasonable expectation that others could see is located. Unlike the email alert which has very limited overhead the phone list is not used just for "nice" birds that are routinely found in county. Mike expressed desire to have an article for a future newsletter that explains criteria when birds should be reported and the alert activated. Consideration should be given to including something on next years member questionnaire. It was pointed out that one criteria is the letter code in Jo's book. All category D and E should be reported and some category C species. It was also pointed out that Bonnie voluntarily attempts to track individual's wanted species and calls individuals if she hears of birds being sighted. Mike and Kurt Schwarz will revisit this topic and possibly prepare an article.

As for a budget, Mike had not received the five year history that Shiras is to assemble. Thus no real work done on this topic. We are discussing membership income, not funds collected from seed sale or contributions for habitat preservation. One future use of funds is the next atlas project. Chan Robbins discussed desire to begin this effort again at the latest state MOS Board meeting. This state effort will require funds (more than prior ones, no longer have house on Sanctuary to house coordinator, will probably need higher paid coordinator, and alternate publisher will need to be paid.) If chapter wants to support will need to have accumulated funds by time effort begins which could easily be within 5 years.

Mike announced that the open position of Publicity Director had been filled by Jeff Friedhoffer. He was welcomed by the board. The board also expressed thanks and appreciation to Elayne Metter for her efforts in this role previously. Jeff asked for any ideas on how he could improve club publicity. Don Waugh asked about

possibility of getting an article on fall count in the paper. Chuck stated that he and Mike had turned in article to Paula for upcoming newsletter that might serve as basis for a news release. *Sec. Note: Apparently following meeting Jeff sent an announcement to the Patuxent Publishing Group and a reporter contacted several club members for information. An article is expected to appear in these papers week of Nov 2.*

The subject of trying to get our club field trip schedules published in the Yellowthroat was raised again. Traditionally our final schedule with trip leaders has not been ready by Yellowthroat deadline. Mike agreed to talk with Bonnie and discuss this. Consider submitting a partial list of trips that are certain to be held even if leader's have not been finalized. Would involve submitting a list with a generic phone number (e.g. Bonnie's) and note that leaders would be identified later.

Mike announced that the state is attempting to assemble a Speaker's List for the state's Speaker's Bureau. Decided Mike should pass word to Jane Geuder. Don Waugh pointed out (and passed around copy of the recent Washingtonian article (August) on birding. He observed that the material would in fact be an excellent source for someone speaking on birds.

Mike has received a letter (dated Aug. 1) from Norm Saunders, State MOS President containing revisions to the MOS Bylaws and Manual of Operations. Anyone wanting to review the changes should ask Mike for letter. Mike also reminded us that he had forwarded Norm's email searching for a replacement for Will Tress. Will is the MOS Executive Secretary and has expressed desire to give up this position as soon as a replacement can be found. This is the only state position that is paid (all be it minimally). Any suggestions of possible candidates should be passed to Mike or Norm.

Don asked for clarification on the subject of club policy regarding serving of alcohol at club activities. He asked as the host of several club count tally rallies. Mike restated, that for reason's of legal liability the club would not purchase alcohol to be served at club events (specifically this came up when discussing the potluck dinner which is held in a public facility vice a private home but it was adopted as general policy). The club will not purchase alcoholic beverages or promote alcohol use in announcing events, but at same time board did not say that private individuals could not purchase and bring wine or beer to club events to share with friends. No policy will fully eliminate the club's liability, but this approach attempts to limit club responsibility and liability.

Mike had received a message from Maud Banks concerning the club's collection of bird specimens (skins). Michelle Wright had talked to Maud expressing interest in resuming her efforts at taxidermy on behalf of the club. She would like to have the club pay the cost of renewing her taxidermy license. Someone pointed out that the specimens used at the county fair are really showing wear and tear. It was pointed out that in part this is because the specimens used at fair are left unattended and accordingly some of the poorer ones are used. However there is need for refurbishing or preparing new specimens. Another question raised was, what the specimens are used for besides the fair? It was pointed out that a number of club members routinely use them for educational programs with schools classes, other clubs such as garden clubs, etc. The specimens are also available to members who would like to use them for study. It was pointed out that a new place to store the specimens is being sought and that there is a long standing need to have new storage boxes designed and built. Volunteers for any or all of these efforts are sought.

The mention of garden clubs resulted in Mike and Kurt relating there interaction with Mary (Warfield) Curwin that came out of the county fair. She is active in the Cattail Garden Club and at the fair invited Mike to survey her property in Area 1 as part of the Fall Count. Mike and Kurt felt like they were out of their element when invited in for "tea" during the count, but they had access to a whole new area. Jo suggested the next time the "Cattail Garden Club" asks for a program that Mike might be best one to do program, since she has had the experience.

Mike mentioned his surprise at how some of the respondents on the MDOsprey email chatline on the internet lacked "civility". He had expected birders to be better behaved, but general consensus was that even birders have a full spectrum of personalities. Most agreed that overall the chatline was informative and fun but some respondents get carried away on some issues.

Mike brought up a question that Chuck forwarded from Dave Harvey concerning an omission on the seed sale form. Dave found the absence of a line soliciting voluntary contributions of cash for habitat preservation strange. Jo suggested that what we historically had done was to seek new membership on the first sale of season and contributions on the second sale rather than having to track sales, membership, and contributions simultaneously. With the decision to have only one sale the opportunity for seeking contribution on second sale form has been lost. Accordingly we should consider adding a voluntary contribution line to next year's first sale form.

Mike has had second thoughts on finding a membership chairman. Feels all members should share responsibility. Others felt still might be a benefit if a volunteer can be found. We discussed a variety of ideas:

- how to attract children,
- new member packets still sent to new members,
- brochures available to hand out at meeting & field trips,
- host/hostess for meeting (need to take turns, Kurt volunteered to do Oct. meeting),
- make visitors to meetings and trips feel welcome,
- course on birding at Howard Community College (insufficient enrollment this fall, don't offer a free course, if someone want formal course no reason they shouldn't pay tuition), and
- consider offering series of beginning birder walks (haven't done recently) Mike to talk to Bonnie.

The check for Envirothon hadn't been sent until just recently, since hadn't closed loop with Shiras. Still have action item to get a short briefing on activity to club board or regular meeting.

Vice-President (Waugh):

See comments made during President's issues.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck reminded board that Maureen Harvey had made arrangements for the club to host the December 5 meeting of the state MOS Board at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Howard County Room (Cafeteria 1, Building 1). Board meeting is normally held from 10:00 AM to noon. A short article soliciting volunteers to provide baked goods for meeting will appear in newsletter. Mike Kerwin volunteered that contributions be dropped off at his house prior to meeting. Plan is to also serve coffee and orange juice.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was not present but sent copy of attached Treasurer's report for 5/1/98 to 9/22/98.

Past President (Banks):

Maud was not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

Elayne provided highlights of the recent state Board meeting. MOS members with proper ID will be given free access to the Horsehead Sanctuary free. Our chapter hasn't routinely provided annual membership cards, but if you would like to have one for free access to the Horsehead Sanctuary that recently was expanded due to an estate gift to MOS, contact Shiras Guion who can provide membership cards.

The 1999 annual MOS conference will be held at the Holiday Inn at Solomon Island, May 14-16. Tentative plans are for the conference in 2000 include Washington College or the Tidewater Inn possibly in August. These alternatives are indicative of a choice between cheaper and more expensive venues for the conference. MOS

is trying to ascertain membership preference in this regard. The membership of Howard Board preference was clearly on the affluent side, but it may be worthwhile to try for a wider audience in providing response. Also negative reactions to an August date were expressed both during the state meeting and this Howard Board meeting. Previous August conferences have had hot and relatively bird-free results.

The state MOS Board discussed a request from the Audubon Naturalist Society to use the current MOS field check list. A need exists to republish list and although ANS was involved with earlier editions their right to use current list was challenged at state level. Parochial views apparently exist and outcome unclear.

A discussion of both sides of issues occurred regarding deer control at Carey Run Sanctuary. General discussion that probably control limited to MOS property would not be effective, and wider area control has many differing viewpoints. Not dissimilar to issue in Howard County.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks):

Maud has been appointed chairman of the State Education Committee.

Budget Committee (Zucker)

Paul was not present.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

See state MOS Board meeting notes above.

Darius reported that Karla Pearce had coordinated manning of the Howard County Fair booth in August. Darius and Paula set up on Friday night, but Karla had not found someone to help take down on following Saturday. Darius and Paula helped her take down the display. Overall the display was considered a success, since the responsibility for booth had been distributed with Tom Strikwerda coordinating with fair committee, Karla handling finding volunteers to man the booth evenings during the week, and the Ecker's helping with setup and tear-down. It was decided that the display was probably due for a revitalization before next year. It was decided that Marty Chestem should be approached about developing a new display before next year. *Secr. Note: While manning the booth Tom Strikwerda and I discussed possibility of using current computer technology to at a minimum update sheets used for signup for membership, seed sale, owl sightings, etc. and possibly adding photos of recent county sightings. Darius is a prime prospect for providing material.*

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane was not present.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

See discussion in President's report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Eileen was not present. Next seed sale is October 31.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula raised issue of obtaining early reservation of location for potluck dinner. Mary-Jo is coordinator again this year. Need to contact Maud and confirm she still will be able to offer club free use of the Owen Brown Community Center again this year. It was suggested that if available Maud reserve the center for Feb. 27 or March 6 in that priority.

Paula also received confirmation that Jo and Mark Wallace should be listed as coordinators for counting in Howard County as part of this years Audubon Triadelphia Christmas Count on Dec. 19.

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren):

Jane was not present.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob was not present.

Chapter Directors (Probst, Schwarz):

Suzanne reported on her attendance at the MPVA meeting. Jeff Duguay , the Natural Resource Manager for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area spoke. Al Gueiss proposed having a water management project to show the “lessons learned” from pond environmental changes. Proposal presented to conduct deer hunt again to try and manage deer population. Proposed 2 weeks in Oct., 2 weeks in Nov. and 2 weeks in January. Uncertain if will be approved. Another program underway is a bluebird/cavity nester program requiring volunteers to monitor boxes. Sue Mueller is coordinator?

Old Business

Sue Probst reminded board of proposal to design a new T-shirt for club to sell in future. She had completed a preliminary design which received general support of board. Fundamental design focuses on 25 years of Howard County Bird Club. Her contact would use either Lee or Jersey has supplier for T-shirts. Estimates for 50% cotton/50% polyester T-shirts with 50-50 mix of Large and Extra Large:

50 quantity	\$287.50	\$5.75 each
100 quantity	\$535.00	\$5.35 each
Sweatshirts (middle weight)		\$12.50 each

Darius moved to order 50 T-shirts (50/50 L & XL) and 12 T-shirts equal size distribution. Jeff seconded. A sign-up list was to be available at next club meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

New Business

No new business other than that discussed in officer reports.

Action Items

- Review need for rare bird alert criteria article – Mike Kerwin & Kurt Schwarz
- Prepare budget summary for past 5 years – Shiras Guion to provide to Mike Kerwin
- Explore how to provide timely field trip schedules to Yellowthroat – Mike Kerwin to discuss with Bonnie Ott
- Publicize Fall Count – Jeff Friedhoffer to contact newspapers – *DONE*
- Speaker list to state MOS for preparation of Speaker Bureau List – Mike Kerwin pass request to Jane Geuder
- Junior Envirothon recipient of prior year education grant, arrange for briefing to board or regular meeting by Pat Murphy Weaver, County coordinator - Bob Solem ?
- Add contribution line to next year’s seed sale form providing for contribution - Eileen Clegg, Bob Solem

- Request Maud Banks to reserve Owen Brown Community Center for next year's Pot Luck dinner - Mary Jo Betts
- Request Marty Chestem to develop new displays for use at County Fair next year - Mike Kerwin
- Prepare final T-shirt design for display and have sign-up sheet at October meeting - Suzanne Probst – *DONE*
- Add article to next newsletter asking for volunteers to provide baked goods for Dec. MOS Board meeting at JHU/APL - Paula Ecker - *DONE*

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

October 5, 1998	-	Mike Kerwin (Sept. Meeting delayed till this date)
October 22, 1998	-	NO MEETING
November 19, 1998	-	Mary Jo Betts (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 1999	-	Elayne Metter
February 25, 1999	-	Kurt Schwarz
March 25, 1999	-	Jo Solem
April 22, 1999	-	Jeff Friedhoffer
May 27, 1999	-	?? (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting)

- HCBC Board Meeting Agenda – 10-05-98
- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer's Report for 5/1/98 to 9/22/9

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HCBC Board Meeting
Agenda
10-05-98
Kerwin Home**

- A. President's Issues
 - 1. Rare Bird Alert
 - 2. Budget
 - 3. Open Positions
 - 4. Speakers
 - 5. Publications
 - 6. New Board Position
 - 7. Letter from President MOS 8-1-98
 - 8. Bird Skins
 - 9. MDOsprey Civility
 - 10. Breeding Bird Survey
 - 11. Follow-up from Last Board Meeting
 - 12. Bird Seed Sale Contribution Line (Dave Harvey query)
- B. Officer's Reports
- C. Committee Reports
- D. Board Member Reports
- E. Action Item Review
- F. Adjournment

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 19, 1998

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1998-1999 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
 Suzanne Probst (2nd yr.)
 Kurt Schwarz (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √

General Notes

Board meeting was held in home of Mary-Jo Betts. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meetings held October 8 was 54 people, Larry Hindman of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources gave a program entitled "Impact and Management of the Introduced Mute Swan in Maryland." Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 12 at Harper's Farm Middle School (an alternative site due to conflict with school programs) was 61. David Holmes gave a program entitled "A Tale of Two Islands: Appledore in Maine and the Farillon's in California."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike handed out a copy of a 5 year budget synopsis that Shiras had prepared (Attachment). Mike summarized the report as showing we have an approximate annual income of \$5000 and have been showing an approximate annual increase in balance of \$500 per year. Mike asked why the bookstore proceeds did not appear. It was reported that these books are kept separately and as appropriate an annual transfer of any proceeds from book sales are transferred to general fund. Such a transfer hasn't occurred for several year, and it was suggested that Anne Marie hasn't been informed of this possibility since she took over the bookstore. Mike took an action to discuss with Anne Marie and if she has sufficient balance ask for an appropriate transfer. Overall Mike's review of budget history suggests we may not need a more "official" budget process and should "keep doing what we have been doing." Mike was reminded that one other constraint implicit in the budget figures is that ALL profits from the seed sale are earmarked for donation to environmental/habitat protection causes. The Board had been making donations consistent with this but need to remember it in planning any budget expenditures.

Elayne asked about what club pays for speaker fees. The response was that the amount varies significantly with some not accepting anything or donating the fee, but that the "budgeted" amount was \$50 per meeting.

Mike was reminded that one of the key elements of our fiscal plans is for members to pay their annual membership dues (on time), and that included the club president.

Mike then addressed a request he had from State to provide feedback on our experience with Speakers as part of the preparation of a new state Speaker's List. He asked the Board for feedback on this manner. The only key feedback from board was that we did not feel the program provided by Dr. Paul Spitzer on the "Dark Side of

the Loon” was not worth his “inflated” expectations for support of his research and we would not recommend him as a speaker. All other speakers in past year were considered suitable.

The Board paused briefly to watch a Maryland Public TV program, MD Outdoors segment on “Purple Martins” that included interviews with club member Kathy Klimkiewicz.

It was agreed that Kurt Schwarz and Jo Solem would swap hosting the Feb. and March Board meetings as reflected in new schedule at end of these minutes.

Mike revisited his proposal for having a new Board member dedicated to new membership. He was unsure of its merits. After a brief discussion it was proposed that Don Waugh, as Vice President, would form a committee to work on membership. The was accepted by Board. One focus of effort should be to identify young people interested in birds. Officially the club has 29 junior members.

Mike deferred the topic of “bird skins” until Maud is present at a board meeting.

Mike asked about the practice that the official club address is at Eileen Clegg’s home. As a result mail is often late being received by Mike. This is a historical precedent and changing it involves multiple legal aspects but Mike agreed to call Eileen and determine if she was desirous of changing this arrangement or could support more prompt distribution of the mail.

Mike then expressed his concern whether he was “doing what he’s supposed to do as President.” He was reminded he needed to locate the “checklist” for specifics, but that overall the Board didn’t see he was failing in any significant way.

Mike addressed a letter he had received on the “Great Backyard Bird Count: sponsored by the National Audubon Society and Cornell University. It was proposed Jeff should send copies to the appropriate persons on Board of Education or within school system to potentially involve students. (Jeff was asked to call Jane Geuder for advice on who best to address material to.)

Lastly Mike raised subject of recent newspaper reports that the National Audubon Society had agreed to assume responsibility for an 11 acre sanctuary as part of the “Smith property” along Rt. 175. The status of all these reports are generally early proposals, but in general the club is not interested in exploring formal responsibility for management similar to what the local Audubon Society is lobbying for.

Vice-President (Waugh):

No report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

No report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Treasurer’s report attached. The seed sale netted approximately \$1700 after tax. There has been a recent receipt of membership renewals. The WildBird Authority paid the \$25 church rental fee and contributed an additional \$25 in return for being able to have a display and sales booth at the club’s seed sale.

Past President (Banks):

Not present and no report sent.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin,Etc.):

No state Board meeting since the last club Board meeting. The next Board meeting is Dec. 5 at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab. The local club is the host. Maureen Harvey has made the arrangements for use of the Lab cafeteria for the meeting. The club will provide refreshments and Board members volunteered.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks):

No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker)

Paul invited board members to attend State Board meeting on Dec. 5 to hear committee report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

Elayne provided the Board with their new phone number and address. The next Board meeting is at their home. Unlisted phone number (410) 480-9169 . Address 4626 Live oak Ct., Ellicott City, MD 21043. Although unlisted in phone book no problem with club directory listing.

Mary-Jo and Bob Solem reported that the recent need to announce a change of location for the club meeting was used as opportunity to mail out (1st class) reminders to those who hadn't renewed membership. Mary-Jo will make her annual phone follow-up calls for these letters.

Mary-Jo also reported that the arrangements have been made via Maud to hold the annual club pot-luck at the Owen Brown Village Center on February 27.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie was not present, but someone reported her disappointment at trying to hold club trip at Mt. Pleasant and being told permission was not granted in an apparent disconnect from our traditional good relations with the Howard County Conservancy. Bob Solem spoke up to explain that this was simply a miscommunication invoked by the Conservancy being sensitive to public knowledge of an event at the farm on that weekend. That weekend a deer harvest using sharpshooters was held in an attempt to reduce the deer overpopulation on the property that is destroying habitat. Over 200 deer were taken. The meat was donated to worthy causes. Mike added the statistic that over 3000 car accidents involving deer occurred in the county (?) last year.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

A summary of recent publicity efforts was provided by Jeff Friedhoffer, new Publicity Director. He has been faxing notices of trips and meetings to several newspapers including: Patuxent Publishing papers, Sun, Post, Zip, and a high school newsletter. Several trip notices have appeared in the Columbia Flyer.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Not present and no report sent.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

The deadline for next issue of newsletter is 27 November.

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren):

Not present and no report sent.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob described the stream bank restoration project underway at the U of MD Central Farm. As part of this effort they have spray killed bank vegetation and are planting native grasslands. Also addressing woodlands. They

have solicited advice on what warm weather grasses to plant. The Fish and Wildlife program is paying for the warm weather grass plantings. Bob will interact with Wes Earp and recommend grass varieties.

Bob has arranged for Pat Weaver to report on the Junior Envirothon at beginning of December club meeting. (See attached letter).

Records (J. Solem)

Jo discussed the subject of access to the U of MD Central Farm. The club has a letter of permission that can be issued to volunteer group of club members that agree to abide by farm regulations and limitations and as appropriate lead small groups requiring access. Copies of the access letter are available from Mike.

The Winter Count announcement and an updated checklist will be published in next newsletter.

The club's supply of MOS decals is running out. Used to be \$.20 but when contacted Joe Lewendowski about getting more were told current price is \$2.50 each.

The club has an extra copy of the "Habitat Guide" and we offered it to Jeff Duguay Howard Dept of Recreation and Parks MPEA Natural Resource Manager. Planned to explore giving it to Bob Lentz of Rec & Parks. In discussions with Jeff asked if he had any projects requiring club support. He said he had none immediately but would consider writing a newsletter article in the near future.

Chapter Directors (Probst, Schwarz):

Sue reported that the first run of the T-shirts was unacceptable. The print was very poor and a re-print has been agreed to. Hopefully the new ones will be ready by Christmas.

Old Business

None other that discussed in member reports.

New Business

The club received a card of thanks from the family of Tish Bell expressing their appreciation of the club's card and expressions of condolence's at her passing.

Action Items

- Form committee to address membership – Don Waugh
- Contact Eileen Clegg about continuing use of her home as club address – Mike Kerwin
- Provide material on "Great Backyard Bird Count" to Howard County school system – Jeff Friedhoffer
(*Secretary's Note: At next Board meeting Jan. 28, it was decided the Board decided to not do anything with this material. Delete this action item.*)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

October 5, 1998	-	Mike Kerwin (Sept. Meeting delayed)
October 22, 1998	-	NO MEETING
November 19, 1998	-	Mary Jo Betts (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 1999	-	Elayne Metter
February 25, 1999	-	Jo Solem
March 25, 1999	-	Kurt Schwarz
April 22, 1999	-	Jeff Friedhoffer
May 27, 1999	-	?? (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of Handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for Board Meeting
- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report for 9/23/98 to 11/19/98
- Five Year Summary of Club Income and Expenses
- Letter from Joanne Solem to MOS Scholarship Committee on behalf of Monika Botsai's application for an MOS scholarship in 1999, Nov. 9, 1998
- Letter to Patricia Weaver extending invitation to brief Dec 10 meeting on the Junior Envirothon, Nov 12, 1998
- Letters to newly elected Howard County officials offering congratulations and introducing them to the club. Letters dated Nov 12, 1998 were sent to Allan H. Kittleman, Council District 5, Guy Guzzone, Council District 3, Christopher Merdon, Council District 1, and James Robey, Howard County Executive.

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HCBC Board Meeting
Agenda
11-19-98
Mary-Jo Betts Home**

- A. President's Issues
 - 1. Budget
 - 2. Speakers
 - 3. Publications
 - 4. New Board Position
 - 5. Bird Skins
 - 6. Mail
 - 7. "What is my job?" – Mike Kerwin
 - 8. Follow-up from Last Board Meeting
- B. Officer's Reports
- C. Committee Reports
- D. Board Member Reports
- E. Action Item Review
- F. Adjournment

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 28, 1999

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1998-1999 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
 Suzanne Probst (2nd yr.) √
 Kurt Schwarz (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker √
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Elayne Metter. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 10 was 50 people, Mike McGrady gave a program entitled "Research Findings on Steller's Sea Eagles in Russia." Pat Weaver, from the Howard Soil Conservation District, gave a short description of the Howard County Junior Envirothon and expressed her appreciation of the club's support in giving \$200 as an education grant funded from the state education fund (letter of appreciation attached). She also expressed thanks to Bob Solem and Ralph Geuder who personally volunteered to work at event.

The regular meeting scheduled for January 14 was canceled because ice storm closed county schools. Hank Kaestner was to have given a program entitled "The Birds of Namibia in Southwestern Africa", since the rest of year's programs are already booked he will be invited next year.

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike reported that Metzler's Nursery was planning to join the club. He gave talks at their two locations in Columbia and Eldersburg on managing habitat for birdlife. They advertised the talks in their ads and recognized club support. Mike used the Partners in Flight Habitat Management Guidelines book as his primary source. He felt the talks had been very successful.

Mike brought up the subject of the proposed footpath in the Eldrige area of the Patapsco River Valley. An article appeared in that day's newspapers. Although the developers are promoting it as a greenway, the Maryland Conservation Council (of which MOS is a member) has taken a position opposed to this development. Members and the Board are urged to keep informed on this project.

Vice-President (Waugh):

Don reported he has begun thinking about how to proceed with a new membership effort. One thing he has done is to review the current club brochure and consider how it might be improved as a membership tool. Bonnie commented that her experience is that many beginning birders have the misconception that the club is for experts. Discussion suggested we need to find ways to counter this misconception and avoid being intimidating to beginners. Another item she cited is that many who come to store cite they are members of the Audubon Society, with a clear implication that they think it is the club for birders. We also want to keep attracting younger people as a goal. Bonnie is planning a feeder watching trip and it might appeal to beginners. *Secretary's Note: Following the meeting Bonnie sent Board an email suggesting another idea. She proposed including one article for novice birders in each newsletter. Obvious issue is finding someone to write them.*

Secretary (Stirrat):

No report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras passed around the current treasurer's report (attached). She points out that she wrote a check to Chan Robbins reimbursing him for the contribution to FUNDAECO. (Chan forgot the check when he went to Guatemala, and wrote his own personal check.) The profit from this year's seed sale was \$1768.

Past President (Banks):

Maud was not present and sent no report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin,Etc.):

The club successfully hosted the last state Board meeting at APL in December. The next meeting will be in March. Larry Frye and his wife have agreed to serve as the state Executive Secretary. One issue facing board is plans for use of a recent bequest of \$30,000. The annual conference is at Solomon's Island May 14-16. Next year's convention will likely be on the Eastern Shore (Easton?).

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks):

Committee hasn't met. Paul Zucker mentioned that the budget committee has appropriated less funding to this effort and as a result the process may change. The typical chapter grants (\$200) might not be model for future. Mike asked about the article by Jeff Duguay concerning a proposal to do some successional plantings in the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA). Mike thought it had some potential for educational focus, discussion held but no clear outcome of how one would do that.

Budget Committee (Zucker)

The state Budget committee is to meet in near future and present budget at the March meeting of State Board.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

Elayne had no report.

Mary-Jo reminded everyone of the potluck scheduled for Feb. 27. She asked for everyone to bring slides or encourage others to do so.

Darius reported that the Triadelphia Audubon Christmas Count data was posted on the club web site. He also described plans for a Howard County Big Day on May 1. He also hopes to lead a club out of county trip to Elliott Island on June 5.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported she was having considerable success arranging the next series of field trips in time to meet the Yellowthroat deadline. She plans to have at least one beginner trip each Spring and Fall. She also is continuing the mid-week trips since they attract a different group of participants. March 14 she will host a feeder watch at her home. The spring Centennial walks are set for last two Sundays of March and first two of April. She has trips set at Mt. Pleasant, MPEA, David Holmes fall warblers. Working on August dragonflies, Richard Smith butterflies, and Mt. Pleasant for sparrows in fall. Discussed possibly combining morning sparrows with midday hawk watch at Mt. Pleasant.

Programs (Geuder):

Sent no report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that David Holmes has finally admitted he has no time to write up the Winter Count. Last year's article was never done. Jo hopes to combine with this year's in one article as she is serving as sole Coordinator for the Count scheduled for Feb. 6.

She has also prepared reports for WSSC and Howard Recreation and Parks on the results of Odenata surveys benefiting from the special access they have granted to certain club members. (Letters attached.)

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Sent no report. See Treasurer for profit report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Deadline for next newsletter was preceding Friday. Paula was planning to finish her work next weekend.

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren):

Sent no report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

No report.

Chapter Directors (Probst, Schwarz):

Kurt showed his new boots. He was very proud of them, and all of us admired them.

Suzanne reported on recent activities on the MPEA area. Plans for a December deer hunt were put on the shelf do to county politics. A graduate student working on a study site at NIST using contraceptive techniques for deer control gave a report at meeting. The contraceptive (PZP) being used has not been approved by the FDA. The Board once again had a lengthy discussion of the issues associated with deer population and its impact on forest understory, etc. No clear position or likelihood that we would take a position as an organization in the near future, but the Board appears to be in more agreement that this is a problem with major implications on birds.

Suzanne had the new Howard County Bird Club “25 Years of Birding” T-shirts available. They look very nice and the Board expressed its appreciation to her on the quality of her work. T-shirts will sell for \$12 and the sweat shirts for \$20. The Board discussed and concluded we will not make a decision on any follow-on activity such as buying more of this design or producing a new design until we see how the sale of these shirts goes.

Old Business

Review of prior meeting action items status:

- Don Waugh has begun efforts on new membership and welcomes ideas and volunteers to help him – ON GOING
- Mike Kerwin had reviewed whether any change in official club address was worth considering and decided to leave it with Eileen Clegg, unless she expresses desire to change it. - CLOSED
- Board felt that action item concerning “Great Backyard Bird Count” was not to actively do anything vice wording in prior minutes implying trying to forward to school system. - -DELETED.

New Business

Bonnie asked about the box of books, tapes, and other birding materials belonging to the club that is in her basement. Material had been donated to club and at one time felt it would be housed in a County nature center that has never come into existence. Her question, “What should she do with it?” Decided would be useful to have list of what is contained. She agreed to prepare such a list and board will discuss at next meeting.

Action Items

- Prepare list of items in “box” belonging to club for discussion at next meeting. – Bonnie Ott
(Secretary’s Note – Bonnie sent email with list on Feb. 19, 6:57 am)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

October 5, 1998	-	Mike Kerwin (Sept. Meeting delayed)
October 22, 1998	-	NO MEETING
November 19, 1998	-	Mary Jo Betts (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 1999	-	Elayne Metter
February 25, 1999	-	Jo Solem
March 25, 1999	-	Kurt Schwarz
April 22, 1999	-	Jeff Friedhoffer
May 27, 1999	-	?? (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Letter from Patricia Weaver, Howard County Junior Envirothon Coordinator dated 10 December 1998
- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer’s Report for 11/20/98 to 1/28/99

- Letter to Larry Iager, WSSC Watershed Protection Supervisor from Jo Solem, dated 12 January 1999
- Letter to Gary Arthur, Acting Director, Howard County Dept of Recreation and Parks from Jo Solem, dated 14 January 1999
- E-mail from Bonnie Ott to Board members, Subject: Board Meeting Addition, 31 January 1999 7:49 am
- Note of thanks from the family of Tish Bell following receipt of club newsletter with memorial to Tish included.

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 25, 1999

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1998-1999 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*) √
Chapter Directors:
 Suzanne Probst (2nd yr.) √
 Kurt Schwarz (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker √
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meetings held February 11 was 56 people, Bob Ringler gave a program entitled "The Yellow Book and How to Use It."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike briefly revisited the subject of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway project discussed briefly at last meeting of Board. An email copy of the letter sent by Bob DeGroot, President of the Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation (MAGIC), had been sent to Board by Bob Solem (attached). Mike made the point that MOS was supportive of position stated in that email. Supports extending the South Patapsco River Greenway as a wildlife corridor not as a bikeway as the Heritage proposal calls for.

Mike reported that the nominating committee had put forward the slate of officers for the 1999-2000 club year. All current officers are renominated except for Suzanne Probst who has completed her two year term as Chapter Director. Kurt Schwarz will continue in his second year as Chapter Director. Mike Holyoke has been nominated for Chapter Director. Sue was reminded that although she will not be a Chapter Director next year her membership on the Board continues as the club's representative to the Middle Patuxent Environment Area association.

Secretary's Note: Mike's agenda lists the subject of Maryland Teaming with Wildlife Coalition but I made no notes on this subject during the meeting and don't recall what was said at that time. I suspect the initial emails stating Norm's intent to withdraw MOS support from TWW had just appeared. Since this was discussed at the March regular club meeting and I suspect the March 13 State Board meeting as well, I expect we will discuss further at the March Board meeting and I can summarize issues in those minutes.

Mike then turned the next agenda item of club membership activities (Birders Beginners Feederwatchers) to Don Waugh as chairman on the membership committee.

Vice-President (Waugh):

The discussion and brainstorming and membership are summarized below under Old Business.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck asked for a volunteer to prepare minutes for the meeting he will be on trip to Dry Tortugas. Darius volunteered to do this. Chuck agreed to send a copy of his minutes template file to Darius and Mike. *Secretary's Note: I am obviously eager to go on this trip since I incorrectly stated this would be needed at next meeting when in fact it is the April meeting I will be gone. I will bring subject up again at the March meeting and see if Darius can still do this.*

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was out of town and did not send a report.

Past President (Banks):

No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin,Etc.):

The next state board meeting is March 13 at Elkton. It was pointed out that we need to get a copy of the new tax exempt statement. (Club is a 501c charitable organization.)

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks):

No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker)

Paul reported that the State Budget committee has not met but is scheduled to do so before the State Board meeting.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

Mary-Jo stated that she had heard from approximately 52 people planning to attend the Pot-luck dinner on the coming Saturday. She hadn't heard from Craig Sholley, so called him and learned he had just returned from trip to India and would attend with some slides from that trip. Marty Chestem is preparing table mats as she did last year. Several humorous suggestions for door prizes were put forward, most dealing with "clocks" and "tracing paper."

Darius mentioned the recent introduction of a Lyme Disease preventative. Several cautioned that it is not 100% effective. Paul mentioned that he had found a Deer Tick on his clothes after being out in field in February.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie handed out copies of the email she had sent to Board with the list of “stuff” left to club by Francis Ehlers several years ago. She has it in a box in her basement as discussed at last meeting. After reviewing list we decided it probably has limited value. Setting up a formal loan process is probably unwarranted. If members want to borrow items they should ask Bonnie. Decided probably best to put the items out on a “dollar” table at the next seed sale and see if we can get something for the items.

She had no field trip report.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo passed out copies of the new “Arrival/Departure” reporting sheets. Bob indicated that he could forward a copy of the Word file for this report. Several expressed interest in receiving this file, send Bob a note if you would like a copy.

Jo then discussed the Winter Count. David Holmes has decided he doesn’t have time to serve as County Co-coordinator with Jo. As a result Jo is preparing an article for the May/June issue of The Goldfinch combining the results of the 1998 and 1999 winter counts. She also described decision to increase attempts to identify vulture roosts so that we can reconcile counts for these wide-ranging birds. Lastly she stated that Mary-Jo Betts has agreed to serve as Co-coordinator next year with responsibility for organizing count and participants, letting Jo concentrate on resolving the records and preparing count articles.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff stated he had no report. Someone stated that we once had a club display in one of the Miller Branch Howard County Library entrance display booths. They asked had we considered that as another publicity opportunity. Mike agreed to check with them concerning how displays are chosen and volunteer to provide one if that was possible. Jeff indicated he would ask at the East Columbia Branch. No display is available at the Central Branch. Another suggestion was to provide Jeff with press releases in advance of each of the counts in an attempt to recruit participants and get additional club visibility.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula reminded attendees that the next deadline for the newsletter is March 26. Someone suggested that some club newsletters include a column with highlights of recent field trips, and asked if that would be a possible new column. This also revived discussion of the practice of selecting a “Bird of the Trip” we did several years ago.

Darius then raised the point that Paula was editor of the newsletter, but should not be expected to do it all. She shouldn’t author the articles contained, or prepare articles with only “ideas” as inputs, or have to ask Darius to prepare an article at the last minute in order to “fill” the newsletter. She should receive complete articles. Articles in electronic format and close-to-publication-ready form can be accommodated at the deadline, but if typed or handwritten material is submitted additional lead time is needed. *Secretary’s Note: Darius forwarded an email the next day articulating this point and providing details that I’ve listed as an attachment and have included in my records for reference.*

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren):

No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the next meeting of the Appreciate the Patuxent River group is to be hosted in Howard County in May. He suggested that someone from the club attend, possibly Mike Kerwin.

Bob then handed out his annual summary of membership trends and numbers for the club (Attachment). The results show that the club membership held approximately even. The annual books are closed February 1 to coincide with the state membership year. This years total membership was 267 compared to 263 last year. The renewal percentage was 83%. There were 41 non-renewals and 41 new members. This is the first year since 91-92, when the membership was 351, that the total membership had not declined.

Chapter Directors (Probst, Schwarz):

Kurt passed out a handout with a map and directions to his home where the March Board meeting will be held on March 25 (attachment). The address is 9045 Dunloggin Court off Dunloggin Road east of St. Johns Lane in Ellicott City. He reminded people that his long driveway does not have a turnaround and you should bring a flashlight since the driveway is about 500 feet long and not well lighted.

Then Kurt passed around copies of the article from Winging It, February 1999 describing “The Sixth Annual BIG SIT.” He proposed this might be a fun activity for the club to sponsor. This year’s count is scheduled for October 17. It was suggested this might be combined with a hawk watch. *Secretary’s Note: I didn’t record how we left this. Did we make any decision or agree to discuss further?*

Suzanne replied to a query that there are still several T-shirts and a couple sweat shirts left. The Board has decided to take a wait and see attitude toward further such efforts.

Old Business

Don Waugh started the discussion of membership initiatives by sharing that at the last meeting one of the visitors (or new members) asked after the program, “When am I going to learn about birds?” We discussed that some people expect to have everything provided for them, and maybe we have to define what we can do and what new members will need to do for themselves and clearly tell that to people who consider joining. However there appeared to be a need for us to consider the beginning birder needs in trying to recruit new members. Bob proposed we just brainstorm a large list of ideas, not attempting to flesh them out or evaluate them real-time. We then proceeded to do that. Bob assembled his notes on the brainstorming and distributed it by email shortly after the meeting. He included a few items that had come up previously and I have added a few comments from my notes. Bob classified the topics into four areas:

- Activities that will attract new members
- Activities to support and involve the beginning birder
- Activities for all new members (including experienced as well as beginning birders)
- Activities to support field birders and enhance bird counts

The following table summarizes the brainstorming session. The membership committee can take these ideas under consideration, prioritize them, and encourage volunteers to step forward. Board members should feel free to suggest additional ideas to Don and all members willing to volunteer support of these ideas should be encouraged.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP – BRAINSTORMING SESSION
(Birders, Beginners, Feeder Watchers)**

A. Attracting New Members	B. Beginning Birder	C. All New Members	D. Field Birder/Bird Counts
1. Revise membership	1. Establish a formal	1. Make a welcome phone	1. <i>The Yellowthroat</i> and

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>application</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Revise yellow club brochure 3. Use <i>Wildlife Authority</i> & others retailers to attract members 4. Ask newer club members to help plan what will attract other new members 5. At meetings: color-coded name tags (one color for members, another color for visitors) 6. At meetings: board members make effort to talk to visitors, make people feel welcome 7. Investigate accepting dues payment as credit card purchase | <p>“Buddy” system for new members (solicit potential buddies and offer it to new members)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Schedule walks for the beginning birder 3. Develop special program for the beginning birder (2-3 talks to offer periodically) 4. Prepare list of equipment to recommend to beginner (books, optics, etc.) 5. Schedule a meeting program with topic of most interest to beginner 6. Reinstate the “Bird of the month” 5 minute show-and-tell, like Jo used to give at regular meetings. 7. Point out all/common birds on field trips 8. Have trip leaders ask who are beginners and offer to identify one-on-one help 9. Designate “assistant trip leader” to help beginning birders 10. Beginning bird walks held 30 days before each bird count (invite attendees to count) 11. Schedule a meeting program with topic of most interest to beginner | <p>call & personal contact</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Follow-up contact for each new member 3. Update the packet given to new members 4. New members/new birder night 5. Question-answer column (“Beginner’s Corner”) in <i>The Goldfinch</i> 6. Formal follow-up on any inputs provided on the renewal/new member survey (possibly revise) 7. Ask new members who send in application form not originally attached to survey if they would fill it out. Will let them see range of club activities. 8. Revitalize support for “What birds do you want to find?” and offer to new members. | <p>newspaper articles in advance of each bird count</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Encourage attendance at tally rally of all participants 3. Use number of count participants as metric of success of efforts 4. Have the field trip schedule established sufficiently early to include in <i>The Yellowthroat</i> and seek newspaper coverage. |
|--|---|--|--|

Bonnie suggested we seek volunteers to write a less technical article for beginning birders to include in each issue of *The Goldfinch*. A question and answer format might be appropriate format. Bonnie agreed to supply list of questions she sees from her job at *The Wildlife Authority* as a potential source of material. It was proposed we might possibly call the column “Beginners Corner.” (Item C.5.)

New Business

All new business is covered above under officer and committee reports.

Action Items

- Investigate potential use of credit card for payment of club dues. (Darius Ecker/Bob Solem)
- Establish location for the May Board meeting in time for the May/June newsletter. (Kerwin)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM.

October 5, 1998	-	Mike Kerwin (Sept. Meeting delayed)	
October 22, 1998	-	NO MEETING	
November 19, 1998	-	Mary Jo Betts (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)	
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 1999	-	Elayne Metter	
February 25, 1999	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 1999	-	Kurt Schwarz	
April 22, 1999	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
May 27, 1999	-	WHERE??	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for this meeting
- Email from Bob Solem dated Feb. 22, 1999 9:02 AM, Fw: MAGIC Letter to DNR
- Email from Bonnie Ott dated Feb. 19, 1999 6:57 AM, Howard Bird Club Items
- Email from Darius Ecker dated Feb. 26, 1999 8:03 AM, Guidelines for Submitting "GOLDFINCH" Newsletter Articles
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members), 98-99 Membership Update
- Map and directions to next board meeting, home of Kurt Schwarz
- Article from Winging It, Feb. 1999, "The Sixth Annual BIG SIT"

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter,
 Maryland Ornithological Society

HCBC
BOARD MEETING
2-25-99
AGENDA

1. Maryland TWW Coalition
2. Chapter Director
3. Birders Beginners Feederwatchers
4. Officers Reports
5. Field Trips
6. Publicity
7. News Letter
8. Other

THIS IS NOT ATTACHMENT BUT AN EARLIER EMAIL IN SAME SUBJECT. MAGIC OPPOSING PATAPSCO HERITAGE GREENWAY

From: Bob Solem [Odenata@email.msn.com]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 1999 10:30 PM
To: Don & Martha Waugh; Bonnie Ott; Chuck Stirrat; Darius Ecker; David Harvey; Dennis & Jane Coskren; Elayne & Jeff Metter; Mary-Jo Betts; Maud Banks; Mike Kerwin; Paul Zucker; Paula Ecker; Ralph & Jane Geuder; Shiras Guion; Suzanne Probst
Subject: Fw: Baltimore Sun Article-Jan 20 1999

This pertains to the PATAPSCO GREENWAY that we discussed at the Board meeting. MOS is one of the organizations opposed to the present plan.
Bob

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert H. DeGroot <BOB_DEGROOT@compuserve.com>
To: Blind.Copy.Receiver@compuserve.com <Blind.Copy.Receiver@compuserve.com>
Date: Friday, January 29, 1999 8:19 AM
Subject: Baltimore Sun Article-Jan 20 1999

Headline: Environmentalists protest Greenway plan
By Alice Lukens

A statewide coalition of environmental groups has asked Gov. Parris N. Glendening to halt future funding for a proposed network of nature trails and commercial concessions in the Patapsco River Valley, warning it would hurt the river and Patapsco Valley State Park.

The project -- called the Patapsco Heritage Greenway -- is "destructive to the Patapsco River and its watershed," according to a letter given to the governor this week by the Maryland Conservation Council.

"Despite the fact that the Patapsco Valley State Park is currently over utilized, the Patapsco Heritage Greenway Committee, a private group organized by Oella developer Charles Wagandt, has targeted the Park as the centerpiece of an extensive economic and tourism development plan," the letter said.

The proposal, intended to encourage tourism by linking the area's historical, cultural and natural resources, is "inappropriate for state park land," said Mildred F. Kriemelmeyer, council president.

She and the coalition particularly object to a proposed and funded \$1 million paved trail on the Baltimore County side of the river. "Do you really want to add, right at the bank of the river, more impervious surfaces to degrade that poor river?" she asked.

Wagandt, chairman of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway Committee, yesterday rejected allegations that the project would hurt the environment.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," he said. The greenway would "build a bigger constituency for the environmentalists and help them in protecting the natural resources,"

he said. "We think this is a highly desirable project."

Don Vandrey, a spokesman for Glendening, said yesterday that the governor's office had received a copy of the letter but that the governor had no response yet.

The Patapsco Heritage Greenway Committee, a private group made up of residents and county and state officials, was formed with the stated purpose of protecting the valley.

In late 1997, the committee hired a consulting team, Rhodeside & Harwell Inc. of Alexandria, Va., to develop a proposal for the greenway. It paid \$135,000 to the consultants -- \$80,000 from the state, the rest from Baltimore and Howard counties and from private individuals.

The consulting firm's preliminary plans call for paved bicycle trails, bridges, train stations, visitor centers, additional parking lots, concessions, upscale accommodations and an aggressive marketing effort to attract tourists.

Planners lobbied for a mile-long, 10-foot-wide paved trail on the Baltimore County side of the river from the Swinging Bridge toward Simkins Mill. The state has set aside more than \$1 million for that trail.

The committee and the consultants should complete a proposal this year, planners have said.

If the plan is approved by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, a state agency, the greenway would qualify for grants, tax credits, and low-interest loans for tourism-related activities, said Teresa Moore, executive director of the Maryland Greenways Commission.

The greenway committee held its first public meeting Oct. 5 at the Trolley Stop in Oella, after the consulting firm had drawn up its preliminary plans. About 100 residents voiced their concerns about tourists crowding the valley, polluting the stream and destroying wildlife habitats.

Bob DeGroot, president of a Rockville-based conservation group that is not a member of the coalition, said yesterday the "Patapsco Heritage Greenway" is a misleading title. He defined a greenway as a "corridor for the protection of streams and wildlife" and said this plan would do just the opposite.

This month, DeGroot wrote a letter to John Griffin, state secretary of natural resources, urging him to meet with his group--Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement and Conservation--and other conservation organizations. DeGroot wrote that the paved bicycle trail would destroy fish and wildlife habitat and pollute the river.

Numerous members of his group endorsed the letter, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland Native Plant Society, Maryland Ornithological Society and Wildlife Land Trust.

"Its just a total destruction of some of the stream valleys," Degroot says.

From: Darius Ecker [dariuse@abs.net]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 1999 8:03 AM
To: Susan Probst; Shirus and Bill Guion; Paula (home) Ecker; Paul Zucker; Mike Kerwin; Maude and Harry Banks; Mary-Jo Betts; Jeff and Elayne Metter; Jane and Ralph Gueder; Jane and Dennis Coskren; Donald Waugh; Dave (work) Harvey; Chuck Stirrat; Bonnie Ott; Bob and Jo Solem; Jeffrey A. Friedhoffer
Cc: Paula (home) Ecker
Subject: **Guidelines to Submitting "GOLDFINCH" Newsletter Articles**

I was trying to get a point across last night at the meeting that I'm not sure everyone got, so I'll make an attempt to articulate it here again in writing.

Guidelines to Submitting Newsletter Articles:

1. Articles are best received via email or on computer disk in these following Formats (A=most desirable G=least desirable):

A= Microsoft Word 6.0 or earlier versions
B= Rich Text Format
C= Microsoft Works 4.0
D= TXT format
E= Text embedded in the text of an email message
F= Type written hard copy sent via US Mail
G= Hand Written hard copy sent via US Mail

I can't receive Office 97 files, or Macintosh files at this time. Don't send us typed or hand written articles (types F & G above) on the newsletter deadline date and expect them to get into the next issue. These will have to be retyped into the computer. This takes time for data entry and proofreading. We prefer to receive these types of articles a week before the newsletter deadline date. We can be more flexible with articles received close to the deadline if it is submitted in electronic format (types A through E above).

When emailing articles, send it to both dariuse@abs.net and paulae2156@aol.com. That way, if one computer can't read the article, there's a chance the other will be able to.

Photographs can be included as part of your article. It's best to send me a JPG file of the image (keep the image size small please) or just send me a 4x6 print and I can scan it. Photos take extra time. Please try to have photos in a week before the newsletter deadline.

2. Planning a newsletter issue. I know it sounds simple to put one of these together, and the computer does everything, right? Desktop publishers are "page" oriented. Paula has to plan what will go on each page, and then go back and change font sizes, line spacing, and other things to try to get it all to fit. When an article overflows onto another page it means we need to fill up two additional pages with text to avoid putting a blank page in the newsletter. Anyway, the earlier Paula receives the article, the better. That way she's not doing all this adjustment on the day the newsletter is due at the printer. Most of the articles that I've written to include in the newsletter were written the day before the newsletter deadline because Paula had a blank page in the newsletter she needed to fill.

3. Please send us complete articles. Try to submit what you want us to print. Don't send us an incomplete paragraph and ask us to "make the rest

up". It's not the editor's job to write articles. We will proofread your article, check for spelling and grammar errors, format it and when necessary call the author if we need to make changes or shorten it to fit in the available space. Sending us a "snippet" of information and expecting us to flesh it out is no longer acceptable for most articles. We will continue to accept Field Trip submissions and Monthly Meeting descriptions as "snippets".

This is the club's newsletter and you have the capability to write and include lots of articles if you are so inclined, but nobody is going to write it for you. So roll up your sleeves and get started. We'll expect to see at least one or two new articles for the next issue.

Thanks in advance for your help and cooperation. Following these guidelines will help us meet the challenge of continuing on as Newsletter Editors along with our increasingly demanding work schedule.

Darius Ecker (dariuse@abs.net)
Paula Ecker (paulae2156@aol.com)

Columbia, Maryland USA

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 25, 1999

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1998-1999 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
 Suzanne Probst (2nd yr.)
 Kurt Schwarz (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren
Records: Jo Solem
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meetings held March 11 was ?? people, Bill Barber gave a program entitled "Birding the Adirondacks: a Boreal Bonanza."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike had prepared the agenda which is attached. The first topic discussed was the follow-up to last meetings brainstorming session on new membership. The table that Bob initiated and Chuck incorporated in minutes was considered to have a significant number of worthwhile ideas to pursue. (Copies passed around but since in previous minutes not attached here.) It was reiterated that the club should not lose or diminish field birder focus while seeking beginning birders.

We then discussed the draft "Beginner's Corner" article that Bonnie had distributed for comment. Bonnie stated that Mike McClure had offered to help by providing expanded answers and with the word processor and computer graphics aspects of article. Others will be asked to help by proposing questions and preparing answers. It was suggested that we solicit ideas for questions in the newsletter, possibly a question box at meetings, and that Mike Kerwin agreed to have his email address listed for those who would like to submit questions by email. We discussed whether the level of answers should be very elementary or more detailed. Consensus was that one or two questions should have more detailed (educational) answers and rest could be the quick concise format. Another idea was to incorporate questions and answers in publicity announcements for meetings or trips if they were appropriate. Bonnie was asked if having the articles at the Wildlife Authority store would be useful. It was felt that the short exposure store visit offered would benefit from the concise format. In discussing this it was pointed out that Bonnie only has a single copy at store, and it was suggested that old sample newsletters like we use at the fair might be put to good use if supplied to Bonnie to offer prospective members she meets at the store. Paula was to get her some old issues. The subject of brochures being made available at public places came up and Mike repeated that he occasionally refills the Miller Library stand, but that they seem to disappear with very little actual return.

Kurt asked if he should get some and take to the Patuxent Wildlife North Tract visitor center where he volunteers. The response was that we did not think this would be inappropriate, even if the area is out of the county.

Someone then proposed we should have more beginner walks. It was pointed out that the upcoming Saturday walk Mike McClure was leading at Lake Elkhorn was being advertised as a beginner walk. Some were not sure the announcement made this sufficiently clear, and it was proposed that all announcement for beginner walks should be very clear on that. It was pointed out that Bonnie would need volunteers to lead these beginner trips and that we probably shouldn't error on the side of "too many" beginner trips, but rather try to help beginners that attend any trip. The sense of the board seemed to be to focus on less formal beginner trips and just encourage ourselves and other experienced birders to "try and do something for new birders" whenever the opportunity presents itself. Mike said that if we do hold formal beginner walks he can probably "borrow" several pairs of binoculars from Burleigh Middle School where he volunteers with birding walks.

Chuck mentioned one item he had added to the brainstorming table that he had not voiced at last meeting. He proposed resuming the practice of having a 5 minute "Bird of the Month" section at regular club meetings. Jo Solem used to do this and it seems like an excellent way to have at least a portion of the meeting be geared to teaching bird identification skills of use to beginners and more experienced birders. If we are going to do this volunteers to give the presentations will be needed, but the idea appeared to meet with approval. Mike liked the idea so much that he volunteered to prepare a talk for the April meeting.

Vice-President (Waugh):

Don was not present and sent no report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck asked Paula to check with Darius to see if he could take the minutes at next Board meeting since it is the April meeting when Chuck will be away. *Secretary's Note: After the meeting Darius informed me that he also will be away for next meeting, but Bob Solem has agreed to prepare minutes.*

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras passed out the Treasurer's report which is attached. It was noted that with the T-shirt expenses fully paid, the income derived from sales, even with several unsold, has already generated a profit of \$186.50.

Past President (Banks):

No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

Mary-Jo summarized the highlights of Board meeting held March 13 at Elkton. As regards the decision for MOS to withdraw from the Teaming with Wildlife coalition, the state Board voted to remain withdrawn at the current time since there has been such a change in the focus of this group. A representative of the coalition will be invited to address a future state Board meeting and explain the new position and then if appropriate MOS will reconsider its position on support. Regarding the subject of hunting on Sunday, MOS has taken position opposing allowing Sunday hunting. Several expressed surprise that Sunday hunting is the norm in most of the country. Mike asked if the MOS position on the deer problem had not been seen as having a conflict with this position. Those who attended said that had not been seen as a conflict. It was announced that the annual chapter articles for Maryland Birdlife are to be submitted by the time of the convention. Mike was reminded he is responsible for preparing this article. This year's convention is jointly sponsored by MOS and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society. It has been decided to donate the proceeds of the silent auction to the latter's conservation initiatives. The MOS board voted to endorse support of the ABA Code of Ethics. The earlier plans to hold the year 2000 MOS

convention at Easton have been abandoned since the Tidewater Inn raised the price they were asking significantly. Alternate sites and dates are under consideration.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks):

No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker)

No report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

No additional reports besides highlights of state board meeting.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie announced she is developing a field trip sign in sheet. It was proposed that she might include a summary of "trip etiquette" on the form. She intends to ask people to indicate if they are members or new birders. Also may want to begin practice of having people introduce themselves. Bonnie also hopes to prepare checklist with birds recorded for trip location and provide it to the trip leader so that new records will be recognized.

Programs (Geuder):

No report.

Records (J. Solem):

No report.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Bonnie asked if there were any way to get the seed we sell any cheaper. She was thinking possibly her connection to the Wildlife Authority store might provide some opportunity. She was referred to Eileen if she wanted anything definitive.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

No report.

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren):

No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

No report.

Chapter Directors (Probst, Schwarz):

Kurt has sent off for information on the Big Sit but has not had a response as yet. It's not till October so no hurry. Several development activities were mentioned as possibly of interest to club and having potential environmental impact.

- There are plans to put a covered in-line skating rink at Alpha Ridge Park.
- Development plans for Meadowbrook Park off Route 100 are proceeding. Jo and Bonnie have met with Rec & Parks people on this and are hopeful that if handled properly this will be an acceptable compromise of multiple users.
- Bonnie mentioned that the Trinity School near Rockburn Park have sold another parcel that is to be developed with 80 homes.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

None.

Action Items

None.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

October 5, 1998	-	Mike Kerwin (Sept. Meeting delayed)	
October 22, 1998	-	NO MEETING	
November 19, 1998	-	Mary Jo Betts	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 1999	-	Elayne Metter	
February 25, 1999	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 1999	-	Kurt Schwarz	
April 22, 1999	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
May 27, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report 1/29/99 to 3/24/99

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HCBC Board Meeting
Agenda
3-25-99
Home of Kurt Schwarz**

- A. President's Issues
 - 1. Activities to support Field Birders and enhanced bird counts
 - 2. State Board Meeting
 - 3. Publications
 - 4. Spring Bird Coung
- B. Officer's Reports
- C. Committee Reports
- D. Board Member Reports
- E. Action Item Review
- F. Adjournment

Mike Kerwin

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 22, 1999

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1998-1999 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
 Suzanne Probst (2nd yr.)
 Kurt Schwarz (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*)
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

Dave Holyoke

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Friedhoffer. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meetings held April 8 was ?? people, Jeff Duguay gave a program entitled "Ecological Factors Influencing Avian Nest Success."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike had prepared the agenda. The first topic discussed was the follow-up to last meetings brainstorming session on new membership. It was agreed that the following four actions would be followed:

- 1) Start each meeting with a short presentation about one bird seen in Howard County during the season.
- 2) Continue the "Beginner's Corner" in *The Goldfinch*. (The next topic will be on field birding.)
- 3) Promote the idea of helping beginning birders on all HCBC walks (successful so far).
- 4) Schedule additional beginner's walks, starting in the fall.

It was agreed that we hold a "Big Sit" (of up to 24 hours, following the guidelines in the article that Kurt provided) on October 17, perhaps at Bonnie's

Vice-President (Waugh): Don was not present and sent no report.

Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck was not present; Bob Solem took minutes.

Treasurer (Guion): Shiras provided the attached Treasurer's Report

Past President (Banks): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

Paul summarized the highlights of the Board meeting held March 13 at Elkton. MOS has a team for this year's World Series of Birding. Larry Fry is the new Executive Secretary. The location of the MOS annual conference in 2000 has not yet been determined. MOS has decided to "endorse" the ABA Code of Ethics and "encourage" people to follow it. All of Port Deposit is a bird sanctuary. Partners in Flight materials will appear on the MOS web site.

Paul said the budget presented has been simplified into functional categories and simplified; the format was accepted at the March 13 meeting as well as the recommended changes.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker) (See above)

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts) No additional reports besides highlights of state board meeting.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

In response to discussion about special field trips for the future, the Board agreed to have Bonnie schedule for next year on specific birds, e.g., Baltimore Oriole and Eastern Bluebird. It was also agreed that Meadowbrook would be a good location for a hawkwatch.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo said she had been in discussions with Marshall Iliff and Phil Davis on the official number of birds seen in Howard County. It is 289 (and will be 290 when acceptance of the Mississippi Kite is published). How to present in electronic format the most current Howard County Bird Checklist was a topic of discussion and will be continued at subsequent meetings.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

No further report. The club's field trips have been getting good publicity.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob said he had sent an e-mail to all members about the Patapsco Heritage Greenway, and Bryan MacKay sent a response arguing it was not as bad as it seemed. Bob said he had received a private e-mail from Richard Smith who has noted that butterflies disappear (or at least their numbers are drastically reduced) when construction of new paths removes the understory plants they depend upon for food and forage.

Mike said he had received around 11 calls from people in the Meadowbrook Park area who wanted to know what HCBC was going to do about all of the development for active recreation that the Department of Recreation and Parks planned for Meadowbrook. He said he told the callers that HCBC is a field birding club that does not take stands on issues like this; his response was endorsed by the Board.

Chapter Directors (Probst, Schwarz):

- Kurt's information on the Big Sit was accepted, and HCBC will participate (officially or unofficially).

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business None.

Action Items None.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

October 5, 1998	-	Mike Kerwin (Sept. Meeting delayed)	
October 22, 1998	-	NO MEETING	
November 19, 1998	-	Mary Jo Betts	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 1999	-	Elayne Metter	
February 25, 1999	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 1999	-	Kurt Schwarz	
April 22, 1999	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
May 27, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report 1/29/99 to 3/24/99

Minutes submitted by:

Bob Solem for
Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HCBC Board Meeting
4-22-99
Agenda**

- A. President's Issues
 - 1. Activities to support Field Birders and enhanced bird counts
 - 2. Welcome Dave
 - 3. Jo's Pen
 - 4. Spring Bird Count
- B. Officer's Reports
- C. Committee Reports
- D. Board Member Reports
- E. Adjournment

Mike Kerwin

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT for 03/25/99 to
04/21/99**

Shiras Guion, Treasurer

<i>INCOME</i>	Current	Year-to Date
HowCty Book	\$83.70	\$761.62
Interest	\$40.90	\$447.79
Membership	\$30.00	\$3,625.50
Publications	\$0.00	\$137.25
Education Grant	\$0.00	\$200.00
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$8,485.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$291.50
Refund (potluck)	\$0.00	\$100.00
T-Shirts	\$68.00	\$717.00
<i>Total INCOME</i>	\$222.60	\$14,765.66

<i>EXPENSES</i>		
Donations	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
HowCty Book	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bird Counts	\$0.00	\$110.19
Meetings	\$32.50	\$400.71
Misc	\$0.00	\$18.22
Publications	\$240.00	\$1,725.83
State Dues	\$0.00	\$2,005.00
Education Grant	\$0.00	\$200.00
Taxidermy	\$0.00	\$10.00
Potluck Dinner	\$0.00	\$122.02
Sales Tax	\$30.53	\$428.55
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$6,318.94
T-Shirt	\$0.00	\$462.50
<i>Total EXPENSES</i>	\$303.03	\$12,801.96

Current Balances

Checking	\$1,068.35
Savings	\$11,047.70
Petty Cash	\$28.27

Notes

Tshirt profit = \$220 after tax

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 27, 1999

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1998-1999 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
 Suzanne Probst (2nd yr.)
 Kurt Schwarz (1st yr.) √
State Directors:
 Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*)
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Parks Checklists: Jane Coskren (*also State Atlas*)
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker

New Chapter Director: Dave Holyoke √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meetings held May 13, 1999 was 43 people. Michael Kreger gave a program entitled "Earthwatch Findings from the Whooping Crane Release Program in Florida."

The April Minutes should have made note of fact that the club held annual election of officers at regular meeting on April 8. The slate proposed by nominating committee was moved and seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the membership in attendance. Slate elected for club year 1999-2000 was as follows: President - Mike Kerwin, Vice-President - Don Waugh, Secretary - Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer - Shiras Guion, Chapter Directors - 1st year Dave Holyoke (Kurt Schwarz will serve second year as Chapter Director), State Directors - Elayne Metter, Darius Ecker, and Mary-Jo Betts. The new officers will take office September 1, 1999.

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike thanked the board for what he felt had been a very good year for the club. He felt we had made a good effort to encourage new members but had also convinced ourselves that we want to ensure our focus remains being a "field birding" organization. He asked that people make suggestions for speakers for the coming year. It was agreed Hank Kaestner should be re-invited since his program was canceled by weather. Greg Miller, who spoke at the convention, was also proposed as a possibility. It was also suggested we should have at least one talk on "identifying" birds. Mike stated he was still missing a Yellow-breasted Chat for the year, and Mary-Jo was still excited about her life Prothonotary Warbler at the convention. Mike was reminded he was responsible for supplying the club's annual report to the editor of Maryland Birdlife, as soon as possible since it was due at the convention.

Vice-President (Waugh):

Don mentioned that Martha now received copies of all the other chapter newsletters in preparing her "Chapter Chat" column. He noted that recruiting activity in a period about 1990 was quite successful. Several of the current board joined about then and felt it was related to the Wild Bird Center store then being run by the Davis' who bridged gap from "interested" but not sure ready for an "official" club activity. Don said he was concluding

that our recruiting focus is probably best finding how to maximize appeal to potential members as part of our "usual" activities such as walks, counts, and regular meetings. One suggestion was having a door prize for the September meeting. Don concluded by saying he intends to have a more formal plan by September. He related story of having watched an osprey during the convention that repeatedly dropped and retrieved a large piece of black plastic.

Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck had no items to bring up.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was not present but sent her final report (attached) with Jo. Jo pointed out the note concerning the donation. It was necessary to reissue a replacement check for last year's donation to FUNDAECO due to problems in having the check delivered in person by Chan Robbins. The report motivated discussion of the bookstore accounts (See Action Items for follow-up) and potential donations of seed sale proceeds (see New Business below).

Past President (Banks): Maud was not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

The next meeting of the State Board is scheduled for June 12 at Chestertown. The topic of MOS position on Teaming with Wildlife is on agenda. Outcome should be discussed at our September meeting.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): Neither were present.

Budget Committee (Zucker): Paul was not present.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts): Darius was not present and Mary-Jo had no report.

Elayne expressed interest in considering long-sleeve shirts, if we do another T-shirt project.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie observed that recent field trip attendance was very high (almost too much). It is unclear if this is a random rise in attendance or reflects recent attempts at more publicity. Stated would plan to have the upcoming schedule and membership forms available at field trips in event had new participants. Overall Bonnie is pleased with how trips are working. Jo mentioned that the Montgomery chapter used a symbol on certain trips to identify those most appropriate for beginners. Bonnie is making good progress on fall schedule. Has decided hawk watches will be held on separate date from the "Big Sit" which is scheduled for Oct. 19.

Programs (Geuder): Jane was not present.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo handed out some cards that she had printed up to be used as handout for promoting club. She reported that the Mute Swans on Centennial have 6 cygnets. Apparently the application for a permit to "addle" the eggs was submitted too late. Brenda Belensky approached Jo about the bulletin board club donated for Centennial Park. Apparently Rec. & Parks would welcome our updating and maintaining content of board. We can use it for publicity of club walks, reminders not to feed waterfowl, etc. Marty Chestem might be able to produce a small poster, etc. Mike took an action item to follow-up on offer.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff felt that the Sun and Flyer would be receptive to articles submitted, possibly could tie subject to upcoming walks, etc. Volunteers to write articles are solicited. He also has been sending announcements to high schools for possible inclusion in their news letters.

Seed Sale (Clegg): Eileen was not present.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): Paula was not present.

Parks Checklists (J. Coskren): Jane was not present.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob has been considering what would be best ways to get club members informed and interested in conservation issues. How should appeals for action be distributed. He felt only extremely important issues would merit special mailings. We could consider including items with seed sale mailing. The use of email and the internet seems to hold promise as an effective way to communicate with club members. He stated that over 40% of member households have supplied email addresses. It was recently used for the horseshoe crab harvest issue. For those issues clearly of interest to club will need to have condensed summary of the pros and cons if going to use email to share with members. Rich Dolesh, the MOS State Conservation chairman, is looking for ways to coordinate a state level response to issues. Bob will contact Rich and indicate he can provide some support (but will have limited availability).

Chapter Directors (Probst, Schwarz): Suzanne was not present.

Kurt stated that his review of the Rec. & Parks Master Plan for Meadowbrook Park included everything but the "kitchen sink." It was pointed out that many of their plans are of this way and only await funding availability. Kurt passed around two Pete Dunn articles from Living Bird and Peregrine Observer on the apparent lack of youth involved in birding. He also had just purchased a series of Grasshopper books that he shared with those interested.

Old Business

See Officer reports.

New Business

Bob Solem proposed that the board make a decision about the next state atlas project. Although this effort may not happen in the near term, a long term vision of support for the project is needed. The previous atlas project proved that raising funds early would be highly beneficial. His idea was that the Howard chapter should issue a challenge grant for other MOS chapters and individuals in the amount of \$5000 over 3 years for support of planning and eventually producing the next Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas. The belief is that we can afford this commitment based on having a current balance of about \$12,000, the potential to apply 3 or more years of seed sale possibly book sale proceeds to this effort and easily maintain a sufficient operating cushion for the club. In fact we should be able to continue to make periodic gift for habitat preservation as well. Chuck noted that Jane Coskren is the new chairman of the State Atlas committee. Bob moved and it was seconded that the chapter issue a matching challenge grant to other MOS chapters and members in an amount up to \$5000 over three years to fund a new Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas project. The motion passed unanimously. Mike was directed to announce the challenge at the upcoming MOS Board meeting in June.

The Board then discussed a possible donation of a portion of this year's seed sale proceeds to an organization involved in habitat preservation, bird studies, etc. Possibilities mentioned included the Veracruz River of Raptors Project (article in the June 1999 issue of Birding), FUNDAECO, The Nature Conservancy. It was decided to table formal discussion till the September meeting. At that time board members (or other club members) are to propose suggested projects/organizations. It was agreed that this meant not just bringing a list of names but having enough details for board to judge the value and legitimacy of the organization's activities and consistency with club guidelines and advertised purpose for use of seed sale proceeds. The seed sale sheet has at times in the past had a line requesting voluntary contributions for a specific purpose, possibly consider having a line for more

generic donation (habitat preservation). There may be bookkeeping issues for treasurer to address if we were to do this.

Lastly a brief discussion of could we use funds for a Howard County or Maryland project occurred, possibly one with Howard Rec. & Parks. It was agreed generally issue was continued maintenance and availability of volunteer labor. Volunteer workers are clearly the need for MOS Sanctuaries. Proposed projects of this nature can be brought forward but should also have enough research and background to allow board to assess practicality and appropriateness.

Action Items

- After noting that the treasurer's report doesn't address the Book Store accounts, Mike accepted an action item to talk to Anne Marie about the book store accounts and invite her to attend a board meeting. The intent is to have her discuss with the board her approach to running the bookstore and how she has been viewing use of proceeds (e.g. letting balance increase, only charging enough to cover costs, etc.) After discussion the board may decide we want to influence the approach or not.
- Mike to follow-up on report that Recreation and Parks would welcome us updating the Centennial Park Bulletin Board with lists, pictures, and news items. *Sec. Note: Bob and Jo sent Mike an email stating that Tim Nedzel, park manager at Centennial has the key to the bulletin board at the concession stand. His phone number is 410-313-7268.*

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

October 5, 1998	-	Mike Kerwin (Sept. Meeting delayed)
October 22, 1998	-	NO MEETING
November 19, 1998	-	Mary Jo Betts (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 1999	-	Elayne Metter
February 25, 1999	-	Jo Solem
March 25, 1999	-	Kurt Schwarz
April 22, 1999	-	Jeff Friedhoffer
May 27, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott (Joint meeting with new and old members)

The first Board meeting of the 1999-2000 season is scheduled for September 23. Mike Kerwin volunteered to host the meeting but was reminded he should check that date with his anniversary. After the reminder he was less certain of being able to host meeting. *Sec. Note: As of publication date for the Sept.-Oct. issue of the Goldfinch the location was still listed as To be Announced. Need to determine a location and promulgate it to the board.*

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MSO 5/1/98 to 4/30/99, Treasurer's Final Report (electronic version included)
- "Of Kids, Birds, and Model Airplanes", Pete Dunne, Living Bird magazine
- "Explorers (of the Lost World) Club, Pete Dunne, Peregrine Observer, Vol 21, Feb. 1999

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY Chapter MOS - 5/1/98 to 4/30/99

TREASURER'S FINAL REPORT		Shiras Guion, Treasurer		
				GAIN/LOSS
<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>		
Birding HowCty	\$761.62	Donations	\$1,000.00	
Education Grant	\$200.00	Taxidermy	\$10.00	
Donations	\$291.50	Fair & Bird Counts	\$110.19	
Interest	\$489.57	Misc	\$18.22	
Membership	\$3625.50	Publications	\$1,761.31	
Publication	\$137.25	Meetings & Speaker	\$522.73	
Refund	\$100.00	State Dues	\$2,005.00	
Tshirt sales	\$717.00	Tshirt expense	\$493.03	
		Education Grant	\$200.00	
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$6,322.44	<u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u>	\$6,120.48	\$201.96
SEED SALE				
<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>		
Sales	\$8,460.00	Flyers & Misc	\$108.35	
Rent	\$25.00	Rent	\$25.00	
		Seed	\$6318.94	
		Sales Tax	\$398.02	
<u>SEED INCOME</u>	\$8,485.00	<u>SEED EXPENSE</u>	\$6,850.31	\$1,634.69
ENDING CHECK BALANCES				
Checking	\$1,032.87			
Savings	\$11,089.48			
Cash	\$28.27			
TOTAL	\$12,150.62			
Notes				
Tshirt sales profit	\$223.97			
Seed sale profit	\$1,634.69			
Donation is replacement check for last years FUNDAECO donation				

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 23, 1999

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
Kurt Schwarz (2nd yr..)
Dave Holyoke (1st yr.)
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
Darius Ecker
Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*)
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

General Notes

This meeting was held in the home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meetings held September 9, 1999 was not counted, but appeared to be well above average. The meeting was held in a different room of the school as a conflict in scheduling had occurred. Blake Henke, from the Center for Research Technology at University of Maryland, Baltimore County gave a program entitled "Conserving Birds Using Satellites.

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike began by ensuring we all knew he had paid his annual membership dues. He then proposed to have the Board discuss what plans and objectives we have for the coming year. He proposed that our focus of last year to continue exploring ways to encourage new members to join, although appearing to have been successful, should be considered an on-going long term effort that should continue this year. One aspect of this endeavor has been to hold more beginner's walks. Bonnie reported on the walk held the previous Sunday at Font Hill. The format seemed to work well included a brief (10 minute) talk. Mike's assertions implying don't spend much on binoculars as a beginner were felt to be a little too "cheap" in the amounts he proposed. It was felt that beginners should be encouraged to try various pairs before they buy. The two hour duration advertised and adhered to was believed to be a good length for beginner walks. Board agreed should have variety of trips (1-2 per season) with beginner focus. The only major issue is that we NEED LEADERS willing to lead such trips. All are encouraged to welcome and help any new birders on any of our walks.

It was observed that Carol Garza had acted as greeter and name-tag promoter at the latest club meeting and done an excellent job. It was proposed she be approached about acting regularly as hostess at meetings. The need for a hospitality coordinator in charge of the coffee pot and arranging for someone to bring food for each meeting was raised. Sue Probst volunteered to do this for a one year period.

The possibility of resuming co-sponsoring field trips with Howard County Recreation and Parks was raised. The visibility of the county recreation flyer is very appealing. We stopped this practice previously when the county insisted that ALL participants pay fees. When we include the trip on our newsletter list of trips some members show up without registering or paying fees and led to complications. The idea of an individual member arranging to lead trips but not officially co-sponsor them but then make trip attendees aware that the club exists was put forward. **Bonnie agreed to work up a formal proposal before the next Board meeting for discussion.** She was urged to contact Eva Sunell who has had experience with working with County in this matter.

We then discussed the increasing size of field trips and the advisability of formally "splitting" the group into two parties. There are pros and cons and we generally left it to discretion of trip leader and their judgement on the availability of extra leaders and the trip conditions.

We next turned to another objective for the year, specifically commencement of planning and fund raising for the next Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas effort. As authorized at our last Board meeting Mike announced our Challenge Grant at the June meeting of the State MOS Board meeting. The challenge is for up to \$5000 over the three year period from June 1999 to June 2002, up to amount matched by other MOS chapters and members. Mary-Jo reported she was upset that the minutes sent to state Board members following the meeting did not mention the announcement, although no one caught the omission before the minutes were approved at latest meeting in late August. **Mike agreed to draft a short article to submit to the Yellowthroat formally announcing the challenge to all of MOS (deadline is Oct 1).** Chan Robbins reported at August State MOS Board meeting that he had attended an AOU planning meeting for atlases. When the field work will begin (~2003), whether a 3 or 5 year period is planned, use of a universal computer system, whether to revise guidelines or use same ones are some of the issues being considered.

Next we discussed receipt of the announcement for nominations for MOS scholarships for the Audubon nature camps. Ten were awarded this past year, including Monika Botsai from our chapter. We should think of people to encourage to apply, the scholarship covers the camp cost but the applicant must pay their own travel costs to Maine or Wyoming. Deadline is January 31. **Bob Solem agreed to reformat the scholarship announcement as a short article for the newsletter.**

It was remarked that Emmy Holdridge had expressed willingness to volunteer her help to the Board.

Vice-President (Waugh): Don was not present and sent no report.

Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck had no report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras passed around copies of the attached treasurer's report. She made note that the Howard County book continues to produce income (\$476 profit this period). Discussion of the club finances which don't incorporate book store activity other than tax payment, served as reminder that **Mike has a previous action item to invite Anne Marie Ratterman to a future board meeting to discuss her view and approach to bookstore management and finances.**

Past President (Banks): Maud was not present and sent no report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

Paul Zucker reported on the most recent meeting held August 28 at Cylburn in Baltimore. The formal minutes will appear in the Yellowthroat but Paul provided some highlights. All committee chairs have been filled which is a major milestone. Several changes in chairmen have also occurred. Mike Calahan announced that next year's Conference will be hosted by the Washington Chapter and held in Hagerstown. An MOS banner is being prepared. The World Series of Birding team raised \$1800 and so far \$800 of that has been identified to create

a new Camp scholarship. Environmental Fund of Maryland funds have recently begun to be received. \$4000 of 1997 funds covered initial expense of joining group. 1998 funds just now being received. Volunteers sought for sanctuary workdays. Sunday hunting proposal discussed but no decision reached. Rich Dolesch who now has a major position with DNR discussed deer management in general and possibility of donating funds to organizations that feed the homeless for paying "meat cutters" so they could use the meat obtained from managed hunts. Gift committee expected to consider. Some discussion of the non-game funding bills that have mixed support in environmental groups. Resident geese and nutria are a problem at Blackwater NWR. Reprinting of the MOS Field Checklist Cards is required again. As discussed above Chan Robbins reported on Atlas activities.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): Paula and Maude were not present and sent no report.

Budget Committee (Zucker)

The Budget committee is taking the unprecedented action of reviewing actual expenditure history and experience in attempt to refine budget. Paul, as Budget Chairman, will be on the gift committee which has a new chairman.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) Jane was not present and sent no report. See discussion of atlas above.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts) Darius was not present and sent no report.

The Baltimore Chapter still wants \$2 for MOS decals. We would like to give them to new members but this cost (really cost of patches) is unrealistic. May need to consider alternatives.

Mary-Jo has agreed to be one of the MOS "authorized signatory" for MOS license plates. See her for details. Simple process requires form she signs and a \$15 fee.

Elayne asked how members might donate there Safeway ("receipts" - now automated) to Longfellow Elementary School where we hold meetings. Elane agreed to contact the school principal to find out how this would be done. Bob urged that she speak to him in person and reinforce issue of "being bumped" at last meeting without notice, etc. If he has direct contact with club members he is less likely to allow conflicts without trying to resolve them and keep us informed. Giant program still requires saving the original receipts.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie had received request from the Patapsco Native Plant Society. They are attempting to eradicate non-native plants along River Road near Sykesville, but wondered about whether any of the plants are actually having positive impact of forest interior dwelling birds. They are soliciting help for their work days as well. Bonnie was told to offer her an opportunity to write a short article for our newsletter.

Programs (Geuder): Jane was not present and sent no report.

Records (J. Solem): Jo raised a significant issue on our specimen collection. See New Business below.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): Jeff was not present and sent no report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): Eileen was not present but the seed sale is set for October 30 and mailer is about to mail.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): Paula was not present and sent no report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst)

Sue had not attended any recent meetings dealing with the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. She reported that Jeff Duguay, the former MPEA Natural Resource Manager has left for a teaching position in Texas. The position has been advertised in an attempt to hire a replacement. Sue also presented a new T-shirt proposal (see New Business).

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob proposed that he be given permission to prepare a special recognition for Marty Chestem to be presented at next club meeting. He wants to be sure we let Marty know how much we appreciate her continued efforts handling mailing of seed sale announcement and newsletters as keeper of the mailing permit, the displays she develops for the fair/meetings/seed sale, the free table items at club meetings, and the placemats at potluck dinners.

Chapter Directors (Schwarz, Holyoke): Kurt and Dave were not present. Kurt was ill and neither sent no report.

Old Business See the officer reports above.

New Business

Jo Solem reports on a major development in attempting to renew the salvage permit that has allowed us to keep a collection of bird specimens for study and education for 22 years. Typically the Federal permit has been renewed every 2 years and the state permit every year. When she applied for the federal renewal this year she received a response that our request was held pending issuance of a Possession Permit within 40 days. The form for this additional permit makes it clear the intent is to discourage collecting except for those who provide public access and use of the specimens such as museums and nature centers. Jo has had several discussions with the federal people, but it is apparent we will not be allowed to keep specimens unless another arrangement is worked out. Jo has talked to Howard County Recreation and Parks who have also had a permit. The potential of storing the collection at the Marlow house at Schooley Mill Park and placing a display case at the Rec and Parks headquarters building has been suggested as a possible way to satisfy the federal requirements. This will require working out a formal Memorandum of Understanding covering the arrangements between the club and county government. Use of Marlow house, which the County has received negative press for because of its limited use, would likely require having a keyed room to store specimens in rodent proof boxes. Also any storage cabinet would need to be mutually satisfactory, Rec and Parks have a cabinet maker they have worked with and would recommend. Jo moved, and it was seconded and approved unanimously that, **the Board authorizes Jo Solem and Don Waugh, on behalf of the club, to enter into negotiations with the Howard County Recreation and Parks Department to arrange for storage and display of the club's bird specimen collection.** These arrangements will undoubtedly require the club to use some of our own funds for purchasing display cases, storage boxes, etc. but it was agreed that this authorization to pursue negotiations did not need to specify any dollar limitations at this time.

Suzanne Probst presented a proposed new design for a club T-shirt to be sold this winter hopefully available in time for Christmas sales at club meeting. Last years sale was very successful raising about \$225 with a few shirts still left. It is a three color design and will be printed on long-sleeve T-shirt (gray). The design which has a four-season motif was passed around and Sue received several suggestions that she will consider and rework design as she sees fit. Expected cost of T-shirts in our typical quantity will be about \$10 each. Bob moved, it was seconded, and approved that **Sue is authorized to proceed with finishing design and placing an order** for quantity set by a limit of \$600. (Practice of only ordering L and XL seems a prudent one. Chuck asked facetiously about Tall sizes, but in such small quantities have to limit variety of sizes.)

Action Items

- Work up a formal proposal for birding trips to be sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks for discussion at the next Board meeting. - Oct 28 (Ott)
- Draft a short article to submit to the Yellowthroat formally announcing the Atlas challenge grant to all of MOS - Yellowthroat next deadline is Oct 1 (Kerwin)
- Reformat the scholarship announcement as a short article for the newsletter - September 27 (Bob Solem)
- Invite Anne Marie Ratterman to a future board meeting to discuss her view and approach to bookstore mangement and finances - next board meeting is Oct 28 (Prior action item - Kerwin)
- On behalf of the club, enter into negotiations with the Howard County Recreation and Parks Department to arrange for storage and display of the club's bird specimen collection - Date TBD (Jo Solem, Waugh)
- Proceed with finishing T-shirt design and placing order - Dec 9 (Probst)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 1999	-	Mary-Jo Betts	
November 18, 1999	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2000	-	Elayne Metter	
February 24, 2000	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
April 27, 2000	-	Sue Probst	
May 25, 2000	-	?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer's Report for 5/1/99 to 9/22/99, Shiras Guion, Treasurer

Minutes submitted by:

Original signed by Charles R. Stirrat

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Attachment to Minutes - 9/23/1999 - HOW0999.XLS

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS	
TREASURER'S REPORT for 5/1/99 to 09/22/99	
Shiras Guion, Treasurer	
	current
<i>INCOME</i>	
HowCty Book	\$476.26
Interest	\$163.08
Membership	\$1,937.50
Publications	\$38.25
Donation	\$62.50
<i>Total INCOME</i>	\$2,677.59
<i>EXPENSES</i>	
HowCty Book	\$0.00
Bird Counts	\$62.43
Meetings	\$167.60
Misc	\$15.98
Publications	\$451.76
State Dues	\$1,260.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00
Seed Sale	\$98.23
<i>Total EXPENSES</i>	\$2,056.00
<i>Current Balances</i>	
Checking	\$1,453.13
Savings	\$11,252.56
Petty Cash	\$28.27
<i>Notes</i>	

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 1999

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*) √
Chapter Directors:
Kurt Schwarz (2nd yr..) √
Dave Holyoke (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
Darius Ecker √
Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Mary-Jo Betts. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meetings held October 14, 1999 was 47 people, Dennis Coskren gave a program entitled "Maryland's Himalayas".

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike chose to ask for other reports and then summarize concerns at end of meeting. Accordingly the following items are not in order they appeared during meeting.

Mike praised Kurt for his handling of the recent "Big Sit" at Centennial Park. He has received request for the club to nominate potential candidates for the MOS scholarships for Audubon "camps." He also has the announcement for the next year's convention "Pin" contest (this is also announced in recent Yellowthroat).

Mike asked Bonnie if the Chapter nominating committee has begun reviewing prospects for next year's slate of candidates. Bonnie is chair and Mary-Jo a member of committee. Bonnie acknowledged they have begun and have ideas but the most critical position of Vice-President is still pending.

Following discussion of rare-bird alert problems (see Field Trips) the concerns that Mike McClure had raised about publicizing rare birds found on the U of MD Central Farm were discussed. Mike has expressed concern that he was negotiator of the terms under which the club has access to the private property of the farm. The fear he has expressed that the announcement of rare birds found at the farm in such forums as the MDOsprey on the Internet gives impression of public access. In fact very controlled conditions for access are part of the agreement. Although most announcements have included caveats about access, the public appearing nature of the U of MD name could easily be misconstrued, and if an "incident" were to occur, at a minimum our access to the farm could be compromised. After a discussion, it was decided that the club members need to pay special care in offering access to farm. The club has access to the farm in accordance with the formal agreement requiring all who visit farm to be accompanied by someone from club having a copy of "letter permitting access" and be "trained" in provisions of access. Accordingly the Board agreed that all future announcements of "rarities" found on the farm

will no longer refer to the farm, but use phrases such as "found in western Howard County". Thus people will have to inquire of club members for details of location, and formal access procedures can be adhered to. All Board members were reminded that if they don't have the letter or they have not been "trained" they must request both items before accessing farm on their own, or leading others. Lastly it was pointed out that the agreement with farm calls for the club to maintain a formal "list" of those who hold "letter" authorizing access. Mike McClure has expressed concern that he no longer maintains a "complete" list. Accordingly it was agreed that Mike Kerwin and Mike McClure should exchange information and arrive at current list. *Sec. Note: Does the Board intend to have Mike McClure, ultimately be keeper of this list (as originally envisioned) or do we intend for this to be Club President's responsibility?*

Mike read the report from Ann Marie Raterman on the financial condition of the club bookstore that Mary-Jo had brought to meeting. The bookstore current assets (retail value), primarily books, have a value of \$3110. These assets are in about 7 boxes. In addition the store has a checking account with Citizen's Bank with a balance of \$749.31. In addition the current cash box contents are \$73. The Board then discussed what and how much oversight and influence the Board should have on bookstore operation. Shiras stated that as a minimum she must have a report of what the bookstore's annual sales are, since she has to pay the state sales tax on all sales. The general consensus was that at a minimum the Board should receive an annual report of bookstore finances. Other ideas expressed were that the Board should consider giving guidance on whether the intent of bookstore was only to provide a service to members or whether a small percentage of sales should go to support club activities or contributions to habitat preservation as is done with seed sale proceeds. The Board may want to give guidance on the expected value of combined assets and cash. This will likely require a report on what the annual proceeds have been, before we can make a meaningful judgement on what makes sense for this amount. The Board very much appreciates Ann Marie's efforts in handling the bookstore, and does not want to burden her with unreasonable guidance or overhead, but feel a discussion of what the club wants the bookstore operations to be would still be beneficial at a future board meeting.

Vice-President (Waugh): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

No report except to convey Mike McClure's concern about U of MD Central Farm. See President's report.

Treasurer (Guion):

She provided the attached Treasurer's report. Shiras reported one correction to the report she provided last month. The income item for publications of \$38.25 shown in last month's report was incorrect and correctly should have been zero. The attached Treasurer's report shows proceeds of upcoming seed sale but does not show expenses. It also acknowledges presence of contributions totaling \$190 for habitat preservation received in seed sale mailings. The September interest has not yet been entered in this report, but will be updated next month.

Jane Coskren has asked the Board to consider a prior decision to not have a line (space) on the seed sale form for indicating contributions for habitat preservation (above and beyond seed purchase). We have been requesting separate checks for this purchase. Jane asks if we are not losing potential contributions with this policy. Policy has arisen due to difficulty in tracking contributions that don't arrive as separate checks. The difficulty and effort in correctly identifying these contributions distinct from seed sale proceeds by the Treasurer had led to this policy. We discussed subject, but chose to table further consideration at this time. *Secr. Note: Do we intend to revisit?*

Past President (Banks):

Maud still has the coffee pot and will make sure it is available at the seed sale. The possibility of no longer attempting to have coffee at club meetings, but just having someone bring "juice" for meetings was discussed. This alternative practice was generally supported when it was learned that to support hot water for coffee, either pre-heated water must be brought or the pot plugged in as early as 7 PM if we are to provide coffee. General consensus was that the juice approach was appealing, the club could just purchase cold cups and napkins and reimburse whoever purchased the juice for each meeting. The "bin" with cups and napkins will be added to Kurt's "load" for transport to club meetings. Sue Probst has agreed to be coordinator, who will arrange for someone to bring the "treats" for meetings. *Sec. Note: Does this include arranging for "juice" or who has this responsibility?*

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.): No State Board meeting since last Chapter Board meeting.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker) No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)
Elayne and Darius had no reports.

Mary-Jo reported she had provided Mike report on Bookstore finances that Anne-Marie had provided. She also made note of the email message from Gail Franz of the Baltimore Chapter praising Bonnie for her leadership of the joint field trip to Mt. Pleasant. Fear was expressed that this might cause Bonnie to no longer be able to wear her "crown" as sparrow queen. Lastly Mary-Jo passed around a sample "business card" prepared by the Montgomery Chapter of MOS she had picked up at an Olney "bird" store. She proposed we might consider printing similar cards. Board thought this was a very good idea and authorized pursuing development of design and commercial printing of cards.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie began her report by acknowledging that she had received call from club member concerned with the failure to notify club members on the appearance of Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the Maryland Central Farm. Jo and I confirmed that Mike McClure had raised this issue and had no problem with his name being associated with concern. The issue resolved around the apparent notification of the OspreyNest, without an attempt to notify the formal club rare bird alert. It was explained that an attempt to notify the email rare-bird alert had occurred right after the bird was found, but Bob Solem's ISP, Microsoft Network, had bounced his message. He did not log on until some 24 hours later, only to discover the failed delivery. Since the scheduled visit had already occurred he did not send any further messages, at the time. *Sec. Note: The day after Board meeting Bob sent an explanation to Rare Bird List email group.* The other complication is that since Bea Newkirk has asked to no longer handle phone rare-alert address and no alternative has been established. Hence for all intents the phone tree is non-functioning. To resolve this issue two responses are planned. It was determined that a backup to Bob's email delivery would be desirable. It was agreed that Bob would provide Bonnie with a copy of the current email rare-bird mailing group. She requested and hopefully will receive assistance in how to use this list to create a "BLIND" CC: addressing of announcements, since some members have requested that they receive announcements but have limited release of their email address. If Bob is unavailable to send alert, Bonnie will transmit the alert. In addition it was agreed an effort should be mounted to find another coordinator for the phone tree rare-bird program. Mike will solicit volunteers at the Nov. club meeting.

Bonnie passed around a sample of a laminated bookmark that she had obtained from a company soliciting business at her employer. "The Otter Side" can print bookmarks with a variety of contents. Bonnie proposed consideration of this as a possible fund raiser to be sold by the club bookstore. The price is about 40 cents each plus S&H dependent on amount of order. Bonnie asked that the Board think about this proposal.

As for field trips, Bonnie reported there has been a very good response to the beginner walks. There were 12 new (non-members) at the Lake Elkhorn walk on October 9. At the Font Hill walk there were 6 non-members. One clear message is that well known locations such as Lake Elkhorn are a plus. She also observed that in the recent Yellowthroat we are the only club with "beginner" specific walks listed. One possibility suggested was to identify the first Centennial walk of the season as a "beginner" walk. Other considerations discussed are to plan walks listed as beginner's walks with shorter duration and having slightly later start times.

In follow-up to action item from last meeting, Bonnie discussed interactions she has had with the Howard Recreation and Parks Department about potential co-sponsoring of field trips. She talked to Brenda Belinsky and was expecting follow-up. Issue is county has and may still require participants to pay fees. One possibility is to provide a "volunteer leader" with no direct link to club but opportunity to share existence of club with participants. Need to follow-up further at subsequent Board meetings after Bonnie pursues with other County representatives. In addition Bonnie discussed Belinsky proposal that club consider producing an "All County Checklist." County might subsidize production. Need to check with Jane Coskren as Parks Checklist coordinator, as this might be next project.

Lastly Bonnie mentioned that Ron Polniaszek had written a very good article on the recent bird walks to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area for the MPEA newsletter.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo had no update on the status of trying to renew our Federal permit for holding specimens. This action item is still active. She reported that she has 7 people enrolled in her Beginning Birding class at the Howard Community College. She noted that due to College regulations she cannot sell or directly advertise the Birding Howard County book.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report. The sale was to occur on Saturday following meeting.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst): Not in attendance, but sent email to Mary-Jo that she would not attend due to death of her Mother-in-law.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Schwarz, Holyoke):

Kurt passed around copies of an article on "To Save a Hummingbird" from the Sept. Bird Watcher's Digest. He also volunteered to have the May Board meeting at his home.

Dave had no report.

Old Business

During Kurt's report he provided a copy of a brochure from the American Bird Conservancy that described the program where donations to several conservation organizations are being matched 1-to-1 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. One of the organizations selected for this matching grant is the River of Raptors, Veracruz, Mexico that we had discussed previously as a possible target of our seed sale proceeds. It was reported that last year's seed sale profits of \$1630 had not yet been disbursed. Darius moved, it was seconded, and approved unanimously that we make a donation of \$1500 to the River of Raptors (making sure to obtain the matching funds from the NFWF).

New Business

No new business other than that discussed in officer reports.

Action Items

No new action items were added during this meeting. The following items from prior meeting are still active (status updated):

- Work up a formal proposal for birding trips to be sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks - Bonnie reported she has been in touch with B. Belinsky but discussions are ongoing (Ott)
- Draft a short article to submit to the Yellowthroat formally announcing the Atlas challenge grant to all of MOS - Yellowthroat next deadline is Oct 1. Not discussed at this meeting but did not appear in Nov/Dec Yellowthroat (Kerwin)
- Invite Anne Marie Ratterman to a future board meeting to discuss her view and approach to bookstore management and finances - Report provided for this meeting, discussion still appears desirable. (Kerwin)
- On behalf of the club, enter into negotiations with the Howard County Recreation and Parks Department to arrange for storage and display of the club's bird specimen collection - Date TBD - (Jo Solem, Waugh)
- Proceed with finishing T-shirt design and placing order - Dec 9 (Probst)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 1999	-	Mary-Jo Betts	
November 18, 1999	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2000	-	Elayne Metter	
February 24, 2000	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
April 27, 2000	-	Sue Probst	
May 25, 2000	-	Kurt Schwarz	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Treasurer's Report for 9/23/1999 to 10/27/1999
- American Bird Conservancy - Conservation Counterparts Brochure
- "To Save a Hummingbird", Bird Watcher's Digest, Sept/Oct 1999

Minutes submitted by:

Original signed by Charles R. Stirrat

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS
 TREASURER'S REPORT for 9/23/99 to 10/27/99
 Shiras Guion, Treasurer

	Current	Year to date
<i>INCOME</i>		
HowCty Book	\$146.70	\$622.96
Interest	\$0.00	\$163.08
Membership	\$552.50	\$2,490.00
Publications	\$1.52	\$1.52
Donation	\$245.00	\$307.50
Seed Sale	\$5,292.00	\$5,292.00
<i>Total INCOME</i>	\$6,237.72	\$8,877.06

<i>EXPENSES</i>		
Bird Counts	\$36.55	\$98.98
Meetings	\$50.00	\$217.60
Misc	\$0.00	\$15.98
Publications	\$212.18	\$663.94
State Dues	\$1,260.00	\$1,260.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
Seed Sale	\$46.29	\$144.52
<i>Total EXPENSES</i>	\$1,605.02	\$2,401.02

<i>Current Balances</i>		
Checking	\$7,345.83	
Savings	\$11,252.56	
Petty Cash	\$28.27	

Notes
 Partial Seed sale income. \$190. in Habitat donations
 Interest for Sept not entered, will be updated in Oct.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
Kurt Schwarz (2nd yr..) √
Dave Holyoke (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter
Darius Ecker
Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Mike Kerwin. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meetings held November 11, 1999 was 59 people. Ralph Geuder gave a program entitled "Spring in Ontario, Birds of Algonquin Park, Point Pelee, Long Point and Rondeau."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike reported that it had been agreed that Mike McClure would continue to be the "keeper" of the list of those authorized as club representatives for access to the U of MD Central Farm. *Secr. Note: Mike McClure provided Mike Kerwin a copy of the original list and access agreement letter in early January.*

Bob Solem had done the phone calling during the preceding weekend to notify rare bird list participants of the Black Scoter at Lake Elkhorn. Concerns about ensuring that email rare bird alerts get "through" have resulted in decision to have both Bob and Bonnie send alerts so that the likelihood of message being received will be increased.

Mike had followed up with Anne Marie on current practices for the bookstore operations. The current approach being applied is to collect very little profit, but operate as a useful benefit to club members. Anne Marie has not been attempting to generate income for the club use or habitat preservation efforts. Bonnie proposed that someone (not Anne Marie) prepare an article for the newsletter describing the bookstore's benefits and operating approach. Seemed like this might be appropriate for the next Fall (Sept./Oct.) issue. Another issue that some of the bookstore inventory has not sold. Have deeply cut price but some still not sold. It was proposed these items might be used as door prizes at the next pot-luck. No further action on bookstore is considered necessary at this time.

Mike proposed car pooling for the December State Board meeting. The club wants to repeat and follow-up on announcement of challenge grant for the next breeding bird atlas.

The board discussed recognizing Eileen Clegg's continued excellent efforts on the seed sale. She has been the coordinator since about 1977. It was proposed some form of recognition such as flowers at the pot luck would be appropriate.

It was also mentioned that we had proposed recognizing Marty Chestem's activities at a club meeting. This did not occur at November meeting and should be done at December meeting. *Secr. Note: This is still outstanding as it did not happen at Dec. or Jan. meeting.*

Lastly Mike asked the Board to begin thinking about how to use the seed sale proceeds this year. All are to think about potential uses. The contribution of last year's proceeds to the River of Raptors Project at Vera Cruz given through the American Bird Conservancy and matched by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been acknowledged. Mike would like to consider a project in Maryland, including further exploring ideas with Howard County Recreation and Parks.

Vice-President (Waugh):

Don passed along Martha's request for possible topics for her Chapter Chatter column in the Maryland Yellowthroat.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras provided copies of the treasurer's report (attached). She noted the added \$35 received in habitat donations. She also observed there had been a recent flurry of membership renewals due to mailing that Bob sent. Current membership is 223, with roughly 100 members from last year not yet renewed. The check to the American Bird Conservancy for Vera Cruz is shown. In addition she wrote a check to The Friends of Algonquin Park that Ralph Geuder asked his honorarium to go to. *Secr. Note: This gift (\$72 Canadian) was acknowledged in a letter dated Nov. 30.*

Past President (Banks): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

The next Board meeting is December 11 at Frederick.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

Darius and Elayne were not present.

Mary-Jo reported that the plans for pot-luck have begun. It will again be at the Owen-Brown Community Center. Rental will be \$62. Maude Banks has put up the security deposit. Maude should contact Shiras to have a check written for the rent.

Mary-Jo also mentioned she is co-coordinator for the Winter Count with Jo Solem.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported she had discussions with Terry _____ of Howard County Recreation and Parks about co-sponsoring a number of birding activities. Recreation and Parks publishes a pamphlet and newsprint version of their activities. A trip co-sponsored by club and Howard County will appear that must have a \$6 charge to reimburse the county for administrative and advertising. We will not list this trip in our newsletter. The brochure will also list other "free" trips sponsored by the club. This will be a service for county residents and serves as advertising for club. The initial trip will be one for beginners on April 1. Most activities will have a size limit. Bonnie also discussed other possible activities for co-sponsoring including a summer evening seminar on basics of attracting cavity nesting birds and species including making a nest box. A possible fall evening program might be one on attracting birds to your yard (would involve using specimens and sample feeders). Bonnie has agreed to be primary volunteer on these projects, but welcomes other volunteers. Bonnie moved and Bob seconded motion that

the Howard County Bird Club will provide instructors (volunteers) to Howard Recreation and Parks programs for coming year on a trial basis. The motion passed unanimously.

Bonnie reported on field trips that the Centennial walks continue to be very popular. She is planning a possible "tree" walk. The Geology field trip was reported in the Washington Post on day of the meeting. She is also considering an astronomy trip. It was suggested this might be combined with something like look for owls. Mike Kerwin mentioned the Leonid meteor shower on previous night.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported on the saga of obtaining the necessary paperwork for the bird collection and avoiding breaking the law. A law enforcement officer from the Fish and Wildlife Service visited her to discuss ways to work out our request. The outcome was that the Federal agencies are willing to go forward with the approach linking our collection to Howard County Recreation and Parks. The agent indicated she was going to recommend the permit be approved. Jo will be granted the salvage permit and the club will be issued the possession permit.

In a second matter Jo passed around a draft of a Howard Count Field Checklist. This was a rework of an effort begun in 1993 by Jo, Marty Chestem, and David Holmes. The draft is in an 8 x 11.5 format suitable for easy copying or production. Howard County Recreation and Parks has expressed interest in having such a list to reproduce and distribute. The Board reviewed the draft and agreed that Jo should go ahead and finalize Checklist and provide copies to Rec and Parks.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that Mary-Jo's "calling" generates membership renewals even before she actually calls. Just making the list seems to motivate renewals.

Chapter Directors (Schwarz, Holyoke):

Dave had no report.

Kurt asked for the Board's impressions on the recent Yellowthroat article on the MOS sponsored team in the World Series of Birding. He observed that contributions received totaled \$3973, and that after expenses net received was \$1761. He felt that receiving only 44 cents on the dollar wasn't very efficient money raising effort, if the intent was fund raising as opposed to fielding a winning team. Others on the board expressed the belief that they personally supported the team and felt the publicity was also a key benefit. The most frequently expressed position was that support was an individual choice and MOS general funds were not being tapped to support the team. Paul stated that the MOS Board has chosen to earmark proceeds as special funds and use funds raised for specific identifiable purposes. Some felt that this effort is tapping a competitive spirit in some members who took great pride in the MOS team winning the Cape May County competition. Some believe that sponsoring team is bringing in funds that would not be given to MOS otherwise. A large number of conservation and birding organizations use WSB team sponsorship as a fund raising approach.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

None noted.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 1999	-	Mary-Jo Betts	
November 18, 1999	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
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January 27, 2000	-	Elayne Metter	
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May 25, 2000	-	Kurt Schwarz	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report for 10/28/99 to 11/17/99

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Bird Club
Board Meeting
Kerwin Home
11-18-99

Agenda

President

1. Rare Bird Alert Responsibility (per Chuck's minutes)
2. Book Store Direction
3. Revisit Jane Contribution Request. Line on bird seed form.
4. State Board Meeting 12-11-99 in Frederick
5. Resolution recognizing Eileen Clegg, et. al.
6. Follow-up from last month

State Reports

Chapter Reports

Action Items

New Business

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT for 10/28/99 to 11/17/99**
Shiras Guion, Treasurer

<i>INCOME</i>	Current	Year-to Date
HowCty Book	\$0.00	\$622.96
Interest	\$90.03	\$253.11
Membership	\$382.50	\$2,645.00
Publications	\$0.00	\$1.52
Seed Sale	\$2,909.00	\$8,201.00
Donations	\$79.25	\$359.25
T-shirt sales	\$12.00	\$12.00
<i>Total INCOME</i>	\$3,472.78	\$12,094.84

<i>EXPENSES</i>		
Bird Counts	\$0.00	\$98.98
Meetings	\$0.00	\$217.60
Hospitality	\$31.23	\$31.23
Misc	\$113.71	\$129.69
Publications	\$0.00	\$663.94
State Dues	\$0.00	\$1,260.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00
Seed Sale	\$6,266.43	\$6,410.95
<i>Total EXPENSES</i>	\$7,961.37	\$10,362.39

<i>Current Balances</i>	
Checking	\$4,012.21
Savings	\$9,842.59
Petty Cash	\$28.27

Notes
Seed sale profit about \$1400 after taxes
Habitat donations from seed sale \$211.75

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 27, 2000

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*) √
Chapter Directors:
 Kurt Schwarz (2nd yr..) √
 Dave Holyoke (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker √
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter:: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Elayne Metter. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meetings held December 3, 1999 was 66 people, Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "The Birds of Namibia in Southwestern Africa." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 13, 2000 was ?? people. Jim McCann of Maryland DNR gave a program entitled "Landbird Survey at Aberdeen Proving Ground."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike reported he had received an invitation for the club to participate in the Howard County 150th Birthday. The actual anniversary date is July 4, 2001, but the Sesquicentennial celebration will run from July, 2000 to July 2001. The county would like us to provide potential events to be included in the Sesquicentennial Calendar of Events by March 1. We discussed and it was agreed we would propose including our Spring and Fall Centennial Park walks as Sesqui-"Centennial" Bird Walks. Mike and Bonnie will prepare a response to the county capturing this idea.

Next Mike asked to review the status of the club specimen collection and the need for reaching an agreement with Howard County Recreation and Parks. Jo Solem and Don Waugh have been working on an MOU, the second draft of which was passed around for review. The current version has been worked out with Mark Raab and Brenda Belinsky from the County, but the latest revision needs to go to the County Legal office. The MOU contains a clause that the agreement can be abrogated on 30 days notice by either side. A recent development is that the county is planning to turn the recently receive Lach(?) Property into a Nature Center. This property is near the entrance to Volmerhausen Road (Wincopin trail). The property contains a brick house that will be used as Nature Center. Plans for any kind of Center in the Trotter Road area of the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area have been put on hold. The original discussions with county had proposed a display case at the Rec and Parks office to satisfy Federal requirements but this development suggests we might want to delay paying for shelving specifically developed for this site, and consider what would be appropriate for a Nature Center. Consider a museum quality display case for ultimate site, as well as the rodent proof storage that will be used at the Schooley Mill location as storage (not display) in the interim. Jo and Bob are working on boxes for some of specimen and could use a truck

or other vehicle capable of transporting 4x8 foot plywood sheets. Jo moved the the club approve the MOU that will transfer the specimen collection to Howard County Recreation and Parks and spending up to \$3,000 for display case and storage cases. This will result in legally transferring collection to County, satisfying the Federal regulations, but allowing club members to still have access to collection. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. It was noted that if future specimens become available the will be passed to County as they will have responsibility for the salvage permit (and the formal record keeping it mandates). Jo may eventually be designated a sub-permittee.

In a related matter Bob moved that the Board pass a “Sense of the Board” resolution that we support pushing for and support the county pursuing the development of a Nature Center. This will allow us to lobby and support this initiative from its beginning. The Board concurred. It was suggested that a formal presentation associated with our gift of the specimen collection and display cases might be an appropriate way to promote our support for the Nature Center.

As for the upcoming election of club officers, the nominating committee thinks they have slate identified. Elayne Metter announced that she is resigning her position as State Director at end of this term. The slate will be mailed along with the new club directory in advance of the April meeting where election will be held. Kurt Schwarz has agreed to be the new Vice-President.

The next discussion dealt with potential donations for this year’s seed sale proceeds. We have approximately \$1400 from sale, \$250 contribution from Moyer & Sons (received after Eileen Clegg expressed dissatisfaction with late truck arrival and proposed they might make contribution), and \$650 additional gifts, for a total available amount of approximately \$2000. Mike expressed a preference for local uses. One option proposed was paying for planting materials for use at Mt. Pleasant. We would want these to be beneficial for birds. Mike agreed to call and discuss this proposal with Liz Stoeffel the Howard Conservancy director at Mt. Pleasant. Another option proposed was contacting the Western Shore Conservancy about possibility of supporting there desire to purchase additional land adjacent to Belt Woods. A third option is an effort at Frostburg University doing something in Western Maryland. (Bob will contact these last two for information.)

Vice-President (Waugh):

Don reminded Board of upcoming Winter Count and that all should call if plan to attend tally.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Guion): Treasurer’s report is attached.

Past President (Banks): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

Paul provided his excellent review of the most recent Board meeting held Dec. 11 at Frederick. The most controversial issue was an item not on agenda in which Marshall Illiff requested funding for a project to develop a site guide to Maryland. He requested \$5000 for mileage, but plans to publish privately. Some felt inappropriate to grant funds without some arrangement for repayment if he actually profited from endeavor, others did not feel necessary. In vote the latter position narrowly won, but still felt the gift committee should consider a formal proposal. Expect this to be revisited in future. The formal minutes of meeting will appear in Yellowthroat.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker) No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

Mary-Jo suggested we consider options for the bookstore management. Anne-Marie Ratterman has been dealing with some personal matters and Mary-Jo expressed belief we might have to identify either a replacement of further assistance for Anne-Marie. It was agreed that Mary-Jo would approach her and ask if she wanted some relief either permanent or temporary from the bookstore responsibilities. *Secr. Note: Subsequent to the meeting Mary-Jo sent an email indicating that Anne-Marie appreciated concern but wanted to continue her role which she finds very satisfying.*

The pot-luck is scheduled for Feb. 26. Mary-Jo is soliciting volunteers to help. One area discussed was whether we should buy gifts to present to key club members as signs of appreciation. After discussion it was decided that no specific plans were needed. That since Mike is nearing the end of his term he might want to recognize those he has found especially helpful but that he would handle this.

Elayne asked about the MOS Web Store. It was pointed out that this was using Thayer Birding web store program, but that this had appeared without any discussion by State Board. Anticipate it will be discussed at future State meeting.

Darius expressed desire to be added to the U of MD Central Farm access list. Mike had passed around copy of the formal agreement that Mike McClure had provided him.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie said that someone from Rec and Parks had been in store and expressed strong interest in having a formal checklist put together for Font Hill. He stated funding for printing such a checklist was not a problem. Refer to the Park Checklist coordinator.

She said she was working with Terri Patty and plans were proceeding for her leading a beginners trip for Rec and Parks next spring. The trip will be listed in county brochure but not our newsletter. It will also indicate club leads free trips at other times. For some reason Al Geiss had expressed some dissatisfaction with arrangement but it appears to be proceeding.

Kurt had asked Bonnie to mention that he received the Big Sit report, and was prepared to order T-shirts for those who were interested.

Bonnie described how she was trying an experiment and will hold two trips on the same day next Spring. The last Centennial walk and a Vesper Sparrow walk are scheduled for the same day. She also asked about holding a beginner walk during the summer. Fall count is September 16. A trip to Cape May is being planned for the following weekend.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that Lois Carlton had passed away. She was a former member who had moved back to Mass. 10 years ago. She had not been an active member, but provided financial support for mounting several of specimens. Jo proposed designating the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker specimen as being in her honor. Jo related how Lois kept a "quality" bird life list.

Jo passed around a near final version of a county field checklist.

The Howard County feeder sheet has been revised by Jo and Bonnie. It will be handed out to new member and it was proposed it could be placed on the club web page.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No recent activity.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.
MPEA Rep. (Probst) No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):
Bob will present his annual membership report at next month Board meeting.

Chapter Directors (Schwarz, Holyoke): No report.

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items See officer reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 1999	-	Mary-Jo Betts	
November 18, 1999	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2000	-	Elayne Metter	
February 24, 2000	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
April 27, 2000	-	Sue Probst	
May 25, 2000	-	Kurt Schwarz	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- **HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS, TREASURER'S REPORT** for 11/18/99 to 1/26/00
- Letter from American Bird Conservancy acknowledging \$1500 for River of Raptors Project, Nov. 16, 1999
- Letter from Moyer & Sons, Inc. with gift of \$250 for Seed Sale projects, November 9, 1999
- Letter to Moyer & Sons, Inc. acknowledging gift, December 8, 1999
- Letter from The Friends of Algonquin Park acknowledging donation of \$72 Canadian (Ralph Geuder asked his speaker honorarium be sent to them), November 30, 1999
- Letter to The Western Shore Conservancy from Bob Solem requesting information of status of project, February 2, 2000
- Letter to Dr. Durland Shumway, Frostburg State University requesting information on the old-growth forest research project from Bob Solem, February 2, 2000

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT for 11/18/99 to 1/26/00**
Shiras Guion, Treasurer

<i>INCOME</i>	Current	Year-to Date
HowCty Book	\$96.70	\$719.66
Interest	\$97.88	\$350.99
Membership	\$947.50	\$3,592.50
Publications	\$0.00	\$1.52
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$8,201.00
Donations	\$300.00	\$659.25
T-shirt sales	\$0.00	\$12.00
<i>Total INCOME</i>	\$1,442.08	\$13,536.92

<i>EXPENSES</i>		
Bird Counts	\$0.00	\$98.98
Meetings	\$100.70	\$318.30
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$31.23
Misc	\$21.59	\$151.28
Publications	\$218.25	\$882.19
State Dues	\$1,005.00	\$2,265.00
Sales Tax	\$388.63	\$388.63
Taxidermy	\$10.00	\$10.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$6,410.95
<i>Total EXPENSES</i>	\$1,744.17	\$12,106.56

<i>Current Balances</i>	
Checking	\$1,612.24
Savings	\$11,940.47
Petty Cash	\$28.27

Notes
Seed sale profit \$1405.49
Moyer & Sons contributed \$250. to habitat preservation

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 24, 2000

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*) √
Chapter Directors:
 Kurt Schwarz (2nd yr.) √
 Dave Holyoke (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker √
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*)
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was fifteen. Attendance at the regular club meetings held February 10, 2000 was 70 people. Mark Hoffman gave a program entitled "Rare Birds of Maryland."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike reported that he had spoken to Liz Stoeffel at Mt. Pleasant concerning our interest in a possible grant to them as part of our annual habitat preservation contribution from seed sale proceeds. We had discussed purchasing plants to establish habitat attractive to birds. She was very interested and stated that she had a trainee who just started that will help in writing grant proposals, and she would have her prepare a couple proposals for our consideration that would also serve as a training opportunity for her new help. (Presumably our standards for format won't be as critical as government grant applications.) Mike stated he expected to have several ideas from them ready for the next Board meeting. They already have a grant for a program to plant 15 acres with warm weather grasses. Mike expects the proposals to range from small contributions to one that would require all of our available funds.

Mike reported that Bonnie had provided him the preliminary list of bird walks for next year so that he could provide the county with our proposal to hold "Sesqui-Centennial Bird Walks at Centennial Park in November 2000 and March-April 2001 as part of the Howard County Sesqui-centennial celebration.

Mike announced his email address was to change by March. (mjker@cs.com)

Vice-President (Waugh):

Don mentioned that there were 70 people at the last club meeting which was a very good turnout. One thing different about this was that the speaker, Mark Hoffman, posted the meeting time and his topic on the MDOsprey shortly before the meeting. Doing this as a reminder and potential draw to non-members or other county MOS members was discussed and generally seemed like a good idea.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras was not present but sent the attached treasurer's report. (See attachments)

Past President (Banks): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

Board members had just received the agenda for the next meeting to be held in Easton on March 11.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker)

Paul reported that the state budget committee had met and had a budget ready for presentation at the upcoming State Board meeting. He is also a member of the Gifts Committee that was to meet the following Saturday. The Gifts Committee has a new Chairperson Sally Ann Walschmidt.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts)

Mary-Jo reported that preparations for the pot-luck to be held the next Saturday were in good shape. At that time 58 people had signed up. She had considered asking to be relieved of this responsibility next year, but has decided to be the coordinator again next year. The Board expressed their appreciation and thanks for her willingness to volunteer her time and skills on such a key part of the club's activities.

Elayne announced that she is serving as a member of the state Scholarship Committee.

Darius announced that he may well have to give up hosting and providing maintenance for the club web page. He will likely ask that we find someone else to do this. He can provide maintenance help but having total responsibility, which is required since he hosts it on his personal ISP and appropriately doesn't share his password, is too much of a burden. The Board agreed to investigate other options such as free hosting sites and paying for an account where multiple people could help maintain the site. Bob Solem agreed to take the lead on this so we can discuss further at next Board meeting.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie is considering the number of beginner walks scheduled this Spring as a real test. She wants to remind participants and leaders that focus should be on basic/common birds and techniques. Spend more time on the birds that are easier to see. She also is considering different themes such as "Birding by Ear", "Fly-overs", etc. Bonnie is also talking to Charlie Muise from Jug Bay (Anne Arundel) about a future trip.

Richard Smith has completed a new revised version of the Howard County Butterfly list that is being published by the county (500 copies).

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that the Mid-winter count results were very good, especially given the weather. The state winter count coordinators are Paul Jung (Winter Subcommittee) and Bob Ringler (Season Count Committee). Jo stated that Mary-Jo did an excellent job as her co-coordinator handling the pre-count arrangements.

Jo then reported that the Memo of Understanding between Howard County Recreation and Parks and the club dealing with the specimen collection. The MOU has been signed by Gary Arthur, for the county, and Mike Kerwin for the club. Thus the collection has legally been transferred to the county. A letter documenting the plan and providing the MOU has been sent to the Migratory Bird Permit Coordinator office of the US F&W Service in Massachusetts. (See attachments) The collection is still at the Solems pending completion of the County building shelves. Shiras has written checks for the wood and hardware..

Lastly Jo raised the issue of needing to have a letter of permission authorizing the copying of copyrighted material produced by the club. We do add copyright to some of our lists and brochures, but then when you take it to commercial copy centers they won't copy unless you have permission of the responsible author or organization. Mike agreed to generate a letter granting permission for those that need it.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff announced that he sent out announcements for the March field trips. We discussed posting the trips on MDOSprey. A weekend trip to Cape May for this fall is being discussed. The trip may well leave Friday afternoon and involve staying two nights to avoid the 2-night minimum many of the motels have.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst)

Sue hasn't been to recent MPEA meetings. The County has hired a new manager for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, Jeff Schwierjohann. Sue also reported that the owl her party found in distress during Mid-winter count and took to a rehabilitator did not survive. The specimen might be prepared in a different (flight) pose. Lastly she mentioned that as a student project the HCC Environmental Club is going to setup a blue bird trail at the school.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob presented his annual membership report. (See attachment) He noted that Mary-Jo's phone calls to members that had not renewed is still very effective, giving about a 50% positive return. New memberships are up and losses are down. Our membership efforts seem to be paying off and overall the situation is very encouraging.

Bob also mentioned his article in the March-April newsletter that requests members to contact their Senators urging support for the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA).

Chapter Directors (Schwarz, Holyoke):

Kurt reported that he has ordered "Big-Sit" T-shirts for those who ordered them. He is going to check on the date for next year, which we may advertise as part of the Sesqui-Centennial celebration. He also had received an annotated copy of the proposed field trips for the MOS Convention that he provided copies of to those who were interested.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

- Draft a letter granting permission to copy club materials that have a copyright (©) symbol – Kerwin

- Coordinate investigation of alternatives for club web site – Bob Solem

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 1999	-	Mary-Jo Betts	
November 18, 1999	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2000	-	Elayne Metter	
February 24, 2000	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
April 27, 2000	-	Sue Probst	
May 25, 2000	-	Kurt Schwarz	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer’s Report for 1/27/00 to 2/22/00
- Letter from Brenda Belensky, Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks to Mr. Debuose, Migratory Bird Permit Coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service, February 17, 2000
- Memorandum of Understanding between Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks and the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society regarding the transfer of the chapter’s bird specimen collection, February 15, 2000
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) Report 1999-2000 prepared by Bob Solem, February 2000

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS
 TREASURER'S REPORT for 1/27/00 to 2/22/00
 Shiras Guion, Treasurer**

<i>INCOME</i>	Current	Year-to Date
HowCty Book	\$0.00	\$719.66
Interest	\$51.97	\$402.96
Membership	\$100.00	\$3,692.50
Publications	\$27.00	\$28.52
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$8,201.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$659.25
T-shirt sales	\$0.00	\$12.00
<i>Total INCOME</i>	\$178.97	\$13,715.89

<i>EXPENSES</i>		
Bird Counts	\$76.26	\$175.24
Meetings	\$100.00	\$368.30
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$31.23
Misc	\$6.60	\$157.88
Pot Luck Dinner	\$64.80	\$64.80
Publications	\$112.58	\$994.77
State Dues	\$215.00	\$2,480.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00	\$388.63
Taxidermy	\$0.00	\$10.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$6,410.95
<i>Total EXPENSES</i>	\$575.24	\$12,631.80

<i>Current Balances</i>	
Checking	\$1,220.60
Savings	\$11,992.44
Petty Cash	\$21.67

Notes

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2000

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
 Kurt Schwarz (2nd yr.) √
 Dave Holyoke (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
 Darius Ecker
 Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 9 was ___ people. Bob Solem gave a program entitled "A Seasonal Progression of Wildflowers."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike began by calling on Bob to lead discussion of web site proposals. (See Old Business.)

The next topic, also Old Business, was discussion donating this year's seed sale proceeds, and potential recipients.

Vice-President (Waugh): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras passed around the attached treasurer's report. She also took note of the fact our first junior member in some time, Elliott Krasnopoler, had recently joined.

Past President (Banks): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

Paul reviewed the Board meeting held at Easton on March 11. Of local interest it was noted that Howard Chapter needs to get 1998 annual report for Maryland BirdLife to Chan Robbins as soon as possible, and that the 1999 reports are due at time of annual conference in May. Paul Zucker has been nominated for State Vice President and Shiras Guion for State Treasurer. Proposed by-laws change dealing with the MDDC Records Committee was

presented. The annual budget was submitted and approved. The organization selected as beneficiary of Conference fund raising will be Scales and Tails. Several new promotional and sales items have been ordered and will be available at Conference. Scholarship Committee received 8 applications and awarded six. Discussed introduction of electronic sales on MOS web site that began without formal review by Board. It was agreed we need to confirm any possible impact on non-profit status and monitor how it works. The Gift Committee had not received a formal proposal from Marshall Iliff on his proposal for support in preparing a state site guide. They had received and reviewed an alternate proposal submitted by Darius Ecker. After considerable discussion this proposal was referred to the Publications Committee for further review.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker) No report other than above Board report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts) No reports from Darius or Mary-Jo.

Elayne had contacted the county about possibility of doing seasonal counts in the former New Cut Landfill location. She learned that access would not be granted at this time as the county will be doing grading in area over the next 1.5 years. However she learned that the Maryland Native Plant Society has developed a plan for the property giving the county guidance on plantings for the area.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie announced the Howard County Recreation and Parks program of Environmental Awareness Lectures. The first is at Howard Community College, April 17, and will feature David Harp & Tom Horton in a program entitled, "Water's Way, Life Along the Chesapeake."

She also announced that Lisa Stevens has arranged to lead a special club trip behind the scenes at the National Zoo. Lisa is a club member who is curator of the Panda and Great Ape exhibits at the zoo.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo made a motion to make a donation of \$100 to "All Creatures Great and Small Wildlife, Inc." They are the bird and wildlife rehabilitators in Columbia that we refer reports of injured birds too. Their phone number is in the club directory. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Jo reported that they have completed construction on the specimen boxes, and will be ready to transfer them to Howard County Recreation and Parks when they are ready for them. *Sec. Note: A couple days after the meeting Jo and Bob reported that the County had located suitable museum quality display cases at a store in Laurel. The cases were purchased in accordance with prior authorization.*

Jo reported on the recent deliberations of the Howard County Records Committee (Jane Farrell, David Holmes, Nancy Magnusson, and Jo Solem). Four submittals were reviewed:

Yellow-headed Blackbird – Accepted

White-winged Crossbill – Accepted (written descriptions supplemented with photos (even if poor quality was very beneficial)

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow - Accepted (photos and many written descriptions)

Red-necked Phalarope, 6 Sept. 199_, - Accepted as Red/Red-necked Phalarope (Single observer, no write-up received, only phone call notes, unable to definitively identify species)

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported he had distributed the April activities to publicity locations (newspapers, etc.)

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula reported that she had talked to Karla Pearce, and she will be unable to make arrangements for staffing the county fair booth. Karla will be out of time at that time, so we need a volunteer. Paula also announced that the next newsletter will be late as she will not get to put it together until after she and Darius return from their two weeks in Costa Rica. (Return April 8.)

MPEA Rep. (Probst)

Sue asked who has the club display board as she is going to put up a table at the Community College Earth Day activities on April 27. She was told Karla Pearce has the display.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the American Bird Conservancy had a recent success when they convinced American Cyanamid to withdraw their EPA application for a dangerous chemical to be used on cotton crops. The potential for widespread use in the US has been stopped for the time being.

Chapter Directors (Schwarz, Holyoke): Dave had no report.

Kurt asked if anyone in the county does banding. He also announced that this year's Big Sit will be on October 21.

Old Business

The first item of old business was further discussion of the club web site and hosting options. Bob Solem had researched the matter and passed out a handout (attached) which posed three basic questions.

New Business

Action Items

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

- September 23, 1999 - Bonnie Ott
- October 28, 1999 - Mary-Jo Betts
- November 18, 1999 - Mike Kerwin (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
- December - NO MEETING
- January 27, 2000 - Elayne Metter
- February 24, 2000 - Jo Solem
- March 23, 2000 - Bonnie Ott
- April 27, 2000 - Sue Probst

May 25, 2000 - Kurt Schwarz (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report for 2/23/00 to 3/22/00
- Howard Bird Club Web Sites

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
3-23-00
AGENDA

1. WEB SITE
 - Should the Club get a domain name (like MOS has: MDBirds.org) which costs about \$70 for two years?
 - Do we want to use a free service, which has advertisements that you can click off. ("For an example see Maryland Plant Society web page with and without the advertisement at www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/2996)?
 - Instead do we want to use a commercial provider (which involves a monthly fee) and does not display advertisements on the web page)?
2. DONATION FROM THIS YEARS BIRD SEED SALE
3. STATE CONVENTION RESPONSE
4. ALL OTHER

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT for 2/23/00 to 3/22/00**
Shiras Guion, Treasurer

<i>INCOME</i>	Current	Year-to Date
HowCty Book	\$83.70	\$803.36
Interest	\$51.05	\$451.01
Membership	\$106.50	\$3,799.00
Publications	\$13.00	\$41.52
Seed Sale	\$17.00	\$8,218.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$659.25
T-shirt sales	\$0.00	\$12.00
<i>Total INCOME</i>	\$271.25	\$13,987.14

<i>EXPENSES</i>		
Bird Counts	\$0.00	\$175.24
Meetings	\$20.00	\$388.30
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$31.23
Misc	\$93.40	\$251.28
Pot Luck Dinner	\$73.85	\$138.65
Publications	\$288.84	\$1,283.61
State Dues	\$0.00	\$2,480.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00	\$388.63
Taxidermy	\$0.00	\$10.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$6,410.95
<i>Total EXPENSES</i>	\$476.09	\$13,107.89

<i>Current Balances</i>	
Checking	\$964.71
Savings	\$12,043.49
Petty Cash	\$21.67

Notes
\$93.40 misc expenses to build specimen boxes
\$17. Seed sale income from left over suet cakes

Howard Bird Club Web Sites

The Howard Bird Club should have its own dedicated web page so that several members can share the burden of keeping it updated. (At present, Darius kindly provides the web host and updating on his personal account that he uses for email; but others cannot access it for updating without his password, which he should not have to provide to anyone else.)

The Board should answer three questions about this proposal:

- Should the Club get a domain name (like MOS has: MDBirds.org) which costs about \$70 for two years.
- Do we want to use a free service, which has advertisements that you can click off.
(For an example see *Maryland Plant Society* web page with and without the advertisement at www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/2996).
- Instead do we want to use a commercial provider (which involves a monthly fee) and does not display advertisements on the web page).

Below are more details:

Juno Homestead: 12 or 16 MB web space. Uses Homestead Site Builder and may require Microsoft's Java Virtual Machine (both of which can be downloaded free). Examples: see *Apple Valley High School SunSations* web page and *Carl's Hummingbird Page* web page. "You get e-mail, a calendar, domain name registration, and statistics on who's visiting your site."

Yahoo! Geocities: 10?-15MB? web space. Uses Yahoo! Page Builder (which can be downloaded free). Says "ads on web page are optional." Example: see *Maryland Native Plant Society* web page with and without ad. This site does not specifically mention use of domain names.

AOL: 10 MB web space. Uses 1-2-3 Publish and Easy Designer to create web pages (both can be downloaded free). Example: see *Southern Blues Art* web page. Two plans: \$4.95/month for three hours (plus \$2.50/hour for additional time) or \$9.95/month "bring-your-own-access" with unlimited time for individuals who already have an Internet connection. Each AOL account has up to seven screen names, each of which can have its own password. (Number of screen names may vary with the cost of the plan selected.) AOL does not permit use of domain names in the members.aol.com or hometown.aol.com domain..

Any of the sites can be edited with MS FrontPage Express or other web authoring software.

All other "free" sites investigated seem to require ads on the web page or have fine print in the terms of service that the club may not want (e.g., Xoom.com, Dotnow, Bizland, Urban Line Solutions).

Registering the domain name (e.g., www.howardbirdclub.org or www.hocobirdclub.org) for a cost of \$35/year means that a change of provider does not require change of the URL. Both of these names are available; I did a search.) See back for more information; annual registration fee can only be paid by a credit card.

Ward Ebert has offered to contribute annually to the cost of the Club's web page.

InterNIC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <http://www.internic.net>

How can I get a domain name in .com, .net or .org? Domain names ending with .com, .net or .org can be registered through many different companies (known as "registrars") that compete with one another. An alphabetical listing of these companies appears on this site.

Can I choose the registrar I want to register a domain name for my web site? Yes. You may choose any of the listed registrars.

What is involved in registering a domain name in .com, .net or .org? To register a domain name, you will be asked to provide the registrar you select with the various contact and technical information that makes up the registration. The registrar will then keep records of the contact information and submit the technical information to a central directory known as the "registry." This registry provides other computers on the Internet the information necessary to send you e-mail or to find your web site. You will also be required to enter a registration contract with the registrar, which sets forth the terms under which your registration is accepted and will be maintained.

What is the process for submitting the required registration information? Different registrars offer different means of submitting the information. Most registrars offer web-based registration services. Some offer registrations by telephone or mail. Many will work with your ISP to obtain the required information. You should go to the individual registrar's web site or otherwise contact it to determine the process it follows.

Will my name and contact information be publicly available? Yes. Information about who is responsible for domain names is publicly available to allow rapid resolution of technical problems and to permit enforcement of consumer protection, trademark, and other laws. The registrar will make this information available to the public on a "Whois" site.

How long does a registration last? Can it be renewed? Currently, the initial registration period is two years. Existing registrations can be renewed one year at a time. Beginning January 15, 2000, each registrar will have the flexibility to offer initial and renewal registrations in one-year increments, with a total registration period limit of ten years.

How much does a domain-name registration name cost? Each registrar sets the price it charges for registering names, and prices vary significantly among different registrars. In addition, some registrars offer discounted or free registration services in connection with other offerings, such as web hosting. To see what offering best meets your needs, you should go to the web sites of several of the registrars listed on this site.

When do I have to pay for my domain name? Before your domain name becomes active, you must provide a credit card number or other reasonable assurance of payment. This requirement enhances the availability of domain names by preventing them from being tied up by persons not intending to pay for registration.

Companies accredited as registrars by ICANN and currently operational:

A+ Net 5266 Eastgate Mall San Diego, CA 92121 (877) A-Plus-Net Contact: [Roy Milican](mailto:Roy.Milican@names4ever.com) (858) 458-0490 x 124 info@names4ever.com

AWRegistry P.O. Box 588 Kamas, UT 84036 US US: (877) REGNAME Intl: 18014881200 Contact: [Len Bayles](mailto:Len.Bayles@AWRegistry.net) (801) 488-1200 [len@AWRegistry.net](mailto:Len.Bayles@AWRegistry.net)

Alabanza Contact: Monika Borgers (410) 234-6593 Mborgers@alabanza.com

America Online Contact: [America Online](http://www.corp.aol.com/contact.html) www.corp.aol.com/contact.html

Domain Bank, Inc. (610) 317-9606 (888) 583-3382 Contact: Henry A. Lubsen hlubsen@domainbank.net

Domain Registration Services P.O. Box 447 Palmyra, NJ 08065 USA (888) 339-9001 Contact: John Wong (888) 339-9001 johnw@dotearth.com

DomainPeople, Inc. #120 - 10180 Telesis Court San Diego, CA 92121 US (604) 639-1680 Contact: info@domainpeople.com

Dotster, Inc 1338 Commerce Ave Suite 202 Longview, WA 98632 United States Contact: <http://www.dotster.com/about/contactus/>

eNom, Inc. 16770 NE 79th St. Suite 205 Redmond, WA 98052 USA Contact Paul Stahura (425) 883-3244 stahura@enom.com

Global Knowledge Group, Inc. 7607 Eastmark Dr. Ste.#202 College Station, TX 77840 USA (409) 693-5447 (800) 617-0412 Contact: support@gkg.net

InterAccess Co. 168 N. Clinton Chicago, IL 60661 USA (312)496-4400 Contact: domainsales@interaccess.com

Internet Domain Registrars #3800-268 Bush Street San Francisco, CA 94104 USA (415) 477-9000 or (800) 850-8282 Contact: Paul Lum paul@registrars.com

The NameIt Corporation 536 Ramsey St. Fayetteville, NC 28301 USA (910) 222-2240 Contact: Cassie Cruz info@nameit.com

NameSecure.com 1042 Country Club Drive Moraga, CA 94556 USA US: (800) 299-1288 Intl: (925) 609-1111 Contact: sales@namesecure.com

Network Solutions, Inc. 505 Huntmar Park Drive Herndon, VA 20170 Contact: (703) 742-4777 help@networksolutions.com

register.com 575 8th Avenue 11th Floor New York, NY 10018 US Contact: www.register.com/create_ticket.cgi?

Signature Domains, Inc. 4021 Laguna Street Miami, FL 33146 Contact: admin@signaturedomains.com

TierraNet, Inc. 3870 Murphy Canyon Rd. #330 San Diego, CA 92123 (877) 843-7721 Contact: support@terra.net

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 27, 2000

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin √
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)
Chapter Directors:
Kurt Schwarz (2nd yr.) √
Dave Holyoke (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter
Darius Ecker √
Mary-Jo Betts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Sue Probst. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 13, 2000 was ___ people. Bob Mumford gave a program entitled "Timeless Patterns: The Seasons at Churchill." The program was the subject of numerous favorable comments at the Board meeting. The annual election of officers was held at this meeting. The nominating committee (Bonnie Ott and Mary-Jo Betts) presented the following slate:

President: Don Waugh
Vice President: Kurt Schwarz
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emmy Holdridge
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts, & Darius Ecker, & Paula Ecker
Chapter Directors: Carol Garza, and Dave Holyoke (2nd year of two-year term)

It was moved and seconded that the slate be approved in the whole. No objections being heard, the slate was elected and will take office effective September 1.

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin):

Mike began with a discussion of the proposal from Mt. Pleasant for the Girl Scout request for support of a project to develop a Butterfly Garden as discussed at prior board meeting, followed by a discussion of other potential projects to be supported by our contributions. See Old Business.

Vice-President (Waugh): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Not present and no report. *Secr. Note: I am very appreciative of notes provided by Paul Zucker allowing me to prepare these minutes.*

Treasurer (Guion):

The treasurer's report is attached. Items to note include the last newsletter mailing and production was more expensive due to it being longer than usual and including the May Count checklists. We also had a large disbursement (\$1309.48) for the display cabinets previously approved by the Board for the Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks use with bird specimens. Lastly, Shiras announced that Emmy Holdridge is to assume duties of Treasurer this summer, as Shiras begins her duties as State MOS Treasurer.

Past President (Banks): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.): No Board meeting since last Howard Board meeting.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that the beginning bird walk (for \$20) sponsored as part of the Howard Recreation & Parks program only had two registrants so it did not take place. Bonnie spoke to those two registrants. Mike Kerwin had a good beginners walk around Wilde Lake on April 8. Attendance was about 10 people, he thought as many as 8 were not club members. Bonnie observed she has gotten several phone calls with questions about beginner walks. She thinks beginner walks are successful and should stress them next year too. The only issue is we need to get good leaders for them (this was met with general agreement by Board).

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that although the specimens have legally been transferred to Howard Recreation and Parks, they are still at her house awaiting final readiness for County to house them. The display cabinets purchased by the club are at Rec. and Parks headquarters, but when delivered they had several broken / missing glass sections.

She also reported that the club has been invited to provide a display at the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Announcements for May activities have been sent to papers and other publicity sources. Jeff stated he will need to get the yearly information on monthly meetings to the Columbia Flyer in the fall. He also plans to upload the information to the club website.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula announced that the deadline for September/October issue of The Goldfinch is July 23.

MPEA Rep. (Probst)

Sue attended a recent meeting of the MPEA and met the new director (?). He was very enthusiastic about the area and is working on a master plan. He is very interested in starting a bird banding project (he has applied for a permit). Sue also participated in the Earth Day ("Environmental Awareness Day") activities at Howard Community College. She used the club display. This led to observation that the club needs a new display board. The State MOS recently purchased a new display board that might be example. Someone (??) will get pricing information on possible types, but generally felt that for \$100-200 we could purchase a good quality (folding, changeable, lighter weight) display system.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob suggested he feels we should place comment on top of membership form stating that all information supplied (phone numbers, etc.) can be included in the Howard County Bird Club directory. (That is if members ask that information not be included they should indicate that on the form or not supply it.) Bob also indicated he now has provided for option to include two e-mail addresses in the directory.

Bob reported on the website project. A beta version is ready for testing. A few people had accessed it. One suggestion was to add a link to Mapquest so that people can get directions to locations referenced. A number of checklists have been revised (reformatted) on the web page. Bob asked all members to try out the site features. Darius volunteered to be the "backup/problem solver."

Chapter Directors (Schwarz, Holyoke): No reports.

Old Business

Mt. Pleasant proposal for Girl Scout development of Butterfly Garden: Mike provided answers to Boards previous questions.

- Deer Control – For an extra \$50/60 would add deer webbing (black netting enclosing whole garden).
- Long Term Maintenance – This is included in plans, but don't know who will be doing it in future years.
- Location – Liz Stoffel & Master Gardeners have decided on appropriate location.

Jo Solem observed that Mt. Pleasant has a new grant to build a building, which will result in more people visiting, more potential publicity for us if we support, even if this particular project doesn't have a strong birding emphasis. Mike proposed we support this project with up to \$700. The motion was seconded and carried.

Other contributions were then discussed. The support of the Old Growth Forest project at Frostburg University was then reviewed. We would expect that if we support the project we would request reports, and at some point a presentation on the project and its results. Bob Solem moved that we should contribute \$1250 to this project. The motion carried.

New Business

No new business other than that introduced in member reports above.

Action Items

- Prepare check and letter for contribution to Frostburg "Old Growth Forest" project –Guion/Stirrat
- Notify Mt. Pleasant of support for "Butterfly Garden" project and arrange for contribution – Kerwin?
- Investigate prices for Display Board systems – Probst (???)
- Miller Branch library display – (???)
- Provide comments on Beta version of Website to Bob Solem – All
- Provide information on how to add link to MapQuest to website – Darius Ecker

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 1999	-	Mary-Jo Betts	
November 18, 1999	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2000	-	Elayne Metter	
February 24, 2000	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
April 27, 2000	-	Sue Probst	
May 25, 2000	-	Kurt Schwarz	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS Treasurer's Report for 3/23/00 to 4/25/00

Paul Zucker took excellent notes during the meeting and provided them to the secretary, allowing the preparation of these minutes. If any mistakes have been introduced by the secretary's interpretation of Paul's notes please communicate necessary corrections to the secretary.

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT for 3/23/00 to 4/25/00**
Shiras Guion, Treasurer

<i>INCOME</i>	Current	Year-to Date
HowCty Book	\$0.00	\$803.36
Interest	\$58.21	\$512.22
Membership	\$45.00	\$3,844.00
Publications	\$0.00	\$41.52
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$8,218.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$659.25
T-shirt sales	\$0.00	\$12.00
<i>Total INCOME</i>	\$103.21	\$14,090.35

<i>EXPENSES</i>		
Bird Counts	\$0.00	\$175.24
Meetings	\$108.80	\$497.10
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$31.23
Misc	\$6.28	\$257.56
Pot Luck Dinner	\$0.00	\$138.65
Publications	\$95.28	\$1,378.89
State Dues	\$0.00	\$2,480.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00	\$388.63
Taxidermy	\$0.00	\$10.00
Donations	\$1,409.48	\$2,959.48
Seed Sale	\$0.00	\$6,410.95
<i>Total EXPENSES</i>	\$1,619.84	\$14,727.73

<i>Current Balances</i>	
Checking	\$639.35
Savings	\$10,852.22
Petty Cash	\$21.67

Notes

Donations
\$100. to All Creatures Great and Small Wildlife Center
\$1309.48 for Display cabinets at How Cty Rec & Parks for bird specimens

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 25, 2000

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Mike Kerwin
Vice-president: Donald Waugh √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Shiras Guion √
Past President: Maud Banks (*also State Education*)

Chapter Directors:

Kurt Schwarz (2nd yr.) √
Dave Holyoke (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Elayne Metter √
Darius Ecker √
Mary-Jo Betts √

State Committees:

Budget: Paul Zucker √
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Newsletter: Paula Ecker (*also State Education*) √
Conservation: Bob Solem
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √
Records: Jo Solem
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

Others:

Emy Holdridge √
Carolina Garza √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 11, 2000 was 57 people. Bill Bridgeland, Environmental Consultant gave a program entitled "When Birds Become Problems."

Officer's Reports

President (Kerwin): Not present.

Vice-President (Waugh):

Don called the meeting to order and made several announcements. He pointed out that Bob Solem had sent an email to the board asking for suggestions on potential revisions to the club membership survey form that is mailed with the September newsletter. He then asked Shiras to describe offer she had received in discussions with Mike Parr of the American Bird Conservancy. She related that in this conversation he had offered the potential for Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza, Director of the River of Raptors Program at Vera Cruz to speak to our club during an upcoming visit to the DC area. Recall this is organization we made a donation to with this year's seed sale proceeds. The only problem is the visit is planned for June and we don't have a meeting that month. We decided an informal meeting could potentially be arranged. Don volunteered to host such a gathering at there house. He took an action to contact the ABC and see if arrangements can be made. *Sec. Note: Subsequently we did host an informal meeting at the home of Don and Martha Waugh and heard from Mr. Inzunza on June 13, 2000.*

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Guion):

Shiras reported that she had received a thank you card from Judy Holzman of All Creatures Great and Small thanking us for our donation of \$100 to support her work with rehabilitating injured birds. She has recently completed the process of being declared a 501c.3 charitable organization. She reported that a letter and check had been sent to Frostburg State University. Shiras passed around her treasurer's report and stated it would be her last one having been treasurer for 7 years, having been secretary for the 2 years before that. Shiras has been elected

treasurer of MOS and Emy Holdridge is taking over as chapter treasurer. In response to questions about the report Shiras stated that the amount of donations this year were more than normal due to having made several this year, and because we also paid for the "display cases" for the specimen collection to be on display at Howard Recreation and Parks headquarters until the completion of nature center. Shiras concluded by stating she wanted to welcome our new board members Carol and Emy. The group expressed its appreciation with a round of applause.

Past President (Banks): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Kerwin, Etc.):

Paul reported that at the business meeting at the recent convention. He, Paul, had been elected MOS Vice-President and Shiras had been elected treasurer of the MOS. The next meeting of the MOS Board is scheduled for June 10 at a Smithsonian location in Anne Arundel County. The Publications Committee had not yet met to consider the proposals submitted by Darius Ecker, and recently submitted by Marshall Iliff. The Gifts Committee had reviewed both submissions, but how MOS will consider such proposals has not been decided, and resolution is not likely to occur soon.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Budget Committee (Zucker) No report other than above report on Board.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (E. Metter, D. Ecker, Betts) Mary-Jo had no report.

Darius reported that Bob Solem had asked the board to approve move to have the club web site officially be located at new site of www.howardbirds.org. Jeff and Bonnie had experienced some problems with new site possibly related to Netscape. However general consensus was to proceed with official transfer.

Elayne reported that she had sent Liz Stoffel a copy of the May Count tally form for Mt. Pleasant. She then expressed her farewell having chosen to not continue as one of the club's State Director's in the coming year. The board expressed our thanks for her support and efforts.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that she has made arrangements for the Fall schedule of field trips. She asked for suggestions for the winter/spring season. Paul Zucker suggested he would be able to lead a trip to Black Hill Regional Park in the coming winter. Dave Harvey is another possibility to lead a trip to Piney Run in winter. Darius suggested possibility of a Southern Maryland/Pt. Lookout trip for Martin Luther King weekend. Bonnie also mentioned plans were proceeding for the weekend trip to Cape May on Sept 22-24. Other options suggested for trips were a Blackwater NWR the first weekend in December. Bonnie observed that in her 10 years of organizing trips that the cycle seemed to have returned to increased interest in doing "out of county" trips.

Bonnie then related that the morning weekday walk had about 12 people, many of them new. Some seem only to come on weekdays. For some reason these walks are less intimidating. Leaders need to accommodate the different focus levels present in group, including beginners. We shouldn't force a transition from beginner to intermediate/advanced level unless that seems to be requested. Overall feel these trips are being successful. It was expressed that a major factor in this appears to be Bonnie's personal interactions through the store, or personal contacts. There is clearly a spread of interest from "life-style", hobby, to fringe interest.

Jeff offered that if someone wanted to write articles for the newspapers, there seemed to be considerable interest in publishing them if he submits material.

Bonnie stated that she is trying to have two weekday walks per month. She has more trips and potential leaders than there are weekends available. The proposal for Sequi-centennial walks at Centennial Parks is proceeding. The trip to the National Zoo on June 25 is filling up. The Hart-Miller trip on Sept. 9 has a limit of 15 people.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Bonnie asked if the "form" for new members should ask if you are a "Howard" lister/chaser, who would like a call or email even for birds that are not "rare."

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

No report beyond what mentioned elsewhere. Congratulations on his new grandson were offered.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula reported that the deadline for the next issue of "Goldfinch" was July 28. Darius was asked if he would add a brief article announcing the new web site.

MPEA Rep. (Probst)

Sue reported that she had asked Fran Saunders to mail information on the MOS display board. Believe cost of similar board for our club would be about \$250. Sue had discussed idea with Marty Chestem. This idea had been considered a few years ago and it was felt we should further investigate the options. It was thought a possibility that if seemed viable we could use at the Howard Count Fair display in August. Bonnie moved that we authorize spending up to \$300 for board and display materials if that seemed alright after received info from Fran. Sue agreed to pursue and get receipts after purchase.

Discussion turned to manning and coordinating the Fair display. After asking for volunteers, Sue agreed to coordinate the plans for fair. Darius agreed to setup, and Dave Holyoke volunteered to take down. Will need to confirm with Tom Strikwerda that he will make arrangements with Fair Board. The Fair is week of Aug. 5 – 12. Last was discussion that we should update the sign-up sheets used with display.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Schwarz, Holyoke): Dave had no report.

Kurt expressed he is still opposed to the idea of MOS sponsoring a World Series of Birding team. He cited correspondence from ABA and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology indicating that because of corporate sponsorship they are able to limit ratio of cost to raise \$1 to 15 cents compared to the MOS ratio which is much higher. He was encouraged to express his sentiments to the MOS state board in a personal letter.

Kurt also stated that he had reached 300 life birds at convention, and had 301 in finding Dickcissel on way home.

Old Business

Shiras reported that Mike Kerwin had contacted Mt. Pleasant right after the prior meeting and arrived at agreement to sponsor the Butterfly Garden project of Girl Scout troop. Shiras wrote a check for \$614 to them shortly after that.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items

None outstanding beyond those discussed in officer reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 1999	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 1999	-	Mary-Jo Betts	
November 18, 1999	-	Mike Kerwin	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2000	-	Elayne Metter	
February 24, 2000	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
April 27, 2000	-	Sue Probst	
May 25, 2000	-	Kurt Schwarz	(Joint meeting with new and old members)
September 28, 2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2000	-	Dave Holyoke	

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter of MOS – Treasurer’s Report for 5/1/00 to 5/25/00
- Howard County Chapter of MOS – 5/1/99 to 4/30/00, Treasurer’s Final Report

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2000

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √
Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Mike Kerwin
Chapter Directors:
 Dave Holyoke (2nd yr.) √
 Carol Garza (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*) √

Others:

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker √
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Education: Maud Banks

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 14, 2000 was 65 people. Matt Perry of Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD gave a program entitled "Patuxent Wildlife Research Center: Sixty years of Research and Management."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don passed around various material he had received in the mail. One of these was a copy of the new MOS publicity brochure developed by the State Publicity Committee. The brochure is available for our use in promoting MOS and has a space on the back for us to place Chapter specific contact information. The Board discussed this and decided the appropriate annotation would include the Chapter name and the URL for our web site. Bob Solem indicated he could print this material on some of the brochures. It was pointed out that our own club brochure had not been redesigned for some time, but that it has a lot of information we want on it, and to redesign it might involve leaving off some information. However, it was agreed that if someone wants to volunteer to consider a redesign the board would consider the pros and cons of change.

Don reported he had received a call from Mike McClure expressing concern with club activities being promoted primarily by email vice the newsletter. His specific reference was to the Cape May trip. The Board discussed this and concluded that although ensuring all club membership is notified of activities, there will be times when email will offer the only way to provide timely notice. Unfortunately this will necessarily result in those without email or those not wanting to be on the club email distribution list not receiving timely notification. It was the consensus that we would not preclude the club making use of this new method of easy and timely communication of issues and announcements. Bob stated that he is preparing the club membership directory and it will include email addresses provided on the membership survey unless people specifically indicated they did not want it to be included or contact him directly.

Don made observed that Shiras Guion who had been a member of Board, first as Secretary and then for seven years as club Treasurer is now State MOS Treasurer. The club is very appreciative of her years of service to the Chapter. Don also expressed appreciation for the contributions of our Past President, Mike Kerwin. Don will decide on appropriate ways to express the Club's thanks to these two members.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt announced that he had seen acknowledgement of our contribution to the “River of Raptors Project” in the American Bird Conservancy March newsletter. (Chuck passed around a copy of the article. He is receiving the newsletter and ABC mailings as his address was on letter forwarding our contribution.) Kurt also made reference to the Cornell Bird Source web site which is using radar tracking of birds as a research tool and to an organization associated with preserving an area in which Robert Ridgely recently discovered a new species of Ant-Pita. Kurt thought there might be reason to consider one or both of these as possibilities for future grants. Kurt also announced that the sound system which had appeared to be missing at our Sept. meeting was located at conclusion of meeting (it was in the container under the projector table). Lastly he announced that “The Big Sit” will be held Sunday Oct 22 (vice Saturday as reported in newsletter). The corrected dates for both the Big Sit and seed sale are on the web site.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck reported that he had received letters of thanks from Frostburg State University for our contribution to the Old Growth Forest project.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy provided a verbal Treasurer’s report as she was still learning the job. (*Sec. Note: Emy subsequently provided an electronic copy of her report that is attached to these minutes.*) It was reported that contributions to the John Clegg Memorial fund had reached around \$800.

Past President (Kerwin): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Etc.):

The State Board met at the Anita Leight Estuary Center in Abington, MD on September 9. Paul gave an abbreviated summary focused on action items. As the State Vice-President he will not keep as complete a set of notes as in the past so other members attending should assist in this process. Paul is concentrating on identifying action items in his role as VP. One key discussion focused on the Long Range Planning committee request for each of the MOS Committees to formulate a mission statement for their committees consistent with the MOS Mission statement. These statements should address strong points and weaknesses to allow evaluation of shortcomings. The Publicity committee under Fran Saunders has prepared such a planning document. The hope is to arrive at a set of Strategic Planning Instructions. A committee composed of President Karen Morley, Vice President Paul Zucker, and several Past Presidents have worked up a set of proposed MOS Administrative Procedures that was distributed at the meeting. These provide for all new proposals to be supplied to the President in advance, the President will pass these to the appropriate committee for consideration before presenting to the entire Board, and hopefully avoid proposals to the Board without prior consideration and notification in the proposed agenda. The intent is to try adhering to these procedures for a while and if it works well then add them to the official Manual of Operations. MOS has received a large bequest of up to \$500,000 from the estate of Ms. Shankle (sp?). Additional information about the bequest and her involvement with MOS is being sought. Paul reported that the proposal from M. Illiff for support in his developing a State Site Guide has been received, but neither his or the earlier proposal has been addressed by the Publication Committee. This was not discussed at this MOS Board meeting.

After hearing the above discussion of strategic planning, Don asked whether the Chapter Board felt we could benefit from a more organized look at our strategic goals. It was pointed out that this would be a significant effort and we might want to wait until the State process matures a little more before deciding on this. Another thought expressed was that we might want to address a more strategic approach to how we decide on what our grant giving is intended to do.

Other news from State included fact that Rich Dolesch has stepped down as MOS Conservation chairman due to a potential perception of conflict of interest in his new position with state government. Maureen Harvey is the new Chairman.

Bonnie asked Paul if he could look into having the process for issuing MOS license plates reorganized. Mary-Jo echoed her belief that this is very much needed. Paul agreed to see who could do this for the State Board.

The next MOS convention will be at Salisbury State University in August, 2000.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks):

Paula plans to place an article in the upcoming newsletter about the MOS Scholarship program. It was reported that a article appeared this week in the Columbia Flyer and Howard County Times announcing this program. Jeff Friedhoffer said he had not sent any such announcement as part of his publicity announcements. I suggested that Fran Saunders had been issuing press releases and that this might be a result of her work. Someone thought that the article referred to Jeff, but after examining the article following the meeting it is clearly from a state release. It referred to Jean Fry the state Education chair, not Jeff. *(Sec. Note – MOS news releases are available on the MOS web site)*

State Vice President/Budget Committee (Zucker)

See State Board meeting report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) Not present.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker) Mary-Jo and Paula had no additional reports.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that she is pleased with way trips are going and she plans to continue the same approach. The weekday walks have been quite successful with 15-20 participants. Most are fairly new birders and most are club members. The Cape May weekend trip had nearly 35 participants and was very successful despite the weather. Kate Tufts has agreed to plan a 3-day weekend trip to Ocean City over the Martin Luther King holiday. Bonnie reported that she had visited the Butterfly Garden at Mt. Pleasant that we had given a grant for. She felt it was done very nicely and it did have extensive deer fencing as we had urged. She felt it was clear someone has been keeping the garden in good shape.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that Bob Bogden, who had been active in the club 10 or more years ago, recently moved and had chosen not to take a 60” x 60” slide screen with him and had donated it to the club. So if we need one for the pot luck or other meetings it is available. On another topic she reported that as part of the Middle Patuxent wetland restoration at the U of MD Central Farm a controlled burn to enhance grassland habitat was being proposed. She stated that the club’s support for this proposal has been expressed to those responsible for the project. A page listing those Birders with Howard County lists in excess of 200 species has been posted on the club web site. Unlike the annual lists published in the Yellowthroat that requires current submissions, this page will not delete records already established even if the person is no longer submitting new reports.

Jo reported that as the person designated to receive memorial donations in memory of John Clegg she had approached Eileen to see if she had a preference for how the money should be used. Eileen has stated that it is up to the Board to decide, but mentioned or reacted favorably to ideas such as support of MOS sanctuaries, Rec and Park meadow seeding projects. It was decided the Board should give this consideration and address it again at the next Board meeting.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff stated he had a fun time on the Cape May weekend trip. He has still been sending out publicity announcement for meetings and trips and some of them appear to be being picked up for inclusion. It was noted that the notices for the last two trips in October newsletter did not include starting times.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

The seed sale is scheduled for October 28. Don had confirmed that Eileen still wanted to be the Seed Sale Coordinator. The announcement has been mailed. It was suggested we should all volunteer to help as much as possible as Eileen can use the help, especially on the day of the sale. Although only a limited amount of seed is kept for those not making arrangements to pick up seed during the sale, if any is to be kept it would have to be handled by someone other than Eileen as this was one of the things John had done. Bonnie suggested that her

employer, The Wildlife Authority, might have space to store it for pickup, and she would ask. It was pointed out that in recent years most unclaimed seed is sent back to the distributor with the truck, and thus this may not be needed.

Bob reported that he had received an inquiry form Allan Jefferson about the chips he bought in last year's sale which had a large infestation of moths, and he had been forced to throw it away. He wondered if others had this same problem. It was stated that this is a fairly common occurrence, especially if not stored in metal cans in a cool location, and that although this was best it was no guarantee. It was also expressed that the seed is still usable after the hatch of moths, but obviously if the storage was not outside, this might be unsatisfactory.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): See education committee for her report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst) No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the total seed sale contributions made by the club since the original seed sale was \$47,544. Bob has put together a list summarizing the past contributions and is maintaining it. He also received a letter from someone in the county government working on the deer overpopulation problem. They were pleased at his efforts to educate people to the issues of over population, especially citing the article appearing on the seed sale brochure.

Discussion of the deer population motivated Paul to express concern over the safety issue of birding in areas with hunters that occurs because the Fall Count is held on the first Saturday of deer season (bow & black powder). He wonders if consideration should be given to holding this count on a Sunday in future years. He stated he would like to see this given consideration at the state level. The pros and cons of Sunday counts were quickly discussed, and Chuck, as State Fall Count Coordinator, agreed it should be discussed further.

Chapter Directors (Holyoke, Garza):

Dave had no report but it was noted he will host the next board meeting. Carol stated she was glad to be present as the new chapter director.

Old Business – See officer reports.

New Business – See officer reports.

Action Items

- Consider possible uses for Clegg memorial donations and discuss at next Board meeting. (All)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28,2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26,2000	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 16, 2000	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2001	-		
February 22, 2001	-		
March 22, 2001	-		
April 26, 2001	-		
May 24, 2001	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter, MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/00 – 9/28/00 (received after meeting)
- MOS Brochure, "When You're Ready for a Closer Look at Birds ..."
- Letter to Dr. Durland Shumway, Asst. Professor, Forest Ecology, forwarding donation of \$1250 to the Shumway Project with focus on ornithology research as part of old growth forest research, May 26,2000
- Thank you letters from Gary Horowitz, Vice President for University Advancement (June 20, 2000) and Catherine R. Gira, President (July 14, 2000), Frostburg State University
- "Conservation Counterparts Picks Up the Pace", American Bird Conservancy newsletter BIRD CALLS, March 2000
- "Scholarships offered by Ornithological Society", The Howard County Times, Sept. 28, 2000
- "To Drink From A River, To Swim in the Milky Way, Reflections from Veracruz, Autumn 1999 by Clay Sutton, in New Jersey Audubon, Spring 2000 (handout at meeting)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/00-9/28/00

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County		13.00
Donations	32.50	32.50
Education Grant		
Interest		
Membership	1,952.50	2,035.00
Publications	98.70	99.70
T-shirt Sales		
Total	<u>2,083.70</u>	<u>2,180.20</u>
Expense		
Donations		1,250.00
Fair & Bird Counts	89.10	89.10
Hospitality		17.62
Meetings	72.00	147.00
Miscellaneous		
Pot Luck Dinner		
Publications	398.43	398.43
Sales Tax		
State Dues		
Taxidermy		
Total	<u>559.53</u>	<u>1,902.15</u>
Gain/Loss	<u>1,524.17</u>	<u>278.05</u>
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales		
Rent		
Total		
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total		
Gain/Loss		
Memorial Fund - John Clegg		
Income		
Memorial Gifts	800.00	800.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		2,766.54
Savings		9,230.15
Cash		21.67
Total		<u>12,018.36</u>

Note: Donations = \$1,250 to the Biology Research Fund at Frostburg State University. E. Holdridge

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2000

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √
Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Mike Kerwin
Chapter Directors:
 Dave Holyoke (2nd yr.) √
 Carol Garza (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*) √

Education: Maud Banks
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Dave Holyoke. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 12 was ___ people. Dave Harvey gave a program entitled "Birds of Eastern Australia and Papua New Guinea." Jane Geuder also showed a video on "Birders Exchange" a program of ABA and Manomet Bird Observatory to provide used birding equipment to environmental education and research programs and groups in Central and South America.

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don summarized a number of topics that had come to his attention. First was the need to change where the November Board meeting would be held. Don volunteered to host that meeting. He had received a request from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation asking to exchange newsletters with us. Bob will add them to our mailing list. Don had received the MD Teaming with Wildlife September newsletter that stressed support for the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). It was pointed out that subsequently in the final congressional action CARA did not pass but a weaker compromise legislation had been reached. Don also reported receipt of a letter from WSSC at Brighton Dam announcing the Larry Iager (our point of contact) was retired and the new contact will be Tony Frye.

In other matters Don had received a letter from member Susan Buswell recommending the Board consider a donation to the Wildlife Care Center of Belize and offering to match any donation at rate of \$1 for any \$2 donated by the club up to \$250. Don stated it was his intention to hold this and any other suggestions for consideration all at once when we address who to donate this year's seed sale proceeds to.

Discussion then turned to the presentation on Birder's Exchange and suggestions made at the club's last meeting. Although the suggestion had been made that the club might want to run a collection, it was pointed out that the program requires the donations be "good quality" equipment not in need of repair. It was decided that this would probably be more effort than the chapter would want to pursue, but it might be a possible idea for the annual MOS Conference in that statewide there might be enough interest to make it worthwhile. Jane Geuder had inquired about increasing the amount she sent to Birder's Exchange in excess of \$10 video rental. It was concluded that it

was within her budgetary discretion as the Program Chairman to do this and an amount like \$25 would seem appropriate. Lastly a brief discussion of the seed feeders at the Library's occurred and it was decided keeping feeder at Central Facility during its closure for renovation did not make much sense.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt was ill and not present but had sent a report on the Big Sit with Bonnie. The 29 participants had observed 55 species in 10.75 hours of watching (sitting). The club intends to continue this as an annual event since it was so well supported. Bonnie was asked to request Kurt to write a short article on the Sit for the newsletter.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck reported that he had received a note from Maureen Harvey in response to prior Board minutes thanking him for including her as a recipient as the new State MOS Conservation Chair. She offered one suggestion to consider for the John Clegg memorial asking if there was anyplace in the county that would be a logical location for a bird observation blind that could be dedicated to John. See further discussion of the Clegg memorial below in Jo Solem's Records report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy put one of the Board on report for not having yet paid his annual dues (the host found his checkbook before the evening was over). She distributed copies of the month's treasurer report which is attached to these minutes. She pointed out that the \$281 miscellaneous expense was payment for the new display board authorized for purchase last spring. The seed income amount still has tax included. She also reported that she has received the state dues notice but has not yet paid it.

Past President (Kerwin): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Etc.): No state board meeting since prior Chapter Board meeting.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker): Not present.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): Not present.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker)

Mary-Jo reported she has to prepare articles for next newsletter on both the Mid-Winter Count and the Pot-Luck Dinner. The Board authorized her to contact Maud Banks about having pot-luck on either Sat. Feb. 24 or March 3 if the facility is available. Mary-Jo then announced that Carol Garza had volunteered to take over the task of personally calling all prior members who did not renew this year to remind them or determine why they chose not to renew. Bob announced that he was about to mail the final reminder and after allowing a time for response he would provide Carol the remaining list of non-renewals in mid- November. Bonnie asked for a copy of list so that she can remind any of these people who visit the Wildlife Authority that without renewing they no longer qualify for the club discount (subtle pressure). She had already done this with success for a couple of renewals, that wrote checks to renew on the spot.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported she had conversation with Mark Raab of Howard Rec and Parks. He told her he could provide funding for publishing a checklist for Font Hill Park. The list for park is growing but doesn't have enough data to support any kind of abundance or seasonal data. Jane Coskren as Park List coordinator is working on Schooley Mill Park list currently. It was proposed she be informed of Mark's offer and consider doing Font Hill as next list. Bonnie also mentioned that Mark offered he would be willing to let club members visit county areas that

are generally closed to public, citing Carr's Mill disposal area as one possibility. Bonnie stated that the club's walks seem to be going very well. She mentioned that her major concern is getting people to volunteer as leaders, so she isn't doing as many of them. She asked for suggestions, and admitted she already was trying bribery and arm twisting. There was some discussion of possibility of training leaders. She also mentioned that there seemed to be increased interest in trips outside the county and she would attempt to increase diversity in this regard. One example is Paul Zucker has volunteered to lead a joint chapter trip to Black Hills Regional Park in Montgomery County.

Programs (Geuder): Not present. See discussion under President's report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that she had contacted Howard County Rec and Parks about possible ideas for using the Clegg memorial funds. They have not been back to her yet, but one idea that still seems viable is the idea of funding a meadow planting. Board will discuss further after get feedback from county. On another matter Jo reported we would need to reorder the clubs information brochure shortly so that if we are going to seriously reconsider redesign now would be a good time. It was mentioned that Sue Probst might have interest but was not present today.

Jo also summarized several miscellaneous items, including that she has been working on an article about the bird club with an environmental slant (e.g. need for meadows) for the League of Women Voters newsletter. Club member June Flikren?? is active in the League and asked Jo to write article. The web page with those having Howard County lists greater than 200 species has been updated with a few additions.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff mentioned that the Flyer had this week's walk announced and the Sesqui-Centennial Walk series have been sent to papers. Bonnie mentioned that one girl remarked to her at store that she had gone to one walk reported in paper (PennySaver?) and that no one showed up. No one had any explanations other than possibility the announcement may have been published with error in date.

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Not present but following comments related to seed sale were noted. The seed sale is scheduled for Oct. 28. Carol Garza stated she had called Eileen and volunteered to help, several others made similar comments. Bonnie has made arrangements to store excess seed at the store for later delivery.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): The next newsletter deadline is November 24.

MPEA Rep. (Probst): Not present.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Holyoke, Garza): No reports.

Old Business

See officer reports for discussion of prior business.

New Business

No new business other than that broached during officer reports.

Action Items

None.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28,2000 - Bonnie Ott

October 26,2000	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 16, 2000	-	Don Waugh	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2001	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
February 22, 2001	-	Jo Solem	
March 22, 2001	-		
April 26, 2001	-		
May 24, 2001	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter – MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/01/2000 – 10/26/2000

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, MOS

TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/00-10/26/00

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County	96.96	277.36
Donations	185.00	217.50
Education Grant		
Interest		
Membership	627.50	2,662.50
Publications		16.00
T-shirt Sales		
Total	909.46	3,173.36
Expense		
Donations		1,250.00
Fair & Bird Counts		89.10
Hospitality		17.62
Meetings	50.00	197.00
Miscellaneous	281.14	281.14
Pot Luck Dinner		
Publications		398.43
Sales Tax		
State Dues		
Taxidermy		
Total	331.14	2,233.29
Gain/Loss	578.32	940.07
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales	3,996.00	3,996.00
Rent		
Total	3,996.00	3,996.00
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total		
Gain/Loss		
Memorial Fund - John Clegg		
Income		
Memorial Gifts		800.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		7,340.86
Savings		9,230.15
Cash		21.67
Total		16,592.68

Note: Donations = \$1,250 to the Biology Research Fund at Frostburg University.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 16, 2000

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √
Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Mike Kerwin
Chapter Directors:
 Dave Holyoke (2nd yr.) √
 Carol Garza (1st yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*)

Others:

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Education: Maud Banks

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Don Waugh. Total number in attendance was 9. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 9, 2000 was 63 people. Gene Scarpulla gave a program entitled "Hart-Miller Island: A Brief History Through Time."

Most of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Jeff Schweerjohann, Natural Resource Manager of the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA). Jeff can be reached at (410) 313-4726 or at:

Howard County Dept of Recreation and Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Rd.
Columbia MD 21046-1677

Jeff presented 6 options for the John Clegg Memorial. Any project would have to start after January and could be completed in 1 year. There will be no plaques as the county is trying to get away from this and future replacement of construction projects would be the responsibility of the county.

1. Bridge (could carve John Clegg's name into bridge)
2. Boardwalk (similar to Font Hill)
3. Kiosk
4. Outdoor Classroom (funding would cover 2-3)
5. Tower (probably too expensive)
6. Grassland (there is an approved management plan. Maintenance would be up to the county)

All are described in detail in his handout. He said all estimates in the handout are rough and cover materials only. The county volunteers labor and maintenance.

The board preferred the grassland and felt it would be Eileen's preference as well. The second choice was the bridge, followed closely by the boardwalk. The grassland was preferred because of the benefits to wildlife and the fact that it could be named after John Clegg, with his name appearing on maps. There was some concern about the cost, and the risk of failure to successfully establish the grassland. There is also some doubt about the total funding

for the project which could include as much as 30 acres of grassland. The John Clegg memorial fund would be enough for one acre, which would be situated at the entrance.

Bonnie suggested that we could add seed sale money to the memorial fund to provide additional funding. Emmy said there would be \$1,200 or \$1,300 available and that there was about \$300 donated without restrictions. That would bring us to about \$2,500 which would fund about 2 acres.

The board agreed to revisit the issue at the January meeting after Jo gets additional information from Jeff S. Eileen will have veto power over any choice.

Jeff S. mentioned a possible MPEA walk in the future. He also said a college student would be completing a Woodcock survey in February. The board informed him about the 10 scholarships available for Audubon camps and he agreed to spread the word. There is a 1/31 deadline for applications.

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don passed out some materials he received in the mail. He plans to submit the story about the White-Fronted Goose Sherry Perusi (sp?) and Ken Board (sp?) found to Chapter Chatter.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt gave the attendance figures for the last meeting.

Secretary (Stirrat): Not present

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy provided the Treasurer's report. She said the \$1,700 profit figure was too high since there were some outstanding bills for the seed sale and sales tax. There are also some state dues to be paid.

Past President (Kerwin): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Etc.): Not present

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): Not present

State Vice President/Budget Committee (Zucker) Not Present

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) Not present.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker) Mary-Jo said the pot luck could be either 02/24 or 03/10. The facility was not available for the other date. The board agreed that 03/10 was a better choice since the weather was likely to be better. Mary-Jo explained that Maude pays the deposit for the facility. The cost is \$50.00 for the first 3 hours and \$12.00 for each additional hour. We then get 10% off the total. When we know the entire price, we pay it and reimburse Maude. We plan to rent the facility from 6PM to 10PM

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie has 30 trips scheduled from 01/01 through 05/31. She is pushing hard to get other people to lead trips. Trip leaders don't need to know all the birds. People still have a good time even if the leader is not an expert.

22 people have signed up for the Ocean City trip, which was announced in the last newsletter.

The UM Central Farm trip will have a maximum of 16 people

Programs (Geuder): Not Present

Records (J. Solem): No report

Publicity (Friedhoffer): Not present

Seed Sale (Clegg): Not present

Newsletter (P. Ecker): Not present

MPEA Rep. (Probst) Not present

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob had no conservation report. He is working on renewals. The current count is 243 with 21 juniors. Renewal effort should be done before Thanksgiving and Carol will be reimbursed for any costs. Bob will send his mailing list to Kurt and Mary-Jo.

Chapter Directors (Holyoke, Garza): No report

Old Business – See officer reports.

New Business – See officer reports.

Action Items

- Revisit Clegg Memorial fund issue after January meeting
- Bob to provide Kurt and Mary-Jo with his mailing list
- Jo to obtain more information from Jeff S. regarding Clegg Memorial projects
- Don to submit story about goose to Chapter Chatter

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28,2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26,2000	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 16, 2000	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2001	-		
February 22, 2001	-		
March 22, 2001	-		
April 26, 2001	-		
May 24, 2001	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter, MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/00 – 11/16/00
- John Clegg Memorial Preliminary Proposals Middle Patuxent Environmental Area 11/16/00 (paper copy only)

Minutes submitted by:

Dave Holyoke
Chapter Director, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/00-11/16/00

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County	83.70	361.06
Donations	105.00	322.50
Education Grant		
Interest		
Membership	715.00	3,377.50
Publications		16.00
T-shirt Sales		
Total	<u>903.70</u>	<u>4,077.06</u>
Expense		
Donations		1,250.00
Fair & Bird Counts		89.10
Hospitality		17.62
Meetings	50.00	247.00
Miscellaneous	67.19	348.33
Pot Luck Dinner		
Publications	183.43	581.86
Sales Tax		
State Dues	1,850.00	1,850.00
Taxidermy		
Total	<u>2,150.62</u>	<u>4,383.91</u>
Gain/Loss	<u>(1,246.92)</u>	<u>(306.85)</u>
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales	3,094.50	7,090.50
Rent		
Total		
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous	73.09	73.09
Rent	25.00	25.00
Seed	5,229.39	5,229.39
Sales Tax		
Total	5,327.48	5,327.48
Gain/Loss		1,763.02
Memorial Fund - John Clegg		
Income		
Memorial Gifts	185.00	985.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		4,045.70
Savings		9,230.15
Cash		21.67
Total		<u>13,297.52</u>

Note: Donations = \$1,250 to the Biology Research Fund at Frostburg State University. E. Holdridge

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2001

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Dave Holyoke (2nd yr.) √

Carol Garza (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker √

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*) √

Education:

Maud Banks

Conservation:

Maureen Harvey

Nominations:

Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips:

Bonnie Ott √

Programs:

Jane Geuder

Seed Sale:

Eileen Clegg

Conservation:

Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative:

Suzanne Probst

Records:

Jo Solem √

Publicity Director:

Jeff Friedhoffer √

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Friedhoffer. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 14, 2000 was ?? people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "Cuba: You Can't Get There from Here." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 11, 2001 was ~75 people. The scheduled speaker, Dr. Charles Stine, was unable to attend due to personal matters. Members present described various items of general interest and the meeting adjourned early.

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don reported that the nominating committee (B. Ott, M. Betts, & D. Holyoke) had been named and was working on identification of this year's slate of officers. They need to identify a new Chapter director. He reported that the County Executive's office had called and that the Schooley Mill Park Checklist had been completed. Don also mentioned plans for an MPT program, that the script was ready for but scheduled broadcast unknown. (*Sec. Note: Is this different than Bonnie's role in Outdoors MD spot. My notes unclear?*) Kurt mentioned at this point that Karen Darcy's sighting of the White-winged Crossbill had appeared in the most recent edition of North American Birds.

The recent inability of the club speaker to make a meeting triggered a discussion of what contingency plans we could have in place. It was pointed out that Jo has put together a slide tray on Maryland Birds that might be used in such a situation. This would require that someone always brought this slide tray to meetings as a contingency and that Jo or another person could use as an informal brief or quiz session if the regular speaker couldn't make the meeting. No final resolution was reached on this discussion.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

After Kurt made a plea for a volunteer to take over responsibility for bringing the audio visual equipment to monthly meetings, Dave Holyoke volunteered to take over this responsibility. Chuck volunteered to be Dave's backup since he lives near Dave and could pick up equipment when Dave wasn't going to be available.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emmy distributed the Treasurer's report for 5/1/2000 to 1/23/2001. She made note of the fact that the income item for Interest was for several months. The negative month entry for Seed Sale Income Sales was due to a decrement transfer for club membership. The profit from seed sale to date was \$1,308.75. The Clegg memorial gifts to date were \$985.

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Etc.):

Chuck reminded the Board that the State MOS Board had met on Dec. 9 at Black Hill Regional Park in Montgomery County. Maureen Harvey had given a briefing on a refocusing of the state Conservation Committee activity. She is the new chairman of this committee. There was a briefing and request for support from the Horsehead Sanctuary director. This request was for prompt help but the Board tabled it for this meeting. The previously announced bequest from a former member of the Baltimore Chapter in the amount of ~\$500K has been confirmed. Details of this women's life and background were described and will appear in an upcoming Yellowthroat article. Jane Coskren announced that a decision has been reached to launch the Maryland Atlas project in the year 2002.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) No report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker)

Darius had no report. See Newsletter below for Paula report.

Mary-Jo announced that plans for the winter count and pot-luck were proceeding on track.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie announced that she has agreed to lead a WSSC walk for Earth Day. A walk jointly sponsored by us and the Howard County Conservancy is set for Mt. Pleasant in April, Mike Kerwin will lead this walk. Bonnie solicited ideas for other walks. She stated that Craig Sholley had proposed the club host a pelagic trip. This would require about 15 participants to get a boat. Bonnie proposed to write a short article with a call for expressions of interest in a coming newsletter. She asked if others had received the mailing from the Pocano Watershed conservation group which had a very interesting checklist. Many present had received the mailing. Lastly Bonnie announced she has begun working to arrange for the summer/fall trips and would like suggestions. One proposal was that we might consider trips that would support the Jan. 2002 atlas project start. For example a trip/walk focused on "How to do a Bird Count" or one on Birding by Ear might be beneficial.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo proposed several items that are discussed below under both Old and New Business. Jo asked that if anyone has historic pictures of club activities she would like to get copies.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff announced that he had distributed information on the club's February activities.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula would like to receive additional newsletter articles. The next deadline was the following Friday.

MPEA Rep. (Probst): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the MD legislature is considering a bill on Maryland Chesapeake Bay Critical areas and is focused on the Coastal Bays on the ocean side of the Eastern shore. He had recently received a mailing from the Assateague Coastal Trust and plans to write a conservation article for the next newsletter.

Bob also reported that he will shortly report the annual club membership report. The numbers suggest we will maintain our membership sufficient to have at least three state Director positions.

Chapter Directors (Holyoke, Garza):

Carol had no report. Dave stated he had no report, but appreciation for his preparation of the prior Board minutes were expressed.

Old Business

Jo presented the current status on the John Clegg memorial possibilities. Jeff Schwierjohann has informed us that he has received an additional \$4K in grant funding from the Roughed Grouse Society for the grassland project at MPEA. He has an additional \$2500 in support and this means with the Clegg memorial he would have the necessary funds to proceed. He expects additional funding but proposes we can proceed with some work in March. This will involve beginning the clearing of Autumn Olive and treating with herbicide an area of 10-12 acres in preparation for a warm season grass habitat. A section of this grassland would be dedicated to the memory of John Clegg., the "Clegg Grassland." The club agreed that we should tell Jeff we support proceeding and have an initial support of \$1000 available, and may have more either from added Clegg memorial funds or other funds such as from the seed sale. The cost of establishing grassland is estimated at \$1200-1500 per acre and will also require annual maintenance funds. Eileen has indicated she will support some level of annual maintenance such as mowing.. It was noted that the warm weather grassland in the wet area at the U of MD Central Farm has been very successful, but that the MPEA location was a dry upper field and thus would be a different habitat.

New Business

Jo indicated that as the bird collection had been turned over to Howard County the moving of boxes of birds from their "library" reveals other "treasures". The one and a half boxes of the pamphlet "Attracting Birds in the Maryland Piedmont" need to be disposed of. Jo proposes to let Bonnie try and have the Wildlife Authority offer them as a promotion for cost or less. The Board concurred that if they could be made available to interested parties with no more than publicity to the club that would be worthwhile as the likelihood of sales were minimal. Jo also indicated that we are now down to only one box of the "Birding Howard County" book.

Action Items

In discussing future State MOS Board meeting it was proposed if we could find an appropriate location the club might offer to host the December, 2001 meeting. Chuck Stirrat agreed to look into whether a room at JHU/APL might be made available as was done in December 1999,

Bonnie agreed to contact Elayne Metter and see if she wanted to host the Board for the March meeting. Don Waugh agreed to be backup for this date if Elayne wasn't able to host. *Sec. Note Elayne was unable to host.*

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28,2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26,2000	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 16, 2000	-	Don Waugh	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2001	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
February 22, 2001	-	Jo Solem	
March 22, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
April 26, 2001	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 24, 2001	-	Mary-Jo Betts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter, MOS – Treasurer’s Report 5/1/00 – 1/23/01
- E-mail from Jo Solem, dated Nov 20, 2000, Subject: John Clegg Memorial MPEA
- John Clegg Memorial Grassland Proposal, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, 14 Dec 2000

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/00-1/23/01

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County	167.40	528.46
Donations	15.26	337.76
Interest	190.90	190.90
Membership	497.50	3,875.00
Publications		16.00
Total	871.06	4,948.12
Expense		
Donations		1,250.00
Fair & Bird Counts		89.10
Hospitality		17.62
Meetings	100.00	347.00
Miscellaneous	57.24	405.57
Publications	291.81	873.67
Sales Tax	2.78	2.78
State Dues		1,850.00
Total	451.83	4,835.74
Gain/Loss		112.38
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales	-105.00	6,985.50
Total		
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		73.09
Rent		25.00
Seed		5,229.39
Sales Tax	349.27	349.27
Total	349.27	6,985.50
Gain/Loss		1,308.75
Memorial Fund - John Clegg		
Income		
Memorial Gifts		985.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		3,820.02
Savings		9,421.05
Cash		21.67
Total		<u>13,262.74</u>

E. Holdridge

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 1, 2001

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Dave Holyoke (2nd yr.) √

Carol Garza (1st yr.)

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*)

Education: Maud Banks

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

This meeting was rescheduled when the regular February Board meeting was rescheduled from its original date of February 22 due to a forecast of snow. Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held Feb. 8, 2001 was 63 people. Loyd Tydings (a substitute for Corin Parks) from Carrie Murray Nature Center gave a program entitled "The Role of Bird Rehabilitation in Conservation and Education."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

The nominations committee has reported the slate for the next year is the same as for this past year. The only addition is for the new Chapter Director who will be Kate Tufts. Next a brief discussion of planning for the pot luck dinner was held. *Sec. Note: Details are not recorded here, but the pot luck was a success as a result.* Don reported that he had received a thank you letter from the Birder's Exchange for the club's gift of \$50. This was an expense that Jane Geuder had made from her annual Program funds to acknowledge the use of the Birder's Exchange video at a recent club meeting. Don also stated that he had sent thank you notes to Ruth Pacheco the artist who prepared the drawing on cover of the new Schooley Mill checklist. He also had sent thank you's to those at Howard Recreation and Parks who worked on the checklist and has invited them to attend next club meeting and be recognized. Their names are LuAnn _____ and Linda Simpson (*need to confirm names*).

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported on a recent article describing how conditions in Russia have resulted in Siberian Tigers eating pets.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck acknowledged he needs to make arrangements with JHU/APL for use of the Lab cafeteria/meeting room for an MOS State Board meeting in December.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy distributed the attached Treasurer's Report. The report motivated a discussion of gifts which is recorded below under Old Business. As a result Emy provided Chuck with a check for the All Creatures Great and Small to be mailed with a letter. In addition Jo agreed to contact Eileen and let her know the nominal balance remaining for one acre of grassland after applying the memorial gifts will be \$90. Emy will also need to know who to write the check for the MPEA grassland project to.

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Etc.): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) No report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) See Jo Solem report for details on Atlas project.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker) No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported she had received the most recent Yellowthroat and all of the Howard bird walks and events had been submitted in time for them to be published. She has been asked to lead a bird walk for WSSC as part of their Earth Day programs. This was published as part of a special enclosure in the Howard County Times. The walk will be held at 10:30 AM on the Montgomery side of the Brighton Dam. She also was contacted by Metzler's and gave a talk on attracting birds to your yard. She asked if there would be interest in publishing a newsletter article on who should submit seasonal records. Jo agreed to include an amplifying paragraph on this in her next article with the winter season report. Lastly Bonnie reported that her appearance on the MD Outdoors program was scheduled for Friday March 2.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that the winter count compilation has been completed. She also reported receiving a request from the Savage Branch of the Howard County Library for bird club brochures., which had been rapidly responded to. Jo reported that she and Bonnie Ott have volunteered to be the Howard County coordinators for the next Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas project which will commence in Jan. 2002. Jane Farrell is the chairman of the statewide committee. The committee is now meeting monthly. Plans are to use the recent large bequest to MOS for early support of the atlas. The desire is to not tie the project to DNR support which was somewhat of an issue with the prior atlas. A cooperative arrangement has been setup with the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge for them to help with record entry and database maintenance. There will be a five year period of field work. The committee is working on refining the field work methodology. Jo urged everyone present to get involved and promote interest with the entire club and birding community. Everyone should watch for places to obtain access to private properties that normally would not receive coverage. Individuals interested in being quadrangle coordinators should contact Jo or Bonnie.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst):

Suzanne has been working on a redesign of the chapter brochure which had been proposed when we saw the new state MOS brochure. Although our brochure needs to convey much greater information content than the State one, Sue had made several improvements in the appearance and minor reorganization of our brochure. She passed around a draft which received excellent review and comments on its professional look. Since there are only about a 100 of the existing brochure remaining this would be good time to make a change. Sue asked for someone to proof read her latest version, and Jo agreed to do this. After this review it was agreed the new brochure should be printed. It was agreed we should check with those currently listed as POCs on the brochure to confirm they want to continue as such, and that Bonnie might better be listed first with some annotation that she handles field walk queries. The Board expressed its sincere thanks to Sue for her efforts. Sue also reported that she is working with the Baltimore Chapter and the Carrie Murray Nature Center on bird list brochure designs for them.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob passed out the attached membership report that he prepares each year at this time. The club membership passed the 300 level again this year, after being below this level since 1996. This reflects an increase in both renewal levels and new memberships. Bob also discussed the comment period on the State Mute Swan task force report, and reported that the State MOS was preparing a letter providing a formal position on the report and the swan issue. He passed out a copy of a draft of this letter. He also passed out a copy of a draft prepared by club member Richard Orr on behalf of the Audubon Science Advisory Committee that urged DNR to act more strongly in dealing with the mute swan issue than the Mute Swan Task Force had recommended. Lastly Bob reported that he had received a letter from The Howard County Conservancy asking our support for their application for a collection permit from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Since they are seeking this as part of their education program at Mt. Pleasant the Board agreed to offer this support. After discussion Chuck was tasked to send a letter providing the requested support for this application.

Chapter Directors (Holyoke, Garza):

No reports.

Old Business

Jo provided an update on the status of the Clegg Memorial planning. Eileen is currently thinking the best time for dedication ceremony will be late May/early June while Andrew will still be here and weather more cooperative. Jo obtained an estimate that the approximate cost per acre of grassland will be about \$1100. The county will need check by late March/early April to know how many acres to begin development on. The seed sale profit this year was \$1308.75. We need to decide how to dispense this for a worthwhile purpose. It was pointed out we have been making a gift to support the local bird rehabilitation organization run by Judy Holzman, and had last made a \$100 contribution last April.

It was moved and seconded that the club would use \$1100 of the seed sale funds for an additional acre of warm weather grasslands at the MPEA site. This was approved unanimously. This acre is in addition to the original acre funded from the Clegg memorial funds. It was moved by Jo, seconded and approved that \$100 be given to Judy Holzman of "All Creatures Great and Small, Wildlife, Inc." to support her activities as a bird rehabilitation resource in the local area. The club includes her address and phone on our brochure. Lastly it was noted that club member Susan Buswell last fall requested the board consider a gift to the Wildlife Care Center of Belize, a non-profit rehabilitation facility for rescued and confiscated wildlife. It was agreed that Don would inform her the Board chose to apply this year's seed sale proceeds to spend on local habitat restoration and local rehabilitation services.

New Business

Mixed in with officer reports and possibly under old business.

Action Items

Chuck to write letters to Howard Conservancy and Judy Holzman.

Don to inform Susan Buswell on club decision regarding her suggestion for use of funds.

Jo to proof read brochure draft and then after Suzanne completes have copies made.
Jo to inform Emy where check for grassland needs to be sent.
Chuck still has to make arrangements for State Board meeting in December at APL.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28,2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26,2000	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 16, 2000	-	Don Waugh	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2001	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
February 22, 2001	-	Jo Solem	(Actually held March 1 due to snow cancelllation)
March 22, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
April 26, 2001	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 24, 2001	-	Mary-Jo Betts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Treasurer's Report – Howard County Chapter MOS – 5/1/00 to 2/22/01
- List of Howard County Club Contributions for Habitat – 9/28/2000
- Draft of MOS letter stating position on Mute Swan Management Plan
- Draft of Audubon Science Advisory Committee comments on Mute Swan Management Plan – R. Orr
- Letter from The Howard County Conservancy – Jan 6, 2001
- Annual Membership Report for 00-01 Membership Year
- Letter to The Howard County Conservancy supporting permit request – March 20, 2001

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/00-02/21/00

General Accounts	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income		
Birding Howard County		528.46
Donations		337.76
Education Grant		
Interest		190.90
Membership	132.50	4,007.50
Publications		16.00
T-shirt Sales		
Total	<u>132.50</u>	<u>5,080.62</u>
Expense		
Donations		1,250.00
Fair & Bird Counts	92.30	181.40
Hospitality	37.14	54.75
Meetings	50.00	397.00
Miscellaneous		405.57
Pot Luck Dinner		
Publications		873.67
Sales Tax		2.78
State Dues	820.00	2,670.00
Taxidermy		
Total	<u>999.44</u>	<u>5,835.17</u>
Gain/Loss		<u>(754.55)</u>
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales		6,985.50
Rent		
Total		<u>6,985.50</u>
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		73.09
Rent		25.00
Seed		5,229.39
Sales Tax		349.27
Total		<u>5,676.75</u>
Gain/Loss		<u>1,308.75</u>
Memorial Fund - John Clegg		
Income	25.00	<u>1,010.00</u>
Memorial Gifts		
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		2,910.58
Savings		9,421.05
Cash		21.67
Total		<u>12,353.30</u>

Note: Donations = \$1,250 to the Biology Research Fund at Frostburg University.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2001

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Dave Holyoke (2nd yr.) √

Carol Garza (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker √

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*) √

Education:

Maud Banks

Conservation:

Maureen Harvey

Nominations:

Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips:

Bonnie Ott √

Programs:

Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship:

Eileen Clegg

Conservation:

Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative:

Suzanne Probst

Records:

Jo Solem √

Publicity Director:

Jeff Friedhoffer √

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Don and Martha Waugh. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 8, 2001 was 58 people. Scott Crabtree gave a program entitled "Birding the Other/Outer(?) Aleutians."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don acknowledged he still needs to write letter to Susan Buswell relating the club's decision to use this year's seed sale proceeds for a project other than the one she had proposed. He relayed a request from Norm Saunders soliciting people to support the MOS World Series of Birding team.

Vice-President (Schwarz): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

No report, but acknowledged he still needed to send letter to Judy Holzman with check for All Creatures Great and Small, Wildlife, Inc. *Secr. Note – the letter(attached) and check sent March 24, and a thank you note received acknowledging grant.*

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emmy passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report (attached). A discussion of the Clegg memorial resulted (see Old Business).

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Etc.):

Paul Zucker reviewed the meeting highlights. Several other Chapter members who attended added their observations as well. Paul passed out a copy of this year's state budget (attached). MOS will have to have a professional audit this year since the large bequest received raised income above level mandating this be done. The Atlas budget item of \$25,000 will be funded by the interest on the Shenkel bequest for this first year. Discussion of the Atlas reminded someone that we had approved plan to issue a challenge grant for the atlas once the atlas effort began. It was agreed we would need to discuss in future. The Gifts committee had recommended against giving the Horsehead Sanctuary the \$20,000 they had requested for operating expenses. The Board concurred but did approve a grant of \$5000. There was a discussion of the furor created by some people's behavior in viewing the Snowy Owl near Lilly Ponds, and the action MOS had taken to try and improve relations with the area residents. Plans for the coming MOS Conference at Salisbury were presented (MOS website has details and brochure to mail shortly.) Jane Farrell gave a presentation about the Atlas project. Lastly a volunteer to chair the Education Committee is needed. The Scholarship committee has awarded the maximum possible number of scholarships and had a large number of qualified applicants. Several new camp locations were identified since several of the regular Audubon Camps are closed for renovation.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) See above.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker, Banks): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker)

See State Board meeting summary. The Board expressed its thanks to Mary-Jo for her excellent efforts coordinating the recent pot-luck.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that several people had attended the recent presentation by the Sutton's at Oregon Ridge and enjoyed it very much. A PC crash had caused her to be less visible on MDOSprey, but a new PC had just arrived. Bonnie had talked to Eileen Clegg about when to hold the memorial grassland dedication at MPEA. Tentative date was May 19 in late afternoon. (*Secr. Note: It was announced at April club meeting that dedication will be held Sunday, May 20 at 7:00 PM.*) Bonnie expressed her pleasure and mortification that the county Rec and Parks people repeated last year's plans for club to lead a bird walk on Saturday, March 31 at Centennial in their brochure. Bonnie was pleased for the publicity but they didn't check with her and she has a conflict. If enough people sign up that the county decides to hold trip (it was cancelled last year), Darius agreed to lead the walk. A second walk is offered in June and she can handle it.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo mentioned that the information meeting on "Non-lethal Deer Population Control" sponsored by Howard Rec and Parks is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wed. March 28 at River Hill High School in Clarksville. Although originally the program was to have a minimum fee, it is now free. *Sec. Note: Several club members attended.*

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported that he had sent out the April publicity announcements. He added a new newsletter for people over 50 being published by the Howard County Business Monthly to those he sends information to. In response to a query about the Laurel Leader, he was informed it is published by Patuxent Publishing so he should just indicate to them that items might be appropriate for inclusion in the Leader as well as Flyer and Howard County Times.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Deadline for next issue was the day following meeting.

MPEA Rep. (Probst) No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

The Maryland Legislature was still in session but no major issues. Bob still was trying to decide what he would prepare for a conservation column in the coming newsletter.

Chapter Directors (Holyoke, Garza): No report.

Old Business

Jo had spoken to Eileen Clegg concerning the small balance required for the Clegg memorial grassland first acre. Eileen asked if the club would donate the remaining balance. Jo moved we authorize an additional \$90 to make up the balance of cost on the "memorial acre." This was seconded and approved unanimously.

New Business None.

Action Items

Old Items:

Chuck to write letters to Howard Conservancy and Judy Holzman. (Closed)

Don to inform Susan Buswell on club decision regarding her suggestion for use of funds.

Jo to proof read brochure draft and then after Suzanne completes have copies made.

Jo to inform Emy where check for grassland needs to be sent.

Chuck still has to make arrangements for State Board meeting in December at APL.

New Items:

Board to revisit when would be an appropriate time for issuing the Atlas challenge grant.

Kurt agreed to post an announcement of the April meeting (one week early) on MDOsprey. (closed)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28,2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26,2000	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 16, 2000	-	Don Waugh	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2001	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
February 22, 2001	-	Jo Solem	(Delayed till March 1)
March 22, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
April 26, 2001	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 24, 2001	-	Mary-Jo Betts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS-Treasurer's Report, 5/1/00 – 3/21/2001
- Letter to All Creatures Great and Small, Wildlife, Inc. (enclosed check for \$100) – March 24, 2001
- Maryland Ornithological Society – Proposed Budget – 2001-2002

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS -TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/00-03/21/00

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County	50.22	578.68
Donations		337.76
Education Grant		
Interest	84.62	275.52
Membership	45.00	4,052.50
Publications	30.00	46.00
T-shirt Sales		
Total	<u>209.84</u>	<u>5,290.46</u>
Expense		
Donations	100.00	1,350.00
Fair & Bird Counts		181.40
Hospitality		54.76
Meetings	104.00	501.00
Miscellaneous	146.00	551.57
Pot Luck Dinner	99.83	99.83
Publications	218.15	1,091.82
Sales Tax		2.78
State Dues	10.00	2,680.00
Taxidermy		
Total	<u>677.98</u>	<u>6,513.16</u>
Gain/Loss		<u><u>(1,222.70)</u></u>
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales		6,985.50
Rent		
Total		<u>6,985.50</u>
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		73.09
Rent		25.00
Seed		5,229.39
Sales Tax		349.27
Total		<u>5,676.75</u>
Gain/Loss		<u><u>1,308.75</u></u>
Memorial Fund - John Clegg		
Income		
Memorial Gifts		<u><u>1,010.00</u></u>
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		2,425.32
Savings		9,505.67
Cash		21.67
Total		<u><u>11,952.66</u></u>

Note: Donations = \$1,250 to the Biology Research Fund at Frostburg University.
 + \$100 to All Creatures Great and Small

E. Holdridge

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2001

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

1999-2000 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Dave Holyoke (2nd yr.) √

Carol Garza (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*) √

Conservation:

Maureen Harvey

Nominations:

Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips:

Bonnie Ott √

Programs:

Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship:

Eileen Clegg

Conservation:

Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative:

Suzanne Probst

Records:

Jo Solem √

Publicity Director:

Jeff Friedhoffer

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 5 was 62 people. Craig Sholley gave a program entitled "Birds and Mammals of Northern Tanzania."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don reported that the mailing group had just completed mailing the MOS Conference brochure.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported that prior to leading the walk at Meadowbrook he received 4 phone calls from non-club members who had seen the announcement in various publicity sources. Three of those people attended. Kurt expressed appreciation for Jeff Friedhoffer's efforts at publicity, and the success it was having. Don mentioned he had received phone calls about the regular club meeting as well.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck indicated he would be on a trip to Jamaica during the next Board meeting, and would need a volunteer to take minutes. Dave Holyoke volunteered to take minutes at the May Board meeting.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy passed out the attached Treasurer's Report. Note the distribution to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation of the Clegg memorial funds and the clubs donation of funds for a second acre of the warm weather grasses project.

Emy then described that the current signatories on the Money Market account with T. Rowe Price have not been changed in many years and are Shiras Guion and Jo Solem. It is necessary to update these as both Shiras and Jo would prefer a change, and it would be better to have Emy and a couple of other current officers on the list. Emy

has been trying to determine the procedure for change and finally has the appropriate forms in hand. After discussion the board decided that three people were the right number of signatories. The Board unanimously approved the following three officers should be given signature authority (and it was not necessary that multiple signatures appear on checks):

Emmalyn Holdridge, Treasurer
Kurt R. Schwarz, Vice-President
Charles R. Stirrat, Secretary.

The secretary was directed to complete and submit the appropriate forms.

Past President (Kerwin): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Etc.): No state meeting in past month.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) Not present.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren):

Jo Solem reported that atlas planning is proceeding. Jo and Bonnie are co-coordinators for Howard County. See new business for a related item.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker)

Mary-Jo was excited at finding a summer tanager for Howard County at Henryton. She announced that she was originally to host the May Board meeting, but it had been decided that Bonnie would host instead. The change is reflected in the new newsletter.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie had been approached by the Bon Secours group about having an organized survey of the birds on their 300 acres of property off Marriottsville Road. She was scheduled to visit and organize visits in the near future.

Bonnie then pointed out that those opposed to the extension of N. Ridge Road near Heartlands were citing potential loss of Cerulean Warbler habitat as a reason to not proceed. This unsubstantiated and exaggerated claim appeared in several local papers.

Bonnie reported that the fall walks are now being planned. She was planning not to repeat the Cape May trip, for fear of over doing it. Consensus was that perhaps on alternate years was a better approach. The annual mid-winter trip seemed to be a good idea annually as the winter birding opportunities are less.

Lastly she raised the question of how to determine who should be provided copies of the club letter of access for the U. of MD Central Farm. It was decided that the original intent was to have a limited number of members authorized to collect data on the farm, and yet restrict access closely to avoid any chance of losing permission to take organized trips to the farm. Those limited few agreed to all the rules and restrictions involved, including being willing to lead others as appropriate. The Board concluded that currently there are a sufficient number of people with access letters and that until they are no longer available to continue the data collection and lead others, no need to add others to the authorized list exists. In no case was the negotiation with the farm intended to provide access to just anyone who asked or desired to bird the farm on their own. During this discussion it was again reiterated that all internet postings should not identify the farm or other private property as where birds were found.

After this discussion, the idea of writing an article for the newsletter on the ethics of birding was proposed. It could use examples of private property access and field trip etiquette (look at the ABA set).

Programs (Geuder): Not present.

Records (J. Solem): See Atlas and new business.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): Not present.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula asked that anyone who had proposed changes for the annual membership application to bring their changes to the May meeting of the board. Dave Holyoke expressed interest in learning about the newsletter preparation process and being an assistant and backup to Paula. She eagerly accepted this offer, especially given the problems she had with her computer during the preparation of the current newsletter.

MPEA Rep. (Probst) Not present.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that it has become clear that the resistance to active control of the Mute Swan problem on the Chesapeake is coming from Governor Glendenning's office not DNR. The governor is responding to strong pressure from animal rights groups. Bob asked if perhaps an organized email campaign might be organized. He was asked to discuss with Maureen Harvey who is the State MOS Conservation chairperson. Kurt pointed out that as a Chapter we have been skirting the "issue" regarding hunting and the deer population. We agreed our basic position that "control" is needed in both cases and that our role was to publicize the issue and educate the membership and public on the issue. Bob may formulate an email to send to the club membership.

Bob lead a wild flower walk at Mt. Pleasant on Earth Day.

Chapter Directors (Holyoke, Garza):

Dave was a co-leader with Mike Kerwin of a bird walk at Mt. Pleasant as part of their Earth Day activities. The walk had about 15 people. Mike did the lecturing and Dave found and pointed out the birds. He felt it was a great success, especially good for kids. Having a short walk as part of a larger organized event is an ideal situation to introduce beginners.

Carol had no report.

Old Business

The new club brochure has been published, and copies were passed around. The consensus was it looked great, thanks to Sue Probst efforts.

New Business

Jo Solem reviewed the need for spending a small amount of funds for various Atlas project materials, e.g. maps and notebooks. She stated that the State Atlas Committee is providing 4 sets of topographic maps, printer cartridges, etc. The state would like chapters to give all funds to the state and then ask them for what we need. However it seems appropriate to have a small contingency of funds for purchase of small items without that extra overhead. We discussed that the intent was that much of the proceeds from the Howard County book were intended to support the next atlas project. As part of this discussion a piece of old business arose. We reviewed fact that the Board had already approved a plan to issue a challenge grant up to \$5000 for the atlas. Bob moved that the Board authorize that these funds be announced at the next MOS state board meeting in the form of a challenge grant of \$1000 per year for the five year atlas period. This was seconded and approved unanimously. Jo will tell Jane

Coskren that she should announce discuss this at the next Atlas meeting and announce it at the next State MOS board meeting on June 9. Lastly it was moved, seconded, and approved to authorize Jo and Bonnie to spend up to \$300 for local atlas project material expenses.

The subject of a potential increase in the State MOS dues was raised. It was decided that if this happens the chapter should also consider raising our local dues at the same time. Further discussion of this was tabled for the time being.

Action Items

Old Items:

Don to inform Susan Buswell on club decision regarding her suggestion for use of funds. (CLOSED)

Jo to proof read brochure draft and then after Suzanne completes have copies made. (CLOSED)

Jo to inform Emy where check for grassland needs to be sent. (CLOSED)

Chuck to make arrangements for State Board meeting in December at APL. (OPEN)

Board to revisit when would be an appropriate time for issuing the Atlas challenge grant. (CLOSED)

New Items:

Chuck to complete T. Rowe Price forms to change signatories on money market fund.

Jo to inform Jane Coskren about the challenge grant announcement.

Bob to discuss potential further action on mute swan control with Maureen Harvey.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28,2000	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26,2000	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 16, 2000	-	Don Waugh	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2001	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
February 22, 2001	-	Jo Solem	(Delayed till March 1)
March 22, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
April 26, 2001	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 24, 2001	-	Mary-Jo Betts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS-Treasurer's Report, 5/1/00 – 4/26/2001

Minutes submitted by:

Original signed by Charles R. Stirrat

Charles R. Stirrat

Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/00-04/26/01**

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County	14.55	593.23
Donations		337.76
Education Grant		
Interest	41.39	316.91
Membership	47.50	4,100.00
Publications		46.00
T-shirt Sales		
Total	103.44	5,393.90
Expense		
Donations	1,190.00	2,540.00
Fair & Bird Counts		181.40
Hospitality		54.76
Meetings	86.00	587.00
Miscellaneous	18.15	569.72
Pot Luck Dinner		99.83
Publications		1,091.82
Sales Tax		2.78
State Dues		2,680.00
Taxidermy		
Total	1,294.15	7,807.31
Gain/Loss		(2,413.41)
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales		6,985.50
Rent		
Total		6,985.50
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		73.09
Rent		25.00
Seed		5,229.39
Sales Tax		349.27
Total		5,676.75
Gain/Loss		1,308.75
Memorial Fund - John Clegg		
Income		1,010.00
Gift to Middle Patuxent Environ Foundation		(1,010.00)
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		181.37
Savings		9,547.06
Cash		23.52
Total		9,751.95

Note: Donations = \$1,250 to the Biology Research Fund at Frostburg University.
+ \$100 to All Creatures Great and Small + \$1,190 to Middle Patuxent Environ Foundation

E. Holdridge

Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting, - Minutes
24 May 2001

Attendance:

Don Waugh, President
Kurt Schwarz, Vice President
Bonnie Ott, Field Trip Chair/Nomination Committee
Mary Jo Betts, Nomination Committee, Ms. Do-It-All
Kate Tufts, Chapter Director (new)

General Notes: Hosted by Bonnie Ott, who treated us all to fine views (wing puffs included) of her, at the time, resident Olive-sided Flycatcher. Unfortunately, that day's Summer Tanager and Mourning Warbler didn't linger until the Board Meeting.

President: Don spoke with Mike McClure concerning the U MD Central Farm access letters. Don learned that four to five were originally issued, but an unknown number of copies had since been made. The decision to not issue any more copies was reaffirmed (did we even have a quorum?), and Bonnie said she'd compose an article for the GOLDFINCH on access to the Farm and other sensitive areas like Mt. Pleasant and Bon Secours. It was hoped that such an article would clear the air, and preclude any more requests for access. It was noted that some of the current letter holders are apparently unaware that they have received a copy. Kurt suggested that they be asked to relinquish those letters (in hopes HE'D get one!!!), but it was decided, I think, to just leave them moribund.

Don also noted he'd received a letter from MOS President concerning the need to raise dues. Current MOS income just barely covers expenses, and the need to increase income is becoming acute. Don mentioned Bob Solem has a new dues figure in mind, but didn't share it!!! New dues likely to kick in in 2002, and I think we've agreed that we might as well increase the Chapter dues, too.

Nomination Committee: Bonnie reported the Jeff Friedhoffer has agreed to be Vice President (contingent upon being elected!).

Bonnie also reported that Sue Probst wishes to drop the Hospitality Chair. So a new person will be needed. It was suggested to troll the membership renewals for a potential new candidate. Bonnie will cover for the September meeting.

Treasury: Bonnie passed on news from Emmie that there was no news nor activity in the Club's accounts for the past month.

Notes ineptly taken, and typed by Kurt Schwarz (he obviously has not mastered the intricacies of MSWord).

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 2001

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2000-2001 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Carol Garza (2nd yr.) √

Kate Tufts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker √

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*) √

Education: ??

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Don Waugh. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 13, 2001 was ___ people. Dr. Charles Stine gave a program entitled "Maryland Coast to Crest: A Look at our State's Biodiversity."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don reported that Jo had asked that we have a discussion of the rare bird alert process. Recently this has been handled as both an email alert and the phone tree. Our original system of phone tree calling was intended to only be activated as a true "rare" bird alert. With the onset of the email alert there has been a tendency to initiate alerts with less rare sightings, but one that might be considered "lister" alerts. Jo asked that we consider the differences between a "rare bird" alert and a "listers" alert given the amount of effort involved in the phone tree which is not as well staffed and organized as it once was. The current survey form with the application implies one can ask for both email and phone notification. It was decided that next year's application should imply preference for email and generally not both. Individuals may request special situations, but generally if email is appropriate individuals should not expect the phone call as well. It was also agreed that individuals who don't respond to the survey as to whether they are interested in rare bird alert or being notified of "lister" (email only) alerts they shouldn't expect they will automatically be carried over. The form with next year's application should make these distinctions clear.

The memorial for Majorie Mountjoy was scheduled for the Sunday following this board meeting at the Waugh's.

Don made reference to an expected increase in state MOS dues, which we discussed further as part of the Treasurer's report (see below).

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt had sent around an email exploring the matter of placing a link to the Howard County Conservancy (Mt. Pleasant) web site and they in turn linking their site to ours. The board concluded this was entirely appropriate and our Webmaster (Bob Solem) should go ahead and implement this.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy provided a copy of the Treasurer's Report for the current month. She also had prepared a potential budget for the coming year based on the experience of prior year. The obvious message in this budget was that our annual operating expenditures are exceeding income from Chapter dues. Given that the state is likely to increase dues for state next year it is likely we should raise the Chapter dues as well rather than have increases in separate years. The Board began an initial discussion but agreed to continue discussion in future meetings. It appears that an increase of approximately \$5 per member would barely make us even with expenditures, so consideration needs to be given to an even greater increase so that several years could pass before another increase is needed. Some proposed we probably needed an increase on the order of 70-100%. Kate Tufts asked if we had considered alternative money raising approaches, such as advertising in news letter or charge non-members for field trips. The general reaction was that we should really expect dues to cover basic operating expenses, and their would be negative side effects to such alternative ways of raising money.

In reviewing the monthly report, a question was raised relative to our pledge to state for up to \$5000 in a matching grant for the atlas project. Emy agreed to contact Shiras on whether we should be able to plan to extend such a pledge over the period of the atlas project, and when an initial input would be appropriate.

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Betts, Ecker's, Etc.): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) No report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren)

Jo reported that the first meeting of the County Coordinators had occurred the prior Saturday. She also noted that the upcoming club meeting in October would feature Chan Robbins describing the Atlas process. She mentioned that experienced "field birder's" would likely be asked to assist with "block busting" in other parts of the state in subsequent years, due to limited coverage in parts of the state. Jo concluded with her enthusiastic endorsement of the fun and "addictive" nature of the project which will "contribute to the science" of bird life in our region.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker) No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that she had some recent issues with field trip leaders whose "style" didn't work out. She felt that she needed to come up with a "tactful" way to ensure leaders adhered to the advertised description of a trip. That is the trip should last roughly the advertised duration and involve the advertised type of walking and conditions. She will draft a set of guidelines for trip leaders for the Board to review. It was also pointed out that we might want to reprint the ABA ethics rules, especially as regards the use of tapes.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem): See atlas report and discussion of rare bird alert in President's report.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg):

Don reported that Eileen may have a personal commitment on the day of sale. Mary-Jo volunteered to act as the on-site coordinator at the sale if Eileen is unable to attend. Eileen still plans to handle the preparations in advance of the sale.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst)

Sue initiated a discussion of a potential new Nature Center in the county. Howard Rec & Parks has discussed use of the building on the Volmerhausen property they have near Savage Mill Park. Sue also pointed out that the Howard County Conservancy has initiated a fund raising project for an Education Building/Nature Center at Mt. Pleasant. This project is seeking a budget of \$.5 – 1.0M. Sue asked that the Board consider whether we want to take a position on any of these projects and that with the Mountjoy bequest we might consider this a possible use. Another potential location mentioned was the Smith property along MD 175. Don expressed opinion that we not envision using the bequest to help build such a center, since the cost of such a center would dwarf this amount of gift. It was generally agreed to divorce this discussion from the decision of how to use the bequest. It was pointed out that the club has never truly made an effort to lobby the county on our interest in such a center. It was agreed we probably should take a more active political role in this process. The recent establishment of a new consortium of organizations interested in conservation within the county may provide a perfect opportunity. We may want to try and raise the level of “political clout” the club could represent. It was concluded that Sue should do some homework and return to the board what the status of various initiatives in the county regarding a nature center are:

- 1) County Nature Center (new capital project);
- 2) Smith Farm;
- 3) Howard County Conservancy.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob passed around a draft of a new brochure describing Odenates of Howard County. He envisions that printing costs will be around 40 cents, and that it could sell for 50 cents. Only one page will need to be revised annually. The list serves as a beginners Odenate list. Bob asked that the Board endorse funding the initial printing of this list and offering it for sale. There is some possibility that the County might actually back the printing cost. The Board approved this proposal. It was also agreed that the web site and a future newsletter article might include a list of all the publications (and their costs) that the club provides.

Bob also announced that he plans to send an email around November 1 to verify that he has the correct email address for all members who have supplied one with their membership application.

Chapter Directors (Garza, Tufts): No report/

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

Several board members agreed to undertake various tasks, but none considered official action items.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
October 25, 2001	-	Bonnie Ott	
November 15, 2001	-	Suzanne Probst	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2002	-	Don Waugh	
February 21, 2002	-	Jo & Bob Solem	
March 28, 2002	-	Kate Tufts	
April 25, 2002	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 23, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS Treasurer’s Report– Sept. 2001 (TBS)
- Proposed Budget for Chapter – 2001-2002 (TBS)
- Letter acknowledging gift to MPE Foundation for Grasslands Restoration, May 14, 2001

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 25, 2001

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2000-2001 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Carol Garza (2nd yr.)

Kate Tufts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker √

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*) √

Education: ??

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 11, 2001 was ~50 people. Chandler S. Robbins gave a program entitled "The Joy of Atlasing" assisted by Jo Solem.

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don reported that the absence of refreshments at the last club meeting was because Carol Newman had forgotten about need to arrange for them. Subsequently the membership surveys have been reviewed for volunteers to provide refreshments and these names will be passed to Carol.

Don reported that he had received a letter from the Orphans Court regarding a pending hearing about the Mountjoy estate. It was felt this would not impact the bequest for the club.

Don had received a query about the date for the State MOS Board meeting next June. The issue was that with the State Conference being held at Wisp in Garrett County on June 7-9, the regular meeting would be the next week. The query was to consider delaying the meeting till June 22 vice the normal weekend which would occur only one week after the Conference. The club board members had no problem with this change.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt stated he had not counted attendance at the recent club meeting, hence the approximation in the introductory paragraph of these minutes. Kurt also briefly described the "sitting" at the "Big Sit" held on the prior Sunday.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Arrangements have been made for the chapter to host the State Board meeting at JHU/APL on December 8. The Executive Secretary, Larry Fry needs to receive directions for inclusion in his mailing. Chuck agreed he would provide this to Larry before his deadline of November 14. *Sec. Note – Done subsequent to the meeting.*

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy reported that the donations being received with memberships and seed sale are doing well. Receipt of new memberships is slowing, but is about the same as last year. In reviewing the Treasurer's report (attached) she pointed out the expenses paid to Sue Probst for the fair display listed under miscellaneous. The seed sale gross she was showing is about \$300 higher than last year. It was noted that the expenses for the seed sale are not yet reflected in her report.

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Betts, Ecker's, Etc.):

Kurt pointed out the recent Yellowthroat article by President Karen Morley announcing that the Board would be considering a raise in State dues to cover operating expenses. Don repeated that the article and Board requests have asked the chapters to provide feedback and inputs on this proposal. Bob has provided his personal feedback that in general the Board should double the dues for all categories in order to avoid the need to be raising dues again in a short period. There was a short discussion of the pros and cons of raising dues "just enough" to cover current operating expense shortfall or including a "pad" that will preclude immediate need to considerate another increase. Emy expressed her concern that a raise in state dues coupled with an anticipated "local" Chapter increase will be perceived by some as "too big" and will cause some members not to renew membership. Jo urged us to be sure and listen to the "smaller" chapters situation as they are probably the most subject to membership decreases. Don was urged to announce that both the State and Chapter dues will likely increase next year and that if members were urged to share their opinions with the chapter board so that the sense of chapter could be reflected in our deliberations and in state deliberations. In response to query if we could reduce our mailing costs by using email, Bob pointed out that if our mailing list falls below certain bulk mail limits our cost/letter goes up so that little or no saving would result.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) No report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker) No reports.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie remarked that there had been a significant presence of non-Howard County birders on recent field trips. This is likely due to her posts on the MDOSprey. She also reported that the Nominations committee has already settled on a slate for next Spring. Kevin Heffernan has agreed to be the new Chapter Director.

Programs (Geuder):

In a program related topic Darius indicated that having access to a video projector would be a nice to have option. This would permit projection of digital photo images and video tapes at club meetings. He is scheduled to give January program and would like to have a video projector. Jeff thought he could get access to one through work but we discussed other options as well. Someone suggested checking on use of the library meeting rooms which it was believed have such equipment (special case meetings).

Bonnie pointed out that the use of name tags at meetings had not been occurring due to Carol Garza not being able to attend regularly. It was proposed that we could just lay them on table, but after discussion it was decided to be successful someone would need to promote their use. Kate (and Kurt) agreed to take this on as a responsibility for upcoming meetings.

Records (J. Solem): No report. She did find several opportunities to promote atlas project.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff had sent the November information to his publicity outlets. It was noted that the Washington Post was doing a nice job and were frequently contacting Bonnie for additional information. The Columbia Flyer has also been routinely including our activities. Jeff said that "Generations" magazine had also picked up on several of his items.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg):

Mary-Jo has agreed to coordinate activities on the day of sale as Eileen will be out of town. There was a discussion of whether we could use a larger room than on recent sales due to the addition of a coke machine in the small room used last few years. Bonnie pointed out that the Wildlife Authority might subsidize this if that would aid in getting a larger room for display of products. It was discussed that largely this was a function of other church functions and to some extent cost. Mary-Jo said she would pursue this during an upcoming session with Eileen at the church to familiarize her with the process. *Sec. Note – We ultimately did have access to the larger room for this sale.* Don agreed to make sure the coffee maker was available for the sale. Kurt volunteered to bring food for the volunteers working at the sale. A brief discussion of options for what to do if there is seed still left at end of sale and the truck has left was held but no definitive plan was reached.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula agreed to act as coordinator for food to cater the State MOS Board meeting at APL on Dec. 8. It was pointed out that we should be sure a call for volunteers to provide "goodies" should be made at the November club meeting.

MPEA Rep. (Probst) No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the "Photo Page" on the club web site was now working and pictures were being solicited.

Chapter Directors (Garza, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

See officer reports. None outstanding.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
October 25, 2001	-	Bonnie Ott	
November 15, 2001	-	Suzanne Probst	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2002	-	Don Waugh	
February 21, 2002	-	Jo & Bob Solem	
March 28, 2002	-	Kate Tufts	
April 25, 2002	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 23, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report 5/1/01 – 10/24/01

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/01-10/24/01

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County	10.00	244.36
Donations	405.25	417.75
Interest	44.88	215.45
Membership	637.50	2,605.00
Publications		38.70
Total	1,097.63	3,521.26
Expense		
Donations		
Fair & Bird Counts		89.41
Hospitality		
Meetings	50.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	55.76	215.58
Pot Luck Dinner		
Publications	149.00	774.39
Sales Tax		
State Dues		
Total	254.76	1,229.38
Gain/Loss		2,291.88
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales	7,695.50	7,695.50
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		83.66
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total	-	83.66
Gain/Loss		7,611.84
Special Funds		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		10,000.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		10,329.64
Savings		19,260.51
Cash		63.52
Total		29,653.67

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 15, 2001

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2000-2001 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Carol Garza (2nd yr.)

Kate Tufts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts

Darius Ecker

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*)

Education: ??

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst √

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Sue Probst. Total number in attendance was seven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 8, 2001 was 52 people. David Brinker gave a program entitled "What a Wonderful Bird is the Pelican ... Brown Pelicans in Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don Waugh reported that someone has been lined up to supply refreshments for each of the remaining club meetings for the rest of this season. Refreshments should be there by 7:30.

The Pot Luck is scheduled for March 2nd, Mary-Jo is coordinating.

Maud Banks will not be able to take charge of her usual area for this year's winter count. She hopes Kurt will take it over. *Sec. Note: Kurt is coordinating Area 7 for the Winter Count.*

Don commented that it is impression that the membership seems to be in agreement with the proposed \$10 increase in dues.

Vice-President (Schwarz): Not present.

Secretary (Stirrat): Not present.

Sec. Note: Kate Tufts graciously took notes and provided a draft of these minutes.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy Holdridge presented the Treasurer's report (see attachment). She commented that the credit shown in the donation area is a reversal of an error. She reported that there are still 55 former members with outstanding dues. Kate Tufts has agreed she will call them and personally remind them that they have not renewed. The seed sale

proceeds are better than last year. Proceeds of the sale are estimated to be about \$1900. The current bank balances total \$22,839.17. It was reported that we have not paid any of the challenge grant for the Atlas as no one has met the challenge at this point. The nature of the challenge is to motivate other chapters to raise funds so that a challenger would have to be another MOS chapter. We were \$90 short on the second acre of the John Clegg Memorial Fund. Eileen Clegg paid the \$90.

Past President (Kerwin): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Betts, Ecker's, Etc.): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) Not present.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): Not present.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) Not present.

Jo Solem reported that the atlas project is moving forward. Almost all blocks have been assigned. Many blocks have two or more people covering them. The atlas coordinator has been hired, but cannot be announced until Dec. 1. The atlas handbook is in its final stages and should be out in January. Jo will have a page in a future Yellowthroat and/or Goldfinch to describe the atlas project.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker)

Paula Ecker is coordinating food for the upcoming December meeting of the State MOS Board meeting at APL. She still needs volunteers to provide food for the meeting. *Sec. Note: The club's support of this meeting was very successful and appreciated by the State Board.*

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie Ott reported that a new format will be used in writing up field trips. This will comply with the Yellowthroat requirements.

There will be a designated leader now on all weekday field trips. John Maloney and others have volunteered to help. She will plan at least one trip out of Howard Co., but needs volunteers familiar with other areas.

She proposed a "chasing trip" for February and some atlasing trips/workshops for the future. Centennial walks may stop for a while. Jay Sheppard has volunteered to do an owling workshop.

It was suggested that directions to field trips be added to the club's web site to eliminate attendee calls to trip leaders. *Sec. Note – This suggestion has been implemented and added to the web site.*

Programs (Geuder): Not present.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo Solem stated that a Sun reporter called her to find out what the club wanted to see at Blandair (the Smith Farm property). She stated she did not have an available answer at the time.

Don Waugh asked what the clubs and boards position on the property is or will be. It was suggested that this question be presented to the club membership at large for comments.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): Not present. See Treasurer's report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

There was a question raised concerning the newsletter wording "Return Service requested". Paula Ecker will research this problem.

MPEA Rep. (Probst)

Sue Probst reported that she talked to John Byrd (from Howard Rec. & Parks). He is still looking at Savage Mill as a "temporary" visitors' center. Anything other locations are still a long way away. Mr. Byrd said that a new building could eventually be put up at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, as a long term possibility.

It was again noted that The Howard County Conservancy (Mt. Pleasant) is actively fund raising for a building. Sue will contact Liz Stoffel for further information on this activity.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Garza, Tufts):

Kate Tufts will look into getting Atlas T-shirt estimates for MOS if they are interested. She also agreed to look into other marketing and sponsorship possibilities for the Atlas if warranted.

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items See officer reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
October 25, 2001	-	Bonnie Ott	
November 15, 2001	-	Suzanne Probst	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2002	-	Don Waugh	
February 21, 2002	-	Jo & Bob Solem	
March 28, 2002	-	Kate Tufts	
April 25, 2002	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 23, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer's Report, 5/1/01-11/15/01

Draft Minutes prepared by Kate Tufts.

Final Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/01-11/15/01

	Current Month	Year to Date
	<hr/>	<hr/>
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County		244.36
Donations	(17.50)	400.25
Interest	43.84	259.29
Membership	825.00	3,430.00
Publications		38.70
Total	<hr/>	<hr/>
	851.34	4,372.60
Expense		
Donations		
Fair & Bird Counts	89.41	89.41
Hospitality		
Meetings	50.00	200.00
Miscellaneous		215.58
Pot Luck Dinner		
Publications	41.21	815.60
Sales Tax		
State Dues	2,300.00	2,300.00
Total	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,480.62	3,620.59
Gain/Loss		<hr/> <hr/>
		752.01
Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales	565.25	8,260.75
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		83.66
Rent	25.00	25.00
Seed	5,814.88	5,814.88
Sales Tax		
Total	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,839.88	5,923.54
Gain/Loss		<hr/> <hr/>
		2,337.21
Special Funds		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		<hr/>
		10,000.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		3,491.30
Savings		19,304.35
Cash		43.52
Total		<hr/> <hr/>
		22,839.17

11/15/01

E. Holdridge

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 24, 2002

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2000-2001 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Carol Garza (2nd yr.)

Kate Tufts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts

Darius Ecker

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*)

Education: ??

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Don Waugh. Total number in attendance was eight. Attendance at the regular club meeting held Dec. 13, 2001 was 66 people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "2001: A Birdwatching Odyssey." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 10, 2002 was 51 people. Darius Ecker gave a program entitled, "Costa Rica in the Year 2000 with MOS."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don passed around a copy of the club programs for the future meetings in March, April, and May. Kurt said he would forward a copy of this to Bob Solem so he can post the program on the club web site. Don passed around a copy of the Peregrine Fund brochure he had received. He then referred to an email solicitation he (and Karen Morley of the State MOS) had received from The Blandair Foundation describing their proposal to establish the Blandair Center for Applied Urban Ecology at the Smith Property just off MD 175 in Columbia. They are soliciting our comments and even more our support as an organization. In a brief discussion it was pointed out that the funding for this proposal is still very uncertain and seems to run counter to Howard County Recreation and Parks proposals. It was agreed that we did not want to provide any comments even innocuous ones that would be interpreted as positive support for their proposal. Don agreed to draft a response to this proposal that he would share with Board before replying and we would likely provide these comments directly to the County.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt raised the subject of a bill before the state legislature proposing to allow Sunday hunting of deer as a measure to increase the harvest of deer, that he felt should be opposed because of the Sunday hunting provision. Bob pointed out that the contents of this bill had been inaccurately reported in a number of arenas including the MDOSprey. Bob passed out a two page synopsis of the bill for review. He pointed out the bill adds deer hunting on 3 Sundays a year in western Maryland counties, not the suburban areas of Maryland including Howard County. The primary motivation of the bill seems to increase spending by hunters in the western counties. Bob stated his intent to prepare an article for the Goldfinch "correctly" stating the provisions of this bill. In the past the club has

not taken a stand on the ethics of deer hunting, but has promoted properly educating our membership on the issues involved, and left it to individual members to formulate their own opinions and act accordingly. It was reported that the State MOS Conservation committee had taken a position on this bill but it was not available at the time of the Board meeting.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy passed out the attached Treasurer's report. It was pointed out that the funds for our atlas challenge grant came from the sale of the "Howard" birdfinding site guide. It was also mentioned that the Montgomery Chapter had sold out their first printing of the Montgomery County guide but that it had been priced incorrectly and was no more than a break even proposition, and may even be a money loser.

Emy then pointed out that the seed sale profit was \$1936.76. Don then asked if we needed a committee to propose how we should use the approximate \$2000 we have to donate as the proceeds. He recalled that last year we supported the funding of 1 acre of grassland as part of the "Clegg meadow" project at MPEA. Don stated he would solicit suggestions at the February club meeting. It was pointed out that Sue Buswell had made a proposal, and that we should consider that. Her suggestion accompanied a \$50 donation that cited a friend, that should be acknowledged in a letter. A committee to make recommendation for this year's donation was established with Kurt as lead, and Kate Tufts and Dave Holyoke as members.

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Betts, Ecker's, Etc.): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) No report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) See Jo Solem Records report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker) No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie asked during the financial report if the club has ever bought supplies or equipment for support of field trips. Although this has not been a frequent occurrence she was encouraged to make a proposal. She proposed that a new "Song Player" device would be an excellent teaching device for new birders. Helping them identify songs. This new system has a number of "cards" with popular bird songs and is adding new cards each year. It was suggested this would be an excellent example of how to use the Mountjoy fund. It was approved that Bonnie should purchase this item (which was expected to be less than \$100) as the first disbursement from the Mountjoy fund.

Bonnie is planning for several "hands-on" atlas training sessions. Plans call for "block" party trips to every block in the County over the next 5 years.

She has sent the planned trips through June to Paula for the Goldfinch and Les Eastman for the MD Yellowthroat. She will add additional trips and efforts related to the atlas. She has begun working on plans for the Fall schedule and indicated she is continuing the regular weekday walks as they continue to draw participants.

Lastly she recommended a new book "Parts Unknown" by Tim Gallagher.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo's report focused on Atlas plans for the county. Mark Raab (Supervisor for Parks Wildlife) has agreed to provide a letter granting access to all county park lands (even those not normally open) for atlas. There is still an issue regarding access to the County Landfill but Mark is going to provide introductions to those who would approve such access. He is also working to set up a formal process for granting access to parks at night for owling etc. Rec and Parks has produced maps showing all county lands and copies will be distributed to block coordinators.

Jo also described the highly successful "Atlas Packet Stuffing" party, and plans to prepare a "Thank You" article for the Goldfinch. A training session has been scheduled for Feb 16, and a outdoor training trip will be held early in March. A copy of the state Liability Insurance certificate has been received and will be distributed. Lastly Jo reported that the State Atlas committee had just announced the hiring of Walter Ellison from New York state as the paid state atlas coordinator at a salary of \$30,000. He will be residing in Queen Anne's county on the eastern shore.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Jo reported that Sue Probst had been asked to get a quote on the price of printing our most recent newsletter from an alternate source that she has worked with. Our last bill was \$110 for 275 copies. Our need is for single sheet 11 x 17 with dual fold. Sue received a quote of \$205.75 for 275 copies. I.e. they were not interested in such a small job. Another option of using copying vice printing was also explored. Kinko's gave a quote of \$76.75 for the same job. It was pointed out that copy quality would not do as well with photos but an option obtain a half-tone output from a scanner suitable for copying would improve this. It was agreed that they should talk to Paula, and given recent hassles with current printer it might be worth a try.

MPEA Rep. (Probst) See newsletter report provided to Jo.

Conservation (R. Solem): See discussion of deer hunting on Sunday bill discussion under Vice President.

Chapter Directors (Garza, Tufts):

Kate had proposed idea of MOS atlas t-shirts as a fund raising idea but had heard no feedback. It was pointed out that the next meeting of the state Atlas committee was to address fund raising and this idea would be raised. Kate also asked if the idea of corporate donors had been explored. She was told there are limitations on how much recognitions sponsors would receive, but that the intent was to solicit donors. She was referred to Janet Millenson who is the fund raising subcommittee chairman. Kate also offered some suggestions for enhancements to a "handout" with information on the atlas, that might improve its value as a fund raising tool.

Old Business

It was announced that a recent issue of the NSA retiree newsletter had an article on Marjorie Mountjoy.

We briefly discussed how to approach the subject of raising dues (recognizing our action may be contingent on MOS plans). A quick referral to the club by-laws confirmed that raising dues is at the discretion of the Board and does not require action by the membership at large as in a club meeting.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

- Don to draft response to Blandair Foundation proposal.
- Don to solicit ideas for using the seed sale proceeds from club membership at the February meeting.
- Kurt, Kate, and Dave Holyoke to research and make proposals for use of seed sale proceeds.
- Plan to address dues issue at February Board meeting.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
October 25, 2001	-	Bonnie Ott	
November 15, 2001	-	Suzanne Probst	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2002	-	Don Waugh	
February 21, 2002	-	Jo & Bob Solem	
March 28, 2002	-	Kate Tufts	
April 25, 2002	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 23, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/01 – 1/24/02
- Summary of Maryland House Bill 9, "Deer Management Plans – Increased Harvest"

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/01-1/24/02

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
<i>General Accounts</i>		
Income		
Birding Howard County	251.14	495.50
Donations	77.50	477.75
Interest	72.43	331.72
Membership	574.00	4,004.00
Publications		38.70
Total	<u>975.07</u>	<u>5,347.67</u>
Expense		
Donations		89.41
Fair & Bird Counts		89.41
Hospitality		89.41
Meetings	177.00	377.00
Miscellaneous	175.94	391.52
Pot Luck Dinner	25.00	25.00
Publications	145.97	961.57
Sales Tax	4.53	4.53
State Dues		2,300.00
Total	<u>528.44</u>	<u>4,149.03</u>
Gain/Loss		<u><u>1,198.64</u></u>
 <i>Seed Sales Accounts</i>		
Income		
Sales	8.00	8,268.75
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		83.66
Rent		25.00
Seed		5,814.88
Sales Tax	408.45	408.45
Total	<u>408.45</u>	<u>6,331.99</u>
Gain/Loss		<u><u>1,936.76</u></u>
 <i>Special Funds</i>		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		<u><u>10,000.00</u></u>
 <i>Ending Bank Balances</i>		
Checking		3,465.05
Savings		19,376.73
Cash		43.52
Total		<u><u>22,885.30</u></u>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 21, 2002

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2000-2001 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Carol Garza (2nd yr.)

Kate Tufts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*)

Education: ??

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 8. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 14, 2002 was 70 people. Lisa Stevens, Senior Curator at the National Zoo gave a program entitled "Giant Panda Conservation and Management."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don discussed a recent article describing the development plans that the Howard County Conservancy has for the Mount Pleasant property. He then went on to discuss that we are about to begin the club's 30th anniversary year. We celebrated the 25th potluck in 1999. Don then reported that as part of the receipt of the Marjorie Mountjoy estate he needed to provide the EIN (Employee Identification Number) for the State MOS. It was suggested that Shiras as state Treasurer or Karen Morley would be logical sources. *Sec. Note – The number was provided by Jo Solem after receiving draft of these minutes. EIN is 52-604-6316.*

Don then discussed latest on the subject of "Blandair", the Smith property. Jo had an "earful" from Al Geis on why we (Bird Club) should be supporting the Blandair Foundation initiatives. It was pointed out that we will gain some insight into the property bird population as David Farner, the atlas coordinator for area that includes the property. David, is the Senior Naturalist with the Audubon Naturalist Society. Mark Raab of Howard Rec. and Parks, has toured the site with David and given him access to the property. Don reaffirmed his responsibility to draft a letter of response to the Foundation query for club support. Previous discussion of this suggests the response should avoid being interpreted as positive support for their plans.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt pointed out that this year's International Migratory Bird Day T-shirts has a nice design.

Kurt then did a brief presentation of several potential recipients for this year's seed sale receipts. He had forwarded an email recently that described these, but the material was not available to all Board members, and had not been discussed by the donation committee members asked to formulate proposals. These proposals included two for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, 4 from the American Bird Conservancy, and an idea to provide funding direct to the National Wildlife Foundation (still awaiting response to this possibility).

- MPEA – Additional grassland acre ~\$1800 - \$2000
- MPEA –Boardwalk/platform for wetlands (platform \$3000, boardwalk \$1000/ 100 feet)
- ABC – El Chorogo Refuge – Panama
- ABC – Save the Dickcissel, Venezuela
- ABC – Belize Bird Conservation Development
- ABC - Bahamas Wetland Project
- NWF - Direct gift to National Wildlife Refuges ??

It was agreed that further discussion of these ideas should await presentation of formal descriptions of what each proposal entailed.

Kate Tufts, also on the donation committee, presented two formal written proposals (attached). One was for providing bird feeders and seed for the sensory garden at the Maryland School for the Blind at Parkville. Kate's proposal was that this would be for about \$2110 for the first year and then a continuing commitment of \$100 per year for seed. The second proposal was to fund the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Classroom FeederWatch materials for one or more Howard County elementary schools at a cost of \$295 per classroom. Future years would require about \$205 per year. These proposals will be considered but are also possible proposals for support by the state-wide MOS education committee. It was also pointed out that the introduction of program materials into the Howard County school system often has required significant justification and review by the school bureaucracy.

It was pointed out that the Board had received a request to consider a recipient from Sue Buswell during the past year. Don will need to provide the details of that request at the next meeting.

Bonnie then discussed another possible use of the funds was to support a recent inquiry from Howard Rec. and Parks to support a new "Open Space" brochure at an approximate cost of \$500. It was suggested that this might also be a possible use for the Mountjoy fund. Jeff asked if it was the intent to treat this fund as an endowment or were we to spend the principal? It was agreed we would probably not try and maintain this as an endowment fund but spend it as appropriate uses arose. Another source of funds is the proceeds of the Howard County book fund. Jeff moved that we provide \$250 for brochure sponsorship out of the book fund proceeds. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Bonnie was asked to confirm what other organizations are to appear as sponsors on the brochure.

In discussing past gifts, the subject of the Butterfly Garden at Mt. Pleasant was raised and Bonnie pointed out that this site does not recognize our involvement. Bob agreed to discuss with them and propose we provide a sign to document our contribution next to the garden.

In closing Bob asked, and it was agreed that, the donation committee should try and provide a final list of potential recipients (with documentation of proposal) and a priority for those recommendations at the next Board meeting.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge): No report.

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Betts, Ecker's, Etc.): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker) No report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren) No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker)
Mary-Jo reported that plans are ready for the pot luck.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that trips are planned through June. The purchase of the "Identifier" and cards approved at last meeting had come to \$68. She also passed out copies of material on breeding atlas safe dates that she had received from Marty Miller.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that the Atlas meeting at Helen Zeichner's had about 45 in attendance. She asked that people review the Howard Bird Club web site atlas contents and provide comments and suggestions.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported that he had sent out the March announcements.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst) No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob handed out a summary of the price quotes for printing the newsletter using Kinko's photocopy rather than printing (attachment). After review it was agreed we would use the Kinko service for newsletter. We will have them make copies and fold unless we have "extra 8 x 11.5" inserts. In that case we will hold "stuffing" party to save the cost of extra inserts.

Bob handed out an announcement from the Assateague Coastal Trust on House Bill 301 – The Atlantic Coastal Bays Protection Act (attachment). He will send email to club membership recommending support. On another matter he reported that the hunting bill had been reported out of the House committee with some degree of Sunday hunting, but need to understand impact of amendments.

Bob handed out his annual membership summary sheet (attached). Our membership exceeds 300 again (307) so we are entitled to another State Director. The back of sheet has the cumulative summary of club contributions for habitat over the years.

Chapter Directors (Garza, Tufts):

Kate has formulated a formal proposal for MOS T-shirts with artwork promoting the Breeding Bird Atlas, including the Atlas logo. It was suggested she contact Jane Coskren about attending the next State Atlas Committee meeting to present her proposal.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

See officer reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
October 25, 2001	-	Bonnie Ott	
November 15, 2001	-	Suzanne Probst	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2002	-	Don Waugh	
February 21, 2002	-	Jo & Bob Solem	
March 28, 2002	-	Kate Tufts	
April 25, 2002	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 23, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Email from Kurt Schwarz with potential donation recipients
- Recommendation for Donation – Maryland School for the Blind
- Recommendation for Donation – Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Classroom FeederWatch
- Cost for 275 Copies at Kinko’s
- Action Alert – House Bill 301
- Howard County MOS Membership

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 28, 2002

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2000-2001 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Carol Garza (2nd yr.)

Kate Tufts (1st yr.) √

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*)

Education: ??

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 8. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 14, 2002 was 51 people. The program was a Canadian film/video entitled "Where the Heron Finds Its Home."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don reminded the Board that the election of officers for next year would take place at the upcoming April club meeting. Bonnie asked to review, and we discussed, the procedure for this election. It was pointed out that the official announcement of the nominees was being mailed shortly along with the club's membership directory.

Don then raised the matter of the club's by-laws and financial matters. Don believes that several areas of the current by-laws need revision. The Board agreed to have Don propose and draft appropriate changes. We will discuss these after he has prepared a draft, but it was pointed out that the only opportunity to approve any revision to the by-laws is at the club meeting in April, so these proposals will not be submitted to the club until April 2003.

Next Don briefly reviewed the state MOS privacy rules discussed at the most recent state board meeting. Fundamentally these require that written approval be received from any member (other than elected officers) before their phone number or other personal information is posted on the state or chapter websites on the internet.

The next subject discussed was that next year is the club's 30th anniversary year and we will want to make appropriate plans. A reprise of the club picnic held on the 20th and 25th anniversary years at APL would be one possibility. Kate Tufts asked if we might consider holding it at the Senior Center at Western Regional Park so that we would have a fall back if weather was inclement. She agreed to inquire into this possibility. There will likely be a series of 30th anniversary field trips. Last the date of the 30th anniversary pot luck dinner would likely be Feb. 28, 2003.

Don reported he had received a request for chapters to solicit items for the auction at the upcoming MOS Conference at WISP in June. If members have ideas of organizations that might donate items they should contact Don.

Don passed around copies of a poster announcing an upcoming talk at HCC on April 12 sponsored by the Women's Studies on "Winning the Lead Wars-Science and Beyond." See attached.

Sue Probst will man a booth at HCC on Earth Day using club displays.

Don made reference to a recent email received from a new birder who attended a recent field trip led by Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy. The email was very complimentary of the leaders assistance and the board expressed appreciation for their efforts as encouraging new birders is a prime focus of the club. The potential of preparing a short article recognizing Kevin and Karen's efforts was discussed and received general support.

In follow-up to a previous meeting request it was reported that the state MOS's federal identification number (EIN) is 52-6046316 as a 501c organization.

Norm Saunders is soliciting support for a joint MOS/ANS World Series of Birding team the proceeds of which will support the Atlas.

It was decided that a few copies of the proposed budget should be available for review at the upcoming April 11 meeting.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt as chair of the committee reviewing potential recipients of the seed sale proceeds passed out a handout with a prioritized list of projects (see attachments). Others on the committee were Kate Tufts and Dave Holyoke. The attachment contains 3 proposals, but the committee felt that the first two were there primary proposals.

- El Chorogo Refuge, Panama (funds directed through the American Bird Conservancy)
- Attwater's Prairie Chicken Habitat Fund (The Nature Conservancy of Texas)
- Mohonk Preserve, New York (private preserve)

The club discussed and decided that our preference was for projects with an element of habitat protection were more likely to receive support and that was why an earlier proposal by Sue Buswell was not given as high a priority. The seed sale profit was \$1936.76 and that is supplemented by donations received with the seed sale orders and with club membership applications (\$527.75). Although not strictly accounted for, it was decided that at least half of the donations were probably received with the seed sale and thus should be used with seed sale proceeds. Kate moved and it was seconded that the club donate \$2200 to the El Chorogo Refuge project. It was approved unanimously. Kurt agreed to write a short article for the Goldfinch describing the project and our donation. If needed Chuck will prepare a letter to forward the donation.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report for prior month and current month. (attached) Emy asked for clarification on which account was to be used for the purchase of the "Identifier" and cards approved at prior meeting. The February report listed this expense under Miscellaneous expenses. It was reconfirmed the motion was to purchase it with funds from the Mountjoy Fund. The donation shown on the March report was given by Ralph Geuder as he donated his honorarium for a talk he gave in speaking at the "Eco Library."

The club's fiscal year is May 1 – April 30. Emy passed out a synopsis of last years budget actual, contrasted with the proposed budget for the 2001-2002 year, showing actual income and expenses through March 27, 2002. The bottom line is the we have experiences an operating loss of over \$800 last year and again this year. Accordingly we must consider raising dues, and Emy had prepared a variety of proposed approaches. The sheet showed the dues structure, local and state portions, no. of current memberships by type, local club yield, and possible membership declines of 2, 5, and 10% for various dues structures presuming the proposed state increase is approved:

- Current dues structure
- Proposal A - 50% increase at local level
- Proposal B - 100% increase at local level
- Proposal C - Maintaining current spread in total dues
- Proposal D - Increase \$10 at Local Level.

In discussing these alternatives several points were made. We have been operating at a deficit for 3 or more years. We have made a \$5000 matching grant to support the Atlas that will come due in the next year or so. We last raised

dues 9 or 10 years ago. We really want to be able to go for roughly 5 years without raising local rates again. It was discussed that we might consider a modified version of proposal D that would be an increase of \$8 at local level. The By-laws allow the dues to be raised by the Board without a vote of the general membership. After discussion, Bonnie moved and it was seconded that we adopt the local dues structure proposed as Proposal C. It was approved unanimously. The actual dues structure for next year is still dependent on the outcome of the proposed increase in state portion to be voted on at the annual Conference in June. Proposal C structure is designed to maintain the current spread in total dues and raise operating revenue from deficit of ~\$800 to an excess of ~\$800 for first year of raise:

	Local Portion	State Portion	Total	
Individual	\$10	\$20	\$30	
Household	\$20	\$25	\$45	
Sustaining	\$55	\$35	\$90	
Chapter	\$10		\$10	
<i>Junior</i>	\$4	\$5	\$9	<i>(revision to minutes added 5/21)</i>

Lastly Emy asked the board to consider fact that we have not had insight into the finances of the club's bookstore accounts in some time. It was agreed that Emy should meet with Anne Marie and work with her to develop a report on the financial condition of the bookstore account, not just an inventory of current holdings.

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Betts, Ecker's, Etc.): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that our decision to sponsor the County open-space brochure with \$250 was willingly accepted as they "needed one final sponsor with \$250."

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that Atlas process is off to a good start. The count records committee is reviewing a packet of recent reports. The current committee consists of Jo, Nancy Magnusson, Dennis Coskren, and David Holmes.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Garza, Tufts):

Kate announced that she could have some of the new “Atlas” shirts available for sale at the club’s meeting in May. If she can people could wear them to the MOS Conference in June. She was encouraged to try and have them available by then.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

- Draft revisions to by-laws to reflect use of other than bank savings account, etc. – Waugh
- Prepare newsletter on donation to El Chorogo Refuge – Schwarz

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
October 25, 2001	-	Bonnie Ott	
November 15, 2001	-	Suzanne Probst	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2002	-	Don Waugh	
February 21, 2002	-	Jo & Bob Solem	
March 28, 2002	-	Kate Tufts	
April 25, 2002	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 23, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Environmental Opportunity – poster
- Bird Seed Sale Donation Proposals handout – Schwarz, Tufts, & Holyoke
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/01 – 2/21/02
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/01 – 3/27/02
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Budget Comparison, Actual 2000-01, Proposed 2001-02, Actual 3/27/02
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Proposed Dues Increase – E. Holdridge, 2/20/2002

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 25, 2002

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2000-2001 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Carol Garza (2nd yr.)

Kate Tufts (1st yr.)

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*)

Education: ??

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 11 was 49 people. Kathy Klimkiewicz gave a program entitled "Life History of the Purple Martin." The annual election of officers and board members was conducted with the following slate nominated by the nominating committee: President – Kurt Schwarz, Vice President – Jeff Friedhoffer, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Emy Holdridge, State Directors – Mary-Jo Betts, Darius Ecker, Paula Ecker, and Karen Darcy, Chapter Director – Kevin Heffernan, (Kate Tufts is serving second year of a two-year term.). The slate was elected unanimously.

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

No specific reports. Asked for officer reports in turn.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt asked the Board to advise whether he should formally respond to the phone call from Jane Coskren suggesting that his remarks on the cost benefits in supporting the MOS World Series of Birding Team were inappropriate. Jane had proposed supporting the team since the net proceeds have been designated for the Breeding Bird Atlas project. Kurt acknowledged he needed to recognize that although he might have a personal perspective on this issue his response could easily be considered those of the organization as an elected officer. Given his acknowledgement of the need for future sensitivity to such issues the Board generally supported the position there was no need for him to formally respond to Jane's call or take further action.

This led to a general discussion of the subject of Atlas funding. At present the Atlas is under-funded. One club has pledged \$100 and Emy has submitted the matching grant contribution to the State. One concern is that the interest on the state's funds will be less than previously, and it is unlikely that the Atlas fund-raising committee (chairman – Janet Millensen) activities will be unlikely for another year. The anticipation is that the next year and a half will be those most critical from a cash flow stand point, since the state is committed to pay the atlas

coordinator's salary for the first year. Accordingly the Board wants to ensure our pledge of matching grants is fully exercised. As a result the Board recommended asking Jane to reemphasize our offer at the upcoming MOS Conference to match gifts up to a \$1000 per year.

Kurt acknowledged he has agreed to write-up an article on the organization we approved providing this year's seed sale proceeds to before the fall newsletter deadline in late July.

In another discussion, it was announced that John Schwierjohann of the Dept. of Recreation and Parks is leaving the position of naturalist for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. The consensus was that this is a loss to the county and its environment.

Secretary (Stirrat):

A minor correction to the prior minutes reporting of the approved new dues structure was pointed out. The Minutes did not include the dues for the Junior membership class, which are to remain unchanged at \$9 (\$5 for State, \$4 local).

Treasurer (Holdridge):

The attached Treasurer's Report was submitted by Emy. Note that the expenses show the donation of \$250 for the County open-space brochure as approved at the prior Board meeting. She reported that she has paid bills except for the \$2200 donation approved at last month's Board meeting. To make payments she has had to withdraw \$700 from the T Rowe Price savings account. It was decided a correction to the report was needed to reflect that the purchase of the Song Identifier and Atlas matching grant payments were taken from the wrong accounts. The Atlas payment is to come from the Birding Howard County proceeds which are in the basic savings account, whereas the purchase of the Identifier was specifically identified as coming from the Mountjoy fund.

In discussing the Identifier, Bonnie stated that it has proven very useful with the beginner walks, as the Spring arrivals and migrants have appeared.

Emy reported that she has talked to Anne Marie Raterman about preparing a bookstore accounting report, and that she should have that for our review at the next Board meeting.

Lastly it was acknowledged that a copy of a preliminary budget based on this year's expenses had been made available to the club at the April meeting. After a brief discussion, Don requested that Emy revise this preliminary budget and bring it as a formal proposal to the Board for consideration at the next Board meeting.

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Betts, Ecker's, Etc.): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker): No Report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report, see Records report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that the dragonfly trip normally held in August, did not make the newsletter and Richard Orr had agreed to cancel it this year. There is a beginning dragonfly walk earlier. Bonnie has agreed to lead a walk at Mt. Pleasant for birds breeding there after receiving a request from Liz Stoffel on the weekend after the MOS Convention. A brief discussion of the club sponsoring trips to more distant locations occurred, and general consensus reached that periodic scheduling of such trips was beneficial. In order to schedule these, someone needs to volunteer as the trip coordinator. Probably will attempt to repeat the Delaware trip that had to be canceled this January due to weather next year.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo reported that the Atlas project is proceeding well. A few blocks have not provided reports, but most are well underway. One example she cited was a recent visit to a property near the junction of I-95 and MD 100 with an old house and overgrown vegetation that yielded few species due to the nature of the vegetation.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported he had failed to provide the May trip information to the Flyer, but that they had not been using his inputs with as much regularity of late. Someone reported that the trips had been observed in the Penny Saver.

Jeff expressed his desire for field trips start times to be later than recent Spring trip scheduled. Although the intent is to start beginner walks later, most trips are left to the discretion of leaders. In Spring most express preference for earlier, and often compromise on 7:30 AM start since any later you miss too much of the prime birding time.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Kurt had alerted Bob to fact that the MD General Assembly web site reported results of recent legislative actions. The Coastal Bays act that Bob discussed in his newsletter article was approved with limited grandfather clauses, but generally the act is considered a positive outcome for the environment.

Bob passed out copies of last year's membership survey form and asked the Board to review and propose changes for next year at the next meeting.

Chapter Directors (Garza, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

- Provide updated proposed budget for next year. – Emy
- Request Jane Coskren to reissue Challenge Grant at MOS Conference – Jo
- Provide proposed changes to the membership survey at next Board meeting - All

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
October 25, 2001	-	Bonnie Ott	
November 15, 2001	-	Suzanne Probst	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2002	-	Don Waugh	
February 21, 2002	-	Jo & Bob Solem	
March 28, 2002	-	Kate Tufts	
April 25, 2002	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 23, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/01 – 4/25/02
- Copy of last year's membership form and survey for comment

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/01-4/25/02

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Accounts		
Income		
Birding Howard County	83.70	579.20
Donations		527.75
Interest	25.78	409.97
Membership	60.00	4,243.50
Publications		38.70
Total	<u>169.48</u>	<u>5,799.12</u>
Expense		
Donations	250.00	250.00
Fair & Bird Counts		231.35
Hospitality		
Meetings	50.00	521.50
Miscellaneous	21.87	695.72
Breeding Bird Atlas		152.62
Pot Luck Dinner		64.80
Publications	230.88	1,229.06
Sales Tax		4.53
State Dues		2,685.00
Total	<u>552.75</u>	<u>5,834.58</u>
Gain/Loss		<u><u>(35.46)</u></u>
 Seed Sales Accounts		
Income		
Sales		8,268.75
Expense		
Flyers & Miscellaneous		83.66
Rent		25.00
Seed		5,814.88
Sales Tax		408.45
Total		<u>6,331.99</u>
Gain/Loss		<u><u>1,936.76</u></u>
 Special Funds		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		10,000.00
Atlas Matching Funds		<u>(100.00)</u>
Balance		9,900.00
 Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		2,052.70
Savings		19,454.98
Cash		43.52
Total		<u><u>21,551.20</u></u>

4/25/02

E. Holdridge

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 23, 2002

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2000-2001 Club Officers:

President: Donald Waugh √

Vice-president: Kurt Schwarz √

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √

Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √

Past President: Mike Kerwin

Chapter Directors:

Carol Garza (2nd yr.)

Kate Tufts (1st yr.)

State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √

Darius Ecker

Paula Ecker (*also Newsletter*)

Education: ??

Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √

Programs: Jane Geuder

Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg

Conservation: Bob Solem √

MPEA Representative: Suzanne Probst

Records: Jo Solem √

Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer √

State Officers/Committees:

State VP/Budget: Paul Zucker

State Treasurer: Shiras Guion

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

New State Director: Karen Darcy √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Friedhoffer. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 9, 2002 was 69 people. Michael Smith, professional photographer gave a program entitled "Random Moments in Nature."

Officer's Reports

President (Waugh):

Don reported receiving a request from LLBean in Columbia asking if we would participate with a display at their store's Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 22. Possibility of having seminar, speaker, and/or display. Opinion seemed to be it was an opportunity for good publicity. Bonnie agreed to contact them and discuss further.

A draft copy of the new club brochure was passed out for review. It and the membership form will need to reflect our dues increase and are pending outcome of vote on state dues at the June MOS Conference.

Larry Fry has resigned as MOS Executive Secretary and a new secretary hired, Eric Sprague (Sprague-eric@hotmail.com).

Our Chapter has been asked to co-host the MOS Conference in 2003 along with the Montgomery Chapter. The conference will be held at the William L. Bolger Center in Potomac next May 16-18. The facility is run by the US Postal Service. In addition Mike Calahan has indicated he will not continue as state Conference Chairman. The Board agreed we need to find out what co-hosting or assisting will involve.

Don reminded us he still is seeking a volunteer to haul the coffee pot and supplies to club meetings. Solicitation of volunteers will continue, but we also reconfirmed it would be our practice to not always have coffee but could settle for juice as the beverage. There are still supplies such as cups that need to be brought.

We discussed plans for next year's meeting as it will be our 30th anniversary year. Don agreed to check with Jane and see if Chan Robbins might be available for an anniversary meeting. The idea of having an anniversary cake was also discussed.

Someone referred to a recent report that a special rate was available for use of school facilities for some organizations. It was agreed that Ralph Geuder should be asked to check into this.

Vice-President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported his recent discovery of using Permethrin (Duranon) for tick control. It's a spray one applies to clothing and let dry for 4 hours. It persists through one or two washings. It's available at Sunny's.

He reported he had provided Paula an article for the newsletter documenting our donation to the El Chorogo Refuge in Panama that were sent via the American Bird Conservancy's Conservation Counterparts program.

He made note of a recent email describing an opportunity to access the Patuxent North Tract earlier than normal.

Lastly he reminded the Board that his email address in the latest club directory was incorrect. His correct email address is krschwar1@comcast.net.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck apologized for the error in the emailed minutes of the last meeting in which he repeated last year's slate of officers vice this year's newly elected slate. The minutes in secretaries records have been corrected, if any board members require an electronic copy please let me know.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy passed out copies of an annual report for the club's finances for the past fiscal year (May 1, 2001 to April 30, 2002) (summarized below).

Annual Report Summary

Operating Fund	
Income	5,125.91
Expense	5,751.60
Net Gain/Loss Operating Fund	<u>(625.69)</u>
Seed Sales Account	
Income	8,268.75
Expense	6,331.99
Gain on Seed Sale	1,936.76
Additional Contributions	263.24
Donation to El Chorogo Refuge, Panama	<u>2,200.00</u>
Reserve Fund *	
Balance 4/30/2002	<u>8,862.07</u>
Special Fund	
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance	<u>9,917.02</u>
Ending Bank Balances	
Checking	552.70
Savings	18,779.09
Cash	43.52
Total	<u>19,375.31</u>

* Reserve Fund: \$4900 is committed to the Breeding Bird Atlas matching grant donation.

She reported that the distribution of contributions and funds from sales of Birding Howard County led to the operating funds showing a loss. The donation to El Chorogo was mailed with Kurt Schwarz listed as the point of contact. Emy stated she chose to leave all the interest from savings account (\$432.03) in the reserve fund and not attempt to distribute it to special fund. The Board felt this was appropriate and did not request her to try and make such an allocation. Emy reported that Shiras Guion has informed her that the state received BBC contributions from Harford (\$210) and Frederick (\$500) chapters that are to be matched. She will need to withdraw this from the Reserve fund to make payment of this \$710. Our original commitment was \$1000 a year for 5 years so if additional contributions are made we should feel free to "bank" them for payment in future years so as not to draw down our reserve too quickly.

Emy then reported on her discussion with Anne-Marie Raterman on the finances of the club's book store. She handed out a copy of a report covering the past year's finances (summarized below). No sales tax has been paid yet and including a 5% tax would result in the store operating at a loss. They have been selling books at 20% off but given requirement that tax is to be paid the correct markdown will need to be 15%. It was agreed the tax needs to be paid and Amy will contact Anne-Marie to ask for her to submit 5% of this past years sales so she can

file the quarterly tax statements by June. We already file taxes because of the seed sale. She will also direct that the tax be collected on all future sales.

Bookstore Report Summary

Sales	1,932.60
Expense	1,858.08
Gain/Loss	<u>75.52</u>

Inventory on Hand	3,600.00
Bank Balance (4/30/02)	1,394.22

The existing inventory almost certainly has some material that is excess (unlikely to sell). The possibility of conducting a “fire sale”, advertising it in the newsletter to try and get something for this material. Possibly a pre-Christmas sale of at the pot-luck.

Emy then stated she was pleased to have the budget increase approved so that the club will have an operating income that will recoup some of our recent operating losses. She distributed a proposed budget for next fiscal year that estimated operating income with the new dues structure and a minimal decline in membership. It also contained the new dues schedule presuming the state proposal is adopted. Someone commented that the current rumor was that the state dues increase proposal would likely pass at the Conference. *Sec. Note: The state dues increase did pass.*

Past President (Kerwin): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Waugh, Zucker, Guion, Betts, Ecker’s, Etc.): No report.

State Vice-President/Budget Committee (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (P. Ecker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker):

Mary-Jo had no report. She did agree to get some new receipt books for use in the book store sales so that sales tax can be collected properly.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported she plans to have more shorter, later starting field trips for beginner walks in the future. She also hopes to have more “dual-sponsorship” walks , e.g. BonSecours or Mt. Pleasant, for the added publicity. She plans to repeat the winter trip that was “snowed-out” last Martin Luther King weekend, but will plan an alternate date of President’s Day weekend as backup.

Bonnie then summarized some discussions she had with Don about possible future club meeting programs. She feels we should have at least one bird identification slide program each year. She would also like to have a “back-up” program(s) to use if the speaker is a no-show. One possibility to obtain material for such a back-up would be the Mountjoy fund, as it could be seen as serving an educational function. Another possibility would be to have 5-6 slides on identification at each meeting (e.g. bird of the month). Developing these programs would require someone to volunteer to do this. There was some discussion of digital projectors and availability of bird images. Jeff agreed to look into costs for projectors and slides.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo passed along Darius Ecker's expression of regrets for his absence, but he has just recently been diagnosed with Lyme Disease. He just recently returned to work half time.

She then discussed the subject of the consignment of Birding Howard County that Border's Bookstore has had. Upon inquiry it was learned they had sold all copies and were to send check shortly. As to the status of our inventory there are only 15 copies left. Jo indicated that prior to any reprint she would like to revise the checklist to include an update for the added species. But this will not be done soon, and thus we should anticipate there will be a period where the book is unavailable.

She then followed up on our desire to inquire whether the folks at Mt. Pleasant would honor our request to acknowledge our contributions towards the butterfly garden. They have acknowledged our role was more than just fencing, however their were two Girl Scout troops involved as well.

The web site page of "200 Plus" Howard County listers has been updated. Kate Tufts is the most recent addition to the group.

Jo gave a report of how pleased she was with the early Breeding Bird Atlas activities. In a related item she mentioned that Stan Arnold's observations of Prothonotary Warblers nesting had led him to consider a next box trail for them. He might ask the club for help supporting such an effort at some time in future. Another idea that had been proposed was a Purple Martin house for the Belmont Conference Center, but that has been rejected since access to the center is limited and not open to the public. Lastly on the atlas no final agreement has been reached with the state for a waiver of fees for access to state parks and facilities. If someone with a need for such access finds the cost an issue they can contact Jo as she is authorized to provide assistance if needed.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (P. Ecker): No report.

MPEA Rep. (Probst): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported he had received a draft Environmental Impact Statement for dealing with the Resident Canada Geese population for comment. It makes three points:

1. National Fish & Wildlife Service proposes to let each individual state develop their own regulations.
2. States could control population expansion by such efforts as adding eggs.
3. Active lethal means to reduce populations including urban areas permitted year round to control (not just hunting).

The Board authorized Bob to provide inputs indicating our support for all three items.

Chapter Directors (Garza, Tufts):

No reports. Kate had called and indicated she wouldn't be able to make it.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

- Follow-up on LLBean request – Bonnie Ott
- Find out what co-hosting Conference implies - ??
- 30th Anniversary Program – Don Waugh contact Jane Geuder
- Ask Ralph Geuder to check on possibility of special rental rate for school - ??
- Provide direction to Anne-Marie on tax collection/payment – Emy Holdridge
- Obtain receipt books for Bookstore – Mary-Jo Betts

- Investigate digital projectors and slide costs – Jeff Friedhoffer
- Solicit volunteer(s) for “bird ID” and “back-up” programs - ?
- Provide feedback on Resident Canada Goose EIS – Bob Solem
- Host the September 26, 2002 Board meeting – Bonnie Ott

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2001	-	Don Waugh	
October 25, 2001	-	Bonnie Ott	
November 15, 2001	-	Suzanne Probst	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2002	-	Don Waugh	
February 21, 2002	-	Jo & Bob Solem	
March 28, 2002	-	Kate Tufts	
April 25, 2002	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 23, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Brochure – “The Howard County Bird Club – *is for the Birds!*” – Draft prior to dues increase
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Annual Report – 5/1/02 – 4/30/02
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Bookstore Report – 5/1/02 – 4/30/02
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Proposed Budget, 2002-03

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter, MOS

Proposed Budget, 2002-03

	With Dues Increase
<i>Operating Income</i>	
Publications	640.00
Membership Dues	<u>3,323.00</u>
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	3,963.00
<i>Operating Expense</i>	
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00
Meetings:	
Programs	500.00
Facility Rental	175.00
Hospitality	60.00
Special Supplies	300.00
Postage, copies	200.00
DNR Permit	10.00
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00
Club Brochures	<u>50.00</u>
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,975.00
<i>Gain/Loss</i>	<u><u>988.00</u></u>

Dues Schedule including State Proposal

Individual	30.00
Household	45.00
Sustaining	90.00
Junior	5.00
Chapter	10.00

5/22/02

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 2002

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2001-2002 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
Past President: Donald Waugh

Chapter Directors:

Kevin Heffernan (1st yr.) √
Kate Tufts (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Darius Ecker
Paula Ecker
Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
MPEA: Suzanne Probst √
Newsletter: Paula Ecker
Records: Jo Solem √
Publicity Director: Jeff Friedhoffer

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

Future Newsletter: Dave Holyoke √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 12, 2002 was 54 people. Phil Norman, Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Howard County gave a program entitled "Deer Management in Howard County: Concerns and Conflicts."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt described the amount of "junk mail" being passed to him as Club President. He was reminded it was his prerogative to "sort" this and only bring the key items to Board attention. He reviewed following items:

- We are reminded to encourage qualified individuals to apply for MOS Scholarships to environmental camps.
- He had received a query from group known as Howard Heritage Fund.
- He reviewed key items from recent State MOS Board meeting (see below).
- We still need to make arrangements for refreshments at the club meetings. Agreed again no need to bring the coffee pot, just have juice, etc. Bonnie agreed to go through the surveys and coordinate volunteers for hospitality. During meeting she identified 14 volunteers on surveys, decided to ask each to be responsible for bringing juice as well as food.
- Kurt has the bins with hospitality items. Seeking volunteer to keep and bring as needed. Not all are needed, as many of the items in bin are for the potluck. Kevin Heffernan volunteered to bring the "bin" with cups and napkins to club meetings.
- We need to get some more name tags, others either used up or lost.
- This year is the 30th anniversary of club. No major celebrations planned. Just remind people at meetings. The idea of having Chan give program has not been arranged, at least through December. Hank Kaestner, a popular speaker is scheduled for December, so might do a little to emphasize anniversary at that meeting.
- Dave Holyoke asked about T-shirts like we had for 25th, but didn't result in strong expression of interest, as just have had sale of Atlas T-shirts and other items.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Secretary (Stirrat): No items.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy was not present but had sent copy of Treasurer's report which is attached to these minutes.

Past President (Waugh): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker's, Darcy, Etc.):

Kurt's overall summary was that the board did not accomplish anything. There are a number of state committees that need chairman/members. There was a meeting of the MOS Conference committee scheduled for Sept. 24 (see Mary-Jo's report below). The state is looking for a contract law lawyer to review the contract between MOS and DNR on the atlas. A retreat to discuss MOS long-range planning is scheduled for Nov. 9 at JHU/APL. The next state MOS Board meeting is scheduled to be held in Hagerstown on Dec. 7.

State President (Zucker): Not present.

State Education Committee (??): Do we have anyone on this committee anymore?

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): Not present. (See Jo Solem report below)

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker, K. Darcy):

It was pointed out that we should remind Director's that when they can't attend it is recommended they arrange for a proxy so we have our full representation. Darius is still having health problems and it was suggested we should remind him of this option.

Mary-Jo attended the Conference planning committee meeting on Sept. 24. We are considered co-sponsors with Montgomery County for the Conference to be held May 16-18 at the US Postal Service Bolger Conference Center in Potomac. Mike Calahan is still state-wide chairman but he is still looking for his replacement. Diane and Andy Aguilera were also at the meeting. They are looking for field trip leaders. Linda Friedlander is in charge of field trips. Another item is they are looking to have more MOS member artists participate in the art show. They also need volunteers to "baby-sit" the artist area. This might be a possible role for non-birding spouses. Consider putting a call for volunteers and entrants for the "pin" contest in the newsletter. The keynote speaker for the Conference has not yet been settled. Mary-Jo expressed her impression that the conference site is a very nice facility. All rooms are singles. The Wildlife Authority will likely be the vendor at conference if they are interested. Club members are urged to volunteer services in planning and working at Conference.

Karen reported she had no items to present, but it was pointed out that her name had just recently been supplied to state as our newest director.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie has provided the field trip schedule for the January newsletter. She then described some of the initiatives she has planned for field trips:

- Try some dual start time trips in Spring. E.g. 6:30 am, with return to parking lots for 8:30 arrivals. This idea got good reaction from Board.
- She proposed to assemble a "trip leader packet" with club brochures, site checklists, other information to help trip leaders be more effective. She needs to work on how these would be distributed.
- She asked for ideas on how to encourage new volunteers to lead trips. One idea put forward was to solicit co-leaders who could learn without as much pressure.

- Thinking about holding hawk-watching trip at some where like Waggoner's Gap or Hawk Mountain but concerned this is so weather dependent. Proposal for having an announcement asking if people want to "sign up" for such a trip that will go with short notice if weather appears right.
- Someone asked about scheduling a "chimney swift" watch at a major roost site if one found.
- Stan Arnold is proposing to lead a mid-week trip to Bombay Hook in August.
- Plans are to repeat the Eastern Shore trip to Delaware that was canceled last Martin Luther King holiday due to weather this coming January. Plans will include backup plans for the President's Day weekend.

Programs (Geuder): Not present.

Records (J. Solem):

Jo relayed several proposals that may request club financial support. Stan Arnold is considering request for support of a series of Prothonatary Warbler boxes in the Patapsco River Valley. Mary Gustafson reports that potential young Barn Owls were heard near the therapeutic horse center in Glenwood?. Considering asking for funds to build a place one or more owl boxes in one of the center's barns.

Jo then summarized status of local atlas activities. She has received about half the field cards. The ability to enter the data by web access has been tested and will be deployed soon. She indicates she was a beta tester for the "Directions for Dummies." Another issue is that field cards should be filled out in pencil to allow for corrections of inconsistencies etc. Some sighting and reports will need supporting information. Two identical meetings to review results and provide additional training for field workers will be held at the Miller Branch Library in January and the other for those unable to attend first one in February.

It was pointed out that our membership survey still has query about bluebird boxes, but that no one has been following up on these. Officially Mark Wallace should be, but he hasn't been. It was pointed out that Howard Rec & Parks has a backyard bluebird box program and we might refer respondents to them. This is another topic for a potential newsletter article.

Jo mentioned the upcoming program on Invasive Plant Species sponsored by Howard Rec and Parks.

In follow-up to the possibility that we might qualify for the reduced rate in using school for meeting, it was stated that Ralph Geuder had checked on this and we do not qualify.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg):

Eileen's was not present, and it was reported that her mother had just passed away. She was back home and will still handle planning for sale. *Sec. Note: She will be out of town on day of sale and Mary-Jo will again coordinate on day of sale.*

Newsletter (P. Ecker):

Paula was not present, but she has announced she will no longer be able to edit the newsletter. The Board was unanimous in expressing gratitude and thanks to Paula for her dedicated service. Dave Holyoke and Sue Probst have agreed to be co-editors in future. Paula will work on the current issue, showing them how she has done the preparation, and then Dave and Sue handle the next issue. They were encouraged to set their newsletter deadlines early. They should obtain copies of prior newsletter because there is a "menu" of articles that fall on regular schedules. They should feel free to do some editing of material. Bonnie stated she needed to edit and correct the header paragraph for field trips. Sue indicated she would be prepared to publish a version on the web if we wanted. It was pointed out the Board had rejected this idea earlier, as receiving the newsletter is one of the few actual benefits that only come with paying dues. Most other activities don't require paid membership.

MPEA Rep. (Probst):

Sue pointed out that the MPEA is no longer an active organization, but her new role with newsletter will ensure her continued participation on the chapter board.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that he had been contacted by Joyce Kelly who is trying to organize a coalition of Howard County environmental groups to be more active in environmental issues in the county. Dennis Luck of the Sierra Club, and Fred Tillman of the Howard County Conservancy are also involved. Bob recommended we not undertake any significant involvement and take more of a wait and see approach. If someone is interested in volunteering to find out more about this they should talk to Bob.

Chapter Directors (Heffernan, Tufts):

Kevin had no report.

Kate asked if the Board would reconsider the proposal she made last February to support establishing a bird feeding station in the “sensory” garden at the Maryland School for the Blind in Parkville (~\$210). At that time the Board thought there might be state funds from the education committee or elsewhere to support this, but that was not pursued. Kate believes, that although not in Howard County, this would be an excellent way to generate community goodwill and a public relations opportunity as well. After some discussion it was concluded this should be considered as a possible use for seed sale proceeds. It was agreed that all proposals for this years seed sale proceeds should be presented “formally” at the January Board meeting. (advance copies recommended). Bob agreed to write a short note for the newsletter on prior grants and asking the membership for formal proposals.

Old Business

The status of these prior action items from May meeting unknown:

- Provide direction to Anne-Marie on tax collection/payment – Emy Holdridge
- Obtain receipt books for Bookstore – Mary-Jo Betts
- Investigate digital projectors and slide costs – Jeff Friedhoffer
- Solicit volunteer(s) for “bird ID” and “back-up” programs - ?
- Provide feedback on Resident Canada Goose EIS – Bob Solem

New Business

See Officer reports.

Action Items

- Proposals for Grant recipients for this year’s seed sale proceeds to be presented at Jan. meeting. - All

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2002	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 24, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
November 21, 2002	-	Dave Holyoke	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2003	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 27, 2003	-	Jo Solem	
March 27, 2003	-	Sue Probst	
April 24, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 22, 2003	-	Jeff Friedhoffer?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/02 – 9/23/02

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/02-9/23/02**

	Budget 2002/03	Current Month	Year to Date
<i>Operating Fund</i>			
Income:			
Publications	640.00		171.42
Membership Dues	3,323.00		3,150.00
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	3,963.00		3,321.42
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00		40.00
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00		100.00
Facility Rental	175.00		38.50
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00		
Postage, Copies	200.00		28.23
DNR Permit	10.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		167.53
Club Brochures	50.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,975.00		374.26
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	988.00		2,947.16
<i>Seed Sales</i>			
Income			
Sales			
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			42.50
Rent			
Seed			
Sales Tax			
Total			
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			
Contributions to Preserve Habitat			
<i>Reserve Fund</i>			
Reserve Account Balance			8,862.07
Interest Received			86.65
Atlas Matching Funds Paid			(810.00)
Balance			8,138.72 *
<i>Special Fund</i>			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			9,917.02
<i>Ending Bank Balances</i>			
Checking			3,342.86
Savings			18,165.74
Petty Cash			48.02
<i>Total</i>			21,556.62

*Reserve Funds: \$ 4,090 committed to BBA.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 24, 2002

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2001-2002 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
 Kevin Heffernan (1st yr.)
 Kate Tufts (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker
 Karen Darcy

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
 Dave Holyoke
Records: Jo Solem

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Friedhoffer. Total number in attendance was eight. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 10, 2002 was _??_ people. Gail Mackiernan gave a program entitled "Caribbean Birding on the Greater and Lesser Antilles."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt reviewed a variety of topics:

- He had reviewed the information received from the Howard Heritage Fund and identified they provided matching grants for worthwhile causes. Kurt forwarded the material to Jane Coskren as the Breeding Bird Atlas project might well want to apply for a grant.
- Some members had already received a letter announcing plans for the MOS Planning Retreat scheduled for November 9 at APL. The letter had not been universally received at this time, but all MOS members are invited to participate. Kurt indicated he was planning to attend.
- Stan Arnold had provided further details on his proposal to put up nest boxes for Prothonotary Warblers on the eastern edge of county in the Patapsco River Valley. He is requesting \$44 for the project. After discussion the Board decided to fund this request out of the \$55 received as gifts to club along with memberships. Funding this grant out of those funds was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- Bob Solem had asked the board for permission to write a letter to Howard Rec. and Parks stating the Chapter supports the initiative to hire an expert to serve as coordinator for control of invasive plants in the County. The Board approved this action.
- The Board will plan to make a decision on awarding this year's seed sale proceeds at the January Board meeting. The Board was urged to provide formal proposals for advance review at the November meeting. Kurt will solicit suggestions from the at-large membership at the November club meeting.
- Kurt stated that the results of the recent "Big Sit" were the worst yet, primarily due to the bad weather. One highlight of the day was meeting Richard Kearney, Migratory Bird Coordinator with the International

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He apparently lives in Columbia and might be a potential speaker for the club.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer):

The discussion of potential speakers reminded Jeff, that he should investigate the possibility of an acquaintance of his being a speaker. For the record he asked that the minutes reflect the need for him to contact this fellow, Steve Kent.

Secretary (Stirrat): None.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy reminded everyone to pay their dues, if they hadn't. The membership reminder meeting will be mailed after the November club meeting, in the hope that a few more payments will be received at meeting. At this time we are down about 100 memberships. Emy reported that Shiras Guion had reported that the number of MOS "at-large" memberships were up this year, most likely in response to the increase in dues by state and some chapters. However as experience is we need to wait and see as the reminder letters and phone calls often produce significant returns. Kate reminded the Board that the Kevin Heffernan as the newest Chapter Director is nominally assigned the duty of being the membership follow-up "phone-caller." *Sec. Note: Kevin later agreed that he would do this.*

Emy reported that she had already received \$250 extra in additional contributions for habitat protection with the seed sale orders. The monthly treasurer's report is attached to these minutes.

Lastly Emy reported on the status of the book store and tax collection. She paid the bookstore tax liability with the June filing. The regulations require the tax be separately identified and not just be included as a quoted total price. Thus the bookstore prices will need to be clear that the price is the cover price less 20%, but the 5% sales tax is collected. To accomplish this it was proposed the 20% off price be penciled inside the cover of all books. It was proposed the workers manning the book table at the upcoming seed sale would start this process. Mary-Jo reported that she has the record receipt books to be used for book sales that will provide sales and tax records for the book store.

Past President (Waugh): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker's, Darcy, Etc.):

No meeting since last Chapter Board meeting to report on. The next State Board meeting is December 7 near Hagerstown.

State President (Zucker): Not present.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo had been contacted by Janet Shields and volunteered to make arrangements for cold platters and drinks for the upcoming State MOS planning retreat at APL. She needs assistance of someone to help carry platters as she can't lift anything heavy. Janet is also asking about use of the club's coffee maker.

Relative to the planning retreat, Kurt voiced his impression that there is an "under current" present in discussions with several Chapters (Montgomery, Frederick) questioning "what value" the local chapters gain from MOS. Hopefully the discussions at retreat will lead to less of this negative feeling.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie mentioned a possible idea for promoting club would be to adopt practice she had seen in other chapters, namely to select the “most enthusiastic” new member. She then recalled this was her 12th year as field trip coordinator, but that overall she felt things were all normal. Jeff suggested that the trails along the Little Patuxent River at Kindler Road or somewhere at WSSC would be good locations for field trips. Bonnie suggested he volunteer to lead one, and repeated the idea of having co-leaders that might make him more comfortable volunteering.

She then reported that at the recent Invasive Plants seminar it was clear they would like volunteers/groups to help with the actual “control” of plants. It was suggested we might include a short article in the newsletter describing this opportunity. The possibility of a “Bird Club” sponsored work day was raised, but in the past we’ve usually concluded that other organizations have a better source of “physical “ labor and our organized conservation efforts might better focus on using our technical skills, such as the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Bonnie reported that the first announcement that the atlas web-entry system was ready and associated deadline for entry was not valid. At that time problems were being experienced. She repeated observation that almost every field card had errors of some form. *Sec. Note: The web entry system is now working and Jo reported at latest club meeting that she hopes all entries will be completed by the end of November.*

Programs (Geuder): Not present.

Records (J. Solem): Not present.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported that the Columbia Flyer has not been using very many of his announcements. Kate stated she had seen some in Howard County Times which is also a Patuxent Publishing paper. He is forwarding material to a long list of outlets (Wash. Post, Baltimore Sun-Howard Co., Laurel Leader, Penny Saver, Zip Publishing, Catonsville Times. Someone noted that the Mt. Airy Gazette covers western part of county and might be worth contacting. Bonnie reported that the Post and Sun usually contact her for confirmation before they publish.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg):

Eileen was not present, but Mary-Jo discussed as she is going to stand-in for her on day of sale as Eileen will be out of town on family matters. Helen Zeichner and Kate Tufts have agreed to cover bookstore in split shift. Kurt and Chuck indicated intent to be present to help with loading. Kurt was reminded that the coffee maker should be brought and after some “reminding” he volunteered to bring bagels.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

The current newsletter will be Paula’s last as editor. Her contributions were very much appreciated. Dave, the new editor, was not present but Sue, artist and layout, discussed some possible articles and that they are preparing an annual schedule. *Sec. Note: This was subsequently e-mailed to most regular contributors and the majority of board. It will be discussed at next Board meeting.*

Sue is planning to exhibit her art at the next MOS Conference. Mary-Jo provided her the name of point of contact for this activity. The subject of 30th anniversary T-shirts was again raised. Sue stated she might solicit level of interest in this at next club meeting and if strong interest she might pursue it further. She commented that she still had a box with several of the 25th anniversary T-shirts left at home. It was proposed that she should bring them to the seed sale and we’d hold a “discount” sale, as receiving some income for them was better than none.

Conservation (R. Solem): Not present.

Chapter Directors (Heffernan, Tufts):

Kevin was not present.

Kate reported that she had followed up on the idea of referring those responding to the Boost Bluebirds item on the membership survey to the Howard Recreation and Parks Bluebird Project coordinator, Sue Muller. Kate spoke with Sue and learned she would not mind our referring people to her program, but we could not expect her to contact them herself. Kate stated, and the Board agreed, we couldn’t just pass her the names anyway, without contacting them and referring them to the Rec. and Parks program. Kate agreed to call this year’s survey respondents and do that. It was agreed we should change next year’s survey since we really don’t have a formal

program with someone who will respond in the way the survey implies. *Sec. Note: Bob usually handles this form so I've added an action item for him to make note of this change.*

Kate repeated her belief we should try and link new members with current club members as “mentors.” The mentor would take responsibility for calling new members and inviting them to meetings, field trips, etc. As well as trying to ensure they are introduced to others and given assistance when they do accept the invitation.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

- Prepare membership follow-up letters – Bob Solem.
- Make phone calls to encourage membership reenrollment (after letter responses) – Kevin Heffernan
- Revise next years membership survey form to revise/delete Boost Bluebirds item – Bob Solem.
- Provide Board members formal proposals for Seed Sale grants - All

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2002	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 24, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
November 21, 2002	-	Dave Holyoke	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2003	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 27, 2003	-	Jo Solem	
March 27, 2003	-	Sue Probst	
April 24, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 22, 2003	-	Jeff Friedhoffer?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/02 – 10/21/02

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS - TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/02 - 10/21/02

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2002/03</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>Month</u>	<u>Year to</u> <u>Date</u>
<i>Operating Fund</i>			
Income:			
Publications	640.00		171.42
Membership Dues	3,323.00	1,395.00	4,545.00
State Dues Paid		(2,600.00)	(2,600.00)
Contributions		55.00	55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>3,963.00</u>	<u>(1,150.00)</u>	<u>2,171.42</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00		40.00
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00	50.00	150.00
Facility Rental	175.00		38.50
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00		
Postage, Copies	200.00		28.23
DNR Permit	10.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		167.53
Club Brochures	50.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,975.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>424.26</u>
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	<u><u>988.00</u></u>	<u><u>(1,200.00)</u></u>	<u><u>1,747.16</u></u>
<i>Seed Sales</i>			
Income			
Sales		7,200.00	7,200.00
Expense			
Flyers & Misc		68.57	111.07
Rent			
Seed			
Sales Tax			
Total			
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			
Contributions to Preserve Habitat		250.00	250.00
<i>Reserve Fund</i>			
Reserve Account Balance			8,862.07
Interest Received			103.88
Atlas Matching Funds Paid			<u>(810.00)</u>
Balance			<u><u>8,155.95</u></u>
<i>Special Fund</i>			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			<u><u>9,917.02</u></u>
<i>Ending Bank Balances</i>			
Checking			9,524.29
Savings			18,182.97
Petty Cash			<u>48.02</u>
<i>Total</i>			<u><u>27,755.28</u></u>

*Reserve Funds: \$ 4,090 committed to BBA.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 2002

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2001-2002 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
 Kevin Heffernan (1st yr.) √
 Kate Tufts (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker
 Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
 Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Dave Holyoke. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 14, 2002 was 50 people. Scott Sillet, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, gave a program entitled "Impacts of the El Nino Cycle on Migratory Song Birds."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported that the speaker at the last regular meeting had declined acceptance of his honorarium and asked that the \$50 go to our habitat preservation funding efforts. He did accept a gift of "books".

Bob has proposed adding a set of "links" to conservation web sites on our web site. Several organizations were mentioned. In email feedback the issue of keeping such links current was raised. The proposal was made we might want to limit the set of "links" to those organizations we have "supported". It was also pointed out that the state MOS site has a more extensive set of links that someone else has responsibility for currency on.

There was a brief discussion of the request for us to prepare a letter supporting Ho. Rec. & Parks efforts to control invasive plant species. It was agreed that Bob should draft a letter from the club supporting this initiative.

Kurt revisited the thought of proposing projects to the Howard Heritage Foundation for funding. Kurt had discussed with Cheryl Farfaras regarding funding for the grasslands projects in the Middle Patuxent Environmental area. The Foundation is responsive to this initiative but the county does not propose to pursue in this current year.

Other proposals under consideration for our current year habitat gifts include The Nature Conservancy's Marshes to Mountains campaign and the Jay Sheppard request for a project related to owls. It was concluded that an announcement to the general membership would be made at the Dec. club meeting and then the Board would consider formal proposals at the Jan. Board meeting with a final decision to be made at the Feb. Board meeting.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck related a discussion he had with the Geuder's about the potential of video projection devices for use in future club programs. Chuck suggested that the use of the Mountjoy Fund to purchase such a device seemed consistent with the fund's intent. The Board recommended keeping consideration of this proposal as a current action item. Discussion of needing suggestions for club programs reminded Kevin Heffernan that he should pass Jane the name of Middleton Evans who would be a potential speaker.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Attached is the treasurer's report for May 1 through November 20. Emy reported that the proceeds of this year's seed sale are less than prior years. We briefly discussed ideas for promoting the seed sale that would be relatively cheap and easy to do. One idea was to hand out forms at club meetings prior to sale. Another idea was to have a newsletter article that spells out "how the seed sale works and who it benefits" prior to next sale. Kate Tufts "volunteered" to work on such an article. Any other ideas are solicited.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker's, Darcy, Etc.):

The next scheduled State Board meeting is scheduled for Dec. 7 at Hagerstown.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren):

No report. See Jo Solem report for county atlas status.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo reported that the pot-luck is scheduled for March 8. There was a discussion of a recent incident of a computer virus being spread on MDOsprey.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that she had revised the "header" material for the field trips section in upcoming newsletters. She is also considering preparation of a "free" flyer for "easy" bird walks as a recruiting tool. She also revisited her plans to prepare a packet for field trip leader use.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

The process of entering atlas database is proceeding at a rapid pace. The desire is to have the input of data completed by November 30. About half of the data has already been entered. One area for future attention is that most Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Great Blue Heron sightings should be entered as "O:" Jo related some of the issues with web entry process. Plans are in place for two "atlas review" sessions for participants to be held at the Miller Branch of Library Saturday, January 25 and Sunday, February 23. Both sessions will cover the same material, atlas participants are encouraged to reserve spot in one or the other of these sessions.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Dave and Suzanne handed out the schedule and due dates for typical articles for the annual newsletter cycle. They intend to enforce the due dates presented therein. One proposal was made that we might want to use a symbol to identify those field trips especially useful for beginners. They discussed the newsletter process and how they intend to split responsibility. Dave should receive inputs (don't cc her) and he will forward to Suzanne after edit. Chuck agreed to send Suzanne copies of some graphics he had. Kevin Heffernan related idea of having a "quote of the month" in future newsletters.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Heffernan, Tufts): No report.

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items (Some from prior meetings but need to review status)

- Make phone calls to encourage membership reenrollment (after letter responses) – Kevin Heffernan
- Revise next years membership survey form to revise/delete Boost Bluebirds item – Bob Solem.
- Provide Board members formal proposals for Seed Sale grants – All
- Investigate digital projectors and slide costs – Jeff Friedhoffer (revived by Stirrat at this meeting)
- Solicit volunteer(s) for "bird ID" and "back-up" programs - ?
- Future newsletter article on "seed sale process" – Kate Tufts

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2002	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 24, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
November 21, 2002	-	Dave Holyoke	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2003	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 27, 2003	-	Jo Solem	
March 27, 2003	-	Sue Probst	
April 24, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 22, 2003	-	Jeff Friedhoffer?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter, Treasurer's Report May 1 to November 20, 2002
- Newsletter Due Dates and Contents, 11/18/2002
- Web Page Printouts for The Nature Conservancy Mountains to Marshes Campaign
- Congratulatory letters to new Howard County Council members David A. Rakes, Ken Ulman

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/02-11/20/02**

	Budget 2002/03	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications	640.00		171.42
Membership Dues	3,323.00	705.00	5,250.00
Contributions			55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	3,963.00	705.00	2,876.42
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00	43.88	83.88
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00		150.00
Facility Rental	175.00		38.50
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00	72.09	72.09
Postage, Copies	200.00		28.23
DNR Permit	10.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	128.63	296.16
Club Brochures	50.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,975.00	244.60	668.86
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	988.00	460.40	2,207.56
Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales		557.00	7,757.00
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			111.07
Rent			
Seed		6,364.92	6,364.92
Sales Tax			
Total			6,475.99
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			
Contributions to Preserve Habitat		250.00	250.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,862.07
Interest Received			122.52
Atlas Matching Funds Paid			(810.00)
Balance			8,174.59
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			9,917.02
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,176.77
Petty Cash			48.02
*Reserve Funds: \$ 4,090 committed to BBA.			

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2003

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2001-2002 Club Officers:

President:	Kurt Schwarz √	Education:	??
Vice-president:	Jeff Friedhoffer (<i>also Publicity</i>) √	Conservation:	Maureen Harvey
Secretary:	Chuck Stirrat √	Nominations:	Dave Harvey
Treasurer:	Emy Holdridge √		
Past President:	Donald Waugh	Chapter Committees:	
Chapter Directors:		Field Trips:	Bonnie Ott √
	Kevin Heffernan (1 st yr.) √	Programs:	Jane Geuder
	Kate Tufts (2 nd yr.)	Seed Sale/Scholarship:	Eileen Clegg
State Directors:	Mary-Jo Betts √	Conservation:	Bob Solem √
	Darius Ecker	Newsletter:	Suzanne Probst √
	Paula Ecker		Dave Holyoke √
	Karen Darcy √	Records/Atlas:	Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker √
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kevin Heffernan. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 12, 2002 was ___ people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "2002 Birdwatching Odyssey: Does the Scottish Crossbill Really Exist?" Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 9, 2003 was ___ people. Dr. George Gee, Patuxent Research Center gave a program entitled "Whooping Crane Recovery Program."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported that he had supported an Atholton High School Program. He had received an acknowledgement of our letter of congratulations to newly elected Councilman Ulman that expressed his desire to work together with the club. Kurt received an email from Joyce Kelly regarding the attempt to establish a consortium of local organizations concerned with the environment. Bob Solem agreed to digest this process and recommend further support as warranted.

It was noted that a new nominating committee needed to be assigned each year. The Board quickly addressed this by reaffirming appointment of a committee for the coming year consisting of Bonnie Ott, Mary-Jo Betts, and new volunteer Kevin Heffernan.

Bob Solem described his proposal to distribute the next annual membership directory/nomination slate announcement with an electronic distribution in Acrobat PDF format. This format will be used for those with email address and others will receive snail mail format (50 still without email). There is an issue with need to incorporate the fonts because not all have the Narrow Arial format used in report. This process is a test of potential for eventual consideration of distributing newsletter via email. We are interested in pursuing this approach but still several issues to resolve before any formal implementation. Need to make formal distribution of election slate by March 1.

Kurt raised his concern that the Triadelphia Christmas Count was so poorly advertised and organized. Jo explained that a new coordinator (Jay Jones) had been appointed but had no prior experience. There is some hope

this will be better coordinated next year, but he was reminded this count is formally a National Audubon Christmas Count and although supported by MOS is not an MOS “official” count. The Howard County coordination for this count circle was done by Mark Wallace and Ron and Susan Polniazak (who are looking for volunteers).

The recent MLKing weekend trip to Delaware was considered a great success. It was pointed out this trip may not have been “officially” announced in newsletter. It may have “filled up” with word of mouth announcement, although some felt some article had appeared (Need to check). If so probably shouldn’t get to much attention in newsletter. We need to recognize need to formally announce “club”-sponsored activities in newsletter. The intent is to avoid any impression that club is not open to all members participating.

Next turned to the question of proposals for use of this year’s seed sale proceeds. Kurt stated he had received no official submittals for proposals. He handed out material he had assembled from the MD/DC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy web site dealing with their “Mountains to Marshes Campaign”. Kurt agreed to contact Darius Ecker and see if his work location was co-located in same building as The Nature Conservancy and if so if he could explore possible options for a “local” program to sponsor.

Kurt closed with acknowledgement of a recent announcement that the state had approved approximately \$2M for purchase of 21 acres adjacent to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

The annual membership “year” is being cut off with future applications being for next year. We still need to submit \$1700 more in state dues. Emy acknowledged Kevin Heffernan’s efforts in calling outstanding members who had not renewed. Board appreciative of Kevin’s efforts and Bob stated it had been quite productive.

Emy reported that both the November and January club meeting speakers had declined receiving their honorariums, and approved adding these to the habitat fund from seed sales.

The Treasurer’s report is attached. The facility rental for the pot-luck shown includes a security deposit. In addition the Wildlife Authority reimbursed the club for half the rental of church for the seed sale. Thus the seed sale balance shown should be \$1314 + \$25.

It was noted that Stan Arnold had not contacted Emy regarding the Board’s funding of his proposal for Prothonotary Warbler boxed along the Patuxent River. Kurt agreed to contact him and remind him to submit his expenses.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker’s, Darcy, Etc.):

Kurt, Karen, Kevin, Mary-Jo, and Paul attended most recent meeting in Hagerstown.

State President (Zucker):

Paul discussed the move of the conference at the Bolger Center to the Memorial Day weekend. This was required by a major renegotiation over price. Ken Kaufman is featured speaker. Organizer’s are planning to limit field trips to 15 participants. This should be a prime time for recording atlas observations.

The state MOS is actively urging further study of proposed sites for wind power facilities in western Maryland.

State Education Committee (??): No rep.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report, see Jo Solem report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo passed around draft brochure for the upcoming MOS Conference. Plans for the mid-winter count are on track. The annual pot-luck dinner is scheduled for March 8.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that a pelagic trip with club participation is scheduled in March. With more than 10 participants the club is entitled to one "free" spot. Since participants have already paid it was agreed this rebate of \$90 would be applied to the habitat fund. A summer pelagic trip is also being planned. The Centennial trip nominally scheduled for March 16 will conflict with date of pelagic trip so if no leader found will need to cancel.

On a few trips this spring have scheduled dual start times as an experiment. Several trips are cosponsored whenever offer opportunity for expanded publicity. These include trips at Bon Secours and Mt. Pleasant.

Lastly considering scheduling a trip to the Smithsonian Arts and Industry Building for "Orchids and Butterflies" exhibit.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane wasn't present but it was reported that Middleton Evans has been booked as club meeting speaker. He has requested permission to sell his photographs and the Board agreed this is acceptable.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that we had planned to drop all federal and state permits for collecting and holding specimens since we have transferred collection to Ho. County Rec. & Parks. They are maintaining permits. However our "salvage" permit was renewed without reapplying (no check sent).

Jo didn't have an atlas report but an article is scheduled for next newsletter and there are two upcoming atlas workshop sessions scheduled in late Jan. and Feb.

The "last" copies of the "Birding Howard County" books are currently at the Wildlife Authority for sale. Plans include a second printing (with minor updates to check list). Approximately 500 copy printing and very likely higher price being considered.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported that his investigation of purchasing a set of "slides" for use as fallback for a "no-show" at club meetings indicated this would cost about \$150 from Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Dave handed out an update of the Newsletter Due Dates and Contents packet.

Dave led a discussion of possible changes to the articles on seasonal reports. He handed out a possible reformatting of articles that was "table" format. Feedback was "table" format would likely not be space efficient. Leaving out names of participants might reduce participation as reduced "incentive" of having recognition of efforts. Table format would decrease opportunity for narrative and comments. The inputs to American Birds doesn't capture the narrative material that might be worthwhile as permanent record. The article tries to address significance and provide comments on sightings. Jo tries to include something from everyone who contributes as form of recognition. Several suggestions for how to continue current practice but make articles "more readable" were offered. Dave agreed to try and adopt these suggestions without major change in content of current articles. Use of Microsoft Word tables could be an issue if want to eventually publish newsletter electronically if continue to use Quark as newsletter publishing method as it doesn't support Word "tables."

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Heffernan, Tufts):

Kevin related his efforts in calling all those who had not renewed membership. (Current membership is at ~276). Kevin stated he had a reasonable response from the ~100 contacts he made. Roughly we had about a 50% success rate from his contacts. He tied his "pitch" to the upcoming Dec. meeting agenda with Hank Kaestner as the speaker.

Kevin asked if publishing an article that incorporated one or more of his "cheat sheets" in a series of articles would be useful. He has prepared them on such areas as warblers, shorebirds, etc. It was pointed out that much of his content may be "copy write" material and that great care would be needed to using it without prior

agreement. At a minimum adapting material to Howard County seemed necessary and perhaps more before safe to publish.

Old Business See Officer Reports.

New Business See Officer Reports.

Action Items See Officer Reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2002	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 24, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
November 21, 2002	-	Dave Holyoke	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2003	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 27, 2003	-	Jo Solem	
March 27, 2003	-	Sue Probst	
April 24, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 22, 2003	-	Jeff Friedhoffer?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/02-01/22/03
- The Nature Conservancy web pages "Mountains to Marshes" campaign
- Newsletter Due Dates and Contents- 1/23/2003
- Proposed revised "format" for Autumn Bird Records

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/02-01/22/03**

	Budget 2002/03	Current Month	Year to Date
<i>Operating Fund</i>			
Income:			
Publications	640.00		171.42
Membership Dues	3,323.00	1,565.00	6,815.00
State Dues Paid			(2,600.00)
Contributions			55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	3,963.00	1,565.00	4,441.42
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00		83.88
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00	150.00	300.00
Facility Rental	175.00		38.50
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00		72.09
Postage, Copies	200.00	29.58	57.81
DNR Permit	10.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00	25.00	25.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	208.90	505.06
Club Brochures	50.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,975.00	413.48	1,082.34
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	988.00	1,151.52	3,359.08
<i>Seed Sales</i>			
Income			
Sales		45.50	7,802.50
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			111.07
Rent		50.00	50.00
Seed			6,364.92
Sales Tax		371.59	371.59
Total		421.59	6,897.58
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			904.92
Contributions to Preserve Habitat		160.00	410.00
Total Available to Contribute			1,314.92
<i>Reserve Fund</i>			
Reserve Account Balance			8,862.07
Interest Received			155.02
Atlas Matching Funds Paid			(810.00)
Balance			8,207.09
<i>Special Fund</i>			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			9,917.02
<i>Ending Bank Balances</i>			
Checking			5,112.20
Savings			18,234.11
Petty Cash			48.02
<i>Total</i>			23,394.33

*Reserve Funds: \$ 4,090 committed to BBA.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 27, 2003 (Rescheduled to March 6, 2003)

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2002-2003 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
 Kevin Heffernan (1st yr.)
 Kate Tufts (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker
 Karen Darcy

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
 Dave Holyoke
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem on March 6, after bad weather caused the rescheduling of meeting originally scheduled for February 27. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 13, 2003 was 40 people. Bob Ringler gave a program entitled "Colorado Chicken Trek".

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported receiving a letter of thanks from Jane Coskren for our providing the matching grant for the Breeding Bird Atlas project. Our actual outlay last year was \$910. After brief discussion we agreed that we really needed to treat cumulative over 5 year period, so if contributions exceed \$1000 in future year we will make up the \$90 in future year.

The slate of Officers has been finalized. Tom Miller has agreed to be the new Chapter Director. Remaining incumbents are the same. If Darius is unable to make State Board meetings Kevin Heffernan will attend as his proxy. The next State Board meeting was the Saturday following this meeting (March 8).

We then discussed the subject of how to use this year's seed sale proceeds. Jay Sheppard is still interested, but has not provided a formal proposal, in funding for a Eagle Scout project to plant pine trees as potential owl habitat. Given the indefinite nature of this project we chose to not apply the seed sale funds for this, but it was agreed that if Jay pursues this effort the Board would consider it appropriate to fund this effort with funds from the Mountjoy fund. Turning again to the seed sale funding, we have \$1430 in proceeds and contributions. After a brief discussion the proposal was made and approved to grant \$1500 to the Maryland-DC chapter of The Nature Conservancy for the Mountains to Marshes campaign they have underway for habitat preservation in Maryland.

Kurt had received another request for the club to support the Howard County Natural Resources Working Group. This is the coalition of organizations and businesses interested in preserving natural resources in the county headed by Tom Franklin and Joyce Kelly. We agreed that joining was consistent with the club's interests and would increase the likelihood we would get advance notice of hearings, etc. Although we would not be bound to support the position of coalition their initial testimony and focus has received our endorsement. Tom Franklin was expected to testify before the County Executive on March 12, and would like to know the club supports the requests

they are making. After clarifying that this would be similar proposal to what we saw before it was agreed Kurt should send Tom an email stating we are supportive of the testimony.

Last Kurt brought up the “cold” conditions in the school cafeteria during the February club meeting. He announced he was going to contact the school Principal and ask if there was anything possible to prevent this condition in the future. *Note: Kurt reported at the March club meeting that he did inquire but learned the school system policy is to turn off heat at end of the instruction day, and the systems are automated and not adjustable. In fact the Principal stated that heat isn’t even on for school PTA evening meetings.* Another topic he might raise, but probably won’t, is the availability of the microphone to connect to the school public address system (which seems to be available on a hit or miss basis).

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy passed out the attached Treasurer’s Report. The income of \$83.70 is the last of Howard County “book” proceeds, as last copies have been sold to The Wildlife Authority.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker’s, Darcy, Etc.):

Next meeting is on March 8.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo reported that plans for the coming Saturday evening pot-luck are in good shape. Rod and Monika Botsai are again helping with organization this year. Attendance is expected to be about 60 people.

Planning for the MOS Conference on Memorial Day weekend is proceeding. Anyone who wants to volunteer to help during the Conference should contact Mary-Jo.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Field trip planning is on track and working well. Jay Sheppard to lead a woodcock walk as announced in an email.

Bonnie needed volunteers for bringing food to the April and May meeting, as all her normal volunteers weren’t available. Board members volunteered. Bonnie will purchase refreshments for the September meeting as that is important meeting and volunteers won’t be organized by then. Lastly she plans to prepare a short article for the May-June newsletter acknowledging the volunteers who provided refreshments during the past year.

She also raised the topic of having an article in the Sept-Oct newsletter on the seed sale. Bob has material he puts on the seed sale flyer, but an article combining that material with a description of the process of picking up seed etc. will be prepared.

The Maryland Bird Records committee (Paul O’Brian) has a program for club’s that will likely be on next year’s schedule. Bonnie suggested that an article for the newsletter that described how to write-up (“document”) a rare bird would be an excellent complement to that program.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that the mid-Winter count data has been entered in the computer and article is underway. She said thank you to Mary-Jo for her organizing of the count.

Jo also stated she has started to work on a “revision” of the Birding Howard County book preparatory to a reprinting. She does not plan to revise all the site guides but she is finding that a lot has “changed” since 1995. As a result the process is taking longer than she expected, but she will work on it as time is available.

Lastly she announced that people can access the club web site for the maps that Bob has assembled with the first year’s atlas results.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob handed out the annual membership report for 2002-2003 (attached). It was observed there was no major change as result of the membership dues being raised. The current year numbers were:

Loss – 62, New – 31, Renew – 245, Total 276.

Couple – 167, Individual – 108, Other – 1, Total – 276, Junior – 25.

On the reverse side of report he included a list of the last year’s members contacted by Kevin Heffernan asking those who did not reply to original solicitation to renew. This contact resulted in more than a 50% positive response.

Bob then asked the Board what guidance they could provide him as Conservation chairman regarding the apparent lack of an environmental focus in the new state government leadership. The “sense of the Board” was that we felt there would be a need to monitor and act in response to Governor Ehrlich’s administration, as regard to the environment. Bob was authorized to “act” in response to issues as they arise given this sense of the board’s position. One key means of response he will have when an issue arises is using email to contact the club’s membership. He may well do so without waiting to first survey the Board.

Chapter Directors (Heffernan, Tufts): No report.

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items

No formal action items assigned.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2002	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 24, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
November 21, 2002	-	Dave Holyoke	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2003	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 27, 2003	-	Jo Solem	(rescheduled to March 6)
March 27, 2003	-	Sue Probst	
April 24, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 22, 2003	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/02-02/27/03
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members), prepared by Bob Solem 3/5/2003

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/02-02/27/03**

	Budget 2002/03	Current Month	Year to Date
<i>Operating Fund</i>			
Income:			
Publications	640.00	83.70	255.12
Membership Dues	3,323.00	30.00	6,845.00
State Dues Paid		(1,710.00)	(4,310.00)
Contributions			55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	3,963.00	(1,596.30)	2,845.12
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00	67.40	151.28
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00	50.00	350.00
Facility Rental	175.00		38.50
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00	14.66	86.75
Postage, Copies	200.00		57.81
DNR Permit	10.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00	64.80	89.80
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	216.13	721.19
Club Brochures	50.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,975.00	412.99	1,495.33
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	988.00	(2,009.29)	1,349.79
<i>Seed Sales</i>			
Income			
Sales			7,802.50
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			111.07
Rent		(25.00)	25.00
Seed			6,364.92
Sales Tax			371.59
Total		(25.00)	6,872.58
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			929.92
Contributions to Preserve Habitat		90.00	500.00
Total Available to Contribute			1,429.92
<i>Reserve Fund</i>			
Reserve Account Balance			8,162.07
Interest Received			168.40
Balance			8,330.47 *
<i>Special Fund</i>			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			9,917.02
<i>Ending Bank Balances</i>			
Checking			2,667.51
Savings			18,247.49
Petty Cash			48.42
Total			20,963.42

*Reserve Funds: \$ 3,540 committed to BBA. Paid to MOS for BBA 2201-02, \$910; 2002-03, \$550.
E. Holdridge 2/27/03

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2003

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2002-2003 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
 Kevin Heffernan (1st yr.) √
 Kate Tufts (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker
 Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
 Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Sue Probst. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 13 was 35 people. David Holmes gave a program entitled "Identification Tips for Confusing Howard County Birds."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt began discussing the issues associated with the Conference menu. He announced that that Bolger Center had dropped plans to drop "South American Sea Bass" for the banquet. There is evidence that Chilean Sea Bass is being "over fished" and that also "bird safe" methods of harvest are environmental concerns. Many members might have expressed desire to abstain. The Center is changing menu.

Kurt received a letter from Jean Fry dated March 24 announcing the MOS scholarship winners. This year funds were available for funding 8 scholarships. The local chapter should seek to encourage application for these scholarships.

A library book signing for John Rappole's book on birding the Birds of the Mid-Atlantic Region is anticipated. There is a possibility to setup a club information table at this event which is still not scheduled.

Kurt will be listed as the contact on the club's contribution to The Nature Conservancy for this year's Seed Sale contribution.

A cleanup is scheduled for the Lake Elkhorn region on April 5, and Kurt encouraged participation.

Michelle Stewart who is active in the Elkhorn cleanup is soliciting support for a cleanup along the new county trail from Elkhorn to Savage. Kurt asked if the club would like to sponsor or participate in such a trail cleanup. Although we haven't done anything like this before it seems an appropriate club activity. Questions focused on whether there was an appropriate time of year for such an activity. Early Spring (March) seemed the most effective time for such a project, suggesting next year a likely target opportunity. Such a project could start later in the morning providing opportunities for birding before cleanup. Kurt will look into this project further

including exploring what form of support the County could provide for such a cleanup to include picking up trash bags collected.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy's report is attached to this set of minutes. She reported that the atlas matching has to date resulted in contributing \$1960 over past two years.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker's, Darcy, Etc.): No report.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo reported that plans for the annual Conference are proceeding. Field trip leaders are still needed. Plans provide for up to 55 field trips but only 40 volunteers have come forward so far.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that Stan Arnold is set to lead an August shorebird trip combined with a pelagic trip. The Big Sit is scheduled for the second Sunday of October. She has the potential to schedule many Fall trips but is considering a slight cut back from having one on both Sat. and Sunday of each weekend. Her problem continues to be the availability of trip leader volunteers (too few volunteers). She intends to continue schedule of weekday walks. It was observed that the Centennial walks have to contend with the very busy use of this park if weather is favorable. She also reported that the Woodcock walk led by Jay Sheppard was very successful.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo asked about whether club had any involvement scheduled for the Mt. Pleasant "Earth Day" activities. Bonnie reported she was not scheduled for then but was set to lead a walk there on May 4. Sue Probst stated she may do a desk at the Howard Community College Earth Day.

Jo then reported that there were early reports that an announcement was expected soon for the plans to create a Nature Center as part of the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. A gift from a Mrs. Robinson (who lives on Trotter Road) which might even include additional land and considerable dollar resources was expected to be announced shortly.

Jo is still working on the update to the "Birding Howard County" book. Jeff Friedhoffer provided some preliminary information on the process of "on-demand" publishing.

It was mentioned that the Centennial walk had been published in the Howard County Times.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Sue had no report.

Dave reported that he had an “early welcome” article from Kurt. He also said that there is a “lot” of material for coming newsletter and he is feeling need to edit/limit some of the articles.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Heffernan, Tufts):

Kate was not present.

Kevin reiterated his ideas for several potential newsletter articles: “next 10 bird species in county”; “Best 10 species in county”; “Neatest 10 birds in county”; and “Next expected species in county.” He proposed someone could interview potential contributors/primary county field birders and write article.

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items No new action items.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2002	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 24, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
November 21, 2002	-	Dave Holyoke	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2003	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 27, 2003	-	Jo Solem	(rescheduled to March 6)
March 27, 2003	-	Sue Probst	
April 24, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 22, 2003	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report 5/1/02 – 3/26/03

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/02-03/26/03**

	Budget 2002/03	Current Month	Year to Date
<i>Operating Fund</i>			
Income:			
Publications	640.00		255.12
Membership Dues	3,323.00		6,845.00
State Dues Paid			(4,310.00)
Contributions			55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	3,963.00	-	2,845.12
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00	37.39	188.67
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00	50.00	400.00
Facility Rental	175.00		38.50
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00	98.97	185.72
Postage, Copies	200.00	48.69	106.50
DNR Permit	10.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00	24.64	114.44
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		721.19
Club Brochures	50.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,975.00	259.69	1,755.02
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	988.00	(259.69)	1,090.10
<i>Seed Sales</i>			
Income			
Sales			7,802.50
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			111.07
Rent			25.00
Seed			6,364.92
Sales Tax			371.59
Total		-	6,872.58
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			929.92
Contributions to Preserve Habitat			500.00
Total Available to Contribute			1,429.92
<i>Reserve Fund</i>			
Reserve Account Balance			8,162.07
Interest Received		9.87	178.27
Balance			8,340.34
<i>Special Fund</i>			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			9,917.02
<i>Ending Bank Balances</i>			
Checking			1,907.82
Savings			18,257.36
Petty Cash			48.42
Total			20,213.60

*Reserve Funds: \$ 3,040 committed to BBA. Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1,050.

E. Holdrige

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 24, 2003

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2002-2003 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
 Kevin Heffernan (1st yr.) √
 Kate Tufts (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker
 Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
 Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 10, 2003 was 38 people. Middleton Evans, nature photographer and author gave a program entitled "Maryland's Great Outdoors."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt has received a note from Ralph Geuder indicating that the normal date of our meeting next April is a day the school will be closed. We agreed to move the April 2004 meeting from April 8 to April 15. The election notice will need to emphasize this since the April meeting is the annual election of officers.

Kurt referred Board to an email that Bob had forwarded in which George Alderson (george7090@Comcast.net) had offered his services in drafting letters for the club/Board to comment on environmental issues. Whenever the Board is willing to take a position on an issue he would be willing to draft a position paper/letter for the Board or club members to take a stand on that issue. It was agreed Kurt will reply to him indicating our interest in accepting his offer. In such instances after he drafted a letter the draft will be forwarded to the Club President for forwarding to the Board or membership as appropriate. The subject of Road Rage (RS 2477) was likely to be first topic we would request a letter expressing an opinion on.

Kurt reported that Tom Miller felt he could provide a jack adaptor for the microphone at the school where club meetings are held. It was agreed this would be beneficial if possible.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy handed out a copy of the attached Treasurer's report. Items she sighted as noteworthy were the monthly rental for school at \$20.20 per month. Cash flow has caused her to delay sending the check to the Maryland Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. We have already maxed out on the matching grant for the Atlas for year. If we were to not max further contributions it might be considered a disincentive to other clubs. Kent and the Tri-county(?) chapters supposedly have contributed and it would be "good" to match their efforts. The belief is that the Atlas will need this "early" funding more than later as grants and other initiatives are still in flux. It was agreed we would match any contributions from these two chapters even if this were to exceed our approx. \$1000 per year pledge. If other chapters make pledges the Board will address these individually as they arise.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker's, Darcy, Etc.): No meeting hence no report.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Darius was not present and Karen had no report. Mary-Jo reported that plans for the annual state MOS Conference are proceeding on track. Current registration suggest attendance will be about 230. Registrants were notified of the menu change to remove "South American Sea Bass."

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie pointed out that she had been the club's field trip coordinator for 13 years. She is considering several changes in her approach for next year. She is thinking she will plan fewer trips, but more "beginner" trips (late start) for less sophisticated birders, probably on weekdays. She senses that the more experienced birders are able to bird on their own. She also is strongly considering more "out of county" trips. The issue on the latter is how to have qualified leaders for these. She hopes to entice someone more knowledgeable about such sites to act as leaders for our trips. She mentioned Walter Ellison for Sandy Point, Bob Ringler for Piney Run, and Arlene Ripley for Jug Bay as potential leaders. There will likely be fewer "black diamond" trips. Dave Holyoke asked if there were plans for "atlas" trips and was told that some are planned. Another idea that was suggested was one that would attempt to train participants on how to do a bird count.

Bonnie indicated that we need to solicit volunteers for acting as host/hostess at meetings to welcome people and hand out nametags. Sue Neri's name was suggested, and it was pointed out that having several volunteers to share this task would be a good idea. Mary-Jo agreed to look into ordering more name tags (like a year's worth ~500).

Bonnie reminded us that we don't say "thank you" to volunteers as much as we should. This should be done in newsletter articles and at club meetings. Examples of service needing acknowledgement are those who provide food, book store manager, etc. A regular thank you column in the newsletter was proposed and the club president will be responsible for preparing the column or getting someone to write it.

Lastly she mentioned that we want an article on seed sale process for fall issue of newsletter. Kate Tufts and Kurt have volunteered to collaborate on this, with Bob providing some material he already has..

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo suggested that we should solicit the email address of count participants on the field sheet. This would be especially useful for out of county birders who participate in Winter Count.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Sue not present. Dave asked about possibility of having an article on “What do our MOS dues buy you?” The recent MOS planning retreat discussed this same topic, and although we don’t have the formal results, it might be possible to receive inputs on this topic from MOS President Paul Zucker.

Conservation (R. Solem):

See discussion under President about offer from George Alderson.

Chapter Directors (Heffernan, Tufts):

Kate was not present. Kevin had no formal report but during discussion he asked about possibility of having field trips for “youth.” It was agreed that it is difficult to find interested kids and it is inappropriate for field trip leaders to accept responsibility for “baby-sitting” dropped off kids. Although Board would like to find way to promote birding in younger generation this is a difficult process to promote. Tabled idea for now.

Old Business None, other that items raised under officer reports.

New Business None.

Action Items

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM – **Next year’s tentative schedule** was set to be the following:

- September 25, 2003 - Bonnie Ott
- October 23, 2003 - Dave Holyoke
- November 20, 2003 - TBD (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
- December - NO MEETING
- January 22, 2004 - Kevin Heffernan
- February 26, 2004 - Jo Solem
- March 25, 2004 - TBD
- April 22, 2004 - Kurt Schwarz
- May 20, 2004 - TBD (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

- September 26, 2002 - Bonnie Ott
- October 24, 2002 - Jeff Friedhoffer
- November 21, 2002 - Dave Holyoke (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
- December - NO MEETING
- January 23, 2003 - Kevin Heffernan
- February 27, 2003 - Jo Solem (rescheduled to March 6)
- March 27, 2003 - Sue Probst
- April 24, 2003 - Kurt Schwarz

May 22, 2003 - ~~Jeff Friedhoffer~~ Bonnie Ott (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/02 – 4/24/03
- Email to Bob Solem from George Alderson, April 20, 2003 – “MOS Conservation activities”

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/02-04/24/03**

	Budget 2002/03	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications	640.00		255.12
Membership Dues	3,323.00	30.00	6,875.00
State Dues Paid			(4,310.00)
Contributions			55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	3,963.00	30.00	2,875.12
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00		188.67
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00	50.00	450.00
Facility Rental	175.00	101.00	139.50
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00		185.72
Postage, Copies	200.00		106.50
DNR Permit	10.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00	25.00	25.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00		114.44
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	186.23	907.42
Club Brochures	50.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,975.00	362.23	2,117.25
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	988.00	(332.23)	757.87
Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales			7,802.50
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			111.07
Rent			25.00
Seed			6,364.92
Sales Tax			371.59
Total			6,872.58
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			929.92
Contributions to Preserve Habitat			500.00
Total Available to Contribute			1,429.92
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,162.07
Interest Received		10.05	188.32
Balance			8,350.39 *
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			9,917.02
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			1,575.59
Savings			18,267.41
Petty Cash			48.42
Total			19,891.42

*Reserve Funds: \$ 3,040 committed to BBA. Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1.050.

E. Holdridge 4/23/03

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 2003

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2002-2003 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
 Kevin Heffernan (1st yr.)
 Kate Tufts (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Paula Ecker
 Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Nominations: Dave Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
 Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

New Chapter Director: Tom Miller √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 8 was ___ people. Richard Smith gave a program entitled "Conserving Maryland's Rare Butterflies."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported that he had received another proposal from Jay Shepard regarding his attempts to have an Eagle Scout project to establish an owl habitat area (near pine trees). He is proposing construction of approximately a dozen owl boxes (to be placed primarily on private land). He estimates this at approximately \$15 for materials per box. Scouts would build and place screech owl boxes (possibly Barn Owl boxes). Boxes would also be compatible for use by wood ducks and Kestrels. Nominally this would be funded from the Mountjoy Fund (~\$300). We earlier agreed to set aside a similar amount for this project but expressed concerns about who would monitor boxes for starlings and how would long term access to private property be resolved? Overall Board still supports the concept if issues are properly addressed.

Anne Marie Ratterman reports that the club's book store has approximately \$200-300 extra available. It was asked is this before or after accounting for the state sales tax commitment. If really available Board seemed to feel it would be appropriate to add these funds to other habitat funds such as the seed sale proceeds. Bonnie said she would be able to help with monitoring for which books would be most likely future sales prospects and would keep Anne Marie informed.

Kurt reported a discussion from someone in the Frederick area that had felt they were not properly notified that the schedules in the Yellowthroat were incorrect. The only notice that this error occurred was distributed on MDOSprey which is not an official MOS outlet. Kurt stated he was considering raising a concern that at an upcoming Board meeting that insufficient notice of this error (although understandable given the change in

responsibility for editing of the Yellowthroat contributions) was provided to membership. Possibly the State Board needs to have a policy for responding to future problems of this nature. Possibly propose the positive action that should such an error occur in the future local chapter presidents should be notified and asked to contact their membership as promptly as possible.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy reported that this month was the first month of the MOS fiscal year. She has received 3 new memberships. She paid MOS our matching grant to the atlas for contributions against our 2004 grant of \$650. This includes new grants matching gifts received from three other chapters” Kent \$100, Frederick \$100, and Tri-count \$250. Emy as of time of this meeting has not paid the seed sale grant to The Nature Conservancy previously approved by the Board.

Past President (Waugh): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker’s, Darcy, Etc.): No reports.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, P. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary Jo reported that the MOS raffle at upcoming MOS Conference are wonderful gifts. She also felt that material prepared following the recent MOS retreat would help to answer a query from Dave Holyoke concerning the value of chapter membership dues paid to the state organization. She passed our copies of a sheet labeled, “MOS Chapters’ “Best Practices.”

Karen had no report. Darius and Paula were not present.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that the date of next seed sale is October 25. She also reports that it is quite ironic that where she has expressed feeling that she should decrease number of trips, she has no “empty” dates during upcoming fall season, and thus is not the “cutback” she previously proposed. She was able to locate good leaders so felt should schedule trips. She has a rough draft of the article on seed sale process that she and Kurt had previously promised to prepare. She also is preparing a thank you article to recognize Eileen Clegg’s contribution to the seed sale.

Programs (Geuder): Jane not present but several ideas for future programs surfaced.

Possibilities mentioned were Phil Davis trip to Antarctic, Paul O’Brien on records committee, Bob Mumford – wildlife photographer, Mary Gustafson – writer ??, and David Holmes –always popular ID topics.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Atlas activities are more routine this year. There have been a few questions about protocol for second and later years. Weather this spring has been too wet cutting into field time. Reports include pair of Ring-necked Ducks at Elkhorn, Pied-billed Grebe pair, and pair of Buffleheads at _____. There is also a report of a second Bald Eagle nest at the Duckett Reservoir.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

July 25 is the due date for Sept/Oct newsletter. Mention was made to the recent article in the Baltimore Sun about the atlas project. Participants are urged to refer to the blue book and web site for further info on atlas.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Kurt will be forwarding emails on possible conservation topics or letters. It is anticipated that a recently filed court case will stop the planned Mute Swan hunt.

Chapter Directors (Heffernan, Tufts):

The Board welcomed newly elected Chapter Director Tom Miller to his first Board meeting.

Old Business

Discussing plans for club meetings, Bonnie agreed to bring nametags but recommended soliciting volunteers to serve as official greeters. Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy agreed to do this some of the time. In addition Bonnie once again agreed to coordinate the volunteers to bring food for meetings.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

The Board meeting schedule for next year was further refined:

- September 25, 2003 - Bonnie Ott
- October 23, 2003 - Dave Holyoke
- November 20, 2003 - **TBD** (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
- December - NO MEETING
- January 22, 2004 - Kevin Heffernan
- February 26, 2004 - Jo Solem
- March 25, 2004 - Sue Probst
- April 22, 2004 - Kurt Schwarz
- May 20, 2004 - **TBD** (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2002	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 24, 2002	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
November 21, 2002	-	Dave Holyoke	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2003	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 27, 2003	-	Jo Solem	(rescheduled to March 6)
March 27, 2003	-	Sue Probst	
April 24, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 22, 2003	-	Jeff Friedhoffer Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS-Treasurer's Report, 5/1/03-5/22/03
- MOS Membership by Chapter – provided by State Treasurer Shiras Guion, Nov 2002
- MOS Chapter's "Best Practices" – handout at the State MOS retreat Dec 2002

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/03-05/22/03

	Budget 2002/03	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications	640.00		
Membership Dues	3,323.00	90.00	90.00
State Dues Paid			
Contributions			
Total Operating Income	3,963.00	90.00	90.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00	50.00	50.00
Facility Rental	175.00		
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00		
Postage, Copies	200.00		
DNR Permit	10.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	37.87	37.87
Club Brochures	50.00		
Total Operating Expense	2,975.00	87.87	87.87
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund	988.00	2.13	2.13
Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales			
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			
Rent			
Seed			
Sales Tax			
Total			
Gain/Loss-Seed Sales			
Contributions to Preserve Habitat			
Total Available to Contribute			
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,350.39
Interest Received		9.40	9.40
Balance			8,359.79
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			9,917.02
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			927.72
Savings			18,276.81
Petty Cash			48.42
Total			19,252.95

*Reserve Funds: Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1,050; 2004, \$650.

Total committed, \$5,000. Total paid to date, \$2,610.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 25, 2003

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2002-2003 Club Officers:

President:	Kurt Schwarz √	Education:	??
Vice-president:	Jeff Friedhoffer (<i>also Publicity</i>) √	Conservation:	Maureen Harvey
Secretary:	Chuck Stirrat √		
Treasurer:	Emy Holdridge √	Chapter Committees:	
Past President:	Donald Waugh	Field Trips:	Bonnie Ott √
Chapter Directors:		Programs:	Jane Geuder
	Tom Miller (1 st year) √	Seed Sale/Scholarship:	Eileen Clegg
	Kevin Heffernan (2 nd yr.) √	Conservation:	Bob Solem √
State Directors:	Mary-Jo Betts	Newsletter:	Suzanne Probst √
	Darius Ecker		Dave Holyoke
	Karen Darcy √	Records/Atlas:	Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 11, 2003 was ___ people. Paul O'Brien gave a program entitled "Helping Your Records Committee Document Rarities."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt began his report with announcement that this year's team for the Big Sit will be known as the "Go-away Birds".

Jay Sheppard has asked for permission to present at the next regular club meeting approximately 10 minutes explaining the Eagle Scout project that will place several owl houses at prime locations in the county. He has had a few respondents from private residents agreeing to place houses on their private property. Others are still being solicited.

George Alderson continues to draft meaningful letters for input to a variety of environmental concerns around the nation. Kurt asked if the board would agree to him providing initial approval for submittal with a CC to the Board at time of submittal rather than waiting to poll the board membership before submitting the letter to appropriate government agencies. The Board agreed to this approach.

Relative to the debate at state level concerning conduct of the Fall Count on Saturday, it was the Howard Board consensus that future counts continue to be held on Saturdays. We have no problem with a state wide policy to leave it up to the counties sponsoring counts to conduct the count either on the third Saturday of September or the following Sunday, but generally felt proposals for two day counts extending over the weekend were less appealing.

The Board had a short but interesting discussion of the various power problems members experienced during and following the passage of Hurricane Isabelle.

Kurt then raised a proposal to have a future club program on "In Growth We Trust". This program would include a video tape and address the apparent "love affair" counties have with growth. It recognizes that the so called "smart growth" programs are only a band aid approach to a far more extensive problem. The real problem is an underlying growth in population. Jane Geuder had expressed support for idea. One clear theme of our

discussion was that for any program with video we needed a “better” video projection capability and couldn’t rely on TV monitors. One suggestion was that this topic might engender support from the local Sierra Club. Emy reported that this same speaker and program were already scheduled for presentation in and around Columbia. In discussion it was clear some of the membership felt this topic strayed a little far from club focus, and although supportive of the message if it was being presented in other venues might be best to set this idea aside for now.

Kurt then reported that on his own initiative he had agreed to list the club as a co-sponsor for a program at the central public library presenting the author of “Birds of the Mid-Atlantic Region” , _____ Rapole on Monday, October 27. Those who wish to attend should call library and reserve a space. The club will be able to set up a table with our display board.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy distributed the attached Treasurer’s report. Recall the club’s fiscal year begins on May 1. The receipt of membership dues has all but stopped. She has paid the first installment of state dues and income includes sale of on copy of the Birding Howard County book. She reported that Paul O’Brien declined his honorarium. The report shows we have earned only \$41.83 in interest over past four months.

Emy also supplied the attached report of past year book store finances. She received this report from Anne Marie in June. It shows an approximate profit for store of \$271 which would be available for use at Board discretion (e.g. habitat fund).

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker, Darcy, Etc.): No report.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, K. Darcy): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie asked about who had the club membership surveys as she wants to find those volunteering to bring food for club meetings. Bonnie won’t be at next club meeting and wants to get volunteers lined up.

She is hoping to find a theme for trips. She is looking for someone to handle arrangements for the club’s annual mid-winter trip. She hopes to have this year be focused in Maryland. Possibilities include Ocean City/Assateague Island. Would likely plan for ML King weekend with the President’s Day weekend as backup if weather impacts initial dates in January.

Bonnie discussed the coming newsletter columns for thank you article. She was told that an article had already been submitted by Kurt that didn’t deal with her subject. Bob reported he had sent Dave some information that highlighted the results of prior seed sales. Bonnie was hoping to have material explaining the seed sale “process” that would encourage those who didn’t understand how to order and pick up seed would not be afraid to order seed.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported on atlas progress. The second year process is essentially complete. The weather has made this a difficult season. Most blocks got some coverage. Two active Bald Eagle nests were reported in county (the new report is a nest on Duckett Reservoir). The new nest produced one eaglet. Another unusual report was the confirmation of Bank Swallows nesting found in John Maloney's block off Coca-cola Drive. Another possible observation is the early indications of an apparent displacement of Broadwing Hawks by Cooper's Hawks.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Suzanne discussed her assessment of the "on-demand" printed book that Jeff Friedhoffer had provided as a possible approach for republishing the Howard Count book. The general consensus was that "we aren't ready to do anything just yet." This would not have the same spiral binding used on initial lot published. Even more questions relate to whether this approach provides anything like the profit motive that resulted from prior publishing approach that did require initial outlay of funds but after that was repaid, the rest of proceeds have been pure profit. Jeff was going to investigate further issue of profits and we will pursue total concept later when revised draft approaches readiness for publication.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the seed sale blank was available on the club web site. Other conservation issues were raised during other officer reports.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Heffernan):

No report from either Tom or Kevin.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

No official action items assigned during the meeting.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2003	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2003	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 20, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2004	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2004	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2004	-	Sue Probst	
April 22, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 20, 2004	-	TBD	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/03 – 09?23/03
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Book Store Report, 5/1/2002 – 4/30/2003

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/03-09/23/03**

	Current Month	Year to Date
<i>Operating Fund</i>		
Income:		
Publications	9.00	9.00
Membership Dues	3,520.00	3,610.00
State Dues Paid	(1,530.00)	(1,530.00)
Contributions		
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	1,999.00	2,089.00
Expense:		
Supplies for Bird Counts		
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	50.00
Facility Rental		
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies	111.37	111.37
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory	217.45	255.32
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	378.82	416.69
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	1,620.18	1,672.31
<i>Seed Sales</i>		
Income		
Sales	-	-
Expense		
Flyers & Misc	65.97	65.97
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total	65.97	65.97
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>	(65.97)	(65.97)
<i>Reserve Fund</i>		
Reserve Account Balance		7,350.39
Interest Received	32.43	41.83
Balance		7,392.22
<i>Special Fund</i>		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		9,917.02
<i>Memorial Fund</i>		
	50.00	50.00
<i>Ending Bank Balances</i>		
Checking		2,081.93
Savings		17,309.24
Petty Cash		48.42
Total		19,439.59

*Reserve Funds: Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1,050; 2004, \$650.
Total committed, \$5,000. Total paid to date, \$2,610.

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

BOOKSTORE REPORT

5/1/02 - 4/30/03

Sales	1,233.07
Expense	
Books Purchased	961.77
Other	
Total	<u>961.77</u>
Gain/Loss	<u><u>271.30</u></u>
Inventory on hand	3,600.00
Bank Balance	
4/30/02	1,525.85
Sales Tax Paid	61.65

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 2003

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2002-2003 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
Tom Miller (1st year) √
Kevin Heffernan (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Darius Ecker
Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Dave Holyoke. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 9, 2003 was ? people. Barry Miller and Michelle Stewart gave a program entitled "Hot and Cold Birding."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported he had forwarded the draft letter prepared to comment on the benefits of the Maryland Western Rail Line trail proposal earlier that day. Kurt had forwarded an email to the Board on the request of potential speaker Bob Mumford requesting an honorarium of \$100 which is twice our standard honorarium for speakers. Jane Geuder had forwarded the request, he would be available for a talk on Tanzania in May, but with less than full support for honoring his request. The Board sense was that we had previously approved giving him \$75 (and permission to sell photos) which was above our normal \$50, but felt that this request was excessive.

Next Kurt reported that Anne-Marie has indicated she has un-sellable stock for book store that she would like to sell at significant discount. It was asked if any of the material would be appropriate for donation to the Howard County library (maybe but unlikely). Another possibility would be a gift to Mt. Pleasant for their future Nature Center. We also discussed use of funds that Anne-Marie has reported as excess. Options include adding funds to the habitat funds received from seed sale, another option is a proposal from Sue Muller of Howard Rec. & Parks for a Purple Martin project at the West Friendship Park.

Lastly Kurt reported that Janet Millenson (State VP) has offered to prepare stickers with chapter contact information to place on MOS state brochures. Kurt was told to provide her "words pirated" from our chapter brochure and to add the chapter web address.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported that he has sent the local papers announcements for the upcoming Centennial Park walks. This led to discussion of the recent Hawk Mountain trip. Tom Miller reported that he attended. It was discussed

that next year it would be good to try and make this trip one where participants went up night before, and possibly scheduled as a mid-week on call trip dependent on the weather.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Handout report attached. Very few new memberships or renewals received in past month. After the seed sale responses are processed plans call for sending renewal reminders. General donations of \$55 have been received.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker, Darcy, Etc.): No report.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Karen had no report. Darius was not present.

Mary-Jo reported that Janet Shields tells her the next Conference is set for Washington College in Chestertown. The following year's conference is set for the Holiday Inn at Solomon's Island.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

A discussion of out-of-county trips was held (see Tom Miller discussion under chapter directors below).

Bonnie reports she is hoping to find other leaders for weekday trips next Spring. She reported she may no be available as she is starting a new job. Jeff Friedhoffer volunteered his service as he is retiring in January. Another possibility discussed was would "self-guided" trips at Centennial work.

Bonnie also reported that Sister Sharon Goodremote who has been our contact at Bon Secours is leaving. There was a brief discussion of the order providing the club a donation in appreciation of our leading several bird trips at the center.

Lastly she reported that Mike Callahan has volunteered to be a future state director for the chapter if we needed one.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): No report.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): See Vice-President report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Dave reported that it has been one year since he and Sue took over the newsletter. He reported the next newsletter was behind schedule but that at that time Sue had the draft for final preparation. He was hopeful the issue would be ready for publication in the next week.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Heffernan):

Kevin asked that he receive club emails at his home vice work address. (KJHeff@aol.com)

Tom reported that during the recent trip to Hawk Mountain a participant (Harry _____) had remarked that Howard Chapter has a culture of in-county birding. A discussion followed that we do hold some out-of-county trips, but the number and participation in these has fluctuated over time. This reflects an attempt to balance club membership interests including a culture of Howard listing that is fairly prevalent.

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items No action items assigned.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2003	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2003	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 20, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2004	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2004	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2004	-	Sue Probst	
April 22, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 20, 2004	-	TBD	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report – 5/1/03 – 10/20/03

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/03-10/20/03**

	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		9.00
Membership Dues	495.00	4,105.00
State Dues Paid		(1,530.00)
Contributions	55.00	55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	550.00	2,639.00
Expense:		
Supplies for Bird Counts	85.04	85.04
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	100.00
Facility Rental		
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies		111.37
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory		255.32
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	135.04	551.73
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	414.96	2,087.27
Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales	5,036.50	5,036.50
Expense		
Flyers & Misc	45.00	110.97
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total	45.00	110.97
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>	4,991.50	4,925.53
Contributions to Habitat Preservation	150.00	150.00
Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		7,350.39
Interest Received	6.89	48.72
Balance		7,399.11 *
Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		9,917.02
Memorial Fund		
	50.00	50.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		7,652.39
Savings		17,316.13
Petty Cash		48.42
Total		25,016.94

*Reserve Funds: Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1.050; 2004, \$650.
Total committed, \$5,000. Total paid to date, \$2,610.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2003

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2002-2003 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
Tom Miller (1st year) √
Kevin Heffernan (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Darius Ecker
Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Dave Holyoke
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 13, 2003 was 52 people. Phil and Barbara Davis gave a multi-media program entitled "A Southern Oceans Expedition: Scenery and Wildlife of the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia and Falkland Islands."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt raised the issue discussed at the prior meeting of whether we would support an increased speaker fee for Bob Mumford. Jane Geuder had contacted Kurt and communicated it was not her intention to imply a negative response to Bob's request for a larger honorarium. Jane felt it would be appropriate. Kurt had prepared a handout with a proposed set of guidelines for Speaker compensation. After review the Board did not accept these guidelines verbatim but went on to discuss the issue further. Kurt said we could spend the honorarium not spent on other speakers and let Jane use her discretion to spend funds in this way. He suggested we let Jane manage account as she sees fit. Any former speaker who specified that his honorarium be spent for a specific cause such as habitat preservation we must honor that request. Our basic approach would be to let Jane manage her budget subject to this former restriction. She has an annual budget of \$500 which gives her a limited amount of flexibility. She isn't authorized to exceed her budget, but if prior speakers decline without specific direction this gives her a degree of management discretion. The Board suggested that Kurt explore other club's current honorarium practices, and then the Board would revisit our current budget in light of those findings. At the same time the Board has some concern with the principal implied by offering twice our normal honorarium to specific speakers. The consensus seemed to be that offering up to 1.5 times our normal honorarium to entice a good speaker would be appropriate and if not sufficient we wouldn't expect higher "bidding". But our final position was that the Program Chairman had a budget and if she chose to employ it in this way we would not override that decision.

Kurt then went on to his pursuit of an alternate meeting site. He had hoped to have a formal proposal ready but he hasn't done so. He spoke with John Byrd who has the final say on facility use. Our use of the Parks and

Recreation offices would incur costs to them (primarily manning the reception desk while we are using facility). The Astronomical League does use facility in return for them offering 3-4 programs for the public. The primary problem with this problem is that all programs sponsored by Park and Recs must charge for the programs and we have traditionally struggled with our general approach that all our programs are free to members and non-members alike. To qualify as a viable program, they would need ten or more participants. We believe if advertised programs didn't produce that level of participation we would still have fulfilled our commitment. At a minimum all programs under Park & Recs sponsorship would require all participants to pay. We believe that programs focused on specific topic (e.g. search for Baltimore Oriole, Snipe Hunt) might have sufficient appeal to succeed. It was decided that this issue should be pursued but probably won't be viable before next year's program schedule (Sept.). The audio-visual resource available in the Park and Recreation facility are somewhat limited but we need to explore what they are. Kurt agreed to take the action to continue to pursue this activity.

In his discussions with Mr. Byrd, Kurt was also asked if the Board would send a letter to the editor (local papers) supporting the managed deer hunts as an official position of the club. All of the current Board seemed to support this on a personal basis, but as we have previously discussed to take a position as a club was further than we were willing to go. It is possible that as atlas data firms up we may have "data" to further support our taking a position as a club but not at present.

Lastly Kurt raised the subject of the club's official mail address. Apparently a request for a change of address for John Otting was "lost" or "delayed" significantly by its being sent to Eileen Clegg who is the club's address of record. Specifically a request sent in April was not acknowledged until October. Kurt offered that the club could use his personal post office box as our official address. There are issues with this as the current mailing permit is associated with Eileen's address. Bob reported that he had spoken to Eileen and asked that she immediately notify him of all newsletter returns which should give us an early notification of problems. Kurt's offer was acknowledged but the sense of Board was to leave the address as currently registered.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy had no handouts. She reported that the seed sale profit was expected to be approximately \$2000. In addition she has habitat contributions of \$195.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker, Darcy, Etc.): Next meeting of Board is set for December 6.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo reported that the next annual Conference is set for June 11-13 in Chestertown on the Eastern Shore. The featured speaker will be Clay Sutton.

The winter count is scheduled for February 7. Mary-Jo has indicated her intent to not continue as count co-coordinator next year, but Emy Holdridge has volunteered to assume this role in 2005.

The annual Pot-luck dinner is scheduled for March 13. Volunteers to help are solicited.

Karen had no formal reports, but the Board commiserated with her recent accident striking a deer and luckily doing limited damage.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that scheduling future field trips is well along. May Count will be May 8. "Big Day" will be May 15. She is working to schedule weekday walks in the Spring. Her concern is how to have sufficient leaders for these walks if her personal work schedule doesn't allow her to personally lead them. The idea of co-leaders was again broached. Others who have volunteered for some of these trips include Emy, Jeff, Jo, and Tom Miller.

Bonnie then raised her recent concerns about the security of personal information on the internet. Specifically she raised issue of how given a name, search engines such as Google could return a personal address. Although this is a concern unless one goes completely underground and has no internet presence (email, web, phone no.), there is no real way to prevent this. We do want to be as careful as possible, not expose anymore club members than possible, but officers and especially Bonnie has the POC for field trips is more "vulnerable."

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that data is being entered. There will be two mid-winter atlas meeting in January and February similar to those held last year to share progress with participants.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg):

Eileen was not present but several items related to seed sale were discussed. The current seed supplier attempted to collect a fuel and delivery charge that had not been revealed prior to delivery. Eileen was able to talk them out of these charges this time because they didn't notify us in advance but we must expect they will have to paid in future. The Board asked how extensively we have investigated other suppliers. Bonnie offered to suggest some other possibilities to Eileen. The church charged us \$25 for the use of "small room" and the Wildlife Authority paid us \$25 for the right to sell their products so we broke even on that.

We then discussed potential ways to promote the seed sale in future years. One idea was to add articles in newsletter promoting "Watch for seed sale notice in late October." Other ideas proposed were to identify other locations for placing seed sale blanks. Possibilities mentioned were libraries, Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, Grocery Store bulletin boards, Mt. Pleasant, Village Center bulletin boards, Ho. Co. Park and Recreation HQ. Another discussion focused on how the seed sale may be one of the few "social" events for some members that don't attend meetings of field trips. It was agreed we should make this a future meeting topic, probably in March. Solicit ideas from all club members, and then start implementing ideas well in advance of next Fall.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Sue reported that November 25 was next newsletter deadline.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob provided his current membership summary. See attachment. The number of voting members is 226. The number of new members is 13. The number of currently non-renewing voting members is 57, non-renewing junior members is 5. We then went on to identify volunteer Board members willing to call those on the non-renewal list and urge them to renew.

Emy then reported she had received a phone call from a new club member, Rose Lubitz, expressing her distress that the club did not due enough to bring people into the group. We discussed possible plans for how to more effectively engage new members. We felt we need a plan for how to bring new visitors into pre-meeting discussions. One idea was to ask new attendees to identify themselves and offer them a "gift", like Parks checklists. We again agreed having someone act as "greeter" at meetings was a major plus. Sue Probst agreed to assume this

responsibility and recruit other “volunteers”. All were encouraged to consider ideas for promoting ways to integrate “new members”. Thoughts for an activity about a month into new season that could encourage this would be especially welcome.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Heffernan): No reports.

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items See officer reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2003	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2003	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 20, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2004	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2004	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2004	-	Sue Probst	
April 22, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 20, 2004	-	TBD	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Speaker Guidelines - Handout provided by Kurt Schwarz
- Running Total of Members – Handout provided by Bob Solem
- Renew/warning List – Handout provided by Bob Solem

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2004

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2003-2004 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
Tom Miller (1st year) √
Kevin Heffernan (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Darius Ecker
Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kevin Heffernan. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 11, 2003 was ___ people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "An International Birder's Odyssey." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 8, 2004 was 47 people. Walter Ellison gave a program entitled "Little Brown Birds: Identifying the Sparrows."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt reported he had sent letter supporting All Creatures Great and Small. He had received a note of appreciation for our support. He reported he had sent the letter regarding lighting of a sports field at Glenelg High School highlighting our desire than future plans minimize impact on migrating birds. Kurt reported he had received a letter from Allegheny ?? on trails.

The same nominating committee is in place for the coming year. This committee is composed of Bonnie, Mary-Jo and Kevin. They need to confirm nominees for President (current VP), new VP, replacement for Darius as State Board Director and new Chapter Director, as well as confirming other chapter officers will accept re-nomination.

Kurt reported that the state nominating committee is seeking nominees for state Vice-President and Treasurer. The state board is also soliciting donations for the silent auction at State Conference.

Kurt has been discussing plans for holding next year's meetings at the Howard Recreation and Parks building with John Byrd. One question raised was what cost we would incur if the quid pro quo arrangement to host programs and field trips did not materialize. The answer was \$30 per hour (approx. \$60 per meeting). The minimum quota for our funded events would be 10 participants, but it is unlikely that even if not fulfilled we would actually be billed for use of the facility if we offered programs/trips in good faith. We will need to provide our own audio visual equipment. We are currently penciled in for use of facility beginning next September.

We then visited subject of pursuing purchase of a digital projector (using Mountjoy funds). Board consensus was to wait for now. We need to think about potential programs/trips to offer under County auspices (likely topics include Waterfowl, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch). We will need to sign a contract with

Howard Recreation and Parks for the facility and commitment to trade programs for rent. Board recommended we seek Don Waugh's review of this legal document. It was moved and seconded that we proceed with this new location for club meetings. All present approved motion.

Kurt reported that his queries at State Board meeting confirmed that the current honorarium being paid by MOS chapters is still \$50. Some don't even pay an honorarium. However, Kurt reports Jane feels some level of constraint in arranging for speakers. It was moved that the Board should raise the budget allocated to Jane for speakers to \$600 per year and let her manage that budget so that she has a little more leeway in scheduling speakers. The motion passed.

Kurt then began discussion of how to use this year's seed sale proceeds. He handed out a copy of a proposal received from the American Bird Conservancy in response to his query. The proposal is that we consider a grant to finance a workshop to develop a management plan for the Sierra de Bhoruco National Park in the Dominican Republic. (See attachment.) Kurt sees this as about a \$2000 pledge and consistent with his recommendation that this year we focus on an international project vice a local proposal.

Another likely recipient of a grant would be All Creatures Great and Small.

Kurt reported he had been approached by Marsha Balenski, the Atlas publicity chairman, to support a Frederick chapter initiative on April 24 at Lily Pons where they are hoping to obtain atlas funding and increase awareness by conducting a "Big Sit". This will be associated with Earth Day, but they would like to be able to advertise that other chapters are conducting similar activities that expands the impact of MOS activities and further advertises the Atlas Project. The club was planning a Butterfly/Wildflower trip at MPEA for this date. It was proposed we could expand on this and "advertise" an Earth Day Extravaganza at MPEA for this date if we added a morning birding trip (focused on the Breeding Bird Atlas) followed by the butterfly/wildflower trip in afternoon. Anyone who wants to make it a day long event could combine a picnic lunch. Kurt agreed to lead the morning birding trip for beginners, that will include a demonstration of atlas techniques. (Tim Ray has responsibility for atlas in the MPEA area and might be solicited for assistance.)

In a related topic we've been approached about supporting the Earth Day festivities at Mt. Pleasant but not clear who or what this might involve.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

The monthly treasurer's report is attached. Any membership dues received at this point are for next year's membership. The programs monthly expense is for both Dec. and Jan. Future atlas supply expenses will include rental of video equipment for upcoming atlas meetings. The Pot Luck rental fee is a deposit that we should get back. The seed sale proceeds including contributions received for habitat total \$2031. Lastly the Board considered how to handle the memorial funds received from Elise Seay estate. This included \$100 designated as for the atlas but not specific of whether this should be used locally or statewide. It was moved and approved that this should be sent to the state atlas committee, designated as a memorial in memory of Elise Seay.

Another source of funds for disbursement is the use of bookstore profits. Options include adding to seed sale proceeds disbursement or as a source for donation to All Creatures Great and Small.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker, Darcy, Etc.): No report.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo was not present but we discussed the pot-luck practice of having a raffle, there was a fairly widely held impression that this was a little out of hand as many of the items were “junk” and too dragged out in that every winner got to choose from items. Possible approaches to speed up this process, including just picking item and then drawing “the winner” were suggested. The Board chose to leave it to Mary-Jo as to how to conduct the raffle.

Bonnie brought up that she has been holding the club’s copy of the Audubon video tape series and wondered if it should be used for the pot-luck raffle or the MOS conference Silent Auction. Board seemed to think the MOS Conference silent auction might be best approach for disposing of the set. Another related topic was that if Anne-Marie has “un-sellable” books in her bookstore inventory maybe they should be donated to the MOS Conference silent auction.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that field trip plans for future are well along. She has filled up the schedule despite her original plan to cut back. She is continuing the weekday walk program despite her personal unavailability. Jeff, Jo, and after some arm-twisting Emy have agreed to help when Bonnie can’t fit it into her work schedule. All current trips are in-county. She suggests we urge those interested in out-of-county consult the schedule in Yellowthroat as a source of trips. Her feeling is that without “local” leaders trips out of county are not as successful. Arranging “joint” trips with other clubs out of county are hard to coordinate. However, if anyone volunteers to lead out of county trips she has no problem with including them in schedule..

It was reported that David Farner is leaving Audubon Naturalist Society and moving to Maine, and thus won’t be able to continue his efforts in Howard County.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Anyone who wants to update their total County count for posting on the club web site needs to notify Bob and Jo.

Jo reports that the atlas effort has not allowed her time to work on rework of the “Birding Howard County” book. She proposed we might want to print 500 copies as a means to carryover till a formal update could be completed in about 5 years. This would cost about \$3000. Bonnie reported that she suspected the book won’t sell enough to justify this unless she or someone is really promoting it at stores, and with her employment status in flux this could be an issue. One item that was proposed was to ensure we had a copy of current book text stored in a current word processor format. Jo agreed to discuss with Bob and see whether this could be assured so that future updates would be able to begin with current text.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Dave had no report.

Sue said that she has historically used the club display at the Howard County Community College Earth Day festivities but now that she is working full time she wondered if someone else would like to volunteer to take on this responsibility. Jeff Friedhoffer said he might be available. Sue will provide Jeff with details on the school’s plans for Earth Day.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob was not present, but Jo reported that the Energy Efficiency bill passed by the MD legislature had been vetoed by Governor Ehrlich, but the veto was overridden by both Houses. She passed around a copy of the Clean Water Action newsletter. Regarding the subject of renewable energy sources (wind farms), Bob proposes the club write a letter of support for draft legislature addressing this topic and a proposal presented by Dan Boone on behalf of the Sierra Club.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Heffernan):

Neither had reports.

Kurt(?) raised the subject of follow-up to a workshop held regarding the Little Patuxent Watershed. One proposal being proposed is for various civic groups to conduct cleanups during Earth Month (April). The Board had discussed this topic in past and decided we won't take any action on this now.

The Nature Conservancy annual report acknowledged our chapter contribution.

Old Business

See officer reports.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

See officer reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2003	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2003	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 20, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2004	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2004	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2004	-	Sue Probst	
April 22, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 20, 2004	-	TBD	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/03-1/20/04
- Management Plan for Sierra de Bahoruco National Park in the Dominican Republic, American Bird Conservancy – Proposal and Kurt's assessment
- Clean Water Action Newsletter – December 2003 – “Override the Energy Efficiency Veto”
- Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Legislation – Email from Bob DeGroot forwarded by Bob Solem 1/21/04
- Letter from American Bird Conservancy-thank you for \$2,200 for El Chorogo Refuge – May 25, 2002 (late submittal for records)
- Letter from Maryland/DC Chapter, The Nature Conservancy, thank you for \$1500 for support of Mountains to Marshes Campaign: Savings Maryland's Last Great Places – June 11, 2003

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/03-1/20/04**

	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		9.00
Membership Dues	770.00	6,520.00
State Dues Paid		(3,125.00)
Contributions		55.00
Total Operating Income	770.00	3,459.00
Expense:		
Supplies for Bird Counts		85.04
Meetings:		
Programs	125.00	225.00
Facility Rental	64.35	64.35
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies	7.37	154.14
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies	25.00	25.00
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory	163.98	623.81
Club Brochures		
Total Operating Expense	385.70	1,177.34
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund	384.30	2,281.66
Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales	15.00	7,931.50
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		110.97
Rent		
Seed		5,606.90
Sales Tax	377.75	377.75
Total	377.75	6,095.62
Gain/Loss-Seed Sales	377.75	1,835.88
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		195.00
Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		7,350.39
Interest Received	15.21	72.05
Balance		7,422.44
Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		9,917.02
Memorial Fund	50.00	100.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		4,223.13
Savings		17,339.46
Petty Cash		48.42
Total		21,611.01

*Reserve Funds: Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1,050; 2004, \$1,300.

Total committed, \$5,000. Total paid to date, \$3,260.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 26, 2004

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2003-2004 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
Tom Miller (1st year) √
Kevin Heffernan (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Darius Ecker
Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Dave Holyoke
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 12 was ___ people. Greg Futral gave a program entitled "The Usual Suspects: An Unusual Display of Central Maryland Birds."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

The Board meeting originally set for March needs to be relocated as Sue has construction underway. Kurt volunteered to host the Board meeting on March 25. Will need to find host for the April and May meetings at the March meeting. A brief discussion of the recent presentation at Howard Rec and Park facility by Jo and Bob reported excellent reception by public and positive reports on this facility as our future meeting location.

Kurt reported that he had provided Jane Geuder with two possible names as possible speakers.

Next discussion addressed how to use this year's seed sale proceeds.

First proposal was that we continue our support for "All Creatures Great and Small" as a local wildlife rehabilitator. The Board approved unanimously spending \$100 for this project. Emy supplied Chuck with check which he forwarded by letter (attached). *Sec. Note: Received note of appreciation.*

Kurt had previously provided proposal to support the American Bird Conservancy proposal that we support the Management Plan for Sierra de Bahoruco National Park in the Dominican Republic. Given no other proposals the Board approved the use of remaining seed sale proceeds for this project. Kurt will request details on how to send this contribution.

Kurt then discussed the process of establishing a new meeting site for club. The details of using the Howard Recreation and Parks facility are well established. We will need to provide three "programs" advertised as Ho R&P programs for charge during the year to avoid any additional charge for use of facility. Kurt was asked to see if the recent "Dragonflies" program would qualify as one of these. *Sec. Note: Subsequent feedback was that this did not qualify. Volunteers to lead/provide programs/field trips for How. Rec & Parks are needed.*

Next we discussed techniques for notifying the membership of the changed meeting location. An article for the newsletter, including a stylized map of the new location, will be included in both the May/June and

September/October newsletter are proposed. The membership renewal blank should stress the new location. Emails to current membership will provide reminders of new location. The web site will be updated to reflect and emphasize new location. Lastly Kurt is requested to announce the change at the April and May general membership meetings.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy provided the attached treasurer's report. Of special note is the payment of \$100 from memorial to the State MOS for use on the atlas project.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker, Darcy, Etc.): No report.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Karen Darcy was present but had no report. Darius Ecker was not present and had no report.

Mary-Jo first reported for the nominating committee that they have identified a slate of officers for next year. Jeff Friedhoffer will accept presidency, Kevin Heffernan agrees to the Vice-President nomination. Emy and Chuck are agreed to continuing, Mary-Jo and Karen will continue as State Directors. Tom Miller will accept 2nd year as chapter director and Tracy Eve will serve as first year as Chapter Director. The group reminded the nominating committee that our membership level permits having three State Directors. They had not nominated a third director but agreed to do so in time to notify Bob Solem before he mailed the club directory and nomination list in mid-March. *Sec. Note: The nominating committee subsequently submitted Kate Tufts as a third State Director nominee.*

Mary-Jo reported that at that time the pot-luck sign-up was very low. Usually her initial list is a good indication of attendance but she feared this list had not fully circulated at prior club meeting. She suggested the sending of an email to club members asking that they reply promptly. In addition the pot-luck would be promoted at the March meeting which would be just before the pot-luck weekend. Lastly Mary-Jo informed the Board that she is not going to be able to coordinate next year's pot luck. *Sec. Note: The subsequent email solicitation resulted in a very good club participation and thanks to Mary-Jo's efforts an extremely successful and enjoyable pot-luck evening.*

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo summarized the recent winter count. The presence of black ice on roads in west of county and snow and icy crust in rest of county influenced coverage. The Lapland Longspur video from Bob Ringler is a real highlight unlikely to be matched in near term. Jo thanked Mary-Jo for her excellent assistance as co-coordinator for county this year and recent years. She then welcomed Emy Holdridge as next year's co-coordinator.

Jo reported that she has agreed to help with a push to get Maryland Birdlife back on schedule. Bob Ringler, recently retired, has agreed to take over responsibility for the seasonal reports. In this role Jo asked Kurt to prepare the annual chapter reports for 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 prepared and submitted. Kurt asked if anyone could provide him copies of Goldfinch issues for this period to use in preparing these reports. Chuck agreed he could do this. *Sec. Note: I scanned issues of the Goldfinch as PDF files for this period and provided them to Kurt. Could we capture the newsletter as PDF files routinely for future issues either as scanned or even original PDF files? Ultimately it seems it would be desirable to build a historical file of scanned copies of the Goldfinch in electronic format. Any feedback on this suggestion?*

Lastly Jo reported that there were recent reports of a bear with two cubs seen just north of the Maryland Central Farm (west of Folly Quarter and south of MD 144) in late January.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

No reports from Dave or Sue.

Kevin Heffernan proposed the possibility of producing a “one-page” flyer for club publicity. He has some ideas of “content” for such a flyer. He was directed to discuss this with Sue as best likely to help produce such a promotion flyer.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob distributed the attached handout with a listing of the club’s “Contributions for Habitat” summary.

He then passed out the annual membership survey report (attached). One clear message is that the losses in membership exceed the new members. The report suggests a significantly downward trend in recent membership. If we could achieve a balance of new and loss that would be a successful situation. We had a very large successful recruitment of membership in 88-89/89-90 but that didn’t persist. We want to encourage new membership but probably unrealistic to expect past peak membership can be sustained.

We discussed the need to “use up” the old brochures that show the “old” meeting location.

Bob reported that in discussing the county efforts at deer control with Phil Norman, Phil reported that the deer bow hunt program had been very successful. Six year period had been accident free, 1197 deer removed, 2/3 of these females. On another front the National Audubon Society had endorsed a hunt and study of deer on their property in Connecticut. Bob will send details on this via Email. The county would like both personal and club letters supporting managed hunt program to elected officials. Based on how devastating the deer are to the habitat for birds the board approved Bob drafting a letter to County Executive and other officials providing club support of managed hunt program.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Heffernan):

Kevin had no separate report.

Tom reported he had cleaned the lens/mirror of projector in response to the remarks by the last club speaker that the images seemed to be less bright than he expected for his slides. No apparent problems were observed but periodic cleaning is a worthwhile goal.

Old Business

Bob Solem provided a copy of “Birding Howard County” text in current Microsoft Word format on a floppy disk for archival. *Sec. Note: I will archive this on (multiple) CD-Roms as permanent archive for future club use.*

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items See officer reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2003	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2003	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 20, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2004	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2004	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
April 22, 2004	-	TBD	
May 20, 2004	-	TBD	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/03- 2/25/04 – 2/25/2004
- Letter to All Creatures Great and Small, Wildlife, Inc – 2/29/2004
- Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat 2004 – 02/25/2004
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Membership) – 2/25/2004

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/03-2/25/04

	<u>Budget 2002/03</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications	640.00	25.10	34.10
Membership Dues	3,323.00	120.00	6,640.00
State Dues Paid			(3,125.00)
Contributions			55.00
Total Operating Income	<u>3,963.00</u>	<u>145.10</u>	<u>3,604.10</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	200.00	7.40	92.44
Meetings:			
Programs	500.00	50.00	275.00
Facility Rental	175.00		64.35
Hospitality	60.00		
Special Supplies	300.00		
Postage, Copies	200.00	17.69	171.83
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	75.00	20.00	20.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	105.00		25.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	187.22	811.03
Club Brochures	50.00		
Total Operating Expense	<u>2,965.00</u>	<u>282.31</u>	<u>1,459.65</u>
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund	<u>998.00</u>	<u>(137.21)</u>	<u>2,144.45</u>
Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales			7,931.50
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			110.97
Rent			
Seed			5,606.90
Sales Tax			377.75
Total			<u>6,095.62</u>
Gain/Loss-Seed Sales			<u>1,835.88</u>
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			<u>195.00</u>
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,350.39
Interest Received		7.13	79.16
Balance			<u>7,429.55</u> *
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund			<u>9,917.02</u>
Memorial Fund			
		(100.00)	<u>-</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,840.82
Savings			17,346.59
Petty Cash			48.42
Total			<u>21,235.83</u>

*Reserve Funds: Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1,050; 2004, \$1,300.
Total committed, \$5,000. Total paid to date, \$3,260.

13318 Hunt Ridge
Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155
February 29, 2004

All Creatures Great and Small, Wildlife, Inc.
10111 Silvertwine
Columbia, MD 21046

Dear Ms. Holzman,

At the Board of Directors meeting of the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society on February 26, the Board granted you a donation of \$100. The club recognizes the service you provide in caring for injured birds and wildlife in the Howard County area, and want to support your efforts. Please feel free to apply the grant to your program as you see fit.

As you know club members refer queries from members and others in the community who contact us when they have found injured animals. We appreciate your continued agreement to have your phone number listed in our club brochure and our annual directory, as well as having a link on our web site to your site..

Enclosed find a check in the amount of \$100 and accept our thanks for your valued service.

Sincerely yours,

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary
Howard County Chapter, MOS
410-531-2417

Club Website: <http://www.howardbirds.org>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 25, 2004

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2003-2004 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
Tom Miller (1st year) √
Kevin Heffernan (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Darius Ecker
Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Bob Solem √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 11 was 45 people. Mary Gustafson gave a program entitled "Winter Hummingbirds in the Mid-Atlantic Region."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

It was announced that as Kurt steps down as president he will assume the position of Chapter Conservation Chairman, relieving Bob Solem from that assignment. *Sec. Note: I didn't hear what role is Bob to retain or assume so he stays on the Board?*

Kurt announced that the State MOS has received an acceptance for nomination to the position of Vice President from Marsha Ballestrini.

Next Kurt discussed the service agreement we will sign with Howard Recreation and Parks to provide free use of their Headquarters meeting room for future year meetings. The draft agreement was passed out (attached to original). The agreement calls for us to provide three "classes" about birds between Sept. 1 and Aug 31 of next year. These are to have a minimum subscription of 10 participants, and will be targeted at the general public, not club members, as attendance will require payment of registration fee to Howard Rec and Parks.. These will appear in the Howard Rec and Parks newsletter. We need to have list of proposed trips/classes by end of April for next newsletter. Bonnie volunteered to lead at least one class. Ideas for classes that we discussed included: Hawk Watch (afternoon in Oct.), Waterfowl (Kurt - morning in late Fall/early winter), Feeders/attracting birds to feeders (Bonnie), Dragonflies, Wildflowers, Birds-Butterflies-Wildflowers at Rockburn Park, State/Count Bird Search (Baltimore Oriole/American Goldfinch).

The next regularly scheduled meeting of club is on the third Thursday vice second due to the school's being closed for Spring break.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff's retirement was very short. He announced he is back working 3 days a week.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck reported that he received a nice thank you note from Judy Holzman for our continued support of the All Creatures Great and Small Wildlife Center.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy distributed copies of her monthly report (attached). She is still expecting to receive a refund of the deposit we made for the facility used for Pot Luck. She made note of another disbursement from the Atlas matching grant to match a donation received from the Montgomery Chapter for \$1000.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker, Darcy, Etc.):

Mary-Jo reported that she had lost her notes from latest meeting, but was certain that Kevin Heffernan had kept notes as well. Kevin summarized his notes. I made note of following: Next meeting is set for June 5 at Pickering Creek. We are being asked to consider changes proposed by committee reviewing by-laws. A new electronic discussion board for Board members has been established on the web named "MOS Call Notes". Access will require a password.

It was pointed out that we should notify Maureen Harvey as State Conservation Chairman that Kurt is taking over from Bob Solem.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo reported she had nothing to add. Karen did the same.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported she is only scheduling an Odenate walk during the summer as most birding activity will be focused on atlas effort.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported atlas effort for season is underway. The Washington Post is planning an article addressing the atlas effort and have already interviewed Jo and Bonnie. Comments they made have likely resulted in the article having a state-wide focus.

Kurt was reminded that he owes a chapter report for last year to the editors of Maryland Birdlife. He acknowledged that Chuck had provided scanned PDF copies of the Goldfinch for recent period. Sec. Note: In a side discussion I discussed with Suzanne capturing PDF versions of The Goldfinch in the future as they are produced so we have a readily accessible archive.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Dave had no report. Suzanne asked if anyone would be available to man a booth at the Howard Community College Earth Day celebration. No volunteers identified so she will express our regrets.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the Mid-winter count results have been posted on the club’s website.

He then reported that he has prepared a letter for the club stating our position supporting the county’s efforts at deer management, including managed hunts in county parks. He will send a copy to the County Executive and as appropriate the County Council. All of us were urged to visit the county’s on-line budget testimony website and provide our support as well. Kurt moved and it was seconded that we will share this position with club membership in an email. The email will urge those who share this opinion to personally visit the county website and add their support. The email will provide proposed sample text (attached to original) for testifying on site.

Bob reported he was forwarding an email from Jay Sheppard that alerts club members to closing of the Hipsley Mill bridge over the creek near where the Whip-poor-will’s have been reported in past couple of years.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Heffernan):

Tom Miller reported that he has a new phone number not included in the latest club directory that is a local call from Howard County. The number is 410-795-7005.

Old Business See officer reports.

New Business See officer reports.

Action Items See officer reports.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2003	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2003	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 20, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2004	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2004	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
April 22, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
May 20, 2004	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Draft of SERVICE AGREEMENT between HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND and HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
- Howard County Chapter MOS-Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/03-3/22/04
- Draft testimony – Endorsing continuation and expansion of controlled deer hunting in county parks and open space

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/03-3/22/04**

	Month	Date
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications	4.10	38.20
Membership Dues	60.00	6,700.00
State Dues Paid		(3,125.00)
Contributions		55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	64.10	3,668.20
Expense:		
Supplies for Bird Counts	24.40	116.84
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	325.00
Facility Rental		64.35
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies		171.83
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	28.77	48.77
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies	80.72	105.72
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory	33.90	844.93
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	217.79	1,677.44
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	(153.69)	1,990.76
Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		7,931.50
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		110.97
Rent		
Seed		5,606.90
Sales Tax		377.75
Total		6,095.62
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		1,835.88
Contrib received for Habitat Preservation		195.00
Contrib made to ABC for Habitat Preservation		(2,000.00)
Contrib made to All Creatures Great & Small		(100.00)
Balance paid from Operating Fund		(69.12)
Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		7,350.39
Interest Received	6.15	85.33
Balance		7,435.72
Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		9,917.02
Memorial Fund		
	(100.00)	-
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		632.23
Savings		17,352.74
Petty Cash		48.42
Total		18,033.39

*Reserve Funds: Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1,050; 2004, \$2,400
Total committed, \$5,000. Total paid to date, \$4,360

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 22, 2004

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2003-2004 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Donald Waugh
Chapter Directors:
Tom Miller (1st year) √
Kevin Heffernan (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Darius Ecker
Karen Darcy √

Education: ??
Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Kurt/Bob in transition
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem
Web Master: Bob Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

New Chapter Director: Tracy Eve

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 15, 2004 was 46 people. Greg Kearns gave a program entitled "Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice."

The election of club officers during the coming year of 2004-2005 was held at the regular club meeting on April 15. The following slate was nominated by the nominating committee (Bonnie Ott, Mary-Jo Betts, and Kevin Heffernan). It was moved and seconded that the slate be approved. The motion was approved unanimously.

President:	Jeff Friedhoffer	Chapter Directors:	Tracy Eve (1 st year)
Vice-president:	Kevin Heffernan		Tom Miller (2 nd yr.)
Secretary:	Chuck Stirrat	State Directors:	Mary-Jo Betts
Treasurer:	Emy Holdridge		Karen Darcy
			Kate Tufts

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt welcomed Tracy to her first Board meeting. He reported receiving a letter of thanks from County Executive Roby for our support of the County's managed deer hunt program in county parks. As agreed earlier Bob will forward an email to the club membership informing them of our stand on this issue.

Next Kurt addressed the agreement we are about to enter into with Howard Rec and Parks for use of their headquarters conference room for our future regular club meeting location. As discussed earlier to avoid charges for this use we have agreed to provide leadership/teachers for three nature related programs as part of the County's nature program (fees paid to the county). These need to be advertised in the county's brochures. Deadlines are mid-May for the Fall mailing, early September for the winter brochure, and early December for the Spring mailing. Kurt is planning to lead a program on waterfowl/ducks for the Fall brochure. The Solem's will volunteer a program on Dragonflies in the future. Other programs are still to be determined. Kurt had requested Don Waugh to review

the contract with Ho. Rec. & Parks for the club from a legal standpoint but he has not replied. The Board presumes it is OK to proceed anyway.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy reported that Jay Sheppard reports he has spent roughly \$400 on the owl box project, but that several of the property owner's who agreed to placing boxes on their property have been asked to donate to the project. After receiving these donations the total cost to the club will be identified.

Emy reported she had to withdraw \$500 from the Saving account to cover expenses and will need to withdraw another \$500 to cover cash flow requirements.

Overall the operating expenses have resulted in a net profit for the year of \$833, indicating that the approved dues increase for this year has been successful.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker, Darcy, Etc.): No report.

State President (Zucker): No report.

State Education Committee (??): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, K. Darcy): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Bonnie reported that despite her stated plans to not focus on out of county trips she has been getting and responding to several exchanges with other chapters. Examples include a Waterfowl trip with Anne Arundel, a sparrow trip to Audrey Carroll Sanctuary with Frederick. She reported that a Great Blue Heron nest site had been located by Karen Darcy in Bonnie's own atlas block just north of the MD Central Farm. Lastly she pointed out that a Memorial Day field trip for shore birds led by Kurt jointly for Howard and Montgomery to Delaware had not been included in the latest issue of The Goldfinch. An email announcing this trip will be sent and the trip will be announced at the May club meeting.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that atlas activity is increasing. Some of the material available on the web has been sent to atlas participants as direct email.

Jo related a recent report of an "unusual" bird reported with less than conclusive details following a field trip to Wilde Lake. After follow-up investigation she reported that the outcome reached was to conclude, "Some birds are best left unidentified."

Lastly she reported a recent visit to a private farm where hunting has been permitted. The resultant difference in the natural understory contrasted with areas where deer populations have not been controlled was amazing. The wildflowers just covered the forest floor was the most amazing difference.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem):

Bob reported that he is revising the club's web page as he has "Nothing better to do." This led to clarification that although Bob has passed the role of "Conservation Chair" for the club to Kurt, he intends to stay involved with the Board as Web Master.

He reported the Dave Czaplack passed along message to club members that Scott Atkinson says "Hi".

Chapter Directors (Miller, Heffernan):

Tom reported that the wording about his phone number change in last Board minutes was incorrect. His new number lets him call Howard County as a local call but not vice versa.

Old Business

The subject of the Board need to explore purchase of a projector for digital images was raised. It is unclear whether our use of the Howard Rec and Parks building will include our ability to use their projection systems. Kurt agreed to check whether the Astronomical League has access to county projection equipment when they use the conference room at Howard Rec & Parks. Tom reminded the Board that he has investigated potential projectors for another group he is involved with and if needed we should be sure to consult his experience in this regard.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

See officer reports.

The initial schedule of Board meeting locations for next year was established:

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 18, 2004	-	TBD	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2005	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 24, 2005	-	Jo Solem	
March 24, 2005	-	TBD	
April 28, 2005	-	TBD	
May 26, 2005	-	TBD	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2003	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2003	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 20, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2004	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2004	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
April 22, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
May 27, 2004	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report – 5/1/03 – 4/19/04

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/03-4/19/04**

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications	15.00	53.20
Membership Dues	30.00	6,730.00
State Dues Paid	(880.00)	(4,005.00)
Owl Boxes	75.00	75.00
Contributions		55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>(760.00)</u>	<u>2,908.20</u>
Expense:		
Supplies for Bird Counts		116.84
Meetings:		
Programs	75.00	400.00
Facility Rental	42.90	107.25
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies	125.51	297.34
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		48.77
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies	(25.00)	80.72
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory	179.00	1,023.93
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>397.41</u>	<u>2,074.85</u>
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund	<u><u>(1,157.41)</u></u>	<u><u>833.35</u></u>
Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		7,931.50
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		110.97
Rent		
Seed		5,606.90
Sales Tax		377.75
Total		<u>6,095.62</u>
Gain/Loss-Seed Sales		<u>1,835.88</u>

Contrib received for Habitat Preservation		195.00
Contrib made to ABC for Habitat Preservation		(2,000.00)
Contrib made to All Creatures Great & Small		(100.00)
Balance paid from Operating Fund		<u>(69.12)</u>
Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance	(500.00)	6,850.39
Interest Received	7.14	<u>92.47</u>
Balance		<u>6,942.86 *</u>
Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		<u>9,917.02</u>
Memorial Fund		
		<u>-</u>
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		11.80
Savings		16,859.88
Petty Cash		<u>11.44</u>
Total		<u>16,883.12</u>

*Reserve Funds: Paid to MOS for BBA 2002, \$910; 2003, \$1,050; 2004, \$2,400
Total committed, \$5,000. Total paid to date, \$4,360

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
 Thursday, May 27, 2004

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2003-2004 Club Officers:

President: Kurt Schwarz √
 Vice-president: Jeff Friedhoffer (*also Publicity*) √
 Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
 Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
 Past President: Donald Waugh
 Chapter Directors:
 Tom Miller (1st yr)
 Kevin Heffernan (2nd yr)
 State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
 Darius Ecker
 Karen Darcy √

Education: Vacant
 Conservation: Maureen Harvey

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
 Programs: Jane Geuder
 Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
 Conservation: Bob Solem
 Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
 Dave Holyoke
 Records/Atlas: Jo Solem
 Web Master: Bob Solem

State Officers/Committees:

State President: Paul Zucker
 State Treasurer: Shiras Guion
 Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)

Others:

New Chapter Director: Tracy Eve √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Friedhoffer. Total number in attendance was eight. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 13 was ___ people. Ralph Geuder gave a program entitled "Tex-Mex Raptors (and their Prey): Looking for Birds of Prey in Texas and Mexico, 2003."

Officer's Reports

President (Schwarz):

Kurt reports he hadn't determined whether we would have the use of projection equipment at Howard Rec and Park HQ for our meetings. He was going to check on what the Astronomical League did.

He announced he would drop off the signed contract between us and the County for our use of facility for our meetings in exchange for our conducting three programs (courses or field trips) as part of the Rec and Park programs (fees charged). Kurt will do the first program as a waterfowl walk at Centennial Lake in October.

Kurt then discussed how we should handle the letters that George Alderson prepares for the club on various conservation and environmental issues. Kurt has been reviewing and signing them as President, but with officer change wanted to agree on process in future. It was agreed that he should continue as the interface to George and after his review he can sign the letters he concurs in as Conservation Chair. The Board will continue to receive copies as they are submitted but won't routinely review them prior to Kurt submitting them to the agency soliciting inputs.

After those present had given their reports (see below) the meeting was adjourned with all in agreement this was one of our shortest Board meetings in recent memory.

Vice-President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy submitted the attached Treasurer’s report. This is the first report of the club’s fiscal year. She reported that Ralph Geuder asked that his honorarium, as speaker at last club meeting, be sent to the River of Raptors in his name.

Past President (Waugh): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Schwarz, Betts, Ecker, Darcy, Etc.):

The next state Board meeting is scheduled for June 5 at Pickering Creek.

State President (Zucker): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, D. Ecker, K. Darcy):

Mary-Jo reported that plans for the upcoming State Conference at Washington College in Chestertown are completed. She reminded us we need to bring our own sheets and towels and a personal check for the key deposit.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): No report.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst): No report.

Conservation (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Heffernan): No report.

Old Business

See Officer reports.

New Business

The following board members volunteered to host the initial **2004-2005 Year Board** meetings as follows:

- September 23, 2004 - Bonnie Ott
- October 28, 2004 - Kurt Schwarz
- November 18, 2004 - Tracy Eve (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
- December - NO MEETING
- January 27, 2005 - Kevin Heffernan
- February 24, 2005 - Jo Solem
- March 24, 2005 - TBD
- April 28, 2005 - TBD
- May 26, 2005 - TBD (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Action Items

None.

Board Meeting Schedule (*Sec. Note: This was schedule for last year.*)

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2003	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2003	-	Dave Holyoke	
November 20, 2003	-	Kurt Schwarz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2004	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2004	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
April 22, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
May 27, 2004	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report – 5/1/04 – 5/26/04

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/04-5/26/04

	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		
Membership Dues		
State Dues Paid		
Owl Boxes	85.00	85.00
Contributions		
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	85.00	85.00
Expense:		
Supplies for Bird Counts	30.00	30.00
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	50.00
Facility Rental		
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory		
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	80.00	80.00
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	5.00	5.00

Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total		
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		

Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance	(1,000.00)	5,942.86
Interest Received	6.93	6.93
Balance		5,949.79 *

Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		9,917.02

Memorial Fund		
		-

Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		434.80
Savings		15,866.81
Petty Cash		11.44
Total		16,313.05

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 23, 2004

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2003-2004 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kurt Schwarz
Chapter Directors: Tracy Eve (1st yr)
Tom Miller (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Dave Holyoke √
Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer??
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 10?. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 9 at the new meeting location of Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters was 60 people. Dr. Donald Messersmith gave a program entitled "Birding in Remote Parts of China."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff had prepared an agenda for the meeting distributed in advance which he followed for meeting.

The minutes for the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Jeff briefly discussed the email received from a new club member advocating the feeding of Canada Geese at Centennial Park that is currently prohibited by county regulations. Jeff reported he had replied to the member by email explaining some of the issues with feeding wildfowl and our general concurrence with the county regulations.

Jeff reported that David Holmes has volunteered to present our November program thereby filling a gap resulting from the fact we have to move our meeting date to the first Thursday in the month since the second is the Veterans Day holiday and the meeting location is closed.

The meeting in May will include a program on frogs?

Vice-President (Heffernan): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat): No report.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

The monthly treasurer's report is attached. Emy reported that the rate of dues receipt is about on schedule. She has received a few contributions with dues submittals. The Eagle Scout project to build and place several owl

boxes was estimated at about \$300, the actual cost incurred was \$273.78. We have fulfilled our full commitment to match atlas giving up to \$5000.

Past President (Schwarz): See Conservation report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

Emy reported on the recent meeting held September 11. The next State Conference will be held May 20-22 at Solomons, Calvert County. The Manual of Operations has been updated and was discussed. The key discussion issue was the issue of carryover for the Research Committee budget. Membership cards for MOS are available from Emy. Their availability will be announced at the next regular club meeting. John Malcolm has taken over responsibility for MOS logo merchandise. Since many items are no longer selling with any regularity, may hold a "fire" sale. Don't plan to have further merchandise in the future. Kurt is our point of contact to the State MOS Conservation committee. Dottie Mumford is still handling the Sanctuary Committee, we are asked to provide a name as point of contact to our chapter. Similarly we are asked to provide a POC for the Scholarship Committee. Eileen Clegg has been on committee in past, and Tom Strikwerda is the new chairman of the State Committee.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips (Ott):

Inputs for the next newsletter are ready. Bonnie is planning to drop plans for a Martin Luther King weekend trip unless a volunteer coordinator steps forward. We briefly discussed the idea of the club setting up a "distance" trip with a professional organization.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that the year end Atlas checklists are due. She has received about 20 as of this meeting. Good finds were Broadwing Hawk. Reports of Bobwhite and Pheasant in the far western part of county were also good finds. Block coordinators are authorized to make web entry after input approved. Anyone interested is urged to volunteer to help with block busting attempts next year in other counties. Jo asked if people had a strong interest in holding another winter atlas meeting this coming year, or whether it wasn't needed.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg):

Bob Solem has the seed sale mailer ready to go. The sale is scheduled for October 30. The announcement will be mailed in next two weeks. An email with a PDF version of the form will be sent to those on email list. Eileen has shifted to a new seed supplier since prior vendor had excessive demands and costs compared to past.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Dave reported that a revised schedule for newsletter articles is being reviewed.

Conservation (Schwarz):

Kurt reviewed the process of our using the meeting room at Howard Rec & Parks. First meeting was quite crowded and we identified hope for using both halves of room. We have scheduled use of double room for rest of calendar year. Scheduling for next calendar year is pending opening of next year's calendar, but we will try to get reserved for both halves of room for all our meetings. Any use of the county's audio visual equipment will be dependent on having one of the Rec & Parks employees present during meeting.

Our free use of Rec & Parks facility is dependent on providing 3 programs per year in the Rec and Parks programs which includes payment for participation. We continue to need volunteers to lead these programs. Kurt is leading a program this fall. Jo and Bob Solem will present a program on Dragonflies that will be announced in the January brochure. Bonnie has volunteered to lead a "State/county Bird" trip to find Baltimore Oriole and American Goldfinch next Spring/summer. Rec and Parks has also asked if we would consider providing a leader for a van trip to Blackwater WMA in November 2005 as one of our next year's programs. Tom Miller volunteered to help setup this trip.

Lastly Kurt asked the board to consider the request (previously distributed by email) for David Kersin(sp?) of the National Audubon MD/DC chapter to present the club with information on the important bird areas program. The Board had not responded to email but after a brief discussion the Board felt it would be worthwhile to ask David to brief the Board prior to providing a briefing to the regular membership meeting. In a related matter, Kurt circulated a copy of a report prepared as part of the Pennsylvania Important Bird Area project.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Eve): No reports.

Webmaster (R. Solem): No report.

Old Business

The need for additional volunteers to support Board positions was repeated. (*Sec. Note- my notes on this topic are unclear, any clarifications?*)

The Board addressed the subject of purchasing an LCD projector that has arisen in the past. Jeff estimated that purchasing one would cost approximately \$2000. More and more having this capability would expand the types of programs speakers would like to present. Kurt moved we purchase a projector, authorizing up to \$2500 if needed. Sue Probst seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Board felt this was an appropriate use of funds from the Mountjoy fund.

New Business

Jo Solem reported on being contacted by Rachelina Bonacci of the Howard County Tourism, Inc. office. Ms. Bonacci is the new Exec. Director for the county tourism office and approached Jo about having an article appear in the next issue of their Tourism magazine/newsletter. She attended a bird walk that Kurt was on and was talking about "partnering" with the club. She obviously sees some link between the Bird Club and advertising the county as a "birding" destination. She discussed the possibility of producing a "multi-color brochure" presenting birding opportunities in the county. The Tourism office has produced a stuffed toy, an American Goldfinch, "Howie," that is for sale for \$7.00. The Board was in agreement with trying to further this collaboration to the extent possible.

Bonnie passed around a get-well card for Mary-Jo Betts who had surgery the previous Tuesday. It was also noted that Ralph Cullison was scheduled for arm surgery soon.

Bonnie asked if anyone had volunteered to provide snacks in the surveys received to date as she needed a volunteer for October meeting. A set of surveys were provided to her in response.

Bonnie then relayed request received from Brad Wood for an Eagle Scout project proposed for the Howard County Conservancy property at Mt. Pleasant. He is seeking funds to purchase materials to build a bird blind at Mt. Pleasant. He already has support from Home Depot for the roofing materials, National Audubon Society-Central Maryland Chapter for \$100. He estimates he will need approximately \$500 total. Bonnie moved that we provide \$100 from seed sale proceeds to support this project. Seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Emy asked the Board if she should worry about an expression of potential conflict of interest, raised to her, regarding her serving simultaneously as both State MOS Treasurer and Howard County Chapter Treasurer. The Board expressed a strong sense of the Board feeling that this was in no way a conflict-of-interest.

Chuck asked Tom Miller if the slide projector bulb that burned out during recent club meeting had been replaced. Tom replied he had confirmed an additional spare was still available. He was directed to purchase another spare and submit the bill to Emy for reimbursement.

Lastly Jeff indicated that he feels a review of the Chapter By-laws is in order. He will ask Kevin Heffernan to head a committee to conduct this review. Volunteers for this committee should be solicited at upcoming meetings and in the newsletter.

Action Items

Chuck volunteered to provide Jeff copies of the existing club letterhead in Microsoft Word format when Jeff wondered if we needed to develop a letterhead.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 18, 2004	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2005	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 24, 2005	-	Jo Solem	
March 24, 2005	-	TBD	
April 28, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
May 26, 2005	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report 5/1/04-9/22/04

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/04-9/22/04

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications	7.60	7.60
Membership Dues	3,235.00	3,235.00
State Dues Paid		
Owl Boxes		85.00
Contributions	55.00	55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>3,297.60</u>	<u>3,382.60</u>
Expense:		
Owl Box Material Expense	273.78	273.78
Supplies for Bird Counts		30.00
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	100.00
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies	14.54	14.54
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory	229.86	229.86
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>568.18</u>	<u>648.18</u>
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	<u><u>2,729.42</u></u>	<u><u>2,734.42</u></u>
 Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total		
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		
 Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		5,942.86
Interest Received	33.88	40.81
Balance		<u>5,983.67</u>
 Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		<u>9,917.02</u>
 Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		3,164.22
Savings		15,900.69
Petty Cash		11.44
Total		<u><u>19,076.35</u></u>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 2004

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2003-2004 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chapter Directors: Tracy Eve (1st yr) √
Tom Miller (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Dave Holyoke
Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer??
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 14 at the Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters was ___ people. Arlene Ripley gave a program entitled "Birdlife on Travels in India."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported that he had spoken with Mary-Jo Betts in the hospital and had sent an email to Board expressing her appreciation for the cards and well-wishes she had received from the Bird Club.

Jeff passed around a flyer from the Howard County League of Women Voters publicizing a program on November 18 on "The State of 'Open Space' in Howard County" at the Ellicott City Senior Center. This program at 7:00 pm is on the same night as our next chapter board meeting. Kurt Schwarz will email an announcement of this program to the general club email list.

He then turned to the issue of a review of the club's by-laws. He has appointed a committee to conduct this review. Kevin Heffernan will chair the committee. Other members are Ward Ebert, Tracy Eve, and Bob Solem. Scanned PDF copies of the by-laws have been distributed to the committee. It was noted that any proposed changes to the by-laws will need to be distributed and then voted on by the general membership at the annual meeting, which is the April regular meeting of the club. This is the same meeting at which officers are elected.

Jeff asked about who are on the signature cards for our checking and savings accounts, wondering if he should be added. Emy reported that the effort needed to change these has dramatically increased with new security/privacy rules at financial institutions. Currently Emy and Chuck are listed on the accounts. Emy recommended against making any change, since the cards are relatively recent and still have at least two signatories active on the Board available. The consensus of Board was to not undertake any change at this time.

Then Jeff asked whether the treasurer's records needed an audit. It was reported that they have not been audited in a number of years. They have been audited in the past when a qualified club member willing to do the

audit was willing to do so. Emy pointed out that this would only be effective or possible if a person with the necessary financial qualifications was willing to do it. Kurt was asked to send out an appeal to the club membership for someone with financial credentials willing to do an audit of the treasurer's books.

Lastly Jeff reported he had received the call for applicants for the MOS scholarships to Audubon conservation camps. Tom Strikwerda is the chairman of the State Scholarship committee. Eileen Clegg has indicated she isn't available to pursue seeking applicants as she has done in the past. It is difficult to find qualified applicants that would benefit both MOS and Maryland students. Patuxent Wildlife Center and Mount Pleasant staff would seem to be potential candidates. Mt. Pleasant is actively training volunteers that might also be a possibility. Jeff agreed to scan the application material and provide it to Bonnie who had agreed to contact Mary-Ann Pettis a potential contact at Mt. Pleasant. Anyone else with ideas for candidates should contact Jeff. Jeff will also announce this opportunity at the upcoming club meetings. Applications are due by January 31.

Vice-President (Heffernan): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

The Minutes were approved as distributed by email prior to the meeting.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Attached Treasurer's report was distributed. Receipt of dues payments has slowed. Several officers' dues are still outstanding. Emy has sent in the first installment of state dues payments. Arlene Ripley was paid an honorarium of \$75 at Jane Geuder's discretion for her program on India. Emy also provided a copy of the financial status of the club's bookstore for last year. Anne Marie Ratterman had provided the report information. The bookstore account has a balance of approximately \$2200. This is an increase of \$834 over last year. Anne Marie indicates she can operate with a smaller cash balance, and that some portion of the balance could be used for a club donation. The Board decided to consider supplementing the seed sale proceeds with funds from Bookstore.

Past President (Schwarz): See Conservation report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

There has not been a State Board meeting since our prior Chapter Board meeting.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie she has begun putting together the Spring-Summer field trip schedule. Having reviewed what has worked well in past, she is planning to primarily focus on easy/late walks for beginners/average birders. Although setting up trips that are co-sponsored with multiple chapters is difficult she continues to pursue them because when set-up they work well. It is very beneficial to have someone local to help lead trip when visit out-of-county sites.

She has given thought to a Fall 3-day trip to Cape May for next Fall. Tom Miller reported that he had picked up a lot of information on where to eat and stay in Cape May during a recent visit there. Emy suggested that we contact Mark Garland who is now at Cape May. Also some consideration should be given to the group hiring a professional guide for one day or morning during a visit. Jeff stated he is willing to volunteer as the coordinator for such a trip.

Bonnie then asked about the make-up of the nominating committee since Mary-Jo will likely be unavailable to participate. Last year committee was Bonnie, Mary-Jo and Kevin. Jeff expressed concern that

nominating committee put forward one of their members as candidate. He took an action to officially appoint a nominating committee membership for this year's election.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo passed around copies of material received at the latest state Atlas committee meeting. It shows that Howard County has achieved the best coverage so far. Over 70 species have better than 90% coverage. Jo wanted to highlight the yeoman level work of the "3-musketeers" (Jeff Culler, Phil Smith, and Joe Byrnes) in Woodstock NE and NW and Sykesville NE this past season. She is looking for a new coordinator in Savage NW. Next year we can expect to be called upon to find volunteers to help with "block-busting" in other parts of the state. Lastly she stated that she and Bonnie are still debating the need for a winter meeting of atlas participants.

Jo provided Jeff with a packet of the "parks" checklists that should be given to new "attendees" at club meetings.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No separate items reported.

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg):

The seed sale is coming up on Saturday October 30. Volunteers to help with loading are still needed. It was suggested that next year a call for volunteers should appear in the newsletter and be announced at club meetings in advance, rather than just relying on volunteers that appear on the club membership survey and the seed sale blank responses.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst): No report.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Kurt apologized that this would be the first seed sale in years that he would not be working, but his mother is visiting. He urged us all to get out and vote. He reported he still needs to draft the letter expressing the club's support of the Maryland Open Space program. Jeff stated he would send him a copy of the club letterhead to use when submitting letters.

Lastly Kurt reported that he had three people who paid and signed up for the Waterfowl walk he was to lead for Howard Recreation and Parks last week. This was below the advertised minimum but Rec & Parks gave the go-ahead to hold walk if he was willing. As it turned out no one showed up, but this still satisfies one-third of our commitment that permits our use of the meeting room with no charge.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Eve): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob provided interim results on this year's membership renewals. He will update records with those memberships included on the seed sale forms, then send an email reminder with membership form to those he has email address for before the November meeting in hope a few memberships are received at the meeting. Following that a letter will be mailed to the remaining non-renewals. Last we will implement the calling of outstanding non-renewals by board members.

Old Business

Bonnie reported that Brad Wood had reported to her his appreciation for our donation of \$100 to support purchase of supplies needed for his Eagle Scout project building a bird blind at Mount Pleasant. He reports he has completed the blind. This motivated Jeff to ask if we had received any feedback from the Owl Box project. No formal report was received from Jay Sheppard, but the atlas records included reports of occupancy of several of these boxes.

Tom Miller reported that regarding the purchase of a digital projector he had ordered one and coincidentally it had arrived that afternoon. He showed the projector to the Board but has not yet checked it out. He provided Emy a copy of the Packing slip showing his outlay of \$2017. She pointed out that it states it is not an invoice and he should provide her one when it arrives. In addition purchase of a spare bulb is still expected to add to the cost.

New Business

Bonnie asked whether we should examine a cost-benefit trade regarding the newsletter publication schedule. Perhaps it would make sense to publish the newsletter on a seasonal (four/year) vice the five bi-monthly issue basis. Since publishing and mailing costs would decrease and her field trips are done on that basis she thought this might make some sense. This would require a review of the other content and its schedule to see if this made any sense. No formal action was taken on this idea. Jeff did raise again the idea of distributing the newsletter by email. Bob reported that this has been discussed numerous times before and been rejected. The primary reason is that with as many members as we have without email access, the cost of mailing to them at first class costs since we would no longer qualify for bulk rates would result in no savings.

Jeff reported that we need to identify a new coordinator for the pot-luck and commence planning for the pot-luck. We need to identify a date and reserve the community center, including sending a deposit. Sue Probst volunteered to act as pot-luck coordinator and contact the center seeking a Saturday evening in early to mid-March. Jeff will ask for volunteers to help Sue at the club meetings. The Board expressed thanks to Sue for volunteering.

Kate Tufts asked could we use the email list associated with the seed sale as a means to increase club membership. She suggested that those on this list who aren't members could be sent a "personal" invitation to attend upcoming club meetings. Bob informed her that he doesn't have email for all on the seed sale mailing list, but he was even more concerned that this would be perceived by recipients as "SPAM." The Board agreed that this was a legitimate concern and shouldn't be pursued. At the same time the idea of those working at the seed sale "slip-pickup" table were encouraged to invite those picking up seed that were not regular club meeting attendees to know they were welcome and to consider attending an upcoming club meeting.

Action Items

- Distribute appeal for someone with "financial qualifications" to conduct an audit of the club's financial records. (Kurt)
- Contact Mt. Pleasant staff with material on MOS camp scholarships. (Jeff provide material to Bonnie, Bonnie contact Mt. Pleasant)
- Suggest other scholarship nominees or potential POCs at appropriate organizations. (All)
- Identify amount of funds from Bookstore to be combined with seed sale proceeds after identify projects to be supported this year. (All)
- Coordinate a multi-day club field trip to Cape May in fall 2005. (Jeff)
- Appoint a nominating committee for 2005-2006 slate of officers. (Jeff)
- Draft letter of club support for Project Open Space. (Kurt)
- Coordinate Pot-luck, including make reservation for community center. (Sue)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 18, 2004	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2005	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 24, 2005	-	Jo Solem	
March 24, 2005	-	TBD	
April 28, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
May 26, 2005	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Proposed Agenda – October 28, 2004
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/04 – 10/25/04
- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Bookstore Report, June 2003 – May 2004
- Flyer for Howard County League of Women Voters presentation, “The State of “Open Space” in Howard County, Nov. 18, 2004

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**Proposed Agenda
OCTOBER 28, 2004**

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Jeff*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Kevin*
6. Review of Action Items *Jeff*
Purchase of LCD projector
7. Committee Reports
 - State Board Meeting *Karen*
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Bird Seed Sale *Eileen*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Dave*
8. Old Business
9. New Business/Discussions
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

President's Items

By Laws

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/04-10/25/04

	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		7.60
Membership Dues	695.00	3,930.00
State Dues Paid	(2,125.00)	(2,125.00)
Owl Boxes		85.00
Contributions		55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	(1,430.00)	1,952.60
Expense:		
Owl Box Material Expense		273.78
Supplies for Bird Counts	37.87	67.87
Donations	100.00	100.00
Meetings:		
Programs	75.00	175.00
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies		14.54
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory		229.86
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	212.87	861.05
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	(1,642.87)	1,091.55
 Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		
Expense		
Flyers & Misc	72.50	72.50
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total		
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		
 Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		5,942.86
Interest Received	12.93	53.74
Balance		5,996.60
 Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		9,917.02
 Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		1,448.85
Savings		15,913.62
Petty Cash		11.44
Total		17,373.91

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

BOOKSTORE REPORT

June 2003 - May 2004

Income	1,280.60
Expense	<u>445.92</u>
Gain/Loss	<u><u>834.68</u></u>

Estimated Value of Inventory	2,500.00
Sales Tax Paid	64.03
Bank Balance	2,200.60

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 18, 2004

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2004-2005 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*)
Past President: Kurt Schwarz
Chapter Directors: Tracy Eve (1st yr) √
Tom Miller (2nd yr)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Dave Holyoke
Publicity:
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Tracy Eve. Total number in attendance was 6. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 4, 2004 was ___ people. David Holmes gave a program entitled "The Broader View: What to Look for After You've Nailed the Family." This meeting was held on the first Thursday of the month because the second Thursday was Veterans Day and the Howard Recreation and Parks Headquarters was to be closed, precluding our use of the meeting room.

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

See Old and New Business.

Vice-President (Heffernan): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy was not present. She had submitted the attached Treasurer's Report for inclusion in these Minutes.

Past President (Schwarz): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 4 at Black Hills Regional Park in Montgomery County. Kurt and Mary-Jo will not be able to attend. Jeff is planning to attend. We reviewed our POCs for state committees: Kurt is our Conservation POC, Tom Strikwerda is Chairman of the Scholarship committee and can serve as our chapter POC, and for now Jeff will be POC for Sanctuary Committee (should solicit volunteers.)

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie reported that she has the Spring schedule well along. She will be doing the Howard Rec & Parks trip in Spring and the Solem's are going to have a date for Odenates as our last required trip to cover contract for use of meeting room. Bonnie described a report from Emy of a trip she had attended with the Talbot club. It was very low key with a 8:30 start, a 1.5 hour stroll, and then breakfast at someone's home. We discussed whether something like this would be received well. One idea that seemed interesting would be to ask for volunteer host/hostesses for feeder visits, and then consider an informal Brunch after the feeder visits. Consider seeking volunteers in the newsletter.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported she only had two outstanding block cards to receive for the atlas.

Publicity (??):

Seed Sale/State Scholarship Comm. (Clegg):

Bonnie initiated a discussion of why a fair percentage of the club membership doesn't buy seed. The volume of seed sales has been declining, and we wondered if there were efforts that could slow or stop this trend. Several ideas raised were to consider offering delivery to members, or a greater involvement with The Wildlife Authority (maybe even holding pickup at store, so that late or missed pickups could be handled at store later.) Jeff proposed he would contact Eileen and ask her to attend a Board meeting where we could discuss these and other alternatives for the seed sale, so as to ensure we factored in her views.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Jeff reported that Dave had received a request from Brenda Belensky with Rec and Parks to print an article that announced a program for Habitat Stewards training. The article was her full news release/advertisement with all the details. We concurred in idea of printing an "edited" version with key facts and including contact information for those wanting to know more.

We decided to wait on further consideration of the suggestion to decrease the number of newsletters from five to four until the Newsletter editors were present.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Kurt was not present, but Tracy Eve raised the topic of the recent Baltimore Sun article describing a potential sale of state parklands. Tracy confessed she had already acted on this topic as she has a personal interest relative to some property they own near Deep Creek Lake. It was agreed Jeff would contact Kurt to have him look into this further. Potentially this would warrant a newsletter article (email if timeliness an issue). One question was who would be the proper authorities to write to. Lastly it was pointed out that Maureen Harvey should be contacted to find out if the State was taking a stand on the proposal.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Eve):

No reports.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob had provided Tracy with list of non-renewing members with 54 names. She had called all of them. She left messages on 19 answering machines, but had 25 indicate they will renew, and only 6 who said they did not plan to renew.

Kate asked what kind of return the seed sale sign up provides. Jo indicated that no one who signed up and were sent mailer actually ordered seed. Kate felt that if someone signed up we should make a personal follow-up to the fair list to see if their interest in birds was a potential lead for club membership. Kate took an action item to call these people and see if her idea held promise as a membership source.

Old Business

Jeff reviewed the prior meeting action items.

- Call for audit help put out. Someone suggested asking Shiras.
- Bonnie confirmed she had forwarded scholarship information to Mt. Pleasant.
- Other Scholarship potentials? Sue Mueller from Park & Rec has expressed interest in the scholarship program
- The action on Bookstore funds was continued.
- A nominating committee to arrive at next year’s slate of officers (only need New Chapter Director) was appointed by Jeff. Kurt is chairman, and Bonnie and Ralph Cullison are remaining members.
- Sue has booked the pot luck for March 19. A newsletter article (Jeff to speak with Sue) should indicate won’t have the raffle. Will be able to have both slides and digital projection. Rather than the raffle Emy and Bonnie had discussed idea of having a drawing for one gift package. Approach The Wildlife Authority for one item (supplement with the Howard Count stuffed Goldfinch toy). Maybe include other Howard items like MD Yellowbook, Goldfinch notecards, club patch.

New Business

See officer reports.

Action Items

- Contact those on fair seed sale signup sheet about interest in birds (Kate)
- Check if Kevin still can host January Board meeting (Jo) – **NOTE JAN MEETING WILL BE AT JO’S**
- Identify amount of funds from bookstore to be combined with seed sale proceeds after identify projects to be supported this year (All) – Continued from prior meeting.
- Follow-up on State sale of park lands (Kurt)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 18, 2004	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2005	-	Jo Solem	
February 24, 2005	-	Kevin Heffernan	
March 24, 2005	-	TBD	
April 28, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
May 26, 2005	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report 5/1/04 – 11/17/04
- Howard County 2004 Nest Box Program flyer (Jo passed around for review)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/04-11/17/04

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		7.60
Membership Dues	1,985.00	5,915.00
State Dues Paid	(1,305.00)	(3,430.00)
Owl Boxes		85.00
Contributions	30.00	85.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>710.00</u>	<u>2,662.60</u>
Expense:		
Owl Box Material Expense	36.97	310.75
Supplies for Bird Counts		67.87
Donations		100.00
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	225.00
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies	68.85	83.39
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	2.57	2.57
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory	173.55	403.41
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>331.94</u>	<u>1,192.99</u>
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	<u><u>378.06</u></u>	<u><u>1,469.61</u></u>
 Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales	7,061.50	7,061.50
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		72.50
Rent	50.00	50.00
Seed	5,380.70	5,380.70
Sales Tax	336.26	336.26
Total	<u>5,766.96</u>	<u>5,839.46</u>
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		<u><u>1,222.04</u></u>
Contributions to Habitat Preservation	200.00	<u><u>200.00</u></u>
 Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		5,942.86
Interest Received	16.01	69.75
Balance		<u><u>6,012.61</u></u>
 Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		<u><u>9,917.02</u></u>
 Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		3,617.71
Savings		15,929.63
Petty Cash		51.44
Total		<u><u>19,598.78</u></u>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 27,2005

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2004-2005 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (*& Publicity*) √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kurt Schwarz
Chapter Directors: Tracy Eve (1st yr) √
Tom Miller (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Dave Holyoke
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

Guest – Bird Conservation Director of
Audubon – MD/DC Rep. Dave Curson √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 9, 2004 was ___ people. Bob Schaefer gave a program entitled “Wildlife of Northern Canada: Gyrfalcons to Grizzly Bears.” Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 13 was ___ people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled “Fifty Years of Birding.”

Officer’s Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff introduced our guest, Dave Curson who gave a presentation on the Important Bird Area (IBA) Program that he has been responsible for since last May. This program was started by the International Bird Conservancy and introduced in the US by the American Bird Conservancy. Local initial efforts were coordinated by the Audubon Naturalist Society but are now being run by the National Audubon Society. Dave explained that the primary focus of the program previously was education, but now is focused on conservation of habitat. He described the revised criteria used in establishing areas to be designated as Important Bird Areas. There are currently no areas in Howard County designated as IBA, although several areas along the county borders are potentials (Patapsco and Patuxent River valleys). Dave has volunteered to provide a presentation to the club membership at-large. A web-site describing the program is still under-construction but will eventually be available for a link from our web-site.

Jeff reported that Shiras Guion has agreed to conduct an audit of the chapter Treasurer’s records. Emy will contact Shiras to set up a meeting. Shiras would like to have two other club members attend and witness the audit process.

Vice-President (Heffernan): No report.

Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes were approved with no changes.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy submitted the attached Treasurer's report. She stated that Bob Schaefer declined the honorarium for his presentation at the November meeting. The report shows the expenditure of funds from the Mountjoy fund for the digital projector. The second page of the report provides a comparison of seed sale proceeds for the past three years. The proceeds this year are approximately \$1422. Jeff asked Emy to bring this material to next month's Board meeting as Eileen Clegg is to attend so we can discuss future seed sale options.

Past President (Schwarz):

Kurt has been forwarding emails relative to the conservation program.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

The most recent Yellowthroat reported on recent State Board activities. Kate reported that they are asking clubs to sponsor field trips to support work days at the MOS sanctuaries. MOS is looking for a location to house the MOS central headquarters as there are multiple reasons to no longer use Cylburn Manor in Baltimore. The deadline for state sponsored Audubon Camp scholarships is January 31. Volunteers to lead field trips at the MOS Conference in southern Maryland in May are needed. A site in Harford County has been broached as a potential MOS sanctuary.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts):

Kate reported she had contacted several people who had signed up as potentially interested in the seed sale at the Howard County Fair. She invited those who lived near her to attend a club meeting, and had favorable responses. She passed around the list to see if other Board members might select others to make personal contact with.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie expressed concern that despite her efforts the field trip listings in the Yellowthroat continued to be mixed up. The consensus was this was not unique to her, but widespread with other chapters as well, and suggested the field trip editor was at fault.

Bonnie reported that plans are underway to sponsor a group from the club participating in a pelagic trip this coming summer. Stan Arnold is acting as coordinator for club.

Columbia Archives associated with the Columbia Association is seeking Columbia area adventures under the title of "Go Active". They have asked the club if they will participate. Bonnie will follow-up.

Lastly she asked we change the membership survey form for next year to highlight need for volunteers to "provide refreshments for regular meetings." She also asked Jeff to find a new volunteer as "Snack Coordinator" for next year's meetings.

Bonnie is considering arranging a frog walk to link with Sue Muller's program at the May meeting.

Bonnie and Tom Miller (scope bearer) are to lead the Howard Rec and Parks trip scheduled for June 4.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane had no report but several ideas for programs were raised during the meeting and should be shared with her.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that she and Bonnie had emailed preliminary summary reports to atlas participants during the past week. Individuals will receive their own reports shortly. Calls for Howard Chapter support of other blocks outside the county continue to be made. Jo also encouraged local participants to continue efforts in-county. She passed around a summary of atlas results.

She also passed around an article on Peter Kaestner (Hank's brother) that recently appeared in Back Packer magazine.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report on publicity.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Sue reported on planning for the pot luck. She discussed need to get sign-up sheets circulated at next meeting. We discussed plans for a gift/raffle basket. She asked about help with setup (Bonnie volunteered to call/email her with more information on what this involves). Tom will bring both the slide projector and digital projector. Jeff agreed to bring his laptop computer to drive the projector. Those wishing to bring electronic pictures should bring them on a CD or USB drive.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Eve): See new business.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported that it appeared recent access problems reported for our club web site were probably unique to individual ISP for members.

He reported that this year's membership was currently 253 in comparison to last year being 255.

The nominating committee will need to provide the Board a report in time to provide Bob a slate by March. This will allow sending the ballot so that it will be received by membership 10 days before the April meeting (along with the club directory). If the By-laws committee is going to recommend changes they should be available in this same time frame as they must be voted on at a club annual meeting held in April.

Lastly he mentioned that they had received a letter from Carol Garza in Texas, reporting that she is doing well.

Old Business

Emy reported on plans for the upcoming Winter Count. She has had to agree to new arrangements with a new WSSC manager for our access during counts. The letter of permission requires a call-in to the office on the morning of count with cell phone numbers for all parties who will be on watershed property. The tally will be at the Waugh's.

New Business

Tom Miller discussed his assessment that our club sound system has several problems. Specifically the microphone we have is not very good. He felt that a wireless hand-held and a second clip-on hands off microphone would be much more effective. Tom recommended that for approximately \$250 he could obtain a system that would avoid the "You can all hear me, right? I won't use the microphone." And then having members not hear the program because the speaker didn't continue to project his voice. Bonnie moved we make such a purchase and use funds from the Mountjoy fund. This was amended to include purchase of a laser pointer as well. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

Following a brief discussion of how to spend this year's seed sale proceeds it was agreed we would review proposals at the next Board meeting in February. Those with proposals are asked to provide background material along with their proposals.

Lastly, after mentioning the Columbia Archives project earlier, Jeff speculated they might be willing to accept and store the club's historical records. As long as we made a record that we had placed material with them, this might eliminate the practice of passing records from President to President for storage. Jeff agreed to explore this possibility.

Action Items

- Bob Solem will add a link to the Audubon Important Bird Areas web site once Dave Curson informs him the site is ready.
- Dave Curson was asked to provide a short article on the IBA program for The Goldfinch.
- Jeff agreed to tell Jane Geuder to contact Dave Curson about a program on IBA for next year.
- Identify amount of fund from bookstore to be combined with seed sale proceeds after identify projects to be supported this year (All) – continued from previous meeting
- Bring proposals and supporting material for seed sale conservation projects to next meeting (All)
- Follow-up on State sale of park lands (Kurt) – continued from previous meeting

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 18, 2004	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2005	-	Jo Solem	
February 24, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
March 24, 2005	-	Kevin Heffernan ??	
April 28, 2005	-	TBD	
May 26, 2005	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer's Report 5/1/04 – 1/27/05
- Howard County Bird Club – Annual Seed Sale (3 Year Summary) - 1/24/2005

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/04-1/24/05

	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		7.60
Membership Dues	820.00	6,735.00
State Dues Paid	(610.00)	(4,040.00)
Owl Boxes		85.00
Contributions		85.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	210.00	2,872.60
Expense:		
Owl Box Material Expense		310.75
Supplies for Bird Counts		67.87
Donations		100.00
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	275.00
Hospitality	11.91	11.91
Equipment	2,017.43	2,017.43
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies	49.00	132.39
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		2.57
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory	34.90	438.31
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,163.24	3,356.23
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	(1,953.24)	(483.63)
 Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		7,061.50
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		72.50
Rent		50.00
Seed		5,380.70
Sales Tax		336.25
Total		5,839.45
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		1,222.05
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		200.00
 Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		7,960.29
Interest Received	40.81	110.56
Balance		8,070.85
 Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund	(2,017.43)	7,899.59
 Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		1,327.72
Savings		15,970.44
Petty Cash		51.44
Total		17,349.60

E. Holdridge
1/24/2005

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
ANNUAL SEED SALE**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Sales	7,061.50	7,931.50	7,802.50
Expense:			
Flyers	72.50	110.97	111.07
Rent	50.00	-	25.00
Seed	5,380.70	5,606.90	6,364.92
Sales Tax	336.25	377.75	371.59
Total Expense	5,839.45	6,095.62	6,872.58
Gain on Seed Sale	1,222.05	1,835.88	929.92
Contributions received for Habitat Preservation	200.00	195.00	500.00

CANCELED DUE TO WINTER WEATHER

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes Thursday, February 24, 2005

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2004-2005 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (*& Publicity*)
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*)
Past President: Kurt Schwarz
Chapter Directors: Tracy Eve (1st yr)
Tom Miller (2nd yr)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Dave Holyoke
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Friedhoffer. Total number in attendance was _____. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 10 was ___ people. Mike Callahan gave a program entitled "Raptors Rule: a Visit with Live Birds of Prey."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Vice-President (Heffernan):

Secretary (Stirrat):

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Past President (Schwarz):

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren):

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda):

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts):

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Programs (Geuder):

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Seed Sale (Clegg):

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Chapter Directors (Miller, Eve):

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Old Business

New Business

Action Items

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 18, 2004	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2005	-	Jo Solem	
February 24, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
March 24, 2005	-	TBD	
April 28, 2005	-	TBD	
May 26, 2005	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

-
-

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 24,2005

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2004-2005 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (*& Publicity*)
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kurt Schwarz
Chapter Directors: Tracy Eve (1st yr)
Tom Miller (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Dave Holyoke √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kevin Heffernan. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 10 was ___ people. Dennis Coskren related his and Jane's adventures in a program entitled "A Naturalist's Trip Across Peru."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Vice-President (Heffernan): Kevin noted that there were no actions pending review, as the last board meeting had been cancelled. He noted that the revised by-laws would almost certainly not be ready for an annual meeting in April, but would most likely be drafted by the end of 2005.

Secretary (Stirrat): Not present. Kurt substituted.

Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy presented her usual, detailed report. Activity for the month was light. A few memberships dribbled in for a total of \$75. She also reported \$22.77 in interest. Expenses were \$50 for hospitality supplies (presumably for Pot Luck) and \$64 for rental of the facility for the Pot Luck.

Past President (Schwarz): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Howard will host the State Board meeting on June 4. APL was suggested as a site.

Somebody, I cannot remember who, reported that an organization called the Maryland Natural History Consortium, is interested in purchasing an abandoned mental hospital at Henryton. The organization is small, and apparently not well-funded, so this actually happening is some time in the future, if ever. But the location might some day serve as a headquarters for MOS.

MOS has been informed that liability insurance for unoccupied land of the refuges will cost \$1.30 per acre for an annual total of about \$3,000.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): Not present.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): Not present

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report. See State Board Meeting.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): Bonnie reported that she will be scheduling no summer field trips, except, a summer pelagic trip to be coordinated by Stan Arnold, and possibly Dick Smith's annual exercise in futility, getting birders to look at butterflies, over Labor Day weekend. This will allow folks to concentrate on the Atlas

She also said that the coming season, 2005-2006, she really will schedule fewer field trips this time.

Programs (Geuder): Not present.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): Year 4 of the Atlas is under way. The Patuxent website should be back up soon. The delay is, in part, due to the incorporation of several ideas pioneered by Howard, nifty maps, etc.

It was noted that it might help sending out short, concise e-mails to atlasers, listing most wanted species, optimal times to seek them, etc.

It was proposed that the April 2006 meeting be devoted to the Atlas.

A new nature center will be constructed on the Robbins (spelling?) property, to be attached to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. This should provide the club volunteer opportunities.

It was also proposed that an article should be composed for the newsletter, relating how funds from the Mountjoy bequest have been spent. Jeff was viewed as the best person to write that (see what happens when you don't attend?).

Publicity (Friedhoffer): Not present

Seed Sale (Clegg): Eileen related several problems with the seed sale, the main ones being flat sales, and profound difficulties scaring up strong backs for the seed sale dates. She indicated that the continuance of the seed sale in its present incarnation was not likely.

Bonnie noted that some time ago, she had discussed a possible partnership with the Wildlife Authority on the seed sale. It was suggested that she contact them, and discuss a possible multi-day sale, perhaps running from weekend to weekend. Paperwork, orders, etc. would continue to be handled by Eileen. But she would no longer need to find volunteers. The Wildlife Authority would not have to lug their merchandise to the sale. And people who could not commit to the morning of the sale would be enabled to make a purchase and pick it up a their convenience. They might also make purchases at the Wildlife Authority. It was noted that the Club would not be able to sell its own books, but since we don't make any profit thereon, it would be no net loss.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst): Dave explained that he is having trouble keeping up with the task, especially in light of a new assignment at work. So he may have relinquish the position. So a new person will be needed, and Dave will act as a back-up.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): Kurt had received two interesting proposals for the seed sale proceeds from Cheryl Farfaras at Middle Patuxent. She was seeking \$750 for the Clegg Meadow, to remove ¼ acre of autumn olive, and plant 90 native trees and shrubs as a stream buffer, with deer protection. In addition, she sought \$450 to set up starling-resistant Purple Martin gourds in the Clegg Meadow. Bonnie asked who would monitor the martin gourds. Emy indicated that Cheryl monitors the place very thoroughly. The Board approved both proposals. Eileen offered an additional \$100 for any cost overruns.

The Howard County Conservancy was also seeking funds to make the butterfly garden more permanent (a real fence). Since Kurt was unable to extract specifics, such a sum desired, and just what it would buy, the Board did not approve.

The Board also authorized \$100 for All Creatures Great and Small.

The remaining \$122.05 will carry over to next year.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Eve): Tom noted that he had purchased a laser pointer and a power strip for the Club.

He also suggested purchasing a spare bulb for the computer projector. The cost of a spare was \$398 plus tax. After discussion, the Board authorized purchase thereof, with funds drawn from the Mountjoy bequest.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob provided a membership update. Total membership was 257, up by 2 from last year. 239 (93%) renewed. A total of 16 did not renew, and there were 18 new members.

Old Business:

By-Laws: See Vice President report

Audit: There's been no word for Shiras or Jeff

New Business

Kevin reported the Paul Zucker is stepping down as May Count coordinator. A new one is needed, and there is little time to actually find one. Emy will coordinate with area coordinators. A permission letter from WSSC is already in hand. Eileen will contact the Randles to see if they are willing to host the tally. A clipboard will be circulated at the meetings. The date is May 14.

Action Items

Kevin and committee to revise by-laws by end of 2005.

Emy to cut checks for MPEA and All Creatures Great and Small. Kurt to find out who to make checks, where to send.

Jeff to draft article on Mountjoy bequest.

Bonnie to approach Wildlife Authority about partnership for seed sale.

Find new Newsletter Editor.

Find new May Count Coordinator.

Eileen to contact Randles regarding May Count Tally Rally

Tom to purchase spare bulb for projector.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 18, 2004	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2005	-	Jo Solem	
February 24, 2005	-	Canceled due to poor weather.	
March 24, 2005	-	Kevin Heffernan	
April 28, 2005	-	Bonnie Ott	
May 26, 2005	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Update

Minutes submitted by:

Kurt Schwarz
Past President

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/04-3/23/05

	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		7.60
Membership Dues	75.00	6,910.00
State Dues Paid		(4,175.00)
Owl Boxes		85.00
Contributions		85.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	75.00	2,912.60
Expense:		
Owl Box Material Expense		310.75
Supplies for Bird Counts		100.02
Donations		100.00
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	400.00
Hospitality		11.91
Equipment		2,284.15
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies		185.27
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		2.57
Pot Luck Dinner:	64.80	64.80
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory		717.57
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	114.80	4,177.04
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	(39.80)	(1,264.44)
 Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		7,061.50
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		72.50
Rent		50.00
Seed		5,380.70
Sales Tax		336.25
Total		5,839.45
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		1,222.05
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		200.00
 Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		8,227.01
Interest Received	22.77	155.43
Balance		8,382.44
 Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund		7,632.87
 Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		546.91
Savings		16,015.31
Petty Cash		51.44
Total		16,613.66

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 28, 2005

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2004-2005 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (*& Publicity*)
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*)
√
Past President: Kurt Schwarz
Chapter Directors: Tracy Eve (1st yr) √
Tom Miller (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Dave Holyoke
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

The Wildlife Authority Kathy Franklin √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 14 was ___ people. Denise Gibbs, Naturalist, Black Hills Park presented an illustrated talk about her experiences monitoring the fall monarch butterfly migration on Assateague Island, Virginia.

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Vice-President (Heffernan): None, since Kevin was acting as President.

Secretary (Stirrat): Not present. Karen substituted.

Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy presented her report. There was little activity for the month. There was no income and expenses were \$50 for programs, \$ 28.06 for postage/copies, and \$ 353.41 for the newsletter and directory. There was discussion on whether the report should be presented to the membership in general according to the bylaws. It was agreed that Emy would make copies of the report available at the May club meeting.

Past President (Schwarz): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, etc.):
Howard will host the State Board meeting on June 4. See Old Business for details.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): Not present.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): Not present

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Reports

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): Jo reported that the beginning of the 4th year is here. She and Bonnie have sent out an email reminding people of what to be looking for and when. They plan to do this periodically throughout the season.

Field Trips: Bonnie reported that the Jug Bay boat trip is overfull but the number attending is OK with Greg.

Programs (Geuder): Not present.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): Not present

Seed Sale (Clegg): Kathy Franklin attended in order to discuss having this year's Seed Sale at the Wildlife Authority (TWA). Discussion included that the sale could be earlier in the month (either Oct. 8 or 15) if it is not at the church and that would be preferred, especially if it could be before the Central MD Audubon sale. It was agreed that the club would put the seed sale information in its newsletter, rather than TWA doing this. The club will also see what can be done to advertise the seed better including developing flyers to promote the sale. Kathy said that TWA cannot store 14,000 pounds of seed (the amount ordered in last year's sale) but if people could pick up their seed all day on Saturday and Sunday, that would work. She indicated that TWA would need help to carry the seed to peoples' cars. She also said that TWA would give a discount coupon for TWA to everyone who comes in to pick up seed. It was agreed that once the date for the sale is set and the details (where to pick up the seed) agreed, Bob Solem will send an email to all members announcing this. Kathy and Eileen need to agree soon on the date, details on how the sale would be handled at TWA and the financial details on what TWA would be paid for hosting the sale. Eileen and Kathy will get together at TWA before the next Board of Directors meeting and also have agreed on the date and financial details by then. Kathy will check TWA's records to see when in October seed sales start to increase.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst): No one has yet been identified to take over as Newsletter Editor. Board members need to ask Club members if they are interested.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): Not present

Chapter Directors (Miller, Eve): Tom noted that he had not yet purchased the spare bulb for the computer projector. It was agreed that he will now wait until fall since it will not be needed until September

Webmaster (R. Solem): No report

Old Business:

By-Laws: It was noted that the Bylaws will need to be revised to reflect that the club fiscal year is May 1 to April 30.

Audit: Jeff is taking care of this and Emy did not know anything about it.

The club will host the State MOS Board meeting on June 4. Jeff had apparently reserved a room for this in the county Recreation and Parks building. Kevin agreed to call Rec and Parks to confirm this and if possible, to reserve all three rooms for this meeting. It was agreed that Kevin and Karen will bring a sign-up sheet to the May club

meeting to get volunteers both to provide food for the meeting and to help set up for it. Sue Probst will bring the coffee pot, coffee, and sugar, cups, etc. left over from the Pot Luck dinner.

A permanent May Count coordinator is still needed. Mary Jo agreed to take Area 5 and Jeff Culler has taken Area 2. It was agreed that since now incorrect information about the Area Coordinators was sent out in the last newsletter, Bob will send out an email with the correct Area Coordinators once Emy emails him this information.

New Business

Kevin will collect funds for a memorial for Jeff Friedhofer's son. A donation box will be put out at the May club meeting for this.

Jo reported that Mark Raub of Howard County Parks and Recreation had contacted her and Bonnie about doing a sign for Meadowbrook Park about dragonflies. Jo volunteered that the Bird Club could also do a couple of them about birds. They walked the park with Mark and picked out two areas for them -one on wetlands, and one on open space/tangles birds. The sign text is needed by early May. They also walked to the park's highest point which was identified as an excellent location for a hawk watch. Mr. Raub liked this idea and club members will be involved in developing a plan for it as well.

Possible topics that Jeff could include in the Club President's Annual Report for MOS were discussed. Kevin will email Jeff the suggested topics.

Details of the Club's participation in the Howard County Fair in August 2005 will be discussed at the next Board meeting in May.

New Action Items

Emy will bring copies of this month's treasurer's report to the May club meeting. She will also prepare a proposed budget for next year and bring it to the next Board meeting.

Emy will email Bob the correct, current information on May Count Area Coordinators. Bob will then send this out to the club members by email.

Kevin will bring a donation box for the memorial fund for Jeff's son to the May club meeting.

Kevin and Karen will bring a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the State MOS Board meeting food and set up to the May club meeting.

Sue will bring the coffee pot, etc. to that meeting.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 18, 2004	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2005	-	Jo Solem	
February 24, 2005	-	Canceled due to poor weather.	
March 24, 2005	-	Kevin Heffernan	
April 28, 2005	-	Bonnie	
May 26, 2005	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments - none (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

Minutes submitted by:

Karen Darcy

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/04-4/27/05

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		7.60
Membership Dues		6,910.00
State Dues Paid		(4,175.00)
Owl Boxes		85.00
Contributions		85.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>		<u>2,912.60</u>
Expense:		
Owl Box Material Expense		310.75
Supplies for Bird Counts		100.02
Donations		100.00
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	450.00
Hospitality		11.91
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies	28.06	213.33
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		2.57
Pot Luck Dinner:		64.80
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory	353.41	1,070.98
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>431.47</u>	<u>2,324.36</u>
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	<u>(431.47)</u>	<u>588.24</u>
 Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		7,061.50
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		72.50
Rent		50.00
Seed		5,380.70
Sales Tax		336.25
Total		<u>5,839.45</u>
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		1,222.05
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		200.00
Total Available		<u>1,422.05</u>
Donation to Red & Parks		(1,200.00)
Donation to All Creatures		(100.00)
Balance to Operating Fund		<u>122.05</u>
 Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		6,764.05
Interest Received	27.68	183.11
Balance		<u>6,947.16</u>
 Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Beg Year Balance		9,917.02
Equipment Purchased		2,321.19
Balance Year End		<u>7,595.83</u>
 Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		286.56
Savings		14,542.99
Petty Cash		43.28
Total		<u>14,872.83</u>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2005

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2004-2005 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (& *Publicity*)
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chapter Directors: Tracy Eve (1st yr)
Tom Miller (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Dave Holyoke
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

Jeff Culler (new Chapter Dir.) √
Ward Ebert (by-laws committee) √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Tom Miller. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 12 was ___ people. Sue Muller, naturalist with Howard County Recreation and Parks gave a program entitled "Frogwatch USA."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Vice-President (Heffernan):

Kevin chaired the meeting in Jeff's absence.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck thanked Karen for preparing the previous Board meeting minutes in his absence. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy passed out copies of the attached treasurer's report. This is the first report of our Fiscal Year. She reported that \$311 had been collected for the memorial fund in memory of Jeff's son and Don Randle at the most recent regular club meeting.

Emy then distributed a proposed operating budget (attached) for this fiscal year (5/1/2005 – 4/30/2006). This only addresses operating expenses, not donations and distributions from special funds. It was proposed and agreed that an amount for printing additional club brochures should be added as we are about out.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

State MOS announcements: They want nominees for Chapter POCs for Conservation (Kurt), Scholarship (Tom Stikwerda), and Sanctuary (Jeff by default as President). They are soliciting ideas for a location for a new State MOS office. The state audit is still outstanding. The next meeting is hosted by our chapter at the Howard Rec and Parks building in June

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): Not present.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): Not present.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No specific report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie was not present, but it was reported that the Delaware Bay trip coming up on Sunday was undersubscribed.

Programs (Geuder): Not present.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that we were now in the midst of atlas season. She reported they had received the first verified record of nesting Swamp Sparrow (Relay West). She asked atlas participants to feed key finding to Bonnie and herself as the season proceeds so they can monitor progress.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Seed Sale (Clegg): Not present.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Dave was not present. He has indicated desire to step down, but recently agreed to continue a while longer while we search for a replacement. There has been no response, but we need to keep searching, and clarify Dave's plans.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Kurt indicated things were relatively quiet on the conservation front at the moment.

Chapter Directors (Miller, Eve): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem): No report.

Old Business

Reviewed prior action items:

- Emy presented the treasurer's report and proposed budget at this meeting closing that action.
- May Count Area coordinators names and contact information had been emailed prior to count. (See below for further discussion of future count coordinators.)
- Kevin had provided the memorial donation at the May meeting as discussed above.
- Planning was underway for hosting the June State MOS Board meeting. Karen estimated cost to be about \$100. (subsequently we hosted meeting successfully)

We received letters of acknowledgement for two contributions made this year. Judy Holzman of All Creatures Great and Small sent a thank note. Howard Recreation and Parks sent a thank you for our support in the

amount of \$1200 for two projects at MPEA: 1) Purple Martin Gourds for Clegg Meadows, and 2) Removal of Russian Olive and replacement with native foliage along the river edge.

The committee membership was Ward Ebert, Bob Solem, Kevin Heffernan, and Tracy Ever. Ward Ebert distributed a hand out with the By-laws committee's proposed revisions to the Chapter Constitution and By-laws. These have not been revised in over 15 years. Bob had reviewed the by-laws of several other chapters to see where we sat relative to others. There are several changes resulting from laws (IRS), as the State MOS is the incorporated tax-free entity and our rules flow from theirs. The membership will eventually have to approve changes, most likely done at the annual meeting (April), consideration should be given to distributing the proposal to membership with the annual directory. The Board will first have to accept the report of committee (after edit) and discussion. Additional proposed changes are solicited as the Board members review the handout. The Board tentatively scheduled to formally discuss the report at the October 27, 2005 board meeting.

In revisiting the need for a permanent May Count coordinator to replace Paul Zucker, it was announced that Joe Byrnes has volunteered to coordinate the Mid-Winter Count. Accordingly Emy will give up that responsibility and serve as the May Count Coordinator. At the same time Joe agreed to take over monitoring access to the MOS bulk storage building. Lastly the subject of obtaining the historical May Count records from Paul who wants to off-load (approx. 4 file cabinets?) them was discussed. Kevin Heffernan volunteered to help with this effort and get the data from Paul. Jo will help to screen the material.

New Business

In discussion of the memorial gifts collected at last meeting it was agreed to split the proceeds equally and that we would ask the families to suggest uses. Kevin agreed to contact Jeff and Jan to discuss.

Kurt reported on the status of his discussions with Howard Rec and Parks about using their facility for our meetings going forward. We had received an email saying that our contract had been terminated due to not generating sufficient revenue. He had solicited feedback but was still waiting. Sue Muller had suggested that our offerings had not been ambitious enough. Consideration to bus/van trips to Eastern Shore, etc. might draw better. Also proposed we ask if we could supplement or pay use fee directly. Jeff had suggested the Ellicott City Public Works facility, and Emy asked about CA. Kurt is to continue to work. Ward Ebert agreed to explore use of the Howard County Room (cafeteria) at JHU/APL.

Bob and Sue have been working with Mark Raab of Howard Rec & Parks to develop signs for Meadowbrook Park (dragonflies and birds). They passed around preliminary drafts.

Eileen was not present, so final discussion and planning for this fall's seed sale was delegated to her.

Sue Probst agreed to again coordinate volunteers to man booth (Aug. 6-13). *(Subsequently our use of booth was canceled after Sue completed coordination efforts.)*

Kate Tufts discussed her role as the monitor for the answering machine on the State MOS #800 phone number. She recently missed an attempt by reporters trying to reach the state organization when she was out of town. She asked for a volunteer to provide her a backup and call and check for messages when she is away. Kurt volunteered to do this.

After a short discussion it was agreed that if needed we could amend the annual budget if necessary, but that the proposal submitted by Emy looked good. It was moved, seconded, and approved as submitted. *(Did we modify it with cost of printing brochures?)*

Lastly it was pointed out that our tax ID is the same one as the state MOS one. Emy has the number if needed.

Action Items

- Review By-laws and provide comments to committee. At the September Board meeting we will decide when a formal review and discussion by the Board will be scheduled. (possibly Oct?). (All)
- Provide an overview treasurers report at a future regular club meeting. (Emy)
- Contact the two families about ideas for uses of the memorial contributions. (Kevin)
- Finalize agreements with Kathy Franklin and The Wildlife Authority on plans/dates/process for this Fall's Seed Sale. (Eileen Clegg)
- Coordinate County Fair booth and volunteers. (Sue)
- Continue to pursue agreement with Howard Rec and Parks over use of facility for meetings. (Kurt)
- Check on possibility of meetings being held at APL. (Ward Ebert)
- Discussions to be placed on future Board agenda: Recent E-mails regarding Belmont development and the club's role regarding development and what issues we should take a stand on in name of conservation

2005-2006 Board Schedule (Hosts To Be Determined)

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler (volunteered last May?)
November 17, 2005	-	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2006	-	
February 23, 2006	-	
March 23, 2006	-	
April 27, 2006	-	
May 25, 2006	-	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2004	-	Bonnie Ott
October 28, 2004	-	Kurt Schwarz
November 18, 2004	-	Tracy Eve (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 27, 2005	-	Jo Solem
February 24, 2005	-	Canceled due to poor weather.
March 24, 2005	-	Kevin Heffernan
April 28, 2005	-	Bonnie Ott
May 26, 2005	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer's Report, 5/1/05 – 5/25/05
- Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society, Proposed Operating Budget, DRAFT, 5/1/05 – 4/30/2006
- Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-laws of the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. (MOS) – [electronic copy not attached]

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/05-5/23/05

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund		
Income:		
Publications		
Membership Dues	10.00	10.00
State Dues Paid		
Owl Boxes		
Contributions		
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>10.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>
Expense:		
Owl Box Material Expense		
Supplies for Bird Counts		
Donations		
Meetings:		
Programs	50.00	50.00
Hospitality		
Special Supplies		
Postage, Copies		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies		
Pot Luck Dinner:		
Facility Rental & Supplies		
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory		
Club Brochures		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	<u><u>(40.00)</u></u>	<u><u>(40.00)</u></u>
 Seed Sales		
Income		
Sales		
Expense		
Flyers & Misc		
Rent		
Seed		
Sales Tax		
Total		
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>		
 Memorial Fund		
Receipts	311.00	311.00
 Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account Balance		6,947.16
Interest Received	28.02	<u>28.02</u>
Balance		<u><u>6,975.18</u></u>
 Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Beg Year Balance		<u><u>7,595.83</u></u>
 Ending Bank Balances		
Checking		597.56
Savings		14,571.01
Petty Cash		<u>43.28</u>
Total		<u><u>15,211.85</u></u>

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/05-4/30/06**

	Proposed Budget
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	-
Membership Dues (net)	2,700.00
Contributions	-
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,700.00
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	
Special Supplies	
Postage, Copies	250.00
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00
Club Brochures	
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,300.00

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, Sept 22, 2005

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2004-2005 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (& *Publicity*) √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kurt Schwarz
Chap. Directors: Jeff Culler (1st yr) √
Tracy Eve (2nd yr)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Audio-visual: Tom Miller
Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
(Dave Holyoke)
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Friedhoffer. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 8, 2005 was ___ people. Dr. David Curson, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon, MD-DC gave a program entitled "The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program in Maryland and D.C."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff's President's remarks included the following:

- Jeff reported that he had given copies of the old President's records to the Columbia Archives. This is a project supported by the Columbia Association that is housed in the American Cities Building. Most of the material are historical copies of club minutes.
- Jeff reported that he was setting up a meeting with Mr. Byrd of Howard Recreation and Parks to have a face to face discussion on our use of the Rec & Parks facility for our meetings. We are assured use of the facility through December.
- He acknowledged that the fall newsletter had not included a President's welcome column, and that it was not intentional, just not gotten to.

Jeff then conducted a review of previous Action Items:

1. Regarding the amendment of club by-laws. It was agreed we would discuss these at the October Board meeting. Bob agreed to resend the proposed changes via email. All Board members are asked to review them and either distribute those comments to others via email, or at a minimum bring proposed re-writes to the meeting (not just general comments).
2. The budget reports were available at the previous regular club meeting for those who wanted to review them.
3. Kevin had contacted both families regarding memorial gifts, and had consensus to consider doing something in connection with Clegg Meadows. Cheryl Fararas of Rec and Parks had been

contacted about options for using the memorial gifts at the Clegg Meadows at MPEA. Options were not obviously appropriate for a memorial.

4. Eileen had finalized seed sale arrangements with Kathy Franklin and The Wildlife Authority.
5. Sue had coordinated volunteers before having a booth at the County Fair had fallen through due to a conflict for space, potentially arising because this was a special anniversary edition of the fair.
6. Jeff is addressing the use of Rec & Parks for club meetings (see above).
7. Ward Ebert had checked into use of JHU/APL facilities, but we could not be assured we wouldn't be bumped by Lab needs.
8. The discussion of club role in conservation issues was on agenda for this meeting, but was deferred due to Kurt not being able to attend.

Jeff has appointed the same members to the Nominating committee as last year (Bonnie, Mary-Jo, and Kurt). Ideas for nominees for Vice-President are solicited. Bill Hill's name was suggested as a potential Chapter Director.

Vice-President (Heffernan):

Kevin raised the subject of the pond at Western Regional Park that has provided such good shorebird habitat this late summer and fall. He wondered if we could do anything to influence the county to preserve the pond in this condition. Jo stated that she has been informing Rec and Parks personnel of what is being found and it may be the pond will need to be retained, but will the management sustain shorebird habitat is less clear. We discussed sign indicating it's value but recognized this would be about \$1000 and the actual portion of year when this would be active is a very short season, so perhaps less viable. Jo agreed to approach Mark Raab about sign with recognition of this latter fact, but also to encourage managing pond edges to benefit wildlife.

Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes of the prior meeting were accepted as submitted.

Fall Count was marked by a fairly large number of species, but fewer individual birds.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

The treasurer's report (attached) was distributed. The income shown under dues still includes the balance owed to the state MOS. Supplies for bird counts includes the payment to Jan Randle for May Count. Hospitality expenses include the club's hosting the State MOS Board meeting in June. The Newsletter expense is for printing.

The proposed budget should include adding an additional \$150 for hospitality and \$75 for printing club brochures.

The annual bookstore report was also distributed (attached). Emy read a note from Anne-Marie in which it was acknowledged that for the first time the bookstore actually lost money. At the same time the existing balance is in excess of her needs to support cash flow. During the past year she has liquidated old inventory at very low prices. The report assessed the on-hand inventory at the price quoted on books. It was proposed that a portion of the book store balance should be added to seed sale proceeds and applied to the projects chosen for this year's seed sale proceeds. The sense of the board that this would be roughly \$1000.

Past President (Schwarz): Not present.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

Mary Jo and Kate provided following report:

- Pin contest entries are solicited.
- Under how to increase membership several concepts were proposed.

- Always greeting new attendees a plus, one chapter prints up bookmarks with meeting dates. This idea might have some promise, but we also use the hand-out of park checklists and that may be as good an approach.
- If anyone having financial hardship standing in way of joining/renewing should consider providing assistance. Concur that if we know of such a case we should do so but discreetly.
- The 2006 MOS Conference is at Rocky Gap. Plan to offer a low impact birding opportunity for handicapped. Kathy Franklin asked to provide birding store. Tim Gallagher author of “The Grail Bird” is speaker.
- The 2007 Conference will be at Salisbury July 27-29, 2007.
- They are seeking a chair for the Development committee.
- Gayle Bach-Watson our rep to the Environmental Fund of Maryland is looking for help getting lists of agencies where they might present as part of the Combined Federal Campaign. EFM is not part of the United Way list this year.
- If we need help with Chapter Awards, John Malcolm is available to assist.. Mugs are available for \$5-6.
- Next Board meeting is December 3.
- MOS has printed new state checklists available for sale at the club bookstore. These are being given out free to chapters to sell as source of income. (Kate and Mary-Jo brought back several packs).
 - New members should be given one (hand out with park lists?)
 - Agreed to sell checklists at our book store for 25 cents.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts):

Kate reported that she had reached an agreement with Janet Millenson to assist the new stateMOS Publicity Chairman, but is carefully avoiding being drawn into preparing material. She’s helping give advice on what’s newsworthy and assembling a state-wide media list. Kate suggested that a couple of Howard activities might be news worthy (e.g., Sparrow Big Day, Ralph walk at Alpha Ridge, with anecdotes). Anyone willing to volunteer to write this or other stories are solicited.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie reported that the Sept. newsletter had list of all trips for remainder of the calendar year, but that wasn’t her intention. Joe Byrnes has been approached about helping with planning (typing up) the field trip list.

Bonnie also reported the she had received a nice thank you note from Brad Woods, the Eagle Scout, we supported in his project to build a bird blind at Mount Pleasant.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported they have begun entering data in state web site and expect to be done by end of October. Walter Ellis, State Atlas Coordinator has commended Howard atlas volunteers for an excellent job, “no comparison to other counties.” We have assembled an excellent data base for future. Bonnie and Jo are scheduled to give a presentation of results so far for the March meeting of club.

Jo reported that a new number should be used in contacting WSSC security if anything unusual observed on WSSC property. Call 301-206-8888 to contact security directly, whether at Rocky Gorge or Triadelphia. This is not the “cabin” at dam. Note that access to shore fishing spots is again open, other than during managed hunts.

Jo (and possibly Bonnie) are scheduled to speak to a Methodist Woman’s Group on Oct. 7.

A project to develop a hawk watch site at Meadowbrook Park is being proposed. They have contacted Ralph Geuder, Mike Kerwin, Wes Earp, and Mike Leumas to solicit assistance. They are looking for ideas for site signs. No problem with plagiarizing ideas from other sites (e.g. silhouettes, compass for directions). Any other ideas are welcome.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No separate report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report. Plans for this year are firmed up.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

A replacement for Dave is needed. See old business.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): Not present and no report.

Chapter Directors (Eve, Culler):

Tracy was not present. Jeff was exposed to idea that new chapter director may find the assignment may involve a little more effort than advertised.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported that he pushed Sue Muller to get the key to the bulletin board at Centennial Park so that the contents could be updated. This board was originally a gift from the club and should be used more regularly.

Old Business

The discussion of by-laws revision was deferred till October.

Regarding the audit of Treasurer records, Emy reported she had not heard from Shiras after initial contact. She will call Shiras and schedule a time for the audit.

Regarding the development of signs at Meadowbrook Park, we have provided inputs, met with Mark Raab and have approval of initial design ideas. Now await bids for an artist, so our role is on hold. In a related effort an attempt to post a copy of a bird list for Font Hill Park at that park is underway. Anyone with records is asked to check. An email soliciting such inputs will be distributed.

Regarding a replacement for Dave Holyoke as newsletter editor, it was confirmed that Dave is doing his last issue with the Nov-Dec issue. We need a call for volunteer. One point that was emphasized is that Dave does not do the newsletter layout (done by Sue). He collects and edits articles. Jeff agreed to solicit a job description from Dave and how much of a time commitment this requires. Anyone with ideas for who to approach as a potential volunteer should contact Jeff.

See the President's remarks for current status on future use of Rec and Parks facility for club meeting.

New Business

Our participation in the Howard County Fair was cancelled at the last minute when we could not be assured space in the 4-H Vegetable Barn due to extra exhibits associated with the Nth anniversary of fair. Although this was a disappointment after discussion it was agreed we would not contact the fair committee and make this an issue, as our having a free display location is a legacy we don't want to draw attention to. If we get volunteer and/or Sue agrees to try again next year we will try again next year (perhaps make contact somewhat earlier). Another idea is to solicit a "co-coordinator"/intern to help with arrangements in a newsletter article.

Discussion of the club's role in conservation (especially development that impacts habitat) was deferred till a future meeting since Kurt as Conservation Chair was not able to make this meeting.

Jeff was looking for suggestions on nominees for Chapter Award Certificates. As discussed these fall into two categories. Those which are recognized with certificates of appreciation such as atta-boy and blood-sweat-and

tears awards often given out at pot-luck. Another category of awards that hasn't been used recently but has a much greater formalism and value are "Club Distinguished Pins." The list of who were previous recipients of these awards and the formal written requirements for this class of awards appears to have been lost. A search for these records will be made (including possible return to look at records deposited with Columbia Archives. One name was provided to Jeff as potentially warranting this level of recognition. *Sec. Note – Jeff I didn't include name here but I can inform you if you didn't make note of who was suggested.*

The Board held a brief discussion of whether any place in Howard County held promise as an Important Bird Area (IBA) as described at most recent club meeting. The consensus was no where in county (MPEA specifically mentioned) would meet minimum criteria. The entirety of Patapsco Valley State Park (multiple counties) may qualify and Bill Ellis of Carroll County is supposedly working on this as a potential nominee. It was agreed that Jeff would inform David Curson that we had considered this and concluded no areas in county would qualify.

The location of Board meetings for rest of year were decided and appear below.

Action Items

- Bob to redistribute proposed By-law changes and all to provide comments to Jeff and Bob for incorporation prior to next Board meeting, with goal of completing review at Oct. meeting (All)
- Continue to pursue agreement with Howard Rec and Parks over use of facility for meetings (Jeff)
- Schedule audit of Treasurer's records with Shiras Guion (emy)
- Contact Dave Holyoke for a description of his newsletter role and time commitment (Jeff)
- Send email soliciting bird records for Font Hill Park (Jo)
- Provide Jeff with suggestions for award certificates (All)
- Search for written records on "Distinguished Service Pins" (Jeff)
- Notify David Curson regarding club position on IBAs (Jeff)
- Reschedule discussion of club role regarding conservation and development (Jeff)
- Approach Mark Raab about the Western Regional Park pond habitat and possibility of sign (Jo)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler	
November 17, 2005	-	Eve Tracy	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2006	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 23, 2006	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2006	-	Mary-Jo Betts	
April 27, 2006	-	Kate Tufts	
May 25, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer's Report, 5/1/05 – 9/20/05
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Bookstore, June 2004 – May 2005

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD CHAPTER MOS BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Jeff*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Kevin*
6. Review of Action Items *Kevin*
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Dave/Sue*
 - Membership update *Bob*
 - Fall Count *Chuck*
8. Old Business
 - Status of By Laws revision
 - Audit
 - Signs at Meadowbrook
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Meeting place for general meeting
9. New Business/Discussions
 - County Fair
 - What is conservation and role of club
 - Suggestions for Chapter Award Certificates
 - Important Bird Areas in Howard County
 - Board Meeting locations for rest of year
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location of meeting:

Jeff Friedhoffer

10042 The Mending Wall

Columbia, MD 21044

410-997-5366

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, Oct. 27, 2005

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (*& Publicity*) √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Jeff Culler (1st yr) √
Tracy Eve (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Audio-visual: Tom Miller
Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Dave Holyoke
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Culler. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 13 was ___ people. Middleton Evans gave a program entitled "Birding in Patterson Park, Baltimore."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff reported that he had discussed the club's use of the Howard Rec and Parks meeting room with Mr. Byrd of Rec and Parks and had arrived at an agreement that we could continue to use the rooms. Jo reported that Sue Muller had prepared an internal Rec and Parks memo that provided a cumulative summary of the activities the club had already contributed to Howard Count Rec and Parks and environmental efforts. The hope is that this will support a rationale for our continued use of facility. This positive outcome is still balanced by the uncertainty we recently experienced in the unannounced decision to sever the contract Kurt had negotiated in good faith with Howard Rec and Parks for our use of the facility. We had upheld our portion of the contract by offering several field trips that we could not be responsible for ensuring a certain enrollment that would satisfy some arbitrary income goal.

Review of prior action items:

- Bob to redistribute proposed By-law changes and all to provide comments to Jeff and Bob for incorporation prior to next Board meeting, with goal of completing review at Oct. meeting (All) – COMPLETE AND ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA
- Continue to pursue agreement with Howard Rec and Parks over use of facility for meetings (Jeff) – SEE ABOVE
- Schedule audit of Treasurer's records with Shiras Guion (Emy) – AUDIT IN PROCESS
- Contact Dave Holyoke for a description of his newsletter role and time commitment (Jeff) – SEE DISCUSSION BELOW FOR STATUS

- Send email soliciting bird records for Font Hill Park (Jo) – IN PROGRESS
- Provide Jeff with suggestions for award certificates (All) –
 - Kathy Franklin role in support of seed sale in face of BAD weather a likely nominee
 - Continue to solicit nominees
- Search for written records on “Distinguished Service Pins” (Jeff) – JEFF HADN’T FOUND ANY FORMAL RECORDS BUT WILL VISIT THE ARCHIVES AT COLUMBIA ASSOC. ARCHIVES
- Notify David Curson regarding club position on IBAs (Jeff)- DONE
- Reschedule discussion of club role regarding conservation and development (Jeff) – DEFER TILL NEXT MEETING
- Approach Mark Raab about the Western Regional Park pond habitat and possibility of sign (Jo) - PRIOR CONTACTS DEEMED ADEQUATE

Vice-President (Heffernan): Not present.

Secretary (Stirrat):

Chuck will correct prior Board minutes to reflect the proper membership of the nominating committee is: Bonnie, Mary-Jo, and Kurt (vice Kevin).

Fall count results reported as 135 species, but fewer individuals reported.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy’s treasurer’s report was distributed and is attached. It includes payment of the first installment of state dues and the cost of fall count tally rally. Also distributed and attached is a summary of the seed sale results including a comparison of the past four seed sale’s. The net this year was ~\$1,050. The variability in percent markup over the years is not fully explained. Records don’t capture how many pounds of seed were sold each year. It appears that recent orders are down from prior years.

Past President (Schwarz): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

The next Board meeting will be December 3 in Harford County.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie reported that although she hadn’t intended it to the most recent Goldfinch had the entire field trip schedule through Jan. 1 included. She has arranged for Jay Sheppard to again hold a finding owls field trip. She has arranged for a limited number of out of county trips in concert with other chapters (Black Hills is one). Unless someone else volunteers to coordinate all aspects of the weekend, she doesn’t envision holding a Martin Luther King holiday weekend trip in 2006 as she can’t do to new work commitments. It was noted that the upcoming Hawk Watch at Mt. Pleasant had been highlighted in the Howard County section of the Baltimore Sunday Sun. Jeff is continuing to send out the program and field trip schedule to his list of publications and have had some luck in them being picked up for publication.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo summarized some of the atlas results and passed around various reports and maps showing results to date. These included highlights like 14 more species than prior atlas, 32 blocks with more confirmations than prior, etc. In essence the coverage of atlas for Howard County this time is much more thorough than the prior atlas.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Bonnie reported on the prior sale and made following points. There were no volunteers present to help unload the truck when it arrived, and Kathy Franklin and her staff had to do unloading. Because of the weather this was more difficult than planned, but should not have been case that we didn't have help present. Since the weather was poor, the seed sale probably increased the traffic into store over what it would have been, but still was a significant burden on Kathy and staff given no help with unloading. We need to discuss and if can't find volunteers there is a message about future sales. It was agreed that although the proceeds did not match (exceed) the agreed to guaranteed net we won't expect Kathy and the Wildlife Authority to honor this commitment and will in fact have Jeff prepare a letter of appreciation for their support.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst):

Sue reported that she had prepared an article thanking Dave for his contributions as editor for the upcoming issue. She then announced that rather than continuing to seek a new "editor" for the Goldfinch she would accept responsibility for both editing and layout of the Goldfinch. This was acknowledged by a round of thanks and applause. She also reported that the newsletter went into the mail today. It was pointed out that those submitting material should ask for and expect an acknowledgement of receipt so as to avoid "loss" of material in the "ether."

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Kurt reported the bad news that Representative Palumbo's action to severely curtail the Endangered Species Act had just passed in the house.

Chapter Directors (Eve, Culler): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob distributed the current list of delinquent club membership renewals. As of this evening we only had 168 members and 111 non-renewals. Jeff Culler and Tracy Eve took the list and agreed to split the task of contacting those who hadn't renewed with a reminder.

Old Business

By-laws

The recommendations made by the By-laws Revision committee were reviewed and discussed, including comments received by email since the prior Board meeting. The following items were noted:

- Agreed to strike the word "standing" from Article IX, section 1
- After discussion of wording in Article X on Financial Matters Emy was assigned action items to redraft with idea of capturing need for "a periodic review", and relative to the budget process draft a simplified rewording of the process for developing and approving a budget for Chapter.
- Article XI – delete "monthly" from Section 1
- Article XIII – delete "not in" consistent.

Emy took action item to draft section as above and send it to Kevin, Tracy, Ward, and Bob (as committee) and after their review have it ready for Board review and approval at the November Board meeting.

New Business

Environmental programs for Parks and Rec, what can we offer?

Jeff was still soliciting ideas for such programs that might be offered for a cost by Howard Rec and Parks. Both Bob and Bonnie pointed out that the majority of our offerings are available as free club trips. Kurt pointed out

that is attempts to motivate out of county "bus/van" trips to Black Water or Black Hills had not been responded to by the county. It was generally agreed that since we have a tentative agreement to use facility without a formal contract we should continue in that mode unless someone wants to put forward any other trip ideas.

What is conservation and role of club

Deferred till next meeting.

Pot Luck Dinner

We discussed choice of dates for pot luck. The first three weekends in March were proposed. Sue Probst agreed to contact the Village Center about possible dates and check availability. Sue volunteered to coordinate presuming she will have multiple assistants volunteer to help.

Miscellaneous

It was announced that a retirement party for Chan Robbins is scheduled from 7 to 9 PM on December 9 at the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center.

Action Items

- Check availability of Village Center for pot-luck dates in March – Sue Probst
- Redraft Article X of By-laws dealing with Financial Matters – Emy Holdridge
- Review material from Emy and present agreed to wording for approval at next meeting – By-laws Committee
- Prepare thank you to Kathy Franklin – Jeff Friedhoffer
- Ensure include/add thank you to Kathy in newsletter article on seed sale- Sue Probst
- Call non-renewal member list – Jeff Culler/Tracy Eve

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler	
November 17, 2005	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2006	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 23, 2006	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2006	-	Mary Jo Betts	
April 27, 2006	-	Kate Tufts	
May 25, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report , 5/1/05 – 10/24/05
- Howard County Bird Club – Annual Seed Sale (recent year comparison)
- Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. (MOS) – plus emails of comments to proposed changes
- List of members not yet renewing for 2005-2006 as of Oct 27, 2005

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**Howard Chapter –MOS Board of Directors
Agenda - October 27, 2005**

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Emy
4. Presidents remarks Jeff
5. Vice Presidents Remarks
6. Review of Action Items Chuck
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas Jo
 - Field Trips Bonnie
 - Conservation Kurt
 - Newsletter
 - Membership update Bob
 - Fall Count Chuck
8. Old Business
 - By Laws revision discussion
 - Audit
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Suggestions for Chapter Award Certificates
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Environmental programs for Parks and Rec, what can we offer?
 - What is conservation and role of club
 - Pot Luck Dinner
10. Review of new Action Items Chuck

Location
Jeff Culler
2672 Thornbrook Road
Ellicott City, Md. 21042

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/05-10/24/05

	Budget 2005/06	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		1,030.00	3,785.00
State Dues Paid		(1,965.00)	(1,965.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,700.00		1,820.00
Contributions			55.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,700.00	(935.00)	3,695.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	40.67	70.67
Donations			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	150.00
Hospitality	150.00		137.14
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		3.30
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		13.60
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00		217.25
Club Brochures			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,450.00	90.67	591.96
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Func</i>	250.00		3,103.04
 Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales		7,313.80	7,313.80
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			110.00
Rent			
Seed		5,803.91	5,803.91
Sales Tax (est - not paid)		348.28	348.28
Total		6,152.19	6,262.19
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			6,447.16
Interest Received		38.36	195.54
Balance			6,642.70
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Beg Year Balanc			7,595.83
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,935.49
Savings			14,238.53
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			18,217.30

Seed Sale

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
ANNUAL SEED SALE**

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Sales	7,313.80	7,061.50	7,931.50	7,802.50
Expense:				
Flyers	110.00	72.50	110.97	111.07
Rent	-	50.00	-	25.00
Seed	5,803.91	5,380.70	5,606.90	6,364.92
Sales Tax	348.28	336.25	377.75	371.59
Total Expense	<u>6,262.19</u>	<u>5,839.45</u>	<u>6,095.62</u>	<u>6,872.58</u>
Gain on Seed Sale	<u>1,051.61</u>	<u>1,222.05</u>	<u>1,835.88</u>	<u>929.92</u>
Contributions received for Habitat Preservation	155.00	200.00	195.00	500.00
Percent of mark-up	20.0%	25.0%	34.7%	16.7%

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. (MOS)

1. Name: recognizes our informal name of “Howard County Bird Club.” (I)
2. Updates the definitions for membership categories; states membership year & fiscal year. (III)
3. Clarifies who are members of the Board of Directors and their duties; other provisions. (IV)
4. Clarifies specifications for officers. (V)
5. Clarifies Board of Directors’ role for committees. (IX)
6. Clarifies budget process and responsibilities. (X)
7. Changes of wording to clarify intent. (throughout)

The proposed additions are shown in Bold Face in small capitals. The proposed deletions are shown with a strike-through.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ADOPTED <DATE> AND AMENDED <DATE>

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The name of this Club shall be the Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Club. **THE POPULARIZED NAME IS “THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB.”**

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1. The objectives and purposes of the Club are to function as a local chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., in the furtherance of the objectives and purposes of that Society as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and said purposes and objectives shall conform to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Code).

Section 2. The Club is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to the members thereof, or to any private shareholder or individual. The property, assets, profits, and net income of the Club are irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of the property, assets, profits or net income of this Club shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. In the event of dissolution of the Club, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Club, dispose of the remaining assets by donation to the Maryland Ornithological Society, or its successor or, if unwilling or unable to accept said donation, dispose of all of the assets of the Club exclusively for the purpose of the Club in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code ~~of 1954~~ (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. All funds not disposed of by above procedure shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of Howard County, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated for such purposes.

ARTICLE III - ANNUAL MEETING, MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The regular April membership meeting shall be designated as the Club’s annual meeting.

Section 2. **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUAL OF OPERATION OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**, there shall be the following classes of membership with rights, privileges and annual dues as set forth below:

- A. **Regular Membership.** There are three categories of regular membership:
Single,
HOUSEHOLD Couples, and
Sustaining

Comment: MOS Manual of Operation, Section IA

- B. Junior Membership
Junior membership is limited to persons under 18 years of age.
- ~~C. Student Membership
Student membership is limited to individuals 18 years of age and over who are full-time students.~~
- ~~D. Senior Citizen
Senior Citizen membership is limited to persons 65 years of age and older.~~

C. CHAPTER
AT-LARGE MEMBERS OR MEMBERS OF ANOTHER MOS CHAPTER WHO WISH TO BE MEMBERS OF THE HOWARD BIRD CLUB.

- D E. Special Memberships
Honorary and Life memberships shall be subject to the Provisions of the By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Section 3. ~~IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUAL OF OPERATION OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.,~~ THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1.
~~Membership shall be for the fiscal year.~~

Comment: MOS Manual of Operations Section I.A. These are also voting members.

Section 4. Dues will be decided by the Board of Directors. Annual dues are payable at the beginning of the fiscal MEMBERSHIP year. Members whose dues remain unpaid as of 4 January ~~FEBRUARY 1~~ shall be dropped from the roll MEMBERSHIP, BUT MAY BE REINSTATED UPON PAYMENT OF THE CURRENT YEAR'S DUES. ~~In addition to the Club's dues, dues for membership in the Maryland Ornithological Society shall be collected annually WHEN THE CLUB DUES ARE COLLECTED.~~

Comment: MOS Manual of Operation, Section I.B.3.

Section 5. ~~The Club's shall conduct its business during the fiscal year defined as September 1 through August 31.~~

Comment: MOS By-Laws, Article III, Section 4

~~IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUAL OF OPERATION OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.,~~ THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINS MAY 1.

Comment: MOS Manual of Operation, Section V.B.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. ~~The control and conduct of the business of the Club shall be vested in its Board of Directors. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL CONSTITUTE THE MANAGING BOARD OF THE CHAPTER; AS SUCH IT SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT POLICIES OF THE CHAPTER, AS DETERMINED AT ANNUAL MEETINGS, AND TO CONDUCT THE BUSINESS OF THE CHAPTER.~~ The Board shall include two elected CHAPTER Directors, the elected State Directors, the appointed Standing Committee Chairman CHAIRS and, ex-officio with full voting rights, the four (4) elected officers of the Club AND THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE CHAPTER. The majority of the board must be composed of elected members.

Comment: MOS By-Laws Article VII, section 2

Section 2. ELECTED OFFICERS AND THE STATE DIRECTORS SHALL BE ELECTED FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR, AND CHAPTER Directors shall be elected for a term of two years by a majority of the voting members of the Club present at the annual meeting. These terms shall be coincident with the Club's fiscal year. The time between the annual meeting and the beginning of the fiscal year shall provide a transition of authority. Other CHAPTER DIRECTOR vacancies shall be filled by one or two year terms as needed to guarantee one two-year terms each year.

Section 3. ~~If by reason of resignation or death, or for any other reason, vacancies exist whereby the Board has not the full complement of Directors OR OFFICERS, the Board may proceed to elect a Director or Directors OFFICER to fill such vacancies and the Director or Directors OFFICER so elected shall serve until the beginning of the next fiscal year. Said replacement shall be elected STAND FOR ELECTION at the next annual meeting.~~

Section 4. There shall be at least six scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors in any one calendar year, BUT not more than one regular meeting in any one month. A schedule for the regular meetings shall be determined by the Board at its first regular meeting following the annual meeting of members.

Section 5. ~~The President (or IF THE PRESIDENT IS ABSENT, the Vice President) shall act as Chairman CHAIR at any meeting of the Board. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Board shall designate any other member of the Board to act as Chairman CHAIR at such meeting.~~

Section 6. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board.

Section 7. ~~Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the President or upon request of the majority of the FULL Board. Notice of a special meeting may be given in person, or by telephone; if by mail, not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD MAY BE GIVEN BY ANY MEANS THAT INSURES A QUORUM WILL BE PRESENT AT THE SPECIAL MEETING AFTER A REASONABLE ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO CONTACT ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.~~

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The term of all officers shall be coincident with the Club's fiscal year. The time between the annual meeting and the beginning of the fiscal year shall provide a transition of authority.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall perform all other functions of that office. The President may serve no more than two consecutive terms of office. **THERE IS NO TERM LIMIT FOR OTHER OFFICERS.**

- Section 3. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President.
- Section 4. The Secretary shall perform the usual functions of such office; keep accurate minutes of the Club's business meetings, and shall safely keep all such records. The Secretary shall, within a week of election, provide the Executive Secretary of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., with the names of the Club President and any additional State Directors pursuant to Article VII.
- Section 5. The Treasurer shall have custody of the Club's funds which shall be deposited in a bank in the name of the Club. The Treasurer shall report to the Board of Directors at its regular meetings or as requested. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual report on the financial condition of the Club along with a proposed budget for the coming year. Included in this proposed budget shall be the proposed operating budget of the Club Bookstore. The Treasurer shall also collect from the Club membership, their dues in the Maryland Ornithological Society and promptly remit such monies to the Treasurer of the Society.
- Section 6. All checks and drafts of the Club may be signed by the Treasurer or President, except neither may sign their own expense reimbursements.
- Section 7. These Officers shall be elected by a majority of the voting Club membership **PRESENT** at the annual meeting.
- SECTION 8. ANY OFFICER OF THE CHAPTER MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE OF THE FULL BOARD. IT IS NECESSARY TO SHOW CAUSE FOR SUCH REMOVAL FROM OFFICE.**

Comment: Clarification. Article XI shows quorum.

Comment: MOS: ¾ of total Board. Montgomery: ¾ of Council [Board]. Cecil: simple majority at any club meeting.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

- Section 1. A Nominating Committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the President prior to the February meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to find a candidate for all open **ELECTED** positions on the Board of Directors. Additional nominations may be submitted by any two members, with the consent of the nominee, at the March membership meeting. All nominations must be announced to the full membership not less than ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.
- Section 2. Election shall be held at the annual membership meeting. The ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR** of the Nominating Committee, or ~~his~~ designee, shall preside over the elections.
- Section 3. Where only one candidate is nominated for an office, election shall be by acclamation vote. Where more than one candidate is nominated for an office, election shall be by majority vote by ballot of the members present and eligible to vote.
- Section 4. Eligibility to vote at the annual meeting shall be limited to all members who are certified by the Treasurer or Membership ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR** or show paid-up membership cards.

ARTICLE VII - DIRECTORS FOR THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

- Section 1. The Club President ~~shall be~~ **IS** a Director for the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
- Section 2. State Directors ~~shall be~~ **ARE** nominated and elected in the same manner as the Club's officers.
- Section 3. ~~IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BY-LAWS OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC., chapters having a membership of 10 to 100 members are eligible to have one Director in addition to the Club President. There shall be one additional Director for each 100 members, or part thereof, in excess of 100 EACH CHAPTER SHALL ELECT A DIRECTOR FOR EACH ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS OR PART THEREOF, TO SERVE WITH THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MOS.~~

Comment: MOS By-Laws, Article VI, Section 3

ARTICLE VIII - BOOKSTORE

- Section 1. So long as deemed beneficial to the Club by the Board of Directors, the Club shall operate a Bookstore for the convenience of the membership and other individuals and organizations who may be interested.
- Section 2. The President shall appoint a Bookstore ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**
- Section 3. The Bookstore shall operate within its ~~adopted budget~~ **ALLOCATED FUNDS**. The ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR** shall be responsible for the Bookstore's day-to-day operation ~~as well as the preparation of an annual operating budget which shall be submitted to the Treasurer for inclusion in the Club's annual budget.~~ Further, the ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR** shall prepare a statement on the financial condition of the Bookstore for each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Section 4. The ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR** shall have custody of the Bookstore funds which shall be deposited in a bank in the Club's name. Said account shall be independent of the Club's regular account maintained by the Treasurer.
- Section 5. All checks and drafts of the Bookstore may be signed by the Bookstore ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR**, Club President or Treasurer. The ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR** may not sign an expense reimbursement to the ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR**.
- Section 6. The ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR** shall maintain an inventory of goods and items for sale consistent with the objectives and purposes of the Club. Prices for such goods and items shall be set by the ~~Chairman~~ **CHAIR** with such pricing structures ~~AND~~ policies reviewed at least annually by the Board of Directors.
- Section 7. The Board of Directors may transfer excess funds from Bookstore account to the Club's regular account, as appropriate.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

- Section 1. Annually, the Board of Directors shall prepare a list of standing committees.
- Section 2. The President shall appoint the Committee ~~Chairmen~~ CHAIRS annually. All such appointments are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors shall prepare a list of guidelines/ AND goals for ~~which the EACH Committee-s shall be responsible~~
- Section 4. All Committees shall operate within the limits set by the Club budget.
- Section 5. Committee ~~Chairmen~~ CHAIRS shall report to the Board of Directors, at least annually, on the status of their Committees. Additional status reports may be requested as needed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. AD HOC COMMITTEES MAY BE APPOINTED AT ANY TIME BY THE PRESIDENT OR BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ARTICLE X - DISBURSEMENTS

- Section 1. A proposed budget will be prepared by the Board, and ~~presented~~ MADE AVAILABLE to the membership at ~~the annual meeting~~. After obtaining membership review and suggestions, the Board shall MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO finalize the budget BEFORE THE BEGINING OF THE FISCAL YEAR. This final budget shall be effective during the Club's fiscal year. The Board shall operate within the guidelines of the budget.
- Section 2. If, for any reason, the proposed budget is not finalized by the start of the next fiscal year, the current fiscal year's budget ~~shall~~ remains in effect at its current spending levels for an additional three (3) months.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to make financial disbursements not covered by the annual budget subject to the availability of funds and guidelines given below and within the scope of the Club's objectives and purposes as stated in "Purpose", Article II, Section 1. All ~~such~~ disbursements NOT COVERED BY THE ANNUAL BUDGET shall be announced to the membership via the next newsletter and by the President at the next regular membership meeting, ~~and in a timely manner~~.
- Subsection 3.1 Disbursements for the unbudgeted acquisition/ repair/ maintenance of Club property may be authorized by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at its meeting or by ~~phone~~ polling of the Board of Directors by the President.
- Subsection 3.2 Disbursement of the Club's unbudgeted accrued revenues may be authorized by an absolute majority of the full Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI - CHAPTER MEETINGS

- Section 1. There will be regular monthly meetings at a time and place suitable to the membership as determined by the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. Special business meetings of the Club shall be called by the President ON THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE, or upon request ~~thereof~~ by not less than twenty percent of the Club members.
- Section 3. Notice of the time and place of each special business meeting shall be given all Club members not less than ten days prior thereto and shall state the purpose of the meeting. No business other than that so stated in the Notice may be transacted at any special meeting.
- Section 4. At all regular and special meetings of the Club, ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XII - ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

- Section 1. These By-Laws shall be construed and applied, and all functions of the Club hereunder shall be conducted ~~in harmony with~~ SUBJECT TO the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., as the same now exist and hereafter may be modified.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended, in any manner not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., by two-thirds vote of the Club members present and voting at any regular or special Club meeting, of which due notice setting forth the amendment shall have been given to the members not less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- Section 2. The Secretary shall accurately enter all amendments in the official Club records, and, in the proper location in the By-Laws, shall carefully note that a given Article and Section is modified by a certain amendment.
- Section 3. Members may obtain copies of the By-Laws and amendments from the Secretary.

Comment: Included in Board minutes each time. Current Committees:
Field trip/Atlas
Programs
Seed sale/Scholarship
Conservation
Newsletter
Webmaster

Comment: Email polling or other methods are O.K.

From: Bob & Jo Solem[SMTP:ODENATA@MSN.COM]

Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2005 10:44:17 AM

To: 'Jeff Friedhoffer'; 'Schwarz, Kurt'; 'Heffernan, Kevin'; 'Holdridge, Emy'; 'Stirrat, Charles R.'; 'Geuder, Jane'; 'Probst, Sue'; 'Betts, Mary Jo'; 'Ott, Bonnie'; 'Miller, Tom'; 'Eve, Tracy'; 'Darcy, Karen'; 'Tufts, Kate'; 'Holyoke, Dave'; 'Culler, Jeff'

Subject: RE: More Proposed changes to the constitution

See comments.

Bob Solem

Laurel, MD 20723

odenata@msn.com

>1. How are standing committees set up, should they be enumerated in the by-laws or in an ancillary document?

See ARTICLE IX " COMMITTEES

Section 1. Annually, the Board of Directors shall prepare a list of standing committees.

Section 2. The President shall appoint the Committee Chairmen CHAIRS annually. All such appointments are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall prepare a list of guidelines AND goals for which the EACH Committee shall be responsible"

There was extensive discussion by the revision committee on this topic, including having the Board or President re-establish each committee each year, review and revise the duties of each committee each year, and finally what is shown above. Implied in this is the authority of the Board to create and abolish standing committees (even though that is not specifically stated). Right now there is NO document that shows guidelines and goals for the committees, and the intent is to force the Board to do this. It is not necessary to revise them annually once they are finally established, but annual review (even if informal) would be desirable.

>2. Article IX, is called committees. As president, I did not know we had committees. Are these really committees or > just functions. Is there a better word to use to reflect reality of these positions?

Chairs of the Standing Committees are members of the Board of Directors:

"ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL CONSTITUTE THE MANAGING BOARD OF THE CHAPTER; AS SUCH IT SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT POLICIES OF THE CHAPTER, AS DETERMINED AT ANNUAL MEETINGS, AND TO CONDUCT THE BUSINESS OF THE CHAPTER. The Board shall include two elected CHAPTER Directors, the elected State Directors, the appointed Standing Committee CHAIRS and, ex officio with full voting rights, the four (4) elected officers of the Club AND THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE CHAPTER. The majority of the board must be composed of elected members."

If you get rid of committees and just call them functions, you get rid of half of people attending the Board meeting. (Now that you mention it, maybe that wouldn't be such a bad idea....)

>3. Article XIII, section 1. Suggest change the words 8&9 "not inconsistent" to read "consistent" -AGREE

>4. Would like to add and article called Audit to read something like "The financial records of the chapter shall be audited annually at end of each fiscal year with the audit report presented to the board within five months of the end of the fiscal year being audited."

MOS Manual of Operations makes this a responsibility of the Treasurer:

5

"II.C.6. To see that required tax statements are prepared and filed; collect, prepare and submit the required documents and records for an annual professional audit of the Society's books."

>5. Article II section 1. is the appropriate IRS code still section 501(c)(3) has anyone checked?

As far as I know this is a direct quote from the MOS Articles of Incorporation. Since the chapter is a creature of MOS, this seemed to be the most appropriate way to include it. The revision committee is proposing dropping the words "of 1954," but as far as we know (and as far as all of the charitable organizations we are aware of), Section 501(c)(3) is still the operative section.

Jo Solem email:

>The one question I had was in Article XI - Chapter Meetings: Section 1.

There will be regular monthly meetings at a > time and place suitable etc... [To me this implies that we have monthly meetings all year. Of course we do not.

>Some other chapters have also run into problems in having a meeting every month during even a portion of the year.

> Do we need the word "monthly"?)

There is nothing in the MOS Bylaws or Manual of Operations that requires meetings at any set interval on the part of chapters.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (& Publicity) √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& State Treasurer) √
Chap. Directors: Jeff Culler (1st yr) √
Tracy Eve (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Audio-visual: Tom Miller
Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Tracy Eve. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 10 was ___ people. George Jett and Gwen Brewer gave a program entitled "Birds and Bats of Brazil."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff began with a review of prior action items:

- Check availability of Village Center for pot-luck dates in March – Sue Probst
Sue reported that the only March data available was March 4 which she had requested they hold for us. The Board concurred there was a consensus to hold the pot luck on March 4, and Sue was asked to confirm the reservation.
- Redraft Article X of By-laws dealing with Financial Matters – Emy Holdridge
See below
- Review material from Emy and present agreed to wording for approval at next meeting – By-laws Committee
See below.
- Prepare thank you to Kathy Franklin – Jeff Friedhoffer
Jeff had spoken to Kathy and expressed the club's thanks, but still needed to prepare input for newsletter.
- Ensure include/add thank you to Kathy in newsletter article on seed sale- Sue Probst
Secretary Note: This was included in the President's Letter in the Jan/Feb issue of Goldfinch.
- Call non-renewal member list – Jeff Culler/Tracy Eve
This action item was completed. Jeff and Tracy had a large response to their appeal. 39 of the 85 contacts resulted in renewal. The Board unanimously endorsed a "Well done" to Jeff and Tracy for their efforts.

Vice-President (Heffernan): No remarks.

Secretary (Stirrat):

No remarks. One correction to the prior Minutes was noted and accepted. The word “counts” was changed to “sales” on page 3 of minutes. *Secretary Note: Records have been corrected.*

Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer’s report is attached. Dues have been received for several renewals, but haven’t yet forwarded the state portion to State MOS. George Jett honorarium for program was \$75. The amount shown under seed sale is the gross and has not yet had the sales tax deducted. The approximate seed sale proceeds will be about \$1800.

Past President (Schwarz): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 3 in Harford County.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo Solem reported that they are updating the maps on-line. You will need to download the entire package, not portions for a specific species. So far there is limited interest in holding a separate atlas meeting. The plans to have Jo and Bonnie present a program at the regular club meeting in March will suffice.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Probst):

Sue announced that the due date for the next issue was Nov. 25.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report.

Chapter Directors (Eve, Culler): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported that at this time the membership is at 216.

Old Business

The first item was to revisit the subject of By-laws revisions. The discussion focused on Article X, Financial Matters. A proposed rewrite had been provided by Emy, and several additional comments were provided.

After discussion Kate moved and it was seconded to approve the by-laws as amended last meeting, with the added changes to Article X as amended this evening. The motion was approved unanimously. Thus the proposed revised by-laws will be submitted to the club's annual meeting in April for approval. The revised by-laws are attached to these minutes.

Next discussion focused on the date for the Mid-Winter Count. Martha Waugh who has hosted the tally since the beginning of Winter Counts has a conflict for the nominal date of Feb. 4. She could support a date of Feb. 11, but Joe Byrnes, count co-coordinator would be out of town on that date, but would still continue to coordinate plans if we changed date. We discussed asking Martha to host on the 11th, but Jeff Culler volunteered that his wife and he would be willing to host count on the normal date of Feb. 4. The Board agreed to accept his offer and plans continue to hold the count on Feb. 4.

Next we turned to subject of Chapter Awards, and specifically the subject of recipients of the Distinguished Service Pins. The last two chapter awards were given to Bonnie and Mary-Jo. Jeff was reminded of some of the historical recipients of this award and that it is meant to be a significant award, not just an annual "good job" award. Jeff appointed Kevin and Tracy to an Award Committee to review and recommend whether awards should be given Tout this year.

As discussed under action items the Board agreed the Pot Luck should be held on March 4, and directed Sue Probst to continue with planning.

Tracy Eve then asked about the status of our use of the Rec. and Parks Building for club meetings. It appears we have a reasonable agreement. It was agreed we should continue to provide Sue Muller with evidence and instances of club activities that support and benefit County Rec. and Parks interests. We are on the calendar for the rest of year. John Byrd of Rec. and Parks indicates he anticipates we would use the proposed county Nature Center for our meetings once that facility becomes a reality.

Discussion of the role of club in conservation discussion was once again deferred pending attendance by Kurt and Kevin.

Brief discussion of status of the Hawk Watch proposed for Meadowbrook Park. Jo has received some inputs. The park will open in Spring. The nature path is already being used. Other hawk watcher input welcome.

New Business

Kate proposed the idea of using the donated suet and feeders to acknowledge those who had provided access to private properties for the atlas project. This idea was considered worth pursuing, but Jo and Bob shared that some concern had arisen whether the company donating the seed was going to have to abide by IRS regulations (Form 8226) that have changed on donations of non-cash assets to charitable organizations. (For example persons donating cars can only claim value the charity received for car, not its "market value.") If they have to comply the suet, etc. we give away would not be eligible for write-off (~\$3000) as hoped. They were considering another approach such as writing it off as an advertising expense. More on this will follow. Jo went on to propose sending an announcements to other MOS chapters asking them to "order" suet and feeders for "sale" at their meetings, assuming the same pricing scheme we have employed and profits to go to the atlas. The items would be delivered at the next MOS Board meeting in December. Jo was directed to proceed with this effort.

Action Items

- Proceed to reserve pot luck facility and plan event. (Sue Probst)
- Implement plan to offer suet, etc. to other MOS chapters for sale. (Jo Solem)
- Notify Martha Waugh that the Winter Count Tally will be held at Jeff Culler's and express our appreciation for her many years of being tally hostess. (Jeff Friedhoffer)
- Solicit ideas for this year's habitat donation and supply background data on proposals prior to next Board meeting. (All)

- Review need for brochure reprinting. Provide recommendation. (All?)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler	
November 17, 2005	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2006	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 23, 2006	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2006	-	Mary Jo Betts	
April 27, 2006	-	Kate Tufts	
May 25, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Board Agenda, November 17, 2005
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/05 – 11/15/05
- Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-laws of the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) – Showing cumulative actions of Howard County Bird Club Board of Directors as of 11/17/05

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

NOVEMBER 17, 2005

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Jeff*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Kevin*
6. Review of Action Items *Kevin*
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Sue*
 - Membership update *Bob*
 - Fall Count *Chuck*
8. Old Business
 - By Laws revision discussion
 - Mid Winter Count Date
 - Suggestions for Chapter Award Certificates
 - Pot Luck Dinner
9. New Business/Discussions
 - What is conservation and role of club
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location
Tracy Eve
7323 Narrow Wind Way
Columbia

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/05-11/15/05

	<u>Budget 2005/06</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		1,640.00	5,425.00
State Dues Paid			<u>(1,965.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,700.00		3,460.00
Contributions			55.00
Total Operating Income	<u>2,700.00</u>	<u>1,640.00</u>	<u>6,975.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		70.67
Donations			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	225.00
Hospitality	175.00		137.14
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		3.30
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		13.60
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	34.96	252.21
Club Brochures	75.00		
Total Operating Expense	<u>2,550.00</u>	<u>109.96</u>	<u>701.92</u>
Gain/Loss-Operating Func	<u>150.00</u>		<u>6,273.08</u>
Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales			7,313.80
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			110.00
Rent			
Seed			5,803.91
Sales Tax (est - not paid)			<u>348.28</u>
Total			6,262.19
Gain/Loss-Seed Sales			1,051.61
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			
			155.00
Suet Sales			
		595.00	595.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			6,447.16
Interest Received		36.99	<u>232.53</u>
Balance			<u>6,679.69</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Beg Year Balanc			<u>7,595.83</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			5,900.53
Savings			14,275.52
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>20,219.33</u>

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. (MOS)

1. Name: recognizes our informal name of “Howard County Bird Club.” (I)
2. Updates the definitions for membership categories; states membership year & fiscal year. (III)
3. Clarifies who are members of the Board of Directors and their duties; other provisions. (IV)
4. Clarifies specifications for officers. (V)
5. Clarifies Board of Directors’ role for committees. (IX)
6. Clarifies financial matters, roles & responsibilities. (X)
7. Changes of wording to clarify intent. (throughout)

The proposed additions are shown in Bold Face. The proposed deletions are shown with a strike-through.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The name of this Club shall be the Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Club. **The popularized name is “Howard County Bird Club.”**

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1. The objectives and purposes of the Club are to function as a local chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., in the furtherance of the objectives and purposes of that Society as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and said purposes and objectives shall conform to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Code).

Section 2. The Club is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to the members thereof, or to any private shareholder or individual. The property, assets, profits, and net income of the Club are irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of the property, assets, profits or net income of this Club shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. In the event of dissolution of the Club, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Club, dispose of the remaining assets by donation to the Maryland Ornithological Society, or its successor or, if unwilling or unable to accept said donation, dispose of all of the assets of the Club exclusively for the purpose of the Club in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code ~~of 1954~~ (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. All funds not disposed of by above procedure shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of Howard County, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated for such purposes.

ARTICLE III - ANNUAL MEETING, MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The regular April membership meeting shall be designated as the Club’s annual meeting.

Section 2. **In accordance with the Manual of Operation of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.,** there shall be the following classes of membership with rights, privileges and annual dues as set forth below:

- A. Regular Membership. There are three categories of regular membership:
 - Single,
 - Household Couples**, and
 - Sustaining
- B. Junior Membership
Junior membership is limited to persons under 18 years of age.
- C. ~~Student Membership~~
~~Student membership is limited to individuals 18 years of age and over who are full-time students.~~
- D. ~~Senior Citizen~~
~~Senior Citizen membership is limited to persons 65 years of age and older.~~

C. **Chapter**
At-large members or members of another MOS Chapter who wish to be members of the Howard Bird Club.

D E. Special Memberships

Honorary and Life memberships ~~shall be subject to the Provisions of the By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.~~

Section 3. **In accordance with the Manual of Operation of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., the membership year begins September 1.** ~~Membership shall be for the fiscal year.~~

Section 4. Dues will be decided by the Board of Directors. Annual dues are payable at the beginning of the ~~fiscal~~ **membership** year. Members whose dues remain unpaid as of ~~1 January~~ **February 1** shall be dropped from the ~~roll~~ **membership, but may be reinstated upon payment of the current year's dues.** In addition to the Club's dues, dues for membership in the Maryland Ornithological Society shall be collected ~~annually~~ **when the Club dues are collected.**

Section 5. ~~The Club's shall conduct its business during the fiscal year defined as September 1 through August 31.~~
In accordance with the Manual of Operation of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., the fiscal year begins May 1.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. ~~The control and conduct of the business of the Club shall be vested in its Board of Directors.~~ **The Board of Directors shall constitute the managing board of the Chapter; as such it shall have the power and authority to carry out policies of the Chapter, as determined at annual meetings, and to conduct the business of the Chapter.** The Board shall include two elected **Chapter** Directors, the elected State Directors, the appointed Standing Committee ~~Chairman Chairs~~ **Chairs** and, ~~ex-officio with full voting rights,~~ the four (4) elected officers of the Club **and the immediate past President of the Chapter.** The majority of the board must be composed of elected members.

Section 2. **Elected officers and the state Directors shall be elected for a term of one year, and Chapter** Directors shall be elected for a term of two years by a majority of the voting members of the Club present at the annual meeting. These terms shall be coincident with the Club's fiscal year. The time between the annual meeting and the beginning of the fiscal year shall provide a transition of authority. ~~Other Chapter Director~~ vacancies shall be filled by one or two year terms as needed to guarantee one two-year terms- each year.

Section 3. ~~If by reason of resignation or death, or for any other reason,~~ vacancies exist whereby the Board has not the full complement of Directors **or Officers,** the Board may proceed to elect a Director or ~~Directors~~ **Officer** to fill such vacancies and the Director or ~~Directors~~ **Officer** so elected shall serve until the beginning of the next fiscal year. Said replacement shall ~~be elected~~ **stand for election** at the next annual meeting.

Section 4. There shall be at least six scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors in any one calendar year, **but** not more than one regular meeting in any one month. A schedule for the regular meetings shall be determined by the Board at its first regular meeting following the annual meeting of members.

Section 7 ~~5.~~ The President (or **if the President is absent,** the Vice President) shall act as ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** at any meeting of the Board. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Board shall designate any other member of the Board to act as ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** at such meeting.

Section 6. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board.

Section 5 ~~7.~~ Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the President or upon request of the majority of the **full** Board. ~~Notice of a special meeting may be given in person, or by telephone; if by mail, not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.~~ **Notice of a special meeting of the Board may be given by any means that insures a quorum will be present at the special meeting after a reasonable attempt has been made to contact all members of the Board of Directors.**

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The term of all officers shall be coincident with the Club's fiscal year. The time between the annual meeting and the beginning of the fiscal year shall provide a transition of authority.

Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall perform all other functions of that office. The President may serve no more than two consecutive terms of office. **There is no term limit for other officers.**

Section 3. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President.

Section 4. The Secretary shall perform the usual functions of such office; keep accurate minutes of the Club's business meetings, and shall safely keep all such records. The Secretary shall, within a week of election, provide the Executive Secretary of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., with the names of the Club President and any additional State Directors pursuant to Article VII.

- Section 5. The Treasurer shall have custody of the Club's funds which shall be deposited in a bank in the name of the Club. The Treasurer shall report to the Board of Directors at its regular meetings or as requested. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual report on the financial condition of the Club along with a proposed budget for the coming year. ~~Included in this proposed budget shall be the proposed operating budget of the Club Bookstore.~~ The Treasurer shall also collect from the Club membership their dues in the Maryland Ornithological Society, and promptly remit such monies to the Treasurer of the Society.
- Section 6. All checks and drafts of the Club may be signed by the Treasurer or President, except neither may sign their own expense reimbursements.
- Section 7. These Officers shall be elected by a majority of the voting Club membership **present** at the annual meeting.
- Section 8. Any Officer of the Chapter may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the full Board of Directors. It is necessary to show cause for such removal from office.**

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

- Section 1. A Nominating Committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the President prior to the February meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to find a candidate for all open **elected** positions on the Board of Directors. Additional nominations may be submitted by any two members, with the consent of the nominee, at the March membership meeting. All nominations must be announced to the full membership not less than ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.
- Section 2. Election shall be held at the annual membership meeting. The ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** of the Nominating Committee, or ~~his~~ designee, shall preside over the elections.
- Section 3. Where only one candidate is nominated for an office, election shall be by acclamation vote. Where more than one candidate is nominated for an office, election shall be by majority vote by ballot of the members present and eligible to vote.
- Section 4. Eligibility to vote at the annual meeting shall be limited to all members who are certified by the Treasurer or Membership ~~Chairman~~ **Chair**, or show paid-up membership cards.

ARTICLE VII - DIRECTORS FOR THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

- Section 1. The Club President ~~shall be~~ **is** a Director for the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
- Section 2. State Directors ~~shall be~~ **are** nominated and elected in the same manner as the Club's officers.
- Section 3. **In accordance with the By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., chapters having a membership of 10 to 100 members are eligible to have one Director in addition to the Club President. There shall be is one additional Director for each 100 members, or part thereof, in excess of 100 each chapter shall elect a Director for each one hundred members or part thereof, to serve with the Chapter President on the Board of Directors of MOS.**

ARTICLE VIII - BOOKSTORE

- Section 1. So long as deemed beneficial to the Club by the Board of Directors, the Club shall operate a Bookstore for the convenience of the membership and other individuals and organizations who may be interested.
- Section 2. The President shall appoint a Bookstore ~~Chairman~~ **Chair, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.**
- Section 3. The Bookstore shall operate within its ~~adopted budget~~ **allocated funds.** The ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** shall be responsible for the Bookstore's day-to-day operation ~~as well as the preparation of an annual operating budget which shall be submitted to the Treasurer for inclusion in the Club's annual budget.~~ Further, the ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** shall prepare a statement on the financial condition of the Bookstore for each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Section 4. The ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** shall have custody of the Bookstore funds which shall be deposited in a bank in the Club's name. Said account shall be independent of the Club's regular account maintained by the Treasurer.
- Section 5. All checks and drafts of the Bookstore may be signed by the Bookstore ~~Chairman~~ **Chair**, Club President or Treasurer. The ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** may not sign an expense reimbursement to the ~~Chairman~~ **Chair.**
- Section 6. The ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** shall maintain an inventory of goods and items for sale consistent with the objectives and purposes of the Club. Prices for such goods and items shall be set by the ~~Chairman~~ **Chair** with such pricing structures/ **and** policies reviewed at least annually by the Board of Directors.
- Section 7. The Board of Directors may transfer excess funds from Bookstore account to the Club's regular account, as appropriate.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

- Section 1. Annually, the Board of Directors shall prepare a list of ~~standing~~ committees.
- Section 2. The President shall appoint the Committee ~~Chairmen~~ **Chairs** annually. All such appointments are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors shall prepare a list of guidelines/ **and** goals for ~~which the each Committee-s shall be responsible~~

- Section 4. All Committees shall operate within the limits set by the Club budget.
- Section 5. Committee ~~Chairmen~~ **Chairs** shall report to the Board of Directors, at least annually, on the status of their Committees. Additional status reports may be requested as needed by the Board of Directors.
- Section 6. Ad hoc committees may be appointed at any time by the President or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.**

ARTICLE X – ~~DISBURSEMENTS~~ FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Section 1. **A budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer, approved by the Board of Directors, and made available to the membership at the beginning of the fiscal year. Budget amendments, when necessary, will be approved by the Board.** ~~A proposed budget will be prepared by the Board, and presented to the membership at the annual meeting. After obtaining membership review and suggestions, the Board shall finalize the budget. This final budget shall be effective during the Club's fiscal year. The Board shall operate within the guidelines of the budget.~~
- Section 2. **Club revenues shall be sent to the Treasurer for appropriate bank deposit. Disbursements will be made by the Treasurer in accordance with the adopted budget. Disbursements for other items shall be authorized by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at its meeting or polled by the President.** ~~If, for any reason, the proposed budget is not finalized by the start of the next fiscal year, the current fiscal year's budget shall remain in effect at its current spending levels for an additional three (3) months.~~
- Section 3. **Periodically the President shall appoint an Audit Committee to review the financial books of the Club.** ~~The Board of Directors shall have the authority to make financial disbursements not covered by the annual budget subject to the availability of funds and guidelines given below and within the scope of the Club's objectives and purposes as stated in "Purpose", Article II, Section 1. All such disbursements shall be announced to the membership via the next newsletter and by the President at the next regular membership meeting, and in a timely manner.~~
- ~~Subsection 3.1 Disbursements for the unbudgeted acquisition/ repair/ maintenance of Club property may be authorized by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at its meeting or by phone polling of the Board of Directors by the President.~~
- ~~Subsection 3.2 Disbursement of the Club's unbudgeted accrued revenues may be authorized by an absolute majority of the full Board of Directors.~~

ARTICLE XI - CHAPTER MEETINGS

- Section 1. There will be regular ~~monthly~~ meetings at a time and place suitable to the membership as determined by the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. Special business meetings of the Club shall be called by the President **on the President's initiative**, or upon request ~~thereof~~ by not less than twenty percent of the Club members.
- Section 3. Notice of the time and place of each special business meeting shall be given all Club members not less than ten days prior thereto and shall state the purpose of the meeting. No business other than that so stated in the Notice may be transacted at any special meeting.
- Section 4. At all regular and special meetings of the Club, ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XII - ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

- Section 1. These By-Laws shall be construed and applied, and all functions of the Club hereunder shall be conducted ~~in harmony with~~ **subject to** the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., as the same now exist and hereafter may be modified.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended, in any manner ~~not inconsistent~~ **consistent** with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., by two-thirds vote of the Club members present and voting at any regular or special Club meeting, of which due notice setting forth the amendment shall have been given to the members not less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- Section 2. The Secretary shall accurately enter all amendments in the official Club records, and, in the proper location in the By-Laws, shall carefully note that a given Article and Section is modified by a certain amendment.
- Section 3. Members may obtain copies of the By-Laws and amendments from the Secretary.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (& Publicity) √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& State Treasurer) √
Chap. Directors: Jeff Culler (1st yr) √
Tracy Eve (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Audio-visual: Tom Miller??
Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kevin Heffernan. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 8, 2005 was ___ people. David Dutrow gave a program entitled "Establishing Wildlife Habitat on Residential Property." The attendance at the regular club meeting held January 12, 2006 was 80+ people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "More Adventures of an Intrepid Birder."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

No routine remarks. Review of prior action items:

- Proceed to reserve pot luck facility and plan event. (Sue Probst) – *Sue wasn't present but all appears to be on track.*
- Implement plan to offer suet, etc. to other MOS chapters for sale. (Jo Solem) – *Suet was delivered and several chapters have sold to benefit the Atlas.*
- Notify Martha Waugh that the Winter Count Tally will be held at Jeff Culler's and express our appreciation for her many years of being tally hostess. (Jeff Friedhoffer) - *Jeff C. had spoken to Martha and she was aware of shift to Jeff's place for tally.*
- Solicit ideas for this year's habitat donation and supply background data on proposals prior to next Board meeting. (All) – *See new business discussion.*
- Review need for brochure reprinting. Provide recommendation. (All?) *No further action, hold this action as open.*

Vice-President (Heffernan): No remarks.

Secretary (Stirrat): No comments.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Report is attached. Emy has received a few late dues. She had paid state dues allocation. The income from dues received this year is below what our budget had assumed. She also received a contribution with late dues that exceeded dues amount. The cost of a 6 year renewal of the web site registration (that will preclude having drop down ads) was ~\$160. Suet sales continue to provide habitat income, still need to pay sales tax. Approximate amount available for habitat conservation is \$2183.75 as of report. Checking account has considerable amount as well. Tom Miller has not yet purchased the backup bulb for slide projector but he indicates he plans to purchase shortly. The budget had a net balance of \$150 that closely matches the cost of web renewal(6 year). It was agreed to amend budget to cover the web renewal.

Emy reported that Shiras Guion had completed an audit of the Treasurer's books as earlier agreed (see attached). She recommended the club consider use of a formal financial package such as Quicken. Emy expressed she was comfortable with the use of Excel spreadsheets and the Board agreed that the cost of a Quicken purchase didn't seem worthwhile. Both Jeff and Emy have sent Shiras thank your messages for her assistance.

Past President (Schwarz): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Kate asked for someone to volunteer to monitor the state MOS 800 phone voice mail while she was going to be out of town. Kurt volunteered to help with this task.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie wasn't present but it was noted that volunteers to lead the Centennial walks in March were still needed. Kevin and Karen volunteered that they would be willing to lead one walk.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that a summary article on the atlas through 2004 is being prepared for the next newsletter. Several surprises were observed for this 4th year of atlas: Confirmed Hooded Merganser breeding in two locations, Prothonotary Warbler was found at Browns Bridge (first evidence along Patuxent), Savannah Sparrow at MD Central Farm was first confirmation of this species, Swamp Sparrow was confirmed, and Dickcissel was confirmed at Landfill. Overall these were excellent firsts found after a previous three years of atlasing.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Holyoke, Probst): No report.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Kurt reported that it appeared the Maryland legislature might actually fully fund Project Open Space this year. Several board members discussed the recent emails from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation launching a strong opposition to the development of a property adjacent to Black Water National Wildlife Refuge south of Cambridge. This was further addressed under the discussion of club role in conservation under old business below.

Chapter Directors (Eve, Culler): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Although Bob was not present, Jo had brought and distributed the membership and prior habitat contribution summaries that he had prepared (attached). Overall the membership report is about normal. The efforts to call and provide reminders to missing renewals were very effective. Asked about reasons for non-renewals, Jeff and Tracy cited such things as a couple who chose not to renew due to physical/health problems. Jo mentioned a neighbor that indicated they had chosen to provide a contribution on seed sale vice choosing to pay membership. She had encouraged them to join the club first in the future. The Board expressed thanks to Bob for preparing the membership report.

Old Business

Regarding the solicitations of suggestions for potential awards, it was agreed that this was best handled as discussions by the committee formed to collect and suggest nominees rather than discuss openly in Board discussions.

Plans for the pot luck are in good shape. Sue was not present but the announcement was in newsletter that the pot luck is Saturday March 4. Slides and electronic projectors will be available for the picture portion of the program.

Summarizing the status of the Suet sale, Jo stated that she still had approximately 40 boxes and Kevin is storing about 20. Jo is scheduled to provide Walter Ellison with ~20 boxes at the next Atlas meeting for sale on the Eastern Shore to benefit the Atlas. We are out of the suet feeders. Suet and feeders have been donated to numerous public parks and wildlife centers. Further disposition of the remaining products was delegated to Jo, with the likelihood that some will still be available for sale at the next (Feb.) regular club meeting.

We then began the previously delayed discussion of the club's role in conservation and environmental issues. (Although it was acknowledged that Bob Solem was not present, it was felt we had delayed discussion of this topic before and might never get a "full" quorum. Kurt acknowledged that the majority of our activism seemed to be focused on land issues out west, primarily because we have club member George Alderson who due to his professional experience tracks these issues and he voluntarily prepares letters responding to public calls for comment on issues in that arena. Kurt also acknowledged that we have had a few "fiascos" in trying to involve ourselves outside of our immediate area of knowledge, namely the Palo Alto incinerator that turned out to be based on poor information. The discussion then turned to why and if we should not focus more on issues closer to home. The recently appearing issue of development north of Blackwater Wildlife Management Area and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's just announced strong opposition to this development as an example. It was agreed that club members are free and should be encouraged to provide their individual inputs on such issues. Tracy observed that she felt that most members of the club were interested in conservation. Chuck observed that he felt what triggered the need for this discussion was the observation that the club adopting a position the "All development" was bad might backfire, and that we needed to be somewhat selective and careful in choosing what development was worthy of club opposition, vice individuals expressing their opinions to policy makers. We need to prioritize our involvement, focusing on critical habitat areas, vice development in general. We then turned to potential actions. One possibility was to use the annual membership survey form to clarify who wants to actively participate in conservation issues. We should focus on habitat preservation and issues impacting birds. We need to be conscious of the viewpoint of landowners that rightfully feel they have a critical role in determining how their property is to be treated, including selling it for development, unless other critical habitat considerations would argue otherwise. It was decided that one action we should take is to redesign the club membership survey to solicit who is interested in receiving conservation messages (E.g., a separate email list). Tracy Eve and Karen Darcy were appointed to a committee to review survey form and recommend redesign. It was also agreed that Kurt should continue to email the membership with information on habitat preservation, starting with the current CBF Blackwater initiative. He was directed to include an "opt-out" clause in all such emails and remove anyone who replied that they did not want to receive such emails.

New Business

We then discussed the subject of how to spend this year's habitat contribution funds from the seed sale and suet sales. We have approximately \$2200 to donate. Bob and Jo Solem had distributed an email proposing consideration of an appeal appearing in a recent ABA newsletter (Nov-Dec "Winging It") for support of the

“Mexican Grassland Appeal.” This is a project with other members of the national Bird Conservation Alliance and being implemented by the Mexican conservation group Pronatura Noreste. It was acknowledged that this would not focus on species classified as Eastern migrants. Kevin Heffernan and Kurt Schwarz were tasked with doing further research on this and other potential recipients. In addition we were reminded that we usually found small amounts to donate to Judy Holtzman of “All Creatures Great and Small” to support her local rehabilitation efforts with birds. Kate Tufts also raised the idea of supporting an initiative to preserve the Baltimore Checkerspot (butterfly) in a location near Clarksburg, MD. She agreed to seek further information on this idea. We concluded by deferring decision on how to allocate funds until next meeting, but were reminded that all proposals should be accompanied with documentation of the proposal so that a fair consideration of the options could be arrived at.

Lastly we discussed a proposal from Bob Solem regarding our club web site. He had sent a handout (*Sec. Note: I don't have a copy*) that compared the options of continuing our use of a “free” website vice purchasing a “Plus” account that would provide for larger on line storage which we are currently being limited by and remove the “drop down” ads. This would cost \$70 for __ years. It was agreed we could use the funds identified in the annual budget as “Special Supplies” for this without exceeding our budget and get significant benefit. It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously to make this purchase. In addition the Board expressed it’s appreciation for the excellent job Bob has been doing as webmaster.

Action Items

- Monitor the MOS 800 Phone number for Kate during an upcoming period (Kurt)
- Provide formal proposals for habitat funds (Kurt, Kevin, Others)
- Recommend revised membership survey form (Tracy, Karen)
- Email membership with conservation issues, specifically CBF initiative on Blackwater area development with “opt-out” clause (Kurt)
- Purchase the “plus” web site account (Bob)
- Determine attendance at all future regular meetings and inform Secretary (Kevin)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler	
November 17, 2005	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2006	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 23, 2006	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2006	-	Mary Jo Betts	
April 27, 2006	-	Kate Tufts	
May 25, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Board Agenda, January 26, 2006
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/05 – 1/24/06
- Review of the Financial Records for Howard County Chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society for the period May 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005 – Shiras Guion
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) – 1/26/2006 – Bob Solem
- Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat – 1/26/06
- Howard County Seed Sale Proceeds for Conservation Project – Email 1/23/06 – Bob & Jo Solem

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

JANUARY 26, 2006

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Jeff*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Kevin*
6. Review of Action Items *Kevin*
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Sue*
 - Membership update *Bob*
 - Winter count
8. Old Business
 - Sale of Suet etc
 - Suggestions for Chapter Award Certificates
 - Pot Luck Dinner
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Habitat donation for 06
 - What is conservation and role of club
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location
Kevin Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City
410-418-8731

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/05-1/24/06

	Budget 2005/06	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		725.00	6,150.00
State Dues Paid		(1,765.00)	(3,730.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,700.00		2,420.00
Contributions		75.00	130.00
Total Operating Income	2,700.00	(965.00)	2,550.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		70.67
Donations			
Website		159.95	159.95
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	100.00	325.00
Hospitality	175.00		137.14
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00	34.32	37.62
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		13.60
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	257.48	509.69
Club Brochures	75.00		
Total Operating Expense	2,550.00	551.75	1,253.67
Gain/Loss-Operating Func	150.00		1,296.33
Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales			7,313.80
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			110.00
Rent			
Seed			5,803.91
Sales Tax (est - not paid)			348.28
Total			6,262.19
Gain/Loss-Seed Sales			1,051.61
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			155.00
Suet Sales			
		431.00	1,026.00
Sales Tax		(48.86)	(48.86)
Net Suet Sales			977.14
Total Available for Conservation Contributions			2,183.75
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			6,447.16
Interest Received		88.49	321.02
Balance			6,768.18
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Beg Year Balance			7,595.83
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,541.18
Savings			14,364.01
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			18,948.47

Review of the Financial Records for Howard County Chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society for the period May 1 2004 to April 30 2005.

Review performed by Shiras Guion, December 2005.

In reviewing the financial records for the Howard County Chapter of MOS, I found the overall reporting and record keeping to be excellent. In particular the following:

1. There was excellent documentation of checks written. Each receipt had the corresponding check number noted on the receipt(s).
2. All check numbers were accounted for.
3. Special account totals matched the reported amounts.
4. Non-routine expenditures were authorized by the board as reported in the minutes.

The only deficiency found was the lack of explicit bank statement reconciliation. The reconciliation performed was identification of uncleared items.

I am strongly in favor of using Quicken or similar computer software for keeping financial records. The advantage of these types of software are the many reports and easy bank reconciliation. I recommend using this type of software to handle the financial records of the Howard County Chapter of MOS.

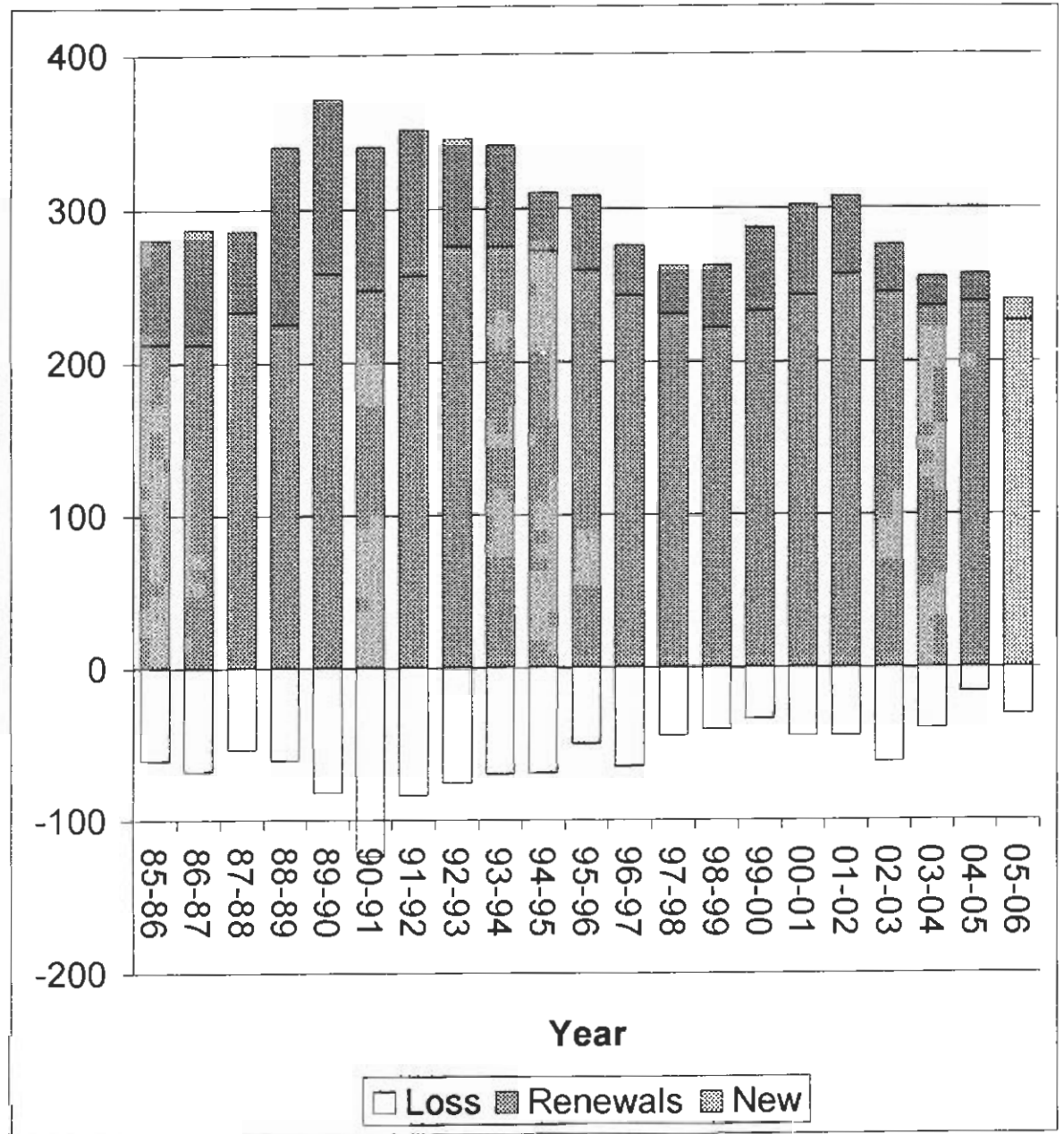
Shiras Guion
Dec 30 2005

Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)

Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total	% renew	
85-86		61	68	212	280	76%
86-87		68	75	212	287	74%
87-88		54	53	233	286	81%
88-89		61	115	225	340	66%
89-90		82	113	258	371	70%
90-91	124	93	247	340	73%	
91-92	84	95	256	351	73%	
92-93	76	70	275	345	80%	
93-94	70	66	275	341	81%	
94-95	69	38	272	310	88%	
95-96	50	48	260	308	84%	
96-97	65	33	243	276	88%	
97-98	45	32	231	263	88%	
98-99	41	41	222	267	83%	
99-00	34	54	233	288	81%	
00-01	45	59	243	302	80%	
01-02	45	50	257	307	84%	
02-03	62	31	245	276	89%	
03-04	40	19	236	255	93%	
04-05	16	18	239	257	93%	
05-06	31	14	226	246	92%	

Year	Couple	Indiv	Other	Total
87-88	150	91	45	286
88-89	178	102	60	340
89-90	186	128	57	371

Year	Househo	Indiv	Other	Total	Junior
90-91	188	146	6	340	27
91-92	196	150	5	351	31
92-93	197	142	6	345	35
93-94	198	137	6	341	37
94-95	170	132	7	310	32
95-96	183	120	5	308	35
96-97	181	89	6	276	40
97-98	153	103	7	263	30
98-99	161	99	7	267	27
99-00	175	107	6	288	30
00-01	179	115	8	302	26
01-02	191	107	9	307	25
02-03	167	108	1	276	25
03-04	145	109	1	255	18
04-05	143	112	2	257	22
05-06	141	105	9	246	14



Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat

01/25/06

Nassawango Creek	\$3,650	HCBC 10th Anniversary campaign/ Club funds & individual donations	Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area	\$2,000	
Bird Rehabilitation	\$785			\$40,271	[Oct 1997 seed sale blank]
Committee to Preserve Assateague	\$1,000		Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area	\$1,500	
Nature Conservancy	\$2,300		Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000	
MOS Sanctuary (Irish Grove)	\$335			\$42,771	[Oct 1999 seed sale blank]
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project *	\$2,592	(including individual donations of \$857)			
International Nature Conservancy	\$300		American Bird Conservancy *Rivers of R	\$1,500	Oct 1999 Board meeting
Peregrine Fund *	\$250	(was doubled by matching grant)		\$44,271	
Misc. bird projects	\$511	Hawk Mt., Cape May obs., feeder for historic Waverly Mansion, etc.	All Creatures Great & Small	\$100	[Feb 2000 Board meeting]
	\$11,723		Display cabinets HoCo Rec&Parks	\$1,309	" * "
*Matching grants used to increase amount donated [Contributions through 1988]			Mt. Pleasant - Butterfly Garden	\$614	[April 2000 Board meeting]
			Old Growth Forest project at Frostburg	\$1,250	" * "
Nature Conservancy (2/89 seed sale)	\$2,500	(including individual donations of \$880)		\$47,544	[Oct 2000 seed sale blank]
Nature Conservancy (12/89)	\$2,500	Most from 10/89 Seed Sale	MPEA Clegg Prairie	\$1,100	[Feb 2001 Board meeting]
	\$16,723	[reported on Feb 1990 seed sale blank]	All Creatures Great & Small	\$100	[Feb 2001 Board meeting]
TNC Appalachian Campaign	\$1,000	2/90 seed sale including \$419.50 individual donations. [May-June 1990 newsletter]		\$48,744	[Oct 2001 seed sale blank]
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project	\$2,698	Challenge grant to MOS (includes individual donations of \$198)	El Choro go Refuge, Panama (ABC)	\$2,200	[March 2002 Board meeting]
	\$20,421	[Sept-Oct 1990 newsletter]		\$50,944	[Oct 2002 seed sale blank]
Bulletin Board for Cent Park	\$300	Bird Club bought & had dedicated	Nature Conservancy MD/DC Chapter	1500	[Feb 2003 Board meeting]
Monteverde Cloud Forest	\$3,600	(w/ \$328 individual donations)		\$52,444	
	\$24,321	[Oct 1991 seed sale blank]	Sierra de Bahoruco NP in Dom Rep	2000	[Feb 2004 Board meeting]
Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala	\$5,000	(w/ \$440 individual donations)	All Creatures Great & Small	100	
	\$29,321	[Jan 1992 seed sale blank]		\$54,544	
Maryland Parks Foundation	\$1,000	Sept 1992 Board meeting	All Creatures Great & Small	100	[March 2005 Board meeting]
	\$30,321	[Nov-Dec 1992 newsletter]	MPEA stream buffer planting	750	
Bladen Mts Nature Reserve, Belize	\$2,500	[Sep-Oct 1993 newsletter]	MPEA Purple Martin gourds	450	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve (Atlantic coast of Guatemala)	\$2,500	[Jan-Feb 1994 newsletter]		\$55,844	
	\$35,321				
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000	Nov 1995 Board meeting			
	\$36,321	[Jan 1996 seed sale blank]			
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000				
Nature Conservancy - MD	\$750				
Dee Thompson (rehabilitator)	\$200				
	\$38,271				

[\[Print\]](#) [\[Close\]](#)

From: "Bob & Jo Solem" <odenata@msn.com>
"Betts, Mary-Jo" <mbetts1030@aol.com>, "Culler, Jeff" <cullerfuls@hotmail.com>, "Darcy, Karen" <Khdarcy4@aol.com>, "Eve, Tracy" <tracyeve@comcast.net>, "Friedhoffer, Jeffrey A." <jafried@ieee.org>, "Geuder, Ralph & Jane" <Oldhawk@aol.com>, "Heffernan, Kevin" <KJHeff@aol.com>, "Holdridge, Emmalyn" <emyh608@verizon.net>, "Holyoke, David" <david.holyoke@ssa.gov>, "Miller, Thomas W." <tmiller@paceworldwide.com>, "Ott, Bonnie" <bonnieott@verizon.net>, "Probst, Suzanne" <sprobst@comcast.net>, "Schwarz, Kurt" <krschw1@comcast.net>, "Stirrat, Charles" <stirr1@worldnet.att.net>, "Tufts, Kate & Dick" <ktufts@verizon.net>, "Zucker, Paul" <Paul.Zucker@jhuapl.edu>
To:
Subject: Howard County Bird Club's Seed Sale Proceeds for Conservation Project
Date: Mon, 23 Jan 2006 14:57:07 +0000

If this is the year for international projects, we suggest the Mexican Grasslands Appeal. Following is the article that appeared in the Nov-Dec 2005 ABA journal, "Winging It":

"In support of a vital bird conservation project in the Saltillo region of northern Mexico, ABA has joined with other members of the national Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA), including American Bird Conservancy, Los Angeles Audubon, Northern Virginia Bird Club, and The Nature Conservancy, in a Mexican Grasslands Appeal. As one of the founding donors, ABA has committed from its Conservation Fund the first \$5,000 pledged to the project, which is being implemented by the leading Mexican conservation group Pronatura Noreste."

"The Saltillo area's grasslands provide excellent habitat for many species once common on North American prairies, but now greatly diminished by the loss and degradation of their habitat in the north. Maintained by the grazing of prairie dogs, these grasslands host a wide range of birds, including Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Burrowing Owl, and Sprague's Pipit, along with important concentrations of wintering shorebirds. In addition, the area is the global stronghold of Worthen's Sparrow, a rare species whose survival depends directly on effective conservation in the region.

"The greatest threat facing this vital habitat today is the conversion of land to irrigated agriculture, especially potato farming. Profitable in the short run, such conversion is ecologically and economically unsustainable over the long term, and the resulting degradation of the land is so complete that restoration to healthy grassland is virtually impossible.

"In response to this threat, ABA has joined American Bird Conservancy and the Bird Conservation Alliance in an effort to permanently protect significant portions of the region's most important habitats. One area has already been protected, but support for the preservation of additional key areas is urgently needed, as is the implementation of a conservation plan to

save Worthen's Sparrow from extinction. One hundred percent of the funds raised for this project will go directly to the project's vital conservation work in Mexico.

"To make a contribution to this important effort, or for more information, contact Mike Parr at American Bird Conservancy, mparr@abcbirds.org."

Bob & Jo Solem
Laurel, MD 20723
odenata@msn.com

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2006

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (& *Publicity*)
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Jeff Culler (1st yr) √
Tracy Eve (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Audio-visual: Tom Miller √
Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 9, 2006 was 53± people. Spring Ligi gave a program entitled "Contrasting Breeding Strategies of Two Species of Orioles: First Documentation of Double Breeding in Orchard Orioles."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer): Not present.

Vice-President (Heffernan):

Kevin chaired the meeting in Jeff's absence.

Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's report is attached. The \$414.54 payment from the Mountjoy Fund was for the purchase of a spare bulb for the electronic projector.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

No report. Next meeting was coming up on March 4.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts):

Karen had no items to bring up and Mary Jo and Kate were not present.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Kevin asked if there would possibly be interest to a visit to the banding station run by Jim Gruber at Chino Farms as a Fall trip. Kevin had visited this site during last year's MOS Conference on the Eastern Shore. It was suggested and Kevin agreed to call Jim Gruber and explore options for a club trip to this location.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reviewed status of atlas. We are in final of 5 year field work. One focus of year is night birds. Howard records are almost at levels achieved in 5 years during last atlas, after only 4 years. The Howard Atlas results are the subject of the upcoming March club general meeting. One focus of this final year will be running many BBS Mini-routes to supplement other field data. This is the last year of field data collection, but Emy asked about follow-on effort. Walter Ellison as the state coordinator had been being paid by state from Federal funds but the continuous of this support beyond period of field work is still in doubt. The State Atlas committee is committed to having a hardcopy printed product for the atlas, given the issues with continued access to electronic records. If published it will likely be decided to use a min/mod approach to the species accounts published in prior Atlas book.

Audio Visual (Miller):

Tom reported that he had made the authorized purchase of a spare bulb for the projector. He is attempting to assemble a small computer/keyboard/mouse combination to be a regularly available part of club A/V collection. It was stated that Jeff Friedhoffer is to bring his laptop for potluck (Tom agreed to call and remind Jeff).

The general Board impression was that the A/V equipment is working fine. If anyone has questions or suggestions they should contact Tom.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Jo reported that she received a thank you from Mary Otto, the Washington Post reporter who wrote the article on Winter Count. She had expressed thanks to club for us being such a great group.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Probst):

Suzanne reported she was going to submit the club's Winter Count being covered by an article in the Howard section of the Washington Post as a Chapter Chatter item for the MOS Yellowthroat. Sue reported that the latest newsletter had gone to printer that day, but the decision had been made to use a new printer (not Kinko's). New printer is Browns & Assoc.

Sue reported that the newsletter is becoming a major burden for her personally, given her commitments to work and the Yellowthroat. She is putting in more overtime than previously. She wants to solicit a new newsletter editor. Sue agreed to prepare a "job description" for the job. It was agreed that the club should actively solicit volunteers to serve as newsletter editor.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): Kurt was not present.

He had presented a proposal via email (attached) for how to expend this year's donations. Kevin reported that he had searched web for possibilities with Pergrine Fund and the Nature Conservancy wooded areas around the Gulf of Mexico, but he found no others to propose beyond Kurt's suggestion.

Jo moved and it was seconded that the annual donation funds from seed sale, suet donation, and personal donations should be allocated as follows:

- American Bird Conservancy Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve (Reserva de Aves Reinita Cielo Azul) - \$2000 – Kurt to draft letter to accompany check
- All Creatures Great and Small, Howard County Bird Rehabilitator - \$100. Emy send check with default letter (Chuck could provide if needed).
- Support for the preservation of Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly habitat in Montgomery County - \$100. Kate to provide letter draft and address for submitting donation to Emy.

Emy drew attention to a short note in recent Columbia Flyer that implied Columbia Association is planning to build a paved pathway through the MPEA connecting the village of River Hill with village of Harpers Choice that matches the Columbia pathways status. The club feels we may want to monitor this proposal if it will negatively impact habitat in MPEA. Bob agreed to contact Cheryl Fararas, Rec and Parks manager for MPEA, to find out more about this proposal.

Chapter Directors (Eve, Culler):
No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

No formal membership report. Recent activity includes 1 renewal, and 1 new member who is a Rec & Parks employee. Jo mentioned that in reviewing late membership surveys there were several with comments that expressed thank you for the personal contact by Jeff and Tracy asking them to renew.

Old Business

Jo reported that she had discussed future hosting of tally for Winter count with Martha Waugh and the Culler's. Martha would agree to do it again if asked but was perfectly willing to let the Culler's host future tally's especially as she already hosts Fall count. Jeff agreed to talk with Karen, but felt they would likely agree to host again next year.

Tracy Eve agreed to take over responsibility for the nametags being brought to meetings as Bonnie isn't always able to be there.

Jo passed around a template of the sign to be placed at hawk watch at Meadowbrook Park. The material has been reviewed by the committee of raptor watchers she had assembled to support this project. The final material is due by end of February so that the contract for signs can be let. Other signs will deal with frogs, Odenates, Water mitigation, sedimentation.

Preparations for the potluck are proceeding on course. Room payment was made. It was agreed to use one of the feeders from the suet donation as a door prize. Marty is doing her placemats again.

Several boxes of suet are left but we have already raised over \$1000 for habitat and \$400 for atlas project. There are about a dozen feeders left.

See Conservation Report above for the decision on habitat donation for this year.

New Business

June Tveekrem is acting as coordinator for a first ever Odenate Field Count. The actual date is July 29, which is not correct in latest newsletter. This will be a count similar to bird counts methodology.

Action Items

- Contact Jim Gruber about visit to the banding station at Chino Farms to explore possibility of a club field trip to site (or private vice club trip if too limited in number that could visit). - Kevin
- Prepare a job description for newsletter editor. – Probst
- Publish announcements seeking new newsletter editor. – Friedhoffer
- Draft letter to ABC describing donation to Cerulean Preserve, and provide to Emy for inclusion of check in mailing to ABC. – Kurt

- Draft letter for submitting Checkerspot contribution and provide to Emy for drafting check. – Kate. (Kurt agreed to inform Kate that such a letter was needed.)
- Contact Cheryl Fararas, Rec and Parks manager for MPEA, to find out more about the proposal to build a paved walkway through MPEA connecting River Hill to Harpers Choice. - Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler	
November 17, 2005	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2006	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 23, 2006	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2006	-	Mary Jo Betts	
April 27, 2006	-	Kate Tufts	
May 25, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/05 – 2/21/06
- Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/05-2/21/06

	<u>Budget 2005/06</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		60.00	6,210.00
State Dues Paid			<u>(3,730.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,700.00		2,480.00
Contributions			<u>130.00</u>
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,700.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>	<u>2,610.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	38.35	109.02
Donations			
Website			159.95
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	375.00
Hospitality	175.00		137.14
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		37.62
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		13.60
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00		509.69
Club Brochures	75.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,550.00</u>	<u>88.35</u>	<u>1,342.02</u>
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Func</i>	<u>150.00</u>		<u>1,267.98</u>
Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales			7,313.80
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			110.00
Rent			
Seed			5,803.91
Sales Tax (est - not paid)			<u>348.28</u>
Total			6,262.19
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			1,051.61
<i>Contributions to Habitat Preservation</i>			155.00
<i>Suet Sales</i>			1,026.00
Sales Tax			<u>(48.86)</u>
Net Suet Sales			977.14
<i>Total Available for Conservation Contributions</i>			<u><u>2,183.75</u></u>
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			6,861.70
Interest Received		43.15	<u>364.17</u>
Balance			<u><u>7,225.87</u></u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Beg Year Balance		(414.54)	<u><u>7,225.87</u></u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,152.29
Savings			14,407.16
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u><u>18,602.73</u></u>

3/22/2006

E. Holdridge

CERULEAN WARBLER BIRD RESERVE **RESERVA DE AVES REINITA CIELO AZUL**

To protect a key Cerulean Warbler wintering population & two Critically Endangered bird species in the Eastern Cordillera of Colombia

Proposal summary

Fundación ProAves has completed two years of bird population monitoring at 27 field stations across Colombia and a decade of field expeditions across 19 of 31 departments in Colombia. Based on analysis of this information (over 500,000 data points), ProAves has identified the countries most important sites for threatened and Neotropical migrants bird species.

The Cerulean Warbler is the only threatened Neotropical forest migrant in South America and a major focus of hemispheric research and conservation attention, as the species undergoes a population crash. The species winters in subtropical humid forest in the Northern Andes, primarily between 1,400 to 2,050 meters in northern Colombia and Venezuela. The species is threatened by fragmentation and habitat loss in its breeding range, however, the impact of unprecedented forest losses in the species subtropical wintering areas of the Colombian Andes is little documented.

Monitoring across Colombia has identified the key wintering population of Cerulean Warbler in the Rio Chucurí river basin in Santander. This large sheltered valley, between Cerro de la Paz and Serranía de los Yarigués, has rich soils and a mild climate that favors agriculture. The subtropics have been extensively cleared for cocoa plantations, although forest fragments remain in the upper subtropical zone.

One hour from the municipality town of San Vicente de Chucurí on the edge of Serranía de los Yarigués is the 1,050 ha farm El Talismán - La Siberia, which holds one of the few areas of subtropical forest in the region (1,400-2,500 m). Surveys at the site have highlighted high concentrations of Cerulean Warbler (estimated to 1-3 per ha). Furthermore, subtropical and montane Oak forest at the site contains three Critically Endangered birds - Gorgeted Wood-Quail (one of the world's three rarest Phasianidae), Mountain Grackle, and Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, plus a further four threatened bird species.

The Talismán - La Siberia farm represents not only an important last vestige of subtropical forest and its associated threatened biodiversity, but also holds great cultural importance. An ancient indigenous *Lenguerke* stone path, similar to those in the Lost City, traverses Serranía de los Yarigués from Zapatoca, through the farm, to San Vicente de Chucurí. The indigenous groups have long disappeared, and the path was recently rediscovered and renovated by the Colombian tourist board, and is now used for recreational purposes by walkers.

Whilst the 85 year old owner of Talismán - La Siberia has conserved the sites forest, he plans to divide up the land for his large family which will almost certainly result in the area being deforested. In order to protect the threatened species of Talismán - La Siberia, Fundación ProAves proposes to purchase this critical area and set-up a private nature reserve with facilities to both promote research and ecotourism in the region. The farm is 1050 ha, including 800 ha of forest, at US\$155 per ha; total \$162,750.

A unique combination of features, such as good access, tourist attractions, and good facilities will provide the reserve with a sustainable future. Furthermore, the Global Conservation Fund will match 1:1 funds raised for the sites purchase to establish a trust fund, so guaranteeing in perpetuity core costs to protect and operate the reserve.

Objective

Act immediately to acquire a key property containing a significant wintering population of the Vulnerable Cerulean Warbler. The reserve, called "Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve", would be the first protected area established for a Neotropical migrant in South America and would protect the Critically Endangered Gorgeted Wood-Quail and Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird.

Biodiversity value and threats

The 7 bird species detailed below are classified as Threatened or Near-Threatened by BirdLife International (2004). All of these species lack sufficient protected areas.

Wattled Guan *Aburria aburri* Status: Near-Threatened

The species is not uncommon at El Talisman.

Gorgeted Wood-Quail *Odontophorus strophium* Critically Endangered

Gorgeted Wood-quail is one of the world's rarest and most poorly known birds, being restricted to the western slope of Colombia's Eastern Andean Cordillera (Hilty & Brown, 1986). Small populations have been observed around just two localities in the past 20 years: Reserva Biológica Cachalú and alto río Fonce, both in dpto. Santander. Almost all (92%) of the species' historical range has been deforested. We found Gorgeted Wood-quail at El Talisman site in premontane cloud forest, mostly at 1,800–1,950 m. Based on its density and the extent of forest cover, Gorgeted Wood-quail may comprise >250 individuals, making the area the species' global population stronghold (Donegan et al 2004). Habitat protection is of importance for the protection of this species.

Rusty-faced Parrot *Hapalopsittaca amazonina* Status: Endangered

The species has been heard and seen on various occasions in the area. This species is rare throughout its range in Colombia, with a very localized distribution (Hilty & Brown, 1986) and has disappeared from various sites, apparently due to deforestation and human intervention (Rodriguez & Hernandez, 2001). The presence of this species shows the quality of the forest here and may also be reflective of the isolation of this primary forest site from nearby human settlements.

Black Inca *Coeligena prunellei* Status: Endangered

This species is endemic to the western slope of Colombia's eastern Cordillera. Black Inca was one of the most common species at El Talisman - 16 individuals were caught in 1 week. BirdLife International (2000) suggest that the species' global population is just 1,000-2,400. We consider that this site could be an important stronghold for the species.

Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia castaneiventris* Status: Critically Endangered

One adult male was caught and photographed above San Vicente de Chucurí. A population of the species has recently been confirmed at Zapatoca and this capture may represent a seasonal movement of the species to humid forest.

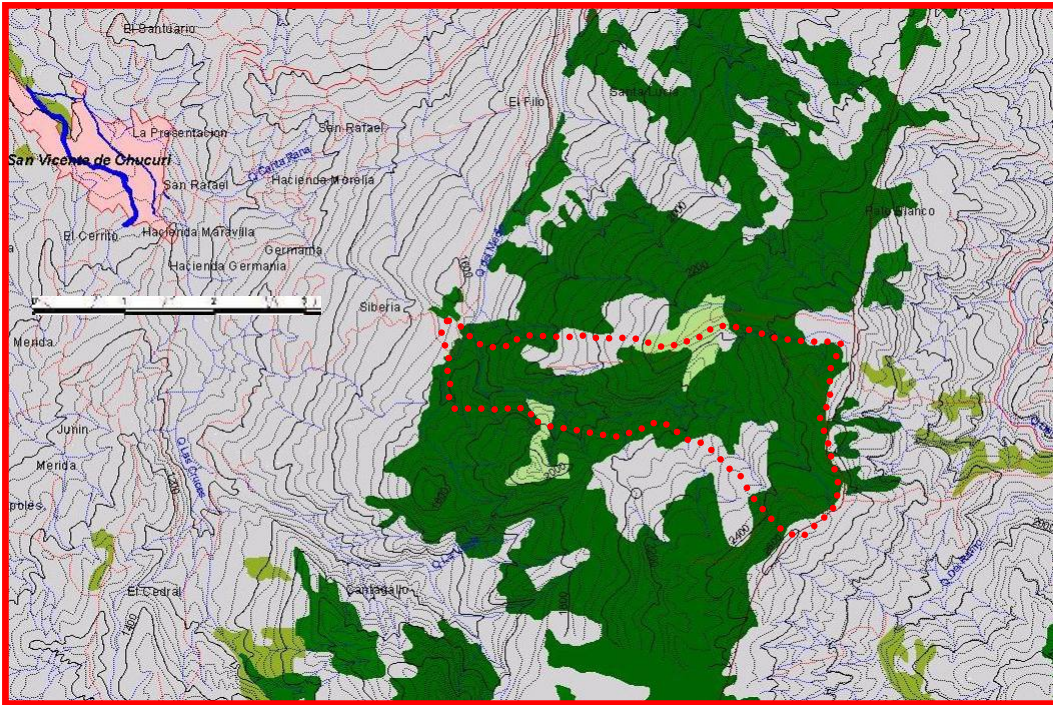
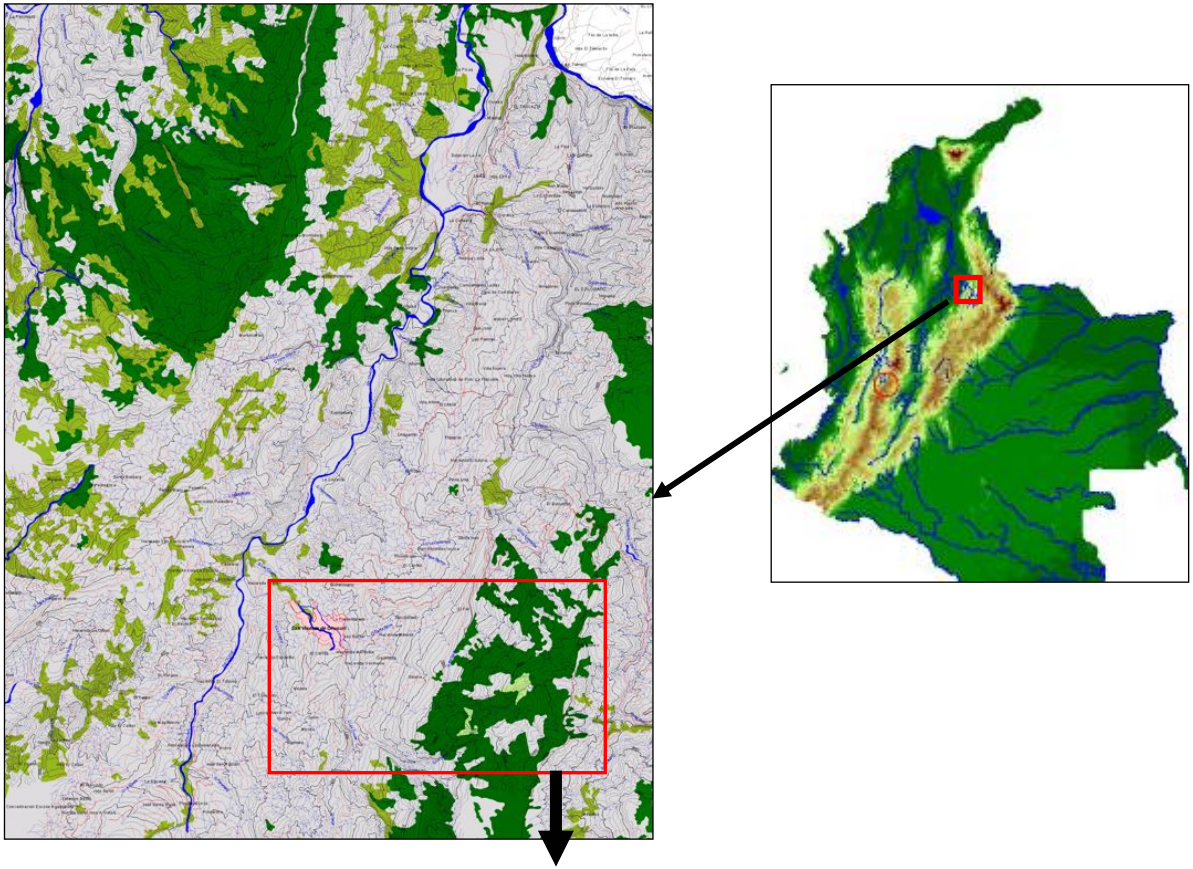
Mountain Grackle *Macroagelaius subalaris* Status: Critically Endangered

The species is recorded from 2,400 m. This species, like Gorgeted Wood-Quail, is little known and restricted to montane forest in Colombia's Eastern Cordillera. There have been very few records since the 1960s, although two old specimens apparently from 2,750 m elevation in San Vicente de Chucurí municipality are reported (Amaya & Renjifo, 2002).

This species population is estimated to have undergone a very rapid decline, owing to continuing habitat loss and fragmentation on its breeding grounds. Between November and March the species is one of the most common Neotropical migrants in secondary and primary forest, especially in overgrown cocoa plantations between 1,400 to 2,000 meters elevation. The Siberia-Talisman population is estimated at around 500 individuals.

Location

Location map of the property Talismán - La Siberia following forest cover



Strategic conservation and ecological value

Acquiring the Talisman-Siberia property will be extremely strategic for conservation in the region, for the following reasons:

- Ensure the protection of 7 globally threatened bird species.
- Highest concentration of Critically Endangered bird species (three) in NW South America.
- The first protected area for a Neotropical migrant with publicity and local awareness campaigns hoping to raise attention to their plight and need for their protection.
- Protects key watershed area for the Municipality of San Vicente de Chucurí and major cocoa area.
- Elevational cline of 1,100 meters across premontane and montane forest
- Reforestation of 250 ha to consolidate the regions forest.
- Protect high levels of endemic biodiversity (from preliminary studies).

Purchasing this property will strategically advance global conservation.

Project Implementation

The two properties of La Siberia are being sold for \$164 million pesos (US \$70,175). Considering the threats posed in the breakup of the property, we urgently propose to purchase it from the elderly owner. ProAves' legal fees would be around US \$250 in total.

Land parcel name	Total ha	forest ha	cleared ha	Elevation m asl	Total cost US\$
La Siberia	198	197	1	1500-2400	\$70,175

ProAves has a strong history of purchasing private forest lands comprising important refuges and buffer regions and implementing conservation action in such regions, including the establishment of research facilities and programmes with the local community. Its hugely successful reserves in El Pangan and Las Quinchas have used such models. A protected areas endowment to cover ongoing administration costs of this reserve and others in perpetuity is currently being established.

Land acquisition	2005	2006
1560 acre land purchase - "El Dorado Nature Reserve"	\$70,175	0
Reserve infrastructure and management		
Tourist Ecodge construction (accommodation for 12 visitors)	10,000	0
Forest guards/guides	3,558	3,717
Uncover indigenous path	0	1,200
Establish management plan	500	0
Community support		
Ecotourism business plan with local farmers		800
Ecotourism promotion and signs		5,000
Guide training course		1,400
TOTAL FUNDING SOUGHT	\$84,233	\$12,117

Project sustainability

The proposed reserve has a unique combination of features that will provide an important draw for ecotourism and researchers, and so provide the reserve with a sustainable future:

- ❖ The land already has a house that will provide excellent facilities for researchers and visitors
- ❖ Completely safe area (no political insecurity)
- ❖ Good access – a day’s drive from Bogotá (8-9 hours) and just 4 hours from El Paujil Bird Reserve in Serranía Quinchas
- ❖ Reserve is 15 minutes drive from San Vicente de Chucurí and 45 minutes walk to an excellent stone building with accommodation for 15 visitors or tourists.
- ❖ The spectacular forests and mountains of Serranía de los Yariguíes and their threatened species.
- ❖ The Camino de Lenguerke, an historic stone trail leads from San Vicente (750 m elevation) to El Talisman and above (2,300 m) through primary montane forest to the old colonial town of Zapatoca is a day-long historic trek.
- ❖ The indigenous history and artifacts of the region, some of which are within San Vicente town, such as the carved stone depicted below.
- ❖ Zapatoca and San Vicente have interesting colonial and more recent architecture including San Vicente’s beautiful domed church and Montebello residence.
- ❖ The products of the region, which include “*Chocolate Chucureño*” (Chucurí chocolate and hot chocolate) and “*Café Chucureño*” (Chucurí coffee)

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2006

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (& *Publicity*) √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Jeff Culler (1st yr) √
Tracy Eve (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts √
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Audio-visual: Tom Miller
Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Mary-Jo Betts. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 9 was 53 people. Jo Solem and Bonnie Ott gave a program entitled "Special Birds and the Breeding Bird Atlas in Howard County."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff began asking to review the prior meeting action items:

- Contact Jim Gruber about visit to the banding station at Chino Farms to explore possibility of a club field trip to site (or private vice club trip if too limited in number that could visit). - Kevin reported that he had contacted Jim and learned that he would only want 3-4 people at a time, hence it isn't a field trip possibility.
- Prepare a job description for newsletter editor. - Sue Probst said she still needs to get to this.
- Publish announcements seeking new newsletter editor. - Jeff Friedhoffer acknowledged that just announcing isn't enough, but will require persuading potential candidates to volunteer.
- Draft letter to ABC describing donation to Cerulean Preserve, and provide to Emy for inclusion of check in mailing to ABC. - Kurt said he still need to write letter, hadn't received response to a query he sent ABC.
- Draft letter for submitting Checkerspot contribution and provide to Emy for drafting check. - Kate. (Kurt agreed to inform Kate that such a letter was needed.) Kate has the check and will deliver it personally so doesn't need a letter.
- Contact Cheryl Fararas, Rec and Parks manager for MPEA, to find out more about the proposal to build a paved walkway through MPEA connecting River Hill to Harpers Choice. - Bob had spoken to Cheryl and learned this is not really an active proposal. It had been broached at a meeting and the press picked it up but there is not really an issue to weigh in at present.

Vice-President (Heffernan):

Kevin reported that as the new May Count coordinator he had received the historical data (1984 till present) from Paul Zucker. Paul was to look for the previous year data, but hadn't located it on his initial search.

Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's Report that was distributed is attached. Emy noted that we are near end of fiscal year and there is little activity. Emy reported that Jo and Bonnie asked there speaker's stipend be donated to the Breeding Bird Atlas fund. She had just written check for the Baltimore Checkerspot project to give to Kate. Emy said she would send the check and note to All Creatures Great and Small. She stated she needs the information from Kurt on the Cerulean Warbler project, before she can write that check. All future proceeds from the remaining suet and feeders will go to the Atlas.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

Kate reported that the State is still seeking publicity and development chairman. Walter Ellison has a CD with night bird calls that can be used for atlasing. Contact Walter if would like a copy. They still need volunteers to help with the Silent Auction at convention. The state was proposing that Chapters might want to adopt nursing homes. Volunteers to do mini routes for atlas are being sought. The Conference Brochures are about to be mailed. The Youth MOS team from Centerville is entering several birding competitions. MOS Brochures are available for chapters to use.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No separate report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that when people visit MPEA they will observe significant changes that are being made as part of a Woodcock Management Plan under the guidance of Cheryl Farfaras. Several areas are being cleared to make more Woodcock courting habitat and in several other areas feeding habitat is being prepared.

Publicity (Friedhoffer):

Jeff is still sending out material and has some recent luck with papers picking up items.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Probst):

Sue said she was working on the Yellowthroat so she could accept items for the Goldfinch about a week late (~1 April). Bob agreed to provide her a short item correcting the date for the Odenate Field Day that was incorrect in an earlier announcement.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Kurt had no report. Bob reported on the petition conveying individual support for the MPEA parking lot and facilities capital project. He had received a short reply from the County Executive. The project is planned for a

land parcel that was purchased separate from the initial MPEA property and is not subject to the same easements. Plans call for expanding the parking lot and adding rest rooms. This is needed to improve the Howard Rec and Parks education efforts at MPEA. Kevin moved, and Tracy seconded, that the Howard Chapter of MOS, as an organization, should take a stand “supporting this capital project.” The motion was approved by the Board. Bob agreed to draft a letter to the Council expressing this position. Kurt was asked to include this in an upcoming conservation column in the Goldfinch.

Chapter Directors (Eve, Culler):

Jeff Culler observed that the plexiglass cover for the clipboard for bird sightings at Centennial Park had been broken. The club originally put this in place. Jeff agreed to buy plexiglass for repairs.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob explained that he was developing an expanded and improved “photo page(s)” for the club web site. Since we now have much more on-line storage this is feasible. Bob will put out an link to a “test area” for board members and a few others (photo submitters) to check out before he roles it out as part of the official site.

Old Business

Tracy passed around a copy of the “revised membership form” for further feedback and general approval. A few minor revisions were agreed to and Bob will incorporate them in next year’s form and in the on-line form. We discussed the membership categories, specifically what was meant by the “sustaining” membership level and to what extent this extra contribution is split between state and chapter. Emy agreed to research this and sent out an email with this information. *Secretary Note: Her email content follows –*

<i>Individual Membership: Total Dues</i>	<i>\$30.00</i>	<i>Howard Chapter</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	<i>MOS</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Household Membership: Total Dues</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>	<i>Howard Chapter</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>	<i>MOS</i>	<i>\$25.00</i>
<i>Sustaining Membership: Total Dues</i>	<i>\$90.00</i>	<i>Howard Chapter</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>	<i>MOS</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
<i>Junior Membership: Total Dues</i>	<i>\$9.00</i>	<i>Howard Chapter</i>	<i>\$4.00</i>	<i>MOS</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>

Subsequent to this email and a couple of follow-up emails Bob modified the form to reflect that both MOS and Howard County get added help with the sustaining membership category. The application form on the club web site already reflects these changes.

Sue thanked those that helped her with the potluck and it was generally agreed it was another success. It will probably be necessary to give guidance on limiting photos (or time) for presentation as the explosion in digital photography led to an increase in those presenting and some had fairly lengthy programs (large number of pictures combined with extensive narrative).

Kurt is still waiting to hear from ABC about the details for sending in the contribution for Cerulean Warbler habitat preservation.

The nominating committee (Kurt – chair, Joe Byrns, Tracy Eve) put forward their slate in time for Bob to include it with the Directory mailing. The slate is: President – Kevin Heffernan, Vice-President – Tom Miller, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Emy Holdrige, State Directors – Mary-Jo Betts, Karen Darcy, & Kate Tufts, and Chapter Directors – Jeff Culler (2nd year), Ward Ebert (1st year).

Bob described the plans for the Odenate Field Count, similar to our seasonal bird counts. The date initially announced was wrong and Bob will submit correction for newsletter.

New Business

The state MOS Board had put together a list of “best practices” for chapters to consider as ways to encourage member participation and recruit new members. We reviewed the list (copy attached that included Kurt’s comments) and concluded we were doing most of these. The few we hadn’t adopted were considered inappropriate or not applicable for our chapter.

It was then proposed we might be able to use the State MOS brochure with a “single” panel insert with Howard specific information and not have to produce a whole new brochure for the chapter. This seemed like a good idea and we will pursue in the future when volunteers have time to work on drafting an insert.

Jeff made a proposal to post old copies of the Goldfinch on our web site in PDF format. His proposal was that newsletters would be posted after the next issue had been mailed. *Secretary Note: We did not discuss this specific aspect of the proposal and it has been proposed we formally determine a policy for how current postings should be at the next Board meeting.* Bob said he was not able to provide this feature but if someone with a high speed internet access and willingness to get PDFs and upload them he could provide the links. Jeff volunteered to do the uploads and scanning for versions that we didn’t produce in PDF format originally.

The question of club meetings falling on religious holidays had been raised and it was determined that although no issues exist in near term some future year dates will fall on Jewish high holidays. After discussion we agreed that we really don’t have the flexibility to try and change our meeting dates as we are dependent on Howard Rec and Parks calendar having us booked on the second Thursday. The Program Chairman may want to be sure she is aware of these dates and ensure any speakers she books are aware of the conflict that might not occur to them when they first agree to the engagement.

Tracy stated she couldn’t be at the next regular meeting in April and needed someone to agree to bring the drinks and get baked goods. Jeff volunteered to do this. Tracy stated she would be unable to coordinate the meeting refreshments starting next year, so we need to seek a volunteer to act as coordinator. Tracy said she would handle the May and September meetings, as a new volunteer would probably not be organized by September.

Mary-Jo announced that she was organizing a surprise birthday luncheon for Mary Chestem on April 9 and invited others to join them.

It was agreed that at the regular meeting in April, Kurt would present the slate of officers and Kevin and the By-laws committee would present the revised By-laws.

Action Items

Prior action items still open:

- Prepare a job description for newsletter editor. – Sue Probst .
- Publish announcements seeking new newsletter editor, and actively seek a new editor. – Jeff Friedhoffer
- Draft letter to ABC describing donation to Cerulean Preserve, and provide to Emy for inclusion of check in mailing to ABC. – Kurt Schwarz
- Deliver check to Baltimore Checkerspot organization – Kate Tufts

New items:

- Draft a letter to County Council stating club support for the MPEA capital project – Bob Solem
- Revise the membership application form and change the on-line version and prepare the version to use with next year’s membership request – Bob Solem
- Prepare short item for newsletter with corrected date for Odenate Field Count – Bob Solem
- Obtain PDF versions of old newsletters, get password and location on club website to upload them to from Bob, and then upload newsletters – Jeff Friedhoffer
- Solicit volunteer to assume responsibility from Tracy for coordinating refreshments at club meetings starting next year – Jeff or Kevin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler	
November 17, 2005	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2006	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 23, 2006	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2006	-	Mary Jo Betts	
April 27, 2006	-	Kate Tufts	
May 25, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Meeting Agenda – March 23, 2006
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/05 – 3/20/06
- MOS Chapter’s Best Practices – Compiled in 2006 with comments added by Kurt Schwarz

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MARCH 23, 2006

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Jeff*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Kevin*
6. Review of Action Items *Kevin*
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Sue*
 - Membership update *Bob*
8. Old Business
 - Sale of Suet etc
 - Pot Luck Dinner
 - Habitat donation for 06 *Kurt*
 - Slate for 06-07 *Kurt*
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Best Practices Discussion
 - New newsletter lead
 - Old Newsletter on Web site
 - CA paved path over MPEA
 - New Application form
 - Dates
 - i. Thu, Sep 13, 2007 Rosh Hashanah
 - ii. Thu, Oct 9, 2008 Yom Kippur
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location
Mary-Jo Betts
9494 Crisscross court
Columbia, Talbot Springs
301-596-5859

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/05-3/20/06

	Budget 2005/06	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		50.00	6,260.00
State Dues Paid			(3,730.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,700.00		2,530.00
Contributions			130.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,700.00	50.00	2,660.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		109.02
Donations			
Website			159.95
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	425.00
Hospitality	175.00		137.14
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		37.62
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		13.60
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00	64.80	64.80
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	34.68	544.37
Club Brochures	75.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,550.00	149.48	1,491.50
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>	150.00		1,168.50
Seed Sales			
Income			
Sales			7,313.80
Expense			
Flyers & Misc			110.00
Rent			
Seed			5,803.91
Sales Tax (est - not paid)			348.28
Total			6,262.19
<i>Gain/Loss-Seed Sales</i>			1,051.61
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			
			155.00
Suet Sales			
Sales Tax			1,026.00
Net Suet Sales			(48.86)
			977.14
Total Available for Conservation Contribution			
			2,183.75
Suet Sales for future Conservation Contribution			
			21.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			6,861.70
Interest Received		43.19	407.36
Balance			7,269.06
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Beg Year Balance			7,181.29
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,993.81
Savings			14,450.35
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			18,487.44

MOS Chapters' Best Practices – Compiled in 2006

Meetings and programs

- Schedule programs with interesting speakers and varied topics (not always birds).
- Hold special workshops on identification.
- Find an attractive meeting site with good A/V capabilities (including digital photos, videos).
- Serve refreshments before each meeting.
- Provide a lending library of bird videos and publications.

Who would maintain/house it? Will they show up every meeting? The logistics of this are beyond our capabilities.

- Sell bird books at meetings.
- Advertise meetings in local newspapers, libraries and nature centers.
- Enhance social opportunities through informal get-togethers with refreshments: Christmas dinner program at a restaurant; catered dinner with member slide show in the spring; potluck picnic meeting in June; summer picnics to keep members in touch.

Should be explored.

Field trips and events

- Schedule lots of interesting field trips (not just trips to the same place every other Saturday), both local and farther afield, with good leaders.

Club members show virtually NO interest in going outside the county. The Del Bay trip in May's participation has been pitiful, such that it's not on the agenda for this year. And there's been no howl of the hiatus of the ML King Weekend trip.

- Hold special field trips for beginning birders, newcomers to the area, youth groups.

One out of three isn't bad. Others could/should be explored.

- Sponsor bird counts year-round: Christmas, winter, May, hawk watch, "Big Sit," WSB, etc.

We do this. Big Sit died, lack of interest.

- Donate event proceeds to support other conservation and education organizations (bird rescue, nature preserves, youth groups, researchers) in Maryland and beyond.

We do this, but I am concerned that we will keep on doing so.

Attracting and keeping new members

- Use special events (spring fair, zoo day, Earth Day, hawk watch) to attract potential members. Create a large informational poster. Give away MOS brochures, bird checklists, and other appealing freebies.

Done on a limited basis. Earth Day walk at Mt. Pleasant, I beat the drum. Poorly attended.

- Provide a regular newsletter, either print or an email link to your website.
- Keep the website updated and link to webcams focused on a nesting site.
- Word of mouth: existing members are ambassadors for the club.
- Print business cards with information on chapter meetings and website URL; hand them out to interested people.

Should be explored.

- Place MOS brochures in county libraries, trails, bird shops and nature centers/organizations.

We DID this. Do we still?

- Send information packet to new members, recognize them especially at meetings.

Do this, sorta.

- Give new attendees a checklist of county birds along with the Maryland checklist
- Assign “goodwill ambassadors” to welcome and aid new members, and encourage them to attend the annual MOS conference.

I think we tried this, but effort dropped off.

- At membership renewal time, call new members (and old ones!) to encourage their renewal.

Dependent on Board members' effort.

Publications

- Find dedicated and talented people to produce your newsletter.

Already found, KEEP 'EM HAPPY!!!!

- Use photos in newsletter; use color. Include articles and jokes from other publications.

Copyright implications.

- Write a county site guide for birders; donate copies to public libraries.

Education and outreach

- Participate in the MOS Youth Division program “YMOS.”
- Establish a “youth coordinator” in the chapter to coordinate education and outreach to youth.
- Volunteer to help with school system’s outdoor education program. Contact elementary schools to make presentations. Give awards to bird-related projects at student science fairs. Place birding field guides in school libraries.
- Chapters could adopt a school.

- Donate a classroom membership in Cornell Feederwatch program.
- Create a program for the local cable channel or radio station.
- List the club's website in local business directories.
- Partner with other groups such as Audubon Society, "friends of" parks and refuges groups, Audubon Naturalist Society and Irvine Nature Center on habitat protection, programs, fundraising, bird counts, other projects.
- Lead bird walks for schools, nature stores, and social groups. Prepare a scripted slide show on local birds that can be presented to a variety of audiences including garden clubs, schools and senior centers.
- Hold monthly meetings at senior facilities. Chapters could adopt an assisted living center.
- Engage young adults by offering them the opportunity to publish articles or artwork in the club newsletter or website.

To my knowledge, this club has shown no interest whatsoever in "Youth." In my ten years membership, to include maybe six on the Board, I've seen not one initiative in this regard. I, for one, lack the skills/background, etc. Not having kids, my interest is limited, other than we DO need new and younger blood if we want to survive. We're not getting any younger, but I am not the person to address this issue.

(based on responses from Carroll, Kent, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Patuxent chapters)

updated March 2006

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 27, 2006

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (& *Publicity* √)
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Jeff Culler (1st yr) √
Tracy Eve (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Audio-visual: Tom Miller
Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 13 was 49 people. Elayne and Jeff Metter gave a program entitled "Australian Ms. Adventures: the Great Kingfisher Quest." This was the annual business meeting of the chapter. Kevin Heffernan as chairman of the By-laws Committee presented a revision of the by-laws that had previously been agreed to by the board and sent to the membership with the mailing of the club membership directory. After a brief discussion it was moved and seconded that the constitution and by-laws changes be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. (See attachment for the Constitution and Bylaws as approved.) Then Kurt Schwarz, chairman of the nominating committee, put forward the following slate of officers for next year that had been included in the same mailing:

President – Kevin Heffernan
Vice President – Thomas Miller
Secretary – Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer – Emy Holdridge
State Directors – Mary-Jo Betts, Karen Darcy, Kate Tufts
Chapter Directors – Ward Ebert (1st year), Jeff Culler (2nd year of 2 year term)

It was moved and seconded that the slate submitted be elected. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer):

Jeff asked for a review of prior action items:

- The newsletter contains a description of the newsletter editor job. Closing action.
- Soliciting a new editor will continue both by Jeff and next Kevin.
- Kurt has provided Emy with description of contact information for the Cerulean Preserve donation to ABC.
- Kate has delivered the check to the Baltimore Checkerspot conservation group.
- Bob had drafted and sent letter to the County Council expressing club support for the MPEA capital project.

- Bob has revised the application form and changed the on-line version and has prepared the version for inclusion with next year's membership request mailing.
- Bob submitted a short article that is included in the current issue of Goldfinch providing the corrected date for the Odenate Field Count (July 29).
- Jeff has worked with Bob to upload PDF versions of The Goldfinch newsletters to an archive location on the club web site. (Prior two years uploaded.)
- Kevin will assume responsibility for soliciting a replacement for Tracy as the coordinator for refreshments at club meetings starting next fall. During discussion Jeff Culler suggested this task be assigned to the 2nd year Club Director and agreed to do it next year.

Vice-President (Heffernan):

Kevin arrived a few minutes late and offered his comments during later discussions.

Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes for prior meeting were accepted with a couple of minor editorial corrections. *Secretary Note: Changes were inserted into my archival copy of minutes.*

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy distributed the Treasurer's Fiscal Year End report (attached). She had paid remaining state dues. She reported transferring \$16.25 from the operating budget to have balance of \$2200 available for donations. Emy reported she had written a couple of checks during this meeting, so that she would revise the report distributed at meeting and produce a Fiscal Year-end report dated April 30, 2006. That final report is the attached Treasurer's Report to these minutes. She reported that the \$2000 donation to ABA for the Cerulean Preserve had been mailed during the week prior to meeting. Emy will have copies of annual Treasurer's report for membership review at the May general meeting. Emy then submitted a proposed operating budget for the club's next fiscal year (May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007). It was moved, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the budget as submitted. A copy of the budget is attached.

Past President (Schwarz): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

No state Board meeting since last club board meeting.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie was not present. Kate stated she had received a thank you from the Baltimore Checkerspot project. It included an offer to host a field trip to the conservation site for the butterfly in July or August. There was some discussion of this might conflict with atlas efforts. Kate stated we might want to attend this year as development around site continues and there is no guarantee that the butterflies will survive at this site in future years. If arranged this field trip will need to be announced via email and web site as newsletter will already have been published.

Bob reported the date for the Odenate Field Count being coordinated by June Tveekrem will be July 29.

Kate asked that her earlier discussion of organizing a trip to Michigan for the Kirtland's Warbler for this year should be ignored as that won't be possible this year.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that most of the suet cakes are gone. She asked if she should donate one or two of the remaining feeders to the Silent Auction at the MOS Conference in June. This idea was supported by the Board.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Probst):

Jo reported that the latest newsletter had been mailed at the post office the same day as the meeting. It was stated that Sue Probst is willing to help a new editor with the September issue, but a new editor is still needed.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Bob and Jo reported that there has been no further action on the MPEA capital project, but in discussions with Mark Raab they learned that Park and Recreation are moving ahead with plans for the Nature Center in the MPEA area along Middle Patuxent off Cedar Lane just north of MD 32. The county is proceeding to let a contract for a consultant to help with planning and design for center. Plans call for a charette to serve as an advisory board (~12 members). Several names as potential members have been put forward including Sally Ann Cooper, John Quinn (Env. Ed. Dept.), Tom Franklin, Justin Shaefer, Wes Earp, and Jo or Bob Solem. They are also considering asking Richard Smith and Richard Orr to get expertise on butterflies and odenates. The current thinking is to pursue this project as a fully funded initiative, vice a phased funding effort. Consideration of a building design that is "green" is high on desires but cost will be a trade factor. Bob surmises that Mark Raab wants to complete this project as a crowning achievement of his service before he retires so may push this project. Consideration is being given to a new association to support center.

Chapter Directors (Eve, Culler): No reports.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported making good progress on the club's web site introduction of a new photo page. Troubleshooting of problem experienced by users of Microsoft Explorer browser has been resolved. He passed around several sample printouts from site. He has photos for at least 179 species so far. See new business for discussion of policy for posting on photo pages.

Old Business

The posting of "old" issues of "The Goldfinch" as an archive on the web site was agreed to at last meeting, and Jeff and Bob had posted issues from the club years of 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. However Bob had sent an email to the Board asking for a policy decision on how "current" the archive should be. In his initial proposal Jeff had suggested posting prior issue as soon as the new issue was mailed, but Bob wanted the Board to discuss and formulate a position on "currency." It was pointed out that some articles are not published within one issue cycle. Also the newsletter has always been seen as one of the "benefits" of membership, so providing access to all (including non-members) to soon might detract from this benefit. It was pointed out that some publications wait and release electronic versions of a "Volume" after all issues are published. For the Goldfinch a club year (Sept through June) five issues compose a volume. Kate moved that we adopt a policy of posting the prior volume when the first issue of next

volume is mailed (so prior year will be posted in late Aug/early Sept. Motion was seconded and passed.

Reviewing the status of planning for the seed sale it was stated that Eileen Clegg wants to share the responsibility for running this coming fall seed sale with a new coordinator who would take responsibility for the sale in subsequent years. Shari Tomlinson may be interested. Jeff reported that he had spoken with Kathy Franklin at The Wildlife Authority and she is willing to host the club seed sale at the store again this year, but we must commit to having sufficient help available to unload and load seed for the entire sale (including early enough to be present when seed delivered).

New Business

Bob Solem had asked the Board to consider several questions on policies for posting photos on the club's web site Photo Page. He handed out a small sheet with the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of the Howard County Bird Club Photo Page/
 - a. Feature good photos of any and all birds taken anywhere,
 - b. Feature good photos of birds seen in Howard County,
 - c. Feature ONLY photos taken by HCBC members.
2. If photos taken by HCBC members are preferred (but not exclusive), how do we identify those pictures taken by HCBC members?
3. How do we screen photos and decide which to feature on the Photo Page?
4. Other considerations so individual pages that are part of the Photo Page load quickly: Number of photos on each page; size of individual photos on each page.

The Board recommended the purpose of the Photo Page should be item 1.b. As for items 2 and 3, the Board felt Bob's proposed approach which is to have the following note on the page will be an acceptable policy.

"Where possible, photographs taken in Howard County are used. (Birds photographed in Howard County show the location, date, and photographer's name. Birds photographed elsewhere show only the photographer's name.) If you have additional photos that may be posted to this web page, email [HCBC - Photos](#) with information about the photos and about you. All photographs must be sponsored by a Howard County Bird Club member.

Some of these photographs may be copyrighted by the photographer. Before reproducing or using any of these photographs, contact the photographer for permission. If you are unable to contact the photographer directly, send an email to the [Howard Bird Club](#) with the necessary information, and we will forward it to the photographer."

As for the last questions in item 4, the Board felt this should be left to Bob's discretion as the club's webmaster.

Action Items

- Continue efforts to find and solicit a new editor - Kevin
- Continue efforts to upload PDF versions of The Goldfinch newsletters to an archive location on the club web site for more historical volumes. This year's volume should be posted when the newsletter is mailed next September. – Jeff Friedhoffer & Bob
- Assume responsibility for the coordination of refreshments for club meeting next year. – Jeff Culler

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler	
November 17, 2005	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2006	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 23, 2006	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2006	-	Mary Jo Betts	
April 27, 2006	-	Kate Tufts	
May 25, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for April 27, 2006
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/05 – 4/22/06
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Operating Budget, 5/1/06 – 4/30/07
- Constitution and By-laws of the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. (MOS), Approved at the Howard County Bird Club Annual Meeting, April 13, 2006

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

APRIL 27, 2006

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Jeff*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Kevin*
6. Review of Action Items *Kevin*
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Sue*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
8. Old Business
 - Posting Newsletter on internet, how current?
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Seed Sale
 - Bob's questions about photos on web page
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location

Kate Tufts
2830 Duvall Rd
Woodbine, MD 21797
410-489-7052

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/05-4/30/06

	<u>Budget 2005/06</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		75.00	6,335.00
State Dues Paid		(150.00)	<u>(3,880.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,700.00		2,455.00
Contributions			130.00
Total Operating Income	<u>2,700.00</u>	<u>(75.00)</u>	<u>2,585.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		109.02
Donations		16.25	16.25 *
Website	150.00		159.95
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		425.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	175.00	16.56	153.70
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00	18.79	56.41
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		13.60
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00	27.28	102.08
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	486.47	1,030.84
Club Brochures	75.00		
Total Operating Expense	<u>2,700.00</u>	<u>565.35</u>	<u>2,066.85</u>
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			<u>518.15</u>
Seed Sale			
Income			7,313.80
Expense			<u>6,262.19</u>
Net Income from Seed Sale			1,051.61
Suet Sale			
Income			1,026.00
Expense			<u>48.86</u>
Net Income from Suet Sale			977.14
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			
			155.00
Total Available for Conservation Contributor:			<u>2,183.75</u> *
<i>(See Donations above - added to this amount)</i>			
Suet Sales for future Conservation Contributio		25.00	<u>46.00</u>
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			6,861.70
Interest Received		52.76	<u>460.12</u>
Balance			<u>7,321.82</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			<u>7,181.29</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			1,264.71
Savings			14,503.11
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>15,811.10</u>

*Donations to Conservation Projects:

American Bird Conservancy	2,000.00	(Preservation of Cerulean Warbler Habitat)
Habitat for Checkerspot Butterfly	100.00	(Montgomery County)
Alll Creatures Great & Small Wildlife Center	100.00	(Columbia, MD)

5/22/2006

E. Holdridge

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/06-4/30/07**

	Budget
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	-
Membership Dues (net)	2,500.00
Contributions	-
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,500.00
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	100.00
Special Supplies	
Postage, Copies	250.00
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00
Club Brochures	75.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,500.00

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. (MOS)

Approved at Howard County Bird Club Annual Meeting, April 13, 2006

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The name of this Club shall be the Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the Club. The popularized name is "Howard County Bird Club."

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1. The objectives and purposes of the Club are to function as a local chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., in the furtherance of the objectives and purposes of that Society as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, and said purposes and objectives shall conform to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Code).

Section 2. The Club is not organized, nor shall it be operated, for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to the members thereof, or to any private shareholder or individual. The property, assets, profits, and net income of the Club are irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of the property, assets, profits or net income of this Club shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. In the event of dissolution of the Club, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Club, dispose of the remaining assets by donation to the Maryland Ornithological Society, or its successor or, if unwilling or unable to accept said donation, dispose of all of the assets of the Club exclusively for the purpose of the Club in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. All funds not disposed of by above procedure shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of Howard County, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated for such purposes.

ARTICLE III - ANNUAL MEETING, MEMBERSHIP, DUES AND FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The regular April membership meeting shall be designated as the Club's annual meeting.

Section 2. In accordance with the Manual of Operation of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., there shall be the following classes of membership with rights, privileges and annual dues as set forth below:

A. Regular Membership. There are three categories of regular membership:

Single,
Household, and
Sustaining

B. Junior Membership

Junior membership is limited to persons under 18 years of age.

C. Chapter

At-large members or members of another MOS Chapter who wish to be members of the Howard Bird Club.

D. Special Memberships

Honorary and Life memberships

Section 3. In accordance with the Manual of Operation of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., the membership year begins September 1.

Section 4. Dues will be decided by the Board of Directors. Annual dues are payable at the beginning of the membership year. Members whose dues remain unpaid as of February 1 shall be dropped from membership, but may be reinstated upon payment of the current year's dues. In addition to the Club's dues, dues for membership in the Maryland Ornithological Society shall be collected when the Club dues are collected.

Section 5. In accordance with the Manual of Operation of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., the fiscal year begins May 1.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall constitute the managing board of the Chapter; as such it shall have the power and authority to carry out policies of the Chapter, as determined at annual meetings, and to conduct the business of the Chapter. The Board shall include two elected Chapter Directors, the elected State Directors, the appointed Standing Committee Chairs, the four (4) elected officers of the Club and the immediate past President of the Chapter. The majority of the board must be composed of elected members.

- Section 2. Elected officers and the state Directors shall be elected for a term of one year, and Chapter Directors shall be elected for a term of two years by a majority of the voting members of the Club present at the annual meeting. These terms shall be coincident with the Club's fiscal year. The time between the annual meeting and the beginning of the fiscal year shall provide a transition of authority. Chapter Director vacancies shall be filled by one or two year terms as needed to guarantee one two-year terms each year.
- Section 3. If vacancies exist whereby the Board has not the full complement of Directors or Officers, the Board may proceed to elect a Director or Officer to fill such vacancies and the Director or Officer so elected shall serve until the beginning of the next fiscal year. Said replacement shall stand for election at the next annual meeting.
- Section 4. There shall be at least six scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors in any one calendar year, but not more than one regular meeting in any one month. A schedule for the regular meetings shall be determined by the Board at its first regular meeting following the annual meeting of members.
- Section 5. The President (or if the President is absent, the Vice President) shall act as Chair at any meeting of the Board. In the absence of both the President and the Vice President, the Board shall designate any other member of the Board to act as Chair at such meeting.
- Section 6. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board.
- Section 7. Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the President or upon request of the majority of the full Board. Notice of a special meeting of the Board may be given by any means that insures a quorum will be present at the special meeting after a reasonable attempt has been made to contact all members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

- Section 1. The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The term of all officers shall be coincident with the Club's fiscal year. The time between the annual meeting and the beginning of the fiscal year shall provide a transition of authority.
- Section 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall perform all other functions of that office. The President may serve no more than two consecutive terms of office. There is no term limit for other officers.
- Section 3. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President.
- Section 4. The Secretary shall perform the usual functions of such office; keep accurate minutes of the Club's business meetings, and shall safely keep all such records. The Secretary shall, within a week of election, provide the Executive Secretary of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., with the names of the Club President and any additional State Directors pursuant to Article VII.
- Section 5. The Treasurer shall have custody of the Club's funds which shall be deposited in a bank in the name of the Club. The Treasurer shall report to the Board of Directors at its regular meetings or as requested. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual report on the financial condition of the Club along with a proposed budget for the coming year. The Treasurer shall also collect from the Club membership, their dues in the Maryland Ornithological Society and promptly remit such monies to the Treasurer of the Society.
- Section 6. All checks and drafts of the Club may be signed by the Treasurer or President, except neither may sign their own expense reimbursements.
- Section 7. These Officers shall be elected by a majority of the voting Club membership present at the annual meeting.
- Section 8. Any Officer of the Chapter may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the full Board of Directors. It is necessary to show cause for such removal from office.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

- Section 1. A Nominating Committee of at least three members shall be appointed by the President prior to the February meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to find a candidate for all open elected positions on the Board of Directors. Additional nominations may be submitted by any two members, with the consent of the nominee, at the March membership meeting. All nominations must be announced to the full membership not less than ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting.
- Section 2. Election shall be held at the annual membership meeting. The Chair of the Nominating Committee, or designee, shall preside over the elections.
- Section 3. Where only one candidate is nominated for an office, election shall be by acclamation vote. Where more than one candidate is nominated for an office, election shall be by majority vote by ballot of the members present and eligible to vote.
- Section 4. Eligibility to vote at the annual meeting shall be limited to all members who are certified by the Treasurer or Membership Chair, or show paid-up membership cards.

ARTICLE VII - DIRECTORS FOR THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

- Section 1. The Club President is a Director for the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
- Section 2. State Directors are nominated and elected in the same manner as the Club's officers.
- Section 3. In accordance with the By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., each chapter shall elect a Director for each one hundred members or part thereof, to serve with the Chapter President on the Board of Directors of MOS.

ARTICLE VIII - BOOKSTORE

- Section 1. So long as deemed beneficial to the Club by the Board of Directors, the Club shall operate a Bookstore for the convenience of the membership and other individuals and organizations who may be interested.
- Section 2. The President shall appoint a Bookstore Chair, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. The Bookstore shall operate within its allocated funds. The Chair shall be responsible for the Bookstore's day-to-day operation. Further, the Chair shall prepare a statement on the financial condition of the Bookstore for each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Section 4. The Chair shall have custody of the Bookstore funds which shall be deposited in a bank in the Club's name. Said account shall be independent of the Club's regular account maintained by the Treasurer.
- Section 5. All checks and drafts of the Bookstore may be signed by the Bookstore Chair, Club President or Treasurer. The Chair may not sign an expense reimbursement to the Chair.
- Section 6. The Chair shall maintain an inventory of goods and items for sale consistent with the objectives and purposes of the Club. Prices for such goods and items shall be set by the Chair with such pricing structures and policies reviewed at least annually by the Board of Directors.
- Section 7. The Board of Directors may transfer excess funds from Bookstore account to the Club's regular account, as appropriate.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

- Section 1. Annually, the Board of Directors shall prepare a list of committees.
- Section 2. The President shall appoint the Committee Chairs annually. All such appointments are subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors shall prepare a list of guidelines and goals for each Committee.
- Section 4. All Committees shall operate within the limits set by the Club budget.
- Section 5. Committee Chairs shall report to the Board of Directors, at least annually, on the status of their Committees. Additional status reports may be requested as needed by the Board of Directors.
- Section 6. Ad hoc committees may be appointed at any time by the President or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X – FINANCIAL MATTERS

- Section 1. A budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer, approved by the Board of Directors, and made available to the membership at the beginning of the fiscal year. Budget amendments, when necessary, will be approved by the Board.
- Section 2. Club revenues shall be sent to the Treasurer for appropriate bank deposit. Disbursements will be made by the Treasurer in accordance with the adopted budget. Disbursements for other items shall be authorized by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at its meeting or polled by the President.
- Section 3. Periodically the President shall appoint an Audit Committee to review the financial books of the Club.

ARTICLE XI - CHAPTER MEETINGS

- Section 1. There will be regular ~~monthly~~ meetings at a time and place suitable to the membership as determined by the Board of Directors.
- Section 2. Special business meetings of the Club shall be called by the President on the President's initiative, or upon request by not less than twenty percent of the Club members.
- Section 3. Notice of the time and place of each special business meeting shall be given all Club members not less than ten days prior thereto and shall state the purpose of the meeting. No business other than that so stated in the Notice may be transacted at any special meeting.
- Section 4. At all regular and special meetings of the Club, ten percent (10%) of the members eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XII - ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BY-LAWS OF THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

- Section 1. These By-Laws shall be construed and applied, and all functions of the Club hereunder shall be conducted subject to the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., as the same now exist and hereafter may be modified.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended, in any manner consistent with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc., by two-thirds vote of the Club members present and voting at any regular or special Club meeting, of which due notice setting forth the amendment shall have been given to the members not less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- Section 2. The Secretary shall accurately enter all amendments in the official Club records, and, in the proper location in the By-Laws, shall carefully note that a given Article and Section is modified by a certain amendment.
- Section 3. Members may obtain copies of the By-Laws and amendments from the Secretary.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 25, 2006

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Jeff Friedhoffer (& *Publicity*) √
Vice-president: Kevin Heffernan √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Jeff Culler (1st yr) √
Tracy Eve (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts

State Officers/Committees:

Past State President: Paul Zucker
Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Audio-visual: Tom Miller √
Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale/Scholarship: Eileen Clegg
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Suzanne Probst √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem

Others:

New Chapter Director: Ward Ebert √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 11, 2006 was ___ people. Dennis and Jane Coskren gave a program entitled "Costa Rican Natural History."

Officer's Reports

President (Friedhoffer): No reports.

Vice-President (Heffernan):

Action Item Review:

- Continue efforts to find and solicit a new editor - Amanda Witt has volunteered to be the editor for the Goldfinch. New Action: Sue Probst will contact her to arrange for working on the Fall newsletter together.
- Continue efforts to upload PDF versions of The Goldfinch newsletters to an archive location on the club web site for more historical volumes. This year's volume should be posted when the newsletter is mailed next September. – Bob has scanned Vol. 1-20 and provided a disk to Jeff Friedhoffer for upload. New Action: Jeff will upload to web.
- Assume responsibility for the coordination of refreshments for club meeting next year. – Jeff Culler has agreed to coordinate refreshments for the next club year.

Secretary (Stirrat):

The previous Minutes were accepted with no comments.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy distributed the attached report. She reminded the Board that since May 1 is the beginning of our next fiscal year the report is reinitialized. The only activity this month was payment of the Program honorarium and receipt of one new membership.

Past President (Schwarz): No report.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Friedhoffer, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie reported she would like to find a few trips that could be attended by members who have difficulty walking. She would like to accommodate this segment of the membership and provide them opportunities to participate in field trips. One possibility is feeder watch trips similar to ones done in past. To schedule these Bonnie would need to have volunteers with accessible feeders who would volunteer to host visits. At the Board meeting Sue Probst, Jeff Friedhoffer, Kevin Heffernan and Bonnie indicated they are potential volunteers for a feeder stop trip. It was discussed that making announcements about such a trip would need to clarify access available at stops, but be careful in wording what limitations might still be present.

Bonnie also reported that the success of weekday walks has motivated her to schedule as many as two such walks a month. She also is hoping to set up a Martin Luther King weekend trip again this coming year.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo summarized status of the atlas project. Generally Howard is in excellent shape going into the last season. Jeff Culler found a Bobwhite in West Friendship Park. June is a month to make a big final push to wrap up atlas.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Clegg): No report.

Newsletter (Probst):

No newsletter report, see new business discussion of County Fair.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report.

Chapter Directors (Eve, Culler): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported on the web photo project. He has photos for 213 species so far. Of these 157 are photos taken in Howard County. Bob is still seeking additional Howard County photos.

Old Business

Jeff reported that he had spoken to Ken Ulman concerning the MPEA Trotter Road project. Ken had expressed his opinion that the project would likely go through.

New Business

Sue Probst initiated a discussion of participation in the Howard County Fair this coming August. Sue feels she can't handle and that we need someone to coordinate and arrange for volunteers if we are going to participate. The Board wasn't overly committed to the benefit of continuing participation, but Jeff Friedhoffer agreed to

generate an email soliciting a volunteer for coordinator (action). If this produces a response Sue will provide her the material she has on who has to be contacted with the Fair Committee and past volunteers for manning booth. *Sec. Note: No volunteer appeared and the club did not participate in the 2006 fair.*

Jo Solem described the possibility of establishing a formal “Hawk Watch” at Meadowbrook Park. The site will likely have mulch vice a cement slab. The hope is that we can organize a regular manning of a hawk watch at the site for a portion of this fall’s migration season, say mid September to early November, and collect a season’s worth of data records. Ralph Geuder will hopefully coordinate activity, but multiple additional volunteers to man the site are needed. Ideas for possible participants should be sent to Jo, or ask them to contact her.

Next we discussed the idea of possibly generating an add-in page to put in the State MOS brochure as our club brochure for information and membership promotion. Other ideas put forward were that we might want to consider design of a business card with the web site address on it. It was suggested that we might not really need an add-in page, but could provide the MOS brochures with a Chapter label (with the web address) on it. Tom Miller volunteered to develop several alternative designs for a business card and a label for the brochures (Action). We would need multiple copies of the MOS brochures if this was to be our approach. Emy agreed to contact Janet Millenson about the availability of significant numbers of the MOS brochure (Action).

Jo then began a discussion of what the Board saw as the future of the “Birding Howard County” book that is now out of print. This is not pressing, but may well be a club activity after the Atlas project completes. One option is to not consider a formal reprint, but rather consider putting the material (updated) on our web site. This raises questions of how this would be done, and suggests that the current narrative format might not be appropriate for web. How would we revise content and format? All of us need to think about this as a project that would necessarily occur over several years. The web offers the potential of color and photographs being included. We might also include Rec and Parks maps and bird lists. This might also be a potential recruiting tool if there are people interested in web design and birds both. It was repeated this might be a club project FOLLOWING completion of the Atlas project.

Action Items

- Inform Amanda Witt that we welcome her volunteering as The Goldfinch editor. Contact her and arrange to work with her on her first issue (Sept/Oct issue). – Sue Probst
- Upload the scanned historical volumes of The Goldfinch to the web site. - Jeff Friedhoffer/Bob Solem
- Produce an email soliciting a volunteer for coordinating Howard County Fair participation. – Jeff Friedhoffer. (If positive response Sue Probst will supply volunteer with information)
- Prepare several potential business card/label designs for use on business cards and MOS brochure labels and distribute for Board review. – Tom Miller
- Contact state MOS (Janet Millenson) to determine availability of multiple copies of MOS brochure that we could use as our club brochure simply by adding a label with our web site address. – Emy Holdridge

Schedule for next year’s Board meetings:

September 28, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2006	-	Jeff Culler	
November 16, 2006	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2007	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 22, 2007	-	Jo Solem	
March 22, 2007	-	??	
April 26, 2007	-	??	
May 24, 2007	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2005	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2005	-	Jeff Culler	
November 17, 2005	-	Tracy Eve	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2006	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 23, 2006	-	Jo Solem	
March 23, 2006	-	Mary Jo Betts	
April 27, 2006	-	Kate Tufts	
May 25, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Board Agenda – May 25, 2006
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/06 – 5/23/06

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MAY 25, 2006

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Jeff*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Kevin*
6. Review of Action Items *Kevin*
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Sue*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
8. Old Business
 - Newsletter Editor
 - Status of Goldfinch on line & photos
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Howard County Fair – If participate and need for Coordinator
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location
Bonnie Ott
8664 Manahan Dr
Ellicott City 21043
410-461-3361

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/06-5/23/06

	Budget 2006/07	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		30.00	30.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		30.00
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,500.00	30.00	30.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00		
Club Brochures	75.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,500.00	50.00	50.00
<i>Gain/Loss-Operating Fund</i>			<i>(20.00)</i>
Suet Sales for future Conservation Contribution			46.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,321.82
Interest Received		46.69	46.69
Balance			7,368.51
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			7,181.29
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			1,214.71
Savings			14,549.80
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			15,807.79

E. Holdridge
5/23/2006

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2006

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*)
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

State Officers/Committees:

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 14 was ___ people. Patty Reed and Paul Baicich gave a program entitled "Birdsong and Coffee: A Wake up Call." At the regular meeting, one our chapter members, Sherry Tomlinson, submitted a report of her experiences at the Field Ornithology Workshop, June 25, 2006 – July 1, 2006, Hog Island, Maine Audubon Society. Sherry attended the workshop on an MOS scholarship and wanted to share her experience and express her appreciation for the club supporting her application for the scholarship.

Officer's Reports

President (Heffernan): Kevin had no opening remarks.

Vice-President (Miller):

Tom mentioned a new article reporting another Ivory-billed Woodpecker sighting in Florida had been published.

Review of Action Items:

- Inform Amanda Witt that we welcome her volunteering as The Goldfinch editor. Contact her and arrange to work with her on her first issue (Sept/Oct issue). – Sue Probst - COMPLETE First issue was delivered on time and Amanda reported on newsletter at this meeting (see below).
- Upload the scanned historical volumes of The Goldfinch to the web site. - Jeff Friedhoffer/Bob Solem - COMPLETE
- Produce an e-mail soliciting a volunteer for coordinating Howard County Fair participation. – Jeff Friedhoffer. (If positive response Sue Probst will supply volunteer with information) – COMPLETE. The e-mail was sent and no volunteer responded, so we did not participate in this past summer's fair.

- Prepare several potential business card/label designs for use on business cards and MOS brochure labels and distribute for Board review. – Tom Miller - COMPLETE Tom will print on a few brochures and provide copies for Board to review by next meeting.
- Contact state MOS (Janet Millenson) to determine availability of multiple copies of MOS brochure that we could use as our club brochure simply by adding a label with our web site address. – Emy Holdridge – COMPLETE Emy reported we now had 1000 copies of the brochure for our use as Howard handout.

Secretary (Stirrat): The Minutes of previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was not present and no report was provided.

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report provided.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): See Jo Solem’s report below.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie reported that she has been having problem with Field Trip not proof-reading the write-up for their specific field trip. Although she tries, she has to depend on them providing the final confirmation of day/date consistency, meeting place and time, etc. Need to emphasize this to field trip leader volunteers. She also is finding it difficult to answer phone queries on trips due to her work schedule. If a volunteer were found who is home more we could shift responsibility for answering general phone queries about trips. For now we will delete Bonnie’s phone number in field trip lead-in and just provide her e-mail address. She feels she can handle responding to general queries on e-mail, as that doesn’t require her to be home when a query is received. The individual trip leaders phone numbers are with there individual write-up and they are better prepared to queries relative to their specific trip.

There are multiple volunteer announcements relative to field trips that should be made at upcoming meetings. If someone would like to serve as an Assistant Field Trip Coordinator, Bonnie would welcome it. Field trip leaders are always needed, and we should seek to have people volunteer to act as a co-leader. This may draw in a few additional volunteers who don’t feel comfortable as a sole leader. In addition a second leader adds the option to have someone focus on newer birders and “work” the end of the line when the trip spreads out. Lastly if someone wants to volunteer to coordinate a Martin Luther King weekend out of county trip, we could reinstate that tradition.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that the goal is to get the remaining data entered and begin analysis as quickly as possible. Most Howard County data has been entered. She passed around a synopsis of results to date. She mentioned that Block coordinators are asked to put together a set of notes and hints on what areas (by Quarterblock) were best places to find species. This is intended to assist with any future atlas work. Bonnie asked is we should have a “wrap-up.” Jo thought maybe holding a combined review and “social” gathering might be good early next year. In response to a question Jo indicated that the plan is to publish a book with Atlas results (less extensive that last Atlas). In addition the data will be available electronically on the web to support research and analysis.

Past President/Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): See old business.

Newsletter (Witt):

Amanda reported that her first issue of The Goldfinch had gone out, and there were several comments in reply that it looked great. She reported that she already had many of the inputs for the Nov-Dec issue. Kevin had prepared the seed sale article and included an expression of thanks to Cathy Franklin of The Wildlife Authority for hosting the sale. Bob offered Amanda the suggestion that she could ask for small “filler” items that didn’t have to be in any particular issue, but would help in layout when needed.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported the club web site now has scanned copies of all prior year copies of the newsletter, going back to Volume 1. In addition he has continued to populate the bird photos section of the site and it has pictures for most species. Additional photos are still requested.

Old Business

See Webmaster report for follow-up to discussion of newsletter archives and photo collections from prior meetings.

New Business

It was reported that Sherry Tomlinson has finalized plans for the seed sale, with pickup to be on November 4 at The Wildlife Authority. Orders are to be in by October 27. The upcoming newsletter has an article by Kevin on the sale. Bob passed around a copy of the seed sale flyer. We discussed the need to have sufficient volunteers to help with loading seed (and unloading from truck if at a different time). Arrangements to place the seed under an adjacent store awning has been made. We all expressed the hope we wouldn’t have rain as heavy as last year. The date of the sale does conflict with Ralph Cullison’s field trip to Alpha Ridge.

Jo initiated a discussion of a future club project that would involve developing the updated content for and then implementing a web version of the “Birding Howard County” book. She expressed the opinion this seems more appealing than trying to publish an updated book and selling it. She sees two options of how we might proceed. 1) We could move to post current version relatively quickly (without updates) and revise it as time permits. OR 2) Wait and only post revisions as they are updated. Discussion ensued but the general consensus seemed to favor the second option, since some of the current material is quite dated. Many of the location accounts are out of date, and posting them would be a disservice. Some of the material shouldn’t take long to update and could be posted first (e.g., Year in Howard County would only take minor revisions and provides very useful tips on when to watch for various species.) Jo asked whether we should try and identify individual responsibilities for places or allow “committees” to work various locations. The latter probably leads to some places being well covered and a few less popular ones being ignored, but the consensus was that we probably get more support if we don’t try and coerce coverage of areas but let people work on areas they like best. Only public areas are included. (Note that Mt. Pleasant is now open to the public on Friday and Saturday.) Other ideas mentioned included; insert photo links in content, perhaps provide minimal directions on how to get to locations initially (before full content available), possibility of having MapQuest or other web map links in lieu of directions to location, seek Howard Rec and Parks assistance on getting park maps/aerial photos, embed links to web sites that include additional information on site (e.g., Park & Recs / Mt. Pleasant), use of GPS surveys to get better definition of trail locations on maps, on-line checklist for a site if available. Jo and Bob took an action item to work up a more formal proposal on how to proceed.

Bob then introduce the Board to an initiative he has been working on to permit Field Trip leaders to input the trip report using an electronic form and generate an electronic copy of the report. He distributed a page showing

the envisioned concept. The plan involves a web form for input, after data entry submitting the form generates an email that forwards results to the webmaster, who then processes it to generate a formal report that can be posted on the web site as a PDF file. His initial version doesn't support collecting numbers seen, just species, but he believes that he will be able to do numbers as well. He has a far future goal of getting the historical data (Bonnie's notebooks) entered and available on the web. We might solicit volunteers to spread the data entry load. Another suggestion proposed during this discussion was to provide copies of the Park Checklists on the website for download.

Bob said when he asked to upgrade our web hosting plan to Yahoo Plus last year, he didn't dream that he'd be asking so soon to consider the next level upgrade, Yahoo Pro, but he stated that accomplishing these projects would benefit from us having the expanded capability. He passed around a handout showing the comparison between the Plus and Pro plans. The monthly cost of Pro is \$8.95 vice \$4.95 for Plus. He indicated we don't need to do this immediately but should consider doing it when our introductory price for Plus expires. *Put this on agenda for future meeting?*

Action Items

- Make announcements of volunteer opportunities associated with field trips at regular club meeting(s). (Volunteer opportunities: 1) Handle general field trip phone queries, 2) Asst. Field Trip Coordinator, 3) Act as co-leader on a trip, 4) Coordinate arrangements for MLK weekend trip) – Kevin Heffernan
- Announce that Nordstrom's Express Café has a daily Fair Trade Coffee (different variety each day) sold by the cup at upcoming meeting. – Kevin Heffernan
- Make arrangements for handling newsletter exchanges with Carroll and Anne Arundel chapters - Kevin Heffernan provide information to Amanda Witt and Bob Solem
- Prepare formal proposal on how to proceed with web version of "Birding Howard County." No earlier than Jan 2007 – Jo and Bob Solem
- Begin keeping records and thinking of updated content for the web project - ALL
- Solicit volunteers to work on seed sale at October regular meeting – Heffernan/Tomlinson
- Provide Kevin an example of multi-year seasonal count spreadsheet – Bob Solem
- Act as secretary at the Oct 26 Board meeting - Karen Darcy

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2006	-	Jeff Culler	
November 16, 2006	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2007	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 22, 2007	-	Jo Solem	
March 22, 2007	-	??	
April 26, 2007	-	??	
May 24, 2007	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Board Meeting Agenda – September 28, 2006
- Seed Sale Flyer
- Trip Report by Trip Leader - Sample
- Yahoo Plus/Pro Comparison

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

September 28, 2006

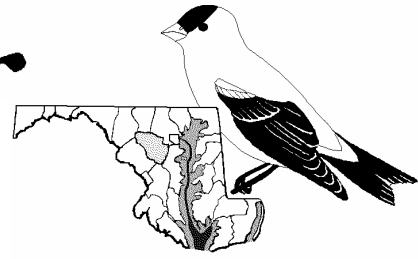
1. Introduction
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. President's Remarks *Kevin*
5. Vice President's Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
8. Old Business
 - Status of Goldfinch on line & photos
 -
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Web Changes
 - Seed sale
 -
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location
Bonnie Ott
8664 Manahan Dr
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-461-3361



Howard

*A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society*



Howard County Bird Club **sells seed for the birds!** ...and the profits benefit the birds in many ways:

International Organizations	Maryland Projects	Public Education	Breeding Bird Atlases	Bird Rehabilitators
<p>Many Maryland breeding bird species migrate each year to Mexico, and Central or South America.</p> <p>Monteverde Cloud Forest (Costa Rica)</p> <p>Sierra de las Minas (Guatemala)</p> <p>Bladen Mountain Nature Reserve (Belize)</p> <p>Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve (Guatemala)</p> <p>American Bird Conservancy's "Rivers of Raptors"</p> <p>El Chorogo Refuge (Panama)</p> <p>Foundation ProAves (protection of Cerulean Warbler in Colombia)</p>	<p>Without preserved habitat here in Maryland, there would be no place for the birds to breed. And that means saving total ecosystems.</p> <p>Committee to Preserve Assateague</p> <p>Irish Grove Sanctuary</p> <p>Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area</p> <p>Old Growth Forest Project, Frostburg U.</p> <p>Middle Patuxent Environmental Area</p> <p>Clegg Meadow</p> <p>Maryland "Marshes to Mountains" campaign</p>	<p>Just as you have learned more about birds by feeding them, so many members of the public have gained a greater appreciation of nature by our efforts.</p> <p>Centennial Park Bulletin Board</p> <p>Maryland Parks Foundation</p> <p>Mt. Pleasant butterfly garden</p> <p>Display cabinets for bird collection (at Howard County Dept of Rec & Parks headquarters)</p>	<p>If we do not know what has been happening here in Maryland over time, we cannot anticipate change. See MD/DC BBA 2002-2006 page on our web site.</p> <p>Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 1983-1987</p> <p>Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 2002-2006</p>	<p>When native birds get sick or have accidents, we want to be able to take them to people trained in proper care.</p> <p>All Creatures Great and Small: (301) 596-0044</p>
			<p>With \$58,000 to date!</p> <p>See www.howardbirds.org/howard/seedsale.htm</p>	

FILL OUT THE ORDER FORM ON THE SECOND PAGE

MAIL THE ORDER FORM BY OCT 27, 2006

ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID

NO TELEPHONE ORDERS

SEED PICKUP DATE —NOV 4, 2006

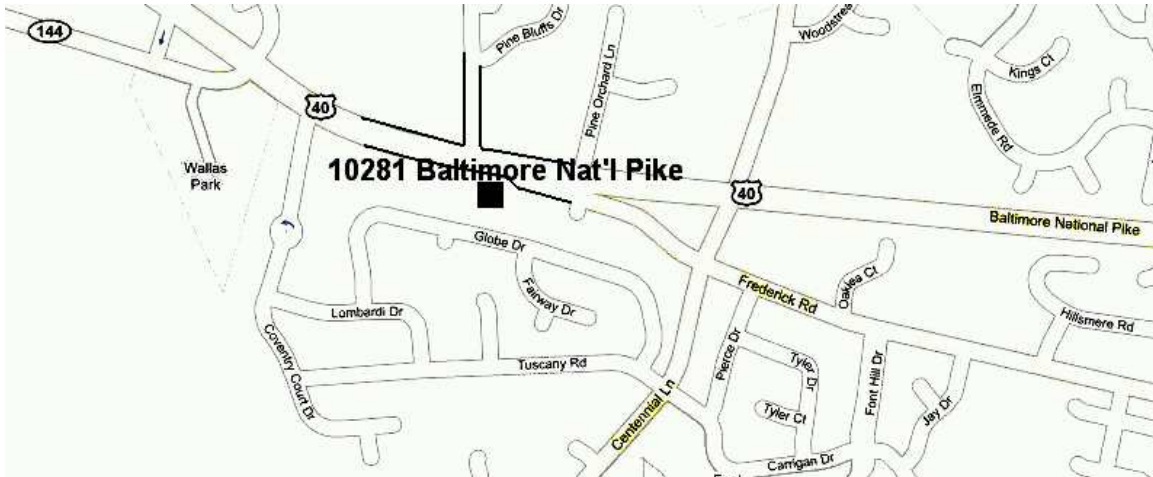
PRINT COPIES OF THE ORDER FORM
for your friends, neighbors, and co-workers!

INFORMATION ABOUT ORDERING SEED: Order your seed in advance and include your payment! The seed sale has been successful because everyone orders in advance. Use the order blank below, and **mail it to Sherry Tomlinson no later than Friday, October 27, 2006!**

PICKUP INFO: Coordinator: Sherry Tomlinson (410) 799-4808 (Email: stmail1@verizon.net). **Pick up the seed from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, November 4, 2006 at the Wildlife Authority.** PICK UP ALL SEED ON THE DAY OF THE SALE. Seed not picked up will be sold; customers will receive a refund minus a \$5.00 fee.

PROCEDURE: Go into the store to get your receipt. Drive around to the back of the store *after* you get your receipt. Don't miss a chance inside the store to compare notes with others who enjoy birds.

NEW LOCATION:



SPECIAL BONUS: Anyone purchasing seed on Nov 4 will receive a 15% coupon to use in the *Wildlife Authority* on that day *only*.

JOIN THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB: Use the line below marked *Howard County Bird Club Membership*. The cost is \$45 for a household (everyone at one address) or \$30 for an individual membership.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR HABITAT PRESERVATION: Your special contributions also help. Include a separate check along with your seed order to the Howard County Bird Club for this *tax-deductible contribution*. Mark your separate check for **HABITAT PRESERVATION**.



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB AUTUMN SEED SALE 2006



Bags	Weight	Seed (Net cost + Md. sales tax)	Cost Each	Total
_____	20 lbs.	Woodpecker Mix (\$20.95+1.05)	@ \$22.00	_____
_____	25 lbs.	Black Oil Sunflower (\$9.05+0.45)	@ 9.50	_____
_____	25 lbs.	Sunflower Chips (hulled; \$20.95+1.05)	@ 22.00	_____
_____	25 lbs.	White Millet (\$9.05+0.45)	@ 9.50	_____
_____	5 lbs.	Nyjer Thistle Seed (\$6.19+0.31)	@ 6.50	_____
_____	5 lbs.	Split Peanuts (\$4.76+0.24)	@ 5.00	_____
_____	20 lbs.	Safflower (\$12.38+0.62)	@ 13.00	_____
_____	10 oz.	Pure Suet (\$1.91+0.09)	@ 2.00	_____
_____	20 lbs.	Songbird Choice Mix (\$9.52+0.48)	@10.00	_____
_____		Howard County Bird Club Membership		_____

ORDER BY OCT 27, 2006

SEED PICKUP DATE —NOV 4, 2006

TOTAL _____

**ORDERS MUST BE PREPAID
NO TELEPHONE ORDERS**

Make checks payable to Howard County Chapter-MOS.

<p>Make checks payable to Howard County Chapter-MOS. <i>Mail to</i> Howard Co. Bird Club Seed Sale Sherry Tomlinson 6507 New Castle Lane Elkridge MD 21075 (410) 799-4808 Email: stmail1@verizon.net</p>	<p><u>Identifying information</u> NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY/ST _____ ZIP _____ PHONE NUMBER PLEASE! () _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____</p>
---	---

_____ This is my first order. Add my name to your mailing list.

_____ **YES!** I would like to volunteer: _____ Loading; _____ Desk

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2006

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

State Officers/Committees:

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Culler. Total number in attendance was 8. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 12, 2006 was ___ people. Phil Davis gave a program entitled "Maryland's Next Species."

Officer's Reports

President (Heffernan): Kevin had no opening remarks.

Vice-President (Miller): Tom had no remarks.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Make announcements of volunteer opportunities associated with field trips at regular club meeting(s). (Volunteer opportunities: 1) Handle general field trip phone queries, 2) Asst. Field Trip Coordinator, 3) Act as co-leader on a trip, 4) Coordinate arrangements for MLK weekend trip) – Kevin Heffernan – **Not completed, will be done at November meeting.**
- Announce that Nordstrom's Express Café has a daily Fair Trade Coffee (different variety each day) sold by the cup at upcoming meeting. – Kevin Heffernan - **Not completed, will be done at November meeting.**
- Make arrangements for handling newsletter exchanges with Carroll and Anne Arundel chapters - Kevin Heffernan will provide information to Amanda Witt and Bob Solem – **COMPLETE –it was noted that the Carroll chapter document received was a list of trips and not a newsletter so only Anne Arundel will get the newsletter. Discussion resulted in a new action item (see below).**
- Prepare formal proposal on how to proceed with web version of "Birding Howard County." No earlier than Jan 2007 – Jo and Bob Solem – **Not due yet. Discussion indicated this action should be only for Bob.**

- Begin keeping records and thinking of updated content for the web project – ALL – **ONGOING (Note: discussion included that this is really not an action item).**
- Solicit volunteers to work on seed sale at October regular meeting – Heffernan/Tomlinson – **COMPLETE – Discussion indicated that there are enough volunteers for the Seed Sale but Kevin will check with Sherry to see if she needs helpers to unload the seed.**
- Provide Kevin an example of multi-year seasonal count spreadsheet – Bob Solem - **COMPLETE**
- Act as secretary at the Oct 26 Board meeting - Karen Darcy - **COMPLETE**

Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy distributed and reviewed the Treasurer's report for 5/1/06 – 10/25/06 which includes all activity from May to date (see attached). Membership dues are coming in; three packets of applications have been reviewed. A general contribution of \$160 (use not designated) has been received as well as another check for \$ 40 for the same purpose. These will be put into the Mountjoy Fund. State MOS dues have not yet been paid but will be on Nov. 1. The miscellaneous expense on the report was for batteries for A/V equipment. The bookstore report was provided on the back page of the Treasurer's report – Emy commented that this was the first year the bookstore has had a loss since Anne Marie has been managing it. The signatures on the bank account need to be changed and to do this Emy needs copies of Kevin and Tom's driver's licenses, and their home and daytime phone numbers, and Social Security numbers. She still needs to find out what T. Rowe Price will need to change the signatures on the Club accounts that are there (Reserve and Marjorie Mountjoy).

State Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): There was no report provided

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): Jane was not present and no report was provided.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Chapter Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie was not present and no report was provided. Discussion of a possible January field trip over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend included whether Kate Tufts might be willing to plan it. Kevin will contact her about this. Tom Miller volunteered to help Kate if she is willing to take the lead on the planning.

Programs (Geuder): No report

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Jo reported that she had just gotten more data from Mark Wallace and will send out questions to the Block Leaders to resolve any issues on the data received.

Past President/Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report but see prior and new action items.

Newsletter (Witt):

Amanda has added Marcia Balestri to distribution list for Newsletter.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Discussion noted that Maureen Harvey had emailed an alert about Question 1 on the ballot for the general election. The question was raised whether such an email notification could be done again in the future for significant issues and the consensus was yes, provided that it is a non-political (partisan) issue and the wording was "... the Board of Directors suggests that". The emails about the Thunder Hill Park Alliance were discussed and it was agreed that the Board did not want to get involved with this. Paul Baicich's request for donations of optical equipment for rainforest conservation projects was discussed and it was agreed that an article about this should be put in the next newsletter. Emy mentioned that a state MOS member has made a challenge donation for a rainforest conservation project and that there would be an article about this in the next issue of Yellowthroat. She indicated that no action was needed unless/until this happens.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob Solem presented an example of the on-line form that field trip leaders could use to report the results of their field trips online on the club website. There was discussion of whether leaders would prefer to have species that require write-ups be highlighted at the bottom of the list or left off the list. Bob also presented a summary sheet that described the cost and features of the current and the proposed upgraded web service (the upgrade is required to provide on-line forms for field trip results). The proposed upgraded web service would only cost \$4 more per month and was approved. Bob will proceed with getting the upgrade.

Old Business

"Birding Howard County" on the web: Jo will email copies of "Birding Year in Howard County" to several Club members for comments and feedback. The version to be sent is the one that is in the book. Next, she will work on the species accounts. In the next couple of weeks, she will make a list of birding sites, get directions to them and have that put onto the web.

Membership forms: Bob stated that it is time to follow-up with members who have not yet renewed. He suggested that he should first email them, then send out a follow-up mailing, and then give the list of those who still have not renewed to Ward and Jeff to make follow-up phone calls. This approach was agreed to.

New Business

Seed Sale: This was covered earlier in the meeting.

Pigeons, Rats, and Roaches: There was discussion about possibly putting an article about this CD by Al McKegg into the next newsletter but it was agreed that this would be commercialization and therefore would not be done.

Hawk watching form: Ralph Gueder is preparing this form.

Number of brochures and checklists needed from MOS: The club currently has about 1250 brochures and checklists which were given to Anne Marie to sell at the Bookstore. It was agreed that the quantities of these are sufficient for now.

Volunteer for MOS list serve: Kevin mentioned that MOS is looking for a volunteer for this. It was agreed that he will get a list of positions for which MOS needs volunteers to Amanda to include in the next newsletter.

Tourism Council of Howard County: Jo updated the group on Rachel Brocolino's efforts to prepare a brochure on Howard County nature topics. She has been connected with Sue Muller and there was a recent meeting on this in Ellicott City attended by staff from DNR, Patapsco Valley State Park, and Howard County Rec. and Parks Dept.

Hosting a MOS Board of Directors meeting: This was discussed and it was agreed if we volunteer to do it, someone will need to coordinate making arrangements and providing refreshments. Emy will let Kevin know the dates for the March and June meetings and then Karen will check with Ho.Co. Rec. and Parks to see if a room is available there on these dates. If it is agreed to do this, Kevin will ask for a volunteer coordinator at the next regular club meeting.

MOS needs a volunteer from the club to be responsible for the "Chapter Chatter" column for Howard County for the MD Yellowthroat. Kevin will ask for a volunteer at the next club meeting.

Emy brought a CD of the Warbler Workshop given by Mike Bowen at the MOS Conference this year that is the Club's copy and cannot be duplicated. There was discussion of how to share/present this with Club members. Because it takes several hours to present, the consensus was to offer it on a Saturday, probably either at the library or at Rec and Parks. However, Kevin and Tom will review it to see if it can be presented in shorter segments (possibly at regular Club meetings)

Jo showed two Certificates of Appreciation made by John Malcolm that will be presented to two Howard County landowners who have made significant contributions to the Atlas but do not want their names in the Atlas publication.

Howard County Nature Center: Jo is on the Advisory Committee for this and updated the group on plans and current status for the Nature Center. It will be located on the west side of Cedar Lane at the Middle Patuxent River. An architectural firm has been selected (the same one that did the Mount Vernon Visitor's Center in Virginia) and the plan is to break ground in late 2007 and open in 2009. It will be connected to a historical exhibit at Old Simpsonville (the old mill) and when operating, will have vans/busses to transport school children to other locations (like the main area of Middle Patuxent Environmental Area and Mount Pleasant).

Action Items:

- Bring bird feeders from the suet sale to the next regular club meeting (Nov.) in case anyone wants to buy them (two were sold at the Oct. meeting) – Kevin Heffernan
- Provide Emy with copies of driver's licenses, home phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and daytime phone numbers. – Kevin Heffernan and Tom Miller
- Determine what T. Rowe Price will need to change the signatures on the accounts that are there (Reserve and Marjorie Mountjoy) – Emy Holdridge
- Email other chapter Presidents to see if they want to exchange newsletters – Kevin Heffernan
- Kevin will check with Sherry Tomlinson to see if she needs helpers to unload the seed for the Seed Sale - Kevin Heffernan
- Invite Sherry Tomlinson to next Board of Directors meeting to discuss Seed Sale – Kevin Heffernan
- Call Kate Tufts to see if she is willing to plan a weekend field trip over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. – Kevin Heffernan
- Email Paul Baicich to ask if he will write an article for the next newsletter about donations of optical equipment for the rainforest conservation projects with which he is involved – Kevin Heffernan
- Upgrade the web service for the club website. – Bob Solem

- To follow-up with members who have not renewed, Bob will first email them, then send out a follow-up mailing, and then give the list of those who still have not renewed to Ward and Jeff to make follow-up phone calls – Bob Solem
- Get a list of positions for which MOS needs volunteers to Amanda to include in the next newsletter – Kevin Heffernan
- Let Kevin know the dates for the March and June meetings – Emy Holdridge
- Check with Howard County Rec.and Parks to see if a room is available there on the dates for the two next MOS Board of Directors meetings – Karen Darcy
- Ask for a volunteer coordinator for hosting the MOS Board meeting if the Board decides to do this – Kevin Heffernan
- Ask for a volunteer to be responsible for Chapter Chatter for the Yellowthroat at the next club meeting – Kevin Heffernan
- Review the Warbler Workshop CD to see if it can be presented in shorter segments - Kevin Heffernan/Tom Miller

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2006	-	Jeff Culler	
November 16, 2006	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2007	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 22, 2007	-	Jo Solem	
March 22, 2007	-	??	
April 26, 2007	-	??	
May 24, 2007	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/06 – 10/25/06
- Bookstore Report June 2005 – May 2006
- Comparison of Plus (current) and Pro (upgraded) webservice for Club website

Minutes prepared by:

Karen Darcy,
Howard County MOS, State Director

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/06-10/25/06

	<u>Budget 2006/07</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		3,935.00	3,965.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		<u>3,965.00</u>
Contributions		160.00	160.00
Total Operating Income	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>4,095.00</u>	<u>4,125.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	78.91	78.91
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	100.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00	3.30	3.30
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	215.93	215.93
Club Brochures	75.00		
Miscellaneous		5.36	5.36
Total Operating Expense	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>353.50</u>	<u>403.50</u>
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			<u>3,721.50</u>
Seed Sale			
Income		69.44	69.44
Expense			
Flyers			
Seed			
Sales Tax			
Total Expense			
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			
Contributions to Habitat Conservation		15.00	15.00
Suet & Feeder Sales for future Conservation Contribution			56.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,321.82
Interest Received		286.94	333.63
Balance			<u>7,655.45</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>7,181.29</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,924.04
Savings			14,836.74
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>19,804.06</u>

E. Holdridge
10/25/2006

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

BOOKSTORE REPORT

June 2005 - May 2006

Income	834.00
Expense	<u>1,268.96</u>
Gain/Loss	<u><u>(434.96)</u></u>
Inventory on hand	2,500.00 (est)
Bank Balance	1,466.35
Sales Tax Paid	41.70

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[Business Mail](#) - \$9.95/month

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[Plus](#)

[Sign Up](#)



[Pro](#)

[Sign Up](#)

Price

Monthly [service fee](#)

\$4.95

\$8.95

One-time [setup fee](#)

\$10.00

\$15.00

Blogging

Yahoo! 360° blogging tool

Yes

Yes

Personalized Domain Name

Free registration for your own [domain name](#)

Yes

Matching [email accounts](#)

5

[Business Edition](#) email

Matching web site [subdomains](#)

5

For Your Visitors

[Data transfer](#) (bandwidth)

25GB

100GB

[Ad-free](#) site

Yes

Yes

Customizable site [search](#)

Customizable [error pages](#)

Web Site Management

[Disk space](#) for storing files

500MB

2GB

[FTP](#) for putting files on the server

Yes

Yes

[Remote loading](#) of your files on another web site

Yes

Yes

Free [PageBuilder](#) and [PageWizard](#) tools

Yes

Yes

[Site Wizard](#) tool - 20 small business templates

Scripting and database tools ([PHP](#), [Perl](#), and [MySQL](#))

Yes

Email

Email [storage](#) (per account)

1GB

[Integration](#) with Yahoo! Mail inbox

Yes

[POP and SMTP](#) email access

Yes

Email [forwards](#)

Yes

[Vacation responders](#)

Yes

[Default delivery](#)

[No ads](#) on messages you send

Yes

[No ads](#) while reading or composing messages

Site Security

[Password-protected](#) user accounts
 Raw [access logs](#) for seeing who visits your site
 Regular site [backups](#) and restores

Customer Support

Online Help site	Yes	Yes
Priority email	Yes	Yes

Web Site Packages

Plus	Pro
Sign Up	Sign Up

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Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 16, 2006

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (*& Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck/Yellowthroat: Sue Probst √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*also Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Ward Ebert. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 9 was ___ people. Dr. Cynthia Sims Parr gave a program entitled "From Crow Family Soap Operas to Online Biodiversity."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes that had been prepared by Karen Darcy were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy passed out the treasurer's report (attached). She has paid the first installment of state dues. And we received one additional undesignated contribution for \$50. In addition she passed out the attached summary of seed sale results for this and the prior 3 years sale. Proceeds are up from last year, and we also received approximately \$270 in contributions. It looks as if we should have roughly \$1500 for this year's donation. As to when the project needs to be selected, Emy said her goal is that the check be written before the end of the club fiscal year in April. It was agreed we would begin the process after the 1st of year..

President's Remarks (Heffernan):

Kevin had no opening remarks and proceeded with the rest of agenda (attached).

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller):

Tom had no opening remarks.

Review of Action Items:

- Make announcements of volunteer opportunities associated with field trips at regular club meeting(s). (Volunteer opportunities: 1) Handle general field trip phone queries, 2) Asst. Field Trip Coordinator, 3) Act as co-leader on a trip, 4) Coordinate arrangements for MLK weekend trip) – Kevin Heffernan – **COMPLETE.**

- Announce that Nordstrom's Express Café has a daily Fair Trade Coffee (different variety each day) sold by the cup at upcoming meeting. – Kevin Heffernan - **COMPLETE**.
- Prepare formal proposal on how to proceed with web version of “Birding Howard County.” No earlier than Jan 2007 –Bob Solem – **Not due yet**.
- Bring bird feeders from the suet sale to the next regular club meeting (Nov.) in case anyone wants to buy them (two were sold at the Oct. meeting) – Kevin Heffernan – **COMPLETE**.
- Provide Emy with copies of driver's licenses, home phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and daytime phone numbers. – Kevin Heffernan and Tom Miller - **Completed paperwork to change signature authority on Bank accounts following the meeting. Tom needs to send Emy copy of his driver's license so she can complete the change with the bank.**
- Determine what T. Rowe Price will need to change the signatures on the accounts that are there (Reserve and Marjorie Mountjoy) – Emy Holdridge - **PENDING**
- Email other chapter Presidents to see if they want to exchange newsletters – Kevin Heffernan - **PENDING**
- Kevin will check with Sherry Tomlinson to see if she needs helpers to unload the seed for the Seed Sale - Kevin Heffernan – **COMPLETE**.
- Invite Sherry Tomlinson to next Board of Directors meeting to discuss Seed Sale – Kevin Heffernan - **COMPLETE**
- Call Kate Tufts to see if she is willing to plan a weekend field trip over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. – Kevin Heffernan - **COMPLETE, see field trip report below**
- Email Paul Baicich to ask if he will write an article for the next newsletter about donations of optical equipment for the rainforest conservation projects with which he is involved – Kevin Heffernan – **COMPLETE, article written and submitted for next newsletter**
- Upgrade the web service for the club website. – Bob Solem – **IN PROGRESS, initiated but not yet up and running**
- To follow-up with members who have not renewed, Bob will first email them, then send out a follow-up mailing, and then give the list of those who still have not renewed to Ward and Jeff to make follow-up phone calls – Bob Solem - **IN PROGRESS, emails sent, Bob will send remaining names to Ward and Jeff who will split lists and begin making calls. Emy will notify them as she receives renewals.**
- Get a list of positions for which MOS needs volunteers to Amanda to include in the next newsletter – Kevin Heffernan - **COMPLETE**
- Let Kevin know the dates for the March and June State MOS Board meetings – Emy Holdridge - **COMPLETE**
- Check with Howard County Rec.and Parks to see if a room is available there on the dates for the two next MOS Board of Directors meetings – Karen Darcy – **IN PROGRESS, see Old Business below**
- Ask for a volunteer coordinator for hosting the MOS Board meeting if the Board decides to do this – Kevin Heffernan - **PENDING**

- Ask for a volunteer to be responsible for Chapter Chatter for the Yellowthroat at the next club meeting – Kevin Heffernan – **COMPLETE, Kate Tufts volunteered, and will contact Jean Wheeler who is Chapter Chatter editor for the Yellowthroat.**
- Review the Warbler Workshop CD to see if it can be presented in shorter segments - Kevin Heffernan/Tom Miller – **IN PROGRESS, see New Business below**

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie was not present, but Kevin reported that Kate Tufts has agreed to coordinate a Martin Luther King weekend (Jan 13-15) trip to the Delaware shore. Tom Miller will assist with coordination and planning. The preliminary plans are to leave Howard County Saturday morning and spend two nights in the same lodging near Lewes, Delaware, returning late Monday afternoon. Kate will recommend lodging but individuals will be responsible for making their own reservations. Probably one day the group will go north along the shore and another day south. Kate and Tom will scout likely birding sites and restaurants. Group size will likely be limited to about 15. Kate should have Bonnie include in the Jan/Feb newsletter field trip listings, but not in the Yellowthroat. An announcement of the trip will be made at December club meeting.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): No report.

Past President/Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson):

Sherry thanked all the volunteers who helped make her first sale as seed sale coordinator a success. Everyone agreed that she had done an exceptional job, and that the sale was a great success, even given the planning process got off to a late start. Kevin reported that he had emailed Kathy Franklin (of The Wildlife Authority) asking for her feedback on how the sale had gone from her perspective. He had not heard back, but others said she had expressed satisfaction. The only item she mentioned to someone was that the price of one of our items (Safflower) was considerably lower than her store price. Bob commented that this was due to a significant drop in the wholesale price of safflower seed that our fixed markup policy passed on to our buyers, whereas Kathy had held price up somewhat. Bob did send her an advance copy of our price sheet, asking if she had any feedback but she did not say anything at that point. We will continue to give her that opportunity in the future, and would work with her if she did express concern.

Bob asked and the Board did formally agree that we will pay the Franklin's annual MOS/Howard membership as a sign of appreciation for their allowing us to run the sale out of their store. Kevin will write a letter of thanks to them conveying that their dues are paid.

Kevin asked Sherry to provide him with a timeline and things to remember to do in planning and executing the seed sale. This is part of an overall effort Kevin is working on to capture a "How to" spreadsheet for the club President and Board, expanding on some fairly out-of-date material passed along to the President. She suggested

two items that we should consider for future sales, 1) tarps or other means to cover the seed in the event of inclement weather, and 2) the use of a truck with a lift and pallet mover for unloading the truck. It was agreed that someone (Sherry?) would discuss whether Kathy Franklin felt this was a good idea and could deal with the pallets after the sale (recycle?).

Newsletter (Witt):

No report. (Amanda has a class on Thursday night). Kevin reported that he felt Amanda was doing a great job and complimented Sue Probst on having passed the baton very successfully. Kevin observed that four of the MOS chapters post their club newsletters on web sites and that reviewing them could be a source of ideas for us to use in The Goldfinch. He mentioned seeing some have articles with short synopses of field trips. He proposed we discuss this further at a subsequent meeting.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

No report, but Kevin stated that Kurt's working in D.C. is over starting in January and he hopes to be able to make meetings more regularly again.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert): No reports.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported that the site under the new plan was not yet up and running. The old one is still there if you follow the former "geocities" URL but the howardbirds.org URL is not functioning yet. He also reported that Ralph Cullison successfully used the field trip reporting form for his recent Alpha Ridge field trip. Bob and Ward Ebert are working on a method to capture the new data (submitted by form) and historical data in an on-line accessible manner.

Old Business

Regarding the "Birding Howard County" on the web project, Bob reiterated that Jo has sent out a copy of the original version of the section "Review of Howard County Birding Year" to several people for review and comment. If anyone else wants to review it, send Jo an email.

Another Chapter has volunteered to host the June State MOS Board meeting, but they still need a host for the March meeting. Kevin has placed tentative reservations at Howard Recreation and Parks and at APL for the March date. We would need to pay for 1-2 hours of staff at \$25/hour if we were to hold at Rec and Parks, another class is being held in morning but it ends at noon and we would need to pay for time after that. Kate stated that she thought the new Howard Community Center in Glenwood might be an even better location. The Board agreed that we should host the March meeting. Kevin will email the State President and volunteer. Kate will investigate the availability and particulars of using the Glenwood facility on March 3 for 40-50 people. After that she and Kevin will decide on which location to use (APL or Glenwood). Kevin will give up reservation at Rec and Parks.

New Business

Bob reported on the status of planning for a Meadowbrook Hawk Watch. It turns out through miscommunication the entire hillside below the proposed site was recently planted with trees that will grow up and block the "view" making the site untenable as a hawk watch into the future. It is generally agreed that the purpose in proposing such a project was two fold 1) collect scientific data on hawk migration, and 2) engender public interest in birds (raptors in particular) by having a visible and active presence that would motivate park visitors to inquire what was going on. Given the planting, the question of options on where to locate a hawk watch has arisen. Possibilities raised include: further east in Meadowbrook, the recently reopened New Cut Road site [former landfill site owned by Rec and Parks might be better location for reason 1) but not expected to have much traffic and thus falling short for reason 2)], or Mt. Pleasant [which would certainly be better for reason 2)]. Plans for the sign to post at hawkwatch are on hold and discussions will continue. Bob and Jo have the lead in discussing this with Rec and Parks leadership.

Kevin forgot to bring the "red marker" for name tags to give to Emy.

Kevin passed around a spreadsheet that he had emailed prior to the meeting that summarized the membership form surveys (2/3 complete so far). He proposes to use this approach rather than the handing around packets of surveys that can take months to get to everyone. Emy pointed out that we needed to ensure we follow-up on the surveys if we are going to continue to include them with the membership application. It was noted that many people simply ignore the questionnaire but if someone new does check interest in bird counts someone should contact them and ask personally if they want to participate.

Kevin is working on a spreadsheet with President's duties. (See earlier discussion under Seed Sale report.) He has initiated this effort but will want inputs on counts, seed sale, potluck, mailings, etc.). Envisions a timeline of when and what needs to be done plus lessons learned type notes. The newsletter editor has a similar timeline of when articles are needed.

Sue Probst reported she has begun planning for the Pot Luck. She had confirmed the availability of the Owen Brown Community Center on March 10 and 24. After discussion the Board directed her to proceed with confirming use of the Center for a Potluck on March 24. She will place the deposit and get the contract signed. She will prepare an article for the newsletter and announcements of the date and passing around of clip board to sign up will be done starting in January.

Bob reported that our continued use of Conference Rooms 1 & 2 for our regular 2nd Thursday club meetings has been confirmed with Howard Recreation and Parks through June 2007. Bob stressed that we should continue to use Sue Muller of Rec and Parks as a primary Point of Contact for this. It appears we need to confirm this arrangement at least twice a year (namely for the Fall season and then again for after the 1st of the year). Kevin will contact Sue to ensure the exact dates when we should do this and add it to his President's duties spreadsheet.

Regarding the Warbler ID Workshop CD and plans to use the CD with the club membership it was agreed the material is "hard core" and probably not suitable for use with the regular club meeting. The material is over 2 hours long and very detailed. The general consensus was this would best be used as a special event (e.g., a Saturday program vice breaking it up into segments). The possible use of the Glenwood Community Center was suggested and Kate agreed to check on whether that was a possibility, and whether that venue would work for a smaller group (e.g., 20 or less). The general consensus was it would be best to hold a workshop shortly before Spring migration (e.g., early April) but no date was settled on. We will revisit this subject again next meeting.

Kevin proposed and Bob agreed that he and Jo concurred in us not responding to a survey of "Birdwatchers" that Jo had received via email and forwarded to Kevin.

Potential topics mentioned for upcoming board meetings:

- Review newsletters from other chapters for ideas to use in the Goldfinch.
- Solicit suggestions/information for proposed projects for this year's seed sale proceeds.

Action Items

- Prepare formal proposal on how to proceed with web version of "Birding Howard County." No earlier than Jan 2007 – Bob Solem
- Tom needs to provide Emy with copy of his driver's license in order to complete the change of signatures on Bank accounts - Tom Miller
- Emy has signed paperwork, and is to complete signature change process after she receives copy of Tom's license – Emy Holdridge
- Determine what T. Rowe Price will need to change the signatures on the accounts that are there (Reserve and Marjorie Mountjoy) – Emy Holdridge
- Email other chapter Presidents to see if they want to exchange newsletters – Kevin Heffernan

- Upgrade the web service for the club website. – Bob Solem
- Complete the membership renewal reminder process:
 - Send Ward and Jeff C. list of remaining non-renewals – Bob Solem
 - Split list and make phone calls to those on list - Ward Ebert and Jeff Culler
 - Notify Bob, Jeff, and Ward as receive renewals – Emy Holdridge
- Write a letter of thanks to the Franklin’s thanking them for the use of The Wildlife Authority for our seed sale and conveying to them that their MOS membership dues were paid by the club as a sign of appreciation – Kevin Heffernan
- Prepare a timeline and notes on things to remember to do in planning and executing the seed sale as part of a spreadsheet that Kevin is assembling (he’ll send copy of draft spreadsheet) – Sherry Tomlinson
- Follow-up actions related to hosting the March meeting of the MOS state board:
 - Email the State President and volunteer that Howard can host March meeting – Kevin Heffernan
 - Investigate the availability of the Glenwood facility on March 3 for 40-50 people – Kate Tufts
 - Cancel the reservation at Rec and Parks – Kevin Heffernan
 - Decide final location to use (APL or Glenwood) - Kevin Heffernan and Kate Tufts
 - Solicit volunteer(s) to coordinate hosting MOS Board at upcoming club meetings – Kevin Heffernan
- Finalize plans for the Potluck on March 24 and prepare newsletter article – Sue Probst
- Contact Sue Muller of Rec and Parks to determine when and how we should confirm our reservation to use the Rec and Park facilities (Conf Rooms 1 & 2). Add this information to the President’s duties spreadsheet – Kevin Heffernan
- Follow-up actions related to Warbler ID Workshop CD:
 - Finalize review of CD action item from prior meeting – Kevin Heffernan & Tom Miller
 - Investigate use of Glenwood Community Center for this type of meeting – Kate Tufts
 - Discuss further and formulate plans for a workshop or series of workshops at next Board Meeting – All
- Finalize and distribute the membership survey spreadsheet (final third of forms) – Kevin Heffernan
- Continue to work on the President’s Duties Spreadsheet and make assignments for others to provide inputs for areas needing greater detail (Counts, Potluck, Mailings, etc.) – Kevin Heffernan

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2006	-	Jeff Culler	
November 16, 2006	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2007	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 22, 2007	-	Jo Solem	
March 22, 2007	-	Karen Darcy	
April 26, 2007	-	Kate Tufts	(Ward Ebert - backup if needed)
May 24, 2007	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for Board Meeting – November 16, 2006
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/06 – 11/15/06, 11/15/2006
- Howard County Bird Club, Annual Seed Sale – 2006 – 2003, 11/15/2006
- MOS Brochure with Howard website URL added – not attached
- Membership form details for 2006-2007 – Spreadsheet (prelim) – not attached

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

NOVEMBER 16, 2006

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Karen*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Atlas *Jo*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - i. Weekend field trip in January - *Kate*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
 - Seed sale *Sherry*
8. Old Business
 - "Birding Howard County" on the web
 - i. Review of Ho Co Birding Year
 - Chapters needed to host MOS board meetings for March 2007
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Meadowbrook Hawk watch location
 - Pay for Cathy and Tom Franklin's membership?
 - Name tags (give red marker to Emy)
 - Membership form spreadsheet
 - President duties spreadsheet (need inputs for counts, seed sale, potluck, mailings, etc.)
 - Chapter Chatter
 - Potluck dinner logistics
 - Reservations for use of Ho Co Recs & Parks building
 - Warbler workshop
 - Birdwatchers Survey
 - March and April board meetings
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Ward Ebert
7366 Hallmark Rd
Clarksville, MD 21029
(301) 490-5807

Bring: Red marker, Warbler CD, Membership form SS, President duties SS, Driver's Licence copy

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/06-11/15/06

	Budget 2006/07	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		1,315.00	5,280.00
State Dues Paid		(3,075.00)	(3,075.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		2,205.00
Contributions		50.00	210.00
Total Operating Income	2,500.00	(1,710.00)	2,415.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		78.91
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	150.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00	13.86	17.16
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	128.60	344.53
Club Brochures	75.00		
Website		29.71	29.71
Miscellaneous			5.36
Total Operating Expense	2,500.00	222.17	625.67
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			1,789.33
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales		7,539.00	7,539.00
Expense			
Flyers/Misc		69.50	138.94
Seed		5,840.72	5,840.72
Sales Tax		359.00	359.00
Total Expense			6,338.66
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,200.34
Contributions to Habitat Conservation		256.50	271.50
Suet & Feeder Sales for future Conservation Contributor			56.00
Total Available for Habitat Conservation:			1,527.84
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,321.82
Interest Received		58.52	392.15
Balance			7,713.97
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			7,181.29
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,877.15
Savings			14,895.26
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			19,815.69

E. Holdridge
11/15/2006

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
ANNUAL SEED SALE**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Sales	<u>7,539.00</u>	<u>7,313.80</u>	<u>7,061.50</u>	<u>7,931.50</u>
Expense:				
Flyers	105.44	110.00	72.50	110.97
Rent	-	-	50.00	-
Refreshments	33.50	-	-	-
Seed	5,840.72	5,803.91	5,380.70	5,606.90
Sales Tax	<u>359.00</u>	<u>348.28</u>	<u>336.25</u>	<u>377.75</u>
Total Expense	<u>6,338.66</u>	<u>6,262.19</u>	<u>5,839.45</u>	<u>6,095.62</u>
Gain on Seed Sale	<u>1,200.34</u>	<u>1,051.61</u>	<u>1,222.05</u>	<u>1,835.88</u>
Contributions received for Habitat Preservation	271.50	155.00	200.00	195.00
Percent of mark-up	22.9%	20.0%	25.0%	34.7%

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2007

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2006-2007 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan
Vice-president: Tom Miller (*& Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
√Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr)
√Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck (*& Yellowthroat*): Sue Probst
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

State Officers/Committees:

Atlas: Jane Coskren (*& Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo & Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was five. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 14 was ___ people. Dr. Stephen Kent gave a program entitled "Capturing Bird Images in Kenya." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 11 was 69 people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "How a Lady Bird-Watcher Changed the World."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): There were no changes to the November 16, 2006 Board minutes.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): See attached report. A contribution to MOS for the Cloud Rainforest Project of \$645.00 was made. There is a remaining balance available for contributions of \$902.84.

President's Remarks (Heffernan): These were sent to Tom Miller and read: The club received a verbal "thank you" from Cathy Franklin for providing membership to them for the current year in appreciation for their help with the 2006 seed sale. The letter of recommendation for Judy Holzman was completed. Kevin sent a letter of apology to Hank Kaestner about the overhead lights remaining on during Hank's presentation.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): Tom has been in contact with Sue Muller about the overhead lights remaining on (fire lights) in the conference room at Rec & Parks HQ. and will continue the discussion before recommending to the Board any action. Tom is loaning a computer to the Bird Club for use during presentations that require electronic projection of images. All present thanked him and asked whether there are any materials that the Bird Club should consider purchasing for the benefit of the club. (See new business.)

Review of Action Items:

- Prepare formal proposal on how to proceed with web version of "Birding Howard County." No earlier than Jan 2007 – Bob Solem (**continuing item**)

- Upgrade the web service for the club website (**upgrade completed** but topic will remain an open item as additional changes using the existing service are made).
- Complete the membership renewal reminder process (**completed** with recommendation that 2007 and subsequent reminder processes be held during same time frame as 2006 which was later than in previous years and was more successful; these changes in dates will be shown in the
- Finalize plans for the Potluck on March 24 and prepare newsletter article – Sue Probst (Sue was not present).
- Follow-up actions related to Warbler ID Workshop CD:
 - Finalize review of CD action item from prior meeting – Kevin Heffernan & Tom Miller
 - Investigate use of Glenwood Community Center for this type of meeting – Kate Tufts
 - Discuss further and formulate plans for a workshop or series of workshops at next Board Meeting (**discussion deferred until March board meeting**).
- Finalize and distribute the membership survey spreadsheet (final third of forms) (**completed** and will become a regular task shown on the President’s Duties Spreadsheet).
- Continue to work on the President’s Duties Spreadsheet and make assignments for others to provide inputs for areas needing greater detail (Counts, Potluck, Mailings, etc.) – Kevin Heffernan (**completed** but will remain an open item for updating as new items are identified).

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert): No report.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report

Newsletter (Witt): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report

Programs (Geuder): No report

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer): No report

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): Most of the data entry is completed and clean-up continues. Reports of what birds were reported during all five years of the atlas have been sent to all contributors and maps for each species have been prepared. In addition, Bob is completing a web page for each species that shows maps with the results for that species in the 2002-2006, 1983-1987, and 1973-1975 atlases. These proposed pages will be sent to contributors for comments and then incorporated in the web site.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): Sherry was congratulated for a very successful seed sale and was looking forward to the sale in 2007.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Major changes to the format and coding of the web pages are underway and will be distributed to the Board for comments before incorporation. Bob will contact Ward Ebert, Tom Miller, and Chuck Stirrat to propose a course of action to make the results of Howard County Bird Club field trips available on the web site to members and others.

Old Business

Upgrading “Birding Howard County”: Jo is receiving comments on “Birding Year in Howard County” and will continue to prepare this for publication on the web. Jo will make a form available on the web for people to use in sending in their sightings from the birding sites that will be included in the section “Birding Hotspot Site Guides. Jo is verifying and correcting directions to the hotspot sites that will be shown in “Directions to Howard Birding Spots.” There was consensus that the upgraded material should be incorporated into the web site as appropriate when parts are completed rather than waiting until an entire revision is finished. This will be an ongoing project because the web allows continual upgrading as new material is received.

New Business

Tom suggested that he purchase for the Bird Club additional audio/visual cables for connecting the computer used for electronic presentations to the club’s speaker system. Consensus was that this is an appropriate use of the Mountjoy fund.

Consensus that the president should verify who is coming to Board meetings and send out an agenda in advance of the meeting. It is also useful to have the minutes of the previous board meeting in advance of the proposed meeting.

Potential topics mentioned for upcoming board meetings:

- Review newsletters from other chapters for ideas to use in the Goldfinch.
- Solicit suggestions/information for proposed projects for this year’s seed sale proceeds.
- President will announce Election Committee membership.

Action Items

- Discuss progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob Solem (**continuing item**)
- Upgrade the web service for the club website (**upgrade completed** but topic will remain an open item as additional changes using the existing service are made).
- Follow-up actions related to Warbler ID Workshop CD:
 - Finalize review of CD action item from prior meeting – Kevin Heffernan & Tom Miller
 - Investigate use of Glenwood Community Center for this type of meeting – Kate Tufts
 - Discuss further and formulate plans for a workshop or series of workshops at next Board Meeting (**discussion deferred until March board meeting**).
- Tom has been in contact with Sue Muller about the overhead lights remaining on (fire lights) in the conference room at Rec & Parks HQ. and will report on progress.
- .Purchase for the Bird Club additional audio/visual cables for connecting the computer used for electronic presentations to the club’s speaker system
- Continue to work on the President’s Duties Spreadsheet and make assignments for others to provide inputs for areas needing greater detail (Counts, Potluck, Mailings, etc.) – Kevin Heffernan (**completed** but will remain an open item for updating as new items are identified).

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2006	-	Jeff Culler	
November 16, 2006	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2007	-	Jo Solem	
February 22, 2007	-	Kevin Heffernan	
March 22, 2007	-	Karen Darcy	
April 26, 2007	-	Kate Tufts	(Ward Ebert - backup if needed)
May 24, 2007	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/06 – 1/24/07

Minutes taken by: Bob Solem in the absence of the secretary.

My thanks to Bob for filling in to draft these minutes.

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/06-1/24/07

	<u>Budget 2006/07</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		665.00	5,945.00
State Dues Paid		(590.00)	<u>(3,665.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		2,280.00
Contributions		50.00	260.00
Total Operating Income	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>125.00</u>	<u>2,540.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		78.91
Donations			*
Website			29.71
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	150.00	300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		17.16
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00	50.00	50.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	157.45	501.98
Club Brochures	75.00		
Miscellaneous			5.36
Total Operating Expense	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>357.45</u>	<u>983.12</u>
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			<u>1,556.88</u>
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,539.00
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			138.94
Seed			5,840.72
Sales Tax			359.00
Total Expense			<u>6,338.66</u>
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			<u>1,200.34</u>
 <i>(See below for funds available for habitat conservation)</i> 			
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,321.82
Interest Received		123.48	515.63
Balance			<u>7,837.45</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>7,181.29</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,660.70
Savings			15,018.74
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>18,722.72</u>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 22, 2007

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Atlas: Jane Coskren (& *Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck (& *Yellowthroat*): Sue Probst √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kevin Heffernan. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 8 was 35 people. Sherry Tomlinson gave a program entitled "Field Ornithology Workshop."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): There were no changes to the January 25, 2007 Board Minutes.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): See attached report. No activity since prior meeting. Page 2 of the report shows the proceeds of the seed sale and contributions available for this year's habitat/conservation project. The total is \$1547.84, with \$645 already committed to the MOS (Cloud Rainforest Project). This leaves a balance available of \$902.84.

Emy had the completed T Rowe Price signature card ready and Chuck signed it as the Club Secretary so she can finalize the change of signature authority for this account.

We discussed the attached Membership report that Bob had prepared. If the decline in membership continues we may drop below 200 members, thereby going from two vice three State Board Director positions.

President's Remarks (Heffernan): Kevin deferred his remarks to the Old and New Business discussions.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): Tom had no formal remarks.

Review of Action Items: Tom reviewed the prior action items including noting those reported closed in prior minutes. The following were still open following the last meeting. Current status is in bold.

- Discuss progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob Solem - **continuing item – an article will appear in the Mar/Apr newsletter soliciting volunteers. A page providing "Directions to Howard Birding Hot Spots" has been added to the club web site as an initial step.**

- Upgrade the web service for the club website (**upgrade completed** but topic will **remain an open item** as additional changes using the existing service are made).
- Follow-up actions related to Warbler ID Workshop CD:
 - Finalize review of CD action item from prior meeting – Kevin Heffernan & Tom Miller - **Complete**
 - Investigate use of Glenwood Community Center for this type of meeting – Kate Tufts - **Complete**
 - Discuss further and formulate plans for a workshop or series of workshops at next Board Meeting (**Workshop scheduled for April 14 – see Old Business**).
- Tom has been in contact with Sue Muller about the overhead lights remaining on (fire lights) in the conference room at Rec & Parks HQ. and will report on progress. **Issue resolved we can turn off lights.**
- Purchase for the Bird Club additional audio/visual cables for connecting the computer used for electronic presentations to the club’s speaker system-Tom Miller – **Still open. Tom urged to purchase cables he needs to support setup in center or at side as he sees fit.**
- Continue to work on the President’s Duties Spreadsheet and make assignments for others to provide inputs for areas needing greater detail (Counts, Potluck, Mailings, etc.) – Kevin Heffernan (**completed** but will remain an open item for updating as new items are identified).

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert): No report.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report.

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Newsletter (Witt): No report, see New Business.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): See Old Business.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): Jo reported final confirmed species for past three atlases: 1970’s – 110 species, 1980’s – 103 species, and 2000’s – 107 species. She also reported that a 4th active Bald Eagle nest has been found in the county.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): See New Business.

Webmaster (R. Solem): See Old Business.

Old Business

The status of “Birding Howard County” on the Web project was reported above in reviewing prior Action Items.

Karen Darcy reported on plans for the club hosting the March 3 State MOS Board meeting at Mount Pleasant. She has several volunteers lined up to bring items. Kurt will lead a field trip at 7:30 am preceding the meeting.

Plans for the Warbler Workshop have been finalized. An article announcing this is in the soon to be delivered March/April issue of The Goldfinch. It will be held at the Glenwood Community Center Saturday morning April 14. Room capacity limits the attendance to 12 people. If oversubscribed the workshop will be repeated. Kevin will lead the workshop but expressed desire to have a second person help. Kevin is to get Tom Miller the CD so he can verify that the computer and A/V equipment is configured properly.

The membership survey spreadsheet has been finished.

The initial version of the President's/Club Duties Spreadsheet has been completed. Still need to have others review it and could use inputs on potluck, mailings, counts.

Sue reported that potluck planning is proceeding on schedule.

Bob reported that he and several others had drafted and begun to refine requirements for a web based method to entering club field trip data, storing it, and making it and the historical data available on the club web site. This planning step will be completed before any further implementation efforts are undertaken. Handling out of county field trips will be a separate function as it does not support building and maintaining county birding records.

New Business

Kevin raised an idea proposed by Paul Baicich to have the club purchase and offer for sale "holders" for US Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Duck Stamps that would promote the use of the stamps as a means to conserve habitat. The general consensus was that this would be better considered as a State MOS activity as the numbers would be too limited at the Chapter level.

Kevin reported that the chairman of the Silent Auction to be held at the annual MOS Conference is encouraging chapters to solicit donations of "talent" as these have been very popular items for the auction. Sue Probst stated the next issue of the Yellowthroat has an article on this topic. It was suggested that Kevin include this opportunity as one of his announcements at club meetings.

In a related matter, Sherry Tomlinson reported that her company might have available more discontinued birding items (similar to the suet and feeders donated last year). Although seed and suet would not be appropriate if feeders or nest boxes were available they might be candidates for Silent Auction items or as items to donate to the MOS sanctuaries. She was going to find out what was available and if appropriate would email the Board with what options might exist.

Kevin reported that he had gone to the Columbia Archives and retrieved the club's historical records that the past president had given to them for archival. Kevin wanted to ascertain what was there and if it was appropriate to leave it there. He uncovered one flaw with the use of this facility, in that even though he is current President he needed to obtain Jeff Friedhoffer's approval as the original submitter before he could retrieve the material. The volume of material is considerably less than envisioned. Kevin provided a brief review of the contents for the Board. Ward proposed that the club should build an index of what material we do retain and who has it. Then we should develop what the rationale and time-line for retention of club records should be. It was pointed out that MOS has a permanent storage facility that we could also use if the volume of material warranted it. Emy stated that she has extensive treasurer's records that also should be reviewed in this manner. Kevin appointed Ward and Emy as a committee to do this inventory/index and develop proposed retention policies. Kevin was directed to retain the material retrieved from the Columbia Archives for now and return their storage case.

For the first time in 23 years, Jan Randle is not going to host the tally for May Count this year. We need to think about options. Hopefully a volunteer to host the tally will be found, but we may need to consider alternatives if no one found. Kevin should announce searching for a volunteer to host the tally at meeting. Ideally the location should be known in time for the May/June newsletter (deadline March 25). Also we will need to decide what we should do for Jan in appreciation for her years of service.

Kevin is interested in soliciting new ideas for the content of The Goldfinch to make sure we are providing what members want to see. Bob believes that if someone developed a survey he could develop a way to permit people to submit their responses over the web. Kevin agreed to talk with Amanda about producing such a survey.

Rather than having a Conservation Report, Kurt initiated discussion of plans for the balance of this year's habitat/conservation contribution. Kurt had contacted Cheryl Farfaras, Natural Resources Manager for the Middle

Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) with Howard Recreation and Parks about possible projects that might be funded by the seed sale proceeds. She submitted a Grant Proposal (attached) for support of ongoing habitat management to restore diurnal feeding covers in the Woodcock Spring Seep area of MPEA. Specifically they are requesting \$410 to purchase native shrub species to be planted in May 2007. We reviewed the list of past club contributions that Bob had prepared (attached). It was proposed that we also should consider continue our support of All Creatures Great and Small, perhaps even recognizing with inflation an increased level of support might be warranted. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we fund the MPEA grant of \$410 and donate \$200 to All Creatures Great and Small. This leaves us approximately \$300 not yet designated. The possibility of supporting bird feeders at Mt. Pleasant was raised. Kate proposed that we give another \$100 to fund planting of Turtlehead for the Maryland Checkerspot (butterfly) project as we did last year. It was agreed we should defer allocation of the remaining \$300 till next month's meeting to ensure we consider these and any other suggestions that come forward.

Kevin nominated the following members as this year's Nominating Committee: Jeff Culler, Karen Darcy, and Kurt Schwarz. A new Chapter Director is believed to be the only vacancy, but the committee will confirm other officers are willing to continue. Nominations are needed by March 15 in order to support mailing the slate with the Membership Brochure in time to have the slate to membership 10 days in advance of April 12 meeting.

Kevin initiated a discussion of the club and "youth birding." MOS has identified attempts to involve younger people in birding as a major initiative. Kevin thinks that we have an opportunity to team with the Howard Conservancy and co-sponsor events for youth at Mount Pleasant. He is interested in having volunteers to pursue this and other ideas. Sue Probst said she would be willing to help with this. Kevin plans to discuss this further with the Howard Conservancy staff. It was generally agreed that we should start small, possibly scheduling one bird walk for young people and see what response it generates. Sherry also mentioned an idea she was considering - holding a Kid's art show in connection with the seed sale.

Topics for upcoming Board meetings:

- Finalize the recipients for balance of seed sale proceeds
- Follow-up on youth birding

Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Monitor adequacy of the current web service for the club website as additional changes to the club web site are made using the existing (upgraded) web service . – Bob Solem – **continuing item**
- Follow-up actions related to Warbler ID Workshop CD:
 - Provide Tom Miller copy of the CD so he can checkout computer configuration – Kevin Heffernan
 - Checkout and configure computer and A/V equipment in preparation for the Workshop – Tom Miller
 - Accept enrollment requests and notify those approved for attendance – Kevin Heffernan
- Purchase for the Bird Club additional audio/visual cables for connecting the computer used for electronic presentations to the club's speaker system - Tom Miller – **Still open.**
- Continue to work on the President's Duties Spreadsheet and make assignments for others to provide inputs for areas as needed – Kevin Heffernan (initial version complete **leave open** so continue to update as new items are identified).
 - Review Pot Luck items – Sue Probst
 - Review Counts items – Chuck Stirrat, Mike McClure
 - Mailings - TBD
- Announce the request for donations of "talent" items for the Silent Auction at an upcoming club meeting. – Kevin

- Provide the Board with follow-up information on discontinued items that might be appropriate for Silent Auction or Sanctuary donations. Send an email to Board members if she finds items that might be appropriate for this purpose. – Sherry Tomlinson
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge
- Return storage case to Columbia Archives – Kevin Heffernan
- Seek volunteers to host the May Count tally (or identify alternatives). – Kevin Heffernan
- Provide slate of officers to Bob for mailing by March 15. – Culler, Darcy, Schwarz
- Contact Amanda Witt about surveying the membership for inputs on the newsletter content. – Kevin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2006	-	Jeff Culler	
November 16, 2006	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2007	-	Jo Solem	
February 22, 2007	-	Kevin Heffernan	
March 22, 2007	-	Karen Darcy	
April 26, 2007	-	Kate Tufts	(Ward Ebert - backup if needed)
May 24, 2007	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – February 22, 2007
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/06 – 2/19/07 (including Funds Available for Contribution to Conservation Project)
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members), 2/19/2007
- Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat, 2/19/07
- Howard County Bird Club Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal For Middle Patuxent Environmental Area Spring 2007

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

AGENDA - FEBRUARY 22, 2007

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
8. Old Business
 - "Birding Howard County" on the web
 - i. Review of Ho Co Birding Year
 - **State Board meeting on March 3, 2007**
 - Warbler workshop – who presents?; how is it done?; shortened version?
 - Membership form spreadsheet finished
 - **President duties spreadsheet (need inputs for potluck, mailings, etc.)**
 - Potluck dinner logistics
 - Howard Bird Club Trip Report Web Reports and Historical Data
 - i. Trip list for trips outside of Ho Co on web?
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Duck stamp – should we purchase some holders?
 - Silent auction request
 - What to do with the archives?
 - Tally location for May Count – Jan is not doing it after 23 years
 - **Review newsletters for new ideas**
 - i. Solicit ideas in a future newsletter?
 - **Seed sale proceeds?**
 - **Nomination committee?**
 - Youth birding
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

(410) 418-8731

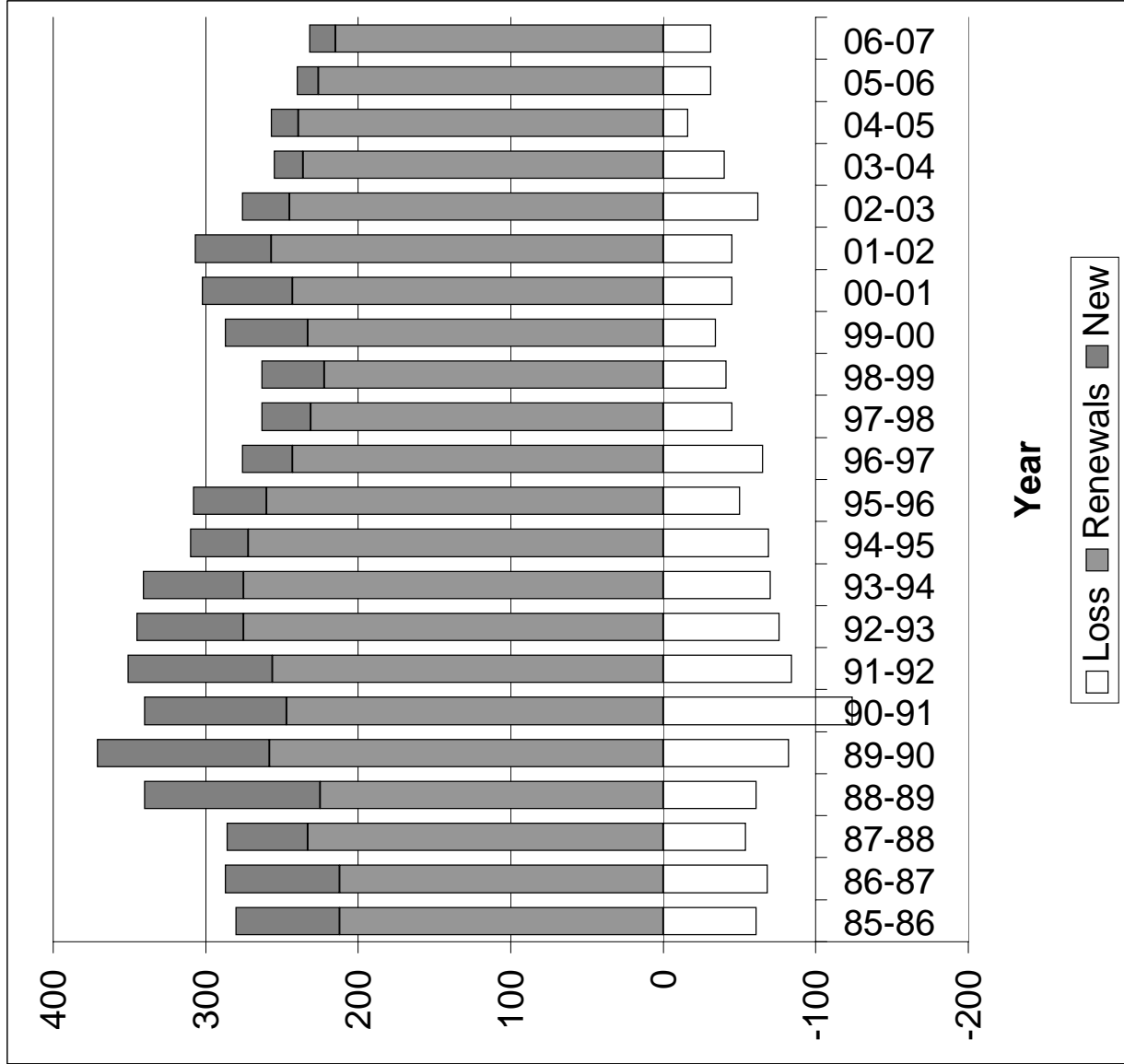
HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/06-2/19/07

	Budget 2006/07	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues			5,945.00
State Dues Paid			(3,665.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		2,280.00
Contributions			260.00
Total Operating Income	2,500.00	-	2,540.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		78.91
Donations			*
Website			29.71
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		17.16
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		50.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00		501.98
Club Brochures	75.00		
Miscellaneous			5.36
Total Operating Expense	2,500.00	-	983.12
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			1,556.88
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,539.00
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			138.94
Seed			5,840.72
Sales Tax			359.00
Total Expense			6,338.66
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,200.34
<i>(See below for funds available for habitat conservation)</i>			
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,321.82
Interest Received		57.26	572.89
Balance			7,894.71
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			7,181.29
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,660.70
Savings			15,076.00
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			18,779.98

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION PROJECT

Proceeds from Seed Sale	1,200.34
Contributions for Habitat Preservation	271.50
Suet & Feeder Sales	<u>76.00</u>
Total	1,547.84
Contribution to MOS (Cloud Rainforest Project)	<u>645.00</u>
Balance available for Contribution	<u><u>902.84</u></u>

Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)



Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total	% renew
85-86	61	68	212	280	76%
86-87	68	75	212	287	74%
87-88	54	53	233	286	81%
88-89	61	115	225	340	66%
89-90	82	113	258	371	70%
90-91	124	93	247	340	73%
91-92	84	95	256	351	73%
92-93	76	70	275	345	80%
93-94	70	66	275	341	81%
94-95	69	38	272	310	88%
95-96	50	48	260	308	84%
96-97	65	33	243	276	88%
97-98	45	32	231	263	88%
98-99	41	41	222	267	83%
99-00	34	54	233	288	81%
00-01	45	59	243	302	80%
01-02	45	50	257	307	84%
02-03	62	31	245	276	89%
03-04	40	19	236	255	93%
04-05	16	18	239	257	93%
05-06	31	14	226	246	92%
06-07	31	17	215	228	94%

Year	Couple	Indiv	Other	Total	Junior
87-88	150	91	45	286	27
88-89	178	102	60	340	31
89-90	186	128	57	371	35
90-91	188	146	6	340	37
91-92	196	150	5	351	32
92-93	197	142	6	345	35
93-94	198	137	6	341	37
94-95	170	132	7	310	32
95-96	183	120	5	308	35
96-97	181	89	6	276	40
97-98	153	103	7	263	30
98-99	161	99	7	267	27
99-00	175	107	6	288	30
00-01	179	115	8	302	26
01-02	191	107	9	307	25
02-03	167	108	1	276	25
03-04	145	109	1	255	18
04-05	143	112	2	257	22
05-06	141	105	9	246	14
06-07	134	100	10	244	11

Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat

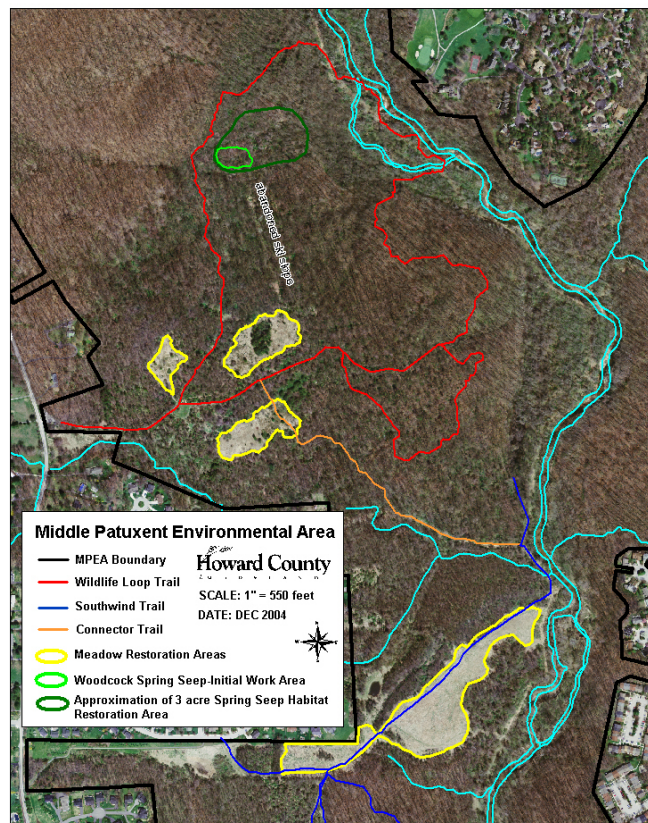
03/03/07

Nassawango Creek	\$3,650	HCBC 10th Anniversary campaign/ Club funds & individual donations	Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area	\$2,000 \$40,271	[Oct 1997 seed sale blank]
Bird Rehabilitation Committee to Preserve Assateague Nature Conservancy MOS Sanctuary (Irish Grove) MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project * International Nature Conservancy Peregrine Fund * Misc. bird projects	\$785 \$1,000 \$2,300 \$335 \$2,592 \$300 \$250 \$511 \$11,723	(including individual donations of \$857) (was doubled by matching grant, Hawk Mt., Cape May obs., feeder for historic Waverly Mansion, etc.	Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,500 \$1,000 \$42,771	[Oct 1999 seed sale blank]
*Matching grants used to increase amount donated [Contributions through 1988]			American Bird Conservancy "Rivers of Rap"	\$1,500 \$44,271	Oct 1999 Board meeting
Nature Conservancy (2/89 seed sale) Nature Conservancy (12/89)	\$2,500 \$2,500 \$16,723	(including individual donations of \$880) Most from 10/89 Seed Sale [reported on Feb 1990 seed sale blank]	All Creatures Great & Small Display cabinets HoCo Rec&Park Mt. Pleasant - Butterfly Garden Old Growth Forest project at Frosburg	\$100 \$1,309 \$614 \$1,250 \$47,544	[Feb 2000 Board meeting] " " " [April 2000 Board meeting] " " " [Oct 2000 seed sale blank]
TNC Appalachian Campaign	\$1,000	2/90 seed sale including \$419.50 individual donations [May-June 1990 newsletter]	MPEA Clegg Prairie All Creatures Great & Small	\$1,100 \$100 \$48,744	[Feb 2001 Board meeting] [Feb 2001 Board meeting] [Oct 2001 seed sale blank]
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project	\$2,698	Challenge grant to MOS (includes individual donations of \$198) [Sept-Oct 1990 newsletter]	EI Chorogo Refuge, Panama (ABC)	\$2,200 \$50,944	[March 2002 Board meeting] [Oct 2002 seed sale blank]
Bulletin Board for Cent Park	\$300	Bird Club bought & had dedicated	Nature Conservancy MD/DC Chapter	1500 \$52,444	[Feb 2003 Board meeting]
Monteverde Cloud Forest	\$3,600 \$24,321	(w/ \$328 individual donations) [Oct 1991 seed sale blank]	Sierra de Bahoruco NP in Dom Rep All Creatures Great & Small	2000 100 \$54,544	[Feb 2004 Board meeting]
Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala	\$5,000 \$29,321	(w/ \$440 individual donations) [Jan 1992 seed sale blank]	All Creatures Great & Small MPEA stream buffer planting MPEA Purple Martin gourds	100 750 450 \$55,844	[March 2005 Board meeting]
Maryland Parks Foundation	\$1,000 \$30,321	Sept 1992 Board meeting [Nov-Dec 1992 newsletter]	All Creatures Great & Small Baltimore Checkerspot Fundacion ProAves (Cerulean Warbler)	100 100 2000 \$58,044	[February 2006 Board meeti:
Bladen Mts Nature Reserve, Belize Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve (Atlantic coast of Guatemala)	\$2,500 \$2,500 \$35,321	[Sep-Oct 1993 newsletter] [Jan-Feb 1994 newsletter]			
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000 \$36,321	Nov 1995 Board meeting [Jan 1996 seed sale blank]			
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve Nature Conservancy - MD Dee Thompson (rehabilitator)	\$1,000 \$750 \$200 \$38,271				

Howard County Bird Club Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal For Middle Patuxent Environmental Area Spring 2007

Natural Resources Managers at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area are seeking funding for ongoing habitat management to restore diurnal feeding covers in the Woodcock Spring Seep area. Diurnal feeding covers are an essential component of the habitat mosaic needed to attract and sustain a breeding population of woodcock. The spring seep area near the foot of the abandoned ski slope (see map) had historically provided high quality woodcock feeding cover. At one time, the moist, rich soils of the seep area supported a dense stand of alders (*Alnus serrulata*) and young, second growth hardwoods. This plant community had the high stem density, overhead protection, and suppressed ground cover to provide the proper habitat structure for ideal cover and easy access to abundant earthworms required by woodcock.

Management actions to date have included re-opening the canopy in a one-half acre initial work area, invasive species control, and planting of 40 alders plus some other desirable species. Work has also begun on expanding the restoration area to a total of three acres to approximate the woodcock feeding cover present in the late 1960's to early 1970's. It is in this area that we are requesting funding for native shrub species to be planted in May 2007. The table shown below lists the species, and their associated costs. We are requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider funding this project in the amount of \$410.00



<u>Woodcock Management Area - Spring Seep</u>		<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Common alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	10	2-3 foot	8.00	80.00
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	10	2-3 foot	8.00	80.00
Red chokeberry	<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	10	3-4 foot	9.00	90.00
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	5	2-3 foot	7.00	35.00
American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	5	3-4 foot	10.00	50.00
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	5	2-3 foot	7.00	35.00
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	5	2-3 foot	8.00	40.00
		Total: 50			\$410

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 22, 2007

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr) √
 Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
 Karen Darcy √
 Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Atlas: Jane Coskren (& *Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck (& *Yellowthroat*): Sue Probst √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Darcy. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 8 was ~40 people. David Holmes gave a program entitled "Movin' in March---It's All So Brown." The agenda for this Board meeting was distributed in advance of the meeting and is attached.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): See attached report. The Potluck entry includes deposit that will be refunded, but does not include rent payment. The miscellaneous entry is for Deposit slips that Emy had to purchase. The back of report is a summary of funds available for contribution to conservation project. It reflects contributions already made, namely Cloud Rainforest Project (MOS), Rec and Parks MPEA Woodcock planting project, and All Creatures Great and Small. The remaining balance is \$292.84.

President's Remarks (Heffernan): No opening remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): No opening remarks.

Review of Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**. Volunteers as compilers and field workers have been being received and given initial guidance. A complete list of compilers will be distributed. Seeking volunteers for sites new since original issue of book (e.g., Meadowbrook and Mt. Pleasant).
- Monitor adequacy of the current web service for the club website as additional changes to the club web site are made using the existing (upgraded) web service . – Bob Solem – **continuing item** Bob reported that a new checklist entry form is now on-line. Still needs further effort, especially to provide security for unauthorized entries.

- Follow-up actions related to Warbler ID Workshop CD:
 - Provide Tom Miller copy of the CD so he can checkout computer configuration – Kevin Heffernan - **Completed**
 - Checkout and configure computer and A/V equipment in preparation for the Workshop – Tom Miller - **Completed**
 - Accept enrollment requests and notify those approved for attendance – Kevin Heffernan – **Received several but openings still available.**
- Purchase for the Bird Club additional audio/visual cables for connecting the computer used for electronic presentations to the club’s speaker system - Tom Miller – **Completed, Tom located one that was scheduled for recycle at his place of work.**
- Continue to work on the President’s Duties Spreadsheet and make assignments for others to provide inputs for areas as needed – Kevin Heffernan (initial version **Completed leave open** so continue to update as new items are identified).
Review Pot Luck items – Sue Probst - **Complete**
Review Counts items – Chuck Stirrat, Mike McClure – **Mike provided, Chuck still owes input**
Newsletter – **Amanda provided initial response, but Kevin wants to discuss further with her**
- Announce the request for donations of “talent” items for the Silent Auction at an upcoming club meeting. – Kevin - **Completed**
- Provide the Board with follow-up information on discontinued items that might be appropriate for Silent Auction or Sanctuary donations. Send an email to Board members if she finds items that might be appropriate for this purpose. – Sherry Tomlinson – **Open, still up in the air at her place of work**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **See Old Business**
- Return storage case to Columbia Archives – Kevin Heffernan - **Completed**
- Seek volunteers to host the May Count tally (or identify alternatives). – Kevin Heffernan – **See Old Business**
- Provide slate of officers to Bob for mailing by March 15. – Culler, Darcy, Schwarz - **Completed**
- Contact Amanda Witt about surveying the membership for inputs on the newsletter content. – Kevin – **See Old Business**

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): March meeting hosted by club at Mt. Pleasant went very well. Kevin expressed his thanks to the volunteers who helped.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): Kate, Karen, and Kevin summarized a few of the items discussed.

- Need volunteers to do Atlas Mini-routes
- Ideas for Chapter membership goals and retention were reviewed

- Asked for ideas on how /where to distribute membership brochures
- Conservation report addressed issues with wind power legislation
- Annual MOS Conference will be July 27-29 in Salisbury. A Shorebird Workshop similar to the Warbler Workshop done last year will be given. A sampling of slides was shown.
- Were reminded that a Speakers List is available on the MOS website (Ensure Jane Geuder aware of this)
- Proposal to order and sell Duck Stamp holders was raised but the decision was to not pursue further

The formal Minutes will appear in an upcoming Yellowthroat.

Chapter Committee Reports

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert): No report.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): We discussed the failure of all of us on the Board to respond to Kurt's request for feedback on whether the club should support the Chesapeake Bay Green Fund state legislation. We all apologized and promised to be more responsive in future. With only a couple of responses to his second call for feedback he submitted an email providing club support for this initiative. The Board did not have any problem with this position.

Kurt also mentioned the wind power legislation that is attempting to limit public input on the approval of these windmill farms locations. He urged us all to urge our representatives to oppose this attempt to circumvent a careful review of the impact of these proposals.

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Newsletter (Witt): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): Pot luck plans are proceeding well. Has numerous volunteers to help.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob added a few more details about the trip report entry on the web. He proposed and the **Board unanimously supported the following policy: field trip leaders will enter the names of participants on their input form for incorporation in an underlying database, but the reports posted on the web will not include the names of participants, only the trip leader.**

Old Business

In discussing options for where to hold the May Count Tally Rally several ideas were put forward. Kevin said he would investigate the availability of the covered picnic pavilion at APL. Use of one of the meeting rooms at one of the Howard County libraries or at The Howard County Conservancy (Mt. Pleasant) was proposed. In each of these cases we would not provide a meal but have individuals bring their own food (not even a potluck) or even hold it later and not involve food. The idea of holding the tally at a restaurant was rejected. Kevin said he needed to discuss it with Karen, but he was thinking the tally might be held in their home if no meal was involved (they want to be in the field and not preparing a meal as the traditional hostess and host have done in the past). The Board authorized Kevin to pursue and make a choice in time to support the upcoming newsletter deadline.

In discussing how to spend the remaining conservation project funds we had three proposals:

- 1) Kevin presented a proposal (attached) that had been submitted by The Howard County Conservancy proposing to purchase several feeders for a feeding station near the new Education Center at Mt. Pleasant. The request included a small amount for seed, and totaled \$300 (Kevin had told them that was what our approx. balance was).

- 2) Kurt passed out a summary of a project being undertaken by the Delmarva Ornithological Society (DOS) attempting to raise \$15,000 to purchase 10 acres of Delaware Bay shore adjacent to Primehook NWR. This is the first year of what is hopefully a multi-year project with an ultimate goal of purchasing four miles of shoreline. They are holding a Bird-a-thon as their primary fund raiser. Kurt proposed donating \$200 (verbally raised to \$300 when he learned that was our available balance).
- 3) Kate read a letter she had received from the Maryland Checkerspot habitat project we donated to last year. It reported very favorable results in last year's planting of Turtlehead. She proposed we give a small donation to them again this year (~\$100).

After discussion it was decided we would like to support Mt. Pleasant as one of our initiatives in trying to forge a working relationship with them. Recall we used their facility for the recent MOS Board meeting. It was also pointed out that we might well consider a contribution to the DOS project in future years for a more significant amount (it isn't in Maryland, and since we have already deviated from our alternating Maryland – elsewhere by giving to the Cloud Forest project we should try and support Maryland projects with the balance of our funds. It was proposed and approved by the Board that we give \$240 to Mt. Pleasant (they can seek others to volunteer seed) and \$60 to the Checkerspot project. It was also agreed that we should publicize (newsletter, web-site) and suggest that individual members of the club might consider donating to the DOS Bird-a-thon on their own.

New Business

Kevin asked if we could do something to encourage a larger percentage of the membership surveys be filled in so that we get greater feedback on what members want from the club. He estimated that as many as 70% don't complete the form. It was agreed that this would be a logical topic for the President's Welcome column. He could stress new initiative to respond to inputs (his spreadsheet of survey results expedite and increases ease of use).

Kevin reviewed the nominating committee process and suggested that it would be better to initiate the committee activity earlier (e.g., November) so they have more time to discuss and seek candidates. Kevin will revise dates on the President's activities/schedule spreadsheet.

Amanda has prepared a preliminary survey to solicit inputs from the membership on what they would like to see in the newsletter. It was proposed that putting this on the back of the membership form would be a good way to distribute this (behind membership form so it isn't torn off as often happens with membership survey form). Kevin was asked to circulate an email with the proposed survey for review by the board.

Tom Miller has volunteered to look at the "old slide show program" on birds that was used for those providing talks to various groups in the past and see if it could be turned into an electronic file version. It was pointed out that before Tom spends much effort on this we should ensure that we know what use is planned for it. Several items were suggested: 1) A backup program if planned speaker cancels with no time to reschedule an alternate (who stands in as speaker?), 2) Program on general birding for use when asked by other groups (garden clubs, etc.) – issue is who would volunteer to give program, 3) Self-running program on a laptop for display booths on club (e.g. at seed sale, Earth Day). Tom will get the old program slide tray from Jo and look at possibilities.

Ward and Emy reported on the records list project. They handed out a spreadsheet with a first cut at policies for retention guidance on various types of club records. They envision letting the policy be fairly fluid for a period as we actually begin indexing, but after a period (~ 1 year) they would propose to freeze the policies (put them under configuration control and not change them without Board review). They also passed around a list of examples to show how they would propose to index the records we currently have. It was agreed they have made a good start. The Board is to review the policy sheet and provide feedback, questions on the proposed policies.

Howard Rec & Parks has requested that the club be sent an email she has drafted soliciting volunteers to monitor Bluebird Boxes (trails) in several Howard County parks. We agreed and directed Bob to send it to membership.

Earthday celebration is being held April 21, 9 am – 1 pm at _____ Church. We have been asked if we want to set up a table with a display on birds and the club. If we are going to do this we would need a volunteer to coordinate. Kevin to check with Sue Muller for further details on location and available facilities (tents, electricity, etc.). If appropriate he will solicit a volunteer at next club meeting.

An email went around from a Boy Scout Troop leader asking if we had suggestions for Eagle Scout projects. The email was forwarded to a few people who might have ideas, but the Board will not pursue further.

Kevin raised the subject of the memorial funds raised in memory of Don Randle and Jeff Friedhoffer's son back in 2005. We had identified possibly doing something at MPEA when work around parking lot was concluded, but that has not happened. Kevin just wanted to point out to the Board this is still outstanding but it was concluded

that our options were limited with \$300 available, and the right project hadn't presented itself yet but that we should just wait (possibly even till doing something at the Robinson Nature Center becomes an option).

It was mentioned that DNR is holding a Wildlife Summit on April 19. The focus is on reinvigorating the Teaming with Wildlife initiative. The club has been asked to endorse the initiative and we approved doing so.

Emy pointed out that the state MOS is currently in negotiation with insurance company to add liability insurance that will cover children participating in MOS-sponsored activities. To date the MOS liability policy does not cover children. A redraft of the waiver required is ongoing, but it is clear MOS feels this is a priority, but will significantly increase the cost of the liability insurance.

The discussion of liability caused Ward to bring up the most recent Centennial Bird Walk led by Ralph Cullison. When the trip assembled the park was still closed (gates not open). Potentially this was due to the icy conditions or it could have just been employees arriving late. The participants parked out on Centennial Lane and walked in, but the issue of liability was raised. Kevin took an action to discuss with Sue Muller what the Howard Rec and Parks policy would be in this instance.

Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item.**
- Monitor adequacy of the current web service for the club website as additional changes to the club web site are made using the existing (upgraded) web service . – Bob Solem – **continuing item**
- Follow-up actions related to Warbler ID Workshop CD:
 - Accept enrollment requests and notify those approved for attendance – Kevin Heffernan
- Continue to work on the President's Duties Spreadsheet and make assignments for others to provide inputs for areas as needed – Kevin Heffernan (initial version Completed **leave open** so continue to update as new items are identified).
 - Review Counts items – Chuck Stirrat
 - Newsletter – Kevin discuss further with Amanda
- Provide the Board with follow-up information on discontinued items that might be appropriate for Silent Auction or Sanctuary donations. Send an email to Board members if she finds items that might be appropriate for this purpose. – Sherry Tomlinson
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Solidify plans for the May Count tally – Kevin Heffernan
- Distribute the draft newsletter survey to the Board for comment. – Kevin Heffernan
- Provide donations to Mt. Pleasant and Checkerspot Project – Emy Holdridge
- Provide material to publicize DOS Bird-a-thon and Delaware Bay shore project in newsletter and on web – Kurt
- Include request for more membership survey participation in President's Welcome column in Sept-Oct Goldfinch – Kevin Heffernan
- Update activity spreadsheet date for naming and initiating Nominating Committee activity – Kevin Heffernan

- Electronic Program on Birding (general)
 - Get old slide tray from Jo Solem and report on possible approached – Tom Miller
- Review proposed Policy on Records and provide feedback, comments, and questions to Ward and Emy – All Board Members
- Send E-mail to club seeking Bluebird Box monitors – Bob Solem – **Completed**
- Earth Day Celebration booth
 - Follow-up with Sue Muller to understand opportunity – Kevin Heffernan
 - If appropriate solicity volunteer to coordinate booth set-up and manning – Kevin Heffernan
- Notify appropriate people that club endorses Teaming with Wildlife – Kurt or Kevin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2006	-	Jeff Culler	
November 16, 2006	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2007	-	Jo Solem	
February 22, 2007	-	Kevin Heffernan	
March 22, 2007	-	Karen Darcy	
April 26, 2007	-	Kate Tufts	(Ward Ebert - backup if needed)
May 24, 2007	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda, March 22, 2007
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/06 – 3/21/07 (including Funds Available for Contribution to Conservation Project)
- Synopsis of Delmarva Ornithological Society project to purchase Delaware Bay shore adjacent to Prime Hook NWR and Kurt's proposal to donate a portion of this year's conservation project funds to this project
- Howard County Conservancy proposal for bird feeders at Mt. Pleasant
- Draft "Policy on Records", 3/22/07
- Examples of Record Index for HCMOS Records List – Index, Feb 07

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MARCH 22, 2007

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - i. Partners for Open Space – Green fund signup
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
 - State Board Meeting results *Kevin, Kate, Karen*
8. Old Business
 - “Birding Howard County” on the web
 - Warbler workshop update – 6 people signed up
 - Potluck location for May Count
 - Seed sale proceeds update -
 - President duties spreadsheet (need inputs for counts, newsletter)
 - Howard Bird Club Trip Report Web Reports and Historical Data
 - i. Trip list for trips outside of Ho Co on web?
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Membership form update – how to get more people to fill in the data?
 - Discuss future candidates for office at Nov board meeting in future
 - Review newsletters for new ideas - Review survey from Amanda
 - i. Put in future newsletter? Questionnaire in membership application?
 - Slide program for bird club
 - Ho Co records list – Ward, Emy
 - Bluebird Trail needs
 - Earth Day activities
 - Boy Scout project
 - \$ for memorial
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

(410) 418-8731

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/06-3/21/07

	<u>Budget 2006/07</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues			5,945.00
State Dues Paid			<u>(3,665.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		2,280.00
Contributions			260.00
Total Operating Income	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,540.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		78.91
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	350.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00	49.60	66.76
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00	34.07	34.07
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00	64.80	114.80
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	192.95	694.93
Club Brochures	75.00		
Website			29.71
Miscellaneous		49.00	54.36
Total Operating Expense	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>440.42</u>	<u>1,423.54</u>
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			<u>1,116.46</u>
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,539.00
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			138.94
Seed			5,840.72
Sales Tax			<u>359.00</u>
Total Expense			<u>6,338.66</u>
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			<u>1,200.34</u>
<i>(See reverse side for funds available for habitat conservation)</i>			
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,321.82
Interest Received		55.16	<u>628.05</u>
Balance			<u>7,949.87</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>7,181.29</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,610.28
Savings			15,131.16
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>17,784.72</u>

E. Holdridge
3/21/2007

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CONTRIBUTION
TO CONSERVATION PROJECT

Proceeds from Seed Sale	1,200.34
Contributions for Habitat Preservation	271.50
Suet & Feeder Sales	76.00
Total	<u>1,547.84</u>
Contribution to MOS (Cloud Rainforest Project)	<u>(645.00)</u>
Blance Available	902.84
Contribution to Rec & Parks	(410.00)
Contrbution to All Creatures	(200.00)
Balance available for Contribution	<u><u>292.84</u></u>

The Delmarva Ornithological Society is seeking to raise \$15,000 to purchase 10 acres of Delaware Bay shore adjacent to Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. They are partnering with the Conservation Fund, a national non-profit dedicated to purchasing vital wildlife habitat, which will make the actual purchase. The land will then be turned over to Prime Hook for management. The DOS is organizing a bird-a-thon to raise funds for this project. They plan to make this an annual event, with the ultimate intent of purchasing four miles of bayshore.

The primary beneficiaries of this purchase would be the Horseshoe Crab that breeds there, and the shorebirds which feed on the eggs. The rufa subspecies of the Red Knot uses the Delaware Bay as a major staging and refueling stop on its trip to Canadian breeding grounds. The rufa subspecies has been in precipitous decline for some time and has been proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The petition was rejected, but numbers continue to decline nevertheless.

The Red Knot is also a Maryland bird, and, in fact, is on the Howard County list. This is a chance to benefit an endangered (albeit unofficially) subspecies that is one of our own.

If you wish to support this effort, you can make a check payable to “DOS Bird-A-Thon.” Send it to P. O. Box 4247, Greenville DE, 19807. For further details see <http://www.dosbirds.org/bird-a-thon/bat.htm> .

The Howard County Conservancy is currently creating additional displays for the Nature Center. Currently we have a simple bird feeding station and would like to expand this so that the birds can easily be observed from both the upstairs great room and the downstairs classroom. We would like to request \$300.00 from the Howard County Bird Club to help us purchase these feeders as well as a year's supply of seed. Please see the following proposed budget. Thank you for considering our request.

Meg Schumacher
 Executive Director
 The Howard County Conservancy

Marianne Pettis
 Assistant Director
 The Howard County Conservancy

BUDGET - Bird Feeding Station

Item	Quantity	Amount	Total
Pole, socket, baffle and four arm top	1		\$108.00
Screen Feeder	1		\$42.00
Super cling – a- Wing	1		\$40.00
Suet Feeder	1		\$20.00
Thistle Feeder	1		\$30.00
Seed			\$60.00
Total			\$300.00

Policy on Records

4/3/2007

Index	Item	Short Name	Description	Media	Format	Responsible Person	Backup Required?	Retention Period	Rationale
1	1.1	ByLaws	By-laws of Howard County Chapter, MOS	Paper		President	Yes	Indefinite	Legal bearing
1	1.2	ByLaws	By-laws of Howard County Chapter, MOS	Digital	Word		Yes	5 years	Efficiency
2		Board Minutes	Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors	Paper		President	No	Indefinite	Reference
3		President's Reports	President's reports	Paper		President	No	Indefinite	Historical
4		Correspondence	Official correspondence	Paper		President	No	10 years	Reference
5		Treasurer's Monthly Reports	Treasurer's monthly reports, Balance Sheet and Income Statement	Paper		Treasurer	Yes	1 year	Current planning
6		Treasurer's Annual Reports	Treasurer's annual reports, Balance Sheet and Income Statement	Paper		President	Yes	Indefinite	Legal bearing
7	7.1	Membership Directory	List of members, membership status, type, contact information	Paper		President	Yes	Indefinite	Historical
7	7.2	Membership Directory	List of members, membership status, type, contact information	Digital	Excel		Yes	3 years	Efficiency
8		Fiscal Transactions Records	Details of charitable contributions, payments of honoraria, scholarships, transfers of money to persons or entities outside the HCMOS	Paper		President	Yes	10 years	Legal bearing
9		Newsletters	Widely distributed publications officially issued	Paper		President	Yes	Indefinite	Historical
10		Distributed Materials	Brochures, checklists, calling cards, special mailings, other printed or mass-produced materials placed in the public domain and deemed issued by HCMOS	Any		President	Yes	Indefinite	Reference, legal bearing
11		Artwork	Designs, original artwork used in official or widely distributed materials or items	Any		President	No	Indefinite	Legal bearing, copyright
12		Activity Records	Reports and records of events and participation, including field trips, exhibits, club meetings, special programs, projects sanctioned by HCMOS, activities deemed official or carried out by HCMOS	Paper		President	No	Indefinite	Historical
13									
14									
15									

- a) Birds of Ho Co 1956 – 1993
- b) Centennial Park checklist
- c) Plants of Ho Co
- d) Butterflies of Ho Co
- 3) Conservation proposals 1987 – 1994
- 4) Ho Co council environmental bills 1988 – 1989

Index	File	Short Name	Description	Media	Specific File	Dates	Who	Updated
1	1.1.1	ByLaws	By-laws of Howard County Chapter, MOS	Paper		1982	KJH	Mar-07
1	1.1.2	ByLaws	By-laws of Howard County Chapter, MOS	Paper		1989	KJH	Mar-07
1	1.2	ByLaws	By-laws of Howard County Chapter, MOS	Digital				
2		Board Minutes	Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors	Paper				
3		President's Reports	President's reports	Paper				
4		Correspondence	Official correspondence	Paper				
5		Treasurer's Monthly Reports	Treasurer's monthly reports, Balance Sheet and Income Statement	Paper				
6		Treasurer's Annual Reports	Treasurer's annual reports, Balance Sheet and Income Statement	Paper				
7	7.1	Membership Directory	List of members, membership status, type, contact information	Paper				
7	7.2	Membership Directory	List of members, membership status, type, contact information	Digital				
8		Fiscal Transactions Records	Details of charitable contributions, payments of honoraria, scholarships, transfers of money to persons or entities outside the HCMOS	Paper				
9		Newsletters	Widely distributed publications officially issued	Paper				
10		Distributed Materials	Brochures, checklists, calling cards, special mailings, other printed or mass-produced materials placed in the public domain and deemed issued by HCMOS	Any				
10	10.1	Distributed Materials	Checklist	Paper	Birds of Ho Co	1956-1993	KJH	
10	10.2	Distributed Materials	Checklist	Paper	Centennial Park Checklist		KJH	
10	10.3	Distributed Materials	Checklist	Paper	Plants of Ho Co		KJH	
10	10.4	Distributed Materials	Checklist	Paper	Butterflies of Ho Co		KJH	
10	10.5	Distributed Materials						
11		Artwork	Designs, original artwork used in official or widely distributed materials or items	Any				
12		Activity Records	Reports and records of events and participation, including field trips, exhibits, club meetings, special programs, projects sanctioned by HCMOS, activities deemed official or carried out by HCMOS	Paper				
13		Backups	Backup copies required by policy	Any				
14								
15								

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2007

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2005-2006 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr) √
 Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
 Karen Darcy √
 Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Atlas: Jane Coskren (& *Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck (& *Yellowthroat*): Sue Probst
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 12. The agenda for this Board meeting was distributed in advance of the meeting and is attached.

Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 12 was 42 people. This was the annual business meeting of the chapter. Jeff Culler, representing the nominating committee, put forward the following slate of officers for next year that had been included in a mailing that included the club directory:

President – Kevin Heffernan
Vice President – Thomas Miller
Secretary – Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer – Emy Holdridge
State Directors – Mary-Jo Betts, Karen Darcy, Kate Tufts
Chapter Directors – Felicia Lovelett (1st year), Ward Ebert (2nd year of 2 year term)

It was moved and seconded that the slate submitted be elected. The motion passed unanimously. After the election Colin Studds was scheduled to give a program entitled “The Ecology of American Redstarts during Winters: No Tropical Vacation” but he did not show for the meeting. After an initial attempt to fill the time with informal comments and jokes, Dave Terry provided a welcome solution. He offered to provide an extemporaneous report of his efforts monitoring Bluebird boxes at the Timbers at Troy golf course over the past several years. In his interesting talk he described how as part of the Howard Recreation and Parks nest box monitoring program he has battled a large house sparrow population. However, he is now seeing positive results for his efforts with increasing bluebird success and a declining house sparrow population.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy passed out the Treasurer’s report (attached). She pointed out that Sue Probst has the refund check of our deposit for the pot luck facility rental (\$50). An explanation of the disbursements for conservation projects is shown on page 2 of the report. She supplemented the contributions with \$7.16 from operating fund to round contributions

to match Board actions on gifts. Page 2 also has a proposed operating budget for the next fiscal year (5/1/07 – 4/30/08). It is basically the same as last year less two items, Atlas supplies - \$25, Brochures - \$75. The Atlas doesn't expect to need supplies and we are using the State MOS brochures for our club brochures. Acceptance of the proposed budget was moved, seconded, and approved as submitted. Emy stated she will prepare a fiscal year end report Treasurer's Report after April 30. That report is attached to these Minutes and is available to provide to any club members who request a copy.

President's Remarks (Heffernan):

Kevin commented on the participation at the Howard Rec and Parks Earth Day festivities. It was relatively slow, but he felt that one or two couples that they spoke with might attend some club meetings/activities. Howard Rec and Parks has stated they will likely hold their activity on another date to avoid conflict with the many Earth Day celebrations held around the county and state. If that happens we might consider participating in the Howard County Conservancy celebration.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller):

Tom remarked that the Warbler Workshop was a success, and thanked Kevin for doing a great job running the workshop.

Review of Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item. Progress is continuing but no need to discuss further at this meeting.**
- Monitor adequacy of the current web service for the club website as additional changes to the club web site are made using the existing (upgraded) web service . – Bob Solem – **Currently more than adequate, close as an active action item**
- Follow-up actions related to Warbler ID Workshop CD:
 - Accept enrollment requests and notify those approved for attendance – Kevin Heffernan - **Completed**
- Continue to work on the President's Duties Spreadsheet and make assignments for others to provide inputs for areas as needed – Kevin Heffernan (initial version Completed **leave open** so continue to update as new items are identified).
 - Review Counts items – Chuck Stirrat – **Still Open**
 - Newsletter – Kevin discuss further with Amanda **See Old Business**
- Provide the Board with follow-up information on discontinued items that might be appropriate for Silent Auction or Sanctuary donations. Send an email to Board members if she finds items that might be appropriate for this purpose. – Sherry Tomlinson – **Her employer opted to hold a sale instead, closed**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item – See Old Business**
- Solidify plans for the May Count tally – Kevin Heffernan – **June Tveekrem volunteered to host - Completed**
- Distribute the draft newsletter survey to the Board for comment. – Kevin Heffernan – **See Old Business**
- Provide donations to Mt. Pleasant and Checkerspot Project – Emy Holdridge - **Completed**
- Provide material to publicize DOS Bird-a-thon and Delaware Bay shore project in newsletter and on web – Kurt – **in May/June Newsletter - Completed**

- Include request for more membership survey participation in President's Welcome column in Sept-Oct Goldfinch – Kevin Heffernan – **To be done later – Keep Open**
- Update activity spreadsheet date for naming and initiating Nominating Committee activity – Kevin Heffernan - **Completed**
- Electronic Program on Birding (general)
 - Get old slide tray from Jo Solem (**Completed**) and report on possible approached – Tom Miller – **Still Open**
- Review proposed Policy on Records and provide feedback, comments, and questions to Ward and Emy – All – **See Old Business**
- Send E-mail to club seeking Bluebird Box monitors – Bob Solem – **Completed**
- Earth Day Celebration booth
 - Follow-up with Sue Muller to understand opportunity – Kevin Heffernan
 - If appropriate solicit volunteer to coordinate booth set-up and manning – Kevin Heffernan - **Completed**
- Notify appropriate people that club endorses Teaming with Wildlife – Kurt or Kevin – **Still Open**

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report

Chapter Committee Reports

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert): No report

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report. Sue Probst was attending a hearing on funding Howard Community College development of the Belmont Property at the same time of this Board meeting. She was to present testimony prepared by Kurt, with input from Mike Bowen, Stan Arnold, and Sue, that focused on the need for any development of the property to preserve the natural habitat of Belmont.

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda stated she felt the newsletter preparation process was going well. See Old Business.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report

Programs (Geuder): No report

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer): No report

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): No report

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that the web development was going well. The current service is more than adequate for all our current initiatives. The focus has been on the process of capturing and posting club field trip results. See Old Business for further discussion of Web plans.

Old Business

The duties spreadsheet is in good shape. Chuck still owes comments on the Counts portion, and Amanda was asked to review/markup the schedule as a “guideline”. It is fully understood that strict adherence to the schedule is impossible (after all this is a volunteer organization), but having goals give current and future contributors an idea of what needs to be done in what sequence and approximately when to get the newsletter out on a reasonable schedule.

Bob reported that he is currently focusing the Web Trip List project on the process of posting the current trips (he is comfortable with doing this without formally addressing an underlying database design). We need to answer what we want to get out of posting trip reports on web. To support this we will need guidelines for the trip leaders to include in their inputs. Later we will need to address the design of data base and the capture of historical trip reports. The historical data is in form of computer printouts so that scanning and OCR should be possible as initial step.

Kevin asked about posting the cumulative results of previous club seasonal counts. He reported that he had sent a copy of the spreadsheet he put together to the new compiler for the state-wide May Count. Jo pointed out that we need to proceed slowly with this data because there are several suspect reports in the early reports. We agreed to defer this discussion to a future time.

We briefly discussed if any updates were needed for the membership form. None have been proposed except for the inclusion of a newsletter survey on the back of form. Regarding the survey, Bob offered the advice that attempts to seek input via survey more frequently than every 5 years is usually unsuccessful. Accordingly we should take this opportunity to ask other than about the newsletter if we identify something else we want input on. Kevin will distribute the draft of survey that Amanda has proposed and the Board is asked to review it and provide feedback.

Ward provided an update on the Club Records project. The policy statement distributed at last meeting (in Minutes) generated no comments. Bob moved that the Board approve this policy statement as a baseline for club policy on retention of records. This was seconded and passed by the Board. This statement is the "Policy on Records" date April 3, 2006 and attached to the March 22 minutes. Ward then reported on the inventory progress. He has received inputs for the inventory from Kevin, Emy, Jo, and a list from Marty Chestem. He has a new inventory (4 pages) that he will distribute to the Board. Members are to identify additional items to add, provide inputs on what items could be discarded, and known missing information to search for. This inventory is dealing with all club materials (not just paper records). We will discuss further at next meeting.

Discussion of liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller that was on the agenda was postponed. *Is there still an open action item on this topic?*

New Business

Kate reported that she had been approached by the Glenwood Senior Center about having the club present a talk for seniors at the Center. They specifically asked about a program in June that would address "not feeding certain species." This is not a topic that could be given easily as it would require significant research and preparation. Kate did offer that we could probably lead a "bird walk" at Western Regional Park. Bill Hill might be a potential leader to assist Kate with this if they are really interested in that. In the past the club has offered programs with a much more generic birding focus. If we do get a general PowerPoint program put together (see Tom Miller action item), requests from organizations like this for talks might be more readily responded to.

Next Bob passed around copies of the email he had received from Wes Earp (attached) asking about plans and policy for the web site photo page. We discussed the questions and brainstormed some ideas for the purpose of the photo page. Points made included:

1. Used by "Non-birders" or "Beginners" who want to see/ID the bird. (Also will provide ID information for advanced birders when Howard rarities are found.)
2. Provide "pretty" bird pictures
3. Show place for Howard County Bird Photographers
4. Ultimately link photos to the species accounts that will be part of the "Birding Howard County" web project
5. Provide information on where and when found in Howard County. Will only include species that occur in Howard County. Strong preference for photos actually taken in Howard County.

Bob said that we currently have significant file space, but if he puts to many pictures on a page they become relatively useless to those who only have "dial-up" access as without high-speed internet connection the download time becomes prohibitive. It was concluded that the photo pages shouldn't have to be limited by "dial-up" restrictions. Lastly we discussed how static or dynamic the content should be. It seemed to be the consensus that

Bob as webmaster should respond to new inputs as they are submitted but not plan to have a formal rotation plan. Bob agreed to draft a proposed policy summarizing his interpretation of our discussion and provide this to the Board for comment and discussion at the next meeting. His draft is attached to these minutes and after a final policy is set by the board it will be posted as part of the web site.

Kevin stated that his inclusion of the conservation items in the agenda was not to hold a discussion of them but just have the list documented. He wanted to emphasize how much effort the club's members (especially Kurt and George Alderson) are putting into conservation issues.

Fred Fallon has requested copies of past May Count records for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area as part of a study he is conducting trying to assess the impact of deer on the area and the managed hunting program. It was agreed that we would not expend a great deal of effort in extracting this data, but would offer him copies of the spreadsheets if he wants to extract the data himself. Chuck agreed to contact Fred and send him the Excel spreadsheets if he wanted them. *Secretary's Note: I provided him with data for 1995 – 2006 which was when I began compiling data in electronic format.*

Jo made note of an article appearing in the Howard County Times on a Bald Eagle seen in a local backyard that referenced the club web site as an information source.

Jo and Bob spoke to John Byrd who is Head of Howard Rec and Parks during the Earth Day gathering. He fully supports providing club member access to county park land for the "Site Guide" project data collection.

John Byrd asked Jo and Bob if the club would consider commenting on a proposal the county has received for development of a "Zip Line in Savage Park." As part of a business venture someone is proposing a 1 mile long tree top level high speed zip line similar to ones used in rain forest canopies in the tropics. The developer is promoting this "theme park ride" as an environmental/wildlife/historical education activity. The county has to give this formal consideration so would like the club to provide our formal position on such a development. The Board was unanimous in opposition and brainstormed several points to include in a formal response,

- Proposal shows obvious lack of knowledge of the realities of how useless this would be to someone really interested in viewing nature
- This location along the Piedmont fall line is one of the least "birdy" areas in county
- Forest defragmentation
- Opposite effect to park purpose of habitat preservation
- Financial viability doubtful (weather totally different than tropics)
- If venture were to fail, the county would have to take it down, and the habitat would already be lost
- Compete with the Robinson Nature Center (need competent staff as naturalists)
- Destroy solitude of natural setting
- Parking/access/land for infrastructure
- Age/health issues for who could ride the zip line

Jo agreed to prepare and send a letter to the county expressing the club's position on this proposal along with supporting justification.

Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item.**
- Maintain the President's Duties Spreadsheet – Kevin Heffernan (initial version Completed, **leave open** so continue to update as new items are identified).
 - Seasonal Counts – provide comments to Kevin – Chuck Stirrat
 - Newsletter – Review and markup as a "guideline" schedule – Amanda Witt
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**

- Email an updated copy of inventory to Board – Ward
- Board review and come prepared to discuss at next Board meeting - All
- Include request for more membership survey participation in President’s Welcome column in Sept-Oct Goldfinch – Kevin Heffernan – **later**
- Electronic Program on “Birding” for general use
 - Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller
 - Contact Mike Bowen about obtaining shortened version of “Warbler Workshop” file – Kevin Heffernan
- Notify appropriate people that club endorses Teaming with Wildlife – Kurt or Kevin
- Follow-up with the Glenwood Senior Center declining giving a talk, but repeating offer of bird walk – Kate Tufts
- Draft a policy statement for the club’s Photo Web Page (discuss at next meeting) – Bob Solem – **Attached**
- Distribute the draft newsletter survey to the Board for comment. – Kevin Heffernan
- Provide May Count spreadsheets to Fred Fallon for MPEA study – Chuck Stirrat - **Completed**
- Prepare letter stating club opposition to proposal for “zip-line” in Savage Park – Jo Solem

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2006	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 26, 2006	-	Jeff Culler	
November 16, 2006	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 25, 2007	-	Jo Solem	
February 22, 2007	-	Kevin Heffernan	
March 22, 2007	-	Karen Darcy	
April 26, 2007	-	Kate Tufts	
May 24, 2007	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda, April 26, 2007
- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer’s Report 5/1/2006 – 4/25/07
- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Proposed Budget 2007-2008
- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer’s Report 5/1/2006 – 4/30/07 FINAL REPORT FOR FY
- “Photo questions about the web page” – April 21, 2007 Email from Wes Earp
- Statement of Purpose for the HCBC Photo Page on the Web – 4/27/2007 DRAFT PROPOSAL

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

APRIL 26, 2007

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
8. Old Business
 - "Birding Howard County" on the web
 - President duties spreadsheet (need inputs for counts, newsletter)
 - Howard Bird Club Trip Report Web Reports and Historical Data
 - Slide program for bird club
 - Membership form update
 - Ho Co records list – Ward, Emy
 - Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Glenwood Senior Center request - Kate
 - Photo questions re web page – Bob
 - Review newsletters for new ideas - Review survey from Amanda
 - i. Put in future newsletter? Questionnaire in membership application?
 - Conservation items this past month (intent is to emphasize how much time & effort goes on here):
 - i. CHESSEA, wind power bill, Allegheny National Forest campaign for wilderness, Preserve Arch Canyon's Natural and Cultural Resources, Communication Towers (ABC), Save Belmont, Tongass National Forest, Smith Property, Bureau of Land Management, Birdsong and coffee,
 - Request for MPEA May count data from Fred Fallon
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Kate Tufts

2830 Duvall Rd.

Woodbine, MD 21797

(410) 489-7052

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/06-4/25/07

	Budget 2006/07	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		105.00	6,050.00
State Dues Paid			(3,665.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		2,385.00
Contributions			260.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,500.00	105.00	2,645.00
Expense:			
Donations		7.16	7.16
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		78.91
Donations			*
Website			29.71
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		350.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		66.76
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		34.07
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		114.80
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	68.00	762.93
Club Brochures	75.00		
Miscellaneous			54.36
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,500.00	75.16	1,491.54
 Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			 1,153.46
 Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,539.00
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			138.94
Seed			5,840.72
Sales Tax			359.00
Total Expense			6,338.66
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,200.34
 <i>(See below for funds available for habitat conservation)</i> 			
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,321.82
Interest Received		63.82	691.87
Balance			8,013.69
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			7,181.29
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,347.28
Savings			15,194.98
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			17,585.54

E. Holdridge
4/25/2007

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CONTRIBUTION
TO CONSERVATION PROJECT

Proceeds from Seed Sale	1,200.34
Contributions for Habitat Preservation	271.50
Suet & Feeder Sales	<u>76.00</u>
 Total	 1,547.84
 Contribution to MOS	 <u>(645.00)</u>
(Cloud Rainforest Project)	
 Balance Available	 902.84
 Contribution to Rec & Parks	 (410.00)
Contribution to All Creatures	(200.00)
Contribution to Howard Conservancy	(240.00)
Contribution to Checkerspot Restoration	(60.00)
Contribution from Operating Funds	<u>7.16</u>
Balance	<u><u>(0.00)</u></u>

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/07-4/30/08**

	Budget
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	-
Membership Dues (net)	2,500.00
Contributions	-
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,500.00
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	100.00
Special Supplies	
Postage, Copies	250.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 5/1/06 - 4/30/07 FINAL

	Budget 2006/07	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		105.00	6,050.00
State Dues Paid			(3,665.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		2,385.00
Contributions			260.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>105.00</u>	<u>2,645.00</u>
Expense:			
Donations		7.16	7.16
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		78.91
Website			29.71
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		350.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00	21.81	88.57
Breeding Bird Atlas Supplies	25.00		34.07
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		114.80
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	355.25	1,118.18
Club Brochures	75.00		
Miscellaneous			54.36
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>384.22</u>	<u>1,868.60</u>
 Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			<u>776.40</u>
 Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,539.00
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			138.94
Seed			5,840.72
Sales Tax			359.00
Total Expense			<u>6,338.66</u>
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			<u>1,200.34</u>
 <i>(See below for funds available for habitat conservation)</i> 			
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			7,321.82
Interest Received		63.82	691.87
Balance			<u>8,013.69</u>
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>7,181.29</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,038.83
Savings			15,194.98
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>17,277.09</u>

E. Holdridge
5/6/07

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CONTRIBUTION TO CONSERVATION PROJECT

Proceeds from Seed Sale	1,200.34
Contributions for Habitat Preservation	271.50
Suet & Feeder Sales	<u>76.00</u>
Total	1,547.84
Contribution to MOS (Cloud Rainforest Project)	(645.00)
Contribution to Rec & Parks	(410.00)
Contribution to All Creatures	(200.00)
Contribution to Howard Conservancy	(240.00)
Contribution to Checkerspot Restoration	(60.00)
Contribution from Operating Funds	<u>7.16</u>
Balance	<u><u>(0.00)</u></u>

From: Wes Earp [mailto:the_earps@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2007 11:16 PM
To: Solem, Bob & Jo
Subject: Photo questions about the web page

Bob, I was wondering what are the goals for the photos on the web page? I would assume you are working with limited space and time and we don't want to be sending over stuff, for your perusal, that clutters up the effort.

1. Are you planning on changing the selection over time, rotating images, steadily posting new ones?
2. If static, are you concerned about quality and looking to improve the selection, although I would guess there is a reluctance to "bump" photos?
3. Are you looking for pictures of interest, action, etc or portraits or both?
4. Are you looking for photos that clearly show field marks to help with ID?
5. How many photos of a given species do you want to display? For instance, if you have four do you want more if they show something different?
6. What is the maximum file size that we should limit submittals to?

Wes

DRAFT PROPOSAL

Statement of Purpose for the HCBC Photo Page on the Web

"With the advent of digital photography, new opportunities to show off bird pictures are available to bird watchers with cameras.

"Howard County Bird Club's Photo Page is provided so that birders have a visual reference for species recorded in Howard County. It is also a medium for photographers in the Howard County Bird Club to display their work. Pictures are selected to be representative of birds of Howard County, show field marks that help with identification, and are esthetically pleasing. The pictures may show habitat, action, or groups of birds. Photographers represented have given the Howard County Bird Club permission to display the photographs on the web page, but the photographers retain all rights (including copyright) of the images themselves. Contact the photographer about reproduction rights (through the photo page if desired).

"Where possible, photographs taken in Howard County are used. All photographs must be sponsored by a Howard County Bird Club member.

"The photo page is dynamic, and images displayed will change over time, but there is no requirement to change the display after a set time period. Additional pictures of a species may be added (or substituted) if they show something different. There is a practical limit of having all photographs of one species fit on a single web page. The size of the photographs may be changed by the webmaster so they fit on a single web page. If you have photos you want considered for inclusion, email HCBC Photos with information about the photos and about you. Photographs with a minimum of intervention (except cropping) through use of electronic photo processing are preferred. The webmaster may employ electronic photo processing programs to produce consistency of image quality among the photographs displayed.

"It comes down to this: If you have digital photographs you want considered, send them in. We can't display the photographs we have never seen!"

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 24, 2007

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2006-2007 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*)
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr)
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

State Officers/Committees:

Atlas: Jane Coskren (& *Park Checklists*)
Conservation: Maureen Harvey
Investments: Martha Waugh
Scholarships: Tom Strikwerda

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck (& *Yellowthroat*): Sue Probst
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

Felicia Lovelett (Chapter Director-elect) √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Tom Miller. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 10 was ___ people. Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan gave a program entitled "Birding in Belize." Kevin welcomed Felicia to the Board and provided an opportunity for all to discuss the business and social advantages of having the Board meetings.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Solem for Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was not at the meeting but had emailed a copy of the treasurer's report (attached) to the Board. The Board agreed with her suggestion that **henceforth she would email to Board members a copy of the treasurer's report which is to be presented at a Board meeting but not provide copies at the Board meeting itself. Those Board members wishing a copy should print one when they receive the email.**

President's Remarks (Heffernan): Kevin thanked all of the Howard County Bird Club members who made the first year of his presidency a success, and the Board thanked Kevin for his leadership, especially in establishing and documenting a schedule of activities that recur each year and making the schedule available to those who are responsible for carrying out these activities (e.g., see Old Business).

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): Tom suggested a change in equipment brought to club meetings; see New Business.

Review of Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item.**
- Maintain the President's Duties Spreadsheet – Kevin Heffernan (initial version Completed, **leave open** so continue to update as new items are identified).

- Seasonal Counts – provide comments to Kevin – Chuck Stirrat - **Completed**
- Newsletter – Review and markup as a “guideline” schedule – Amanda Witt - **Completed**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
 - Email an updated copy of inventory to Board – Ward - **Completed**
 - Board review and come prepared to discuss at next Board meeting - All - **Deferred**
- Include request for more membership survey participation in President’s Welcome column in Sept-Oct Goldfinch – Kevin Heffernan – **see Old Business**
- Electronic Program on “Birding” for general use
 - Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item**
 - Contact Mike Bowen about obtaining shortened version of “Warbler Workshop” file – Kevin Heffernan - **Completed**
- Notify appropriate people that club endorses Teaming with Wildlife – Kurt or Kevin - **unable to track**
- Follow-up with the Glenwood Senior Center declining giving a talk, but repeating offer of bird walk – Kate Tufts - **Completed**
- Draft a policy statement for the club’s Photo Web Page – Bob Solem – - **see Old Business**
- Distribute the draft newsletter survey to the Board for comment. – Kevin Heffernan - **Completed; see Old Business**
- Provide May Count spreadsheets to Fred Fallon for MPEA study – Chuck Stirrat - **Completed**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin – **deferred.**
- Prepare letter stating club opposition to proposal for “zip-line” in Savage Park – Jo Solem - **Completed**

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last chapter Board meeting.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts):

Chapter Committee Reports

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert): The Board thanked Jeff for his service on the Board and looked forward to seeing him at meetings and field trips.

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Newsletter (Witt): see discussion of newsletter survey under Old Business.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst):

Programs (Geuder):

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer):

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem):

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): see setting date for 2007 sale under New Business

Webmaster (R. Solem): see Old Business

Old Business

- President duties spreadsheet: Kevin distributed copies of the material on Overall Bird Club Calendar, Seed Sale, Counts, and Potluck Dinner. Bob Solem will provide input on membership database maintenance and send it to Kevin for comment.
- Policy statement on Howard County Bird Club’s Photo Page on the web site: The Board approved the attached policy statement. Bob will incorporate this into the photo page on the web (completed after Board meeting).
- Howard Bird Club Trip Reports: Bob reported what he hopes is a one-time problem of a lost submission of a trip report from Kevin and will work on a solution if the problem recurs. There was general discussion about the policy for posting results of Howard County Bird Club trip reports, **and the following was adopted by the Board:**

- Material from Howard County Bird Club field trips will be accessible from a table on the web page and will include the trip leader, date, location, details and comments (if appropriate), and birds seen.
 - Trip reports will be posted to the web beginning this summer with 2007 trips and working backwards as Bob completes entry of historical material. (He is waiting for the material for 2004-2006 trips from Bonnie.) If any trips in the future are cancelled, the trip will appear with the notation “cancelled.”
 - Since not all trips from the past have been documented, there will *not* be an entry in the table for trips for which there is no information. (Announcements of the trips appear in *The Goldfinch*, and copies of previous issues are available on the web.)
 - Only information on birds seen is required in these reports. If information seen on special interest trips (butterfly, odonate, wildflower, etc.) is available, it will be included in the “Comments” section.
 - Trip leaders will be encouraged to use any of the three methods available for “Trip Leader Reports” available from the “Members’ Corner” section of the web pages.
- Membership survey. There was consensus that the draft membership survey on newsletter ideas be included on the back of the application blank included in the Sept/Oct newsletter. Kevin will also include mention of the survey in his “president’s welcome” in the same newsletter. Bob will include a version on the web that will go out about the same time as the Sept/Oct newsletter. There were suggestions from the Board that will be incorporated by Amanda.

New Business

- Short version of Warbler CD. Tom will have a copy of what is called the “short version of warbler CD” in the club audio-visual materials that he brings to each club meeting so that it is available as an emergency program if the scheduled speaker does not come.
- Tom suggested and the Board approved having Tom keep the club’s slide projector available but not bring it to each meeting **unless the scheduled speaker requests to have a slide projector available for the presentation. Jane Geuder will be sure to notify each speaker of this policy and inquire whether they will need a slide projector; if so, she will notify Tom to bring it. (Otherwise there will be one less heavy object that Tom has to bring...)**
- Kevin brought up standardizing the sub-areas for each count and for each of the defined areas. At present, there is little consistency among the three counts nor do all of the areas attempt to standardize the sub-areas from one year to the next. Since not all of the count area coordinators were present, discussion was limited to the advantages and problems that might occur if this were adopted. This will be discussed further in the fall. Kevin will also coordinate with Mike McClure about who will be having the tally for the Fall Count.
- Seed Sale. Sherry has a 10’ x 10’ tarp on poles that can be used to protect the seed and sellers from inclement weather on the day of the seed sale. She will contact Cathy Franklin from *The Wildlife Authority* to set up a mid-October date for the 2007 seed sale and notify Bonnie of the date so that there is no conflict with a bird walk.

Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item.**
- Maintain the President’s Duties Spreadsheet – Kevin Heffernan (initial version Completed, **leave open** so continue to update as new items are identified). – Bob Solem - provide input on membership database maintenance - **new**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item**
- Notify appropriate people that club endorses Teaming with Wildlife – Kurt or Kevin - ???
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin
- Verify with Sue Muller that Rec & Parks HQ building is available for Thursday meetings - Kevin
- Membership form update – Kevin- **new**

- Include request for more membership survey participation in President's Welcome column in Sept/Oct *Goldfinch* – Kevin Heffernan
- Prepare newsletter survey for inclusion in Sept/Oct *Goldfinch* and provide Bob a copy for web - Amanda
- Seed sale: Establish date in mid-October with *The Wildlife Authority* for club seed sale and communicate date to Bonnie to avoid conflict with scheduled trip - Sherry

Need to identify initial schedule of Board meeting locations for the 2007-2008 year for following:

November 15, 2007	-	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	
February 28, 2008	-	
March 27, 2008	-	
April 24, 2008	-	
May 22, 2008	-	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM. Next year dates are:

September 27, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott- Kevin to check with Bonnie!
October 26, 2007	-	Karen Darcy
November 16, 2007	-	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	
February 28, 2008	-	
March 27, 2008	-	
April 24, 2008	-	
May 22, 2008	-	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Treasurer's report
- Policy statement on Howard County Bird Club's Photo Page on the web site
- HCMOS.RecordsList.Apr07.xls (sent to Board via email)
- Bird club calendar – task KJH 05-24-07.xls (sent to Board via email)

Minutes submitted by: Bob Solem in the absence of Chuck

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/07-5/20/07

	Budget 2007/08	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		30.00	30.00
State Dues Paid			-
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00		30.00
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,500.00	30.00	30.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	-	-
Gain/Loss-Operating Fund			30.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		57.85	57.85
Balance			8,071.54
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			7,181.29
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,068.83
Savings			15,252.83
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			17,364.94

Policy Statement for Howard County Bird Club Photo Page on Web Site
Adopted by at Board of Directors Meeting May 24, 2007

- With the advent of digital photography, new opportunities to show off bird pictures are available to bird watchers with cameras.
- Howard County Bird Club's Photo Page is provided so that birders have a visual reference for species recorded in Howard County. It is also a medium for photographers in the Howard County Bird Club to display their work. Pictures are selected to be representative of birds of Howard County, show field marks that help with identification, and are esthetically pleasing. The pictures may show habitat, action, or groups of birds. Photographers represented have given the Howard County Bird Club permission to display the photographs on the web page, but the photographers retain all rights (including copyright) of the images themselves. Contact the photographer about reproduction rights (through the photo page if desired).
- Where possible, photographs taken in Howard County are used. All photographs must be sponsored by a Howard County Bird Club member.
- The photo page is dynamic, and images displayed will change over time, but there is no requirement to change the display after a set time period. Additional pictures of a species may be added (or substituted) if they show something different. There is a practical limit of having all photographs of one species fit on a single web page. The size of the photographs may be changed by the webmaster so they fit on a single web page.
- If you have photos you want considered for inclusion, email the webmaster with information about the photos and about you. Photographs with a minimum of intervention (except cropping) through use of electronic photo processing are preferred. The webmaster may edit what is submitted for consistency of image quality among the photographs displayed.
- It comes down to this: If you have digital photographs you want considered, send them in. We can't display the photographs we have never seen!

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 2007

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Felicia Lovelett (1st yr)
Ward Ebert (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder √
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck (& *Yellowthroat*): Sue Probst
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Darcy. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 13, 2007 was 53 people. Beth Zang gave a program entitled "An Holistic Approach to Bird Conservation in Peru."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Approved

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Approved

President's Remarks (Heffernan): We have a long agenda tonight.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): None

Review of Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**.
- Maintain the President's Duties Spreadsheet – Kevin Heffernan (initial version Completed– Bob Solem - provide input on membership database maintenance – **completed**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item**
- ~~Notify appropriate people that club endorses Teaming with Wildlife – Kurt or Kevin -~~ **dropped**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin **open item**
- Verify with Sue Muller that Rec & Parks HQ building is available for Thursday meetings – Kevin **open item**
- Membership form update – Kevin- **completed**
- Include request for more membership survey participation in President's Welcome column in Sept/Oct *Goldfinch* – Kevin Heffernan **completed**
- Prepare newsletter survey for Sept/Oct *Goldfinch* and for web – Amanda **completed**
- Seed sale: Establish date in mid-October with *The Wildlife Authority* for club seed sale and communicate date to Bonnie to avoid conflict with scheduled trip – Sherry **complete**

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

Chapter Committee Reports

Chapter Directors (Culler, Ebert):

Conservation (K. Schwarz):

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Newsletter (Witt):

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst):

Programs (Geuder): see New Business

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer):

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): see Old Business

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): see below.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Old Business

- *Birding Howard County, Maryland* on the web: “Birding Year” has been proofed, “Species Accounts” will be sent out for proofing, and planning is underway for the “Site Guides” section.
- Howard Bird Club Trip Reports on the web: up to date. Historical data: pending.
- Slide program for bird club
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed.

New Business

- Board meeting locations: see below
- “Chesapeake Bay” talk by Weingrad (Jane Geuder). The Board approved sponsorship of a separate meeting for the talk in early 2008. It will be co-sponsored by Howard County Conservancy or Howard County Dept of Rec and Parks; this, the location, and the date are TBD.
- Seed Sale update: Sherry brought a sample of “Squirrel Away,” a red-pepper repellent to be added to seed to keep squirrels away. This is a discontinued item that her employer donated to the club. The Board agreed that, if it or a similar product was not sold at “The Wildlife Authority,” a packet would be given to people who ordered seed from the club when they picked up their seed. Sherry will also bring packets to bird club meetings for free distribution.
- Lead bird walk at Maryland Central Farm: Kevin will ask Wes Earp if he can do it.
- Membership application form: Kevin has entered the responses from the first page into a spreadsheet and will update it as he receives additional forms.
- Membership survey (back of application form): Amanda Witt will compile the answers as she receives completed forms.
- Deer hunts on public property: The Board affirmed its support of managed deer hunts on Howard County property and authorized the president to notify the County Executive of our policy.
- Suggestions on what Columbia Association could spend money on for Habitat and Wildlife: no action.
- Ash tree seeds (Sept 21): information item only.
- MOS listserve: information item only.
- Mapmuse: information item only.
- Photo competition for Atlas: information item only.
- Middleton Evans talk on Nov 4: information item only
- Sue Muller request for money for Purple Martin gourds: will be discussed when Board determines use of seed sale monies.
- \$1500 rainforest challenge: HCBC Board respectfully defers to other clubs this year.
- Trip insurance waiver: MOS will have more information on this in the future.

Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item.**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin **open item**
- Verify with Sue Muller that Rec & Parks HQ building is available for Thursday meetings – Kevin **open item**
- Chesapeake Bay talk: Kevin and Jane Geuder
- On behalf of Board, correspond with Chick Rhodehammel on Vantage Point Great Blue Heron nests – Jo Solem

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2007	-	Karen Darcy (swap with Bonnie after newsletter announced alternate order)
October 25, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott
November 15, 2007	-	Amanda Witt (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 28, 2008	-	Jo Solem
March 27, 2008	-	Ward Ebert
April 24, 2008	-	Kate Tufts
May 22, 2008	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Treasurer’s report

Minutes submitted by: Bob Solem in the absence of Chuck

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 09/22/07

	Budget 2007/08	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		3,160.00	3,190.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	3,160.00	3,190.00
Contributions		180.00	180.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,500.00	3,340.00	3,370.00
Expense:			
Donations			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	71.34	71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	75.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00	15.89	15.89
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00	(21.70)	(21.70)
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	354.95	354.95
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	495.48	495.48
 Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			
Expense			
Flyers/Misc		56.18	56.18
Seed			
Sales Tax			
Total Expense			56.18
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		255.87	313.72
Balance			8,327.41
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			7,181.29
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,777.17
Savings			15,508.70
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			20,329.15

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 25, 2007

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Felicia Lovelett (1st yr) √
Ward Ebert (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips/Atlas: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation/Past Pres.: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Past President/Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck (& *Yellowthroat*): Sue Probst √
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 11 was ___ people. Craig Tufts, Chief Naturalist for the National Wildlife Federation, gave a program entitled "Gardening for Backyard Biodiversity."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes taken by Bob Solem and submitted by Chuck were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's report is attached. It does not reflect all of the seed sale proceeds.

The club is again paying the membership fee for the Franklin's membership in recognition of their hosting the club's seed sale at their store, The Wildlife Authority.

President's Remarks (Heffernan):

Kevin reviewed the items listed on attached agenda as President's remarks. He stated that the bird walk at Univ of MD Central Farm had been cancelled. The letter regarding deer hunt was sent. Joe Byrnes and Wes Earp have agreed to help Mark Wallace with coordinating Area 1 in the upcoming Winter Count. Fall Count coordination is still to be resolved for Area 1.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): No remarks before reviewing action items.

Review of Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**. See discussion under old business and review of "show and tell" presented at end of meeting.
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**

Ward summarized the list of items they are trying to locate. Some of these items are: 1. Hard copies of newsletters (early copies from binder that Marty Chestem provided). We have electronic copies for most if not all of these on web. 2 Directory listings of membership - Bob agreed to supply what he had. 3. Treasurer's reports –

Emy to review and provide what she has. 4. Minutes of Board meetings (post 1985) – Chuck to review his holdings and provide list.

- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item**
Tom reported he has started an outline of such a presentation.
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin **open item**
Still open action
- Verify with Sue Muller that Rec & Parks HQ building is available for Thursday meetings – Kevin **Close item**
Kevin reported that we have confirmed use of the building through Dec 2008 meeting. Continuing to ensure we have use of meeting space is an item on the “to do list” for President’s spreadsheet.
- Chesapeake Bay talk: Kevin and Jane Geuder
Still open action.
- On behalf of Board, correspond with Chick Rhodehammel on Vantage Point Great Blue Heron nests – Jo Solem
Jo reported she had sent an email to Chick but had not received a response. She did talk to a representative at Howard County Public Works Dept. Don Lew is the appropriate project manager who acknowledged our concern. It was agreed that a letter sent next Spring reminding the Dept of Public Works of our concern and interest in protecting the nests from disturbance during breeding season, with a CC to the County Executive would be appropriate. **Follow-up March 2008**

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Atlas Committee (J. Coskren): No report.

Scholarship Committee (Strikwerda): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Chapter Directors (Lovelett, Ebert): No report.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report.

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie stated that she did not schedule the New Year’s Day trip this year. She would like to have a Martin Luther King weekend trip, but only if a volunteer willing to coordinate the logistics steps forward. Kate agreed that she would be willing to scout the logistics for a trip to Chincoteague. Someone mentioned that although the web reports of field trips don’t list the actual participants by name it would be worthwhile to capture the number of participants on each trip. It was noted that Felicia has volunteered to be Bonnie’s assistant as field trip coordinator. One suggestion that is being adopted is to combine the Centennial trip announcement in the Goldfinch to one entry with minimal “see prior” entries for subsequent weeks. Another area being considered is whether we should or could offer a “handicap” accessible field trip(s). Should we try an “rank” list accessibility for sites we list for trips or on web site descriptions as part of the web “Birding Howard County” project? Lastly making use of prior trip data as a reference source is being pursued as a web capability (Bob demonstrated potential capability at end of meeting.)

Newsletter (Witt):

Amanda gave a brief synopsis of the newsletter survey results. (*Sec. Note – she sent a subsequent update to the Board via email on November 6.*) The access to site guides was a major input, and the web version should satisfy this desire. Ideas for improving the newsletter will be a standing action item, requesting any and all suggestions to be brought forward.

Another theme dealt with how to increase participation/education of young people. Can we offer “kid-friendly” field trips. Generally our trips are not geared for the average child interest (exceptions do exist but not suited to the child who hasn’t already shown strong interest in birds.) Another approach to involve kids that seems to hold promise is Girl or Boy Scout programs. The Girl Scout Camp Ilchester may be an initial place to try this. Sherry Tomlinson expressed interest in pursuing this approach. Another idea put forth was to ask Scott Berglund about his involvement with Mt. Pleasant programs. Also Lisa Colangelo has done some work with Cub Scouts that we should find out what that has been (if for no other reason than to acknowledge club members working with youth and nature/environment/birding educational initiatives).

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst):

Sue will determine if the facilities for Pot Luck at the Own Brown Community Center are available for Saturday March 1 or 8. She was authorized to book the facility for either date at her discretion.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson):

Sherry reported the sale was a success, with only 1 order not being picked up on Saturday (picked up later-thanks to Franklins). There were 14 volunteers who helped with the sale. She had 79 orders for \$8617. In addition tax deductible contributions for \$220 were received. There were several new memberships also received with the orders.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

See old business for Bob's update on several web initiatives.

Old Business

No action has been taken on following:

Standard sub-areas for counts.

Suggestions on what Columbia Association could spend money on for Habitat and/or Wildlife

Chesapeake Bay talk

Bob reviewed status of web site initiatives:

The results of past club field trips since 1987 have been entered in a database that is currently only on Bob's local laptop (for demo following meeting) but will be posted on the club web site shortly. He is soliciting ideas about what types of queries we could envision making of this data base. Some questions proposed are:

Where trip went?

How many participants? (if originally captured)

Has a "species" ever been seen on a field trip to this location?

Provide a list of "all species" ever seen on field trips to a specific location.

Other questions were proposed:

Has a specific species ever been seen on a club field trip between specific dates? Where?

The older field trip results have had the species names translated to the "current" names.

Bob also summarized progress made on the Birding Howard County web project. The introductory material, species accounts, and seasonal summaries, and a sample site guide (High Ridge Park) have been updated and are ready for posting on web site (as a beta). Bob will send board and other reviewers a link to this beta site for feedback prior to posting on the actual web site. Board members are encouraged to review and provide feedback on the site which will be posted as a work in progress rather than waiting for a "final product" before posting.

Bob demonstrated both the field trip data base and the Birding Howard County material on his laptop following the meeting. The initial response was that both products are very close to "ready for prime time" and we should provide this initial capability to users and not be afraid to release the material piece meal as it is ready. The general consensus was that Bob and Jo have made great strides in providing the club members and the general public some very useful material.

New Business

It was agreed that Amanda will write an article for the newsletter describing the opportunity to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Bird class – solicit if there is any interest in offering??

This is the 35th anniversary of the Howard Bird Club and the idea of printing T-shirts (or ball caps) to commemorate has been raised. After discussion we agreed that Kevin will solicit interest at upcoming club meetings. Sue is willing to work on graphic design. Also would pursue requiring pre-orders (including size) so don't have to "guess" how many to order.

It is time to follow-up with prior year members who have not renewed membership. Bob will prepare list of those to contact, first by email prior to November club meeting. After that phone contact will be pursued for those still outstanding.

Kevin has proposed and Board strongly supported presenting Jan Randle with a certificate honoring her many years hosting the May Count. Kevin will contact John Malcolm about having certificate prepared using MOS materials. Kevin asked for any other nominations for recognition.

Felicia asked if offering a multiple year membership would increase membership or issues with annual renewal? Initial review of ideas suggested synchronizing with state membership plans would make this prohibitive, but perhaps there is some worth in considering this (especially if it were adopted by state MOS).

Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**.
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin **open item**
- Chesapeake Bay talk: Kevin and Jane Geuder
- Send letter to Howard Dept of Public Works expressing our concern and interest in protecting the Vantage Point Great Blue Heron nests from disturbance during breeding season, with a CC to the County Executive, as follow-up to earlier contacts.- Jo Solem ~ **March 2008**
- Reserve facility for Pot-luck on March 1 or 8 – Sue Probst
- Explore options of birding initiative with Girl Scouts (Camp Ilchester) – Sherry Tomlinson
- Explore if any similar initiative with Boy Scouts exists – Tom Miller
- Ask Scott Berglund and Lisa Colangelo what initiatives with youth and birds they have already been doing – if any should take credit for effort in reporting to state MOS – Kevin?
- Prepare write-up on Great Backyard Bird Count for newsletter – Amanda
- Solicit level of interest in anniversary (pre-order) at club meeting – Kevin
- Arrange for certificate for Randle – Kevin
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin
- All review web beta versions when Bob forwards link and provide him feedback - All

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2007	-	Karen Darcy
October 25, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott
November 15, 2007	-	Amanda Witt (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 28, 2008	-	Jo Solem
March 27, 2008	-	Ward Ebert
April 24, 2008	-	Kate Tufts
May 22, 2008	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for meeting Oct.25, 2007
- Treasurer's Report – 05/01/07 – 10/22/07

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

OCT 25, 2007

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
 - Middleton Evans book at Wildlife Authority
 - # of members of MOS
 - Bird walk at UMcF
 - Deer hunt letter went out
 - Mark Wallace as Area Coordinator
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
 - Seed Sale *Sherry*
8. Old Business
 - "Birding Howard County" on the web
 - Howard Bird Club Trip Report Web Reports and Historical Data
 - Slide program for bird club
 - Standard sub-areas for counts?
 - Suggestions on what CA could spend money on for Habitat and Wildlife?
 - Chesapeake Bay talk – Jane Geuder
 - Review newsletters survey
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Great Backyard Bird Count
 - Bird class
 - T-shirts for bird club
 - Follow-up email to members that didn't renew?
 - Date for Potluck Dinner
 - Certificate for Jan Randle
10. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Bonnie Ott

8664 Manahan Dr

Ellicott City, MD 21043

(410) 461-3361

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 10/22/07

	Budget 2007/08	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		835.00	3,190.00
State Dues Paid		(2,490.00)	(2,490.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	(1,655.00)	1,535.00
Contributions		180.00	180.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>(1,475.00)</u>	<u>1,715.00</u>
Expense:			
Donations			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	150.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		15.89
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		(21.70)
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	305.00	659.95
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>380.00</u>	<u>875.48</u>
 Seed Sale			
Income/Sales		6,898.50	6,898.50
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		265.00	265.00
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			56.18
Seed			
Sales Tax			
Total Expense			<u>56.18</u>
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		57.84	371.56
Balance			<u>8,385.25</u>
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			<u>7,181.29</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			9,905.67
Savings			15,566.74
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>25,515.69</u>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 15, 2007

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Felicia Lovelett (1st yr)
Ward Ebert (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem who volunteered when Amanda had a conflict arise. Total number in attendance was 9. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 8 was ~60 people. Middleton Evans gave a program entitled "A Celebration of North American Waterbirds."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's Report dated 11/10/07 is attached. The only expenses were for the Program this month and final settlement of the seed sale proceeds and expenses. A few more membership dues were received but have slowed significantly. The Board had no questions. Emy had copies of the club's tax exempt certificate that is available for any club member making purchases for club supplies. A few Board members took copies. Lastly Emy reported that she got "undeliverable" messages when trying to send the report to those with AOL accounts. If anyone has suggestions for dealing with this should share with her and others on the Board that may have similar problems.

President's Remarks (Heffernan): No remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): No remarks.

Review of Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**. Discussed under Old Business.
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item** Tom reported that he has made some progress.
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin **open item**. No update.
- Chesapeake Bay talk: Kevin and Jane Geuder. No update.

- Send letter to Howard Dept of Public Works expressing our concern and interest in protecting the Vantage Point Great Blue Heron nests from disturbance during breeding season, with a CC to the County Executive, as follow-up to earlier contacts.- Jo Solem ~ **March 2008** Discussed under Old Business.
- Reserve facility for Pot-luck on March 1 or 8 – Sue Probst. Not present and status unknown.
- Explore options of birding initiative with Girl Scouts (Camp Ilchester) – Sherry Tomlinson. Sherry contacted Bob B____ and left message but has not had a reply. See discussion under Old Business. Leave action open.
- Explore if any similar initiative with Boy Scouts exists – Tom Miller No action taken yet.
- Ask Scott Berglund and Lisa Colangelo what initiatives with youth and birds they have already been doing – if any should take credit for effort in reporting to state MOS – Kevin? See discussion under Old Business. Update action item to reflect discussion.
- Prepare write-up on Great Backyard Bird Count for newsletter – Amanda Status unknown but newsletter still in preparation.
Solicit level of interest in club 35th anniversary T-shirt or other item (pre-order) at club meeting – Kevin Forgot to do at Nov. meeting, he will do it at December.
- Arrange for certificate for Randle – Kevin No action yet.
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin - At this time only doing an inventory not actually deciding where to store. Chuck has located most of Minutes but still owes an inventory to Ward. Jo agreed to call Marty Chestem regarding a binder she supposedly has of club materials.
- All review web beta versions when Bob forwards link and provide him feedback – All. Bob had sent Board a web link and he reported that Amanda had provided multiple inputs, but he still needs others to review and provide feedback.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Chapter Directors (Ebert, Lovelett): No report.

Conservation (K. Schwarz): No report.

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Newsletter (Witt): No report. Next newsletter deadline is Nov 25.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Records/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson):

As reported on Treasurer's Report the seed sale gain was \$1492.54. This was supplemented by contributions for habitat preservation in amount of \$265. This is higher than last year in both regards. We had slightly fewer purchasers, but many ordered more than last year. Thus we have slightly more than \$1700 available for this year's habitat contribution.

Sherry felt the sale went very well. One thing we should try to do again next year is to combine delivery of our order with the Wildlife Authority seed order. This resulted in the truck making delivery be one with a powered lift for unloading pallets (a big plus). Sherry expressed opinion that the Woodpecker Mix was quite expensive and had few orders and maybe should be discontinued as an option. Another possibility would be larger bags of Niger thistle (25 lb?). Sherry plans to provide Amanda an article thanking participants for inclusion in the Jan/Feb newsletter. Kevin will send Cathy Franklin an email thanking her again for letting us hold the sale at The Wildlife Authority.

Webmaster (R. Solem): See discussion under Old Business.

Old Business

Bob and Jo discussed status the web-based "Birding Howard County" project. One issue they have identified is navigating from page to page (back to previous, home, etc.) It was proposed he investigate the tree like navigation that many shopping sites have at the top. (e.g., Home -> Birding Ho Co Home -> Site Map -> Centennial Park). Then one could back up to the level one wanted to without a lot of back paging. Jo expressed desire to get a few of the sites (3-6) ready for a roll-out. They are hoping to have roll-out be around Jan 1. Planning an article for newsletter with blurb "watch for .. coming soon" in next newsletter. They have been having very good support from Howard County Rec and Parks in locating maps to include in site guides. Another area that they are hoping to work on is printing material to hard copy. Some material will have PDF available, but this won't work well for pages that are expected to be changing much more frequently. A plea for others to review the Beta site was made since they are afraid that with only them doing testing they will miss other items that could make the site more robust or useful.

Bob reported that there are intermittent problems with some trip leaders using the trip report template (2nd page issue). Kevin and Bob will try and determine problem. Bob also reported that he has been experimenting with the trip database and ideas for its use. Suggestions welcome. He will eventually move the database from Access on his local machine to a web based version (MySequel?) but not right away as focus is on the Birding Howard County project.

Chuck asked what was the background to the topic of standardized Count Sub-areas. We discussed pros and cons of this idea. Chuck made it clear that although it may be useful to Area Coordinators to do this it is not essential to the spreadsheet template he is using for count records. Kevin and Chuck will discuss this off-line.

Bob has prepared the list of still outstanding membership renewals. He will update with latest input from Emy and then send email to Ward and Felicia for them to divide list and contact those on the list and encourage them to renew or learn why not. Emy will notify Bob as renewals come in so he can keep list up to date.

The rest of the topics on agenda under Very Old and Old Business were not discussed beyond points made during review of Action Items.

New Business

Jo reported on the Great Blue Heron nesting colony at Lake Kittamaqundi that is close to the projected path of a new sewer line. Her inquiries had resulted in Wes Daub, the Department of Public Works Project Manager for this project, calling her. When she described the location of the heronry he pointed out its proximity to the highways and wondered if they tolerated that what was the issue. She explained that the birds had obviously acclimated to the highway noise, but human disturbance in close proximity to there nests was the issue. He proposed placing a 1000 ft diameter circle around the site that would be off limits from February to mid-May. The sewer project involves 10 different contracts for segments between the Laurel treatment plant and central Columbia. The contract for the segment including the heronry will include language specifying the need to protect the heronry consistent with his proposed stay out zone. He asked Jo to send a letter formalizing our request and summarizing the agreement, which she did (letter attached). Jo learned that this segment of sewer won't begin construction before the summer of 2009 and maybe not until 2010. She was pleased that the county seemed to be making a good faith attempt and that management above Mr. Daub had been involved in the discussion so that if we monitor the project and see during the actual construction that the contractor or county don't follow-through we will have a basis to complain. Another portion of the sewer project will follow the Patuxent Branch Trail and will require closing parts of that trail.

Kevin reported that Sue Muller contacted him to ask if we would like to participate in the Rec and Parks sponsored Earth Festival to held April 5, 2008. This is county activity being held in lieu of a formal Earth Day festival on the official Earth Day that they held last year (trying to avoid having too many activities packed into single day). We concluded this is definitely worthwhile, including a likely opportunity to speak with Howard County officials about club interests and concerns. Kevin will contact Sue and inform her we would like to participate.

Kevin began the discussion of seeking nominees for club officers. This year we will need nominees for Vice President and Chapter Director. Emy and Chuck agreed they were willing to serve as Treasurer and Secretary again. (Chuck pointed out with his increased part-time status he may miss some meetings again next year.) Our membership may well have declined below 200 in which case we would only have 2 vice 3 State Director positions to elect in which case not all current Directors would be able to continue (if they were willing). Kevin wants to identify some potential names before formalizing the Nominating Committee at January meeting, to ensure the process is more deliberate and less rushed. Suggestions for candidates to consider approaching should be sent to Kevin.

In follow-up to the subject of encouraging youth participation (and several of action items) Jo pointed out that we continue to learn of activities that club members undertake on their own working with youth that are prime examples of what we should be promoting and supporting. As such we may just want to encourage/support them rather than try to create separate new initiatives. Besides the efforts in action items for Sherry and Tom with Girl and Boy Scouts, we know that Lisa Colangelo has worked with Cub Scouts, Scott Berglund has done something?, Joe Hanfman works with special education youth?, and Mike Kerwin has been taking large number of students from Centennial(?) to Camp Lentz for past 15 years teaching them about birds and other nature and environmental initiatives. *Note: Mike Kerwin told us during a recent bird walk that the school purchased 35 sets of binoculars just for this camp experience that he keeps in his basement and he is pretty sure the school would approve him lending them to other birding activities with youth if we asked.* Kevin agreed to write a newsletter article asking for members to inform us if they are involved in working with youth and young people in a birding/nature/environmental activity that would be worthy of club support and encouragement as part of the MOS youth participation initiative.

Lastly we need to start thinking about worthy projects to contribute the seed sale and habitat preservation contributions to. This year we will probably have a mix of international and local initiatives as we did last year. One question that was raised when we reviewed what we used funds for last year was, "Did the money we gave Mt. Pleasant for bird feeders result in a feeding station being put up?" All are encouraged to think of ideas for this year's funds (remember that providing documentation to the Board is the best way to facilitate this discussion.) We will discuss this again in January.

Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item.**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin **open item.**
- Chesapeake Bay talk: Kevin and Jane Geuder.
- Reserve facility for Pot-luck on March 1 or 8 – Sue Probst.
- Explore options of birding initiative with Girl Scouts (Camp Ilchester) – Sherry Tomlinson.
- Explore if any similar initiative with Boy Scouts exists – Tom Miller
- Prepare write-up on Great Backyard Bird Count for newsletter – Amanda
- Solicit level of interest at upcoming club meeting in producing Club 35th Anniversary T-shirts or other item (assuming we would require pre-order) (**December**) – Kevin
- Arrange for certificate for Jan Randle – Kevin

- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin, Jo -
Jo agreed to call Marty Chestem regarding a binder Marty has with club materials.
- Review web beta version of Birding Howard County and provide Bob feedback – All
- Prepare an article thanking seed sale participants for inclusion in the Jan/Feb newsletter. - Sherry
- Send Cathy Franklin an email thanking her again for letting us hold the sale at The Wildlife Authority. – Kevin
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin
- Contact Sue Muller with club’s expression of interest in being a participant at the April 5 Earth Festival. – Kevin
- Send Kevin names of potential officer candidates before January meeting. – All
- Prepare a short newsletter article asking for those working with youth to let the Board know so we can decide if it is something the club wants to promote, encourage, or even support. Replaces prior action item. – Kevin
- Follow-up with members who have not yet renewed for this year. Ward & Felicia, Bob and Emy to support

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2007	-	Karen Darcy
October 25, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott
November 15, 2007	-	Jo Solem (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 28, 2008	-	Amanda Witt
March 27, 2008	-	Ward Ebert
April 24, 2008	-	Kate Tufts
May 22, 2008	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 15, 2007
- Treasurer’s Report – November 10, 2007
- Letter to Dept of Public Works regarding Great Blue Heron nesting colony – November 9, 2007

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

NOV 15, 2007

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
 - Seed Sale *Sherry*
8. Very old business
 - "Birding Howard County" on the web
 - Howard Bird Club Trip Report Web Reports and Historical Data
 - Slide program for bird club
 - Standard sub-areas for counts?
9. Old Business
 - Follow-up email to members that didn't renew?
 - Chesapeake Bay talk – Jane Geuder
 - Date for Potluck Dinner
 - Review newsletters survey
 - T-shirts for bird club
10. New Business/Discussions
 - Nominating committee
 - Possible candidates for next year
 - Earth Festival invitation on April 5th
 - Great Blue Heron Rookery
11. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Bob & Jo Solem
10617 Graeloch Rd
Laurel, MD 20723
(301) 725-5037

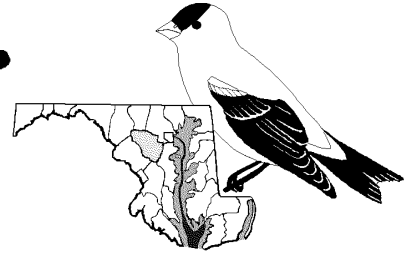
HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 11/10/07

	Budget 2007/08	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		640.00	4,665.00
State Dues Paid			(2,490.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	640.00	2,175.00
Contributions		50.00	230.00
Total Operating Income	2,500.00	690.00	2,405.00
Expense:			
Donations			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	200.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies			
Postage, Copies	250.00		15.89
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		(21.70)
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00		659.95
Miscellaneous			
Total Operating Expense	2,400.00	50.00	925.48
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales		1,159.00	7,937.50
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			56.18
Seed		6,010.80	6,010.80
Sales Tax		377.98	377.98
Total Expense			6,444.96
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,492.54
Contributions to Habitat Preservatio			265.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		63.32	434.88
Balance			8,448.57
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			7,181.29
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			5,573.87
Savings			15,629.86
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			21,247.01



Howard

*A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society*



10617 Graeloch Road
Laurel, MD 20723
November 9, 2007

Wes Daub, Project Manager
DPW, Utility Design Division
9250 Bendix Road
Columbia, MD 21045

Mr. Daub:

This letter verifies material discussed in our telephone conversation on Thursday, November 8, 2007, regarding the Great Blue Heron nesting colony located southwest of the MD 175 access ramp to southbound US 29 and east of the Little Patuxent River.

Great Blue Herons are colonial-nesting birds that build substantial stick nests in mature deciduous floodplain trees. During 2007, the colony in the Vantage Point area consisted of 20 active nests, the largest rookery in Howard County. Although the birds nesting in this location are acclimated to traffic noise, frequent human activity in the vicinity of their nests during the early part of their breeding cycle may cause nest desertion. The most critical period is from mid-February (when adults begin to engage in courtship and nest repair) to mid-May by which time there are young in the nests.

In our conversation, we agreed that every effort will be made to establish a 1,000 foot buffer around the nest trees from mid-February to mid-May during construction of the Little Patuxent sewer line. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 301-725-5037 or at my e-mail address odenata@msn.com.

The 250-member Howard County Bird Club appreciates your cooperation and understanding in protecting these large birds and their habitat. Their presence near the center of Columbia is a testament to the value of open space.

Sincerely yours,

Joanne K. Solem
Records Committee Chair, Howard County Bird Club

cc/Kevin Heffernan, President

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 24, 2008

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Felicia Lovelett (1st yr) √
Ward Ebert (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records/Atlas: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

The meeting was held in the home of Kevin Heffernan. Total number in attendance was twelve. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 13 was ~50 people. Jeff and Elayne Metter gave a program entitled "On a Clear Day You See L.A.—Birding Opportunities near Los Angeles Airports." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 10 was 83 people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "2008 Exotic Asian Birding."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's report was submitted to the Board in advance and is attached to the minutes. There were no questions for Emy regarding the report.

President's Remarks (Heffernan):

Kevin had non initial remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): Tom was not present and submitted no report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

Bonnie reported that Felicia, as Assistant Field Trip Chair, has assumed responsibility for many of the field trip responsibilities, especially those associated with the computer such as newsletter inputs and record keeping. Bonnie reported that the deadline for submitting trips to the Yellowthroat for the next issue had been accelerated and missed as a result. It was suggested that Sue Probst doing layout for the Yellowthroat might be able to incorporate our inputs. Bonnie will contact Sue to see if there is still time to do so. Felicia reported that she is building a computer database/spreadsheet with historical information on field trip locations, dates, descriptions, and former trip leaders that can be used to expedite rescheduling them in the future. When asked, Bonnie reported that the Spring schedule of field trips was very similar to past years. Somewhat unique trips include a Woodcock walk to be led by Jay Sheppard.

Conservation (Schwarz):

Kurt was not present. He had just sent the Board an email in which he asked if the Board would support him taking a stand in support of the recent solicitation by the MOS Conservation Chair and others to oppose initiative to place Wind Turbine Farms on Maryland public lands. The topic was raised briefly but in Kurt's absence was not pursued. *Sec. Note: This subject was raised briefly, but discussion went in another direction and we did not return to it. Accordingly Board members will need to provide Kurt feedback via email as soon as possible.*

Kevin asked if we should put an article in the newsletter that highlighted several websites recently posted on MDOSprey and elsewhere to encourage members to adopt a "greener" life style. Specifically he mentioned the websites for: Catalog of refusal, carbon footprint, and websites with purchases that benefit the American Bird Conservancy. Sherry mentioned the "Water Star" program. Bonnie pointed out that from her work at Roots she had a large number of "greener" lifestyle resources to draw on. At a minimum we might want to add such links to the club website. Amanda said she hadn't received an article from Kurt (issue website deadline is tomorrow 1/25) but she has a large volume of information so isn't sure an article from Kevin with this focus in addition to one from Kurt will fit. Kevin agreed to contact Kurt as soon as possible and determine if this article should appear in this issue. It provides several options for future newsletters and "short filler blurbs," especially if we put links on our website.

Newsletter (Witt):

The next newsletter deadline is tomorrow (1/25/07). Amanda was hoping most inputs would be on time as she has to fit in around her having help from her husband watching the baby. "It's hard to type with baby on my lap." Discussion of the newsletter survey was deferred to Old Business.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported that there has been a great deal of new material added to the website since the last meeting. Most significantly the roll-out of the web version of "Birding Howard County" has been well received. Several site guides were just added. Jo and he have developed an initial checklist to review whether all the necessary requisites have been fulfilled before they add a new site guide. Several people have been submitting "scenery" photos to depict the various sites. Lastly Bob has been working on a capability that will permit people to query the trip database (by location and time of year) to see what might be expected on a visit to a site.

Chapter Directors (Ebert, Lovelett): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Kevin plans to include a list of "Very Old Business" when he puts out the agenda for Board meetings, but the intent will be to not address them unless someone brings up a change in status. The minutes will not repeat these but capture them by attaching the agenda. If there are updates in status these will be recorded under Old Business. Similarly if an agenda Old Business topic is covered by a Committee report we won't discuss it under Old Business.

Jo stated that we could drop the item regarding the Great Blue Heron Rookery as we anticipate no further action on that topic for two years.

We briefly discussed the subject of club T-shirts and decided that the response to this idea at club meeting was less than overwhelming. Accordingly we will drop further pursuit of the idea.

Amanda reviewed the final results of the Newsletter survey distributed with this year's membership form. She made the following points:

- Will drop the scholarship announcement as it is duplicative of Yellowthroat
- Significant interest in seeing site guides. Given the web content project we won't produce full site guides in newsletter, but will try to announce when a new site is added to the web site and Jo proposed she might eventually produce a 1 or 2 page abbreviated sample to pique people's interest in visiting the web site.
- There was quite a bit of interest in including member trip reports. We agreed if included these should be brief (~100 words) and not just be listing of birds seen.
- No interest in including Board decisions
- Unrealistic to include more pictures given our format
- Some interest in having bird identification articles, but the Board agreed that Workshops and club programs were a better forum for this.
- Including the subject and address of interesting web sites (birding, environment, etc.) might be good space fillers in the newsletter.

Bob put forward a newsletter change proposal that would save significantly on the amount of paper required. He pointed out that three times a year we include seasonal count field sheets (2 printed pages). These go to all members (> 200 copies) and we also print extra copies of the field sheet for distribution, yet only 60-80 copies are actually used by field participants. Most could receive and print their copy as a PDF off the web or in an email from County or Area coordinators. We could mail copies to those few who don't have internet access or a printer for significantly less cost. The Board decided to adopt this proposal beginning with the May Count (current issue under preparation). Kevin will make note of this in his May Count article pointing out it is motivated by our desire to be conservation minded in our use of paper.

Kevin announced that the Howard Rec and Parks "Green Fest" which was to be held April 5 is now scheduled for April 12. Kevin had asked for volunteers to help man a table at this event as he had a conflict on the 5th, but now he plans to do it himself. He would still be pleased if others want to volunteer to help.

We then revisited the subject of candidates for club officers for next year. The only positions which did not have volunteers were the new Chapter Director and Vice-President. Kevin announced that June Tveekrem had volunteered to accept nomination for the Chapter Director position. We then discussed ideas for potential VP candidates that might be approached. It was pointed out that according to club by-laws a Nominating Committee must be appointed before the February meeting and the slate is needed by 1st week of March to satisfy requirement to provide membership the slate 10 days before the annual club meeting (April regular club meeting). The following volunteered and were appointed as the Nominating Committee – Bonnie Ott (Chair), Kate Tufts, and Ward Ebert.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item.**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller – **continuing item**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin **open item.**
- Chesapeake Bay talk: Kevin and Jane Geuder. **Jane has been discussing with Ho Rec & Parks – ask her for status by next Board meeting**
- Reserve facility for Pot-luck on March 1 or 8 – Sue Probst. **Set for March 8 - closed**
- Explore options of birding initiative with Girl Scouts (Camp Ilchester) – Sherry Tomlinson. **open item**
- Explore if any similar initiative with Boy Scouts exists – Tom Miller **open item**
- Prepare write-up on Great Backyard Bird Count for newsletter – Amanda **Closed**
- Solicit level of interest at upcoming club meeting in producing Club 35th Anniversary T-shirts or other item (assuming we would require pre-order) (**December**) – Kevin **After discussion decided to not pursue. Closed.**
- Arrange for certificate for Jan Randle – Kevin **open item**
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, **Chuck**, Bob, Kevin, Jo – **still open**
Jo agreed to call Marty Chestem regarding a binder Marty has with club materials. **What Marty has is her own material collections that may be given to club in the future. Close**
- Review web beta version of Birding Howard County and provide Bob feedback – All **Closed**

- Prepare an article thanking seed sale participants for inclusion in the Jan/Feb newsletter. - Sherry **Closed**
- Send Cathy Franklin an email thanking her again for letting us hold the sale at The Wildlife Authority. – Kevin **Closed**
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin **Still Open**
- Contact Sue Muller with club’s expression of interest in being a participant at the April 5 Earth Festival. – Kevin **Closed**
- Send Kevin names of potential officer candidates before January meeting. – All **Still Open contact Kevin or Nominating committee**
- Prepare a short newsletter article asking for those working with youth to let the Board know so we can decide if it is something the club wants to promote, encourage, or even support. Replaces prior action item. – Kevin **Closed**
- Follow-up with members who have not yet renewed for this year. Ward & Felicia, Bob and Emy to support **Closed**

New Business

We have approximately \$1700 (seed sale gain \$1433.36, contributions \$265.00) available for this year’s habitat preservation/bird benefit contributions. During the discussion it was pointed out we occasionally supplement this with operating funds if worthy projects are put forward. I think as much as \$2000 was mentioned but I also thought the proceeds were estimated to be higher than what is reported in the Treasurer’s Report (note sales tax paid during most recent month). No one had come prepared to present potential topics. One topic that we had considered last year was a Delaware group attempting to purchase Delaware Bay shoreline to protect it for Horseshoe Crab spawning habitat. At that time we felt we didn’t have enough information/time to respond then but would consider this year. It was agreed Kevin would contact Kurt to see if he has insight into the status of this project as a potential recipient. We are also soliciting any other ideas (preferably local) that members have. We will likely support All Creatures Great and Small as we have in past. Kevin reported that he had provided Judy Holzman a letter in support of her annual grant application. (Need to add this to the annual To Do list for President.) We agreed that next meeting we would try to make decisions on this matter. In past we have found that if those submitting proposals send an information packet to Board in advance this discussion is much easier and productive.

Sherry asked for clarification of Kevin’s remarks about our club working with the Conservancy. First he is referring to The Howard County Conservancy (Mt. Pleasant, etc.) and not The Nature Conservancy. And we are not proposing any formal relationships, just a recognition that we have many mutual interests and that communicating when they have activities of interest to our members we will try and do so.

Jo described the outcome of an activity she and Sue Muller had worked on with the Howard County Tourism Council. They have produced a Wildlife Driving Tour brochure/map for the county. Jo passed around a sample that is now being distributed around the county. It isn’t of primary use to club members but it is another opportunity to get the club visibility.

Lastly she mentioned that the second proposal for the “Zip Line” in Savage had again been turned down by the county government.

New & Open Prior Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin

- Chesapeake Bay talk: Kevin and Jane Geuder. **Kevin to ask Jane for status by next Board meeting**
- Explore options of birding initiative with Girl Scouts (Camp Ilchester) – Sherry Tomlinson.
- Explore if any similar initiative with Boy Scouts exists – Tom Miller
- Arrange for certificate for Jan Randle – Kevin
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin, Jo
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin
- Send Kevin/Nominating Committee names of potential VP candidates ASAP. – All
- Prepare newsletter article on “eco” web sites, if a call confirms Kurt doesn’t have conservation article – Kevin
- Point out field check list distribution difference and reason in May Count article – Kevin
- Contact Kevin if willing to volunteer for “Green Fest” on April 12 – All
- Add need to provide grant support letter for All Creatures Great and Small to the To Do List – Kevin
- Propose projects for habitat preservation contributions by Feb Board meeting (provide in advance?) - All

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2007	-	Karen Darcy
October 25, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott
November 15, 2007	-	Jo Solem (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 28, 2008	-	Amanda Witt
March 27, 2008	-	Ward Ebert
April 24, 2008	-	Kate Tufts
May 22, 2008	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda - Jan. 24, 2008
- Howard County Chapter/MOS, Treasurer’s Report – 05/01/2007 – 01/21/2008

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

JAN 24, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
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 - “Birding Howard County” on the web
 - Howard Bird Club Trip Report Web Reports and Historical Data
 - Review newsletters survey
 - Nominating committee
 - **Possible candidates for next year**
 - Earth Festival invitation on April 5th (need volunteer)
10. New Business/Discussions
 - **Seed sale donation suggestions**
 - Catalogs refusal website / carbon footprint website / Websites for purchases that benefit the ABC article in newsletter
 -
11. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Kevin Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(410) 418-8731 (H)
(443) 668-7618 ©

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 01/21/08

	<u>Budget 2007/08</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		1,520.00	6,185.00
State Dues Paid		<u>(1,300.00)</u>	<u>(3,790.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	220.00	2,395.00
Contributions			230.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>220.00</u>	<u>2,625.00</u>
Expense:			
Donations			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	250.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies	250.00		
Internet Account		102.92	102.92
Postage, Copies		18.44	34.33
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00	50.00	28.30
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	283.20	943.15
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>504.56</u>	<u>1,430.04</u>
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,937.50
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			119.88
Seed			6,010.80
Sales Tax		373.46	373.46
Total Expense			<u>6,504.14</u>
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			<u>1,433.36</u>
Contributions to Habitat Preservatio			<u>265.00</u>
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		119.89	554.57
Balance			<u>8,568.26</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			<u>7,181.29</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,852.15
Savings			15,749.85
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>20,645.28</u>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 28, 2008

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*)
Chap. Directors: Felicia Lovelett (1st yr)
Ward Ebert (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts √

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder √
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck: Sue Probst √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:

Chapter Committees:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Amanda Witt. Total number in attendance was 9. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 14 was 63 people. David Brinker of Maryland DNR gave a program entitled “*Goshawk: Driven by its Prey.*”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):

Approved with correction that the date of the GreenFest is April 5.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emailed in advance and attached to the minutes; there were no questions.

President’s Remarks (Heffernan):

No report.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Miller):

Nothing to report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott):

No report.

Conservation (Schwarz):

Nothing to report (see new business).

Newsletter (Witt):

Reported that the March/April newsletter was the first with shortened and standardized descriptions for coming field trips.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Nothing to report.

Chapter Directors (Ebert, Lovelett):

Nothing to report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst):

It will be Saturday, March 8, at Owen Brown Community Center. 39 people have signed up, and 5 have said they will bring slides/digital photos.

Programs (Geuder):

Jane has contacted several people and organizations about the possibility of having Weingrad present his talk on the state of the Chesapeake Bay in Howard County. She has talked to the County Executive's office, the Department of Education (John Quinn), and the Howard County Conservancy (Meg Shumacher). All have been helpful but there has been no offer of space that can be used on Tuesday, April 22, which is the date Weingrad has tentatively agreed to come. Jane is to try to find a location for the program and report back to Kevin.

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer):

No report.

Records (J. Solem):

Nothing to report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson):

No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

Nothing to report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts):

Nothing to report.

Old Business

Weingrad talk: see under Programs (Geuder).

Nominating committee: Kate Tufts reported on behalf of the committee that Tom Miller is nominated for President, Ward Ebert for Vice President, Chuck Stirrat for Secretary, Emy Holdridge for Treasurer, and June Tveekrem for Chapter Director. Tom said that if he serves as president, he will be unable to manage the audio and visual equipment during meetings.

Kate Tufts, Sue Probst, and Kurt Schwarz have volunteered to staff the Howard County Bird Club display at Green Fest on April 5.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin
- Chesapeake Bay talk: Kevin and Jane Geuder. **Kevin to ask Jane for status by next Board meeting**
- Explore options of birding initiative with Girl Scouts (Camp Ilchester) – Sherry Tomlinson. **deferred**
- Explore if any similar initiative with Boy Scouts exists – Tom Miller **deferred**
- Arrange for certificate for Jan Randle – Kevin
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin, Jo
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin
- Send Kevin/Nominating Committee names of potential VP candidates ASAP. – All **completed**
- Prepare newsletter article on "eco" web sites – Kevin **completed**
- Point out field check list distribution difference and reason in May Count article – Kevin
- Contact Kevin if willing to volunteer for "Green Fest" on April 4~~2~~ 5 – All **completed**

- Add providing support letter for All Creatures Great and Small to the To Do List – Kevin **completed**
- Propose projects for habitat preservation contributions by Feb Board meeting - All **completed**

New Business

After discussion, it was moved/seconded/passed that the following amounts be contributed from seed sale profits and individual contributions to conservation projects:

- DelMarVa Ornithological Society land preservation fund (Red Knot): \$1300
- Baltimore Checkerspot preservation: \$300
- All Creatures Great and Small: \$150.

The treasurer will prepare checks for distribution; Kurt Schwarz will notify DelMarva and All Creatures Great and Small of the grants, and Kate Tufts will notify Denise Gibbs of the Checkerspot grant.

New/Continuing Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin
- Chesapeake Bay talk Jane Geuder **Jane to report to Kevin on a location for the April 22 talk**
- Arrange for certificate for Jan Randle – Kevin
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin, Jo
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline)
- Point out field check list distribution difference and reason in May Count article – Kevin **Apr/May newsletter**

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2007	-	Karen Darcy
October 25, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott
November 15, 2007	-	Jo Solem (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 28, 2008	-	Amanda Witt
March 27, 2008	-	Ward Ebert
April 24, 2008	-	Kate Tufts
May 22, 2008	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Feb 28, 2008
- Howard County Chapter/MOS, Treasurer’s Report – 05/01/07 – 02/25/08

Minutes submitted by: Bob Solem in the absence of Chuck

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

FEB 28, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
8. Very old business
9. Old Business
 - Chesapeake Bay talk – Jane Geuder
 - Nominating committee
10. New Business/Discussions
 - Seed sale donation suggestions
 - Birdathon person to the MOS State Board Meeting on March 1st?
 - i. Can someone contact Maureen to see if that would be OK and then contact the Birdathon person to get him directions?
 - Ideas for the silent auction at the MOS convention
 -
11. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Amanda Witt
6134 Starburn Path
Columbia, Md. 21045

(410) 290-0460

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 02/25/08

	Budget 2007/08	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		75.00	6,260.00
State Dues Paid			(3,790.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	75.00	2,470.00
Contributions			230.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,500.00	75.00	2,700.00
Expense:			
Donations			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies	250.00		
Internet Account			102.92
Postage, Copies			34.33
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00	64.80	93.10
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	306.80	1,249.95
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	421.60	1,851.64
 Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,937.50
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			119.88
Seed			6,010.80
Sales Tax			373.46
Total Expense			6,504.14
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,433.36
Contributions to Habitat Preservatio			265.00
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		53.80	608.67
Balance			8,622.36
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			7,181.29
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,505.55
Savings			15,803.65
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			20,352.48

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2008

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Felicia Lovelett (1st yr)
Ward Ebert (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Ward Ebert. Total number in attendance was 9. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 13 was 53 people. Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy gave a program entitled "Alaskan Adventure."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):

The minutes were accepted. (Kevin thought he had one correction but not yet received.)

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's report is attached. We have received 3 new memberships during the month. Checks for the three contributions for conservation from bird seed sale proceeds and personal contribution were issued and the recipients notified:

- DelMarVa Ornithological Society land preservation fund (Red Knot): \$1300
- Baltimore Checkerspot preservation: \$300
- All Creatures Great and Small: \$150

The report shows a donation amount of \$51.64 that was taken from operating budget to round up the amount available to match the amounts authorized. The seed sale activity for this year is now closed out.

Emy submitted the attached proposed operating budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. She pointed out that the amount in last year's budget for the Newsletter and Directory no longer covers our expenses, which is running approximately \$300 per time. Accordingly she increased this item to \$1500 for next year. She adjusted other amounts, trying to match actual expenditures this past year and attain a balance budget. It was pointed out that postage costs are scheduled to increase soon. Several ideas for ways to manage the cost of newsletter were discussed. Amanda will contact several printing companies for quotes to see if we are still getting a reasonable rate from our current supplier. Email distribution was raised again, but it was pointed out that this would in fact be a net increase because we qualify for bulk mail rates with current size of mailing, but if we decrease the postal mailings to only mail to those who don't want email delivery we would have to mail them first class and based on prior surveys this would in fact exceed the total bulk mailing cost for entire membership. We are already starting to seek ways to decrease the number of pages we mail. For example we no longer will include the field tally sheets for counts in the newsletter but distribute it by email or personal delivery by the coordinators. It is also possible to decrease the size of count announcement articles as the same information is repeated and most participants are past participants. After discussion the Board approved the budget as proposed.

Emy will have the fiscal year end report available at the April general meeting. It was suggested that she not print multiple copies, but just have a copy for review and a signup sheet for those who would like to receive a copy.

President's Remarks (Heffernan):

Kevin had no formal remarks, but mentioned the good news about New Jersey stopping the harvesting of Horseshoe Crabs that Kurt had sent an email about just before the meeting.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): No report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report beyond the item Kevin mentioned about Horseshoe Crab harvest in NJ.

Newsletter (Witt):

Amanda reminded everyone that she still needed numerous inputs (due already) for the next issue.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported that new Site Guide pages continued to be added to the Birding Howard County website. He reported that the "Ask the Wizard" feature for querying the field trip database that he demonstrated at the pot luck was now available on the club website.

Ward asked if Bob collected statistics on "hits" to the website. Bob said he didn't use a page hit counter but that Yahoo web services did give him access to some statistics that he looked at briefly when we started the web but hadn't reviewed them in any detail since. He agreed to look again and if it proves useful, he will report on them to the Board at some time in the future.

Chapter Directors (Ebert, Lovelett): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): See Old Business.

Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer): See new business.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): See new business.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Chesapeake Bay Talk - Jane Geuder had reported that the Gerald Weingrad free talk entitled "The Chesapeake Bay: An Imperiled Treasure" will be held at Ellicott Mills Middle School cafeteria at 7:30 PM on Wednesday April 23. The talk is being jointly sponsored by the club, The Howard County Public School System, and Howard County Conservancy. Tom will be unable to provide Audio-Visual equipment support as he has a conflict. *Sec. Note – Kevin thought he would be able to do this but subsequently he also has a conflict, so Chuck has agreed to setup the equipment. Will need to arrange for getting equipment, possibly pick up at regular meeting on April 10.*

New Business

State Board Meeting Report - Kate sent Kevin an email report on the meeting held March 1. Emy also added observations to this report.

- There was an interesting presentation on the Bluewater Wind Project. This will be an offshore wind power site 11 miles off Rehoboth Beach and eventually extending as far down as the O.C. inlet. There are still

studies and permits needed and the project is five to eight years from starting. A local avian study started March 15th will be repeated in the spring and fall for the next two years. For the entire presentation see www.bluewaterwind.com.

- Of special note to birder travelers. MOS will be partnering with the Tropical Birding tour company. MOS doesn't have to do any advertising of the company or anything else. We will simply have trips offered exclusively for MOS members at a discounted fee. MOS will have to have a club representative for each trip to coordinate issues from the club members' side. That person will travel free. Do you hear stampeding footsteps? We will start off with two offerings, one domestic and one international. These are TBD.
- Birds of North America On-line is offering a discount to clubs \$25 instead of \$40 annually. Fees must be sent in batches. Emy added that she already has initial responses. The annual membership will run from when first subscriptions are sent in so that is only reason to respond quickly as you won't get a full year of access. Contact Emy if you are interested *Sec. Note: See web site.* <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna>
- There are new supplies of the Yellow Book. Printed 1000 copies as the next issue will be at least next year before available. Contact John Malcomb to order. The price has not been set yet. Emy reported that the authors of the new edition are Bob Ringler, Matt Hafner, and Norm Saunders. Saunders is working on bar graphs using data accumulated by the other two authors. Emy also reported that she had checked with Anne Marie and learned that she has a supply of the books in her inventory, so we don't need to order any more at present.
- Status of the proposed Birding Trail: The committee is developing an exhaustive nondiscrimination policy. They are looking for grants. They estimate the cost of the entire project to be \$110,000.
- Mark Johnson from Harford County was nominated to be the new Vice President.
- MOS will be bidding on a nine acre plot of land that is surrounded on three sides by Irish Grove. The auction should have taken place by now, but I haven't heard the outcome. It was owned by a gun club. Emy reported we were successful in purchasing one smaller portion of this property but not all of it.
- Emy reported that the MOS Board agreed to provide \$50 to chapters hosting the State Board meetings to help defray expenses. Some chapters could not afford to host without financial assistance.
- Lastly Emy reminded everyone that if they had not sent in Conference registration they should do so soon, and if want a hotel reservation that should be made ASAP.

New audio-visual person - Tom has indicated that when he assumes Presidency it won't be possible for him to handle the audio-visual equipment at meetings. Kevin has been seeking a replacement but none has been found so far. The candidate should be someone who regularly attends meetings and has some familiarity with technical equipment. We then discussed one way that would greatly simplify the A/V setup process and transport, namely the club purchasing a laptop computer that could replace the current setup that Tom put together (at no cost to club) using separate components of PC, monitor, keyboard, and mouse with just the laptop that has the keyboard and monitor integrated. Tom agreed to research the requirements and cost of a suitable laptop. Board members with suggestions can provide Tom inputs. *Sec. Note: June Tveekrem, Bob, Chuck, and Kevin have given Tom some thoughts. We did not discuss how much of the Mountjoy Fund we would consider spending on this but those of us providing inputs suggested that ~\$1000+ would be about right.* Kevin will send out an email soliciting volunteers for this position, and if anyone has suggestions for volunteers please let him know.

New Publicity Chairman – Jeff Friedhoffer has asked to be relieved of this responsibility. This position sends announcements of club programs and field trips to news outlets, but the details of just how much effort this involves was unclear. Kevin agreed to contact Jeff and ask him to prepare a description of the position responsibilities. After he receives this description, Kevin will send an email soliciting volunteers for this position.

Membership Reports – Bob presented his annual summary of the club membership (attached). The total membership is 236, which is quite stable. However we need to recognize that there is still a need to continue to seek “new” members and get them involved in club activities. The membership role of 236 doesn't leave any pad on the “bulk mail” cutoff of 200. Bob also reported that he is working on a major rewrite of the database he uses to track membership and generate mailing labels. He anticipates it will be greatly improved, but he observed it would be highly desirable to find someone else to learn how to use and maintain the database and not leave Bob as the only one to perform this important function for the club.

Conservation Contribution Totals – Bob had assembled the current summary of the contributions the club has made using the proceeds of seed sale proceeds that now total more than \$61,000. It was observed that last year we gave Mt. Pleasant money for a bird feeder station, and someone asked if they had purchased feeders and done this. If anyone knows the answer to this question please inform the Board.

Put All Howard County Bird Club field trip results in eBird (Cornell) - Bob made a proposal to explore developing a capability to reformat the data from the Field Trip database into a format suitable for submittal to the eBird website. This would add this data to the growing on-line capability Cornell is developing as part of the eBird project. Bob felt he could automate this in a manner that would not require significant manual intervention. The Board approved Bob pursuing this project. Bob also, mentioned that ultimately it would be useful to capture all of the “hand-written” county records that Jo has assembled since 1956, but that this is a future dream and will likely be a much more manually intensive effort.

Permanent GreenFest Chairman – Howard County has indicated they are planning to make the GreenFest an annual event (this year it will be held April 5 at the Glenwood Community Center). It was suggested that we might find someone to take responsibility for the club’s participation in this event on a continuing basis (e.g., as Sue Probst has responsibility for Pot Luck). Since Kate Tufts had volunteered to do it this year, we agreed to approach her first. Kevin will ask Kate and then if she declines he can seek another volunteer.

Report on the Deer Management Advisory Committee – Kevin participated in this committee formed by Howard County Recreation and Parks to address the continuing matter of managing the deer population in the county’s parks. The committee has opponents and proponents of hunting deer as a management practice. The initial activities have been helping a consultant design a telephone survey designed to solicit input from county residents on this issue.

Centennial Park Bulletin Board – It was observed that the bulletin board at Centennial Park that correctly indicates that it was donated by the Bird Club is not being kept current. In fact in its current state it is probably negative publicity suggesting the club isn’t active. At one time we were maintaining the content of bulletin board but we no longer have the key. Jo agreed to contact Rec and Park to find out who has access, and whether we could resume responsibility for keeping it current.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**

We discussed this again and realized that there are several different visions of what such a presentation would be used for. Some saw it as an ad for the club (perhaps having it as a short repeating show that could run on a laptop when the club sets up booth such as at GreenFest. Kevin was thinking in terms of program to use when get queries from schools, garden clubs, etc. Others thought of it as a fill-in when the scheduled program speaker didn’t show for meetings. In discussion it was suggested that all these might be handled if we developed a series of “modules” that could be combined or used as standalones. Examples mentioned were: club overview, feeding birds, birds of Howard County, what is birding, etc. Although this is a low priority task those who are interested should work with Tom and Kevin to continue to flesh out ideas.
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin **No action**
- Chesapeake Bay talk Jane Geuder **See Old Business**
- Arrange for certificate for Jan Randle – Kevin **No action**
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin, Jo **No action**
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline) **No action**
- Point out field check list distribution difference and reason in May Count article – Kevin **Apr/May newsletter article due**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability with Sue Muller when parks are closed – Kevin
- Chesapeake Bay talk - Jane Geuder, Kevin – Finalize arrangements, logistics, Ho Co Conservancy announce to there members?, and Email an announcement to club members
- Arrange for certificate for Jan Randle – Kevin
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin, Jo
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline)
- Obtain quotes for printing newsletter to determine whether better available – Amanda
- Bring copy of annual fiscal report to April meeting along with signup to request copies – Emy
- Send email solicit volunteer for new A/V chairman – Kevin
- Research and recommend laptop purchase for club A/V use – Tom Miller
- Request Jeff Friedhoffer provide description of Publicity Chairman position responsibilities, solicit volunteer once have description – Kevin
- Review web site usage statistics and report findings to Board if prove useful – Bob
- Contact Ho Co Rec and Parks about Centennial Park bulletin board maintenance - Jo

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2007	-	Karen Darcy
October 25, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott
November 15, 2007	-	Jo Solem (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 28, 2008	-	Amanda Witt
March 27, 2008	-	Ward Ebert
April 24, 2008	-	Tom Miller
May 22, 2008	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – March 27, 2008
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report – 05/01/07 – 03/23/07
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Proposed Operating Budget – 5//08 – 4/30/09
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) – Bob Solem – 3/26/2008
- Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat – 3/26/08

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MARCH 27, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Review of Action Items *Tom*
7. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
8. Very old business
9. Old Business
 - Chesapeake Bay talk – Jane Geuder
 - i. Audio-visual equipment for Gerald Weingrad talk
10. New Business/Discussions
 - State board meeting report
 - i. Need Yellow Books?
 - New audio – visual person
 - New Publicity chairman – Jeff F. wants to resign
 - Next meeting at Tom's house – May at Kate's
 - Membership report – Bob S
 - Conservation contribution totals – Bob S
 - Put all Ho Co Field trips in ebird – Bob S
 - Permanent Greenfest Chairperson
 - Location of April and May Board Mtgs
 - Report on the Deer Management Committee
11. Review of new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Ward Ebert
7366 Hallmark Rd.
Clarksville, Md 21029
(301) 490-5807

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 03/23/08

	<u>Budget 2007/08</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		75.00	6,335.00
State Dues Paid			<u>(3,790.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	<u>75.00</u>	2,545.00
Contributions			230.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>75.00</u>	<u>2,775.00</u>
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)		51.64	51.64
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies	250.00		
Internet Account			102.92
Postage, Copies			34.33
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00		93.10
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	85.45	1,335.40
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>137.09</u>	<u>1,988.75</u>
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,937.50
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			119.88
Seed			6,010.80
Sales Tax			373.46
Total Expense			<u>6,504.14</u>
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,433.36
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			265.00
Total Available for Contribution			<u>1,698.36</u>
Donation to DOS Bird-a-thon			1,300.00
Donation to Checkerspot Project			300.00
Donation to All Creatures			150.00
Balance to come from Operating Fund (see above)			(51.64)
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		44.85	<u>653.52</u>
Balance			<u>8,667.21</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>7,181.29</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,745.10
Savings			15,848.50
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u><u>18,636.88</u></u>

3/24/2008

E. Holdridge

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER - MOS
PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/08 - 4/30/09

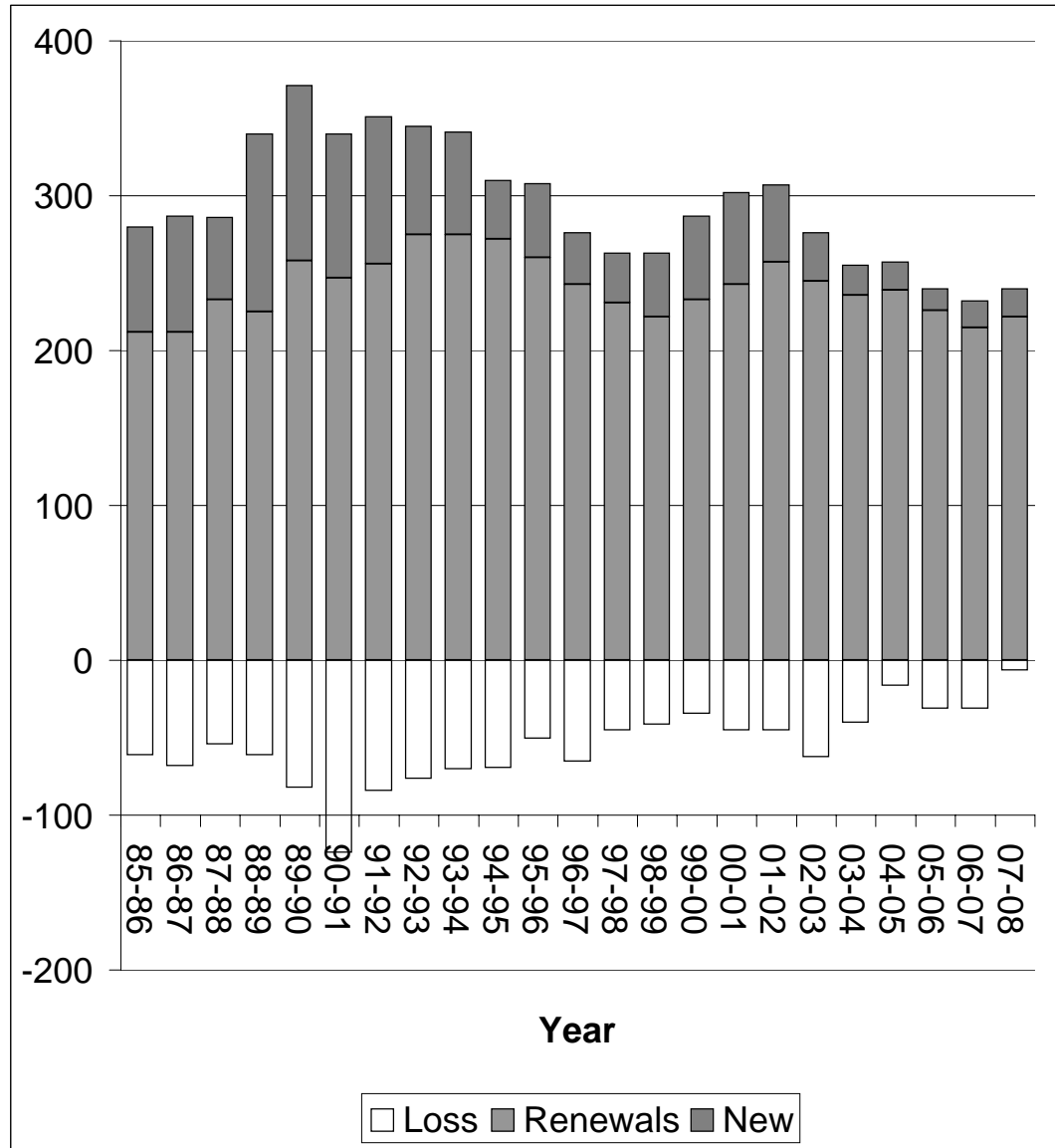
	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	
Membership Dues (net)	2,550.00
Contributions	
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u><u>2,550.00</u></u>
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Website	110.00
Postage, Copies	50.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u><u>2,535.00</u></u>

Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)

Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total	% renew
85-86	61	68	212	280	76%
86-87	68	75	212	287	74%
87-88	54	53	233	286	81%
88-89	61	115	225	340	66%
89-90	82	113	258	371	70%
90-91	124	93	247	340	73%
91-92	84	95	256	351	73%
92-93	76	70	275	345	80%
93-94	70	66	275	341	81%
94-95	69	38	272	310	88%
95-96	50	48	260	308	84%
96-97	65	33	243	276	88%
97-98	45	32	231	263	88%
98-99	41	41	222	267	83%
99-00	34	54	233	288	81%
00-01	45	59	243	302	80%
01-02	45	50	257	307	84%
02-03	62	31	245	276	89%
03-04	40	19	236	255	93%
04-05	16	18	239	257	93%
05-06	31	14	226	246	92%
06-07	31	17	215	228	94%
07-08	6	18	222	236	94%

Year	Couple	Indiv	Other	Total
87-88	150	91	45	286
88-89	178	102	60	340
89-90	186	128	57	371

Year	Househo	Indiv	Other	Total	Junior
90-91	188	146	6	340	27
91-92	196	150	5	351	31
92-93	197	142	6	345	35
93-94	198	137	6	341	37
94-95	170	132	7	310	32
95-96	183	120	5	308	35
96-97	181	89	6	276	40
97-98	153	103	7	263	30
98-99	161	99	7	267	27
99-00	175	107	6	288	30
00-01	179	115	8	302	26
01-02	191	107	9	307	25
02-03	167	108	1	276	25
03-04	145	109	1	255	18
04-05	143	112	2	257	22
05-06	141	105	9	246	14
06-07	134	100	10	244	11
07-08	134	103	12	247	13



Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat

03/28/08

Nassawango Creek	\$3,650	HCBC 10th Anniversary campaign/ Club funds & individual donations	Belt Woods Natural Environmental	\$2,000	
Bird Rehabilitation	\$785			\$40,271	[Oct 1997 seed sale blank]
Committee to Preserve Assateague	\$1,000		Belt Woods Natural Environmental	\$1,500	
Nature Conservancy	\$2,300		Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000	
MOS Sanctuary (Irish Grove)	\$335			\$42,771	[Oct 1999 seed sale blank]
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project *	\$2,592	(including individual donations of \$857)			
International Nature Conservancy	\$300		American Bird Conservancy "River	\$1,500	Oct 1999 Board meeting
Peregrine Fund *	\$250	(was doubled by matching grant)		\$44,271	
Misc. bird projects	\$511	Hawk Mt., Cape May obs., feeder			
	\$11,723	for historic Waverly Mansion, etc.	All Creatures Great & Small	\$100	[Feb 2000 Board meeting]
*Matching grants used to increase amount donated			Display cabinets HoCo Rec&Parks	\$1,309	" " "
[Contributions through 1988]			Mt. Pleasant - Butterfly Garden	\$614	[April 2000 Board meeting]
			Old Growth Forest project at Fro	\$1,250	" " "
Nature Conservancy (2/89 seed sa	\$2,500	(including individual donations of \$880)		\$47,544	[Oct 2000 seed sale blank]
Nature Conservancy (12/89)	\$2,500	Most from 10/89 Seed Sale			
	\$16,723	[reported on Feb 1990 seed sale blank]	MPEA Clegg Prairie	\$1,100	[Feb 2001 Board meeting]
			All Creatures Great & Small	\$100	[Feb 2001 Board meeting]
TNC Appalachian Campaign	\$1,000	2/90 seed sale including \$419.50 individual donations		\$48,744	[Oct 2001 seed sale blank]
		[May-June 1990 newsletter]	El Chorogo Refuge, Panama (ABC)	\$2,200	[March 2002 Board meeting]
				\$50,944	[Oct 2002 seed sale blank]
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project	\$2,698	Challenge grant to MOS (includes individual donations of \$198)	Nature Conservancy MD/DC Chapter	1500	[Feb 2003 Board meeting]
	\$20,421	[Sept-Oct 1990 newsletter]		\$52,444	
Bulletin Board for Cent Park	\$300	Bird Club bought & had dedicated	Sierra de Bahoruco NP in Dom Re	2000	[Feb 2004 Board meeting]
Monteverde Cloud Forest	\$3,600	(w/ \$328 individual donations)	All Creatures Great & Small	100	
	\$24,321	[Oct 1991 seed sale blank]		\$54,544	
			All Creatures Great & Small	100	[March 2005 Board meeting]
Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala	\$5,000	(w/ \$440 individual donations)	MPEA stream buffer planting	750	
	\$29,321	[Jan 1992 seed sale blank]	MPEA Purple Martin gourds	450	
				\$55,844	
Maryland Parks Foundation	\$1,000	Sept 1992 Board meeting			
	\$30,321	[Nov-Dec 1992 newsletter]	All Creatures Great & Small	100	[February 2006 Board meeting]
			Baltimore Checkerspot	100	
Bladen Mts Nature Reserve, Beliz	\$2,500	[Sep-Oct 1993 newsletter]	Foundation ProAves (Cerulean War	2000	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$2,500	[Jan-Feb 1994 newsletter]		\$58,044	
(Atlantic coast of Guatemala)					
	\$35,321		MOS: Ecuador Rainforest	645	[Feb/March 2007 Board meeting]
			MPEA woodcock area	410	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000	Nov 1995 Board meeting	All Creatures Great & Small	200	
	\$36,321	[Jan 1996 seed sale blank]	Baltimore Checkerspot	60	
			Mt Pleasant - bird feeding stati	240	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000			\$59,599	
Nature Conservancy - MD	\$750				
Dee Thompson (rehabilitator)	\$200		DelMarVa Ornithological Society	1300	
	\$38,271		Baltimore Checkerspot	300	
			All Creatures Great & Small	150	
				\$61,349	[Feb 2008 Board meeting]

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 24, 2008

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Felicia Lovelett (1st yr) √
Ward Ebert (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Tom Miller. Total number in attendance was 9. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 10 was ___ people. Marty Brazeau gave a program entitled "*Capturing Costa Rican Birds with a Video Camera.*" His work led to a promotional video for the birding lodge, Rancho Naturalista. Marty, a Baltimore County school librarian, has used vacations to visit Costa Rica five times to film Three-wattled Bellbirds, manakins, and many hummers.

This was the annual business meeting of the chapter. Kate Tufts, representing the nominating committee, put forward the following slate of officers for next year that had been included in a mailing that included the club directory:

President – Thomas Miller
Vice President – Ward Ebert
Secretary – Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer – Emy Holdridge
State Directors – Mary-Jo Betts, Karen Darcy, Kate Tufts
Chapter Directors – June Tveekrem (1st year), Felicia Lovelett (2nd year of 2 year term)

It was moved and seconded that the slate submitted be elected. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's Report is attached. It includes 4 new memberships. Emy reported that she had written checks for a few other bills since it was prepared. Hence a fiscal year final report will be prepared as of April 30 that reflects these final outlays. She also is expecting the Geuder's to submit a few expenses they incurred associated with the Winegrad Earth Day program. She will have the year-end report available by the May 8 club meeting.

President's Remarks (Heffernan): Kevin was not present.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): Tom had no formal remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): Bonnie was not present.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that the conservation column on the Delaware Bird-a-thon he had drafted and sent to Amanda got lost and thus isn't in the latest Goldfinch. The same material is available in the next Yellowthroat. Kurt reported that he had mailed the letter he had prepared stating the club's position on erecting a fence along the Mexican border in Texas today. He had shared this letter with the Board by email this week. The Board expressed opinion that he had done a good job of expressing the Board's opinion, namely to focus on the environmental impact of the fence and not other points made in the moratorium letter we had been asked to sign on with. Kurt stated that he did believe the MOS board was planning to sign onto the original moratorium letter.

Newsletter (Witt):

Amanda was not present, but Jo mentioned that the latest Goldfinch printing used the same printer we have been using. She presumed that Amanda hadn't yet had time to do research into alternate printers.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob had sent an email giving the "page hit" statistics for the past month on the club web site. For the past 30 days, there have been this number of hits: Main page – 698, Maryland dragonflies – 27, Overview page – 259. This seems like considerable activity. The dragonfly page is now just a forwarding to Richard Orr's website. Bob reported he will try to remember to collect and track these statistics each month and share them with the Board. See new business for discussion of Bob's proposal related to e-Bird posting of club field trip data.

Chapter Directors (Ebert, Lovelett):	No report.
Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst):	No report.
Programs (Geuder):	No report. See old business.
Publicity/Past President (Friedhoffer):	No report.
Records (J. Solem):	No report.
Seed Sale (Tomlinson):	No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Chuck, Jo, Bob, and Emy briefly summarized how the Gerald Winegard talk on the Chesapeake Bay had gone the preceding evening. The most disappointing aspect to report was that the attendance was very low (< 20) despite Jane's extensive attempts to publicize the talk. Mr. Winegard is very passionate about the Bay, but the data he presented on the status of efforts to improve the Bay's quality were very depressing. It was noted that the poor attendance might suggest that we might be better to just invite such speakers to our regular meetings where although just speaking to the choir we would at least have an audience of ~ 40 people.

No progress had been made in seeking a replacement for Jeff Friedhoffer as publicity chair. Kurt said he was going to see Jeff and agreed to ask him to write up a description of the position and what news outlets he is currently sending material to.

Kate Tufts has agreed to serve as a permanent Chairperson responsible for coordinating club participation in Howard County sponsored Greenfests. It was noted that the county was very pleased with the participation in the latest Greenfest and will certainly be scheduling more of them.

No volunteers for being responsible for the audio visual equipment and setup have been identified. The new laptop will simplify setup and hopefully motivate a volunteer

New Business

The new laptop was ordered by Tom after a set of requirements were agreed to. June Tveekrem offered an initial proposal and then Bob, Tom, Chuck, and Kevin refined this, mostly downgrading several components to meet club needs. The laptop had arrived the day before and Tom will need to do some configuration on it, but it was available for the Board to see. Tom hopes to have it ready for use at the May 8 meeting. Emy had written Tom a check to reimburse his credit card purchase for \$922.20.

Kevin had authorized the Geuder's to purchase a device that would permit remotely advancing pictures on the laptop for use at the Winegrad talk. However Ralph located someone who loaned him a device so did not make this purchase. Tom pointed out that the club projector has a remote that should be capable of doing this when the laptop and projector are linked via USB. He will experiment with this possibility using the new laptop.

Jo had contacted Howard Rec and Parks regarding the status of the display board at Centennial Park that the club donated but has not been being kept current. It turned out that they had lost track of fact that this board was not a club responsibility. So they have been wondering why we weren't keeping it current just as we were wondering the same about them. Brenda Belinsky put Jo in touch with a contact on the Centennial Park staff who is responsible for all the other display boards. Rachel Cesca was thrilled to learn she also could maintain this display as it is one of the most prominent locations. She confesses she is not a birder but interested in nature. She volunteered that she would like to have someone from the club review the material she prepares for accuracy and include field trip schedules. Jo provided Rachel some appropriate calendar pictures that Marty Chestem had given her for use on the board. Jo asked if someone would like to serve as the primary point of contact to review material for Rachel. Kurt volunteered to do this. Also asking Amanda to email a copy of the field trip schedule to Rachel when she puts it together for the newsletter. *Sec. Note – following meeting Jo has put Kurt in touch with Rachel and provided her contact information. Phone 410-313-7271, Email rcesca@howardcountymd.gov.*

During her meeting with Rachel, Jo was asked about what species was in picture of mother with young on her back that she had in her office. It was a Common Merganser and Jo asked where it was taken. She was pleasantly surprised to learn it was taken at Centennial in April 2007 by Rich Mandelson. How did all the "birders" miss this great find?

After consulting with the Board, Kevin has volunteered our chapter to host the September state MOS Board meeting on September 6. Karen has agreed to coordinate. The plan is to try and get the use of the Howard Conservancy (Mt. Pleasant) education building to host the meeting. If not possible, we will likely try and get the Howard Rec and Parks facility. Karen will try and get volunteers lined up to prepare food, assist setup, etc. during the May club meeting as September 6 is before our first meeting in the Fall.

Bob had sent out an email regarding a proposal to submit most of the club's field trip results to the Cornell Ornithology Lab's eBird database project. He handed out a synopsis of that proposal (attached). The concept is that he can automatically reformat the data in his field trip database into the format required for eBird submittal. The data would be submitted under the name of Howard County Bird Club and would list the webmaster@howardbirds.org as the POC. Bob had been in contact with Marshall Iliff on the eBird staff and he is quite excited about getting the data. Issues to resolve are how to characterize the data (Category: Travel or Area, Duration, Hotspot designations for routinely visited areas, etc.) One good suggestion was that we should add the appropriate eBird hotspot name/designation as another item on each of the site guides in "Birding Howard County." The Board was very supportive of this initiative and Bob was authorized to proceed. He will distribute what he comes up with for review by Board members, especially those who have been using eBird regularly.

Kurt inquired if someone had been able to fill in for him as trip leader at Mt. Pleasant on April 19 when his step-father passed away. He was told that Kevin Heffernan led the trip and had one or more others who helped.

Review of Prior Action Items (List those closed – continuing item listed below):

- Chesapeake Bay talk - Jane Geuder, Kevin – Finalize arrangements, logistics, Ho Co Conservancy announce to there members?, and Email an announcement to club members **CLOSED**
- Research and recommend laptop purchase for club A/V use – Tom Miller – **PURCHASE COMPLETE - CLOSED**

New/Continuing Open Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin
- Arrange for certificate for Jan Randle – Kevin
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records – Emy, Chuck, Bob, Kevin, Jo
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline)
- Obtain quotes for printing newsletter to determine whether better available – Amanda
- Bring copy of annual fiscal report to May 8 meeting along with signup to request copies – Emy
- Send email soliciting volunteer for a new A/V chairman – Kevin
- Request Jeff Friedhoffer provide a description of Publicity Chairman position responsibilities, solicit volunteer once we have description – Kevin/Kurt
- Coordinate preparations for hosting State MOS Board meeting Sept. 6 including finding a location – Karen
- Put Rachel Cesca in contact with Kurt as POC for display board. Provide Kurt and Amanda contact info – Jo **COMPLETED**

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2007	-	Karen Darcy
October 25, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott
November 15, 2007	-	Jo Solem (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 28, 2008	-	Amanda Witt
March 27, 2008	-	Ward Ebert
April 24, 2008	-	Tom Miller
May 22, 2008	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – April 24, 2008
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report 05/01/07 – 04/22/08
- Howard County Bird Club Field Trips on eBird – Bob Solem
- Thank you card from All Creatures Great and Small (not attached)
- Thank you letter from Delmarva Ornithological Society for our gift to Bird-a-thon (not attached)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

APRIL 24, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
 - Budget for next year
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Chesapeake Bay talk wrap-up – Jane Geuder
 - New Publicity chairman – Jeff F. wants to resign
 - Permanent Greenfest Chairperson – Kate has volunteered
 - New audio – visual person
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Status of new laptop purchase – Tom
 - Purchase of remote slide changer – approved by KJH
 - Centennial Park Bulletin Board – Jo
 - Ho Co host MOS Sept Board meeting – Karen
 - Put all Ho Co Field trips in ebird – Bob S
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Tom Miller
6404 Glasgow Circle
Eldersburg, MD 21784
(410) 795-7005

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 04/22/08

	Budget 2007/08	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		240.00	6,575.00
State Dues Paid			(3,790.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	240.00	2,785.00
Contributions			230.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>240.00</u>	<u>3,015.00</u>
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			51.64
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	375.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies	250.00		
Internet Account			102.92
Postage, Copies			34.33
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00	(25.85)	67.25
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	307.09	1,642.49
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>356.24</u>	<u>2,344.97</u>
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,937.50
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			119.88
Seed			6,010.80
Sales Tax			373.46
Total Expense			<u>6,504.14</u>
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,433.36
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			265.00
Total Available for Contribution			<u>1,698.36</u>
Donation to DOS Bird-a-thon			1,300.00
Donation to Checkerspot Project			300.00
Donation to All Creatures			150.00
Balance to come from Operating Fund (see above)			(51.64)
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		35.76	689.28
Balance			<u>8,702.97</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>7,181.29</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,628.86
Savings			15,884.26
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>18,556.40</u>

Howard County Bird Club Field Trips on eBird

To date we have over 530 trips with over 21000 sightings going back to 1987 posted on the web. I can use an Excel spreadsheet with Macros to reformat the data from our database to the eBird import format. The Board approved this for trips in Howard County, if an acceptable method were designed. Not all field trips lend themselves to entry into eBird, But Marshall Iliff thinks that the data would be valuable:

This is really exciting. All the Howard County data will go a long ways towards having accurate baseline data for the Howard County maps, bar charts, and arrivals/departures tables.

Since one might enter a large area for an area search, we can get a good sense for how thoroughly an area was covered by the relationship of duration to area. My only recommendation would be that if you know that bird trips only cover a select portion of the park, try to adjust your area search accordingly; for example, if a Triadelphia bird trip went only to Brighton Dam I would enter an area centered on the dam, rather than the entire area of the reservoir.

So in short, I think an area search is best here.

For area searches, one of the entries is “duration” (in minutes). Since we do not have this for past trips, it would be necessary to estimate (and that is acceptable to Marshall). Trips to large areas are fairly easy to characterize.

Following Marshall’s suggestion, I have made the following estimates:

Location	Actual acreage	Portion typically covered	Trip duration (minutes)
Alpha Ridge Landfill	600	300	240
Font Hill	25	25	180
Lake Elkhorn	60	60	120
Mount Pleasant	232	150	150
Rockburn Branch Park	450	300	180
Schooley Mill Park	192	150	150
Western Regional Park	160	100	150
Wilde Lake	22	20	90

In 2007 there were 26 trips with 1310 sightings that I felt could be entered into eBird (out of 52 trips posted to the web, a number of which were outside Howard County). When the Excel spreadsheet finishes reformatting, each bird has a one-line entry can be imported into eBird:

Canada Goose,,,X,,Centennial Lake,,,3/4/2007,8:00 AM,MD,US,area,10,180,Y,,200,Field Trip. Standardized duration and acreage. Leader - Kurt Schwarz . Half day (morning)

Another question was about what user name to use. Here is Marshall’s response:

Username--I agree that the sightings are best entered under the username "Howard County Bird Club". We have done this in a number of other cases, including "Hart Miller Island Data" with Gene Scarpulla as the contact for that database upload. The important thing is to have a contact email that allows anyone with an interest in the sightings to get in touch with the right person.

“Howard County Bird Club” would be a good choice, and webmaster@howardbirds.org would be a contact email that is already in use for sending comments, questions, and information to the web site.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 2008

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Kevin Heffernan √
Vice-president: Tom Miller (& *Audio-visual*) √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Chap. Directors: Felicia Lovelett (1st yr)
Ward Ebert (2nd yr)
June Tveekrem (*newly elected*) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Publicity: Jeff Friedhoffer
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:
State Investments Chrmn: Martha Waugh √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 8 was ~40 people. Michael Oberman gave a program entitled "Why Not Carry a Camera...?"

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's final report for FY 2007-2008 was submitted and is attached. It was suggested and agreed to by the Board that the intent was that the purchase of the laptop for the club was to be from the Mountjoy fund and not general operating expenses as shown in the submitted final report. Emy agreed to change the report to reflect this change. In addition the report for the first year and the previously approved 2008-2009 budget were submitted and are attached to these minutes. The miscellaneous expenses shown on the new year report are for reimbursing the Geuder's for expenses associated with the special presentation by Gerald Weingrad on the Chesapeake Bay including additional cables added to the A/V equipment suite. In addition income reflects one new membership received at the previous general meeting and a contribution (undesignated) of \$75.

President's Remarks (Heffernan):

Kevin welcomed June Tveekrem to her first board meeting as newly elected Chapter Director.

Vice-President's Remarks (Miller): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): Bonnie was not present and sent no report.

Conservation (Schwarz):

Kurt was not present and sent no report but it was acknowledged that he has been actively pursuing club conservation initiatives.

Newsletter (Witt):

Amanda acknowledged she has an action item to assess whether we have best printing services from a cost perspective that she will pursue over the summer. The deadline for the next newsletter is July 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): The website is functioning well. See New Business for discussion of a new proposal.

Chapter Directors (Ebert, Lovelett): No report. Tom mentioned that Felicia had expressed concern that personal issues might preclude her serving the second year of her term as Chapter Directo. Kevin was to contact her about this. *Note: Felicia has subsequently resigned for personal reasons.*

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity (Friedhoffer): No report, see Old Business.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Heffernan, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No State Board meeting since our last meeting.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Old Business

Kevin reported that Jeff Friedhoffer had provided a description of what handling the Publicity task involved. Kevin will handle publicity for now.

Kevin reported that he has contacted John Malcolm about getting an MOS appreciation certificate for Jan Randle. John will provide Kevin with one some time after the MOS Conference as he has many certificates he has to get ready for that first.

New Business

Kevin thanked June Tveekrem for volunteering to learn and take over responsibility for Audio/Visual equipment and support at meetings.

Briefly reviewed preliminary results of May Count. Major highlight was Sandhill Crane observed by staff at Sharp Farm (missed by Mark Wallace).

Volunteers to host next years Board meetings were solicited and are included below.

The date for next seed sale needs to be established in time for Bonnie to schedule Fall field trips. Kevin agreed to remind Sherry she needs to do this in time to meet the Yellowthroat publication schedule.

Kevin then led a discussion of options for the Big Day field trip in future. He pointed out that prior year Big Day had not limited participation but this year limited to 12 participants to facilitate parking and those at “end of line “missing” birds. Actually had only 8 participants in 2 cars this year. Typically starting at Rockburn but this year cut back time spent there. Those who participated felt this worked better. It was proposed that if the participation is to be limited it might not be appropriate to list it as a club field trip. Other options were discussed: 1) private activity, 2) modified rules with lower keyed approach, 3) Multiple groups with various levels of intensity, 4) Alternate names Big Blowout, Birding Blast, Migration Extravaganza (vice Big Day), 5) Carpooling requires commit to time period (perhaps Bonnie lead 8 for whole day, someone (Kevin?) lead ½ day), 6) East loop-West loop. Proposed we leave it out of Yellowthroat (although we give preference to chapter members for limited outings) Will consider options for next year.

Kevin reported he had submitted annual report (attached) to the MOS President. He agreed to provide Chuck a copy for records. (DONE)

Kevin had contacted Sue Muller, asking her to confirm our reservation of the Howard Rec and Parks building for our meetings in coming year.

Kevin has volunteered us to host the State MOS Board meeting in September. Karen has agreed to coordinate this. She will contact The Howard County Conservancy about use of their facility. Another option is Glenwood Community center but Kate felt that was as much as \$75/hour which might be too expensive. Another option is the Howard Rec and Parks facility. Kevin agreed to identify and confirm location.

Bob handed out an Action Plan for posting Howard County Bird Records on the web site. He is thinking of it as an extension of the "Ask the Wizard" feature that currently only queries the field trip database. He proposes first effort would add season reports (not before next winter). We agreed that we should defer this effort for now. Bob also proposed and the Board agreed to defer the project of posting field trip results on eBird until that system further matures and seems better able to accommodate our type of data.

Martha Waugh, Chairman of the MOS Investment Committee and a member of our chapter, had asked to address our Board regarding possible changes to the management of MOS investments that are likely to be proposed at the next MOS Board meeting in June. Marcia Balestri, outgoing MOS President has indicated she is likely to propose changes at that meeting. Martha handed out a copy of Investment Committee Annual Report (attached). She explained that currently the MOS investments are held in 7 distinct funds (Atlas, Education, Non-designated, Operations, Research, Sanctuary, and Scholarship. Currently the total portfolio totals approximately \$1.5 million. The funds are invested with Ferris Baker Watts. MOS does not pay any fees, only transaction costs for these funds (due to a primary partner with the firm being an MOS member?). It was noted this might change as Ferris Baker Watts has been purchased by the Royal Bank of Canada. The largest fund is the undesignated one which contains the large bequest given by _____ several years ago. Each of the funds has different investment objectives and as a result different rates of return. Each fund income is dispensed by the associated committee and investment objective set by that committee. Currently the income from the undesignated fund is being used to support Atlas operations and it is evident that the cost of publishing the Atlas will also need to draw on that fund. MOS by-laws require that the organization must show accounting by each of these funds. However, the proposal expected will be to consolidate all of the funds into one fund for investment purposes and do the individual fund accounting separate from the brokerage firm accounting. This should allow for all of the funds to receive a common rate of return and not be limited because that fund felt the need to set a more conservative investment objective consistent with its particular requirements. That is the investment risk would be more evenly spread across the committees. Martha expressed her opposition to this change, but most importantly she wants to table/defer the decision until it can be considered in a more deliberate fashion. Emy, as MOS Treasurer, stated that she was supportive of the consolidation and feels that an appropriate accounting of the separate funds can be maintained without having separate investment accounts. After her presentation Martha left and the Board discussed further. After that discussion the Board voted (all in favor) to direct our representatives to the June MOS Board meeting to support tabling any motion to consolidate the funds pending preparation of a white paper that defines the two alternatives (e.g., pros and cons). However if attempts to table the motion fail we would direct voting for consolidation. During this discussion it was pointed out that another, but different proposal, associated with the Investment Committee may come up in the future. Namely a proposal to turn over management of the MOS investments to a broker or financial manager instead of having all the decisions made by the Investment Committee as it is presently.

New/Continuing/Open Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom

- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck, Kevin *Note: Kevin provided list in early July.*
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline)
- Obtain quotes for printing newsletter to determine whether better options are available – Amanda
- Coordinate preparations for hosting State MOS Board meeting Sept. 6 – Karen
- Determine location for State MOS Board meeting in Sept – Kevin
- Remind Sherry to establish date for seed sale in early summer – Kevin
- Change the Treasurer’s Report to reflect that funds from the Mountjoy fund were used to purchase the new laptop – Emy
- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year - Kevin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2007	-	Karen Darcy
October 25, 2007	-	Bonnie Ott
November 15, 2007	-	Jo Solem (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 24, 2008	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 28, 2008	-	Amanda Witt
March 27, 2008	-	Ward Ebert
April 24, 2008	-	Tom Miller
May 22, 2008	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

The schedule for the 2008-2009 year was established during this meeting:

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – May 22, 2008
- Treasurer’s Report 05/01/08 – 05/18/08
- Treasurer’s Annual Report 05/01/07 – 04/30/08
- Treasurer’s Annual Budget (Approved) 05/01/08 – 4/30/09
- Howard County Bird Club, Annual Report, Sept 2007- August 2008
- Action Plan for Howard County Bird Records – Bob Solem – 5/19/2008
- Investment Committee Annual Report - Fiscal Years 2003/4 - 2007/8 – Martha Waugh

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MAY 22, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
 - Budget for next year
4. Presidents remarks *Kevin*
 - Welcome June
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Tom*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - New Publicity chairman
8. New Business/Discussions
 - New audio – visual person – June T
 - May Count results – Chuck
 - Location for board meetings for next year
 - Seed sale logistics – Sherry
 - Options for Big Day for next year - Kevin
 - President's Annual Report – Kevin
 - Recs and Parks building reserved for next year? - Kevin
 - Ho Co host MOS Sept Board meeting – Karen
 - Ho Co Field trips on web action plan – Bob S
 - MOS Investments proposal – Martha Waugh
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Kate Tufts
2830 Duvall Rd.
Woodbine, MD 21797
(410) 489-7052

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/08 - 05/18/08

	<u>Budget 2008-09</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		45.00	45.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,550.00	<u>45.00</u>	<u>45.00</u>
Contributions		75.00	75.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,550.00</u>	<u>120.00</u>	<u>120.00</u>
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	110.00		
Postage, Copies	50.00		
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00		
Miscellaneous		117.92	117.92
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,535.00</u>	<u>167.92</u>	<u>167.92</u>
 Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			
Seed			
Sales Tax			
Total Expense			
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			
Total Available for Contribution			
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,702.97
Interest Received		31.66	<u>31.66</u>
Balance			<u>8,734.63</u>
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			<u>7,181.29</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			1,438.74
Savings			15,915.92
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>17,397.94</u>

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 04/30/08

	Budget 2007/08	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		240.00	6,575.00
State Dues Paid			(3,790.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	240.00	2,785.00
Contributions			230.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>240.00</u>	<u>3,015.00</u>
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			51.64
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	175.00	475.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies	250.00		
Internet Account			102.92
Postage, Copies			34.33
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00	(25.85)	67.25
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	307.09	1,642.49
Laptop Computer		922.20	922.20
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>1,378.44</u>	<u>3,367.17</u>
Gain/Loss			(352.17) *
(*balance to be made from reserves)			
Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,937.50
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			119.88
Seed			6,010.80
Sales Tax			373.46
Total Expense			6,504.14
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,433.36
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			265.00
Total Available for Contribution			1,698.36
Donation to DOS Bird-a-thon			1,300.00
Donation to Checkerspot Project			300.00
Donation to All Creatures			150.00
Balance to come from Operating Fund (see above)			(51.64)
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			8,013.69
Interest Received		35.76	689.28
Balance			8,702.97
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			7,181.29
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			1,606.66
Savings			15,884.26
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			17,534.20

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/08-4/30/09**

	Budget
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	-
Membership Dues (net)	2,550.00
Contributions	-
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,550.00
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Internet Account	110.00
Postage, Copies	50.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,535.00

Howard County Bird Club, Annual Report, Sept 2007- August 2008

The 36th year of the Howard County Bird Club was another busy year.

The programs for the membership meetings consisted of “A Holistic Approach to Bird Conservation in Peru” by Beth Zang, “Gardening for Backyard Biodiversity” by Craig Tufts, “Rhapsody in Blue – A Celebration of North American Waterbirds” by Middleton Evans, “On a Clear Day You See L.A.” by Jeff and Elayne Metter, “Exotic Asian Birding” by Hank Kaestner, “Goshawk: Driven by Its Prey” by David Brinker, “Alaskan Adventure” by Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy, and “Capturing Costa Rican Birds with a Video Camera” by Marty Brazeau, and “Why Not Carry a Camera” by Michael Oberman.

There were a total of 48 field trips during the year including walks geared to and advertised for beginners and a joint walk with the Montgomery chapter. We had specialty walks for sparrows, hawks, waterfowl, owls, woodcock, and shorebirds. The annual Centennial Park series (four Sundays each in November and March) was held again this year. The club’s weekend excursion to Chincoteague was unfortunately rained out this year. We held all-day trips to Blackwater NWR and the Delaware shore. Two “Big Days” were held in October and May. There were also non-birding wildflower, dragonfly and butterfly walks.

The long record of chapter bird counts continued with the 14th annual fall count, the 35th May count, and the 23rd annual midwinter count. The 3rd annual odonate count is scheduled to be held in August. The annual compilation of seasonal records was again performed by Jo Solem.

The fall bird seed sale was again held at the Wildlife Authority, and was again very successful. Proceeds from this seed sale were used as follows to fund:

1. DelMarVa Ornithological Society Land Preservation Fund (Red Knot)- \$1300
2. Habitat preservation for the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly in Montgomery County, \$300
3. All Creatures Great and Small Wildlife Center, a local wildlife rehabilitator, \$150

Once again, our very active Conservation committee chairman wrote numerous letters supporting conservation issues all over the country to the appropriate authorities.

Our web site continues to be updated by our webmaster, Bob Solem. Bob continues to increase the already extensive photo site, updated the “Birding Howard County” book and placed it online (ongoing), and is in the process putting all of the field trip data for the last 20 years into eBird.

In March, the club held its annual Pot Luck dinner which was very successful with approximately 40 participants and many stunning photos. We also supported Greenfest (Earth Day) in April with displays and a bird walk.

All in all, it was a very busy and enjoyable year.

Right now the Wizard is using only the field trip results that have been posted to the web. As additional trips are posted, the information is automatically available to the Wizard.

But there is a lot of additional information that has been collected by the Howard County Bird Club. A lot of it has been published and could be made available to the Wizard by reformatting (which is what was done to put the field trip material into a data base that the Wizard accesses

A great untapped source of information is the season report published in *The Goldfinch* for the four birding seasons. These records were first published in 1994:



Howard

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



March-April 1994, Vol 22, No. 4

Autumn Bird Records: Aug 1-Nov 30, 1993 - Joanne Solem

Each season Howard County bird sightings are compiled and submitted to *Maryland Birdlife* and *American Birds*. Because both publications provide overviews for large areas, only a fraction of Howard County sightings are published. The records are not lost, however, for they are the basis for county records. All records are welcomed and appreciated. Any individual who turns in seasonal sightings receives a copy of the county compilation. To request a form on which to log dates, please call (301) 726-5037. The Board has requested that a digest of the seasonal highlights appear in the newsletter. Observers are referred to by their initials (see the list at the end of the article). Locations are written out the first time cited; thereafter, abbreviations are used.

But they are in hard copy only; there is no way to search them. In my spare time (....?) I have put together an MSWord Document and Excel spreadsheet that will convert many of these published reports into a form that can be loaded into the web MySQL database. Which would keep me off the streets next winter.

And even longer range is a need to capture the information that Jo has collected on Howard County birds and is only in hand-written hard copy. (This is where she gets the information on early and late migration dates and how many times and when rarities have been found.) I have looked at this material and believe that a third party (me) can read the data sheets (most of it is printed rather than cursive) and over a looonng period put it into the MySQL database.

My attempts to put the field trip information on eBird has some problems, and I would suggest that we defer implementation until the late fall and winter of 2008 when people like Marshall Iliff and Michael Bowen have more time to consider the problems that we discussed at the April Board meeting, i.e., place name consistency, casual vs. traveling vs. area protocol.

Home | Howard County Bird Club | Overview | Howard Birding | Clubs & Events | Birding Organizations | Members' Corner | Photo Page | Howard County BSA | Archives | Birding Howard County, Maryland

Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

Field Trip Reports

Since the Howard County Bird Club was founded in 1972, field trips have been a vital part of the club's activities. These trips are an ideal way for both the beginner and the more experienced observer to learn and to share knowledge in an informal atmosphere. Families are encouraged to participate, children with an adult are welcome. Binoculars and a field guide are recommended but are not necessary.

It did not take very long before the leaders started recording the birds seen. Soon a notebook was passed from leader to leader to ensure a permanent record. (The original book was lost in the 1970s.)

Our field trip chair has organized the results of these field trips into yearly folders. With the availability of a web page, we are putting the results of the club's birding field trips into an electronic format, trip leaders enter the results on the web or by email, and the results are posted as soon as the information is formatted.

Our newest feature: Get answers to questions like **There is a bird I want to see.** Where (and when) has it been seen on field trips in the past? To get the answer, [Ask the Wizard](#)

Form for leaders to submit field trip results.

Below are field trip results by calendar year starting with 2006. (There are some gaps in coverage in earlier years.) The emphasis is birds. Some of the trips were organized on a different theme, but if participants kept track of birds that could be reported here, those trips are also included.

The species accounts have summary information but not much detail.

Back to Birding Howard County

Birding Howard County, Maryland

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Most of the following migration records are based on data from the early 1970s through the most recent complete year, sometimes the most recent season. These records have been compiled for the species in Howard County, Maryland, and are intended to be used as a reference for the Maryland Ornithological Society. The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) also has records from 2001-2005. Males and females are recorded separately. Species recorded in Howard County, Maryland, are listed in the following table. Species recorded in Howard County, Maryland, are listed in the following table. Species recorded in Howard County, Maryland, are listed in the following table.

Abbreviations: BSA - Birding Society; C - County; H - Howard County; M - Maryland; N - National; S - State; W - Washington; Y - York; Z - Zone.

The following abbreviations are used: BSA - Birding Society; C - County; H - Howard County; M - Maryland; N - National; S - State; W - Washington; Y - York; Z - Zone.

The species in the following "Species Accounts" follow the general order of the most recent Check-list of the American Ornithological Union, progressing from the least to the most advanced families and genera and species (BBS).

May/June 2008 Volume 36, Number 5

The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club • A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

WINTER BIRD RECORDS DECEMBER 1, 2007 TO FEBRUARY 29, 2008

BY JOANNE SOLEM

A relatively mild winter produced some lowly birds including two new county records. Headlines included Ross's Goose, Long-tailed Duck, Red-necked Grebe, Northern Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Long-eared Owl, Marsh Wren, White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's), Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak.

As usual, a few Snow Geese wintered. The high was four on 12/19 at MDP9/Camden Meadows Ct where there were 3 im, 1 ad, and 1 hi, ad. NM. The season's closest sighting and a new county record was an adult white phase Ross's Goose on 12/17 at MDP9/Florence Rd (BIA, ph). It stayed for a few hours and left at sunset. Despite adverse weather during the following days, it was seen just once more on the morning of 12/19 as a large flock of Canada Geese at MDP9/Camden Meadows where it was being harassed by other geese (NM). The Ross's was last seen taking off with a small flock of Canada Geese in a southerly direction. Caddisfly Geese are noted in small numbers each winter. This season's high was three on 12/20 at Bightown Dam (TFA, GIG). Townsend's Goshawk wall were present at the Race Road

(Records continued on page 2)

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

1954	1983
1955	1984
1956	1985 - M. Wallace, V. M. Chestnut also a winter flock of 100+ (mostly 100+) in March [100+ - late in March - 100+]
1957	1986 NONE
1958	1987 NONE
1959	1988 - Pass by road by TFA, GIG. Townsend's Goshawk wall were present at the Race Road (over 5000 geese)
1960	1989 NONE
1961	1990 NONE
1962	1991 NONE
1963	1992 - Includes Lake Mary, MD. Reported 100+ birds on 12/19 at MDP9/Camden Meadows Ct. (mostly 100+) in March [100+ - late in March - 100+]
1964	1993 - 100+ birds on 12/19 at MDP9/Camden Meadows Ct. (mostly 100+) in March [100+ - late in March - 100+]
1965	1994 NONE
1966	1995 NONE
1967	1996 NONE
1968	1997 WINTER OF 1997 - 1 (POSSIBLY on 12/19 at MDP9/Camden Meadows Ct. (mostly 100+) in March [100+ - late in March - 100+])
1969	1998 NONE
1970	1999 NONE
1971	2000 - 100+ birds on 12/19 at MDP9/Camden Meadows Ct. (mostly 100+) in March [100+ - late in March - 100+]
1972	2001 NONE
1973	2002 NONE
1974	2003 NONE
1975	2004 NONE
1976	2005 NONE
1977	2006 - 100+ birds on 12/19 at MDP9/Camden Meadows Ct. (mostly 100+) in March [100+ - late in March - 100+]
1978	2007 NONE
1979	2008
1980	
1981	
1982	

Preliminary Actions

Action	Word/Excel	Access	MySQL
Source column (trips)		Done	Done
Datefromreport (birds)		Done	Done
Number (before textnumber in birds; 21917on 5/4/08)			
Birdatlocation 1&2		Textnumber	
Findbird 1,2,3		Textnumber	
Fromrecords 1&2		Textnumber	
Locationtriplist 1&2		NO textnumber	NO textnumber
Selectlocation 1&2		No change	
Modify triplist-form.php (# comment)			
Modify Trip Report-Conversion to HTM.doc (to handle # comment)			
Improved Conversion of Season Reports to MySQL Record Format.xls	Partial test		
Season Reports to db	Partial test		
Full record book to db			

77 Place Names in Spring 2007

8 Predominant Place Names in Field Trips

A.E. Mullinix Rd Allview Alpha Ridge landfill [use <i>Alpha</i>] Annapolis Rock Rd Brighton Dam Burleigh Manor Carroll Mill Rd Centennial Circle D Ranch on Carrs Mill Rd Clary's Forest, W. Columbia Clemens Crossing Columbia Mall Corridor Industrial Park David Force Park Dickey Farm on Forsythe Rd Duvall Rd Eden Brook ELKBP Elkhorn Branch (formerly Oakland Mills) Garden Plots Florence Rd Florence Rd/Shaffersville Rd Forsythe Rd Fulton Pond Gateway Commerce Center Glenelg Country School	Hallmark Henryton/Marriottsville Highland Rd south of MD 108 Hipsley Mill Rd I-70 and MD 144 near Daisy Rd Iron Pen Pl. in W. Columbia Jennings Chapel Rd Jennings Chapel/Daisy Rd Kindler and Murray Hill roads Kindler Rd Lake Elkhorn [use <i>Elkhorn</i>] Lisbon Long Corner Rd pond Longfellow Manahan McKendree Rd near Rover Mill Rd MD216 MD32 a few miles north of Clarksville MD32 n.e. of Linden Church Rd MD32/MD99 MD94/Florence Rd MD99/Camden Meadows Ct MD99/E. Watersville Rdnear Sykesville Meadowbrook Morgan Ct Oakland Mills Rd	Old Frederick Rd west of MD 32 Orange Grove/Avalon Patapsco east of Morgan Station Rd Patuxent Branch Trail Pigtail PRSPRRSP headquarters, Annapolis Rock Rd Race Road wetlands River Hill S. Trotter Rd Schooley Mill Pk [use <i>Schooley</i>] Sewells Orchard Snowden River Pkwy Stone Hill Talbots Landing Thornbrook Rd Timberleigh Triadelphia Reservoir [use <i>Triadelphia</i>] Union Chapel Rd University of Maryland Central Farm UMDCF US29 north of MD175 Vantage Point W. Friendship [use <i>Friendship</i>] Walt-Ann Dr Worthington
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Investment Committee Annual Report - Fiscal Years 2003/4 - 2007/8

The Investment Committee of Bob Balestri (Frederick), George Gaffney (Alleghany) Martha Waugh (Howard), and our treasurer, Emmalyn Holdridge, a non-voting member, submits the following report of the MOS portfolio.

Fiscal Year Ending	Total Income	Portfolio Value
April 30, 2004	\$ 56,658.56	\$1,306,218.85
April 30, 2005	\$ 63,286.02	\$1,387,029.76
April 30, 2006	\$ 80,175.79	\$1,474,906.55
April 30, 2007	\$ 89,081.06	\$1,671,969.92
April 30, 2008	\$105,450.23	\$1,500,892.44

Total Income for these three fiscal years by fund:

Fund	4/30/2004	4/30/2005	4/30/2006	4/30/2007	4/30/2008
Atlas	\$ 21.83	\$ 360.24	\$ 721.91	\$ 1,098.25	\$ 2,603.54
Ed.	9,351.65	9,698.05	11,168.22	10,763.50	12,407.55
Non-des.	11,204.35	9,648.65	13,189.10	19,479.23	19,650.64
Oper.	2,758.72	3,267.32	5,166.80	5,544.41	8,614.62
Res.	4,405.67	5,324.21	7,454.46	10,381.88	10,360.20
Sanc.	17,459.73	21,199.16	26,113.46	28,685.68	32,858.83
Scho.	11,456.61	13,788.39	16,361.84	13,128.11	18,954.85
Total	\$56,658.56	\$63,286.02	\$80,175.79	\$89,081.06	\$105,450.23

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Waugh
 Chair, Investment Committee
 May 12, 2008

**Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
 Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
 Thursday, September 25, 2008**

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
 Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
 Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
 Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
 Past President: Kevin Heffernan (& *Publicity*)
 Chap. Directors: June Tveekrem (1st yr) (& *AV*) √
 _____ (2nd yr)
 State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
 Karen Darcy
 Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
 Programs: Jane Geuder
 Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
 Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
 Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
 Potluck: Sue Probst
 Records: Jo Solem √
 Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 11 was ___ people. Ralph Geuder gave a program entitled “Area Hawkwatching: The Sites and Sights.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Treasurer’s Report is attached.

President’s Remarks (Miller): No opening remarks.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Ebert): No opening remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): Bonnie reported that the field trip calendar for the remainder of the calendar year is finalized. Overall everything is going well. She was appreciative of the assistance Felicia had been giving, especially in developing computer master templates for the trips that tend to be repetitive. With Felicia’s decision to resign from the Board, Bonnie would welcome another volunteer to assist with field trip coordination (especially someone to assist with the preparation of electronic inputs for newsletters).

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present and had sent no report. It was noted that he has taken on Conservation Chair for MOS statewide.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported that the day of Board meeting was due date for articles for the current issue. See review of prior action items for report on survey of printers and pricing.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that Yahoo has changed to a new web small business plan. As a result the first 3 months of service under new plan will be ½ off, but after that our monthly cost will increase by \$1.00.

Chapter Directors (Lovelett, Tveekrem): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity/Past President (Heffernan): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

- Need for a new publicity chair was revisited. It was general consensus the Kevin had agreed to share information he had obtained from Jeff Friedhoffer with Amanda, in hope that the task of sending material she already receives as input for newsletter could easily be emailed to newspapers. – Action revisit with Kevin and confirm plans.
- No report on whether Kevin had confirmed use of Rec and Parks facility for next club year.
- Briefly revisited discussion of options for Big Day in future since Bonnie had not been present when last discussed. Defer further discussion until Kevin present. The idea of holding something like a “Breeding Warbler Chase” that would visit multiple habitats designed to optimize warbler sightings later in season was broached.

New Business

- Tom raised issue of no longer preparing annual list of sightings for the county as we used to do. Jane Coskren used to do this but it had been dropped for several years. The idea of just having someone review Jo’s seasonal reports and prepare a list from that source might work. We could include a short paragraph in the newsletter reporting the number of species seen and only publish the actual list on the web site. Ward expressed some interest in looking to see how easy this would be to do and we will revisit subject at subsequent meeting,
- Discussion of future year seed sales was deferred until Sherry would be present. Bob pointed out that historically 2/3 of the income (seed sold) has been done by 1/3 of the people buying seed. We briefly discussed the idea of an alternative fund raiser for this year. One option would be a direct solicitation of donations for a specific cause. Possibly look to put up a matching grant approach. We should solicit club membership for suggestions on which cause would be worthy of such an appeal. We will take this up in future meetings. Ward agreed to draft a few lines (no by-line) for newsletter to follow-up to Sherry’s report in last newsletter, keeping alive the idea of a fund-raiser for habitat preservation, for later this year. Tom agreed to contact Sherry and let her know of this discussion and plans for an update in newsletter.
- We then discussed the need for naming a replacement Chapter Director to replace Felicia Lovelett who resigned for personal reasons. This is the 2nd year of two year term. A couple of names were proposed but we agreed that Tom should ask Jeff Culler if he would agree to finish out this term Ward offered that if Jeff expressed reluctance over organizing the refreshments, he would be willing to continue doing that for the year. *Note: Jeff subsequently agreed to assume this position and fill out rest of term.*
- Kevin had inquired whether we had ever published the results of last year’s newsletter survey and Tom posed question on agenda. We discussed and decided that we felt this feedback was for Board use and there was no reason to publish results for rest of membership.
- Tom described a state MOS program to promote Youth MOS participation established by the state YMOS committee (we have no one on this committee). They have found corporate sponsors who have donated packs that contain a pair of binoculars (\$100 pair purchased for \$30), autographed copy of a new field guide for youth, and miscellaneous other field guides and information (donated). Each chapter is being given one of the packs to hand out to a worthy young person interested in birding. Each chapter is to develop its own criteria for this. Larger chapters can request more packs if worthy recipients are found. We discussed who the target age group would be (late elementary & Jr. High). It was proposed we hold an essay contest. The contest will be announced in newsletter to members to seek young people to write essay about a bird or related bird activity. Criteria: age group (9-13 years), Howard County resident, maximum 250 words, to be submitted by Jan.1. Amanda agreed to prepare announcement article for newsletter.
- Marty Chestem is planning to move to Oregon to live with her sister, and we feel it appropriate to honor her many years of club involvement and support. Jo reported that Marty’s plans are very much up in the

air as to when she would leave, so planning must be very flexible. Ideas included having a cake at meeting nearer time she is to leave, but thought it appropriate to get a certificate ready to use at that time. Tome agreed to contact John Malcolm about a certificate.

- Tom had received an email from Michael Bowen regarding the Maryland Birding Trail project. As reported in the Yellowthroat the committee will be soon distributing the criteria for nominating locations for inclusion on the trail. We anticipate submitting Centennial Park but don't expect very many sites in the County to be included.
- Bonnie reported that most field trip leaders were still sending her hard copies of trip results as well as submitting them for web publication. She asked if she can destroy these once the trip report appears on the web. The Board agreed there was no reason for her to keep these.
- June Tveekrem reported that she is volunteering to lead a "bird photography" field trip. She would serve as coordinator (not expert). Idea is for those interested in topic to trade and share tips with fellow birders interested in bird photography. Possible ideas are one for winter water fowl or a spring trip with migrants. This might well be a trip that starts later in day to have sufficient lighting. She was encouraged to pursue idea.
- Jo Solem asked if we should consider sending a certificate of appreciation or thank you letter to the family that provided access to their farm for viewing the Eurasian Collared Dove. Jo agreed to check with Wes Earp as to whether this would seem to be a good idea as he was the person dealing with the family to gain access.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin - **OPEN**
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom - **OPEN**
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck - **OPEN**
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline) - **OPEN**
- Obtain quotes for printing newsletter to determine whether better options are available – Amanda - **CLOSED**
Amanda distributed the attached table. Bottom-line we are satisfied with current supplier and there is no cost benefit to changing.
- Coordinate preparations for hosting State MOS Board meeting Sept. 6 – Karen – **CLOSED**
Our planned hosting of State Board meeting first Saturday in September was cancelled due to tropical storm. Meeting was rescheduled for next Saturday with Montgomery Chapter hosting at Black Hills Park.
- Determine location for State MOS Board meeting in Sept – Kevin - **CLOSED**
Was scheduled to be held in Miller Library meeting room
- Remind Sherry to establish date for seed sale in early summer – Kevin - **CLOSED**
- Change the Treasurer's Report to reflect that funds from the Mountjoy fund were used to purchase the new laptop – Emy - **CLOSED**
- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year – Kevin - **OPEN**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck.
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline)
- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year – Kevin
- Update the membership questionnaire spreadsheet for this years inputs – Kevin

- Contact Wes Earp to inquire about certificate for Eurasian Collared Dove access – Jo
- Arrange for a certificate to honor Marty Chestem by contacting John Malcolm – Tom
- Prepare announcement article for YMOS Pack essay contest – Amanda
- Contact Jeff Culler about serving as 2nd year Chapter Director – Tom
- Draft brief follow-up about fund raiser in lieu of seed sale for newsletter – Ward
- Contact Sherry to let her know of our discussion of fund raiser ideas for this year – Tom
- Clarify plans for Publicity chair by providing Amanda POCs or alternative if needed - Kevin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt	
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem	
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem	
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts	
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – September 25, 2008
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report 05/01/08 – 09/21/2008 (September Report)
- Howard County Chapter MOS Annual Treasurer’s Report 05/01/07 – 04/30/08 (Corrected)
- Printer Interview Results

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

SEPT 25, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
 - Budget for next year
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
 -
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - New Publicity chairman
 - Recs and Parks building reserved for next year? – Kevin
 - Options for Big Day for next year - Kevin
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Annual list
 - i. Hasn't been done the last few years
 - ii. Has anyone created an annual spreadsheet?
 - Seed Sale/Fund Raiser --- Seed sale logistics – Sherry
 - Need new Chapter Director
 - Did we ever publish the results of the newsletter survey?
 - YMOS Backpack Program
 - Do something for Marty Chestem?
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Bonnie Ott
8664 Manahan Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 461-3361

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/08 - 09/21/08

	Budget 2008-09	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		3,040.00	3,085.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,550.00	3,040.00	3,085.00
Contributions		130.00	205.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,550.00	3,170.00	3,290.00
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	49.17	49.17
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	110.00		
Postage, Copies	50.00		
Projector Expense		27.86	27.86
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00	236.59	236.59
Miscellaneous		117.92	117.92
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,535.00	431.54	481.54
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,625.17
Interest Received		119.81	151.47
Balance			9,776.64
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,410.12
Savings			16,035.73
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			20,489.13

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/07 - 04/30/08

	Budget 2007/08	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		240.00	6,575.00
State Dues Paid			(3,790.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	240.00	2,785.00
Contributions			230.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>240.00</u>	<u>3,015.00</u>
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			51.64
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		71.34
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	175.00	475.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	100.00		
Special Supplies	250.00		
Internet Account			102.92
Postage, Copies			34.33
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	100.00	(25.85)	67.25
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,200.00	307.09	1,642.49
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,400.00</u>	<u>456.24</u>	<u>2,444.97</u>
Gain/Loss			<u>570.03</u>
 Seed Sale			
Income/Sales			7,937.50
Expense			
Flyers/Misc			119.88
Seed			6,010.80
Sales Tax			373.46
Total Expense			<u>6,504.14</u>
Gain/Loss Seed Sale			1,433.36
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			265.00
Total Available for Contribution			<u>1,698.36</u>
Donation to DOS Bird-a-thon			1,300.00
Donation to Checkerspot Project			300.00
Donation to All Creatures			150.00
Balance to come from Operating Fund (see above)			(51.64)
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance		922.20	8,935.89
Interest Received		35.76	689.28
Balance			<u>9,625.17</u>
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance		(922.20)	<u>6,259.09</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			1,606.66
Savings			15,884.26
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>17,534.20</u>

Printer Interview Results

	8 Pages		10 Pages	
	200 copies	250 copies	200 copies	250 copies
Brown & Associates	\$156.00	\$188.00	\$180.00	\$218.00
Corridor Printing	\$116.00	\$145.00		
Harvest Printing & Graphics	\$218.00	\$250.00	\$256.00	\$282.00
Synergy Printing	\$152.00	\$183.00	\$174.00	\$215.00

Notes:

- Quotes were obtained in July.
- Brown & Associates is our current printer.
- Corridor’s printing and collating is done by machine. Therefore the newsletter’s pages would have to be in multiples of 4.
- Synergy only accepts cash or checks for payment.

**Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 2008**

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (✓)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller ✓
Vice-president: Ward Ebert ✓
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat ✓
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& State Treasurer) ✓
Past President: Kevin Heffernan (& Publicity) ✓
Chap. Directors: June Tveekrem (1st yr) (& AV) ✓
 Jeff Culler (2nd yr) ✓
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
 Karen Darcy ✓
 Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips:	Bonnie Ott
Programs:	Jane Geuder
Seed Sale:	Sherry Tomlinson ✓
Conservation:	Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter:	Amanda Witt ✓
Potluck:	Sue Probst
Records:	Jo Solem ✓
Webmaster:	Bob Solem ✓

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Amanda Witt. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 9 was 35 people. Will Hershberger gave a program entitled "*The Songs of Insects—A Celebration of These Amazing Musicians.*"

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy reported that receipt of dues had slowed until this week, when Bob sent an email reminder to those who had not renewed. As a result, she had received several renewals this week. The attached report is for the club Fiscal Year to date. It includes the proceeds received at the last club meeting (\$180) so far for the Bendt series of Dover reprints that a friend of Sue Neri's had donated that were designated for habitat funds. Several additional volumes have been picked up by Sherry for eventual contribution, amount TBD.

President's Remarks (Miller): No initial remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): No initial remarks except to provide maps to his home where next Board meeting will be held.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report, except for email promising to attend next meeting and provide suggestions for a worthy cause for our annual habitat donation. (see below)

Newsletter (Witt): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem): As reported in most recent newsletter several new site guides have been completed on the Birding Howard County web project.

As for membership renewals, there are 60-70 renewals still outstanding (less those received by Emy this week). It is time to plan for making phone calls to remind those still outstanding. Bob will provide the Chapter Directors with a list of those to be called just prior to the next Board meeting so that calls can be made just prior to Thanksgiving.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Tveekrem): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.
Past President (Heffernan): No report.
Records (J. Solem): No report.
Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.
State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

New Publicity Chairman status – Amanda will try and cover this function by emailing announcements (meetings and field trips) as she receives them for inclusion in newsletter. To accomplish this she needs to have the POCs list that Jeff Friedhoffer provided Kevin H. (See action list).

Reservation of use of Rec and Parks building for meetings still needs to be confirmed. Kevin will contact Sue Muller and confirm status before next board meeting.

Alternative/additional formats for future Big Days was discussed further with Kevin. He agreed that he would like to lead/organize a “laid-back” Big Day trip that would involve fewer participants with a less “gung-ho” spirit in parallel with Bonnie leading the traditional “Big Day” next spring.

Tom reported on our proposed approach to awarding the YMOS Backpack. He had received a complimentary response from Janet Shields regarding our approach to award the backpack(s). He also reported that Lisa Colangelo’s son was interested in submitting an essay.

We discussed the project to reinstitute the annual county list compilation. Ward Ebert is planning to try and reconstruct the reports for the past four years using existing data sources. He requested, and Jo agreed, that he wanted her to serve as a final reviewer of the lists he assembles.

In accordance with the By-laws the Board unanimously elected Jeff Culler to fill out the remainder of the 2nd year Chapter Director term of Felicia Lovelett, who had resigned her position. The appropriate By-laws section is quoted here: *“ARTICLE III, Section 3. If vacancies exist whereby the Board has not the full complement of Directors or Officers, the Board may proceed to elect a Director or Officer to fill such vacancies and the Director or Officer so elected shall serve until the beginning of the next fiscal year. Said replacement shall stand for election at the next annual meeting.”*

Bob indicated that he wanted to provide the pros/cons of the earlier suggestion he had raised of having club field trip reports uploaded to Cornell e-Bird web site. Although he originally planned to do this more formally, his informal comments highlighted that many of our trips don’t submit numbers only a list of species. This and other aspects of field trip reports make the data not very suitable for e-Bird use. The Board agreed that based on this informal report there was no reason to pursue the concept further.

New Business

We discussed options for fund raisers for habitat in lieu of having cancelled this year’s seed sale. We generally are leaning toward a direct appeal for funds from members (and others) to be donated to a worthy cause yet to be determined. June introduced a supplementary idea that such an appeal might be more successful if we had one or more well respected photographers donate photographs (prints) to be bid on with proceeds to the same cause. This would require contacting quality photographers to solicit donation of their work after we select the cause. We will need to make a decision on “cause” at the November Board meeting if we are to launch appeal in next newsletter (although we could supplement appeal with email or web material). The Board is hopeful that Kurt will bring one or more suggestions to the November Board meeting as he has done in the past. Tom agreed to check with Kurt and

ensure he would work to this deadline. In discussion it was pointed out that the club has done the form of direct solicitation in the past (Nassawango?). Another idea floated was to solicit different levels of contribution (e.g., Eagle, Cardinal, Goldfinch) but it was generally agreed this would be a formality only and that we did not plan to publish names of contributors. Ward pointed out that we would need to provide formal receipts for donations that met current tax law regulations that would permit donors to claim their gifts as legitimate tax deductions on their returns. He agreed to research what this would involve.

We briefly discussed future seed sale plans. Sherry pointed out that we still have an account with Meyer's Seed. They require a minimum of 5000 lbs for free delivery, which was how we could combine our order with The Wildlife Authority and get free delivery. It became obvious that The Wildlife Authority was feeling our pricing was in competition with their sales and the additional traffic the sale generated wasn't really making up for that competition and as a result the prior arrangement wasn't going to work going forward. Reviewing reason we changed to not operating out of church it is clear they were also not sure they wanted our presence as they needed the space for their own purposes. Also as we no longer qualified for a drop-off truck trailer, weather became a very uncertain proposition. Other points to note is that approximately 30 customers accounted for over 2/3 of the revenue and they weren't all club members. It is also worth noting that we abandoned the second (late) seed sale because there was a decreasing level of purchases so that the second sale was simply unviable. Lastly it was pointed out that fewer people feeding at all. We agreed to revisit future plans for seed sales at a future meeting (January?).

Tom reported that he had received the MOS Birding Trail site nomination form and that inputs were due by November 30. Our general consensus is that there would be few trail sites in Howard County, but that at a minimum we should submit Centennial Park. Tom agreed to draft the initial input and then forward it to the Board for comment. We would really like to find some way that the Birding Trail would include reference/link to our Birding Howard County web-site.

Emy has contacted PNC Bank about changing signatures on account to add Tom. Chuck and Tom provided her with copies of the necessary documentation for her to proceed with implementing change. She will follow-up with bank.

June solicited discussion of an idea she is interested in pursuing, namely an "amateur" photographers field trip where the participants wouldn't depend on a leader for photo expertise, but rather share tips and ideas together. She is thinking a waterfowl trip over the Christmas holidays might offer an initial trial run of this type of field trip. She was encouraged to continue to pursue the idea of such a trip.

Jo broached a discussion of how to proceed with Birding Howard County project recognizing that there are still some members that aren't computer users. We have already decided to print one site guide in the Jan/Feb newsletter as a test/prototype and probable future annual feature. She would like to consider printing an additional site guide each year. We could use some of the reserve funds (currently~\$9500) largely accumulated from proceeds of prior book to print an extra insert to newsletter. One issue is that at this rate it would be almost an unending project given the number of sites and their continuing evolution. All are asked to give this idea some thought and be prepared to discuss further in future. It was pointed out that these would be most useful if they focused on new parks and recent significant changes to older sites. Another point raised was that including short articles that highlight new/recent changes to the entire web site would make good filler articles for the Goldfinch.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin - **open**
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom - **open**
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck. - **open**
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline) - **open**

- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year – Kevin - **open**
- Update the membership questionnaire spreadsheet for this years inputs – Kevin - **open**
- Contact Wes Earp to inquire about certificate for Eurasian Collared Dove access – Jo
Jo reported that Wes agreed that the idea of a certificate was a good one. - **closed**
- Arrange for a certificate to honor Marty Chestem by contacting John Malcolm – Tom - **open**
- Prepare announcement article for YMOS Pack essay contest – Amanda - **closed**
- Contact Jeff Culler about serving as 2nd year Chapter Director – Tom - **closed**
- Draft brief follow-up about fund raiser in lieu of seed sale for newsletter – Ward- **closed**
- Contact Sherry to let her know of our discussion of fund raiser ideas for this year – Tom - **closed**
- Clarify plans for Publicity chair by providing Amanda POCs or alternative if needed – Kevin - **open**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck.
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline)
- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year – Kevin
- Update the membership questionnaire spreadsheet for this years inputs – Kevin
- Contact John Malcolm to arrange for a certificate in appreciation for Eurasian Collared Dove access – Jo
- Arrange for a certificate to honor Marty Chestem by contacting John Malcolm – Tom
- Provide Amanda POCs for publicity chair forwarding to news outlets received from Jeff Friedhoffer – Kevin
- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward, – Review draft lists – Jo
- Research requirements for receipts to donors that would support claiming donations as valid charitable tax donations – Ward
- Draft Birding Trail nomination form for Centennial Park and distribute for review and comment – Tom
- Pursue changing signatures on bank account records – Emy
- Include new web site features as short filler articles in The Goldfinch – Amanda - continuing item

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt	
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem	
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem	
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts	
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)	

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Board Meeting October 23, 2008
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report 05/01/08 – 10/21/08

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

OCTOBER 23, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - New Publicity chairman
 - Recs and Parks building reserved for next year? – Kevin
 - Options for Big Day for next year – Kevin
 - YMOS Backpack Program
 - Annual list - Ward expressed some interest.
 - i. Only publish on Web
 - Jeff Culler agreed to be 2nd year chapter director
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Fund Raiser --- Sherry
 - Birding Trail Site Nomination Form – Nov 30 deadline.
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Amanda Witt
6134 Starburn Path
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 290-0460

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/08 - 10/21/08

	Budget 2008-09	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		3,040.00	3,085.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,550.00	3,040.00	3,085.00
Contributions		130.00	205.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,550.00	3,170.00	3,290.00
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	49.17	49.17
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	110.00		
Postage, Copies	50.00		
Projector Expense		27.86	27.86
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00	236.59	236.59
Miscellaneous		117.92	117.92
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,535.00	431.54	481.54
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,625.17
Interest Received		119.81	151.47
Balance			9,776.64
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,410.12
Savings			16,035.73
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			20,489.13

Howard County Chapter - Maryland 'Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2008

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan (& *Publicity*) √
Chap. Directors: June Tveekrem (1st yr) (& *AV*) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Ward Ebert. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 13 was 42 people. Kathleen O'Malley gave a program entitled "Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's Whooping Crane Recovery Program."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): The treasurer's report was distributed by email prior to meeting and is attached below.

President's Remarks (Miller): Tom reported that Jane Geuder had called him to report that a memorial service for Kathy Klimkiewicz is scheduled for November 22. Kathy was a well-known member of the Maryland birding community that had given several programs to the club over the years.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt remarked on an article in the Howard County Times that reported 3 of the 4 dams on the Patapsco are to be removed because the fish ladders are not really working. The dam at Daniels is the one that is not to be removed. He also reported that he and George Alderson have been active in sending letters both for the club and now as Kurt being the State MOS Conservation Chair. He also made note of a recent set of window strikes at work that seemed to be out of the norm. Lastly the two letters he had written to the Howard County Times on deer control and stray cat control.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda announced that the next deadline for the newsletter was five days after this meeting. She had reviewed the list of publications that Jeff Friedhoffer had been using. She and other Board members recommended that a few of these should be scratched as not likely to be worth the effort. She will try and distribute the January field trip announcements as a first try. For those that require fax instead of email, Tom indicated if she sent him the material he could fax it for her. All of us should make note of and provide feedback if we see

publications picking up our announcements so that we might further focus this publicity effort. It was also suggested we explore asking the Howard Conservancy to post our field trips at their Nature Center. The Mt. Airy Gazette might also be a possibility to capture far western parts of Howard County. Kate volunteered to see if she could post them at the Glenwood Community Center. Another publication that might be a possibility is The View and Kate said she would look for contact information for them. Lastly the Centennial Park bulletin board is a possibility. It was also noted that Jeff Culler has repaired the box next to the bulleting board for posting sightings seen at Centennial.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob passed around a graph showing the usage statistics for the club web site for recent months. It shows the number of hits per month (with the data for November being only for a partial month). The graph is attached. Another news item mentioned was the fact that The Wildlife Authority is for sale (and will likely close unless a buyer comes forward).

Chapter Directors (Culler, Tveekrem): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): Sue was not present but had asked the Board to confirm she should go ahead and make arrangements with the Owen Brown Community Center for the potluck in early March. The Board gave her the go-ahead to proceed (see Action Items).

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity/Past President (Heffernan): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

- Tom reported that we had received one essay so far in response to the YMOS Backpack program. If we only receive 1 or 2 more we might ask for a 2nd pack as there are extras available. The essays that are received by the end of the year will be distributed in January for review.
- Ward Ebert reported on the process of reinstituting the annual county list. He has been working on and has a preliminary format for the list. He repeated his intent to have Jo assist him by vetting the final list contents. He envisions compiling this only on an annual cycle and then having it posted on the club website. There are no plans to try and maintain a “running” list during the year. Ward will be the compiler. Species that are under review or require review by Records Committee’s will be so annotated.
- Tom reported that the nomination form for Centennial Park inclusion on the Maryland Birding Trail had been submitted on November 17 and he had received acknowledgement of its receipt.
- Fund Raiser – We then discussed ideas of what project would be a suitable recipient for the fund raiser we are going to hold in lieu of a seed sale. Kurt reported that he had approached the American Birding Conservancy (ABC) and Houston Audubon for projects they might propose. He had only heard back from ABC. They mentioned the Cerulean Warbler project and two others that he provided information on (see attached). One is a project to boost the population of the endangered Thick-billed Parrot in Mexico by creating protected preserves and providing nest boxes. This species once was resident in Arizona and hope exists that if the Mexican population recovers reintroduction in the US might be possible. The second project relates to the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica where a 1500 acre of private land has been purchased, but with additional funds hopes are that portions of the property could be reforested with rainforest trees. Other projects discussed were the MPEA Woodcock habitat project (more likely a future potential project). Emy then reported that she has been approached by an anonymous donor who has issued a Conservation Challenge Grant in the amount of \$400 that could be used as a means to promote others contributions to whichever project the Board decides to sponsor. It was moved and seconded that we conduct a fund raising drive for the Thick-billed Parrot project and accept the Challenge Grant. The motion passed

unanimously. Emy had researched the issue of what form of receipts we needed to provide donors that satisfy current IRS regulations. For gifts over \$250 the donor must receive a receipt from us as a charitable organization indicating the amount and a statement that no goods or services had been received in return for the gift. Contributions less than \$250 can be supported by cancelled check or a receipt. Kurt agreed to write an article for the newsletter describing the fund raiser and project being sponsored.

New Business

- The agenda included discussing the spending of \$15 for a DVD decoder that June Tveekrem required for AV equipment. It was pointed out to Tom that expenditures like this should be considered routine business and he as President could approve them without bringing them to the Board.
- Kate reported the this year's Howard County Greenfest is to be held at Howard Community College on April 14 from 10 am to 4 pm. We have been asked if we want to participate again this year. This year's theme is energy and water conservation. We need to submit an application by December. It will cost \$25 to have a table / display. We also could choose to sign up as a sponsor for \$100. Sponsorship includes having your "logo" appear on press releases, getting a preferred table location. The Board agreed to get a table but not become a sponsor, at least this year. We will watch to see if this looks like it might be worthwhile in future years. Kate asked the Board to propose ideas for a "theme" for our display boards and will need volunteers to man the booth. We have been asked if we could provide someone to lead a short bird field trip during the Greenfest like Kurt did last year. There was some question as to whether a sufficient habitat was available at HCC, and as a result Tom agreed to check out the habitat at HCC.
- It is time for Tom to appoint a nominating committee for next year and he will approach potential committee members. The only position we will need to fill this year (assuming current constituents agree to continue) is a new Chapter Director to replace Jeff Culler who is filling out the term of 2nd year chapter director. The Board began an informal discussion of potential candidates; e.g.; Wes or Sue Earp, Joe Hanfman, Scott Berglund, Jeff Culler, Tracy Eve, Sherry Tomlinson (if don't continue Seed Sale).
- Plans for the Chapter Director's to make the final phone calls to non-renewals are underway and will be made in next few days.
- Jo reported that Howard County Tourism, Inc. reported that the brochure "Howard County Wildlife Driving Tour" had won BEST PRINTED MATERIAL AWARD MD at the 2008 Governor's Tourism Industry Conference awards. They wanted to express their thanks to all who helped with the project including Jo.
- Jo and Bob reported that a recent Howard Recreation and Parks Board meeting had discussed the project for adding parking and restrooms to the Trotter Road entrance to MPEA. Everything is on track for this given that it has priority to be completed before the Robinson Nature Center opens as it will be needed to handle buses running from the center to the MPEA entrance. Plans call for paving an area about the size of current lot but to have a gravel overflow parking lot. There will be a gated road to a bus turn-around along the road beyond current gate.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Report progress and plans with web version of "Birding Howard County." – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck.
- Discuss the subject of standardizing Seasonal Count Sub-areas further. - Chuck and Kevin (offline) - **DELETE**
- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year – Kevin
- Update the membership questionnaire spreadsheet for this years inputs – Kevin – **continuing item**
- Contact John Malcolm to arrange for a certificate in appreciation for Eurasian Collared Dove access – Jo - **DONE**
- Arrange for a certificate to honor Marty Chestem by contacting John Malcolm – Tom – **DELETE**
- Provide Amanda POCs for publicity chair forwarding to news outlets received from Jeff Friedhoffer – Kevin
DONE

- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward, – Review draft lists – Jo
- Research requirements for receipts to donors that would support claiming donations as valid charitable tax donations – Ward/Emy - **DONE**
- Draft Birding Trail nomination form for Centennial Park and distribute for review and comment – Tom - **DONE**
- Pursue changing signatures on bank account records – Emy – **In Progress**
- Include new web site features as short filler articles in The Goldfinch – Amanda - **continuing item**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck.
- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year – Kevin
- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward, – Review draft lists – Jo
- Pursue changing signatures on bank account records – Emy – **In Progress**
- Investigate posting of field trips at Howard Conservancy (???) and Glenwood Community Center (Kate)
- Look for contact info and provide to Amanda for Mt. Airy Gazette (???) and The View (Kate)
- Make arrangements for Pot Luck at Owen Brown Community Center - Sue
- Submit application for a table at next April’s Greenfest – Kate
- Investigate the habitat around HCC and suitability for a field trip during Greenfest – Tom
- Appoint a nominating committee – Tom

Sec. Note: The following items have been being carried as continuing Action Items but they are probably best just considered routine business and only be revisited as issues arise. I propose to not include them routinely in future.

- Report progress and plans with web version of “Birding Howard County.” – Bob & Jo Solem - **continuing item**
- Inventory/index club records and archival materials and develop a proposal for future retention practices and policies. – Ward Ebert and Emy Holdridge – **continuing item**
- Work on PowerPoint presentation as time permits – Tom Miller - **continuing item**
- Update the membership questionnaire spreadsheet for this years inputs – Kevin – **continuing item**
- Include new web site features as short filler articles in The Goldfinch – Amanda - **continuing item**

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt	
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem	
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem	
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts	
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)	

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 20, 2008
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report 05/02/08 – 11/15/08
- Website Statistics – June – Nov 2008
- Background on Conservation Projects: 1) Thick-billed Parrot, 2) Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

NOVEMBER 20, 2008

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack Program
 - Annual list – Status – Ward
 - Birding Trail Site Nomination Form – Nov 30 deadline.
 - Fund Raiser --- Who will be the fund raiser recipient?
8. New Business/Discussions
 - \$15 for DVD decoder software
 - Form Nominating Committee. Discuss possible candidates for next year
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Location:

Ward Ebert
7366 Hallmark Rd
Clarksville, MD 21029
301-490-5807

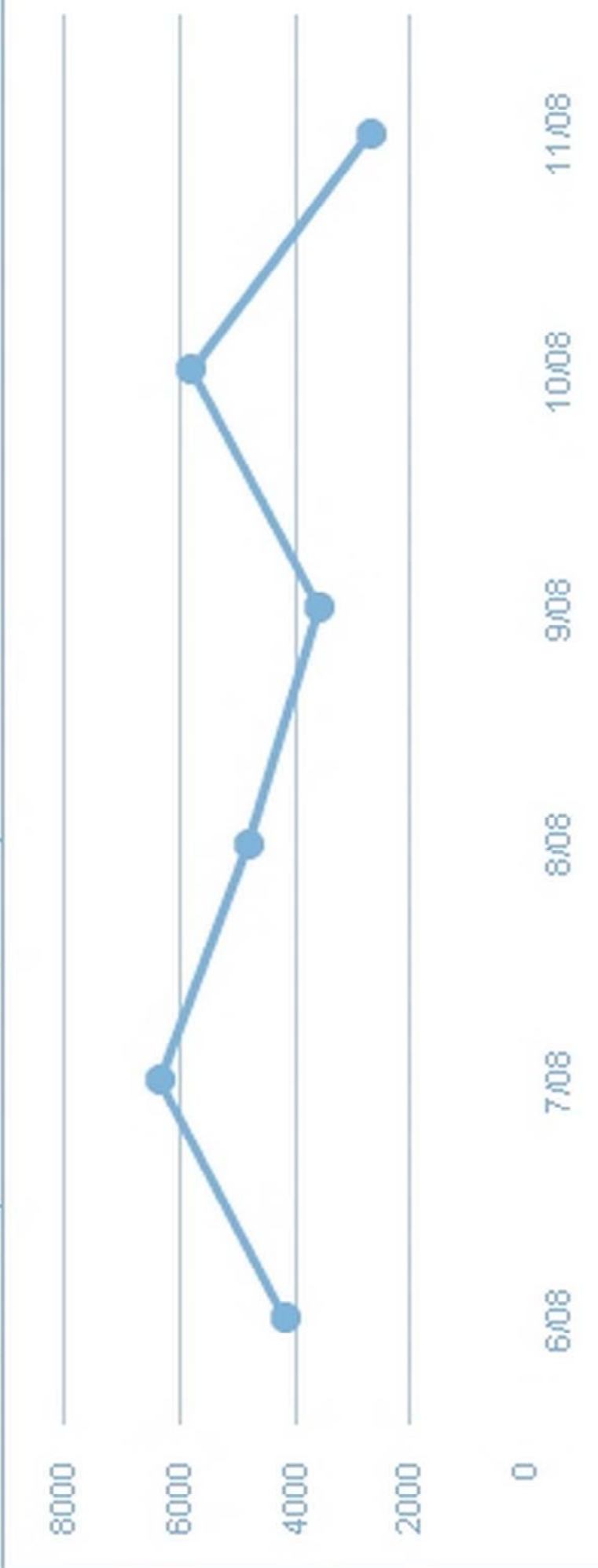
HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/08 - 11/15/08

	Budget 2008-09	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		1,170.00	5,090.00
State Dues Paid			(2,530.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,550.00	1,170.00	2,560.00
Contributions		10.00	315.00
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			180.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,550.00	1,180.00	3,055.00
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		49.17
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	200.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	110.00		119.07
Postage, Copies	50.00		22.25
Projector Expense			27.86
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00		409.59
Miscellaneous			117.92
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,535.00	50.00	945.86
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,625.17
Interest Received		38.91	222.35
Balance			9,847.52
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,490.80
Savings			16,106.61
Petty Cash			43.28
<i>Total</i>			19,640.69

Monthly page views: 6/08 - 11/08

Monthly

Daily



Thick-billed Parrot

A project to boost the population of the endangered Thick-billed Parrot in Mexico by creating protected reserves to conserve habitat and providing nest boxes to increase reproduction may make it possible for the species to be once again found in the United States. In September, American Bird Conservancy worked with its Mexican partner group Pronatura Noreste to support the acquisition of 2,470 acres of vital old-growth nesting habitat at Mesa de las Guacamayas in northwestern Mexico, one of three primary nesting areas remaining.

The land purchase, a critical aspect of the [Thick-billed Parrot conservation project](#), will protect over half of the mesa's 40 nest sites, as well as protecting forest habitat that is important for hundreds of other bird species including the Eared Trogon, Northern Goshawk, and the threatened Mexican Spotted Owl. The Thick-bill Parrot's decline is related to hunting, trapping for the pet trade, and the logging of forests in the Sierra Madre Occidental of western Mexico and southeast Arizona, a mountain range once forested with large conifers. One result of logging has been the loss of large trees that provide nesting cavities for the parrots, which cannot excavate their own holes. Adult birds may not be able to breed simply because they cannot find a place to nest. Less than 1% of the old growth forest remains intact in the Sierra Madre Occidental.

To compensate for the scarcity of nest trees, American Bird Conservancy supported Pronatura Noreste in placing 20 nest boxes in large trees in the nesting area of the parrots, near the town of Madera. When the parrots returned in May, they investigated the boxes, and three pairs decided they liked them well enough to move in. In July, nesting was confirmed in one of the boxes, and suspected in two others.

The Arizona Fish & Game Agency and the Sonoran Joint Venture have been planning to reintroduce the species to the Chiricahua Mountains in Arizona using parrots captured in the wild. An effort to reintroduce Thick-billed Parrots to Arizona in the 1980s and 90s failed because the released captive-bred birds were unable to learn how to avoid the numerous predators in the area. If the Mexican population continues to grow, some of the birds may be able to be relocated into Arizona.

<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/081119.html>

http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/international/action/thick_billed_parrot.html

http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/science/watchlist/thick_billed_parrot.html

Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica

We also have a recent project in Costa Rica that may be of interest. Early in 2008, an important conservation opportunity arose when 1,500 acres of privately-owned land in the southern part of the peninsula came up for sale. The land lies in a corridor that links Corcovado National Park to a 2,800 acre private protected area in the south of the Peninsula (owned by Friends of the Osa and home to the [Osa Biodiversity Center](#)). Despite an existing conservation easement, the property was threatened by a development scheme but the owners agreed to sell after conservationists pointed out the inappropriate planned use for the land. American Bird Conservancy collaborated with [Friends of the Osa](#), the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, the Blue Moon Fund, and the Beneficia Foundation, to purchase the 1,500 acre tract.

Of the 1,500 acres, 500 is somewhat degraded and has been used to plant teak and pochote in the past. With additional funds we could reforest rainforest trees, concentrating on those fruiting species that can be most easily propagated by birds and bats. The aim being to eventually restore the entire 500 acres at a significantly reduced cost due to seeding of additional trees by fruit-eating species such as toucans and fruit-eating bats.

In addition to the endangered [Black-cheeked Ant-tanager](#) that the area will protect, migratory birds that stand to benefit include (wintering and passage): Eastern Kingbird, [Olive-sided Flycatcher](#), Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Black-and-White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Mourning Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Canada Warbler., American Redstart, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/stories/081204.html>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2009

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan (& *Publicity*) √
Chap. Directors: June Tveekrem (1st yr) (& *AV*)
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kevin Heffernan. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 11 was ~40 people. Steve Kendt gave a program entitled "Wildlife of the Galapagos." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 8 at Glenwood Community Center (one-time change) was 95 people. Hank Kaestner gave a program entitled "In Search of My Zornis."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Report attached. The amount under Programs is for 3 programs (Sept., Nov, & Dec.).

Emy then summarized the status of fund raising to date and clarified how the the challenge grant is intended to motivate other members to make gifts. In addition to the anonymous challenge of \$400 as a matching grant, we also have \$230 received from the sale of the Bent books. It was agreed that we should promote this at upcoming club meetings, in a reminder in the newsletter and on the web site We decided that the end of April is an appropriate deadline to advertise, but of course we will take inputs later if they are received.

President's Remarks (Miller): Tom will miss next regular club meeting and Ward will have to run the meeting.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): No report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): It has been fairly quiet on the conservation front. There has been a recent success with court action putting a freeze on sale of mineral rights in the Red Rocks area in Utah. We had lobbied the Bureau of Land Management and Congress to stop the planned sale.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda mentioned that on the surveys Jim Wilkinson had requested reinstatement of publishing the count field checklists in the newsletter. Bob indicated he had gotten back to Jim and explained why we had taken this step as a cost saving measure. She passed around a sample of a page listing the January activities that could be posted at Libraries, Centennial Park, Glenwood Comm. Center, etc. In months with many more

activities she proposes to focus on those for beginners, and leave out trips with an “expert” focus. Lastly she began sending publicity material in January, but expects to send more for subsequent months as she had personal conflicts that limited how much time she had for this round of mailings.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob passed around a web “hits” report, and attached is an updated version with data through the end of January.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Tveekrem): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Past President (Heffernan): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Kate summarized a couple of topics that were raised at the most recent meeting. 1) The “Lights Out campaign attempting to have lights in tall buildings turned off to reduce bird strikes was discussed. The Baltimore Chapter has been promoting it and wondered if other chapters wanted to get involved. Bob suggested this might better be handled by the Howard County Conservation Committee. We chose not to take any action on this as a club. 2) MOS has formed an Alternative Energy committee with Chris Tascano as chairman. Chris is a Howard chapter member and it was proposed that if he is present at an upcoming meeting we should ask if he wants to say a few words about the committee and what they are trying to do. 3) MOS was asking if we have an opinion on the proposals to introduce Asian oysters in the Bay as a way to recover the Bays oyster population. Generally introducing foreign species has not been successful for the overall environment. Kurt may look into this as the State Conservation Chair. 4) MOS is still seeking volunteers for the Investment Committee.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No further reports.

Old Business

- YMOS Backpack Program – Tom had sent out copies of the two essays we received (Sarah Vogel and Andrew Colangelo). We decided to ask for a second backpack and award one to each applicant. Won’t be able to get it until the next MOS Board meeting in early March so will plan to award them at the regular club meeting in March. Tom agreed to contact the families and confirm if they will be able to attend. We also will ask if it would be acceptable to post the essays on our and the MOS website. Amanda will prepare an article announcing winners for the May/June newsletter.
- Greenfest plans – Kate reported she submitted the application for a table. Decided we will just use our standard display boards and a few specimens. Tom had not had a chance to assess HCC habitat for potential of a field trip, but after discussion we decided to reply we wouldn’t plan on leading a trip. Sue Muller is writing an article on Greenfest for next newsletter. There was a query about collecting used binoculars, but we couldn’t remember context of last year and decided not to do anything with this idea for this year. Kate will solicit volunteers at the March meeting.
- Howard Conservancy is holding an Earth Day celebration on April 18 and had asked if we could find someone to lead a bird walk. Kurt agreed to either do it himself or find another volunteer. Tom will notify the Conservancy that we will lead a trip.
- See Treasurer’s report above for discussion of Fund Raiser for the Thick-billed Parrot project.
- Tom agreed to appoint the nominating committee in near term.

New Business

- Alternate Rare Bird Alert process - Bob and Jo described a need for having an alternate person to put out Rare Bird/Lister emails when they are unavailable. Jeff Culler volunteered to do this. Bob will help Jeff set up the appropriate email list and test it.

- Hosting State MOS Board meeting – Karen reported on her efforts to find a venue for the meeting on March 7. All our regular sites are busy that day. She has made a reservation at the Towson Public Library as a last resort location. Attendees will need to pay to park in a Parking Garage if we use this site. Rent will be \$30. One other possibility still being pursued is the Glenwood Community Center. A room would require \$120 rent and we don't know availability unless we apply. Karen will submit application which doesn't require deposit until we know it is available. She will call Janet Shields and discuss the rent amount that using Glenwood implies, in case the state may be able to help subsidize more than the standard \$50. In any event the Board authorized using up to \$120 of club funds to rent Glenwood (if it is available) rather than hosting at Towson (which is still our fallback). Kevin broached the idea of approaching State Board with volunteering to annually host a Board meeting (at least location, maybe other chapters would provide food) since we are centrally located and could make plans further in advance and avoid the problems experienced with this time. No action was taken by board on this idea.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck.
- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year – Kevin
- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward, – Review draft lists – Jo
Amanda agreed to draft and send Ward a short article to review announcing plans to reinstitute annual lists and post them on the web site. The lists won't be available until after winter season data is available.
- Pursue changing signatures on bank account records – Emy – **DONE**
- Investigate posting of field trips at Howard Conservancy (Kurt) and Glenwood Community Center (Kate)
- Look for contact info and provide to Amanda for Mt. Airy Gazette (???) and The View (Kate) - **DONE**
- Make arrangements for Pot Luck at Owen Brown Community Center – Sue - **DONE**
- Submit application for a table at next April's Greenfest – Kate - **DONE**
- Investigate the habitat around HCC and suitability for a field trip during Greenfest – Tom - **OBE**
- Appoint a nominating committee – Tom

New/Continuing Action Items

- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Kevin/Tom
- Provide Ward additional inputs on records –Chuck.
- Follow-up to confirm reservation of Howard Rec & Parks for next year – Kevin
- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward, – Review draft lists – Jo
- Draft and send Ward a short article to review announcing plans to reinstitute annual lists and post them on the web site - Amanda
- Investigate posting of field trips at Howard Conservancy (Kurt) and Glenwood Community Center (Kate)
- Appoint a nominating committee – Tom
- Promote the Parrot Fund Raiser and the Challenge Grant at the February meeting – Ward or Emy
- Arrange for 2nd YMOS backpack and contact both applicants about attending March meeting. Also ask about posting the essays on our and MOS website – Tom
- Prepare article on YMOS winners for May/June newsletter – Amanda
- Provide feedback to Greenfest organizers with word we won't lead field trip and make arrangements for display and solicit volunteers to man the table – Kate
- Inform The Howard Conservancy that we will have someone lead a bird walk at their Earth Day celebration – Tom
- Make arrangements for someone to lead bird walk at The Howard Conservancy Earth Day – Kurt
- Continue to make arrangements for hosting State MOS Board. Submit application to Glenwood for use of room. Speak to Janet Shields about rent issue with that site. Finalize plans for either Glenwood or Towson dependent on Glenwood availability. – Karen

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt	
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem	
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem	
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts	
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – January 22, 2009
- Howard County Chapter MOS - Treasurer's Report 05/01/08 – 01/18/09
- Howard Bird Club Website Usage Statistics – June 2008 – January 2009

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

JANUARY 22, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack Program.
 - Greenfest – Kath Tufts – Theme for table.
 - Fund Raiser status – Thick-billed Parrot
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Appointing a alternate Rare Bird/Lister Alert contact point
 - Need new Chapter Director
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

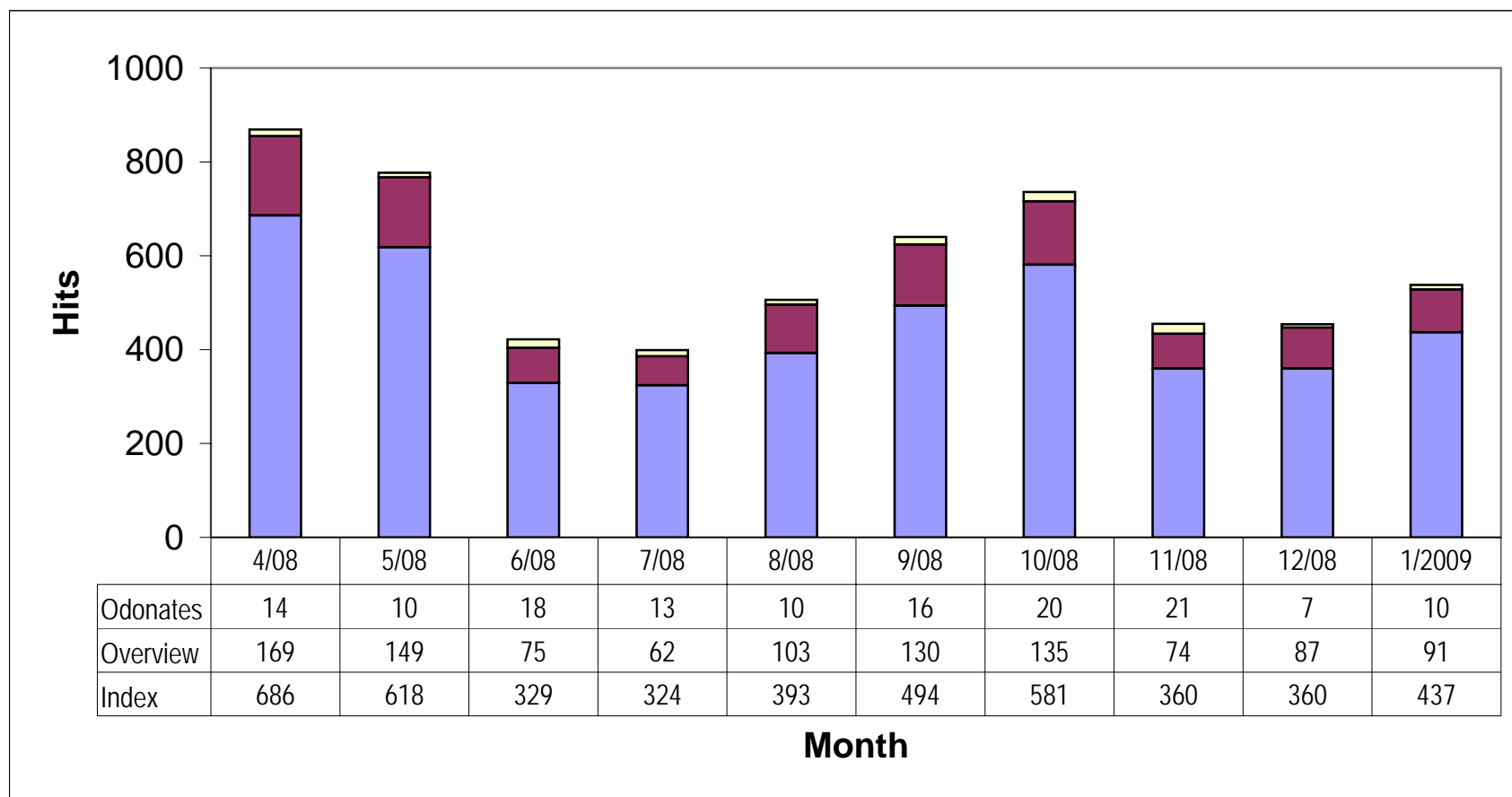
Meeting Location:

Kevin Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(410) 418-8731

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/08 - 01/18/09

	Budget 2008-09	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		735.00	5,825.00
State Dues Paid		(1,145.00)	(3,675.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,550.00	(410.00)	2,150.00
Contributions		10.00	315.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,550.00	(400.00)	2,465.00
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		49.17
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	175.00	375.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	110.00		119.07
Postage, Copies	50.00		22.25
Projector Expense		14.95	42.81
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00	50.00	50.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00	205.03	614.62
Miscellaneous		25.00	142.92
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,535.00	469.98	1,415.84
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,625.17
Interest Received		45.14	267.49
Balance			9,892.66
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,155.82
Savings			16,151.75
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			19,350.85

Monthly "Hits" on Howard County Bird Club Web Page - April 08 - Jan 09



Index - Hits on the main page for the web site

Overview - Hits on page that gives a summary of information on the various things that the club offers

Odonates - Hits on section under Flora & Fauna that has a link to Richard Orr's site for Maryland-wide odonates.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 26, 2009

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan √
Chap. Directors: June Tveekrem (1st yr) (& AV)
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 12 was ~35 people. Kurt Schwarz gave a program entitled "Trogans and Mot-Mots."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The Minutes were approved, with one minor correction. The statement that Jeff Culler had not made a report was incorrect. Jeff had reported that he had reinstated the birding log book at the Concession Stand at Centennial Park next to the Bulletin Board that Jeff has been updating..

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): The Treasurer's Report is attached. The Miscellaneous expense was to Jeff Culler for plexi-glass used at the Centennial display/reporting "clipboard." Emy reported that she had received a number of Thick-billed Parrot Project Challenge contributions (totaling \$435 so far, so the remaining Challenger contributions totaling \$400 will be received soon. Combined with the Bent Books proceeds we already have more than \$1000 for this fund raising effort.

President's Remarks (Miller): Tom did not offer any opening remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward explained that he had mistakenly thought Tom was going to miss this Board meeting vice the February club meetins, and as a result he missed a couple items that should have been announced at the club meeting (specifically the Parrot Challenge). It was agreed we should remind members that they still have time to contribute at the Pot Luck and next club meeting, and Bob will send an email reminder.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he had been providing comments on a number of conservation issues (primarily as State MOS Conservation Chair). He mentioned the news article that reported the Savage water treatment plant was to have \$31.5M for expansion and upgrades. He had also reported the success of efforts to stop the sale of oil shale leases in the western states that had just been announced. Just today he had filed comments on a change in regulations to require permits for killing Rusty Blackbirds and Mexican Crows when they are causing

crop damage. He also reported that the Conservation Committee was going to support a request from the Audubon Important Bird Area project for funds to support targeted bird blitzes (request is for ~\$7000).

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported two news items that could impact the schedule and her ability to continue as editor. They sold their home (just today) and she is expecting a child in August. They will be moving out of their house right about the deadline for the next issue, so she requested that the deadline be moved up from March 25 to March 20. She also cautioned that dependent on how things go with the new baby (e.g., sleep schedule) she may find she can't continue with being editor next Fall (in fact the July 26 deadline will also likely need to change as it is just before she is due. She wanted to give the club a heads up and if another editor (or alternate) can be found she would work with them to get up to speed.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported he has several new updates that will appear soon. He mentioned a major revision being made to the Centennial photo page. Lastly he mentioned that Jim Wilkinson has offered to put together a table that summarizes all the White-winged Crossbill sightings for the county this winter that will be available on the web site.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Tveekrem): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Past President (Heffernan): Kevin mentioned that work has been extremely demanding and he's been considering not coming to Board meetings, and will not be able to accept action items.

Records (J. Solem): No report, but see New Business.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report, but see New Business.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last Board meeting.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Tom reported on the status of the YMOS backpack activity. He has contacted the parents of both winners, and they have agreed to let the winning essays be posted on our and the MOS website. Both of them will be present at the March 12 meeting to receive their backpacks. Tom agreed to bring his camera so we can get a photo of him awarding the Backpacks (possible filler for The Goldfinch). Amanda is going to prepare an article for the next newsletter. Tom was reminded and agreed to send copies of the essays to Wayne Bell so they can appear on the MOS website.

Kate reported that plans are in place for the Greenfest at HCC on April 4. *Sec. Note: the minutes for Nov 20 Board meeting had the wrong date.* She passed around a sheet seeking volunteers to man the booth (1 hour slots). She will pass around the sheet at the next club meeting as well.

Kurt has confirmed plans to lead a bird walk at Mt. Pleasant during The Howard Conservancy Earth Day celebration on April 18 (note the date was wrong on the Agenda for this Board meeting).

See discussion of Thick-billed Parrot fund raiser under Treasurer's Report above.

The nominating committee has put forward Wes Earp as the candidate for the 1st year Chapter Director.

New Business

Bob handed out the summary of membership statistics (see attached). In general the membership is remaining fairly stable. The renewal rate has been in the range of 92-94% for several years. One key element of this success has been the personal phone calls made to those who had not renewed. This has also given us insight into why those not renewing chose to not renew

Bob had a draft of this year's membership directory that he passed around. This will be mailed to membership along with the announcement of the slate of officers prior to the April meeting (as required by the By-laws).

Arrangements for hosting the March 7 meeting of the MOS State Board have been finalized. It will be held in the Parson's Auditorium at JHU Applied Physics Laboratory. Kevin was able to convince the Girl Scout group that had all the cafeteria rooms and Parsons reserved that they didn't need Parsons. Food is not allowed in the auditorium so food and coffee will be set up in lobby outside the auditorium (as is done for all APL conferences held there). Karen had also successfully applied for the use of Glenwood Center but since that would have involved cost we canceled that once had arranged for APL location. She still needs volunteers to prepare food to supplement what she can purchase with the \$50 we will receive from MOS as host. Joe Byrnes and Jeff Culler will lead a field trip at Schooley Mill prior to the Board meeting.

Jo stated that the Director of Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, Gary Arthur, has asked the club to provide him an "official" point of contact. Want someone's email, phone number, mailing address to use in communicating with the club. Likely as means of soliciting support for initiatives the Department wants to promote and believes we would be interested in supporting. We decided that since the President changes every two years it would be better to provide someone who might be constant over a longer period. We settled on Chuck as the Secretary ("Corresponding") to be the POC.

Jo reported that Amanda's distribution of publicity items to the papers must be paying off. The outdoor writer for the Baltimore Sun's sports section announced the Jay Sheppard led Owl Walk on Feb. 21 in advance of the trip. One of the people attending the trip stated they had seen the announcement in the Sun and postponed scheduled knee surgery until after the trip so that he could attend and hopefully see the owls.

Lastly Jo mentioned that after reviewing the results of Mid-winter count our earlier estimate of 93 species had become 91 species due to some entry errors on the sheets. She also is trying to resolve the accounting of Canada Geese. Because of so much ice on the reservoir the geese were more dispersed and the raw totals were over 15,000. She feels that involves some double counting but feels the correct count is somewhere between 10,000 and 15,000.

Sherry reported that the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland are holding a "Big Outdoors" celebration at Girl Scout Camp Ilchester on April 19. This will likely be a major event with participants from around the area being bused in for the event. She has volunteered to provide some "birding" activities. At a minimum she wants to borrow the club display felt board for a display at the event. She will also try and develop one or more other age appropriate hands on activities related to birds. After discussion we decided the complexity of trying to borrow some of the bird specimens "skins" from the county make it best not to plan on doing that. She will need to get the display after Kate has used it for Greenfest on April 4. One option would be for Sherry to pick it up at the end of the day at Greenfest and not even try and get it back to Sue Probst between the events. Tom reported that we have a large number of the MOS brochures that both Kate and Sherry (for adult advisors) could hand out. Tom will bring brochures for both of them (either at Pot Luck or next meeting?)

Tom reported that he had been contacted by the MOS Birding Trail committee about submitting other Howard County sites for inclusion on the trail. One area they are very much interested in is Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. We originally didn't submit MPEA because of the focus on having handicapped access at sites, but it turns out that was only a desire not a requirement. Tom has agreed to try and complete a draft of the application questionnaire for MPEA.

It was announced that the Wildlife Authority has reopened under new ownership in a new location (roughly across US 40 from the former location).

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Discuss liability when parks are closed with Sue Muller – Kevin **Close this and revise as new item below)**
- Arrange to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle – Tom
- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward, – Review draft lists – Jo **In Process**

- Draft and send Ward a short article to review announcing plans to reinstitute annual lists and post them on the web site – Amanda **DONE**
- Investigate posting of field trips at Howard Conservancy (Kurt) and Glenwood Community Center (Kate) **DONE**
- Appoint a nominating committee – Tom **DONE**
- Promote the Parrot Fund Raiser and the Challenge Grant at the February meeting – Ward or Emy (**UPDATE**)
- Arrange for 2nd YMOS backpack and contact both applicants about attending March meeting. Also ask about posting the essays on our and MOS website – Tom **DONE**
- Prepare article on YMOS winners for May/June newsletter – Amanda
- Provide feedback to Greenfest organizers with word we won't lead field trip and make arrangements for display and solicit volunteers to man the table – Kate **DONE**
- Inform The Howard Conservancy that we will have someone lead a bird walk at their Earth Day celebration – Tom **DONE**
- Make arrangements for someone to lead bird walk at The Howard Conservancy Earth Day – Kurt **DONE**
- Continue to make arrangements for hosting State MOS Board. Submit application to Glenwood for use of room. Speak to Janet Shields about rent issue with that site. Finalize plans for either Glenwood or Towson dependent on Glenwood availability. – Karen **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Investigate club liability if enter parks for organized bird walk when parks are closed (e.g., icy walks). Approach Howard Rec and Parks (Muller?) and ask about MOS Liability Insurance requirements (Wayne Bell) – Ward
- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom
- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward. Review lists – Jo
- Announce the Parrot Fund Raiser and the Challenge Grant at the Pot Luck and March meeting – Tom
- Present YMOS backpacks to winners at March meeting (bring camera). Forward essays to Wayne Bell for posting on MOS website – Tom
- Prepare article on YMOS winners for May/June newsletter – Amanda
- Post essays (less personal information) on club website – Bob
- Draft nomination/questionnaire for MPEA as site on the MOS sponsored Robbins Birding Trail - Tom

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt	
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem	
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem	
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts	
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller (Joint meeting with new and old members)	

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for February 26, 2009 Board Meeting
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 05/01/08 – 02/19/09
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) – 2/26/2009
- Monthly "Hits" on Howard County Bird Club Web Page - April 08 - Feb 09

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

FEBUARY 26, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack Program.
Essays on Web
Article for newsletter
 - Greenfest – Kath Tufts
 - Earth Day – Apr 15 - Birdwalk
 - Fund Raiser status – Thick-billed Parrot
 - Have new Chapter Director – Wes Earp
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Numbers of members, etc.
 - Draft of the directory
 - State MOS board meeting arrangements.
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Meeting Location:

Jo Solem
10617 Graelock Road
Laurel, MD 20723
(301) 725-5037

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/08 - 02/19/09

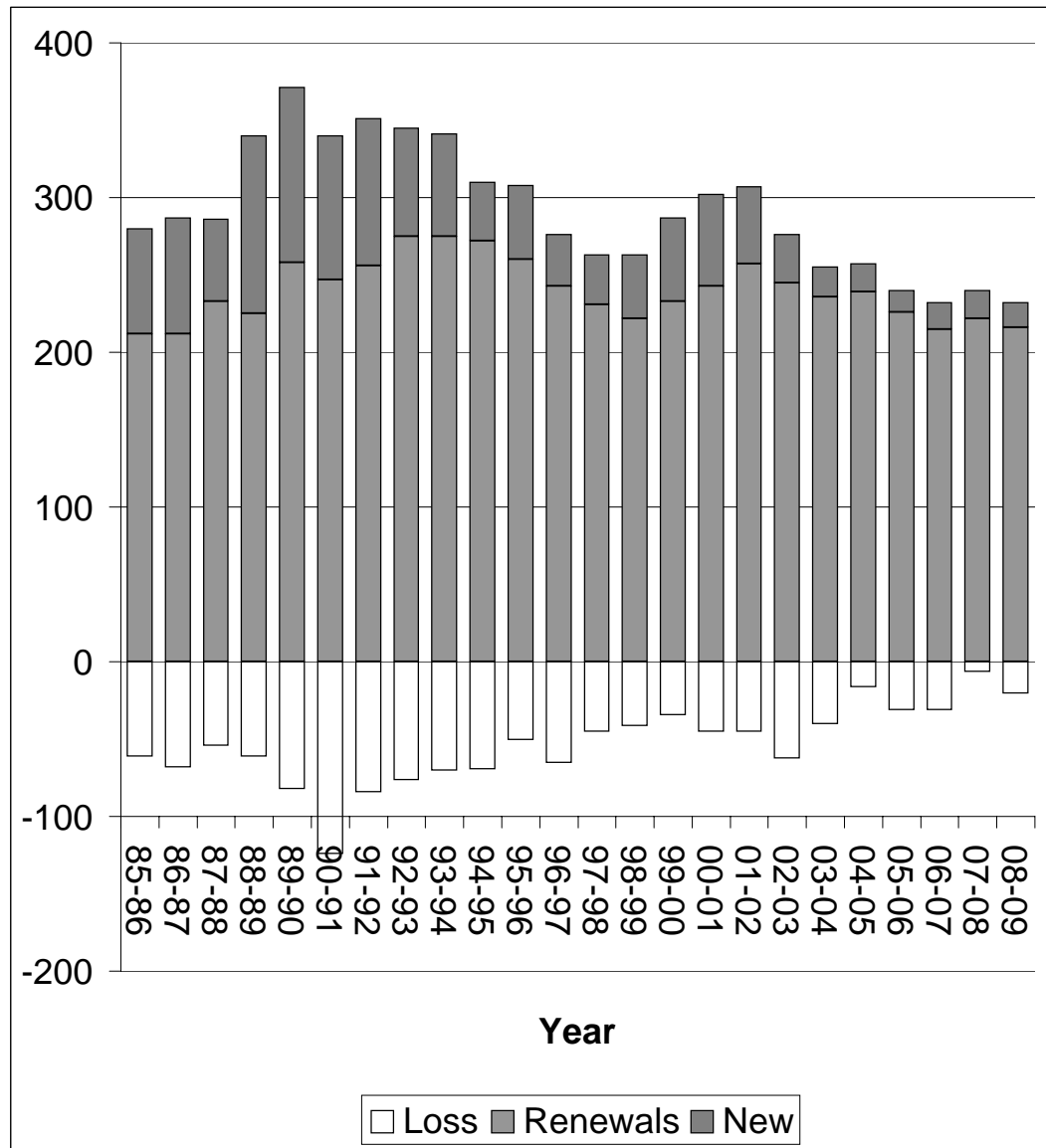
	<u>Budget 2008-09</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		90.00	5,915.00
State Dues Paid			<u>(3,675.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,550.00	90.00	2,240.00
Contributions			315.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,550.00</u>	<u>90.00</u>	<u>2,555.00</u>
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		49.17
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	425.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	110.00		119.07
Postage, Copies	50.00		22.25
Projector Expense			42.81
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00	68.80	118.80
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00	194.40	809.02
Miscellaneous		13.24	156.16
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,535.00</u>	<u>326.44</u>	<u>1,742.28</u>
 Habitat Conservation Project			
Bent Books			230.00
Challenge Contributions		225.00	395.00
Challenger Contributions			100.00
Total Contributions		<u>225.00</u>	<u>725.00</u>
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,625.17
Interest Received		12.52	280.01
Balance			<u>9,905.18</u>
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>6,259.09</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,144.38
Savings			16,164.27
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u><u>19,351.93</u></u>

Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)

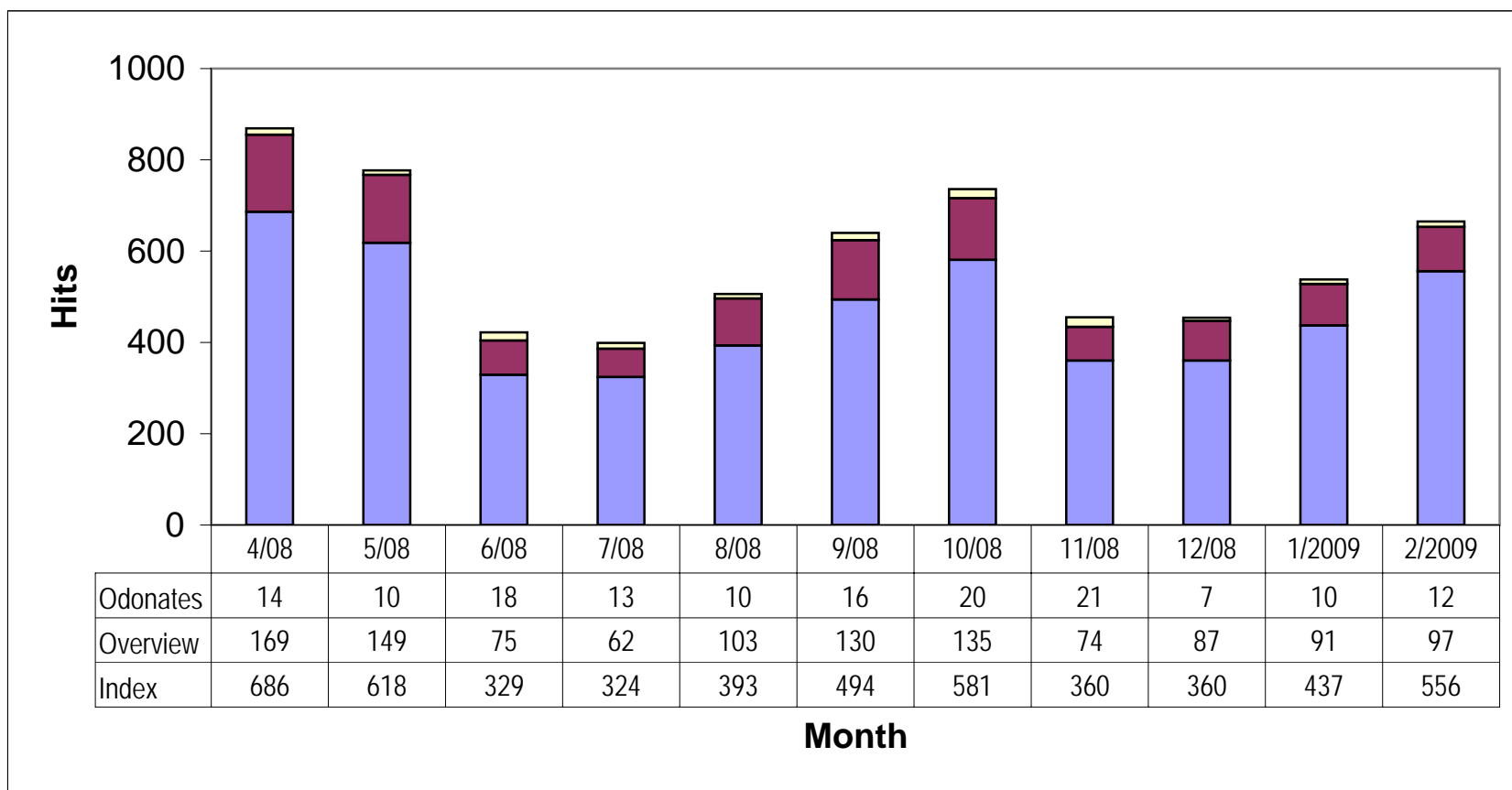
Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total	% renew
85-86	61	68	212	280	76%
86-87	68	75	212	287	74%
87-88	54	53	233	286	81%
88-89	61	115	225	340	66%
89-90	82	113	258	371	70%
90-91	124	93	247	340	73%
91-92	84	95	256	351	73%
92-93	76	70	275	345	80%
93-94	70	66	275	341	81%
94-95	69	38	272	310	88%
95-96	50	48	260	308	84%
96-97	65	33	243	276	88%
97-98	45	32	231	263	88%
98-99	41	41	222	267	83%
99-00	34	54	233	288	81%
00-01	45	59	243	302	80%
01-02	45	50	257	307	84%
02-03	62	31	245	276	89%
03-04	40	19	236	255	93%
04-05	16	18	239	257	93%
05-06	31	14	226	246	92%
06-07	31	17	215	228	94%
07-08	6	18	222	236	94%
08-09	20	16	216	232	93%

Year	Couple	Indiv	Other	Total
87-88	150	91	45	286
88-89	178	102	60	340
89-90	186	128	57	371

Year	Househo	Indiv	Other	Total	Junior
90-91	188	146	6	340	27
91-92	196	150	5	351	31
92-93	197	142	6	345	35
93-94	198	137	6	341	37
94-95	170	132	7	310	32
95-96	183	120	5	308	35
96-97	181	89	6	276	40
97-98	153	103	7	263	30
98-99	161	99	7	267	27
99-00	175	107	6	288	30
00-01	179	115	8	302	26
01-02	191	107	9	307	25
02-03	167	108	1	276	25
03-04	145	109	1	255	18
04-05	143	112	2	257	22
05-06	141	105	9	246	14
06-07	134	100	10	244	11
07-08	134	103	12	249	13
08-09	138	89	18	249	14



Monthly "Hits" on Howard County Bird Club Web Page - April 08 - Feb 09



Index - Hits on the main page for the web site

Overview - Hits on page that gives a summary of information on the various things that the club offers

Odonates - Hits on section under Flora & Fauna that has a link to Richard Orr's site for Maryland-wide odonates.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan
Chap. Directors: June Tveekrem (1st yr) (& *AV*) √
 Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
 Karen Darcy √
 Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of June Tveekrem. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 12 was ~45 people. Greg Kerns gave a program entitled "Brazil Highlights."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy distributed the monthly Treasurer's Report in advance of the meeting and a copy is attached. She highlighted that she has received 3 additional memberships (1 renewal and 2 new). One of the new ones was a person who went on a walk at Mt. Pleasant led by Scott Berglund who invited him to the next Centennial Walk. After he went on that walk he joined the following week.

Emy also submitted a proposed budget for next year. She lowered the expected membership income consistent with this year's experience, increased funds for the pot luck and website consistent with this year's experience and lowered publication budget to make the budget balance as it appears this year's full publication amount will not be needed. The budget (attached) was approved by the Board as submitted.
Proposed Budget attached.

Although not reflected in the budget report, Emy has now received the full \$400 matching challenge grant donations and we have over \$1500 so far for the Thick-billed Parrot project. This is comparable to recent seed sale and contribution totals. We will probably have enough to also give our annual support to the All Creatures Great and Small rehabilitation project.

President's Remarks (Miller): No remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert):

Ward commented that we should be sure and thank Katherine Lilli, who is a new member who volunteered to bring refreshments to this coming meeting. She also has also volunteered for Greenfest and participated in Winter Count. We should encourage all new members to become active and provide those that do positive feedback.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present, but he did send an email stating that he was preparing a letter to the new Governor of Delaware, urging him to support a moratorium on Horseshoe Crab harvesting.

Newsletter (Witt): No report. Her family was moving into new home today.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob sought to get a “sense of the board opinion” regarding a request from The Howard County Conservancy to highlight their activities in some way (on our website, etc.) We do have a link to their website on ours under links. It was clear we felt that anything we do should have a similar reciprocal response on their part. We also agreed that it was unreasonable to expect either of us to publish items for the other in our respective newsletters. We did acknowledge they have agreed to post our monthly “flyer” of activities in their nature center. It was agreed as activities occur (that are of potential interest to our members and don’t conflict with our club activities could be mentioned at our meetings (also have a copy of literature from them available on the back table, etc.) Bob will consider whether there is some way to expand their presence slightly on our site beyond what is done now, without being a distraction or creating excess work for him.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Tveekrem): June mentioned that no one has yet signed up for the photography field trip she is leading on April 18. Jeff had no comments.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Past President (Heffernan): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report, see new business.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.):

Three items from the meeting were mentioned. There was extensive discussion of the Research Committee proposal to provide funding to cover travel expenses for those doing “bird blitzs” as part of the National Audubon Society Important Bird Area program. Some felt it inappropriate to fund other organization activities, especially since Audubon has not historically given MOS credit when we have done so in the past, nor did they provide any support for the recent Maryland Atlas project when asked. It was concluded that the fund were to come from the research committee’s allocated budget, and as such the matter was returned to the committee for them to decide having heard the arguments put forward at the meeting.

Wayne Bell (MOS President proposed having each of the chapters nominate an “Access Coordinator” to serve as a point of contact who, to quote Wayne in an email sent to Ward (see attachment), “would help establish arrangements with various public parks, wastewater treatment facilities, etc., for use by local chapters.” Our attendees had the impression this person was to be one called when other MOS members/chapters wished to determine what the requirements were for accessing locations not normally accessible by the general public. This is slightly different than the implication of Wayne’s words. We need to more fully understand this role, but it was agreed that Kate would approach Bonnie as field trip chairman to see if she would consider being named as the POC, once we more fully understand the position. Jo indicated that if Bonnie, who has traditionally handled matters such as access to the MD Central Farm, didn’t want to take this on, Jo would consider doing it.

Lastly the MOS Atlas Committee is seeking photographs of various habitat types for inclusion in the atlas. A contest to select those photos was announced on MDOSprey and MDBirds listservs. Jane Coskren or Karen Morley are the points of contact.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No more than above remarks.

Old Business

Tom read a nice thank you card from Sarah Vogel, expressing her appreciation for the YMOS Backpack and the opportunity to participate in the essay contest. Kate commented that Lisa Colangelo remarked that Andrew

is out every morning before breakfast looking at birds with his new binoculars. When asked, Tom stated that the MOS Board was strongly considering continuing the program next year.

Tom reported that he completed the application for adding MPEA to the Maryland Birding Trail project. He didn't complete it in time to get others to review it but Mike Bowen expressed satisfaction in receiving it. In a related matter Jo stated she had talked to Mike about the committee's previous expression that they expected more submissions from Howard. She had asked him if they had clearly identified who was the target audience for the Trail materials. He acknowledged they probably hadn't but if one were to do so it probably is "birding tourists" not tourists in general (especially since this is solely an MOS project, unlike many states where the sponsorship includes Tourism boards or state DNR which might focus somewhat more widely in their approach. After Jo pointed out this and some of the implications he concurred that in all likelihood two sites in Howard was probably appropriate. He also commented that when the committee applied it's evaluation criteria to the Centennial submission, it had the highest score so far (some key sites have not yet been submitted. Lastly he agreed emphatically that when they publish the Birding Trail literature (brochure) they will include a link to the "Birding Howard County" web site.

Kate reported that she now has a full slate of volunteers to work at the Greenfest club table. She decided to include the bird specimens box that had both Baltimore Oriole and Orchard Oriole in it. She is hoping to make people aware that the state bird is doing well in the state, but that it has a "cousin" (my word) that is also a resident of the state.

The Thick-billed Parrot fund raiser status was discussed as part of the Treasurer's report.

Chuck asked for additional information on how to provide Gary Arthur, Head of Howard Recreation and Parks Department, with a point of contact for the club, which was decided to be Chuck during the prior meeting. Bob agreed to provide Chuck the contact information.

In addressing the action item on liability and access to closed parks for field trips, Ward had investigated this matter in some detail. He provided an email exchange between he and Wayne Bell prior to the meeting (see attached). His primary focus is to provide field trip leaders guidelines for how to react when confronting closed parks. This subject is to be taken up at the next state MOS Board meeting in June, so we won't finalize our position until our Sept. Board meeting. Ward also agreed to contact Howard Recreation and Parks, e.g., John Byrd, (one of the primary organizations likely to be closing facilities where we hold field trips) and broach this question with them. He will also consider liability issues as well. Board members who will attend the June meeting would appreciate Ward sharing anything that his efforts reveal prior to the June meeting so that they will have that background in state Board deliberations.

New Business

During the past week the appearance of a Harris' Sparrow on private property that was distributed on the rare bird alert brought to light a number of issues. Most of these issues have arisen due to more rapid communication that cell phones, e-mail, MDOsprey, and eBird have provided. Even if the presence of bird is not posted, once someone submits an eBird report including the species it triggers immediate alerts to many birders, especially those chasing state and county records, who then want to know location specifics. It was agreed that even more care is required when we send out rare bird announcements to our club members. Specifically we will attempt to emphasize when a bird is on private property, and caution against disseminating the announcement more widely until (or if) the property owners are comfortable with a wider dissemination and the likely increased traffic that would produce. When asked why the Eurasian Collared Dove report found on private property last year didn't produce this phenomenon, it was pointed out that sighting was not put out as a club rare bird alert, but treated with more personal contacts and emails. There was unanimous support for Jo's proposal to ask John Malcolm to produce a certificate of appreciation for Ken Clark and his employer) for their willing acceptance of visitors seeking the Harris' Sparrow. Jo also reported that Diane Ford, a birder and artist from Montgomery County, has offered to provide Ken a sketch she has produced of a Harris' Sparrow. There was a rather caustic response on MDOsprey to the club's handling of this rare bird by one individual, and Jo complimented Nancy Magnusson for her masterful response to this individual (off-list) countering his arguments with excellent counter arguments.

Tom reported that he had a request from Susan _____ asking if the club would like to have a table at the Harper's Choice Village Fest on April 25. We decided not to have one and Tom took an action to reply to the lady indicating we would not participate.

Karen asked if Tom had responded to the email that Kevin had forwarded to Tom from a ranger at Banneker Park. He had asked if the club could provide him advice on birding and bird-friendly plants. This park is in Baltimore County, and we recommended response suggesting he contact the Baltimore Bird Club and perhaps Atkins Arboretum would be more productive. Namely we don't have anything to offer. Tom took action to provide response to this request.

Tom brought forward a proposal that we might want to purchase a digital picture frame for use when we have booths and displays at various functions. The Board was asked to give this some thought and we will discuss further at next meeting, as Tom will add it to agenda.

Jo reported that as Shiras Guion was packing up for their move to Georgia she found an almost new pair of women's Sorrell boots (size 8?). She donated them to the club for whatever purpose we choose. Jo will bring to next meeting and offer them as available for a contribution to our habitat fund (similar to what was done with the Bent book series). If no takers, they will be donated to the Silent Auction, at the MOS Conference in May.

Jo reported that she had been contacted by WSSC regarding planning for a "Plants Walk" to be held at Pigtail on Saturday May 16. They are attempting to "reach out to the users of the watershed", an apparent shift from recent policy. They were hoping to have the trip visit some area of Pigtail with "special trees", address invasive plants, and focus on "breeding" birds. Jo pointed out that the date was too early for the breeding bird focus and it was also the weekend of the state MOS conference so many bird club members will not be available. The person calling appeared unaware of the club's "count access" already nor of the recently complete Breeding Bird Atlas project. Given the poor date the lady proposed a possible second trip with more of a bird focus (e.g., June 13). She would like club member help with that trip. Jo took the opportunity to ask if Pigtail will remain closed. The response was that it would likely be closed at least until the water level comes back up.

Ward reported that he had received the records Jane Coskren had from when she was doing the annual list. He is going through that material and hopes to save the annual articles and season reports in a notebook, but doesn't intend to keep all the individual yard list submissions that were in the material.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Investigate club liability if enter parks for organized bird walk when parks are closed (e.g., icy walks). Approach Howard Rec and Parks (Muller?) and ask about MOS Liability Insurance requirements (Wayne Bell) – Ward **See New Business**
- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom **Still Open**
- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward. Review lists – Jo **In Progress**
- Announce the Parrot Fund Raiser and the Challenge Grant at the Pot Luck and March meeting – Tom **Closed**
- Present YMOS backpacks to winners at March meeting (bring camera). Forward essays to Wayne Bell for posting on MOS website – Tom **Closed**
- Prepare article on YMOS winners for May/June newsletter – Amanda **Closed**
- Post essays (less personal information) on club website – Bob **Closed**
- Draft nomination/questionnaire for MPEA as site on the MOS sponsored Robbins Birding Trail – Tom **Closed**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Investigate club liability if enter parks for organized bird walk when parks are closed (e.g., icy walks). Approach Howard Rec and Parks (Byrd) and address issue and MSO Liability Insurance limitations. Provide club MOS Board attendees information prior to June MOS meeting – Ward
- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom

- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward. Review lists – Jo
- Provide Chuck contact information for Gary Arthur, so he can inform him that Chuck is POC – Bob
- Provide Howard Recreation and Parks Director, Gary Arthur, with Chuck contact information, as a POC for the club - Chuck
- Respond in the negative to Harper’s Choice Village Fest participation – Tom
- Respond to request for assistance and information for Banneker Park - Tom
- Contact John Malcolm to get certificate of appreciation for Ken Clark’s role in Harris’ Sparrow access – Jo
- Contact Bonnie to ask about being the MOS “Access Coordinator” for Howard County – Kate
- Bring Sorrel boots to next club meeting and announce availability (for contribution?) – Jo

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt	
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem	
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem	
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts	
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for March 26, 2009
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report 05/01/08 – 03/21/09
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Operating Budget, 5/1/08 – 4/30/10
- Email-“Issues Regarding Field Trips When Facilities Don’t Appear to Be Open – Ward Ebert, 25 March 2009

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MARCH 26, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. MOS board meeting Report
8. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack Program.
Thank you letter from Sarah
 - Birding Trail form for Middle Patuxent
 - Greenfest – Kate Tufts
 - Earth Day – Apr 15 - Birdwalk
 - Fund Raiser status – Thick-billed Parrot
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Rare Bird alert - Private property problem.
 - Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Meeting Location:

June Tveekrem
10970 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044
(410) 715-3979

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/08 - 03/21/09

	Budget 2008-09	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		120.00	6,035.00
State Dues Paid			(3,675.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,550.00	120.00	2,360.00
Contributions		50.00	365.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,550.00</u>	<u>170.00</u>	<u>2,725.00</u>
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		49.17
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	500.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	110.00		119.07
Postage, Copies	50.00		22.25
Projector Expense			42.81
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00	(4.50)	114.30
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00	135.40	944.42
Miscellaneous			156.16
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,535.00</u>	<u>205.90</u>	<u>1,948.18</u>
 Habitat Conservation Project			
Bent Books			230.00
Challenge Contributions		485.00	880.00
Challenger Contributions		100.00	200.00
Total Contributions		<u>585.00</u>	<u>1,310.00</u>
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,625.17
Interest Received		5.63	285.64
Balance			<u>9,910.81</u>
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>6,259.09</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,693.48
Savings			16,169.90
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u>19,906.66</u>

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/08-4/30/10**

	Proposed Budget
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	-
Membership Dues (net)	2,400.00
Contributions	-
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,400.00
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Internet Account	125.00
Postage, Copies	50.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00

Issues regarding field trips when facilities don't appear to be open

All,

I took the long-standing issue on after we discussed it at the last board meeting. It was suggested that among other things I should contact Wayne Bell. I'm forwarding our exchange to save time at the meeting tomorrow. Here's my report in synopsis:

1. I tried to re-frame the issue and action into development of guidance for trip leaders rather than as research into legalities, etc. If I'm off track, let's discuss that at the meeting.
2. Wayne's paragraph on legality suggests one possible path to follow: open a discussion with HC Parks & Rec about such circumstance when they might occur on their property; possible outcomes might include a permission letter to give authority for entrance at leader's discretion (not likely in my opinion), or we might find a channel of communication - a phone number to use - so we could determine better what to do at the moment (i.e. are they on their way and about to open?), or we might at least find out if they take a rigid view. In the latter case, at least we'll know and the trip leaders might be more comfortable having a solid reason for a last-minute decision. Thoughts on this, anybody?
3. This is not just a HC issue, and Wayne says he'll have discussion at the state meeting in June. That said, we ought not plan to conclude our consideration until fall.

Ward

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Wayne Bell <wbell2@washcoll.edu>
To: Ward Ebert <wardebert@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2009 11:19:29 PM
Subject: Re: Howard County MOS Board of Directors question

Ward, at the last MOS Board meeting I introduced an idea, originally suggested to me by Bill Hubick, of having a MOS "access coordinator" who would help establish arrangements with various public parks, wastewater treatment facilities, etc., for use by local chapters. The issues you raise could come under the purview of such a person. I promised to visit the matter in more detail at the next Board meeting in June, and we might want to discuss it at the business meeting at the Annual Conference. It is not at all clear to me that such person would be able to avoid problems such as you encountered at Centennial Park, but perhaps a more formal dialogue with MOS would make such problems far less likely to occur. In any case, Howard County should weigh in on the issue as the next MOS Board meeting so we can make a more informed decision. Based on what you have related, I would prefer not to relegate this to further study yet again.

As to insurance, our broker can produce certificates that demonstrate coverage for liability and the like. At present, there are 7 such certificates including such places as WSSC (for Triadelphia Reservoir) and MD Port Administration (for Hart-Miller Island). Others can be issued as needed.

As to legality, unless there is clear (written?) permission to do so, one should not pass locked gates or otherwise put a group into a trespass situation. Even if an unfortunate confrontation can be resolved, the outcome is not likely to reflect well on the MOS and its local chapters -- to the detriment of all birders.

Hope this helps. I am putting our correspondence into my file for the June MOS Board of Directors meeting.

All the best -- wayne

Dr. Wayne H. Bell, President
Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.
29590 Schwaninger Road
Easton, MD 21701
phone: (410) 820-6002
email: wbell2@washcoll.edu

At 07:12 PM 3/23/2009, you wrote:

> Hi Wayne,

> I got an action item that had been long-standing and assigned to someone who just hasn't had time to address it. So, obviously this isn't an urgent item. The issue has to do with policy and guidance to those who lead bird walks. Specifically, many of the Howard County walks occur on public lands such as parks with "open" and "closed" periods. These hours are normally posted on signs at entrances, web sites and so forth. Planned exceptions with appropriate communication and approval, such as for after-hours owling, search for Woodcock and the like are not the issue.

>

> On rare occasions we have had planned walks that are met by closed facilities, or at least apparently so. For example, several years ago I attended a walk at Centennial park that was to start at 8:00 on a weekend day when the park normally would have been opened at that hour. However, the gate to one parking lot (and presumably, all) was closed. I volunteered to the Trip Leader to drive over to the management buildings (on site) and see what the situation was. Nobody was there. It could have been weather-related, but the weather wasn't bad enough to deter more than a dozen birders or numerous joggers already in the park.

>

> We parked on the road shoulder and went in and conducted our walk. The park had been opened by the time we ended, several hours later. However, this experience, and others that other members recall raises an issue of guidance to trip leaders. What should be our stated policy in such situations? Are we OK to leave it to leader discretion to enter a parkland posted as open, but apparently closed?

>

> In Board of Director discussions this was referred for research, and I got the action. Your name was suggested as a State contact to see what, if any, legal or insurance issues might bear on this. I'd appreciate any thoughts. We have a board meeting this Thursday at which I'd like to report.

>

> Ward Ebert
> 301 490 5807

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2009

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan
Chap. Directors: June Tveekrem (1st yr) (& AV) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 9 was ?? people. Terry Neumyer gave a program entitled "Puerto Rico, Jewel of the Caribbean."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

Emy submitted the treasurer's report (attached) via email prior to the meeting. The end of the club Fiscal Year is April 30 so this report is close to the final report for the FY. The current total available for this year's habitat project is at least \$1,970. Overall the project was very successful equaling or exceeding recent seed sale proceeds.

President's Remarks (Miller):

Tom received an email indicating that Terapin Adventures is operating a short zip line near Savage Mill, and it is still possible that they will continue to press for permission to operate a larger operation in the park proper.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): None.

Conservation (Schwarz):

Kurt reported that the lethal control of Mute Swans on the Chesapeake is being challenged by an unspecified organization. MOS hasn't decided how to proceed and are trying to decide if they want to take a position on this issue. Also it is unclear whether the challenge is sufficiently well defined for us to consider engaging the issue at present. The process has been reasonably successful as the bay population is down by approximately 500 birds, and for the time being will continue. Adjacent states have not been using lethal control tactics.

Newsletter (Witt):

Amanda has agreed to continue as newsletter editor for now and will see how it goes after the baby comes.

Eva Sunell, who volunteers at the rehabilitator All Creatures Great and Small, inquired about placing an article in the September newsletter urging members who participate in the Combined Federal Campaign to designate the rehabilitator as a recipient of their contributions. After discussion we agreed that a specific appeal in the Goldfinch was not appropriate as there are other worthy organizations and we didn't want to be responsible for ensuring we had the proper identification number, etc. We did agree that there would be no problem with Eva making an announcement to the membership at club meeting. Amanda will reply to Eva with our decision. We agreed we will most likely make our annual donation to All Creatures Great and Small since we list them as a contact for wildlife rehabilitation in our membership listing and on web site. We agreed to include a decision on the final allocation of habitat donations to the May Board meeting agenda.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob reported that his computer had crashed and he was just today getting back in operation.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Tveekrem): None.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): None.

Programs (Geuder): None.

Publicity (Witt): None.

Past President (Heffernan): None.

Records (J. Solem): None.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): None.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): None.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): None.

Old Business

See Treasurer's Report for status of the Thick-billed Parrot Fund Raiser.

We discussed Tom proposal to buy a digital photo frame. The general consensus was that we could not identify sufficient reason to buy one now, but that if an obvious use is identified in future we could purchase one then.

New Business

Kurt has proposed and the board fully supports providing a thank you to the five households that were so accommodating of those coming to see the Painted Bunting. He proposed to have John Malcolm print up certificates of appreciation and mount pictures of the Bunting as a way for the club to say thank you on behalf of the club. Kurt took an action item to take the lead on this, he may ask Stan Arnold to help with delivering the material.

Jo reiterated her desire for the club to provide a similar recognition to Ken Clark for the gracious response to all those who came to view the Harris' Sparrow. Jo took action to contact John Malcolm and take lead on this effort.

Jo then related a discussion that she and Bonnie had with the U of MD Central Farm manager. He has been manager for past three years, and indicated that when he took over he was told of the club's association with the Farm. He had several additional requests, primary among them was for us to stay out of fallow fields (as well as obviously planted ones) as they are often study plots or may have been sprayed. Also when we intend to be on parts of the farm other than the swale (e.g., counts, walks) he would like us to call or send an email to him so that he can inform hunters who might be on property. There are 8 hunters who have year round hunting permits (121 deer were harvested last year). *Sec. Note: When Mike McClure contacted him prior to May Count the Manager expressed a few more requirements and a desire to update the records of who has access letters.*

Jeff Culler had sent an email with a proposal for working with Howard Recreation and Parks to mount a large colored map of Centennial at the concession stand near the birding bulletin board. See attachment. Jo added information that when working on the Birding Howard County project they learned that Rec and Parks has a large

format color printer that might well be able to print the map at a very reasonable price. The Board was very supportive of this idea and authorized Jeff to proceed by contacting Rec and Parks staff. We authorized him to proceed with implementation without seeking further Board approval if our cost was to be less than \$100. Jo agreed to inform Jeff of our decision upon his return from trip.

Tom had received a request (forwarded from MOS President Wayne Bell) to participate in the "Save the Planet Day" sponsored by the Teen Advisory Board of the Columbia Association from 10 AM to 2 PM on May 30. The event will be held outdoors at the Lakefront in Columbia. June Tveekrem agreed to coordinate our participation.

Tom had received a request from the Young School (pre-school) for a ½ hour presentation on birds in next week. Tom agreed to do this.

June reminded us that the May Count would occur before the next regular club meeting so won't have that opportunity to finalize plans.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Investigate club liability if enter parks for organized bird walk when parks are closed (e.g., icy walks). Approach Howard Rec and Parks (Byrd) and address issue and MSO Liability Insurance limitations. Provide club MOS Board attendees information prior to June MOS meeting – Ward **PENDING JUNE MOS MEETING**
- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom **OPEN**
- Develop annual list reports for posting on web site for past few years – Ward. Review lists – Jo **DONE**
- Provide Chuck contact information for Gary Arthur, so he can inform him that Chuck is POC – Bob **DONE**
- Provide Howard Recreation and Parks Director, Gary Arthur, with Chuck contact information, as a POC for the club – Chuck **OPEN**
- Respond in the negative to Harper's Choice Village Fest participation – Tom **DONE**
- Respond to request for assistance and information for Banneker Park – Tom **??**
- Contact John Malcolm to get certificate of appreciation for Ken Clark's role in Harris' Sparrow access – Jo **OPEN**
- Contact Bonnie to ask about being the MOS "Access Coordinator" for Howard County – Kate **Bonnie agreed to serve in this position and Wayne Bell informed DONE**
- Bring Sorrel boots to next club meeting and announce availability (for contribution?) – Jo **Will take to MOS Conference for silent auction**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Investigate club liability if enter parks for organized bird walk when parks are closed (e.g., icy walks). Approach Howard Rec and Parks (Byrd) and address issue and MSO Liability Insurance limitations. Provide club MOS Board attendees information prior to June MOS meeting – Ward **PENDING JUNE MOS MEETING**
- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom Provide Howard Recreation and Parks Director, Gary Arthur, with Chuck contact information, as a POC for the club – Chuck
- Respond to request for assistance and information for Banneker Park - Tom
- Contact John Malcolm to get certificate of appreciation for Ken Clark's role in Harris' Sparrow access – Jo **OPEN**
- Take Sorrel boots to MOS Conference for Silent Auction – Jo
- Inform Eva Sunell on decision regarding article encouraging CFC donation for All Creatures Great and Small – Amanda
- Inform Jeff Culler of Board approving his request to pursue Centennial Map proposal – Jo
- Coordinate club participation in "Save the Planet Day" – June
- Speak at the Young School – Tom
- Contact John Malcolm to get certificate of appreciation and pictures to five households who hosted the Painted Bunting visitors – Kurt
- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm manager.
 - Send out email explaining new procedures – Bonnie
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures – Jo/Mike McClure

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt	
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem	
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem	
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts	
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Howard County Chapter MOS - Treasurer's Report 05/01/08 – 04/22/09
- Centennial Park Map Proposal – Email from Jeff Culler April 20, 2009

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

APRIL 23, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Fund Raiser status – Thick-billed Parrot
 - Digital Photo Frame
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Map of Centennial Park – Proposal from Jeff Culler
 - Save the Planet Day – Columbia Asso. – Info from Wayne Bell
 - Speaker needed at the Young School next week
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Meeting Location:

Kate Tufts
2830 Duvall Road
Woodbine Md. 21797
410-489-7052

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/08 - 04/22/09

	<u>Budget 2008-09</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues			6,035.00
State Dues Paid			<u>(3,675.00)</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,550.00		2,360.00
Contributions			365.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,550.00</u>		<u>2,725.00</u>
Expense:			
Donation to Conservation Projects (see below)			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		49.17
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	165.00	665.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00	46.63	46.63
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	110.00		119.07
Postage, Copies	50.00		22.25
Projector Expense			42.81
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	75.00		114.30
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,500.00	194.10	1,138.52
Miscellaneous			156.16
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,535.00</u>	<u>405.73</u>	<u>2,353.91</u>
 Habitat Conservation Project			
Bent Books			230.00
Challenge Contributions		460.00	1,340.00
Challenger Contributions		200.00	400.00
Total Contributions		<u>660.00</u>	<u>1,970.00</u>
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			<u>311.00</u>
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,625.17
Interest Received		4.43	290.07
Balance			<u>9,915.24</u>
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>6,259.09</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,947.75
Savings			16,174.33
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			<u><u>20,165.36</u></u>

Culler Centennial proposal

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Charles Stirrat

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Centennial Park Map Proposal [Inbox](#) X [BirdingHoward](#) X

Jeffrey Culler to mbetts1030, Karen, Wes, wardebert, oldhawk, Kevin, Emy, birdertwm, [show details](#)

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Mr. President and Board Members,

I would appreciate your consideration for the following proposal.

Proposal – That the Howard County Bird Club fund the preparation and placement of a large, colorful map of Centennial Park similar to the one on our web site. The map would be placed in the alcove to the left of the current Bird Club information board and observation box (see attached photo).

Reason for proposal – Centennial Park is visited by 1.8 million people a year and currently there is no large map of the park to alert those visitors of the many trails, areas, and amenities. A detailed map would be of benefit to many of those visitors and a map so placed should also attract some of them to the bird club information board. If just a fraction of those yearly visitors take a moment to visit the information board then the return on our investment could be substantial.

Cost – Unknown at this time but Howard County Recreation and Parks willingness to assist and our willingness to pay the costs may provide the synergy for a successful partnership.

Unfortunately, I will be out of town for this week's board meeting but if the board could discuss this proposal, provide suggestions, and authorize me to move forward I will begin upon my return. If authorized I will approach my contacts in park and recreation to check on the feasibility of the project. If they are amenable then the next step would be to get an estimate on map cost.

Thanks for your consideration.

Jeff



Centennial Information board alcove IMG_7216.JPG
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Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2009

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan
Chap. Directors: June Tveekrem (1st yr) (& *AV*)
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others: Wes Earp √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Tom Miller. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 14 was 42 people. Michelte Stewart and Barry Miller gave a program entitled "The Falklands, South Georgia, and the Antarctic Peninsula."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge):

The Treasurer's report is attached. Emy reported that two new memberships had been received. In response to a query she indicated that our operating budget for the just completed fiscal year had a positive balance of approximately \$400.

President's Remarks (Miller): Tom reported that his was one of only four annual chapter reports that had been submitted in time for the annual MOS Conference.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reminded us that the deadline for the next Goldfinch is July 25. Her due date is August 8, so she really requires inputs by the due date. She said that this issue might be somewhat shorter than recent ones as a result of her expected delivery.

Webmaster (R. Solem): No report.

Chapter Directors (Culler, Tveekrem): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity (Witt): No report.

Past President (Heffernan): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Centennial Park Map Project – Jeff Culler reported that he hasn't made much progress but intends to start shortly and will provide a status report at the September Board meeting.

New Business

Fund raiser funds disposition – Emy reported that we had received a total of \$1970 from the Thick-billed Parrot Project fund raiser, sale of the Bent books, and undesignated contributions. We quickly agreed to give some to wildlife rehabilitator All Creatures Great and Small in addition to the ABC parrot project. After several options it was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously that we would give \$1800 to the parrot project and \$200 to the rehabilitator (supplementing with \$30 of operating funds).

Seed Sale Proposal – Sherry presented a proposal for reinstating the seed sale again this fall. She has approached her employer Pennington Seed to allow us to buy the seed from them at a very good price (20% or less markup) and host the sale out of their will-call storefront/warehouse facility in north Laurel (south Howard County on US 1 across from CARMAX). They are largely a wholesale operation (with only a small retail business) that means we will not have an intermediary that could consider our sales as competition as we had been doing in recent years prior to last year when we canceled the sale. Pickup would take place from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Pennington will supply a fork-truck operator to move seed from warehouse as we won't be allowed in warehouse proper. If weather permits we could have it outside, but if not the will-call area is large enough to hold seed stacks. The seed order will need to be finalized a week in advance so that it can be placed on their regular shipment from the Virginia division (where seed is warehoused) during the week prior to Saturday of sale. Sherry passed around brochures showing the significant array of bird food product that Pennington offers. The Board agreed to proceed with setting up a sale for late September or early October (hopefully before the Central Maryland Audubon Society sale. A committee to help Sherry make arrangements such as settling on product, asking price, date, etc. was appointed. Sherry (Chair), Bob, Wes, and Tom are the committee members.

Audio-Video Information Sheet – Bob reported that June Tveekrem has drafted a paper describing the A/V equipment we have available for speakers to use in giving programs. The intent is that Jane Geuder would supply a copy of this sheet to speakers so that they would know what is available and plan accordingly. The draft had been distributed for comment to several club members. *Sec. Note – Subsequent to meeting June distributed a final version.*

Sherry announced that she still had the club display board. She had planned to give a program for a Girl Scout event, but a family emergency had caused her to not do so. She was told if she has room for it she should just keep it for now.

Jo reported that she (and Wes) had attended the last meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Board for the Robinson Nature Center. Plans are proceeding for the Center. Funding seems to be reasonably secure. The plan is to continue plans to achieve a Green Building LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating of Platinum. Hopes are that they may still be able to break ground late this year.

Lastly Jo passed around business cards for the club. The idea is that you would hand them out to anyone you meet who showed interest in birds or the club while you are out birding. Joe Hanfman had proposed the idea and designed the card. Jo personally paid for the printing of first batch of cards and the intent is that others will make similar offers to pay for a printing as the cards are used up (and not have the club pay for them).

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Investigate club liability if enter parks for organized bird walk when parks are closed (e.g., icy walks). Approach Howard Rec and Parks (Byrd) and address issue and MSO Liability Insurance limitations. Provide club MOS Board attendees information prior to June MOS meeting – Ward **PENDING JUNE MOS MEETING**
- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom
- Provide Howard Recreation and Parks Director, Gary Arthur, with Chuck contact information, as a POC for the club – Chuck **DONE**
- Contact John Malcolm to get certificate of appreciation for Ken Clark’s role in Harris’ Sparrow access – Jo **PENDING**
- Take Sorrel boots to MOS Conference for Silent Auction – Jo **DONE**
- Inform Eva Sunell on decision regarding article encouraging CFC donation for All Creatures Great and Small – Amanda **OPEN**
- Inform Jeff Culler of Board approving his request to pursue Centennial Map proposal – Jo **DONE**
- Coordinate club participation in “Save the Planet Day” – June **OVERCOME BY EVENTS**
- Speak at the Young School – Tom **DONE**
- Contact John Malcolm to get certificate of appreciation and pictures to five households who hosted the Painted Bunting visitors – Kurt **DONE**
- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm manager.
 - Send out email explaining new procedures – Bonnie **DONE**
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures – Jo/Mike McClure

Wes reported Mike was waiting on Bonnie supplying him a list of birds seen on the Farm so he could include that with materials to be sent to farm manager. Jo volunteered to draft a list to send to Bonnie to help expedite getting this done.

New/Continuing Action Items

- Investigate club liability if enter parks for organized bird walk when parks are closed (e.g., icy walks). Approach Howard Rec and Parks (Byrd) and address issue and MSO Liability Insurance limitations. Provide club MOS Board attendees information prior to June MOS meeting – Ward
- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom
- Contact John Malcolm to get certificate of appreciation for Ken Clark’s role in Harris’ Sparrow access – Jo
- Inform Eva Sunell on decision regarding article encouraging CFC donation for All Creatures Great and Small – Amanda
- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm manager.
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures – Jo/Mike McClure
 - Jo draft a list of birds seen on the Farm and send it to Bonnie for final vetting so Bonnie can get a copy to Mike for sending to manager with other materials
- Seed sale committee to make arrangements for sale, ideally set date before newsletter deadline so can announce plans for a sale. – Sherry, Bob, Wes, and Tom
- Send checks to American Bird Conservancy for Thick-billed Parrot Project and to All Creatures Great and Small – Emy
- Contact Bonnie and determine if she wants to host a Board meeting (September, October, or neither). Dependent on answer notify Sherry as to whether she will host Sept or Oct. - Tom

Board Meeting Schedule for Next Year

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2009	-	See action items	
October 22, 2009	-		
November 19, 2009	-	Wes Earp	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 2010	-	Karen Darcy	
February 25, 2010	-	Jo Solem	

March 25, 2010	-		
April 22, 2010	-	Ward Ebert	
May 27, 2010	-		(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2008	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 23, 2008	-	Amanda Witt	
November 20, 2008	-	Ward Ebert	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 22, 2009	-	Kevin Heffernan	
February 26, 2009	-	Jo Solem	
March 26, 2009	-	June Tveekrem	
April 23, 2009	-	Kate Tufts	
May 28, 2009	-	Tom Miller	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – May 28, 2009
- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer’s Report 05/01/09 – 05/27/09
- Monthly Hits on Web Site 05/31/09

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MAY 28, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Map of Centennial Park – Proposal from Jeff Culler
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Fund Raiser funds disposition
 - Seed Sale Proposal *Sherry*
 - Any new business?
9. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Meeting Location:

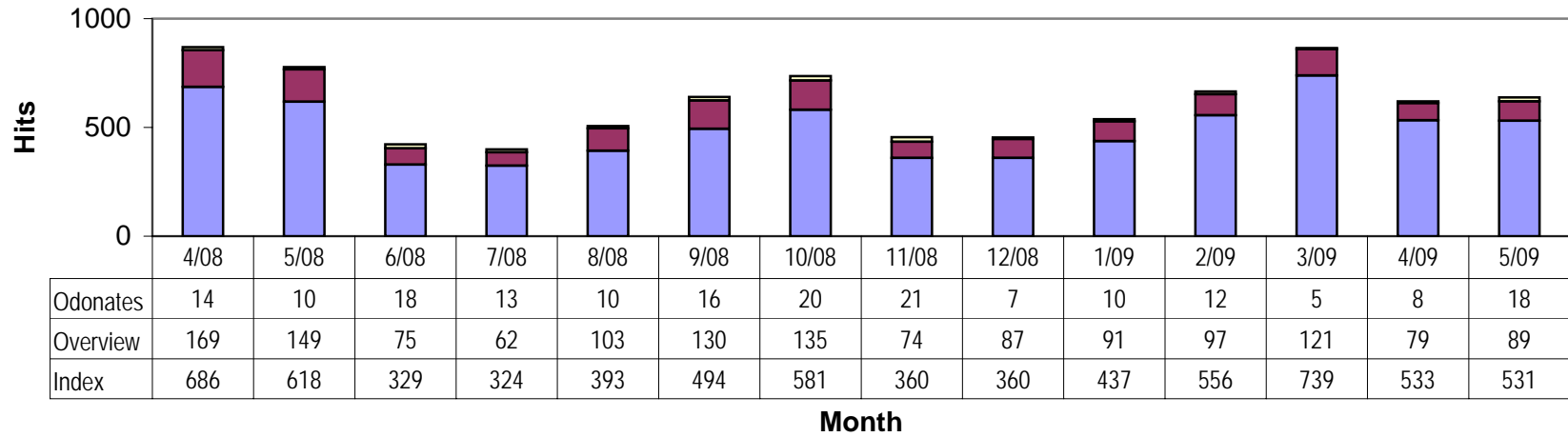
Tom Miller
6404 Glasgow Circle
Eldersburg Md. 21784
410-795-7005

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT 05/01/09 - 05/27/09

	Budget 2009-10	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		75.00	75.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,400.00	75.00	75.00
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,400.00	75.00	75.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	48.08	48.08
Website			
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	125.00		
Postage, Copies	50.00		
Projector Expense			
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	98.08	98.08
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,915.24
Interest Received		3.75	3.75
Balance			9,918.99
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,921.67
Savings			16,178.08
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			20,143.03

Monthly "Hits" on Howard County Bird Club Web Page

Odonates - Hits on section under Flora & Fauna
 Overview - Hits on page with info on club offers
 Index - Hits on main page of web site



Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 24, 2009

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan √
Chap. Directors: Wes Earp (1st yr) √
June Tveekrem (2nd yr) (& *AV*) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:
Jeff Culler √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bonnie Ott. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 10 was 45 people. Douglas Gill gave a program entitled "A Field of Dreams: Restoration of Native Prairie for Grassland Birds in Maryland."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): The Treasurer's Report had been distributed in advance of the meeting and is attached. In addition to dues income Emy reported that she had received \$150 in unrestricted contributions. PNC Bank has announced they will be imposing charges of \$3/month for the checking account. She protested the imposition but wasn't promised any relief but the latest statement did not include charge. Decided it wasn't worth the inconvenience of trying to find a bank with no or lower fees. The savings balance is still being held in a Money Market Fund and is currently not paying a dividend as the rate is 0% as with many Money Market funds at present. The early seed sale orders suggest a low net income is expected.

Emy also distributed the annual Bookstore financial report (attached) that she had received from Anne Marie Raterman. Anne Marie has indicated that as much as \$1000 of her approximate account balance of \$1600 could be used for other purposes as she would still have sufficient funds to cover her cash flow needs. The Board may well use this as a way to supplement the seed sale proceeds in making our annual contribution for habitat preservation and conservation.

Emy also provided the Secretary with the thank you notes she had received from the American Bird Conservancy (Thick-billed Parrot Project) and All Creatures Great and Small.

President's Remarks (Miller): Tom reported that he had received a request to have someone speak on birds to a school class. See New Business for further discussion of this topic.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott/Hanfman): Bonnie reported that Joe Hanfman has agreed to serve as Co-chair for Field Trips. He has been added to secretary's email distribution group for the Board and is encouraged to attend future Board meetings. It was announced that an additional field trip to the Oakland Mills garden plots to be led by Jim Wilkinson on Columbus Day (October 12) has been scheduled.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.
Newsletter (Witt): No report.
Webmaster (R. Solem): No report. The web hit statistics report as of the end of September are attached.
Chapter Directors (Earp, Tveekrem): No reports.
Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.
Programs (Geuder): No report.
Publicity (Witt): No report.
Past President (Heffernan): No report.
Records (J. Solem): No report.
Seed Sale (Tomlinson): See Old Business.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Karen provided a synopsis of the State Board meeting held September 12. Highlights included: MOS members can access the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center for free. The results of IBA bird blitzes held over the past year were presented. Discussion of deer hunting on MOS Sanctuaries were held. The Breeding Bird Atlas has been sent to the printers. Expected publication date is summer 2010, and preorders will be accepted at the MOS Conference at Washington College 11-13 June 2010. The 2011 Conference will be held in Western Maryland. The Audubon camps at Hog Island are no longer an option for awarding MOS scholarships, so alternative approaches to awarding scholarships are being pursued.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Old Business

Seed Sale Plans and Status – Sherry reported that plans are in place for holding sale at Pennington Seed location. The number of orders is significantly less than for past sales. There will be a number of items that we will need to sell that were not ordered because they came in multiple package bundles that we had to buy the entire bundle. In addition there was a mix-up that the flyer listed 5 lb Niger when in fact Pennington carries 10 lb bags and our price was for 5 lbs so we will be selling these at a loss. Lastly the 19 bags of Gourmet seed mix sold will need to be delivered to customers after the sale as it will not be available on day of sale do to special order required. Sherry will give a final report at next meeting.

Centennial Park Map Proposal – Jeff Culler attended and passed around an information sheet summarizing status of the Information Board. In summary, the Park Rangers had put up a bulletin board in the location that Jeff had originally proposed would be a suitable site on the concession building for a large map. The Ranger bulletin board is primarily used for posting regulations and does include a “small” map in one corner, but is significantly different than what Jeff had envisioned. So for now our offer of helping post a large map has been put on indefinite hold. Jeff also reported that Park personnel occasionally put out a brochure rack in this area and Jeff has tried to keep copies of the club brochure on this, but we are running out of these brochures. We agreed to put a discussion of redesigning or reprinting this brochure on a future board meeting agenda.

New Business

Young MOS (YMOS) Backpack Program – Tom reported that the state YMOS committee is again sponsoring a backpack program and we need to decide how we will proceed this year. It quickly became obvious that our approach last year had worked well and was even recognized by state Board as a good approach. Hence we began discussion of what this year's essay composition would involve. We have the benefit of an earlier start date to hopefully advertize the contest and solicit more application essays. We will try and make use of community

newspaper announcements, flyer postings (e.g., Mt. Pleasant), Howard school environmental club announcements. We decided on the following groundrules: 1) Use last year's topic, 2) Prior year winners are not eligible, 3) Essays are due by end of January 2010, 4) Application essays will be submitted to Tom Miller (either email or snail mail), 5) Target size of essay is not more than 250 words, 6) Howard county residents only. June Tveekrem volunteered to develop announcement flyer for contest. Kate Tufts volunteered to publicize the contest, especially by contacting the local newspaper neighborhood columnists, etc. Tom indicated if our responses motivate it we could ask for a second backpack to award as a larger chapter.

Additional new business topics:

- June Tveekrem asked if she was still expected to announce a poster session for upcoming club meeting that Jane Geuder had initially proposed for a person that had asked for opportunity following last MOS Conference. Board response was unless Jane contacted her she had no responsibility to pursue this topic.
- Kevin Heffernan asked the Board for advice and consideration of a request he had received as former club President. He received a request from someone who wanted to purchase as a birthday present a personally guided bird field guiding trip for his daughter. This raises questions such as would we accept financial remuneration either as payment or contribution in response to such a request. We agreed there are multiple issues not the least of which is liability issues. Especially if there are not multiple persons involved and especially if minors are involved. Generally seemed like the obstacles may be more than we want to deal with. We often receive queries about classroom presentations (but no longer have easy access to specimens housed with Howard Recreation and Parks) that limit the scope of such presentations. Similarly field trips for requesting groups often fail to recognize the limitations this format imposes.
- Tom Miller then asked about trying to form a pool of volunteers to share requests for club assistance with classroom presentations, school class field trips, etc. He infrequently receives requests but doesn't want to turn them down as an opportunity to encourage young birders but can't handle all requests on his own. He was cautioned that such a wide open query might not generate the pool of individuals he is hoping for, but was urged to formulate and pose such a request at future club meetings. Maybe the pool of volunteers will surprise us.
- Sherry Tomlinson raised an idea for future consideration as a fund raiser, namely developing and providing a binocular registration process/database for a fee.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Investigate club liability if enter parks for organized bird walk when parks are closed (e.g., icy walks). Approach Howard Rec and Parks (Byrd) and address issue and MSO Liability Insurance limitations. Provide club MOS Board attendees information prior to June MOS meeting – **Ward Topic was not discussed at State Board meeting so we decided to table this item indefinitely and leave this to the discretion of trip leaders.**
- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom **No action**
- Contact John Malcolm to get certificate of appreciation for Ken Clark's role in Harris' Sparrow access – Jo **DONE – Presented at September regular meeting.**
- Inform Eva Sunell on decision regarding article encouraging CFC donation for All Creatures Great and Small – Amanda **DONE**
- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm manager. **OPEN**
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures – Jo/Mike McClure
 - Jo draft a list of birds seen on the Farm and send it to Bonnie for final vetting so Bonnie can get a copy to Mike for sending to manager with other material – **Mike has this material**
- Seed sale committee to make arrangements for sale, ideally set date before newsletter deadline so can announce plans for a sale. – Sherry, Bob, Wes, and Tom **DONE**

- Send checks to American Bird Conservancy for Thick-billed Parrot Project and to All Creatures Great and Small – Emy **DONE**
- Contact Bonnie and determine if she wants to host a Board meeting (September, October, or neither). Dependent on answer notify Sherry as to whether she will host Sept or Oct. – Tom **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom
- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Mike McClure
- Add future agenda topic to discuss designing/printing additional/new club brochures – Tom Miller
- Develop flyer/announcement for this year’s club YMOS Backpack essay contest – June Tveekrem
- Distribute publicity to newspaper and other outlets of the details of YMOS Backpack essay contest – Kate Tufts
- Request volunteers for a generic pool of individuals to be asked to respond to requests for club support of educational institutions (and others) for classroom presentations, field trip leading, etc. – Tom Miller
- Resolve plans for who will host March and May Board meetings with Amanda - June

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2009	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 22, 2009	-	Sherry Tomlinson	
November 19, 2009	-	Wes Earp	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 2010	-	Karen Darcy	
February 25, 2010	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2010	-	See action item (June or Amanda?)	
April 22, 2010	-	Ward Ebert	
May 27, 2010	-	See action item	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for Board Meeting – Sept. 24, 2009
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/09 – 9/22/09
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Bookstore Report, 2008-2009
- Centennial Park Information Board – Information Sheet passed out by Jeff Culler at meeting
- Monthly Hits on Club Website – Sept. 30, 2009

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

SEPT 24, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Seed Sale *Sherry*
 - Map of Centennial Park – Proposal from Jeff Culler
8. New Business/Discussions
 - YMOS Back program
 - Any new business?
9. MOS board meeting report. *Karen*
10. Around the room.
11. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Meeting Location:

Bonnie Ott
8664 Manahan Drive
Ellicott City, Md. 21043
410-461-3361

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/09-9/22/09

	Budget 2009-10	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		2,870.00	2,945.00
State Dues Paid		-	-
Net Membership Dues	2,400.00	2,870.00	2,945.00
Contributions		150.00	150.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,400.00	3,020.00	3,095.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	48.08	48.08
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	125.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	125.00		
Postage, copies	50.00		
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges		12.00	12.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	222.00	222.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	357.08	407.08
Seed Sale			
Income		1,090.00	1,090.00
Expense			
Flyers, postage		83.32	83.32
Net Seed Sale		1,006.68	1,006.68
Contributions to Habitat Conservation		125.00	125.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,915.24
Interest Received		4.25	8.00
Balance			9,923.24
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			5,287.35
Savings			16,182.33
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			21,512.96

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS

BOOKSTORE REPORT

2008-09

Income	512.50
Expenses	<u>373.88</u>
Gain	<u><u>138.62</u></u>

Value of Inventory	2,700.00
Sales Tax Paid	30.75
Account Balance	1,626.63

Centennial Park information Board

Bird Species Featured: Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Snow Goose, Canada Goose, American Black Duck, Mallard, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Barn Swallow, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch.

Rare Bird Alerts: Greater White-fronted Goose and White-winged Crossbill,

Other Species Featured: Groundhog and Eastern Box Turtle.

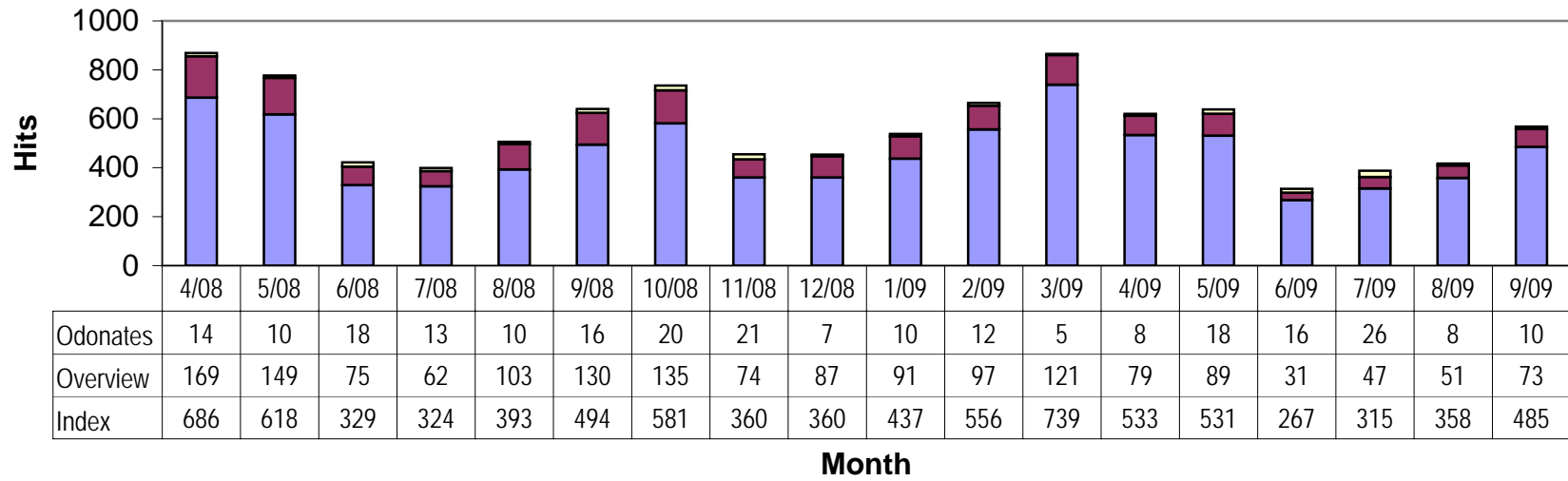
Information Provided: Monthly updates of Howard County Bird Club walks and programs (since March, 2009), Howard County Bird Club web address, and copy of web site menu page.

Centennial Park Observation Book: Reestablished December 9, 2008. To date six pages have been filled with 48 postings by 26 observers.



Monthly "Hits" on Howard County Bird Club Web Page

Odonates - Hits on section under Flora & Fauna
 Overview - Hits on page with info on club offers
 Index - Hits on main page of web site



Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 22, 2009

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan
Chap. Directors: Wes Earp (1st yr)
June Tveekrem (2nd yr) (& *AV*) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Sherry Tomlinson. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 8 at the Glenwood Community Center was 61 people. Dave Harvey gave a program entitled "Birding Peru's Andes." Next month's club meeting will also be at Glenwood and will start at 7:00 PM as we need to be out of the Center by 9:00 PM.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes for last Board meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the Treasurer's Report in advance of the meeting and a copy is attached. She observed that the dues are a little slow in coming in but there are still numerous renewals that are still outstanding. There is still additional seed sale income to be turned in, and there is still some unsold inventory we hope to sell. No further expenses are anticipated, but even with the additional income it appears the seed sale net profit will not approach prior seed sale returns.

President's Remarks (Miller): Tom said that he was unable to reproduce the problem experienced with the club's projector at Glenwood, when he went home and tested it. He suspects there maybe some form of interference at Glenwood. He has a power line filter and will cover the IR port in an attempt to avoid a reoccurrence at the November meeting.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.

Newsletter (Witt): Jo reported that the newsletter had been dropped off with Marty Chestem today and it would be delivered to the Post Office for mailing shortly.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he had added a new feature to the web site first page. There is now a right hand search panel with links to frequently visited locations on the site. If you have other suggestions for what links should be added to this list, let Bob know. Bob also made note of an apparent seasonal sawtooth pattern evident in the web hit statistics (see graph in last minutes).

Chapter Directors (Earp, Tveekrem): No report.
Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.
Programs (Geuder): No report.C
Publicity (Witt): No report.
Past President (Heffernan): No report.
Records (J. Solem): No report.
Seed Sale (Tomlinson): See Old Business.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting in past month.
State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

YMOS Backpack Essay Contest Status – June passed around copies of the contest flyer that she developed (attached). Kate reported that she had sent news releases to multiple newspapers and they had been already picked up by several of them. An announcement did not make it into the issue of the Goldfinch going to the Post Office this week, but Bob will include material on website and include it in the Highlights list, and lastly it will be announced at the November and December club meetings. Kate is optimistic we will get multiple essay submissions and proposed rather than all of us reviewing them a subcommittee to read the submittals would be a good idea. Kate and Ward agreed to do this and pre-screen the essays for the Board. If anyone has used nature guides that they no longer need, Kate proposed donations could be added to the backpacks (both for our own and if enough are donated some may be shared with the state for other backpacks). Emy shared a related item having received an email from a friend who's 8 year old boy is very interested in birds. Although he is too young for this year's contest, she encouraged the mother to bring him on the Centennial walks.

Generic Pool of Volunteers for Responding to Speaker Queries – Tom reported that his announcement soliciting volunteers that he could share requests for speakers with had resulted in two volunteers coming forward. He also plans to write an article for the Goldfinch soliciting more volunteers.

Seed Sale – We began this discussion by deciding to defer a decision on whether we would use the ~\$1000 of book store funds for our habitat project this year. We then held a discussion (brain storming) of what future fund raising projects we might consider for next year. Ideas broached included:

- Binocular registration concept – lots of issues and difficulties surfaced
- Jo reported that Joe Hanfman has suggested some ideas that we will learn about in future
- If we do want to pursue seed sale, the new owner of The Wildlife Authority has indicated willingness to work with us. We decided to take no action on this offer for now.
- The recent seed sale low proceeds may have a number of causes, new location on perimeter of county, prices relative to other discount outlets, fact we didn't have a sale last year. Considerable effort for relatively small return, might suggest try something else. Some Board members expressed opinion that they felt we should abandon future seed sales. At a minimum we decided that we will not pursue a second sale for this winter.
- Last year's direct appeal for the Thick-billed Parrot was very successful, but it was discussed that repeat direct appeals generally have less and less return. One lesson might be that it is beneficial for donors to know in advance what the funds will be used for. We will consider identifying the project(s) our fund raiser will go to in advance (starting with a list of candidates at Sept. board meeting) might be a positive step.
- It was agreed that the book store proceeds was a single time source and not to be counted on in future years. We may want to review even continuing the bookstore as the availability of books on the web provide alternatives that were not present in the past when the bookstore was more essential. Also mentioned that when the bookstore could set up at seed sales, was a primary time when lots of additional material was sold.

We concluded that this will need to be discussed further in future.

New Business

Reminding Members Who Have Not Yet Renewed – At this time of year we take a series of steps to encourage renewals as many failures to renew are just that the member forgot or misplaced the renewal reminder. First in the week following the meeting Bob will send a reminder email to those who have not renewed for whom he has a current email addresses. Then a week or two later Bob will supply Wes and June (Chapter Directors) with the names of those who have not yet renewed. They will split the list and make phone calls to remind the member they haven't renewed (leaving messages on answering machines is sufficient if no answer). In the past Bob has also sent snail mail reminders but this year he will only do that for the few members who have not provided an email address. After there has been enough time for these reminders to be responded to Bob will prepare his annual summary of membership results. Although the subject of what methods we might use to seek new members was broached we decided to table that discussion for a future time.

Designing/printing additional/new club brochures – We agreed that it makes no sense to reprint the current brochure, but will need to redesign and update it. However we decided to defer further discussion of that effort for now.

Additional topics –

Kate observed that there was very good attendance at the Glenwood Community Center and wondered if that was because additional members from the western part of county were more likely to attend. She suggested we might want to routinely schedule an occasional meeting for this location. The issue of whether doing so would incur cost and the need to be over by 9 PM might be negatives to doing this. Kate agreed to contact Sue Muller and explore whether we would have to pay (to date we haven't paid because Rec and Parks had bumped us from our regular meeting location).

Kate also announced that she isn't going to be able to serve as May Count Area 1 Coordinator in the future as they are frequently gone at that time. Karen made note of the need for a new coordinator and said she would share that with Kevin. Also Karen indicated that Kevin and she were hoping to not serve as Area Coordinators when they were serving as County Coordinator next year as well. An appeal for volunteers to serve as Area Coordinators needs to be issued.

Jo commented that it appeared no one had volunteered to be the coordinator for the Triadelphia Christmas Count and as a result the count would probably not be held this year.

Jo and Bob reported that they had been interviewed by Kim Knox of WSSC regarding Dragonflies and Damselflies. The interview was recorded for a Podcast that will likely be available on a WSSC website at some time in the future. If the Podcast is available to the public, we might want to put a brief item in newsletter about it.

June announced that she felt that the interest in photo field trips had waned following the recent 3rd one. Accordingly she probably won't run another one any time soon.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom
No Activity
- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Mike McClure
No Activity
- Add future agenda topic to discuss designing/printing additional/new club brochures – Tom Miller **Done**
- Develop flyer/announcement for this year's club YMOS Backpack essay contest – June Tveekrem **Done**
- Distribute publicity to newspaper and other outlets of the details of YMOS Backpack essay contest – Kate Tufts
Done
- Request volunteers for a generic pool of individuals to be asked to respond to requests for club support of educational institutions (and others) for classroom presentations, field trip leading, etc. – Tom Miller **Done**
- Resolve plans for who will host March and May Board meetings with Amanda – June **Done**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– Tom
- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Mike McClure
- Explore options for occasional use of Glenwood Community Center for club meetings with Sue Muller - Kate

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2009	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 22, 2009	-	Sherry Tomlinson	
November 19, 2009	-	Wes Earp	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 2010	-	Karen Darcy	
February 25, 2010	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2010	-	June Tveekrem	
April 22, 2010	-	Ward Ebert	
May 27, 2010	-	Amanda Witt	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Oct. 22, 2009
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/09 – 10/19/09
- Howard County YMOS Backpack 2009 Essay Contest - Flyer

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

OCT 22, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom (Projector at Glenwood)*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack essay contest – Status
 - Generic pool of individuals to be speakers – Status
 - Newspaper *Kate*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - Flyers *June*
 - Seed Sale
 - Ideas for next year
 - \$1,000 from Bookstore to supplement this year
 - March and May Board meetings
 - *March = June*
 - *May = Amanda*
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Reminders for members who have not yet renewed.
 - Designing/printing additional/new club brochures?
 - Any new business?
10. Around the room.
11. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

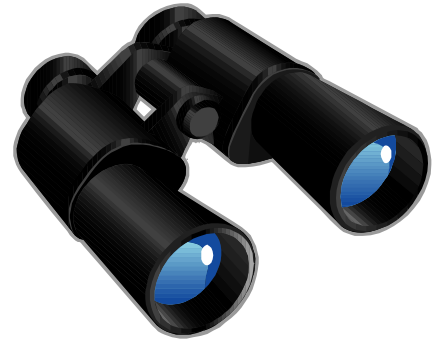
Meeting Location:
Sherry Tomlinson
6501 Woodbridge Cir
Catonsville Md. 21228
Phone: 410-747-2382

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/09-10/19/09

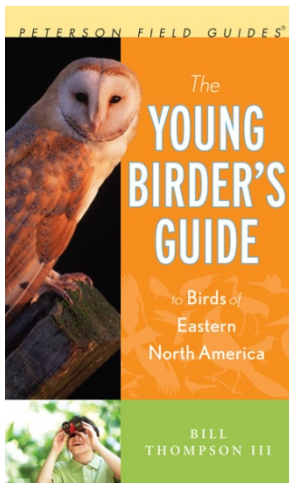
	Budget 2009-10	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		790.00	3,735.00
State Dues Paid		-	-
Net Membership Dues	2,400.00	790.00	3,735.00
Contributions		50.00	200.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,400.00	840.00	3,935.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		48.08
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	175.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	125.00	143.40	143.40
Postage, copies	50.00	52.45	52.45
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			12.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		222.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	245.85	652.93
Seed Sale			
Income		808.50	1,898.50
Expense			
Seed		1,774.77	1,774.77
Flyers, postage			83.32
Net Seed Sale		(966.27)	40.41
Contributions to Habitat Conservation		140.00	265.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,915.24
Interest Received			8.00
Balance			9,923.24
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			5,340.23
Savings			16,182.33
Petty Cash			43.28
<i>Total</i>			21,565.84

Win free binoculars and bird books!

If you are age 9-13 and live in Howard County, you can enter the Howard County Bird Club's youth birding backpack contest.



Winner gets a backpack from the Maryland Ornithological Society containing



- A pair of binoculars
- The book “Young Birder’s Guide to Birds of Eastern North America”
- Other bird books
- Information about birding in Maryland

How to enter

Write a short essay about “My favorite birdwatching experience”. Essay should be no more than 250 words long.

Submit the essay by Jan. 31, 2010 to Tom Miller, birderTWM@verizon.net.

Prior year winners of this contest not eligible.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Tom Miller √
Vice-president: Ward Ebert
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan √
Chap. Directors: Wes Earp (1st yr) √
June Tveekrem (2nd yr) (& *AV*) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Wes Earp. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 12 at the Glenwood Community Center was 43 people. Kurt Schwarz gave a program entitled "Aimophila Adventures."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): The Treasurer's Report was distributed in advance of meeting and a copy is attached. Emy reported that she hasn't sent in state dues yet as a few memberships are still coming in. The contribution for habitat shown was from Kurt Schwarz asking that his speaker honorarium be donated for habitat. Emy reported that despite earlier indications we would have to pay monthly banking fees, we have not been being charged them since she complained to the bank. Sherry still has a small inventory of seed still for sale so the sale proceeds may have a small amount yet to be added.

President's Remarks (Miller): No opening remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward was ill and not present, but he had sent an email with a few topics to be addressed. See new business.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Joe reported that the field trip itinerary information was ready for sending to the Yellowthroat the following day. An additional trip is being planned as a search for field birds early in next year. Kate pointed out for the second year in a row the club's Blackwater NWR trip was being held on the same day as the state MOS Board meeting, so that Board members felt they couldn't attend trip. She asked if future trips could be scheduled to avoid this conflict. It was pointed out that the trip is routinely scheduled on the day the refuge is holding it's Christmas celebration and open house.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt discussed a set of proposed changes to Maryland DNR policies revising pet rules in parks. Kurt had sent an email (not received by entire Board) describing this proposal and asking that the Board formally endorse a letter that the Baltimore Chapter had drafted commenting on this policy. This letter proposes that the state should adopt a policy of making trails and shorelines off limits to dogs during breeding season.

During discussion it was pointed out that the policy changes were very specific to individual park locations. Several members expressed the belief this proposal was unrealistic and had a potential to antagonize dog owners without being enforceable and was unlikely to be adopted by the state. It was moved and seconded that the club endorse the letter. The motion was defeated and the club will not explicitly endorse the letter. Kurt did report that the MOS Conservation committee (Kurt is MOS Conservation Chairman) was likely to decide to have MOS officially endorse the letter based on the committee discussions to date.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda was not present, but Jo reported that Amanda has asked for inputs before Thanksgiving so that she can work on it over the holidays. This issue will publish a version of the site guide for Middle Patuxent Environmental Area consistent with our decision to publish one a year in the newsletter.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that Yahoo (our web service provider) has been making changes that have recently disabled several functions on the club website. Utilities that access databases seem to be disconnected so the Wizard has stopped working and the automatic entry of field trip sightings wasn't working either. He has contacted Yahoo technical support and hopes to resolve, but he is currently dissatisfied with having things that were working stop due to actions by Yahoo with no notice.

Chapter Directors (Earp, Tveekrem): See new business.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): See new business.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity (Witt): No report.

Past President (Heffernan): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): Sherry reported that she had brought an additional \$99.25 from the proceeds of what she has sold since the sale. She still has 5 bags of Sunflower Chips and 1 Safflower that she will bring to upcoming club meetings until these are sold.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last Chapter Board meeting.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): See new business.

Old Business

YMOS Backpack Essay Contest Status – Tom reported that he had not yet received any essays. We will send an email to the club membership after Thanksgiving to remind membership of contest. Kate reported that The Howard Sun and Howard County Times had picked up on her news release about the contest. Jeff Culler is going to post the flyer on the Centennial Park bulletin board. June reported that she had emailed the Fulton Elementary Environmental Club about contest, and had heard back that club wasn't meeting presently. It was suggested that Mike Kerwin might have a way to reach the 6th grade kids that he takes to environmental camp each year (at least have him know about contest next year so he can promote it when is at camp). Sherry reported she brought several books for use in the backpacks (ours or State-wide) per Kate's request.

Reminding Members to Renew – June reported that she is done with calling her list and Wes reported he was 2/3 through his list. Bob reported that he drops from future contact, anyone who the callers report had their phones disconnected. All agreed the process of renewal follow-up still seems to be very effective in triggering renewals.

One Meeting a Year at Glenwood – Kate reported she talked to Sue Mueller and determined that we would not be charged if we chose to hold a meeting at Glenwood Community Center voluntarily on occasion. We would still likely be required to have an early start, although it appears perhaps only a half hour early would still work (based on last meeting there). We agreed that this was a good idea as it attracts members from western part of county that don't always come to Rec and Parks location. Probably best to hold when meeting start is before dark, so likely dates are April or May next year. Jo reminded the Board that the Robinson Nature Center is under construction and is due to be finished in the Fall of 2010. The club has been told that we will be able to meet there regularly after it opens.

New Business

Topic for December Club Meeting – Global Warming – Prior to the meeting Tom had sent out an email with a variety of web links to sites presenting the case that Global Warming as a man-made effect is not supported by the science. He stated that he personally doesn't believe it is real and in fact is a hoax/conspiracy designed to promote a political world government. He went on to state that he thinks it is wrong for the club to have presentations that promote/support political agendas. Specifically, he thinks we should not proceed with Sue Mueller's December presentation on her trip to Churchill with a focus on her observations of what she sees as evidence of global warming. He stated that if the presentation is to be given he will need to resign as club President, as he perceives doing so is a club endorsement of a position his personal beliefs oppose. Kurt and others presented the case that the evidence of global warming is accepted by a large portion of the scientific community including the National Academy of Sciences. June acknowledged that in her opinion climate change being observed is likely a mix of both human and natural cycles. Others pointed out that having the program did not constitute a club endorsement as to the validity of global warming. Several had already seen Sue's presentation in other venues and stated that it was largely Sue's observations and did not formally solicit support of any position. Some expressed the belief that club presentations should be informational on the natural world, not just on birds, and that just because the speaker takes a position, hosting the talk did not constitute an endorsement. Tom was offered the opportunity to prepare a talk presenting his position at a future meeting if he so chose. When the Board concluded that we would proceed with Sue's program, Tom announced that he will submit his resignation in the near future.

What can we do to get new members? – The Board decided to table this discussion for a future meeting.

Sue Probst request to be relieved as Potluck coordinator – Ward had reported in his email that Sue had asked to be relieved from this responsibility as she has too many other commitments. It was agreed we would try and identify a volunteer, but would ask Sue to work with the new coordinator this year. We agreed we need to select a date and make a reservation with the Owen Brown Community Center soon. To get the best rate the person making the reservation needs to be a Columbia resident. June volunteered to contact the Community Center and inquire about the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in March. She will do this but won't be able to be the Potluck coordinator. In Ward's email he had suggested one place to start searching for a volunteer was with those who indicated willingness to help with potluck on the membership survey (spreadsheet summary). Ward was assigned an action to follow-up in searching for a new Coordinator.

Liability for Club Equipment Theft or Damage – June had sent an email asking the Board to address what her liability was in keeping the equipment in her home, as it is unclear whether her home owner's insurance would cover its theft or damage. After a brief discussion we decided that the sense of the Board was that we would go on record as self-insuring the club's equipment. June would not be held responsible; in the unlikely event of theft or damage we would simply replace the equipment from our own funds.

Green Fest Participation – Kate reported that she has received the information packet on next year's Green Fest and we need to decide on our participation tonight as applications are due January 8, before our next meeting. The date is April 17 from 10 AM to 4 PM at Howard Community College. A table will cost us \$25. We decided to participate. Kate agreed to submit the application and coordinate volunteers to man the display. Speaking of the display, Sherry gave us a start when she announced that they have a new puppy and he was chewing everything including the desk in her office where she was storing the club display board. After we all held our breath, she announced she had the board with her tonight and wanted to give it to someone before the puppy did start to chew on it. Kate agreed to take the display board home.

Yellowthroat Late Delivery – Emy announced that the latest Yellowthroat had been delivered to the post office in October but many had not yet received their copy. All of those present stated they had not received their copy as yet. *Sec. Note – Cause still not known and they have not been delivered, but it can be downloaded from the MOS website.*

WSSC Native Plant Planting – Jo announced that Kimberly Knox the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission public relations spokesman had notified her that WSSC was looking for volunteers for a planting at Scott's Cove (Duckett Reservoir) to be held December 12.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Obtain & make arrangements to present certificate of appreciation to Jan Randle (years as May Count host)– June **IN PROCESS – June has contacted John Malcolm and he is to get back to her.**
- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Mike McClure
- Explore options for occasional use of Glenwood Community Center for club meetings with Sue Muller – Kate **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Mike McClure
- Contact Owen Brown Community Center to make a reservation for Potluck. – June Tveekrem
- Solicit volunteers for the position of Potluck Coordinator – Ward Ebert
- Submit application for Green Fest participation and coordinate manning table – Kate Tufts

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2009	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 22, 2009	-	Sherry Tomlinson	
November 19, 2009	-	Wes Earp	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 2010	-	Karen Darcy	
February 25, 2010	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2010	-	June Tveekrem	
April 22, 2010	-	Ward Ebert	
May 27, 2010	-	Amanda Witt	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 19, 2009
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report – 5/1/09 – 11/15/09

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Nov 19, 2009

1. Introductions
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. Presidents remarks *Tom*
5. Vice Presidents Remarks *Ward*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack essay contest – Status
 - Reminding Members to renew – Bob, Wes, and June
 - One Meeting a year at Glenwood - Kate
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Topic for December Club Meeting - Global Warming.
 - What can we do to get new members?
10. Around the room.
11. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Meeting Location:
Wes Earp
6480 South Trotter Road
Clarksville, Md. 21029
Phone: 410-531-3197

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/09-11/15/09

	Budget 2009-10	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		1,195.00	4,930.00
State Dues Paid		-	-
Net Membership Dues	2,400.00	1,195.00	4,930.00
Contributions		70.00	270.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,400.00	1,265.00	5,200.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		48.08
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	225.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	125.00		143.40
Postage, copies	50.00		52.45
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			12.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	165.48	387.48
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	215.48	868.41
Seed Sale			
Income			1,898.50
Expense			
Seed			1,774.77
Flyers, postage			83.32
Net Seed Sale		50.00	40.41
Contributions to Habitat Conservation		50.00	315.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,915.24
Interest Received			8.00
Balance			9,923.24
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			6,164.75
Savings			16,182.33
Petty Cash			43.28
<i>Total</i>			22,390.36

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 28, 2010

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Vacant
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan √
Chap. Directors: Wes Earp (1st yr) √
June Tveekrem (2nd yr) (& AV)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Darcy. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 10, 2009 was 47 people. Sue Mueller of Howard Recreation and Parks gave a program entitled "Where's the Ice?" featuring her observations during a trip to Churchill, Manitoba. Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 14, 2010 was 63 people. Ralph Geuder gave a program entitled "Costa Rica, Coast to Coast." At the meeting Ward Ebert presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jan Randle recognizing her service to the club in having hosted the annual May Count tally rally for 23 years.

Following the prior Board meeting, Tom Miller submitted his resignation as President of the Club for personal reasons (attachment). Ward Ebert as Vice President assumed the Presidency effective with Tom's resignation.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the Treasurer's Report (attached) by email prior to the meeting. She made note that she had received several membership renewals (most due to the reminder phone calls made by the Chapter Directors). The Pot Luck expense of \$75 is the reservation fee for the Owen Brown Community Center, it will be refunded once we pay the facility rental fee. The Miscellaneous fee of \$25 is the fee for having a club table at the upcoming Greenfest. Final net proceeds from the seed sale is \$100.28. Emy had received the check for \$1000 that Anne Marie had offered as having accumulated above the book store's cash flow needs. We had previously indicated our intent to use this to supplement this year's donation for habitat. Thus combining the seed sale proceed with the bookstore funds and donations of \$315 designated for habitat conservation we have approximately \$1415 for this year's donations.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward began by stating that as he assumes the club presidency he is open to suggestions for alternative ways to do things. For example he asked if the content and agenda for the Board meetings should be changed. No immediate suggestions were offered but he is open to our suggestions. He also reminded the Board that his experience with the Board and club history is relatively limited and he will welcome hearing background and rationale for why the club operates the way it does, as that frequently isn't captured in documents such as the constitution and by-laws or leadership checklists and spreadsheets. The Board expressed our support and willingness to assist him as he assumes the club leadership.

Vice-President's Remarks (Vacant): Position vacant.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Joe remarked that he has lined up field trips from now through the spring. He had shared most of the list at the most recent club meeting. He did make mention of one trip that will concentrate on all aspects of nature, not just birds. This is being characterized as a "Bio-blitz" to be held on April 25. Bonnie will be leading the annual "Big Day" in May and Kevin Heffernan told Joe he would be willing to lead a second trip on that day that would be a less "rigorous" version of a "big day".

Conservation (Schwarz): See new business for discussion of habitat conservation contribution discussions.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda announced that she is on schedule to finish up the latest edition of the newsletter in next week (or before). The due date for material for the last issue of this club year is March 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that Jo and he are in the process of completing the "annual" update to the web version of "Birding Howard County." For example the seasonal reports and park lists are updated. The ability to keep the content current was one of the original goal in choosing to "publish" the guide on the web. Bob reported that he had received a query from the Anne Arundel Chapter with the sincerest form of flattery. They continue to be amazed at the quality of our website and have asked to "copy" the format of our site guides for use on their website for locations in Anne Arundel County.

Chapter Directors (Earp, Tveekrem): No report.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity (Witt): No report.

Past President (Heffernan): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Due to bad weather on the date of latest State Board meeting, Ward was the only representative from our Directors who attended. He briefly summarized some of the meeting highlights. There was a report on an initiative in Toronto where they have passed legislation mandating that new buildings be "bird friendly." The MOS website is being maintained by a "temporary" webmaster, John Christie. A new Speakers list is available and a series of pre-packaged presentations is on-line. It was announced that contrary to prior reports the birding camps at Hog Island have been re-invigorated and will be available as an option for Scholarship recipients during the coming year (Ward made sure Tom Strikwerda heard this news). The next Board meeting will be held at the Adkins Arboretum in Caroline County on March 6.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Nominating Committee Appointment, Ideas for Vice-President and Chapter Director nominations-

Ward led off with discussion of needing to appoint a nominating committee, find a volunteer for Vice-President replacement and Chapter Director. The discussion highlighted the criticality of finding a Vice-Presidential candidate. Several Board members had approached several people to solicit interest, and as expected no one had immediately stepped forward. It was the general consensus that it would be far better to find a nominee from the current Board rather than simply appoint a nominating committee and defer the issue. Past Presidents expressed that when first approached they all had felt unprepared or inadequate, but with the large cadre of volunteers and resources the club has, this proved to be an unwarranted concern. After further discussion,

encouragement, and consideration on his part, Wes Earp agreed to volunteer to be nominated for Vice President. This with was greeted with grateful appreciation and expressions of support from the Board.

Then Ward proceeded to appoint a nominating committee of Kurt Schwarz, Kate Tufts, and Kevin Heffernan. They will need to put together a complete slate, it is anticipated that with the issue of Vice President addressed the primary task will be to nominate someone for the open Chapter Director positions (one for the remainder of Wes's term as Chapter Director - 1 year, and a second nominee for the normal 2 year term). Karen Darcy agreed to contact Mary-Jo Betts to confirm she still wants to serve as a State Director. A number of names were put forward as prospective Chapter Director candidates that the Nominating Committee could consider. June Tveekrem (not present) had already approached Jim Lubitz and it was stated that he had already expressed willingness to serve. Other names suggested included Kathy Lillie, Scott Berglund, Tom Field, Michael O'Sullivan, and Jeff Culler.

YMOS Backpack Essay Contest Status –

Kate reported that we have only received one essay (from a 9 year old). This despite the significant amount of press coverage the contest has received in the local papers thanks to Kate's press releases. It was briefly discussed that the essay contest didn't seem to be working as a way to stimulate interest and award the backpacks. It was generally agreed that, assuming the backpacks are still available next year, we will want discuss alternative approaches for using the backpacks in a future meeting.

Potluck Status –

Ward reported that a volunteer to replace Sue Probst had not been found, but Sue has agreed to handle arrangements this year. There is some chance she won't be able to attend on March 20, and if that should happen, Ward has told her he will be able to cover for her. Sue has agreed to put together a checklist for coordinating the potluck. It was suggested that Kathy Lillie has shown her willingness to help and this might be something she would like to do. Kate agreed to approach Kathy about this opportunity.

Membership Statistics Report –

Bob had put together his annual report on membership statistics for the 2009-2010 year with historical comparisons. The report is attached. The obvious message is that the trend for decreasing membership observed over the past few years is continuing. It was observed and confirmed by Emy that the state-wide MOS membership has declined even more dramatically than our membership. The primary form that this has taken for MOS is a large number of renewals changing from Household memberships to Single members. In addition Bob handed out an updated copy of the summary of Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat. The total contribution stands at \$63,349 through 2009.

New Business

Decision – donation of funds (from seed sale and bookstore) –

The combined amount from seed sale proceeds, bookstore (1-time transfer), and donations for habitat conservation available this year is \$1415. Kurt led the discussion. He reminded us that we try to alternate between local and world-wide projects in alternate years, and this year we would be due to find a local project to support. He had solicited ideas from a variety of sources including Howard Recreation and Parks and the American Bird Conservancy. He submitted an email (attached) to some of the Board in advance of the meeting (and passed around a copy at the meeting). He recommended supporting a reply to a Middle Patuxent Environmental Area proposal, continuing our support of bird rehabilitators at All Creatures Great and Small, and choosing from one of three projects he selected from the ABC top 40 projects that have a semi-local connection. Further details were discussed.

Cheryl Farfaras, the Natural Resources Manager, MPEA had responded with a proposal for a Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal for MPEA as part of the ongoing Woodcock habitat restoration project (see details in attached proposal). Specifically they are asking us to provide \$420 to purchase a specialized wetland seed mix to cover about one-half acre of the Woodcock Spring Seep Area. This proposal had significant support of the Board.

Support for All Creatures Great and Small was widely supported and after discussion we decided to support them at the same level as last year, namely \$200.

We then discussed the merits of the three ABC projects (Reforest abandoned mine lands in the heart of Cerulean Warbler breeding territory (including Virginia and Pennsylvania), Protect breeding habitat for Golden-

winged Warbler in Pennsylvania, and the support of “Lights out” campaigns in major cities (including Baltimore). The favored project seemed to be the reforestation of abandoned mine lands for Cerulean Warbler breeding territory.

It was moved and seconded that we give \$420 for the MPEA woodcock project, give \$200 to All Creatures Great and Small, and give \$800 to ABC designated for the Cerulean Warbler project. The motion passed.

We also agreed that we need to schedule a discussion of future fund raising ideas at a future meeting, as the seed sale has declined as a primary source of habitat funding.

Further New Business Topics (Around the Room) –

Bob Solem then reminded the Board that the club By-laws specify that when an office is vacated the Board may elect someone to fill the remainder of the term. It was moved and seconded that Wes Earp be elected Vice-President to fill the remainder of Ward Ebert’s term as Vice President. The motion passed unanimously.

Ward brought up the request the webmaster had received for a volunteer to give a program to a class of 1st Graders at Ilchester Elementary School. No one had responded to Bob’s email. Ward was reminded that most such requests will get forwarded to him to seek a volunteer. He also was reminded that Tom Miller and June Tveekrem had expressed interest in supporting such requests and that Ward might forward them a second reminder. *Sec. Note – Subsequent to the meeting June volunteered to follow-up on this request with the teacher.*

Chuck asked for a volunteer to prepare Minutes for the February Board meeting as he will be birding along the Texas Coast and Lower Rio Grande with Dave Harvey that week. Bob Solem volunteered to take minutes in Chuck’s absence.

Bob asked for permission to borrow a small percentage of the club’s unused web storage space for development of a new “Fungi” site. A number of participants in this effort need to exchange large files that would exceed email capacity limits and having a web site to share files will expedite the development. The request was approved.

Joe Hanfman reported on his effort to get a significant portion of the club’s bookstore inventory autographed at an event he attended at Cape May. Joe had the idea to “borrow” Anne Marie’s bookstore inventory of key authors he would have an opportunity to approach for signatures at the event. He was very successful in this event. He related the willingness of David Sibley to sign a “box” of his books at the end of one of his book signings as one example. The Board agreed to discuss possible ways to use these “autographed” copies as a fund raising opportunity in a future Board meeting.

Jo Solem reported that January had been busy with fall highlights for American Birds, Goldfinch articles, etc. She recently met with Sue Muller who is the county coordinator for a state-wide “Herp” atlas project that is just getting started. Sue has been seeking Jo’s expertise on atlasing to help her with this new role. Sue has asked if the club will sponsor a new section on our web site for the Herp atlas paralleling what was done for the bird atlas project. Bob indicated there is plenty of space available on our site to do this. Jo also reported that Wes Earp had located the first atlas sighting when he found a Two-line Salamander on Jan. 29.

Lastly Wes reported that any pheasant sighting in the vicinity of Dayton will likely relate to an inadvertent release of caged birds a few weeks ago.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Mike McClure
- Contact Owen Brown Community Center to make a reservation for Potluck. – June Tveekrem - **DONE**
- Solicit volunteers for the position of Potluck Coordinator – Ward Ebert – **DONE (need to seek someone for next year)**
- Submit application for Green Fest participation and coordinate manning table – Kate Tufts -**DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.
 - Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Mike McClure
- Confirm that Mary-Jo wants to continue as a State Director and inform the nominating committee – Karen
- Notify Cheryl Farfaras that the club will support her proposal requesting funding of seed for the Woodcock restoration. Notify Emy so she can mail check. – Kurt/Emy
- Prepare and provide a letter to ABC announcing our support of the Cerulean Warbler project and deliver it to Emy for mailing check. – Kurt/Emy
- Send check to All Creatures Great and Small – Emy
- Prepare minutes for next Board meeting in Chuck’s absence – Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2009	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 22, 2009	-	Sherry Tomlinson	
November 19, 2009	-	Wes Earp	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 2010	-	Karen Darcy	
February 25, 2010	-	Jo Solem	
March 25, 2010	-	June Tveekrem	
April 22, 2010	-	Ward Ebert	
May 27, 2010	-	Amanda Witt	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – January 28, 2010
- Resignation Letter – Tom Miller, November 24, 2009
- Howard County Treasurer’s Report – January 25, 2010
- Certificate of Appreciation for Jan Randle (not attached)
- HCBC Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal for MPEA – January 2010
- Email – Other Ideas for Seed Sale Money – Kurt Schwarz, January 27, 2010
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) – January 27, 2010
- Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat – January 27, 2010

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

JANUARY 28, 2010

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. President's remarks *Ward*
5. Vice President's Remarks *Ward*
 - About 63 attendees at the January meeting
 - December State Board Meeting
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Nominating committee appointment; ideas for VP, director (this is June's 2nd year)
 - YMOS Backpack essay contest – Status - Kate
 - Potluck status – Ward
 - Succession for Potluck coordinator – need plan of action
 - Membership stats for 2009-2010? – Bob?
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Decision – donation of funds (from seed sale and bookstore)
 - i. How much
 - ii. To whom
10. Around the room.
11. Review of old / new Action Items *Chuck*

Meeting Location:

Karen Darcy
9775 Diversified La
Ellicott City, Md. 21042
Phone: 410-418-8731

Submitted by email – November 24, 2009

To: The Board of director of the Howard County Bird Club.

I am submitting my resignation as president of the Howard County Bird Club due to the follow reason.

The club has decided hold a presentation at a club sponsor meeting on “Global Warming”. The topic for a bird club meeting should be birds, and not a controversial topic that is being used as a political agenda for Global control.

Man has very little control over climate change, as data show that the sun is in control of cyclic temperatures. The actual global temperature data show that we have been cooling since 1998; this is the past eleven years.

If the money that is spend on the so-call “Global Warming” was used for habitat preservation, and pollution control, then the birds (and us) would be many times better off.

I did consider the suggestion that I put on a presentation to counter the “Global Warming” view, but then remember that this platform is a bird club, and the topics is birds, it is not a platform to have debate on the viability of the politically push “Global Warming” agenda.

Therefore with my belief that the club is now helping with a global politically agenda which is using the world economic crisis, and “Global Warming crisis” to push this world toward a one world government, I can no longer be in the leadership of the club.

I will help to provide a smooth transition over to Ward Ebert.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Miller

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/09-01/25/10

	Budget 2009-10	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		530.00	5,460.00
State Dues Paid		3,000.00	3,000.00
Net Membership Dues	2,400.00		2,460.00
Contributions			270.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,400.00		2,730.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		48.08
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		225.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	125.00		143.40
Postage, copies	50.00		52.45
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			12.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00	75.00	75.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	161.13	548.61
Miscellaneous		25.00	25.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00		1,129.54
Seed Sale			
Income			2,075.85
Expense			
Seed			1,774.77
Flyers, postage			83.32
Sales Tax			117.48
Net Seed Sale			100.28
Contributions to Habitat Conservation			
Contribution from Bookstore			315.00
			1,000.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,915.24
Interest Received		0.06	8.06
Balance			9,923.30
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,768.49
Savings			16,182.39
Petty Cash			43.28
<i>Total</i>			20,994.16

From: Kurt Schwarz [mailto:krschwa1@verizon.net]

Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 4:29 PM

To: Tom Miller; Emy Holdridge; Tufts, Kate & Dick ; Suzanne Probst; Bob & Jo Solem; Kevin Heffernan; Ralph and Jane Geuder; Jeffrey A. Friedhoffer; Karen Darcy; Mary-Jo Betts; Ward Ebert

Cc: Kurt Schwarz

Subject: Other Ideas for Seed Sale Money

Below some ideas for the balance of the roughly \$1,000 we have to spend. We're overdue for some "local" spending. With that in mind, as I think I have previously suggested, I move we support MPEA's woodcock habitat enhancement project to the tune of \$420, \$100 for All Creatures, leaving a balance (check my math here, it's always suspect) of \$480. The American Bird Conservancy has listed on their website their 40 top projects for the Americas. The below three initiatives have some relatively local character, as items 12 and 17 are for neighboring states, and benefit species in decline here in MD as elsewhere. Item 31 is supporting Lights Out, which the Baltimore chapter participates in, and I also from my "remote" post in Anne Arundel county for the past two years (99 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have struck my workplace since 1991, and all but one or two died). This effort makes the night sky more hospitable to migrating birds.

I have it from one of ABC's vice presidents that we can donate to individual projects, not just to the entire 40 top projects. The relevant verbiage from the website:

ABC's Top 40 Conservation Projects in the Americas Take a look at the [Top 40 bird conservation projects in the Americas](#). From protecting habitats to planting trees to addressing policy threats and advancing the science behind bird conservation, you can learn about what ABC is doing to save birds and their habitats and support these keystone projects.

12. Reforest abandoned minelands in the heart of Cerulean Warbler breeding territory in Kentucky, Virginia, and Pennsylvania as part of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.

17. Protect important breeding habitat for the Golden-winged warbler in Pennsylvania by working with public landowners on habitat management for this declining species.

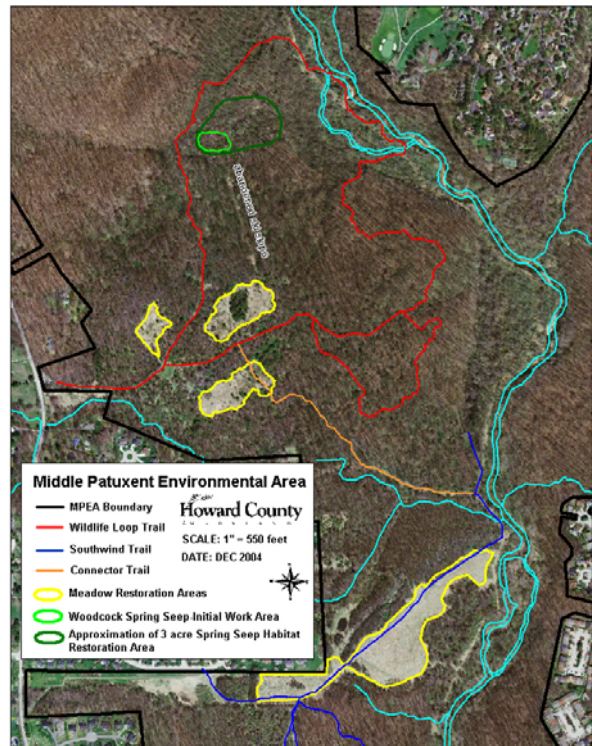
31. Reduce bird collisions caused by glass and lighting by initiating or supporting "Lights Out" campaigns in major cities and through the promotion of window films designed to prevent bird collisions.

See <http://www.abcbirds.org/> and http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/top_40.html

Howard County Bird Club
Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal
For Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
January 2010

Natural Resources Managers at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area are seeking funding for habitat management to restore diurnal feeding covers in the Woodcock Spring Seep area. Diurnal feeding covers are an essential component of the habitat mosaic needed to attract and sustain a breeding population of American woodcock. The spring seep area near the foot of the abandoned ski slope (see map) had historically provided high quality woodcock feeding cover. At one time, the moist, rich soils of the seep area supported a dense stand of alders (*Alnus serrulata*) and young, second growth hardwoods. This plant community had the high stem density, overhead protection, and suppressed ground cover to provide the proper habitat structure for ideal cover and easy access to abundant earthworms required by woodcock.

Management actions to date have included re-opening the canopy in a one-half acre initial work area, invasive species control, and planting of 40 alders plus some other desirable species. Then work was completed to expand the restoration area to two acres, progressing in steps, so that we are able to keep up with invasive species control. The Howard County Bird Club funded the planting of 50 native shrubs in this newly restored area in 2007. Finally, this spring the work will continue to expand the area to a total of three acres to approximate the woodcock feeding cover present in the late 1960's to early 1970's. It is in this area that we are requesting funding for a native wetland seed mix to be planted this spring. This will help to restore areas that were cleared of multiflora rose by our Weed Warrior volunteers. The specialized wetland seed mix, containing species like fox sedge, Eastern bur reed, soft rush, sensitive fern, shallow sedge, arrowhead, wool grass, and many more species, will help to stabilize this area, and compete with invasives like stiltgrass that thrive on disturbance. We are requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider funding this project in the amount of \$420.00, which would purchase seed (at \$52/lb, seeding rate of 15lbs/acre) to cover about one-half acre of the Woodcock Spring Seep Area.



Thank you for your consideration of this proposal,

Cheryl Farfaras

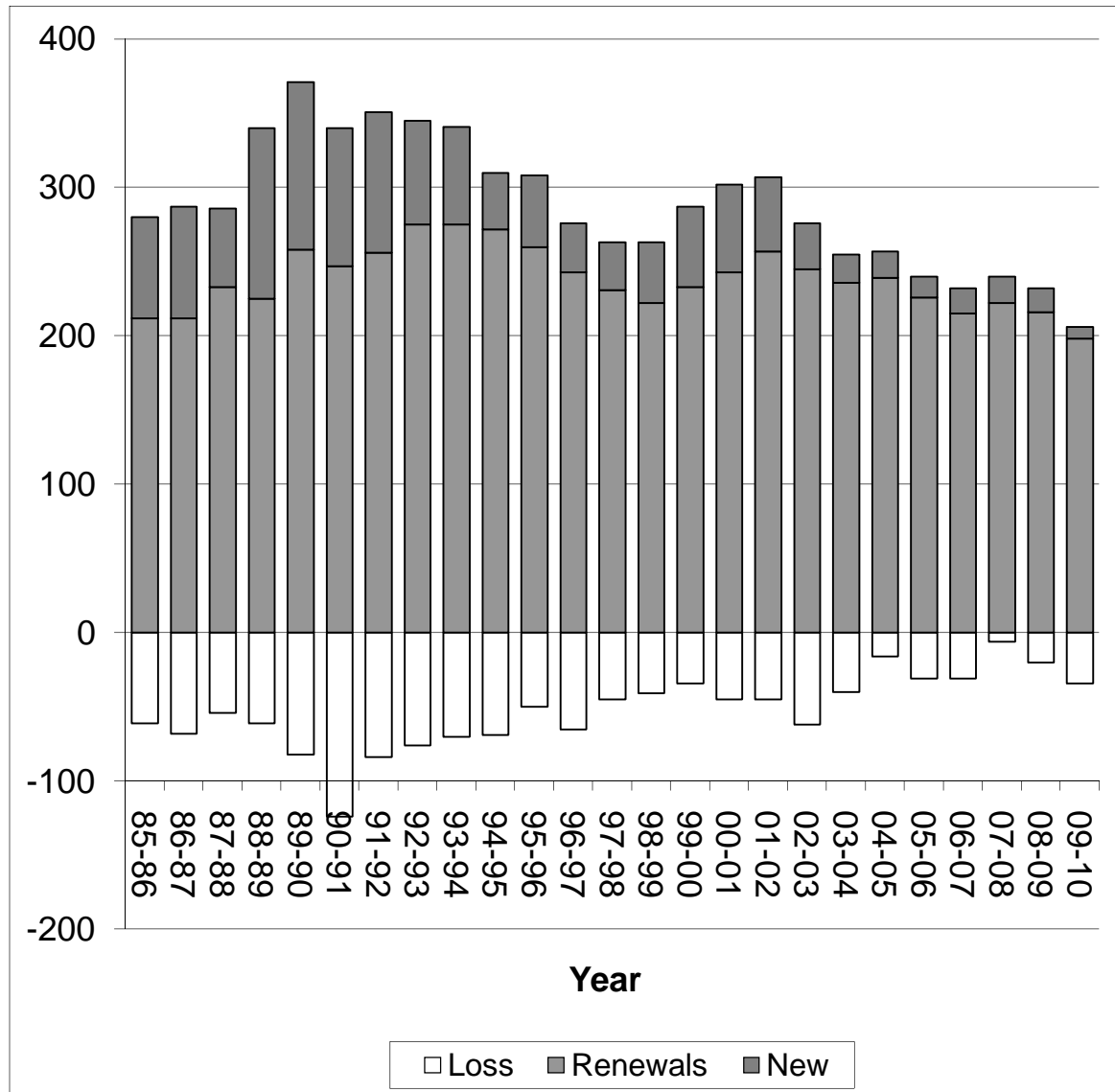
Natural Resources Manager, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, MD 21046
410-313-4726
cfarfaras@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)

Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total	% renew
85-86	61	68	212	280	76%
86-87	68	75	212	287	74%
87-88	54	53	233	286	81%
88-89	61	115	225	340	66%
89-90	82	113	258	371	70%
90-91	124	93	247	340	73%
91-92	84	95	256	351	73%
92-93	76	70	275	345	80%
93-94	70	66	275	341	81%
94-95	69	38	272	310	88%
95-96	50	48	260	308	84%
96-97	65	33	243	276	88%
97-98	45	32	231	263	88%
98-99	41	41	222	267	83%
99-00	34	54	233	288	81%
00-01	45	59	243	302	80%
01-02	45	50	257	307	84%
02-03	62	31	245	276	89%
03-04	40	19	236	255	93%
04-05	16	18	239	257	93%
05-06	31	14	226	246	92%
06-07	31	17	215	228	94%
07-08	6	18	222	236	94%
08-09	20	16	216	232	93%
09-10	34	8	198	206	96%

Year	Couple	Indiv	Other	Total
87-88	150	91	45	286
88-89	178	102	60	340
89-90	186	128	57	371

Year	Househol	Indiv	Other	Total	Junior
90-91	188	146	6	340	27
91-92	196	150	5	351	31
92-93	197	142	6	345	35
93-94	198	137	6	341	37
94-95	170	132	7	310	32
95-96	183	120	5	308	35
96-97	181	89	6	276	40
97-98	153	103	7	263	30
98-99	161	99	7	267	27
99-00	175	107	6	288	30
00-01	179	115	8	302	26
01-02	191	107	9	307	25
02-03	167	108	1	276	25
03-04	145	109	1	255	18
04-05	143	112	2	257	22
05-06	141	105	9	246	14
06-07	134	100	10	244	11
07-08	134	103	12	249	13
08-09	138	89	18	249	14
09-10	126	77	17	220	14



Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat

02/01/10

Nassawango Creek	\$3,650	HCBC 10th Anniversary campaign/ Club funds & individual donations	Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area	\$1,500	
Bird Rehabilitation	\$785		Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000	
Committee to Preserve Assateague	\$1,000			\$42,771	[Oct 1999 seed sale blank]
Nature Conservancy	\$2,300		American Bird Conservancy "Rivers of Rapi	\$1,500	Oct 1999 Board meeting
MOS Sanctuary (Irish Grove)	\$335			\$44,271	
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project *	\$2,592	(including individual donations of \$857)	All Creatures Great & Small	\$100	[Feb 2000 Board meeting]
International Nature Conservancy	\$300		Display cabinets HoCo Rec&Parks	\$1,309	" " "
Peregrine Fund *	\$250	(was doubled by matching grant)	Mt. Pleasant - Butterfly Garden	\$614	[April 2000 Board meeting]
Misc. bird projects	\$511	Hawk Mt., Cape May obs., feeder for historic Waverly Mansion, etc.	Old Growth Forest project at Frostburg	\$1,250	" " "
	\$11,723			\$47,544	[Oct 2000 seed sale blank]
*Matching grants used to increase amount donated [Contributions through 1988]					
Nature Conservancy (2/89 seed sale)	\$2,500	(including individual donations of \$880)	MPEA Clegg Prairie	\$1,100	[Feb 2001 Board meeting]
Nature Conservancy (12/89)	\$2,500	Most from 10/89 Seed Sale	All Creatures Great & Small	\$100	[Feb 2001 Board meeting]
	\$16,723	[reported on Feb 1990 seed sale blank]		\$48,744	[Oct 2001 seed sale blank]
TNC Appalachian Campaign	\$1,000	2/90 seed sale including \$419.50 individual donations [May-June 1990 newsletter]	El Chorogo Refuge, Panama (ABC)	\$2,200	[March 2002 Board meeting]
				\$50,944	[Oct 2002 seed sale blank]
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project	\$2,698	Challenge grant to MOS (includes individual donations of \$198)	Nature Conservancy MD/DC Chapter	1500	[Feb 2003 Board meeting]
	\$20,421	[Sept-Oct 1990 newsletter]		\$52,444	
Bulletin Board for Cent Park	\$300	Bird Club bought & had dedicated	Sierra de Bahoruco NP in Dom Rep	2000	[Feb 2004 Board meeting]
Monteverde Cloud Forest	\$3,600	(w/ \$328 individual donations)	All Creatures Great & Small	100	[March 2005 Board meeting]
	\$24,321	[Oct 1991 seed sale blank]	MPEA stream buffer planting	750	
			MPEA Purple Martin gourds	450	
Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala	\$5,000	(w/ \$440 individual donations)		\$55,844	
	\$29,321	[Jan 1992 seed sale blank]	All Creatures Great & Small	100	[February 2006 Board meeting]
Maryland Parks Foundation	\$1,000	Sept 1992 Board meeting	Baltimore Checkerspot	100	
	\$30,321	[Nov-Dec 1992 newsletter]	Fundacion ProAves (Cerulean Warbler)	2000	
Bladen Mts Nature Reserve, Belize	\$2,500	[Sep-Oct 1993 newsletter]		\$58,044	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve (Atlantic coast of Guatemala)	\$2,500	[Jan-Feb 1994 newsletter]	MOS: Ecuador Rainforest	645	[Feb/March 2007 Board meeting]
	\$35,321		MPEA woodcock area	410	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000	Nov 1995 Board meeting	All Creatures Great & Small	200	
	\$36,321	[Jan 1996 seed sale blank]	Baltimore Checkerspot	60	
			Mt Pleasant - bird feeding station	240	
				\$59,599	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000		DelMarVa Ornithological Society	1300	
Nature Conservancy - MD	\$750		Baltimore Checkerspot	300	
Dee Thompson (rehabilitator)	\$200		All Creatures Great & Small	150	
	\$38,271			\$61,349	[Feb 2008 Board meeting]
Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area	\$2,000		ABC's "Thick-billed Parrot Conservation Project	1800	[May 2009 Board meeting]
	\$40,271	[Oct 1997 seed sale blank]	All Creatures Great & Small	200	
				\$63,349	

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 25, 2010

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2007-2008 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan √
Chap. Directors: Vacant (1st yr)
June Tveekrem (2nd yr) (& *AV*) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Ward Ebert. Total number in attendance was 10. The regular club meeting for February 11, 2010 was **cancelled because of the weather**.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Solem): Minutes accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the Treasurer's Report (attached) by email prior to the meeting. Emy sent a check for \$200 to *All Creatures Great and Small* and a check for \$420 to *MPEA* for the woodcock project. (Kurt will get an address for her so she can send the check for \$800 to *ABC* for the Cerulean Warbler project.) Emy said she will not be running for re-election as MOS Treasurer but will continue as HCBC Treasurer.

President's Remarks (Ebert): None

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): None

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): None. (field trips have been planned through the spring season.)

Conservation (Schwarz): Several letters have gone out expressing the stand of MOS and HCBC.

Newsletter (Witt): None (next newsletter deadline is March 25).

Webmaster (R. Solem): None

Chapter Directors (Vacant, Tveekrem): None

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): None. (Kathie Lillie will be assisting this year and will take over next year. The Owen Brown Community Center has been reserved for Saturday, March 20.)

Programs (Geuder): None

Publicity (Witt): None

Past President (Heffernan): None.

Records (J. Solem): None.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): None.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): None.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): None.

Old Business

Nominating Committee (Kate Tufts, Kevin Heffernan, Kurt Schwarz) Report: Kate reported that Wes Earp is the nominee for Vice President and Jim Lubitz the nominee for a 2-year term for Chapter Director. The Board provided several names to be considered for the second Chapter Director. *[Subsequent to the meeting, Kate emailed the Board that Jeff Culler had agreed to be nominee for a 1-year term for Chapter Director.]* State Directors and the other officers have agreed to be nominated for another term.

YMOS Backpack essay contest: Kate reported there was one entry. Ethan Herder will be asked to attend the March 11 meeting and read his winning essay. Ward will notify the winner that he will receive a one year subscription to *The Goldfinch*; Kate will seek the parents' permission to post the winning essay on the web with a photo of the winner. *[Subsequent to the meeting, Kate obtained permission from Ethan's parents to post his essay on our website.]* Since there has been only minimal interest on the part of youth in writing an essay (in spite of excellent publicity for the contest, thanks to Kate's efforts), the Board discussed what other options could be used to determine a winner for Howard County for next year's Backpack contest. There was agreement that an art contest (with no limits on media) was another alternative that should be used for 2011. In addition, Kate will contact Rec & Parks (Michele Wright) about publicizing the contest through the Rec & Parks nature camp directors, and Emy will try to find a contact for the CA nature camp directors, so the contest can be publicized through these venues. Longer range, Ward will talk to Sue Muller about establishment of a Bird Club for Youth at the Robinson Nature Center when it opens.

New Business

Funding for habitat preservation: Kevin will follow up on his earlier conversation with the owner of the "Wildlife Authority" so that the owner can submit a proposal for hosting the HCBC's annual seed sale in October.

Autographed bird books: There were several alternatives discussed, and the one that garnered the most support was to retain the books until the Robinson Nature Center is open, then contribute the books to the volunteer book store (which is expected to be part of the Nature Center) for sale, with profits to be used for a purpose designated by the HCBC.

MOS proposal to match teacher-student pairs: Since this will require contact with a member who has contacts with science teachers, Ward will forward the necessary information to Mike Kerwin.

Chapter exchange of newsletters: Originally designed so that the president of each chapter would know what was happening in the other chapters, the program has stagnated. (Past HCBC presidents only receive newsletter from the Harford and Anne Arundel chapters, and HCBC only sends a newsletter to the Anne Arundel newsletter editor.) Karen Darcy at the next MOS Board meeting will ask the Harford and Anne Arundel chapters to send their newsletters to Amanda, our newsletter editor, instead.

Glenwood Community Center: At an earlier Board meeting there was discussion concerning holding one program meeting at Glenwood, but it was uncertain what action had been taken. Ward will check minutes of earlier Board meetings. *[Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined that Kate was to check with Sue Muller whether Glenwood could be used without charge for one meeting a year.]*

Maryland Herp (Amphibian & Reptile) Atlas: Sue Muller is the Howard County coordinator, and Jo Solem will help Sue in setting up the mechanics of an atlas here. (The Board authorized using the HCBC web site to support the atlas and to report progress, similar to what had been done for the MD/DC Breeding Bird Atlas.) Jo showed the Board a handout on herps likely to be found in Howard County; the handout has information on identifying herps, their habitat, etc. She also asked for photos of herps so that they could be posted on the web as an additional aid to identification (this request will be posted in the new herp section of the web).

Further New Business Topics (around the room):

Joe Hanfman and Joe Byrnes will be responsible for the Midwinter Count, starting in 2011. (Byrnes to arrange logistics and Hanfman to do analysis of results. 2010 was to have been a transition year, but the count was cancelled because of the weather.)

Woody Merkle has volunteered to help the person in Ellicott City who requested help in getting bluebird boxes and setting up a bluebird trail. (Woody already does this for the Howard County Conservancy.)

Aldo Leopold Weekend will be celebrated at MPEA on Saturday, March 6 with a reading from *A Sand County Almanac* (and to emphasize the importance of the woodcock area at MPEA). Jo Solem will be participating.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager. [**revisited**]
Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Wes Earp and Jo Solem will work with Mike McClure to update the procedures and help in providing this information to the manager.
- Confirm that Mary-Jo wants to continue as a State Director and inform the nominating committee – Karen [**completed**]
- Notify Cheryl Farfaras that the club will support her proposal requesting funding of seed for the Woodcock restoration. Notify Emy so she can mail check. – Kurt/Emy [**completed**]
- Prepare and provide a letter to ABC announcing our support of the Cerulean Warbler project and deliver it to Emy for mailing check. – Kurt/Emy [**pending**]
- Send check to All Creatures Great and Small – Emy [**completed**]
- Prepare minutes for next Board meeting in Chuck’s absence – Bob [**in progress**]

New/Continuing Action Items

- Art contest for MOS Youth Backpack award – Kate/Emy (see YMOS Backpack essay contest under Old Business).
- Teacher-student pairing (MOS proposal) – Ward forward info to Mike Kerwin.
- Meeting at Glenwood – Ward determine history of discussion/action.
- Annual seed sale – request proposal from owner of the “Wildlife Authority – Kevin Heffernan
- Newsletter exchange (see chapter exchange of newsletters under old business) – Karen Darcy
- Backpack winner – photo at March meeting, posting of information on HCBC web page, provide for winner receiving *The Goldfinch* – Bob Solem

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2009	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 22, 2009	-	Sherry Tomlinson	
November 19, 2009	-	Wes Earp	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 2010	-	Karen Darcy	
February 25, 2010	-	Ward Ebert	
March 25, 2010	-	June Tveekrem	
April 22, 2010	-	Jo Solem	
May 27, 2010	-	Amanda Witt	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – February 25, 2010
- Howard County Treasurer’s Report – February 21, 2010

Minutes prepared by Bob Solem in the absence of Chuck Stirrat:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

FEBRUARY 25, 2010

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *~~Chuck~~ Bob*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
5. Vice President’s Remarks
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Nominating committee report: Chapter Director nominee
 - YMOS Backpack essay contest – Status - Kate
 - Potluck status – Ward
 - Contributions for conservation/habitat status - Kurt
8. New Business/Discussions
9. Action Items *~~Chuck~~ Bob*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:
Ward Ebert
7366 Hallmark Rd
Clarksville, Md. 21029
Phone: 301-490-5807

**HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/09-02/21/10**

	Budget 2009-10	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues			5,460.00
State Dues Paid			3,000.00
Net Membership Dues	2,400.00		2,460.00
Contributions			270.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,400.00</u>		<u>2,730.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		48.08
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		225.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	125.00		143.40
Postage, copies	50.00		52.45
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			12.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00		75.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	34.40	583.01
Miscellaneous			25.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,400.00</u>		<u>1,163.94</u>
Seed Sale			
Income			2,075.85
Expense			
Seed			1,774.77
Flyers, postage			83.32
Sales Tax			117.48
Net Seed Sale			100.28
Contributions to Habitat Conservation			315.00
Contribution from Bookstore			1,000.00
Total Available			1,415.28
All Creatures Great & Small			(200.00)
MPEA			(420.00)
Balance Available			<u>795.28</u>
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,915.24
Interest Received		0.06	8.12
Balance			<u>9,923.36</u>
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>6,259.09</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,314.09
Savings			16,182.45
Petty Cash			43.28
<i>Total</i>			<u>20,539.82</u>

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 25, 2010

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*)
Past President: Kevin Heffernan
Chap. Directors: Vacant (1st yr)
June Tveekrem (2nd yr) (& AV) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of June Tveekrem. Total number in attendance was eight. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 11 was 50 people. Gail Makiernan gave a program entitled "Birding in the Land of the Thunder Dragon - Bhutan." At the regular meeting the slate of officers selected by the nominating committee was announced and no other nominations were made from the floor. The election will be held at the club regular April meeting.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes as prepared by Bob Solem and distributed by Chuck were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was ill and not able to attend. She had submitted the Treasurer's Report (attached) in advance of the meeting by email. Ward observed that we seemed to have a large ratio of savings to cash flow. It was observed that we have tried to keep a savings balance of multiple months of operating expense as well as having the dedicated funds such as the Mountjoy fund and funds originating from the original Birding Howard County book proceeds that are not intended for routine operating expenses. Another issue we need to address is that the State MOS has been informed by the IRS that individual chapters need to apply for and obtain a chapter specific non-profit ID number (TIN). A fall-out of this is that we will need to open a new bank account. Emy is working this issue but we will need to resolve within 5 months.

President's Remarks (Ebert): See Treasurer report.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): No report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he had the information on where Emy should send the check we had approved for Cerulean Habitat preservation. He also reported that he had received a report from ABC reporting on the successful Thick-billed Parrot Project results last year that we had supported. He has prepared a Goldfinch article describing this success.

Newsletter (Witt): The deadline for the next newsletter was reported to be 26 March.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that it had been a busy month. The link on our web site in support of the Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas 2010-2014 has been rolled out. Bob reported that plans call for the results reported for Howard County to be posted on the website immediately. Next he reported that the results of Richard Orr's research on bees in Howard County have also been posted on the club website.

Bob then raised a policy question regarding what the club should be doing in reporting/posting/promoting activities at Mt. Pleasant (Howard County Conservancy). It was the sense of the Board that we should not promote any of their activities that "conflict" with our club activities such as meetings or require a paid admission. Bob will generally provide a printout of Howard County Conservancy activities for display on a table at our meetings and list joint activities on the web site such as when we are providing leadership for bird walks at the Conservancy.

Last Bob wanted to highlight his philosophy on responding to emails for club postings on web or broadcasting emails to membership. The specific example he offered was the recent email from Jeff Culler asking if the club should be notified about the Howard County "free trees" program. Bob stated that there are a few cases where the club has already established a policy of active support that he will choose to act on his own. In other instances unless he hears an expression of the sense of the Board or direction from the President he will just let the topic/issue pass. Given this expressed philosophy it falls on the members of the Board and President to weigh in when such issues are raised to give Bob a sense of the Board opinion or specific direction.

Chapter Directors (Vacant, Tveekrem): June asked the Board to consider the purchase of a new next-generation projector. Our current projector has a limited resolution compared to today's standards and also doesn't match well with the aspect ratio of our newer laptop. After discussion it was the consensus of the Board that it was appropriate to explore such a purchase using funds from the Mountjoy Fund. There is also a strong potential that the state MOS will provide funds for half the cost of a new projector. June was assigned an action item to research and recommend a new projector with a cost estimate. She will provide her results to the Board via email as soon as she has them.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity (Witt): No report.

Past President (Heffernan): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Kate provided a report from the latest state Board meeting. Highlights included: Maureen Harvey has accepted nomination as next MOS Vice President. Clubs were asked to consider use of various rewards, including Valued Service Awards (pin). There will be as many as 13 scholarships awarded for attending the Audubon Camps in Maine this summer. MOS is actively working on a presentation (CD-format) to be available to Chapters for promoting MOS. The official MOS mailing address will remain Cylburn, but a new PO Box is being established for routine correspondence. The Board initiated a discussion of the pros/cons of offering a digital email only option for delivery of the Yellowthroat. Unlike our chapter newsletter the state mailing list is large enough that this will not impact the ability to use bulk rate mailing for those not choosing the digital option of delivery. We observed that this will be a significant effort on MOS in trying to maintain a current email address list. Lastly Kate reported that no activity has been reported on the planning for a Maryland Birding Trail.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Old Business

YMOS Backpack Art Contest –

Kate reported that she has been in touch with Stephanie Haas who coordinates the summer Nature Camps for Howard Recreation and Parks. She is willing to promote the art contest with camp attendees. Kate is proposing we

sponsor contest in two categories: Drawing/Painting and Sculpture. See the attached draft flyer content that Kate distributed for consideration. Kate requested and the Board agreed to the modest cost of printing flyers for use in promoting the contest (up to \$50). It was suggested that staff at Mt. Pleasant might be able to help with promoting the contest as well. It was the consensus of the Board we should pursue the art contest as our YMOS Backpack activity for coming year. Kate accepted an action item to draft a “brief announcement” for the next Goldfinch. Additional promotion will include web site announcements and other news releases as Kate has done for past year contest.

Seed Sale Option –

Kevin Heffernan was going to pursue with The Wildlife Authority, but as he was not present, this topic was tabled for a future meeting.

New Business

Greenfest Planning –

Kate reported that plans are in place for having a booth/table at the Howard County Greenfest on April 17. She would welcome additional volunteers to man tables but does have minimum support required. Sue Muller had observed that last year we had been soliciting donation of old optics and wanted to know if this request should be repeated. The Board concluded the answer was no as we didn't have a request from Paul Basich like we did last year and ideas for local use didn't make a lot of sense.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.-
Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Wes Earp and Jo Solem will work with Mike McClure to update the procedures and help in providing this information to the manager. **Wes reported that he had talked to the Farm Manager and although he was not pressing for resolution we probably should continue to pursue.**
- Prepare and provide a letter to ABC announcing our support of the Cerulean Warbler project and deliver it to Emy for mailing check. – Kurt/Emy **Kurt had information and will send it to Emy.**
- Art contest for MOS Youth Backpack award – Kate/Emy/Ward
 - Kate -contact Rec & Parks (Michele Wright) about publicizing the contest through the Rec & Parks nature camp directors **See Old Business**
 - Emy - find a contact for the CA nature camp directors, so the contest can be publicized through these venues ??
 - Ward - Longer range, talk to Sue Muller about establishment of a Bird Club for Youth at the Robinson Nature Center when it opens.. **Close for now**
- Teacher-student pairing (MOS proposal) – Ward forward info to Mike Kerwin.**DONE**
- Meeting at Glenwood – Ward determine history of discussion/action.**Table this action until Fall Board meeting**
- Annual seed sale – request formal proposal from owner of the “Wildlife Authority – Kevin Heffernan **Expect formal proposal next Board meeting and consider action then**
- Newsletter exchange (see chapter exchange of newsletters under old business) – Karen Darcy
 - At next MOS Board meeting ask the Harford and Anne Arundel chapters to send their newsletters to Amanda, our newsletter editor, instead ??
- Backpack winner – photo at March meeting, posting of information on HCBC web page, provide for winner receiving *The Goldfinch* – Bob Solem **Added to local membership, not state MOS - DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.-
Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Wes Earp and Jo Solem will work with Mike McClure to update the procedures and help in providing this information to the manager.

- Prepare and provide a letter to ABC announcing our support of the Cerulean Warbler project and deliver it to Emy for mailing check. – Kurt/Emy
- Art contest for MOS Youth Backpack award – Kate
 - Kate –Prepare brief announcement for Goldfinch
 - Coordinate planning, publicity, printing of announcements, etc. including announcement at Club meeting - Kate
- Meeting at Glenwood – Ward - Table this action until Fall Board meeting
- Annual seed sale – request formal proposal from owner of the “Wildlife Authority” and discuss at next Board meeting – Kevin Heffernan
- Newsletter exchange (see chapter exchange of newsletters under old business) – Karen Darcy
 - At next MOS Board meeting ask the Harford and Anne Arundel chapters to send their newsletters to Amanda, our newsletter editor, instead of former Presidents (not even current or recent ones).
- Research and recommend purchase of a new projector including a cost estimate.- June Tveekrem

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2009	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 22, 2009	-	Sherry Tomlinson	
November 19, 2009	-	Wes Earp	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 2010	-	Karen Darcy	
February 25, 2010	-	Ward Ebert	
March 25, 2010	-	June Tveekrem	
April 22, 2010	-	Jo Solem	
May 27, 2010	-	Amanda Witt	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – March 25, 2010
- Howard County Chapter MOS - Treasurer’s Report 5/1/09 – 3/22/10
- Handout for YMOS Art Contest (Initial Draft)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MARCH 25, 2010

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
5. Vice President-nominee’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - MOS director’s report – Karen, Kate,
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack art contest - Kate
 - Seed sale option - Kevin
8. New Business/Discussions
 - a. Greenfest? - Kate
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:
June Tveekrem’s
10970 Millbank Row
Columbia, Md. 21044
Phone: 410-715-3979

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/09-03/22/10

	Budget 2009-10	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		45.00	5,505.00
State Dues Paid			3,000.00
Net Membership Dues	2,400.00	45.00	2,505.00
Contributions			270.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,400.00	45.00	2,775.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		48.08
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	100.00	325.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	125.00		143.40
Postage, copies	50.00		52.45
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			12.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00	117.00	192.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	128.00	711.01
Miscellaneous			25.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	345.00	1,508.94
Seed Sale			
Income			2,075.85
Expense			
Seed			1,774.77
Flyers, postage			83.32
Sales Tax			117.48
Net Seed Sale			100.28
Contributions to Habitat Conservation			315.00
Contribution from Bookstore			1,000.00
Total Available			1,415.28
All Creatures Great & Small			(200.00)
MPEA			(420.00)
Balance Available			795.28
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,915.24
Interest Received		0.06	8.18
Balance			9,923.42
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,814.09
Savings			16,182.51
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			20,039.88

Bird Art Contest

Sponsored by the Howard County Bird Club

Draw, paint or sculpt your favorite bird. Realism and attention to detail is a plus. Students age nine to thirteen, this is your chance to really look at the birds and win a fine prize.

There will be a prize for the best drawing or painting and a prize for the best sculpture. Each winner will receive a backpack containing a pair of Eagle Optics binoculars plus field guides. A one-year membership in the Howard County Bird Club is also included.

Drawings and paintings should be no larger than 12" x 18". Any medium including graphite, oils, acrylics and pastels may be used. Sculptures should be no larger than 18" high with an 18" diameter. Sculptures may be any medium to include clay, wood, paper mache', fiber etc.

The contest is open to Howard County residents age nine to thirteen. Deadline for submissions is September 1, 2010. Send entries to Kate Tufts, 2830 Duvall Rd., Woodbine, MD 21797. Arrangements for delivery of sculpted pieces may be made by calling 410-489-7052. Include artist's name, age, phone number and email address.

The Howard County Bird Club reserves the right to keep possession of the art works until December 1, 2010 for publicity purposes. Art works must be picked up between December 1, 2010 and December 15, 2010. The Howard County Bird Club is not responsible to damage occurred to the art works.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 22, 2010

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President: Kevin Heffernan √
Chap. Directors: Vacant (1st yr)
June Tveekrem (2nd yr) (& *AV*) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Sherry Tomlinson
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 8 was 43 people. It was reported late that the actual attendance at the March 11 regular meeting the attendance was 70 vice the estimate reported in prior month's director's meeting. During the April meeting Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy gave a program entitled "Birding South Florida; the Keys and the Dry Tortugas."

This was the club's annual meeting and the slate of officer candidates put forward by the nominating committee was elected. President – Ward Ebert, Vice-President – Wes Earp, Treasurer – Emy Holdridge, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Chapter Directors: (1st year) - Jim Lubitz,, (2nd year replacement) – Jeff Culler, State Directors – Mary-Jo Betts, Karen Darcy, and Kate Tufts.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes as submitted were accepted. Note the minor correction above reporting a better estimate of the attendance at the club's regular March meeting.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy's report was submitted prior to meeting and is attached. She reported it reflected the addition of two new memberships. It appears that the total year's expenditures were slightly below last year's proposed budget. In discussion it was noted that our dues (and coincident with state dues) were last raised in March 2002, effective for club FY 2003 (confirmed following meeting). Although there is an apparent decline in dues income, discussion emphasized we don't want to raise dues at present and by-laws don't mandate any increase as it is a board decision.

Emy then presented her proposed budget for our next fiscal year (May 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011), See attached budget proposal. Minor differences between budget and expected income are well within club resources to absorb. The budget as submitted was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously by the board.

Lastly Emy asked the Board for guidance on how to comply with the club by-laws requirement to provide the budget to club membership annually. We agreed that having a single copy available at the May meeting with an announcement offering to provide copies (generally electronic unless asking for hard copy) upon request fulfilled the intent of by-laws.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward reported the receipt of a letter of resignation from Sherry Tomlinson notifying the club she will not continue as Seed Sale Coordinator. Consistent with a By-laws requirement to have the President determine the Board membership (including Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee, and Standing

Committee Chairs (max of 9 on BOD per bylaws). He passed out a summary of his first cut at this list. We discussed and demoted a couple of committees from Standing to the list of informal committees. Ward agreed to update the list and a corrected copy is attached.

Ward opened preliminary discussion of an issue with our "tax-exempt" status that has arisen relative to MOS exemption. See discussion below under New Business.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): Wes reported attendance numbers at recent club meetings that have been updated above in Secretary's minutes.

Next Wes asked that we decide who will handle coordination of refreshments for club meetings. As the recent Chapter Director he has been handling the task of finding volunteers to provide refreshments, but as new VP he would like to ensure someone else has assumed this responsibility. First choice is to ask new Chapter Director, Jim Lubitz if he (or his wife Rosa) would accept this responsibility; Wes agreed to accept an action item to contact Jim and Rosa regarding this task. Other possibilities include soliciting volunteers at meetings and contacting those who indicated willingness to provide refreshment on the membership spreadsheet (e.g., Sue Neri, Kathy Lily,)

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): No report as both Bonnie and Joe not present. Jo Solem reported that is one issue regarding a Butterfly walk to be led by Richard Smith around Labor Day that didn't make latest Goldfinch. It will be in the Sept./Oct. issue of Goldfinch but this not be received via mail in time. An email to membership will be sent in advance of trip in event Goldfinch delivery is late.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present but had emailed a summary to Board members prior to the meeting. In this he summarized the State MOS Conservation actions currently actively being pursued.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda was not present, but it was announced that the deadline for the Sept/Oct issue of Goldfinch is July 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob announced that an announcement of the Youth MOS art contest has been added to the web site. (See below for more).

Bob reported that the Maryland Herp Atlas portion of web site is up and running. Ability to track county inputs provided to Sue Muller (county coordinator) and provide configuration control tracking near real time. Also have displays of maps showing reports/verification, charts, and by block species reported (verified are bolded). Additional features include tools to match park location with block and soon a GPS position link to block designation utility (Excel spreadsheet for now).

Chapter Directors (Vacant, Tveekrem): See New Business.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Publicity (Witt): No report.

Past President (Heffernan): See Old Business.

Records (J. Solem):

Seed Sale (Tomlinson): No report. Ward acknowledged receipt of Sherry's resignation as Seed Sale Coordinator.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last Board meeting.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): See Old Business.

Old Business

YMOS Backpack Art Contest – Kate reported that the contest announcement is on the club web site. An email announcement was sent to club members who have provided their email address. June plans to hold off and conduct her media blitz in June. Summer camps are held at the end of June and she is anticipating that will be a key

event as camp organizers have shown significant interest. Kate is to provide them with multiple copies of flyers 3 weeks prior to the start of camp. When asked about judging the contest she feels we can wait to get that organized.

Projector Purchase Status Update – June has just started to research this but has found that there are many choices and options to consider. She has initially thought she would want the native resolution of the projector to match that of our laptop (1280 x 800). We suggested we might want to go for higher as our next laptop will likely have more. Some machines have an economy mode designed to extend bulb life at expense of image brightness. LCD or the newer DLP technology which is more costly but has better contrast. Her preliminary look suggests we will likely be looking at a price range of \$500 - \$800. We need to remember that we want to display high quality photos and not just Power Point slide presentations as many projectors are used for. June hopes to have put together a set of choices by the next Board meeting so we can proceed. We want to make purchase while MOS is still offering partial funding. She is hoping to purchase the projector over the summer.

Seed Sale Option – Kevin passed around a handout (attached) that had been put together as a proposal from Kevin Cassidy the new owner of The Wildlife Authority. Read the notes portion to see what he is offering to do. Kevin H. summarized the proposal as “He wants to do this. He’s bending over backwards to make it happen.” The pricing reflects the 5% that bird club members can get anytime plus an additional 13% discount applied to the club price resulting in 17.35% off his retail prices. This is possible due to prepay, no credit cards, and single high volume purchase. The resulting prices seem to be competitive, especially given that a portion of the price will go for habitat preservation. The club proceeds are in the form of a donation of 10 cents per pound of seed sold (increasing to 11 cents if sell between 10,000 and 14999 pounds, and 15 cents per pound if sell more than \$15000. His staff will handle loading so we don’t need volunteers to do that and can offer 50 pound bags of sunflower again. One idea on the note sheet regarding #2 grade sunflower chips we dismissed as not worth trying. The most important issue that we need to address is recruiting someone with sufficient organizational skills to act as seed sale coordinator. Primary task will be handling orders and checks as they come in and keeping careful records so we order the correct amount of seed. Coordinator will also need to develop flyer for mailing and an article for the Goldfinch. We won’t need to find volunteers for loading so that is one task off the list for coordinator, as well as ordering the seed. Kate agreed to assist with publicity. Bob has the mailing list. Kevin H. agreed to assist whomever we get as a volunteer in an advisory capacity and in interfacing with Kevin Cassidy. He also mentioned that the club “task” spreadsheet has a sheet with information on what has to be done for the sale. Several names as potential coordinator were mentioned. Kevin agreed to contact Michael O’Sullivan as a first choice. Other names mentioned were Michelle Wright and Jeff Friedhoffer. We agreed we needed a coordinator to go forward with sale, but if a volunteer is found we will settle on a date at the next meeting..

Mailing address, TIN, 990-N filing – Ward and Emy reported on an issue with the Internal Revenue Service making a new ruling on the status of MOS as a tax-exempt organization. Tax-exempt organizations must file a 990-N Form and the state MOS has been doing so routinely. In 2007 the IRS made a ruling that every non-profit organization with less than \$25,000 in revenue must file the 990-N every three years. The issue is that the IRS now considers each of the chapters financial data needs to be included either in a joint MOS filing (including all chapters) or have the chapters file the form separately. MOS has already decided there is no way they can put together a joint filing in a timely manner. Thus each chapter must prepare to file and since the matter has been put off, the three year deadline expires this September. In order to file the chapter has several steps to complete. First we must obtain our own EIN No. as a separate entity. We will not attempt to get a separate ruling of our tax-exempt status, but file as a subordinate of MOS. To obtain the EIN # and file we need to have an official mailing address (after considerable discussion June Tveekrem volunteered to let the club use her home address). We agreed to use the name Howard County Bird Club as our official name, with Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. as a secondary one. We also will need to have an official “Articles of Organization” describing the club. It was agreed that our current By-laws with several signatures by officers should suffice for this document. Ward agreed to follow-up with MOS President Wade Bell and inform him that we are going to apply for an EIN (on the web – in postcard format) using the names described and June’s address and expect to be able to file as a subordinate to MOS. Assuming Wade agrees, Ward will file for the EIN. Later we will need to file the 990-N.

Report on Greenfest – Kate reported that the event was very successful. Total attendance was approximately 2000. Many stopped and talked with the volunteers manning the club table and display. A handout with upcoming club field trips was prepared and used as a handout. A number of people expressed interest in becoming club members.

New Business

Greenfest Coordination in Future – Kate had graciously volunteered again this year, but has requested that someone else be found for next (future?) years. It was agreed the event is a better venue for club exposure than having the table at the County Fair was in the past. Ward took an action to solicit a volunteer for this job.

Potential fund raising idea – June Tveekrem.

June reported that she is planning to participate in a Du-athlon (run, bike) this coming October. She proposes to solicit pledges for the club's habitat projects for next year linked in some form to her success in the race. For example this might be to pledge so much if she completes or an amount linked to her time or percentage of completion.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.-
Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Wes Earp and Jo Solem will work with Mike McClure to update the procedures and help in providing this information to the manager. – **NO UPDATE**
- Prepare and provide a letter to ABC announcing our support of the Cerulean Warbler project and deliver it to Emy for mailing check. – Kurt/Emy - **Emy has provided check to Kurt for mailing to ABC**
- Art contest for MOS Youth Backpack award – Kate
 - Kate –Prepare brief announcement for Goldfinch - **DONE**
 - Coordinate planning, publicity, printing of announcements, etc. including announcement at Club meeting - Kate
- Meeting at Glenwood – Ward - **Table this action until Fall Board meeting**
- Annual seed sale – request formal proposal from owner of the “Wildlife Authority” and discuss at next Board meeting – Kevin Heffernan - **SEE OLD BUSINESS**
- Newsletter exchange (see chapter exchange of newsletters under old business) – Karen Darcy
 - At next MOS Board meeting ask the Harford and Anne Arundel chapters to send their newsletters to Amanda, our newsletter editor, instead of Kevin.
- Research and recommend purchase of a new projector including a cost estimate.- June Tveekrem – **Status provided under New Business**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.-
Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Wes Earp and Jo Solem will work with Mike McClure to update the procedures and help in providing this information to the manager.
- Art contest for MOS Youth Backpack award – Kate
 - Coordinate planning, publicity, printing of announcements, etc. including announcement at Club meeting – Kate
 - Contact State MOS (Wade Bell) about a second backpack so can award prize in each category - Ward
- Meeting at Glenwood – Ward - Table this action until Fall Board meeting
- Newsletter exchange (see chapter exchange of newsletters under old business) – Karen Darcy
 - At next MOS Board meeting ask the Harford and Anne Arundel chapters to send their newsletters to Amanda, our newsletter editor, instead of Kevin.
- Research and recommend purchase of a new projector including a cost estimate.- June Tveekrem
- Contact Jim Lubitz about coordinating refreshments for regular club meeting – Wes Earp

- Identify a volunteer to act as Seed Sale Coordinator
 - Approach Michael O’Sullivan about volunteering – Kevin
 - If Kevin is unsuccessful follow-up trying to locate volunteer – Ward/All
- Continue to investigate the IRS filing issues with MOS and apply for an EIN - Ward
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate our participation in Greenfest in coming year(s) at next meeting - Ward

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2009	-	Bonnie Ott	
October 22, 2009	-	Sherry Tomlinson	
November 19, 2009	-	Wes Earp	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 28, 2010	-	Karen Darcy	
February 25, 2010	-	Ward Ebert	
March 25, 2010	-	June Tveekrem	
April 22, 2010	-	Jo Solem	
May 27, 2010	-	Amanda Witt	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – April 22, 2010 – Rev. 1
- List of Officers, Directors, Standing Committee Chairs, that are Board members, plus informal committees and positions – updated after meeting
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/09 – 04/20/10
- Howard County Chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society, Proposed Operating Budget, 5/1/10 – 4/30/11
- Proposed HC Bird Club Program 2010 - Seed Sale – 2 pages

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

APRIL 22, 2010 – REV. 1

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
 - *Approve budget for FY starting May 1*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
 - *Sherry Tomlinson resigning from organizing seed sale*
5. Vice President-nominee’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *[Amanda absent]*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack art contest – Kate
 - Projector purchase status - June
 - Seed sale option – Kevin
 - Mailing address, TIN, 990-N filing – Emy, Ward
 - Report on Greenfest - Kate
8. New Business/Discussions
 - a. Greenfest? - Kate
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:
Jo Solem’s
10617 Graeloch Rd
Laurel, Md. 20723
Phone: 301-725-5037

<i>Italics: subj. to election</i>	BOD	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Officers				
President	X	Tom Miller	Ward Ebert	<i>Ward Ebert</i>
Vice President	X	Ward Ebert	Wes Earp	<i>Wes Earp</i>
Secretary (recording/corresponding)	X	Chuck Stirrat	Chuck Stirrat	
Treasurer	X	Emy Holdridge	Emy Holdridge	
Past President	X	Kevin Heffernan	Kevin Heffernan	<i>Kevin Heffernan</i>
Directors				
1st year Chapter Director	X	Wes Earp	Jim Lubitz	
2nd year Chapter Director	X	June Tveekrem	Jeff Culler	Jim Lubitz
State Director	X	Kate Tufts	Kate Tufts	
State Director	X	Mary-Jo Betts	Mary-Jo Betts	
State Director	X	Karen Darcy	Karen Darcy	
[Club President is also a State Director]		Tom Miller	Ward Ebert	
Appointed Positions (defined in By-Laws)				
Nominating Committee Chair		Kate Tufts	Kate Tufts	
Nominating Committee Member		Kevin Heffernan	Kevin Heffernan	
Nominating Committee Member		Kurt Schwarz	Kurt Schwarz	
Book Store		Ann Marie Raterman	Ann Marie Raterman	
Standing Committees (max 9 BOD members):				
Field Trips - chair	X	Bonnie Ott	Bonnie Ott	
Field Trips - assistant chair	?	Joe Hanfman	Joe Hanfman	
Ornithological Data; Records	X	Jo Solem	Jo Solem	
Conservation	X	Kurt Schwartz	Kurt Schwartz	
Newsletter	X	Amanda Witt	Amanda Witt	
Programs	X	Jane Geuder	Jane Geuder	
Webmaster	X	Bob Solem	Bob Solem	
Informal Committees and Positions:				
Youth Backpack Program		Kate Tufts	Kate Tufts	
Audio-visual		June Tveekrem	June Tveekrem	
Fall Count (co-coordinator)		Chuck Stirrat	Chuck Stirrat	
Fall Count (co-coordinator)		Mike McClure	Mike McClure	
Greenfest		Kate Tufts	?	
Midwinter Count (co-coordinator)		Joe Byrnes	Joe Byrnes	
Midwinter Count (co-coordinator)		Joe Hanfman	Joe Hanfman	
Pot Luck		Sue Probst	Kathie Lilly	
Spring Count		Kevin Heffernan	Kevin Heffernan	
Publicity?		?	?	
Seed Sale		Sherry Tomlinson	TBD	

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/09-04/20/10

	Budget 2009-10	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		40.00	5,545.00
State Dues Paid		(235.00)	(3,235.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,400.00		2,310.00
Contributions		10.00	280.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,400.00		2,590.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		48.08
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		325.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	125.00		143.40
Postage, copies	50.00		52.45
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			12.00
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	125.00	18.38	210.38
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	338.40	1,049.41
Miscellaneous		16.11	41.11
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,400.00	372.89	1,881.83
Seed Sale			
Income			2,075.85
Expense			
Seed			1,774.77
Flyers, postage			83.32
Sales Tax			117.48
Net Seed Sale			100.28
Contributions to Habitat Conservation			315.00
Contribution from Bookstore			1,000.00
Total Available			1,415.28
All Creatures Great & Small			(200.00)
MPEA			(420.00)
American Bird Conservation			(800.00)
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,915.24
Interest Received		0.05	8.23
Balance			9,923.47
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,460.92
Savings			16,182.51
Petty Cash			43.28
<i>Total</i>			18,686.71

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/10 - 4/30/11

	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	
Membership Dues (net)	2,300.00
Contributions	
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u><u>2,300.00</u></u>
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Website	150.00
Postage, Copies	65.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	<u>1,300.00</u>
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u><u>2,465.00</u></u>

Proposed HC Bird Club Program 2010

0.11

		current	current	13%	2010 plan				
		retail	HCBC price	Proposed	Savings - ea	units	weight	sales	donate
25 lb	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	14.99	\$ 14.24	\$ 12.39	\$ 1.85	150	3,750	\$ 1,858	\$ 413
50 lb	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	22.99	\$ 21.84	\$ 19.00	\$ 2.84	10	500	\$ 190	\$ 55
25 lb	Sunflower Chips - Select	39.99	\$ 37.99	\$ 33.05	\$ 4.94	110	2,750	\$ 3,636	\$ 303
50 lb	Sunflower Chips - Select	73.99	\$ 70.29	\$ 61.15	\$ 9.14	10	500	\$ 612	\$ 55
20 lb	Premium Mix - Songbird Choice	19.99	\$ 18.99	\$ 16.52	\$ 2.47	35	700	\$ 578	\$ 77
40 lb	Premium Mix - Songbird Choice	35.99	\$ 34.19	\$ 29.75	\$ 4.44		-	\$ -	\$ -
20 lb	Wild-n-Free Premium Mix	24.99	\$ 23.74	\$ 20.65	\$ 3.09		-	\$ -	\$ -
5 lb	Nyjer seed 5LB	7.99	\$ 7.59	\$ 6.60	\$ 0.99	100	500	\$ 660	\$ 55
5 lb	Nyjer seed 25LB	29.99	\$ 28.49	\$ 24.79	\$ 3.70	20	500	\$ 496	\$ 55
25 lb	Safflower 25LB	31.99	\$ 30.39	\$ 23.96	\$ 6.43	50	1,250	\$ 1,198	\$ 138
5 lb	Split Peanuts 5LB	8.99	\$ 8.54	\$ 7.43	\$ 1.11	50	250	\$ 372	\$ 28
5 lb	Split Peanuts 25LB	36.99	\$ 35.14	\$ 30.57	\$ 4.57	10	250	\$ 306	\$ 28
25 lb	Whole Peanuts	39.99	\$ 37.99	\$ 33.05	\$ 4.94		-	\$ -	\$ -
25 lb	White Millet	15.99	\$ 15.19	\$ 13.22	\$ 1.97	90	2,250	\$ 1,189	\$ 248
20 lb	Woodpecker mix (LM)	38.99	\$ 37.04	\$ 32.23	\$ 4.82	15	300	\$ 483	\$ 33
12/case	Hi Energy Suet 12 oz cakes	1.59	\$ 0.99	\$ 0.99	\$ -			\$ -	
12/case	Peanut Butter Suet 12 oz cakes	1.99	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.39	\$ -			\$ -	
12/case	Natural Beef Suet	2.99	\$ 2.84	\$ 2.47	\$ 0.37			\$ -	
						650	13,500	\$ 11,578	\$ 1,485

2006 = 12165
 2007 = 11725

notes:

prepay to allow advantage of cash pay to vendor
no credit cards saves expenses
one time buy high volume savings

coordinate delivery to our store, coordinate loading/pickup
15% instore savings day of sale only

additional 15% coupon good on "everything" at a later date - before xmas (1 week in length)

special hours - open at 8AM - or 7:30??

all loading staff is provided, HCBC members to circulate and glad-hand - no heavy lifting!

other items?

Consider #2 grade chips - - about \$4 savings per 25lb

10 cents per pound donate up to 10,000 pounds
11 cents per pound donate between 10,000 and 14,999 pounds
15 cents per pound donate for 15,000 pounds or more

10000	12000	15000
0.1	0.11	0.15
\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 2,250.00

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 27, 2010

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*)
Past President: Kevin Heffernan
Chap. Directors: Vacant (1st yr)
June Tveekrem (2nd yr) (& AV) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale:
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Potluck: Sue Probst
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:
New Chap. Director Jeff Culler
New Chap. Director Jim Lubitz √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Amanda Witt. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 13 was ~30 people. Dr. Kevin Omland, University of Maryland, Baltimore County gave a program entitled "Temperate Zone Biases in Studies of Plumage and Song Evolution: Why Baltimore Orioles Led Us Astray."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Solem for Stirrat): Minutes as submitted were accepted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Treasurer's report submitted prior to the meeting is attached. Emy provided a copy of the approved budget for examination by members at the May meeting and is available electronically if desired.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward has started drafting the 990-N report but cannot finish it until Wayne Bell (MOS President) finishes a letter to the IRS asking for a group exemption and gets a reply. He has received a TIN for the club.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): None

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Field trips have been planned through early September. The butterfly walk will appear in the Sept/Oct *The Goldfinch* and also be publicized on the web and through emails to members.

Conservation (Schwarz): The letter to the *Baltimore Sun* on feral cats was published as an Op Ed piece.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda stresses that June 25 is a firm deadline; it will include the usual.

Webmaster (R. Solem): MARA (Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas) information is now quite complete, and Bob continues to update it in real time upon receipt of information from Sue Muller (county coordinator). The Wizard still doesn't work; it remains a low priority

Chapter Directors (Vacant, Tveekrem): See Old Business.

Potluck/Yellowthroat Layout (Probst): None

Programs (Geuder): None

Publicity (Witt): None

Past President (Heffernan): None

Records (J. Solem): None

Seed Sale (O'Sullivan): See Old Business

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Miller, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): None

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): None

Old Business

Youth backpack contest: Kate has delivered the art/sculpture contest fliers to Rec & Parks. Members were notified of the contest by email, and the notice is posted on the HCBC web page.

New projector: The Board reviewed the information that June provided, accepted the choices that she recommended and **authorized expenditure of up to \$800 for a new projector and remote**. June will make a recommendation to the Board of the one to purchase, and the Board (by email) will decide by the end of June.

Seed sale: The Board would like to have the sale October 2 (first choice), October 9 (second choice), or October 16 (third choice). Michael O'Sullivan has volunteered to coordinate the sale, summarize the orders into an overall order and get that info to Kevin Heffernan and Kevin Cassidy (owner of the Wildlife Authority). Michael will also arrange for club members to be present on the date of the sale to coordinate the pickup. (Actual delivery, i.e., hoisting the bags, will be done by staff of the Wildlife Authority.) Kevin H. will coordinate with Kevin C. and Bob Solem production of the flier, mailing to members, email of the flier, and posting on the web.

Monetary conservation contributions: Profits from the sale and additional contributions from members will be used for habitat recovery and rehabilitation of wildlife from the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

New Business

Howard County Bird Club Facebook account: Amanda said there are several advantages to having a Howard County Bird Club Facebook account to announce meetings, field trips, web page updates, and general information about the club to an audience that might not otherwise be aware of the club's existence. There was lively discussion of privacy issues, the ability of Facebook non-members to access the information, the work required, etc

[After the meeting, Amanda learned that Jessica Gorzo (email: galaxycoff@gmail.com) had set up a Facebook account with the caption "Howard County Bird Club is on Facebook: Sign up for Facebook to connect with Howard County Bird Club." The email that Amanda sent June 2 generated a flurry of email exchanges among Board members with the upshot that Amanda contacted Jessica, who agreed to take down the site; it had been removed by the evening of June 4.]

The Board **authorized Amanda Witt to set up and maintain a Facebook page for the Howard County Bird Club and to establish an email account (suggestion was with gmail.com) for use in communicating. No**

personal information about club members or officers will appear on the Facebook without their express permission. This is to be done in the summer 2010.

President's annual report to appear on web page: Per a suggestion by Ward Ebert, the Board approved posting an edited version of the HCBC president's annual report to the president of MOS on the HCBC web page. Bob will post the report in July 2010.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Follow-up to discussion with U of MD Central Farm Manager.-
Update records of who has access letters and procedures and discuss with Manager – Wes Earp will check with Mike Dwyer (farm manager) to be sure the current procedures are all right.
- Art contest for MOS Youth Backpack award – Kate
 - Coordinate planning, publicity, printing of announcements, etc.– Kate - **ONGOING**
 - Contact State MOS (Wade Bell) about a second backpack– Ward - **CLOSED**
- Meeting at Glenwood – Ward - Table this action until Fall Board meeting
- Newsletter exchange (see chapter exchange of newsletters under old business) – Karen Darcy
 - At next MOS Board meeting ask the Harford and Anne Arundel chapters to send their newsletters to Amanda, our newsletter editor, instead of Kevin. - **PENDING**
- Research and recommend purchase of a new projector including a cost estimate.- June Tveekrem – **CLOSED; see new item**
- Coordinating refreshments for regular club meeting – Wes Earp – **JEFF CULLER volunteered; CLOSED.**
- Identify a volunteer to act as Seed Sale Coordinator
 - Approach Michael O'Sullivan about volunteering – Kevin – **CLOSED**
 - ~~If Kevin is unsuccessful follow up trying to locate volunteer – Ward/All~~
- Continue to investigate the IRS filing issues with MOS and apply for an TIN – Ward – **ONGOING; club has TIN**
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate our participation in Greenfest in coming year(s) at next meeting – Ward – **CLOSED; Michael & Dana O'Sullivan volunteered after the meeting.**

New/Continuing Action Items

- New projector & remote - June
- Facebook account - Amanda
- Seed Sale – Kevin Heffernan, Michael O'Sullivan, Bob Solem (ongoing until sale)
- President's report on web page - Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2010	-	Wes Earp
October 28, 2010	-	Kevin Heffernan
November 18, 2010	-	Kurt Schwarz (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 27, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz
February 24, 2011	-	Jo Solem
March 24, 2011	-	Ward Ebert
April 28, 2011	-	Amanda Witt
May 26, 2011	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Treasurer's report
- Evaluation of projectors

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MAY 27, 2010 – REV. 1

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
 - Report status of tax exemption *Emy/Ward*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
5. Vice President-nominee’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - (?)YMOS Backpack art contest – *Kate*
 - Projector purchase decision - *June*
 - Seed sale details for newsletter – *Kate/Kevin*
8. New Business/Discussions
 - a. Director’s meeting locations – Sept – May -- *Ward*
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:

Amanda Witt’s new place
8865 Purple Iris Lane
Elkridge, Md. 21075
Phone: 410-312-0504

. . . which is south on Old Waterloo Rd off 108 about to the end, on the right, according to Google maps. If you are heading east on 175 toward 95, take a left at 108, then right on Lark Brown for a short-cut, and right again where it ends at Old Waterloo. Looks like Purple Iris is a loop at the end of Old Waterloo where it got terminated by the 175/95 intersection.

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/010-05/26/10

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		30.00	30.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		30.00
Contributions		40.00	40.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		70.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	43.46	43.46
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00		
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		93.46
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,923.47
Interest Received		0.08	0.08
Balance			9,923.55
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,442.46
Savings			16,182.56
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			18,668.30

Specs the new projector must meet to be worth buying

- Portable
- Aspect ratio 16:10
- Native resolution at least 1280×800 pixels
- Economy mode to reduce noise and prolong lamp life
- Brightness at least 2500 lumens in full-power mode; preferably 3000 lumens
- Brightness at least 2000 lumens in economy mode
- Contrast ratio at least 400; preferably 1000 or more
- Noise max 37 dB in full-power mode; preferably 34 dB or less
- Lamp life at least 2000 hours; preferably 4000
- Digital input; preferably HDMI
- Zoom lens, at least 1.15:1; preferably 1.20:1
- Keystone correction

Technology overview

There are currently three technologies for laptop projectors.

LCD (liquid crystal display)

- Advantages
 - Cheapest
- Disadvantages
 - Lowest contrast, typically in hundreds
 - Visual artifact where a few people see a faint grid over the image as if looking through a window screen

DLP (digital light processing)

- Advantages
 - Much higher contrast than LCD, typically in thousands
- Disadvantages
 - Slightly higher price than LCD
 - Visual artifact where a few people see a solid color briefly when switching from one image to another

LCoS (liquid crystal on silicon)

- Advantages
 - Very smooth high resolution image, no “pixelly” appearance
 - No known visual artifacts
- Disadvantages
 - Expensive; 2-3 times more than LCD or DLP

LCoS would be overkill for Bird Club’s needs, so I eliminated that from consideration right away. Either LCD or DLP would suffice for our needs, so there is no strong reason to prefer one technology over the other. The tradeoff between price and features is more relevant.

After looking through about 100 projectors and about 30 detailed reviews, I’d recommend one of the following models.

Vivitek D513W 2600 Lumen WXGA Ultra Portable Widescreen 3D Ready DLP Projector

From Amazon



List Price: \$899.00

Price: **\$649.00** & this item ships for FREE with Super Saver Shipping.

This item has not yet been released.

You may pre-order it now and we will deliver it to you when it arrives.

Advantages:

- Highest contrast; 3000
- Lightest weight; 4.2 lb.
- Quietest; 31/28 dB in normal/economy mode
- Lowest power consumption; 230W in normal mode

Disadvantages:

- New; not available yet
- Least keystone correction; ± 15 degrees

ViewSonic PJD6531w WXGA Wide DLP Projector -120Hz/3D Ready,
3000 Lumens, 3200:1 DCR, HDMI

From Amazon



List Price: \$1,129.00

Price: **\$699.00** & this item ships for FREE with Super Saver Shipping.

In Stock.

Advantages:

- Highest brightness; 3000 lumens
- Greatest keystone correction; ± 40 degrees

Disadvantages:

- Heaviest weight; 5.9 lb.
- Highest power consumption; 305W in normal mode
- *Contradictory specs on aspect ratio*; some say 16:10 native, some say 4:3 native. If it's 4:3, that's unacceptable.

Epson EX71 Multimedia Projector

From Amazon



List Price: \$749.99

Price: **\$699.99** & this item ships for FREE with Super Saver Shipping.

Usually ships within 1 to 2 months.

This item is a special order and cannot be returned.

Epson EX71 Multimedia Projector

From B&H Photo



\$714.95

Shipping \$15.45

In stock, no mention of returns being forbidden.

Advantages:

- Epson projectors tend to exceed advertised specs in independent testing; most brands tend to not quite meet advertised specs
- Longest lamp life; 4000/6000 hours normal/economy modes

Disadvantages:

- Noisiest; 37/29 dB in normal/economy mode
- Least contrast; “up to 2000”, whatever that means. (This is an LCD projector.)

Kensington 33373 Wireless Presenter



List Price: \$44.99

Price: **\$30.12**

In Stock.

Ships from and sold by ANTOline.

This remote control is for the speaker to advance their slides without having to use the remote for the projector. Projector remotes tend to have way too many buttons. This remote controls the laptop directly via 2.4 GHz wireless. (The receiver plugs into a USB port on the laptop.)

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 23, 2010

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President:
Chap. Directors: Jim Lubitz (1st yr)
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott √
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Michael O'Sullivan
Kevin Heffernan √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Wes Earp. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 9 was 65 people. Dennis Coskren gave a program entitled "The Birds of Cuba." He was standing in for Dr. William Suarez who had problems with getting a visa in time for his visit from Cuba.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted with minor corrections identified after distribution incorporated.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy's treasurer's report was submitted to the Board in advance and is attached below. She pointed out that the postage cost for \$185 was for renewal of our bulk mail permit. The \$777.45 equipment entry is for the new projector and peripherals. She pointed out that she had entered this as a regular expense pending potential reimbursement of part of the cost from the state MOS. The eventual net expense will be deducted from the Marjorie Mountjoy Fund. Funds from the sale of the books donated by Virginia Donovan are not shown on this report. Sue Neri has donated some note cards that will also be sold to add to the habitat fund.

We need to change our bank account to a new account to reflect the new EIN required as part of the changes in tax-exemption arrangement with state MOS organization. Account is with PNC Bank on Shaker Drive. Emy will let us know what this requires, but may require personal visit by key officers.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward summarized the status of the application to change tax-exemption arrangement in response to new IRS regulations. We have submitted our paperwork to state but they have not yet filed the overall package. As of now our necessary actions are completed.

Ward reported that he has sold several books from the Donovan collection, estimating the amount received so far is roughly 50% of what he estimated as the value of the collection. He is keeping an electronic catalog current, and can provide a copy to anyone who is interested.

At the State MOS Board meeting the potential of distributing the Yellowthroat via email was discussed. We were asked to survey the membership to see how many would be satisfied with an electronic copy. We discussed how to do this but decided to send an email to membership. Ward took an action to draft the question and supply it to Bob for sending to the club members with email. Amanda proposed that there are web survey tools that might be used for this purpose. Specifically "Survey Monkey" lets you send out short surveys for free. We decided to not do this

query in this manner but Amanda agreed to investigate and send a sample survey to the Board members to see how this would work.

In a related matter Bob had worked up a comparison of distributing The Goldfinch by mail or email. A copy of his handout is attached. To reach the break-even point 100 or more of current member households with email would have to change to electronic delivery. Alternatively we could add a surcharge of \$5 to each category of membership IF people want a hard copy.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): Wes reported that he has agreed to speak to the Clarksville Rotary club on "Bird Counts."

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Bonnie took the opportunity to report that Joe Hanfman has been doing the majority of effort in planning club field trips, and doing an excellent job. Bonnie reported she has a new job and expects to have more free time. One idea she wants to explore are afternoon/evening walks that at the right time of year might be well attended. Another option under consideration is an out-of-area trip to see Red-cockaded Woodpeckers during breeding season in central Virginia as recently described in a Yellowthroat article.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he had no county-level issues he was tracking. His focus has been on state-wide issues, including trying to get approval to sign MOS on to a petition supporting an EPA initiative to ban lead shot.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported the due date for next newsletter was the coming Saturday, Sept. 25.

Kevin Heffernan then broached the issue of placing ads in The Goldfinch, especially ones that focus on commercial establishments that have provided support to the club. He passed around copies of newsletters from the Harford chapter newsletter that had a page with short "ads" for businesses that had provided prizes for a club raffle that requested club members to support these businesses. Kevin was especially interested in having the club recognize and urge the membership to support The Wildlife Authority for the degree of support they have provided in reestablishing a club seed sale to raise funds for habitat preservation. This generated a lively discussion of the pros and cons of "advertising" in our newsletter. There was uniform support for the club acknowledging the support of The Wildlife Authority in newsletter articles and announcements. Some would consider more general advertising and others strongly opposed to ads that are obviously ads. Issues raised included 1) State MOS position on advertising? 2) Any tax issues with our being a tax-exempt organization?, 3) Given our relatively low circulation the likelihood of paid advertising would seem to be very low. The sense of the Board was to strongly support a very positive article on the seed sale that recognizes the support of The Wildlife Authority. Kevin took an action to work with Michael O'Sullivan to draft such an article and get a picture for newsletter that shows the store in a positive way and emphasizes their support. As for general advertising, the sense of board was to not actively solicit ads in the near future and to consider ways to recognize supporting commercial sponsors on a case basis.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that we had received and needed to pay for a 5 year renewal of our registration of the URL, howardcountybirds.org. This cost of \$115 was not included in this year's planning budget, but could be anticipated on a 5 year cycle. A graph summarizing the access history to the club web site is attached.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Culler): None.

Programs (Geuder): None.

Past President (??): None.

Records (J. Solem): None.

Seed Sale (O'Sullivan, Heffernan): It was discussed and clarified that the way financial transactions for the seed sale would proceed was that Michael O'Sullivan will provide Emy all checks for deposit, that she would then write a check for all proceeds to The Wildlife Authority. After the sale The Wildlife Authority will write a check to the club for the amount promised as a donation for Habitat Protection (in order that he can report it as a tax deductible amount). Separate checks received for habitat protection will be treated outside this process.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Ward summarized a few points from latest meeting. There are currently several vacant state positions (9). One key position is to find a replacement for Emy as the State Treasurer. In recognition of how demanding this position can be the Board authorized awarding the Treasurer an annual honorarium of \$2400. Ward stated that technically the chapters have not been tax-exempt entities for some time but not believed to be a problem. Sufficient chapters have volunteered to host Board meeting during the coming year so we are not expected to have to host this year. The Birding Trail Committee is unilaterally expanding the number of birding sites around the state to feature in the trail literature. They have also teamed up with the Maryland State Tourism Office in establishing the trail.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): None.

Old Business

Kate reported on the YMOS Backpack art contest results. We received excellent publicity (over 10 articles) in local newspapers. Flyers and handouts were distributed through multiple outlets. Six entries were received the day before the deadline. Most of the entries (5) were students of a private art teacher. The winner was Amy Lee a 10 year old from Clarksville. She, her parents, and teacher will attend the regular club meeting in October for award of the prize. Each submitter will receive a certificate of appreciation for participating. The judging was done by Brenda Kaderra, a professional artist. At the meeting Kate will introduce Amy and others, and Ward will present the certificates and backpack award. Bob will bring a camera to take photos at award ceremony. Kate has arranged for the artwork to be on display at the Glenwood Library in December.

It was reported that the new projector had been ordered, received, and paid for.

The preliminary seed sale proceeds are over \$6500. Several newspaper articles announcing the seed sale appeared, but perhaps too late to allow for orders to be placed. Kevin agreed to draft article for The Goldfinch reporting the results of seed sale. Kurt agreed to provide suggestions for recipients of the proceeds related to the Gulf oil spill recovery in time for the club Board meeting in January (NLT the February meeting).

New Business

Bonnie reported that she has been approached by the out-reach coordinator for the new REI Coop that is opening a new location at the former EXPO location (old Home Depot site). The out-reach coordinator is a friend of Bonnie and they are interested in establishing a partnership with the local bird club. The coop had a reputation for establishing good relationships with environmental organizations where they do business. Bonnie has been invited to a kickoff meeting in November (the same night as our regular meeting.) She (and maybe Emy) will attend to explore options.

The Robinson Nature Center is on track for a Spring opening, however rumors suggest that the facility may not have staffing for evening events, so we may not be able to hold our club meetings there. So we need to monitor this, and possibly revisit the idea of holding a spring meeting at Glenwood Senior Center.

It was announced that although the regular November meeting falls on a holiday, Veteran's Day, we will still hold meeting at Recreation and Parks facility, since Sue Muller will host the club at the "closed" facility.

Kate reported that a visit to the site of Turtlehead plantings in Clarksburg that we have supported as an attempt to ensure survival of the Baltimore Checkerspot butterfly had found 3 websites with 500 larvae. One of these was saved for captive raising.

Amanda asked about ensuring the Howard County Library orders one or more copies of the new Maryland Birding Atlas scheduled for publication this fall. She proposed that it would help to have multiple requests to order a copy be entered on the library website.

Wes reported that he had talked to Mike Dwyer the U of MD Central Farm manager and he seems to be fine with the way we are keeping him informed about access to the farm by bird club members. As a result no further action but to continue the current practices seem warranted.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- New projector & remote – June -CLOSED
- Facebook account – Amanda – Email to Ward documents that she has a club site up and running.
- Seed Sale – Kevin Heffernan, Michael O’Sullivan, Bob Solem (ongoing until sale) – At time were ready for sale and sale completed successfully following meeting.
- President’s report on web page – Bob - DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Draft email question to membership on interest in email distribution of The Yellowthroat – Nov 1 – Ward
- Distribute email on email distribution after Ward drafts query and summarize responses – Nov 30 – Bob
- Prepare test survey using “Survey Monkey” and report results at next Board meeting – Oct 28 – Amanda
- Draft article for The Goldfinch summarizing the seed sale results and recognizing the support of The Wildlife Authority – next newsletter deadline – Kevin H. and Michael O’Sullivan
- Research and suggest recipients for this year’s seed sale and habitat proceeds – Jan 27 - Kurt

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2010	-	Wes Earp
October 28, 2010	-	Kevin Heffernan
November 18, 2010	-	Kurt Schwarz (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 27, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz
February 24, 2011	-	Jo Solem
March 24, 2011	-	Ward Ebert
April 28, 2011	-	Amanda Witt
May 26, 2011	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Howard County Board Meeting – Sept. 23, 2010
- Howard County Chapter MOS – Treasurer’s Report 5/1/10 – 9/21/10
- The Goldfinch by Mail or Email – Bob Solem – Sept. 23, 2010
- Monthly “Hits” on the Club Website – August 30, 2010

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

SEP 23, 2010

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
 - Report status of tax exemption *Emy/Ward*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
 - Donovan books status
 - State Board of Directors’ meeting
 - i. Polling members: Yellowthroat by e-mail
 - ii. Birding trail
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - YMOS Backpack awarding – *Kate*
 - Projector purchase - *June*
 - Seed sale – *Kevin*
8. New Business/Discussions
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:

Wes Earp
6480 South Trotter Rd
Clarksville, MD 21029
Phone: 410-531-3197

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/10-9/21/10

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		2,710.00	2,740.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,740.00
Contributions		105.00	145.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		2,885.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	43.46	43.46
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	100.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00	185.00	185.00
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Equipment		777.45	777.45
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	251.94	251.94
Miscellaneous		26.50	26.50
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		1,384.35
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Seed			
Flyers, postage		55.38	55.38
Sales Tax			
Net Seed Sale			
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,923.47
Interest Received		0.26	0.34
Balance			9,923.81
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,241.19
Savings			16,182.90
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			19,467.37

BOOKSTORE REPORT
2009-10

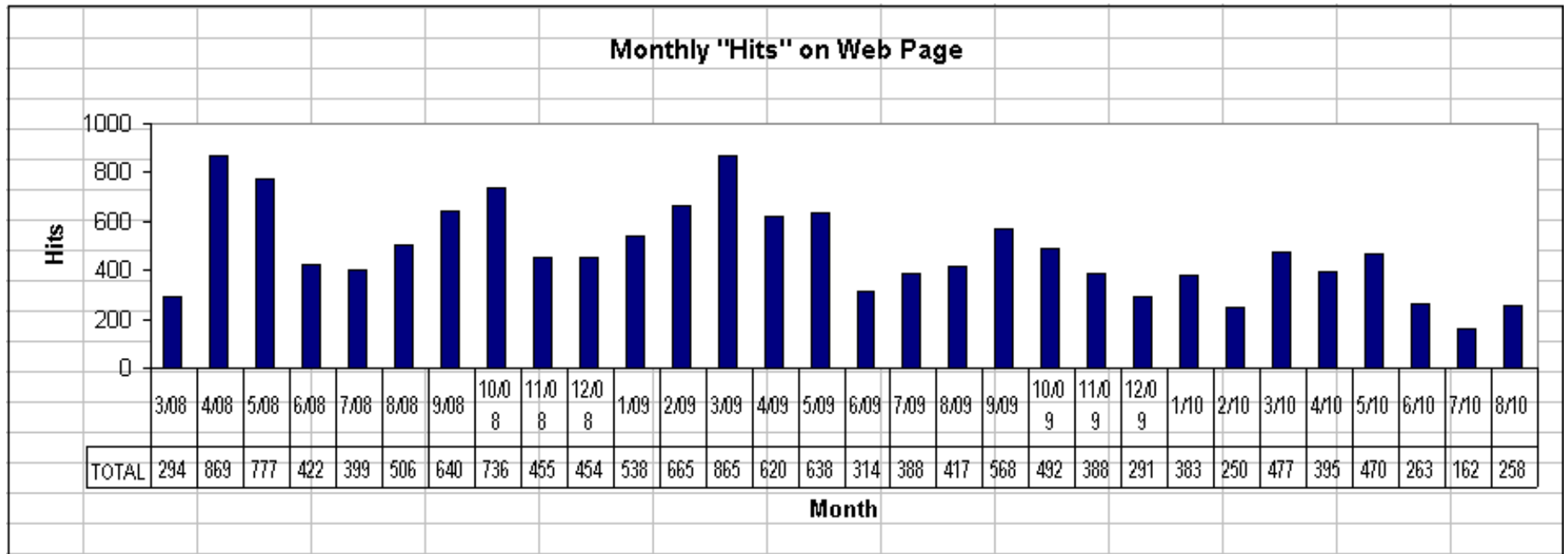
Income	494.00
Expenses	254.55
Gain	239.45
Donation	1,000.00
Value of Inventory	1,800.00
Sales Tax Paid	29.64
Bank Account Balance	896.83

The Goldfinch by Mail or Email

1. Number of pages in each newsletter for Sep/Oct 2008 through May/June 2010 (10 issues, two full years; see box at right). Average 8.2 pages/issue; round to 8 pages, two 11' x 17' pages printed on both sides.
2. Current cost of printing/folding one issue (estimate): \$0.55
3. Average cost of mailing one issue by bulk mail (estimate): \$0.20
4. TOTAL COST per issue using bulk mail: **\$0.75**
5. Average mailing 175 copies (15 freebies, 160 member mailings)
TOTAL/ISSUE: \$120
6. Current cost of first class mail: \$0.44 for first oz.; \$0.61 for two oz. Only those issues with more than 10 pages (see box) require \$0.61 postage.
7. Average cost of mailing one issue by first class mail: \$0.47
[(0.44 x 4 + 0.61)/5 = 0.474]
8. TOTAL COST per issue using first class mail: **\$1.02**
9. If average mailing were 175 copies
TOTAL/ISSUE: \$178.50
This is the break-even point
10. To reach the break-even point, 100 members would have to change from snail mail delivery to email delivery. Currently about 143 member mailing addresses have provided an email address.
11. To reach the break-even point **100 or more** of the current member households with email **would have to change to electronic delivery to be cost-effective.**
12. **OR Starting with 2011-2012 membership year, add a surcharge of \$5 to each category of membership IF people want a hard copy. Others would receive a copy by email, and it would be their responsibility to keep their email address up to date.**

*12
8
8
8
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*12
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8
82

Monthly "Hits" on Howard County Bird Club Web Page



Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 28, 2010

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (✓)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert ✓
Vice-president: Wes Earp ✓
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat ✓
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*)
Past President:
Chap. Directors: Jim Lubitz (1st yr)
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) ✓
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy ✓
Kate Tufts ✓

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman ✓
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Michael O'Sullivan
Kevin Heffernan ✓
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz ✓
Newsletter: Amanda Witt ✓
Records: Jo Solem ✓
Webmaster: Bob Solem ✓
Others:
Pot Luck: Kathie Lillie ✓

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kevin Heffernan. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 14 was 44 people. Dr. Michael Raupp gave a program entitled "How Bugs Help the World Go Round."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was not present but had emailed her report and it is attached to the minutes. The negative \$370 for equipment reflects receipt of half the cost of the projector from the state MOS. Ward reported that a few more of the Donovan books have been sold, and that he has marked down the asking price for some of the books that are older versions. He estimates that between \$150-\$200 of estimated value remains for possible sale.

President's Remarks (Ebert): No opening comments.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): No opening comments.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Joe reported that the schedule is all set. He is exploring the option of a trip to Waterford Farm after Halloween next year. He also has reserved space on a boat to Smith Island for a trip on April 16. He is asking for people to sign up in advance.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that as State Conservation Chairman they are actively working to comment on plans for the Charles County Connector. He is also beginning to explore options for Gulf Coast Recovery recipients of seed sale and habitat donation proceeds.

Newsletter (Witt): Latest issue has mailed but not all had yet received it. One member had called Amanda and complained since she heard someone had received their copy and she had not. In fact the post office has up to 5 days to deliver bulk mail and delivery varies from neighborhood to neighborhood.

Amanda also reported on her test of the web based survey tool “Survey Monkey.” She passed around a handout (attached). You can include either an email link (as she did in test) or an HTML link. The free version allows up to 10 questions but doesn’t support automatic downloading of the results (e.g., into spreadsheet). She received 7 replies to her survey that demonstrated the wide array of potential question formats. Overall she felt it worked well. Amanda agreed to check into what the cost of the professional version of the tool would be if we felt a need for it. *Sec. Note: Following the meeting Amanda reported that a professional subscription of Survey Monkey would cost \$19.95 per month.*

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob offered what he characterized as an embarrassing confession. It turned out that somehow the automatic forwarding of email to the Webmaster to Bob’s personal email address had been turned off, and as a result there was a period where he was not reading and replying to emails sent to the Webmaster.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Culler): No reports.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Past President (??): Vacant position

Records (J. Solem): Jo reported that county birding year had been relatively lack luster through August – but now it will go down as the “Year of LeConte’s Sparrow.” Having gone 55 years without a prior record, and then to have 2 in one day is truly amazing. Since then we seem to be having an invasion of northern species to add to the year uniqueness.

Seed Sale (O’Sullivan, Heffernan): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last chapter Board meeting.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No reports.

Old Business

Ward had invited Kathie to attend the board meeting to discuss plans for the Pot Luck dinner. Kathie reported that she has a timeline for required preparations that Sue Probst had developed. We discussed date and decided to have her explore March 19, 12, and 5 in that order of priority. Plan to hold at the Owen Brown Village center as in the past. Since the proliferation of pictures had gotten out of hand last year we decided to limit the number of pictures per person to 20 pictures. The announcement needs to be in the next newsletter which has a deadline of January 25, and should include the limitation of pictures. *Sec. Note: Following the meeting Kathie sent an email summarizing plans and costs to hold the Pot Luck on March 12.*

We discussed coordinators for the next year’s seasonal counts. Chuck confirmed that he and Mike plan to coordinate Fall Count. Joe Hanfman and Joe Byrnes have already starting coordination for Winter Count. Kevin Heffernan stated he is planning to coordinate May Count, but solicited and received tentative volunteers for coordinating areas that he and Karen did last year, as doing County-wide and Area Coordination is a little too much to do.

Bob reported that there are approximately 40 former members that need to be contacted about renewing their membership. Jeff Culler took half the list and Jim Lubitz will be sent the other half for contact by phone. Calls should be made by Thanksgiving. Bob stated that he will send email, not send snail mail, reminders to those still outstanding that have email. If any without email needs a final reminder he will send a letter.

We then discussed plans to poll the membership regarding receipt of The Yellowthroat by email as requested by the state MOS board. Prior to the meeting Ward had sent out a proposed email request and then Bob replied with suggestion that we should also query membership about receiving The Goldfinch by email as well, and included a redraft of the request as we are likely to have increased mailing costs in the future, as technically bulk mailings need to be 200 or more and our mailing is currently only 175. Bob had provided information on cost options at the last

meeting. We agreed to use Bob's version of the request, with minor edits. The email eventually sent out is attached.

New Business

Kate announced that we had received additional publicity from the art contest as the Clarksville section of the Howard County Times featured the news of Amy Lee winning out backpack contest.

Ward announced that Sue Muller is making plans to sponsor a Youth Birding Club at the Robinson Nature Center and Ward has provided her contacts with the State Youth chairman.

Kurt asked if someone could swap hosting the next club Board meeting with him. Amanda agreed to swap and Ward will be sure to make note of this change when he sends out the agenda. The change is reflected in the schedule below.

Jo reported that the latest issue of the Howard County Times had an article in the Savage news portion describing the attempt by Terrapin Adventures to expand their trip line at Savage Mill into Savage Park (attached). A hearing before the Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board is scheduled for Nov. 17. The club had successfully lobbied against this proposal in 2007. Jo contacted John Byrd, Chairman of the Board, by email and learned that although the request was turned down then, the Board had stated they might reconsider in future if the business demonstrated some success with their smaller operation on the grounds of Savage Mill. We voted unanimously to again oppose this plan. We agreed to put together an email to members that would permit easy forwarding of opposition to proposal by just clicking reply all that would go to the Chairman of Board and members of the County Council. Bob took this for action. Ward agreed to draft a formal letter to the Board supporting our opposition, drawing in part on the rationale we offered in prior letter and testimony. *Sec. Note: Email and letter have been sent as of November 11.*

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Draft email question to membership on interest in email distribution of The Yellowthroat – Nov 1 – Ward
- Distribute email on email distribution after Ward drafts query and summarize responses – Nov 30 – Bob
- Prepare test survey using “Survey Monkey” and report results at next Board meeting – Oct 28 – Amanda **DONE**
- Draft article for The Goldfinch summarizing the seed sale results and recognizing the support of The Wildlife Authority – next newsletter deadline Nov 25 – Kevin H. and Michael O’Sullivan
- Research and suggest recipients for this year’s seed sale and habitat proceeds – Jan 27 - Kurt

New/Continuing Action Items

- Draft email question to membership on interest in email distribution of The Yellowthroat – Nov 1 – Ward **DONE**
- Distribute email on email distribution after Ward drafts query and summarize responses – Nov 30 – Bob **DONE**
- Draft article for The Goldfinch summarizing the seed sale results and recognizing the support of The Wildlife Authority – next newsletter deadline Nov 25 – Kevin H. and Michael O’Sullivan
- Research and suggest recipients for this year’s seed sale and habitat proceeds – Jan 27 – Kurt
- Check on the price of a professional subscription to “Survey Monkey” – Amanda **DONE**
- Draft and send email to membership asking for them to contact Howard Rec and Parks Board in opposition to the Zip Line proposal – Bob –**DONE**
- Prepare formal letter to Rec and Parks Board stating club opposition to the Zip Line proposal with rationale – Ward **DONE**

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2010	-	Wes Earp
October 28, 2010	-	Kevin Heffernan
November 18, 2010	-	Amanda Witt (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 27, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz
February 24, 2011	-	Jo Solem
March 24, 2011	-	Ward Ebert
April 28, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz
May 26, 2011	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Oct 28, 2010
- Howard County Bird Club – Treasurer’s Report – 5/1/10 – 10/26/10
- Results of “Survey Monkey” Test
- Howard County Poll of Members – Email Nov. 7, 2010
- Howard County Times article on Terrapin Adventures zip line proposal – Oct. 27, 2010

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

OCT 28, 2010

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy (in absentia)*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Yellowthroat poll *Ward*
 - Potluck Dinner – planning *Kathie*
 - Bird count coordinators for 2011, confirm
 - Membership, renewals, and reminders *Bob*
8. New Business/Discussions
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:
Kevin Heffernan
9775 Diversified La
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Phone: 410-418-8731

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/10-10/26/10

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		1,300.00	4,040.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		4,040.00
Contributions			145.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		4,185.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		43.46
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	150.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00	258.35	258.35
Postage, copies	65.00	28.69	213.69
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Equipment		(370.00)	407.45
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	58.77	310.71
Miscellaneous		19.54	46.04
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		1,429.70
Seed Sale			
Income		6,630.00	6,630.00
Expense			
Seed		6,630.00	6,630.00
Flyers, postage			55.38
Net Seed Sale			(55.38)
Contributions for Habitat Conservation		1,360.00	1,360.00
Sale of Books		27.00	230.00
Sale of Note Paper		5.00	23.00
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			9,923.47
Interest Received		0.20	0.54
Balance			9,924.01
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			6,259.09
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			6,001.84
Savings			16,183.10
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			22,228.22

My Surveys Address Book My Account

You have a **BASIC account** | To remove the limits of a BASIC account and get unlimited

Sample Survey [Edit](#)

Default Report

Response Summary

Total Started Surveys **7**
Total Completed Surveys **7**

PAGE: DEFAULT SECTION

1. What bird is not easily found in Maryland?

[Create Chart](#)

	Response Percent	<i>Response count</i>
Northern Cardinal <input type="text"/>	14.3%	1
Pyrrhuloxia <input type="text"/>	85.7%	6
Mallard	0.0%	0
Song Sparrow	0.0%	0
answered question		7
skipped question		0

2. Where is your favorite birding spot in the county?

[Hide replies](#)

- 1. Maryland Central Farm Mon, Oct 18, 2010 7:03 PM
- 2. My yard Sun, Oct 17, 2010 3:43 PM
- 3. Centennial Park Sun, Oct 17, 2010 11:20 AM

answered question
skipped question

2. Where is your favorite birding spot in the county?

4. Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 8:31 AM
5. Mt. Pleasant	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 4:00 AM
6. West Friendship Park	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 3:38 AM
7. MPEA	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 1:11 AM

answered question 7
skipped question 0

3. Please list 3 birds you hope to locate this year.

	Response Percent	
Hide replies		
Bird 1 <input type="text"/>	100.0%	
1. Redpoll	Mon, Oct 18, 2010 7:03 PM	
2. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 3:43 PM	
3. great horned owl	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 11:20 AM	
4. White-winged Scoter	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 8:31 AM	
5. Pink Flamingo	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 4:00 AM	
6. Le Conte's Sparrow	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 3:38 AM	
7. Common Redpoll	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 1:11 AM	

response count
7

Show replies	Bird 2 <input type="text"/>	100.0%	
Show replies	Bird 3 <input type="text"/>	100.0%	

7
7

answered question
skipped question

White winged crossbill
Winter wren
Kinglets - both
surf scoter
sage grouse
morning warbler
northern shrike

goshawk
pine siskin
black duck
LeConte's Sparrow
California Condor
Atlantic Puffin
yellow-headed blackbird

4. What other Maryland counties have you birded in the last month?

Create Chart

	Response Percent	response count
Anne Arundel <input type="text"/>	25.0%	1
Baltimore <input type="text"/>	25.0%	1
Carroll <input type="text"/>	50.0%	2
Frederick <input type="text"/>	25.0%	1
Montgomery <input type="text"/>	100.0%	4
Prince George's <input type="text"/>	25.0%	1

Show replies Other (please specify) 3

answered question 4

skipped question 3

✓
 none
 None
 Garrett

5. What is the most recent bird you saw?

 Hide replies

1. Goldfinch	Mon, Oct 18, 2010 7:03 PM
2. Blue Jay	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 3:43 PM
3. robin	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 11:20 AM
4. Pine Siskin (most recent addition to year list)	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 8:31 AM
5. Nuthatch	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 4:00 AM
6. Cassin's Sparrow	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 3:38 AM
7. Le Conte's Sparrow	Sun, Oct 17, 2010 1:11 AM

answered question

skipped question

7
0



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Howard County Bird Club Poll of Members

1 message

Bob & Jo Solem <odenata@msn.com>

Sun, Nov 7, 2010 at 9:13 PM

Maryland Ornithological Society wants your input! We are specifically asked to report the number of our membership that would prefer electronic deliver of *The Yellowthroat*. We also want your views on delivers of our newsletter, *The Goldfinch*. Responding is easy:

Answer the two questions below and reply to this message.

First question: My preference for *The Yellowthroat*: **1. 2. 3. My answer:** ____

Second question: My preference for The Goldfinch: **1. 2. 3. My answer:** ____

Please help us with your opinion after you read the background information.

Ward Ebert,
President, Howard County Bird Club

Background

As a member of the Howard County Bird Club (HCBC), you are automatically also a member of our parent state organization, the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS). You receive mailed publications from both, *The Goldfinch* from the HCBC, and *The Yellowthroat* from the MOS. First question:

1. Receive *The Yellowthroat* **ONLY electronically**.
2. Receive *The Yellowthroat* **BOTH** electronically **AND** by bulk mail (which may include an additional charge to be determined).
3. Pay *extra* to have *The Yellowthroat* sent by bulk mail (which may include an additional charge to be determined).

We may want to offer *The Goldfinch* electronically. We would be interested in your views on that as well. **The first newsletter of the membership year** (Sep/Oct) **would always be sent by regular mail** (since it includes the membership renewal blank). Second question:

1. Receive four newsletters (Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/Jun) **ONLY** electronically at no additional charge.
2. Receive all newsletters **BOTH** electronically and by first class mail **for an additional \$5/year**.

3. Receive **ALL** newsletters *only* by first class mail **for an additional \$5/year**. (The increase may become necessary because of the continuing increase in postal rates and the declining number of newsletters that we mail out.)

--

Address of sender:

Bob Solem

Webmaster, Howard County Bird Club

odenata@msn.com

Laurel, MD 20723

Company seeking to zip across the Little Patuxent

Savage

By Darla Trigger

dtrig1029@verizon.net 301-776-3794



If you are interested in having a little zipline fun this weekend, **Terrapin Adventures** is offering a Halloween Happening discount. On Sat. Oct. 30 and Sun. Oct. 31, Terrapin

Adventures is challenging adventurers to bring out their inner goblin and try their ziplines.

Adventurers who come in costume will receive 10 percent off, by using their Halloween promo code (HALL10) and booking their zipline Halloween adventure online.

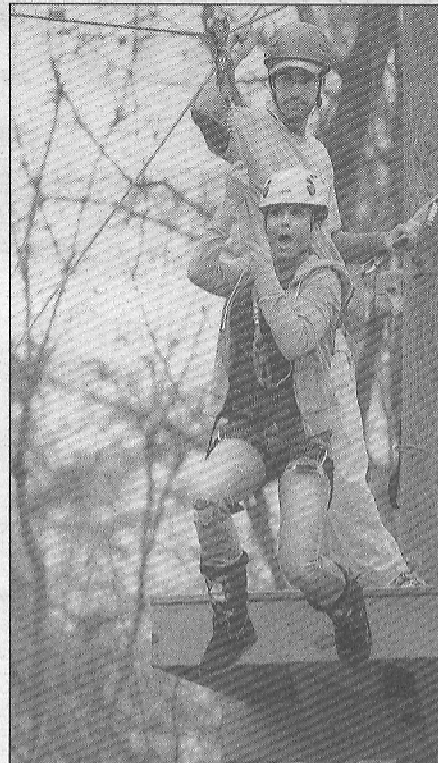
If you haven't tried the Terrapin Adventure ziplines, located at the end of Washington Street near the Historic Savage Mill, this is your chance to have the adventure ride of your life.

Also, being encouraged by the positive response the business has received from adventurers to their ziplines, they are pursuing additional adventure equipment to be added at the Savage Mill location.

Terrapin Adventures is requesting permission from the Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board to create a zipline canopy tour that would include five ziplines and four canopy bridges crossing the Little Patuxent River four times, high in the air.

Terrapin Adventures is presenting its plan to the Recreation and Parks Board Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m., at their headquarters on 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia. If you enjoy the ziplines, then you may want to support their request either by signing the petition and -mail your support for the project to info@terrapinadventures.com or you can lend your support by attending the hearing on Nov. 17.

This is a big weekend in our community. We have the **Savage United Methodist Church's Youth Group Halloween party** Saturday, Oct. 30, for community teenagers. This event, complete with a disc jockey and snacks, will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the SUMC social hall. In addition, the



FILE PHOTO/2009

In this file photo, Catherine Parks, of Ellicott City, reacts as she takes a leap off the zipline board at Terrapin Adventures, in Savage. Behind her stands adventure guide Jason Ruby. The business is seeking to expand to include ziplines crossing the Little Patuxent River.

First Baptist Church of Savage will host its annual Fall Festival for children in elementary school.

This event is scheduled to begin Sunday, Oct. 31, at 6:30 p.m., in the church. Children attending both of these functions are encouraged to dress in costume attire that is not offensive to others.

As the traditional Halloween event of trick-or-treating will be held Oct. 31, members of our community are encouraged to drive safely that evening, watching out for children running here and there as they trick-or-treat in our community.

I want to extend special happy birthday wishes to my uncle, **Paul Gaoe**, who will be celebrated Oct. 27; and to my brother-in-law, **Benny Mullins**, who will be celebrating Oct. 30.

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 18, 2010

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*)
Past President:
Chap. Directors: Jim Lubitz (1st yr)
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Michael O'Sullivan
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:
Pot Luck: Kathie Lillie

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Amanda Witt. Total number in attendance was 9. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 11 was 37 people. Dr. David Curson, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon MD-DC gave a program entitled "An Edge Effect at the Landscape Scale-Daily Commuting by Brown-Headed Cowbird."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had submitted her report via email and a copy is attached. It was observed that she had paid the state dues for those renewals received to date. There is an estimated \$1633 available for habitat contribution at present.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward noted the receipt of an email from Kevin Heffernan indicating his intent to not participate in the Board deliberations due to extensive other commitments including work. He will not be helping with coordination of the seed sale next year, but he will continue to populate the membership survey spreadsheet, serve as County Coordinator for May Count, and lead an occasional field trip. Ward expressed our appreciation for Kevin's past service.

Ward then asked those who had attended the Rec. and Parks Advisory Board meeting on Nov 17 where the proposal by Terrapin Adventures for an expanded zipline at Savage Park was considered. Jo stated that the outcome was very successful in support of our position. The subject was the first item on agenda so that attendees didn't have to stay for the whole meeting. The club had submitted a formal letter in opposition and at least 44 of our members had responded to our email solicitation forwarding their opposition to the Board and did not feel the need to testify in person (list of respondents attached). The Savage neighborhood associations were well organized and strong in their opposition to the zipline. The owner of Savage Mill, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Tourist Board testified in support. Although the owner of Terrapin Adventures, Matt Baker stated his employees provide educational information, a local resident that is the head of educational programs at the National Aquarium stated that when she and her family participated in the program her attempts to solicit information from employees were unsuccessful. In addition she had volunteered to have Aquarium staff help train their employees, but the owner Matt refused the offer. The Advisory Board asked a number of questions and then chose to vote on the submitted proposal. The vote to accept the proposal was not accepted by any of the Board members. As a result the proposal should not go forward and hopefully this will be the end of this attempt to use park land for commercial purposes.

Ward agreed to draft a couple of sentences, for an email follow-up to our earlier email that asked members to voice their opposition, in order to provide the membership with a summary of the hearing outcome. Bob will send out this email shortly.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt stated he has cleared up efforts for State MOS that he had been working on, and now will start to look for candidates to receive our habitat donation designed to help with the Gulf recovery from the oil spill.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reminded us that the deadline for the next Goldfinch is November 25. She stated that the number of "fans" for our Facebook page had risen to 14 (although she blocked one who was using the site to post items inappropriate for the club page). She agreed to send Bob the URL link to our Facebook page with instructions on how to become a fan, for inclusion in the email to be sent as follow-up to the zip-line solicitation.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that the web is working fine and getting considerable use.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Culler): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (O'Sullivan, Heffernan): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

On-line Deliveries Poll – Bob summarized the results of the survey on receiving The Yellowthroat and/or The Goldfinch electronically in the future. The survey was sent to 126 addressees and 59 responded. There are 16 current members who have not provided an active email address. The results showed (detailed responses attached):

	Yellowthroat	Goldfinch
Electronic Only	51	50
Both formats	4	4
Snail mail only	4	5

There were a number of insightful comments. These included 1) having the format not be in columns so don't have to scroll up and down to read, 2) consider giving a discount for email delivery vice charging extra, 3) PDF format will permit including color photos, 4) The Yellowthroat tends to be too long to read on-line and/or print. Bob suggested that we discuss how we would implement this in a couple of months (e.g., Feb. Board meeting). Another possibility is to try distributing the announcement of the election slate and club directory in PDF format this year as a test of the process. Bob has already worked on formatting to make the directory easier to read on screen by using a ½ page format.

Potluck Dinner – Kathie reviewed the status of potluck planning. She has signed the contract for use of the Hopewell Room at the Owen Brown Community Center on Saturday March 12 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. This assumes Setup 5-6, dinner 6-7, presentations 7-8, and cleanup 8-9. She has paid the security deposit of \$250 with a personal check and Emy has reimbursed her. The normal fee for room on Saturday is \$425 but we were given a 20% discount, so price will be \$340 due in February. Things have changed since last year, with them now requiring proof of non-profit status. Prices are increased for 2011 and there is not any non-profit discount on Saturday nights.

Columbia residents get a 10% discount. Kathie didn't know if we had alcohol so contract says maybe. We told her people do bring it and share but we do not sell it, which is the real issue. She checked prices at several other community centers but none seemed to be significantly less in cost. See new business for a discussion of potluck plans in future years. Kathie was reminded she needs to draft an announcement for the Jan/Feb newsletter with due date of Nov. 25.

Membership, renewals, and reminders – Jeff summarized status of follow-up calls to those who had not sent in renewals. He and Jim Lubitz have made all the calls. There was a positive response to over 50% of these calls. Bob reports we currently have 186 members, so it is unlikely we will reach 200 members, which would mean we would only be entitled to 2 instead of 3 MOS State Directors next year.

New Business

Nominating Committee – Ward reported that he had to appoint a nominating committee and wanted to do so tonight if he could have volunteers. The primary position to fill is that of 1st year Chapter Director. In all likelihood we will only elect 2 of current 3 State Directors to serve next year. Jeff Culler and Kurt Schwarz volunteered and were appointed as the nominating committee. They were asked to try and have a slate identified by the January Board meeting. They would appreciate any suggestions people have to offer.

Future of the Potluck Dinner – As discussed above the cost for renting the facility has significantly increased this year partly due to increased rates and disallowing the non-profit discount on Saturday night rentals, and can be expected to increase further. In addition the attendance at potlucks has been declining steadily (~45 last year). We held an informal discussion of the implications of these changes. It now appears to be a significant club expense that serves a relatively small portion of the club membership. The pot-luck is a long-standing tradition for the club that provides a social gathering and the opportunity for members to share some of their pictures. We made a few observations. Last year the number of people showing pictures (and some of them showing far too many) had made the presentation drag on far too long. We had already discussed limiting each presenter to 15 pictures (to be announced in newsletter). Bob reported that June is comfortable with enforcing this policy. We discussed searching for alternate locations. Holding a gathering at a restaurant as a social was proposed (whether this would permit pictures might be an issue). Trying to arrange a catered dinner with payment collected in advance was suggested, although this would still require finding a venue. Jo commented that when the club first formed a winter social was held in the home of Nan Rhineland (without photos) but the size outgrew her home. At that time a club picnic held in June also provided a social gathering. We could consider holding a picnic (without photos) as an alternate to the potluck. It was noted that some attendees are non-members (spouses, friends, etc.) which in some ways further increases the disproportionate use of club funds for this purpose. Another idea was to schedule one of the club regular meeting programs as a member's night to share photos as we do currently at the potluck. It was pointed out that many of our events (regular meeting programs, field trips, use of web-site, etc.) serve only a small sub-set of the membership, but don't involve quite as much expense. We may want to investigate whether the Robinson Nature Center could be used for the potluck. We should investigate the cost of using current venue on other than a Saturday night as another possibility.

February 10 Meeting to be held at Robinson Nature Center – Ward announced that he has made arrangements for us to hold meeting there before the center opens to the public. Mark Raab will give a short program on the Center as well as lead small groups on facility tours starting at 7 PM. Amanda will include this announcement in the next newsletter. Chuck agreed to find her the address and or directions to the Center.

Seed Sale Coordination for Next Year – Ward said we need to see if Michael O'Sullivan is willing to do this again next year, and see if he feels he can handle it alone (given Kevin's decision to not continue in that role).

Youth Bird-a-thon – Amanda mentioned that she had seen an announcement for a Youth Bird-a-thon at Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge/Visitor Center and wondered if we could encourage participation. Ward suggested that Sue Muller be notified of this as she has plans to form a Youth Bird Club at the Robinson Nature Center shortly after it opens.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Draft email question to membership on interest in email distribution of The Yellowthroat – Nov 1 – Ward **DONE**
- Distribute email on email distribution after Ward drafts query and summarize responses – Nov 30 – Bob **DONE**
- Draft article for The Goldfinch summarizing the seed sale results and recognizing the support of The Wildlife Authority – next newsletter deadline Nov 25 – Kevin H. and Michael O’Sullivan
- Research and suggest recipients for this year’s seed sale and habitat proceeds – Jan 27 – Kurt
- Check on the price of a professional subscription to “Survey Monkey” – Amanda **DONE**
- Draft and send email to membership asking for them to contact Howard Rec and Parks Board in opposition to the Zip Line proposal – Bob –**DONE**
- Prepare formal letter to Rec and Parks Board stating club opposition to the Zip Line proposal with rationale – Ward **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Draft article for The Goldfinch summarizing the seed sale results and recognizing the support of The Wildlife Authority – next newsletter deadline Nov 25 – Kevin H. and Michael O’Sullivan
- Research and suggest recipients for this year’s seed sale and habitat proceeds – Jan 27 – Kurt
- Draft email to membership with follow-up on Zipline proposal outcome for Bob to distribute – Nov 20 – Ward **DONE**
- Send Bob information on how to access club’s Facebook page for inclusion in follow-up email – Nov 20 – Amanda **DONE**
- Announce February meeting to be held at Robinson Nature Center 1) Goldfinch – Amanda, 2) Club meetings Dec and Jan – Ward
- Provide Amanda information on Robinson Nature Center address and directions – Jan 19 – Chuck **DONE**
- Draft announcement of Potluck Dinner for The Goldfinch – Nov 25 - Kathie

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2010	-	Wes Earp
October 28, 2010	-	Kevin Heffernan
November 18, 2010	-	Amanda Witt (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 27, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz
February 24, 2011	-	Jo Solem
March 24, 2011	-	Ward Ebert
April 28, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz
May 26, 2011	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 18, 2010
- Treasurer’s Report Howard County Bird Club – 5/1/10 – 11/15/2010
- Howard County Bird Club Members Responding in Opposition to Zipline Extension Proposal
- Results of Poll on Electronic Distribution of Yellowthroat and Goldfinch

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Nov 18, 2010

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy (in absentia)*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
 - Zipline foray *attendees 11/17*
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - On-line deliveries poll *Bob*
 - Potluck Dinner *Kathie*
 - Membership, renewals, and reminders *Jeff*
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Nominating committee *Ward*
 - Future of the potluck dinner *Ward/Jo/Kathie/all*
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:
Amanda Witt’s
8865 Purple Iris La
Elkridge, MD 21075
Phone: 410-312-0504

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/10-11/15/10

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		915.00	4,955.00
State Dues Paid		(2,915.00)	(2,915.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,040.00
Contributions		15.00	160.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		2,200.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		43.46
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	200.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		258.35
Postage, copies	65.00		213.69
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Equipment		moved to Mountjoy Fund	
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00	250.00	250.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	128.00	438.71
Miscellaneous			46.04
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		1,450.25
Seed Sale			
Income			6,630.00
Expense			
Seed			6,630.00
Flyers, postage			55.38
Net Seed Sale			(55.38)
Contributions for Habitat Conservation			
Sale of Books		20.00	250.00
Sale of Note Paper			23.00
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			10,330.92
Interest Received		0.27	0.81
Balance			10,331.73
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance		(407.45)	5,851.64
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,995.84
Savings			16,183.37
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			20,222.49

HCBC members opposition to ZIP-LINE extension reques

	Peggy Brammer	6158 Clearsmoke Court Columbia, MD 21045
	Julie Dunlap	6371 Tinted Hill Columbia, MD 21045
	Georgia Morris	10608 Graeloch Ct., Laurel, MD 20723
	Elizabeth Anne Green	7114 Willow Brook Way, Columbia, MD 21046
	Kerstin Canastar	7315 Maplecrest Rd. Elkridge Md 21075
	Dr. Christopher D. Toscano	6301 Early Red Court, Columbia, MD 21045
	Woody Merkle	1940 Woodstock Road, Woodstock, MD 21163
	Norma H. Petersen	9329 Joey Drive Ellicott City, MD 21042
	Tracy Eve	323 Narrow Wind Way, Columbia, MD 21046
	Sally Kendall	10588 Jason Ct, Columbia, MD 21044
	Phill Wilder	9462 Glen Ridge Dr Laurel, MD 20723
	Felicia Lovelett	735 River Rd., Sykesville, MD 21784
	Robin G. Todd	1014 Green Clover Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21042
	Wesley Earp	6480 S. Trotter Road, Clarksville
	Susan Earp	6480 S. Trotter Road, Clarksville
	Nancy C. Magnusson	8589-F Falls Run Rd, Ellicott City, MD 21043
	Katherine Tufts	2830 Duvall Road, Woodbine, MD 21797
	Dick Tufts	2830 Duvall Road, Woodbine, MD 21797
	John McKitterick	10018 Maple Avenue, Columbia, MD 21046
	Scott Berglund	2753 Westminster Rd Ellicott City, MD 21043
	Charles R. Stirrat	13318 Hunt Rdg, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155
	Joseph B. Byrnes	10911 Swansfield Rd, Columbia, MD
	Margaret Holly	6162 Clearsmoke Ct, Columbia MD
	Gayle Hill	3050 Hobbs Rd, Glenwood, MD 21738
	Jim Wilkinson	9255 Brush Run, Columbia, MD 21045
	Carl Josephson	9335 Big River Run, Columbia, MD 21045
	Michelle Stewart	9510 Angelina Circle, Columbia, MD 21045
	Robin Hessey	3963 Ducksfoot Lane Ellicott City, MD 21042
	Diane Nagengast	17512 Timberleigh Way Woodbine, MD
	Anne McEvoy	10303 wilde lake terrace columbia md. 21044
	Tom Feild	9608 Glendower Court, Laurel, Md 20723
	Joanne Solem	10617 Graeloch Rd, Laurel MD 20723
	Karen Darcy	9775 Diversified Lane, Ellicott City
	Joe Hanfman	6239 Martin Rd, Columbia, MD 21044
	T. Dennis. Coskren	6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia, MD 21045
	Jane H. Coskren	6324 Sandchain Road, Columbia MD 21045
	Mark Farfaras	6724 Cricket Pass, Columbia, MD 21044
	Cheryl Farfaras	6724 Cricket Pass, Columbia, MD 21044
	Amanda Witt	8865 Purple Iris Lane, Elkridge, MD 21075
	Mary Ann Beverly	7511 Broken Staff Columbia, MD 21045
	Beth Lindenau	9466 Hundred Drums Row Columbia, MD 21046
	Lisa Colangelo	13757 Frederick Rd West Friendship MD 21794
	Anne Green	7114 Willow Brood Way Columbia MD 21046
	Sharon Smith	11808 Bright Passage, Columbia, MD
	George & Frances Alderson	112 Hilton Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228
	Maureen Harvey	302 Chelsea Court Sykesville, MD 21784

To date: 44 (+ 2 outside county)

**Poll of Howard County Bird Club members on delivery of *The Yellowthroat* and *The Goldfinch*.
 1: email only. 2: both email and snail mail. 3: snail mail only**

	Yellowthroat	Goldfinch
Cheryl Farfaras	1	1
Chris Toscano	1	1
Julie Dunlap	1	1
G&F Alderson	3	1
Maureen Harvey	1	1
Tracy Eve	1	1
Peter Osenton	1	1
Paul Baicich	1	1
Dick Smith	1	1 the extra \$5/yr [<i>Goldfinch</i>] was the deciding factor
R&M Elvander	1	1
Jeff Friedhoffer	1	1
Dianne Aquilera	1	1
Norma Petersen	1	1
Kathy Colston	1	1
J Phil Morgan	3	3
Richard Orr	1	2 Goldfinch 2 but could live with 1
Ed Cohen	1	3
Tom Ahern	1	1
J&M Blaisdell	1	1 Note that color pictures can be added to an electronic newsletter, a real advantage
Woody Merkle	1	1
Mark Wallace	1	1
Bonnie Ott	1	2
Karla Pearce	1	1
Phill Wilder	1	1
Felicia Lovelett	1	1
Anne Green	1	1
Eva Sunell	3	3 my answer to both ?s is the number 3. as you can see i could not get this one to work ,nor the one on the zip line. we still have older members, that are not male and hate this contraption. sure i will pay. what does one do when the computer is down, as mine frequently is?
Linda McDaniel	1	1
Kelli Underwood	1	1
Carl Josephson	1	1
S&R Polniaszek	1	1
Robin Hessey	2	1 <i>Yellowthroat</i> : it's too long to read on-line <i>Goldfinch</i> : it's short enough to read on-line
W&S Earp	1	1
Sue Buswell	1	1
Michelle Stuart	1	1
John McKitterick	1	1

Nancy Magnusson	3	1	I won't read it electronically, but I can make the hard copy happen myself. My reasoning is this. I get a lot of newsletters electronically. Do I ever read any of them? No; the reading pretty much stopped when they stopped being paper. I don't read things on the computer. If I'm on the computer, I'm there for a reason – newsletters just keep scrolling down the list until they're lost. The Goldfinch is short enough that I can print it out and read it. I wouldn't bother with The Yellowthroat so I would never read it. I don't care if I have to pay extra. Obviously you know as well that folks don't read electronic versions or you wouldn't send out the first newsletter by mail. No reason people can't download an electronic form, fill it in, and mail it. But they won't see it. It's a good idea, though, because the digital natives coming along do everything electronically. So we should be gearing toward them absolutely.
Scott Berglund	1	1	Electronic (I assume you mean pdf?) for me.
Chuck Stirrat	1	1	
Bill Hill	2	2	Going paperless certainly seems like the wave of the future but I know I don't like the e-format of our ski club newsletter. It's in a "column/newspaper" type of format which makes it hard to read the articles that wrap across columns. So to begin with I will opt for option 2 to both questions. If the format looks OK and is easy to read without printing, then I would be inclined to change to option 1 at a later date.
D&J Nagangast	1	1	
Sue Muller	1	1	
Joe Hanfman	1	1	
David Cummings	1	1	
Kate Tufts	1	1	
Paul Woodford	1	1	
Michele Wright	1	1	
Mary-Jo Betts	1	1	
Jim Wilkinson	1	3	<i>Goldfinch</i> : depends on the amount of extra charges though
Bob Doyle	1	1	
J&D Coskren	1	1	
Amanda Witt	1	1	
Mary Ann Beverly	1	1	It would be nice if there were an option on the MOS and HoCo websites or in each newsletter so that one could change one's delivery preferences at a later date.
Joe Byrnes	1	1	
Jo Solem	2	3	<i>Goldfinch</i> - Bulk mail only at regular membership fee. Those receiving it electronically should receive a discount.
Jeff Culler	2	2	
Tom Feild	1	1	
Karen Darcy	1	1	
Sharon Smith	1	1	
Electronic only	51	50	
Both	4	4	
Snail mail only	4	5	

Questionnaire sent to 126
Do not have current active email 16

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 3, 2011

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President:
Chap. Directors: Jim Lubitz (1st yr) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Michael O'Sullivan
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √

General Notes

Meeting was held in the home of Jim Lubitz a week after originally scheduled due to bad weather when originally scheduled. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 9, 2010 was ___ people. Walter Ellison, coordinator/editor of the Atlas, gave a program entitled "Twenty Years of Changing Birdlife: Results of the 2002-2006 MD-DC Atlas Project." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 13, 2011 was _____. David Brinker, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources, gave a program entitled "Maryland's Secretive Marsh Birds, Will They Survive Sea Level Rise?"

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy submitted report in advance via email and a copy of the Treasurer's report is attached. Emy reported that there were 3 new memberships received at January meeting, 1 received by mail in December, and there is one more pending. As of the end of January those who have not renewed will be deleted from membership roles.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward reminded the Board that the February 10 meeting has had to be moved back to Rec. and Parks HQ building as the county has not yet taken title to the Robinson Nature Center. An email will be sent to membership announcing this and fact that Mark Raab will still speak about the Center.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): Wes reported that he had given the talk to the Clarksville Rotary Club about club and bird counts. Both Ward and Wes expressed their thanks to Kate Tufts for stepping in to host the January regular meeting when they were both unavailable due to health issues.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): See new business for habitat preservation proposals. Kurt reported that as MOS State Conservation chair he was filing comments to the State Board of Education regarding a proposal for how to interpret the new Environmental Education requirement enacted by the legislature. The Board is considering a proposal that the requirement could be satisfied by passing a general biology class,

which seems to run counter to the intent of the legislature for students to participate in a education experience solely focused on the environment and it's preservation.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported that the current newsletter is being proof read and will be mailed shortly. The deadline for the next issue is March 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Besides discussion about Goldfinch delivery options discussed as part of Old Business, Bob presented his annual report on club membership. His handout is attached, but the bottom line is that using the protocol adopted by MOS that each household membership is equal to 2 votes, and others 1 vote, we have 201 members. As a result we are still entitled to 3 State Directors.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Culler): Jim had visited the Evergreen Museum in Baltimore where they have a collection of books including original folios of Audubon and John Gould, etc. While there he had asked the guide if a group could visit and be allowed to view the collection. He was given a person to contact and explore such a visit. He asked if the club might be interested in putting such a visit together as a "field trip." After discussion we agreed such an activity might be a good idea for a "summer" activity when birding slows down. Jim agreed to contact the POC he was given and see if such a visit could be arranged. If he determines such a visit could be set up he will work with Bonnie and Joe Hanfman to see if we can schedule such an event.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Past President (??): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (O'Sullivan): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Goldfinch Delivery Proposal – Bob had prepared a handout (attached) addressing the cost of Goldfinch delivery by mail (bulk and first class) and email. He concluded that with as few newsletters as we mail we could actually use first class mail for less than using bulk mail (factoring in the annual permit cost). He summarized the choices we need to consider. 1) Discontinue the use of bulk mail and begin use of first class. 2) Start offering delivery of newsletter via email as an option (consider offering a \$5 rebate for those that use email only). 3) Try email delivery with the March delivery of club directory/ slate of officers for April election. We discussed options. We approved item 3 as proposed. We approved item 1, but authorized those involved with implementation to decide when to make the switch. Lastly after further discussion we agreed to begin offering email delivery next fall but for now not mention any rebate. We will continue to deliver the Sept/Oct issue with the membership form and survey by snail mail (first class). The form will need to be revised to have place to select email delivery. We will urge people to switch to email delivery citing the benefits to the environment as one reason. Members receiving by email will be responsible for informing webmaster if their email address changes. Lastly it was agreed that the newsletter should be reformatted to make it easier to read on computer screen. Bob will work with Amanda in this reformatting.

Potluck Dinner – Kathie reported that plans are on track for the potluck on March 12. Sign-up sheets have been passed around at recent meetings, with expectation that a last sign up opportunity will occur at regular club meeting on March 10.

Nominating Committee – Kurt reported that Sherry Tomlinson had agreed to be nominated as Chapter Director. Kurt was reminded that he also needed to confirm that current office holders were still willing to serve. After a quick check around the room he confirmed acceptance by all except Mary-Jo Betts who was not present. Kurt took an action to contact Mary-Jo and ask whether she was still willing to serve as a State Director. *Sec. Note: Subsequent to the meeting Mary-Jo sent an email declining to serve due to health issues. At the February regular club meeting Kurt put forward the nominating committee slate which included Jeff Friedhoffer who volunteered to*

serve as State Director in Mary-Jo's position. The final slate will be announced at the March meeting and then Bob will send out the Slate along with the Club Directory shortly after the March meeting.

Backpack Contest – After a brief discussion of possible alternatives, we concluded that we would again have an art competition. Kate agreed to again coordinate the contest and proposes to try and hold the competition earlier in the year so that she can engage art teachers in the schools in an attempt to get even greater participation. The attempt to use the summer camp programs last year was not successful. The Board concurred with the idea of holding the contest during the school year.

Greenfest – It was reported that Michael O'Sullivan has registered the club as a participant and knows about where to get the display. Ward has volunteered a digital photo frame to use at the display. It was unclear whether Michael understands how many volunteers he needs to help man the booth. Amanda agreed to send him an email and make sure he has the information he needs to set up volunteer schedule.

New Business

Habitat Preservation Proposals – Kurt had shared two potential American Bird Conservancy programs by email for consideration by the board.(attached): 1) Restoring Seabird Nesting Islands in Barataria Bay, and 2) Beach Nesting Bird Conservation Project. Project 1 has a 3 to 1 matching proposal, that led to Kurt recommending that project. We briefly discussed both projects and reached general consensus to support number 1). The total amount available for donation was estimated as \$1685 (rounded to \$1700). It was first moved that we continue our support of All Creatures Great and Small with \$200. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously. It was then moved we donate the balance of \$1500 to the ABC project 1). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Resolve Logo Questions – Ward had received and shared with the Board an email request from John Malcolm asking if the club has an official logo. He is hoping to have one on file for use when he receives requests for MOS Chapter certificates. We identified various pieces of artwork we have used, but agreed that we do not have an official logo. Ward will respond to John with that reply.

Miscellaneous New Business -

Jo Solem requested the board to authorize using funds from the Mountjoy Fund to purchase two copies of the new Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas to be donated to WSSC and the Robinson Nature Center library. WSSC granted access to the reservoir properties for atlas field work and we want to recognize that support. The Board approved this request. As a side note it was noted that the Howard County library still has not received copies, despite several members recommending it be purchased. Others are urged to put in a suggestion that they be ordered so that sufficient interest is expressed in having copies available in the libraries.

Jo also noted that in a conversation with Judy Holzman of All Creatures Great and Small that Judy had been called to "rescue" a hybrid goose that was trapped. Although she took in the goose, Judy shared the fact that rehabilitators are no longer able to rehabilitate and release exotic species. If she takes one in they will "disappear."

Jo mentioned the recent email posted by Mark Hoffman to MDOsprey with the contact information for help with human-wildlife conflict issues.

"Anyone with a wildlife "problem" should contact DNR's wildlife hotline at 1-877-463-6497. This number is staffed (under contract) by experts in resolving human-wildlife conflicts, who work for the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/index.shtml."

Ward reported that Tom Strickwerda had received an application for an MOS scholarship from a Howard County teacher, and that Ward had written a letter in support of the application.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Draft article for The Goldfinch summarizing the seed sale results and recognizing the support of The Wildlife Authority – next newsletter deadline Nov 25 – Kevin H. and Michael O'Sullivan - **DONE**
- Research and suggest recipients for this year's seed sale and habitat proceeds – Jan 27 – Kurt - **DONE**

- Draft email to membership with follow-up on Zipline proposal outcome for Bob to distribute – Nov 20 – Ward **DONE**
- Send Bob information on how to access club’s Facebook page for inclusion in follow-up email – Nov 20 – Amanda **DONE**
- Announce February meeting to be held at Robinson Nature Center 1) Goldfinch – Amanda, 2) Club meetings Dec and Jan – Ward – **CLOSE OBE**
- Provide Amanda information on Robinson Nature Center address and directions – Jan 19 – Chuck **DONE**
- Draft announcement of Potluck Dinner for The Goldfinch – Nov 25 – Kathie - **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Investigate possibility of a summer field trip to Evergreen Museum in Baltimore where they have a collection of books including original folios of Audubon and John Gould, etc. – Jim Lubitz
- Contact Mary-Jo to determine if she wants to continue as State Director – Kurt

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2010	-	Wes Earp
October 28, 2010	-	Kevin Heffernan
November 18, 2010	-	Amanda Witt (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 27, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz (rescheduled to Feb.3 due to weather)
February 24, 2011	-	Jo Solem
March 24, 2011	-	Ward Ebert
April 28, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz
May 26, 2011	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Feb. 3, 2011 – Rev. 2
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/10 – 1/25/11
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) -2/3/2011
- The Goldfinch by Mail and Email – revised Feb. 2
- Grant Proposal – ID 26212, Restoring Seabird Nesting Islands in Baratavia Bay, American Bird Conservancy
- Grant Proposal – ID 26241, Beach-Nesting Bird Conservation Project, American Bird Conservancy
- Monthly Hits on Web Page

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

FEB 3, 2011 – REV. 2

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
 - Feb meeting NOT at Robinson Center
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Goldfinch deliveries proposal *Bob*
 - Potluck Dinner *Kathie*
 - Nominating committee *Kurt/Jeff*
 - Backpack contest *Kate*
 - Greenfest *Kate(?)*
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Habitat Preservation Proposal/status *Kurt*
 - Resolve logo questions *Ward*
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

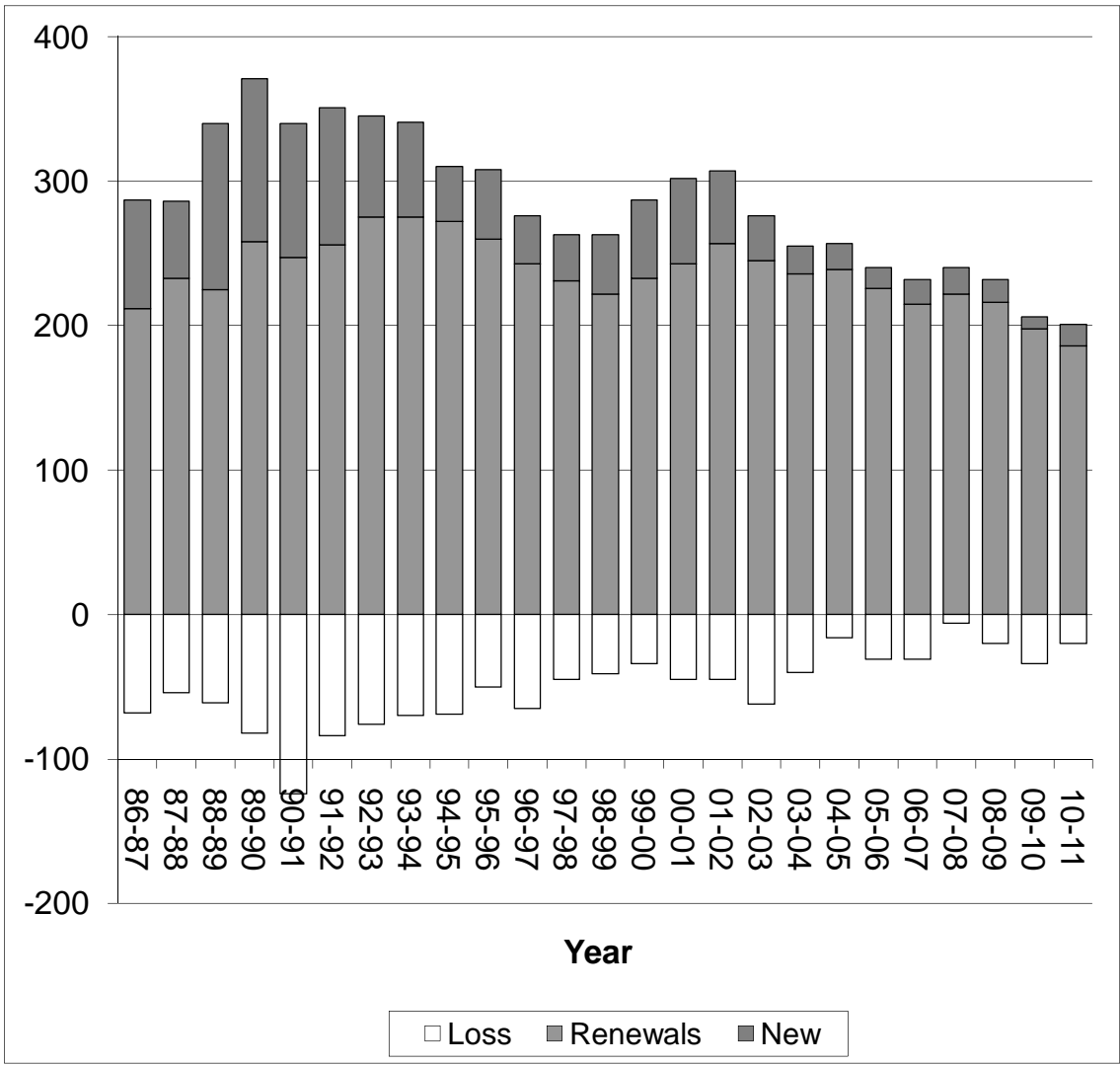
Meeting Location:
Jim Lubitz’s
10908 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044
Phone: 410-730-7958

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/10-1/25/11

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		580.00	5,535.00
State Dues Paid			(2,915.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,620.00
Contributions		65.00	225.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		2,845.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		43.46
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	100.00	300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		258.35
Postage, copies	65.00		213.69
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Equipment		moved to Mountjoy Fund	
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		250.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	146.40	585.11
Miscellaneous		25.00	71.04
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		1,721.65
Seed Sale			
Income			6,630.00
Expense			
Seed			6,630.00
Flyers, postage			55.38
Net Seed Sale			(55.38)
Contributions for Habitat Conservation		20.00	1,380.00
Sale of Books		32.00	282.00
Sale of Note Paper			23.00
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			10,330.92
Interest Received		0.54	1.35
Balance			10,332.27
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,851.64
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,731.44
Savings			16,183.91
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			20,958.63

Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)

Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total	% renew
85-86	61	68	212	280	76%
86-87	68	75	212	287	74%
87-88	54	53	233	286	81%
88-89	61	115	225	340	66%
89-90	82	113	258	371	70%
90-91	124	93	247	340	73%
91-92	84	95	256	351	73%
92-93	76	70	275	345	80%
93-94	70	66	275	341	81%
94-95	69	38	272	310	88%
95-96	50	48	260	308	84%
96-97	65	33	243	276	88%
97-98	45	32	231	263	88%
98-99	41	41	222	267	83%
99-00	34	54	233	288	81%
00-01	45	59	243	302	80%
01-02	45	50	257	307	84%
02-03	62	31	245	276	89%
03-04	40	19	236	255	93%
04-05	16	18	239	257	93%
05-06	31	14	226	246	92%
06-07	31	17	215	228	94%
07-08	6	18	222	236	94%
08-09	20	16	216	232	93%
09-10	34	8	198	206	96%
10-11	20	15	186	201	93%



Year	Couple	Indiv	Other	Total
87-88	150	91	45	286
88-89	178	102	60	340
89-90	186	128	57	371

Year	Househol	Indiv	Other	Total	Junior
90-91	188	146	6	340	27
91-92	196	150	5	351	31
92-93	197	142	6	345	35
93-94	198	137	6	341	37
94-95	170	132	7	310	32
95-96	183	120	5	308	35
96-97	181	89	6	276	40
97-98	153	103	7	263	30
98-99	161	99	7	267	27
99-00	175	107	6	288	30
00-01	179	115	8	302	26
01-02	191	107	9	307	25
02-03	167	108	1	276	25
03-04	145	109	1	255	18
04-05	143	112	2	257	22
05-06	141	105	9	246	14
06-07	134	100	10	244	11
07-08	134	103	12	249	13
08-09	138	89	18	249	14
09-10	126	77	17	220	14
10-11	120	80	15	201	12

For 10-11: Household = 2 votes; Individual - 1 vote

The Goldfinch by Mail and Email

1. Number of pages in each newsletter for Sep/Oct 2008 through May/June 2010
(10 issues, two full years; see box at right). Average 8.2 pages/issue; round to 8 pages, two 11" x 17" pages printed on both sides.
2. Cost of printing/folding each Jan/Feb 2011 issue
(6 pages; 180 copies; \$128; so 8 page cost/copy ~): \$0.95
3. Average cost of mailing one issue by bulk mail (estimate \$0.255) plus cost/copy of bulk mail permit (\$185/~1000=\$.185 plus 15 first class): \$0.49
4. TOTAL COST per issue using bulk mail: **\$1.44**
5. Jan/Feb 2011 mailed 159 copies (15 freebies, 129 bulk mail, 15 1st class)
6. Current cost of first class mail: \$0.44 for first oz.; \$0.61 for two oz. Only those issues with more than 10 pages (see box) require \$0.61 postage.

*12
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7. If average mailing were 160 copies, annual total
(\$1.44 x 5 x 160=) \$1150
8. Cost of producing/ mailing directory w/ election notice 173
(6 pages; \$1.20 x 144)
9. TOTAL (which is about the amount budgeted for current fiscal year) **\$1323**

**The cost to produce and mail one issue by bulk mail is about \$1.44/issue
BUT Average cost of mailing one issue by first class mail would only be \$1.32/issue**
 [(0.44 x 4 + 0.61)/5 = 0.474 postage *vice* \$0.49 postage for bulk mail]

**Rebate members receiving ONLY email versions.
Snail mail would be FIRST CLASS.**

Poll of 126 members households with active email addresses: 61 responses (48%)

Electronic **only**: 50 **Both**: 4 Snail mail **only**: 5

Of those responding, 15% would want to continue to receive a snail mail copy **with a surcharge of \$5/year.**

**The club could afford to give those who receive ONLY an email copy a REBATE
INSTEAD OF ADDING A SURCHARGE to those wanting a copy by first class mail.**

Savings/ mailing (w/ first class mail and option for email for everything except Sep/Oct newsletter:

Member receives EVERYTHING by first class mail ([1.32 x 5] + 1.08=)	\$7.68
(Five newsletters and directory/election notice.)	
Member received ONLY Sep/Oct newsletter by first class mail; remainder by E-mail)	1.32
(All freebies would receive newsletters by E-mail only.)	

Annual savings/ mailing/ member with E-mail option: \$6.36

**It would seem that we could offer those taking the E-mail option a REDUCTION
in dues of \$5.00/year (except Sustaining) and STILL receive more net revenue!**

Grant Request Information

Title of Project	Restoring Seabird Nesting Islands in Barataria Bay
Project Description	Key seabird nesting islands most heavily affected by the Deepwater Horizon spill will be significantly expanded and restored to increase seabird populations.
Long Term Outcome(s) of Project	Double the populations of nesting seabirds affected by the Deepwater Horizon spill on key islands in Barataria Bay.
Project Location Description	We are targeting several seabird nesting islands in Barataria Bay, Louisiana. Islands under consideration include Pelican Island, Tern Island, and Cat Island.
Total Amount Requested	\$500,000.00
Total Match Amount Proposed	\$2,100,000.00
Proposed Grant Period	04/01/2011 - 10/01/2012
Organization	American Bird Conservancy
Organization Type	Non-profit Corporation 501(c)(3)
Primary Contact	Dr. George H. Fenwick,
Position/Title	President
Street Address Line 1	P.O. Box 249
Street Address Line 2	4249 Loudoun Avenue
City, State, Country Postal Code	The Plains , Virginia , North America - United States 20198
Phone and E-mail	540-253-5780 ; gfenwick@abcbirds.org

Matching Contributions

Amount:	\$2,100,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Intend to Apply
Source:	Corporations and local parishes
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	These are already in discussion. We will likely also need some cash match which ABC will seek with our project partner the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. We hope to receive most riprap and dredging in kind.

Total Amount of Matching Contributions	\$2,100,000.00
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Pre-proposal Narrative: Save this template to your computer and complete the narrative within the following categorical headings. The completed narrative should not to exceed two pages (single-spaced, 12-point type), and should be uploaded into the pre-proposal application in the *Uploads* section.

Priority Population(s): List one to three primary fish and wildlife populations that your proposal will benefit.

Brown Pelican, Roseate Spoonbill, Reddish Egret, Royal Tern.

Estimated Impact: Estimate the likely impacts of the spill to your target species based on available information, and briefly articulate the conservation context/significance of these impacts on the target population.

The target islands are among those worst affected by the Deepwater Horizon spill and are among the islands most frequently seen in media footage of oiled birds during the spill. The density of nesting birds on these islands is extreme since they are among the only predator-free sites available in the delta region. ABC's field team witnessed first-hand numerous oiled birds on these islands including Brown Pelicans, Royal Terns, and Roseate Spoonbills. These birds are already suffering from dwindling nesting habitat due to coastal erosion, and these specific islands have reduced in size over recent decades squeezing habitat still further.

Project Outcome(s): Describe the outcomes/results to your target populations anticipated to occur within the time span of the proposed project, the anticipated long-term utility of the project and its implications for future conservation actions.

Due to the density of birds nesting on all available land on these predator free islands, it is anticipated that this project will rapidly double the breeding population of target species on the chosen island. By enabling a far greater number of birds to nest successfully each year, we will ensure a healthy population of chicks can be reared, and that there will be many more birds in the future to compensate for those lost in the spill that will no longer contribute to the future population.

Proposed Activities: Briefly describe your strategy (activities) for achieving the project outcome(s) and where you are in their planning and implementation.

With support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, ABC, together with the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, will target one of five key seabird nesting islands in Barataria Bay for restoration. The plan is to double the size of the selected island through restoration with a barrier of rock riprap filled with dredge material. The project has already targeted and mapped key islands, spoken to landowners (local parishes and oil companies) to gain interest, spoken with potential in-kind contributors of material and equipment, and conducted field appraisals and surveys of the specific sites.

Measure of Success: Discuss how you will measure progress and success against your proposed outcome(s) and briefly outline your monitoring plan to capture these results.

It will be possible to monitor the island restoration by field visits verified by photography. Detailed population estimates of nesting birds are already available by island, and it will be relatively straightforward to count birds occupying the newly restored island habitat.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Recovered Oil Fund for Wildlife Fall 2010, Pre-proposal
 Title: Beach-Nesting Bird Conservation Project
 Organization: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Request Information

Title of Project	Beach-Nesting Bird Conservation Project
Project Description	ABC will identify colony locations, and build a network of volunteers and landowners to protect vulnerable beach-nesting shorebirds along the Gulf Coast.
Long Term Outcome(s) of Project	Increased productivity of beach-nesting birds due to reduced disturbance at their nesting colonies.
Project Location Description	Along the Gulf Coast from Eastern Texas to western Florida.
Total Amount Requested	\$350,000.00
Total Match Amount Proposed	\$100,000.00
Proposed Grant Period	04/01/2011 - 10/01/2012
Organization	American Bird Conservancy
Organization Type	Non-profit Corporation 501(c)(3)
Primary Contact	Dr. George H. Fenwick,
Position/Title	President
Street Address Line 1	P.O. Box 249
Street Address Line 2	4249 Loudoun Avenue
City, State, Country Postal Code	The Plains , Virginia , North America - United States 20198
Phone and E-mail	540-253-5780 ; gfenwick@abcbirds.org

Matching Contributions

Amount:	\$100,000.00
Type:	In-kind
Status:	Intend to Apply
Source:	Volunteer time
Source Type:	Non-Federal
Description:	Time donated by volunteer beach stewards.

Total Amount of Matching Contributions	\$100,000.00
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Pre-proposal Narrative: Save this template to your computer and complete the narrative within the following categorical headings. The completed narrative should not to exceed two pages (single-spaced, 12-point type), and should be uploaded into the pre-proposal application in the *Uploads* section.

Priority Population(s): List one to three primary fish and wildlife populations that your proposal will benefit.

Least Tern, Black Skimmer, Wilson's Plover

Estimated Impact: Estimate the likely impacts of the spill to your target species based on available information, and briefly articulate the conservation context/significance of these impacts on the target population.

While some of these species were impacted by the spill itself (ABC staff recorded oiled individuals of two of these three species during field surveys) the greater apparent impact was from clean-up crews and equipment that appeared oblivious to the presence of nesting populations of these birds. Significant impacts to nesting habitat were witnessed by ABC and other bird groups along many miles of shoreline. All three species have very limited nesting habitat that is already under significant pressure from development all along the Gulf Coast.

Project Outcome(s): Describe the outcomes/results to your target populations anticipated to occur within the time span of the proposed project, the anticipated long-term utility of the project and its implications for future conservation actions.

ABC will work with local groups to identify the locations of all significant populations of beach nesting birds from west Texas to the Florida panhandle, and work with volunteers to fence or sign these areas during the nesting season so that these species can be protected from disturbance and recover from the impacts of oiling and beach cleanup.

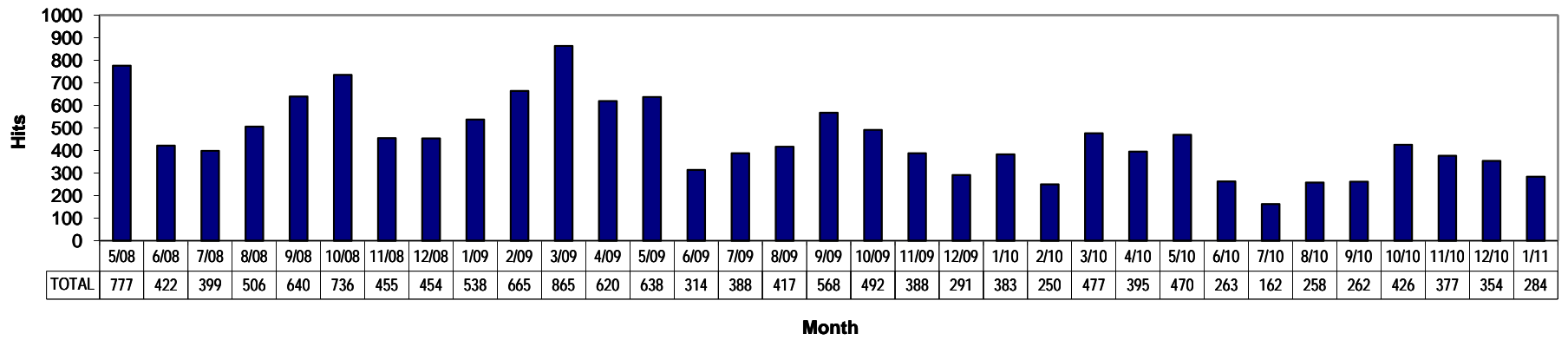
Proposed Activities: Briefly describe your strategy (activities) for achieving the project outcome(s) and where you are in their planning and implementation.

We are at an early stage in planning this project. ABC will hire a full-time project manager to identify groups with the capacity to carry out beach-nesting bird surveys, and through a series of workshops, train and provide materials to groups to assist in protecting nesting colonies. A flyer will be produced for landowners, and local publicity will be arranged to support the efforts of volunteers.

Measure of Success: Discuss how you will measure progress and success against your proposed outcome(s) and briefly outline your monitoring plan to capture these results.

We will capture data on the number of colonies identified, and conduct basic field surveys to determine colony size. Colonies will be assessed during the breeding season to determine productivity, and estimates will be made for the number of young raised. The number of miles of fencing erected and the number of participants will also be recorded.

Monthly "Hits" on Web Page



Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 24, 2011

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
Past President:
Chap. Directors: Jim Lubitz (1st yr) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Michael O'Sullivan
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Others:
Pot Luck: Kathie Lillie √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 10 was 45 people. Mark Raab gave a program entitled "The Robinson Nature Center, Its History and Future." This program was originally planned to be held in the center but due to construction delays the county had not yet taken title to the building and the program was held in our traditional meeting place in Rec. and Parks Headquarters building.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the Treasurer's Report in advance of the meeting and a copy is attached.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward gave an update on the status of formalizing the club's status as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under the umbrella of MOS. There have been a series of requests for further information received from the IRS, Ward has been able to handle these with relative ease, as most were just a matter of providing previously collected information in a specific format. The primary delays relate to a couple of the chapter's taking longer to get approved versions of their charter/by-laws. MOS has had to request additional time but the process seems to be progressing.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Neither Bonnie or Joe were present and had not sent a report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt expanded on the request he had forwarded by email asking the club to sign on in support of the Bird Conservation Alliance, a coalition of conservation groups, that the American Bird Conservancy is putting together dealing with the need for a federal policy on management of feral cats. We were asked if the club should sign on in support of a letter to Ken Salazar, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior. The letter urges him to issue a directive establishing consistent department-wide policy to address the problem of feral cats and to develop a plan of action addressing infestations on federal lands managed by the Interior Department. The

Board agreed to have the club support the letter. Kurt will provide Ward with the necessary information, and Ward will then take the necessary steps to add us to the letter.

Kurt and Emy reported that the checks had been sent for the two projects we agreed to support with this year's habitat contributions. Bob has updated the summary of contributions we have made to habitat and bird conservation in the past and a copy is attached.

Lastly Kurt reported an update on the Maryland State Board of Education proposal to interpret the laws requiring environmental education requirements as being satisfied by passing a high school biology/science class. MOS and other environmental organizations had lobbied the Board that this interpretation would defeat the intent of the legislation. Kurt had just learned that the Board had agreed and dropped this proposed interpretation.

Newsletter (Witt): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he felt the website was getting stale, and had decided to undertake a fairly major redesign. As he introduces the changes he will appreciate reports of any broken links or suggestions for further changes. He is planning to update the opening page to make it more visually appealing and easier to find frequently visited portions of the site. He also plans to add a link to a Guide to Lichens that Richard Orr has developed, Jo and he have been updating the Fungi Guide and he now believes he has resolved some issues with using copyrighted material so that he feels he can now add a link to it. Richard Smith is updating the Butterfly list, and the Amphibian Atlas section continues to get a lot of use.

In a follow-up to plans to begin distributing the Goldfinch via email, he reported that the March/April "freebie" issues were emailed rather than mailed. He took the opportunity to add to the list (historically ~15 free copies have been mailed, whereas he sent out ~40 free copies by emails including additional WSSC contact, Howard County council members, etc. Jo had spoken to the WSSC manager, Jim Benton, and he had expressed satisfaction at receiving email copy.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Culler): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Past President (??): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (O'Sullivan): No report.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Potluck Dinner – Kathie reported that she has 38 people signed up for the March 12 potluck. The room rent has been paid (\$340). She spoke to Sue Muller about the possibility of our potentially using the Rec & Parks HQ or the Robinson Nature Center next year, and Sue thought this might well be possible for less rent than we paid this year. She had sent an email to Monica and Rod Botsai about their help, and learned that they have recently moved to Germany so won't be at dinner this year. She also asked if anyone had ideas for door prizes. Ward agreed to look through the books for potential prize, and Kathie had a "flower-pot person" garden ornament that she volunteered to give as prize. She has confirmed Marty Chestem will provide placemats. Ward volunteered to bring some electrical power cord/strips. Kathie still needs someone to bring water and sodas (club reimburses). Ward commented that we had more than necessary last year. Lastly she has the bins with supplies and she will restock and purchase additional plates, glasses, and plastic ware (club reimbursement).

Backpack Contest – Kate has started preparations. The contest will run from March 1 to May 31. She spoke with the coordinator of art teachers for Howard County schools who was supportive, but indicated they get multiple proposals such as this each year. He expressed belief that broad announcement alone wouldn't produce much if any response, but offered to put Kate in touch with one teacher at Lisbon Elementary who has a reputation for creative programs. Kate is hoping to work with her to have a special event in her classroom with bird specimens present as drawing models. She is hoping to find another teacher to hold such an event with in an eastern part of county. Kate asked for a budget of \$100 to buy ribbons, mats (6) for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 3 honorable mentions. She is hoping to

make the ribbons have the “Goldfinch” picture on them. This requires converting a JPEG format file to an “EPS” vector file that she knows could be purchased for \$40 but asked if anyone knew enough about this to avoid this cost. It would be a one-time cost and would be available for future years. She has the flyers nearly ready, and will distribute broadly and begin her publicity blitz shortly.

Greenfest – Ward reported that Michael O’Sullivan had registered the club for the Greenfest which will be held April 2 between 10 am – 4 pm. He has info on getting the club display board and Ward has volunteered a digital photo screen for his use. It was pointed out that he will need to make a request to Rec and Parks for the use of a few of the bird specimens at the display. Ward agreed to contact Michael and confirm he was arranging for the specimens and setting up a volunteer schedule of volunteers to cover setup, 2 hour booth manning segments, and booth takedown. Usually the coordinator has handled setup and takedown, but others have manned the booth during the day. Kate volunteered that she and Dick would man booth from noon to 2 PM.

See review of prior action items for discussion of potential field trip/visit to the Evergreen Museum.

New Business

Meeting Location – Fall – Robinson Center – Ward reported that Mark Raab is assuming he will be able to make arrangements for us to hold our meetings at the Robinson Nature Center starting with our September meeting. Since the Center will not normally be manned evenings, this will require special arrangements, e.g., county employees attending meetings on their own time (Sue Mueller) with authority to open and close Center, Center volunteers authorized to open and close building willing to support club meetings, or one or more club members with keys and authority to open and close Center for our use. Given that this is still far from a done deal it was agreed we should make a contingent reservation to use the Rec and Parks HQ building next year. Ward took an action to contact Sue Mueller about a contingent reservation.

In a related matter, Kate asked if we had considered trying to have a club member participate as a member of the Robinson Nature Center Oversight Board. She had spoken to someone from the Astronomy Club who had stated he had volunteered to be involved on the “board.” We had no details, but in later discussions we identified the need to explore having a single point of contact between the club and the Robinson Nature Center. If someone from the club were to volunteer and become a board member, that would seem to be obvious POC from club to the Center.

Around the Room –

Emy raised the subject of outstanding Memorial Fund. Over five years ago we collected donations to a memorial fund in honor of Don Randle and Jeff Friedhoffer’s son. At the time the thought was to use the fund to purchase something for use at the Robinson Nature Center. Now that Center is becoming a reality we need to address how to apply these memorial funds. Possibilities include the Reference library at the Center, but more likely we need to work with the staff of center (currently being hired) to identify real needs that might be supported by these funds. This was discussion that triggered the idea of soliciting a volunteer from club to serve as our single POC to the Center. We agreed to place this topic as an agenda item for the March Board meeting.

Jo reported on a discussion she had with Jim Benton at WSSC. He told her that the plans call for taking down the level of Triadelphia Reservoir (lower than ever) beginning next September for up to 3 years to permit major repairs on Brighton Dam.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Investigate possibility of a summer field trip to Evergreen Museum in Baltimore where they have a collection of books including original folios of Audubon and John Gould, etc. – Jim Lubitz – **DONE**

Jim reported that he had contacted the rare book curator at Evergreen Museum and he was very willing to provide a guided visit to the museum’s collection of Audubon, Gould,, etc. collection for a club field trip/visit. Given our interest in a summer visit, it will need to be before July 15 (he will be out of country after that), so likely time frame for visit is late June. The curator is willing to host a lunch time visit during work week or as his second choice, a Saturday afternoon. The group would be limited to no more than 20 participants. After discussion we agreed to have Jim contact Joe Hanfman (as Field Trip co-coordinator) to identify any conflicts,

then contact curator and select a Saturday in late June for a visit. Given the trip participant limits we will have to have a sign-up process similar to that used for selected other field trips.

- Contact Mary-Jo to determine if she wants to continue as State Director – Kurt - **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Follow-up with signing up the club in support of ABC feral cat policy initiative – Ward (with Kurt support)
- Contact Michael O’Sullivan and ensure he has plans for Greenfest in process and offer suggestions for soliciting additional volunteers if needed. – Ward
- Contact Sue Mueller about putting a contingent reservation for the club using the Rec and Parks HQ building fund for club meetings next year if use of the Robinson Center is delayed or not possible.- Ward

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2010	-	Wes Earp
October 28, 2010	-	Kevin Heffernan
November 18, 2010	-	Amanda Witt (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 27, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz (rescheduled to Feb.3 due to weather)
February 24, 2011	-	Jo Solem
March 24, 2011	-	Ward Ebert
April 28, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz
May 26, 2011	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – February 24, 2011
- Howard County Chapter of MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/10 – 2/21/11
- Howard County Bird Club Contributions for Habitat – 02/24/2011

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

FEB 24, 2011

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
 - IRS questions/ 501(c)(3) delays
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - i.*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Potluck Dinner *Kathie*
 - Backpack contest *Kate*
 - Greenfest *Kate(?)*
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Meeting location – fall – Robinson Ctr *Ward*
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:
Solem’s
10617 Graeloch Rd
Laurel, Md. 20723
Phone: 301-725-5037

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/10-2/21/11

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues			5,535.00
State Dues Paid			(2,915.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,620.00
Contributions			225.00
Total Operating Income	2,300.00		2,845.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		43.46
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		258.35
Postage, copies	65.00		213.69
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Equipment		moved to Mountjoy Fund	
Seed Sale Expense		70.38	70.38
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00	340.00	590.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		585.11
Miscellaneous			71.04
Total Operating Expense	2,465.00		2,132.03
Seed Sale			
Income			6,630.00
Expense			
Seed			6,630.00
Flyers, postage			55.38
Net Seed Sale			(55.38)
Contributions for Habitat Conservation			
		20.00	1,380.00
Sale of Books			
		32.00	282.00
Sale of Note Paper			
			23.00
Total Available			
			1,629.62
Contribution to American Bird Conservancy			
			(1,500.00)
Contribution to All Creatures			
			(200.00)
Balance to Operating Expense (see above)			
			(70.38)
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			10,330.92
Interest Received		0.26	1.61
Balance			10,332.53
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,851.64
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,841.44
Savings			16,184.17
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			19,068.89

Howard Bird Club Contributions for Habitat

02/26/11

Nassawango Creek	\$3,650	HCBC 10th Anniversary campaign/ Club funds & individual donations	MPEA Clegg Prairie All Creatures Great & Small	\$1,100 \$100 \$48,744	[Feb 2001 Board meeting] [Feb 2001 Board meeting] [Oct 2001 seed sale blank]
Bird Rehabilitation	\$785				
Committee to Preserve Assateague	\$1,000				
Nature Conservancy	\$2,300		El Chorogo Refuge, Panama (ABC)	\$2,200	[March 2002 Board meeting]
MOS Sanctuary (Irish Grove)	\$335			\$50,944	[Oct 2002 seed sale blank]
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project *	\$2,592	(including individual donations of \$857)			
International Nature Conservancy	\$300		Nature Conservancy MD/DC Chapter	1500	[Feb 2003 Board meeting]
Peregrine Fund *	\$250	(was doubled by matching grant)		\$52,444	
Misc. bird projects	\$511	Hawk Mt., Cape May obs., feeder for historic Waverly Mansion, etc.	Sierra de Bahoruco NP in Dom Rep All Creatures Great & Small	2000 100	[Feb 2004 Board meeting]
*Matching grants used to increase amount donated [Contributions through 1988]				\$54,544	
Nature Conservancy (2/89 seed sale)	\$2,500	(including individual donations of \$880)	All Creatures Great & Small	100	[March 2005 Board meeting]
Nature Conservancy (12/89)	\$2,500	Most from 10/89 Seed Sale	MPEA stream buffer planting	750	
	\$16,723	[reported on Feb 1990 seed sale blank]	MPEA Purple Martin gourds	450	
				\$55,844	
TNC Appalachian Campaign	\$1,000	2/90 seed sale including \$419.50 individual donations [May-June 1990 newsletter]	All Creatures Great & Small Baltimore Checkerspot Fundacion ProAves (Cerulean Warbler)	100 100 2000	[February 2006 Board meeting]
MD Breeding Bird Atlas Project	\$2,698	Challenge grant to MOS (includes individual donations of \$198)		\$58,044	
	\$20,421	[Sept-Oct 1990 newsletter]	MOS: Equador Rainforest	645	[Feb/March 2007 Board meeting]
Bulletin Board for Cent Park	\$300	Bird Club bought & had dedicated	MPEA woodcock area All Creatures Great & Small	410 200	
Monteverde Cloud Forest	\$3,600	(w/ \$328 individual donations)	Baltimore Checkerspot	60	
	\$24,321	[Oct 1991 seed sale blank]	Mt Pleasant - bird feeding station	240	
				\$59,599	
Sierra de las Minas, Guatemala	\$5,000	(w/ \$440 individual donations)	DelMarVa Ornithological Society	1300	
	\$29,321	[Jan 1992 seed sale blank]	Baltimore Checkerspot	300	
			All Creatures Great & Small	150	
Maryland Parks Foundation	\$1,000	Sept 1992 Board meeting		\$61,349	[Feb 2008 Board meeting]
	\$30,321	[Nov-Dec 1992 newsletter]			
Bladen Mts Nature Reserve, Belize	\$2,500	[Sep-Oct 1993 newsletter]	ABC's "Thick-billed Parrot Conser-vation Prc	1800	[May 2009 Board meeting]
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve (Atlantic coast of Guatemala)	\$2,500	[Jan-Feb 1994 newsletter]	All Creatures Great & Small	200	
	\$35,321			\$63,349	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000	Nov 1995 Board meeting	ABC's Cerulean Warbler project	800	[Jan 2010 Board meeting]
	\$36,321	[Jan 1996 seed sale blank]	MPEA woodcock area All Creatures Great & Small	420 200	
				\$64,769	
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000		All Creatures Great & Small	200	[Feb 2011 Board meeting]
Nature Conservancy - MD	\$750		ABC Gulf of M island restore	1500	
Dee Thompson (rehabilitator)	\$200			\$66,469	
	\$38,271				
Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area	\$2,000				
	\$40,271	[Oct 1997 seed sale blank]			
Belt Woods Natural Environmental Area	\$1,500				
Cerro San Gil Ecological Reserve	\$1,000				
	\$42,771	[Oct 1999 seed sale blank]			
American Bird Conservancy "Rivers of Raptc	\$1,500	Oct 1999 Board meeting			
	\$44,271				
All Creatures Great & Small	\$100	[Feb 2000 Board meeting]			
Display cabinets HoCo Rec&Parks	\$1,309	" " "			
Mt. Pleasant - Butterfly Garden	\$614	[April 2000 Board meeting]			
Old Growth Forest project at Frostburg	\$1,250	" " "			
	\$47,544	[Oct 2000 seed sale blank]			

Howard County Chapter - Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
 Thursday, March 24, 2011

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
 Vice-president: Wes Earp √
 Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
 Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (& *State Treasurer*) √
 Past President:
 Chap. Directors: Jim Lubitz (1st yr)
 Jeff Culler (2nd yr)
 State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
 Karen Darcy
 Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
 Joe Hanfman
 Programs: Jane Geuder
 Seed Sale: Michael O’Sullivan
 Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
 Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
 Records: Jo Solem √
 Webmaster: Bob Solem √

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Ward Ebert. Total number in attendance was eight. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 10 was 38 people. Cliff Brown gave a program entitled “Enhancing Maryland’s Wood Duck Population One Nest Box at a Time.” The slate of officers for the 2011- 2012 club year were finalized at the meeting and was distributed to the membership shortly thereafter, in advance of the election to be held at the regular club meeting in April. The slate nominated was:

President: Ward Ebert	Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1 st yr)
Vice-president: Wes Earp	Jim Lubitz (2 nd yr)
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat	State Directors: Karen Darcy
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge	Jeff Friedhoffer
	Kate Tufts

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had submitted the treasurer’s report (attached) to the Board in advance of the meeting. She reported that three new memberships had been received.

President’s Remarks (Ebert): Ward reported that Karen Darcy had volunteered to be the club’s point of contact to the new Robinson Nature Center as we had discussed at prior meeting.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes had no report except to report the attendance at last regular club meeting as reported in General Notes above.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Neither Bonnie or Joe were present, but a new field trip to Alpha Ridge Landfill on April 2 had been added to schedule and has been posted on the web site. It was reported that Jim Lubitz has not yet finalized plans for the visit to museum during the summer.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported she has received most of the inputs for next issue. Ward has the final annual report but was seeking guidance on how to treat the recovered Barn Owl specimen. Agreed the annual report was different from individual's reports (i.e., individuals require live/non-captured sightings whereas annual report only requires conclusive evidence of presence).

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob indicated his intent to add announcements to web site for WSSC reservoir cleanups in Howard County (no cost/no conflict with club sponsored activities). The Board approved this proposal.

Bob also announced he has added access to Richard Orr's Howard County Lichen "Book", and that an update Howard County Fungi "Book" is not far behind.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Culler): No reports.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Kate and Ward provided a synopsis of meeting held March 12. The Baltimore club has subscribed as a "Meetup Group" (<http://www.meetup.com/baltimorebirdclub/>). Subscription costs \$70 per 6 month and they reported to Board that this has resulted in a few new members. As usual items for the Silent Auction at the annual Conference are being solicited. The Energy Sustainability subcommittee (chaired by Howard member Chris Toscano) has prepared a report for the Board to review after approximately 2 years of effort. One obvious sensitive issue they hope to address is how to treat Wind Energy policy from an MOS perspective. MOS has passed the first wicket in the IRS change to individual chapter status. Clubs were told they could go ahead and file their 990N forms on the web for April 30. Bob Ringler reported that effort on an update of the "Yellow Book" is in the works but no date to expect its publication is available yet. During discussion of the status of Maryland Birdlife it was reported that a larger format (8.5 x 11) is being pursued. A new editor for the season reports is needed as Bob Ringler wants to step aside on this. The last published issue was the one for mid-2006. A brief discussion of possibly publishing in electronic format was dismissed with Chan Robbins strong assertion that publication in magazine format is mandatory, to retain value as a scientific source document.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No additional reports.

Old Business

Backpack Art Contest – Kate reported that she has a good feeling about this year's contest. The announcements have been picked up by several of the local paper "neighborhood" columnists. She has been delivering fliers to school's art teachers. And she has contacted the art instructor at Lisbon Elementary and will be taking several of the bird specimens from Rec and Parks to be used as "models" for a special project the teacher has set up.

Greenfest – Ward reported that volunteers to man the booth in 2 hour shifts have been set up. Michael O'Sullivan spoke to Kate to clarify several points including which specimens to have for display. Ward requested help with getting bird photos on the digital picture frame he has offered to be used as part of our display. Ward will go through the web site photos and pick approximately 15 pictures to use. Bob will provide Ward with the higher resolution versions of those images to use. Kate made arrangements to ensure those doing setup or manning first shift would have art contest fliers to distribute.

New Business

Jo reported that Bonnie had been approached by Claire Horvath owner of Mother Nature's (formerly The Wild Bird Center) on Oakland Mills Road concerning possible club participation in a 20th Anniversary celebration for the store. The exact date in June is not known but the offer was that the club could set up a table in the tent they will have up for the celebration. We discussed briefly but decided would need further information, so Ward agreed to contact Claire and followup. Bob stated he would send Ward a copy of the email Bonnie had forwarded. One concern is that such an event may not have sufficient traffic to justify having volunteers man a table for the day.

Jo announced that on March 21, she and Ward had presented a copy of the new breeding bird atlas to Jim Benton, WSSC Watershed Manager, in appreciation of their graciously providing access to the watershed properties for atlas work. A copy of the front piece placed in the atlas is attached.

Amanda announced that the Howard County Library now has two copies of the atlas available for loan.

Although Kurt was not present we briefly discussed the subject of an email he had sent, wondering if the club should comment on the proposed Mountain Bike training facility to be built at Rockburn Park. It was pointed out that Howard County Recreation and Parks generally will respond favorably to proposals from recreational groups that show a demand for a service or facility and offer to provide the funds to build it, if it does not significantly change the nature of the park and require allocation of significant maintenance funds. This proposal seems to involve a relatively small area and may even keep more bikes off the nature trails. It was the sense of the Board that we should take no action on this issue.

Kathie Lillie had sent an email summarizing how the potluck went and her thoughts on continuing the potluck again next year. She has already begun looking at alternative lower cost venues, and we strongly supported her initiative in undertaking that. The consensus was that if such a location can be found there would be no reason not to have a potluck, but we would wait until early fall to make a final decision.

Emy reported that she had been to PNC Bank to open a new checking account, as we now have a new tax ID (EIN) as part of the restructuring of MOS to satisfy IRS non-profit status requirements. They were looking for a set of minutes with a formal listing of officers. *Sec. Note: Perhaps the list in the opening paragraph of these minutes may suffice.* The account will be in the name of the Howard County Bird Club and those authorized to sign checks (President, Vice President, and Treasurer) had to supply their name, Social Security Number, Date of Birth, and Signature. In the past copies of driver's licenses were required but not requested yet. Emy will continue to pursue and hopefully be successful in not have monthly fees charged on this new account.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Follow-up with signing up the club in support of ABC feral cat policy initiative – Ward (with Kurt support) **DONE**
- Contact Michael O'Sullivan and ensure he has plans for Greenfest in process and offer suggestions for soliciting additional volunteers if needed. – Ward **DONE**
- Contact Sue Mueller about putting a contingent reservation for the club using the Rec and Parks HQ building fund for club meetings next year if use of the Robinson Center is delayed or not possible.- Ward **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Ward work with Bob to select and load pictures on the digital photo frame for use at Greenfest – Ward, Bob
- Follow-up with Claire Horvath at Mother Nature's after Bob forwards him email with offer to participate in the store's 20th Anniversary - Ward

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2010	-	Wes Earp
October 28, 2010	-	Kevin Heffernan
November 18, 2010	-	Amanda Witt (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 27, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz (rescheduled to Feb.3 due to weather)
February 24, 2011	-	Jo Solem
March 24, 2011	-	Ward Ebert
April 28, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz
May 26, 2011	-	Kate Tufts (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – March 24, 2011
- Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/2010 – 3/23/2011
- Frontpiece for copy of Breeding Bird Atlas presented to WSSC – March 21, 2011

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MAR 24, 2011

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | <i>All</i> |
| 2. Review of Minutes | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | <i>Emy</i> |
| 4. President’s remarks | <i>Ward</i> |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | <i>Wes</i> |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | <i>Bonnie/Joe Hanfman</i> |
| • Conservation | <i>Kurt</i> |
| • Newsletter | <i>Amanda</i> |
| • WebMaster, membership | <i>Bob</i> |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Backpack contest | <i>Kate</i> |
| • Greenfest | <i>Ward</i> |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| 9. Action Items | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 10. Around the room. | |

Meeting Location:

Ebert’s

7366 Hallmark Rd

Clarksville, MD 21029

Phone: 301-490-5807

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/10-3/23/11

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		165.00	5,700.00
State Dues Paid			(2,915.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,785.00
Contributions			225.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		3,010.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		43.46
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	375.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		258.35
Postage, copies	65.00		213.69
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Equipment		moved to Mountjoy Fund	
Seed Sale Expense			70.38
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		590.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	136.40	721.51
Miscellaneous			71.04
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		2,343.43
Seed Sale			
Income			6,630.00
Expense			
Seed			6,630.00
Flyers, postage			55.38
Net Seed Sale			(55.38)
Contributions for Habitat Conservation		20.00	1,380.00
Sale of Books		32.00	282.00
Sale of Note Paper			23.00
Total Available			1,629.62
Contribution to American Bird Conservancy			(1,500.00)
Contribution to All Creatures			(200.00)
Balance to Operating Expense (see above)			(70.38)
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			10,330.92
Interest Received		0.25	1.86
Balance			10,332.78
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,851.64
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			2,795.04
Savings			16,184.42
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			19,022.74

Howard County Bird Club
*A chapter of the Maryland Ornithological
Society*



**Presented to
Washington Suburban
Sanitary Commission
on March 21, 2011**

**2nd ATLAS of the BREEDING BIRDS of MARYLAND
and the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**In appreciation for permission to survey birds on WSSC
property for the atlas period 2002-2006**

Made possible by the Marjorie Mountjoy Fund

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2011

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge (*& State Treasurer*) √
Past President:
Chap. Directors: Jim Lubitz (1st yr) √
Jeff Culler (2nd yr)
State Directors: Mary-Jo Betts
Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Michael O'Sullivan
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem
Others:
New Chap. Director: Sherry Tomlinson √
New State Director: Jeff Friedhoffert √
Pot Luck: Kathie Lillie √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was twelve. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 12 was 55 people. Mark Adby gave a program entitled "Birds of Southern Africa."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy sent out a final Treasurer's Report for the Fiscal Year and the report for the month of May prior to the meeting. Copies are attached. She used the same budget as last year on the May report. After a short discussion it was moved and seconded that we adopt that budget for the coming year. The motion was approved unanimously.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward reported that he had received a credit card as part of our opening new accounts, but had not activated it and had destroyed it. Wes reported that he had done the same. Emy had requested she not receive one at the time she opened the account.

Chuck reminded Ward that he had forwarded an email summarizing the IRS tax-exempt status and the IRS letter granting nox-exempt status. Chuck indicated he will keep copies of both in his files. We are required to have them available publically. Ward is hoping MOS will post all of them in one location on the state web site but that is not yet decided. Our new EIN is 27-2564645. Emy has tried to file our 990N form but it was rejected. When she spoke to IRS they indicated there is a time delay between approval and the web site accepting forms. She was advised to try again in mid-June and will do so.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): No comments.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Not present. Jim Lubitz reported that he has 19 participants signed up for the Evergreen Museum trip. Kurt reported on his plans for the Red Knot Hot Spots trip on the coming Saturday..

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he has no county initiatives at present. Several state letters of comment are in progress. The MOS report on Alternative Energy will be discussed at MOS Board meeting in early June. The report does not address wind power.

Newsletter (Witt): The final issue for this season is out. The deadline for the Sept./Oct. issue is July 25. Amanda still plans to prepare a copy of the latest issue in a format more suited for electronic distribution, but has not done so yet for several reasons. Kate asked if we could include images of the winning art in the newsletter. Amanda reminded us that the first issue will be in hard copy and thus only black and white. As a result the art images probably would be unacceptable. Settled on trying to include photos of the winning artists during award of prizes, and put electronic copies of the art on the web site. Also will try and have electronic copies of art available for display at the September meeting.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Not present.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Culler): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (O'Sullivan, POC Schwarz): See Old Business.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Betts, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last chapter Board meeting.

State Director Reports (Betts, Darcy, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Backpack Contest – Kate reported that she is expecting to have over 100 entries (most from the art classes at Lisbon Elementary School). The material will be judged in two age groups (3rd & 4th grade and 5th & 6th grade). In each category there will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place plus 3 honorable mentions. The 1st place winner in each category will receive a backpack. Plans for awarding the prize are dependent on who wins. One option is to award those won by Lisbon Elementary students at the school's end of year award program. Optionally prizes may be awarded at the club's September meeting.

Seed Sale – Kurt reported for Michael O'Sullivan as Michael has conflict with board meetings. Michael has talked to Kevin at the Wildlife Authority and both of our preferred dates of Oct 1 or 15 are fine. Kurt will get back to Michael and make sure he knows our first choice is October 1. Amanda agreed to send Michael a copy of the Goldfinch article used last year for him to edit it with this year's information and get it back to her before her deadline of July 25.

Preliminary Schedule for Board Meetings for 2011-2012 = We had the following volunteer to host next year.

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 17, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	
February 16, 2012	-	Ward Ebert	(3 rd Thursday as MOS Conference is Feb 24-26)
March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	(optionally Wes Earp)
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

New Business

Around the Room –

Emy brought up the fact that awarding copies of the Atlas to WSSC and the Robinson Center had been very well received and perhaps there were other organizations that it would be good to do the same for. She suggested the Manager of the U of MD Central Farm and the county official responsible for Alpha Ridge Landfill (Ralph Cullison had mentioned this possibility). We discussed and agreed it would be good to acknowledge our being granted access to both facilities in this manner. Emy moved and it was seconded that we purchase two atlases using Mountjoy funds and make arrangements to present them. Motion was approved unanimously. We will need to ask Ralph for the name of official who is responsible for the Landfill.

Kate took the opportunity to report that the Baltimore Checkerspot project that we supported in the past with funds to plant Turtlehead has hatched its first Baltimore (new name of butterfly). She passed around a picture.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Monitor availability of Robinson Nature Center for September meeting and prepare announcement for newsletter in time for July 25 deadline - Ward

New/Continuing Action Items

- Monitor availability of Robinson Nature Center for September meeting and prepare announcement for newsletter in time for July 25 deadline – Ward
- Contact Michael O’Sullivan and make sure he confirms our preferred date for seed sale with the Wildlife Authority – Kurt
- Send Michael O’Sullivan a copy of last year’s seed sale article for him to update and submit article by Goldfinch submittal deadline of July 25 – Amanda
- Contact Jo Solem and check whether she can host March Board meeting and confirm whether she or Wes will host = Wes

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2010	-	Wes Earp	
October 28, 2010	-	Kevin Heffernan	
November 18, 2010	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 27, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(rescheduled to Feb.3 due to weather)
February 24, 2011	-	Jo Solem	
March 24, 2011	-	Ward Ebert	
April 28, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
May 26, 2011	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – May 26, 2011
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report – 5/1/11 – 5/25/11
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Year-End Report, 5/1/10 – 4/30/11
- IRS Letter on MOS Tax-exempt Status (copy in master file)
- Email on Tax-exempt Status for Howard County Bird Club (copy in master file)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MAY 26, 2011

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | <i>All</i> |
| 2. Review of Minutes | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | <i>Emy</i> |
| 4. President’s remarks | <i>Ward</i> |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | <i>Wes</i> |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | <i>Bonnie/Joe Hanfman</i> |
| • Conservation | <i>Kurt</i> |
| • Newsletter | <i>Amanda</i> |
| • WebMaster, membership | <i>Bob</i> |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Backpack contest | <i>Kate</i> |
| • Seed Sale | <i>Michael [via Kurt]</i> |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| 9. Action Items | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 10. Around the room. | |

Meeting Location:

Tufts’

2830 Duvall Road

Woodbine, MD 21797

410-489-7052

DeLorme p.56, B3

Car pooling is encouraged as parking is tight.

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11 - 5/25/11

	Budget 2011-12	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues			
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	75.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00		
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		75.00
 Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
 Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,455.70
Interest Received		0.27	0.27
Balance			10,455.97
 Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,729.00
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			1,915.00
Savings			16,184.97
Petty Cash			43.28
<i>Total</i>			18,143.25

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S YEAR-END REPORT, 5/1/10-4/30/11

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Publications			
Membership Dues		30.00	5,730.00
State Dues Paid		(680.00)	(3,595.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,135.00
Contributions			225.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		2,360.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		43.46
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	425.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		258.35
Postage, copies	65.00	17.60	231.29
Projector Expense			
Bank Charges			
Equipment		moved to Mountjoy Fund (i.e., savings account)	
Seed Sale Expense			70.38
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00	(250.00)	340.00
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	214.80	936.31
Miscellaneous			71.04
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		2,375.83
Seed Sale			
Income			6,630.00
Expense			
Seed			6,630.00
Flyers, postage			55.38
Net Seed Sale			(55.38)
Contributions for Habitat Conservation		20.00	1,380.00
Sale of Books		32.00	282.00
Sale of Note Paper			23.00
Total Available			1,629.62
Contribution to American Bird Conservancy			(1,500.00)
Contribution to All Creatures			(200.00)
Balance to Operating Expense (see above)			(70.38)
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance		122.64	10,453.56
Interest Received		0.28	2.14
Balance			10,455.70
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balanc		(122.64)	5,729.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			1,990.00
Savings			16,184.70
Petty Cash			43.28
Total			18,217.98

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2011

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (✓)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert ✓
Vice-president: Wes Earp ✓
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat ✓
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge ✓
Past President: Vacant
Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1st yr)
Jim Lubitz (2nd yr) ✓
State Directors: Karen Darcy ✓
Jeff Friedhoffer ✓
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Michael O'Sullivan
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz ✓
Newsletter: Amanda Witt ✓
Records: Jo Solem ✓
Webmaster: Bob Solem ✓
Others:
Potluck Kathie Lillie ✓

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jeff Friedhoffer. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 8 was ~35 people. Paul Baicich gave a program entitled "National Wildlife Refuges: Great Birding Made Even Better." This was last regularly scheduled meeting at Howard Recreation and Parks headquarters, as beginning with the October meeting we will be meeting at the Robinson Nature Center.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had emailed copies of the Treasurer's Report to the Board prior to the meeting (attached). In addition she had attached a report of bookstore sales for past year and historical summary. These were discussed as part of new business (see below). Ward reported that the "postcard" Form 990-N had been submitted to the IRS and Emy reported that she had received an acknowledgement of the submittal. Ward stated that the last time he checked it had not yet been posted on the IRS website. *Secretary Note – After the meeting I checked the web site and found the following entry for tax year 2010:*

[MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC](#)

(Howard County Bird Club)

27-2564645 Columbia MD United States 2010

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward provided his remarks during subsequent discussions.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Joe had sent an email prior to the meeting reporting that all of the trips for the remainder of the calendar year are scheduled. The email listed the trip descriptions for November through January 1.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported he has been primarily focused on state MOS conservation issues. He did state he was pursuing one potential habitat project for this year's habitat contribution. He has solicited a formal

proposal that he will bring forward if he receives it. Other Board members were reminded that they can submit proposals as well.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported that she is proceeding slowly in adopting digital features, since for now she sees the newsletter as a printed product with limited electronic distribution. As more sign up for electronic delivery she will make more use of graphics etc., but for now is limiting that feature. Links are now embedded for a number of items that will be active in the electronic version. The current issue deadline is September 25. She also broached the subject of including other organizations in our calendar that had arisen during the summer. We concluded that only applied to web posting and we did not plan to include them in the Goldfinch. One exception that should be in the Goldfinch is the Triadelphia Christmas Count (Howard County section). Need to confirm David Holmes is still coordinator for that section. See Webmaster for further discussion of posting other organization events on our website.

Webmaster (R. Solem): We reviewed the guidelines this summer's email discussion of posting non-club events on our website seemed to conclude. First we already have given Bob approval to post Howard County Conservancy events that seem appropriate. Generally other events that are those of non-profit organizations, aligned with club focus, of interest to our membership, have limited conflict with our scheduled events, don't charge for participation are eligible. Especially those events with key participation by someone from our membership (e.g., leading trip) would be likely candidates. The sense of the Board is that Bob can exercise his own judgment on what to post given these guidelines. Members are welcome to propose events to Bob for consideration.

Next Bob reported on memberships received and extent of those opting for electronic delivery of the Goldfinch. Of the 71 renewals he has seen 28 chose to not receive hard copy (39%). This is fairly consistent with our initial survey results last year and is expected to increase over time. Bob said we normally mail the Nov-Dec newsletter to those who have not yet renewed partly to remind them of need to renew. This would normally require ~170 newsletters to be mailed at first class postage rates. Bob proposed that instead those who have not renewed for whom he has an email address will receive the newsletter by email only. Those without email will be mailed a hardcopy and a few extra copies will be printed to mail to those who subsequently renew and indicate they want to receive hard copy. It was the sense of the Board that we concurred with this proposal.

Lastly he announced that he had removed the seed sale form from the web site as the due date has passed.

Chapter Directors (Tomlinson, Lubitz): No report.

Programs (Geuder): Not present.

Past President (vacant):

Records (J. Solem): Jo mentioned that the State Bird Records committee had accepted both of the LeConte's Sparrows found on last year's Big Sparrow Day. A report of a Gyrfalcon by a non-club member was not accepted primarily because it could not be confirmed it was a wild bird.

Seed Sale (O'Sullivan): See Old Business.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts, Etc.): There are still a number of vacant state positions that need volunteers. Picked up backpacks for our Youth Birding initiative (art contest). Ward has linked State Youth Coordinator with Sue Muller as she is planning to start a youth bird club in connection with the Robinson Nature Center. She is seeking volunteers to help with the club. Amanda will contact Sue and try include a short announcement of plans for club and soliciting volunteers in the next Goldfinch. It was announced that the update of the "Yellow Book" will be delayed enough that the decision has been made to print additional copies of the current version.

State Director Reports (Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts): No reports.

Old Business

Backpack Contest - Ward reported that he had picked up two more backpacks at MOS Board meeting. Given the response this past year we plan to repeat the Youth Art Contest again next spring.

Seed Sale – Ward reported that plans for the sale were on track and on schedule. However the volume of sales is quite low so far. Generally seed prices are up and our prices compare reasonably with Audubon seed sale flyer. Ward reported that during the summer it became apparent that Michael O’Sullivan had not understood what we were assuming his role in coordinating the sale involved. As a result Ward stepped in and took over coordination. We need to discuss what we want to do in future. It is certainly true that prices fluctuate in response to a number of factors and the current economic downturn was impacting sales as well. The other observation made was that we have lost high volume purchasers who historically were the bulk of sales. We observed that if you are a high volume user you feel compelled to search for better prices and that was what had happened in his personal situation.

Coordinating WSSC Permissions – In order to receive letters permitting us to access to WSSC property for seasonal counts we need to provide them a copy of the MOS certificate of liability insurance. MOS has gone to an annual contract that renews in April. So the past practice of asking for a single letter prior to the Mid-winter Count that covered all three counts no longer works as the certificate expires between Winter and Spring count. Accordingly we need to set up a procedure to get the new certificate from MOS after the April renewal and then get it to WSSC before the Spring Count in May. The Board agreed to turn this issue over to the coordinators for all three counts to work out a procedure to handle this.

Move to Robinson Center – Karen reported that she, June, and Ward had visited the Nature Center and checked out audio/visual capability and other arrangements in advance of our first meeting there in October. We will be using the large auditorium room and use their ceiling mounted projector. The doors will be open from 7:15 – 8:15 pm (locked after that). We need to let the staff know when we are leaving, and make sure not to close the A/V closet door as it locks automatically. Bob agreed that he would send out an email to membership on or about September 30 with three reminders (Upcoming seed sale pickup time and date, new meeting place at Robinson with warning that door will be locked at 8:15 pm, and a reminder for those who have not renewed yet that dues were due.)

Memorial Fund – Jo reminded the board that the memorial funds collected several years ago in memory of Don Randle and Jeff Friedhoffer’s son had been held with idea of making a gift to the Robinson Nature Center when it opened. Karen agreed to contact the center staff and inquire if there were some needs that they had identified that would be an appropriate use of fund.

New Business

Bookstore - Exit Strategy? – Ward had observed in the bookstore financial report that the use and volume of sales seems to have declined significantly. Sales were \$355 last year (probably profit around \$200). The current inventory is estimated to be worth \$1500. As a result he wanted to have us consider whether continuing it was the right thing to do. It was pointed out that if we continue it the bookstore bank accounts need to be set up with our new tax EIN. It was noted that the bookstore is specifically called out in our By-laws. It was moved but not seconded that we discontinue the book store. After some discussion it was agreed we should take no action until we know how Anne Marie feels. If she wants to continue there seems no pressing reason to discontinue and we simply don’t know her opinion. Ward took an action to call her and discuss the subject with her.

Hosting the MOS Board Meeting – Ward reported that he has volunteered us to host the March 3, 2012 meeting of the MOS Board. Ward will investigate trying to reserve a room at the Robinson Nature Center but weekend use could be an issue as the Center tries to rent out the rooms for a fee. Ward will also be soliciting people to provide refreshments for the Board meeting.

Around the Room –

Amanda reported on usage on the club’s Facebook page. 21 of the 36 Facebook “friends” are not club members. She has had to delete some postings that she described as “crap.” It was suggested that Amanda should be added to the Rare Bird Alert email list so that she can post those on the club Facebook page.

Kathie Lillie mentioned that we need to discuss some of the issues associated with the Pot Luck we identified last year. It was agreed we would do that at next month's Board meeting. She feels it is important we have some activity where the club members get a chance to share their pictures.

Bob reported that he is working to update the bird lists on the Website to the newest AOU order. Changes to the site guide lists will be done later.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Monitor availability of Robinson Nature Center for September meeting and prepare announcement for newsletter in time for July 25 deadline – Ward **DONE**
- Contact Michael O'Sullivan and make sure he confirms our preferred date for seed sale with the Wildlife Authority – Kurt **DONE**
- Send Michael O'Sullivan a copy of last year's seed sale article for him to update and submit article by Goldfinch submittal deadline of July 25 – Amanda **DONE**
- Contact Jo Solem and check whether she can host March Board meeting and confirm whether she or Wes will host **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Contact Sue Muller and generate short announcement about needing volunteers to help with forming a Youth Bird Club for the next issue of Goldfinch – Amanda
- Send reminder email to membership (seed sale, new meeting location, late dues) – Bob
- Contact Robinson Nature Center staff to identify potential uses for Memorial funds – Karen
- Call Anne Marie and determine her position on future of bookstore - Ward
- Set up a revised procedure for obtaining WSSC permission letter(s) for counts – Seasonal Count Coordinators

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 17, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	
February 16, 2012	-	Ward Ebert	(3 rd Thursday as MOS Conference is Feb 24-26)
March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – September 22, 2011 – Rev. 1
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report – 5/1/2011 – 9/21/2011
- Howard County Bird Club – Bookstore Report – June 2010 – May 2011
- Howard County Bird Club – Bookstore Sales – Historical 2003 – 2011
- Form 990-N (e-Postcard) Information

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

SEP 22, 2011

REV. 1 (WITH REAL TIME ADDITIONS)

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe Hanfman*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster, membership *Bob*
 - **State Board Meeting** *Ward*
7. Old Business
 - Seed Sale *Ward*
 - Coordinating WSSC permissions *Ward*
 - Move to Robinson Center *Karen*
 - **Memorials** *Jo*
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Bookstore – exit strategy *Emy*
 - Hosting MOS Board meeting,
March 3, 2012 *Ward/Karen*
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:
Friedhoffer’s
10042 The Mending Wall
Columbia, MD 21044

410-997-5366

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11 - 9/20/11

	Budget 2010-11	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		2,539.00	2,539.00
State Dues Paid		-	-
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	2,539.00	2,539.00
Publications		37.50	37.50
Contributions		20.00	20.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,300.00</u>	<u>2,596.50</u>	<u>2,596.50</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	125.00	125.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00	25.96	25.96
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies		92.00	92.00
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth		101.57	101.57
Seed Sale Expense			
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	212.80	212.80
Miscellaneous		126.34	126.34
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,465.00</u>	<u>683.67</u>	<u>683.67</u>
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Flyers & Postage			19.64
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contributions to Habitat Conservation			337.00
Sale of Books			4.00
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,455.70
Interest Received		0.25	0.52
Balance			<u>10,456.22</u>
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>5,729.00</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,206.44
Savings			16,185.22
Petty Cash			61.03
<i>Total</i>			<u>20,452.69</u>

Howard County Bird Club

Bookstore Report

June 2010 - May 2011

Income	355.00
Expenses	<u>95.00</u>
<i>Gain/Loss</i>	<u><u>260.00</u></u>
Value of Inventory	1,500.00
Sales Tax Paid	21.30
Bank Account Balance	947.22

Howard County Bird Club

Bookstore Sales

2003-04	1,281
2004-05	1,142
2005-06	834
2006-07	930
2007-08	544
2008-09	512
2009-10	494
2010-11	355

**Form 990-N (e-Postcard) Information**

Links to related filings for this EIN can be found at the bottom of the page.

Tax Period:

2010 (05/01/2010 - 04/30/2011)

Employer Identification Number (EIN):

27-2564645

Legal Name and Mailing Address:MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC
10970 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044
United States**Other names the organization conducts****business under (Doing Business As):**
Howard County Bird Club**Organization has terminated:**

No

Gross receipts not greater than:

\$25,000

Website URL:**Principal Officer's Name and Address:**Emmalyn Holdridge
5812 Harness Court
Columbia, MD 21044
United States**Related Filings for this EIN:**

No related filings available for this EIN.

[Return to Search Results](#) [Return to Search Page](#)

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 27, 2011

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President:
Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1st yr) √
Jim Lubitz (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Jeff Friedhoffer √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman √
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Michael O'Sullivan
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Pot Luck: Kathie Lillie √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 13 was 50 people. This was the first time the club meeting was held in the newly opened Robinson Nature Center. Kurt Schwarz gave a program entitled "Cape May Capers."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had sent the attached Treasurer's Report prior to the meeting. As of the report date the funds available for Habitat donation were \$1189.46, but additional donations may come in as a few membership applications are still outstanding.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward stated his intent to spark a general discussion later of what he perceives as our reserve funds being "more than solvent." This came up later briefly but will be a subject of discussion in the future. Ward also reported that he will not be at either the regular meeting or Board meeting in November. Wes will chair both meetings.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): Joe reported that he has 22 trips set up for the first part of next year. Many are standard for that period but he mentioned a new trip, a Winter Sparrow Search, has been scheduled in March. Also Wes has made arrangements for a field trip to Sharp's Farm at Waterford on March 24. The Robinson Nature Center is having an open house on May 5-6 and they have asked if we can find leaders for a few family-friendly birding trips on the grounds. See New Business for Joe's report on the Green Violet-ear event early this week.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report. See New Business for habitat project proposal - Light's Out Baltimore Cylburn proposal.

Newsletter (Witt): The latest issue was just distributed. The deadline for the January-February issue is November 25. It was noted that the Goldfinch and Yellowthroat deadlines are not exactly in sync and as a result Jane Geuder missed the deadline for getting our programs into the latest Yellowthroat calendar.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that the membership renewals seem to be going well. He will formally report results in November and have the list on non-renewals that will need to be contacted by Jim and Sherry at that time. He sent out the electronic copies of the Goldfinch to those who chose to receive it that way and to approximately 60 free recipients, as he has described in the past. He proposed and the Board agreed he should add Stacey Yankee, the RNC Director, to the list of free recipients. He reported that they printed 100 hard copies of the recent newsletter for those who elected to receive hard copy and to have extras for anyone that hasn't yet renewed that chooses to receive hard copy. Amanda asked if with the decreased number of hard copies perhaps we could get a better printing deal at one of the general purpose copy centers than with the printer we are currently using. Amanda agreed to look into this and report her findings.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie reviewed some of the facts we noted last year that suggest we might want to change the venue or type of event this year. These include significant increase in renting facility (especially Saturday night) and declining attendance. She indicated we need to make some decision since we will need to reserve location soon and get it in next newsletter if hold it early in March. We brainstormed and discussed several options. We could try and use traditional venue but charge attendees enough to cover the rental. We could hold the event at a restaurant, probably one with a private room. We could have the showing of member photos be a regular club program. We could try and have an event on Saturday afternoon or a weekday evening. We also speculated on why attendance might be declining but didn't really reach any clear reason. A committee of Kathie (Coordinator and check cost and availability of Community Centers), Kate (investigate use of Rec and Park HQ and Glenwood Community Center), Amanda (look into restaurant possibilities), and Wes (look into Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department facility and Dowd's Circle D Ranch). They will report at November board meeting and hopefully we will be able to make a decision on what to do this year.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Tomlinson): No report.

Programs (Geuder): No report.

Past President (Vacant):

Records (J. Solem): No report.

Seed Sale (vacant):

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts, Etc.): No MOS meeting since last Chapter Board meeting.

State Director Reports (Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Logo Discussion – MOS has announced the availability of the web site (reached from MOS main website) where one can order merchandise with MOS and Chapter logos imprinted. Ward had spoken to Sue Probst to let her know of the opportunity to create Howard County Bird Club artwork to post on the site to permit members to order items with our logo on it. Kate and Amanda had one sample proposal that was passed around. There was some concern that the slightly darker Howard County against the light green state background wouldn't stand out. We concluded that we need some concrete examples to consider. Ward will take John Malcolm up on his offer to have an artist try and clean up the image of our old patch and possibly propose modifying it to include 40 year anniversary on another version. *Sec. Note – After the meeting Ward shared an email indicating he had contacted John Malcolm in this regard.*

Bookstore – Ann Marie Thoughts – Ward spoke with Anne Marie and she did not specifically indicate whether she would like to continue or not. She did agree that it made no sense to order more books. It was observed that the Bookstore is her primary involvement with the club as she is not an active field birder. She acknowledged that with the lack of many new members most meeting attendees have already bought the books that they want from her

inventory so it will be difficult to move the majority of inventory. Other items mentioned were trying to take some to the annual MOS Conference or using them as gifts (see discussion of Green Violet-ear below) of appreciation. This would probably most apply to the signed Sibley books that Joe Hanfman acquired.

Coordinating WSSC Permissions – Chuck reported that the seasonal count coordinators had completed this action item. Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy agreed as Spring Count coordinators they will obtain the certificate of insurance from the MOS president after the contract is renewed in March and send it to WSSC along with a request for a letter granting permission to access WSSC property on all three seasonal counts (Spring, Fall, and Mid-Winter for the next calendar year).

Residual Issues – Robinson Center – Karen reported there did not appear to be any issues outstanding for our use of the Center for club meetings. We had to use our own sound system as we were unable to connect into the room's audio system successfully.

Hosting MOS Board meeting, March 3, 2012 – Ward reported that we have confirmed the use of a classroom at the Robinson Nature Center for this meeting.

New Business

Green Violet-ear – Joe Hanfman summarized the events associated with the visit of this rarity to a private home here in Howard County earlier in the week. Overall the entire incident was a success. The family were fine with the process overall. A slow release of information was used in order to not overwhelm the family or neighborhood. As a result when the bird (first reported and viewed by other than the family on Monday around 5 PM) left early on Wednesday morning there were those who missed the bird who felt they should have been notified earlier. As it was the Howard Rare Bird alert went out by 11 am on Tuesday. Most of those notified adhered to the request to not post it on MDOsprey or eBird. There were a few “leaks” but that is almost inevitable in such cases. Joe announced that he is working with eBird to try and have an orderly entry of sightings that will be announced soon rather than a multitude of individual entries. Another lesson for future such events will be to encourage “no flash photography” as one theory is this may have what caused the bird to leave. It was the sense of the board that Joe had done a great job in coordinating this rare bird event. Overall the process worked well and we would plan to follow a similar approach if and when the next super rarity appears in the county. We agreed that we needed to show the homeowner's our appreciation in a number of ways: a certificate of appreciation (Joe H. and Kurt to work on content and then have John Malcolm prepare it), a printed picture of the bird (Kevin H. to select and get two prints – club reimburse cost), and a book (field guide) from club bookstore, and send them a free e-copy of Goldfinch for remainder of year. We also will present one of the pictures to Mother Nature's as they put the family in touch with David Holmes (hummingbird bander) when the family asked who they should tell about the bird. We were pleased that the store knew to contact David and wondered if Kevin Cassidy (The Wildlife Authority) has the proper contacts if someone comes to them. Ward agreed to contact Kevin and share the contacts to use for rare birds and also mention All Creatures Great and Small for injured wildlife. *Sec. Note – After the meeting Ward shared an email that he had contacted Kevin and given him Hanfman, Solem, and Holmes as contacts.* Bob announced he has received some wonderful pictures of the Violet-ear that he will highlight on the web site.

Cylburn Proposal for Funding – Kurt had submitted a proposal (attached) requesting funding of an effort by Lights Out Baltimore (a sub-group of the Baltimore Bird Club) to retrofit the windows on the Cylburn Visitor Center with material designed to decrease the number of bird window strikes. Cylburn is the headquarters of the Baltimore Bird Club and MOS. Kurt moved and it was seconded that we commit \$200 to All Creatures Great and Small and \$1000 in support of the Lights Out Baltimore proposal. We discussed briefly and raised the question whether MOS is going to support this effort. Kurt indicated he is working with the State Conservation Committee in this regard but there have been no commitments made as yet. There was concern regarding what would happen with the funds if they do not obtain enough to actually proceed with the mitigation. Bob moved to amend the motion to require that the funds would only be provided if they were to be used on the Cylburn mitigation or to mitigate another site, but not be used for the more nebulous “continue our outreach efforts” described in the proposal. The amendment passed, and then the amended motion carried. We briefly discussed that the actual funds dispersal would require concrete proof that they would be spent on mitigation. Kurt will contact Wendy Olsson letting her know of our support and our condition that it has to be used for mitigation, not just outreach.

Pathway Proposal from CA – The Solem’s had distributed an email prior to the meeting discussing a proposal from the Columbia Association for an open-space pathway in the vicinity of the Robinson Nature Center. The original proposal hadn’t been acceptable to the MPEA Foundation and Jo reported that it had been withdrawn and a scheduled hearing cancelled. Accordingly we did not discuss further.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Contact Sue Muller and generate short announcement about needing volunteers to help with forming a Youth Bird Club for the next issue of Goldfinch – Amanda DONE
- Send reminder email to membership (seed sale, new meeting location, late dues) – Bob DONE
- Contact Robinson Nature Center staff to identify potential uses for Memorial funds – Karen DONE
- Call Anne Marie and determine her position on future of bookstore - Ward DONE
- Set up a revised procedure for obtaining WSSC permission letter(s) for counts – Seasonal Count Coordinators DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Investigate alternative printing options for the decreased number of Goldfinch hard copies – Amanda
- Investigate options for Pot Luck – Kathie, Amanda, Kate, and Wes
- Submit request to John Malcolm to have artist clean up our old patch image – Ward
- Develop proposed content for Certificate of Appreciation for Green Violet-ear family – Joe H., Kurt
- Select picture & get 2 prints of Green Violet-ear as appreciation gift for family and Mother Nature’s – Kevin H.
- Select book/field guide for family – Joe H. (?)
- Add family to free electronic distribution of Goldfinch for remainder of year – Bob
- Contact The Wildlife Authority to ensure they have contacts for rare birds and injured wildlife – Ward
- Inform Wendy Olsson of our action on Lights Out Baltimore proposal - Kurt

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 17, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	
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March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – October 27, 2011 Rev 1
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/11 – 10/26/11
- Grant Proposal – Baltimore Bird Club’s Lights Out Baltimore Project, Sept. 29, 2011

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
 Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

OCT 27, 2011
REV. 1

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | <i>All</i> |
| 2. Review of Minutes | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | <i>Emy</i> |
| 4. President’s remarks | <i>Ward</i> |
| • <i>Absence for Nov meetings</i> | |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | <i>Wes</i> |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | <i>Bonnie/Joe</i> |
| • Conservation | <i>Kurt</i> |
| • Newsletter | <i>Amanda</i> |
| • WebMaster, membership | <i>Bob</i> |
| • Potluck | <i>Kathie</i> |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Logo – discussion | <i>All</i> |
| • Bookstore – Anne Marie thoughts | <i>Ward</i> |
| • Coordinating WSSC permissions | <i>Chuck(?)</i> |
| • Residual issues - Robinson Center | <i>Karen</i> |
| • Hosting MOS Board meeting,
March 3, 2012 | <i>Ward/Karen</i> |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Green Violet-ear | <i>Joe</i> |
| • Cylburn proposal for Funding | <i>Kurt</i> |
| • Pathway proposal from CA | <i>Jo</i> |
| 9. Action Items | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 10. Around the room. | |

Meeting Location:
Schwarz’s
9045 Dunloggin Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042

410-461-1643

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11-10/26/11

	Budget 2011-12	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		2,000.00	4,539.00
State Dues Paid		(120.00)	(120.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	1,880.00	4,419.00
Publications			37.50
Contributions			20.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		4,476.50
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		125.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00	26.40	52.36
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			92.00
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			101.57
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00		212.80
Miscellaneous			126.34
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		710.07
Seed Sale			
Income			5,255.00
Expense			
Seed			5,255.00
Flyers, postage			19.64
Net Seed Sale			(19.64)
Contribution from Wildlife Authority			
			500.00
Contributions for Habitat Conservation			
			659.10
Sale of Books			
			50.00
Total Available for Distribution			1,189.46
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,455.70
Interest Received		0.08	0.60
Balance			10,456.30
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,729.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			5,548.54
Savings			16,185.30
Petty Cash			64.63
<i>Total</i>			21,798.47

Grant Proposal – Baltimore Bird Club’s Lights Out Baltimore Project

Submitted by Wendy Olsson, Sept. 29, 2011

Lights Out Baltimore Overview: Lights Out Baltimore’s goal is to raise awareness on the issue of bird collisions with glass. According to Dr. Dan Klem, a professor of ornithology at Muhlenberg College, bird collisions with glass is the 2nd largest manmade killer of birds. Only habitat loss kills more. Between Fall 2008 and Spring 2011, Lights Out Baltimore volunteers found over 750 dead birds, rescued 216 birds (whenever possible birds were taken to a licensed rehabilitator, or released into more suitable habitat), and observed 87 birds that were definitely compromised but we were unable to catch.

In addition to collecting data on the scope of the problem of bird collisions in Baltimore, Lights Out Baltimore volunteers have conducted outreach on the issue to the following organizations:

Baltimore Sierra Club	PG Audubon/Patuxent MOS Chapter
Washington County Bird Club	Baltimore Office of Sustainability
Irvine Nature Center	

Upcoming Events:

Marshy Point Nature Center (Nov 15) Carroll County MOS Chapter (Dec 5)
Irvine Nature Center (lecture at their birding symposium in 2012)

Lights Out Baltimore has also partnered with other organizations to encourage bird-friendly construction, both in Maryland and beyond. For example, the National Aquarium in Baltimore has taken several remediation steps, including nighttime light reduction and using green (rather than white) lighting (when needed) that has resulted in a significant reduction in bird strikes. Alerted by a letter cosigned by the Baltimore Bird Club, MOS, Chesapeake Audubon Society, City Wildlife Lights Out DC, and American Bird Conservancy, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge was alerted to the strong possibility of damaging bird strikes and subsequently altered their building plans to incorporate Ornilux glass on their new visitor center renovation. This glass incorporates a new technology that includes UV properties that are more visible to birds. While Ornilux does not eliminate bird strikes, the use of Ornilux helps to spread the word about this problem and will hopefully reduce bird strikes at the building while balancing the aesthetic needs of the center. Together this same consortium of concerned

organizations sent comments to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors encouraging passage of bird-friendly building standards. The Board approved the standards and the standards are now currently pending final requirements to obtain the mayor's signature. San Francisco's adoption of Bird-friendly building standards may prompt other cities to do the same. It will also spur a market for more bird-friendly products.

Purpose of Grant Request:

BBC's future LOB plans include working with a building/organization to mitigate glass in or around Baltimore City and providing outreach on the issue of birds and glass. We identified partnership with the City of Baltimore at Cylburn Arboretum, the headquarters of BBC and MOS. A few years ago the City built the Vollmer Visitor Center at Cylburn with funds donated by Dorothy Vollmer. The resulting building is a beautiful structure with expanses of glass that have proven to be bird-deadly. As our headquarters, this has proven to be a great embarrassment, but although sympathetic with our cause there is little the City can do to remediate because of severe financial cuts in their budget.

The City has agreed and is sending written confirmation, to allow the BBC to begin remediation on the worst strike areas. BBC has set aside \$2,500 to purchase window film for this purpose, but alas, this amount falls short of the approximately \$6,000 needed. \$6,000 is the first estimate provided from the Convenience Group (www.featherfriendly.org). We are also soliciting estimates from other companies.

The Cylburn Visitor Center would be an ideal place to use as a future platform of remediation success since the City is as interested as we are in promoting bird safety in this otherwise very "green" building. For more than 30 years, both the BBC and MOS have received a lot of free benefits from our association with Cylburn—meeting and event space, home for our nature museum and collections, a formal address, and publicity. We are hoping the Howard County Bird Club can help us reach our financial goal to purchase and install the bird-friendly window film to help in this effort that is dear our collective bird-watcher hearts.

The area to be mitigated is not the whole building, but it is a start. The city has requested that the film be gradually put up because it will allow a first "reaction" from the public and a slow introduction of the importance of being bird-friendly.

If, for some unlikely reason, mitigation does not happen at this building, the

funds would be used to mitigate another site or to continue our outreach efforts. We are currently planning to provide outreach (October 6) to an architect at the Johns Hopkins Bayview Campus. One Red-Tailed Hawk had to be euthanized on another Johns Hopkins campus after it failed to fully recover from flying through a glass wall at the Eisenhower Library. One of our LOB volunteers, also a professor at John's Hopkins, has collected over 40 birds from one small area of Hopkins Bayview Complex.

It is important to note that while 29 to 40 birds at a site over a few years (see numbers below) may not seem like many birds, it is important to consider that many of the birds that hit windows may be thrown away by maintenance people before someone finds them. Additionally, the attached study, Scavenging rates highest at windowed compared to windowless sites at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois, has shown that predation is much higher at window areas than non-window areas. This may mean that cat / other animal predation is inflated by the dangerous condition that windows cause. Birds are stunned and cannot escape predators.

Funding for this project may not only reduce window strikes, but may also help to reduce the number of birds killed by cats and other predators. Our outreach helps to raise awareness on a topic that is too-seldom addressed as a last-minute afterthought vs. truly a part of the design of a building. Our goal is to incorporate bird safety as a design aspect for builders and architects, not just as an afterthought.

Birds Recovered from Cylburn Arboretum Vollmer Center, (3/12/2010 - 6/15/2011)

Legend:

DWS (Dead, specimen collected)

D (Dead, no specimen collected)

C (Compromised but not caught)

Species	Count
American Robin	4
C	1
DWS	3
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
DWS	1
Chipping Sparrow	1
DWS	1
Common Yellowthroat	3
DWS	3
Dark-eyed Junco	6
DWS	5
D	1
Fox Sparrow	1
DWS	1
Gray Catbird	1
DWS	1
house finch	2
DWS	2
House Wren	1
DWS	1
Northern Flicker (Yellow-shafted)	1
DWS	1
Ovenbird	1
DWS	1
Ruby-throated hummingbird	3
DWS	2
(blank)	1
Song Sparrow	3
DWS	3
Unknown	1
C	1

Grand Total	29
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Birds Found at MFL Tower, Johns Hopkins Bayview (4/26/2009 – 9/3/2011)

Legend:

DWS (Dead, specimen collected)

D (Dead, no specimen collected)

C (Compromised but not caught)

American Robin	3
DWS	3
American Woodcock	3
D	2
DWS	1
Black-and-white Warbler	2
D	1
DWS	1
Common Yellowthroat	9
C	4
D	1
DWS	4
Downy Woodpecker	2
D	1
DWS	1
Golden Crowned Kinglet	1
DWS	1
Gray Catbird	2
DWS	2
Indigo bunting	1
DWS	1
Magnolia Warbler	1
DWS	1
Mourning Dove	1
DWS	1
Northern Parula	2
DWS	2
Northern Waterthrush	2
DWS	2
Ovenbird	6

D	2
DWS	4
Ovenbird or thrush	1
C	1
Ruby-throated hummingbird	1
DWS	1
Song sparrow (?)	1
DWS	1
Sparrow species	1
DWS	1
Swainson's thrush	1
DWS	1
Unid Sparrow	1
D	1
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	6
DWS	6
<hr/>	
Grand Total	47

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2011

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: Vacant
Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1st yr) √
Jim Lubitz (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Jeff Friedhoffer √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Vacant
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jim Lubitz. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 10 was 61 people. Dennis and Jane Coskren and Jim and Rosa Lubitz gave a program entitled "Northern Peru - Naturalist's Travelogue" reporting on a trip they made together.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the attached report via email in advance of the meeting.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward had asked Wes to preside at this meeting as he anticipated guests in town, but they had not yet arrived so he was able to attend. Wes presided as he had prepared to do so.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): Wes reported the attendance at last meeting, and asked why we no longer used name tags. It was agreed we should try and reinstate this custom as it is especially helpful for newer members.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present but had sent an email to Wes regarding the grant to the Lights Out Baltimore project we approved at last meeting. He also had sent an email earlier commenting on the attached Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal for the Robinson Nature Center, suggesting it might be appropriate to use memorial funds for this project.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported that the next newsletter due date is November 25. She asked whether we want to include an abbreviated site guide in the next newsletter. It turns out Nancy Magnusson has drafted one for Schooley Mill Park that will be used in next issue.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that the website is continually being updated and getting significant usage. He reported that the current membership mailing list includes 141 parties of which roughly half have chosen to

receive the newsletter electronically. Jim and Sherry have their lists of non-renewals and he has called his list and Sherry will do so this coming weekend. Bob will report formally on membership at next Board meeting.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie reported on the activities of the Potluck committee in researching venues for this year. Amanda contacted 16 restaurants and identified several that could provide a private room for us if we chose to go that route. Many would support separate checks (a requirement) and some could even support a Friday or Saturday evening. She reported that Dowd's and the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Hall conditions made them out of our price range. Similarly the Columbia Community Center prices have escalated even more and thus are also out of our price range. We could use the Glenwood Senior Center for approximately \$140 on a Saturday night. The most promising location is the use of the Dept. of Recreation and Parks Headquarters, which we can use for free (if Sue Muller is in attendance) or for a reasonable fee if we have to pay the salary of another staff member if Sue unavailable. This venue would allow us to continue with our standard potluck format followed by showing member pictures. It was moved and seconded that Kathie book the use of the Headquarters (preferred date March 24). The motion was approved unanimously.

Chapter Directors (Lubitz, Tomlinson):

State Board/Committee Report

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since our last meeting.

State Director Reports (Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts): No report.

Old Business

Logo – John Malcolm – Ward had contacted John per his action item and received a couple preliminary designs that were shared by email. Kate had several observations about these including that they lacked contrast especially when printed in gray shades (B&W). They also had too many different colors to truly be a logo. She had spoken to John and learned that one flaw is that what appears white in the images is transparent when printed and thus underlying color would come through. She lobbied for simpler is better. She had asked John to have the artist produce a logo deleting the map from the design and just having the Goldfinch. We all agreed this was much improved. A few minor tweaks were proposed. It was moved, seconded, and approved that Kate contact John and have the minor changes made and then have him post it on the MOS merchandise website.

Bookstore Proposal – Jim Lubitz explained what he had in mind as a supplement or replacement for the bookstore. His first idea was to provide a venue for club members who take photographs to offer prints for sale (with a small donation to the club in the event they sell some). His other idea was to have members bring in used equipment (optics, cameras, electronics, etc.) to sell to others (again a small voluntary donation to club if sell items). Jeff suggested we might hold such a “swap meet” at one meeting a year. Jim also proposed collecting older used optics for donations but we agreed if we did this it should be separate from selling used equipment between members and only if someone was willing to take charge of collecting and delivering them to appropriate organizations. It was agreed that Jim should put together a proposal for a “swap meet” to be considered at a future meeting.

Green Violet-ear Certificate and Family Recognition – It was reported that Joe Hanfman was working with John Malcolm on getting certificate and signed copy of Sibley field guide for the LaPoma family. Karen reported that Kevin had selected a picture and they would have it printed soon.

Residual Issues – Robinson Nature Center – Karen said that there are no significant issues with our use of facility for meetings. We need to recognize that our commitment is to be out of the building by 10 PM. We were able to use the facility audio at the second meeting, and did not have the problems we experienced at first meeting, but we need to be sure microphones are not pointing to speaker behind podium which causes the severe feedback.

Speaker / AV Info – Wes reviewed some of issues we had with not having the speaker understand how much time we have, that they can't have too many images as well as making sure they know what types of formats we can

support with the programs we have on our laptop. Mixtures of formats as Dennis had is definitely not acceptable, we also learned there is often an issue with embedded videos as Kurt had. In theory Jane should provide speakers with the information sheet we have prepared but it is not clear that has been happening. Similarly we need to update the sheet to add information about our new location, time constraints in the new venue, and hardware and software support available. It may well be better to have Jane supply June with contact information so that she can communicate directly with the speaker directly. Wes agreed to talk to June about this, and Ward will discuss with Jane.

In a related matter Wes shared his idea that if we can connect the laptop to the high definition monitor on the wall in back of the room we could have an automated slide show running there during the social period prior to the meeting. The idea would be that one of the club photographers would volunteer to show a set of photos at a given meeting. The idea is there would be only one photographer per night, with Sue Earp being the test case at the December meeting. We could also have quiz formats or one of the series Bob sets up on the web site as backups.

Hosting MOS Board Meeting March 3, 2012 – We are set to use the classroom at the Robinson Nature Center, but we need a volunteer to act as coordinator for arranging for refreshments and setup. Ward will seek a volunteer.

New Business

Nominating Committee – The committee needs to find a candidate for Vice-President and 1st Year Chapter Director. Bonnie had already volunteered to be on committee, and Karen Darcy and Jeff Friedhoffer agreed to serve on the committee as well. Jeff was named Chairman.

RNC Habitat Improvement Grant (2) - The attached habitat improvement grant proposal for funding for a wildlife habitat demonstration garden had been received from the Robinson Nature Center after we already committed this year's habitat fund to the Lights Out Baltimore appeal. It was suggested this proposal could also be funded with the memorial funds donated in memory of Adam Friedhoffer and Don Randle (\$351) and supplement it with funds from the Marjorie Mountjoy Fund. It was moved and seconded we give them \$500 for the project with the intent that a plaque identifying the plantings were a memorial to Adam, Don and Marjorie. The motion passed. Karen agreed to talk to RNC staff about a plaque and Ward will draft a letter to them to accompany the gift highlighting its memorial nature. We also received an email from RNC with a generic list of potential memorial gifts that we may want to revisit in the future.

Club Brochure – Kate pointed out that we are in need of a new one. We can use the new club logo on it. She proposes it be printed on single card stock in black and white. She has gotten a quote of \$29 for 375 brochures. We can post them at the RNC if we don't include membership fees. New design will rely on the website link providing details. Kate will do the design. Amanda will handle preparation on computer and Jo will provide edit/proofreading. Bob moved we authorize \$70 for printing twice as many copies. It was seconded and passed.

Publicity – Jeff had asked if we should have someone responsible for publicity. Mainly this involves sending announcements of club programs and field trip to the newspapers. Jeff agreed to provide Amanda with a few words for a short announcement in the Goldfinch soliciting a volunteer to take on this responsibility.

Around the Room -

Jo spent a few minutes reviewing the amazing past two weeks of rarities in the county. Starting with the appearance of the amazing Green Violet-ear, this was followed by American Golden-Plover, Snow Bunting, Northern Shovelers, Red-necked Grebe, and - last but not least - the Western Grebe.

Kate reported that Karen, Sherry and herself had attended a brain storming meeting earlier in the evening called by Sue Muller to explore ideas for forming a Youth Birding Club. Kate said it was not clear who was sponsoring this organization. She asked does the Howard County Bird Club have a formal relationship or is it just expected that the effort is a RNC effort that is drawing on volunteers from the club. We need to clarify this as the effort proceeds.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Investigate alternative printing options for the decreased number of Goldfinch hard copies – Amanda
- Investigate options for Pot Luck – Kathie, Amanda, Kate, and Wes DONE
- Submit request to John Malcolm to have artist clean up our old patch image – Ward DONE
- Develop proposed content for Certificate of Appreciation for Green Violet-ear family – Joe H., Kurt
- Select picture & get 2 prints of Green Violet-ear as appreciation gift for family and Mother Nature’s – Kevin H.
- Select book/field guide for family – Joe H.
- Add family to free electronic distribution of Goldfinch for remainder of year – Bob DONE
- Contact The Wildlife Authority to ensure they have contacts for rare birds and injured wildlife – Ward DONE
- Inform Wendy Olsson of our action on Lights Out Baltimore proposal – Kurt

New/Continuing Action Items

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- Develop proposed content for Certificate of Appreciation for Green Violet-ear family – Joe H., Kurt
- Select picture & get 2 prints of Green Violet-ear as appreciation gift for family and Mother Nature’s – Kevin H.
- Select book/field guide for family – Joe H. (?)
- Inform Wendy Olsson of our action on Lights Out Baltimore proposal – Kurt
- Prepare a proposal for “Swap Night” concept – Jim L.
- Talk to June Tveekrem about information sheet for speakers – Wes
- Talk to Jane Geuder about how to provide technical capability information to Program speakers - Ward
- Talk to June about the use of high definition screen for photo show during social period – Wes
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate refreshments and setup for MOS Board Meeting in March - Ward
- Finalize logo design with John Malcolm – Kate
- Finalize reservation for Potluck with Howard Rec and Parks – Kathie
- Provide brief description of what Publicity Chairman tasks would be to Amanda for Goldfinch - Jeff

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
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February 16, 2012	-	Ward Ebert	(3 rd Thursday as MOS Conference is Feb 24-26)
March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Nov 17, 2011, Rev. 2
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/11 – 11/15/11
- Howard County Bird Club Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal for Robinson Nature Center, October 2011

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

Nov 17, 2011
REV. 2

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | <i>All</i> |
| 2. Review of Minutes | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | <i>Emy</i> |
| 4. President’s remarks | <i>Ward</i> |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | <i>Wes</i> |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | <i>Bonnie/Joe</i> |
| • Conservation | <i>Kurt</i> |
| • Newsletter | <i>Amanda</i> |
| • WebMaster, membership | <i>Bob/Jim & Sherry</i> |
| • Potluck | <i>Kathie</i> |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Logo – John Malcom | <i>Ward (emailed John)</i> |
| • Bookstore proposal | <i>Jim</i> |
| • Green Violet-ear certificate &
family recognition | <i>Kevin/Jeff</i> |
| • Residual issues - Robinson Center | <i>Karen</i> |
| o Speaker/AV Info | <i>Wes</i> |
| • Hosting MOS Board meeting,
March 3, 2012 | <i>Ward/Karen</i> |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Nominating Committee - VP | <i>Wes/Bonnie</i> |
| • RNC Habitat Improvement Grant (2) | <i>All</i> |
| • Club Brochure | <i>Kate</i> |
| • Publicity | <i>All</i> |
| 9. Action Items | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 10. Around the room. | |

Meeting Location:
Jim Lubitz
10978 Millbank Row
Columbia, MD 21044
(410) 730-7958

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11-11/15/11

	Budget 2011-12	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		330.00	4,869.00
State Dues Paid			(120.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		4,749.00
Publications			37.50
Contributions			20.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		4,806.50
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	175.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00		52.36
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			92.00
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth		22.84	124.41
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	59.00	271.80
Miscellaneous			126.34
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		841.91
Seed Sale			
Income			5,255.00
Expense			
Seed			5,255.00
Flyers, postage			19.64
Net Seed Sale			(19.64)
Contribution from Wildlife Authority			
Contributions for Habitat Conservation		20.00	500.00
Sale of Books			679.10
Total Available for Distribution			50.00
			1,209.46
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,455.70
Interest Received		0.05	0.65
Balance			10,456.35
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,729.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			7,112.70
Savings			16,185.30
Petty Cash			64.63
<i>Total</i>			23,362.63

Howard County Bird Club
Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal
For Robinson Nature Center
October 2011

Robinson Nature Center is seeking funding for a wildlife habitat demonstration garden. The concept for this garden is to present a living exhibit of landscape-friendly wildlife habitat. This garden, and the birds, butterflies, pollinators, and other wildlife attracted to it, will be viewed mainly from a large window in the Wildlife Habitat Viewing Garden exhibit room. Within this exhibit room will be interpretive exhibits for the Wildlife Habitat Viewing Garden. This would include educating people about the importance of providing wildlife habitat in our backyards, as wild habitats are shrinking. The exhibit panels will interpret the wildlife that may be viewed here, as well as native plants that are attractive to wildlife.

The plants for the Wildlife Habitat Viewing Garden will be selected for their landscape value as well as their wildlife habitat value. The idea is to allow people to visualize what they can do in their own yards – even in a very small space – to provide habitat for wildlife, while still having an aesthetic landscape design.



Wildlife Habitat Viewing Garden Site

The Wildlife Habitat Viewing Garden site is 21' by 23', or 483 square feet in size. The garden will feature trees, shrubs, perennials, bird feeders, a water feature, and a design to imitate a small backyard.

The Robinson Nature Center could use funding from the Howard County Bird Club to purchase the plants for this wildlife habitat demonstration garden. The table shown below lists the proposed plant species, and their associated costs. We are requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider funding this project in the amount of \$500.00.

<u>Plants for Wildlife Habitat Viewing Garden - RNC</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fringetree <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	1	3 gal	12.00	12.00
Flowering dogwood <i>Cornus florida</i>	1	5 gal	20.00	20.00
Red chokeberry <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	1	3 gal	11.00	11.00
American beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	1	1 gal	11.00	11.00
Inkberry holly <i>Ilex glabra</i>	3	1 gal	11.00	33.00
Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	1	3 gal	12.00	12.00
Pipevine <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i>	3	1 gal	10.00	30.00
Trumpet honeysuckle vine <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	2	1 gal	10.00	20.00
Perennials: (Eastern columbine, butterfly weed, white wood aster, false indigo, purple coneflower, Joe-pye weed, oxeye sunflower, cardinal flower, bee balm, wild bergamot, beardtongue, orange coneflower, bluestem goldenrod)				
Total Perennials	<u>156</u>	1 qt	2.25	<u>351.00</u>
Totals: 169				<u>\$500.00</u>

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2012

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: vacant
Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1st yr)
Jim Lubitz (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Jeff Friedhoffer √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Vacant
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Amanda Witt. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 8 was _____. Ralph Geuder gave a program entitled "The Birds of Magee Marsh." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 12 was 50 people. Dr. Russell Greenberg gave a program entitled "When Bad Things Happen to Good Birds: The Decline of the Rusty Blackbird."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had submitted the attached Treasurer's Report to the Board in advance of the meeting (attached). It shows that she has written the check for \$500 to the Robinson Nature Center as a memorial to Don Randle, Aaron Friedhoffer, and Marjorie Mountjoy. Ward reported that the check along with a letter explaining the memorial nature of the gift has been sent to the RNC staff with our request that some means of acknowledging the memorial gift be displayed near the area with plantings.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward reported that 7 books left from the Donovan donation had not sold, so consistent with conversations he had with the donors at the time the collection was donated, he has donated the last books to the Howard County Library.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): No report beyond attendance count at last meeting.

Chapter Committee Reports

Nominating (Friedhoffer): Jeff reported that Wes has confirmed he is a candidate for President, Emy for Treasurer, Chuck for Secretary, Karen Darcy & Kate Tufts for State Directors, Sherry Tomlinson for 2nd year Chapter Director. New nominees include Eva Sunell as 1st year Chapter Director, and Robin Todd has indicated he is considering nomination as Vice-President. *Sec. Note: After the meeting Jeff notified the Board by email that Robin has agreed to be nominee for Vice-President.*

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): No report, but Amanda indicated plans are in place except for final details on the Smith Island trip

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported on the status of our contribution to the Lights Out Baltimore project to add remediation to windows at Cylburn to prevent bird impacts. The project has run into a problem as the company that was to be material supplier has fallen through. Efforts to find another supplier are underway, but currently the project is up in the air, and may not come to fruition. Our support was contingent on actual accomplishment and had a “sunset” clause of one year, so we will wait and see. Bob mentioned that there may be a similar project needed at the Robinson Nature Center that we should monitor.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported that most articles for current issue have been received despite her late sending out reminders. She then went on to summarize the status of the new club brochures that Kate and she have been working on. The brochures have been produced and she had a box of them to distribute to various locations. Various members took copies to distribute copies to the RNC, libraries, Mother Nature’s, The Wildlife Authority, Centennial Lake (Jeff C.), etc. Copies will be brought to club meetings and we will ask members with ideas for additional distribution to take copies. Finally Wes agreed to hold the box with supply of brochures for future use.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob distributed copies of the annual membership report statistics. Copies reformatted for better visibility have been attached. The obvious message is there is a continuing long term decline in membership. This is a trend observed at the state level as well. We observe that the number of new members continues to be less than the number of losses each year. It was observed that an attempt to retain new members after their initial joining could prove beneficial. Jeff F. volunteered to try and establish a network of “buddies” for new members. Bob will provide Jeff with a list of new members (that have not already established active involvement) and he will solicit buddies (potentially use Chapter Directors) that will make concerted effort to call and approach new members to find out what they would like to get out of bird club membership and help them achieve that (i.e., be a “buddy”).

Bob also asked the Board to comment on his proposal to announce the upcoming program at the Robinson Nature Center (RNC) on Aldo Leopold via the web and email. See attachment. Jo Solem is a participant and the program seems to be consistent with the guidelines we developed for when we would promote other organization activities. Accordingly the Board supported Bob’s proposal to announce it on the web, send an email as part of another email he is planning to send, and Amanda will add to the club’s Facebook page.

Lastly Bob prepared the chart showing hits on the club web site through December 2011.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts, Etc.): Ward reported that the status of Lights Out Baltimore project (see above) was discussed. John Malcolm reported on the pending bankruptcy of the web site where club logo merchandise was being sold. Merchandise will be available until the end of March. MOS may lose a portion of the deposit made with the site to set up our merchandise. The future status of finding another company with similar product capabilities is up in the air. Lastly Ward mentioned that work on the policy draft regarding alternative energy is not yet complete. Howard club member, Chris Toscani, is a key player in this initiative. One observation that Ward shared is that rather than purchasing solar energy installations, an alternative process to lease the equipment seems to offer promise.

Old Business

Managing pre-meeting slide shows – Wes first asked the Board to confirm that this was a good idea and that we should continue it in the future. The Board agreed we should continue this activity. Then discussion turned to how to organize and set policy for the activity. Initially Wes will announce plans to continue the practice and solicit volunteers (one per meeting) to sign up for future meetings. For now guidelines are try to make photos self-explanatory, minimum number of images 15 to 20, any natural theme acceptable, ideally just a single folder on a flash drive with JPEG files, no videos for now. At each meeting the photographer will be acknowledged so they can be queried about their pictures. Wes will describe process at the February meeting and have a sign up sheet for future meetings so potential photographers interested in having their pictures on display can volunteer. Also a brief description of the process will be described in the March newsletter.

Potluck – Kathie reported that the plans are in place for potluck to be held on March 24 at the Robinson Nature Center (small classroom). She will have sign-up sheet to distribute at next two meetings for people to sign up and indicate what they will bring and if they will have pictures to display.

Publicity Chair - Ward reported he is still soliciting volunteers for this position. He was encouraged to take an “arm twisting” approach to seeking a volunteer. Jeff will provide Ward with a description of the position, including who he contacted when he served in this role in the past.

Bookstore exit plan – Ward reported that in discussions with Anne Marie it has been agreed that we should proceed to disband the club bookstore. The funds expended in the current inventory are a “sunk cost” so the issue is how to proceed from here. Ward investigated the By-laws to determine what they say about bookstore (see attached). The conclusion reached is that to disband the book store is at discretion of Board and we will not need to modify the club By-laws until another issue dictates a change. Ward proposed and the Board agreed to work toward wrapping up the bookstore by May. The priority in disposing of inventory is 1) Sell to members (at reduced prices), 2) Donate to non-profit organizations (e.g., RNC research library, Youth Birding Club, Howard Conservancy, RNC gift shop). Also identify items to retain for future uses such as Youth Backpacks, and special items (e.g., autographed) that would be used to recognize special individuals (e.g., gift given to acknowledge family hosting Violet Greenear). One obvious use will be donations to the Robinson Nature Center research library. Jeff Friedhoffer proposed and it was agreed that it would be good to add a front plate to any such donations that acknowledged the book was a donation from the Howard County Bird Club. It was moved and seconded that Jeff could spend up to \$60 to produce front plates for insertion into any books donated to RNC or other appropriate recipients. The motion passed unanimously. Karen Darcy accepted an action to talk to RNC staff and identify which books in bookstore inventory would be appropriate donations to the RNC library.

Refreshments – MOS Board Meeting March 3, 2012 – Ward reported he was still looking for someone to coordinate finding volunteers to help setup and bring refreshments for this meeting. Wes agreed to be the coordinator. We discussed options but generally agreed to purchase coffee from Dunkin Donuts rather than try and make it. It was suggested we arrange to get large pot that Jane Geuder has in order to keep the coffee warm. Other items to purchase include juice and fruit. Hopefully volunteers will make homemade baked goods. Wes will solicit help at the February club meeting.

New Business

Convention? – There were no new announcements related to the upcoming MOS Conference in Ocean City in late February. *Sec. Note - The Board is reminded that our next meeting will be the 3rd Thursday in February as most of the Board will be preparing to attend the Conference the normal 4th Thursday prior to the Conference.*

Greenfest – Ward had contacted Michael O’Sullivan to see if he would be able to coordinate our support of Greenfest again this year. Greenfest is scheduled for April 14. *Sec. Note – Following the meeting Ward distributed a response from Michael indicating he would not be available to support this year. Accordingly Ward is still seeking a volunteer to coordinate club support of Greenfest.* We also discussed whether it will be necessary to obtain permits to transport bird “specimens” now held by the RNC to use at our display.

Death of Marty Chestem’s Sister – Bob notified the Board that the sister of Marty Chestem (a founding member of the Howard County Bird Club and past MOS president) had passed away about two weeks before meeting. Traditionally the club has recognized similar losses of active club members, and Bob asked what we should do to recognize Marty’s loss. We agreed that we should have a sympathy card for members to sign at the next meeting. Jo Solem accepted an action to purchase and bring a card for this purpose to next club meeting.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Investigate alternative printing options for the decreased number of Goldfinch hard copies – Amanda
 - Amanda checked and our current printer (Brown) is comparable to others so it was agreed there is no need to change.
- Develop proposed content for Certificate of Appreciation for Green Violet-ear family – Joe H., Kurt - DONE

- Select picture & get 2 prints of Green Violet-ear as appreciation gift for family and Mother Nature's – Kevin H.
 - Picture was given to family along with field guide and certificate at the December meeting. A picture for Mother Nature's has not been presented, but Karen felt they had gotten a second print. See new action item.
- Select book/field guide for family – Joe H. DONE
- Inform Wendy Olsson of our action on Lights Out Baltimore proposal – Kurt DONE
 - See Conservation report above
- Prepare a proposal for “Swap Night” concept – Jim L. DONE
 - Jim provided an initial proposal after last meeting but the Board still had several issues that needed to be addressed. Including probably referring to it as a Garage Sale would probably be better name. See new action item below.
- Talk to June Tveekrem about information sheet for speakers – Wes DONE
 - Wes spoke with June and she feels she needs to update the information sheet and plans to do so.
- Talk to Jane Geuder about how to provide technical capability information to Program speakers - Ward DONE
 - Ward spoke to Jane and got her together with June. Jane seems to have accepted the need to provide June with contact information so that June can confirm technical arrangements directly with speaker.
- Talk to June about the use of high definition screen for photo show during social period – Wes DONE
 - See item under Old Business
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate refreshments and setup for MOS Board Meeting in March – Ward DONE
 - See item under Old Business
- Finalize logo design with John Malcolm – Kate DONE
- Finalize reservation for Potluck with Howard Rec and Parks – Kathie DONE
 - See item under Old Business confirming venue will be the Robinson Nature Center
- Provide brief description of what Publicity Chairman tasks would be to Amanda for Goldfinch - Jeff

New/Continuing Action Items

- Provide brief description of what Publicity Chairman tasks would be to Amanda for Goldfinch – Jeff
- Prepare a revised proposal for the “Equipment Garage Sale” addressing issues raised during discussion – Jim L.
- Locate second print of Green Violetear and deliver it to Jo S. – Karen
- Deliver Green Violetear photo and brochures to Mother Nature's and make overtures for a stronger link between the store and club. – Jo S.
- Buy and bring a sympathy card to club meeting for members to sign in recognition of Marty Chestem's sister's passing – Jo S
- Prepare book plates for front of books to be donated – Jeff F.
- Contact Robinson Nature Center staff to find out what books in bookstore inventory might be appropriate for their research library or other use – Karen D.
- Provide a description of the pre-meeting photo show process at February meeting and short article for next Goldfinch – Wes E.
- Provide Jeff F. with a list of new members joining this year (that haven't already become active) – Bob S.
- Coordinate/solicit volunteers to contact new members and seek to be a “buddy” that makes them feel welcome and involved in club activities – Jeff F.
- Invite Sue Muller to attend a future (Feb) Board meeting and discuss the Youth Birding initiative – Emy H.

Around the Room:

Utility Right-of-ways - Jim made the observation that he had recently noted there is a large acreage of land on utility right of ways that might be excellent habitat for wildlife. He wondered if anyone knew of efforts to promote making the land more wildlife friendly. No one seemed to know of any such efforts.

Youth Birding – Emy wanted the Board to know of a concern she has with Sue Muller's initiative to form a Youth Bird Club. Emy had volunteered to help Sue, but she had felt the activity was being sponsored by the RNC or Rec and Parks, but Sue told her that this activity is part of the Howard County Bird Club, and she is the Committee Chairman. In fact Rec and Parks and RNC have specifically stated they are not willing to be associated with effort. The Board was surprised to learn this and Ward stated that he has identified Sue as the club's point of contact to the

MOS Youth Birding coordinator but has not appointed her as a committee chair. We agreed that Sue had to meet with the Board and discuss this matter as there are numerous issues. Example issues include MOS liability insurance might not cover activities if not all participants are MOS members, the general issue of “youth protection”, participation without parents present, and fact that a great deal of effort might need to be undertaken to solve these issues and yet there might not be any youth interested in the activity after that effort was expended (“chicken and egg”). Emy agreed to invite Sue to a future board meeting to discuss the initiative.

Logo Products – Kathie had ordered two T-shirts and a golf towel from the Logo web site and showed them to the board.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 17, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	
February 16, 2012	-	Ward Ebert	(3 rd Thursday as MOS Conference is Feb 24-26)
March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – January 26, 2012 – Rev. 2
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report 5/1/2011 – 1/22/2012
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) – January 2012
- Monthly Hits on Web Page – 2008 – 2011
- Howard County Bird Club By-laws, Article VIII - BOOKSTORE

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

JAN 26, 2012
REV. 2

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
 - Final disposal of Donovan books
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
6. MOS Board Meeting report *Jeff, Karen, Kate, Ward*
7. Committee Reports
 - Nominating committee *Jeff*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Report – Lights Out Baltimore donation
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - Brochures
 - WebMaster, membership *Bob*
 - ❖ Publicizing RNC offering
8. Old Business
 - ❖ Managing pre-meeting slide shows *Wes*
 - Potluck *Kathie*
 - Publicity chair *Ward*
 - Bookstore exit plan *Ward, Emy*
 - Refreshments - MOS Board mtg., *Ward*
March 3, 2012
9. New Business/Discussions
 - Convention? *? placeholder*
 - Greenfest?
 - Death of Marty Chestem’s Sister
10. Action Items *Chuck*
11. Around the room.

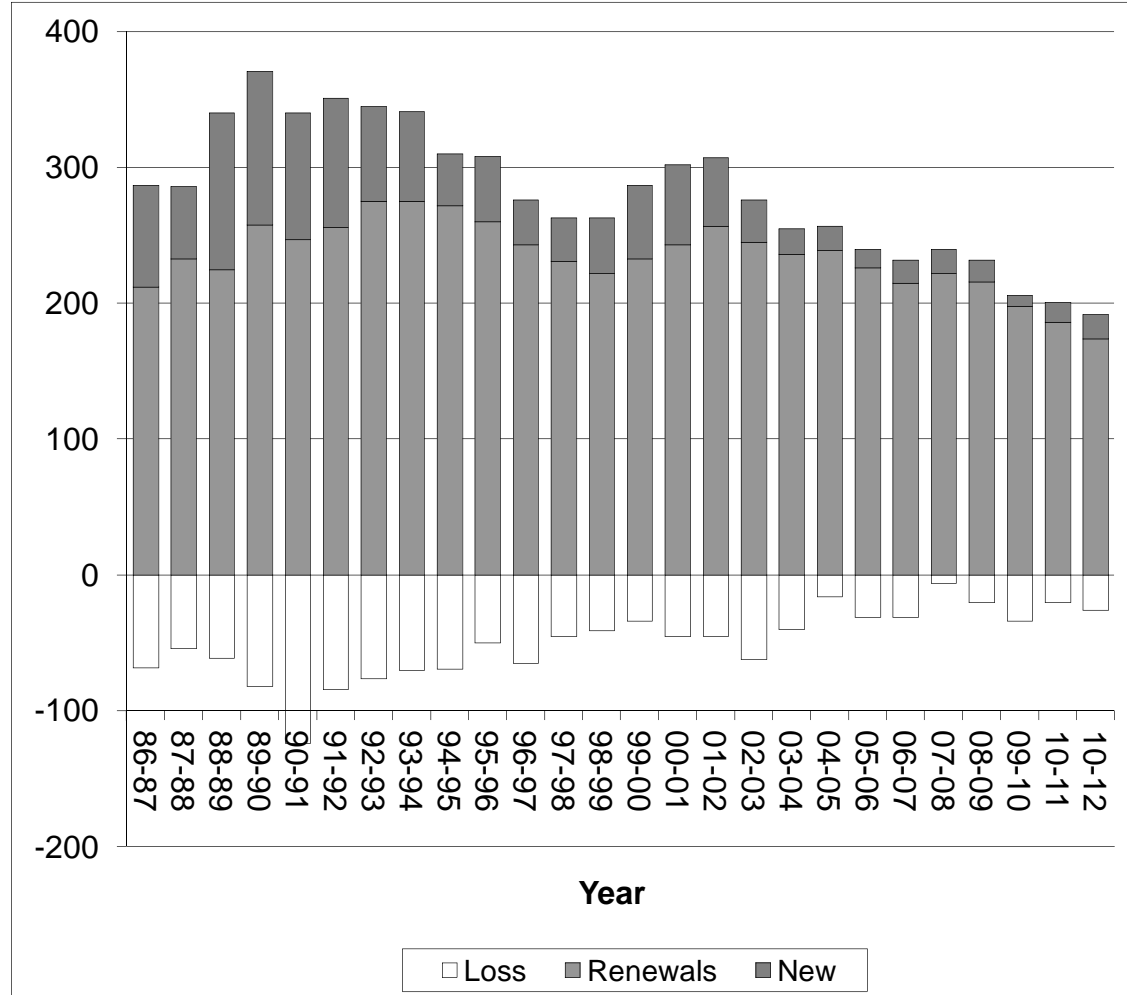
Meeting Location:
Amanda Witt’s
8865 Purple Iris La
Elkridge, MD 21075
Phone: 410-312-0504

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11-1/22/12

	Budget 2011-12	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		470.00	5,339.00
State Dues Paid		(3,010.00)	(3,130.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,209.00
Publications			37.50
Contributions		50.00	70.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		2,316.50
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	125.00	300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00		52.36
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			92.00
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			124.41
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	65.00	336.80
Miscellaneous			126.34
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		1,031.91
Seed Sale			
Income			5,255.00
Expense			
Seed			5,255.00
Flyers, postage			19.64
Net Seed Sale			(19.64)
Contribution from Wildlife Authority			
Contributions for Habitat Conservation		25.00	704.10
Sale of Books			50.00
Total Available for Distribution			1,234.46
Donation to All Creatures			(200.00)
Total Available for Distribution			1,034.46
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			311.00
			(311.00)
			-
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance		189.00	10,644.70
Interest Received		0.16	0.81
Balance			10,645.51
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,729.00
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			(189.00)
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,787.71
Savings			16,185.51
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			20,037.85

Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)

Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total	% renew
85-86	61	68	212	280	76%
86-87	68	75	212	287	74%
87-88	54	53	233	286	81%
88-89	61	115	225	340	66%
89-90	82	113	258	371	70%
90-91	124	93	247	340	73%
91-92	84	95	256	351	73%
92-93	76	70	275	345	80%
93-94	70	66	275	341	81%
94-95	69	38	272	310	88%
95-96	50	48	260	308	84%
96-97	65	33	243	276	88%
97-98	45	32	231	263	88%
98-99	41	41	222	267	83%
99-00	34	54	233	288	81%
00-01	45	59	243	302	80%
01-02	45	50	257	307	84%
02-03	62	31	245	276	89%
03-04	40	19	236	255	93%
04-05	16	18	239	257	93%
05-06	31	14	226	246	92%
06-07	31	17	215	228	94%
07-08	6	18	222	236	94%
08-09	20	16	216	232	93%
09-10	34	8	198	206	96%
10-11	20	15	186	201	93%
10-12	26	18	174	193	90%

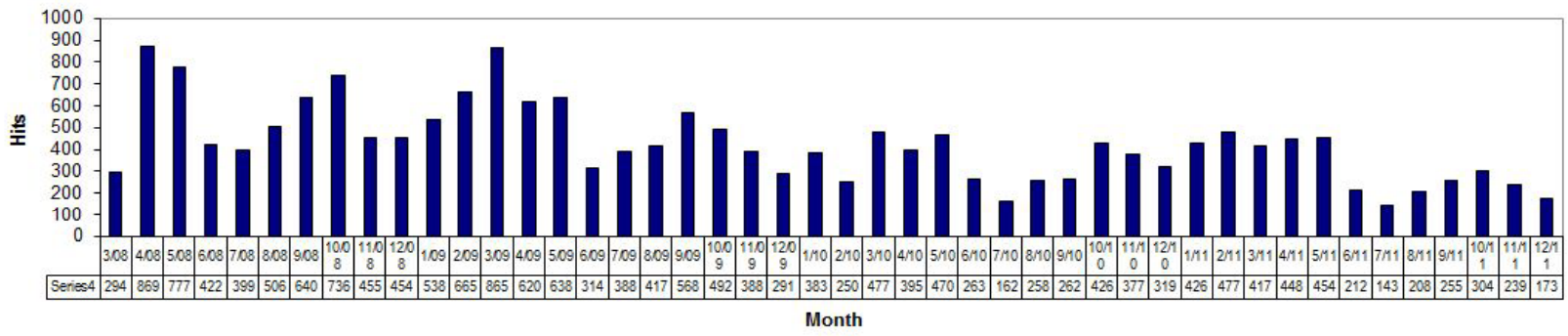


Year	Couple	Indiv	Other	Total
87-88	150	91	45	286
88-89	178	102	60	340
89-90	186	128	57	371

Year	Household	Indiv	Other	Total	Junior
90-91	188	146	6	340	27
91-92	196	150	5	351	31
92-93	197	142	6	345	35
93-94	198	137	6	341	37
94-95	170	132	7	310	32
95-96	183	120	5	308	35
96-97	181	89	6	276	40
97-98	153	103	7	263	30
98-99	161	99	7	267	27
99-00	175	107	6	288	30
00-01	179	115	8	302	26
01-02	191	107	9	307	25
02-03	167	108	1	276	25
03-04	145	109	1	255	18
04-05	143	112	2	257	22
05-06	141	105	9	246	14
06-07	134	100	10	244	11
07-08	134	103	12	249	13
08-09	138	89	18	249	14
09-10	126	77	17	220	14
10-11	120	80	15	201	12
10-12	108	81	18	193	7

After 09-10: Household = 2 votes; Individual - 1 vote

Monthly "Hits" on Web Page



ARTICLE VIII - BOOKSTORE

- Section 1. So long as deemed beneficial to the Club by the Board of Directors, the Club shall operate a Bookstore for the convenience of the membership and other individuals and organizations who may be interested.
- Section 2. The President shall appoint a Bookstore Chair, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. The Bookstore shall operate within its allocated funds. The Chair shall be responsible for the Bookstore's day-to-day operation. Further, the Chair shall prepare a statement on the financial condition of the Bookstore for each regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Section 4. The Chair shall have custody of the Bookstore funds which shall be deposited in a bank in the Club's name. Said account shall be independent of the Club's regular account maintained by the Treasurer.
- Section 5. All checks and drafts of the Bookstore may be signed by the Bookstore Chair, Club President or Treasurer. The Chair may not sign an expense reimbursement to the Chair.
- Section 6. The Chair shall maintain an inventory of goods and items for sale consistent with the objectives and purposes of the Club. Prices for such goods and items shall be set by the Chair with such pricing structures and policies reviewed at least annually by the Board of Directors.
- Section 7. The Board of Directors may transfer excess funds from Bookstore account to the Club's regular account, as appropriate.

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 16, 2012

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2009-2010 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: vacant
Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1st yr)
Jim Lubitz (2nd yr)
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Jeff Friedhoffer √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Vacant
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Others:
Anne Marie Raterman √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Ward Ebert. Total number in attendance was 13. This meeting was held on the third Thursday of the month, as many of the board will be making preparations on our regular meeting night to attend the MOS Annual Conference at Ocean City. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 9 was 73 people. Sue Muller gave a program entitled "All You Need to Know About Herps!"

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted with minor corrections. Rev 3 of the minutes reflects the corrections and has been added to the Secretary's archives.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy distributed a copy of the Treasurer's Report prior to the meeting (see attached). She had received dues for a few new members (these will not be submitted to state, but will be credited as having paid dues for next year). Miscellaneous supplies includes \$65 for the book faceplates that Jeff had ordered to be placed in books we donate (e.g., Robinson Nature Center). Additional miscellaneous supplies covered some news letter supplies that Amanda needed. She also observed that with the electronic distribution of newsletters our actual expenses for publications is well below what had been budgeted for that expense.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward had no specific remarks. He welcomed Anne Marie who he had asked to attend and participate in our discussion of plans for retiring the club bookstore.

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): No remarks other than reporting the attendance he had counted at the prior week's regular meeting.

Chapter Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: (Friedhoffer) Jeff reported that the committee had finalized the slate they were proposing: President – Wes Earp, Vice-President – Robin Todd, Treasurer – Emy Holdridge, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, State Director – Karen Darcy and Kate Tufts, Chapter Director – Eva Sunell (1st Year) and Jim Lubitz (continuing as 2nd Year). Our membership has dropped below 200 so we are only entitled to two state director positions, as a result Jeff Friedhoffer has stepped aside.

Field Trips/Atlas (Ho. Co.) (Ott, Hanfman): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he has been working multiple issues at the state level, but didn't have any items for us. There has been no change in the status of the Lights Out Baltimore project.

Newsletter (Witt): The latest issue went out by email this week, and hard copies will be mailed shortly. Amanda reported that she would like to develop a potential redesign of the Goldfinch. Ideas she has is possible use of the new logo vice the Goldfinch on thistle that has been in use for many years. She also thinks she can shift the format to be more focused on electronic delivery vice print format (e.g., more graphics, more color). She proposed to develop a prototype for the Board to review and consider. The plan would be to implement this for next Fall issues. Bob stated that pictures that have been submitted for use on the web came with permission for club use, so they provide one source of pictures to embed in newsletter. The board agreed we would like her to develop a proposal and share it with the Board.

Webmaster/Membership (R. Solem): Bob reported that he will be sending out the election announcement with slate and the membership directory shortly after the regular March meeting. Most will receive it via email while those without email will get it via snail mail. He also pointed out that he recently changed the web home page to put the announcement of highlights on the upper right side of the screen.

On the membership topic he reported that he provided Jeff with the list of new members and Jeff reported that he had assigned the names to Board members. Several reported they have already contacted their "buddy," others confessed they still need to do so.

State Board/Committee Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since the last Board meeting. The next meeting is the one we are hosting at RNC on March 3.

Old Business

Potluck - Kathie reported plans are in place. Sixteen people signed up at the February meeting and she will again solicit signups at the March meeting. Karen stated she would provide Kathie with the point of contact at Robinson Nature Center for her to talk to about setting up for the potluck.

Publicity Chair – Jeff reported that he has supplied Ward with a description of what he did when he was acting as Publicity Chair. He also provided him the list of names that the nominating committee considered for their slate in that it might suggest names to approach about taking on this role. In its simplest form the position needs to get the list of club activities and with some periodicity email or fax them to newspapers and other potential outlets for advertising them. Bob mentioned that Kate had provided him a list of many of the contacts she used for advertising the art contest. That list could be provided to any volunteer as another set of potential contacts.

Bookstore exit plan – Ward welcomed Anne Marie and stated we appreciated her attending to share her thoughts on the bookstore and its future. Ward reviewed the discussions we have had over the past several months. This included our conclusion that the store was selling very few books and hauling the books to meetings when not selling appeared to be a burden on Anne Marie. It appears that competing with Amazon and the limited turnover in club membership contributed to the declining sales. As a result we had reached a few decisions: 1) Buy no new inventory, 2) Begin selling inventory at 50% discount, and 3) Develop a plan for way ahead with goal of having the store wind down by May. We had discussed fact that if we were to continue bookstore separate checking account we would need to open a new one with the club's new Tax ID number, but felt this was not necessary and eventually will just transfer funds to regular club checking account maintained by Emy. We also had agreed not to get rid of everything immediately (e.g., save some field guides for Youth Backpacks, autographed books for potential gifts of appreciation). Anne Marie agreed she could continue to store any material we choose to retain. We had discussed giving appropriate material from the inventory to the Robinson Nature Center (Have had Jeff develop and order a set of front bookplates that state the book was donated by the Howard County Bird Club). Another idea discussed was donating books to the Silent Auction at the MOS Conference, but after discussing it we dismissed that idea. Anne Marie had put together an inventory of what she currently has and that inventory is

attached. Kurt agreed to go through the list and select those books that would be good choices for the RNC in three categories: 1) Suitable for the Center Research Library, 2) Good for display next to the wildlife viewing area, and 3) useful for staff /volunteers behind the desk to use as a reference when asked a question. When we finally select the books to donate, someone will need to put in the bookplates and Anne Marie volunteered she could do that. Other agreements we made was to take some of the 30 Yellowbooks and plan to include a copy in the new member packet that Jo and Bob send out to new members. Another item in her inventory is a large number of the blue MOS patches, these could also be gifts to new members. It was agreed that Ward would announce our plans for the bookstore at coming meeting. The 50% discount will continue for now and Anne Marie was encouraged to sell whatever she can before we wrap up, i.e., don't feel she should set aside anything for donations except the autographed books. Ward will also draft and provide Bob with a few words describing our plans and the discount that Bob will send out with the email announcing the March meeting. Anne Marie mentioned and we all agreed that the bookstore has served another function at the meetings as a social gathering point prior to the meeting proper. We will need to consider alternative activities that might provide this function. We agreed to revisit that issue in the future (including one idea floated for an "Ask the Expert" table or "new" book display with someone familiar with it). Anne Marie confessed she was nostalgic about shutting down the bookstore, but fully acknowledged that it was no longer viable as even with her discounted prices she couldn't compete with Amazon cost and ready availability. She mentioned that shipping costs had also escalated and further impacted her pricing. Lastly Ward asked that we acknowledge and thank Anne Marie for long and loyal service to the club. We all added our appreciation as well.

New Business

Do we participate in Greenfest? – Kate agreed to coordinate again this year. She has the tri-fold display board already. Ward will provide his digital picture frame. Ward agreed to provide Bob with the size of the screen so that Bob can properly size images. Bob and Jo will go through images on web and select a set of "pretty" pictures, potentially match the Greenfest theme (Backyard?). Kate said if we want to have some of the specimens she will need help with getting them as the boxes don't fit in her car. There was some discussion that we may not need to have any given we have the digital pictures.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Provide brief description of what Publicity Chairman tasks would be to Amanda for Goldfinch – Jeff DONE
- Prepare a revised proposal for the "Equipment Garage Sale" addressing issues raised during discussion – Jim L. DONE
- Locate second print of Green Violetear and deliver it to Jo S. – Karen DONE
- Deliver Green Violetear photo and brochures to Mother Nature's and make overtures for a stronger link between the store and club. – Jo S.DONE (by Bob)
- Buy and bring a sympathy card to club meeting for members to sign in recognition of Marty Chestem's sister's passing – Jo S DONE
- Prepare book plates for front of books to be donated – Jeff F. DONE (ordered but not yet received)
- Contact Robinson Nature Center staff to find out what books in bookstore inventory might be appropriate for their research library or other use – Karen D. NOT DONE BUT OVERCOME BY EVENTS (see above)
- Provide a description of the pre-meeting photo show process at February meeting and short article for next Goldfinch – Wes E. DONE (no article, but already has list for rest of year, and a list of other candidates)
- Provide Jeff F. with a list of new members joining this year (that haven't already become active) – Bob S. DONE
- Coordinate/solicit volunteers to contact new members and seek to be a "buddy" that makes them feel welcome and involved in club activities – Jeff F. DONE
- Invite Sue Muller to attend a future (Feb) Board meeting and discuss the Youth Birding initiative – Emy H. DONE (Sue is too busy to work on proposal in near term, so put on hold)

New/Continuing Action Items:

- Review the inventory and identify the material (in 3 categories) suitable for donation to the RNC – Kurt
- When we decide which books will be donated – paste in the bookplates – Anne Marie

- Develop announcement to club of plans for bookstore and discount for inclusion in March meeting email reminder and verbally at the meeting – Ward
- Send out announcement of bookstore plans provided by Ward with March reminder email – Bob
- Work up proposed re-design of Goldfinch for Board consideration – Amanda
- Coordinate Greenfest participation – Kate
 - Provide digital frame size to Bob –Ward
 - Select set of pictures for Greenfest digital frame – Jo and Bob
- Send out club directory and election slate following March regular meeting - Bob

Around the Room

Jeff announced that he had distributed copies of the new club brochures to several locations, and others chimed in that they too had distributed some. In general they are at most of the libraries, RNC, and Mother Nature’s. They will also be at the club meeting and it is proposed we ask anyone with suggestions for other display spots take a few and deliver them to the location. Wes has the box of extra brochures if anyone needs more.

Kurt stole Kate’s announcement and reported that Kate and the Youth Art Show had been picked up by two of the neighborhood columns in the latest Howard County Times. Kate reported that she has the two backpacks for the winners.

Amanda reported that she had added links to the Robinson Nature Center and the Howard County Conservancy to our Facebook page. She also is considering adding Greenfest and YMOS links.

Jo reported that the owners and staff at Mother Nature’s were very pleased and appreciative of the picture of the Green Violetear and the picture is displayed in their window.

Wes asked if we knew anything about YMOS policies and requirements. Specifically are there written policy documents. George Radcliffe is the state YMOS coordinator and we might want to make it a point to talk to him so we understand their guidance and ensure what Sue Muller eventually brings forward is consistent with them. Ward has given her George’s contact and George has Sue’s name but we don’t know if they have made contact. Emy stated again that she doesn’t think Sue will get to this for some time as Greenfest and Herp Atlas are her current focus.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 17, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	
February 16, 2012	-	Ward Ebert	(3 rd Thursday as MOS Conference is Feb 24-26)
March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – February 16, 2012
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report– 5/1/11 – 2/13/12
- Bookstore Inventory

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

FEB 16, 2012

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s remarks *Ward*
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Nominating committee *Jeff*
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Report – Lights Out Baltimore donation
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster, membership *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Potluck *Kathie*
 - Publicity chair *Ward*
 - Bookstore exit plan *Ward, Ann Marie*
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Do we participate in Greenfest? *Ward*
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:

Ward Ebert’s

7366 Hallmark Rd

Clarksville, MD 21029

Phone: 301-490-5807

From US29 & Johns Hopkins go west just past APL’s main entrance, turn right on Sanner for about 100 yds, then left on Old Hopkins; Hallmark is the first right at the bottom of the hill; 7366 is on the left just past the Ardo construction sign. From Cedar Lane head south past 32 and stay left as it becomes Sanner Rd; pass the big parabolic antenna and turn sharp right across from the water tower onto Old Hopkins; proceed as above to Hallmark on the right.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11-2/13/12

	Budget 2011-12	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		135.00	5,474.00
State Dues Paid		(65.00)	(3,195.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,279.00
Publications			37.50
Contributions			70.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,300.00</u>		<u>2,386.50</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00		52.36
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			92.00
General Supplies		125.69	125.69
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			124.41
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	65.00	336.80
Miscellaneous			126.34
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,465.00</u>		<u>1,157.60</u>
Seed Sale			
Income			5,255.00
Expense			
Seed			5,255.00
Flyers, postage			19.64
Net Seed Sale			<u>(19.64)</u>
Contribution from Wildlife Authority			
Contributions for Habitat Conservation		20.00	724.10
Sale of Books			50.00
Total Available for Distribution			1,254.46
Donation to All Creatures			(200.00)
Total Available for Distribution			<u>1,054.46</u>
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			311.00
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			<u>(311.00)</u>
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,644.70
Interest Received		0.07	0.88
Balance			<u>10,645.58</u>
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,729.00
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			(189.00)
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>5,540.00</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,752.01
Savings			16,185.58
Petty Cash			64.63
<i>Total</i>			<u>20,002.22</u>

Young Birder's Guide 1
 Handbook Butterfly Watchers 11
 Grail Bird 1
 Kaufman Birds NA 11
 Birds of MD 11111111111111111111
 Birders Guide to AR 11
 Prairie 1
 We Birds Nests 1
 Sibley Western 1
 BG to AZ 11
 " " CO 111
 " " Churchill 1
 " " WY 1
 " " So. CA 111
 Big Year 1
 Birds of Mid Atl 1
 Season w/ Eagles 1
 Humma of NA 111
 Shorebirds at Chincoteague 1
 Birders Handbook 1
 NG-FG Western 1
 Butterflies thru Binocs 11
 Birding for Everyone 111
 Stokes Bird Behavior 1 11
 " " " 2 1
 PFG Warblers 1111
 " Birds East/Centr 111
 " Birds of NA 1
 Crossley ID Guide 1
 Seabirds ID Guide 1
 Stokes FG-Eastern 11

Hawks on 1 pg 1111
 Warblers on 1 pg ~ 20
 Sibley-Life Behavior 11
 Dume's Essential Comp 1
 Otta 1
 Birds/Alaska 1
 Golden Books FG 11
 Stars + Planets
 Carteglass of ENA 11
 Sm Headed Flycatcher 1
 PFG Hummers 11
 Shorebird Guide 1
 Birding on Borrowed Time 11
 Irony Billed WPH
 NB Birds NA 11
 Monterey Birds 1
 BG to Florida 1
 " " Rio Grande 11

Signed
 Sibley's Eastern 11
 " Western 1
 Shorebird Guide 111
 Sibley Guide to Birds 111
 " Life's Behavior 11

mos Patches

Audubon Life List 1
 Race to Save Lord God Bird 11

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 22, 2012

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2011-2012 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: vacant
Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1st yr)
Jim Lubitz (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Jeff Friedhoffer
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Vacant
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Records: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Others:

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 8 was 62 people. Mike Bowen gave a program entitled "Birding in Wales."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had submitted the attached Treasurer's report in advance of the meeting. The hospitality income item of \$50 is for hosting the MOS Board meeting. The Miscellaneous expense of \$35 is the Greenfest registration fee. The report was accepted as submitted.

President's Remarks (Ebert): Ward reported that Jeff Friedhoffer was absent as he is scheduled for heart valve surgery on Monday, March 26. Ward reported he would be out of town May 3-17. As a result he has arranged for Tom Strikwerda to act as Area 2 Coordinator for May Count. Wes will need to handle the regular May meeting. *Sec. Note – Wes also acted as chair of the April meeting as Ward was unavailable.*

Vice-President's Remarks (Earp): After Wes reported the attendance at the last regular meeting this generated a discussion of how Ward (the President) uses that information to report an average attendance at our meetings in his annual report to MOS. This engendered a short discussion of how our attendance compares with other MOS chapters. The general consensus was that our attendance is more, if not significantly more, than many other chapters.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Neither Bonnie or Joe was in attendance, but Joe had sent an email reporting that the field trip schedule was set through the summer. Wes asked if there was an official field trip policy regarding inclement weather as the forecast for his upcoming trip to Waterford Farm was for heavy rain. The policy is that the decision to go or cancel is the responsibility of the trip leader.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that the Cylburn project to treat the windows with anti-bird impact materials has been officially canceled. As a result the money we had pledged (contingent on actual implementation) is now available for alternate use. Any new ideas are solicited and Kurt will work to develop some options. One idea mentioned was whether the Robinson Nature Center windows need some form of anti-collision treatment. *Sec. Note – Kurt contacted the RNC staff and it does not appear this is a viable or necessary project.*

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported that the deadline for the next newsletter is 25 March. She specifically asked if someone had original file (potentially editable) of the count map normally enclosed with count announcements. Specifically she is considering changing out the old logo for the new logo patch design. *Sec. Note: I forwarded the files I had in my collection to Amanda and Mike McClure to see if they met her needs, and Mike replied he may have an updated set of files.*

Amanda had forwarded a series of potential reformatting ideas for the Goldfinch in advance of the meeting (attached). Amanda was given a number of suggestions on the pros and cons of what she had developed. We agreed that Amanda could take our comments and proceed to develop another sample newsletter for our consideration using her discretion. Some suggestions noted included: Preference for Programs to appear on cover page while field trips should appear on page 2 vice her original idea of merging them all on a “Happenings” page. Drop the idea of an Outlook Calendar link. Retain including the count coordinator names and contact information in announcement articles. Investigate developing a standard count announcement to eliminate need for a unique announcement article for every count.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob had forwarded the Board a proposal to consider changing the club’s dues schedule to reflect the club’s savings realized by those who have agreed to receive delivery of the newsletter via email. Bob’s proposal attached suggested that we reduce dues for those electing electronic only delivery be charged \$3 less than those still wanting a snail mail hard copy. After discussion it was suggested by Wes that the analysis could easily support proposing to reduce dues by \$5 for those electing electronic only receipt. A motion to reduce dues for those receiving electronic distribution by \$5 was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. Bob had included a revised application page that reflected his proposal (attached). After passing the above motion and discussion the following rates apply:

Class of Membership	Surface Mail	Email Only
Household	\$45	\$40
Individual	\$30	\$25
Junior	\$9	\$5
Howard Count Chapter Dues	\$10	\$5 (Note 1)
Sustaining	\$90	No change

Note 1 – Emy thought there may be an MOS by-laws requirement for Chapter dues to be \$10. Need to investigate and if so set Chapter dues consistent with state by-laws otherwise we will set at \$5 as shown.

We agreed the changed application form with new rates should be posted on web site as soon as possible and the change be publicized in the newsletter.

Lastly these changes motivated changes to the proposed budget that Emy had submitted prior to the meeting (attached). The change reduces the nominal income from dues from \$2300 to \$1800, with a corresponding Total Operating Income of \$1800. After discussion of whether we should offer the RNC a contribution for use of the facility, it was agreed that we believe the RNC considers our use quid pro quo for our support of RNC in other ways (e.g. memorial gift, book donation, members volunteering). As a result we concluded not to make a specific donation for use of facility for pot luck. Thus an additional modification to budget was made to add \$50 for Pot Luck Dinner (facility supplies only). The resultant net Total Operating Expense becomes \$1625. This budget as modified was passed unanimously (attached).

Nominations: (J. Friedhoffer): Although Jeff wasn’t present no changes in the slate proposed at the March meeting have been made.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last Howard Board meeting.

Old Business

Potluck – Kathie reported that at present she has 44 people signed up. We will be able to use the auditorium. RNC staff will setup the tables. Marty Chestem is preparing her usual placemats. An invitation to attend was extended to RNC staff but as of this point no responses had been received. Kathie was reminded that there is a tradition to have flowers from early spring gardens. She is requesting that all people bringing food label their food contents as some attendees are concerned about allergic reactions (especially nuts). We will have name tags available. Since no one from RNC is attending earlier thoughts about presenting the book donation at the potluck have been canceled.

Greenfest – Kate reported that preparations are under control. She passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to man the booth.

Art Contest – Kate reported that she is very excited about who has agreed to be the judge for this year's contest. Holly Highfill the artist who designed the tree and several other exhibits at the RNC will be the judge. Kate also reported that she visited the Howard County Art Center off Rogers Avenue and put up flyers advertising the art contest.

RNC Book Donation Status – Kurt reports he has identified an initial list of books to donate. The bookplates will need to be applied once they are received. Given Jeff's surgery, Kurt agreed to contact him and try to get the plates so they are available. (Anne Marie had volunteered to apply them once books are selected.) There is a subset of the books that we are setting aside for future use as gifts, recognition, etc. It was agreed our goal will be to have the initial donation to the RNC ready for presentation at our regular meeting in May.

New Business

Recognition for Ann Marie Raterman – Ward proposed that we should present Ann Marie with some form of recognition for her many years running the club bookstore now that we are phasing it out. Jo asked if we should investigate the criteria for a "Valued Service Award." Normally this award is for contributions to the club and MOS in multiple roles over time. If not appropriate to use the formal award designation we can certainly use one of the certificates prepared by John Malcolm that focuses on her specific contributions. Ward agreed to pursue obtaining a form of recognition (e.g., certificate) for Ann Marie's service to have for Wes use at May meeting by next Board meeting.

Around the Room -

Jim Lubitz reported he will have an announcement about the "swap meet" for inclusion in the Sept-Oct issue of the Goldfinch.

Kate asked about the search for a public relations chairman volunteer. Ward reported he has had no success in finding a volunteer. She and others observed that articles on the Joe Byrnes led trip to Centennial and Mike Bowen's program talk on "Birding in Wales" had appeared in the Howard County Times.

Bob passed around a sheet with the opening page from web site and a sample first page of The Goldfinch with a challenge to those present to brainstorm a set of words that come to mind when you read, view, or think about the Howard County Bird Club. He collected the responses from Board as key words he can imbed in the club title page in an attempt to up the number of web hits found by various web search algorithms.

Bob and Jo reported that a 2nd issue of the Breeding Bird Atlas for Maryland had been presented to Mike Dwyer, manager of the U of MD Central Farm, as recognition of his and the farm's support for our access to the farm, both during the atlas period and continuing access. A picture capturing the presentation will be included in the next issue of The Goldfinch. Jo went on to explain our hope is to work with Ralph Cullison to make a similar presentation to the management responsible for permitting his access during the atlas and also to reinforce/solicit support for our continued access to the Landfill which involves higher levels of management.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the inventory and identify the material (in 3 categories) suitable for donation to the RNC – Kurt - IN PROGRESS
- When we decide which books will be donated – paste in the bookplates – Anne Marie?
- Develop announcement to club of plans for bookstore and discount for inclusion in March meeting email reminder and verbally at the meeting – Ward DONE
- Send out announcement of bookstore plans provided by Ward with March reminder email – Bob DONE
- Work up proposed re-design of Goldfinch for Board consideration – Amanda DONE
- Coordinate Greenfest participation – Kate DONE
 - Provide digital frame size to Bob –Ward DONE
 - Select set of pictures for Greenfest digital frame – Jo and Bob DONE
- Send out club directory and election slate following March regular meeting – Bob DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the inventory and identify the material (in 3 categories) suitable for donation to the RNC – Kurt
- Contact Jeff Friedhoffer to obtain the bookplates – Kurt
- When we decide which books will be donated – paste in the bookplates – Anne Marie *Sec Note: Kurt reports in an email 4/17 he has identified material, received bookplates and pasted them into books.*

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 17, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	
February 16, 2012	-	Ward Ebert	(3 rd Thursday as MOS Conference is Feb 24-26)
March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – March 22, 2012 (Revised During Meeting)
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/11 – 3/19/12
- Howard County Bird Club, Operating Budget, 5/1/12 – 4/30/13 – Submitted
- Howard County Bird Club, Operating Budget, 5/1/12 – 4/30/13 – Approved
- Proposed Newsletter Redesign Concepts
- Sample Newsletter Cover Sheet and Design Options
- Proposed changes in dues: (as submitted with correction for Junior dues)
- Web Page Application Form (as submitted)
- Web Page Application Form (with new approved dues structure)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

MAR 22, 2012
(Revised during Meeting)

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer's Report *Emy*
4. President's remarks *Ward*
 - Jeff absent
5. Vice President's Remarks *Wes*
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter, design *Amanda*
 - WebMaster, membership *Bob*
 - Proposed changes in dues *Bob*
 - **Proposed Budget** *Emy*
7. Old Business
 - Potluck *Kathie*
 - Greenfest *Kate*
 - RNC book donation status *Kurt*
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Recognition for Ann Marie Raterman *Ward*
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room.

Meeting Location:
Solem's
10617 Graeloch Rd
Laurel, Md. 20723
Phone: 301-725-5037

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11-3/19/12

	Budget 2011-12	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		30.00	5,504.00
State Dues Paid			(3,195.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,309.00
Publications			37.50
Hospitality		50.00	50.00
Contributions			70.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,300.00</u>		<u>2,466.50</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	350.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00	50.00	50.00
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00		52.36
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			92.00
General Supplies			125.69
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			124.41
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	98.00	434.80
Miscellaneous		35.00	161.34
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,465.00</u>		<u>1,390.60</u>
Seed Sale			
Income			5,255.00
Expense			
Seed			5,255.00
Flyers, postage			19.64
Net Seed Sale			<u>(19.64)</u>
Contribution from Wildlife Authority			
			500.00
Contributions for Habitat Conservation			
			724.10
Sale of Books			
			50.00
Total Available for Distribution			
			<u>1,254.46</u>
Donation to All Creatures			
			(200.00)
Total Available for Distribution			
			<u>1,054.46</u>
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			311.00
			<u>(311.00)</u>
			-
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			
			10,644.70
Interest Received			
		0.06	0.94
Balance			
			<u>10,645.64</u>
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			
			5,729.00
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			
			(189.00)
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			
			<u>5,540.00</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			
			3,569.01
Savings			
			16,185.64
Petty Cash			
			64.63
Total			
			<u>19,819.28</u>

Submitted Version

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
CHAPTER OF MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/12 - 4/30/13**

	<u>Proposed Budget</u>
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	
Membership Dues (net)	2,300.00
Contributions	
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u><u>2,300.00</u></u>
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Website	150.00
Postage, Copies	75.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	550.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u><u>1,575.00</u></u>

eholdridge
4/17/2012

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
CHAPTER OF MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/12 - 4/30/13
Approved**

	Proposed Budget
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Publications	
Membership Dues (net)	1,800.00
Contributions	
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	1,800.00
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Website	150.00
Postage, Copies	75.00
Pot Luck Dinner:	
Facility Rental & Supplies	50.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	550.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,625.00

Proposed Newsletter Redesign

Keep:

1. Content
2. Hyperlinks from table of contents, email addresses, site guides, etc.

Changes:

1. First Page – use new logo, change font for *The Goldfinch*
2. Switch to a two column format. Pages 1 & 2 would be one narrow column and one wide column. Pages 3 – ?? would be two equal sized columns.
3. Change font to Candara
4. Test Your Knowledge: Bird ID, trivia, facts etc.
5. Programs & field trips merged into one section entitled Happenings
6. Happenings always located on inside front cover (page 2)

Space Permitting:

1. Photos of highlighted birds from seasonal count. (Those mentioned in the first paragraph.)
2. Photo of the officers in September/October issue rather than just a list of names

Also possible:

1. Have calendar events be added to personal Outlook Calendar via hyperlink
2. Have county map for seasonal counts have a hyperlink for each area's contact info



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club
 A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
www.howardbirds.org

Seasonal Bird Records

By Joanne Solem

Inside this issue:

Article	2
Article	2
Article	2
Article	2
Article	3
Article	4
Article	5
Article	6

All text of the newsletter would change to a two column look. On the first page there would be one narrow column for the table of contents and the test your knowledge. The other two columns would be used for articles.

Page 2 would also follow the format of the first page. Subsequent pages would be two columns evenly split on the page. The last page would also follow this format, even though it is a half-page due to the mailing label block.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Can you identify the bird shown in the picture below? (Answer on page _.)



The Goldfinch

September/October 2012

Volume __, Issue __



Newsletter of the Howard
County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Orni-
thological Society

www.howardbirds.org

Inside this Issue:

Seasonal Bird Records

By Joanne Solem

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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Can you identify the bird shown in the picture below? (Answer on page _.)



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club
 A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
www.howardbirds.org



Inside this issue:

Inside Story	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	5
Inside Story	6

Seasonal Bird Records

By Joanne Solem

All text of the newsletter would change to a two column look. On the first page there would be one narrow column for the table of contents and the test your knowledge. The other two columns would be used for articles.

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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Can you identify the bird shown in the



Happenings

Meetings are at the Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 8:00 p.m. Nature Center doors unlocked at 7:15 p.m. and locked again at 8:15 p.m. There is no admission charge. For further information call Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

Organized by Jane Geuder

Field trips are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Arrive at the meeting site ready to leave at the designated time with appropriate footwear and gear. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. Directions for trips not on ADC maps are on the Club's website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinator Bonnie Ott at bonnieott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.


Organized by Bonnie Ott and Joe Hanfman

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Copy may be sent to: Amanda Witt
8865 Purple Iris Lane
Elkridge, MD 21075
amanda.witt@yahoo.com

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year.
Copy deadline for the May/June 2012 issue is March 25, 2012


Amanda Witt, *Editor*
Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*


March 3, Saturday **WINTER SPARROW SEARCH** (Half day)
Limit: 12 people Search the wetland and dry fields in this intensive search for as many sparrows as possible. Previous years have turned up non-sparrow rarities! Expect difficult walking for most of the day. Knee boots a must. Facilities at some spots. Contact Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net or 443-285-3302 to sign up and get info.

March 4, Sun., 8:00 a.m. **CENTENNIAL PARK**  (2-3 hours) Meet at west end parking lot on Centennial Lane. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Waterfowl expected; early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available. Leader - Jeff Culler, cullerfuls@hotmail.com or 410-465-9006.

March 8, Thurs. **MEETING** "Birding in Wales," by Mike Bowen, past president of the Montgomery County Bird Club. He will give us an overview of the outstanding natural areas of his native Wales and review the nearly 200 birds known to occur in one of Britain's most scenic regions. While not an exotic world birding spot, Wales can be a most interesting, surprising and rewarding destination with a very developed infrastructure — no straw hats or dug-out canoes here!

March 10, Saturday 8:00 a.m. **WATERFOWL SEARCH** (half day) Meet at Dockside parking lot at Lake Elkhorn. We'll carpool to search the Howard County waterways for ducks, grebes, mergansers and loons. Chance of an early migrant. Leader - Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net or 410-461-1643.

March 11, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. **CENTENNIAL PARK**  (2-3 hours) Daylight Savings Time starts (set clocks ahead). Meet at west parking lot on Centennial Lane. See March 4 for description. Leader - Mike Kerwin, m63kerwin@verizon.net or 410-461-2408.

March 18, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. **CENTENNIAL PARK**  (2-3 hours). Meet at west parking lot on Centennial Lane. See March 4 for description. Leader - Joe Byrnes 410-730-5329 or LBRoller@verizon.net.

Proposed changes in dues:

The proposed budget for 2012-2013 shows a **reduction** in the budget line for Newsletter & Directory from \$1300 to **\$500**. This is possible because we are printing many fewer newsletters and directories now that we are sending so many by email.

We are in a position to pass some of this savings on to our members. (I have already been reminded that some of this savings could be passed on to those members who opt not to get a printed copy.)

What I propose is that **those who do not get a hard copy newsletter or directory be charged \$3 less per year than those who get hard copy**. Currently it costs a total of ~\$6 to mail 5 newsletters and one directory.

This will result in a reduction in Income from Membership Dues (net).

The following calculations are based on the number of total mailings (not voting membership; remember Household counts for two votes but only gets one mailing).

Currently 66 newsletters are mailed out each month; these people would continue to pay full dues.

The remaining ~100 would pay \$3 less which would reduce expected income from \$2300 to \$2000. (The expected budgeted operating expense would remain at \$1575.)

(It would also be possible to send to all members who have an email address the link to download the electronic copy. Those who get an electronic copy now get the URL so they can download a copy. This would just extend it at no cost to all who have an email address.

New Topic: **Dues for Juniors:**

Now we only charge a Junior \$9, **\$5 of which is sent to MOS**. If we implement the above proposed changes in dues, we would have to decide whether a change in Junior dues should be considered.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB *Web Page Application Form*

<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> Membership information has changed from last year	
Name(s) _____ _____ Address _____ City _____ State ____ ZIP _____	E-mail Address _____ E-mail Address _____ Phone Number () _____ NOTE: Above information appears in Club Directory <input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT PUT E-MAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER IN DIRECTORY (Even if it does not appear in the directory, we need the information to contact you for special messages. Such messages do <u>not</u> reveal your email address or phone number).

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

⇒ Make Checks Payable to: Howard County Bird Club ⇒ Mail dues to Treasurer:	<i>Emy Holdridge</i> 5812 Harness Ct Columbia MD 21044
---	--

CLASS OF MEMBERSHIP:	SURFACE MAIL	EMAIL ONLY	<i>Howard County Bird Club goes green!!</i>
Household (one address)..... Adults: _____ Juniors: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 42.00	I want to save money by getting <u>The Goldfinch only</u> by email. It is my responsibility to notify the club of any change to my email address. SEND <u>The Goldfinch</u> to <u>which</u> of the above email addresses: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> [First] [Second] [Both] </div>
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 27.00	
Junior (under 18, no adult is member).....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 12.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 9.00	
Howard County chapter dues.....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 7.00	
Name of primary chapter: _____			

SURFACE MAIL also gets Email copy (if they have email)	EMAIL ONLY does not get hard copy (<i>but goes green</i>)
--	---

Special contribution for Habitat Preservation: \$ _____
 (In addition to dues.)

YES! I WANT TO DO MORE TO HELP MOS AND THE HOWARD CHAPTER. INSTEAD OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, PUT ME DOWN AS: Sustaining (per person) \$ 90.00
 [Includes surface mail *The Goldfinch* (at no extra cost) [Send *The Goldfinch only* by Email]

CONTACT ME ABOUT MOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Activities/Interests Survey:

<p style="text-align: center;">Survey & Counts</p> <input type="checkbox"/> May bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Fall bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-winter bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Bird Alert Notification by Email; fill in below. <input type="checkbox"/> Listers Special conditions: you will be notified. Email _____ Email _____ Cell Phone _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Field Trips</p> What past trips have you enjoyed most? What locations would you want included for next year's field trips? <input type="checkbox"/> SEND INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRD CLUB TO THE FOLLOWING NON-MEMBER: (Put on back.)	<p style="text-align: center;">Membership Services</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Help with potluck or special events <input type="checkbox"/> Provide refreshments (snacks & drink) at one club meeting <p style="text-align: center;">Club Activities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Field Trips:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Help plan or serve as trip leader or co-leader. <p style="text-align: center;">Programs:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have suggestions. Contact me. <p style="text-align: center;">Conservation:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive action emails regarding Howard County and Maryland conservation issues. Contact me. <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS: (Put on back)
---	--

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB *Web Page Application Form*

<input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> Membership information has changed from last year	
Name(s) _____ _____ Address _____ City _____ State ____ ZIP _____	E-mail Address _____ E-mail Address _____ Phone Number () _____ NOTE: Above information appears in Club Directory <input type="checkbox"/> DO NOT PUT E-MAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER IN DIRECTORY (Even if it does not appear in the directory, we need the information to contact you for special messages. Such messages do <u>not</u> reveal your email address or phone number).

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Household (one address)..... Adults: _____ Juniors: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40.00	I want to save money by getting <u>The Goldfinch only</u> by email. It is my responsibility to notify the club of any change to my email address. SEND <u>The Goldfinch</u> to <u>which</u> of the above email addresses: [First] [Second] [Both]
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25.00	
JUNIOR (under 18, no adult is member).....	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 9.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00	
Howard County chapter dues..... Name of primary chapter: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00	

SURFACE MAIL also gets Email copy (if they have email)	EMAIL ONLY does not get hard copy (<i>but goes green</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/> Special contribution for Habitat Preservation: \$ _____ (In addition to dues.)	
YES! I WANT TO DO MORE TO HELP MOS AND THE HOWARD CHAPTER. INSTEAD OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES, PUT ME DOWN AS: Sustaining (per person) <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 90.00 [Includes surface mail <i>The Goldfinch</i> (at no extra cost)] [Send <i>The Goldfinch</i> <u>only</u> by Email]	
<input type="checkbox"/> CONTACT ME ABOUT MOS LIFE MEMBERSHIP	

Activities/Interests Survey:

<p style="text-align: center;">Survey & Counts</p> <input type="checkbox"/> May bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Fall bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Mid-winter bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Bird Alert Notification by Email; fill in below. <input type="checkbox"/> Listers <u>Special conditions: you will be notified.</u> Email _____ Email _____ Cell Phone _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Field Trips</p> What past trips have you enjoyed most? What locations would you want included for next year's field trips? <input type="checkbox"/> SEND INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRD CLUB TO THE FOLLOWING NON-MEMBER: (Put on back.)	<p style="text-align: center;">Membership Services</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Help with potluck or special events <input type="checkbox"/> Provide refreshments (snacks & drink) at one club meeting <p style="text-align: center;">Club Activities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Field Trips:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Help plan or serve as trip leader or co-leader. <p style="text-align: center;">Programs:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I have suggestions. Contact me. <p style="text-align: center;">Conservation:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> I would like to receive action emails regarding Howard County and Maryland conservation issues. Contact me. <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS: (Put on back)
--	--

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2012

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2011-2012 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert √
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: vacant
Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1st yr)
Jim Lubitz (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Jeff Friedhoffer
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Vacant
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Darcy. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 12 was 71 people. Nina Fascione, Executive Director of Bat Conservation International gave a program entitled “The Wonderful World of Bats: Why We Should Make Every Effort to Conserve Them.” At the regular meeting the annual election was held and Karen Darcy presented the slate of officers put forward by the nominating committee. The slate was: President – Wes Earp, Vice President – Robin Todd, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Emy Holdridge, State Directors – Kate Tufts and Karen Darcy, Chapter Directors – 1st year, Eva Sunell and 2nd year, Sherry Tomlinson. It was moved, seconded, and agreed to have the Secretary cast the ballot as a whole.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted with the clarification that following the meeting it was determined that the MOS By-laws and Manual of Operations do not mandate a minimum rate for Chapter memberships. Thus our decision to set the rate for membership by those who have their primary membership with another chapter at \$5 stands.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the attached Treasurer’s report prior to the meeting. She has received two memberships in past month, although one of the checks was rejected by the bank because it was not filled out completely. She will return it and hopefully have it returned with the necessary correction. She has written a few checks since she submitted the report so she will need to prepare a final April 30 report for the close of our fiscal year.

President’s Remarks (Ebert): Ward reported he was able to attend as his back problem that precluded him attending the regular April club meeting has improved. He also mentioned that Jeff Friedhoffer indicates he is recovering following his surgery.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes reported the results of the attendance count from last meeting. He had no other remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he didn't have any items on the county level, but was working on a couple for the state –level. We have signed on to a couple of comment letters in recent past. He reported that he has not made much progress in identifying a new conservation project to replace the canceled Window Strike remediation project at Cylburn. He did contact Mark Raab and determine that there did not seem to be a strong need for a similar project at the Robinson Nature Center. We agreed not to pursue that idea. After a brief discussion it was the sense of the Board that given we had no firm proposals we will delay action and probably combine this year's funds with the proceeds from next fall's seed sale. If a wonderful opportunity arises before then we will consider it by email communication. Kurt also mentioned he is working on developing comments on the Maryland Fish and Wildlife initiative considering extending the term of incidental take permits issued to various locations to as long as 30 years.

Newsletter (Witt): No report. We deferred discussion of the updated newsletter design until Amanda can attend and report on her progress.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he and Jo have been actively revising and updating the web version of Birding Howard County. He has posted the new membership application form with the new dues structure on the web site. He had one query about the dues structure from one of the newest applicant but he didn't think he needed to clarify the form.

Nominations: (J. Friedhoffer): No report. Committee completed their responsibility at April meeting.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts, Etc.): No Board meeting since our last meeting.

Old Business

Art Contest – Kate reported a young boy attending the Greenfest learned of the contest and was very much interested. He immediately began sketching some of the birds in our display. She passed around a picture of the boy sketching at our booth. She also reported that the location we used to display the winners last year at RNC has been taken over for another project by one of the local schools. She has identified another location but since it is meant for showing framed pictures she has had to find a way to display our matted prints. There are clamps available to accomplish this function that could be reused each year. It was moved, seconded, and passed that Kate is authorized up to \$100 to purchase these clamps.

RNC Book Donation Plans – Kurt reported that he had obtained the bookplates and pasted them in the books he has selected for donation. He will bring them to the May meeting. Karen was asked to contact Stacey Yankee and request that she or a delegate from RNC plan to attend our meeting on May 10 to receive the donation. Ward will be out of town so Wes will need to chair the meeting and handle the donation.

In a related matter we learned that Jim Lubitz has the remainder of books Ann Marie has for sale as she won't be available at the May meeting. He will bring the books and he and other volunteers will set up and try and sell some of the books. Ann Marie still has the cash box. Someone will need to pick up the cash box. Emy will likely be responsible for the cash box after the meeting and Jim agreed to take any unsold books back home. We agreed to defer the recognition of Ann Marie's service until September meeting. *Sec. Note – Following meeting we learned that this will need to be deferred until October as Ann Marie will be on travel in September.*

New Business

Seed Sale Planning – Ward has volunteered to serve as chairman of the seed sale committee for next fall. We discussed possible dates and settled on Oct 6 as our first choice and Oct 13 as second choice. Ward will contact Kevin and confirm date and write the announcement article for the September Goldfinch (late July due date).

Around the Room -

Bob reported that he has taken charge of publicity, namely the process of notifying newspapers of our upcoming events with press releases sent by email. He passed around a handout with samples. His primary targets are the Baltimore Sun (Howard Events) and the Patuxent newspapers Howard County calendar. We decided not to publish leader phone number. Kate suggested he include his contact number but highlight it as for “Media Use Only” so the paper can contact him if they have questions before publishing information. She also had a few additional suggestions she was going to provide Bob. Kate mentioned that a couple of our upcoming events were picked up in the paper this week.

Jo – Reporting on the Records committee told us that Joe Hanfman has shared word that the state records committee has accepted the Green Violetear. They also accepted Bonnie’s Henslow’s Sparrow from a few years ago. They did not accept a report of a Hutton’s Vireo in Howard County.

Jo stated that while they were manning the Greenfest booth they didn’t have any membership prospects. She asked Kate and others if they thought they had any. Kate said she felt there were a few prospects and that overall the publicity and visibility was very good. It was reported that Sue Muller has stated that overall the Greenfest was a very successful event with a significant increase in attendance.

Kate was reminded that she has proposed refurbishing the cork board for our display and might need a budget to do that. She stated that she will review the board and decide what she needs and be prepared to discuss at the May Board meeting.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the inventory and identify the material (in 3 categories) suitable for donation to the RNC – Kurt DONE
- Contact Jeff Friedhoffer to obtain the bookplates – Kurt DONE

When we decide which books will be donated – paste in the bookplates – Anne Marie *Sec Note: Kurt reports in an email 4/17 he has identified material, received bookplates and pasted them into books.* DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Call Stacey Yankee at RNC and request they have someone attend our May meeting to receive our donation of books for the RNC library – Karen
- Mail names and contact information for officers to MOS Secretary, Janet Shields – Chuck Done 4/29

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 17, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	
February 16, 2012	-	Ward Ebert	(3 rd Thursday as MOS Conference is Feb 24-26)
March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – April 26, 2012 Rev. 1
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/11 – 4/23/12

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

APR 26, 2012
REV. 1

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | <i>All</i> |
| 2. Review of Minutes | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | <i>Emy</i> |
| 4. President’s remarks | <i>Ward</i> |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | <i>Wes</i> |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | <i>Bonnie/Joe</i> |
| • Conservation; donation | <i>Kurt</i> |
| • Newsletter, design | <i>Amanda</i> |
| • WebMaster, membership | <i>Bob</i> |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Art contest | <i>Kate</i> |
| • RNC book donation plans | <i>Kurt</i> |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Seed sale planning | <i>Ward</i> |
| 9. Action Items | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

Karen Darcy’s
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

410-418-8731

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11-4/23/12

	Budget 2011-12	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		70.00	5,574.00
State Dues Paid			(3,195.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,379.00
Publications			37.50
Hospitality			50.00
Contributions			70.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		2,536.50
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	100.00	450.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		50.00
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00	92.40	144.76
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			92.00
General Supplies			125.69
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			124.41
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	68.00	502.80
Miscellaneous			161.34
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		1,651.00
Seed Sale			
Income			5,255.00
Expense			
Seed			5,255.00
Flyers, postage			19.64
Net Seed Sale			(19.64)
Contribution from Wildlife Authority			
			500.00
Contributions for Habitat Conservation			
			724.10
Sale of Books			
			50.00
Total Available for Distribution			
			1,254.46
Donation to All Creatures			
			(200.00)
Total Available for Distribution			
			1,054.46
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			311.00
			(311.00)
			-
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			
			10,644.70
Interest Received			
		0.06	1.00
Balance			
			10,645.70
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			
			5,729.00
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			
			(189.00)
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			
			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			
			3,408.61
Savings			
			16,185.70
Petty Cash			
			64.63
Total			
			19,658.94

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 24, 2012

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2011-2012 Club Officers:

President: Ward Ebert
Vice-president: Wes Earp √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President: vacant
Chap. Directors: Sherry Tomlinson (1st yr)
Jim Lubitz (2nd yr) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Jeff Friedhoffer
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Seed Sale: Ward Ebert
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Others:
Vice Pres (Elect): Robin Todd √
Chap Dir (Elect) Eva Sunell √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 10 was ___ people. Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy gave a program entitled “Birding Equador.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approve as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had submitted via email the final treasurer’s report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2012 and the report for this month. There were no significant questions.

President’s Remarks (Ebert): Ward was absent as planned due to personal health reasons.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes began by formally welcoming Robin and Eva as newly elected officer’s for next year. He also recognized that this was Jim Lubitz’s last official meeting as an officer, but he was welcome ato continue his participation, specifically as coordinator for the “swap meet/yard sale” event. Because Ward will be unavailable, Wes will attend the MOS Board meeting scheduled for June 2 in his stead. The state by-laws say that the transition of officer’s occurs on Sept. 1 and we follow that precedent. Accordingly Wes doesn’t officially assume office until then, but if Ward or anyone on the Board identifies something that Wes should do he wants someone to inform him on what is required. Our by-laws require the incoming President to confirm Committee chairmanships. Wes stated that he has spoken to all current standing committee chairman and they have agreed to continue their roles. He asked if we have any policy regarding liaison positions similar to committee chairs. The consensus was we didn’t but it would be a good practice to confirm roles for some of the more active positions. Karen has been acting as our official liaison to the Robinson Nature Center. It was observed that Scott Berglund had unofficially acted as our liaison to the Howard County Conservancy, but that it would be good to confirm he is comfortable with us making that an official role. Lastly we talked about the need for a Publicity Chairman. Bob has agreed to distribute the announcements of club programs and field trips to local newspapers, but this is less than what we would expect a formal Publicity Chairman to do. So we are still searching for a volunteer to act in this role. To

support Wes in recruiting a volunteer, Bob agreed to send Wes the description of the Publicity position that Jeff Friedhoffer prepared earlier this year for Ward.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Not present. Felicia Lovelett had sent an email seeking a volunteer to help with the trip she was leading at her place on the coming Sunday as she has a family conflict that precludes her leading all morning. Chuck stated he would let Felicia know that he was planning to attend and could lead the group on the latter part of the walk.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt discussed the email that the Solem's had received from Phil Norman of Howard Recreation and Parks regarding an article in the Baltimore Sun discussing a proposal being considered by the Mayor of Laurel to adopt a policy of trap, neuter, and release (TNR) feral cats in lieu of the current Prince George's county policy of euthanasia. Kurt felt this was best addressed as an MOS issue as it primarily involves PG county vice Howard. He stated his plan to draft a letter that he will share with the Board and CC Phil Norman when he submits the letter on behalf of MOS that has taken a position opposing TNR programs in general.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda stated that the deadline for copy for the September Goldfinch is July 25. In advance of the meeting Amanda had forwarded a reformatted version of the May/June 2012 Goldfinch reflecting her proposed redesign for future newsletters to be delivered electronically as PDFs. She reviewed the draft with us for comments. One proposal was that page 8 (the last page) should have full text as so few need to be mailed the mailing label half doesn't need to be reserved. Bob had drafted a cover sheet that could be folded over the newsletter for mailing the few hardcopies. He proposes to have the application form on the back of the cover sheet. Those receiving the newsletter by email will get the application by email as well. If those requesting hard copy have not renewed by time to send the Nov/Dec issue they will only receive the electronic copy. Bob also proposes not to include a line on the seed sale blank for club membership application.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported somewhat facetiously that he had done some computations to "justify" the cost of the web site. For example the cost of hits/member works out to 72 cents and the cost per hit is 31 cents.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Ebert, Darcy, Friedhoffer, Tufts, Etc.): Next meeting is June 2.

Old Business

Art Contest – Kate reported that things were coming together and lining up. The judging is scheduled for June 11. The winning entries will be on display at Robinson Nature Center from Aug 10-20, Mt. Pleasant Aug 20-31, and Glenwood Community Center all of September. If anyone has suggestions Kate would like to find a place to have the display after that somewhere in the Eastern part of the county. Kate also indicated she is preparing to refurbish the club display board and will need funds to do so. The Board approved her spending up to \$60 for the project.

Remaining Book Storage – Jim Lubitz reported that he has approximately one large box of books that he will keep for now. We also believe that Anne Marie has a smaller box with the remaining "signed" books that we have reserved for potential gifts and awards in the future. Jo suggested that we might want to bring the box of books to a meeting once in a while and continue the 50% off sale. It was agreed that would be a good idea. We definitely won't want to do that in November when the "swap meet/yard sale" is scheduled.

Seed Sale – Ward has confirmed the date of sale as October 6 in combination with The Wildlife Authority as we have done in past. He has confirmed that Michael O'Sullivan will again process the orders. Ward will need to get an article to Amanda for the Fall newsletter. Bob will work with Ward on seed sale form.

Swap Meet – Jim will make sure Amanda has an article describing the event to be held at the November club meeting for the Sept/Oct newsletter.

New Business

Feral Cat Regulation – Laurel – See Conservation chairman report above.

Schedule Next Year's Board Meeting – The following people volunteered for dates shown:

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	Need Volunteer	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

We still need a volunteer for the January meeting.

Pamphlets – Eva asked if we could have club pamphlets available at the RNC. Kate explained that we normally do but that they tend to get used up. Kate pointed out that we needed to print more. The board authorized her to spend up to \$100 to get more printed. Another point that came up is that when people express interest in the club we make it clear that all of our programs and field trips are open to the public (that is you don't have to join to participate and find out if you enjoy it). In a related matter the subject of more business cards was raised and whether we could have the new logo on them. It was pointed out that the ones we have were purchased by Joe Hanfman and that if we get more the club should pay for them.

Around the Room –

Wes asked if there were any documents that would help him understand club policy and practices. We pointed out that Ward needed to pass on the President's "box". Also we pointed him to the spreadsheet of club calendar and activities that Kevin Heffernan assembled while he was president that has a lot of good information and guidance. As for policy, Chuck volunteered that he was in the process of finalizing a large searchable PDF file that has the minutes of all board meetings since he became Secretary in 1995. Searching this for key words should find those instances when prior Board discussions and decisions on a topic were made. Chuck agreed to finish the file and supply it to Wes.

Kurt mentioned that he was planning to have his Red Knot trip to the Delaware shore on Saturday look for the reported Sabine's Gull.

Amanda reported that there continues to be activity on the club's Facebook page.

Wes asked whether this year was a special anniversary year. It was confirmed that with the end of the club's 2011-2012 year we are completing the club's 40th year.

Jo reported as the keeper of club records we have had a phenomenal Spring with multiple early arrival records as well as the earlier rarities and new nesting records (Raven). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron nesting attempt was found in Hopewell confirming that species. *Sec. Note – This nest site was later abandoned.*

Bob reported that a new butterfly was located in the county – a Northern Oak Hairstreak and another amazing Herp find was a Northern Spring Salamander which is normally found further west in the state.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Call Stacey Yankee at RNC and request they have someone attend our May meeting to receive our donation of books for the RNC library – Karen **DONE**
- Mail names and contact information for officers to MOS Secretary, Janet Shields – Chuck **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Send Wes a description of the Publicity Chairman responsibilities that Jeff Friedhoffer prepared – Bob
- Assist Ward with preparing seed sale order form - Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2011	-	Jeff Friedhoffer	
October 27, 2011	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 17, 2011	-	Jim Lubitz	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 26, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	
February 16, 2012	-	Ward Ebert	(3 rd Thursday as MOS Conference is Feb 24-26)
March 22, 2012	-	Jo Solem	
April 26, 2012	-	Karen Darcy	
May 24, 2012	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – May 24, 2012
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/11 – 4/30/12 (Fiscal Year Final Report)
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/12 – 5/23/12
- Newsletter Sample 5/23/2012

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Agenda
May 24, 2012**

1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s remarks *Ward (Planned absence)*
5. Vice President’s Remarks *Wes*
 - Welcome new members
 - President transition
 - Committee chair confirmations
 - Liasons
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe*
 - Conservation; donation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter, design *Amanda*
 - WebMaster, membership *Bob*
7. Old Business
 - Art contest *Kate*
 - Remaining book storage *All*
 - Seed sale planning *Wes*
 - Oct 6
 - Mike O’Sullivan will take orders.
8. New Business/Discussions
 - Feral Cat Regulation - Laurel
 - Schedule next years Board Meetings *All*
9. Action Items *Chuck*
10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Kate Tufts
2830 Duval Rd.
Woodbine
(410) 489-7052

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/11-4/30/12

	Budget 2011-12	Current Month	Final Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		70.00	5,574.00
State Dues Paid			(3,195.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		2,379.00
Publications			37.50
Hospitality			50.00
Contributions			70.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		2,536.50
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	100.00	450.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		50.00
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00	92.40	144.76
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			92.00
General Supplies			125.69
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth		50.81	175.22
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	68.00	502.80
Miscellaneous			161.34
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	2,465.00		1,701.81
Seed Sale			
Income			5,255.00
Expense			
Seed			5,255.00
Flyers, postage			19.64
Net Seed Sale			(19.64)
Contribution from Wildlife Authority			
			500.00
Contributions for Habitat Conservation			
			724.10
Sale of Books			
			50.00
Total Available for Distribution			
			1,254.46
Donation to All Creatures			
			(200.00)
Total Available for Distribution			
			1,054.46
Memorial Fund			
Receipts			
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			311.00
			(311.00)
			-
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			
			10,644.70
Interest Received			
		0.06	1.00
Balance			
			10,645.70
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			
			5,729.00
Contribution to Robinson Nature Center			
			(189.00)
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			
			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			
			3,357.80
Savings			
			16,185.70
Petty Cash			
			64.63
Total			
			19,608.13

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/12-5/23/12

	Budget 2012-13	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues			
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00		
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00		
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	75.00		
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth		48.36	48.36
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies			
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	550.00		
Miscellaneous			
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,575.00		48.36
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Seed			
Flyers, postage			
Net Seed Sale			
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,645.70
Interest Received		0.13	0.13
Balance			10,645.83
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			3,309.44
Savings			16,185.83
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			19,559.90



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
www.howardbirds.org



Inside this issue:

Club Meetings	1
Pink-Footed Goose	1
Field Trips	2
Winter Records	3
Board of Directors Meetings	3
Potluck	5
Annual List	6
Midwinter Count	6
Atlas Presentation	6
May Count	8

CLUB MEETINGS - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

Thursday, May 10, 2012 “Birding Ecuador: Andes to the Rainforest,” by Kevin Hefferman and Karen Darcy. About the size of Nevada, Ecuador has over 1,500 species of birds, the fifth most in the world. The beauty and diversity of the birds are amazing. More than 500 species were seen on this March 2011 tour to both sides of the Andes and the Amazon. Besides many tanagers, antbirds, and hummingbirds, other specialties seen were quetzal, condor, hoatzin and Cock-of-the-Rock.

Meetings are at the **Robinson Nature Center**, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 8:00 p.m. Nature Center doors unlocked at 7:15 p.m. and locked again at 8:15 p.m. There is no admission charge. For further information call Ward Ebert, 301-490-5807.

FINDING THE PINK-FOOTED GOOSE IN HOWARD COUNTY

BY NICK LUND

I’ve since been reassured that it usually happens this way – that first state records or other rare birds are more often blundered into than sought out. Still, I wish I had a better story for the Pink-footed Goose in Howard County. I wish I could say it came to me in a dream or that I had smelled something unusual on the wind.

Nope. I had driven to Patuxent State Park to look for owls but missed the turn for the parking area. I turned onto the first suburban road available - Jones Road - and used a driveway to pull a U-turn. On the way back to Hipsley Mill Road, I paused in the middle of the street to scan a flock of 150 or so Canada Geese lounging in a small manmade pond on a manicured lawn. The first bird I set eyes on – the closest one to me – was immediately apparent as a Pink-footed Goose.

Surely this couldn’t be a wild bird! Had there been a Pink-foot reported from Maryland, I wondered. (I am new to Maryland, and haven’t been able to bird as much as usual, and so I haven’t been watching the listservs as carefully as I should.) I snapped a bunch of pictures, sent an email to the one birder I knew in the state and – instead of doing what I should have done and make the effort to let some others know about the bird – I went looking for owls.

(Goose continued on page 3)


TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE
During last year’s May Count there were eight species of birds which 500 or more individuals were counted. Can you name all eight species? (Answer on [page 6.](#))

SPRING FIELD TRIPS BY [BONNIE OTT](#) & [JOE HANFMAN](#)


Field trips are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Arrive at the meeting site ready to leave at the designated time with appropriate footwear and gear. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. Directions for trips not on ADC maps are on the Club's website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinator Bonnie Ott at bonnieott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

PIGTAIL - TRIADELPHIA May 5, Sat., 8:00 a.m., (2 – 3 hours) In conjunction with WSSC and Montgomery County Bird Club. *Meet at the Green Bridge Rd parking lot which is off Triadelphia Mill Rd.* The cove is bordered on three sides by deciduous and coniferous woods. Extensive mudflats may exist with the possibility of shorebirds. Facilities available (rustic). *Leader – Michael O'Sullivan, fr84wrdr@yahoo.com.*

MAY COUNT May 12, Sat. Details on [page 8](#).

 **HENRYTON ROAD, PATAPSCO VALLEY STATE PARK** May 16, Wed., 8:00 a.m. (half day). *Meet at bottom of Henryton Rd at the dead end.* Walk along the Patapsco River looking for spring migrants. Easy walking along the river for nesting Worm-Eating and Yellow-Throated warblers. Plan for moderate walking and possible muddy trails areas. No facilities. *Leaders - Joe Byrnes, 410-730-5329, LBRoller@verizon.net.*


BIG DAY May 19, Saturday
Limit 12. Email or call the leader to sign up. All day listing extravaganza! Plan to spend the day hiking around the county in search of as many species as possible. All types of footwear needed. Bring food and drinks. Facilities in some spots. *Leader - Bonnie Ott, bonnieott@verizon.net, 443-285-3302.*

 **LITTLE BIG DAY** May 19, Saturday (half day)
This trip is designed for beginner and intermediate birders and will not be as intense as the Big Day trip. Some of the same loca-

tions as the Big Day trip may be visited. Email or call the leader for reservations and details. Facilities in some spots. *Leaders - Karen Darcy and Kevin Heffernan, 410-418-8731 or KJHeff@aol.com.*

HOT SPOTS FOR RED KNOTS, EPISODE VII

May 26, Saturday (all day). Joint Montgomery and Howard County Chapters trip. We will concentrate on the middle Delaware Bay shore, beginning at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, as well as the impoundments on Broadkill Rd. We will also visit Dupont Nature Center at Mispillion Harbor. We will work our way north, visiting hotspots such as Ted Harvey Wildlife Management Area and time permitting Bombay Hook NWR. Expect shorebirds, late waterfowl, and gulls. Facilities are available at some stops. Short walks from the cars. Mud is possible. Bring lots of bug repellent, drinking water, food, and sun screen. Rendezvous: 8:30 a.m., Prime Hook NWR Visitor Center. The Howard chapter will depart Brokenland Pkwy Park & Ride West promptly at 6:00 a.m. The itinerary is subject to change based on scouting trips and rare bird reports. The trip will be limited to twelve persons/three cars per chapter. Reserve a spot with the leaders. *Leader: Kurt Schwarz, krschwa1@verizon.net, 410-461-1643 before 8 p.m.*

 **PATAPSCO SCRUBLAND** May 27, Sun., 7:30 a.m. (half day) *Meet at 735 River Road (up long drive take right-hand split & park by house).* Starting in the scrubland, we'll look for warblers, vireos, thrushes, and other edge species. Depending on conditions, we may continue into the woods. Moderate to possibly difficult walking: steep trails with several stream crossings, so wear appropriate footwear. Facilities available. *Leader - Felicia Lovelett, 410-489-7169 or c5nest@gmail.com.*

DRAGONFLY COUNT July 28, Sat. For details contact Sue Muller at 410-313-4697 or smuller@howardcountymd.gov.

POPLAR ISLAND August 29, Wed., (8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.) Poplar Island is an environmental restoration project similar to Hart-Miller. When completed, it will provide approximately 570 acres of wetland and 570 acres of upland habitat. It is reached by a 20-30 minute boat ride from Tilghman Island. Scopes helpful. Cormorants, herons, egrets, shorebirds, gulls, and terns expected.

(Field Trips continued on page 3)

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Copy may be sent to:
Amanda Witt
8865 Purple Iris Lane
Elkridge, MD 21075
amanda.witt@yahoo.com


The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the September/October 2012 issue is July 25, 2012

Amanda Witt, *Editor*
Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*

(Field Trips continued from page 2)

Facilities available. Reservations required. Strictly limited to 24.

Leader: Joe Hanfman, 410-772-8424 or auk1844@comcast.net.

 = Great for beginning birders

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member. The May meeting is held jointly with incoming and outgoing board members.

May 24, Thursday

Kate Tufts
2830 Duvall Road
Woodbine, MD 21797
(410) 489-7052

(Goose continued from page 1)

I am pretty embarrassed about that part. I can offer a bunch of excuses – that I didn't know it was a first state record, that I thought it was a known escapee (Patuxent is heavily birded, I reasoned, and this could be a resident flock) – but the reality is that I should have done a better job getting the word out. Thank goodness the bird stayed around for a few days at least.

Well, that's about it, really. No great tale of discovery. However, the experience has reinforced one of the great pieces of birding advice I've been given: always be prepared for a rarity. I've found that those birders who let their imaginations run wild and expect the unexpected are most often the ones who end up finding the unexpected. Great birds can be sitting anywhere, whether it's a city park or a backyard feeder or a pond during a U-turn. Now I just need to get some more phone numbers.

WINTER BIRD RECORDS: DECEMBER 1, 2011 - FEBRUARY 29, 2012

BY JOANNE SOLEM

Winter 2011-12 exceeded all expectations. Not only was it one of the warmest on record, but the season produced an assortment of extraordinary sightings. Led by a [Pink-footed Goose](#) (first Maryland record), other notables were a [Golden Eagle](#), two [Sandhill Cranes](#), an active [Common Raven](#) nest, a small flock of [Tree Swallows](#), a [Northern Parula](#), and an assortment of early and late dates.

For a few days in late February, birders from near and far visited the county in search of a **Pink-footed Goose** found by Nicholas Lund 2/20/12 at a pond on Jones Mill Rd near the intersection with Hipsley Mill Rd. (See the article on page 1.) For two days, the bird's whereabouts were tracked feverishly (shades of the *The Big Year*). On 2/21, it was viewed in fields, initially through woods on the north side of Jennings Chapel Rd/Colton Ct (**JCu**, **JHf**, **ALw+**) until 10:35 a.m., then from 12:40 p.m. until sunset from a cemetery opposite Jennings Chapel Rd/Old Sawmill Rd. On 2/22, the goose initially remained at the same location, but by 7:30 a.m. it had flown northwest with a flock of 400 **Canada Geese**. Shortly after 11:00 a.m. it was relocated in a pasture near 16525 A. E. Mullinix Rd. where it stayed the rest of the day. Unfortunately, after that date it was not seen again. Mild weather and early movement statewide of wintering Canadas pointed to migration. (Locally, a flock of 200 was reported high over Allview heading north on 2/23-**ASu**.) Joe Hanfman compiled a list of about 100 people who had seen it—he knows there were many others.

A lone white **Snow Goose** moved around the western part of the county from 1/2 at Lisbon (**RSu**) to 2/21 east of Folly Quarter Rd/Carroll Mill Rd (**NM**). **Cackling Geese** were widely reported with highs of four at the quarry visible from Springdale Rd 1/6 (**JHf**) and five north of Jennings Chapel Rd/Colton Ct 2/21 in the goose flock with the Pink-footed Goose (**BHb+**).

Open water much of the season produced an assortment of ducks, even though the Nov. 15th early reservoir closure limited access during peak waterfowl migration. **Gadwall**, **Northern Shoveler**, **Northern Pintail**, **Redhead**, and **Greater Scaup** were all fine winter species. Gadwalls were more widespread than usual with reports from Brighton Dam (**NM**), Centennial (**KS**), Daisy Rd/MD144 (**KTf**), Larriland/MD94 (**KTf**), Meadowbrook Pk (**JW**), Pigtail (**DCm+**), Race Rd (**DCm**), and Univ. of MD Central Farm

(Records continued on page 4)

(Records continued from page 3)

(UMDCF) (**M&GMcC**). The high count of **Ring-necked Ducks** was 100 at Pigtail 12/29 (**DCm**). During the season, at least one male and one female **Red-breasted Merganser** (**DCm**) were picked out of the almost 900+ **Common Mergansers** present on Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) 1/22 (**KS**).

Winter **Double-crested Cormorants** are always scarce. Two juveniles were seen at Wilde Lake 12/22 (**JFr**, ph.; **SPz**), and 1/5 at Centennial (**JHf**). The **Great Egret** at Centennial 2/22 was a new county early date (**BO**), beating the old record of 3/13/99 (also **BO**) by more than three weeks! The **Green Heron** at Daniels 12/2 (**GMcC**, **ROR**, **JS**) was a record late date, superseding 11/26/93 (**JC**).

High counts of **Wild Turkeys** were eight on 12/7 near River Rd, Sykesville (**FLv**) and 10 in a corn field opposite Alpha Ridge Park 12/30 (**JCu**). Roosting vultures near Centennial La/Old Frederick Rd yielded a count of 85 **Turkeys** and 19 **Blacks** on 2/3 (**MKw**), while 68 **Blacks** gathered to feed on a dead cow north of Daisy Rd/Bushy Park Rd 1/8 (**RRf**). **Bald Eagles** congregated at Brighton Dam in numbers with 20 on 1/22 (**KS**); by 1/29, 27 were present, mostly below the dam (**MKw**). It was a new record; previous high was 24 on 1/26/08 (**NM**). Single **Merlins** were reported from Marriottsville Rd/Warwick Way 1/22 (**JW**), UMDCF 2/4 (**M&GMcC**, **CSt**), and MD99/Morgan Station Rd 2/4 (**W&SE**, **KLI**). A **Peregrine Falcon** was noted at UMDCF 2/4 (**MO'S**, **CSt**, **G&MMcC**) and one at Larriland, MD94 2/9 (**JCu**, ph.) A **Golden Eagle** was spotted over MD32 near US1 on 1/31 (**JSz**). It was the 15th Howard record.

Sandhill Cranes always garner attention. The county's eighth record consisted of two birds (one ad., one first winter) reported 2/28 in a field at the corner of Gorman Rd/Murray Hill Rd (**GBk**). Later it was learned they had been seen there on 2/26 (**T&TmBk**). Many birders saw them near this busy intersection well into March (more about them in the spring season).

Five **Wilson's Snipe** were present at UMDCF 1/8 (**BO+**), a fine winter count. Although **American Woodcock** courtship is a much-anticipated sign of spring, this year spring came unusually early. Three were courting at Annapolis Rock on 1/26 (**RRf**, **DCm**). Mt. Pleasant also hosted one on 1/29 (**BO**). Midwinter Count 2/4 turned up six in the Annapolis Rock/Hipsley area (**JSh**, **MSz**, **TFe**, **GKg**). Peak activity appeared to have occurred on 2/18 when six were detected in a field west of Pigtail (**HMz**) and at least a dozen were logged north of Hipsley Mill Rd at two sites not far from the Patuxent River (**NM**, **KCv**, **MBt**) and (**W&SE**, **CSt**).

Ring-billed Gulls reached a high on 1/27 with 250 near Brighton Dam Rd/Ten Oaks Rd (**NM**) and 410 near MD94/MD144 (**NM**). An adult **Great Black-backed Gull** caused a brief stir at As-sateague Dr on 2/4 (**ESu**, **SN**) and 2/5 (**JHf**, **NM**, **JS+**). Northern owls were few with a lone **Northern Saw-whet Owl** on 1/26 and 1/31 at Annapolis Rock (**JSh+**) and one **Long-eared Owl** 1/26 (**JHf+**).

Sixty **Horned Larks** were present 1/20 along A. E. Mullinix Rd (**JHf**); 40 were counted at Western Regional Pk 12/21 (**BHi**). Numerous **Common Raven** reports came from Duckett (Rocky Gorge) Dam. Their frequency at that site pointed to nesting again. This was verified on 2/21 when the face of the dam was examined, a pair was present, and one was on a nest—on the Howard County side this year (**JSh**, **JS**, **KKx**, **R. Orr**, ph.). This date established a new state early egg date for the species and was the first active nest for the county. On 2/29, Kim Knox photographed the frayed-tail member of the pair, attacking his reflection, appropriately, at windows of the WSSC building 2.3 miles south of the dam. In addition, single ravens were reported from River Rd, Sykesville 12/14 (**FLv**), Annapolis Rock 1/8 (**FMg**), Martin Rd., W. Col. 2/7 (**JHf**), Brighton Dam 2/17 (**NM**), and Hammond Village (being chased by 30 **American Crows**) 2/29 (**JS**).

A flock of 10 early **Tree Swallows** over MD32 east of US29 on 2/22 was another indication of the mild winter (**JSh**). A single seasonal **Red-breasted Nuthatch** report came from Hobbit's Glen, W. Col. 1/16 (**SFx**). Three **Winter Wrens** were a nice count at Elkhorn Garden Plots 2/17 (**JW**). One **Brown Thrasher** was spotted at MPEA 1/16 (**MRg**) and again 1/20 (**HFk**).

A **Northern Parula** was a surprise at Wynfield, W. Friendship 1/14 — 1/21 (**RCu**) (sixth state winter record-**RR**). It alternated between suet and sap oozing from sapsucker holes in the trunk of a Siberian elm. A **Pine Warbler** at Stone Hill Dr 1/15 was a more expected, although uncommon, visitor (**KLz**, ph.).

American Tree Sparrows are harder to find than they were a decade or two ago. The high was six at Mt. Pleasant 12/30 (**RRf**). Usually scarce **Chipping Sparrows** wintered in several locations with highs of 10 both at Rockburn Branch Pk 1/10 (**BO**) and at Cavey La 2/16 (**RRf**). Sixty were tallied countywide on 2/4. Mt. Pleasant was a sparrow hotspot on 1/8 with 22 **Fields**, 65 **Songs**, and one **Lincoln's**—always an exciting winter find (**BO**).

Nineteen **Eastern Meadowlarks** at Alpha Ridge Landfill on 2/4 was a surprisingly high count (**RC**, **JHf**). A few **Rusty Black-birds** hung around Florence Rd near Shaffers Mill Rd, with a high

(Records continued on page 5)

GATHERING-TIME SLIDESHOWS

Interested members are invited to provide pictures for background presentations prior to club meetings. The 20 or more pictures should have a nature theme and be formatted as .jpg or be in a power point presentation. They will play and/or cycle the half hour prior to the meeting. Contact Wes Earp at (410) 531-3197 or the_earps@verizon.net to pick a night.

(Records continued from page 4)

of three on 1/7 (**JCu+**). **Purple Finch** records were few with one (brown) at Brush Run, E. Col. 12/11 (**JW**) and one (brown) at Allview 12/18 (**ESu**). There were just two **Pine Siskin** sightings, both on 2/11: one at Kendall Ridge, E. Col. (**MO'S**) and one heard flying over MD175/Snowden River Pkwy (**JW**).

ph. - photograph

The links to the photos of species in the first paragraph may or may not be of the same bird referenced in the article.

Observers: **MBt** – Marcia Balestri, **GBk** - George Berkheimer, **TBk** – Terri Berkheimer, **TmBk** – Tom Berkheimer, **KCV** – Kathy Calvert, **JC** - Jane Coskren, **JCu** – Jeff Culler, **RCu** – Ralph Cullison III, **DCm** – David Cummings, **SE** – Sue Earp, **WE** – Wes Earp, **TFe** – Tom Feild, **HfK** – Harry Fink, **Sfx** – Suzanne Fox, **JFr** – Jeff Friedhoffer, **JHf** – Joe Hanfman, **BHi** – Bill Hill, **BHb** – Bill Hubick, **Mkw** – Mike Kerwin, **GKg** – Geraldine King, **KKx** – Kim Knox, **KLz** – Kathy Litzinger, **FLv** – Felicia Lovelett, **NM** – Nancy Magnusson, **FMg** – Frank Marengi, **GMcC** – Grazina McClure, **MMcC** – Mke McClure, **HMz** – Helen Metzman, **SN** – Sue Neri, **ROR** – Richard Orr, **MO'S** – Michael O'Sullivan, **BO** – Bonnie Ott, **SPz** – Sherry Peruzzi, **RR** – Robert Ringler, **MRg** – Matt Rogosky, **RRf** – Russ Ruffing, **KS** – Kurt Schwarz, **JSh** – Jay Sheppard, **JS** – Jo Solem, **JSz** – Jim Stasz, **CSt** – Chuck Stirrat, **MSz** – Marcy Stutzman, **ASu** – Augie Sunell, **ESu** – Eva Sunell, **RSu** - Rick Sussman, **KTF** – Kate Tufts, **JW** – Jim Wilkinson.

POTLUCK THANKS

BY KATHIE LILLIE

Thanks to everyone for the successful 2012 Annual Potluck Dinner! This year's dinner was held in the auditorium of the Robinson Nature Center, the same room where we have been having our monthly meetings. Thank you to the many people who helped to make the set-up and take-down smooth and speedy. Many thanks to Marty Chestem for coming up with 40 "bird cartoon" placements once again, to Kate Tufts for the fresh daffodils from her garden to adorn the tables, to Ward Ebert for the power strips and electrical cords, and to June Tveekrem for coordinating and running the slide show. Also, for door prizes thank you's go to Eva Sunell (several items) and Sherry Tomlinson (several bags of bird seed). One of the bags of bird seed went on to become a donation to the Robinson Nature Center's bird feeders.

Our buffet was particularly good this year, with many tasty dishes (including bison chili), desserts, and appetizers. Thank you to everyone who contributed their photos to the slide show. It is a nice opportunity to share some of the pictures fellow members have taken over the year. Maybe this year's early warm spring weather contributed to the occasion; however, thank you all!

BOOKSTORE CLOSING

Remember the club's bookstore is closing.
There are many bargains to be found!

ANNUAL LIST FOR THE COUNTY

BY WARD EBERT

2011 was a notable year for the appearance of several uncommon visitors and one new species, the Green Violetear. Also of note was the Western Grebe, for which there was only a single historical record and which did not appear in the list on our website as a county bird.

We tallied 232 species making 2011 the 6th best of the past 33 years. In addition to the two mentioned above, we found Mississippi Kite, Least Tern, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Snow Bunting, Common Redpoll, and Evening Grosbeak. Missing, or more likely just not found, were Ring-necked Pheasant and Orange-crowned Warbler. Examine the complete list at http://howardbirds.org/mem_corn/Howard_County_Annual_Bird_List_2011.htm.

Thanks and congratulations to all those who spent many hours scouring the county and gathering this data.



Jo Solem, Ward Ebert, and Bonnie Ott presented a copy of *The Second Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and D.C.* on February 27 to Michael Dwyer (second from left: Facility Manager, University of Maryland CMREC-Clarksville Facility) in appreciation for allowing access to the farm during the second breeding bird atlas.

Test Your Knowledge Answer: Canada Goose, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Barn Swallow, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, and Red-winged Blackbird.

HOWARD COUNTY MIDWINTER COUNT, FEBRUARY 4, 2012

BY JOE HANFMAN

It was a partially cloudy day, wind 4 mph with gusts 10 mph, the temperature 29° – 43° F. The ponds were open. Light rain in the afternoon hours. The total number of species was 89 which is right at the average of the last 26 years. The total number of individual birds was 30,352 which is 25,177 fewer individuals than the average of the last 26 years.

All-time high counts were Gadwall 19, Northern Shoveler 3, Cooper's Hawk 14, American Woodcock 6, Pileated Woodpecker 66, Chipping Sparrow 60, and Swamp Sparrow 89. New lows were set for Mourning Dove 425, Hermit Thrush 1, and House Sparrow 308. The birds that have been seen on more than half of the counts but missed this year were Mute Swan, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Wild Turkey, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.

Many people contributed to the success of the day. Sixty-eight observers spent 221.3 hours and covered 131.5 miles on foot and 504 miles by car. Another 16.2 hours were spent feeder watching and there were 5.3 stationary hours recorded. There were 4.3 hours of owling.

As co-compiler, Joe Byrnes did the preparatory work for the count. As usual, he handled multiple details with precision and care. Chuck Stirrat summarized the area worksheets and provided field and feeder checklists. Area leaders arranged coverage, followed-up, and compiled area totals. Their names are in boldface below (Anyone who counted in more than one area or also at a feeder is listed just once). Once again we thank Karen and Jeff Culler for generously serving as hosts for the tally and welcoming us to their home.

Land permission from Howard County Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, and many private property owners assure good coverage—we are extremely grateful.

Observers: *Area 1.* **Mark Wallace, Wes Earp**, Jim & Marilyn Brinkley, Sue Earp, Tom Feild, Bill & Gayle Hill, Geraldine King, Kathie & Ralph Lillie, Jay Sheppard, Marcy Stutzman, Robin Todd; *Area 2.* **Jeff Culler**, Warren Cummings, Ward Ebert, Harry Fink, Kathy Lillie, Nancy Magnusson, Peter Osen-ton, Ron & Sue Polniaszek, Tom Strikwerda, Paul Zucker; *Area 3.* **Dave & Maureen Harvey**, Joe Byrnes, Ralph Cullison, Joe Hanfman, Felicia Lovelett,

(Count continued on page 7)

Howard County Mid-Winter Count - February 4, 2012

Snow Goose	1	Peregrine Falcon	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	18
Canada Goose	7,880	American Coot	2	Eastern Bluebird	338
Tundra Swan	6	Killdeer	15	Hermit Thrush	1
Wood Duck	2	Wilson's Snipe	4	American Robin	500
Gadwall	19	American Woodcock	6	Northern Mockingbird	128
American Wigeon	47	Ring-billed Gull	606	European Starling	2,909
American Black Duck	87	Herring Gull	17	American Pipit	1
Mallard	486	Great Black-backed Gull	1	Cedar Waxwing	199
Northern Shoveler	3	<i>gull species</i>	5	Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler	20
Northern Pintail	3	Rock Pigeon	309	Eastern Towhee	38
Green-winged Teal	5	Mourning Dove	425	American Tree Sparrow	13
Canvasback	1	Eastern Screech-Owl	2	Chipping Sparrow	60
Redhead	5	Great Horned Owl	9	Field Sparrow	123
Ring-necked Duck	212	Barred Owl	7	Savannah Sparrow	85
Lesser Scaup	1	Belted Kingfisher	22	Fox Sparrow	8
Hooded Merganser	64	Red-bellied Woodpecker	219	Song Sparrow	622
Common Merganser	736	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	6	Swamp Sparrow	89
Red-breasted Merganser	1	Downy Woodpecker	252	White-throated Sparrow	1,383
Pied-billed Grebe	6	Hairy Woodpecker	68	White-crowned Sparrow	18
Great Blue Heron	24	Northern (Yellow-sh'd) Flicker	55	Dark-eyed Junco	1,765
Black Vulture	165	Pileated Woodpecker	66	Northern Cardinal	795
Turkey Vulture	190	Blue Jay	294	Red-winged Blackbird	1,203
Bald Eagle	16	American Crow	2,517	Eastern Meadowlark	19
Northern Harrier	2	Fish Crow	327	Common Grackle	51
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	<i>crow species</i>	1,744	Brown-headed Cowbird	174
Cooper's Hawk	14	Horned Lark	45	<i>blackbird species</i>	185
<i>accipiter species</i>	2	Carolina Chickadee	583	House Finch	214
Red-shouldered Hawk	92	Tufted Titmouse	502	American Goldfinch	201
Red-tailed Hawk	60	White-breasted Nuthatch	224	House Sparrow	308
<i>buteo species</i>	3	Brown Creeper	15	Area Total Birds:	30,352
American Kestrel	4	Carolina Wren	368	Area Total Species:	88
Merlin	2	Winter Wren	23		

(Winter Count continued from page 6)

Tom Miller, Russ Ruffing, Will & Robin Tress; *Area 4. Mike McClure*, Patsy Kennan, Mike Leumas, Grazina McClure, Michael O'Sullivan, Romaine Smith, Chuck Stirrat; *Area 5. Michele Wright*, Karen Darcy, Kevin Hefferman, Carol Newman, David Smith, Ginny Walker; *Area 6. Bonnie Ott*, Jane & Ralph Geuder, Emy Holdridge, Dave Kubitsky, Brigitte Lund, Janet Lydon, Suzanne Probst, Emily Reed; *Area 7. Kurt Schwarz*, Mary Ann Beverly, Dennis & Jane Coskren, Kim Knox, John McKitterick, Barry Miller, Sue Neri, Jo Solem, Michelle Stewart, Eva Sunell, Jim Wilkinson.

CORRECTIONS TO 2011-2012

HCBC DIRECTORY

Allen & Laurie Lewis: Change phone number to
(787) 590-4501

Kathy & Ralph Lillie: Change Kathy's email to
klillie@verizon.net

Kathy & Jack Litzinger: Change email to
knjlitzinger@verizon.net

Eva Sunell: Change phone number to (443) 319-5866



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

10970 Millbank Row

Columbia, MD 21044

ADDRESS SERVICE SUGGESTED

May/June 2012 - Inside This Issue

Club Meetings	Pink-footed Goose
Winter Bird Records	Spring Field Trips
Atlas Presentation	Potluck Thanks
Board Meetings	Annual List
May Count	Midwinter Count Results

MAY COUNT IS SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012

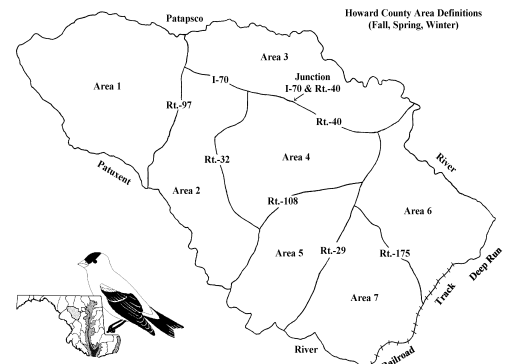
BY [KEVIN HEFFERNAN](#)

The May Count, which is timed to coincide with the peak of the spring migration, will be held on May 12th. This is by far the most exciting time of year for birding. This is the time of year when you will see or hear the largest number of species—spring migrants, summer residents, and lingering winter birds. Over the last 10 years across the county, we have tallied an average of 147 species during the May Count.

For the count, Howard County is divided up into the seven areas shown on the map. Each area has an Area Coordinator (**Area 1:** Wes Earp 410-531-3197 **Area 2:** Tom Strikwerda 301-942-2841 **Area 3:** Chuck Stirrat 410-531-2417 **Area 4:** Mike McClure 410-531-2780 **Area 5:** Karen Darcy 443-857-1789 **Area 6:** Bonnie Ott 443-285-3302 **Area 7:** Jo Solem 301-725-5037) who communicates with the counters, assigns territories, and compiles area results. If you are a beginner, ask to be paired with a more experienced birder. Since the point is to tally every individual bird, extra eyes and ears are helpful. If you want to see a particular species, give me a call (410-418-8731) and I will try to place you in a location where you might have a good chance of seeing that bird.

At the end of the day, all of the counters are invited to a tally rally at **June Tveekrem's** house to share what was seen and come up with the county totals. (Directions to June's house will be provided by the area coordinators.) Please call June in advance (410-715-3979) and let her know how many are coming from your party and your choice of food or beverage to bring. Dinner will begin at 7 p.m. and the tally will start at 8 p.m. The completed checklist must be turned in to the area coordinators at the tally rally. If you cannot make it, be sure that your checklist gets delivered or gets called in by 7 p.m.

Come join us!



Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 2012

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp√
Vice-president: Robin Todd√
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat√
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge√
Past President/Seed Sale: Ward Ebert√
Chap. Directors: Eva Sunell (1st yr)
Sherry Tomlinson (2nd yr)
State Directors: Karen Darcy√
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz√
Newsletter: Amanda Witt√
Records: Jo Solem√
Webmaster: Bob Solem√
Potluck: Kathie Lillie√
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Wes Earp. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 13 was 67 people. Jay Sheppard gave a program entitled “Far Out Alaska: Birding Beringia for a Month.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the treasurer’s report (attached) in advance of the meeting. The membership dues reflect funds received so far without having paid the state portion which will lower the eventual net. She also distributed the report for last year’s book store finances. The report shows the bookstore balance is just over \$1400. As we are in the process of disestablishing the book store we may want to consider applying the balance to habitat contribution. She reported that she had not received any of the seed sale proceeds, forms, membership applications, or habitat contributions from Michael O’Sullivan as of the meeting. (See Ward’s report in Old Business section below.)

President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes summarized some of the causes and issues he had commented on in behalf of the club. This included the WSSC Watershed Study (urged keeping open more during winter months), support of a parking lot on the Zim property, opposition to the bill being considered by Congress that would remove the power of Executive Branch to create Wildlife Refuges, and most recently support for Howard County Recreation and Parks plans to add three additional parks to the sharpshooter deer control program.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin commented that he had really enjoyed several of the club’s recent field trips.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Bonnie and Joe were not present, but it was mentioned that all the field trips for the rest of the calendar year are scheduled and Joe is actively making arrangements for next year.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt didn’t have anything new to present but was complementary of the club weighing in on the deer control issue. At the state level a fairly large contingent of MOS officers are going to meet with

Maryland state officials to discuss Horseshoe Crab sustainment plans to aid the Red Knot migration. MOS submitted letters to the Governor and Secretary of Natural Resources on this issue.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda apologized for failing to send out her reminder email for the current issue of the Goldfinch. However she received most of inputs without reminders and is on track to get the newsletter out on time.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob stated he had no critical issues with web site. He continues to refine the website. He restated his plan to stop delivery of hardcopy newsletters for those that have email addresses if they have not renewed. We need to be sure and make an announcement at October meeting urging those that have not renewed to do so promptly. We will again have the Chapter Directors call members who have not renewed in November. Jo mentioned that so far there have been 5 to 6 new memberships received.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Karen reported on the recent meeting of state board. One key item was a request for each chapter to develop formal guidelines for how to handle rare bird sightings. We have not had a formal policy, but in general handled recent findings quite well (Green Violetear, Pink-footed Goose, and Sabine's Gull). The policy must be general enough to recognize the specific circumstances (public location, private property, etc.) We generally have let the individual who found the bird take the lead if they want to, but Joe Hanfman has played a key role in several instances. After discussion Wes proposed asking Joe Hanfman to draft a policy that captures what he sees as considerations as a first cut at policy. The MOS President Mark Johnson has stated he is working on a general policy but would like to hear proposals from the chapters.

Old Business

Seed Sale – Ward reported that he had spoken to Michael O'Sullivan just prior to the meeting. The order will be ready to go to Kevin at The Wildlife Authority the next day. Ward shared a spreadsheet with a comparison of our prices with those from the Audubon of Central Maryland seed sale (attached). He will share the comparison with Kevin. The Audubon flyer came out at same time as our so people could compare prices. Their prices don't include sales tax as we do; hence on first glance there prices look less. Bob asked Ward to make sure Kevin knows we need a copy of the order forms so Bob can get emails and know who ordered seed for future use.

Anne Marie Raterman Recognition – Ward reported he has a certificate to present to Anne Marie and we agreed to present her with one of the autographed Sibley books of her choice. Ward will contact her and confirm she plans to attend the October meeting.

RNC Memorial Grant – Karen reported that the Robinson Nature Center has completed the garden area at the bird feeder station and posted a sign stating the garden was donated by the Bird Club in memory of Adam Friedhoffer, Don Randle, and Marjorie Mountjoy.

Remaining Books – We confirmed that Jim Lubitz has the remaining book store inventory (less the autographed copies). We discussed and decided it would be worthwhile to bring them to another meeting (tentatively December) and try and sell as many as possible at heavily discounted prices. Wes agreed to contact Jim and let him know our plans in this regard.

Swap Meet – Jim Lubitz was not present, but Wes asked to be given authorization to dispose of any items that are left in the meeting room after the meeting. We do not want to feel any obligation to store or deal with any items left after the meeting. The Board agreed completely with this request.

New Business

Membership – Bob reported that in reviewing the initial membership applications it looks like the percentage of members choosing electronic delivery is increasing.

eBird Station at RNC 50/50 split – Wes reported that at the last club meeting, Harry Fink and Bill Campbell (RNC staff) had approached him wondering if the club might consider splitting the purchase of an eBird Stand-alone Station on a 50-50 basis. When he saw this on the agenda, Joe Hanfman had sent the Board a couple of emails, first

less than enthusiastic over the idea but then in a second one revising his opinion based on conversations he had held with several other's with experience with the eBird station. Kurt reported that he had used one briefly at Brigantine NWR and described it for the board. Emy reported that she had been involved as a volunteer at the Patuxent Wildlife Visitor Center when they considered purchasing one, but chose not to primarily for cost reasons. The cost is ~\$4000 - \$5000 plus a monthly fee. It was mentioned that the Baltimore Bird Club funded one for Cylburn, and we may want to explore their experience with that. Bob moved, it was seconded, and passes that we should not discuss further until we have a formal proposal to consider. We agreed to contact Harry Fink and/or the RNC staff and solicit a formal proposal.

Howard Bird Club Deer Management Policy – After our recent scramble to respond to Rec and Parks request for support of expanding deer management in three additional parks, Wes proposes we need a formal club policy on deer management. Ward asked if we know whether the MOS has a state-wide policy, but no one knew of one and we did feel that it was within our purview to set our own policy. After discussion, Kurt volunteered to draft a policy statement and share it with the Board for consideration.

May Count Venue – As was announced at the September club meeting June Tveekrem feels she really can't host the tally for May Count as she has gone back to school and that is the weekend before her final exams. Wes announced he is still soliciting a volunteer to host the tally. *Sec. Note. – After the meeting Kathie Lillie and her husband volunteered to host the tally.*

Youth Participation w/o parents – Wes reported that at the last meeting a boy was present, and none of us realized it until late that his mother had dropped him off but had left the meeting coming back later to pick him up. Wes correctly expressed that we really can't have underage youth present at our activities without a legal adult guardian. Primarily it is simply an issue of youth protection liability. We all need to be sensitized to this and not allow it to happen.

Sue Muller request to donate honorariums – Sue has reported that with her position with Rec and Parks she is not able to accept honorarium when she gives talks, but is able to donate the honorarium to charities. She has inquired whether the club would consider accepting them to an account designated for "youth birding." We agreed that we could not accept donations with such a designation as we do not have a formal youth birding program. We need to remind her that until we have a formal proposal for such a proposal that specifically addresses youth protection and liability issues.

In a related item on youth birding, Amanda reported that one of the local Girl Scout Facebook sites had asked to "like" our group. She wondered if she should respond, specifically thought the Centennial walks might be an opportunity to involve Girl Scouts. We agreed she should explore further with the group but make it very clear that they would be responsible for youth protection issues if their members want to participate in club activities.

Around the Room –

Kathie Lillie reported she was very pleased when she identified a Blackburnian Warbler in her yard after the Fall Count.

Emy Holdridge reported that she had received letter of thanks from Stacey Yankee, Director of the James and Anne Robinson Nature Center for our gift of the collection of books. She also had received acknowledgement from the IRS that we had filed Form 990-N. Lastly she described that for the first time in her memory she had received several membership applications with checks for more than the correct dues amount. Bob acknowledged that some of the confusion resulted from him leaving one note off the form. She also had at least one write the check to her personally rather than the club. She asked for guidance on how to handle these cases. After discussion we proposed she contact the individual who paid too much and let them know of the overpayment and ask if they would just like to have the extra go to habitat funds. (If they respond in the negative, then write them a check for overage but don't start with that option.)

Amanda Witt reported that we have 55 "likes" of our Facebook page. Strangely one of these is from South Korea and another from Turkey.

Jo Solem reported on recent records activity. The Pink-footed Goose, Green Violetear, and Bonnie's Henslow's Sparrow from a few years ago were accepted by the State Records committee. A submittal of a Hutton's Vireo was rejected as expected. The recent Sabine's Gull will be circulated to the committee soon.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Send Wes a description of the Publicity Chairman responsibilities that Jeff Friedhoffer prepared – Bob DONE
- Assist Ward with preparing seed sale order form – Bob DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Speak to Joe Hanfman and request Joe document his thoughts on handling rare bird sightings that could serve as a draft for a chapter policy – Wes Earp (Joe Hanfman)
- Contact Jim Lubitz and inform him of our desire to have the remaining books brought to the December meeting for another “last” try to sell a few more at major discount – Wes Earp (Jim Lubitz)
- Contact Harry Fink and ask him to work with RNC staff to generate a formal proposal for sharing the cost of an eBird Station for RNC – Wes Earp (Harry Fink)
- Draft a formal club policy on deer management for consideration by the Board – Kurt Schwarz
- Approach Girl Scout group that contacted her via Facebook and explore potential involvement of Girl Scouts in our activities with appropriate caveats – Amanda Witt

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Bird Club, Board of Directors Meeting, Agenda – September 27, 2012 (post-meeting)
- Howard County Chapter MOS, Treasurer's Report, 5/1/12 – 9/24/12
- Howard County Bird Club, Bookstore Report – June 2011 – June 2012
- Seed Sale Price Comparison Between Our Sale and Audubon of Central Maryland Sale - 2012

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Agenda
September 27, 2012**

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | <i>All</i> |
| 2. Review of Minutes | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | <i>Emy</i> |
| 4. President’s remarks | <i>Wes</i> |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | <i>Robin</i> |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | <i>Bonnie/Joe</i> |
| • Conservation | <i>Kurt</i> |
| • Newsletter | <i>Amanda</i> |
| • WebMaster | <i>Bob</i> |
| • MOS Board Report | <i>Karen</i> |
| ○ chapters to designate guidelines for how to handle rare bird sightings | |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Seed sale | <i>Ward</i> |
| • Anne Marie Raterman recognition | <i>Ward</i> |
| • RNC Memorial Grant | <i>Karen</i> |
| • Remaining books | |
| • Swap Meet | <i>Jim?</i> |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Membership | |
| • eBird Station at RNC 50/50 split | <i>Wes</i> |
| • Howard Bird Club Deer management policy | |
| • May Count Venue | |
| • Youth participation w/o parents | <i>Wes</i> |
| • Sue Muller request to donate honorariums | <i>Wes</i> |
| 9. Action Items | <i>Chuck</i> |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:
Wes & Sue Earp
6480 S. Trotter Rd.
Clarksville
(410) 531-3197

Come to back door.

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER MOS
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/12 - 9/24/12

	<u>Budget 2012-13</u>	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		3,190.00	3,190.00
State Dues Paid		(140.00)	(140.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	3,050.00	3,050.00
Publications			
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,300.00</u>	<u>3,050.00</u>	<u>3,050.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00	44.03	44.03
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	65.00	85.89	85.89
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Seed Sale Expense			48.36
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies	150.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	1,300.00	79.50	79.50
Miscellaneous		126.10	126.10
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>2,465.00</u>	<u>335.52</u>	<u>383.88</u>
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Flyers & Postage		37.90	37.90
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contributions to Habitat Conservation			
			633.00
 Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,645.70
Interest Received		0.27	0.40
Balance			<u>10,646.10</u>
 Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>5,540.00</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			6,574.02
Savings			16,186.10
Petty Cash			64.63
<i>Total</i>			<u>22,824.75</u>

Howard County Bird Club

Bookstore Report

June 2011 - June 2012

Income	598.00
Expenses	<u>116.00</u>
<i>Gain/Loss</i>	<u><u>482.00</u></u>
Value of Inventory	550.00
Sales Tax Paid	35.88
Bank Account Balance	1,429.02

Historical Bookstore Sales

2003-04	1,281
2004-05	1,142
2005-06	834
2006-07	930
2007-08	544
2008-09	512
2009-10	494
2010-11	355
2011-12	598

2012		Audubon - Fall 2012 6%				HCBC - 2012		Audubon - Winter 2013
Unit	Product	Price	Tax	Total	Unit Price	Total	Unit Price	Price
25	Black Oil Sunflower	\$ 17.00	\$ 1.02	\$ 18.02	\$ 0.721	\$ 17.00	\$ 0.680	
50	Black Oil Sunflower	\$ 33.00	\$ 1.98	\$ 34.98	\$ 0.700	\$ 33.00	\$ 0.660	
25	Sunflower Chips	\$ 30.00	\$ 1.80	\$ 31.80	\$ 1.272	\$ 42.00	\$ 1.680	
50	Sunflower Chips	\$ 58.00	\$ 3.48	\$ 61.48	\$ 1.230	\$ 76.00	\$ 1.520	
5	Nyjer					\$ 7.00	\$ 1.400	
10	Nyjer	\$ 13.00	\$ 0.78	\$ 13.78	\$ 1.378			
25	Nyjer					\$ 26.00	\$ 1.040	
5	Split Peanuts					\$ 9.00	\$ 1.800	
10	Split Peanuts	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.60	\$ 10.60	\$ 1.060			
25	Split Peanuts					\$ 37.00	\$ 1.480	
10	Safflower	\$ 11.00	\$ 0.66	\$ 11.66	\$ 1.166			
25	Safflower					\$ 30.00	\$ 1.200	
25	White Millet	\$ 12.00	\$ 0.72	\$ 12.72	\$ 0.509	\$ 17.00	\$ 0.680	
50	White Millet	\$ 22.00	\$ 1.32	\$ 23.32	\$ 0.466			
6	Plain Suet	\$ 12.00	\$ 0.72	\$ 12.72	\$ 2.120			
12	Hi Energy Suet					\$ 17.00	\$ 1.417	
6	Seed Suet	\$ 9.00	\$ 0.54	\$ 9.54	\$ 1.590			
12	Peanut Butter Suet					\$ 23.00	\$ 1.917	
12	Beef Suet					\$ 31.00	\$ 2.583	

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 25, 2012

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President/Seed Sale: Ward Ebert √
Chap. Directors: Eva Sunell (1st yr) √
Sherry Tomlinson (2nd yr)
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kurt Schwarz. Total number in attendance was 11 Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 11 was 56 people. Richard H. Smith gave a program entitled "HCBC's Spontaneous On-Line Butterfly Photo-Guide."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had sent out the attached Treasurer's Report by email prior to the meeting. She reported that she has not yet paid the state MOS their portion of the annual dues which explains the large balance of dues for the year to date. The contributions for habitat of \$1291 includes the donation of \$500 from The Wildlife Authority associated with the seed sale. The balance is individual contributions received with membership applications or with seed sale orders.

President's Remarks (Earp): Wes was out of town.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Robin chaired the meeting in Wes' absence. He reported the attendance at the October meeting, namely 56.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Neither Bonnie or Joe was present, but trip plans are in good shape.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that his conservation efforts have been focused on the state MOS level. Primary has been the initiative with Horseshoe Crab harvesting and the Red Knot population. MOS leadership met with state leadership to discuss. The result of these meetings and state monitoring and modeling is that for the next season no female crabs will be harvested. However the number of males that can be harvested will increase by 50% over this year. The ratio of males to females in the population is 5 to 1 so this should still result in a sustainable population. The Red Knot populations were also up this year. On a second issue he had just learned that there is a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Patuxent Research Refuge that is out for review and public comment. He wasn't sure if he would have time to comment on it before comments are due (comments due by Nov. 23. The plan is available at www.fws.gov/northeast/patuxent.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda was not present, but the due date for the January newsletter is ~November 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob had provided the attached handout to address a number of topics. The chart of hits on the club web site shows that hits have stabilized in a fairly consistent range. In response to a question of whether the rate of receipt membership applications this year were consistent with past experience he plotted this year's response with data from the last time he looked at this issue, namely 1991-1992 club year. The rate does not seem to be significantly different. The percentage of members opting for receiving The Goldfinch electronically is significantly up from last year. Lastly he then reported that he and Jo have made extensive revisions to the web site main page and the page with club information.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No State Board meeting since our last Board meeting.

Old Business

Membership – Bob reported that he will shortly put together the list of those who have not renewed so that Eva and Sherry (as Chapter Directors) can place calls to them as a final reminder and if applicable try and solicit reason for them not renewing.

Seed Sale Wrap-up – Ward reported that we had received 36 orders. There were 5 membership applications received with the orders. There was at least one order for every item we had on the order form. If Kevin Cassidy from the Wildlife Authority had donated at the 10 cents/pound of seed that was our agreement his donation to the club for habitat would have been approximately \$350, but in fact he increased his donation to \$500. Accordingly the seed sale yielded approximately \$463 for habitat when you subtract the postage costs of \$37. In addition some checks designated as individual donations for habitat were received with orders. Ward reported that Kevin is still pleased with our arrangement to run the seed sale out of his store. Ward also solicited ideas for ways to improve the sale.

Howard Bird Club Deer Management Policy– Kurt had drafted a policy statement and shared it with the Board via email. Several changes were made in response to comments received and the final policy statement is attached to these minutes. It was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously that this was the club's stated policy on deer management. The Secretary will retain a copy for future reference when the club is approached for comment on this matter in the future.

MOS Rare Bird policy – Wes had spoken to Joe Hanfman to ask him to draft some thoughts on what such a policy might include. Joe has told several Board members that he has some material and is finding it difficult to address all the issues. Since Joe was not present the topic was tabled for a future meeting.

Remaining Books - Wes had contacted Jim Lubitz and determined that Anne Marie now has all the books in her possession. We need to let her know that we have proposed having another "fire sale" of the books at the December club meeting.

Youth Program and Honorarium– Wes had spoken to Sue Muller and explained our position that we don't feel we can accept honorarium designated for a Youth Birding program until we actually have one established. Sue has also told Wes she has contacted MOS youth coordinator and proposed a meeting with them, but nothing has been set up yet. We tabled the Youth Program future until we have a formal proposal.

In a related matter Jo observed that in the past, speakers not able to accept a honorarium were offered the option to select a book from the book store. We don't have that option anymore. One idea would be to have a couple of the "signed" books available for this purpose. Emy stated that when the speaker asked to have their honorarium donated to a charity, she would write a check directly to the charity. She also said that Dick Smith had asked if there was a charity in Howard County that might be an appropriate recipient of his honorarium. We did a little brain storming and came up with Robinson Nature Center (or Foundation) targeted on butterfly house, Howard County Conservancy, MPEA Foundation. We might want to add to this list and have such a list available when asked this in future.

eBird Station – Wes had contacted Harry Fink and Brian Campbell to ask them for a formal proposal. Harry has reported back that they are getting together to work on the project proposal. We tabled discussion until receive proposal.

New Business

Potluck Dinner date – Kathie proposed her preferred date for the pot luck would be March 23. The alternate date would be March 9. She will contact Sue Muller and the Robinson Nature Center to try and reserve the RNC auditorium for one of the those dates.

Chapter Chatter – Kate stated that she has been providing Howard “chatter” to the Yellowthroat for several years and would like a new volunteer to step forward and take on this task. Initially announce opportunity at next meetings and work to find someone to take on this responsibility.

MOS Scholarships – Kate stated that she has been helping Tom Strikwerda as the MOS Scholarship chairman and he has expressed a desire to have a scholarship coordinator in each county who can be focus for getting applications submitted. Kate agreed to be our coordinator for now, but alerted the Board that Tom is expecting to give up his position as state chairman when he becomes MOS President in a year and a half if not earlier. Kate believes there is a good chance she may well accept position as state chairman. She suspects but doesn't know for sure that if she does that it might not be possible for her to be chapter coordinator then.

Art Contest - Kate acknowledged that the art contest has been getting the club a lot of free public relations visibility but not really serving to involve kids in birding. None of the winners have followed up by joining club activities. As a result Kate had an alternate idea for a youth activity. She has observed volunteering at the Robinson Nature Center there is a gap in age group for kid's activities at RNC. Namely ages 9 – 13 are neglected in the currently offered summer camps. There are activities for younger kids and older ones. She proposes to approach the RNC staff about offering a birding “camp/program” based on the curriculum for the Boy Scouts birding merit badge. RNC would be facilitator for the camp. She would need volunteers to help with the program, possibly tapping Master Naturalists. All volunteers would need to be official volunteers (e.g., finger printed, background check). We already have two of the Backpack prizes provided by MOS that might be used in some form of follow-up competition. We decided to keep the backpacks for now. The Board was very supportive of this proposal. Kate took an action to approach RNC staff with this proposal.

Around the Room

- Eva asked for a further explanation of the process of calling members who haven't renewed. An explanation was provided.
- Kathie commented that she had looked at the price of renting rooms at the RNC on their web site and we need to appreciate how much being free use of their facilities is worth.
- Kurt summarized some of the recent bird window strikes he has found outside his building at work
- Chuck asked if he was correct that so far we don't have the option to receive the Yellowthroat electronically, even though we did reply to a survey on that subject a while ago. It was confirmed that so far this is not an option.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Speak to Joe Hanfman and request Joe document his thoughts on handling rare bird sightings that could serve as a draft for a chapter policy – Wes Earp (Joe Hanfman) – SEE REVISED ACTION
- Contact Jim Lubitz and inform him of our desire to have the remaining books brought to the December meeting for another “last” try to sell a few more at major discount – Wes Earp (Jim Lubitz) – SEE REVISED ACTION
- Contact Harry Fink and ask him to work with RNC staff to generate a formal proposal for sharing the cost of an eBird Station for RNC – Wes Earp (Harry Fink) – SEE REVISED ACTION
- Draft a formal club policy on deer management for consideration by the Board – Kurt Schwarz DONE
- Approach Girl Scout group that contacted her via Facebook and explore potential involvement of Girl Scouts in our activities with appropriate caveats – Amanda Witt – SHE HAD APPROACHED BUT HAD NO RESPONSE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Joe Hanfman document his thoughts on handling rare bird sightings that could serve as a draft for a chapter policy – Joe Hanfman
- Contact Anne Marie Raterman and inform her of our desire to have the remaining books brought to the December meeting for another “last” try to sell a few more at major discount – Wes Earp
- Work with RNC staff to generate a formal proposal for sharing the cost of an eBird Station for RNC – Harry Fink
- Approach RNC Staff with proposal for “Birding Camp” and pursue if positive response – Kate Tufts
- Seek volunteer to be Howard contributor to Chapter Chatter including announce at meeting – Wes Earp
- Solicit volunteer to host Board meeting in January so have info for the next Goldfinch - All

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	Need Volunteer	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda - October 25, 2012
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/2012 – 10/21/2012
- Bob Solem Handout - Monthly Hits on Web Page, Time History of Membership Mailings Received, Percentage Receiving Newsletter Electronically, and Web Pages Recently Revised
- Howard County Bird Club Deer Policy – 10/25/2012

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Chapter, Maryland Ornithological Society

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Agenda
October 25, 2012**

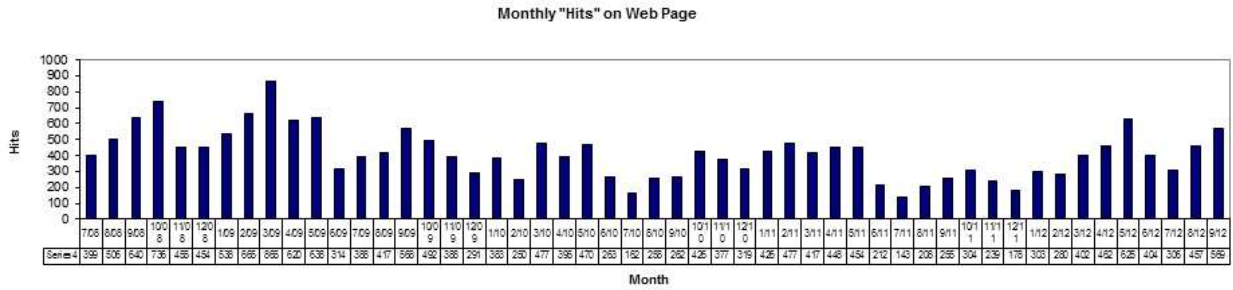
1. Discuss Agenda – additions? *All*
2. Review of Minutes *Chuck*
3. Treasurer’s Report *Emy*
4. President’s Report *Absent*
4. Vice President’s Remarks *Robin*
5. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips *Bonnie/Joe*
 - Conservation *Kurt*
 - Newsletter *Amanda*
 - WebMaster *Bob*
6. Old Business
 - Membership
 - Phone calls to non-renewals
 - Seed sale wrap-up *Ward*
 - Howard Bird Club Deer management policy *Kurt*
 - MOS Rare Bird policy
 - Wes has contacted Joe and he has indicated he will work on it upon his return.
 - Remaining Books
 - Wes contacted Jim and Jim believes that Anne Marie has books??
 - Youth Program
 - Wes has talked with Sue and explained honorarium situation
 - Sue has contacted MOS and a meeting has been proposed. Nothing has been set up yet.
 - eBird Station
 - Wes has contacted Harry Fink and Brian Campbell. Harry has reported that they are getting together to work on project.
7. New Business/Discussions
 - Potluck dinner date *Kathy*
 - Art Contest, MOS Scholarships, Chapter Chatter *Kate*
8. Action Items *Chuck*
9. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Kurt Schwarz
9045 Dunloggin Court
Ellicott City
(410) 641-1643

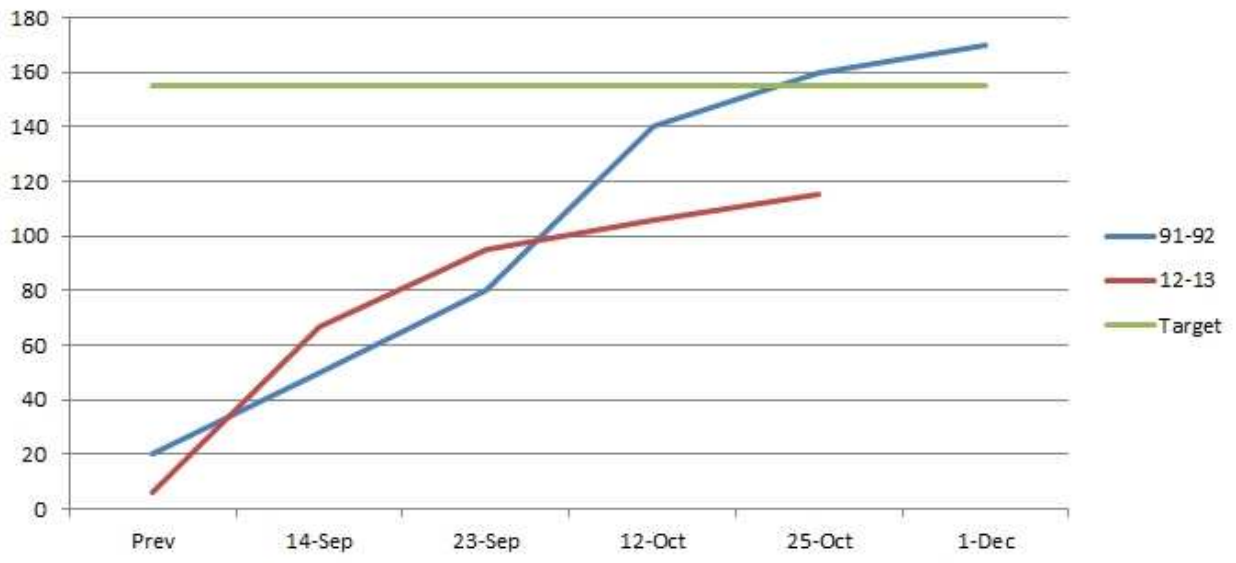
HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUE
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/12-10/21/12

	Budget 2012-13	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		805.00	3,995.00
State Dues Paid		(140.00)	(140.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	665.00	3,855.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00	665.00	3,855.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		44.03
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00	143.40	143.40
Postage, copies	75.00	13.94	99.83
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			48.36
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies			
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	550.00		79.50
Miscellaneous			126.10
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,575.00	207.34	591.22
Seed Sale			
Income		3,953.00	3,953.00
Expense			
Seed		3,954.00	3,954.00
Flyers, postage			37.90
Net Seed Sale			(38.90)
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			
			1,291.00
 Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,645.70
Interest Received		0.06	0.46
Balance			10,646.16
 Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			7,828.68
Savings			16,186.16
Petty Cash			64.63
<i>Total</i>			24,079.47

Monthly Hits on Web Page



Howard County Bird Club Number of Mailings



Number (percentage) Receiving Newsletter Electronically

Last Year	This Year (as of 10/20/12)
65 of 173 (38%)	101 of 118 (86%)

Howard County Bird Club web site

Main Page
Club Information

www.howardbirds.org
<http://www.howardbirds.org/overview.htm>

Extensively revised
Extensively revised

Howard County Bird Club Deer Policy

Deer overpopulation represents a serious threat to wildlife habitat, watershed protection, traffic, and public health. Consequently, the Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) recognizes that hunting and sharpshooting are the only effective and economic means of reducing said population.

Deer numbers in excess of the carrying capacity of a given area have been demonstrated to overbrowse the understory. This negatively impacts not only numerous bird species, but also native wildflowers, ferns, reptiles, and amphibians, thereby reducing the bio-diversity found in healthy habitats. Denuded ground can create a run-off or erosion threat, which can result in fertilizers, pet waste, pesticides and eroded soil washing into our streams and, eventually, our drinking water. This, in turn, can set back efforts to preserve and clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Furthermore, bare soils are open to coverage by invasive plant species, which can likewise be detrimental to native wildlife species.

Large deer numbers present a traffic hazard in all parts of the county. They also serve as a vector for Lyme Disease. And they can wreak havoc on ornamental plantings, vegetable gardens, and agriculture.

Given the hazards that excess deer present to wildlife habitat and the public good, the HCBC recognizes that such methods of population control as contraceptives, sterilization, and relocation are ineffective and prohibitively expensive for a tax-supported entity. Contraceptives need to be applied consistently to the entire population, which is not practical. The same applies to sterilization, which would be even more expensive and potentially traumatic to the deer. Relocation merely moves the problem elsewhere, is stressful to the deer, and is expensive.

Because protecting and maintaining the maximum diversity in all Howard County wildlife habitats is a high priority for this club, it is the policy of the HCBC to strongly support proposals for the use of hunting and sharpshooting to control excess deer population

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 15, 2012

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President/Seed Sale: Ward Ebert √
Chap. Directors: Eva Sunell (1st yr) √
Sherry Tomlinson (2nd yr)
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Amanda Witt. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 8 was 59 people. Tom Field and Geraldine King gave a program entitled "Birding in New Zealand."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the attached Treasurer's Report by email in advance of the meeting. She reported that there is a way to go to finalize membership renewals. There have been a few new memberships submitted. The only significant expense this month was paying for the newsletter printing.

President's Remarks (Earp): Wes had the following remarks:

- Allen Lewis has agreed to be the publicity chairman. He will be added to email distribution lists for the Board.
- The club commented on the WSSC watershed planning document. Our focus was on ensuring continued access including not closing so early in fall. We made the point that having added visitors results in more eyes that can report suspicious behavior and increase security.
- Sue Muller has supposedly set up a meeting with Robinson Nature Center staff and MOS Youth Coordinator George Radcliff with a tentative date of November 30.
- The club signed on to letter supporting the proposed plans to enhance Menhaden populations in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Joe Hanfman has been working on a draft of a policy for handling rare bird notification and access issues.
- Anne Marie will bring the remaining books to the regular December meeting for another "fire sale." Bob indicated he will make an announcement about this sale in the email reminder he sends out prior to the meeting.
- He emphasized that our agreement with RNC is not to enter the center before 7:15 pm before meetings.
- Lastly he plans to drop planning for support of an eBird station at RNC since he has received no further response about the proposal from those who first brought up the idea.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Robin was not present and later sent an email apologizing that his travel plans had changed and required him to return on a later flight.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Neither Bonnie or Joe were present but plans are in good shape.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not able to attend but had sent an email report that is repeated here:

“For the meeting, I want to note and thank Wes for signing HCBC onto the Menhaden letter to the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Council.

Also, Rich Dolesh took the lead on the Patuxent Research Refuge Conservation Plan letter. I don't know where it stands. Rich is a Conservation Committee member and Vice President of the National Parks and Recreation Foundation.” - email from Kurt Schwarz

Newsletter (Witt): The deadline for the next issue of the Goldfinch is November 25. Amanda announced that this will be her last year as editor for the newsletter, as her commitments as a Mother have forced her to give up this task. Accordingly we need to seek a volunteer to be the editor. Amanda is willing to work with the new editor to show them what is involved. She will include an announcement in the next issue that a volunteer is needed. She will also include a call for a volunteer to take over responsibility for the club's input to the Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter column.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that they have completed a major revision of the club web site designed to improve navigation around the site. He also announced that since we are distributing the club newsletter via email he will add the 11 members of the Maryland General Assembly to the distribution. He stated that he had received a request from a few members that receive the hard copy that they not receive the email distribution. However maintaining the multiple distribution lists that this would require would be a major configuration issue and not worth the effort. It should not be a major imposition to have those not wanting the email distribution to just delete the message as it only includes a link to the newsletter vice attaching the file directly, and thus is a very small email.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): There had been no state board meeting since our last meeting.

Old Business

Membership, phone calls to non-renewals – Eva reported that she had called her half of list and had a few who agreed to send in membership. Sherry was not present but she has her half of the list so she should be making her calls shortly.

Seed Sale wrap up discussion – In an earlier board meeting when he heard the number of orders was way down had proposed considering whether we should continue to hold a sale. As part of this discussion, Ward had forwarded the attached email he had received from Kevin Cassidy owner of The Wildlife Authority with some suggestions of possible ways to increase sales in the future. We agreed the offer of a free membership would be an issue as the amount we have to pay for MOS state dues would be a negative cash flow. Potentially relaxing the short pick-up window would be a plus. Ward reported that the effort in setting up the sale in concert with The Wildlife Authority is not that major and he is willing to handle this by himself in future. Lastly we did generate approximately \$500 for habitat preservation, so we concluded we will continue having the sale.

Swap meet wrap-up – After a short discussion we concluded the event was enough of a success to consider holding another one at some time in the future.

RNC Nature Camp – Kate was ill and unable to attend but sent an email with the following information:

“I did want to report on the Bird Studies program for RNC. It's a go. We are quickly moving along with it as the write-up needs to go to the editor of the County program guide by 11/20. Preliminary plans look good and the dates are: June 15th, June 29th and July 6th. All from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. A max of 12 kids per session. I have some volunteers already, but could always use more to help the kids find the birds once we are in the woods. I will explain more at our January meeting. Megan is a pleasure to work with.”

Potluck Dinner - Kathie reported that she has made arrangements with RNC to hold our potluck in their auditorium on March 23, 2012

New Business

Nominating Committee – Wes was given suggestions for who he might appoint for a nominating committee. He will contact potential members.

Product endorsements in newsletter articles – Amanda reported that she had two requests regarding articles or announcements that endorsed specific products and wanted to ensure she was correctly interpreting the policy we had established previously. Namely avoid endorsing specific products or stores unless they specifically had supported a club activity, such as the The Wildlife Authority support of the seed sale. The specific requests were 1) Jay Sheppard proposing an article endorsing a specific brand of suet that he has found very good for feeding woodpeckers, and 2) Jeff Friedhoffer forwarding her an announcement for a specific brand of insect repellent clothing. We discussed our belief that such endorsements are a “slippery slope” where competitors could ask for equal treatment. Amanda had conveyed our policy to Jay and he had accepted it gracefully. She will also let Jeff know of our policy, to not endorse specific products, companies, or stores unless in context of their support of a club activity. Articles addressing generic product recommendations would generally be acceptable. The minutes document this policy but it was suggested we may need to generate a more formal policy statement.

Next meeting site – Ward Ebert agreed to host the next board meeting on January 24.

Greenfest – Wes had received email indicating we need to register soon if we want to participate in this year’s Greenfest on April 13 at the Howard Community College. Cost for table is \$25. We need to find a volunteer to coordinate preparation and finding volunteers to man booth. Wes agreed that he will submit application and solicit a volunteer coordinator.

RNC Bird Collection and Display Case – The Solem’s had received an email from Megan Leatherbury at RNC asking how they should respond to a request to borrow birds from the collection for display at a Waverly Mansion event. They forwarded the request to Wes and informed her that all similar queries should be directed to the club president, namely Wes Earp, with CC to Karen Darcy who has volunteered to be our POC with RNC. It was agreed it would be useful to have the staff organizational chart and responsibilities for the RNC so we could be sure we also contact the proper individual for a topic. Karen agreed to send them our current list of officers and ask them for their organizational chart. As for the specific request to loan the birds, Wes responded to them pointing out that this would not be acceptable as that is specifically while Federal Fish and Wildlife had insisted the collection must only be held by a governmental organization for the purposes of education only and not for ornament and decoration. At the same time we recognize that the memo of understanding that transferred the collection identified a limited number of club members that are authorized to borrow birds for educational purposes. In fact it does not state that we have to approve how the RNC staff use the collection. However it was agreed that we would not disabuse the staff of this idea as we are in a better position to advise them on the proper use of collection than relatively new RNC staff members. *Sec. Note – I was able to locate a copy of the memo of understanding regarding the collection transfer to Rec and Parks. It is attached to these minutes. One observation I would make is that the MOU allows for the list of club members authorized to use the specimens in educational programs to be updated annually and it should be updated.*

In a related matter Wes had received an email from Sue Muller proposing we might want to donate a display case for the collection as the birds are currently not on public display but are in the classrooms. It was pointed out that the club did provide a display case for the collection as a gift to Howard Recreation and Park Headquarters when the collection was transferred to them. When the collection was transferred to RNC we were contacted but told them they could keep the case as it was donated to them and we had no claim on or need for it. We decided that we were not interested in pursuing Sue’s idea.

Around the Room –

- Amanda shared an idea that we could benefit from having a more kid friendly display when he have a table at events. Specifically she had observed how kids migrated to hands-on displays at the recent U of MD Central Farm open house passing up our display. Wes did mention that he had discussed trying to set up

scopes for looking at distant birds at next year's farm event. It was agreed that kids do relate to hands-on activities and if someone has suggestions we should consider them.

- Ward announced that he will not be able to be the Area 2 May Count coordinator this coming spring as his first grandchild is due in England around that time and they are planning to be there when May Count happens.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Joe Hanfman document his thoughts on handling rare bird sightings that could serve as a draft for a chapter policy – Joe Hanfman - DISCUSS AFTER JOE PROVIDES INPUT, BUT DROP AS ACTION
- Contact Anne Marie Raterman and inform her of our desire to have the remaining books brought to the December meeting for another “last” try to sell a few more at major discount – Wes Earp DONE
- Work with RNC staff to generate a formal proposal for sharing the cost of an eBird Station for RNC – Harry Fink - DROP AS ACTION
- Approach RNC Staff with proposal for “Birding Camp” and pursue if positive response – Kate Tufts - DONE
- Seek volunteer to be Howard contributor to Chapter Chatter including announce at meeting – Wes Earp
- Solicit volunteer to host Board meeting in January so have info for the next Goldfinch – All - DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Seek volunteer to be Howard contributor to Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter column – Wes Earp
- Solicit volunteer for newsletter editor (Amanda has agreed to work with volunteer at beginning) – Wes
- Send RNC staff list of our current officers and request their organizational chart and responsibilities – Karen
- Contact Kurt about looking for habitat ideas for this year (seek to find a local use if possible) - Wes

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	Ward Ebert	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 15, 2012 (Revised)
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer's Report 5/1/12 – 11/13/12
- Email forwarded by Ward Ebert from Kevin Cassidy, The Wildlife Authority with “Random Thoughts on Seed Sale”, November 15, 2012
- Documentation and Memo of Understanding regarding transfer of the club's bird specimen collection to Howard County Recreation and Parks Department, February 2000

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Agenda
November 15, 2012 (Revised)**

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 4. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 5. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Bonnie/Joe |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Amanda |
| • WebMaster | Bob |
| 6. Old Business | |
| • Membership | |
| ○ Phone calls to non-renewals | |
| • Seed sale wrap up discussion | All |
| • Swap meet wrap up | |
| • RNC Bird Camp | |
| • Potluck Dinner Date | Kathie |
| 7. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Nominating Committee | Wes |
| • Product endorsements in newsletter articles | Amanda |
| • Next Meeting site | All |
| • Greenfest | Wes |
| • Display Case for RNC | Wes |
| 8. Action Items | Chuck |
| 9. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:
Amanda Witt

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUE
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/12-11/13/12

	Budget 2012-13	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		740.00	4,735.00
State Dues Paid		(140.00)	(140.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	600.00	4,595.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,300.00	600.00	4,595.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		44.03
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		143.40
Postage, copies	75.00		99.83
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			48.36
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies			
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	550.00	60.00	139.50
Miscellaneous			126.10
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,575.00	60.00	651.22
Seed Sale			
Income		3,953.00	3,953.00
Expense			
Seed		3,954.00	3,954.00
Flyers, postage			37.90
Net Seed Sale			(38.90)
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			1,466.00
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,645.70
Interest Received		0.05	0.51
Balance			10,646.21
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			8,218.68
Savings			16,186.21
Petty Cash			64.63
<i>Total</i>			24,469.52

Fw: Random thoughts - Seed Sale

Nov 15

Ward Ebert [via yahoo.com](mailto:via@yahoo.com)

to **Joe, Wes**, EMMALYN, me, Bonnie, Amanda, Eva, Jo, Karen, Kate, Kurt, Robin, Sherry, Wes

All,

As I was leaving the store at the end of the seed sale I asked Kevin to think about any changes that might improve the seed sale in the future. I think the first one is a non-starter because of the amount we pay to MOS which would be a negative cash flow. The latter ideas raise the interesting concept of relaxing the short pick-up window. We've had one or two instances of folks who wanted to pick up outside the sale hours and Kevin was willing to hold the product for them.

Ward

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "kevin@wildlifeauthority.com" <kevin@wildlifeauthority.com>

To: Ward Ebert <wardebert@verizon.net>

Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2012 4:57 PM

Subject: Random thoughts - Seed Sale

Ward,

First of all, thank you again for coordinating this year's sale. While the volumes didn't hit expectations, I am hopeful that those who did participate recognized that not only did they get to fill their bins, but were also directly responsible for adding to the fund-raising for the Club.

In no certain order:

- perhaps we can offer a "buy xx bags or pounds, get a free 1 year membership to the Club". We could work out the details, and I believe "free" might drive sales. Sales would drive donations, and so on.
- Another consideration - overall volume discounts... Before, I offered a sliding scale for the donation - with more \$\$'s per pound at certain tiers. Perhaps we communicate to the members - THEY save more, if the entire club orders more?
- Perhaps we offer delivery service, for certain volumes? 200 pounds or more?
- Offer Split deliveries? Half now, half later?

This is a particularly difficult time, as seed prices continue to increase daily. I realize times are tough, but believe we have a good message to share, and a good product to offer.

I look forward to hearing some feedback from your meeting.

Best Regards,

Kevin

The Wildlife Authority

3275 Bethany Lane

Suite B

Ellicott City, MD 21042

[410-465-5007](tel:410-465-5007)

[410-465-5008](tel:410-465-5008) - fax



Department of Recreation and Parks
BUREAU OF PARKS & PROGRAM SERVICES

John R. Byrd, Chief

February 17, 2000

Migratory Bird Permit Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 779
Hadley, Mass. 01035-0779

Dear Mr. Debuose,

Enclosed is a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks and the Howard County chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society regarding the transfer of chapter's bird specimen collection. As stated during our phone conversation in Dec 1999 as well as in the MOU, Howard County Recreation & Parks will publicly display, house, and care for the bird collection. Also attached is a list of individuals from the bird club that give educational programs to the community and use the bird specimens. Individuals using the specimens will have a copy of the permit with them when they are traveling with the specimens.

Current plans call for the public display of the collection in the Recreation & Park headquarters lobby. This is a public facility and the collection will be available for viewing during normal business hours. The physical transfer of the specimens should occur within the year. It is dependent on the purchase and/or construction of adequate display and storage cases. The Department also received great news in December as we have finally acquired a property that is suitable to develop into a nature center facility. In all likelihood, the nature center will be the final destination for the collection.

Please feel free to call me (410) 313-4724 if you have any questions or if any additional paperwork is required regarding this transfer. Recreation & Parks Federal Permit is #PRT-739803 and is in Susan Muller's name (whom I supervise).

Sincerely,

Brenda Belensky
Natural Resource Manager

Attachment



Department of Recreation and Parks
BUREAU OF PARKS & PROGRAM SERVICES

John R. Byrd, Chief

February 17, 2000

The following is the list of individuals from the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society that give educational presentations with mounted bird specimens.

- 1). Maud Banks
- 2). Monika Botsai
- 3). Carl Brudin, III
- 4). Martha Chestem
- 5). Eileen Clegg
- 6). Jane Geuder
- 7). Ralph Geuder
- 8). Mike Kerwin
- 9). Bonnie Ott
- 10). Karla Pearce
- 11). M. Suzanne Probst
- 12). Joanne Solem
- 13). Eva Sunell
- 14). Helen Zeichner

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Agreement is made and entered into on the 15th day of February, 2000, by and between the **Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks** (the "Department") and the **Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society** (the "Society").

WHEREAS, the Society possesses Federal and State scientific permits for certain wildlife collections;

WHEREAS, permits issued by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (the "Service") require organizations that possess such permits to have their specimen collections on public display;

WHEREAS, the Society lacks the necessary space for public display of its collections;

WHEREAS, the Department has agreed to accept possession of the Society's collection under their Federal and State scientific collection permits, allow for public display space of a portion of the collection and provide storage space for the specimens not on display; and

WHEREAS, the Society's collection, which contains bird specimens under scientific collection and salvage permits obtained through the Service and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will become the legal possession of the Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual covenants and promises set forth herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto, agree as follows:

I. Responsibilities of the Department

A. The Department, pursuant to the request of the Service, agrees to properly house and display the mounted bird collection provided by the Society.

B. The Department agrees to provide the Society access to the bird collection during normal business hours and the ability to use the collection for educational presentations.

C. The Department will be responsible for funding taxidermy work performed on specimens they acquire.

D. The Department will be responsible for any taxidermy repair work required to mounts as a result of damage incurred while the mounts are in its possession.

II. Responsibilities of the Society

A. The Society agrees to provide funding for the construction and/or purchase of display cases and storage cases wherever feasible at the Department's facilities. This funding amount will not exceed \$3,000.00.

B. The Society will be responsible for funding taxidermy work performed on new specimens they collect.

C. The Society will be responsible for any taxidermy repair work required to mounts as a result of damage incurred while the mounts are under the care of the Society's representatives during educational programs.

D. The Society will/shall provide an annual list of names of club members responsible for giving educational programs that require use of the bird specimens. This list is required by the Service and should only include names of individuals who do educational presentations.

III. General Conditions

A. This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely until terminated by either party. This agreement may be terminated by either party giving thirty (30) days' written notice. This agreement is also subject to approval by the Service.

B. The items comprising the collection being transferred from the Society to the Department are identified in Attachment A.

C. Any additions to the collection obtained through either the Department salvage permit or the Society salvage permit will be housed with the Department.

D. The failure of the parties to enforce, at any time, the provisions of this Agreement or to exercise any option which may be provided herein shall in no way be construed to be a waiver of such provisions nor in any way to affect the validity of this Agreement or any part thereof or right of the parties to enforce thereafter each and every provision.

E. This Agreement contains the entire understanding between the parties, and any additions, or modifications hereto may only be made in writing executed by both parties hereon.

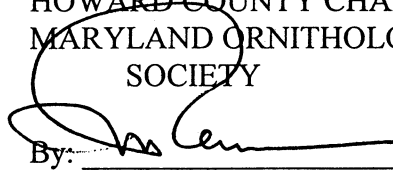
F. This Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Maryland.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed on the date first herein set forth, by affixing hereon their respective seals and signatures of the proper offices.

WITNESS:


HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER of the
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Brenda Belensky

By: 
Name: Michael J. Kerwin

WITNESS:

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND



By: 
Gary J. Arthur, Director
Department of Recreation and Parks

APPROVED FOR LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
this 15th day of February, 2000


Barbara M. Cook, County Solicitor

ATTACHMENT A

- ◆ Items comprising the Bird/Specimen Collection

Mounted Bird Collection- Howard County MOS

Great Egret
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
Mallard (M; duckling)
Lesser Scaup
Oldsquaw
Hooded Merganser
Osprey (old professional mount; poor appearance)
Sharp-shinned Hawk (Im. M; 2 Ad.)
Cooper's Hawk
Red-shouldered Hawk (Ad. F; plus 1 Ad. with breast damaged)
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel (M; F and 1 that accompanies nest display)
Ring-necked Pheasant
Northern Bobwhite (M; F)
Black Rail (only species in collection not yet found in county)
(freeze-dried so must remain in glass dome)
Sora (Im.)
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Killdeer
Dunlin
American Woodcock
Mourning Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl
Eastern Screech-Owl (red; gray; Fl)
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Belted Kingfisher (F)
Red-bellied Woodpecker (2 M)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (M; Im.)
Downy Woodpecker (M; F)
Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Eastern Kingbird
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay (2)
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow (Ad.; Im.)
Carolina Chickadee (2)
Tufted Titmouse (2)
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren (Fl)
House Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird (2M)
Veery
Gray-checked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush (Ad.; Fl)
American Robin (2)
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing (Ad.; Im)
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler (M; F)
Blackburnian Warbler (F)
Black-and-white Warbler (M; F)
American Redstart
Worm-eating Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Louisiana Waterthrush
Kentucky Warbler
Connecticut Warbler (M; fall)
Common Yellowthroat (M; F)
Canada Warbler (F or fall M)
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee (M; F)
American Tree Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow (2)
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal (2M; F)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (M; F)
Indigo Bunting
Bobolink (fall)
Red-winged Blackbird (M; F)
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird (M; F)
Orchard Oriole (F)
Baltimore Oriole (M)
Purple Finch (F)
House Finch (M; F)
Common Redpoll
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch (winter)
Evening Grosbeak (F)
House Sparrow (M; F)
Barn Owl wing

Key:

M - male
F - female
Im - immature
Fl - fledgling
Ad - adult

2/22/00

To,

Enclosed is a signed copy
of the MOU!

Also a copy of the letter
I wrote to USFWS.

I let you know if Mr. Debuose
has any comments.

Thanks again

Brenda

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2013

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
Past President/Seed Sale: Ward Ebert √
Chap. Directors: Eva Sunell (1st yr)
Sherry Tomlinson (2nd yr)
State Directors: Karen Darcy v
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Ward Ebert. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 13, 2012 was 66 people. Dr. Matthew Perry gave a program entitled “Atlantic Seaduck Project; from Chesapeake Bay to Hudson Bay.” Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 11, 2013 was 60 people. Kurt Schwarz gave a program entitled “Birding Central Asia: How NOT to Do It .”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was not present but had submitted the attached report that shows that a large percentage of the state MOS dues were paid.

President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes had a few items to discuss:

- Wes reported that Joe Hanfman had drafted a set of proposed procedures for handling rare bird incidents in the county. Wes will share the draft with the Board and place it on the agenda for next month where we will consider adopting them as our club policy.
- Wes has appointed a nominating committee – Karen Darcy-chair, Jeff Friedhoffer, and Robin Todd.
- The Robinson Nature Center staff has drafted a proposed new Memo of Understanding between the club and RNC. Wes has shared it with board and anticipates discussion including a meeting before formally addressing the MOU at the next Board meeting.
- The Miller Library has requested the club provide speakers for periodic (monthly) programs at the library. Sue Polniaszek has volunteered to work with the library on this request.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Todd): No comments.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Neither Bonnie or Joe were present but the schedule for field trips is complete.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt confessed that he had not yet put together proposals for this year’s habitat proposal that we would like to have as a local vice international project. Kurt took an action to generate some proposals and circulate them to the Board before our next meeting. He did mention that the trawler survey of Horseshoe crabs has been underfunded and he wondered if we might want to supplement that funding. Another possibility would be to issue a challenge grant to other chapters or have MOS act to supplement the survey.

On another issue he addressed the request we had received from the Center for Biological Diversity to endorse a letter to the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce urging them to strengthen and improve their Departments

implementation of the Endangered Species Act. Bob confirmed that he had researched and found that the requesting organization is legitimate. It was moved, seconded and approved that Wes should forward our endorsement of the letter which he did the next day. *The letter was distributed to the Board and have been saved in the secretaries files.*

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda was not present.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Overall the website is doing fine.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Old Business

Membership Status - Bob distributed his annual membership summary which at the time of the meeting showed a total of 202 members which means we will qualify for 3 State Directors (an additional 1) next year. Subsequently Bob supplied an update that is attached that shows we have a total of 210 members. Bob also reported that Allan Lewis has been submitting announcements of our meetings and field trips to the papers and some but not all of them are being picked up for publication.

Habitat Donations 2011 & 2012 – Postponed until next meeting.

Potluck Dinner – Kathie reported that we have reservations for RNC on Saturday, March 23. She will pass around sign up at the February and March club meetings. Sherry Tomlinson is attempting to get some door prizes donated by her employer. Kate observed that although we don't have to rent the facility we should budget for more than has been budgeted this year (\$0).

WSSC Management Plan - Wes reported that when he attended the earlier meeting on the management plan no mention was made of expecting birders to pay the use fees but the plan as drafted does require that we would either pay the daily fee or have to purchase the annual pass. Wes had drafted a letter commenting on the plan and distributed it to the Board in advance (attached). It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Board supported the letter and authorized Wes to submit it to WSSC as our comments. It was noted that Liberty Reservoir has a policy that supposedly precludes going to the shoreline but until recently had not enforced it. They do not have any fees for using the property.

RNC Youth Program – Kate reported that the plans for the offering of a birding program for kids at the RNC are in place. She has volunteers to help with program but would welcome others.

Youth Bird Club – Wes had prepared a summary of a meeting held on forming a youth bird club on 11/30/2012 and a second handout on the issues and policies he sees we need to address with sponsoring a club (attached). Primary points are that although we will be able to use the RNC facility this is not an RNC sponsored group. Volunteers will need to be approved (probably by RNC procedures). Sue Muller is not willing to serve as the chief adult advisor for this club. Hence we need volunteers for a coordinator and assistant. The board approved a motion to proceed with the proposal and solicit coordinator as a first step. Wes will draft a description of the coordinator job responsibilities and pursue with RNC staff what procedures will be required to get volunteers approved. We agreed that the requirement for parent participation might be satisfied by having a non-club adult (parent of at least one child) that is responsible for each child participating.

New Business

Membership/Renewal Form Revision – Wes reported that MOS is looking to have members indicate if they are willing to receive the Yellowthroat in electronic format only. Hence we need to add a checkbox to the form that if checked would be an agreement to not send a hardcopy of the Yellowthroat. Bob will amend the on-line format immediately and ensure the change appears on next Fall's application form. Emy will need to revise the spreadsheet she submits to MOS as record of membership to indicate those willing to only receive an electronic copy.

Stationary Proposal – Deferred until next month's board meeting.

Around the Room –

- Our priority volunteer need is for a replacement for Amanda as editor of the Goldfinch.
- Bob announced that he will forward the announcement of the 125th annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society to be held at Williamsburg
- Jo reported that Dick Smith and Sue Muller are planning a butterfly count for Howard County. It is anticipated that this will be co-sponsored like the dragonfly count by Howard Rec and Parks and the club .

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Seek volunteer to be Howard contributor to Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter column – Wes Earp
- Solicit volunteer for newsletter editor (Amanda has agreed to work with volunteer at beginning) – Wes
- Send RNC staff list of our current officers and request their organizational chart and responsibilities – Karen
- Contact Kurt about looking for habitat ideas for this year (seek to find a local use if possible) – Wes DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Seek volunteer to be Howard contributor to Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter column – Wes Earp
- Solicit volunteer for newsletter editor (Amanda has agreed to work with volunteer at beginning) – Wes
- Send RNC staff list of our current officers and request their organizational chart and responsibilities – Karen
- Email copies of Rare Bird Procedures to board and place on agenda for next Board meeting – Wes
- Develop habitat conservation proposals for the funds raised in 2011 & 2012 before next meeting – Kurt
- Submit letter providing our comments to the WSSC Management Plan – Wes
- Prepare a description of the Youth Club Coordinator responsibilities and solicit volunteer(s) – Wes
- Pursue with RNC whether we will be able to use their process of background checks on volunteers for those who volunteer to help with Youth Club – Wes
- Revise membership application form(s) to collect input on receiving hard copy of Yellowthroat – Bob
- Update MOS membership reporting process to include information on Yellowthroat preference – Emy

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	Ward Ebert	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – January 24, 2013
- Howard County Bird Club – Treasurer’s Report; 5/1/12 – 1/23/13
- Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members) – updated 2/20/2013
- Comments on the proposed watershed use regulations – 1/23/2013
- Youth Bird Club Meeting Summary – 11/30/2012
- Howard County Bird Club Youth Program Proposal

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
January 24, 2012**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Bonnie/Joe |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| ○ Endangered species act. | |
| • Newsletter | Amanda |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| • State Board Meeting | Board Members |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Membership Status | Bob |
| State Director # | |
| • Habitat Donation 2011 & 2012 | Kurt |
| • Potluck Dinner | Kathie |
| • WSSC management plan | All |
| • RNC Youth Program | Kate |
| • Youth Bird Club | All |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Membership renewal form revision | Wes |
| • Stationary Proposal | Kate |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location: Ward Ebert’s
Next Meeting: February 28th, @ Solem’s

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUE
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/12-1/23/13

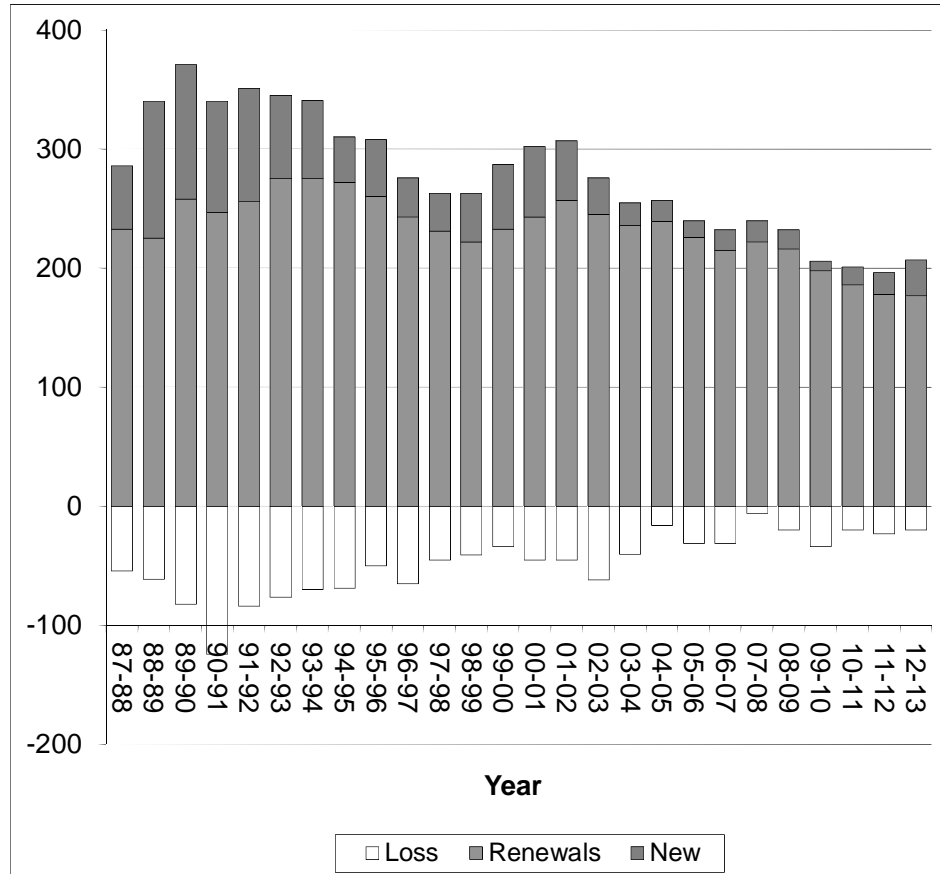
	Budget 2012-13	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		375.00	5,110.00
State Dues Paid		(3,060.00)	(3,200.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	(2,685.00)	1,910.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,300.00</u>	<u>(2,685.00)</u>	<u>1,910.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		44.03
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		50.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		143.40
Postage, copies	75.00	57.54	157.37
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Yellowbooks		67.50	67.50
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			48.36
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies			
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	550.00		139.50
Miscellaneous			
Display Board			126.10
Greenfest		25.00	25.00
See <i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>1,575.00</u>	<u>150.04</u>	<u>801.26</u>
			3,953.00
Income			3,954.00
Expense			37.90
Seed			(38.90)
Flyers, postage			(38.90)
Net Seed Sale			(38.90)
			1,601.00
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		135.00	1,601.00
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,645.70
Interest Received		0.15	0.66
Balance			<u>10,646.36</u>
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>5,540.00</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			5,958.64
Savings			16,186.36
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			<u>22,209.63</u>

Howard County MOS Membership (Voting Members)

Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total	% renew
85-86	61	68	212	280	76%
86-87	68	75	212	287	74%
87-88	54	53	233	286	81%
88-89	61	115	225	340	66%
89-90	82	113	258	371	70%
90-91	124	93	247	340	73%
91-92	84	95	256	351	73%
92-93	76	70	275	345	80%
93-94	70	66	275	341	81%
94-95	69	38	272	310	88%
95-96	50	48	260	308	84%
96-97	65	33	243	276	88%
97-98	45	32	231	263	88%
98-99	41	41	222	267	83%
99-00	34	54	233	288	81%
00-01	45	59	243	302	80%
01-02	45	50	257	307	84%
02-03	62	31	245	276	89%
03-04	40	19	236	255	93%
04-05	16	18	239	257	93%
05-06	31	14	226	246	92%
06-07	31	17	215	228	94%
07-08	6	18	222	236	94%
08-09	20	16	216	232	93%
09-10	34	8	198	206	96%
10-11	20	15	186	201	93%
11-12	23	18	178	197	90%
12-13	20	30	177	210	84%

Year	Couple	Indiv	Other	Total
87-88	150	91	45	286
88-89	178	102	60	340
89-90	186	128	57	371

Year	Household	Indiv	Other	Total	Junior
90-91	188	146	6	340	27
91-92	196	150	5	351	31
92-93	197	142	6	345	35
93-94	198	137	6	341	37
94-95	170	132	7	310	32
95-96	183	120	5	308	35
96-97	181	89	6	276	40
97-98	153	103	7	263	30
98-99	161	99	7	267	27
99-00	175	107	6	288	30
00-01	179	115	8	302	26
01-02	191	107	9	307	25
02-03	167	108	1	276	25
03-04	145	109	1	255	18
04-05	143	112	2	257	22
05-06	141	105	9	246	14
06-07	134	100	10	244	11
07-08	134	103	12	249	13
08-09	138	89	18	249	14
09-10	126	77	17	220	14
10-11	120	80	15	201	12
11-12	110	81	18	197	7
12-13	130	77	7	210	5



After 09-10: Household = 2 votes; Individual - 1 vote





Howard

*A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society*



January 23, 2013

WSSC
14501 Sweitzer Lane
Laurel, MD 20707

Re: Comments on the proposed watershed use regulations

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Howard County Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society would like to offer the following thoughts regarding proposed changes to WSSC's management of the watershed.

First, if birders are to pay a fee for access, the system needs to be simplified and costs lowered. I presently pay \$80.00 for the "National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass" that authorizes entry of **all** individuals in my vehicle to **all** National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and Federal Recreation Areas, **nationwide for one full year**. There are sixteen such facilities accessible from Howard County on a day use basis of which I use seven on a regular basis for birding.

Your limited access policy does not provide sufficient area for a day's recreation of birding. For our club's biannual waterfowl search, Triadelphia Reservoir is one of four stops and all are completed by noon. With the exception of your sponsored bird walk, the club does not plan field trips to the watershed simply because there is insufficient access to make a good trip.

Individually, birders stop by access points and within a few minutes can often assess that there are no birds of interest present and are on their way to other properties. On other days, particularly during the migration period, we may spend an hour or more scanning wintering birds looking for rarities. As a fisherman who has kept a boat on Rocky Gorge, I could fish by the hour, not catch anything, but enjoy the day. That is not the case for birders with no waterfowl on the lakes; we do not hang around to see if any will show up.

In addition, Liberty Reservoir watershed is significantly larger; as close for some of us; is free to birders; and is open year round. Given your limited calendar and as yet unspecified limited site access to the lakes, the proposed annual fee can hardly be considered a value.

Under these circumstances the hassle of acquiring a daily pass to check for birds does not seem practical. We suggest you use the daily pass but drop the annual pass to \$15.00 for birders. I believe you will net as much with the lower annual fee simply as with the proposed one simply because more birders will buy the lower annual permit for its reasonableness and ease of use, instead of fooling with a daily one.

Secondly, the club would very much like the opportunity to work with WSSC planners on the proposed birder access map. We understand the one referenced in the proposed regulations does not exist. The fee structure will prove more fruitful if the legal access for birders has value.

Given the fact that the watershed is used daily, year round, by individuals illegally walking their dogs, club members resent the shortening of the recreation period by a month during the spring and fall migration periods. During the stake holder's meetings concern was expressed by your staff over the negative reaction received after the previous change to the watershed management plan. The decision to shorten the use period is one that has lessened the watershed as a valuable birding destination. The fact that illegal use is allowed to continue only begs the question as to why the change.

Finally, the recordation of avian fauna in the Maryland Ornithological Society records constitutes a valuable resource for past and future studies. The WSSC reservoirs have provided many significant sightings. Recent and newly proposed management decisions concerning closure and fees continue to hinder the effort to monitor the tract for natural history purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Wesley Earp
President, Howard County Bird Club

Youth Bird Club Meeting Summary
11/30/12

Present: Sue Mueller, Stacey Yankee, Brian Campbell, George Radcliffe, Wes Earp

This will be a Howard Bird Club function ONLY, under Howard Bird Club policies and direction.

MOS does not have a child protection plan. Adults stay for all meetings. Don't think this is required but it is important to note, that MOS club participants travel great distances and it does not make sense for adults to travel to drop off and pick up.

Use of RNC indoor facilities will require RNC Volunteer status for all Club adults but not for youth and parents.

RNC will assist with marketing club and allow solicitation and publicity through their programs.

George suggested some combined activities with MOS Youth.

We are the only County considering this with the exception of the Ward Museum. George very optimistic since all successful clubs from out of state (Delaware) are affiliated with a nature center.

Must figure how procedures for accessing RNC youth participants.

Howard County Bird Club Youth Program Proposal:

Organization:

- One coordinator with an assistant to provide continuity
 - Prepares program
 - Coordinates volunteers
 - Maintains membership roster
 - Responsible for information dissemination to club families.
- Pool of sufficient trip leaders and other volunteers for two adults on every trip and at every meeting.
- RNC youth programs basis for recruitment

Program:

- One field trip each month the bird club is active.
 - Can join in MOS field trips
- One club meeting at a local residence each month the club is active.
 - Could use open room at RNC if club members volunteer approved.

Policies:

- RNC use as available
 - Only RNC volunteer bird club adults allowed.
 - Parents exempt from clearance requirement
- Youth Protection Policy of the Howard County Bird Club
 - MOS does not have a youth protection program
 - No meetings or field trips without **two club adults** present.
 - Maintain detailed contact information.
 - Parent participation required for all youth under the age of 16.
 - Groups always stay together
- Club membership
 - Youth only at a youth rate or require family membership ?

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 28, 2013

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President/Seed Sale: Ward Ebert √
Chap. Directors: Eva Sunell (1st yr)
Sherry Tomlinson (2nd yr)
State Directors: Karen Darcy
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 14 was 48 people. Paul J. Baicich gave a program entitled “The Twelve Most Important Things You Can Do For Birds and Bird Conservation.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted with the minor corrections submitted when the minutes were emailed to Board.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had submitted the attached Treasurer’s Report prior to the meeting.

President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes had a few remarks as follows:

- Howard Patterson has volunteered to serve as editor of The Goldfinch starting with the September issue.
- Anne Marie Ratterman has volunteered to take over responsibility for the club’s inputs to the MOS Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter column.
- Wes had initiated further discussion with the RNC staff regarding an Memo of Understanding (MOU) – see New Business.
- Wes submitted a letter to WSSC providing our inputs on the proposed fee schedule for WSSC access. WSSC has proceeded to adopt the fee schedule effective March 15. Passes can be obtained from the office at Brighton Dam or on-line. Senior Citizens over 65 can obtain a free annual pass. **"their own fee schedule"**
- He reported that he has not yet pursued the issue of potentially using the RNC background check process for volunteers who would like to work with the proposed Youth Bird Club, nor has he yet worked on soliciting a volunteer to serve as Youth Coordinator.
- A copy of our officers and committee chairs has been provided to RNC staff, but they have not yet reciprocated.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Todd): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Neither were present, but Joe had sent board a copy of currently scheduled field trips.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt had no report, but see Old Business for discussion of this year's donation plans.

Newsletter (Witt): As mentioned above Howard Patterson is assuming role of editor. Amanda will assist him with the Sept-Oct issue. The deadline for the May-June issue is March 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he plans to post the results of Howard Big Days on the web. Russ Ruffing, Harry Fink, and Matt Rogosky are planning to do one each month.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Old Business

Adoption of Rare Bird Guidelines – The guidelines prepared by Joe Hanfman had been distributed to Board prior to meeting. The draft had already been provided to MOS as our response to their action requesting ideas on guidelines. After a brief discussion, Bob proposed a few minor corrections. The Board adopted the revised guidelines as club policy and authorized Bob to post them on our web site. See attached.

Habitat Donation 2011 & 2012 – Kurt had several ideas for our consideration (see attachment). He repeated one idea he had mentioned previously, namely supporting funding for the Virginia Tech Trawler Survey of Horseshoe Crab harvests that serve as the basis for Horseshoe crab harvesting regulations and modeling. This activity is significantly underfunded, and he had considered making a challenge grant contribution. Kurt's other ideas had to do with Hurricane Sandy habitat recovery operations. He had contacted Maryland DNR but they had no projects or campaigns to offer. He then contacted the Friends of Bombay Hook and Cape May NWR to see if they had any projects to propose. Bombay Hook indicated they hadn't experienced much damage but suggested he contact Prime Hook. He had no luck contacting them. The Friends of Cape May NWR, on the other hand, was planning significant beach restoration efforts and would welcome donations. After a short discussion it was moved, seconded, and approved that we donate \$200 to All Creatures Great and Small and \$1500 to Cape May for beach habitat restoration. Emy took an action to send the donation to ACG&S and Kurt agreed to follow-up with Cape May and obtain the necessary contact information for Emy.

Potluck Dinner – Kathie was unable to attend but had sent an email with two questions. She had proposed offering the RNC one of the feeders that Sherry had donated from her employer. The Board agreed this was a good idea. She was also authorized to invite the staff at RNC and ensure they could attend without bringing a dish to share and that we should make a point of providing a dish to the staff on duty during the potluck.

Stationary – Kate and Bob had developed a letterhead template for club correspondence. The version emailed by Bob after the meeting on March 17 has a correction of the spelling of the word Ornithological.

Yellowthroat Preference Adjustments – Bob reported that the on-line application has been updated to solicit input on willingness to receive the Yellowthroat electronically. Emy acknowledged she can update the spreadsheet she submits with membership information to include the information to support this.

New Business

Mario Cordoba Program – Jane Geuder had asked if the club wanted to make arrangements to respond to the offer from Mario Cordoba a naturalist and birding guide to present a free program during the month of May. We already have a speaker for our regular May program. Since this would require requesting an extra use of RNC and we generally don't like to promote specific business's (likely reason he was making offer was to promote his guide business) we decided to pass up the offer.

Community Partnership with RNC – Wes had shared an email (attached) with board with his notes following a splinter meeting held with several board members on February 21 to discuss this topic and the proposed Memo of Understanding (MOU) drafted by Robinson Nature Center staff. Wes reviewed the points made on the attachment. After discussing the topic a resolution was moved, seconded, and approved that the HCBC become a Community Partner with the RNC provided we can work together to create a workable MOU. We then discussed the need for a

formal volunteer coordinator for RNC events and activities, similar to the way Field Trip coordinator schedules and coordinates club field trips. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we should establish a RNC Activity Coordinator position on the Board. We agreed to continue discussions with RNC regarding these resolutions and the content of an acceptable MOU.

Back Packs – We have two more backpacks available for promoting interest in birding in young people. It was generally agreed that although the art contest generated publicity it had not really promoted interest in birding in any young people. Kate stated that the only way she could see to use the back packs with the birding summer camps at RNC would be to just have a lottery which wasn't very satisfying. We could give them back to MOS if we can't come up with any ideas. Someone pointed out that the Howard County Library had greatly expanded the scope of what materials they lend to library members. It was proposed they might like to have the packs available to lend out for youth interested in birding. We agreed to contact the the Miller Branch to explore this option. It was suggested that if they do accept them, it would be a good opportunity to put out a publicity release announcing the donation. Kate agreed she could do that if they do accept the packs.

Jug Bay Workshop on Conservation of Natural Habitat - The Anne Arundel Bird Club and the MOS are convening a one-day workshop on the 20th of April, 2013, to identify opportunities for effective partnering with selected bird habitat conservation organizations. A few of our members have been invited to participate and Wes is seeking inputs to populate a spreadsheet with activities our club undertakes in support of conservation efforts.

Around the Room –

- Robin has travel plans at the time of next Board meeting.
- Kate indicated she plans to provide participants in the RNC birding camp programs with club membership applications, materials, and program information. She raised the possibility that we might want to offer participants a free youth membership in the club.
- Kate also mentioned that Greenfest is coming up on 13 April. There will be a native plant sale this year. She recommended contacting those who indicated interest on membership application when soliciting volunteers.
- Bob reported that Allen Lewis has been doing a good job of sending program announcements to the newspapers
- Amanda asked if the club has leads on borrowing binoculars as some of schools are in process of being recertified as a “green” school and could use some binoculars for a survey of birds on their property. She was advised to check with Mike Kerwin who has a number of pairs he uses with school programs that might well be available for loan.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Seek volunteer to be Howard contributor to Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter column – Wes Earp DONE
- Solicit volunteer for newsletter editor (Amanda has agreed to work with volunteer at beginning) – Wes DONE
- Send RNC staff list of our current officers and request their organizational chart and responsibilities – Karen SENT BUT NO RETURN
- Email copies of Rare Bird Procedures to board and place on agenda for next Board meeting – Wes DONE
- Develop habitat conservation proposals for the funds raised in 2011 & 2012 before next meeting – Kurt DONE
- Submit letter providing our comments to the WSSC Management Plan – Wes DONE
- Prepare a description of the Youth Club Coordinator responsibilities and solicit volunteer(s) – Wes
- Pursue with RNC whether we will be able to use their process of background checks on volunteers for those who volunteer to help with Youth Club – Wes
- Revise membership application form(s) to collect input on receiving hard copy of Yellowthroat – Bob DONE
- Update MOS membership reporting process to include information on Yellowthroat preference – Emy CLOSE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Prepare a description of the Youth Club Coordinator responsibilities and solicit volunteer(s) – Wes
- Pursue with RNC whether we will be able to use their process of background checks on volunteers for those who volunteer to help with Youth Club – Wes
- Make minor updates to Rare Bird Guidelines and post on web site – Bob
- Send our donation of \$200 to All Creatures Great and Small – Emy

- Contact Cape May and obtain information for Emy on where to send our donation of \$1500 for beach restoration – Kurt
- Continue efforts to formally establish terms of our “community partnership” with Robinson Nature Center – Wes
- Explore donating backpacks to the Howard County Library (Miller Branch) as items available for loan to library members - Wes

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	Ward Ebert	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Howard County Bird Club Board Meeting February 28, 2013
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/2012 – 2/26/2013
- Howard County Bird Club Rare Bird Policy Procedures
- Emails to Kurt Regarding Potential Habitat Donation Proposals
- Email with Wes Notes from 2/21 Splinter Meeting on becoming a “Community Partner” with RNC – 2/23/2013

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
January 24, 2012**

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Amanda |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Adoption of rare bird guidelines | All |
| • Habitat Donation 2011 & 2012 | Kurt |
| • Potluck Dinner | Kathie |
| • Stationary | Kate and Bob |
| • Yellowthroat preference adjustments | Bob and Emy |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Mario Cordoba Program | Wes for Jane |
| • Community Partnership w/ RNC | All |
| • Back Packs | All |
| • Jug Bay workshop on Cons. Nat. Habitat | Wes |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location: Solem's

Next Meeting: March 28, Karen Darcy

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUE
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/12-2/26/13

	Budget 2012-13	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		200.00	5,310.00
State Dues Paid		(65.00)	(3,265.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	135.00	2,045.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,300.00</u>	<u>135.00</u>	<u>2,045.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		44.03
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	100.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		143.40
Postage, copies	75.00		157.37
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Yellowbooks			67.50
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			48.36
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies			
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	550.00	52.00	191.50
Miscellaneous			
Display Board			126.10
Greenfest			25.00
See <i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>1,575.00</u>	<u>102.00</u>	<u>903.26</u>
			3,953.00
Income			3,954.00
Expense			37.90
Seed			(38.90)
Flyers, postage			(38.90)
Net Seed Sale			(38.90)
			20.00
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		20.00	<u>1,621.00</u>
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,645.70
Interest Received		0.13	0.79
Balance			<u>10,646.49</u>
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>5,540.00</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			6,036.64
Savings			16,186.36
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			<u>22,287.76</u>

Howard County Bird Club Rare Bird Policy Procedures

Adopted by Howard County Bird Club Board February 28, 2013

Is the bird on public property?

This is the easiest situation and the sighting can usually be broadcast to the entire birding community. Still, it is a good idea to include any restrictions of the property such as hours, parking, fees, etc.

If it is a rare or endangered bird, then a note about not using tapes, iPods, or any other type of disturbance should be included.

Is the bird on private property?

It is usually a good idea to have a local coordinator. Facilitating access to a rarity on private property is an extremely delicate and stressful job. This topic will be raised annually in most states.

There have been references to guidelines mentioned on bird listserv's, and we should start by pointing out that neither MOS nor any club has formal authority in such matters. Not only is it inappropriate to try to assume authority in matters of private property access, each situation is so different as to render application of strict guidelines nearly impossible.

The best anyone can do is to make some general recommendations.

Make contact with the property owner

I'm sure we'll agree that the well-being of the bird, the homeowners, and the neighbors are our greatest priorities.

1. **Make contact** with the property owner and **confirm** the identification of the bird.
2. **Communicate with the homeowners about what they're in for**, and see how much they're willing to go through for a bunch of crazy strangers who want to stand in their yard. Some homeowners for various valid reasons want a small number of visitors or even no visitors.

During the initial visit, good facilitators should do **all** of the following:

1. Be pleasant and informative.
2. Ensure the bird is documented with photo/video to establish the record.

3. Bring up the subject of banding, explaining the huge benefits to science, but also ensuring they know there's a small chance the bird might depart after the banding.
4. Prepare the homeowner for the level of interest and discuss options for how to control the flow of information.
5. Look for logistical goldmines such as a **public** place to view the bird. Suggest possible options based on homeowner's interest.
6. Suggest to the homeowner that they keep a sign-in log for the birders visiting their property.

Note: **I recommend trying to have one main facilitator** to avoid confusion and undue stress to the homeowners. This is unofficial, of course, and the homeowners should do as they please. However, imagine what a mess it could be if you had competing forces disseminating information. One main POC is best for a variety of reasons.

Bad Options

1. Post it immediately to the list-serve. *Risk*: The house is stormed and chaos ensues. The homeowners are overwhelmed. A fence is damaged. The police are telling people to move along. The birding community looks terrible and you are publicly castigated for your insensitivity to the community and the well-being of the bird.
2. Keep it nearly entirely secret and arrange only enough access to photograph it once and band the bird. *Risk*: Personal, permanent animosity from birders who believe it was unreasonable to not try to help some people see the bird. After all, in most cases, SOME visitation is easily arranged. Many homeowners love sharing their visitor. Some have gone on to become active birders and members of their local bird club.

Don't do either of those.

There's a galaxy of compromises between those two bad options. Someone should go out there and feel it out. Keep in mind that any tiny step in one direction increases risk on the other end. The *more* people you tell, the higher the chance of disturbance. The *fewer* people you tell the more animosity from the community.

Better Options

- So some sort of "Slow Release" process is what we usually settle on, often with much discussion with the homeowners. This is more manageable overall, and makes it easier to cut it off if there is disturbance to the homeowners, the neighbors, or the bird. The concept is that you tell an initial list and explain to them to tell a few people after they've seen the bird. In many cases, the bird sticks around and everyone who cares to see the bird hears about it over a week or two. It's a shame if the bird doesn't stick around long enough, but no one can predict how long it will stay, and there might be no way to increase the volume of visitors. You don't want to be the one who causes these nice people to be over-run.

So, the "Slow Release" process emerges, and it's probably the best thing we're going to get. You should start by getting some people over to get good photos and fully establish the ID, and the banders should be alerted as early as possible. Everything after this is a service you and the homeowners are doing for the birding community. By the way, the *hummingbird* banders here in Maryland are Bruce Peterjohn , David Holmes, and Joanna Lutmerding.

Who gets told beyond that is up to you, and this is where you won't win. I am 100% confident that there is no system that will satisfy even a narrow majority of people. It will also please approximately 0% of the people who don't get to see the bird. You might personally establish criteria based on being a photographer, being a local, making regular field birding contributions, membership on the records committee, being your friend, being a serious lister, or others.

Now that you have your hopeless subjective criteria, try making a list of people. If you are told to start slow (let's say 15-20 people) and let the word spread, even the people who didn't hear about it directly from the initial message might resent you. I typically get "why was I left off?" e-mails even from the people who heard about it word of mouth within 24 hours. (I tell them that's just how it has to work.) The best you can do is explain the situation, be sincere, and have thick skin. You're doing the best you can. I will say that the local bird club can be an invaluable team mate, and you might even choose to try to pass the facilitation to them. There are no golden rules, however, and saying that locals should ALWAYS control the situation is probably not correct. Many rare birds have been suppressed locally over the years, probably to greater detriment to science (i.e., documentation) and maximum possible access. Does a casual local birder have more "right" to a bird than a passionate field birder who contributes 100s of eBird reports and extensive rarity documentation regularly? People will argue about these things forever, and this is the part that will not be solved to everyone's satisfaction.

Wrapping up

- Recognize the homeowners for being awesome with a print of the bird, MOS certificate, a field guide, or bird club membership.
- Submit details to the MD/DCRC and eBird. (eBird reports should be postponed until the bird is public knowledge.)

Inputting into eBird

Wait for at least seven days before entering your checklists into eBird. We didn't want this to appear on the eBird iGoogle Gadget or go out on the rare bird alerts, encouraging people to chase who weren't familiar with the privacy concerns.

Rare Bird policy procedures drafted by Joe Hanfman with input and text from Bill Hubick. Adopted by Howard County Bird Club Board at February 28, 2013 regular board meeting.

Updated: 03/01/2013 14:57:35

Good Morning Mr. Kurt Schwarz,

The Friends of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge would like to thank you for your interest in our restoration efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. The Friends of CMNWR will be coordinating with other state agencies and environmental groups to restore the beach breeding areas of the horseshoe crab within the Delaware Bayshore Region.

Our restoration and cleanup efforts will begin shortly and your offer of funding could not have come at a better time. The logistics and planning session for the restoration effort will be during our next board meeting on March 14, 2013. An indication, if possible of the level of your gracious donation would assist in the upcoming scheduled planning session. These funds would be applied to the beach sites of the Refuge or to adjacent or nearby shoreline restoration.

Again we would like to whole heartedly thank you in advance for your interest and gracious donation.

Respectfully,
Joe Alvarez
Secretary,
Friends of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge

Location: 24 Kimbles Beach Rd.
Cape May Court House NJ 08210
phone: (609) 463-0994
fax: (609) 463-1667

Kurt, thank you for your note to Secretary Griffin concerning your interest in potentially providing funding for the horseshoe crab trawl survey.

We contacted ASMFC staff and Toni Kerns provided the following response which should be very helpful if organizations like yours are interested in donating funds to support the horseshoe crab trawl survey.

“We suggest that funding donations be given directly to VA Tech, they have a very low overhead for the trawl survey thus making donated dollars go the furthest. The contact person for the survey is Eric Hallerman (540-231-3257 or EHALLERM@VT.EDU), he can answer any questions about the survey. The contact person for development is Bob Mollenhauer (540-231-8859 or bobm5@vt.edu), he would be the person they would work with to send the donation. I believe most groups have written a check for the donations but if the group wanted to use another method Bob would be the best person to discuss this with. The Commission has worked with the donating group to write a press release on the donation. We distribute that to our press contacts, the Board, and all stakeholder groups.”
The survey cost approximately \$200,000 to complete each year. There have been some donations to date and therefore \$170,000 is need still for this year's survey. If the full funding is not received they pull stations but they strive to have all the stations. Donations would be needed by the end of March.”
Thanks again for your continue interest and support of our efforts to manage our horseshoe crab population. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me directly. (410)-260-8110 OR fdawson@dnr.state.md.us. □

A group of eight Board members met this past Thursday to kick around the implications of becoming a “Community Partner” with RNC. I want pass along some thoughts that came out of it.

With regard to the MOU:

We need to structure the document to:

- Protect our program so that major conflicts are not created. But, if they happen our program remains unaffected.
 - This year’s Sunday RNC anniversary celebration missed the Fall Count by one day.
- Set MOU year and our program year as same.
- Provide flexibility so Club gets credit for all volunteer efforts on its behalf.
 - The three morning youth sessions coming up, for instance.
- Build in ability to hold specific Club events for RNC:
 - Bird feeder workshop, for instance, in lieu of winter bird walk.

With regard to the club infrastructure:

We need to build in a RNC program component:

- Find leaders that are family, child oriented.
- Query for folks willing to volunteer for Club – RNC functions in Club membership form.
 - Start with RNC volunteers that want to be so noted.
- Work with RNC to structure events where we think improvements can be made.
 - Don’t hold all walks at RNC, for instance.

Thursday night I would like to:

- Pass a resolution that the HCBC become Community Partners with the RNC provided we can work together to create a workable MOU.
- Discuss possible ways of address incorporation of the RNC volunteer coordination into our Board infrastructure/program.

After Thursday night:

- In her cover message Stacey suggested a meeting to discuss the MOU. I intend to do that and will make the time and date known for those wanting to attend. After that and depending on changes, we would move forward with reworking and signing the MOU.

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 28, 2013

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President/Seed Sale: Ward Ebert √
Chap. Directors: Eva Sunell (1st yr) √
Sherry Tomlinson (2nd yr)
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Kevin Heffernan √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Darcy. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 14 was 61 people. Cyndie Loeper and John Bjerke gave a program entitled "Shorebirds: Selected Identification Challenges."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes distributed in advance were approved with minor changes (changes entered in archive copies).

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): The attached Treasurer's Report was distributed via email in advance of the meeting. Emy reported that she had sent checks to All Creatures Great and Small and the Friends of Cape May in accordance with our actions at prior meeting to distribute the past two year's habitat donations.

President's Remarks (Earp):

- Wes reported that he contacted Anne Hackeling with the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library about donating two youth backpacks (with binoculars and field guides) for their use. She was very receptive and accepted the packs. They will be available for patrons to check them out for use. The potential of having Kate develop a publicity announcement for this contribution will be investigated.
- Wes reported that he has or will verify that all current committee chairs wish to continue in their current positions.
- He reported that he and Jo had met with Stacy Yankee of RNC to further discuss the proposed MOU between the club and RNC. The meeting went well and the major change that was agreed to was to change the commitment from a number of field trips to a similar number of "activities."
- Wes reported that Judy Holtzman of Small Creatures Great and Small has funds to construct a new flight cage but has asked if we have any volunteers who could help with the construction.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Not present.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Neither were present but it was noted that plans for upcoming field trips are in place, including initial plans for fall trips.

Conservation (Schwarz): Prior to the meeting Kurt had forwarded information on a proposed Columbia Association completion of a pathway around Lake Kittamaquidi. He wondered if the proposal had any impact on the Great Blue heronry north of the Lake. We discussed briefly and Jo stated that appeared there would likely be sufficient separation from the proposed path and the heronry. The earliest construction would begin is 2014. We may want to inform Dave Brinker from DNR of the proposal as he was the official who advised limitations on the sewer construction near the heronry in the past. Kurt agreed to try and contact Dave and make him aware of proposal.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda reported that she had just completed the draft of next issue and it was ready for Jo's review.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he plans to update the web application form in a couple of months. He wants to add a place for a second phone number (cell), add check boxes for those interested in youth activities and RNC activities. He solicited additional ideas to add if people for the form as well. Kate took the opportunity to compliment and thank Bob for instituting the club Newsgram emails.

Nominating (Darcy): No new items, slate is ready for upcoming election at April club meeting.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): Wes reported on the last Board meeting held March 2 at the Catocin Creek Nature Center. Wes stated he will prepare his annual report for the chapter that is due in May. It was announced that MOS dues are legitimate charitable deductions for federal taxes. Joy Aso is taking over the task of preparing MOS certificates and awards. Ron Johnson is new membership chairman. Mark Johnson was very pleased with the Rare Bird Policy and Guidelines prepared by Joe Hanfman and Bill Hubick that our club had submitted. They will likely be adopted as MOS guidance. Tom Strikwerda reported that plans are underway to allow the use of credit cards for paying membership dues. Bob Ringler reported he will be stepping down as the MOS person to answer questions left on the MOS answering system at Cylburn. It was announced that plans are underway to resume publishing MD Birdlife but it will be a fresh start, i.e., the intervening years issues will not be published. The amount that Chapters will be reimbursed for hosting board meetings will increase to \$60. The location of the 2014 MOS Conference will be Solomons on the 3rd weekend in May.

Old Business

Greenfest – Plans are in place for booth on April 13.

Habitat Donation 2011 & 2012 – Checks have been sent and acknowledged.

RNC MOU – See President's Remarks. Jo also added her impression that the RNC staff was very open to us proposing whatever seem like good ideas. Specifically they were open to holding field trips at other locations than the nature center grounds.

Backpacks – See President's Remarks

New Business

State Director Qualifications – Kate had raised the question of whether the nominating committee should have a set of formal qualifications for State Director and potentially Vice-President. The position of Chapter Director was originally envisioned as a means to introduce someone to the Board's activities. We might want to ensure that State Director's have served on Board perhaps as Chapter Director before being nominated as a State Director. Kevin reminded the Board of the approach he adopted as President of having the entire Board act as an unofficial nominating committee to brainstorm potential officers so that all potential candidates are made known to the official nominating committee. There was general consensus that this was a good practice. The possibility of having term limits for the State Director positions was raised. The committee should not always proceed as standing directors should be re-nominated, especially when they appear to have lost interest and are not regularly attending state board meetings.

Club Records Management – Kevin had recently provided Wes with a carton of club records that he had organized while he was President. Wes wondered whether any of the material was worth having scanned so we would have an electronic copy. Ward reminded the Board that he had initiated an effort to identify what records we have and who holds them while he was President. At that time he generated a spreadsheet to capture that information. Ward agreed to share the spreadsheet (not completed) with the Board. Kevin and Chuck agreed to go through the material and provide recommendations on what to retain and if worth it which to scan.

In a related matter Kevin asked if the Board found the spreadsheet he prepares with annual membership application survey data to be useful. It was agreed the sheets were being used and since Kevin was willing to do so he should continue to prepare them.

Around the Room -

- Wes expressed his thanks to Kathie for coordinating the pot luck and the Board joined in the expression.
- Jo reported that the state Records Committee had accepted the Sabine's Gull record.
- Emy reminded the Board that she had submitted a proposed budget with the prior month's treasurer's report and we should review it and approve it at the April Board meeting. (Copy attached)
- Amanda reported that there continues some activity on the club Facebook page. She has "liked" the RNC. We are now up to 62 Facebook friends. Some of these have started posting pictures on the site. She agreed to continue as the club's Facebook coordinator after she steps down as Goldfinch editor.
- Bob announced that he has added the Sabine's Gull to the official club field checklist on web site.
- Kathie reminded the Board that our April meeting will be held at her home and passed out a handout with directions. We should park on the road but not at the round-about where people turn around. (If you need a copy of handout contact Kathie.)
- Kurt encouraged Board members to complete the DNR survey that he recently forwarded a web link for. He also mentioned that at the state level the conservation committee I addressing ATV trails in Green Ridge Forest. Lastly he mentioned the conference at Jug Bay, sponsored by the Anne Arundel chapter, on April 20 dealing with habitat conservation efforts by the birding community. Those planning to attend were Kurt, Wes, Kevin, and Jo. Wes mentioned that he had submitted a list of our activities in this regard to the organizers.
- Ward announced that he had transferred responsibility for assembling the annual list of birds seen in Howard County, and the related Goldfinch article, to Joe Hanfman.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Prepare a description of the Youth Club Coordinator responsibilities and solicit volunteer(s) – Wes
- Pursue with RNC whether we will be able to use their process of background checks on volunteers for those who volunteer to help with Youth Club – Wes
- Make minor updates to Rare Bird Guidelines and post on web site – Bob DONE
- Send our donation of \$200 to All Creatures Great and Small – Emy DONE
- Contact Cape May and obtain information for Emy on where to send our donation of \$1500 for beach restoration – Kurt DONE
- Continue efforts to formally establish terms of our "community partnership" with Robinson Nature Center – Wes
- Explore donating backpacks to the Howard County Library (Miller Branch) as items available for loan to library members - Wes DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Prepare a description of the Youth Club Coordinator responsibilities and solicit volunteer(s) – Wes
- Pursue with RNC whether we will be able to use their process of background checks on volunteers for those who volunteer to help with Youth Club – Wes
- Continue efforts to formally establish terms of our "community partnership" with Robinson Nature Center – Wes
- Send Bob a copy of the most recent application summary spreadsheet – Kevin
- Contact Dave Brinker to let him know about the proposed Lake Kittamaqundi pathway – Kurt

- Add a request for volunteer(s) to build the flight cage for All Creatures Great and Small to the next electronic Newsgram – Bob
- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Kevin & Chuck
- Send a copy of the records spreadsheet to Board – Ward
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process - Chuck

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	Ward Ebert	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Bird Club, Board of Director’s Meeting, Agenda – March 28, 2013
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/12 – 3/26/13
- Howard County Bird Club, Chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society, Operating Budget, 5/1/13 – 4/30/14 (Proposed)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

March 61

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
March 28, 2013**

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. MOS Board Notes | Wes & Kate |
| 7. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Amanda |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| • Nomination Committee | Karen |
| 8. Old Business | |
| • Greenfest | Kate |
| • Habitat Donation 2011 & 2012 | Kurt |
| • RNC MOU | Wes & Jo |
| • Back Packs | Wes |
| . New Business/Discussions | |
| • State Director Qualifications | Kate |
| • Club Records management | Wes |
| 10. Action Items | Chuck |
| 11. Around the room | |

Meeting Location: Karen Darcy’s
Next Meeting: April

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/12-3/26/13

	Budget 2012-13	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		55.00	5,365.00
State Dues Paid			(3,265.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	55.00	2,100.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,300.00</u>	<u>55.00</u>	<u>2,100.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		44.03
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	150.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		143.40
Postage, copies	75.00		157.37
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Yellowbooks			67.50
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			48.36
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies			
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	550.00	58.00	249.50
Miscellaneous			
Habitat Preservation			117.90
Display Board			126.10
Greenfest			25.00
See <i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>1,575.00</u>	<u>108.00</u>	<u>1,129.16</u>
Income			3,953.00
Expense			
Seed			3,954.00
Flyers, postage			37.90
Net Seed Sale			<u>(38.90)</u>
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			<u>1,621.00</u>
Donation to Habitat Preservation:			
All creatures Great & Small			200.00
Cape May NWR Friends			1,500.00
 Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,645.70
Interest Received		0.25	1.04
Balance			<u>10,646.74</u>
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>5,540.00</u>
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,283.64
Savings			16,186.74
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			<u>20,535.01</u>

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
CHAPTER OF MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/13 - 4/30/14**

	Proposed Budget 2013-14
<i>Operating Fund</i>	
Income:	
Membership Dues (net)	2,100.00
Contributions	
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<i>2,100.00</i>
Expense:	
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Website	150.00
Postage, Copies	200.00
Pot Luck Dinner Supplies	50.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	400.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<i>1,550.00</i>

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 25, 2013

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Past President/Seed Sale: Ward Ebert √
Chap. Directors: Eva Sunell (1st yr) √
 Sherry Tomlinson (2nd yr)
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
 Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Bonnie Ott
 Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Amanda Witt
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: John McKitterick √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kathie Lillie. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 11 was 49 people. David Holmes gave a program entitled “Enhanced Identification: Seeing Beyond Color.”

The annual club business meeting was held on April 11 to elect the officers for next year. The slate of officer’s assembled by the nominating committee. The slate was President – Wes Earp, Vice-President – Robin Todd, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Emy Holdridge, State Directors – Karen Darcy, John McKitterick, and Kate Tufts, and Chapter Directors – Ward Ebert (1st Yr) and Eva Sunell (2nd Yr). It was moved that the secretary should cast the ballot as a whole. It was seconded and the ballot passed unanimously.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the attached Treasurer’s Report prior to the meeting. It includes dues received from 3 new members. She had also sent the attached proposed budget for the next club year. After a brief discussion a motion was made to approve the proposed budget. The motion was seconded and approved.

President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes had included his remarks as agenda items that are covered below under old and new business.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin reviewed briefly what birds he had seen during his recent visit to the United Kingdom.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Wes reported that although Bonnie will continue as co-chair Joe will be leading efforts.

Conservation (Schwarz): Jug Bay Workshop - Kurt, Wes, Bob, and Jo summarized the “Workshop on How the Birding Community Can Support Habitat Conservation” hosted by the Anne Arundel Bird Club and MOS on April 20. Representatives from several organizations (e.g. The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon, American Bird

Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited) as well as many MOS chapters attended. Several activities were discussed including encouraging greater cooperation between these organizations, ensuring more consistent lobbying efforts, and ensuring we thank our pro-environment representatives. Although it is still unclear what it means, a proposal for forming a Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative modeled on an initiative in Wisconsin. Another activity that was announced was a "Lights out Annapolis" initiative to be undertaken by the Anne Arundel Bird Club

DNR Public Meeting at RNC – Kurt announced that the MD Dept. of Natural Resources is holding a series of 3 public hearing on it's update to the Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. The one for the Central region was rescheduled for June 19 after being canceled by snow. It will be held at the Robinson Nature Center from 6 to 8 pm. Kurt wants to encourage as many of us as possible to attend. George Alderson reports that the off-road vehicle lobby is attempting to have the plans change to allow far wider access to trails on state lands and parks. MOS has filed an official position paper and individuals are encouraged to fill out the web survey on this plan as well. Kurt will circulate a sign up sheet at the May meeting in an attempt to get a larger turnout. The meeting will also be announced in a future Newsgram.

Newsletter (Witt): Amanda wasn't present but the May-June issue has been distributed. She has begun transferring information to Howard Patterson as the new editor. She will assist him with the September-October issue.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob had distributed a preliminary set of changes for the bottom half of the web-based club membership application survey. A number of additions and changes were discussed at the meeting. Attached is a revised version of the survey incorporating the changes proposed at the meeting.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last club board meeting.

Old Business

Greenfest – Kate reported that it was her impression that the overall attendance was down from last year, but we had a different location, that turned out to be a good one and had considerable traffic stopping by.

WSSC Permission – Wes wanted to make sure that we have a coordinator who has accepted responsibility for requesting the permission letters. I assured him that Kevin Heffernan as May Count coordinator had accepted this responsibility and will ask for a letter (email) covering all three counts after the MOS liability insurance is available since it changes April 1 annually. Karen agreed to confirm this with Kevin. *Sec. Note – Kevin distributed the permission letter to coordinators on April 29.*

Election Results to MOS - Chuck reported he had sent the slate of new officers and their contact information to the MOS Secretary, Janet Shields, on April 22.

New Business

Certificate for Duncans – Joe Hanfman had made arrangements with Joy Aso regarding the certificate to be given the Duncans' thanking them for their gracious hosting of those coming to view the Summer Tanager this winter. Kevin Heffernan had sent Joy a picture of the tanager. Karen agreed to speak with Kevin and have him confirm with the Duncans that they will attend the May club meeting to receive the award.

In a related matter Wes stated that he already had the certificate to be awarded to Amanda in recognition of her service as Goldfinch editor. He will contact Anne Marie to ensure she brings the rest of award to the May meeting.

RNC Program Coordinator – Wes announced that Harry Fink had volunteered to take responsibility for coordinating the activities we will be conducting for Robinson Nature Center as part of our MOU that gives us use of the facility for our meetings. Ideas for activities are solicited, but remember they will be fee based as part of the RNC program. Ideas proposed so far include an Owl Walk in October and a "Bird Day" in January. Our primary RNC contact for these, Megan Leatherbury, is currently out on medical leave, so progress on the MOU may be on hold for a while. They have recently hired a new staff person responsible for community outreach and she may become a contact.

Remember that we still want to keep Karen Darcy aware of all contacts with RNC as our primary POC to them. Wes agreed to send Karen the name of the new staff person.

New AV Person – Wes announced that June Tveekrem has asked to be relieved of this responsibility and he asked the Board for suggestions on who might be possibilities to approach about volunteering. Names mentioned were Jim Lubitz, Richard Peters, Tom Miller, and Charles Buzzzanka. Wes will approach one or more of these individuals to see if they would agree. Probably will try and also identify a backup person.

Bird Seed Sale – Although it is early, Ward asked to address this tonight as he won't be present at the May Board meeting. He proposed that we hold the sale in concert with The Wildlife Authority again on October 5, with a backup pick-up date of October 12. Kevin Cassidy proposed having a backup date and that he was willing to store the seed for the extra week. The date announcement needs to go in the Sept-Oct newsletter which has a July 25 deadline and Ward agreed to confirm dates and prepare this announcement after his return from England. Bob pointed out that starting with this sale we will not include sales tax in prices (non-whole dollar amounts) and add a 6% sales tax at bottom of form. This will be available as an interactive electronic form on the web.

Howard County Community College Program – Kathie reported on a conversation she had at Greenfest with Mr. Marietta, the HCC official responsible for sustainability. He talked to her about a number of ideas on how the club might undertake activities in concert with HCC groups. He mentioned that there is an Environmental Club that might provide opportunities for cooperation. We could publicize our programs and walks on campus. Need to determine who would be best HCC POC and share it with Alan Lewis. Kate agreed she will be sure to add HCC (who?) to list sent the announcements for MOS scholarships. Kathie had located a 2008 "future commission report" with ideas for HCC campus plans that included references to habitat improvement, etc. Kathie agreed to draft a response to Mr. Marietta for the Board to review. The intent will be to have him identify POC's and generally leave the idea that if they "come to us with ideas for cooperation" we would consider them.

Membership Renewal Form Changes – See Webmaster report above.

Invite New Officials to the May meeting – Wes wanted to make sure minutes extend invite to next meeting to those new officers as traditionally this meeting involves both new and current Board members.

Around the Room –

- Kurt announced he had first Wood Thrush in yard just before meeting.
- Kathie reported having chickadees drinking from her hummingbird feeders.
- Jo reported that Sue Muller and Dick Smith are making plans to conduct a different form of butterfly survey over the next few years. This will be different than the national survey that we had been supporting. 2013 will be a prototype year of the process. The effort will be supported by Howard Rec and Parks and the bird club. Those interested in participating will select a site (park, private land, etc.) and survey the site for butterflies every 2 weeks or once a month from April to October. Sue and Dick will provide a set of guidelines, one of which is that all unusual sighting require photo. Sue also plans to use effort as a form of public outreach, and will likely conduct some surveys on county land on advertised dates open to the public. Some of the surveys will be coordinated with RNC. The club will provide for data retention on web.
- Bob announced that since we forgot to notify the club that the latest MOS Yellowthroat is available on the MOS website, he will include announcement in upcoming Newsgram as well as promoting participation in the May Count of May 11.
- Jo added to the discussion of Jug Bay workshop that she sat in on a side session focused on youth outreach. The major take away is that the Delaware OS has chosen successfully to focus on "family" vice "youth." They have no age limits and parents must attend when children involved. This eliminates many of the security concerns we have been discussing.
- Bob then addressed the subject of another computer laptop for the club. June has been bringing her own personal laptop to use for the photo display on big screen pre-meeting. After some discussion of the age of our current laptop, it was moved we pursue obtaining a new laptop to replace the current laptop for speaker support with a new one, and demote the current machine to being for use with the photos. Bob or Wes will approach June to see if she has time to research a replacement. We decided to wait until we have some

idea of how much money will be required before formally authorizing expenditure. We will decide then whether funds should come from the general operating account or the Mountjoy fund.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Prepare a description of the Youth Club Coordinator responsibilities and solicit volunteer(s) – Wes TABLE THIS ACTION PENDING PROGRAM FOR KIDS THAT KATE IS COORDINATING AT RNC
- Pursue with RNC whether we will be able to use their process of background checks on volunteers for those who volunteer to help with Youth Club – Wes PLAN TO FOCUS ON FAMILY SO NOT NECESSARY
- Continue efforts to formally establish terms of our “community partnership” with Robinson Nature Center – Wes
- Send Bob a copy of the most recent application summary spreadsheet – Kevin CHUCK SENT ON 5/1
- Contact Dave Brinker to let him know about the proposed Lake Kittamaqundi pathway – Kurt DECIDED NO ISSUE WITH HERONRY
- Add a request for volunteer(s) to build the flight cage for All Creatures Great and Small to the next electronic Newsgram – Bob DONE
- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Kevin & Chuck
- Send a copy of the records spreadsheet to Board – Ward DONE
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process - Chuck

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Announce the DNR Public Meeting at RNC scheduled for June 19 and pass around a sign-up sheet at May club meeting – Kurt
- Confirm Kevin has made arrangements for WSSC access letters for all 3 counts – Karen DONE
- Have Kevin confirm the Duncan’s will attend May club meeting to receive award – Karen
- Confirm Amanda will attend May club meeting and remind Anne Marie Ratterman to bring gift – Wes
- Send Karen the name of new Community Relations person at RNC – Wes
- Add Howard Community College to the list of organizations receiving announcement of MOS scholarships – Kate
- Draft an email reply to Mr. Marrietta (sp?), HCC sustainability etc., expressing willingness to consider ideas he and HCC have for cooperation between HCC and student groups and the club for review by the Board – Kathie
- Contact June (or alternate if she unavailable) and ask she research a new replacement laptop – Bob/Wes

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	Ward Ebert	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Bird Club Board Meeting Agenda – 4/25/2013
- Howard County Bird Club Treasurer’s Report 5/1/12 – 4/24/13
- Howard County Bird Club, Chapter of Maryland Ornithological Society, Operating Budget, 5/1/13 - 5/30/14 – Approved 4/25/13
- Workshop on How the Birding Community in Maryland Can Support Habitat Conservation – 4/20/2013

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

April 49

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
April 25, 2013**

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| Proposed Budget adoption | |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| ○ Jug Bay Workshop 4/20/13 | Kurt, Wes, Jo & Bob |
| ○ DNR Public Meeting RNC | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Amanda |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Greenfest | Kate |
| • WSSC Permissions | |
| • Election results to MOS | Chuck |
| . New Business/Discussions | |
| • Certificate for Duncans | Joe |
| • RNC Program Coordinator | Wes |
| • New AV Person | All |
| • Bird Seed Sale | Ward |
| • Ho Co Community College Program | Kathie |
| • Membership Renewal Form Changes | Bob |
| • Invite new officials to May meeting | Wes |
| 10. Action Items | Chuck |
| 11. Around the room | |

Meeting Location: Kathie Lillie’s, 4102 Roxbury Mill Rd. (off of Rte. 97) Use the North end.
Next Meeting: May 23 @ Kate Tufts

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUE
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/12-4/24/13

	Budget 2012-13	Current Month	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		110.00	5,475.00
State Dues Paid			(3,265.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,300.00	110.00	2,210.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u>2,300.00</u>	<u>110.00</u>	<u>2,210.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	150.00		44.03
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		150.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		143.40
Postage, copies	75.00		157.37
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Yellowbooks			67.50
Equipment			
Seed Sale Expense			
Art Contest for Youth			48.36
Pot Luck Dinner:			
Facility Rental & Supplies			
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	550.00	123.00	372.50
Miscellaneous			
Habitat Preservation			117.90
Display Board			126.10
Greenfest		3.58	28.58
See <i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u>1,575.00</u>	<u>126.58</u>	<u>1,255.74</u>
Income			3,953.00
Expense			
Seed			3,954.00
Flyers, postage			37.90
Net Seed Sale			<u>(38.90)</u>
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			<u>1,621.00</u>
Donation to Habitat Preservation:			
All creatures Great & Small			200.00
Cape May NWR Friends			1,500.00
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,645.70
Interest Received		0.27	1.31
Balance			<u>10,647.01</u>
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>5,540.00</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,267.06
Savings			16,187.01
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			<u>20,518.70</u>

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
CHAPTER OF MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OPERATING BUDGET, 5/1/13 - 4/30/14**

		Budget 2013-14
<i>Operating Fund</i>		
Income:		
Membership Dues (net)		2,100.00
Contributions		
<i>Total Operating Income</i>		2,100.00
Expense:		
Supplies for Bird Counts		100.00
Meetings:		
Programs		600.00
Hospitality		50.00
Special Supplies		
Website		150.00
Postage, Copies		200.00
Greenfest		25.00
Pot Luck Dinner Supplies		50.00
Publications:		
Newsletter & Directory		350.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>		1,525.00

Approved at Board meeting on April 25, 2013

Workshop on How the Birding Community in Maryland Can Support the Conservation of Natural Habitat

Background

Natural habitats for birds and other wildlife are fast disappearing and threatening the future of many bird populations at state, national and international levels. Studies portray most species in decline with a 'tipping point' for many in sight. Increasingly violent variations in temperature, wind and precipitation are asserting powerful impacts on our environment and fast-rising sea levels pose immense challenges already visible on our very doorstep. We are witnessing profound change and prompt, sustained actions are demanded if we are to restore habitats and reverse declines.

Birders have an important role to play in addressing these issues. The Anne Arundel Bird Club (AABC) has a membership of 600/700 comprising natural science professionals and volunteers supporting local and national conservation efforts. Along with qualified ornithologists and conservationists, they can help inform debate at the political level, raise awareness of young people and civil society in general and help on-the-ground conservation efforts by partnering with sympathetic organizations.

In recognizing the challenges ahead and needed actions, the AABC would like to convene a one-day workshop in April of 2013 outlining opportunities for conserving Maryland's bird populations, suitably-scaled priority actions for adoption by the Maryland Bird Clubs and the MOS, and sustained partnering with selected conservation organizations.

The Workshop Objectives

The major objectives of the workshop would be to:

- Convey the pressures on the natural environment and the failing health of our ecosystems in the State of Maryland accounting for the decline of birdlife;
- Identify opportunities for conserving habitat for bird life and wildlife;
- Determine priorities for adoption by the birding community (e.g., influencing decision-making, awareness raising, supporting a state-wide strategy, and partnering);
- Stipulate feasible actions to be taken by all parties in the short- and long-term; and,
- Identify partnering opportunities (e.g., surveys, restoration, etc.)

The Workshop

The morning sessions would be devoted to brief, targeted presentations on major issues and feasible responses, demonstrating good practice for adoption and ownership at the local level and opportunities for partnering with the birding community. Discussion would be devoted to identifying priorities for more detailed discussion in the working groups.

The afternoon would convene the working groups formed around agreed topics. Each would be chaired and a rapporteur would summarize the findings of the group for discussion in plenary.

A wrap up would summarize the recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Bird Clubs, the MOS and invited conservation organizations.

Target Audience

Participants would be drawn from MOS Bird Clubs, the MOS Conservation Group and bird conservation organizations such as the American Bird Conservancy, Audubon MD/DC, Partners in Flight and the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, DENR, MD, and Jug Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

Output

A summary document would be made available to all participants and Club Presidents would present the findings to their respective members and report to the MOS meetings on progress in adopting the recommendations. A follow up, meeting would be held in the autumn of 2013.

Agenda

Jug Bay, 20th April, 2013

8.30. Reception and Breakfast

9.00. Introduction and Purpose of the Workshop (AABC)

9.15./10.30: Part I. Panel on the challenges of conserving Maryland's birds, priorities for action, and opportunities for partnering (I): Audubon, ABC, Partners in Flight, etc.

Discussion

10.30/10.50 Coffee/Tea

10.50/12.00: Part 2. Panel on the challenges of conserving Maryland's birds, priorities for action, and opportunities for partnering (II): Jug Bay , DNR, etc.

Discussion

12.00/12.30: Summary of issues/recommendations and charge to the afternoon's working groups: *examples given below; groups to reflect recommendations of plenary discussion, including means of implementation*

1. Garnering youth (committing the young, education, etc.)

2. Partnering opportunities (science, activism, etc.)

3. State strategy for bird conservation (KBAs, etc.)

4. Conservation on the ground

12.30/2.00 Lunch and bird walk

2.00/3.30 Working Groups (appoint chairs and rapporteurs)

3.30/4.00: Break

4.00/5.00: Plenary discussion

5.00/5.15: Wrap up: summary of actions/who to do what

5.30/6.30: Social gathering

Terms of Reference for Moderator(s) for Plenary Sessions

Moderators should ensure that:

- They are familiar with the panelists, bio data and their names/affiliations; and,
- Have a basic plan/strategy to run the session, ensuring an interesting exchange of information with active participation of the audience;
- Keep panelists to allotted time;
- Give the floor to the audience for questions/observations, etc. avoiding unnecessary discussion, monologues, etc.
- Provide time for speakers to reply or comments and redirect them to the panelists eliciting the most important issues, especially if time is limited; and,
- Present a summary of the discussion, highlighting any conclusions and recommendations.

Terms of Reference for Chairs of Working Group Sessions

The Chairs will introduce the session and selected topic, manage the time to address all issues, guide discussion and summarize conclusions. Specifically, the Chairs will:

- Introduce themselves;
- Introduce the topic and duration of the session;
- Encourage a round of introductions at the beginning of the working session;
- Outline the scope of the topic to be discussed and related issues to be addressed;
- Stimulate discussion on conclusions and recommendations; and,
- Summarize with concluding highlights.

Terms of Reference for Rapporteurs of Working Group Sessions

Rapporteurs will:

- Note the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of their session;
- Prepare a short summary report for brief presentation to the plenary discussion; and,
- Prepare a brief report (max 200 words) on the findings and conclusions of the session.

Provisional arrangements

A. Logistics:

- Place: Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Lindsay Hollister to confirm availability)

- Time: 20th April, 2013 (to be confirmed)
- 40 invited participants (see beginning list of panelists and audience invitees below)
- Breakfast and luncheon provided (Lindsay to provide cost estimates)
- Combine workshop with bird walk and restoration activity at Jug Bay (before and after workshop?)

B. Potential Topics

- Partnering with conservation groups re. bird banding/surveys, youth activities, support to special studies (e.g. wood thrush populations), control of invasives, support to Audubon's Conservation Strategy (adaptation to climate change, etc.), direct support to protected areas, bird-friendly gardening, stewardship, etc.
- Carbon offsets
- National/international activities: habitat-friendly coffee (Smithsonian)

C. Panelists (provisional list)

- Audubon MD/DC (David Curson)
- ABC
- Paul Baichich
- Jug Bay
- Bill Stewart, DELMAVA Bird Group (Conservation Chair) (Hilary to contact to see if Bill can come to our January Board meeting)
- DENR
- Patuxent??

D. Invited audience (more to be added, incl. chairs)

- Bob Ringler, Carroll County
- Ellen Lawler/ Jean and Larry Fry , Tri-County
- George Radcliffe, Kent County
- Carol Schreter, Joan Cui and Wendy Olson, Baltimore County.
- Mark Johnson, Harford
- Ralph Stephens, Montgomery
- Bill Hubick, Charles
- David Smith, Frederick
- Kurt Schwartz, Howard
- Gwen Brewer (DNR)
- Dave Brinker (DNR)
- Jim McCann (DNR)
- Ron Gutbertlet (STU)
- Scott Johnson (TU)
- Dan Boon
- Chan Robbins
- David Ziolkowski (USGS)

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 23, 2013

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (✓)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp ✓
Vice-president: Robin Todd ✓
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat ✓
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
Past President/Seed Sale: Ward Ebert
Chap. Directors: Eva Sunell (1st yr.) ✓
 Sherry Tomlinson (2nd yr.) ✓
State Directors: Karen Darcy ✓
 Kate Tufts ✓

Field Trips:

Programs:
Conservation:
Newsletter:
Records:
Webmaster:
Potluck:
Publicity:

Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Jane Geuder
Kurt Schwarz
Amanda Witt ✓
Jo Solem ✓
Bob Solem ✓
Kathie Lillie ✓
Allen Lewis
John McKitterick ✓
Howard Patterson ✓

Others/New Board:

Chapter Committees:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 9 was 49 people. Jonathan Leddon gave a program entitled “Protecting Birds and Airplanes Around Local Airports.” Meeting was somewhat memorable as we drove to Kate’s in torrential rain and partway through meeting the power went out when a large tree came down across lines just up the road from the Tuft’s. Luckily they had a generator and we were able to complete the meeting.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The prior minutes indicated that the final version of Bob’s updated application form was attached, but had not been attached. Accordingly the form is attached to this version of the minutes. Minutes were approved given that correction.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy did not attend do to the heavy rain, but had forwarded the attached Treasurer’s report.

President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes reported that he had prepared and submitted the club’s annual report to the state MOS. Bob has posted a copy of the report on our web site. Wes stated he was still looking for a volunteer to assume responsibility for the Audio/Visual equipment and support at meetings. He reported that Karen had met with Pamela Reese, Community Liaison, Robinson Nature Center. They agreed that Karen was our POC with RNC and Pamela was our POC to them. She provided them with a list of our officers and requested they supply us with an organization chart identifying the names and positions of their staff. Wes reaffirmed that Harry Fink has agreed to serve as coordinator of the programs we have agreed to set up with RNC as part of an MOU currently in draft. Wes stated that they are soliciting ideas for a winter program and a spring activity. Lastly he stated that our relationship with the U of MD Central Farm is being restructured. Bonnie has asked to step down as our POC to farm and Wes is working on how to proceed.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin noted that he had enjoyed the program on birds and airports given at the last meeting.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report, but Kurt had indicated he is planning to attend the upcoming DNR session at RNC.

Newsletter (Witt): The deadline for the September newsletter is July 25. Amanda reported that she met with Howard the previous day and had provided him a turnover package. The Board expressed its appreciation for the wonderful job Amanda has done in her 6 years as editor, and plans to formally recognize her contributions at a future meeting.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob brought up the issue that currently only he has copies of the club database (a 3.5 Byte Access Database with all the personal information on members and others who receive emails and seed sale announcements). In addition the only backups to our club web pages (8.71 Bytes) are those he has (copy on web, copy on his hard-drive, and his personal machine backups. He wants to consider establishing a more formal backup environment, for example on-line (“cloud”) storage for both the web site and the club database, with others authorized as alternate administrators. Bob, John McKitterick, and Chuck agreed to explore options and recommend an approach for backup. It was moved and seconded that if they agreed on a method, they should proceed to setup a backup system for the web and database with up to \$200 annually available if required.

In a related matter, Bob has been working on a method to allow a few other club members to send email on behalf of the club. At present he is the only one able to do so. He is attempting to set up Yahoo web email lists that would permit giving one or more additional persons the ability to send emails to the club membership and other email lists. He will discuss his approach with John and Chuck to arrive at a final solution. Amanda reminded us that she has also created an email address associated with the club Facebook page, available for use. The address is hocobirds@yahoo.com.

Bob reported that he has posted the updated interactive membership form on the website to be used for future applications.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since our last Board meeting.

Old Business

Howard County Community College Follow up – Kathie had distributed a draft of an email to Robert Marietta, Safety and Sustainability Manager, HCCC as a response to his approaching the club for potential collaboration between HCCC and club. We agreed the email should come from Wes and that it was appropriate to mention Anne Marie Raterman as she had been present when the first discussion took place at Greenfest. We should offer to send them the electronic version of our newsletter (actually email sends link so they can distribute it to other HCCC contacts). Wes took action to send the email to him shortly.

New Computer – John reported that he had taken possession of the laptop from June and is planning to inventory the current software we have and see if we need to license additional copies for a new laptop if we keep the software on the old one as a backup. Someone asked if low cost copies of MS Office available through employers could be used, but several pointed out that those licenses usually have very stringent requirements on their use. He estimates that purchase of a new laptop will be less than \$750. It was moved, seconded, and approved that John is authorized up to \$750 to purchase a new laptop for the club.

New A/V Person – As Wes reported in his opening remarks he has not yet found a volunteer for this position. Tom Miller has agreed to serve as a backup when needed.

Bird Seed Sale – Ward was not present but had reported that our choice of October 5 for the sale was confirmed with The Wildlife Authority. They are willing to allow people pick up seed any day during the following week through Saturday October 12. If there are still a few orders not picked up as the week winds down, Ward will call and remind people.

New Business

Fall and 2014 Meeting Dates and Locations –

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

990-N Form to IRS – July – Wes agreed to contact Emy and confirm she will submit our form in June or July.

Around the Room –

Eva offered her thoughts on activities for the Winter Program (January?) at RNC. She has several craft activity ideas for family members. Other ideas discussed were bird house kits and Kevin H. has proposed giving a “Beginning Birds” program. One thought is that we should ensure families include children’s ages when they register so we can tailor activities. It was also pointed out that we should find out soon how much lead time we need to allow for ensuring get into RNC advertising.

Kate provided a report on recent Monarch butterfly projects she has been involved in.

Jo reported that she and Ralph Cullison finally delivered the last copy of the Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas that we had purchased to show our appreciation to those organizations that had provided access for Atlas monitoring. Namely this copy was given to the Manager of the Alpha Ridge Landfill.

Bob reminded the Board that if necessary Wes could call a virtual Board meeting via email during the summer.

John suggested that we should initiate recruitment for new participants for seasonal counts much earlier than has been the practice in the past. It was agreed this would be an excellent practice and that the membership survey spreadsheet that Kevin assembles would be a great tool in identifying those to recruit.

Eva asked who was coordinating refreshments for club meeting next fall. Secretary notes did not record an answer if one was given.

Robin reported that he has a Cooper’s Hawk in his neighborhood but has not located the nest.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Announce the DNR Public Meeting at RNC scheduled for June 19 and pass around a sign-up sheet at May club meeting – Kurt DONE
- Confirm Kevin has made arrangements for WSSC access letters for all 3 counts – Karen DONE
- Have Kevin confirm the Duncan’s will attend May club meeting to receive award – Karen DONE
- Confirm Amanda will attend May club meeting and remind Anne Marie Raterman to bring gift – Wes UPDATED
- Send Karen the name of new Community Relations person at RNC – Wes DONE
- Add Howard Community College to the list of organizations receiving announcement of MOS scholarships – Kate - ACKNOWLEDGED

- Draft an email reply to Mr. Marietta, HCCC Sustainability Mgr., expressing willingness to consider ideas he and HCCC have for cooperation between HCCC, student groups, and the club for review by the Board – Kathie
DONE
- Contact June (or alternate if she unavailable) and ask she research a new replacement laptop – Bob/Wes
CLOSE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Have Kevin obtain copy of small Sibley from Anne Marie and deliver it to the Duncan’s as it was forgotten when they were honored at the May club meeting – Kevin H. (Karen)
- Confirm Amanda will attend future club meeting for recognition and remind Anne Marie Raterman to bring gift at that time – Wes
- Announce the DNR Public Meeting at RNC scheduled for June 19 in a club NEWSGRAM – Bob
- Send email Mr. Marietta with response on collaboration with HCCC - Wes
- Complete research and purchase a new laptop for the club and submit reimbursement request to Emy – John
- Submit club 990-N form to IRS – Emy
- Research methods of backing up club electronic data (club database, web site pages and documentation) on the “cloud” and setup process after deciding on approach. – Bob, John, and Chuck

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 27, 2012	-	Wes Earp	
October 25, 2012	-	Kurt Schwarz	
November 15, 2012	-	Amanda Witt	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 24, 2013	-	Ward Ebert	
February 28, 2013	-	Jo Solem	
March 28, 2013	-	Karen Darcy	
April 25, 2013	-	Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2013	-	Kate Tufts	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – May 23, 2013
- Final updated lower half of the membership application posted on the website
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/13 – 5/22/13

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
May 23, 2013**

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| ○ Sept-Oct Newsletter deadline | |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| ○ Records backup | |
| ○ Web-based club membership survey changes | |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Ho Co College follow up | Kathie |
| • New Computer | Wes/Bob/John |
| • New AV Person | Wes |
| • Bird Seed Sale | Ward |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Fall and 2014 Meeting dates & locations | All |
| • 990-N form to IRS – July | |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location: Kate Tufts

(Bottom half of HCBC membership application form)

Activities/Interests:

Remember our club relies completely on volunteers!

Survey & Counts	Volunteer Member Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas bird count (Triadelphia) <input type="checkbox"/> Midwinter bird count <input type="checkbox"/> May bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Fall bird count <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly count <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly count/surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Plant surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Amphibians & reptiles <input type="checkbox"/> Other (continue on back) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Outreach: Represent club at events/ displays (e.g. <i>Greenfest</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Provide refreshments (snacks & drink) at one club meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Help with potluck or special events <input type="checkbox"/> Help coordinate youth activities <input type="checkbox"/> Club activities at Robinson Nature Center <input type="checkbox"/> Other (continue on back) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Rare Bird Alert. <u>Send Email alerts to:</u> Email (1) _____ Email (2) _____	Club Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Howard County Lister.	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips: Serve as trip leader or co-leader. <input type="checkbox"/> Programs: I have suggestions. Contact me. <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation: I would like to receive action E-mails regarding Howard County and Maryland conservation issues. Contact me. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (continue on back)
Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Other comments or suggestions: (Put on back)
<input type="checkbox"/> What past trips have you enjoyed most? (Put on back.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> What types of trips or locations would you want included for next year's field trips? (Put on back.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> SEND INFORMATION ABOUT THE BIRD CLUB TO THE FOLLOWING NON-MEMBER: (Put on back.)	

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/13-4/30/14

	Budget 2013-14	Current Month	Year to Date (5/1/13-5/22/13)
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		135.00	135.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,100.00	135.00	135.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
Total Operating Income	2,100.00	135.00	135.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	75.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	200.00		
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	350.00		
Miscellaneous			
Greenfest	25.00		
Total Operating Expense	1,525.00	75.00	75.00
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Seed			
Flyers, postage			
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			22.00
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Res Interest Received		0.27	10,645.70
Balance			1.58
			10,647.28
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			4,349.06
Savings			16,187.28
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			20,600.97

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 2013

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr.) √
Eva Sunell (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Robin Todd. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 12 was 75 people. Dave & Maureen Harvey gave a program entitled “Birding in Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was not present but had sent the attached treasurer’s report prior to the meeting. She had confirmed the IRS Form 990-N had been submitted and acknowledged. She also had reported closing the bookstore checking account and depositing the balance of \$1393.14 in the club’s general fund checking account.

President’s Remarks (Earp): Wes announced that both he and Robin will be out of town for our Oct. 24 Board meeting. Wes will distribute an initial agenda and find someone to chair the meeting. *Sec. Note: Kate Tufts has agreed to chair the meeting.* Wes had been approached by a scout who is planning a Wood Duck box project and is looking for volunteers to help monitor the boxes. The Miller Branch of the Ho Co Library had again asked for someone to provide a program and Sue Polniaszek has again agreed to handle this. Howard County Rec and Parks has invited us to have someone attend an event they are calling “Partners in Parks” to be held at Belmont from 2 to 5 PM at Belmont. Wes will be out of town and if anyone of the officers or Board members wanted to attend they should let Wes know. No one has volunteered to serve as a liaison with the Howard County Community College as a follow-up to the request we had received during Greenfest. The Anne Arundel chapter of MOS is planning to have a second meeting in the initiative to identify ways to engage birding organizations in habitat conservation. Wes reminded the Board that the TV on the wall in the RNC auditorium had been moved to another location when another one failed. RNC staff indicate there are plans to replace it, but until they do we won’t be able to continue having photographers display their photos during the social time prior to our meetings. As a result our need to purchase a new second laptop is not as pressing. Wes reported that Bob, Jo, Howard, and he had manned a club display at the RNC Anniversary event the previous Sunday. Bob mentioned that we might want to try and express a preference for a location at next year’s event that would allow us to potentially include some outside bird viewing. Wes reported that he has been in discussion with Mike Dwyer of the U of MD Research and Education Center (UMREC), the Central Farm regarding access and field trips. The officials at the University responsible for setting policy have not addressed the issue and it is not high on their priority list. At the same time Mike has led Wes to believe that if we propose an “official and very well publicized” field trip it can probably happen.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Robin remarked that he was amazed at the large turnout at the September club meeting. It does appear attendance has been increasing since we have been holding meetings at RNC.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): No report but trips have been scheduled and supplied to those who publish and publicize them.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he and George Alderson had attended a DNR hearing on a proposal to open the Sideling Hill Wildlife Area to Off-road Vehicles. Kurt spoke for MOS and George for the Sierra Club. There was overwhelming opposition from the local community and it appears the proposal will die. Kurt agreed to prepare and send Bob a few words on the topic for inclusion in a Newsgram. Kurt also briefly discussed the National Park Service proposal to destroy significant habitat at Bayside on Assateague Island to move the parking lot that was impacted by Hurricane Sandy. MOS has voiced opposition to this proposal as well.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard was working on the next newsletter and had received most of the material he needed. The Fall Count results were being compiled and were promised by Mike McClure and Chuck to be available in time to meet Howard's publishing schedule.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has been making frequent updates to the website, but as a practice he was not posting results to the web before the information was distributed to the membership via the newsletter. As a longer term project he is planning to restructure the butterfly photo page which has gotten too large and adopt a structure similar to that used for the bird photos. After that project he envisions doing the same with the odonate photos.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Old Business

Cloud Database Storage – Bob reported that we have established account with Google Drive with 100 GBytes at a price of \$4.99/month. Bob has it billed to his credit card and has Emy reimburse him. He and others are still working on setting up a process whereby other than himself can use our Yahoo account and send out emails to the Rare Bird Alert or other club mailings. He has not had a reason to setup additional passwords and identify alternate administrators who would have passwords. John Harris has volunteered to proof and checkout the instructions that Bob wrote for maintaining the club Access database. He is working on instructions for the web site maintenance and is hoping to have Nancy Magnusson review them.

Bird Seed Sale – Ward shared the attached summary of the seed sale results to date including a comparison of how sales were going relative to last year. Sales are up significantly. There were a few glitches with the change to not including the sales tax as part of product price but calculated on a total sales basis. Those who used the automated form that computed tax had no trouble. However, there were 8 orders which did not include the tax. They had printed out the form and filled it in manually. Ward has contacted all of them and they will settle up when they pick up their seed. Ward announced that he will be out of town next year when some of the seed sale activity is underway so an alternate coordinator will need to be found. Ward will be available part of the time to provide guidance and help whoever volunteers. Wes took an action to solicit a volunteer for this position.

New AV Person – Wes announced that Jeff Friedhoffer has volunteered to serve as the AV person for club activities. Several others have received training in use of the audio system at RNC and can serve as alternates if Jeff is unavailable. John McKitterick reported that he currently has the laptop at his home.

Computer Status – John McKitterick reported that he has not had time to do the research on purchasing a new club laptop, but was planning to do so shortly. We agreed that since the wall TV was currently unavailable there was no pressing rush to obtain a second laptop.

RNC MOU Status – Wes reported that he had been asked by RNC about potentially providing a certificate of insurance for the RNC as part of the MOS liability insurance policy. Presumably the RNC staff is concerned about liability but if they want to request a certificate it should not be an issue. He had rewritten portions of the MOU that he felt had not correctly portrayed our history of involvement with Howard Rec and Parks. He has supplied the rewrite to RNC and been told there are only two paragraphs at issue/outstanding, and he didn't know what in them could be a problem but would wait to hear further from them.

New Business

CMREC Open House – Wes stated that plans were on track for our display at the U of MD Central Maryland Research and Education Center (Central Farm) open house on Oct. 5. We will have space at the end of the canopy and if weather permits will set up scopes outside and conduct a “Big Sit” to hopefully engender some interest and even participation from visitors.

MOS Board Meeting in September 2014 – In August Wes had undertaken a quick search for a location to host the MOS Board meeting in September when it appeared they still needed a location. He found RNC was unavailable but had learned that the Howard County Conservancy was willing to host at Mt. Pleasant. However, Carroll County stepped forward with a location, and the meeting was held there as we had hosted more recently than they had. Tom Strikwerda asked if we might be willing to host Sept. 2014. Chuck mentioned that we also might offer to host later in the year as traditionally we have hosted in the winter months so that the chapters at the opposite ends of the state wouldn't have as far to go with potential for poor weather. Wes will get back to Tom as we agreed we would be willing to host next year if asked. Wes also said that he added another item to the RNC MOU, namely the need for RNC to host the State MOS Board meeting for no cost as part of our agreement.

Back Pack – Wes picked up one backpack for our use in Youth Birding promotion this year. We will need to decide how to use the pack. It was observed that we had not had any feedback on how the packs we donated to the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library had worked out.

Rec and Parks Bike Route Proposal – We did not identify a need for us to take any further action on the current initiative until plans firm up and hearings are held. Several people noted there were issues with paths on the proposal along and across the Little Patuxent River in the Kindler area.

Around the Room -

Eva asked what the average attendance at club meetings was so that she could share that with the volunteers she solicited to bring snacks for meeting. The consensus was that planning for 50 people would be about right. The 75 attendees at September meeting was an anomaly.

Ward asked about a potential increase in skinks in the area, as he and a neighbor had found them recently and he found that surprising.

Bob reported that Jane Geuder had surgery on her arm earlier in the day.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Have Kevin obtain copy of small Sibley from Anne Marie and deliver it to the Duncan's as it was forgotten when they were honored at the May club meeting – Kevin H. (Karen) DONE
- Confirm Amanda will attend future club meeting for recognition and remind Anne Marie Raterman to bring gift at that time – Wes DONE
- Announce the DNR Public Meeting at RNC scheduled for June 19 in a club NEWSGRAM – Bob DONE
- Send email Mr. Marietta with response on collaboration with HCCC – Wes DONE
- Complete research and purchase a new laptop for the club and submit reimbursement request to Emy – John
- Submit club 990-N form to IRS – Emy DONE
- Research methods of backing up club electronic data (club database, web site pages and documentation) on the “cloud” and setup process after deciding on approach. – Bob, John, and Chuck DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Complete research and purchase a new laptop for the club and submit reimbursement request to Emy – John
- Provide Bob a short write-up on ORV trail issue for a Newsgram = Kurt
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate seed sale next year - Wes

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Bird Club Board Agenda – September 26, 2013
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/13 – 9/19/13
- Seed Sale Report – 9/26/2013
- Howard County Bird Club Web Page Monthly Hits – March 2008 - August 2013

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
September 26 , 2013**

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Absent |
| Memberships | |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • “Cloud” database storage | Bob |
| • Bird Seed Sale | Ward |
| • New AV Person | Wes |
| • Computer status | John |
| • RNC MOU Status | Wes |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • CMREC Open House | Wes |
| • MOS BD meeting in September 2014 | Wes |
| • Back Pack | Wes |
| • Rec and Parks Bike Route Proposal | Anyone |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location: Robin Todd
10174 Green Clover Drive
Ellicott City

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/13-9/19/13

	Budget 2013-14	Sept	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		2,825.00	135.00
State Dues Paid		(255.00)	
Net Membership Dues	2,100.00	2,570.00	135.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions		441.00	
Total Operating Income	2,100.00	3,011.00	135.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	125.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	200.00	111.70	111.70
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	350.00	96.00	96.00
Miscellaneous			
Greenfest	25.00		
Total Operating Expense	1,525.00	257.70	332.70
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Seed			
Flyers		5.00	5.00
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			22.00
Balance of Bookstore Account			1,393.14
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.01
Interest Received		0.27	0.52
Balance			10,647.53
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			8,490.50
Savings			16,187.53
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			24,742.66

Seed Sale Report

9/26/2013

Orders	16-Sep	18-Sep	20-Sep	23-Sep
Songbird Choice	2	5	9	11
Black Oil Sunflower 25#	15	27	37	40
Black Oil Sunflower 50#	13	27	39	41
Sunflower Chips 25#	21	28	30	30
Sunflower Chips 50#	7	9	11	15
Thistle Seed 25#	4	10	14	16
Thistle Seed 5#	5	6	12	14
Split Peanuts 25#	3	3	3	6
Split Peanuts 5#	3	6	10	10
Safflower Seed	4	6	7	8
Millet	26	36	36	36
Case Hi Energy Suet	7	10	12	13
Case Peanut Butter Suet	4	7	8	8
Case Natural Beef Suet	2	2	3	3
Customers	16-Sep	18-Sep	20-Sep	23-Sep
New:	8	15	20	24
Repeat:	11	17	22	25
Lost:	23	17	12	9

	2012	2013
Orders	34	49
Poundage	3670	6880
Seed Cost	\$ 3,954.00	\$ 6,392.86
Contributions	\$ 33.00	\$ 239.46

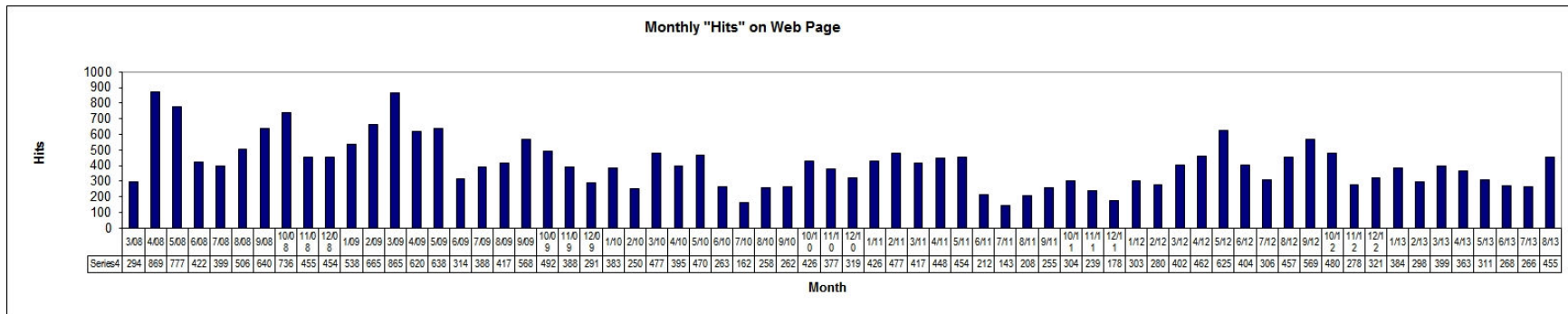
Used built-in math	28
Didn't	21

Forgot to add tax	8
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Changes:

- Longer pick-up period
- Lower seed cost
- PDF form with calculations

Howard County Bird Club Website Hits – March 2008 – August 2013



Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 24, 2013

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp
Vice-president: Robin Todd
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr.) √
Eva Sunell (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
John McKitterick
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Howard Patterson. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 10 was 50 people. Bruce Peterjohn gave a program entitled "Hummingbirds of the Mid-Atlantic Region."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had emailed the attached copy of the Treasurer's Report prior to the meeting. She reported that \$1501.46 was available for habitat projects. This included the \$1000 we receive from Kevin Cassidy at The Wildlife Authority in accordance with our agreement with him for the seed sale. She reported that only a few new memberships had been received recently. Bob reported that the numbers were consistent with past years' experience. By next meeting Bob will assemble the list of names to be called by Chapter Directors. Ward reminded us that he will not be at the next meeting, but that Eva can just take half of the names and he will call the other half when he returns.

President's Remarks (Earp): Wes was absent on vacation and Kate Tufts chaired the meeting as Robin was also out of town. Wes had submitted a written set of remarks via email on October 9. Those remarks are attached to the minutes.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Not present.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): No report but it was mentioned that Joe has been soliciting leaders for spring trips.

Records (Jo Solem): No items to report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt acknowledged that he needs to seek options for use of the habitat preservation funds. He will focus on finding a local project as our recent contributions have been international. He also mentioned a climate change forum scheduled for the East Columbia library on December 3, but wasn't proposing we advertise it. Lastly he mentioned the recent Maryland DNR proposal to expand the Wildlands program that is currently seeking comments from the public. None of the areas are in Howard County and the none of the hearings

are nearby but you can comment on-line. MOS is in support of this proposal and Bob stated he will include it as an item in an upcoming Newsgram.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard announced that the November-December issue had been distributed.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that John Harris had reviewed Bob's draft of instructions for maintaining the club Access database. They have agreed they are ready for use if Bob was unable to continue the maintenance. Bob will upload them to our "cloud" storage.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): Karen gave a brief synopsis of the MOS Board meeting held on September 7. It was reported that plans to allow collection of dues and conference registrations via credit card and/or PayPal are proceeding.

Old Business

Bird Seed Sale – Ward reported that the sale was wrapped up and as mentioned earlier the contribution from the Wildlife Authority had been received. All the ordered seed was picked up making use of the option to pick up the seed anytime during the week. Ward clarified what the volunteer being solicited to handle the seed sale next year would need to do. They will need 1) to be available to receive mail orders during the month prior to sale, 2) provide Kevin Cassidy at The Wildlife Authority with updates as orders come in, and 3) be familiar enough with Excel to maintain the spreadsheet of orders and funds received.

"Cloud" Database Storage – there was nothing new to add on this topic.

Hosting MOS Board Meeting in Future – In follow-up to the discussion at prior meeting we have agreed to host the State MOS Board meeting on Saturday March 7, 2015. MOS agreed our hosting a meeting when weather might be inclement made more sense so that attendees from the ends of the state wouldn't have so far to travel. We will need to schedule a classroom at RNC for this event 6 months prior to this date.

New Business

Pot Luck Dinner date – Kathie proposed that the pot luck dinner be held at RNC on March 29, 2014. The Board concurred with that choice. Karen asked Kathie to coordinate with her in trying to schedule the potluck. Kathie agreed to try and schedule the potluck with RNC. See Karen's discussion under Around the Room for further insight into issues in scheduling dates with RNC.

Faithful Circle Quilters Guild Raffle – Prior to the meeting Wes had distributed a series of emails requesting that the Faithful Circle be permitted to display and sell raffle tickets for a "Bird" quilt at one of our events/meetings. The circle is a nonprofit guild that is attempting to raise money for several different needy causes but none related to birding or environmental issues. Also we were not sure this would be compatible with our agreements with RNC for use of the facility. After discussion the sense became that this might set a precedent that others would expect to be able to propose other fund raising ideas not directly related to the club's mission. We agreed it would be best to adopt a policy addressing the broader issue, and not limit our consideration to just this request. Kathie moved that the bird club adopt a policy to not allow fund raising by outside organizations. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Back Pack – We have one of the MOS youth packs to use as we see fit. Ideas are being solicited. We were hopeful that we could have some feedback about how the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library had used the two packs we donated last year. Kate believed she had heard that the library hadn't taken action yet but was planning to try something this fall.

Around the Room –

- Kathie reminded the board that she was asking us to use her personal vice work email address, namely KLillie3@verizon.net. She also mentioned that RNC is holding an open house on November 14 that the club has no involvement with, but her musical group is going to be performing. She has taken the opportunity to remind the RNC staff that she is a member of the bird club and appreciates their hosting our meetings.
- Karen reported that she has been trying to get confirmation of the dates for our club meetings for next year but this is still up in the air. She has emailed and spoken to Pam Reese but for some reason what would appear to be a straightforward request has not been finalized. Karen was going to follow-up again but since she has been trying to make it clear she was only trying to schedule our regular meetings and not any special events that was why she wanted to coordinate Kathie's request for a pot luck date with her attempts. Pam had again raised the subject of wanting to meet with the entire board so that idea is not dead. Karen will be leaving for Peru before Wes returns so she plans to send him an email with status before she leaves.
- Ward reported that he had been hearing a screech owl in his yard again.
- Kate suggested that Bob might want to include an item in a January Newsgram reminding members that it was time to renew WSSC permits.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Complete research and purchase a new laptop for the club and submit reimbursement request to Emy – John
- Provide Bob a short write-up on ORV trail issue for a Newsgram = Kurt DONE
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate seed sale next year - Wes

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Complete research and purchase a new laptop for the club and submit reimbursement request to Emy – John
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate seed sale in Ward's absence during next year's sale – Wes
- Identify one or more habitat preservation projects for this year's funds – Kurt
- Schedule the potluck dinner with RNC - Kathie

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda for Oct 24, 2013 Board Meeting
- Howard County Bird Club Treasurer's Report – 10/24/2013
- President's Remarks – October 2013

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
October 24, 2013**

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Absent |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Absent |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Bird Seed Sale | Ward |
| • “Cloud” database storage | Bob |
| • Hosting MOS Board Meeting in Future | Kate? |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Pot Luck Dinner date | |
| • Faithful Circle Quilters Guild Raffle | All |
| • Back Pack | Wes |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location: Howard Patterson
 4209 Hermitage Drive
 Ellicott City

President’s remarks (via email in his absence)
 U of MD Central Farm (UMDCF) Open House
 Robinson Nature Center (RNC) MOU
 RNC Coordinator Position
 UMDCF Access

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/13-4/30/14

	Budget 2013-14	Oct	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		930.00	3,890.00
State Dues Paid			(255.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,100.00	930.00	3,635.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions		15.00	456.00
Total Operating Income	2,100.00	945.00	4,091.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	175.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	200.00		111.70
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	350.00	80.00	176.00
Miscellaneous			
Greenfest	25.00		
Total Operating Expense	1,525.00	130.00	462.70
Seed Sale			
Income		6,374.23	6,374.23
Expense			
Seed		6,374.23	(6,374.23)
Flyers			5.00
Net Seed Sale			(5.00)
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		1,479.46	1,501.46
Balance of Bookstore Account			1,393.14
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.01
Interest Received		0.05	0.57
Balance			10,647.58
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			10,784.96
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,187.58
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			27,037.17

eholdridge
11/3/2013

President's Remarks
October 2013 Board Meeting (emailed to Board on Oct 9)

UMDCF

The Club staffed a table and Big Sit at the University of Maryland's open house on October 5th. Nine club members helped look for birds and interacted with visitors. We were quite busy much of the day. A table of binoculars and unmanned scopes attracted children as well as adults and there was good interaction with the public both at the booth and outside. Although, none of the public joined the search for birds the effort attracted attention and more than one person inquired as to what we were up to.

Danny Poet president of the Carolina Chapter stopped by as well as several past members. Late in the day a Bald Eagle lit in a Sycamore for a half hour heightening public interest in our set up and giving folks a good look. It was a slow day birding with only 22 species tallied. All in all though, it was a worthwhile effort given the public interaction.

RNC MOU

Still no progress on a finished document. As of 10/6 an edited version, expected in September, has not been returned for review and signature. An email was sent to Pam Reese on 10/5 asking for a quick resolution to this matter. If it does not occur before the holidays I doubt that we will finish the year with a signed document. The email requested document that is "...honest, straight forward and does not rewrite the club's history of our relationship with Rec and Parks."

RNC Coordinator Position

Having contacted Harry Fink regarding a supposed upcoming Owl walk for RNC, Harry responded that the walk had been postponed to a "better time of year for such walks". He also notified me that he was resigning from the role as RNC Coordinator. An email has been sent to those folks checking the RNC volunteer box to see if there is interest in filling the position among that group.

I have requested of Pam Reese, in the above reference email, all scheduled activities planned with Harry. I have also requested a detailed itemization of what is expected of the Club in order that we might be able to successfully hold an event for RNC. There seems to be a disconnect somewhere between suggesting ideas and getting an event held.

UMDCF access

As of 10/6 I am still waiting on a date for a Club walk. From conversations I gather there is some lack of interest in holding walks there that are publicized and invite the public. I took the opportunity to discuss Bird Count access with Mike Dwyer at the open house. It is clear he is

not comfortable with exclusive access. I do not intend to ask for access for the Triadelphia Christmas Count. It remains certain that a public walk is the only way to protect Mike from criticism for opening the farm for birding from other birders and his superiors.

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 21 , 2013

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge√
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr.)
Eva Sunell (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

RNC Director Stacey Yankee √
RNC Community Liaison Pam Reese √
RNC Programs Megan Leatherbury√

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John McKitterick. Total number in attendance was 9 Board members and 3 guests from the Robinson Nature Center. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 14 was 51 people. Steve Kent gave a program entitled "Birds of the Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted with the two minor corrections that were submitted by email after they were distributed. The revised version of minutes is included in permanent archive (Rev 2).

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the attached Treasurer's Report prior to the meeting. She reported that several additional memberships had been received. In addition an additional \$60 for habitat preservation had been received. Membership renewals are in good shape (see Old Business).

President's Remarks (Earp): Wes reported that he had interviewed Molly Williams from RNC staff in support of her application for an MOS scholarship. He reported on the RNC sponsored Owl Prowl held the preceding Saturday night at MPEA. Feedback was that it was successful as an event even though only one distant screech owl was heard. Wes reported that he had sent Evelyn Templeman a reply that we were interested in reviewing the birding book collection of Hugh Tousey, her partner, who passed away on November 1 to see how they could best be used. Wes had not yet heard back from her. Wes reported that Jeff Friedhoffer had volunteered to take up the coordination of next year's seed sale when Ward will be away. Lastly he reported that he had notified the Faithful Circle Quilters Guild of the Board's decision to not permit fund raising by other groups at our events.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Robin had no additional comments.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): No report. Spring schedule is nearly complete.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo mentioned the immature female Rufous Hummingbird that had been coming to a feeder in Woodmark for several weeks before the club was notified. The bird was banded and seen by a limited number of birders but was last seen early on November 18 just as the notification process was expanding.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present. Bob mentioned the need to support the DNR proposal to expand the acreage designated as “Wildlands” that had been sent out as part of a Newsgram.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported that he had received many of the articles for next issue already. Sue Muller has submitted an article describing the “Bio-blitz” to be held over a 24 hour period on April 26 at West Friendship Park.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he was preparing another Newsgram for release on the upcoming weekend.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting held since our last meeting, the next meeting is on December 7 at Black Hills Park in Montgomery County.

Old Business

RNC Staff Visit – Attempts over the past several months to arrive at a mutually acceptable Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the Robinson Nature Center and the club had dragged on without resolution. The staff of RNC asked to meet with the Board in an attempt to move the process along. The Director, Stacey Yankee, was invited to attend for part of this meeting, and she brought with her Megan Leatherbury (Programs) and Paula Reese (Community Liaison).

Prior to their arrival the Board discussed briefly some of the issues that had bothered us about the draft MOU (attached) and what we wanted to clarify during the visit. We had been bothered by the paragraphs that purported to be the history of past club and Rec and Parks agreements and interactions. The Board agreed the wording might include some revisionist history but since it didn’t directly impact what we were agreeing to going forward it wasn’t worth pushing back on it anymore. He had attempted to add language being more specific about what each party was committing to and requesting acknowledgement that we would like to have use of a room to host the MOS Board once every two years. These proposed additions were rejected and we hoped at a minimum to get clarification in this meeting of some of those specifics. We concluded that we would not push for the use of RNC for MOS Board as it appears that the Howard County Conservancy would agree to host the board. Our biggest concern was the difficulty we had been having with initiating and executing the four events we are committed to in return for the use of the facility for our club meetings. We agreed we should push to have these be regular annual events that we would include each year in our regular schedule (just as we do seasonal counts) so that what and when (approximately) these events could be provided to RNC staff well in advance.

When the RNC staff arrived we made introductions, during which Stacey stated that **Pam Reese** (pareese@howardcountymd.gov) **was to be our primary (single) point of contact with RNC** and she would route requests and information to the correct RNC staff. We reiterated that Karen Darcy was in a similar role for us. It was agreed we would use Paula as point of contact and occasionally include other staff as CC on emails for information purposes.

Stacey then began by providing her perspective on the RNC and club “partnership” since the center opened in September 2011. Partnership is the phrase they are using for their relationships with a large number of county organizations that provide support of the center. See <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RNCpartners.htm> for a current list. She acknowledged the club’s partnership with Howard Recreation and Parks goes back many years. Examples she mentioned include donation of bird specimens, nest collection, and extensive expertise in birds and nature. It is expertise that she sees a key element of what many partners bring to RNC. She stated that she sees our having our club meetings at the center exposing attendees to RNC is a major plus to them. She sees the list of partnerships growing and views the center as a clearinghouse serving to connect many of these groups. She views the MOU as a means to balance the agreements between the partner and the center. She felt the MOU captures what

we have been doing, and acknowledged that since the period covered by this draft is nearly half over, portions are documenting what has already taken place.

At this point Bob interjected that the major issue we wanted to clarify was the commitment we are making in agreeing to provide leaders for four seasonal program events. He stated the club felt us settling on four repetitive events to be held at the same time of year of roughly the same type each year would be most easily integrated into our regular seasonal program of activities. This would allow scheduling early enough to support the center program guide deadlines and after being set up allow everyone to understand what was required to schedule and execute the events. The RNC staff responded very favorably to this proposal, feeling that would work well from their perspective as well. We briefly brainstormed a sample set of these four events to be refined further by the club:

- Walk a Bluebird Trail (May) – preferably Schooley Mill Park (see discussion of this below)
- Owl Prowl at MPEA (November) – similar to the successful event held on the prior Saturday led by Wes
- Orioles and Goldfinch (June/July) – Probably MPEA (Trotter of Clegg Meadow entrance TBD)
- Woodpecker Search (late February)

In discussing the Bluebird event we learned that the RNC staff has a “conflict/agreement” with Dawn Thomas who coordinates events at Howard County Parks that the RNC events are essentially limited to being held at RNC proper or MPEA. The staff would like to have some greater flexibility in this regard and will explore whether if they coordinate events at lesser-used parks with Dawn (e.g. Bluebirds at Schooley) that could work. If not we could do the walk at MPEA but with fewer boxes being used. We agreed that the Oriole search might be more successful at other parks than MPEA but it would likely work out there. We specifically raised the issue of if a scheduled event is unsuccessful (e.g. too few registrants, weather) through no fault of ours would that event still “count” as one of our four committed events? **Stacey stated emphatically that yes in that case we would receive “credit” and not be expected to schedule an additional event.** They stated it was generally their policy to not cancel an event for low registration as they find there are often late/same day registrants. We reiterated our understanding that RNC staff will be responsible for providing a staff or volunteer to attend each event and would be responsible for registration and financial transactions associated with an event. We reminded them that the rest of the club’s field events are free to the public and as a result it was not likely many club members other than the leader would attend these events. As for when to schedule events they find weekends are best during school year and very early start times can be a problem. We discussed possibility of targeting evening/dusk feeding time. Also they mentioned that Saturday afternoon often had conflicts with athletic events. We suggested that the RNC staff might want to send the club leader for an event a reminder a few days in advance and include some indication of what early registration looked like as that might influence how a leader would choose to conduct the trip/event. The RNC staff agreed that would be a good practice and would implement it. Another good practice to try and implement would be a meeting between the club leader and the RNC staff/volunteer who would participate one or two days in advance to discuss how the event would be handled. We noted that his meeting with Molly Williams prior to the recent Owl Prowl had been very helpful. For example Molly was able to bring several owl-related “props” from the center’s collection that added to the experience.

We then discussed deadlines for the RNC activity guides/catalogs in order to understand when we needed to have provided date, name of leader, and description of the event. We decided that since it was our intent to supply information for all four events for the year we agreed that our goal should be to have our schedule determined by May so as to support the fall program guide. *(Sec. Note - There was some confusion as to actual deadlines for all guides, Wes will contact Pam to obtain that prior to our January meeting when we will discuss further the details of what we plan to propose).*

As the deadline for the guide covering Spring season is December 20 there is considerable doubt we can make arrangements for a Bluebird Trail event and the Oriole/Goldfinch event in time to make publication. **Accordingly we agreed to have identified final details for the Fall event and tentative info for 3 other events in time to support the May 20, 2014 deadline for the Fall catalog. Stacey stated since we were still working on the MOU there was no requirement to satisfy our commitment for four events this year.** It is our intent to identify these four events as suitable to be repetitive events for coming years.

The staff visit ended with a general consensus that the meeting had been beneficial and we would get back to them shortly regarding our willingness to sign the MOU. Stacey indicated that once we had signed the MOU it would be routed to the appropriate Rec and Parks staff for signature.

After the RNC staff departed we briefly discussed the MOU and although it isn't perfect it seems acceptable. It was moved, seconded, and passed that Wes should sign the MOU on behalf of the club. We also briefly discussed how to proceed with planning the 4 events for next year. Several times during our discussions we had made reference to asking Joe Hanfman to include them as additional items to include in his scheduling of field trips and he needs to be approached to confirm his willingness to do that.

Membership Renewal Call List – Bob reported that the renewal process appears to be ahead of last year and going well. He will shortly send the list of those not yet renewed to Eva, Ward, and Emy. Emy will notify Bob and others as she received renewals to track responses and avoid calling anyone who renews without the reminder phone call. Since Ward is away presently he has indicated that Eva can select those on the list she plans to call and notify him who remains for him to call.

March 2015 MOS Board Meeting – As discussed in prior meeting we will host this meeting, but since it is not a given that we will be able to use a RNC classroom without cost, we may well choose to ask the Howard County Conservancy to host the Board as they were willing to do so for no charge when we inquired about hosting this past September's meeting.

Pot Luck Dinner Date – Kathie reported in an email sent prior to the meeting that the auditorium at RNC is reserved for the pot luck on Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 6:00 to 10:00 PM.

Back Pack – We haven't come up with alternative ways to use this year's backpack but felt we should know how the packs we donated to the Miller Branch of the Howard County Library are being used before falling back to that use. Wes agreed to follow-up and check with the library to find out status.

New PC Action Item – John reported he is making progress. He's leaning toward a Dell machine with Windows 7. He's also identified a program where Microsoft Office is provided to 501C charitable organizations with an environmental focus at greatly reduced rates.

New Business

Nomination Committee – Wes announced that is time for him to appoint a nominations committee. Robin volunteered to be on the committee. At a minimum the committee will need to nominate a Vice-President and a 1st year Chapter Director and verify that other officers are willing to continue in their current positions. Wes took an action to appoint at least two others to the committee.

Around the Room – No additional reports were made when we went around the room.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Complete research and purchase a new laptop for the club and submit reimbursement request to Emy – John IN PROGRESS
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate seed sale next year – Wes DONE
- Identify one or more habitat preservation projects for this year's funds – Kurt
- Schedule the potluck dinner with RNC – Kathie DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Complete research and purchase a new laptop for the club and submit reimbursement request to Emy – John
- Identify one or more habitat preservation projects for this year's funds – Kurt
- Seek and nominate two additional members for the Nomination Committee – Wes
- Sign the MOU and deliver it to RNC staff - Wes

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – Nov. 21, 2013
- Howard County Bird Club Treasurer’s Report, November 19, 2013
- Amendment to Memorandum of Understanding (DRAFT) – Nov. 13, 2013

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
November, 21 2013**

Note: Stacey Yankee of the Robinson Nature Center has requested to speak with the Board. I have suggested she arrive around 8:00 so that we can get the preliminary stuff over with. We will address her concerns immediately upon her arrival or as the next order of business.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • RNC | Stacey Yankee |
| • Membership renewal call list | Bob, Eva, Ward |
| • March 2015 MOS Board Meeting | Wes |
| • Pot Luck Dinner date | Kathie |
| • Back Pack | Wes |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Nomination Committee | |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location: John McKitterick
10018 Maple Ave.
Columbia
(410) 997-3122

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/13-4/30/14

	Budget 2013-14	Nov	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		630.00	4,520.00
State Dues Paid			(255.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,100.00	630.00	4,265.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			456.00
Total Operating Income	2,100.00	630.00	4,721.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		175.00
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Newsletter & Directory	350.00		176.00
Miscellaneous			
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Expense			
Seed			(6,374.23)
Flyers			5.00
Net Seed Sale			(5.00)
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			
		60.00	1,561.46
Balance of Bookstore Account			
			1,393.14
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.01
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Balance			10,647.63
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			11,474.96
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,187.63
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			27,727.22

eholdridge
11/19/2013

AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“this Amendment”) is entered into this _____ day of _____, 2013, by and between the **Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks** (the “Department”) and the **Howard County Bird Club a Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.** (the “Society”).

RECITALS

- A. The Department and the Society are parties to a Memorandum of Understanding (“the Prior Agreement”) entered into on February 15, 2000, which established certain responsibilities of the Department and the Society for a mounted bird collection owned by the Society.

The Department and the Society wish to amend the Prior Agreement in order to change certain sections of the Prior Agreement, and to add sections establishing a system for coordinating certain events at the Department’s James and Anne Robinson Nature Center, and to recognize the Society as a community partner of the Department’s James and Anne Robinson Nature Center (the “Nature Center”).

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual promises and covenants contained in this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Department and the Society agree to amend the Prior Agreement as follows:

1. Section I, Responsibilities of the Department, is amended by replacing the existing paragraph A with a new paragraph A:

A. The Department, pursuant to the request of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, agrees to properly house and display the mounted bird collection provided by the Society at the Nature Center.
2. Section I, Responsibilities of the Department, is amended by adding a new paragraph E:

E. It is the responsibility of the Department to apply for and obtain a salvage permit for the bird collection and to provide it to the “Society” when the “Society” uses bird specimen’s offsite.
3. Section II, Responsibilities of the Society, is amended by replacing the existing paragraph B with a new paragraph B:

B. Prior to June 1, 2013, the Society was responsible for funding taxidermy work performed on new specimens collected by its members. As of June

1, 2013, the Society will no longer carry a salvage permit to collect new specimens, and after that date will have no responsibility for funding taxidermy work.

4. Section II, Responsibilities of the Society, is amended by adding new paragraphs E and F:
 - E. The Society shall request bird specimens from the Nature Center in advance of educational programs the Society holds. The Nature Center will use two factors when discerning release of the birds. First, any member of the Society requesting the birds must be included on the list of Society members approved by the Society's President to check out the birds. Second, the date/time for which the birds are being requested will not conflict with usage of the birds in other Nature Center programs.
 - F. Society members giving educational programs that require use of the bird collection are responsible for having in their possession a current copy of the salvage permit for the birds during the programs, and also are responsible for making sure that the permit is with the birds from the collection at all times while the birds are in Society Club members' possession.
5. Section III, General Conditions, is amended by replacing the existing paragraph C with a new paragraph C:
 - C. Any additions to the collection obtained through the Department will be housed with the Department at the Nature Center.
6. A new Section IV is added:

IV. Department and Society Cooperation

- A. **Society Mission.** The mission of the Society is to foster interaction and exchange of information among people interested in wild birds, and to encourage the study and enjoyment of birds and the natural world. To further this mission, the Society holds monthly meetings, conducts field trips, publishes educational materials, species lists and newsletters and encourages participation in bird population monitoring projects.
- B. **Department.** The Department owns and operates the Nature Center a unique nature education facility situated on 18 acres of land and offering interactive and multisensory exhibits for all ages, including a digital planetarium and dome-style theater called NatureSphere, a Video Alcove, the Children's Discovery Room, an auditorium and classroom spaces, nature trails, and other outdoor and indoor nature programs for children and adults.

- C. **Current Partnership.** Both members of the Society and staff from the Nature Center recognized the complementary nature of Howard County Bird Club and Nature Center programs. To this end, the groups formed an informal partnership in which Society members collaborated to provide leaders for seasonal programs as part of public programming at the Nature Center. In return, the Nature Center provided monthly meeting space and after-hours staff for Society meetings and an annual potluck supper which staff are invited to attend. As members of both organizations desire to continue that cooperation-staff from the Nature Center and Society administrations have recommended that the Department and the Society memorialize the current informal cooperation between the facility and the society with an amendment to this MOU to outline the commitments of each party related to the informal partnership.
- D. **Partnership Term.** The term of this Section IV of this Agreement shall be from June 1, 2013, through June 1, 2014. The parties may renew this Section IV of this Agreement for an unlimited number of additional one-year terms. Renewal is effective when the Director of the Department and the President of the Society, or their authorized representatives, have both indicated in writing (which may be by letter or email) that they wish to renew.
- E. **Department Commitments.** The Department, through the Nature Center, commits to take the following actions:

Provide After-Hour Meeting Space and Staff

- The Nature Center will provide a room in which the Society can conduct monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month. The Nature Center will provide an after-hours staff person to facilitate the after-hours operation and closing of the building on the second Thursday of each month for each Society meeting. Meetings will be held between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Doors will be opened at 7 p.m. for members of the club to set up and provide a hospitality session. If there is a need to adjust this time, the Society will provide notification in writing to the Nature Center no less than two weeks in advance of the meeting date so that staff can accommodate the request.
- The Nature Center will host the Bird Club's annual potluck dinner in the auditorium from 6:00pm until 10:00pm on Saturday, March 29th 2013 which will be provided free of charge with kitchen access. The Nature Center will provide an after-hours staff person to facilitate the after-hours operation and closing of the building for the Society's annual potluck dinner.

Event Coordination

- Communicate with the Society on logistical/programming details for four seasonal programs each year, as well as for the Nature Center’s annual Insect Extravaganza and annual Anniversary Open House.
- Provide assistance in set-up for the Society (tables/chairs/audio-visual equipment) if requested by Society members for the programs and events at which they will participate.
- The Nature Center contact for public programs is Meagan Leatherbury, 410-313-0405, mleatherbury@howardcountymd.gov. The Nature Center contact for the Anniversary Open House event and Insect Extravaganza is Brian Campbell, 410-313-0406, bcampbell@howardcountymd.gov .

Cross-Promotion of the Society

Acknowledge the Society as a community partner to further increase the Society’s visibility in the community.

- Include a link to the Howard County Bird Club’s website on Nature Center’s “Community Partners” web page.
- Cross-promote through Facebook by “Liking” the Society’s Facebook page.
- Recognize the Society in the Nature Center’s public relations materials for days/events when the Society is participating in Nature Center programming.

F. Society Commitments. The Society commits to take the following actions:

Participation in the Nature Center Annual Anniversary Event and Insect Extravaganza.

- Provide outreach and activities at the Nature Center’s annual anniversary event and Insect Extravaganza while promoting the Society to new audiences. These activities can include bird watching on the center’s green roof, bird crafts or bird presentations. The Insect Extravaganza event will be held on July 14, 2013 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a set-up time of 10:30 a.m. The Anniversary event will be held on the September 22, 2013 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a set-up time of 10 a.m.

Provide leaders for the Nature Center Seasonal Programs.

- Provide four seasonal programs as part of public programming at the Nature Center. Program dates will be selected and agreed upon prior to each season – Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer – by the Nature Center Program Manager and Society President or Representative. The Society will commit to leading four programs a year with flexibility on the season in which they are held. Club members may lead two programs in one season and no programs in another. Programs will be based on the best timing for the program rather than a per-season basis. Program dates will be selected approximately 6 to 8

months in advance of programs to allow for marketing and recruitment of Society members to provide said programs.

Cross-Promotion of the Nature Center

Acknowledge Nature Center as a community partner to further increase Nature Center's visibility in the community

- Include a link to the Nature Center website on the Society web page.
- Cross-promote through Facebook by "Liking" the Nature Center's Facebook page.
- Share information about upcoming Nature Center programs with members through word of mouth or by including program flyers/brochures on a table of printed materials at meetings.

G. Legal Effect. This Section IV serves only as a written record of the arrangement of cooperation between the Society and the Nature Center, and is not intended to impose any legal or financial obligations on or create any legal rights or remedies for or between the Society, the Nature Center, and the Department.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) All capitalized terms used in this Amendment, unless otherwise defined herein, have the same meaning as the terms contained in the Prior Agreement.

(b) In case of any inconsistencies between the terms and conditions contained in the Prior Agreement and the terms and conditions contained in this Amendment, the terms and conditions herein will control. Except as set forth herein, all provisions of the Prior Agreement are ratified and remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

(c) This Amendment may be executed in duplicate counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original.

(d) Each of the parties represent and warrant that they have the right, power, legal capacity and authority to enter into and perform their respective obligations under this Amendment.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed on this ___ day of _____, 2013, by affixing hereon their respective seals and signatures of the proper offices.

WITNESS:

**THE HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER OF
THE MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY, INC.:**

Printed Name

By: _____ (SEAL)
Name: _____
Title: _____

WITNESS:

**HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION AND PARKS**

By: _____
John R. Byrd
Director

APPROVED For Legal Sufficiency
this ___ day of _____, 20____:

Margaret Ann Nolan
County Solicitor

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 30, 2014

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr.) √
Eva Sunell (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. This meeting was one week later than scheduled due to inclement weather the previous week. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 9, 2014 was 57 people. Greg Kearns gave a program entitled "The Osprey-Its Life and Recent Trends on the Patuxent River," by Greg Kearns."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had submitted the attached Treasurer's Report prior to the meeting. She pointed out receipt of \$45 more for habitat bringing the total to \$1606.46. In addition there is the balance of the bookstore account (\$1393.14) that could be applied to habitat projects if we chose to.

President's Remarks (Earp): Wes stated that he has photographers lined up to show their pictures before meetings for most of the upcoming meetings.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): No report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): It was reported that Joe has completed the Spring field trip calendar.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo made note of the 4 Ross' Geese that had put in a brief appearance. She also noted that so far we have not had a confirmed sighting of a Snowy Owl in the county despite their appearance in many other areas in Maryland.

Conservation (Schwarz): See Old Business for discussion of habitat projects to apply funds to. He mentioned that feral cat management (trap, neuter, release) was again being addressed by MOS. Lastly he mentioned that he attended and presented testimony for MOS at a meeting addressing a request for a Bald Eagle take permit for a wind farm project in Somerset County.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported the next issue was ready for review. He stated he had room for a small additional article if someone had something they wanted to submit.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that the membership was at 218. Ward and Eva had made their calls to those who had not yet renewed with good success. We have 31 new members and 19 not renewing. February 1 is the cutoff for annual memberships both for us and MOS.

Nominating (Todd): Meg Harris has accepted nomination as the new Chapter Director. However, the committee does not yet have a volunteer for Vice President. The Board brainstormed potential candidates that the committee will approach. *Secretary Note: Subsequent to the meeting the nominating committee reported that John Harris has accepted nomination as Vice President.*

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): The latest meeting was held December 7. It was reported that an updated Maryland Checklist has been posted on the MOS website. In other news it was noted that Lily Ponds in Frederick County is currently for sale, Chan Robbins is donating his personal library to MOS, and the Conference brochure is now available on the website. Chuck mentioned that some of us had received an email indicating the brochure being mailed had missing information but the one on the web was complete. John McKitterick volunteered to send Webmaster the email on brochure issue so Bob could include the information in a News Gram. Lastly the MOS Investment Committee is working toward having MOS investments changed to indexed mutual funds vice the current management by RBC that involves a significant fee that would be avoided by using the funds.

Old Business

Habitat Fund Donation – Kurt reported that he had followed up with Richard Smith on the project Dick had described during his recent presentation on butterflies for establishing a butterfly habitat on the BGE right of way next to the Elkhorn garden plots. Although the project will require some funding that would match well with our habitat conservation goals the project is still only in its infancy and not proceeding on a schedule that would have a use for our funding anytime soon. Kurt stated he had contacted Friends of Assateague (no response) and plans to contact Rec and Parks Cheryl Fafaras to solicit projects at MPEA, Sue Muller, and the Howard County Conservancy.

Bob then stated his interest in the Board becoming more proactive in identifying habitat projects. Unofficial policy has been to alternate local and international projects each year with a strong preference for the local projects being in Howard County. The discussion turned to longer range planning. Collecting funds for several years would allow us to undertake more significant projects and be able to announce what project was being funded in seed sale information. One example mentioned was the storm water retention pond at Western Regional Park that might have been configured to retain shorebird habitat if we had been aware of plans. Others mentioned were Jay Sheppard's proposal to plant a stand of pines on the Zirn property that would eventually be prime habitat for wintering owls and the development of the Blandair property. In discussing this change in policy it was acknowledged that it would require a far greater degree of involvement with Rec and Parks long-range planning processes than we have ever had. Jo agreed to speak to Jay Sheppard to determine the status of his approach to Rec and Parks regarding the Zirn property. No formal action was taken.

Lastly Kate, in our attempt to promote youth birding, raised the idea of supporting the upcoming YMOS Bird-a-thon. She moved that we sponsor the bird-a thon at a rate of \$2 per species using funds from the book store account closing. The motion was seconded and passed. Kate agreed to inform Wayne Bell of our pledge.

Membership Renewal Call List – As mentioned by Bob during his report, Eva and Ward had called all those who were late in not renewing with good success.

Pot Luck – Kathie reported plans are in place for pot-luck on March 29.

Backpack – Wes checked with library on experience with last year’s donation of backpack. Their response was relatively non-committal on use. Didn’t offer explanation but stated they had a preference for transparent bags and packs. Kate then suggested that we consider donating the backpack to the classroom of Eileen Griffin who was one of the Howard County residents that received one of the MOS scholarships to Audubon camp. Kate will contact her.

Book Sale – Wes stated that the sale of the donated books generated \$65. There are a few books left and it was decided to put them out one more time and next club meeting to see if any others would sell.

Plan RNC 2014 – 2015 Walks – Wes reported that Joe Hanfman has agreed to include finding leaders for the RNC walks to his responsibilities in finding leaders for club sponsored field trips. Wes had distributed the attached form he proposes we fill out for each of our proposed walks and supply them to RNC staff in April so they will know our plans for the full year. We brainstormed several ideas for walk themes/topics. They included: Owl Prowl (Fall), Bluebird Trail, County/State Bird [Goldfinch & Oriole] {early June – Clegg Meadow}, Woodpecker Search, Woodcock Search, Corvids and Vultures, Hawk Watch, Hummingbirds.

New Business

Big Day Fundraiser – Jo described an idea she had discussed with Russ Ruffing to potentially have he, Harry Fink, and Matt Rogosky conduct one of the County Big Days as a fund raiser for the club. The idea would be to advertise the day as a bird-a-thon fund raiser, soliciting pledges of so much per species the trio finds during one of their Big Days. After brief discussion we chose to table the idea for now.

Greenfest – Kate reminded the board that Greenfest will be held Saturday April 5 from 10 am to 4 pm at Howard Community College. This year’s theme is “water quality.” The Board authorized Emy to issue a check for the registration (\$35) Bob will put together a collection of “water bird” photos for the digital screen. Ward agreed to get the screen to Bob for loading. Lastly Kate indicated that we are running short of the materials we hand out at such events. The Board authorized her to spend up to \$200 to get additional copies of the club brochure printed. She will also talk to Joe Hanfman about getting the art work for the business cards he previously printed at his own expense so she can order more at the club’s expense.

Around the Room –

Kathy volunteered to host the May Count Tally at her home if desired.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Complete research and purchase a new laptop for the club and submit reimbursement request to Emy – John DONE
- Identify one or more habitat preservation projects for this year’s funds – Kurt
- Seek and nominate two additional members for the Nomination Committee – Wes DONE
- Sign the MOU and deliver it to RNC staff – Wes DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Identify one or more habitat preservation projects for this year’s funds – Kurt
- Forward email on Conference Brochure mistake to Bob for use in Newsgram – John McK
- Talk to Jay Sheppard to determine status of proposal for “Owl Pines” at Zirn property – Jo
- Notify Wayne Bell of club pledge to YMOS Bird-a-thon – Kate
- Notify Eileen Griffin of club proposal to gift a backpack to her classroom – Kate
- Submit Greenfest Registration Fee – Kate/Emy
- Arrange for printing additional brochures and club business cards - Kate

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – January ~~23~~ 30, 2014
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report – 5/1/13 – 1/21/2014
- HCBC and RNC Field Trip Planner – (Blank Form)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
January 23 30, 2014**

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| • Nominating Committee | Robin |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Habitat Fund donation | Kurt |
| • Membership renewal call list | Eva & Ward |
| • Pot Luck | Kathie |
| • Backpack | Wes |
| • Book Sale | Wes |
| • Plan RNC 2014 – 2015 walks | Wes |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Big Day fund raiser | Jo |
| • Greenfest | Kate |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

Location:
Jo Solem
10617 Graeloch Rd.
Laurel, MD 20723
(301) 725-5037, odenata@msn.com

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/13-1/21/14

	Budget 2013-14	Jan	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		730.00	5,250.00
State Dues Paid			(255.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,100.00	730.00	4,995.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions		50.00	506.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,100.00	780.00	5,501.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	125.00	300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	200.00	119.79	231.49
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies		67.50	67.50
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	350.00		176.00
Miscellaneous			
Greenfest	25.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,525.00	312.29	774.99
Seed Sale			
Income			6,374.23
Expense			
Seed			(6,374.23)
Flyers			5.00
Net Seed Sale			(5.00)
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			
		45.00	1,606.46
Balance of Bookstore Account			
			1,393.14
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.01
Interest Received		0.14	0.76
Balance			10,647.77
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			11,915.67
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,187.77
Petty Cash			64.63
<i>Total</i>			28,168.07

**HCBC and RNC
Field Trip Planner**

HCBC Program Year: _____

Theme: _____

Program Date: _____

HCBC Leader: _____
Name Phone/email

RNC Environmental Educator: _____

Time: Start: _____ Finish: _____

Meeting Place: _____

Possible Publication Write-up:

Possible Activities and Props:

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 27, 2014

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2012-2013 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr.) √
Eva Sunell (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

Kevin Heffernan

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Darcy. Total number in attendance was 15 plus 2 guests who attended for part of the meeting. The regular club meeting scheduled for February 13 was cancelled due to a major snow storm.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted with two minor editorial corrections.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the attached Treasurer's Report in advance of the meeting. She noted that she has paid the MOS share of dues to them. She also wrote the check for \$200 to All Creatures Great and Small that was authorized last month.

President's Remarks (Earp): Wes reported that Barbara Glick had contacted him about a gift of books, but decided to check other options when he said we might just sell them at fire sale prices as we know longer were operating a formal book store. The next State MOS Board meeting is scheduled for March 8. We have ordered 25 copies of the "Yellowbook" to use as welcome gifts for new members and they will be available for pickup at the meeting. He received a letter from PNC Bank stating that our VISA check cards are being suspended for inactivity. Ward and Emy stated that they, as those on signature card at time of issue, had each cut up the cards when they were received as we had no intention to use them. Wes also reported that he had received an email from Bill Heinbuch at the Ilchester Girl Scout Camp wondering if we had someone to help with their Big Day. It was recommended that Wes forward the request to Sherry Tomlinson who has shown interest in supporting the Girl Scouts.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Robin reported he had a Woodcock in his yard on Saturday before the meeting.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Not present. Given the recent closures of Centennial Park due to inclement weather and ice, Howard raised question of what to do if park was closed for the upcoming Sunday walk. It was agreed that if the gates are closed the walk will be canceled. *Sec. Note: The park was closed and the walk canceled.*

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that Mark Wallace had 3 Long-tailed Ducks on a private pond. She then mentioned the influx of Red-necked Grebes along the coast since the Great Lakes were frozen over. She then reported the one that had landed on a roof in Gateway and was unable to get air-borne and fell off where it was

found by employees and reported to Judy Holzman of All Creatures Great and Small. After successful rehabilitation the grebe was released at Sandy Point State Park. There is a video of the rescue and release on the club web site.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt discussed three issues he has been following at the state level:

- 1) The bill to modify the existing legislation prohibiting the release of domestic animals to exempt the release of feral cats loose on public or private lands is still proceeding in the Maryland House and Senate. MOS has submitted testimony in opposition to the bill. We decided it was early to urge our membership to contact their legislators until the bill(s) are closer to a vote.
- 2) The bill prohibiting DNR from building ATV trails on Sideling Hill has passed the House.
- 3) MOS is supporting the bill to delay the wind farm proposed for Somerset county until at least 2015.

Newsletter (Patterson): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob mentioned several items. 1) He drew our attention to the web front page item on Snow Goose, 2) He plans a Newsgram on the Maryland Botanical Heritage Work Group Report that was requested by the Maryland Legislature, 3) The end of year membership report has closed with 220 voting members and 8 juniors, 4) There will be no further reports on "hits" to the web site as Yahoo tools no longer support it.

Nominating (Todd): The slate will be announced at the March meeting and then Bob will include it in the Directory delivery. In addition to the continuing officers, nominations to new positions are: President – Robin Todd, Vice-President – John Harris, and Chapter Director (1st year) – Megan Harris.

Kate pointed out that MOS has given all recipients of their scholarships a free MOS At-Large Membership and is hoping that local chapters will adopt them as well. Bob stated that he has entered the recipients from Howard have been added in his records as Chapter members.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): There has been no meeting since our last Board meeting.

Presentation – Patapsco Heritage Greenway

The meeting was interrupted to listen to a presentation by Grace Kubofcik and Gary Maule of the Patapsco Heritage Greenway who is spearheading a community effort to certify a portion of the Patapsco River Valley from Daniels to Elkridge as a Maryland Heritage Area. A Patapsco Heritage Area would be the thirteenth area in the state and will fill an important gap in the heritage tapestry of Maryland. The Patapsco River Valley is rich with historical, cultural, archeological, and natural resources. Under the umbrella of a heritage designation the community can create programs to steward, interpret, attract visitors, and encourage the sustainable use of these resources. State certification will make available grants and loans to assist with these programs. They have developed a Draft Management Plan with the assistance of professional consultants. The Management Plan and a great deal of additional material is available on their website.

<http://www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org/DMP.html>

They plan to submit a complete plan to Howard and Baltimore County decision makers in April and to the State in May or June. They urged us to provide input and attend one of the upcoming public meetings:

- Tuesday, March 25, PHG Annual Meeting – Halethorpe, MD
Relay Town Hall, 1700 Arlington Ave
- Saturday, March 29, 9:00am – 11:00am – Elkridge, MD
Grace Episcopal Church, 6725 Montgomery Road
- Monday, March 31, 7:00pm – 9:00pm, Catonsville, MD (TBA)

Old Business

Habitat Fund Donation – Kurt had emailed copies of the two proposals he had received from Cheryl Farfaras, Natural Resources Manager, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Both are attached. The first was for \$600 to purchase 20 large eastern redcedar trees to enhance an existing stand of redcedar trees on the southern edge of Clegg's Meadow. The second was for \$720 to purchase native shrub species for planting in the Woodcock Spring Seep Area at MPEA. Sue Muller had expressed interest in obtaining additional blue bird boxes but had not submitted a formal proposal. Kurt moved that we allocate \$1320 to fund both proposals. The motion was seconded and passed.

Wes described a meeting that Jay Sheppard, Jo, and he had just held with Howard Rec and Parks staff. The primary purpose was to discuss a proposal to have a stand of white pines planted on county park land as future owl habitat. The county has mitigation funding to spend on a property near Lisbon and our potential involvement will be discussed at a future meeting. In addition our attendees made an argument that we would like to be involved earlier in the planning stages for park development to advise on habitat improvement opportunities (e.g. enhance wetlands). Examples reviewed were the settlement pond at Western Regional, an old farm pond on the Belmont property, and the Zirn property. It is far from certain but their staff may have understood our potential value in this way. Given his experience, hopefully they will work with Wes on some future projects in seeking our early involvement in planning.

There will still be funds remaining in the habitat fund after funding the MPEA projects, and the \$200 already pledged to YMOS, is paid and we agreed to hold it for now.

Pot Luck - Kathie will have sign up available at the March club meeting. She will provide Bob with a short notice to include in an upcoming Newsgram. John McKitterick agreed he will ensure someone is available at the potluck to setup the audio visual equipment.

Greenfest – Kate reminded us that it is scheduled for April 5. She has had new brochures printed and new business cards are in the mail. Amanda helped her with the layout of the cards.

Backpack – Kate announced that Eileen Griffin, one of Howard residents who received MOS scholarship this year, will attend our next meeting to receive this year's youth backpack. She will use it with her students at Hollifield Station Elementary School.

Use of Member Spreadsheet – Kevin Heffernan has continued to prepare the spreadsheet that summarizes entries on the membership application form with the intent that when someone expresses interest in an activity or volunteers to help the club follow-up and make sure they have feedback. Kevin stated he wants to seek feedback on just how useful the spreadsheet is and whether it is still serving the intended purpose. We reviewed the columns in the spreadsheet and provided Kevin with how we had used each one, but it was evident he would need feedback from other users as well. Kevin agreed to send an email to all those who receive the spreadsheet with a query of how they use the information on the sheet.

New Business

Newsgrams – Wes reviewed three recent requests to include topics in club newsgrams. He was interested in finding if his impressions on what were valid topics were on the mark. We agreed with his decisions not to forward any of the three topics were correct. At the same time there is no intent to require Wes or any other board members to approve every topic to include as that has been delegated to Bob as editor of the Newsgrams. Bob will use his discretion on what are valid topics but will try and avoid sending too many as they could be perceived by some members as spam if they become too frequent. He has a general policy to not send no more than one every two weeks.

Around the Room –

Ward observed that he has found that in feeding Eastern Bluebirds sunflower chips work but not black oil sunflower. Also they come to suet with mealworms.

Kate stated that she had received a nice thank you note in response to her note to George Radcliff and Wayne Bell telling them of our pledge to the YMOS Bird-a-thon.

Eva wondered if anyone knew what was behind the cutting of redcedar and planting of deciduous trees at intersection of MD 32 and US29. The speculation was that this was being done by the state highway staff but no one offered any rationale.

Robin mentioned that he had observed a significant number of ducks above the dam at Daniels during a recent visit.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Identify one or more habitat preservation projects for this year’s funds – Kurt DONE
- Forward email on Conference Brochure mistake to Bob for use in Newsgram – John McK DONE
- Talk to Jay Sheppard to determine status of proposal for “Owl Pines” at Zirn property – Jo DONE
- Notify Wayne Bell of club pledge to YMOS Bird-a-thon – Kate DONE
- Notify Eileen Griffin of club proposal to gift a backpack to her classroom – Kate DONE
- Submit Greenfest Registration Fee – Kate/Emy DONE
- Arrange for printing additional brochures and club business cards – Kate DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Provide Bob with article on Pot Luck for Newsgram – Kathie
- Send email to club members who receive membership spreadsheet to see how they use it – Kevin H.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – February 27, 2014
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report – 5/1/13 – 2/21/14
- HCBC Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal for MPEA – Redcedar Planting on the Edge of Clegg’s Meadow
- HCBC Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal for MPEA – Woodcock Spring Seep Area

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
February 27, 2014**

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| • Nominating Committee | Robin |
| Presentation: Patapsco Heritage Greenway | Grace Kubofcik |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Habitat Fund donation | Kurt |
| • Pot Luck | Kathie |
| • Greenfest | Kate |
| • Backpack | Kate |
| • Use of Member Spreadsheet | Kevin |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Newsgrams | Wes |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

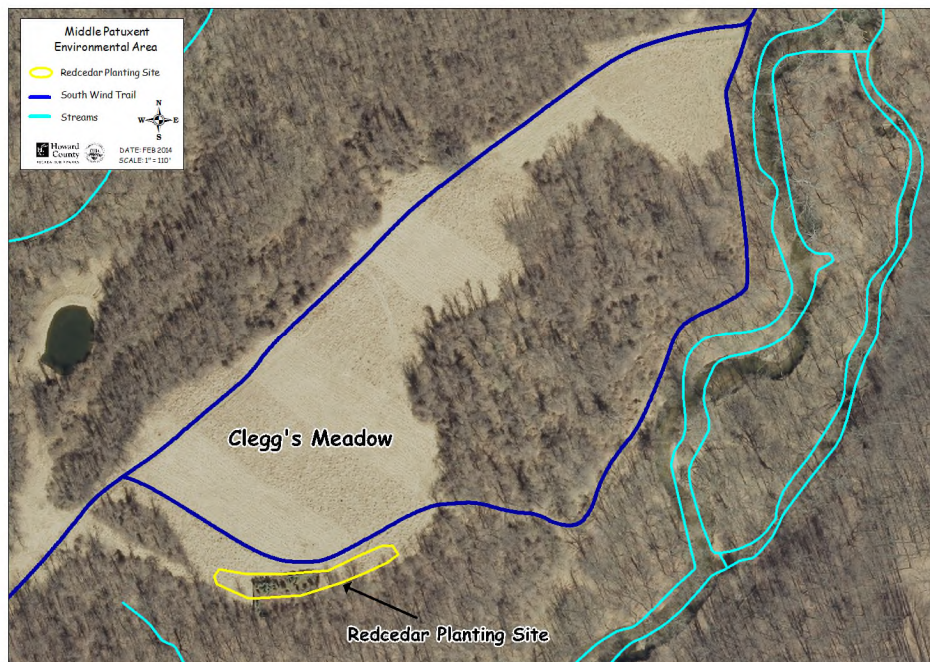
Location:
Karen Darcy
9775 Diversified La.
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(410) 418-8731, Khdarcy4@aol.com

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/13-4/30/14

	Budget 2013-14	Feb	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		75.00	5,325.00
State Dues Paid		(3,240.00)	(3,495.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,100.00	(3,165.00)	1,830.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions		45.00	551.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,100.00	(3,120.00)	2,381.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	200.00		231.49
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			67.50
Equipment		304.99	304.99
Art Contest for Youth			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	350.00	80.00	328.00
Miscellaneous			
Business Cards		170.55	170.55
Greenfest	25.00	35.00	35.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,525.00	590.54	1,437.53
Seed Sale			
Income			6,374.23
Expense			
Seed			(6,374.23)
Flyers			5.00
Net Seed Sale			(5.00)
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		75.00	1,681.46
Donation to All Creatures			(200.00)
Balance of Contributions			1,481.46
Balance of Bookstore Account			1,393.14
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.01
Interest Received		0.07	0.83
Balance			10,647.84
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			8,080.13
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,187.84
Petty Cash			64.63
<i>Total</i>			24,332.60

Howard County Bird Club
Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal
For Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
Redcedar Planting on the Edge of Clegg's Meadow
February 2014

Natural Resource Managers at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area are seeking funding for habitat management to enhance an eastern redcedar planting on the southern-most edge of Clegg's Meadow. A small stand of redcedar trees were originally planted by the first MPEA Manager with a group of Boy Scouts back in 1999. There are about a dozen fairly large redcedar trees surviving from the original 20 planted. Last year, we removed the deer enclosure, and some invasive vines and autumn olives. We would like to add to the stand and create a better transitional edge to the meadow.



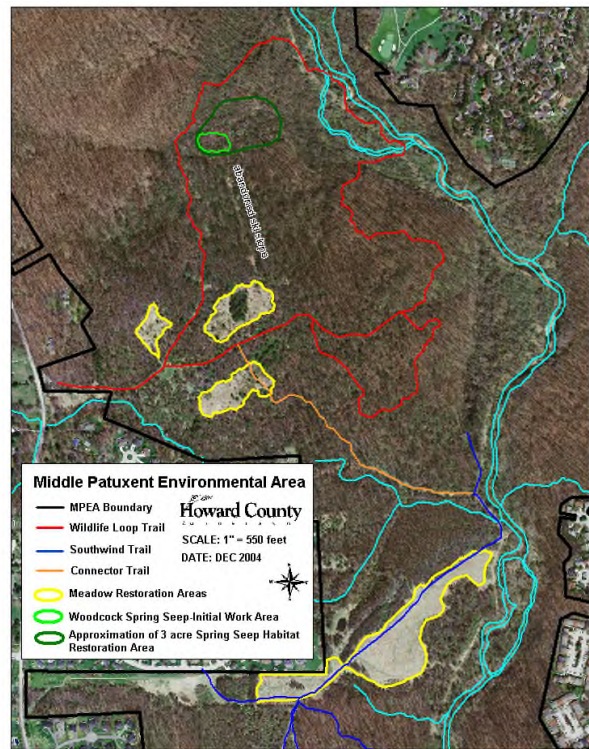
We are requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider funding this project in the amount of \$600.00, which would purchase 20 large eastern redcedar trees (7-gallon size, 4-5 foot height, at \$30 each). The County would purchase fencing and posts to construct tree shelters, and also tree staking materials for this project. The larger size trees will provide better survivability by getting above deer browse height faster, be easier to maintain against competition from invasives, and help jump-start the project faster towards its objectives. The objectives will be to create additional evergreen cover, and to create a transitional edge between the meadow and the tall surrounding trees.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal,
Cheryl Farfaras
Natural Resources Manager, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks
6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
410-313-4726
cfarfaras@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Bird Club
Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal
For Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
Woodcock Spring Seep Area
February 2014

Natural Resource Managers at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area are seeking funding for habitat management to restore diurnal feeding covers in the Woodcock Spring Seep area. Diurnal feeding covers are an essential component of the habitat mosaic needed to attract and sustain a breeding population of American woodcock. The spring seep area near the foot of the abandoned ski slope (see map) had historically provided high quality woodcock feeding cover. At one time, the moist, rich soils of the seep area supported a dense stand of alders (*Alnus serrulata*) and young, second growth hardwoods. This plant community had the high stem density, overhead protection, and suppressed ground cover to provide the proper habitat structure for ideal cover and easy access to abundant earthworms required by woodcock.

Management actions to date have included re-opening the canopy in a one-half acre initial work area, invasive species control, and planting of 40 alders plus other desirable native species. Then work was completed to expand the restoration area to two acres, progressing in steps, so that we are able to keep up with invasive species control. The Howard County Bird Club funded the planting of 50 native shrubs in this newly restored area in 2007 (\$410). In spring 2010 the work continued to expand the area to a total of three acres to approximate the woodcock feeding cover present in the late 1960's to early 1970's. The Howard County Bird Club funded the planting of a native wetland seed mix (\$420) planted in 2010. This helped to restore areas that were cleared of multiflora rose by our Weed Warrior volunteers. The specialized wetland seed mix, contained species like fox sedge, Eastern bur reed, soft rush, sensitive fern, shallow sedge, arrowhead, wool grass, and many more species, which helped to stabilize this area, and compete with invasives like stiltgrass that thrive on disturbance.



We are currently requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider funding an additional planting of native shrub species in the Woodcock Spring Seep Area for planting in spring 2014. The goal will be to continue to expand the native shrub-scrub cover to replace the multiflora rose cover that has been removed. Funding in the amount of \$720 would be used to plant the following species:

<u>Woodcock Management Area - Spring Seep</u>		<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Common alder	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>	10	3-5 foot	12.00	120.00
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	10	3-5 foot	15.00	150.00

Red chokeberry	Aronia arbutifolia	10	3-5 foot	11.00	110.00
American hazelnut	Corylus americana	10	3-5 foot	10.00	100.00
Winterberry	Ilex verticillata	10	3-5 foot	12.00	120.00
Arrowwood viburnum	Viburnum dentatum	<u>10</u>	3-5 foot	12.00	<u>120.00</u>
		Total:	60		\$720

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal,
Cheyl Farfaras
 Natural Resources Manager, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
 Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks
 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
 410-313-4726
 cfarfaras@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2014

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr.) √
Eva Sunell (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Wes Earp. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 13, 2014 was 49 people. The regular speaker was a no-show, but Kevin Heffernan and Karen Darcy stepped in and gave the program they had been scheduled to give in February when the meeting was canceled due to weather. The program was entitled "Birding Highlights of the Galapagos Islands."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the attached Treasurer's Report by email prior to the meeting. She reported that she had sent a check to Howard Rec and Parks for the two MPEA projects we approved at prior meeting. She reported that she had received a thank you note from Judy Holzman of All Creatures Great and Small. She has the email from YMOS Birdathon that reports are pledge came to \$248. In discussion we decided that Emy should stop tracking the balance that came from the bookstore and merge the amount with the other habitat preservation funds in a single account. She had also distributed a proposed budget for 2014-2015. Bob requested a change in the amount for website to reflect current expenditures which now includes on-line storage. The amended proposed budget is attached. It was moved and seconded that we approve the amended proposed budget and the motion passed unanimously.

President's Remarks (Earp): Wes had the following items to review:

- Rosa Lubitz presented the club with a copy of the book "Birds of Paradise". We decided to hold a silent auction of the book at the upcoming pot-luck with the proceeds going to habitat preservation.
- Joe Hanfman is actively seeking leaders for the four RNC events.
- A power bar was left in the display case following a recent event. He cautioned that those manning club displays should be sure no food is left in materials as it could attract pests and damage the display case.
- He asked if we had heard anything further on supporting the Girl Scout camp activity. Eva reported that she had replied but had not heard back from them.
- Joe Byrnes is stepping down as Winter Count Co-coordinator. Wes will check with Joe Hanfman before he seeks a replacement.
- It had been overcome by events but MOS had been considering holding a Conference in Westminster and asked if we could assist Carroll club with hosting the Conference. The potential site proved unsatisfactory and so the next conference will be held in Hagerstown.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Robin was out of town.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): It was reported that a Butterfly Survey Training session will be led by Richard Smith on May 15. One additional field trip Patapsco Scrublands at Felicia Lovelett's on May 31 was added to Goldfinch listing.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo mentioned the pair of Brewer's Blackbirds found of Daisy Road, the short visit of a Tri-colored Heron at Centennial, early Solitary Sandpiper at Fulton, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Lake Elkhorn, and the continuing Red-necked Grebes at Centennial.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported on the Maryland House and Senate had both passed bills authorizing Sunday hunting in Western Maryland. MOS has publicly opposed as precedent setting and effectively denying birding community access to many areas during hunting season. MOS has sent letter to Governor appealing for him to veto bills. Bob proposed we identify all bills (with specific recommended actions) we want the Governor to act on and distribute that via a Newsgram closer to when the Governor will be making his final decisions. The sense of the Board was agreement with this approach.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported he feels the coming newsletter is all set.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported he has incorporated changes to the 2013-2014 Directory received from his sending draft to board and is ready to print hard copies for those that don't get electronically. He is considering in future sending a draft to all electronic recipients in future so that more corrections can be included in the final version.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): Ward reported on the most recent meeting held March 1. IRS 990-N forms need to be filed until sometime after May 1. Emy does this and Dave Webb would like to be notified when completed. Martha Kraus is the new Membership chair. If we need to use it MOS has a tax-exempt certificate. Next MOS Board meeting is at Jug Bay on June 7. There is a special birding event at Jug Bay following Board meeting. There is some concern regarding keeping the bulk mailing rate for hard copies if MOS implements the electronic distribution (which is still not implemented). The USF&W Service has made a determination that wind turbines can kill 1 eagle per turbine without impacting the population. The proposal for a wind farm at the Air National Guard base near McGee Marsh in Ohio has been abandoned. Wes has copies of the Delaware Ornithological Society birdathon brochures. MOS is still working on plans to allow payment via PayPal. MOS is providing some funding to Project SNOWSTORM that is tracking Snowy Owls during this year's irruption. The Investment Committee has continued planning to shift from management by RBC (at a cost of ~\$20,000 / year) to using Vanguard Index Funds. It will take explicit board approval to change the investment objectives. It appears a formal vote of board to implement this change at some time in the future.

Old Business

Habitat Fund – As discussed in Treasurer's report above the funds have been disbursed for All Creatures Great and Small and the two MPEA projects. Wes then discussed follow-up to the email he sent earlier and the evolving status of working with Howard Rec and Parks to plant dense pine stands that could develop into future "owl" winter habitat. Current focus is on the Houchen park property near Woodbine/Morgan Run. Wes, Jay Sheppard, and David Keane (tree planter for Rec and Parks) recently walked the property to identify potential locations for planting. David has plans to plant native White Pines (in 5 gallon pots) with deer repellent spray. This will be done using Mitigation funds that must only be used on native species. Jay had originally proposed we might fund supplementing this with Red Pine and Norway Spruce which are non-native. Jay has now backed off on our doing this until we see how the effort using mitigation funds comes out. During the walk around they identified an 8 acre parcel to be planted. Today Wes had received an email reporting that Raul Delerme, responsible for Capital Projects for Rec and Parks was expressing reservations about using the whole 8 acre parcel for this purpose. As a result it was evident we would not be taking any funding action on this project in the near future. The Board agreed that we

felt Wes should continue to work with Rec and Parks on this and would follow his lead on whatever he worked out with them.

Potluck – Kathie reported that all was set for coming Saturday, March 29. She estimated ~35 will attend.

Greenfest – Kate had sent word that plans were all set.

New Business

Use of Spreadsheet – It was acknowledged that Kevin had received quite a few responses to his query of users, but the overall impression was that the spreadsheet continues to be useful.

Certificates – Wes reported that Joe Hanfman has been in touch with Joyce Kelly regarding our desire to present her with a certificate of appreciation for her gracious hosting of many birders that came to see the Rufous Hummingbird at her home. Precisely when the presentation will be made is to be determined. Wes indicated he is pursuing the presentation of a “Valued Service Reward” to another individual. He was reassured that is fully within his authority.

Around the Room -

- John McKitterick reported he has had Rusty Blackbirds and a Swamp Sparrow at his feeder.
- Eva stated she and Sherry are planning to support the Ilchester Girl Scout event on April 27.
- Ward reported that two of his neighbors (but not he) had seen a Wild Turkey in neighborhood. He will be in England for our April board meeting but plan to have a proposed date for the seed sale set up by the May board meeting.
- Karen mentioned that they had a purple finch coming to their feeders.
- Kathie reported her surprise at have a Pileated Woodpecker visiting their suet feeder.
- Jo mentioned that Ward has formally donated his digital picture frame to the club. We have been using it for display events and now have it as ours.
- Bob stated he had put together a show for the digital picture frame to use at Greenfest. It has birds with a “water” focus to match the Greenfest theme. The next event is RNC Insect Extravaganza and he would put together a show for that if we have a location that has electricity available for the digital frame.
- Howard reported that he had one very nice side benefit of his membership in the club. He linked his son up with Russ Ruffing for an interview and his son has been hired by Russ’ firm.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck
- Provide Bob with article on Potluck for Newsgram – Kathie DONE
- Send email to club members who receive membership spreadsheet to see how they use it – Kevin H. DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Bird Club Board of Directors Meeting – Agenda – March 27, 2014
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/13 – 3/25/14
- Howard County Bird Club – Proposed Operating Budget 2014-2015 – Approved 3/27/2014

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
March 27, 2014**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| • MOS Board Report | Wes |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Habitat Fund | Kurt |
| ○ Saw-whet Owl Habitat Project | Wes |
| • Pot Luck | Kathie |
| • Greenfest | Kate |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Use of membership spread sheet | |
| • Certificates | Wes |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

Location:

Wes & Sue Earp
6480 S. Trotter Rd.
Clarksville, MD 21029

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/13-4/30/14

	Budget 2013-14	Mar	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		30.00	5,325.00
State Dues Paid			(3,495.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,100.00	30.00	1,830.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			551.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,100.00	30.00	2,381.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		300.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00		
Postage, copies	200.00		231.49
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			67.50
Equipment			304.99
Art Contest for Youth			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	350.00		328.00
Miscellaneous			
Business Cards		29.99	200.54
Greenfest	25.00		35.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,525.00	29.99	1,467.52
Seed Sale			
Income			6,374.23
Expense			
Seed			(6,374.23)
Flyers			5.00
Net Seed Sale			(5.00)
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		10.00	1,691.46
Donation to All Creaatures			(200.00)
Donation to Howard Rec & Parks			(1,320.00)
Balance of Contributions			171.46
Balance of Bookstore Account			1,393.14
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.01
Interest Received		0.06	0.89
Balance			10,647.90
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			6,770.14
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,187.90
Petty Cash			64.63
Total			23,022.67

Howard County Bird Club
Proposed Operating Budget 2014-15
Approved March 27, 2014

Income:

Membership Dues (net)	2,000.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u><u>2,000.00</u></u>

Expense:

Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Website	200.00
Postage, Copies	250.00
Pot Luck Dinner Supplies	50.00
Greenfest	35.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	400.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u><u>1,685.00</u></u>

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 24, 2014

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr.)
Eva Sunell (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 10 was 69 people. Bonnie Ott gave a program entitled “Birding and Beyond at Howard Hotspots.”

The annual club business meeting was held on April 10 to elect the officers for next year. The slate of officers had been presented by the nominating committee at the March meeting and distributed to the membership by email/mail. The slate presented was President – Robin Todd, Vice-President – John Harris, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Emy Holdridge, State Directors – Karen Darcy, John McKitterick, and Kate Tufts, and Chapter Directors – Meg Harris (1st Yr) and Ward Ebert (2nd Yr). It was moved that the secretary should cast the ballot as a whole. It was seconded and the ballot passed unanimously. Following the meeting the contact information for the new officers was sent to the MOS Secretary and President for inclusion in the State MOS listing of officers.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted with minor changes received after the original email distribution. A copy of the updated minutes is available from the Secretary upon request.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy had distributed the attached Fiscal Year Final Treasurer’s Report. She observed that our income had exceeded operating expenses by \$630.28. She also distributed a copy of the budget adopted for next fiscal year (attached).

President’s Remarks (Earp):

- Wes has not yet had a discussion with Joe Hanfman regarding whether Joe wants or has a recommendation for a new co-coordinator for Mid-Winter Count, given that Joe Byrnes has stepped down as co-coordinator.
- Wes indicated that plans are in place to support the Ilchester Girl Scout Camp program and Eva confirmed this was the case.
- Wes reported that for the foreseeable future the project proposed by Jay Sheppard to plant pines on Howard Recreation and Parks property as future “Saw-whet Owl wintering habitat” is dead. Rec and Parks had offered a parcel of land and the use of mitigation funds for the planting but has now withdrawn that offer.
- Kate has agreed to handle a bird club booth at the upcoming RNC Native Plant Palooza on May 4. Bob has updated a set of pictures for the digital picture frame for her to use.

- Wes has a limited number of books left from the book store and contributions that have not sold. He plans to offer them “free to a good home” at the next meeting and if any are left after that will gift them to the library or other appropriate organization.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin had no formal remarks but observed that he had the impression the warbler migration was late. It was observed by several others that there is great variability in this and it’s really hard to know if this is indicative of any trends.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): No report.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo made note of the Swallow-tailed Kite that Harry Fink observed flying over his house on the evening of April 22. This is the first modern day record for the county. The only prior record was a specimen collected at the Elkridge market in the 1870’s. This specimen was donated to the Natural History Museum and is the only other known Howard County occurrence of this species.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present but had forwarded an email announcing a series of NPS hearings. The hearings are to seek public input on plans for long term parking and development of the Assateague Bayside Peninsula. NPS wants to address recurring damage from major storms. It is hoped the birding community can be represented at these hearings which are being held at Assateague on May 13, 14 and June 7.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard was not in attendance but had sent an email expressing his thanks to Jo Solem for her knowledge and patience in guiding him through his first year’s production of the Goldfinch.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob announced he has a major refresh of many of the photo sections on the website that he is planning to upload in the near future. Wes asked Bob if he would draft a few sentences for the club’s annual report on actions we have taken this year to include on-line storage to secure the website content and databases and enhance email communication to the membership. Bob agreed to take this for action. Wes indicated he is working on having the annual report ready to submit prior to the MOS Conference.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last meeting.

Old Business

Potluck Wrap-up – Kathie reported that overall she felt things went well. She was very pleased with the Silent Auction of the book “Birds of Paradise” that had been donated by Rosa Lubitz. John Harris won the auction with a bid of \$40 which was added to the Habitat Preservation fund. She also discussed the fact that traditionally we have announced the club will provide beverages. She has struggled with trying to guess what people want to drink. She noted that this year most people brought their own beverages and didn’t drink what she had purchased. She said that water, coffee, and tea are supplied and used. It was decided that in future we should just have announcement say the club would provide those three items and not purchase any other beverages.

Greenfest Wrap-up – Kate noted that during the day the enthusiasm of the volunteers resulted in receiving a number of “invitations” for engagement from those that visited the club booth. We have already discussed the invitation from Howard Community College and have addressed it by having Jeff Culler email them the announcement displays he puts up on the Centennial Park bulletin board when he updates the display. She passed several others of these invitations to Wes and wondered if we should take any action on them. She felt we could ignore the one from a STEM organization as it was not a focused request. She thought the others that seem to be requests for us to participate/lead some of their activities might be responded to by sending them a copy of our schedule and pointing out they are welcome to participate in any of these events. We briefly discussed, as we have in past, that if a volunteer were interested as acting as an Outreach Coordinator, this would be a good thing but no one has volunteered. Wes said he planned to let any further effort on this issue be left for Robin to consider next year. In closing it was clearly the sense of the Board that participating in the events like Greenfest, where large groups of

people are exposed to the club and exposed to the enthusiasm of our members was a good thing. This probably generates new member applicants even if we have no way of actually tracking the degree that this occurs.

RNC Walks and Other Obligations – Wes reported that Joe Hanfman has agreed to be responsible for finalizing the four walks we are committed to hold for RNC. The goal is to have the dates and descriptions for these events to RNC by the end of April. Joe hasn't been in touch with Wes recently, but had been hoping to have leaders for all 4 events settled before submitting them. If necessary we may have to submit the descriptions without finalizing the leaders for the later events.

The other obligations we have are to have a booth at the RNC Insect Extravaganza on July 13 and the RNC Open House on Sept 21. Bob volunteered to be responsible for the Insect Extravaganza. He envisions having a booth indoors and preparing a digital picture show with butterflies and dragonflies. We then discussed plans for the Open House and agreed we would like to have an outdoor location where we can set-up spotting scopes and have binoculars to try and actually show visitors live birds as well as have the display board. The volunteer who coordinates this activity will have to take initiative and arrange with RNC to have us placed in such a location. (This will likely preclude having electricity and thus not permit use of the digital picture frame.)

New Business

Club as BioBlitz Partner – Ann Coren of the organization “Transition Howard County”, a co-sponsor of the BioBlitz being held at West Friendship Park on Saturday, April 26 has asked if the club wants to be listed as a “partner” on BioBlitz materials and distributed information. A brief summary of this organization is included at the bottom of the attached agenda. It was noted by several on the board that many club members have signed up as leaders and participants in the BioBlitz. We have already agreed to have our website serve as the repository for the data collected during the 24 hour event. In discussing the issue we did not identify any downside to agreeing to be a “partner.” It was moved, seconded, and approved that we agree to be a “partner.” Jo Solem agreed to notify Ann of our decision.

Around the Room -

- Kate announced that the new club brochures and business cards were available for people to take and use. The business cards display the new club logo and website address. Kate made it a point to thank Amanda Witt for her help in designing the cards, which everyone agreed looked great. Cards and brochures will be shared with those who will use them in promoting the club (e.g., field trip leaders, officers, and anyone who expresses interest in having some for that purpose).
- Eva reported on the status of several pools in her neighborhood that needed to be drained down somewhat. Her husband reported having seen a “lizard” on a neighbor’s house, and Jo informed her it was most likely a skink.
- Kathie reported that the neighbor’s sheep had recently been sheared and when she opened one of their bluebird boxes she found that it was fleece lined. She reminded the Board that our next meeting was at her home. Chuck observed that the latest Goldfinch has the location and date wrong. It lists the meeting will be at Kate’s on the 23rd (likely last year’s information). THE NEXT MEETING IS AT KATHIE LILLIE’S.
- John mentioned that he is enjoying the Virginia Bluebells blooming in their backyard.
- Bob proposed that we ask John and Meg Harris as new and “independent” observers to take a look during the next year at the club’s processes and procedures looking for efficiencies. We who have been involved for long periods are prone to the “we’ve always done it that way” syndrome. He would especially like them to use their IT experience to look at how we distribute emails to the club and our membership database security.
- Lastly Chuck mentioned that he will make a point when he sends out the minutes to let John and Meg know they are invited to the May 22 Board meeting as new members of the Board.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Review the contents of records case and make recommendations on what to keep/scan – Wes, Kevin & Chuck CLOSED – Wes will pass box to Robin as part of transition to new president and we may revisit later.
- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process – Chuck, Chuck reported that besides his digital copies of the minutes, Wes has a copy so there is an off-site copy but need to also have it stored in club off-line storage.

New/Continuing Action Items

- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process and provide copies of those in digital format to Bob for storing on-line – Chuck
- Provide Wes words for inclusion in annual report on actions taken this year for on-line storage of website content and database, as well as enhanced use of email in communications with membership - Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – April 24, 2014 – Final version handed out at meeting
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/12 – 4/30/14 – CORRECTED 4/22/14 (Fiscal Year Final Report)
- Howard County Bird Club, Adopted Operating Budget 2014-2015

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
April 24, 2014**

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Potluck wrap-up | Kathie |
| • Greenfest wrap-up | Kate |
| • RNC Walks | Joe/Wes |
| Other Obligations: Insects – July 13 th | |
| Open House – Sept 21st | |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Club as BioBlitz partner | |
| Ann Coren, Transition Howard County*** | |
| Ecosystem Landscaping Committee | |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

Kate Tufts

*** **Transition Howard County** is an all volunteer organization that is focused on making the communities of Howard County more resilient and sustainable.

Our Vision: Locally sustainable communities in Howard County that embrace ethical stewardship of the environment.

Our Mission: Foster resilient and engaged communities by: raising awareness of climate change, declining resources and the need to adapt to future challenges; focusing on the sustainable development and use of local resources; promoting the crucial importance of a biodiverse ecosystem; encouraging lifelong learning; and collaborating with community organizations and government.

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/13-4/30/14

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2013-14</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>CORRECTED</u> <u>4/22/2014</u>
Operating Fund			Year to Date
Income:			
Membership Dues		255.00	5,610.00
State Dues Paid		(55.00)	3,550.00
Net Membership Dues	2,100.00	200.00	2,060.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			551.00
Total Operating Income	<u>2,100.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>2,611.00</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	350.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	150.00	200.00	200.00
Postage, copies	200.00	62.54	294.03
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			67.50
Equipment			304.99
Art Contest for Youth			
Donations		36.54	36.54
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00	30.12	30.12
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	350.00	134.00	462.00
Miscellaneous			
Business Cards			200.54
Greenfest	25.00		35.00
Total Operating Expense	<u>1,525.00</u>	<u>513.20</u>	<u>1,980.72</u>
Seed Sale			
Income			6,374.23
Expense			
Seed			(6,374.23)
Flyers			5.00
Net Seed Sale			<u>(5.00)</u>
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		40.00	1,691.46
Donation to All Creaatures			(200.00)
Donation to Howard Rec & Parks			(1,320.00)
Donation to YMOS Birdthon		248.00	248.00
Balance charged to Donations (see above)			<u>(36.54)</u>
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.01
Interest Received		0.05	0.94
Balance			<u>10,647.95</u>
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			<u>5,540.00</u>
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			6,305.08
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,187.95
Petty Cash		(19.60)	45.03
Total			<u>22,538.06</u>

Howard County Bird Club
Adopted Operating Budget 2014-15

Income:

Membership Dues (net)	2,000.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	<u><u>2,000.00</u></u>

Expense:

Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00
Meetings:	
Programs	600.00
Hospitality	50.00
Special Supplies	
Website	200.00
Postage, Copies	250.00
Pot Luck Dinner Supplies	50.00
Greenfest	35.00
Publications:	
Newsletter & Directory	400.00
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	<u><u>1,685.00</u></u>

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 2014

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Wes Earp √
Vice-president: Robin Todd √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
Chap. Directors: Ward Ebert (1st yr.) √
Eva Sunell (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: John Harris √
Meg Harris
Dick Smith

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kathie Lillie. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 8 was 61 people. Steve Sheffield gave a program entitled "The Owls of North America."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was not present but had submitted the attached treasurer's report. Expenses included the honorarium for May speaker and the general supplies were items to store and transport the club display materials that Kate purchased. Kate observed that Emy could delete the line item for Art Contest supplies from her monthly reports.

President's Remarks (Earp): Wes made the following remarks:

- The plans for the four RNC events we will support in coming year have been submitted and accepted by RNC staff.
- Wes informed Robin that he has added the annual planning for the RNC events to the President's checklist calendar.
- He reminded the board that we are committed to host the state MOS Board meeting on the first Saturday in March and will need to schedule a venue to hold the meeting (probably The Howard County Conservancy at Mt. Pleasant).
- The certificate and book to be presented to Joyce Kelly for hosting visits to see the Rufous Hummingbird have been given to the McClure's who will present them to Joyce. (Wes reported that he forgot to sign the certificate as well as the one he presented to Jane Geuder at the May meeting. He will make arrangements to sign them.)
- There are only a few of the books left and he plans to dispose of them, probably donating them to the Howard County Library.
- He thanked the Board members for their support during his term as President and the Board expressed our appreciation for his leadership.

Vice-President's Remarks (Todd): Robin had no formal remarks. Wes asked if Robin could attend the next MOS Board meeting on June 7. Robin declined as his daughter is getting married on that date. Wes stated he will plan to attend the meeting.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Not present. It was mentioned that upcoming trips were Kurt's Hotspots for Red Knots and the Patapsco Scrubland at Felicia Lovelett's.

Records (Jo Solem): Not present. Mention was made of Harry Fink's sighting of a Swallow-tailed Kite over his yard.

Conservation (Schwarz): Not present. No report.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported that the due date for articles for the Sept-Oct issue is July 25. Howard will send out a reminder email to those providing standard articles for this issue. Robin was reminded that he will be expected to provide a President's Welcome article.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Not present. Wes reported that Bob's attempts to set up a mail group for the Board have been unsuccessful so far and will be put on hold for now. Wes will contact Bob to see how we could add information on supporting the butterfly garden to the website. One concern is not to promote the butterfly garden at expense of soliciting funds for our other habitat projects.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Earp, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): Annual meeting was held at MOS Conference on May 17. The next State Board meeting is June 7 at Jug Bay.

Old Business

BioBlitz wrap-up – Wes reminded the board that we have agreed to have our website act as a repository for the data collected. He had hoped to discuss with Jo how well the data was vetted. In discussion we suggested that as we are acting as repository but not responsible for vetting the data we might want to include a caveat on data quality.

New Business

Seed Sale – Ward reported that he had discussed dates with Kevin from The Wildlife Authority and they have settled on repeating last year's approach of pick-up being available for a week. This year's sale pickup will be from Oct. 4 – 11. To support this schedule the order will need to be placed by Sept. 19, email of the order form will need to go out on Sept. 7 (snail mail Sept 6), and prices fixed at the end of August. Ward will have Goldfinch article drafted by July 25. Orders and checks will be received and processed by Jeff Friedhoffer from Sept 7 to 18 since Ward will be unavailable for part of this period but will handle all other aspects of the sale.

Butterfly Meadow Discussion – Dick Smith attended the meeting and described where planning for the meadow stands. BGE has agreed to hold off mowing the meadow until October. Agreement with the plan to delay mowing has been agreed to by neighbors and Rec and Parks. He has had discussions with Superior Lawn Service, who have the mowing contracts for the garden plots and proposes to personally sign a contract with them. Estimates are that the first year mowing will be around \$450 and subsequent years ~\$300. He and Judy Dunlop envision purchasing two small signs (one on Oakland Mills and one along lane into garden plots) that will identify the garden and its purpose. The signs would invite visitors to explore and appreciate the butterflies. He estimates the signs will be ~\$150. After a brief discussion we set off on a path to try and enable his efforts.

Dick agreed to draw up a MOU between the club and a "Lake Elkhorn Community Butterfly Meadow" entity. He is to submit to board for review, and once acceptable, we would adopt it. The agreement would spell out the financial arrangements and provide clarification of the ownership and disbursement of donations. The Club will make no contracts regarding mowing. Right now, we would establish a line item in our budget for the gardens and it would hold donations earmarked for the gardens. It is likely the donations should be made to Howard County Bird Club and not the gardens. And, the club would "own" the funds until disbursement. Disbursement would be by invoice and only to designated individuals. Right now it would only be Dick. In that the funds belong to the Club, should the garden effort fold, the funds would be ours to do with as we see fit. We need to spell that out in the MOU. Also need to ensure Emy as treasurer is in agreement with process to ensure it will be acceptable to auditors.

No action was taken at this meeting. The plan is to review and adopt the MOU over the summer. Hopefully the MOU discussion via email will enable us to work out any other problems we might anticipate and once approved we will be able to accept donations.

Possible new reference web links on Club site - Bob had proposed adding links to the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area and the Maryland Biodiversity Project web sites. The Board agreed with his proposal.

“Retirement Quest” interview request – John Hauserman is a financial planner who publishes an electronic magazine that promotes his business and contains a variety of articles of general interest to those he sends the magazine to. It was agreed that the general articles do not include endorsements or promotion of his business. The board was relatively luke warm to the request but could see it might engender interest in the club and didn’t seem to have any strong downside. A volunteer willing to be interviewed about the club will be solicited and Wes indicated if no one else came forward he would probably do it.

2014 – 2015 Board Mtg. Locations – The following volunteered to host as follows:

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Darcy
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem (<i>need to confirm</i>)
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	Howard Patterson (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Around the Room -

- Kathie reported that she is willing to host the Spring Count tally again next year.
- Howard indicated he might be able to host the May Board meeting next year (later confirmed).
- Wes reported that he had observed Red-shouldered Hawk feeding on a frog from his goldfish pond.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process and provide copies of those in digital format to Bob for storing on-line – Chuck
- Provide Wes words for inclusion in annual report on actions taken this year for on-line storage of website content and database, as well as enhanced use of email in communications with membership – Bob DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process and provide copies of those in digital format to Bob for storing on-line – Chuck
- Draft a Memo of Understanding between the club and the entity referred to as the “Lake Elkhorn Community Butterfly Garden” – Dick Smith
- Add the proposed new links to the club website - Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2013	-	Robin Todd	
October 24, 2013	-	Howard Patterson	
November 21, 2013	-	John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING	
January 23, 2014	-	Jo Solem	
February 27, 2014	-	Karen Darcy	
March 27, 2014	-	Wes Earp	
April 24, 2014	-	Kate Tufts	
May 22, 2014	-	Kathie Lillie	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – HCBC Board of Directors Meeting - May 22, 2014
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report, 5/1/14 – 4/30/15 – 5/20/2014
- Map of Lake Elkhorn Community Butterfly Meadow

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
May 22, 2014**

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Report | Wes |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • BioBlitz wrap-up | Wes |
| 8. New Business/Discussions | |
| • Seed Sale | Ward and Jeff |
| • Butterfly meadow discussion | Dick Smith |
| • *Possible new ref. web links on Club site | Bob |
| • **“Retirement Quest” interview request | Wes |
| • 2014 – 2015 Board Mtg. Locations | All |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

Kathy Lillie’s
4102 Roxbury Mill Rd.
(410) 489-5262

*<http://www.middlepatuxent.org/> and <http://www.marylandbiodiversity.com/index.php>

**John Hauserman, author [RetirementQuest: Make Better Decisions](#)
President, RetirementQuest Wealth Management
2600 Longstone Lane
Suite 105
Marriottsville, MD 21104

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/14-4/30/15

	Budget 2014-15	May	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		95.00	95.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	95.00	95.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions			
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	95.00	95.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	75.00	75.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, copies	250.00		
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies		9.53	9.53
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Donations			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	400.00		
Miscellaneous			
Business Cards			
Greenfest	35.00		
Total Operating Expense	1,685.00	84.53	84.53
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Seed			
Flyers			
Net Seed Sale			
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.95
Interest Received		0.06	0.06
Balance			10,648.01
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			6,315.55
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,188.01
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			22,548.59



Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 25, 2014

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge √
Chap. Directors: Meg Harris (1st yr.) √
Ward Ebert (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Darcy √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Robin Todd. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 11, 2014 was 62 people. Dr. David Blockstein, senior scientist of the National Council for Science and one of the leaders of Project Passenger Pigeon gave a program entitled “Extinction of the Passenger Pigeon: Ecological and Policy impacts a Century Later.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Solem for Stirrat): Accepted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Accepted (copy attached). Emy has submitted the 990N for HCBC to IRS.

President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin will be on travel at the time of the November regular and Board meetings and asked John to preside.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Trips are planned through January 1, 2015. Jeff Culler volunteered to lead the trip Sunday, September 28, after the original leader had a change of plans.

Records (Jo Solem): None.

Conservation (Schwarz): Woodstock Post Office will be closing when the lease expires in June 2016, and the land will be developed for housing. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (DofA) held a hearing on implementation of the Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) program for feral cats. When MOS (Kurt), the Maryland Department of Health, and Maryland Department of Natural Resources expressed strong opposition to the creation and implementation of such a plan, DofA tabled the idea. (The meeting was in response to a bill that requested such a study and said that DofA “may”— not “must” — implement such a program.)

Newsletter (Patterson): Submissions for the Nov-Dec newsletter are due Sep 25. Emy and Bob suggested that each newsletter list the names of new members who have joined since the previous listing; and that a list of the names of

each person who has made special monetary contributions to the club and MOS be included in the May-June newsletter each year. The suggestions were accepted by the Board and the newsletter editor.

Webmaster (R. Solem): None

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Darcy, McKitterick, Tufts): Gene Scarpulla is the new editor of *Maryland Birdlife*. He plans to produce one issue each year; the publication will be in color (since the cost is about the same as printing in B&W). Piscataway has been offered amenities in exchange for a right-of-way across the land by the developer to a new subdivision; the right of way is for a road and a gravity-flow sewer to a drain field. The developer promises to remove the old bridge and build a rain shelter. MOS has designated the President and Vice-president to negotiate on behalf of MOS. (Other concessions may include conveyance of an additional 100 acres [already under forest conservation] to MOS ownership.) The 2015 MOS convention was also discussed, but several positions need to be filled before it happens.

Old Business

Seed Sale: about the same number of people have ordered as last year.

Butterfly meadow status: See attached email from Dick Smith and response from Robin. Dick outlined a proposal for obtaining funds for signage and mowing the meadow next to the Elkhorn Garden Plots to enhance it as a butterfly meadow. He is working on an MOU with HCBC, which he expects to have completed by December. After discussion, the consensus was that Robin should notify Dick that the Board would take up the matter again after reviewing the draft MOU. CLOSED.

New links to resources on the HCBC web page: links to Maryland Biodiversity Project and MPEA Foundation have been added. CLOSED.

Retirement Quest interview request: Wes contacted the individual but there was no followup. CLOSED.

RNC 3rd Anniversary: Meg had people to staff the exhibit throughout the afternoon. The picture frame projector was used for a rotating display of birds seen in Howard County. Meg & John brought their own stuffed toys designed like birds that have bird calls activated by squeezing the bird. This was useful for attracting young children (and their parents) to the display. It was moved/seconded/passed that Meg spend up to \$30 to buy more such toys to be used in future events where HCBC has a display.

Woodpecker walk for RNC: John Harris said 16 signed up and 12 (plus RNC staff) showed up for the walk. John prepared a handout on woodpeckers seen in Howard County; the president now has the original (attached) so that the handout can be used in subsequent years. John took the group on one of the loops in MPEA but said that may have been a little long even though everyone kept up.

New Business

Robin shared an email (attached, including subsequent emails) from the Smart on Pesticides Campaign (SOPC) requesting support for legislation in Maryland and for HCBC to join Smart on Pesticides Coalition. There was no indication of what the legislation would include nor any indication of who in the legislature would be sponsors. After discussion, the consensus was that Robin should respond seeking clarification.

Robin shared an email (attached, including HCBC response) from Melissa Bianchi (a GT Resource Teacher in the Howard County school system) who is starting a nature project to bring birds to the schools. She requested aid in buying bird seed. After discussion, the consensus was that Robin should respond suggesting that she seek discounted seed from a local supplier.

HCBC will host the March 2015 meeting of MOS Board of Directors at Mount Pleasant. Robin will reserve the meeting room in the Gudelsky building (which Howard County Conservancy said would be available without charge) for the meeting.

HCBC potluck will be March 21 or 28, 2015 in the auditorium of Robinson Nature Center (RNC). Kathie (through Karen) will contact RNC and make reservations for whichever date is available.

U of MD Central Farm (Central Maryland Research and Education Center – Clarksville Facility) open house is Saturday October 11, and Wes will have a display for HCBC and conduct a “Big Sit.” Robin will ask if Wes needs additional volunteers, and Bob will include a request for volunteers in the next NEWSGRAM.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Assemble all the copies of old minutes he has as part of the records management process and provide copies of those in digital format to Bob for storing on-line – Chuck
- Draft a Memo of Understanding between the club and the entity referred to as the “Lake Elkhorn Community Butterfly Garden” – Dick Smith PENDING
- Add the proposed new links to the club website – Bob COMPLETED

New/Continuing Action Items

- Order stuffed toys designed like birds that have bird calls activated by squeezing the bird – Meg
- Respond to SOPC request – Robin COMPLETED AFTER MEETING
- Respond to Mellisa Bianchi – Robin COMPLETED AFTER MEETING
- Respond to Dick Smith about MOU – Robin COMPLETED AFTER MEETING
- Reserve RNC auditorium for HCBC 2015 Potluck – Kathie

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Darcy
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	Howard Patterson (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Bird Club Board Meeting- Agenda Sept. 25, 2014
- Howard County Bird Club Treasurer’s Report – Sept. 23, 2014
- Emails on Elkhorn Butterfly Garden
- Fact Sheet for RNC event “Walking with Woodpeckers” – John Harris
- Emails related to Smart on Pesticides Campaign (SOPC)
- Emails related to request from Howard County teacher for bird seed
- Emails related to U of MD Central Farm Open House

Minutes submitted by:

Robert Solem for
Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
September 25, 2014**

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Discuss Agenda – additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Bob |
| 3. Treasurer’s Report | Emy |
| 4. President’s Remarks | Robin |
| 5. Vice President’s Remarks | John |
|
6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe/Bonny |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
|
7. Old Business | |
| • Seed Sale | ? |
| • Butterfly meadow status | Dick Smith (in absentia) |
| • Possible new ref. web links on Club site. | Bob |
| • Retirement Quest interview request | Wes |
| • RNC 3 rd anniversary – HCBC display | Meg |
| • Report on MOS meeting in Chestertown | Karen, John or Robin |
| • Woodpecker walk for RNC | John |
|
8. New Business | |
| • SOPC request for support | Robin |
| • Elementary school bird seed request | Robin |
| • Uni. MD Farm open day – October 11 th | Wes (in absentia) |
|
9. Action Items | Bob |
|
10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

Robin Todd’s
10174 Green Clover Drive
(410) 313-8154

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/14-4/30/15

	Budget 2014-15	September	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		2,570.00	2,665.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	2,570.00	2,665.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Contributions to HCBC		505.00	505.00
Contributions to MOS		45.00	45.00
Contributions to Butterfly Garden		75.00	75.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	3,195.00	3,290.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	125.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, copies	250.00		
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			9.53
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Donations			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	99.00	99.00
Miscellaneous			
Business Cards			
Greenfest	35.00		
Total Operating Expense	1,685.00	149.00	233.53
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Seed			
Flyers			
Net Seed Sale			
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.95
Interest Received		0.25	0.31
Balance			10,648.26
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			9,452.55
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,188.26
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			25,685.84

eholdridge
9/25/2014

Subject: RE: Butterfly meadow update?

From: "Smith, Richard H." <Richard.Smith@jhuapl.edu>

Date: 9/26/2014 11:46 AM

To: Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>

CC: "juliejdunlap@earthlink.net" <juliejdunlap@earthlink.net>, "odenata@msn.com" <odenata@msn.com>, "emyh608@verizon.net" <emyh608@verizon.net>, Linda Hunt <raven10322@hotmail.com>

Robin,

Thanks for the discussion and support. I have the MOU on my to-do list.

Dick

From: Robin Todd [mailto:totnesman@aol.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2014 10:40 PM

To: Smith, Richard H.

Cc: juliejdunlap@earthlink.net; odenata@msn.com; emyh608@verizon.net

Subject: Re: Butterfly meadow update?

Hi Dick,

We discussed the club's role in assisting with the funding of the butterfly meadow. We all supportive of the meadow, but feel that we need to see the MOU before reaching a decision. Will look for that in December.

Regards,

Robin

-----Original Message-----

From: Smith, Richard H. <Richard.Smith@jhuapl.edu>

To: Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>

Cc: Julie Dunlap (juliejdunlap@earthlink.net) <juliejdunlap@earthlink.net>

Sent: Wed, Sep 24, 2014 9:56 am

Subject: RE: Butterfly meadow update?

Hi Robin,

Thanks for asking. I still have plans to write an MOU to the Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) to initiate a special donation fund for the Elkhorn butterfly meadow (and overseen by the HCBC Treasurer) to pay for perimeter pathway mowing and planned signs (which would be placed each spring and removed each fall). Checks would be written to me or Julie Dunlap after we showed invoices of costs incurred. (As I announced at the September club meeting, I had to put this on hold because BGE contractors inadvertently mowed the meadow in early June and cramped the prospects for a showcase meadow this year. Also, I was advised by the previous site manager at the adjacent Elkhorn Gardens that the current Columbia Gardeners president was ambivalent about such things and that new management after their fall election might be more supportive.) I would also consider requesting HCBC for a one-time grant from their seed-sale conservation fund to support these costs, especially the signs. In addition, I would like to coordinate, if possible, early next year with the Columbia Gardeners and the Howard County Bird Club to have one or two kickoff butterfly survey events at the Elkhorn Gardens to raise awareness of and interest in the butterfly meadow. This fall however, not many people are thinking butterflies, and I doubt that I would get much donation into a butterfly meadow fund. Thus, I was not planning to write the MOU until December or so, and then announce kickoff butterfly events and request donations for the meadow in early spring 2015. Please let me know if you have alternative recommendations or ideas. Thanks again.

Dick Smith

From: Robin Todd [<mailto:totnesman@aol.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:53 PM

To: Smith, Richard H.

Subject: Butterfly meadow update?

Hi Dick,

Anything new to add about the Butterfly Meadow for Thursday's Board Meeting of the Howard County Bird Club?

Best regards,

Robin

Robin Todd

President/HCBC

John Harris - Howard County Bird Club

- Thanks to RNC for coordinating this event - excited to introduce you to woodpeckers and I'm always happy to be birding at MPEA!
- Invite you all to bird club meetings at **RNC** - 2nd Thursday (Sep-May)
- Conduct 40 field trips a year and other events - pass around flyers

MPEA

- Great outdoor resource - birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, plants, fungi
- Why so good for birds? Birds follow the food, and the forests and fields...
- Birds also looks for places to nest and live - forests, bird houses
- eBird lists 169 species of birds (214 all HC) recorded here (since 2005) - owls, hawks, bald eagle, and yes, woodpeckers! MPEA is a top HC birding hotspot - and is GREAT for woodpeckers - since 2005
- Note that RNC has 90 species on eBird - since 2011
- Note: MPEA information: maps, bird list
- Ticks

What we will do today

- Walk! - slowly - about 3 miles - show map
- Watch!
 - I need your help - we need to check EVERY bird we see
 - Pileated story
 - Check the ground, bushes, trees, and birds in flight
 - Start right now! Birders joke that the best birds seem to be in the parking lot!
 - We will also look for evidence of woodpeckers: holes in trees
- Listen!
 - David Sibley notes that birders make 90% of their IDs by ear!
 - Help me listen for all bird calls, songs - some will (I hope!) be woodpeckers
 - Songs, drumming - more on that later
- Woodpecker overview
 - Pictures, toy pileated - point out Red-headed, YB Sapsucker
 - Playback calls
 - Fact sheet
 - National Geographic - Ivory Billed Woodpecker
 - Most famous - Woody woodpecker - based on Pileated
 - Recent sightings at MPEA posted to eBird yesterday: Downy, Hairy, Flicker, Pileated, Red-bellied

Back yard birding

- Suet - feeder - most hardware stores
- Which woodpeckers you get depends on nearby habitat - I get mostly Downy

Walking

- Note habitat changes: fields, edges, forest, flood plain, river
- Note woodpecker trees: logs, holes, Sapsucker tree

"Walking With Woodpeckers" - Howard County Maryland Woodpecker Facts

Name	Length (1)	Similar Sized Common Bird	Favorite Food (2)	Primary Habitat (2)	Migration
Pileated Woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)	16.5"	American Crow (17.5")	Carpenter ants in logs , other ants , insects, beetle larvae, berries, fruit	Variety of deciduous and coniferous forests and forest edges	Year around
Northern Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)	12.5"	Blue Jay (11")	Ants and other insects on ground , berries seeds	Variety of open woodland or forest edges	Year around
Hairy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>)	9.25"	Northern Cardinal (8.75")	Primarily insects, some fruits, seeds, sap	Mature deciduous or mixed forest, pine forests in southern United States	Year around
Red-bellied Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>)	9.25"	Northern Cardinal (8.75")	Nuts, insects, fruits, seeds, bird nestlings, eggs, sap, nectar. Stores food.	Wide range of forest types - prefer high tree density and developed understory	Year around
Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	9.25"	Northern Cardinal (8.75")	Insects (in flight) , grasshoppers, worms, lizards, mice, bird nestlings, eggs, nuts, seeds, fruit. Stores food.	Variety of open and coniferous forests and edges. Areas with snags are attractive.	Year around
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>)	8.5"	European Starling (8.5")	Sap, insects, spiders, fruit, seeds, cambium, phloem, buds	Winter: forest edges and other semi-open habitats	Migrates north in summer for breeding
Downy Woodpecker (<i>Picoides pubescens</i>)	6.75"	Tufted Titmouse (6.5")	Primarily insects, some fruits, seeds, sap	Deciduous trees in open deciduous woodlands or riparian forests	Year around

(1) Sibley, D.A. (2003). *The Sibley Guide To Birds of Eastern North America*: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

(2) Backhouse, F. (2005). *Woodpeckers of North America*: Firefly Books Ltd. 2005

www.howardcountymd.gov/mpea.htm

ebird.org - Cornell U. online birding **database**

www.howardcountymd.gov/robinsonnaturecenter.htm

www.allaboutbirds.org - Cornell U. "**all about birds**"

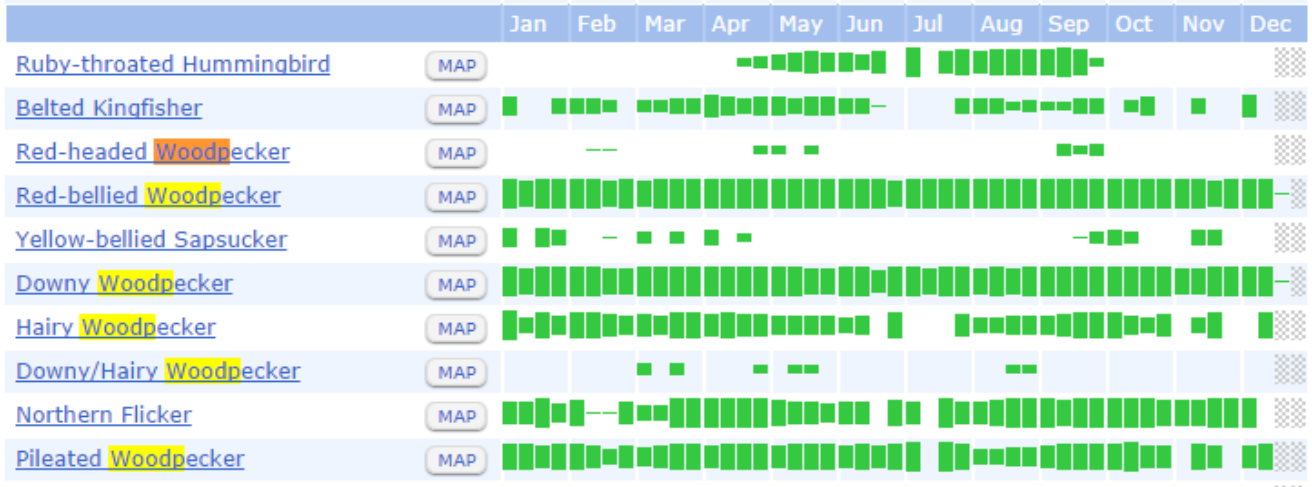
howardbirds.org - **Howard County Bird Club**

en.wikipedia.org - all about **everything!** Page 1021 of 1347

Flight	Often undulating - called "flap-bounding" - Pileated is one exception
Drumming	Nearly all species of woodpeckers drum to communicate - both sexes drum
Nesting	All woodpeckers nest in cavities - many build a new one every year - old cavities are used by other creatures: birds (e.g. perching birds, owls), mammals (e.g. bats, squirrels), snakes, frogs (1)
Feeding	Many have long, sticky tongues adapted for catching insects after excavating holes in trees
Drumming and pecking	Bill, skull, skeleton, muscles, and eyes are adapted for forceful pecking
Ectropodactyl feet	Zygodactyl (2 forward facing, 2 backward toes) when on ground or on horizontal limbs, but fourth toe pivots to side or front in many species for better vertical support (1)
Dimorphism	Males, females have slightly different markings for most woodpecker species
Tail feathers	Specially adapted for providing strong support while clinging vertically
Migration	Howard County, MD woodpeckers reside here year around, except Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Feeding	Nearly all woodpeckers will feed at suet feeders , which ones actually come to your feeder depends on nearby habitat. Also occasionally eat seeds (e.g. sunflower) and peanuts

(1) Backhouse, F. (2005). *Woodpeckers of North America*: Firefly Books

Middle Patuxant Environmental Area (MPEA) Bird Observations from eBird (ebird.org)



Pileated Woodpecker



Adult male



Adult female

Northern Flicker



Adult male



Adult female

Hairy Woodpecker



Adult male



Adult female

Red-bellied Woodpecker



Adult male



Adult female

Red-headed Woodpecker



Adult

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



Adult male



Adult female

Downy Woodpecker



Adult male



Adult female

Subject: SOPC - Howard County Bird Club
From: Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>
Date: 9/25/2014 10:59 PM
To: acubird@verizon.net
CC: odenata@msn.com, krschwa1@verizon.net

Hi Dixie,

I presented your request to the Board this evening. While all were in support of this bill, the consensus was that we need to see its contents before deciding whether to sign on. Please can you forward this bill or direct me to a link? I can then raise this subject at our October meeting.

There was the suggestion that your appeal should also go to the MOS conservation officer. I am therefore copying my colleague, Kurt Schwarz, who holds this post.

Best regards,

Robin

-----Original Message-----

From: Dixie <acubird@verizon.net>
To: Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Sep 19, 2014 7:48 pm
Subject: Re: birds and pesticides

Robin,

Thanks so much for your interest in this effort.

You would be committing to having Howard County Bird Club listed as a member of SOPC. It is crucial that we have as many supporters as possible to get the mandatory pesticide labeling bill passed.

There is very little action required; only as much as your club is interested in.

When the next meeting is set, SOPC will send you an invitation to join a conference call (or you can attend the campaign meeting in Annapolis) with other organizational leaders.

As a coalition member, you can be as involved as you feel called and your time allows you to be. Bringing this issue to your members will likely identify members who have an interest in getting involved and **we would like to know those people and channel that interest to work together with them.**

Personally, I feel very strongly that those with a vested interest in the environment(birders, beekeepers, local organic farmers) need to band together for support in addressing issues such as this. Power in numbers.

I hope this answers your question. I look forward to hearing the response from your Board.

Dixie Mullineaux

On 9/18/2014 10:41 PM, Robin Todd wrote:

Hi Dixie,

Thanks very much. Will put this on the agenda for next Thursday's board meeting. If HCBC were to join the SOPC, what would we be committing to?

Best regards,

Robin Todd
President
Howard County Bird Club

-----Original Message-----

From: Dixie <acubird@verizon.net>

To: totnesman <totnesman@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, Sep 18, 2014 10:12 pm

Subject: birds and pesticides

Dear Robin,

I am writing to you as a birder who is concerned about the effects that pesticides are having on bird populations. My interest in the subject was first tweaked when, as a beekeeper, I became aware of the devastating effect of neonicotinoids on honeybee colonies. When researching, I came across compelling information that also linked this class of pesticides with declines in certain bird populations.

In a study published in July of this year, researchers at the Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology have found that since the mid-1990s, bird populations have dropped at significantly higher rates near areas that have been sprayed with imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid pest control agent that kills insects. Populations of 15 species of birds are declining in areas where farmers have treated their crops with imidacloprid.

The Dutch researchers think the decline in birds is probably due to pesticides unintentionally killing off the insects they rely on to feed their young during the breeding season.

However, they said they can't rule out the possibility of other ways the pesticide may be affecting birds, such as through direct ingestion. According to a study published by Environment Canada researcher Pierre Mineau in 2013, at a single kernel of imidacloprid-treated corn can kill small and "blue-jay sized birds," and sicken larger ones.

The [Smart on Pesticides Campaign \(SOPC\)](#). SOPC is working with scientists, public health experts and legislators to establish a scientifically valid **Maryland pesticide use database**. The pesticide use database will provide wildlife and environmental researchers, public health experts and other scientists with the data they need to understand if and when pesticides are affecting our health, and the health of the Chesapeake Bay, birds, honeybees and wildlife.

I am writing as a beekeeper and birder to ask for the support of your bird club in getting this important bill passed. Would you be willing to present this request to join the Smart on Pesticides Coalition to your Board of directors and have your club join?

Please consider this important step for protecting all of life: birds, bees, and humans.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dixie Mullineaux

Smart on Pesticides Campaign

Subject: pesticide bill

From: Dixie <acubird@verizon.net>

Date: 9/26/2014 6:12 PM

To: Kurt Schwarz <krschwa1@verizon.net>, mailto:Totnesman@aol.com, odenata@msn.com

Robin & Kurt,

Hope this helps:

The pesticide database bill was passed in 2013 and the bill to fund passed in 2014. Now, the goal is to make the case to a new administration that the pesticide database be designed in a way that makes the data collected made **mandatory** and useful to scientific researchers. There are industry opponents who are working to keep the database voluntary, which would be costly yet not achieve any value.

The SOPC coalition has hired highly respected policy consultants, The Hatcher Group, as well as working as a coalition of savvy political advocates with seasoned experience and relationships. They know how to craft a bill, engage support in the public, legislature, and administration. Bills for the 2015 session are in discussion among the leadership of SOPC and Citizen's Campaign for the Environment, an effective environmental lobbying coalition for 20 years. There are representatives who are engaged in preliminary discussions with SOPC about a neonics bill.

Thanks for your continued interest,
Dixie

Subject: ps

From: Dixie <acubird@verizon.net>

Date: 9/26/2014 6:18 PM

To: Kurt Schwarz <krschwa1@verizon.net>, odenata@msn.com, Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>

Robin & Kurt,

Here is a another summary of what SOPC is doing; a little different description:

These are the issues we are focusing on now:

- * getting a scientifically-valid mandatory pesticide reporting database in Maryland
- * considering feasibility for some kind of legislation that would address the proliferation of neonicotinoids (neonics) insecticides now in many homeowner garden products
- * growing the coalition so that we can show legislators and state government officials that there is a broad constituency of citizen groups who are concerned about the effects of pesticides on public health, honeybee survival and birds, aquatic life and wildlife.
- * educating legislators and new gubernatorial administration about the science and concerns around pesticides in our state and building relationships of trust

Sorry for confusion. Leaving for out of town and in a rush.

Dixie

Subject: Re: Bird Seed Donation
From: Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>
Date: 9/25/2014 11:08 PM
To: Melissa_Bianchi@hcpss.org
CC: odenata@msn.com, ktufts@verizon.net

Hello Melissa,

I raised your appeal for bird seed at our board meeting this evening.

While we are all sympathetic to your goal, we feel it would not be the best use of our funds for protecting bird habitat. In addition we feel that we should not favor one (or two) school over all the other schools in the County.

As an alternative, you might consider approaching a wild bird seed store for discounted seed.

I am sorry my reply is not more helpfully.

Best regards,

Robin Todd
President
Howard County Bird Club

-----Original Message-----

From: Melissa Bianchi <Melissa_Bianchi@hcpss.org>
To: totnesman <totnesman@aol.com>
Sent: Fri, Sep 19, 2014 2:55 pm
Subject: Bird Seed Donation

Hi,

I am a teacher in Howard County and have been working with a group of students to enrich their awareness about birds. We are working on a nature project to bring birds to our school campus. PTA awarded us a grant to purchase bird feeders and a few other supplies, but we are in need of some bird seed donation. I met with a couple members from the "bird club" yesterday and they told me to reach out to you. Anything you are able to do for our nature project would be greatly appreciated. Thanks so much!

Melissa Bianchi
GT Resource Teacher
.5 West Friendship Elementary
www.tinyurl.com/wfesgt
.5 Thunderhill Elementary
<http://thesgifted.weebly.com/>

Subject: Re: Agenda for HCB BM on Thursday

From: Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>

Date: 9/25/2014 10:35 PM

To: wesandsue@gmail.com, stirrcr1@gmail.com

CC: allenlewis@gmail.com, bonnieott@verizon.net, wardebert@verizon.net, ezsunl@comcast.net, OldHawk@aol.com, auk1844@gmail.com, Khdarcy4@aol.com, KJHeff@aol.com, emyh608@verizon.net, howard21042@verizon.net, jafried@ieee.org, jaybee.harris@gmail.com, jbmck@verizon.net, klillie3@verizon.net, jimclub@gmail.com, mctharris@gmail.com, krschwa1@verizon.net, Odenata@msn.com, Charles.Stirrat@jhuapl.edu, tstrik@verizon.net, stbirder@yahoo.com, ktufts@verizon.net, June@southernspreadwing.com, amanda.witt@yahoo.com

Wes,

Your willingness to do this event again was appreciated by the board this evening. Let us know if you need help.

Robin

-----Original Message-----

From: Wesley Earp <wesandsue@gmail.com>

To: 'Charles Stirrat' <stirrcr1@gmail.com>; 'Robin Todd' <totnesman@aol.com>

Cc: 'Allen Lewis' <allenlewis@gmail.com>; 'Bonnie Ott' <bonnieott@verizon.net>; 'Ebert, Ward' <wardebert@verizon.net>; 'Eva Sunell' <ezsunl@comcast.net>; 'Geuder, Ralph & Jane' <OldHawk@aol.com>; 'Hanfman, Joe' <auk1844@gmail.com>; 'Heffernan, Karen' <Khdarcy4@aol.com>; 'Heffernan, Kevin (home)' (home) <KJHeff@aol.com>; 'Holdridge, Emy' <emyh608@verizon.net>; 'Howard Patterson' <howard21042@verizon.net>; 'Jeffrey Friedhoffer' <jafried@ieee.org>; 'John Harris' <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>; 'John McKitterick' <jbmck@verizon.net>; 'Kathie Lillie' <klillie3@verizon.net>; 'Lubitz, Jim' <jimclub@gmail.com>; 'Meg Harris' <mctharris@gmail.com>; 'Schwarz, Kurt' <krschwa1@verizon.net>; 'Solem, Bob & Jo' <Odenata@msn.com>; 'Stirrat, Charles (work)' (work) <Charles.Stirrat@jhuapl.edu>; 'Strikwerda, Thomas' <tstrik@verizon.net>; 'Tomlinson, Sherry' <stbirder@yahoo.com>; 'Tufts, Kate & Dick' <ktufts@verizon.net>; 'Tveekrem, June' <June@southernspreadwing.com>; 'Witt, Amanda' <amanda.witt@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wed, Sep 24, 2014 5:33 pm

Subject: RE: Agenda for HCB BM on Thursday

Hey,

Correction - U of M open house is Saturday October 11. I will be picking up the display from John prior and we will do a similar program like last year. Display and tally under the tent and a display table outside with field guides, binoculars., spotting scope and seating for "big" sit. If the weather cooperates.

Wes

From: Charles Stirrat [<mailto:stirrcr1@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 10:40 PM

To: Robin Todd

Cc: Earp, Wes & Susan; Allen Lewis; Bonnie Ott; Ebert, Ward; Eva Sunell; Geuder, Ralph & Jane; Hanfman, Joe; Heffernan, Karen; Heffernan, Kevin (home); Holdridge, Emy; Howard Patterson; Jeffrey Friedhoffer; John Harris; John McKitterick; Kathie Lillie; Lubitz, Jim; Meg Harris; Schwarz, Kurt; Solem, Bob & Jo; Stirrat, Charles (work); Stirrat, Chuck (gmail); Strikwerda, Thomas; Tomlinson, Sherry; Tufts, Kate & Dick; Tveekrem, June; Witt, Amanda

Subject: Re: Agenda for HCB BM on Thursday

Robin,
I won't be available. But I note the fall festival at the U of MD Central Farm is Oct 4. We have supported in past.
Status of our plans?
Chuck

On Tue, Sep 23, 2014 at 10:25 PM, Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com> wrote:
Hello Folks,

Please find attached the agenda for Thursday's Board Meeting. Do let me know of any errors or if additions/subtractions are needed.

Hope to see you on Thursday.

Best regards,

Robin

--

Chuck Stirrat
stirrcr1@gmail.com

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 23, 2014

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
Chap. Directors: Meg Harris (1st yr.)
Ward Ebert (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Heffernan. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 9 was 62 people. Clark Russing gave a program entitled "Coming Home: Understanding the Causes and Consequences of Dispersal in a Migratory Bird, the American Redstart."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes which had been prepared by Bob Solem were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was not present but had distributed the attached report in advance of the meeting. There were no questions on the report.

President's Remarks (Todd): None.

Vice-President's Remarks (J. Harris): John reported that Meg will setup and handle the club display at the Howard County Concert Orchestra on November 9 at St. John's Episcopal Church. The concert theme is "Our Feathered Friends"- music celebrating the beauty, elegance, and athleticism of the avian kingdom.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Joe had provided a preliminary list of the planned field trips for the winter and spring season. Joe still needs to find volunteers to lead a couple of trips but in general most plans are in place. There will be no "Big Day" as the Pigtail trip is the first Saturday in May, May Count is 2nd Saturday, and the third weekend is the MOS Conference.

Records (Jo Solem): No new records to report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported on his attendance at the MD Park Service meeting doing early planning for an update to a Trail Plan for Patapsco River Valley Park. Kurt shared his opinion that the Park Service is securely in charge of this process and fears that the Patapsco Valley Greenway Heritage Area group will dramatically impact plans in the Park are overblown. The Sierra Club representatives were pushing for an overly restrictive and unrealistic isolationist view of the park trails. Kurt stated that the Park Service seems to have a well balanced view

for this multi-use park and that overall what they envision should be beneficial to birders. Kurt anticipates our next involvement with this activity will be when a draft of the plan is distributed for public comment.

He also reported his attendance at a meeting of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Spay and Neuter Board. The board is attempting to set in place a process to provide low income families with grants that would cover the cost of neutering their pets. He was also pleased that the Director of the MD Department of Natural Resources had sent a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture strongly opposing Trap, Neuter, and Release programs for feral cats. He did state that his impression that the majority of members on the Spay and Neuter Board do support TNR programs.

Lastly Kurt reported he had presented his findings on the potential impact of wind turbines on Bald Eagles to a public hearing in Somerset County.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard stated that the deadline for material for the next issue is November 25. He asked for and received confirmation that Joe Hanfman is going to act alone as coordinator for Mid-Winter Count. Ward stated he would provide an article summarizing the results of the seed sale which were comparable to last year and we received a donation of \$1000 from The Wildlife Authority as last year.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob did not have any website comments but did review the process that he will follow regarding those members that have not yet renewed their membership. First they will be sent an email reminder and shortly after that he will assemble a list of those still remaining as still not renewed for the Chapter Directors (Ward and Meg). Then they will split the list and make reminder phone calls between the November club meeting and Thanksgiving.

Pot Luck Dinner (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had provided an email report. The dinner is now on the RNC calendar for Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 6 – 10 PM. She will prepare article for the Jan-Feb newsletter. In addition she reports she will miss the November 20 board meeting.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting in past month.

Old Business

U of MD Farm Open House – Wes was in charge of setting up our display and coordinating our involvement. He reported to Robin that it went well. The Big Sit bird list was a good one as there was a good raptor movement. Sue Earp captured a great photo of a flyover Peregrine Falcon that is on the website report for the event. Meg Harris had purchased the stuffed toy birds as discussed at prior Board meeting and they were a hit with the young children attending the event.

New Business

A GMO request – Center for Food Safety – Robin reported that he had received a request from the Center for Food Safety and the Center for Biological Diversity to sign onto their petition regarding the impact of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) on Monarch Butterflies and seeking protection of Monarchs under the Endangered Species Act. He passed around a copy of the request and we discussed it briefly. Although not dealing with birds we agreed the club has expanded our focus and certainly butterflies are now a focus for many in the club. Robin was advised that he should forward such requests to the board for review so that we can better discuss them either at our meetings or in email exchanges if timing precludes waiting for a meeting. Robin subsequently forwarded the email request and a copy of the petition for review (attached).

3rd Workshop – Conservation MD Birds & Habitats – Kurt and Robin attended this workshop held at Jug Bay. Kurt stated there were presentations dealing with four themes/topics. 1) Gwen Brewer gave a briefing on MD DNR efforts to update the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for 2015. Prior plan was prepared in 2005 (Kurt passed around a copy of this prior plan). Gwen was enlisting partners including MOS to aid with the update. The report is used in seeking Federal funding. 2) Ron Gutberlet reported on research into bird observatories around the country. This

was related to an initiative proposed at prior workshops that perhaps it would be good to establish such an observatory in Maryland. 3) Kurt Schwarz gave a briefing on the role of advocacy drawing on his expanding involvement as Chairman of the MOS Conservation committee. 4) Report on the status of developing a Long Range Plan. After the four presentations the group broke into two working groups with one discussint topics 1 &2 and the other topics 3 & 4. During the second WG the question was raised as to what had happened to the MOS initiative proposing development of a Maryland Birding Trail similar to those established in manfy other states. Kurt volunteered to look into this for the workshop and had focused on using the bird finding material on many MOS chapter websites. During discussion it was pointed out that significant work had already been done by MOS but when the person heading up the effort moved away the progress stalled. Lastly it was pointed out that the focus of other state’s trails is encouraging tourism. In fact without involving state tourism resources the trail won’t be able to be realized.

Advocacy Back up – Robin proposed that it would be beneficial if someone could serve as an advocacy back up for Kurt as he cannot always support meetings and opportunities for advocacy. This would be someone who would make themselves familiar with the material Kurt is assembling so that they could attend and present position. If a volunteer can be found this would be useful, but since most of this advocacy is being done on behalf of MOS perhaps someone on the MOS Conservation Committee would be a better approach.

Around the Room –

- Robin stated that he will miss both the club and board meetings in November. John will handle both of these.
- John McKitterick will host the November board meeting (3rd Thursday) but may be out of town but his wife will be home and will be our hostess if he is not available.

Review of Prior Action Items

- Order stuffed toys designed like birds that have bird calls activated by squeezing the bird – Meg - DONE
- Reserve RNC auditorium for HCBC 2015 Potluck – Kathie - DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Send out the request from Center for Food Safety dealing with protecting Monarch Butterflies – Robin - DONE

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Heffernan
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	Howard Patterson (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – October 23, 2014 (Corrected 10/24)
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – October 23, 2014
- Emails dealing with Request from Center for Food Safety
- Petition/News Release – “After 90 Percent Decline, Federal Protection Sought for Monarch Butterfly”

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda – CORRECTED OCTOBER 24
October 23, 2014**

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Any additions? | All | |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Bob | |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | Emy | |
| 4. President's Remarks | Robin | |
| 5. Vice President's Remarks | John | |
| 6. Committee Reports | | |
| • Field Trips | Joe/Bonny | |
| • Records | Jo | |
| • Conservation | Kurt | |
| • Newsletter | Howard | |
| • Web Master | Bob | |
| • <i>Pot Luck Dinner</i> | <i>Kathie (via email)</i> | |
| 7. Old Business | | |
| • Seed Sale | TBA | |
| • RNC 3rd anniversary HCBC display | Meg | |
| • Woodpecker walk for RNC | John | |
| • SOPC request for support | Robin | |
| • Elementary school bird seed request | Robin | |
| • Uni. MD Farm Open House – October 11 th | Wes/Robin | |
| 8. News Business | | |
| • <i>A GMO request – Center for Food Safety</i> | Robin | |
| • 3rd Workshop – Conservation MD Birds & Habitats | Kurt/Robin | |
| • DNR State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) for 2015 revision | Kurt/Robin | |
| <i>SWAP was covered under 3rd Workshop</i> | | |
| • Advocacy back up needed | Robin | |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck | |
| 10. Around the room | | |

Meeting Location:

Karen Darcy
9775 Diversified Lane,
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-418-8731
Khdarcy@aol.com

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/14-4/30/15

	Budget 2014-15	October	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		1,225.00	3,935.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	1,225.00	3,935.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Bookstore			46.00
Contributions to HCBC		170.00	675.00
Contributiions to MOS		20.00	65.00
Contributions to Butterfly Garden			75.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,000.00	1,415.00	4,796.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00	144.66	144.66
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	175.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, copies	250.00		
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			9.53
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Donations			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	85.00	184.00
Miscellaneous			
Business Cards			
Greenfest	35.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,685.00	279.66	513.19
Seed Sale			
Income		6,442.68	6,442.68
Expense			
Seed		6,442.68	6,442.68
Flyers			
Net Seed Sale			
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		1,374.72	1,374.72.
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.95
Interest Received		0.05	0.36
Balance			10,648.31
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			11,571.60
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,188.31
Petty Cash			45.03
<i>Total</i>			27,804.94

eholdridge
10/23/2014



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Fwd: Sign on letter for monarch butterflies

Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com> Fri, Oct 24, 2014 at 12:27 PM

To: odenata@msn.com, stirrcr1@gmail.com, jaybee.harris@gmail.com, ktufts@verizon.net, howard21042@verizon.net, jbmck@verizon.net, khdarcy4@aol.com, krschwa1@verizon.net

Dear Board Members,

As requested yesterday, please find appended the GMO (not neonics!) email from the Center for Food Safety. Please click on the link to learn more about the Center's request for our support. Let me have your thoughts by Halloween so that I can respond to this request.

As Bob suggested, in future I will forward such emails in advance of our meetings to allow them to be reviewed before we sit down to discuss them.

Best regards,

Robin

-----Original Message-----

From: Larissa Walker <LWalker@CenterforFoodSafety.org>

To: Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>

Sent: Thu, Oct 9, 2014 5:08 pm

Subject: RE: Sign on letter for monarch butterflies

Hi Robin,

Wonderful, thank you! Please keep me posted if there are any questions.

Best,

Larissa

Larissa Walker

Pollinator Campaign Director | Policy Analyst

[Center for Food Safety](#)

660 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suite 302

Washington, DC 20003

(P): [202.547.9359](tel:202.547.9359) | (F): [202.547.9429](tel:202.547.9429)

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***Thank you for considering the environment before printing this e-mail.*

From: Robin Todd [<mailto:totnesman@aol.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 4:51 PM
To: Larissa Walker
Cc: krschwa1@verizon.net; odenata@msn.com
Subject: Re: Sign on letter for monarch butterflies

Dear Larissa,

Thanks very much. I will discuss this with our Board later this month and get back to you.

Best regards,

Robin Todd
President
Howard County Bird Club

-----Original Message-----

From: Larissa Walker <lwalker@centerforfoodsafety.org>
To: totnesman <totnesman@aol.com>
Sent: Wed, Oct 8, 2014 5:04 pm
Subject: Sign on letter for monarch butterflies



Dear Robin,

I'm writing to invite Howard County Bird Club - Maryland Ornithological Society to sign on to the attached letter in support of the Endangered Species Act listing petition we recently filed seeking protection for monarch butterflies. The North American monarch butterfly population

has declined by *90 percent* , dropping from approximately 1 billion butterflies in the mid-1990s to less than 35 million butterflies last winter – the lowest number recorded.

The butterfly's dramatic decline is being driven by the widespread planting of genetically engineered crops in the Midwest, where most monarchs are born. The vast majority of genetically engineered crops are made to be resistant to Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, a potent killer of milkweed, and the monarch caterpillar's only food. The dramatic surge in Roundup use with Roundup Ready crops has virtually wiped out milkweed plants in these corn and soybean fields.



We need broad public support to overcome industry's opposition to our petition. Please join us in urging U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take swift action to protect monarchs under the Endangered Species Act by signing on to the attached letter. Click [here](#) to learn more about our efforts and to see the petition. To sign on, please email me by no later than October 31. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

For the monarchs,

Larissa Walker

Pollinator Campaign Director and Policy Analyst

Center for Food Safety

LWalker@CenterforFoodSafety.org



image003.jpg

47K



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Because life is good.



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For Immediate Release, August 26, 2014

Contact: Tierra Curry, Center for Biological Diversity, (928) 522-3681
Abigail Seiler, Center for Food Safety, (443) 854-4368
Lincoln Brower, Sweet Briar College, (434) 277-5065
Sarina Jepsen, Xerces Society, (971) 244-3727

After 90 Percent Decline, Federal Protection Sought for Monarch Butterfly

Genetically Engineered Crops Are Major Driver in Population Crash

WASHINGTON— The Center for Biological Diversity and Center for Food Safety as co-lead petitioners joined by the Xerces Society and renowned monarch scientist Dr. Lincoln Brower filed a legal [petition](#) today to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeking Endangered Species Act protection for [monarch butterflies](#), which have declined by more than 90 percent in under 20 years. During the same period it is estimated that these once-common iconic orange and black butterflies may have lost more than 165 million acres of habitat — an area about the size of Texas — including nearly a third of their summer breeding grounds.

“Monarchs are in a deadly free fall and the threats they face are now so large in scale that Endangered Species Act protection is needed sooner rather than later, while there is still time to reverse the severe decline in the heart of their range,” said Lincoln Brower, preeminent monarch researcher and conservationist, who has been studying the species since 1954.

“We’re at risk of losing a symbolic backyard beauty that has been part of the childhood of every generation of Americans,” said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity. “The 90 percent

drop in the monarch's population is a loss so staggering that in human-population terms it would be like losing every living person in the United States except those in Florida and Ohio."

The butterfly's dramatic decline is being driven by the widespread planting of genetically engineered crops in the Midwest, where most monarchs are born. The vast majority of genetically engineered crops are made to be resistant to Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, a uniquely potent killer of milkweed, the monarch caterpillar's only food. The dramatic surge in Roundup use with Roundup Ready crops has virtually wiped out milkweed plants in midwestern corn and soybean fields.

"The widespread decline of monarchs is driven by the massive spraying of herbicides on genetically engineered crops, which has virtually eliminated monarch habitat in cropland that dominates the Midwest landscape," said Bill Freese, a Center for Food Safety science policy analyst.

"Doing what is needed to protect monarchs will also benefit pollinators and other valuable insects, and thus safeguard our food supply."

Monarch butterflies are known for their spectacular multigenerational migration each year from Mexico to Canada and back. Found throughout the United States during summer months, in winter most monarchs from east of the Rockies converge in the mountains of central Mexico, where they form tight clusters on just a few acres of trees. Most monarchs west of the Rockies migrate to trees along the California coast to overwinter.

The population has declined from a recorded high of approximately 1 billion butterflies in the mid-1990s to only 35 million butterflies last winter, the lowest number ever recorded. The overall population shows a steep and statistically significant decline of 90 percent over 20 years. In addition to herbicide use with genetically engineered crops, monarchs are also threatened by global climate change, drought and heat waves, other pesticides, urban sprawl, and logging on their Mexican wintering grounds. Scientists have predicted that the monarch's entire winter range in Mexico and large parts of its summer range in the states could become unsuitable due to changing temperatures and increased risk of drought, heat waves and severe storms.



Photo courtesy Wikimedia Commons/Tiago J. G. Fernandes. Photos are [available](#) for media use.

Monarchs need a very large population size to be resilient to threats from severe weather events and predation. Nearly half of the overwintering population in Mexico can be eaten by bird and mammal predators in any single winter; a single winter storm in 2002 killed an estimated 500 million monarchs — 14 times the size of the entire current population.

“We need to take immediate action to protect the monarch so that it doesn’t become another tragic example of a widespread species being erased because we falsely assumed it was too common to become extinct,” said Sarina Jepsen, endangered species director at the Xerces Society. “2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the passenger pigeon, which was once so numerous no one would ever have believed it was at risk of extinction. History demonstrates that we cannot afford to be complacent about saving the monarch.”

“The purpose of the Endangered Species Act is to protect species like the monarch, and protect them, now, before it’s too late,” said George Kimbrell, senior attorney at the Center for Food Safety. “We’ve provided FWS a legal and scientific blueprint of the urgently needed action here.”

“The monarch is the canary in the cornfield, a harbinger of environmental change that we’ve brought about on such a broad scale that many species of pollinators are now at risk if we don’t take action to protect them,” said Brower, who has published hundreds of scientific studies on monarchs.

The Fish and Wildlife Service must now issue a “90-day finding” on whether the petition warrants further review.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 775,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Center for Food Safety is a nonprofit, public interest organization with half a million members nationwide. CFS and its members are dedicated to protecting public health and the environment by curbing the use of harmful food production technologies and instead promoting sustainable alternatives.

The Xerces Society is a nonprofit organization that protects wildlife through the conservation of invertebrates and their habitat. Established in 1971, the Society is at the forefront of invertebrate protection worldwide, harnessing the knowledge of scientists and the enthusiasm of citizens to implement conservation programs.

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P.O. Box 710 • Tucson, AZ 85702-0710 tel: (520) 623.5252 fax: (520) 623.9797 www.BiologicalDiversity.org

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Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2014

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Emy Holdridge
Chap. Directors: Meg Harris (1st yr.) √
Ward Ebert (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John McKitterick. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 13 was 55 people. Gail Mackiernan gave a program entitled "Ethiopian Natural History."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Holdridge): Emy was not present but had submitted the attached report prior to the meeting.

President's Remarks (Todd): Robin was not present and John Harris chaired the meeting.

Vice-President's Remarks (J. Harris): John reported that Meg and he setup and manned the club display at the Howard County Concert Orchestra on November 9 at St. John's Episcopal Church. The concert theme was "Our Feathered Friends." Several people stopped and learned a little about the club. The Howard Conservancy also had a display. Jo then added that this was just one of a number of outreach activities we had done this year and that it appears to be having results in new memberships. Four new memberships were received this past week. Bob mentioned that he had dropped off more brochures at Mother Natures, as the Horvaths continue to promote the club to customers that visit their store.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Neither Joe or Bonnie were present but it was noted that plans for upcoming field trips are in good shape.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the year had been fairly quiet since the Little Gull sighting until recently. Waterfowl has begun to arrive with the Ross' Goose and Surf Scoters at Centennial this week. The Ross' is the fourth report this year and amazingly we had only had approximately two prior reports ever. There was some speculation expressed that the current bird may be one of the birds sighted earlier in the year.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present and had not provided a report.

Newsletter (Patterson): The Jan-Feb newsletter preparation is in good shape.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that the web site is in good shape. In response to a question he stated that the on-line backup is in good shape. He would still like to find someone with Access experience to look at the Club Membership Database and recommend if any changes or improvements would be desirable. This person would also be in position to provide a backup to Bob for this critical aspect of the club's infrastructure.

Bob also reported that there have already been 196 memberships received. He has provided Meg and Ward with the list of non-renewals that they will contact and remind them to renew or if not planning to renew try and determine why. Emy will contact Bob, Meg, and Ward with any memberships she receives.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): The next Board meeting is on December 6. *Sec. Note: Meeting to be hosted by the Baltimore Bird Club and held at the Marshy Point Nature Center.*

Old Business

MOS Board meeting on March 7th – Our club is hosting this meeting at Mt. Pleasant (Howard County Conservancy). We have the room reserved from 8 am to noon. We agreed that the need to finish by noon should be announced so that the attendees are aware of need to finish on time. We need to plan and identify someone to lead a bird walk starting at 8 am before the meeting that will begin at 10 am. As hosts we need to arrange for food and beverages and setup and cleanup. We do receive a stipend (\$50) from MOS to purchase some of this, but we will also want to solicit members to provide baked goods or other food. It was mentioned that at minimum we should contact those who expressed willingness to provide food at club meetings. Robin was assigned an action item to seek a field walk leader and one or more people to coordinate our hosting of the meeting.

New Business

Butterfly Survey – Bob had sent the Board a copy of the attached message from Dick Smith identifying several points related to the butterfly surveys that have been conducted the past two seasons and what is planned going forward. An article describing the plans for 2015 has been provided and will appear in the next Goldfinch. Bob was excited and supportive of the “Citizen Science” represented by the preliminary analysis Linda Hunt and Dick have derived from the first two years of data and their plans for further action after further surveys including publishing a scientific paper. Dick expressed a desire to share their preliminary results with those who participated in the surveys or more widely with the club membership. He did not feel it was ready as a full club program. He had proposed a brief presentation before the regular meeting program. Our discussion concluded that this would probably not work but then we brainstormed other possible venues to present the material. One possibility we discussed would be to combine this with another short program to fill a regular club program. Jo stated that she felt Jane Geuder had not yet locked in a speaker for the February meeting. One thought was that Sue Muller might be willing to put together a short synopsis of the Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas results that could be paired with the butterfly topic. Also mentioned was that Scott Berglund had been approached about a program on the birds of the Patapsco Valley State Park that might be suitable as a shorter program. Jo and Bob took an action to contact Jane Geuder and determine current status on program plans for this year.

Around the Room -

Jo & Bob reported on their attendance at the “Celebration of Partners in Parks” sponsored by Howard County Recreation and Parks at Belmont Manor & Historic Park in Elkridge on November 2, 2014. This by-invitation event is held for those volunteers who support Rec & Parks. The program with additional information about this event is attached. Jo reported that it isn't completely clear what purpose the event serves. This event was first held last year and the setup had changed considerably from last year. The November date for an outside event created some problems with cold weather. Robin Todd also attended. Jo expressed that one benefit in attending, that can aid the club, is that it does provide an opportunity to mingle - network with other organizations and meet with Rec and Parks senior management. This can be especially beneficial if we have some issue we want to have our position

known to senior management. Jo took the opportunity to speak to John Marshall, Chief, Bureau of Parks and Program Services Division, and John Byrd, Director of Rec & Parks regarding a concern she had previously raised. She had expressed this concern in an email to Mark Raab, Superintendent, Natural Resources and Open Space, but she had heard nothing back and took this opportunity to pursue it further.

Jo went on to describe the concern, namely preserving the presence of the only remaining occurrence in the county of the fern, purple-stem cliffbrake. Last winter during a count the Earp's found the fern growing on the limestone foundation of an old building on a small parcel of Howard County park land along West Friendship Road just before it crosses the Patapsco River into downtown Sykesville. This parcel is scheduled for further development as a park in concert with Sykesville. Plans call for a skate park, a tot lot, and some repairs to this building. Jo wanted to alert management to try and preserve this small ecosystem (plant requires calcium from limestone foundation) that might well be destroyed in repairing the foundation. When asked if the plants could be transplanted she explained that would not work. They also asked if "walling" off the portion of wall where plant exists would work and she told them that might work. Obviously this is not a sure thing but Jo stated she was somewhat optimistic about the outlook.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Send out the request from Center for Food Safety dealing with protecting Monarch Butterflies – Robin - DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Find a volunteer to serve as the club's MOS Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter contact – Robin
- Find a volunteer to serve as bird walk leader for walk at Mt. Pleasant before the MOS Board meeting – Robin
- Find volunteer(s) to coordinate actions needed to host the MOS Board meeting on March 7 - Robin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Heffernan
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	Howard Patterson (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- HCBC Board Agenda – November 20, 2014
- HCBC, Treasurer's Report – November 17, 2014
- Butterfly Survey Report
- Celebration of Partners in Parks program

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
November 20, 2014**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Any additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | Emy |
| 4. President's Remarks | Robin |
| 5. Vice President's Remarks | John |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Joe/Bonnie (probably not present, but trips
all set to April 25) |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| • Pot Luck Dinner | Kathie |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • MOS Board meeting on March 7 th - booked at Mt. Pleasant: HCBC to organize | |
| 8. News Business | |
| • Butterfly Survey | Bob |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

John McKitterick
10018 Maple Avenue
Columbia, MD 21046
410-997-3122
jbmck@verizon.net

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT, 5/1/14-4/30/15

	Budget 2014-15	November	Year to Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		790.00	4,725.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	790.00	4,725.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Bookstore			46.00
Contributions to HCBC		125.00	800.00
Contributiions to MOS			65.00
Contributions to Butterfly Garden			75.00
<i>Total Operating Income</i>	2,000.00	915.00	5,711.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		144.66
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	225.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, copies	250.00	107.50	107.50
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies		67.50	77.03
Equipment			
Art Contest for Youth			
Donations			
Pot Luck Dinner:	50.00		
Publications:			
Newsletter & Directory	400.00		184.00
Miscellaneous			
Business Cards			
Greenfest	35.00		
<i>Total Operating Expense</i>	1,685.00	225.00	738.19
Seed Sale			
Income		6,442.68	6,442.68
Expense			
Seed		6,442.68	6,442.68
Flyers			
Net Seed Sale			
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		200.00	1,574.72
Reserve Fund (Savings Account)			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.95
Interest Received		0.06	0.42
Balance			10,648.37
Special Fund (Savings Account)			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			12,652.61
Savings (T.Rowe Price)			16,188.37
Petty Cash			45.03
<i>Total</i>			28,886.01

eholdridge
11/17/2014

Butterfly Survey Report

Just in case there is more space available in coming issues of *Goldfinch* for more material on Howard County butterflies, Linda has suggested to include plans for 2015 HCBC butterfly action items for members. These would include

1. Monitoring and regular monthly field trips at Elkhorn Gardens and Butterfly Meadow
2. Intensive searches at specific county park sites to document presence or absence of selected "local" species types and their habitats at known flight times. This would be done in cooperation with HC Rec & Parks staff to supplement their data on a long list of sites they are planning to maintain as wet and dry meadow habitat that would support pollinator conservation.

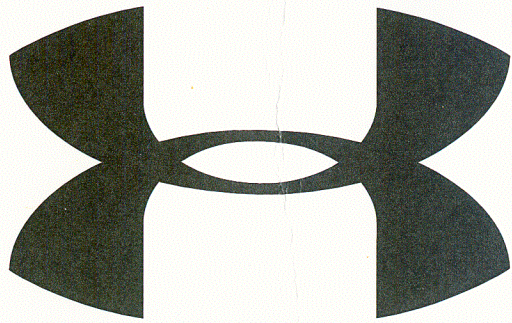
Just FYI, but one thing you may not be aware of is that, on my request, Linda did an extraordinary amount of additional work with all the survey results from 2014, and also 2013, that involved placing ALL of the data into monthly thirds bins, and then she and I prepared Excel plots of the total species count numbers as a function of time throughout the whole season. Although a lot of work, this was obviously a better way to record and analyze countywide butterfly brood cycles over the season rather than to rely on my rough memory of Occurrence Times as quoted in my Checklist and Biological Summary handout. That old data also applied to the entire Baltimore to DC area and was not specialized to Howard County, except for some updates after I requested suggestions for possible changes from the HoCo butterfly people. After doing the countywide plots, we found some amazingly clear brood cycle rises and falls. When comparing 2013 to 2014 plots, we also found amazing correlations in the cycles and consistencies in appearances of species that usually coincide in brood cycles, BUT there were year to year time shifts in some species and not in other species. Thus, there was much more to draw from this data collectively than just a record of species status at each of the individual survey sites, and it covered whole seasons, not just a single time-slice as you would gather from an annually scheduled count event. This would be very important for butterflies, since of course adults of most species only live for a couple of weeks, and then there is a hiatus as the next brood passes through the larval stages. I would say this stuff would be scientifically publishable after we do this for maybe another couple years to verify repeatability. In the meantime, it may be worth a short slide presentation for its interesting features to the bird club people sometime, or at least to those with butterfly interest. I do think it would be too lengthy for any Newsletter article to show the interesting results.

Dick Smith

Bob Solem's comments:

WOW! Just the kind of thing we want to encourage: valid scientific data from citizen science!

But when or how should this be shared with members? Jo & I do not think it would be appropriate to have a short slide presentation before a regular speaker since (as with Gail M. at last month's meeting) the speaker often takes a full hour. At this time, they probably do not have enough material for an entire program. Is there another way (besides the Potluck) this information could be shared with members and the public?



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CELEBRATION OF PARTNERS IN PARKS

November 2, 2014, 2-4 p.m.

*Belmont Manor & Historic Park
6555 Belmont Woods Road
Elkridge, MD 21075*



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS

Welcome to this appreciation event. It is a great pleasure to recognize the more than 70 volunteer organizations who strive to protect, preserve, and enhance the natural, cultural, historical, and overall park environment through sustainable practices and stewardship.

Some examples of these efforts include the following:

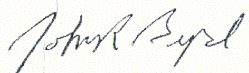
- working to preserve heritage and museum sites;
- acting as docents;
- collecting and archiving data on historic documents and relics;
- volunteering at our museums;
- being stewards of bees;
- holding programs to teach people about the stars and planets;
- conducting programs and research on birds, invasive and native plants, butterflies, dragonflies, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and other animals;
- promoting and educating volunteers in nature;
- preserving and enhancing our forests and tree canopy;
- restoring trails and streams;
- volunteering on horseback;
- participating in Friends organizations that work to protect specific resources;
- contributing as a business leader to the natural resource effort;
- helping as a garden club volunteer; and
- volunteering to work at specific facilities, centers and more.

There are thousands of volunteers in Howard County that are both advocates for and actively participating in protecting, preserving, and enhancing the overall park and heritage site environment. The County would not have such a rich and vibrant park system without the assistance of these volunteers.

Volunteers are our most valuable resource. I hope you have a festive afternoon.



Ken Ulman
Howard County Executive



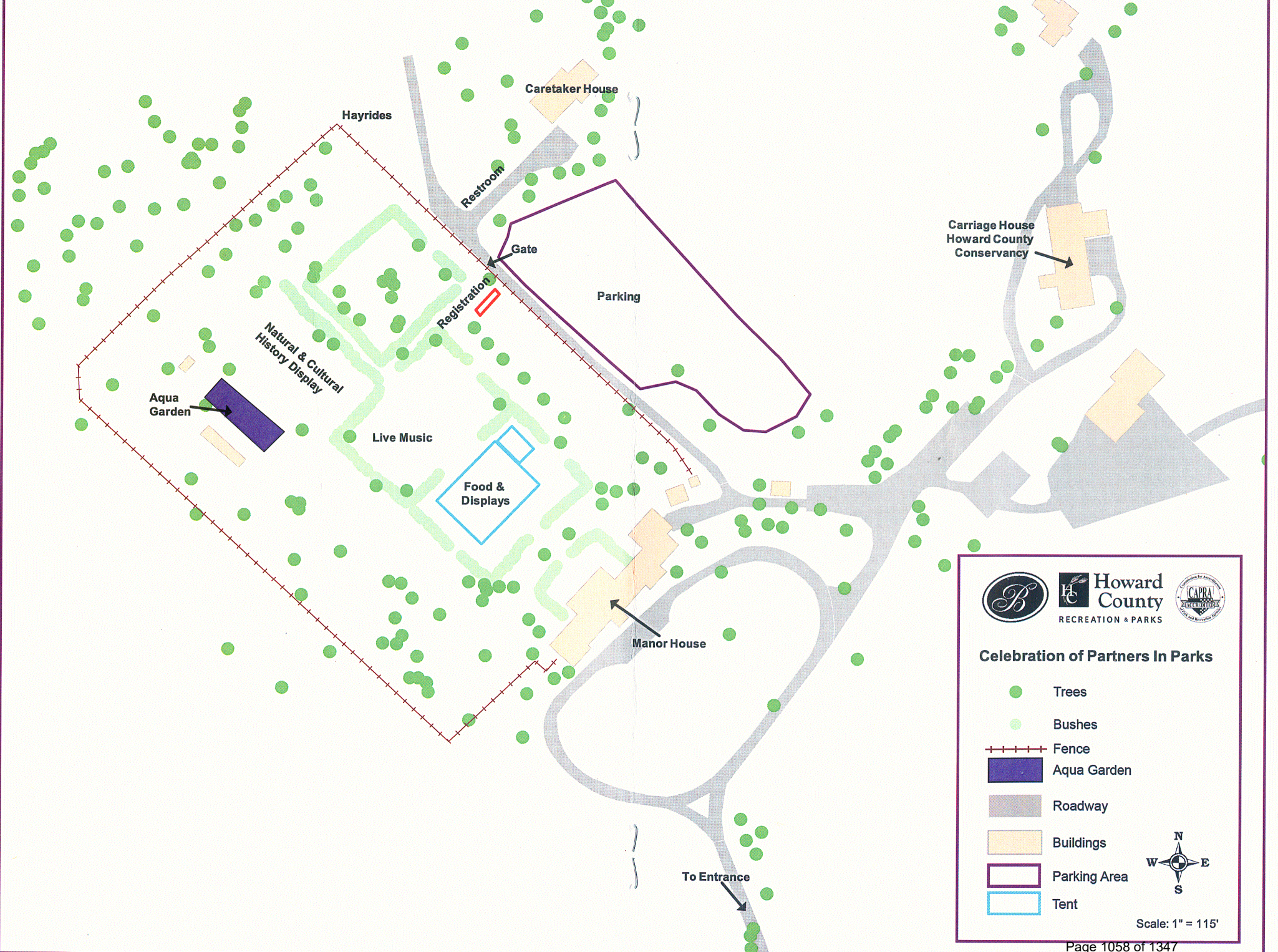
John R. Byrd
Director, Department of Recreation & Parks

Mission Statement

To nurture and *recognize* Howard County *volunteers* who strive to *protect, preserve, and enhance* the *natural, cultural, historical,* and our overall park environment through *sustainable practices* and *stewardship*.

Activities

- Live Music performed by Sons of Pirates
- Complimentary Food Stations donated by local caterers
- Hayrides assisted by the Elkridge Adult Athletic Association and docents
- Historic Walking Tour led by Mr. Fred Dorsey
- Interpretation of Natural and Cultural History presented by the Robinson Nature Center, Heritage Programs and Facilities and the Howard County Conservancy
- And more!



Hayrides

Caretaker House

Restroom

Gate

Parking

Carriage House
Howard County
Conservancy

Registration

Natural & Cultural
History Display

Aqua
Garden

Live Music

Food &
Displays

Manor House

To Entrance



Howard County
RECREATION & PARKS



Celebration of Partners In Parks

- Trees
- Bushes
- ++++ Fence
- Aqua Garden
- Roadway
- Buildings
- Parking Area
- Tent



Scale: 1" = 115'

Musicians

SONS OF PIRATES

www.sonsofpirates.webs.com

Since 1998, audiences from all over the Mid-Atlantic have been enjoying the hot summer sounds of Sons of Pirates. Sometimes billed as a Jimmy Buffet tribute band, SOP is much more, playing the beach music of Buffett, Marley, Zak Brown and splashing in classic hits from the Eagles, James Taylor and BNL and many more. SOP thrives on its audiences and their participation in the show. Every show is like a party at the beach.

Sons of Pirates has headlined many events including The Towson Festival, Rio Center Concert Series, Belvedere Square Summer Concert Series, Towson Feet on The Street, Frederick in the Street, Harborplace Concert Series, Dundalk Heritage Fair, Howard County Summer Concerts and many more. Even on a cold day, SOP can make you feel like you are drinking margaritas at the beach.



Committee Members

- Cathy Allen
- Mary Ellen Baker
- Susana Burrell
- Brian Campbell
- Caitlin Chamberlain
- Jeff Claffy
- Bill Eckert
- Anna Hunter
- Heather Johannes
- John Marshall
- Tim Overstreet
- Pamela Reese
- Daoud Salam
- Stacey Yankee

Partner Organizations

- 4H Rider Club
- Audubon Society of Central Maryland
- B&O Museum
- Blossoms of Hope Committee
- Boy Scouts of America, Baltimore Area Council
- Bureau of Environmental Services
- Caitlin Dunbar Nature Center
- Celestial Searchers
- Central Maryland Photographers Guild
- Chappy's Outdoors, Inc.
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Region Lace Guild
- Chesapeake Shakespeare Company
- Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites
- Columbia Archives
- Community Foundation of Howard County/Columbia Foundation
- Cub Scout Pack 914
- Earth Forum of Howard County
- Elkridge Heritage Society
- Ellicott City Business Association
- Ellicott City Historic District Partnership
- Ellicott City Restoration Foundation
- Emory United Methodist Church
- Federated Garden Club
- Friends of Ellicott City Colored School Restored, Inc.
- Friends of Patapsco Female Institute, Inc.
- Friends of Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway
- Friends of the Robinson Nature Center
- Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
- HC Coalition for the Environment
- Historic Ellicott City, Inc.
- Howard Astronomical League
- Howard County Beekeepers
- Howard County Bird Club

- Howard County Center for The Arts
- Howard County Center of African American Culture
- Howard County Community College
- Howard County Conservancy
- Howard County Forest Conservancy District Board
- Howard County Garden Club
- Howard County Historical Society
- Howard County Legacy Leadership Institute for the Environment
- Howard County Living Farm Museum
- Howard County Tourism & Promotion
- Howard County Woodworkers Guild
- James & Anne Robinson Foundation
- Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab
- Longfellow Garden Club
- M.O.R.E./Rockburn Skills Park
- Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education
- Maryland Delaware Chapter of the Wildlife Society
- Maryland Green Travel/Green Tourism
- Maryland Master Naturalists
- Maryland Museum of African Art
- Maryland National Road Association, Inc.
- Maryland Native Plant Society
- Maryland Science Center
- Maryland TROT Club
- Mid-Atlantic Turtle & Tortoise Society
- Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation
- Mountain Club of Maryland
- National Aquarium
- Oyster Recovery Partnership (ORP)
- Patapsco Heights Church Road Association
- Patapsco Heritage Greenway
- Port Discovery Children's Museum
- Preservation Howard County
- Rockburn Land Trust
- Salerno's
- Sierra Club of Howard County
- Sons of Confederate Veterans
- Space Telescope Science Institute
- Split Rail Garden Club
- Office of Tourism Development
- The Legacy Leadership Environmental Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trout Unlimited - Potomac - Patuxent Chapter
- UMBC
- University of Maryland Extension Howard County Master Gardeners
- University of Maryland Extension Howard County Master Naturalists
- Upper Patuxent Archeology Group
- USDA Entomology Department
- Victorian Dance Ensemble
- Volunteer Center Serving Howard County
- Watershed Stewards Academy
- Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore
- Whipps Garden Cemetery

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Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2015

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Vacant
Chap. Directors: Meg Harris (1st yr.) √
Ward Ebert (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo & Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 11, 2014 was ~100 people (a probable record). David Brinker, Regional Ecologist, MD DNR gave a program entitled “Project SNOWstorm: Tracking Snowy Owls during the Great Irruption of 2013-14.” Attendance at the club meeting held January 8, 2015 was 43 people. Dr. Chris Haney, Chief Scientist at Defenders of Wildlife gave a program entitled “The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: the fates of the marine birds and the pelagic Sargassum community.”

On January 5, 2015, the Board and club lost one of our very special members; our long-serving and much loved treasurer, Emy Holdridge.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Vacant): Bob Solem had stepped in and handled the Treasurer’s responsibilities after Emy’s passing. He submitted the attached Treasurer’s Report.

President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin had no remarks at this time but brought them up as part of the business discussions.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Not present, but field trips are arranged through April 25. Someone reminded us that Kurt has announced that there will not be a Red Knot field trip to the Delaware coast due to declining interest in the trip. Bob reported that he is including the trips we are leading for Robinson Nature Center in the web listing, making it clear that there is a fee associated with those trips.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the Greater White-fronted Goose at Centennial and Lariland Farm pond is the 6th record for the county.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present. Robin reported that he had submitted a letter stating our opposition to the expansion of the Tipton Airport that would significantly impact part of the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. Bob reported that he now had email addresses for the newly elected members of the Howard County delegation to the State Senate and House of Delegates. He has drafted a letter of congratulations and introducing the club to them for Robin to send.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard stated he had an initial draft of an Emy memorial article but required a few additions from Robin. Robin agreed to get Howard an update.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he will leave the memorial announcement on Emy on the web site until the end of the month.

Pot Luck Dinner (Lillie): Kathie reported that 32 people signed up when she passed around the clipboard at last meeting. She believes arrangements are in place. John McKitterick stated he will put together a set of instructions to give to those planning to show pictures to make the process easier for him and have pictures appear in order the presenter wants. Bob reported that he has gone through his records and put together a collection of pictures that Emy had submitted.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): We did not review the December 6 meeting other than the discussion of Piscataway Sanctuary Sewer Line under new business.

Old Business

MOS Board Meeting on March 7 – The meeting is being held at Mt. Pleasant (Howard County Conservancy) and our club is hosting. Sue Neri has agreed to help Robin, but he still needs at least one more volunteer to help.

Mt. Pleasant brief – This was one of HCC's Saturday morning family presentations. The topic was "Introduction to Birding." Robin and Mike Kerwin were to give talk but Mike couldn't support as his Mother is ill. Sue Muller volunteered to help Robin. Robin reported that the briefing went very well and he felt it would be worthwhile to do so again in the future. Sue said there were approximately 25 people, mostly adults, in attendance.

New Business

New Treasurer – With Emy's passing the club needs to have a new Treasurer. According to the club's by-laws the Board is authorized to elect a replacement for any club officer, except the President, without a vote by the club membership. Accordingly an email solicitation was sent to the membership seeking volunteers for the position of Treasurer. Cindy Albright was the only volunteer to respond. The Board reviewed her resume and found her to be well qualified. After a brief discussion it was moved and seconded that Cindy be elected Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously. Robin agreed to notify Cindy of her election.

With Emy's passing arrangements need to be made to change who is authorized to sign checks. Robin as new President and Cindy as Treasurer are to be authorized in accordance with club by-laws. The By-laws permit the Board to authorize additional persons and traditionally this has been the Vice President. The Board agreed John Harris, as Vice President should also be added as signatory. Emy's Treasurer records (3 boxes & USB stick) are currently at the Solem's. Robin agreed to set up meeting with signatories and Wes Earp as past President to visit the PNC Bank to have records updated. Solem's will make arrangements to get the records to Cindy.

Post Office Box for HCBC – Emy's passing drew attention to a problem we have in using the Treasurer's personal address for correspondence (especially that related to finances). We were unable to get mail sent to the club until Emy's daughter could make arrangements to get it to us. Accordingly Bob investigated what it would cost for the club to rent a post office box to use as our mailing address (except for the IRS that requires a physical address, where we have used June Tveekrem's personal address). The annual cost for a 3" x 5" box would be \$80/year for a box at the Columbia Post Office. The price at smaller sites (e.g. Simpsonville) would be slightly less but the

permanence of some of these might be less than Columbia. The rental comes with two keys but we can purchase additional ones, and it was agreed we should have at least 3 with access to cover times when the the Treasurer is on travel. It was agreed that checking the box approximately weekly should be adequate. It was agreed that we should open a box. Robin and Bob took an action to proceed with renting a box after confirming location with Cindy.

In a related matter Bob mentioned that we still have not found anyway to add additional people to those authorized to email the club membership using our Yahoo account. Bob is currently the only one authorized to do this. Bob reported that he and John Harris have been investigating other options including Google for Non-Profits. Besides this issue Bob hopes to have a small group further investigate transparency, persistence, and security of our records on the cloud that currently are solely dependent on him.

Memorial to Emy – Jo noted that in Emy’s obituary it asked that those wishing to express their sympathy donate to the Friends of Patuxent in lieu of flowers. Members of the club may wish to honor Emy’s memory with a project in the county. Consistent with Emy’s wishes this should certainly not be a bench or tree and not include formal signs. However something similar to what we did as a memorial to John Clegg, where funds helping seed the grass meadow at MPEA were given and through “word of mouth” the meadow has come to be known as “Clegg Meadow.” Jo reported that Rec and Parks is currently working on plans for a series of “Polinator Plots” at Centennial Park. Richard Smith has provided recommendations on what seeds to plant that would make the plot attractive to butterflies. If we collected memorial funds we could fund seeding one or more of the plots and donate the money in Emy’s memory and encourage a word of mouth campaign to refer to them as the “Holdridge Polinator Plots.” Jo estimates that the plots would cost \$500 - \$1000 per acre and that current discussions estimate a total of 1 to 1.5 acres being seeded eventually. Other ideas for memorial projects are solicited as well. Robin will include a sentence indicating the club is planning to solicit funds for some form of memorial project in his Goldfinch article, but not be too specific what that will be.

HCBC AV Equipment – John McK reported that he has in his possession some AV equipment that is not currently being used regularly by the club. For the record he has the following:

- Sturdy portable projector table with telescoping legs
- Wireless microphones (one hand-held, one lapel) with receiver, amplifier, and speaker
- Digital Projector
- Slide Projector

The Board agreed he could dispose of the slide projector. The other items are available for use if making a presentation somewhere other than RNC.

Piscataway Sanctuary Sewer Line – John McK stated that at the last MOS Board meeting this topic was introduced and he anticipates it will come up for a vote at the next meeting. He wanted to hear the Board’s opinion to help him decide how to vote when it comes up. Quoting the Yellowthroat, “Piscataway is MOS’s newest sanctuary in Prince Georges County, donated by a developer to MOS several years ago. Piscataway is our only sanctuary in PG County and represents a good block of mature woodlands in the midst of a rapidly developing area of the state. The developer now wishes to buy an easement across Piscataway for a sewer line so they can continue development of their remaining property. And as a separate action on this property, the developer would like MOS to abandon an old access easement in exchange for improving access to the sanctuary via another route and adding other amenities such as a pavilion.” At the latest Board meeting some members from Montgomery County expressed the opinion that they opposed allowing the sewer line to be installed across the sanctuary. Plans call for paralleling a stream, a late summer install, several manhole covers along the right of way, but then allowing the ground cover to reclaim the route (that is no need to keep clear cut). One suggestion was that negotiations should call for use of native plants in reseeded to avoid letting invasive plants to take over. A strong argument for approving is that as an alternative the developer would need to install a pumping station and sewer line that goes around the property. The carbon footprint of a pumping station is a major environmental impact that exceeds the temporary impact of installing the gravity feed sewer line.

Start Club Meetings at 7:30 pm instead of 8:00 pm – Robin relayed a report from Sue Muller who had been asked this question at the most recent club meeting. We discussed several pros and cons but decided that we should first determine if this was a widely held preference or by only a few members. Robin will ask for a show of hands on the issue at the next meeting. If we do find this is a strong preference we will then need to discuss with RNC staff to ensure a change is acceptable with them.

MOU Discussion with RNC Staff – Robin reported that he will be meeting with them in next week to sign an updated MOU for this year. The Board advised that other than updating dates we did not envision any reason to change the content of the MOU.

Around the Room –

- Jo stated that Russ Ruffing had inquired if the club would be interested in having Dorian Anderson, who spent 2014 in a Big Year by Bike effort, speak to the club. In addition to trying to set a new record he used his trip as a fund raising effort for The Conservation Fund. Many followed his adventure on his daily blog. His speaker fees are negotiable but include travel expenses and a fee up to \$200. Presuming he travels by train and stays with a club member we would likely be looking at total of ~\$500. The rest of this year's programs are already booked so this could not occur until next fall at earliest. Howard stated that Joe Hanfman had met Dorian and even birded briefly with him on one of his trips. Howard took an action to ask Joe his opinion as to whether he felt this might be worth the extra expense.
- Kate asked what had happened to practice of having name tags at club meetings and potluck. We agreed we should reinstitute this practice. Kathie said she knew there were name tags in the potluck materials and she would bring them to next meeting. Someone thought Kurt might have a set as well and if he does he should bring them as well. John McK agreed that there was room in the computer bags that could be used for name tags, brochures, and business cards. Having them there will ensure they are brought to the meeting. In discussing business cards Kate said she would look into ordering more of them as several members expressed desire to have them to hand out when they meet prospective members.
- Chuck mentioned that he also had a piece of club AV equipment, namely a large portable screen that we used for slides at potlucks when there was no screen in the room.
- Howard stated that he and the Harris' have exchanged months for hosting the Board meetings in March & May. The schedule below has been updated.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Find a volunteer to serve as the club's MOS Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter contact – Robin OPEN
- Find a volunteer to serve as bird walk leader for walk at Mt. Pleasant before the MOS Board meeting – Robin Scott Berglund will lead this walk.
- Find volunteer(s) to coordinate actions needed to host the MOS Board meeting on March 7 – Robin OPEN

New/Continuing Action Items

- Find a volunteer to serve as the club's MOS Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter contact – Robin
- Find volunteer(s) to coordinate actions needed to host the MOS Board meeting on March 7 – Robin
- Arrange for updating the check signing privileges at PNC Bank – Robin
- Rent a post office box for club – Robin/Bob
- Poll membership about 7:30 pm vice 8:00 pm for meeting start at next meeting – Robin
- Investigate ordering additional business cards - Kate

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Heffernan
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	Howard Patterson
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – January 22, 2015
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – Jan 18, 2015

Minutes submitted by:

Original Signed By
Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
January 22, 2015**

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Any additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | Bob |
| 4. President's Remarks | Robin |
| 5. Vice President's Remarks | John |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Robin – for Joe |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| • Pot Luck Dinner | Kathie |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • MOS Board meeting on March 7 th - at Mt. Pleasant: HCBC to organize | |
| 8. News Business | |
| • New Treasurer | Robin |
| • Post office box for HCBC | Bob |
| • Memorial to Emy | Jo |
| • HCBC AV equipment | John |
| • Piscataway Sanctuary sewer line | John |
| • Start Club meetings at 7.30 instead of 8.00? | Robin (from Sue Muller) |
| 9. Action Items - Chuck | |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

Bob & Jo Solem
10617 Graeoch Road
Laurel MD 20723
(301) 725-5037
odenata@msn.com

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/14-4/30/15**

	Budget 2014-15	January Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		110.00	4,835.00
State Dues Paid		(2,895.00)	(2,895.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	(2,785.00)	1,940.00
Publications			
Hospitality			
Bookstore			46.00
Contributions to Howard Co Bird Club		55.00	855.00
Contributions to MOS			65.00
Contributions to Butterfly Garden			75.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	(2,730.00)	2,981.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		144.66
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	100.00	425.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00		107.50
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			77.03
Equipment			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	79.50	263.50
Miscellaneous			
Habitat Preservation			
Business Cards			
Greenfest	35.00	35.00	35.00
Total Operating Expense	1,685.00	214.50	1,052.69
Seed Sale			
Income		6,442.68	6,442.68
Expense		6,442.68	6,442.68
Flyers			
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		-	1,574.72
 Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.95
Interest Received		0.13	0.55
			10,648.50
 Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
 Ending Bank Balances			
Checking			13,378.11
Reserve Fund (T.Rowe Price)			16,188.50
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			29,611.64

Bob Solem (acting)

1/18/2015

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 26, 2015

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Meg Harris (1st yr.)
Ward Ebert (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Ward Ebert. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 12 was 61 people. Colin Rees gave a program entitled “Bird of a Feather: seasonal changes on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Solem): Approved. Chuck now adds current minutes to the cumulative PDF file of minutes and puts them on the Google Drive. They are then transferred to the web, where they are accessible under “Minutes.”

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Approved. She emailed the report to the Board before the meeting and met all of the Board. She reported that people have contributed \$725 to the memorial for Emy.

President’s Remarks (Todd): None; will be covered under new and old business.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): No changes

Records (Jo Solem): Howard Patterson had one Evening Grosbeak briefly at his feeder (1/31); Diane Nagangast had a dozen Common Redpolls and several Pine Siskins at her feeder during the height of the snow storm (2/21).

Conservation (Schwarz):

Kurt testified to the Maryland Senate committee on the Polinator Protection Act and the Runoff Remediation Fee. He said that a bill to deny funding for Catch-Neuter-Release received support from the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. MOS supports retaining full funding for Project Open Space; this will be part of appropriations bills.

Newsletter (Patterson): Next deadline for the newsletter is March 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem):

Bob provided the End of Year Membership Report: Adults (voting), 234; juniors, 9. The graph for web traffic in 2014 will not be produced after this year. (Both reports are included as an attachment.) He added link to the web page titled "Minutes" for the cumulative PDF file of minutes so HCBC officers can access them; the file will also be available to members and those visiting the web. John Harris, Chuck Stirrat, Jeff Culler, and Bob have access to the Howard County Bird Club Yahoo email account and can send messages from it.

Potluck (K. Lillie):

Kathy said 45 people have signed, which is near capacity for a sit-down dinner. In March notice of the potluck will go out in a NEWSGRAM.

Old Business

MOS Board meeting on March 7th - at Mt. Pleasant: refreshments *nearly* organized – Robin/Kathy. Kate Tufts, Sue & Wes Earp, and Sue Neri have been helping.

Start Club meetings: 7:30 instead of 8:00 - votes in favor at Club meeting – Robin. At the February meeting, Robin asked for a show of hands, and the earlier start time was favored about 2:1 (of those voting). Before having the Board make a decision (since the earlier start time could not be implemented before September), Robin will ask for a show of hands at the next two meetings and will prepare a questionnaire to be put in a NEWSGRAM.

Pollinator 'garden' at Elkhorn Garden Plots MOU – Robin. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved the draft MOU (attached) from Dick Smith that had been emailed to members in advance. Cindy will create a line item for this; people contributing will make out checks to "Howard County Bird Club" and marked for the "Butterfly Meadow."

Emy memorial fund – Cindy/Robin. More contributions may come in at the March meeting. After discussion, the Board authorized \$1000 for creation of a Pollinator Meadow at Centennial Park in Emy's memory. Per Emy's wishes, there will be no signage. The money will be used to purchase special "meadow mix" seed, following the specifications developed by Dick Smith and Linda Hunt. Howard County Recreation and Parks will do the actual development of the meadow; preliminary clearing of the site has already been done.

Smart Pesticides Campaign (neonics) – Robin. He shared with the Board an email exchange with the "Smart on Pesticides Campaign" (attached) and said the Club will support the measure (as the club did in 2014).

YMOS and back pack – Kate. The Board authorized a pledge of \$2/species for the YMOS Birdathon. Kate will mark the birding back pack that the Club has, identifying the Club as the donor, and provide it to the Robinson Nature Center so that it can be signed out and used by visitors educating children.

Roget Tory Peterson print book donated to Club – Robin. He will personalize the book to indicate that the Club is donating it to Robinson Nature Center to be used by staff and volunteers.

Nomination for 2nd Chapter Director – Bob. Nancy McAllister has accepted nomination for this office. Robin will notify the Nominating Committee chair, Mike Kerwin, that he is to announce the slate and ask for nominations from the floor at the March meeting; Mike will also conduct the election at the April meeting. Bob will put the election notice in the directory (to be prepared and mailed in March) and post notice of the election in a NEWSGRAM.

MOU with Dept of Rec & Parks – Robin. The Club is waiting for the Directory of Recreation and Parks to sign and return the MOU signed by Robin. A copy of the official MOU will be filed with the Secretary when it is received.

New Business

Program Open Space – Robin. He will have the club join “Partners for Open Space” and send in the form. (The copy was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting; a copy is attached.)

Treasury - \$1,305 owed to MOS – Cindy & Bob. Bob distributed to the Board his analysis of the shortfall in funds sent to MOS for membership dues (attached with email from Robin to Bob). Robin said that Cindy should send a check for that amount to the MOS Treasurer; Robin will send an email to Dave Webb explaining that the money is coming. Bob will prepare an updated membership printout that Cindy will send to the MOS Membership Chair.

Hammond High School GreenFest, April 25th - bird presenter needed – Robin. Robin will correspond with the person in charge of the Hammond High School GreenFest and seek a substitute speaker from the Club for the event.

QuickBooks to be used by Treasurer – Cindy. She recommends that we transition our Club accounting system from the Excel spreadsheet used by Emy to QuickBooks. She has the program and said she can easily set up another “company account” for the Club on it (and has experimented with a test account to demonstrate the feasibility). She has set up accounting systems for a number of nonprofits and has taught QuickBooks and Quicken. The Board concurred with this recommendation. Cindy will transition the account to the new system over the next months and will prepare the budget for the next fiscal year in the new system. She will put a copy of the Club’s account file in the GoogleDrive cloud backup. Ward Ebert stated he would investigate whether he could import and view or edit QuickBooks files with Quicken which he has and is familiar with. He volunteered to maintain backup copies of the QuickBooks files and will be given permission to access the Club’s account file so he can do this.

Augmentation of line item for Programs in next year’s budget – Jo. Russ Ruffing told Jo that Dorian Anderson (who lives in the Boston area) would be willing to present a program to the Club on his experience of birding while biking across America. This would involve an estimated additional \$400 expense. Various Club members have looked at Dorian’s blog site and think it would be an interesting program, although no one contacted has listened to a presentation by him. Because the program will not occur until the next fiscal year (tentatively September or October), the Board by motion approved increasing the line item for Programs in the next fiscal year’s budget from \$600 to \$1000.

Price Reserve Fund Account – Cindy & Bob. Emy was one of those with signature authority for this account, but we have been unable to verify who else has this authority; the only references found in the Minutes were dated 4/26/2001, 10/26/2006, and a notation in the 2/22/07 minutes that “Emy had the completed T Rowe Price signature card ready and Chuck signed it as the Club Secretary so that she can finalize the change of signature authority for this account.” This notation did not show the names of those with the authority. Cindy will contact the vendor to determine the current status. So that Cindy can begin the process of updating the signature authority, the Club unanimously approved giving the following three officers signature authority (and that it was not necessary that multiple signatures appear on checks): Cynthia Albright (Treasurer), Robin Todd (President), and John Harris (Vice President). The secretary will complete and submit the appropriate forms after Cindy determines the process.

In related action, the question arose of the desirability of continuing to have Club monies in a money market account like the T Rowe Price Reserve Fund. This will be investigated further in the future by the President and those he designates. Ward questioned whether the “book store” account had been closed out; since no one present had an authoritative and definitive answer, Cindy was tasked with researching it.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Find a volunteer to serve as the club’s MOS Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter contact – Robin OPEN
- Find volunteer(s) to coordinate actions needed to host the MOS Board meeting on March 7 – Robin CLOSED
- Arrange for updating the check signing privileges at PNC Bank – Robin COMPLETED
- Rent a post office box for club – Robin/Bob COMPLETED
- Investigate ordering additional business cards – Kate COMPLETED AND DELIVERED

New/Continuing Action Items

- Sign on to Partners for Open Space– Robin.
- MOU for garden plots: Notify Dick Smith of Board acceptance – Robin.
- Check with Robinson Nature Center on acceptance of backpack– Kate
- Put Club name on backpack to be delivered to Robinson Nature Center – Kate.
- Sign large Peterson print book and deliver to Robinson Nature Center – Robin.
- Poll members at March and April meetings and prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all members about changing start time of meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 8: p.m. – Robin.
- Communicate Club’s continuing support to Smart Pesticides Campaign – Robin.
- Communicate with Nominating Committee (Mike Kerwin) of duties at March and April meetings – Robin.
- Prepare Club Directory with notice of elections and distribute to Club members – Bob.
- Communicate with T Rowe Price about account – Cindy.
- Notify Jane Geuder (Program Chair) of Board decision on increasing Program budget and arranging for “Birding by Bike” program – Jo.
- Find volunteer to support Hammond High School Greenfest - Robin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Heffernan
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	Howard Patterson
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Treasurer’s Report
- End of Year Membership Report and 2014 Web Traffic
- MOU with the HCBC for the Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow Donation Fund
- Smart on Pesticides Campaign email exchange (edited)
- Partners for Open Space flier
- Calculation of Additional Dues Owed to MOS

Minutes submitted by:

Robert Solem for Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
February 26, 2015**

1. Any additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Bob (for Chuck)
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips No changes
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob
 - Pot Luck Dinner Kathy

7. Old Business
 - MOS Board meeting on March 7th - at Mt. Pleasant: refreshments *nearly* organized – Robin / Kathy
 - Start Club meetings: 7.30 instead of 8.00 - votes in favor at Club meeting - Robin
 - Butterfly meadow MOU – funding? Robin
 - Emy memorial fund – Cindy / Robin
 - Smart Pesticides Campaign (neonics) Robin
 - YMOS and back pack Kate
 - Nomination for 2nd Chapter Director Bob

8. News Business
 - Program Open Space Robin
 - Treasury - \$1,305 owed to MOS Cindy & Bob
 - QuickBooks to be used by Treasurer? Cindy
 - Hammond High Sch. GreenFest, April 25th - bird presenter needed – Robin
 - \$400 transfer for bicycling birder? Jo

9. Action Items Bob

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Ward Ebert

7366 Hallmark Road

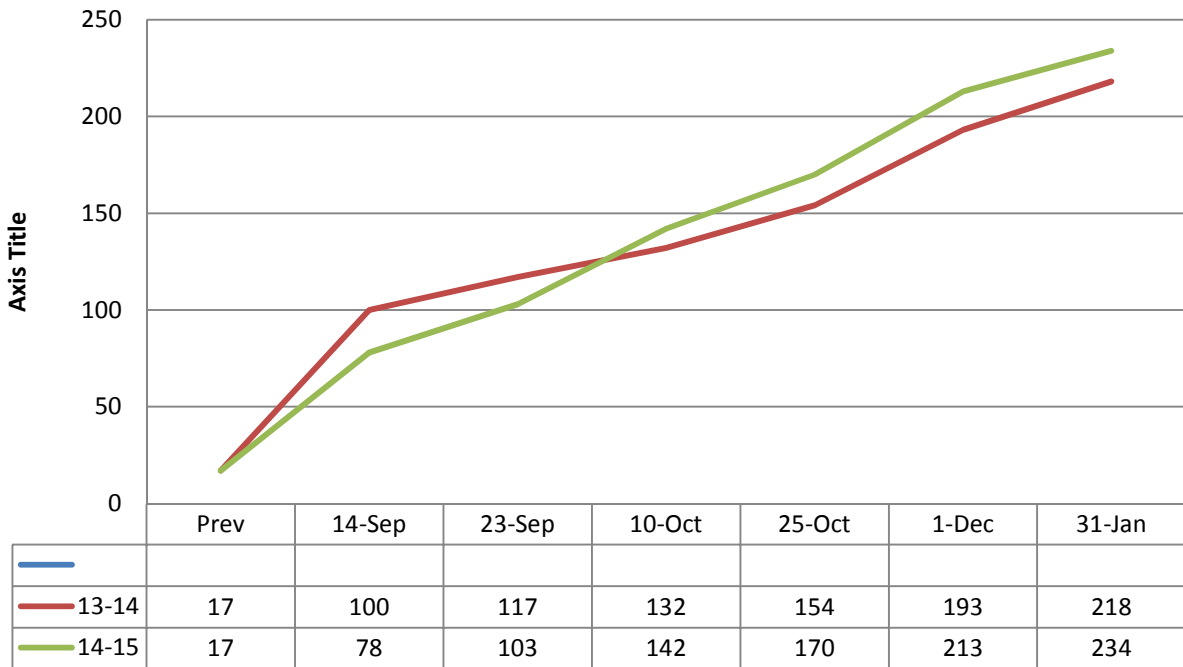
Clarksville MD 21029

301-490-5807 wardebert@verizon.net

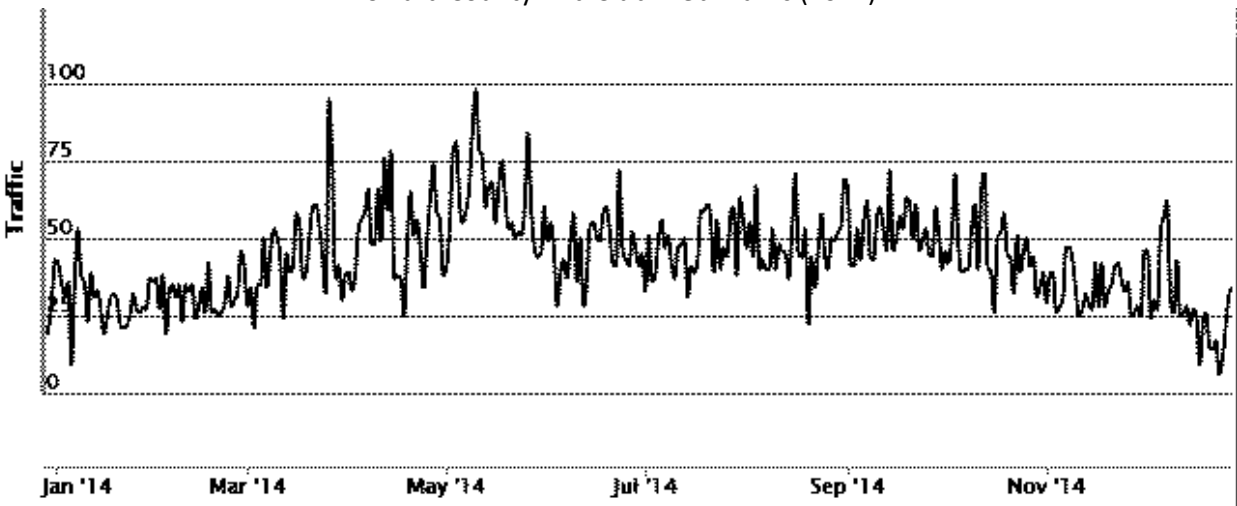
**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/14-4/30/15**

	Budget 2014-15	February Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		25.00	5,435.00
State Dues Paid		(2,895.00)	(2,895.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	(2,870.00)	2,540.00
Publications			
Hospitality - from MOS for Brd. Mtg.		60.00	60.00
Bookstore			46.00
Contributions to Howard Co Bird Club		725.00	1,580.00
Contributions to MOS			65.00
Contributions to Butterfly Garden			75.00
Total Operating Incon	2,000.00	(2,085.00)	4,366.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		144.66
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	100.00	425.00
Hospitality-Chapter &	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00	52.22	159.72
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			77.03
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental		89.00	89.00
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	85.00	348.50
Miscellaneous			
Habitat Preservation			
Business Cards			
Greenfest	35.00		35.00
Total Operating Expe	1,685.00	326.22	1,278.91
Seed Sale			
Income			6,442.68
Expense			6,442.68
Flyers			
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		-	1,574.72
Note 1 \$725 of contributions YTD are designated Emy Holdridge memorial			
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.95
Interest Received		0.07	0.55
			10,648.50
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking (as of 2/24/15)			\$ 11,218.11
Reserve Fund (T.Rowe Price)			16,188.50
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			27,451.64

Howard County Bird Club Number of Votes



Howard County Bird Club Web Traffic (2014)



**Memorandum of Understanding with the Howard County Bird Club for the Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow
Donation Fund**

Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow

The Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow is an approximately one-acre land plot located in Columbia, MD in the Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. (BGE) power line right-of-way (ROW), from the northeast side of Oakland Mills Road northeast for about 250 ft. toward the Columbia Gardeners Elkhorn Garden plots, some of which are also in the ROW. BGE is the owner of the butterfly meadow property and is the manager of vegetation maintenance there. By prior agreement with BGE, their maintenance of this property will be focused on butterfly and other pollinator life cycle support. This is accomplished mainly by BGE's implementation of a special delayed-to-fall mowing schedule.

Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow Project

The Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow Project is currently being organized by Julie Dunlap, who originated the project in 2013, and Richard H. (Dick) Smith, who has arranged frequent, partial butterfly meadow edge mowing as part of the initial butterfly meadow plan and by agreement with adjacent private landowners as part of their easement rights with BGE. Dick also conducts an annual public butterfly program on the adjacent Elkhorn Gardens property.

Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow Donation Fund

The Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow Donation Fund is to be established for the purpose of receiving tax deductible donations from the general public to be used to support partial edge mowing, signage costs, and any future project expenses for the Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow. The project organizers would like this fund to be the source of revenue to pay for these expenses although they may also donate to the fund themselves.

Management of Fund

The fund is to be managed by the Howard County Bird Club (HCBC), the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Receipt of amounts into the fund and withdrawals from the fund to pay for meadow-related expenses will be handled by the HCBC Treasurer.

Protocol for Withdrawals from the Fund

Disbursements from the fund to pay for butterfly meadow edge maintenance, signage, and general project costs will be made upon submission to the HCBC Treasurer by the meadow organizers any invoices showing expenses incurred for these tasks. Estimates of specific future expenses should be obtained prior to the work being performed so that portions of the fund to pay for these expenses can be earmarked for later payment when invoices arrive. All withdrawals from the fund must of course be limited by the amount available in the fund.

Disposition of Remaining Fund Amount If Butterfly Meadow Project Is Terminated

If there is any reason, unforeseen at present, that the Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow organizers see fit to terminate the meadow project, the amounts remaining in this fund will be transferred, without contingency, to the HCBC General Conservation Fund.

-----Original Message-----

From: bgarner <bgarner@cleanwater.org>
To: totnesman <totnesman@aol.com>
Cc: acubird <acubird@verizon.net>
Sent: Fri, Feb 13, 2015 4:55 pm
Subject: Re: pesticide bill

Robin,

I want to welcome you to the [Smart on Pesticides Campaign](#) and extend my most sincerest apologies for responding to so much later. I did not realize you had not been communicated with until Dixie brought it to my attention, so again, I am sorry!

Thanks to your support last year we were able to establish funding for pesticide reporting. The legislation continues to display support for better pesticide usage reporting so we can protect public health, the Chesapeake Bay and wildlife. Currently, the coalition includes more than 55 organizations, and institutions representing communities, businesses, health care providers, farmers, environmentalists, Waterkeepers, interfaith congregants as well as environmental justice, public health and wildlife advocates.

This year we are working to pass legislation that would label plants that have been treated with neonicotinoids and will restrict the consumer use of these harmful chemicals. As you may know, the widespread use of this class of pesticides is a contributor to the alarming decline of honey bees. This poses a serious threat to our food supply, wildlife and to human health. Help us again this year as we work to pass the Pollinator Protection Act (SB 163/ HB 605).

During the 2015 Legislative session we are meeting every Thursday in Annapolis, with call-in information available. Coalition membership includes:

- Joining the SOP Google Group to be updated and included on Campaign efforts/strategies
- Invited to participate in Campaign events and meetings (in person or by phone)
- Asked to pass along action alerts to members and participate in social media, if possible
- Signed up to receive Maryland Pesticide Network emails
- Listed on press releases, legislative testimony and other official/public Campaign documents as a [member of a growing community of concerned health, wildlife and environmental-related organizations](#).

Our weekly meetings on Thursdays are from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM in Annapolis at MD LCV in Annapolis, MD (86 Maryland Ave, Annapolis, MD 21401). You can call-in if you are not able to attend in person:

Number: 712-432-1100

Passcode: 527013#

It would be wonderful if you could participate in all of the ways above, but it's not realistic. We only ask organizations to do what they can. We are up against heavily funded opposition such as chemical manufacturers and the Farm Bureau. We need more organizations like Howard County Bird Club, so please don't hesitate to ask questions.

Again, I am sorry, thank you and welcome!

Brittani Garner

-- Chesapeake Program Organizer Clean Water Action Office: 202-393-5432 Fax: 202-895-0438 1444 I St, NW Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20005 www.cleanwateraction.org



PARTNERS *for* OPEN SPACE

We are a coalition of more than 100 organizations working together for Program Open Space. Since 1980 more than \$1 BILLION dollars intended for parks and recreation facilities, for preservation of our prime and productive agricultural land, and for the protection of the best of the best of Maryland’s fragile environmental areas have been transferred to other purposes.

OUR PARKS, AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OPEN SPACE NEED YOUR HELP!

It is critical that we show our support for Program Open Space. We invite you to become a member of Partners for Open Space. The diversity of our membership has been critical to our successes in fending off efforts to divert even more funds from Program Open Space. We are reaching out to respected organizations who share our commitment to protecting parks, open space and agricultural land. You are our local contact, and you know the people in your community who can reach out to the legislature. We are only as strong as our coalition.

Membership is open to: Any organization located in the State of Maryland who agree with the need to protect our parks, open spaces and agricultural land.

Members: Allow the coalition to display your organizations on Partners web and printed materials; transmit action alerts to your membership; and identify key individuals who can reach out to legislators.

Benefits of Membership: Listing on the Partners website; recognitions on twitter and facebook; opportunity to participate in advocacy activities; regular updates on issues during the legislative session; and the *knowledge that you have help our parks, open spaces and agricultural land.*

Organization Name (as it should appear in printed material) _____

Contact Person _____ email _____

Phone _____ Address _____

_____ *YES* – I would like to learn more about volunteering for Partners for Open Space

Steering Committee Members

The Nature Conservancy, Bill Crouch, Chair; **American Farmland Trust**, Jim Baird, 1st Vice-Chair; **Chesapeake Conservancy**, Joel Dunn 2nd Vice-Chair; **1000 Friends of Maryland**, Dru Schmidt-Perkins fiscal agent; **Chesapeake Bay Foundation**, Elaine Lutz; **Eastern Shore Land Conservancy**, Josh Hastings; **Howard County Office of Food Policy**, Kelly Dudeck; **MACO Parks and Recreation Administrators** John Byrd; **Maryland League of Conservation Voters**, KarlaRaettig; **Maryland Recreation and Parks Association**, Chuck Montrie; **The Nature Conservancy**, Steve Bunker; **Preservation Maryland**, Nicholas Redding; **Rural Maryland Council**, Charlotte Davis; **The Trust for Public Land**, Kent Whitehead; **Director**, Ann Jones



PartnersforOpenSpace@OpenSpaceMD

www.partnersforopenspace.org



PartnersForOpenSpace

HCBC Owes MOS \$1305 Membership Dues

Email dated 2/24/2015 11:20PM

Hi Bob,

Dave Webb called me on Sunday pm. He noted that HCBC dues are at about \$2,900 now while this time last year they were at \$3,200. He asked if we have had a drop in membership (told him not to my knowledge), or are there checks which were sent to Emy and never got cashed. Dave is concerned that, in the latter case, there could be members who have mailed in their checks and are not getting anything from the club.

Any thoughts about why we are \$300 down from last year? Could it be 'statistical noise'?

Robin

Solem analysis:

	Number			Dollars		
	2013-14	2014-15	Difference	2013-14	2014-15	Difference
Household	67	67	0	\$1,675	\$1,675	\$0
Single	81	95	14	\$2,025	\$2,375	\$350
Junior	1	1	0	\$25	\$25	\$0
Sustaining	4	5	1	\$100	\$125	\$25
TOTAL				\$3,825	\$4,200	\$375

Paid \$2,895
Diff \$1,305

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 26, 2015

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Meg Harris (1st yr.)
Ward Ebert (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Howard Patterson. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 12 was 51 people. Dr. Mathew Perry gave a program entitled "Argentina: Bird Studies and Related Wildlife."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted reflecting changes made following initial review of the draft.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had distributed the attached financial report by email prior to the meeting. She reported that the signature authority and mailing address for the T. Rowe Price account have been changed from Emy to her. Lastly she reported that the remaining MOS state dues (\$970) had been paid to the MOS Treasurer.

President's Remarks (Todd): See below.

Vice-President's Remarks (J. Harris): John reminded the Board that he will not be present for the April club regular meeting and Board meeting.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Neither Joe nor Bonnie were present but it was noted that trip plans are in place through the spring.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo mentioned that it has been a colder and later Spring than normal. One additional report of Common Redpoll had come in at a home where a redpoll had visited feeders two years ago. She reported that she had visited the heronry at Vantage Point and it appears to be in good shape with 28 active nests. Lastly she mentioned that she had learned from Linda Hunt that one of her neighbors has had a male Baltimore Oriole at their feeder all winter, and in fact has been there for the past 3 winters.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present. See below regarding the Bipartisan Sportsmen Act.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported that he needed to contact Joe Hanfman about providing a short article on the county annual bird list for 2014. He also needs to confirm the date for the Odonate Count. Bob agreed to send him the date.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has been fairly active modifying the web site and appreciated the suggestions and comments he has received from reviewers. He has added an "About Us" section and redesigned the home page for the website. He has also added a link to answer the question "When can I find that bird?" The link accesses eBird and displays the phenogram for Howard County.

Potluck Dinner (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had reported in an email that the arrangements are in place for this coming Saturday (April 28).

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): Robin reported that our hosting of the meeting held March 7 at Mt. Pleasant had gone well. He thanked those who had assisted with refreshments. Kate mentioned that Wayne Bell had thanked the chapter for our support of the YMOS bird-a-thon. Similarly Dave Webb, MOS Treasurer, had expressed his appreciation for how smoothly, from his perspective, the transition in club treasurer's had gone following Emy's passing.

Old Business

Start Club Meetings at 7:30 pm not 8:00 pm – The results of votes taken at meetings and replies to Newsgram survey was almost unanimous in preferring 7:30. A few responded no preference but no one favored retaining the 8:00 start time. The Board approved making arrangements to start meetings at 7:30 starting with the September 2015 meeting. Karen took an action item to discuss arrangements with RNC staff. Having access to the building by 6:45 should allow setup, with the social time running from 7:00 to 7:30. We agreed to not raise any discussion of when we would have to be out of the building unless RNC proposes that it be earlier than the current 10 pm. On a related subject Kate asked if we could propose limiting the formal question and answer period (~ 3 questions?) to permit those who need to leave quickly to do so, while allowing those with further questions to approach the speaker and discuss while others are getting up to leave. We concurred that this made sense and Robin indicated he would attempt to do this in the future.

Treasury - \$970 (\$) paid owed to MOS – Cindy reported the remaining state dues had been paid and the check cleared.

Check presentation to Rec & Parks – Jo had discussed when and how to present Howard Recreation & Parks the proceeds of the Emy Holdridge memorial fund with Brenda Belinsky. She indicated that they didn't need the funds immediately so they have agreed to have a contingent attend our regular club meeting in April for a presentation of the check. The funds will be used to help pay for the pollinator plots being installed at Centennial Park. The current balance is \$1125. Potential attendees from Rec & Parks include Brenda, her supervisor Dan McNamara, John Peach (Centennial Park manager), and possibly others. Brenda has indicated she will say a few words about the project and may have some photos to share. Jo will find out who the check is to be made out to and provide it to Cindy so she can write the check for presentation. Jo and Bob will provide Robin with a "cheat sheet" with names and titles of attendees so he can introduce them as part of the presentation. Jo said she will have her camera available to take pictures of presentation. Although Emy was insistent there not be any formal signs acknowledging her memory, it is the club's hope that the plots will become known informally as the "Holdridge plot" just as happened with the "Clegg meadow" at MPEA.

Hammond High School Greenfest, April 25th – Robin is still seeking a volunteer to present on birds at this event, as Mike Kerwin was unavailable.

YMOS Bird-a-thon update – Kate reported that, despite cold and windy weather, the kids identified a net 122 species (129 seen minus 7 missed on the "must see" list). With our pledge of \$2 / species we owe \$244. Cindy took an action to write this check and forward it to the MOS Treasurer designated for YMOS.

Access to Waterford Farm – Jo and John H. reported on concerns for coordinating access to Sharp's at Waterford Farm. Last summer the general rule of thumb was that birders could visit the farm and as long as they left a note in their car window indicating they were birding they were welcome. Then during their busy Fall season we were asked to park in the small parking lot at the top of the hill and not take up parking spots for customers. Over the winter we were asked to not visit as they were catering to hunters and didn't want us to flush ducks and/or have any accidents with hunters. The Sharp's have indicated that we can again visit but they would like to be informed ahead of time and know who is on their property. Bonnie originally made most of these arrangements but having had the experience of losing access to the U of MD Central Farm for a variety of reasons including eBird reporting of rarities leading to access by birders not familiar with the "rules" she is very concerned about how access to Waterford is handled. We discussed whether we needed to have a single POC to coordinate visits by small groups vice letting individuals just contact the Sharp's directly. But perhaps the greatest concern is what if a "rarity" is found and the number of birders that want to visit far exceeds what the Sharp's envision. We want to reinforce the sensitivity to this issue and ensure the rarity procedures for slow release is followed should a rarity be found. We did not reach any conclusions on how to proceed but John H. agreed to talk to Joe Hanfman and seek his advice on the question of general access and especially handling a rarity find.

New Business

Issue of HCBC field trips in Rec & Parks lands when closed (e.g. snow) – The recent incident when a trip leader chose not to cancel a Centennial walk when the park was officially closed and enter off of Centennial Road motivated a need to revisit this subject. Bob prepared the attached document that reiterates that it is club policy that when a park is closed our trips will be cancelled. The trip leader is acting as an agent of the club and since entering the park when closed is legally "trespassing" the MOS liability insurance would likely not cover the club, its officers, and the trip leader if an accident were to occur. The club generally agreed with the five points of policy contained in the paper and assigned Bob to contact Joe Hanfman as field trip coordinator and see if he would agree to ensure trip leaders received notification in the form of the paper. Given that Joe agrees the attachment will become club policy. *Sec. Note – Following the meeting Joe agreed to ensure trip leaders received the paper and understood it was club policy to cancel when trip venue is closed.*

Eagle Scout bird project for Centennial – The club had received a request from Tony Rollin requesting our support and involvement with his proposed Eagle Scout project. He was proposing to install several Interactive Nature Stations at Centennial Park near the new meadow (pollinator) plots. He was hoping the Bird Club could provide content for these stations and wondered if we would be interested in managing the web based content to be accessed on park visitors' using a QR Code Reader on their smart phone. Jo had discussed this with Brenda Belinsky who was unaware of the proposal. Jo and she discussed several concerns with the project. He seemed unaware that the primary focus of the plots was pollinators, with birds being a secondary focus. He appeared to be unaware that Rec and Parks has adopted an official signage policy that new signs in the parks must adhere to. He was working with Steve Schwarzman who is the assistant manager at Centennial but others at Rec and Parks who should be involved did not appear to have been approached. In addition John Harris had brought materials with him to explain the implications and many drawbacks of using QR codes for this project. Chief among these was that the web material accessed in this manor must be formatted in a very specific manner for display on a mobile phone and the club has no one with the necessary skills or interest in supporting this development. John agreed to provide Jo and Robin with a write-up of these limitations so Jo could share them with Brenda and Robin could formulate a response to Tony.

Fund Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow? – Richard Smith had reminded the Board that in addition to asking us to establish a mechanism for the club to accept tax-exempt donations for the meadow, he had inquired whether the club could provide an initial funding of \$500 for signage and other start-up expenses from our habitat funds. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we approve up to \$500 for this purpose. Robin agreed to notify Dick that he can submit invoices for reimbursement as expenses are incurred.

Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 – The club had been approached about signing on to a petition opposing S 405 the Sportsmen's Heritage Act. Kurt had sent an email indicating that the MOS conservation committee was split on this issue and had not taken any action. After a brief discussion we felt we really didn't have enough information to take a position and decided to take no action.

Emy Holdridge's optics – Emy’s daughter Patty had contacted Jo and indicated she was interested in donating Emy’s scope, tripod, and 3 pairs of binoculars to a worthy cause and wondered if the club had any suggestions. Kurt had mentioned the Birder’s Exchange as one possibility. Also donating them to RNC was mentioned but rejected quickly. We also discussed having the club attempt to auction them to club members and donate the proceeds to the club habitat fund. Having the proceeds donated vice the equipment would avoid need to seek an appraisal if Patty wants to be able to claim a tax deduction on the estate taxes. One aspect of this would be they would be used by someone who would appreciate and care for them and they would be used locally. We discussed using eBay to estimate minimum bids and getting photos to use in that process as well as setting up an auction. Jo agreed to go back to Patty and discuss these alternatives.

Post current Goldfinch on the Web? – Bob asked if the club should begin posting the newsletter on the web immediately vice the current practice of waiting and posting prior years only. He pointed out that The Yellowthroat is being posted and most other Chapters that have web presence post their newsletters promptly on their web sites. The Board agreed to begin posting The Goldfinch immediately.

Donation to All Creatures Great & Small – Cindy had mentioned that at this time last year we made a donation of \$200 to Judy Holzman’s wildlife rehabilitation organization. Since we had authorized funds for butterfly meadow and had not identified any other habitat projects at this time we discussed making our regular donation to All Creatures Great & Small. A gift of \$200 was approved and Cindy was directed to write and send them a check.

Around the Room –

- Cindy mentioned she had recently visited Soldier’s Delight nature area and enjoyed it very much.
- Kate mentioned that the Native Plant Sale at RNC was scheduled for Sunday May 3. If someone volunteers we might want to set up a table promoting birds and the club.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Sign on to Partners for Open Space– Robin. DONE
- MOU for garden plots: Notify Dick Smith of Board acceptance – Robin DONE
- Check with Robinson Nature Center on acceptance of backpack– Kate DONE
- Put Club name on backpack to be delivered to Robinson Nature Center – Kate DONE
- Sign large Peterson print book and deliver to Robinson Nature Center – Robin DONE
- Poll members at March and April meetings and prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all members about changing start time of meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 8: p.m. – Robin DONE
- Communicate Club’s continuing support to Smart Pesticides Campaign – Robin CLOSE as this is an on-going activity
- Communicate with Nominating Committee (Mike Kerwin) of duties at March and April meetings – Robin. DONE
- Prepare Club Directory with notice of elections and distribute to Club members – Bob DONE
- Communicate with T Rowe Price about account – Cindy DONE
- Notify Jane Geuder (Program Chair) of Board decision on increasing Program budget and arranging for “Birding by Bike” program – Jo DONE but the speaker may be moving to California in which case the cost would be prohibitive
- Find volunteer to support Hammond High School Greenfest – Robin OPEN

New/Continuing Action Items

- Find volunteer to support Hammond High School Greenfest – Robin OPEN
- Supply Howard with date of Odonate Count – Bob
- Contact RNC about changing start time for meetings beginning next Fall – Kare
- Find out who the check supplying funds from Emy memorial should be made out to – Jo
- Provide Robin with information to use in introducing Rec & Parks attendees for presentation at April meeting – Bob & Jo
- Write & send check to MOS for YMOS Bird-a-thon contribution (\$244) – Cindy
- Talk to Joe Hanfman to seek his advice regarding access to Waterford Farm – John H.

- Ask Joe Hanfman to take responsibility for providing trip leaders with policy guidance paper on cancelling trips when parks are closed – Bob
- Provide Jo and Robin a short paper describing the issues with use of QR codes – John H.
- Contact Brenda Belinsky and share our thoughts on the Eagle Scout project – Jo
- Notify Richard Smith that the club had approved the request for \$500 for start-up funding of the butterfly meadow – Robin
- Jo talk to Emy’s daughter regarding our ideas for donating her optics – Jo
- Write and send a check for \$200 to All Creatures Great & Small - Cindy

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Heffernan
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	Howard Patterson
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Bird Club Board of Directors Meeting – Agenda – March 26, 2015
- Howard County Bird Club, Treasurer’s Report – dated 3/26/2015
- Trip Leaders as Agents of Howard County Bird Club

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
March 26, 2015**

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | Cindy |
| 4. President's Remarks | Robin |
| 5. Vice President's Remarks | John |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | No changes |
| • Records | Jo |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Bob |
| • Pot Luck Dinner | Kathy |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • MOS Board meeting March 7 th - Mt. Pleasant: refreshments - <i>Done!</i> Robin | |
| • Start Club meetings: 7.30 not 8.00 – referendum all favor, few no pref - Robin | |
| • Treasury - \$970 (?) paid owed to MOS - Cindy | |
| • Check presentation to Rec & Park - Jo | |
| • Hammond High Sch. GreenFest, April 25 th - bird presenter still needed - Robin | |
| • YMOS Birdathon update – Kate | |
| • Access to Waterford Farm – Bonnie or John (Harris) | |
| 8. News Business | |
| • Issue of HCBC field trips in Rec & Parks lands when closed (e.g. snow) - Bob | |
| • Eagle Scout bird project for Centennial – Robin | |
| • Fund Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow? – Robin | |
| • Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015 – Robin | |
| • Emy Holdridge's optics - Jo | |
| • Post current Goldfinch on the Web? - Bob | |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

Howard Patterson
4209 Hermitage Dr.
Ellicott City MD 21042
(410) 461-9686 (410) 736-3064 howard21042@verizon.net

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/14-4/30/15**

	Budget 2014-15	March Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		245.00	5,705.00
State Dues Paid		(970.00)	(3,802.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	(2,870.00)	1,903.00
Publications			
Hospitality - from MOS for Brd. Mtg.		60.00	60.00
Bookstore			46.00
Contributions to HCBC			845.00
Contributions to Howard Co Bird Club (Emy)		400.00	1,125.00
Contributions to MOS			75.00
Contributions to Butterfly Garden			75.00
Pollinator Garden - Elkhorn			
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	(2,410.00)	4,129.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		144.66
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	125.00	550.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00	62.27	62.27
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00	203.28	203.28
Postage, Copies	250.00	49.00	208.72
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies		39.77	116.80
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			89.00
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	62.00	410.50
Miscellaneous			
Habitat Preservation			
Business Cards			
Greenfest	35.00		35.00
YMOS Birdathon		244.00	244.00
Total Operating Expense	1,685.00	785.32	2,064.23
Seed Sale			
Income			6,442.68
Expense			6,442.68
Flyers			
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		-	1,574.72
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account Balance			10,647.95
Interest Received		0.06	0.68
			10,648.63
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking (as of 3/31/15)			\$ 10,237.57
Reserve Fund (T.Rowe Price) as of 3/25/15			16,188.63
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			26,471.23

Trips Leaders Are Agents of Howard County Bird Club

Field Trips are an official activity of the Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) when they are announced in *The Goldfinch*, forwarded to *The Yellowthroat* for inclusion, announced at a meeting, posted in a NEWSGRAM or on the HCBC web page.

1. As a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), official activities of the chapter are covered by the blanket liability insurance policy of the Maryland Ornithological Society—as long as the activities are not illegal, in which case the coverage is probably null and void.
2. **Trip leaders are agents of the Howard County Bird Club. The policy to go or cancel a field trip is the responsibility of the trip leader.** The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. The HCBC Board at its February 2014 meeting specified “Given the recent closures of Centennial Park due to inclement weather and ice, ...[i]t was agreed that **if the gates are closed the walk will be canceled.**”
3. The Howard County Code (Section 19-204) concerns hours of operation of Howard County Parks, Open Space, etc.:
 - a. “(a) Park property shall be open to the public every day from sunrise to sunset, with the following exceptions:
 - b. “(1) If the Director has determined that park property should be closed for public safety, maintenance, construction or a special event, the Director may close park property to public entry by posting signs, or placing barricades in the vicinity of points of entry to the park property...”
4. Maryland Annotated Code concerns trespassing on public land: “§ 6-409A person may not refuse or fail to leave a public building or grounds, or a specific part of a public building or grounds, during the time when the public building or grounds, or specific part of the public building or grounds, is regularly closed to the public...”
5. **So trip leaders may not enter a public park for a field trip when it is closed; if they do, they are violating the law and are personally liable for any damages or injuries that occur.**

<p>Ho. Co. MOS – BOD 3/22/2012 Meeting Minutes Field Trips (Ott, Hanfman): Neither Bonnie or Joe was in attendance, but Joe had sent an email reporting that the field trip schedule was set through the summer. Wes asked if there was an official field trip policy regarding inclement weather as the forecast for his upcoming trip to Waterford Farm was for heavy rain. The policy is that the decision to go or cancel is the responsibility of the trip leader.</p> <p>Ho. Co. MOS – BOD 5/24/2012 Meeting Minutes, example of May/June 2012 <i>The Goldfinch</i> Field trips are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Arrive at the meeting site ready to leave at the designated time with appropriate footwear and gear. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. Directions for trips not on ADC maps are on the Club’s website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinator Bonnie Ott at bonnieott@verizon.net. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.</p> <p>Ho. Co. Bird Club – BOD 2/27/2014 Meeting Minutes Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Not present. Given the recent closures of Centennial Park due to inclement weather and ice, Howard raised question of what to do if park was closed for the upcoming Sunday walk. It was agreed that if the gates are closed the walk will be canceled. <i>Sec. Note: The park was closed and the walk canceled.</i></p> <p>Our problem is with field trips that we have sanctioned--for those we have legal responsibility, and Jo’s point was that if a trip leader is trespassing or otherwise violating the law--our liability insurance coverage from MOS may be void.</p> <p>Putting it in a NEWSGRAM or in <i>The Goldfinch</i> is fine, but that does not solve the problem of having trip leaders who have never been properly instructed, who do not realize that they are acting as an agent of the club, and who are unaware that the club is responsible for their actions.</p>	<p>HOWARD COUNTY CODE TITLE 19 - RECREATION AND PARKS SUBTITLE 2. - PARK LAND, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCE REGULATIONS</p> <p>Sec. 19.204. - Hours of operation. (a) Park property shall be open to the public every day from sunrise to sunset, with the following exceptions: (1) If the Director has determined that park property should be closed for public safety, maintenance, construction or a special event, the Director may close park property to public entry by posting signs, or placing barricades in the vicinity of points of entry to the park property...</p> <p>Annotated Code of Maryland: §6-409.</p> <p>(a) A person may not refuse or fail to leave a public building or grounds, or a specific part of a public building or grounds, during the time when the public building or grounds, or specific part of the public building or grounds, is regularly closed to the public if: (1) the surrounding circumstances would indicate to a reasonable person that the person who refuses or fails to leave has no apparent lawful business to pursue at the public building or grounds; and (2) a regularly employed guard, watchman, or other authorized employee of the government unit that owns, operates, or maintains the public building or grounds asks the person to leave.</p> <p>(b) A person may not refuse or fail to leave a public building or grounds, or a specific part of a public building or grounds, during regular business hours if: (1) the surrounding circumstances would indicate to a reasonable person that the person who refuses or fails to leave: (i) has no apparent lawful business to pursue at the public building or grounds; or (ii) is acting in a manner disruptive of and disturbing to the conduct of normal business by the government unit that owns, operates, or maintains the public building or grounds; and (2) an authorized employee of the government unit asks the person to leave.</p> <p>(c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor</p>
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Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2015

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Cindy Albright√
Chap. Directors: Meg Harris (1st yr.) √
Ward Ebert (2nd yr.)√
State Directors: Karen Heffernan√
John McKitterick
Kate Tufts√
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz√
Newsletter: Howard Patterson√
Records: Jo Solem√
Webmaster: Bob Solem√
Potluck: Kathie Lillie√
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 9 was 50 people. Dr. Mark Salvo, Director Federal Lands Conservation for Defenders of Wildlife gave a program entitled “Saving the Sage-Grouse and the Sagebrush Sea.”

This regular meeting held April 9 was the annual club business meeting to elect the officers for next year. The slate of officers had been presented by the nominating committee at the March meeting and distributed to the membership by email/mail. The slate presented was President – Robin Todd, Vice-President – John Harris, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Cindy Albright, State Directors – Karen Darcy, John McKitterick, and Kate Tufts, and Chapter Directors – Nancy McAllister (1st Yr). Meg Harris will be serving the second year of her two year term. Mike Kerwin, chair of the nominating committee, announced the slate and moved that the slate be elected by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously. Following the meeting the contact information for the new officers was sent to the MOS Secretary and President for inclusion in the State MOS listing of officers.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck was not present. Accepted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright):Accepted. Cindy also sent by email a proposed budget for next fiscal year (May 1, 2015-April 30, 2016, attached), which was accepted by the Board.

President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin said he will be preparing the annual report for the club (which will be sent to MOS and posted on the web) and asked for suggestions.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Because there were not a lot of field trips this spring, there was extended discussion about arranging more field trips for the beginning birder and those new to the Bird Club. Howard volunteered to contact Joe Hanfman so see what arrangements could be made to suggest more such field trips. (*Subsequent to the meeting, Howard talked to Joe, and Howard then emailed the Board members asking for suggestions and volunteers for additional field trips.*)

Records (J. Solem): At least one Little Gull showed up at Centennial Park for the second year in a row. There is hope that Little Gull will become an annual visitor.

Conservation (Schwarz): The Maryland legislature approved a study of the “Pollinator Protector Act” to be reported in time for next year’s legislative session. The “Trap-Neuter-Release” bill (also known as the “Trap-Neuter-Abandon” bill) died in committee, but some counties are favorably inclined to passing such legislation.

Newsletter (Patterson): Next newsletter deadline: July 25. Howard will be gone part of July but will encourage submissions early (or at the very least not late!) so that he can begin working on the newsletter immediately on his return.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob said he will be working for the next several months to make the web more “mobile-friendly.” There is a push by Google to adapt web pages to appear more usable on smart phones and tablets. Google will penalize non-compliance in their ranking algorithm in the future. (*Subsequent to the meeting, Cindy emailed Bob and suggested he investigate Wordpress, which not only simplifies making the web mobile-friendly but also has a number of password protection plug-ins.*)

Old Business

Eagle Scout project for Centennial: Robin read the latest email from Tony Rollin which further explained his proposal. He would provide the interactive nature stations that could be accessed by electronic devices using a QR Code Reader, but wanted another organization to assume perpetual maintenance responsibility for the web content that would be brought up. After much discussion, the Board recommended that Mr. Rollin contact Mr. Steve Scharzman at Centennial (with whom he made initial contact about the project) and suggest that Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks and the Howard County government assume responsibility for such a web page since the nature stations will emphasize the total outdoor experience in a broader manner than could be done by the Bird Club.

Auction for Emy’s optics: Jo explained that Emy’s daughter, Patty, wanted the optics sold and the proceeds to be used for habitat preservation/enhancement. There is a posting on the web with photos of the equipment to be auctioned and notice that more information is forthcoming. There was much discussion about the format of the auction (primarily between a silent auction at the May meeting and a live auction on the web with bids emailed in and the highest bid posted by the webmaster). After even more discussion, the Board decided that there would be a silent auction at the May meeting (that would have minimum prices for each item), with a chance to bid before the start of the program and for a short while after the program; bidders would have to be present. Jo Solem will provide all of the necessary materials and bring the equipment to the May meeting. Bob will publicize the auction in a NEWSGRAM and on the web.

Start meetings at 7:30 p.m.: Karen discussed this with Robinson Nature Center, who agreed that the Howard County Bird Club will have use of the auditorium for meetings on the specified Thursdays from 7:00—9:30 p.m. (social hour at 7:00 p.m., program to start at 7:30 p.m.). Bob will post a notice on the web after the May meeting that future meetings (starting September, 2015) will have the center open by 7:00 p.m. and will include that in a NEWSGRAM in the late summer advertising the September meeting.

Waterford Farm: John Harris received conflicting advice from Joe Hanfman and Bonnie Ott on how to handle this. The question was on how to notify the Sharps when groups other than for scheduled field trips wanted to bird at the farm. Guidance should provide a means for birders to access the farm (which is private property) while respecting the wishes and rights of the Sharps, who are running an active farm and produce business. After discussion, the Board recommended that John Harris clarify the status with the Sharps and develop a written policy to be discussed at the May Board meeting.

GreenFest: Kate said there were many visitors to the Bird Club display and that many of the people asked about field trips. There were more visitors in the morning than in the afternoon. She said that she learned there were many fewer visitors this year but that it was an excellent opportunity for outreach by the Bird Club. The Board endorsed participating in GreenFest in the future.

Back pack donation to Robinson Nature Center: Thank you letter from Stacy Yankee (RNC Director) was distributed and read.

Donation to *All Creatures Great and Small*: Cindy got a thank you letter from Judy Holzman for the \$200 contribution.

New Business

Delaware Bird-A-Thon Donation: The Delaware Bird-A-Thon contributions are used by the Delaware Ornithological Society (in partnership with other conservation groups) to acquire globally significant habitat for coastal birds along Delaware's Bayshore. Over the years over \$300K has been raised, and the partnerships have acquired 1226 acres. HCBC has contributed to them in the past to preserve habitat for the Red Knot migration areas. The Board authorized a contribution of \$1000 from the Habitat Preservation funds.

Membership Chair: Bob distributed information on the way membership information was handled in the past (by Bob, Emy, and Kevin Heffernan) and the way that he and Cindy propose to handle it in the future. Cindy pointed out that organizations the size of HCBC should have a Membership Chair/Committee to handle these functions. After discussion, it was agreed that Bob would write up a job description (to be reviewed by some of the Board) and disseminate it in a NEWSGRAM.

Hummingbird feeder focus group: Robin reported that he had been in correspondence with Brian Lipford, who is developing a new design for hummingbird feeders and wanted to pay volunteers for a focus group to comment on his design. Robin said Brian also mentioned a contribution to HCBC.

Recreation and Parks Board hears presentation on pollinator plots by Paul Bade: Linda Hunt (HCBC butterfly working group member) attended the Howard County Recreation and Parks Board meeting on Wednesday, April 22 where Paul gave the talk. It was followed by remarks by Brenda Belensky (manager in Rec & Parks Natural Resources Division. Rec & Parks is concerned not as much about creating such plots as developing a mechanism to maintain them after they are created. (They will be developing one section in Centennial as a pilot project funded by donations in memory of HCBC's Emy Holdridge to work out such details.) One possibility is that they will create a "Weed Warriors" group for the plot.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Find volunteer to support Hammond High School Greenfest – Robin OBE
- Develop additional field trips after discussion with Joe H. –Howard/Board (underway)
- Supply Howard with date of Odonate Count – Bob DONE
- Contact RNC about changing start time for meetings beginning next Fall – Karen DONE
- Find out who the check supplying funds from Emy memorial should be made out to – Jo DONE
- Provide Robin with information to use in introducing Rec & Parks attendees for presentation at April meeting – Bob & Jo DONE
- Write & send check to MOS for YMOS Bird-a-thon contribution (\$244) – Cindy DONE
- Talk to Joe Hanfman to seek his advice regarding access to Waterford Farm – John H. DONE
- Ask Joe Hanfman to take responsibility for providing trip leaders with policy guidance paper on cancelling trips when parks are closed – Bob DONE
- Provide Jo and Robin a short paper describing the issues with use of QR codes – John H. DONE
- Contact Brenda Belensky and share our thoughts on the Eagle Scout project – Jo DONE
- Notify Richard Smith that the club had approved the request for \$500 for start-up funding of the butterfly meadow – Robin DONE
- Jo talk to Emy's daughter regarding our ideas for donating her optics – Jo DONE
- Write and send a check for \$200 to All Creatures Great & Small – Cindy DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Prepare Annual Report for MOS and posting to web – Robin
- Notify Tony Rollin of Board decision on his proposed Eagle Scout project – Robin
- Prepare copies of approved budget to be available at May meeting -- Cindy
- Create materials for auction at May meeting for Emy's equipment – Jo.
- Publicize details of auction in a NEWSGRAM and on web – Bob.
- Publicize new times for meetings in the fall – Bob
- Develop policy for Board on visiting Waterford Farm after discussion with Sharps – John H.
- Mail notification and check to Delaware Ornithological Society for Bird-A-Thon – Kurt/Cindy.
- Notify MOS (Tom Strikwerda) that HCBC has contributed \$1000 to DOS – Robin
- Make HCBC web page mobile-friendly -- Bob
- Prepare job description of Membership Chair for editing, then disseminate via NEWSGRAM -- Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Heffernan
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	Howard Patterson
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Treasurer's Report
- Proposed Budget
- Processing membership information

Minutes submitted by:

Robert Solem for
Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda

April 23, 2015

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Bob
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips No changes?
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - Eagle Scout project for Centennial – Part II – Robin/John
 - Emy Holdridge's optics update - Jo
 - Start Club meetings at 7.30pm – Karen
 - Issue of HCBC field trips on Rec & Parks lands when closed - John
 - Post current Goldfinch on the Web - Bob

8. News Business
 - DE Bird-a-Thon Donation – Robin/Kurt
 - MOS Most Valued Service Awardee? Robin
 - Treasurer's duties for revisions to membership list? Cindy/Bob
 - Back up needed for Membership Committee – Bob
 - Hummingbird feeder focus group

9. Action Items Bob

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

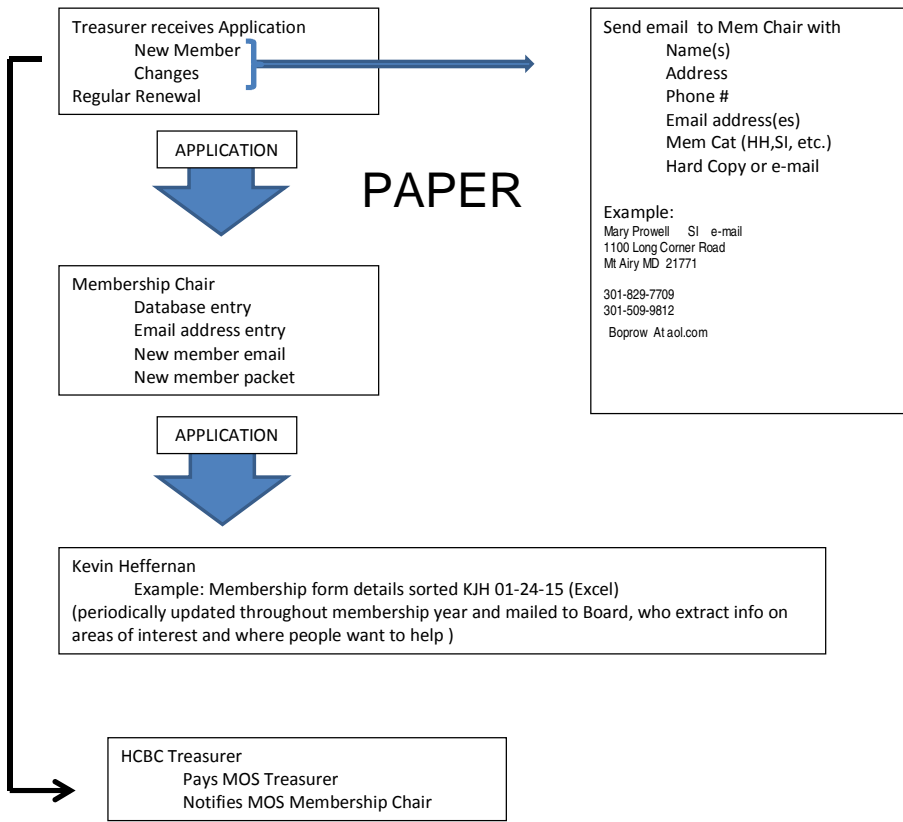
Kate & Dick Tufts
2830 Duvall Road
Woodbine MD 21797
(410) 489-7052
ktufts@verizon.net

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/14-4/30/15**

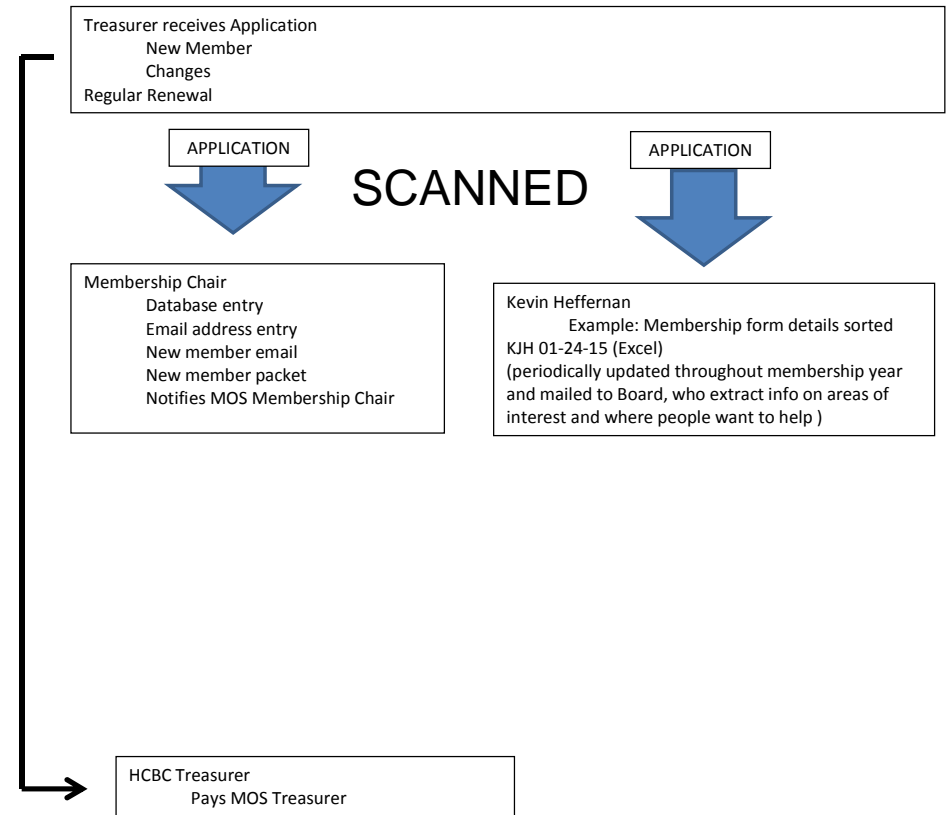
	Budget 2014-15	April Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		30.00	5,735.00
State Dues Paid		(970.00)	(3,802.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	(2,870.00)	1,933.00
Publications			
Hospitality - from MOS for Brd. Mtg.			60.00
Bookstore			46.00
Contributions to HCBC (thru 12/31/14)			845.00
Contributions to Howard Co Bird Club (Emy)		175.00	1,300.00
Contributions to MOS ((thru 12/31/14)			75.00
Contributions to Butterfly Garden ((thru 12/31/14))			75.00
Pollinator Garden - Elkhorn			
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	(2,695.00)	4,334.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		144.66
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	150.00	650.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		62.27
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		203.28
Postage, Copies	250.00		257.72
Projector Expense			
Banking Supplies			
General Supplies			156.57
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			89.00
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	93.00	503.50
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund		1,300.00	1,300.00
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S		200.00	200.00
Greenfest	35.00		35.00
YMOS Birdathon			244.00
Total Operating Expense	1,685.00	1,743.00	3,846.00
Seed Sale			
Income			6,442.68
Expense			6,442.68
Flyers			
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		-	1,574.72
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account			10,647.95
Interest Received for 12 mos.		0.05	0.73
Balance as of 4/22/15			10,648.68
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking (as of 4/22/15)			\$ 8,554.31
Reserve Fund (T.Rowe Price) as of 3/25/15			16,188.68
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			24,788.02

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
Proposed Budget
5/1/15-4/30/16

	<u>Budget</u> <u>2014-15</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2014-15</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2015-16</u>
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	1933.00	2000
Contributions to HCBC (thru 12/31/14)		845.00	850
Contributions to Howard Co Bird Club (Emy)		1300.00	-
Contributions to MOS ((thru 12/31/14)		75.00	75
Contributions to Butterfly Garden ((thru 12/31/14))		75.00	75
Pollinator Garden - Elkhorn			
Total Operating Income	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>4288.00</u>	<u>3060</u>
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00	144.66	150
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	650.00	1,000
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00	62.27	75
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00	203.28	260
Postage, Copies	250.00	257.72	275
General Supplies		156.57	175
USPS Postal Box rental		89.00	90
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		30
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	503.50	525
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund		1300	
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S		200	200
Greenfest	35.00	35	35
YMOS Birdathon		244	245
Total Operating Expense	<u>1,685.00</u>	<u>3846</u>	<u>3060</u>



Former Process



Current Process

Processing Membership Information

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 28, 2015

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2013-2014 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Meg Harris (1st yr.) √
Ward Ebert (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John & Meg Harris. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 14 was ~50 people. Dr. Gwen Brewer, Maryland DNR gave a program entitled "Solving the Mysteries of Bird Migration."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes prepared by Bob Solem were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had sent the attached report prior to the meeting. She noted that we had received eight new memberships in the past month.

President's Remarks (Todd): Robin reported that he was working on the annual report for submittal to MOS. He will forward the draft to the Board for review.

Vice-President's Remarks (J. Harris): John had no remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Joe has been recruiting leaders for the fall field trips and has been encouraged to include a few trips for beginners. Robin reported that Wes Earp had led a bluebird walk for RNC at Schooley Mill Park the previous weekend. There were eight participants. The question arose whether this was our last of the four RNC events we are committed to for this year or is it beginning next year. At first Robin asked Karen to contact RNC and look at the MOU to try and answer this question. He agreed to send Karen a copy of the MOU. It was then pointed out that Joe Hanfman had agreed to seek the leaders for these events and would probably be a better person to start with in attempting to determine whether this was part of last year or a new year's commitment. Robin agreed to check with Joe and determine when is our due date for providing a list of events and leaders to RNC.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo was not present but had sent the attached Records Committee report to Board prior to the meeting.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt had shared a draft of a paper proposing a policy for MOS on feral cats and Trap, Neuter, Release programs. There will be a vote at the upcoming MOS Board meeting on whether MOS will adopt

the policy. John McKitterick asked whether the Howard Board had a preference as to how our Director's should vote. It was agreed the choice was left to the individual MOS Board members, but several of those present said they would recommend supporting adoption. Kurt mentioned an email he had forwarded reporting a recent promising development for dealing with white-nosed syndrome in bats. He also reported that the EPA had recently issued a statement on the scope of the Clean Water Act. In simple terms it states if the water flows downstream it is subject to the act.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard was not present. As he will be on a trip to Alaska in July he has asked for Goldfinch inputs as early as possible, preferably in advance of the normal July 25 due date.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob was not present and had not provided a report.

Potluck (Lillie): Inactive until next year.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): Next meeting is June 6.

Old Business

Eagle Scout project for Centennial – Part III – Robin had provided a response to Tony Rollin following our last meeting that identified our concerns with his proposal and expressed our concerns with his proposal and our inability to commit to the long-term support he was requesting from the club. In mid-May he sent an email to the entire Board attempting to address our concerns and clarify what he was requesting. We discussed his latest response and agreed to satisfy his request for a list of birds all he needed was a copy of the Centennial Park checklist. However we agreed we could not provide any on-going web-based support, however minimal it might appear to him. Robin had already replied to Tony asking him not to copy the entire Board in his communications. Robin took an action to provide Tony with our reply.

Emy Holdridge's Optics – results of auction – Robin read the attached report that Jo had provided on the results of the auction. More than \$2000 was raised for support of the pollinator plots at Centennial Park.

New Business

Donations for habitat – In preparing a draft of an article for this Fall's seed sale had identified that Bob had not updated the web page listing our past giving for habitat conservation and that he needed an updated amount and had asked Bob for one. In Bob's reply he noted that the current list focused on funds generated by the seed sale (sale and contributions for habitat received with orders) but perhaps it should include other donations raised from other sources. Bob asked the Board to discuss and agree on a policy. We discussed briefly and agreed that we should include all sources in advertising what the club has contributed for habitat preservation.

Seed Sale – Ward summarized the planning for the coming seed sale. The plan is basically the same as last year. Jeff Friedhoffer has agreed to fill the same role he served last year, namely receiving and recording orders. The proposed schedule is to have seed sale begin on Saturday Oct 3 and continue through Oct 10. Seed sale order forms will be emailed on Sept 13 and announced close of orders will be Sept 24. Ward said he would get an updated figure to report in his article from Bob and then get the draft to Howard.

Locations for Board meeting in 2015-2016 – The following volunteered to host Board meetings next year as follows. Volunteers for the remaining dates are still needed.

September 24, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
October 22, 2015	-	Robin Todd
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	
April 28, 2016	-	
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Prepare Annual Report for MOS and posting to web – Robin
- Notify Tony Rollin of Board decision on his proposed Eagle Scout project – Robin
- Prepare copies of approved budget to be available at May meeting – Cindy DONE
- Create materials for auction at May meeting for Emy’s equipment – Jo. DONE
- Publicize details of auction in a NEWSGRAM and on web – Bob. DONE
- Publicize new times for meetings in the fall – Bob
- Develop policy for Board on visiting Waterford Farm after discussion with Sharps – John H. OBE
- Mail notification and check to Delaware Ornithological Society for Bird-A-Thon – Kurt/Cindy. DONE
- Notify MOS (Tom Strikwerda) that HCBC has contributed \$1000 to DOS – Robin DONE
- Make HCBC web page mobile-friendly – Bob
- Prepare job description of Membership Chair for editing, then disseminate via NEWSGRAM – Bob
WORK IN PROGRESS

New/Continuing Action Items

- Prepare Annual Report for MOS and posting to web – Robin
- Notify Tony Rollin of Board decision on his proposed Eagle Scout project – Robin
- Publicize new times for meetings in the fall – Bob
- Make HCBC web page mobile-friendly – Bob
- Prepare job description of Membership Chair for editing, then disseminate via NEWSGRAM – Bob
- Notify Howard to ensure Goldfinch has announcement emphasizing new time for club meetings – Robin
- Review Robin’s draft of annual report when received by email – All
- Provide Karen with a copy of MOU with RNC – Robin
- Contact Joe Hanfman regarding where we stand with our commitment to provide RNC with 4 events - Robin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 25, 2014	-	Robin Todd
October 23, 2014	-	Karen Heffernan
November 20, 2014	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 22, 2015	-	Jo & Bob Solem
February 26, 2015	-	Ward Ebert
March 26, 2015	-	Howard Patterson
April 23, 2015	-	Kate Tufts
May 28, 2015	-	John & Meg Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – May 28, 2015
- Treasurer’s Report – May 28, 2015
- HCBC Records Committee Report – May 25, 2015
- Optics Auction Report – May 20, 2015

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
May 28, 2015**

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Additions? | All |
| 2. Review of Minutes | Chuck |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | Maybe none |
| 4. President's Remarks | Robin |
| 5. Vice President's Remarks | John |
| 6. Committee Reports | |
| • Field Trips | Robin and/or Other |
| • Records | Robin (for Jo) |
| • Conservation | Kurt |
| • Newsletter | Howard |
| • Web Master | Other for Bob |
| 7. Old Business | |
| • Eagle Scout project for Centennial – Part III – Robin | |
| • Emy Holdridge's optics - results of auction - Robin (for Jo) | |
| 8. New Business | |
| • Donations for habitat - Ward | |
| 9. Action Items | Chuck |
| 10. Around the room | |

Meeting Location:

John & Meg Harris
6400 Ripe Apple Lane
Columbia, MD 21044

Please note that one cannot see the Harris' house number ("6400") from the street. It is discretely set at the south corner of Ripe Apple Lane and Empty Song Road. Their driveway opens to Ripe Apple Lane.

Home phone: 240-755-0183

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16**

	Budget 2015-16	May Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		240.00	240.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	240.00	240.00
Publications			
Hospitality - from MOS for Brd. Mtg.			
Contributions to HCBC (thru 12/31/14)			
Contributions to Howard Co Bird Club (Emy)			
Contributions to MOS ((thru 12/31/14)			
Contributions to Butterfly Garden ((thru 12/31/14))			
Pollinator Garden - Elkhorn			
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	240.00	240.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00		
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00		
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S			
Greenfest	35.00		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	(not budgeted)	1,000.00	1,000.00
Total Operating Expense	1,685.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Flyers			
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		-	
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account			10,647.95
Interest Received for 12 mos.		0.06	0.79
Balance as of 4/22/15			10,648.74
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking (as of 5/28/15)			7,601.31
Reserve Fund (T.Rowe Price) as of 3/25/15			16,188.74
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			23,835.08



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

HCBC Records Comm. Report - Jo Solem

Solem <odenata@msn.com>

Mon, May 25, 2015 at 7:45 AM

To: Robin Todd <Totnesman@aol.com>

Cc: Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Records Committee Report for May 2015 Board Meeting - Joanne Solem

Winter dragged into spring in 2015. By late April/early May migrant species, as well as residents, were dribbling through. May was dry until late in the month so the bad weather that often grounds migrants did not materialize. As a result, spring migrants were relatively scarce and even the most active field birders worked hard to find migrant species. The second weekend of May produced an extremely limited number of migrants thanks to Tropical Storm Ana off the coast of the Carolinas. Unfortunately, that period of unfavorable winds coincided with May Count.

The most exciting news is the possibility of a new county species which was documented on May 19, 2015, at Lake Elkhorn. In the late afternoon, Albert Holm photographed three swans near the dam which appeared to be Trumpeter Swans. He contacted friends Guy and Susan Moody who arrived and spotted the three at 6:39 p.m. They observed the swimming birds for only a short time before they began to bob their heads and vocalize. As the Moodys watched, the swans lifted off and flew west. The record has been submitted to the MD/DCRC.

Jo

--

Solem

odenata@msn.com

Laurel MD 20723

Sent: Wed, May 20, 2015 6:26 am
Subject: Optics Auction Report

Summary of the optics auction follows:

A silent auction of some of Emy Holdridge's birding equipment was held on Thursday, May 14, from 7-8:00 p.m. preceding the regular HCBC meeting. The results are as follows:

Swarovski binoculars: \$770.00
Zeiss binoculars: \$360.00
Eagle binoculars: \$220.00
Swarovski telescope: \$500.00
Manfretto (carbon fiber) tripod: \$140.00
Bogan tripod: \$40.00
Fanny pack: \$10.00

In addition, the speaker, Dr. Gwen Brewer, donated her honorarium of \$50.00 to the project; Mike Kerwin wrote a check as a donation to the project (I do not know amount).

The sale of the optics/tripods alone produced just over \$2000.00. I bought the scope and, depending on how much it costs to put it into excellent condition, may donate an additional amount. (I believe the uncertainty of potential reconditioning/repair charges may have reduced the bidding.) Russ Ruffing is interested in buying the 30x eyepiece. Once I have the scope back in good condition, I intend to sell him the eyepiece and donate that amount to the project.

My thanks to the board for their advice. Special thanks to Howard Patterson, Kevin Heffernan, and Ward Ebert for research and assistance.

I will let Brenda Belensky of Howard County6 Recreation & Parks know the general amount as they are having planning sessions considering more pollinator meadows. Since she had told us they wanted to wait to see how the first meadow developed before beginning any others, I don't believe there is any rush in forwarding a check to them.

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 24, 2015

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.) √
Meg Harris (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts
Past President: Wes Earp

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Kevin Heffernan √

Chapter Committees:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Robin Todd. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 10 was 56 people. Phil Davis gave a program entitled "Behind the Scenes of the MD/DC Records Committee."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had mailed the report for the end of August earlier in the month. After a brief discussion we asked Cindy to wait to email the report as of the end of the month shortly before the Board meeting so that our review will be current and available for discussion at the meeting.

President's Remarks (Todd): Robin had no remarks beyond what will be discussed as part of the agenda.

Vice-President's Remarks (J. Harris): John had no remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Howard reported that Joe has made arrangements for trips through January 1.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported the appearance of a Mississippi Kite found at Mt. Pleasant that stayed long enough for quite a few others to observe it. Lastly she mentioned the recent appearance of two Brown Boobies in the Baltimore Harbor that had remained for several weeks and allowed many birders to add them to their state/life lists.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was unable to attend but sent an email with the attached report. It highlights 1) Status of an effort to collect invasive snails at Wilde Lake; 2) Kurt's testimony regarding Trap-Neuter-Release cat programs at a hearing on a Wildlife Action Plan for Washington, DC; and 3) The Fish and Wildlife Service declarations that listing of the Greater Sage-Grouse is "not warranted."

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported that he has material for the Nov-Dec issue except for the Fall Count results that Mike McClure and Chuck have promised to have in time to support his schedule. The next issue deadline is November 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob had no report.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie stated she will begin planning at the next Board meeting.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): No report.

Old Business

Seed Sale Update – Ward had sent an email indicating he would not be attending as he's no longer a board member. He reported the sale appears to be proceeding normally. Jeff Friedhoffer is collecting forms and it was reported that he has received 24 to date which is low but there is still several days for orders to come in. The deadline was set to allow for mail delivery. Ward also wanted to remind Cindy she needs to be prepared to write a check to The Wildlife Authority on Saturday, Oct. 3. He also stated he will be out of town and will miss the next regular club meeting but it would be good if Jeff could report on the sale then.

RNC Walks – 2 More Needed – Robin reported that our first RNC walk was the “Walking with Woodpeckers” to be led by John Harris on September 26. We also have a Woodcock walk scheduled for March. We need to have two more walks identified and scheduled. Joe Hanfman is working on this but would welcome suggestions and volunteers to lead one of these.

New Business

Online membership applications and payments – Robin had asked Cindy to provide some background information on this subject. She had sent an email which made the following points:

- We need to determine demand for this method of membership payment.
- We should provide method to solicit volunteer interests - maybe only have NEW members fill out and snail mail form.
- Conservation - going paperless would be good.
- Cost - IMO this would be a convenience for members and we can afford it. Using PayPal – the cost for **non-profits** is 2.2% + \$0.30 per transaction. No setup or monthly fee. Can include an option to make a Donation. Can include a Comment field. While I (Cindy) have a PayPal account, I like using it because I can use my credit card instead of maintaining a PayPal account. They give the buyer that option. Nowhere are account numbers saved.
- Cindy has used PayPal with other organizations with no problems..

In discussion we decided to survey membership on whether members would use this option if available. Bob took an action to include this poll in his next Newsgram. We had some concern that besides the PayPal charge there would be an additional credit card charge and it was agreed we needed to confirm whether this was the case. There was some concern about security but since the use of this method would be optional it would be the individual's choice to accept this risk. Cindy pointed out that it was her opinion that this method would be more appealing to younger people. Bob had already begun working on a simpler application form that would offer three options including printing the blank form and filling it out and sending/delivering it and a check to secretary (see attached). The survey would not be an integral part of every application, but could be filled out and mailed/delivered to treasurer separate from online payment.

We then addressed several related membership items. Cindy asked whether we need to continue the 10 levels of membership when in fact the number is doubled only because of the distinction of whether the member wants to receive and pay extra \$5 for receiving hard copy in mail. We agreed this was confusing and we would just have five levels and add a line just adding a \$5 charge for those indicating they want the hard copy mailed. In addition the form currently includes an opportunity to specify if member is willing to receive electronic copy of the MOS Yellowthroat, but we currently are not forwarding this to MOS. John McKitterick took an action to check with MOS leadership and determine whether if we did pass this information to them with dues would the snail mail of Yellowthroat stop. In another membership related item Bob routed a chart showing that the rate of membership receipts this Fall is ahead of last year indicating membership should remain stable. Lastly Kevin explained and

distributed a sample page from the membership survey spreadsheet that he assembles and shares with the board as application form surveys come in. He carries over prior year entries so the fact that many don't fill out the survey every year is not a major issue. The form is used by several committee chairs and count coordinators to identify new volunteers. It is still very useful and further use by others was urged. Meg indicated she had not received it and could use it in coordinating volunteers to bring refreshments for club meetings. Kevin will add her to his distribution.

QuickBooks backup person needed - Cindy stated that she has not had any volunteers. She will continue to search for someone in club who might have requisite experience and agree to provide an emergency backup if something should happen to Cindy.

Special funding for leps – Bob & Jo had corresponded with Dick Smith and Linda Hunt about financially expanding HCBC's involvement with butterflies, specifically, paying for some of the handouts like the two-sided tri-fold that Linda produced on her own (which mentions HCBC) and so far has been paying for herself. Another is Dick's B&W *The Butterflies of Howard County, Maryland*. Emails with details were shared with the Board before the meeting. After a short discussion the Board agreed this was a good idea. It was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously to change the name of the "Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow Donation Fund" to "Butterfly Preservation Fund" and modify the fund purpose to include educational materials for public education (e.g., the trifolds) in addition to the meadow. On May 6, 2015, the Howard County Bird Club Board had already approved \$500 for said fund (see minutes of that meeting). Both Dick and Linda are authorized to submit requests for reimbursement or payment of charges consistent with the fund's purpose.

VP candidate(s) needed by December – A nomination committee for next year's election is needed by January, but since this year we will need a candidate for Vice-President as well as a new Chapter Director we need to address the issue sooner. We agreed that all of us should think whom would make a good VP candidate and come next Board meeting with qualified prospects to be approached by the nominating committee.

Decline in count participants – how to reverse it – Robin had discussed count participation with Mike McClure while Mike was searching for fall count participants. Although characterized as a decline, Chuck passed around data showing that in fact the total participation has stayed fairly constant over time (see attached). Fall count is always lower than May count but the real issue is that participants tend to not agree to participate until the very last minute so that the solicitation process is trying for coordinators and gives the impression there are fewer willing to count. Chuck confirmed that Fall count is generally not supported as well as May Count across the state. Mike had suggested some of the issue is that there are many competing activities in September. He also suggested the average club age is increasing and we lose participants as health issues increase. We have discussed frequently the need to bring new younger members into the club and failure to do so is also a contributing factor. He had one younger past participant indicate that her generation weren't "joiners". We then did some brainstorming of ways to increase count participation and get earlier commitment to count. Ideas included ensuring we begin promoting counts earlier, contacting all those new volunteers personally who selected counts on the application survey (use Kevin's spreadsheet) early (before actually know where they will be assigned), stressing participation is open to all (you don't need to wait to be invited every count), stress citizen science aspect of counts, highlight this is an opportunity to be exposed to new birding locations, remind newer participants they will be paired with more experienced birders if they want, supply Bob count material as early as possible for posting on the website, promote counts during meetings including during conversations in social time, and have Chuck provide his historical participants spreadsheet to coordinators to identify past participants that have dropped off radar as counters. We agreed to share these ideas with all count (both County and Area) coordinators including Joe Hanfman as Winter Count is the next count. He might want to stress these in his Goldfinch article due Nov 25.

Around the Room –

In response to a suggestion that we might delay posting of newsletter on the web until members have it for a few weeks, Bob indicated that would complicate his distribution procedures significantly. Thus the posting will continue to be done at the same time club members receive their email copy.

Kathy Lillie reminded the Board that her email address has changed. Her new address is klillie12@verizon.net.

Secretary's Note: Robin, add an item to October agenda to seek volunteers for hosting March and April Board meetings.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Prepare Annual Report for MOS and posting to web – Robin DONE
- Notify Tony Rollin of Board decision on his proposed Eagle Scout project – Robin DONE
- Publicize new times for meetings in the fall – Bob DONE
- Make HCBC web page mobile-friendly – Bob DONE
- Prepare job description of Membership Chair for editing, then disseminate via NEWSGRAM – Bob DONE
- Notify Howard to ensure Goldfinch has announcement emphasizing new time for club meetings – Robin DONE
- Review Robin's draft of annual report when received by email – All DONE
- Provide Karen with a copy of MOU with RNC – Robin DONE
- Contact Joe Hanfman regarding where we stand with our commitment to provide RNC with 4 events – Robin DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Add a poll in the next Newsgram asking if members would use an online payment method for membership if available– Bob
- Check with Tom Strikwerda on what the current status is regarding electronic only receipt of The Yellowthroat – John McKitterick
- Think about potential candidates for club Vice President and bring suggestions to next Board meeting – All

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	
April 28, 2016	-	
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – September 24, 2015
- HCBC Treasurer's Report – August 31, 2015
- Conservation Report for Sept. 24, 2015 HCBC Board Meeting
- Processing Membership Applications Proposal – Flowchart
- Fall and Spring Count Participation Over Time

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
September 24, 2015**

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Robin and/or Joe
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - Seed sale – update – Ward
 - RNC walks – 2 more needed – Robin or Joe
 - Membership information - Kevin

8. New Business
 - Online membership applications and payments - Cindy
 - QuickBooks backup person needed – Cindy
 - Special funding for leps – Bob/Cindy
 - VP candidate(s) needed by December - John
 - Decline in count participants – how to reverse it? - Robin

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Robin & Hyacinth Todd
10174 Green Clover Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-313-8154 (H)
410-491-5333 (C)

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16**

	Budget 2015-16	August Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		1,185.00	1,550.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00		
Publications			
Hospitality - from MOS for Brd. Mtg.			
Contributions to HCBC		125.00	125.00
Contributions to Howard Co Bird Club (Emy)		175.00	2,315.00
Contributions to MOS		20.00	20.00
Pollinator Garden - Elkhorn		25.00	25.00
Total donations		345.00	2,485.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	1,530.00	4,035.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00	7.00	7.00
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	93.00	93.00
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S			
Greenfest	35.00		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	(not budgeted)		1,000.00
Total Operating Expense	1,685.00	100.00	1,100.00
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Flyers			
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation			
		-	
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account			10,647.95
Interest Received fiscal year			1.03
Balance as of 4/22/15			10,648.98
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking (as of 8/31/15)			\$ 11,296.31
Reserve Fund (T.Rowe Price) as of 8/31/15			16,188.98
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			27,530.32

Conservation Report for Sept. 24, 2015 HCBC Board Meeting

Sue Muller tried to organize an effort to collect invasive snails at Wilde Lake. Alas, Columbia Assoc would not permit without liability coverage. So the effort has been deferred.

Washington DC has developed a Wildlife Action Plan to qualify for State Wildlife Grants from the Feds. It included a call for the District to "revisit" its TNR program. I testified on behalf of MOS in support of the WAP as well as revisitation of TNR. I was joined by American Bird Conservancy, DC Audubon, and Rock Creek Conservancy. PETA likewise testified in support! The pro-TNR folks were out in force, parroting the lie about how the study projecting 1.4-3.7 billion birds killed by cats had been "discredited," shelter intake was down, and TNR "works." However, they could produce no figures in support of those assertions. ABC has rebutted all their nonsense, but it remains to be seen what, if anything, will happen. I should note that the Chairman of the City Council Committee that held the hearing (the only member to show up, by the way), WAS asking some pointed questions about how many cats there were in the District, so I think she may not be fully under the spell of the TNR folks, but she is also the sponsor of the initiative. But it may be getting across to her that it isn't working!

The Fish and Wildlife Service has declared that listing of the Greater Sage-Grouse is "not warranted" due the unprecedented federal/state/private partnership which has been set up to save the grouse. Bureau of Land Management has also just released a Resource Management Plan for the Northern range of the sage-grouse. Virtually every major conservation organization backs this to include American Bird Conservancy, Cornell Lab, Wildlife Refuge Association, Natural Resources Defense Council, Nature Conservancy, Pew Charitable Trust.

Kurt Schwarz

Electronic (on web)

HCBC WEB
Online form
submitted &
payment via
PayPal

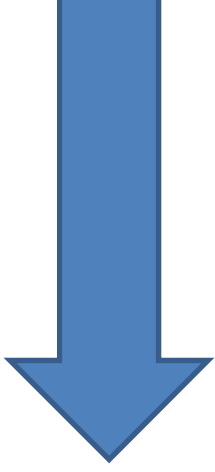
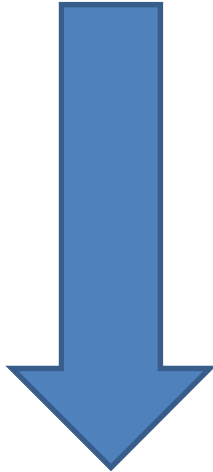
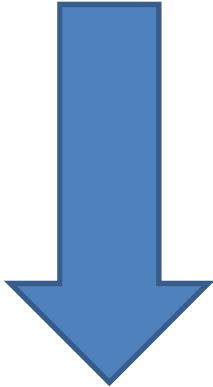
Manual (paper form + check or cash)

Fill out paper
application
and check

Give Treasurer
paper application
and check or
cash at meeting

APPLICATION

PayPal deposit
into HCBC
checking
account



Treasurer receives Application
New Member
Changes
Regular Renewal

APPLICATION

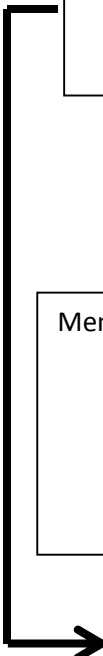


APPLICATION



Membership Chair
Database entry
Email address entry
New member email
New member packet
Notifies MOS Membership Chair

Kevin Heffernan
Example: Membership form details sorted
KJH 01-24-15 (Excel)
(periodically updated throughout membership year
and mailed to Board, who extract info on areas of
interest and where people want to help)



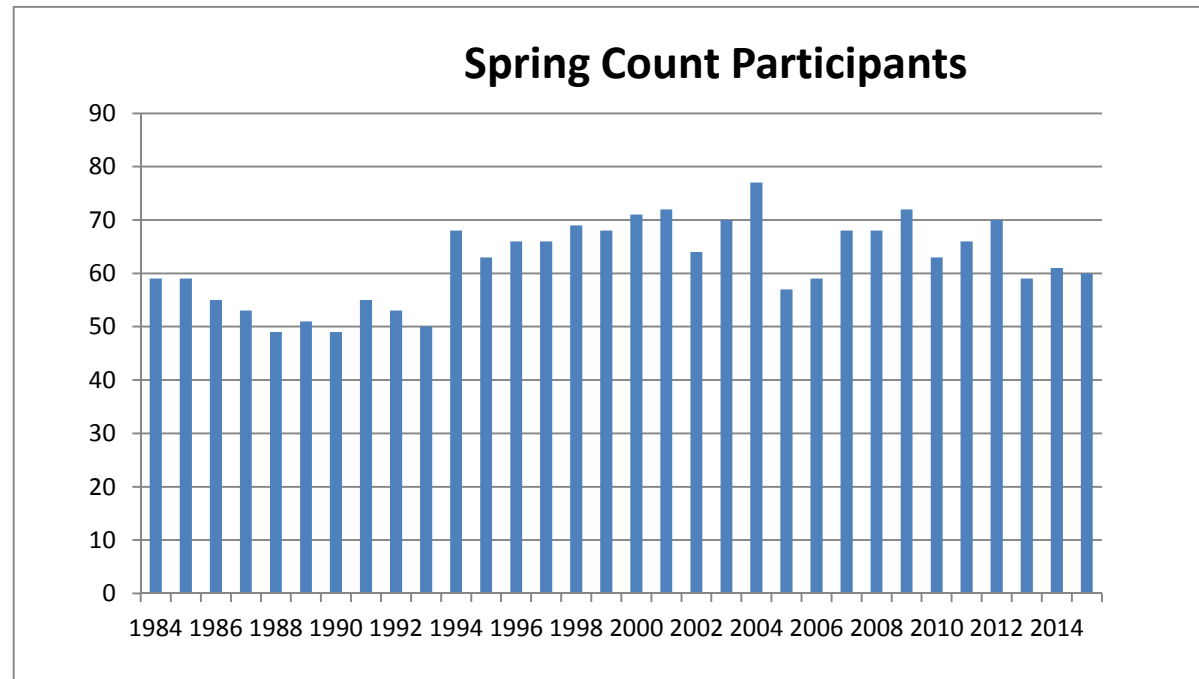
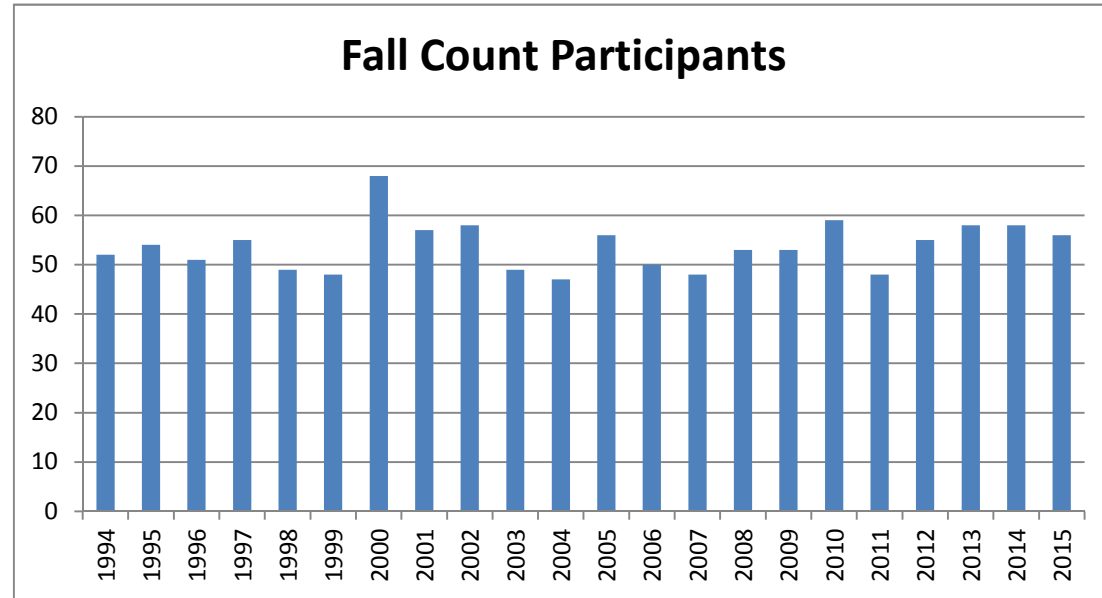
HCBC Treasurer
Pays MOS Treasurer

Fall Count

Year	Participants
1994	52
1995	54
1996	51
1997	55
1998	49
1999	48
2000	68
2001	57
2002	58
2003	49
2004	47
2005	56
2006	50
2007	48
2008	53
2009	53
2010	59
2011	48
2012	55
2013	58
2014	58
2015	56

Spring Count

Year	Participants
1984	59
1985	59
1986	55
1987	53
1988	49
1989	51
1990	49
1991	55
1992	53
1993	50
1994	68
1995	63
1996	66
1997	66
1998	69
1999	68
2000	71
2001	72
2002	64
2003	70
2004	77
2005	57
2006	59
2007	68
2008	68
2009	72
2010	63
2011	66
2012	70
2013	59
2014	61
2015	60



Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 22, 2015

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.) √
Meg Harris (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

Kevin Heffernan √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Heffernan. Total number in attendance was twelve. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 8, 2015 was 60 people. Tom Reider gave a program entitled “The Physics and Evolution of Flight.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted with one minor correction. The rate for use of PayPal transactions for Non-profits will be 2.2% plus 30 cents per transaction.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy was not present but had sent a copy of the September 30 report to Bob who had printed and distributed copies at the meeting. The report is attached. Kate asked if the balance of \$2540 for Emy’s fund was still available to be spent. Jo reminded her that the proceeds of the optics sale had been received after our initial gift to Howard County Rec and Parks. The county staff has indicated they would prefer to not receive the funds right now but wait until an assessment of the success of the plots is available. One possibility is to use some of the funds for signage about the role of pollinator plots.

President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin was not present as he was in the Caymans.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): John reported that he had tested the prototype electronic payment system and it proved very easy. Using PayPal one can use a credit card without creating a PayPal account or alternatively create and use a PayPal account.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Planned field trips are set up through January 1. A volunteer to lead the Waterfowl Search on November 21 is needed as Kurt will be out of town caring for his Mother.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that although there have been several good Fall birds there have been no real specialties so far.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present but had sent an email reporting that he had sent a letter to MD NATL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION supporting their eviction of a cat colony in Damascus. As yet it is unclear precisely where in Damascus but there is an on-line petition in opposition to the eviction.

Newsletter (Patterson): The next newsletter deadline is November 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he and Jo had been off-line for a couple days as they had lost support from Verizon and hoped to be back on-line shortly.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie reported that Easter is the last weekend in March so we will want to hold the potluck earlier than last year. Her choices in priority order are March 19, March 12, and March 5. She will approach RNC about those dates.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): No report, next meeting is December 5.

Old Business

Seed Sale – Seed sale results are not reflected in the September Treasurer’s Report attached here. However it was reported that this year we had only 36 orders compared to 47 orders last year. One possible reason was that the Central Audubon seed sale flyer came out one week after ours and each item was priced \$1 less than our price. In accordance with our agreement The Wildlife Authority contribution this year was \$750.

RNC Walks – John Harris led our first trip for the current year (Woodpeckers). David Cummings is scheduled to lead our second walk (Woodcocks) in mid-March. We need to schedule two more events as part of our commitment to RNC. Joe Hanfman is looking for volunteers to lead these. Last year we had one event focused on Orioles and Goldfinches and a second one on Eastern Bluebirds. John Harris agreed to contact Joe and determine the exact status on the two events. Namely is he looking to repeat these two events, when they would be scheduled, and what is the deadline to have the details set for inclusion in RNC calendars.

Online membership applications and payments – Cindy received the results of the survey of interest in using electronic payment and the response was overwhelmingly positive. As John reported he had tested the prototype PayPal payment options with Cindy and it was successful. Accordingly Bob had begun working on an interactive form to use on the web to collect the membership survey and access PayPal to make payment. He passed around copies of his initial draft form. The Board provided a number of suggestions and corrections. One change will be to include a choice to receive the MOS Yellowthroat electronically only and not be mailed a hardcopy. John McKitterick had confirmed that MOS is now prepared to support this when chapters provide this information. Following the meeting Bob made changes to the form reflecting the discussion and emailed a link to the form to the Board. This updated form is attached to these minutes.

QuickBooks backup person status – Cindy has been looking for backup and had one lead but is still pursuing but has indicated it is not an urgent need.

Special Funding for Leps – Cindy will update her records to reflect the change in the name of the fund for butterflies to the “Butterfly Preservation Fund.” Bob still needs to work with Cindy on the PayPal screens for electronic payment and it may need to reflect this as an additional contribution option. The traditional “print form” application will also need to be updated to reflect changes.

Vice President Candidates Needed by December – The Board held a discussion of potential candidates to be considered and approached about volunteering to serve as Vice President and Chapter Director. One potential candidate for VP was mentioned and several names for Chapter Director were put forward. We agreed on an initial priority of approaching candidates and various Board members took actions to approach them in order.

New Business

Paul Bade’s proposal for HCBC to act as conduit for funds for pollinator meadows - Paul has made preservation of Monarch Butterflies a major personal goal. His vision is to have acres of milkweed plots in the county. His idea is to seek corporate funding for these plots and has approached Howard County Recreation and Parks about planting in the county parks if he is successful in obtaining corporate funding. He is hoping to work with the club as a potential pass-through for funds so that they will qualify as charitable donations. He had contacted Robin about meeting with

the Board at our next meeting. Robin had told him we would need to have a written proposal. Sue Muller had been present in his meeting with Rec & Parks and had cautioned that in his passion for this project he seemed to “hear” selectively.” Thus when we meet with him we need to ask a lot of questions and be very clear on any agreements we reach. What the park regulations would be on signs acknowledging corporate donations is one topic that the Department will have to decide, and as with all such endeavors long-term maintenance will need to be addressed. Cindy’s initial assessment was that it should not be too big a burden to receive the funds. Whenever the board meets with him we will want Sue Muller and Dick Smith to attend as well. We agreed that we would need to have the written proposal a week in advance of any meeting, so John Harris agreed to ask Robin to relay this to Paul. Namely we need the proposal by November 12 if the discussion is to be held at our November Board meeting.

Need volunteers to host March and April Board meetings - Kate Tufts volunteered to host the April meeting. We still need a volunteer for March.

Around the Room –

- Kate reported that the Daisy neighborhood is going to have a pollinator plot at a local park. Dick Tufts has organized a number of neighbors in support of the project and they have several volunteers expressing interest.
- John & Meg reported they will not be attending the regular club meeting on Nov. 12.
- Nancy reported on her pleasure in the tremendous interest her 12 year old son Kevin had expressed in birding after he joined the group for the last stop on the Big Sparrow Day.
- Someone commented on how interesting the program by Tom Reider had been and Jo reported that Jane Geuder was relieved at how successful it had been as his fee was one of the largest (\$350) she has ever paid.
- John Harris reported that he had written a recommendation supporting Josh Detwhiler of RNC in applying for an MOS scholarship.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Add a poll in the next Newsgram asking if members would use an online payment method for membership if available– Bob DONE
- Check with Tom Strikwerda on what the current status is regarding electronic only availability of The Yellowthroat – John McK DONE
- Think about potential candidates for club Vice President and bring suggestions to next Board meeting – All

New/Continuing Action Items

- Think about potential candidates for club Vice President and bring suggestions to next Board meeting – All
- Approach potential Chapter Director candidates as we discussed – Nancy, Jo
- Contact Joe Hanfman to determine status of planning for remaining RNC events – John Harris
- Make revisions and continue to develop forms and web pages for on-line membership payment – Bob, Cindy
- Contact Robin and ask him to notify Paul Bade that we need a written proposal at least a week before meeting – John Harris

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	[REDACTED]
April 28, 2016	-	Kate Tufts
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – October 22, 2015
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – September 30, 2015
- Draft Webpages and forms for membership application and electronic payment

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda**

October 22, 2015

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks N/A – in the Cayman Islands
5. Vice President's Remarks John – chairing for Robin

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips All set until January 1st
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - Seed sale – 36 orders vs. 47 in 2014
 - RNC walks – 2 more needed – Joe Hanfman is looking for leaders
 - Online membership applications and payments – survey results - Cindy
 - QuickBooks backup person found? – Cindy
 - Special funding for leps – Bob/Cindy
 - VP candidate(s) needed by December – just a reminder to all

8. New Business
 - Paul Bade's proposal for HCBC to act as conduit for funds for pollinator meadows – *discussion tabled for November meeting when Paul's proposal should be available.*
 - Need hosts for March and April Board Meetings - Chuck

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Kevin & Karen Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(410) 418-8731
(443) 668-7618
Khdarcy4@aol.com

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16**

	Budget 2015-16	Sept Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Membership Dues		1,129.00	3,864.00
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00		
Publications			
Hospitality - from MOS for Brd. Mtg.			
Contributions to HCBC		280.00	405.00
Contributions to Emy's fund		50.00	2,540.00
Contributions to MOS			20.00
Pollinator Garden - Elkhorn			25.00
Total donations		330.00	2,990.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	1,459.00	6,854.00
Expense:			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		
Hospitality-Chapter &	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00		7.00
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00		93.00
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S			
Greenfest	35.00		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	(not budgeted)		1,000.00
Total Operating Expense	1,685.00	-	1,100.00
Seed Sale			
Income			
Expense			
Flyers			
Seed			
Net Seed Sale			
Contribution to Habitat Preservation		-	
Reserve Fund			
Reserve Account			10,647.95
Interest Received fiscal year		Sept. 0.06	1.09
Balance			10,649.04
Special Fund			
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances			
Checking (as of 9/30/15)			\$ 12,705.31
Prime Reserve Fund (T.Rowe Price) as of 9/30/15			16,189.04
Petty Cash			45.03
Total			28,939.38

Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

Membership Application Form

Electronic Form

Everything is online—
including **PAYMENT !**

Click **HERE** to continue
with electronic form.

Postal Mail Form

Fill out your
membership form
on your computer
screen using our
interactive PDF form.
(Use *Adobe Reader*
.)

Print it and mail it with your check.

OR, print the form
and complete it
as you did before.

Click **HERE** to continue

with postal mail form.

Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)

Electronic Membership Application Payment Form

Household: \$40
(All at one address)

Individual: \$25
(One adult)

Junior: \$5
(Under 18 years old)

Chapter Dues Only: \$5
(MUST be member of another MOS chapter)

Sustaining: \$90 per person
(That extra effort for HCBC and MOS)

Charge for postal mail delivery: \$5
(Standard delivery of newsletters and directory is by E-mail.)

Please fill out each section and check your answers before sending in the application (the "Join" button at the bottom).

NEW MEMBER

Renewal

If new, how did you hear about the Howard County Bird Club?

If renewal, has your membership info changed since last year?

Yes

Identifying Information

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Name:

Add'l names:

Address:

City:

State: MD

ZIP:

First E-mail Address:

Second E-mail Address:

First Phone Number:

Second Phone Number:

The above information appears in the annual Club Directory

- NO E-mail address(es) in Directory
- NO Phone number(s) in Directory

Even if your E-mail address does not appear in the directory, we need this information to contact you for special notices. (Such messages do not reveal your E-mail address to others.)

Activities/Interests

Remember our club relies completely on volunteers!

Surveys & Counts

- Christmas bird count (Triadelphia)
- Midwinter bird count
- May bird count
- Fall bird count
- Dragonfly count
- Butterfly surveys
- Plants/wildflowers
- Amphibians/reptiles
- Fungi

Other

Volunteer Member Services

- Outreach/Exhibits & Fests**
Represent club at events/displays (e.g. *Greenfest*)
- Provide refreshments**

Rare Bird Alert (for Howard County only)

- Send E-mail alerts to First E-mail Address
- Send E-mail alerts to Second E-mail Address
- I am a Howard County Lister

Field Trips

What past trips have you enjoyed most?

What new trips would you like considered?

Club Activities

- Field Trips**
Serve as a trip leader or co-leader
- Programs**
I have suggestions. *Contact me.*

Snacks & drink at one club meeting

Help with potluck
or special events

Help coordinate
youth activities

Club activities
at Robinson Nature Center

Other

Conservation

I would like to receive action Emails regard
County & Maryland conservation issues. C

Other

Comments or suggestions

by completing the "Payment Screen" (next).

All financial information (credit card or PayPal) is in the secure PayPal network.

Subject: HCBC Membership Application
From: webmaster@howardbirds.org
Date: 10/23/2015 10:05 PM
To: webmaster@howardbirds.org

HCBC Electronic Membership Application:

New_or_Renewal: New Member

HeardAboutClub: I read about it in the New York Times...

Name: Mickey Mouse

AdditionalNames:

Address: 2000 Buena Vista Ave

City: San Saledo

State: CA

ZIPcode: 11111

EmailAddress1: mickey.mouse@disney.com

EmailAddress2:

PhoneNumber1: (555) 555-1111

PhoneNumber2:

No_Email_Address_in_Directory: TRUE

No_Phone_Number_in_Directory: TRUE

Activities: Xmas_Count, Midwinter_Count, May_Count, Fall_Count, Dragonfly_Count, Butterfly_Survey, Plants, Herps, Fungi, Outreach, Refreshments, Potluck, Youth, RobinsonNC, Trip_Leader, Programs, Conservation

Other_Count: Ants

Rare_Bird_Alert_to_First_Email: Yes

Past_Trips_Liked: Disney World

Possible_New_Trips: Disney Park

Volunteer_Other: Where ever needed. Can I be Vice President?

Club_Activity_Other: Trap feral cats

Suggestions: Trap more feral cats

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 19, 2015

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.) √
Meg Harris (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

Sue Muller √
Dick Smith √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Cindy Albright. Total number in attendance was thirteen. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 12 was 61 people. Bonnie Ott gave a program entitled Birding and Beyond ...in Howard County."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as distributed with one minor correction.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had distributed the attached Treasurer's Report for October. Additional membership dues have continued to come in since this report closed. It was pointed out to Cindy that she should treat the seed sale proceeds as income balanced by the equivalent cost of seed and a donation to the club's habitat fund from The Wildlife Authority. See New Business for a discussion of how we will treat donation funds in the future.

President's Remarks (Todd): Robin did not have any remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (J. Harris): John had no remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): The Waterfowl Search on Nov. 21 and the Centennial Walk on Nov. 22 will not have official leaders but are straightforward enough that this should work out fine. Joe is working on trips for winter and spring and is all set for club trips until April 25. See Old Business for discussion of RNC trips.

Records (Jo Solem): No new records but there are two reports that will wait until they are reviewed by the Maryland/DC Records committee.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard had no comments.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob has been unable to update the website as our web host has been converted from Yahoo Small Business to Aabaco Small Business and they had problems during conversion. He is now up and able to update site but see New Business for discussion of future plans for web hosting.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie was not present but has confirmed our reservation for holding the pot luck at RNC on March 19, 2016.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): No meeting since last meeting. Next MOS Board meeting is December 5 at Jug Bay.

Old Business

RNC Walks – 2 more needed – We need to have two more events for RNC as part of our annual commitment to conduct four. Details need to be finalized by December 15 to meet the deadline for the RNC spring catalog. Joe Hanfman had proposed a May trip to MPEA for warblers and a June trip to Wilde Lake for Orioles & Goldfinch. Kurt indicated he could do the Orioles & Goldfinch trip. It was pointed out that RNC staff really wants events held at RNC or MPEA. A prior proposal to go to Schooley Mill Park for bluebirds was difficult to get approved, in part due to internal politics within Rec & Parks, but it was finally allowed. It was proposed that RNC would probably work for the Orioles & Goldfinch trip. Robin agreed to contact Joe and Kurt and see if that location would work. Sue Muller asked if the events could be indoor ones, e.g. Introduction to eBird. We believe that would work but Karen took an action to confirm that with RNC staff. John Harris said he could do an eBird program but would also check with Joe Hanfman to see if he could help with that. Another indoor program might be Mike Kerwin's Intro to Birding. Sue also pointed out that due to a Rec & Parks reorganization, RNC and the Heritage sites now in the same division, separate from the parks. As a result holding events at one of the Heritage sites (e.g. Belmont) might be met with approval.

Online membership applications and payments – As we discussed at last meeting the survey indicated an overwhelming support for this capability. As a result Bob, Cindy, and John H. are working to implement this capability by February.

Paul Bade's Proposal for Pollinator Plots – As discussed at last meeting Paul was requested to submit a written proposal for our consideration. Sue Muller and Dick Smith were asked to attend this meeting so we could discuss the merits of our agreeing to act as a conduit for funds so that they could be charitable donations. Sue Muller explained that Rec and Parks had a similar arrangement in which they receive funds for the Wounded Warrior hunts at West Friendship Park via the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club. Sue recognized Paul's enthusiasm but also expressed belief he hasn't acknowledged what he will have to do to make his vision a reality. Issues that will need to be worked out with Rec and Parks include: they not he will decide how funds are expended for long-term maintenance, interns, signage in parks (less extensive than he envisions), etc. The proposal we have received so far has a number of points that are unacceptable to the club. We will not be involved in fund raising, we will not handle receipts for donations, we will only provide net proceeds to Rec & Parks, will not accept any financial responsibility for providing funds other than those received from campaign, need legal interpretation of tax status of ~8% overhead paid to GoFundMe, will not accept any responsibility for web support on our site or elsewhere. Lastly will require a formal detailed MOU that spells out responsibilities that Paul is assuming and makes it clear what we are accepting and what we are clearly not agreeing to provide. Robin agreed to draft a summary of our discussion and share it with the Board, prior to calling Paul and sharing our discussion and making it clear that we will need a formal MOU.

VP Candidate(s) needed by December – A nominating committee of at least 3 members is needs to be appointed before the regular club February meeting (ideally by the end of the year). The person we had tasked two people to approach about the Chapter Director position agreed to be nominated. The person we had tasked John Harris to speak to about the Vice-President position declined citing travel commitments. John spoke to another candidate who did not reject the idea but indicated he/she would consider it. If other potential candidates are identified they should be given to the nominating committee as soon as they are named.

New Business

Investigate/Seek New Web Hosting Service – Bob is unsatisfied with the support we are getting with our current Web hosting service (Aabaco Small Business). He moved that a committee composed of Cindy, John Harris, and himself be authorized to investigate alternate hosts and recommend a new service to the Board with the intent that if acceptable to the Board we would implement the change before the end of the year. He is quite sure an acceptable alternate will not cost more than the \$11.95 a month we have been paying.

Designating Contributions on Membership Forms – As part of the development of on-line membership forms Bob asked the Board to clarify how we want to treat and track donations where the donor expresses a preference for how donation should be used. In the recent past we have experienced a proliferation of funds with specific purposes. We have the traditional Habitat Preservation Fund which has received the proceeds of seed sales and the majority of past donations. We created the Emy Holdridge Fund with gifts given in Emy's memory and the sale of her optics to support the pollinator plot at Centennial. We agreed that this is meant to be a temporary fund and will disappear when Howard County Rec and Parks decide they have a use for the remaining balance of \$2365 related to the plot. We also had designated a fund supporting the Elkhorn Garden Plot Butterfly Meadow and funded it with \$500 from habitat funds. We recently expanded the purpose of this fund to include support of printing butterfly educational materials and renamed it the Butterfly Preservation Fund. Dick Smith and Linda Hunt were authorized to submit invoices for reimbursement from this fund. Bob expressed a desire to not have to include more than a couple of funds on application and on-line payment forms. It was proposed that it would be preferable to just have the one overarching Habitat Preservation Fund as a line item account. Accordingly forms would only solicit donations for that fund but have a "Comments" line where a donor could specify a non-binding preference/purpose for the donation. Cindy felt she could incorporate these informal designations within the single donation fund using QuickBooks comments. The Emy fund will remain separate until requested by Rec and Parks. Donations designated for MOS will be forwarded to the MOS Treasurer. All other donations to the Howard County Bird Club will be added to the Habitat Preservation Fund as our dues cover operating expenses. Cindy will establish a method to track expressed preferences and report on them to guide us in disbursing habitat funds. *Secretary Note: Cindy should feel free to report if this isn't really workable after she investigates it further. Need to determine what the "Donations – other" of \$245 is for and whether it can be treated in this manner.* This policy would need to be reviewed in the future if the club were to receive a significant donation that came with restrictions on how to use the funds, possibly funds received from the Bade initiative would probably need to be treated separately. Lastly to be clear we still need to track the balance of the Marjorie Mountjoy Fund bequest that is not to be spent on habitat but only used for club activities and needs.

Secretary Note: In reviewing the first draft of these minutes Jo Solem raised an issue regarding donations that we did not consider and should. Her input: "In the discussion of donations, we failed to address a type of donation which, in the past, we have received--and continue to receive--at the beginning of the membership year, i.e. to the HCBC for current expenses in order to remain within budget and keep dues stable. (Anyone who has been on the board for any length of time knows that we have addressed this type of donation more than once with the understanding that not everyone who gives us money wants us to turn around and give it to someone else.) ... I would suggest that if we are putting lines on the membership blank to help donors direct funds, one line be added as either 'Undesignated' or 'HCBC.'" As the intent of our discussion was to give those developing forms for on-line application in the near-term I would propose Board members indicate their concurrence in her suggestion or offer alternatives via email so the team can continue their efforts.

On a related topic Jo reported that Jim Wilkinson had identified a promising location for a pollinator plot on the grounds of the Thomas Viaduct Middle School off of Coca-Cola Drive in Hanover. He had contacted the schools science coordinator who has expressed strong interest in having the school take on such a project. Linda Hunt has gotten involved and a meeting with the school representatives to discuss the project is being scheduled. Jo proposed that as schools identify such projects the club might want to offer a small amount (~\$100) literally as seed money. Projects like this would potentially be very successful as they would come with volunteers to help maintain the plots in the future. The sense of the Board was that this would be an appropriate use of our funds and that Linda should be informed that in her meetings with school staff she could bring this up at her discretion. Jo took an action to share this with Linda.

Phone Calls to Late Renewals – Bob stated he will provide Meg and Nancy an updated list so they can make the calls in next two weeks.

Need New Facebook Moderator – Amanda Witt has indicated she is not renewing her club membership as she has too many family commitments. It is presumed she won't want to continue as moderator of the club's Facebook page, but Jo will contact her to confirm that presumption. Nancy indicates she uses Facebook but has no moderator experience but felt if she could share the role with someone else she would be willing to take it on if Amanda says she won't be continuing. It was suggested that others who use Facebook might be willing to take on the co-moderator task. Nancy will approach potential candidates after Jo contacts Amanda if needed.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Think about potential candidates for club Vice President and bring suggestions to next Board meeting – All
- Approach potential Chapter Director candidates as we discussed – Nancy, Jo DONE
- Contact Joe Hanfman to determine status of planning for remaining RNC events – John Harris DONE
- Revise & develop forms and web pages for on-line membership payment – Bob, Cindy
- Contact Robin and ask him to notify Paul Bade that we need a written proposal at least a week before meeting – John Harris DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Think about potential candidates for club Vice President and bring suggestions to next Board meeting – All
- Make revisions and continue to develop forms and web pages for on-line membership payment – Bob, Cindy, John H.
- Contact RNC and determine if one of our activities could be an indoor one (Intro to eBird and viewing RNC feeders) – Karen
- Contact Joe Hanfman and Kurt Schwarz to confirm status of Orioles/Goldfinch Walk being held on RNC grounds – Robin
- Draft summary of club position on Bade proposal and share with Board and after feedback contact Paul Bade and communicate that position and our need for a formal MOU – Robin
- Investigate Web hosting services and recommend service to implement before end of the year – Bob, Cindy, John H.
- Contact Linda Hunt and share club's willingness to consider providing seed funds for schools that want to plant and maintain a pollinator plot on their grounds – Jo
- Contact Amanda Witt and confirm that she is stepping down as Facebook moderator and inform Nancy the answer – Jo
- If Amanda is stepping down, approach other Facebook users to see if he would be willing to be a Facebook co-moderator with Nancy - Nancy
- Draft letter thanking Amanda Witt for her service as club newsletter editor and Facebook moderator – Jo

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	Robin Todd
April 28, 2016	-	Kate Tufts
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 19, 2015
- Treasurer’s Report – October 31, 2015
- Pollinator Habitat Proposal for Centennial Park – Paul Bade
- Background emails on Bade Proposal

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
November 19, 2015**

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips All set until April 25th (from Joe Hanfman)
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt out of state?
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - RNC walks – 2 more needed – Joe Hanfman is looking for leaders
 - Online membership applications and payments – survey results – Cindy
 - Paul Bade's proposal for HCBC to act as conduit for funds for pollinator meadows – Sue Muller, Dick Smith & Robin
 - VP candidate(s) needed by December – just a reminder to all

8. New Business
 - Investigate/Seek New Web Host - Bob
 - Potluck will be on 3/19/16 at RNC – Kathie *in absentia*
 - Designating contributions on membership form - Bob
 - Phone calls to late renewals – Bob, Meg and Nancy

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Cindy Albright
10363 Windstream Dr.
Columbia, 21044
302-562-7082
cindyalbright@gmail.com

End townhouse at corner of Windstream Dr. and Green Mountain Circle

If not using a GPS, approach from Columbia Mall. WindStream Drive is intersection at the stop light at

Mall entrance (M&T Bank) Nordstrom end

Door on Green Mountain Circle side

Parking is allowed on either side of street

**Howard County Bird Club
Treasurer's Report
5/1/15 - 4/30/16**

	Oct. Current	Y-T-D May 1 - Oct 31, 15
Income		
Birdseed	751.31	751.31
Membership Dues		
State Dues Paid	-1,540.00	-1,540.00
Membership Dues - Other	840	3,519.00
Total Membership Dues	-700.00	1,979.00
Donations		
Habitat Preservation	173.37	173.37
to Howard Co Bird	167.76	572.76
to MOS	10	30.00
to Butterfly Preservation Fund		25.00
to Emy Holdridge Fund		2,365.00
Donations - Other	245	245.00
Total Donations	596.13	3,411.13
Total Income	647.44	6,141.44
Expense		
Programs	315	365.00
Donation - DOS Bird-a-thon		1,000.00
Postage & Copies		7.00
Newsletter & Directory Printing	85	178.00
Total Expense	400	1,550.00
Net Income	247.44	4,591.44
Reserve Fund		
Reserve Account		10,647.95
Interest Received fiscal year	October .06	1.15
Balance		10,649.10
Special Fund		
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance		5,540.00
Ending Bank Balances		
Checking (as of 10/31/15)	\$	12,952.75
Prime Reserve Fund (T.Rowe Price) as of 9/30/15		16,189.10
Petty Cash		45.03
Total		29,186.88

Pollinator Habitat Proposal for Centennial Park



Pollinators are essential, but their populations are declining at alarming rates. The monarch butterfly population has experienced a dramatic decline in recent years (90% decline), spurring a greater sense of urgency to restore the native habitat so crucial to them. Monarchs are dependent upon milkweed to sustain their lifecycle. Loss of habitat to agricultural, commercial and residential development has played a critical role in the monarch's plight. **This proposal is to aid the Monarch and other pollinators by the establishment of native meadows containing milkweed and other beneficial native plants at Howard County Parks.** In particular, it is expected that our initial focus will be Centennial Park.

Approach:

- Howard County Rec & Parks will identify appropriate areas within the Parks that are suitable for Pollinator Habitat.
- Howard County Rec & Parks will provide a map showing location and acreage of each area being considered.
- Howard County Rec & Parks will estimate per acre costs broken down by seed, planting, and maintenance (including 3, 5, 7 year estimates).
- Initial emphasis on Centennial Park because the popularity should make the ability to raise funds more attainable.
- I and other volunteers will create a GoFundMe campaign that identifies a specific project based on above input from Howard County Rec & Parks and a monetary goal.
- The GoFundMe campaign will identify the Howard County Bird Club as the non-profit organization that will receive the funds. In this manor-manner I would expect that those who donate should be able to deduct their donation from their taxes. Further investigation is needed as to whether that will require some sort of receipt to be sent to donors and how the ~8% overhead of GoFundMe is handled.

- Howard County Bird Club will withdraw the funds when appropriate and distribute the funds to Howard County Rec & Parks.
- Pricing (i.e. cost to use GoFundMe) can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/pricing>
- FAQ on GoFundMe can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/questions/>
- In addition, I plan to try to have an article published in Howard County Times describing our personal meadow and the associate project to bring more meadows to Centennial Park.
- I plan to ask Linda Hunt if she is willing to monitor the meadow project and provide email updates to donors.
- If Howard County Rec & Parks agrees, I also plan to solicit corporate sponsorship for an Interpretive Sign at one or more meadows.
- Additional Fund Raising activities will be considered based on the level of our initial success.

Email;

Wed, Oct 7, 2015 8:33 am

Re: FW: Meeting with Howard County Parks regarding new Meadows and Raising Funds

From **Solem** odenata@msn.com [hide details](#)

To **Linda Hunt** raven10322@hotmail.com, **Dick Smith** richardsmith9070@verizon.net

Cc **Muller, Sue** smuller@howardcountymd.gov, **Robin Todd** Totnesman@aol.com, **John Harris** jaybee.harris@gmail.com

Richard and Linda,

Do not make promises about HCBC's involvement in county-wide pollinator projects until it has been carefully discussed by the HCBC board. Being a conduit for funds for the Lake Elkhorn project was established after much discussion since it seemed to involve minimal extra work for the treasurer because it was relatively limited (the recent expansion of the fund was mainly to allow for reimbursement of printing costs for educational materials); expanding it in the manner and at the rate Paul envisions is an entirely different proposition.

We don't do fund raising except for targeted projects--mainly birds and Paul should not expect bird club members to act as fund raisers. A rapid increase in the number of pollinator plots still faces the problem of how to maintain them as volunteer labor to weed the plots must be solved before expansion can take place.

Sue Muller will be at the Thursday HCBC meeting. That would be a better place to discuss this as well as the results of Rec & Parks personnel's recent meeting with Paul.

Jo

Solem odenata@msn.com Laurel MD 20723

On 10/6/2015 11:08 PM, Linda Hunt wrote:

Hi Dick,

I forwarded Paul's earlier email with Sue Muller to Jo Solem who has sent it to the HCBC president and VP. As you have indicated, though the Pollinator/Meadow fund, or whatever it's called, is a good conduit for donations, Paul and the Parks personnel will need to first develop their proposals and then work directly with HCBC to discuss possible HCBC involvement.

Linda

From: richardsmith9070@verizon.net

To: eastcoastmonarchs@yahoo.com; smuller@howardcountymd.gov; raven10322@hotmail.com

Subject: RE: Meeting with Howard County Parks regarding new Meadows and Raising Funds

Date: Tue, 6 Oct 2015 22:21:21 -0400

Hi Paul,

To settle concerns about the HCBC fund role, let me affirm that this step is already almost a "done deal." The Solems, two visionaries and powerhouses for the Bird Club, raised the question a couple of weeks ago of possibly enlarging the role of an HCBC managed fund I initiated to pay for perimeter mowing for the Elkhorn Butterfly Meadow (adjacent to Elkhorn Community Garden) to be available for general pollinator conservation projects in the

county. This was fine with me because the Gardens are including the Butterfly Meadow perimeter mowing under their own mowing budget free of charge this year anyway. Thus, this fund is already an available conduit, although there is little balance in it currently. This measure has not been officially submitted to or approved by the HCBC Board yet, but I think all they need is for me to write a revised MOU.

As Linda and I had been discussing about this project earlier, I think we do need the following yet:

- A specific list of tasks that may lead to fund acquisition, which would include what group of people or organizations we would be spotlighting for donations and what outreach techniques we would be using to inform each of them of the funding drive. Examples of outreach techniques are what Paul has already suggested: a website, an article in the Howard County Times, an interpretative sign.
- A list of people who are willing to and have the time to implement each of the outreach techniques proposed above, and then assignment of the tasks to specific people.

Dick

From: Paul Bade [<mailto:eastcoastmonarchs@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2015 2:57 PM
To: Muller, Sue <smuller@howardcountymd.gov>; Linda Hunt<raven10322@hotmail.com>; RichardHSmith<richardsmith9070@verizon.net>
Subject: Re: Meeting with Howard County Parks regarding new Meadows and Raising Funds

I think that is up to the bird club as to their role. We definitely need them to accept funds that we raise... But, I would think that some members would help raise funds as well.

Paul

From: "Muller, Sue" <smuller@howardcountymd.gov>
To: Paul Bade <eastcoastmonarchs@yahoo.com>; Linda Hunt <raven10322@hotmail.com>; RichardHSmith <richardsmith9070@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2015 12:54 PM
Subject: RE: Meeting with Howard County Parks regarding new Meadows and Raising Funds

Paul,

Off to a good start with the proposal. I do have a question on wording:

“Ascertain if Howard County Bird Club is willing to serve as a conduit for raising funds and providing those funds to Howard County Parks”

I'm a bit confused if the bird club is being asked to become the fund raisers or just receive the money?? I think the bird club roll should be to receive the funds only .

Sue

From: Paul Bade [<mailto:eastcoastmonarchs@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 8:12 PM

To: Linda Hunt; RichardHSmith

Cc: Muller, Sue; Paul Bade

Subject: Meeting with Howard County Parks regarding new Meadows and Raising Funds

Linda / Dick,

I met today with Dan McNamara, Sue Muller, David Keane, Brenda, and a couple other folks from Howard County Rec & Parks to discuss additional Pollinator Habitat. The purpose was to discuss possibilities for raising funds to support creating & maintaining habitat in the Parks. In order to raise funds, it is thought that we would need a non-profit organization to collect the funds and then provide them to the County. Do you think that the Howard County Bird Club would be willing to do this? Would either of you be willing to bring this question to their attention?

Assuming we can use the Bird Club as a funding channel, we also talked about ways of raising money. There was a bit of hesitancy to putting signage at the parks, but part of this seemed to stem from upper management not yet having developed any guidance in this area. That said, we could possibly push the issue along by sending them a written proposal on which they could have more concrete discussions. So, here is a summary of fund raising techniques that we tossed around:

- Crowd Funding
 - KickStarter (all or nothing funding for a project)
 - GoFundMe
- Tweets/emails regarding activity of meadow (e.g. seeding, growing, butterfly activity) with sponsor logo/acknowledgement (maybe Linda would want to do this?)
- Trail App with sponsor logo/acknowledgement
- Interpretive Sign near a couple of meadows with small area acknowledging donor (estimated required donation \$10,000.; sign would probably cost \$1-2,000. to design/develop)
- Kiosk near park or trail entrance with acknowledgement of one or more donors

In order to put together a proposal on how to raise money we will also need additional information from Howard County Rec & Parks:

- identify appropriate areas within the Parks that are suitable for Pollinator Habitat.
- provide a map showing location and acreage of each area being considered.
- estimate per acre costs broken down by seed, planting, and maintenance (including 3, 5, 7 year estimates).
- Initial emphasis on Centennial Park because the popularity should make the ability to raise funds more attainable

Please let me know what you think,

Paul

I also put these somewhat terse notes in the attachment.

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 28, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.)
Meg Harris (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bob & Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 10 was 61 people. Dave Harvey gave a program entitled “From Alice to Uluru to Kakadu: Birding the Northern Territory of Australia.” Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 14 was 52 people. Barry Miller & Michelle Stewart gave a program entitled “Our East African Safaris.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted. After a brief discussion it was agreed that we would only update the cumulative minutes file on the website annually, since the monthly minutes are posted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had distributed the attached Treasurer’s Report current to the end of December. The capability for on-line membership application and on-line payment via PayPal is up and has already been used by a couple of people. See New Business for further discussion of club finances.

President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin had no remarks.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): John had no remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): No report. All trips are set through April.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that there had been several reports of semi-hearty species (e.g., catbird, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher) surviving the winter so far. Jim Wilkinson reported hearing a Common Redpoll on Heatherwood Way where one was observed coming to a feeder several years ago. Michelle Stewart and Barry Miller found Flying Squirrels using a Bluebird box.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that the Maryland legislative session is underway. A Pollinator Protection Act has been introduced again this session. The act addresses labeling of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and several other aspects of pollinator protection. Kurt is preparing to testify in support of the act as MOS Conservation chair.

Newsletter (Patterson): Current issue is about to go to Jo for editing. May/June issue deadline is March 25. Howard agreed to draft an announcement of the need for someone to host the May Count tally.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that our membership is currently 221 voting members (see Attachment). See Old Business for discussion of re-hosting website.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie had sent an email with status (see Old Business).

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): Karen had sent the Board a summary of the early December Board meeting.

Old Business

RNC Walks – Robin reported that the last two events for this year are scheduled. Joe Hanfman will offer a seminar on using eBird and Kurt will lead an Oriole & Goldfinch walk.

VP Candidate(s) – Robin reported that he had appointed a nominating committee of Jim Wilkinson, Tom Feild, and Sue Muller. All are encouraged to suggest potential candidates to the committee.

Re-hosting Club Website – Bob had distributed the attached comparison summary developed by the ad hoc committee of Bob, Cindy, and John H. Only one service eHost met all the committee's requirements and was highly rated in several reviews. Bob moved that the webmaster be authorized to change web host, domain registrar, and email provider to eHost. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Potluck – March 19 – In an email Kathie reported that 10 (14 attendees) have signed up so far. Further signups will be solicited at February and March club meetings.

New Business

Projects to Fund – Club Treasury is Flush – Cindy had observed the club's account balances had grown quite dramatically over the last few years and suggested we should consider donating much of that increase to worthy causes. In support she had shared the attached summary of our net worth at the end of each fiscal year since 2009. It shows the net worth has grown from under \$20,000 in the first three years of this period to over \$31,000 at the end of December. Discussion highlighted that we have not donated contributions from the seed sale and other donations annually as we traditionally have. We discussed a number of reasons that explain this situation including a discussion in the past that we might want to build up a balance that would let us undertake more significant projects that will require more than what we receive from seed sale and other donations annually. Also we have committed to donate the balance of the Emy memorial fund to Howard County Recreation and Parks when they finalize how they want to proceed with the Centennial Pollinator Plot project, but not before they ask for it. Jo asked Cindy if she could summarize what we have received in donations in the recent past. Cindy agreed to provide that summary in near future. *Sec. Note: Following the meeting Cindy sent the board a detailed breakdown of contributions. There have been donations of \$2086.33 since August 2015. This includes several small contributions made as part of testing the new PayPal system and \$750 from The Wildlife Authority as the seed sale donation. In addition there is \$2365 in the Emy Memorial fund primarily funded by the sale of Emy's optics.* It was apparent the Board was in agreement with donating a significant portion of the increased net worth to a worthy cause or project.

Jo then suggested a project that we have considered informally in the past, namely the establishment of a hawk watch site somewhere in the county. She suggested that The Howard Conservancy Mt. Pleasant location has recently been being used as a place to watch the raptor migration and could be the site for a formal hawk watch platform that would serve as an education focus. We discussed the concept and felt that there are a number of club members who are avid hawk watchers and might be involved in designing, choosing the location, and leading this project. One possibility mentioned was that relatively cheap labor might be available if the site were to become an Eagle Scout project. It was agreed that the next step was to approach the Conservancy and see if they would be

interested in such an endeavor. Jo agreed to contact Meg Boyd (Conservancy Executive Director) and determine if they would be receptive to this idea.

Lastly we discussed the smaller annual donations we have made in the past few years. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we donate \$300 to All Creatures, Great & Small. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we would pledge \$2/species to the YMOS Bird-a-thon. Kate has been the POC for this in the past and Cindy agreed to send Kate an email asking her to forward the pledge.

Policy on not advertising events for which a fee is charged – revisit? – Jo asked the Board to reconsider a policy we had previously established that we would not advertise/promote events of other organizations that charge a fee. This came up when The Howard County Conservancy asked for us to promote the recent talk on Owls given by Scott Weidensaul at Mt. Pleasant. After an email exchange we decided that this program was of significant interest to our membership to be worthy of overruling our general policy. We discussed this and agreed that there are certain programs and events that are worthy of our support even if they are charging a fee and at least on an ad hoc basis we will advertise them on our website or in a Newsgam. We attempted to arrive at a set of general rules that the Webmaster could use to decide what is worthy of our support. Events involving speakers with major name recognition of interest to club members, events involving club members, events promoting causes/issues/topics generally supported by the club would be worthy of consideration. Events that are primarily for profit making continue to not be worthy of our support. We did not settle on any definitive rules, but these concepts could be used as a first screen in proposing events for consideration. In the future when events are proposed for our support the President will decide if the event is worthy of our support.

Around the Room -

- Jo stated that Anthony VanSchoor has taken over as the moderator for the club's Facebook page.
- John McKitterick reminded the Board that we have another youth backpack to donate this year and need to identify what we want to do this year.
- John McKitterick reported that at the last state MOS Board meeting it was announced that the on-line Maryland Birding Trail will be available in mid-2016. Kurt reported that he had prepared the Howard County input using abridged material from our website. He is currently working on the Frederick County input.
- John Harris asked Robin if he still needs John to chair the February club meeting. Robin confirmed that he was flying into town at about 6 pm that day and would ask John to plan to chair the meeting as he will be late if he does make it.
- Bob pointed out that he now has a column of Coming Events and Recent Activities on the website Home page. He envisions adding events such as we discussed earlier to the Coming Events list.
- Bob also mentioned that he has noticed that many other chapters announce their meetings/programs on the MD Birding Google Group and proposed that we ask the Publicity Chairman to start posting our meetings. He also had found a website TotallyHoCo that provides for free posting of events in Howard County that might be used. Bob agreed to contact Allen and offer this suggestion.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Think about potential candidates for club Vice President & bring suggestions to next meeting – All DONE
- Make revisions and continue to develop forms and web pages for on-line membership payment – Bob, Cindy, John H. DONE
- Contact RNC and determine if one of our activities could be an indoor one (Intro to eBird and viewing RNC feeders) – Karen DONE
- Contact Joe Hanfman and Kurt Schwarz to confirm status of Orioles/Goldfinch Walk being held on RNC grounds – Robin DONE
- Draft summary of club position on Bade proposal and share with Board and after feedback contact Paul Bade and communicate that position and our need for a formal MOU – Robin DONE
- Investigate Web hosting services and recommend service to implement before end of the year – Bob, Cindy, John H. DONE
- Contact Linda Hunt and share club's willingness to consider providing seed funds for schools that want to plant and maintain a pollinator plot on their grounds – Jo DONE

- Contact Amanda Witt and confirm that she is stepping down as Facebook moderator and inform Nancy the answer – Jo DONE
- If Amanda is stepping down, approach other Facebook users to see if they would be willing to be a Facebook co-moderator with Nancy – Nancy DONE
- Draft letter thanking Amanda Witt for her service as club newsletter editor and Facebook moderator – Jo DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Offer suggestions for potential candidates for club Vice President to Nominating Committee – All
- Draft a short announcement for the next Goldfinch seeking a volunteer to host the May Count tally – Howard
- Send a check to All Creatures Great and Small for \$300 – Cindy
- Send Kate an email asking her to contact the YMOS Bird-a-thon coordinators and inform them that we have pledged \$2/species again this year – Cindy
- Contact Allan Lewis as Publicity Chair and suggest he publicize the club’s meetings on MD Birding and on the website TotallyHoCo.com – Bob
- Contact Meg Schumacher Boyd to assess The Howard Conservancy interest in the club sponsoring a hawk watch site at Mt. Pleasant – Jo
- Identify other projects or causes for us to support with our habitat preservation funds - All

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	Robin Todd
April 28, 2016	-	Kate Tufts
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Howard County Bird Club Board of Directors Agenda – January 28, 2016
- Howard County Bird Club Treasurer’s Report – December 31, 2015
- Howard County Bird Club Membership Report – 2015 - 2016
- Re-hosting Howard County Bird Club Website
- Howard County Bird Club Net Worth – Fiscal Year from May 1 – April 30 since 2009

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda**

January 28, 2016

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips All set until April 25th
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - RNC walks – last 2 trips scheduled - Robin
 - VP candidate(s) – committee formed - Robin
 - Re-hosting Club website – Bob
 - Potluck March 19th – 10 have signed up (= 14 attendees) – Kathie (*in absentia*)

8. New Business
 - Projects to fund – Club treasury is flush – Cindy
 - Policy on not advertising events for which a fee is charged – revisit? - Jo

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Bob & Jo Solem
10617 Graeloch Road
Laurel MD 20723
(301) 725-5037
odenata@msn.com

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16**

	Budget 2015-16	December Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income			
Membership Dues		625.00	5,139.00
State Dues Paid			1,540.00
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	625.00	3,599.00
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		90.79	2,086.33
Contributions to Emy's fund			2,365.00
Contributions to MOS			110.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	715.79	8,160.33
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	465.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00		7.00
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00		178.00
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S			
Greenfest	35.00		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000.00		1,000.00
Total Operating Expense	2,685.00	50.00	1,650.00
Income over Expense		665.79	6,510.33

T Rowe Price Prime Reserve acct.

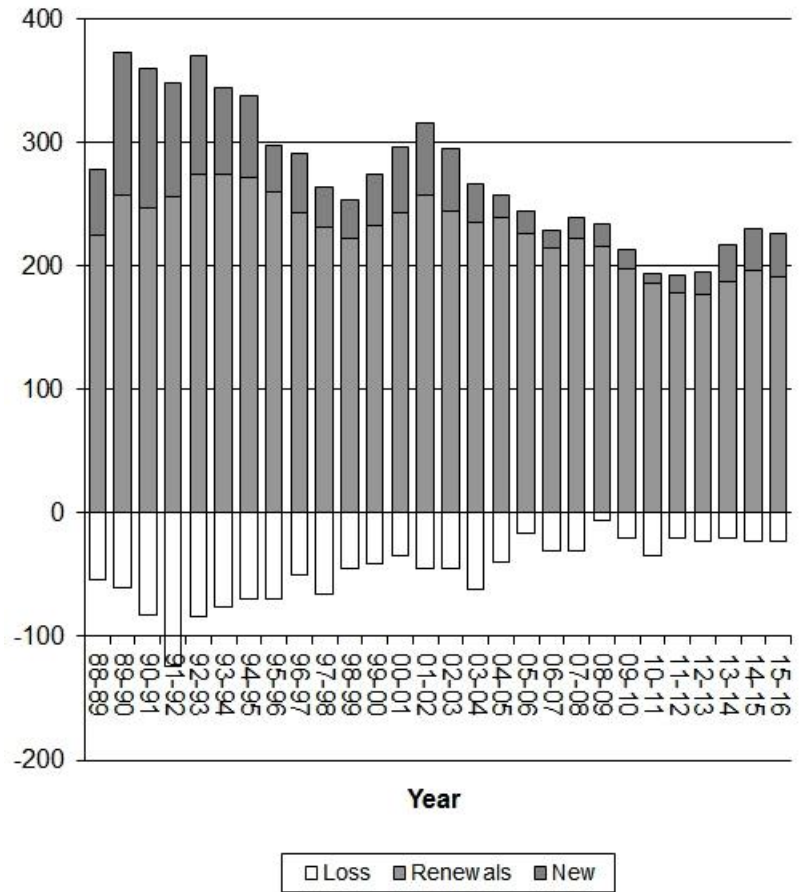
Reserve Account beginning bal. 12/1/15	\$10,649.16
Interest Received in December	0.08
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance	5,540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 12/31/15	16,189.24

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 12/31/15	14,871.64
Petty Cash	45.03
Total Assets	31,105.91

Howard County Bird Club 2015-2016 Membership Year

Adult Voting Member Totals as of February 1, 2016: **221**



Adult Voting Member:

Year	Loss	New	Renew	Total
15-16	42	29	191	221

By Membership Category:

Year	Household	Individual	Sustaining	Total	Junior
15-16	123	94	4	221	3

Howard County Chapter Only members (who have a different primary chapter) are not shown since they do not count when determining the number of State Directors Howard County has on the MOS Board of Directors.)

Rehosting Howard County Bird Club Web Site

Yahoo Small Business (Howard County Bird Club's web hosting service) spun off **Aabaco Small Business** as an independent company in November, 2015. The rehosting of the Howard County Bird Club web site by the vendors was painful; for nearly one week, it was impossible to update the web site (even though users were able to access the existing site). Yahoo/Aabaco has several outdated versions of important tools for building, maintaining, and using web sites (php, MySQL, etc.) Aabaco retains Yahoo Business Email—meaning that when signed into the Aabaco Small Business web account, it is necessary to separately log into the Yahoo Business Email account (separate sign-in screen with user name and different password). Another consideration is finding and making available an alternate open source content management system for building and maintaining the web site. The current webmaster uses HTML-Kit Tools, a powerful but low level system. There are alternatives: WordPress, Joomla, Drupal. The club's treasurer has used WordPress, so it was the first alternative considered.

Aabaco was evaluated, and three additional vendors that were recommended were also evaluated: **eHost**, **GoDaddy**, and **HostGater**. Two rating services found on the web (Top 10 WebHosing Sites,* Consumer Rankings.com**) gave top ratings to **eHost** for non-profit organizations. Howard County Conservancy and the Frederick Bird Club (whose webmaster, John Christy, used to be the MOS webmaster) use GoDaddy. HostGater became a contender when a WordPress consultant whom J. Christy knows emailed him that GoDaddy does *not* work when used with WordPress. She said she refuses to accept clients using GoDaddy with WordPress because of all of the problems; nevertheless, the webmaster continued to evaluate both vendors.

eHost: In an email chat with the firm, the webmaster asked it if would be possible to operate the current web package while at the same time using part of the web site to develop an alternate content management system (e.g., WordPress). The answer was **yes** (with development system either in a subdomain or separate folder). **GoDaddy** offers a package with WordPress Basic package, and in an email chat with the firm, the webmaster was told that it was **impossible to run the current site package** at the same time as one was developing a WordPress version on GoDaddy. **HostGater** also offers a package with WordPress; in an email chat with the firm, the webmaster was told that the WordPress web posting control panel (the interface for all build-update actions) **would not support the HTML-Kit Tools web**.

Inability to support the current web site is unacceptable since it would mean taking down and making unavailable to users the Howard County Bird Club web site during the entire transition and learning period for a replacement content management system. Aabaco did not answer this question; it would be dangerous to assume it could. So only **eHost** meets our requirements The HCBC web site has ~1500 files in 3.5 GB space and would not require the added expense of dedicated hosting or a dedicated server (which could run an additional \$6—\$40/month). We should add site backup and restore (which saves all website files once a day) and virus, fraud, and spam protection (which we do not currently have); the cost of these features are included in the details on the back.

Present accounts billing status

- Aabaco (formerly Yahoo) Small Business is paid thru March 30, 2016
- Domain Registration (through Network Solutions) expires May 2, 2016
- We currently have snapshot backups (but not full daily backups) in the cloud for our web site material.
- We currently do not have virus, fraud, and spam protection for our web site.
- **eHost would replace both Aabaco Small Business and Network Solutions as web host, domain registrar, and email provider.**

Move that the webmaster be authorized to change web host, domain registrar, and email provider to eHost.

Ad hoc committee appointed by Board to investigate rehosting Howard County Bird Club web site: John Harris, Cindy Albright, Bob Solem.

* <http://www.top10webbuilders.com/best-web-hosting/?s1-bing/s2-us-search/s3-website-hosting-p>

** <http://www.consumer-rankings.com/hosting/?vn=lp3->

<http://www.consumer-rankings.com/hosting/?vn=lp3-hostingstep&a=241&c=101544&vn=pes&s1=148219716.144426247&s2=+best%20+hosting%20+websites.30368430467&s3=s.b&s4=c.6107025626&s5=best%20web%20hosting%20for%20nonprofits&s6=300597028.360532463>

eHost	Regular annual cost		Aabaco	Regular annual cost		GoDaddy	Regular annual cost		HostGater	Regular annual cost	
<u>eHost basic</u> (sufficient for our needs and allows expansion) 1 website Unlimited on site storage 1GB Cloud Storage MySQL databases 1000s of free website templates FTPS Unlimited Bandwidth 99.9% Uptime guarantee 30-day money-back guarantee Free Domain For Life Free Site Builder Unlimited Personal Email Adresses cPanel control panel (it looks similar to the one we have now) DNS management (protects integrity of our web site & their servers) 24/7 phone/email support PHP5 hosting HTML5 CGI ASP.NET Ajax (Javascript) Web Mail Unlimited email addresses Forwarding	\$2.75 (reg \$5.50/mo)	\$66.00	Advanced plan (basic too small for our needs) 1 website 500 GB storage 5000GB/mo data transfer MySQL databases FTPS Bandwidth depends on use 99.9% Uptime guarantee 30-day money-back guarantee WordPress blogging <u>only</u> Site Design Tools 500 Email Adresses Existing control panel DNS management (protects integrity of our web site & their servers) 24/7 phone/email support PHP5 hosting HTML5 500 email addresses Unlimited email storage Forwarding Snapshot backup <u>only</u>	\$5.99 (reg \$9.99/mo)	\$119.88	<u>GoDaddy Economy Plan</u> (size would have been sufficient) 1 website 100 GB storage Unlimited bandwidth 10 MySQL databases (1GB each) 50 FTPS users 200 MD database storate (Windows SQL) 24/7 security monitoring and Ddos (denial of service attack) protection Domain registration 1-click setup for GoDaddy registered domains Plesk 12 for Windows control panel (it looks similar to the one we have now) DNS management (protects integrity of our web site & their servers) 24/7 phone/email support Microsoft Web Deploy (it's a web deployment tool; GoDaddy uses it, not us) Microsoft Webmatrix (it's a free, cloud-connected web development application for Windows; transparent to user) HTML5 PHP5 hosting CGI ASP.NET Ajax (Javascript) 100 email addresses 100 MB email storage Sender ID (IP address) Web Mail Forwarding Catch-all email address	\$5.99 (reg \$6.99/mo)	\$83.88	<u>Hatchling</u> (size would have been sufficient) 1 website Unlimited storage Unlimited bandwidth 99.9% uptime guarantee Shared environment (what we have now; satisfactory) Safe Harbor certified (personal data protection) MySQL databases phpMyAdmin Unlimited FTPS accounts 200 MD database storate (Windows SQL) 24/7 security monitoring and Ddos (denial of service attack) protection Domain registration Free setup Plesk 12 for Windows control panel (it looks similar to the one we have now) DNS management (protects integrity of our web site & their servers) 24/7 phone/email support HTML5 PHP5 hosting Ajax (Javascript) 100 email addresses 100 MB email storage Sender ID (IP address) Web Mail Forwarding Spam Assassin	\$6.36 (reg \$8.95/mo)	\$107.40
Recommended Options			Not available	Free??		Recommended Options			Recommended Options		
Site Backup & Restore (saves all website files to clould once daily)	\$49.95/yr	49.95				Site Backup & Restore (saves all website files to clould once daily)	\$1.99/mon th	23.88	Site Backup & Restore (saves all website files to clould once daily)	\$19.95/yr	19.95
SiteLock (virus, fraud, and spam protection for web site)	\$24.99/yr	24.99	Norton AntiVirus			SiteLock (virus, fraud, and spam protection for web site)	\$1.49/mon th	17.88	SiteLock (virus, fraud, and spam protection for web site)	\$2.08/mo	24.96
REGULAR TOTAL ANNUAL COST		\$140.94	REGULAR TOTAL ANNUAL COST		\$119.88	REGULAR TOTAL ANNUAL COST		\$125.64	REGULAR TOTAL ANNUAL COST		\$152.31
ACCEPTABLE			UNABLE TO DETERMINE			DOES NOT MEET MINIMUM CRITERIA			DOES NOT MEET MINIMUM CRITERIA		

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
Net Worth
Fiscal year from May 1 - April 30
since 2009

	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Petty Cash</u>	<u>Total</u>
2015-16 as of 12/31/15	\$ 14,871.64	\$ 16,189.24	\$ 45.03	\$ 31,105.91
2014-15	8,554.31	16,188.68	45.03	24,788.02
2013-14	6,305.08	16,188.20	45.03	22,538.31
2012-13	4,267.06	16,187.01	64.63	20,518.70
2011-12	3,408.61	16,185.70	64.63	19,658.94
2010-11	1,990.00	16,184.70	43.28	18,217.98
2009-10	2,535.92	16,182.56	43.28	18,761.76

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 25, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.) √
Meg Harris (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Mike Kerwin √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John McKitterick. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 11, 2016 was 49 people. Dr. Kevin Omland, biology professor UMBC, gave a program entitled “James Bond and the Orioles of the Caribbean: How a Spy’s Namesake Set the Stage for Research on the Endangered Bahama Oriole.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Treasurer’s report for January was distributed in advance of meeting and is attached.

President’s Remarks (Todd): None.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): No report.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo had sent the following report in advance of the meeting: “Bird high spots included at least three Baltimore Orioles (at nearly the same time) and continued sightings of some boreal species. The Lincoln’s Sparrow at Meadowbrook is successfully overwintering having been seen as recently as Feb. 21st. This species is unusual in winter. The most exciting news was from Wes Earp who verified that the Osprey nest on a grain storage silo at the Kenneth Warfield farm fledged two young in 2015. This is the first verified successful nesting in the county in at least four decades.”

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt had sent the following in advance of the meeting: “On the Conservation Front, I want to thank Robin for sending letters to the Federal Railroad Administration regarding plans to slice 60 acres off Patuxent Research Refuge, as well as to the Howard County delegation to the General Assembly supporting the Program Open Space Trust Fund bill. In Conservation action at the MOS level, Maureen Harvey and I went to Annapolis yesterday as part of the Smart on Pesticides Coalition Lobby Day effort to promote the Pollinator Protection Act of 2016 to state Senators and Delegates. We learned that the Agriculture Subcommittee of the House

Committee on Education and Environment voted the bill down, but understand that this does not kill the bill. We have been told the bill can be continued if the full committee chair so wills, and that apparently is the case.”

Newsletter (Patterson): The deadline for the next issue is March 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): See Old Business.

Potluck (Lillie): See Old Business.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): No report. There has not been a meeting since our last meeting.

Old Business

Hawk watch stand for Mt. Pleasant – Jo had sent the Board an email (attached) summarizing her discussions with Meg Schumacher Boyd, Executive Director of The Howard Conservancy, regarding the club’s interest in establishing a Skywatch/Hawkwatch site at their Mt. Pleasant property. *Secretary’s note: As a point of clarification Jo uses the term Skywatch to capture the fact that many other species can be viewed watching the sky from this type of site, not only hawks. This is in contrast to the interpretation of night sky watching (astronomy) that we were assuming during board discussions.* After her meeting with Meg, at Robin’s request, she contacted Mike Kerwin who agreed to chair a committee to oversee work on this project. Others who have agreed to work on the committee are Wes Earp, Russ Ruffing, and Harry Fink.

Mike attended this board meeting and shared some of his initial considerations. Attached is a condensed version of the handout showing his initial considerations that he shared with the Board. Also attached is a map of Mt. Pleasant showing the locations he has identified as possible sites. In reviewing the sites, using the numbering on the attached map, Mike’s summary was: 1) Ideal for Spring but not good for Fall, 2) Good Fall site but not Spring, 3) good Fall site, poor Spring, 4) Good for both seasons but considerable road noise, 5) Mike’s first choice, and 6) Good site but poor access and out of way for many visitors. *Sec. Note: After the meeting between Woody and Mike on Saturday Feb. 27 site 5 was chosen as the location.* Mike’s vision is not to have a raised platform and be somewhat minimalist in initial design. Potentially include only a solid central base for scopes to be set up and surrounded by wood chips. Consider wooden “flip” benches. Mike was reassured by the board that funding should not be an issue if the design requires it. Eventually a ground level wooden deck wouldn’t be out of the question. Site will need signs with sufficient detail to explain the concept of skywatch/hawkwatch to visitors when the site is not manned. Also need some means to summarize sightings (tally). Will need to discuss liability and maintenance with HCC and probably will need to have an MOU summarizing agreements. We would envision providing leaders for several events focused around site as well as informal manning of the site by club members frequently but not every day during migration. As to schedule we agreed that a reasonable goal was to have an initial site ready for use this coming Fall. Mike invited other Board members to attend the meeting he has scheduled with Woody Merkle (HCC Grounds Committee Chair) at Mt. Pleasant on Saturday Feb. 27.

In the same meeting Jo discussed with Meg the Board’s interest in co-sponsoring events at HCC that align with our club’s purpose and member interests. See the attached email with Jo’s summary of this discussion. In summary Meg was definitely receptive to this idea.

VP Candidate – committee still searching – Robin reported that the nominating committee has not yet identified a VP candidate. Woody Merkle has agreed to nomination as Chapter Director. Prior to the meeting, Kate reminded Robin that she will be resigning as State Director after the May meeting. She had told him of this some time ago, but he had completely forgotten it and apologized for his memory lapse. So we need a nominee for a State Director as well as VP. Robin agreed to advise the Nominations Committee of this need.

On the VP front, Robin reported he had suggested to the committee that we may just have to do without a VP. The VP function is mostly to fill in for the President. Robin stated he would be willing to fill in for John if needed (assuming that he doesn’t have another obligation). And he was sure that there are others amongst the Board who

would be willing to do so as well. Of course this does not solve the problem of having a future President in training and would mean searching for a volunteer to step in as President which could be an even bigger challenge than finding someone to volunteer as VP with understanding it is a path to President.

Re-hosting Club website - Bob had reported earlier that he had successfully transitioned the club website to a new provider, eHost. He sent the club an email titled "Using Plain Text for Messages" (attached) that reports where he is at in implementing email messaging.

Potluck March 19th – Kathie reported that approximately 30 people have signed up for the potluck on March 19. There is one more regular club meeting for people to sign up before then. Her husband will not be able to attend so she will need assistance at 6:00 pm bringing material in from the parking lot.

Still need site for the May Count Tally Rally – No one has volunteered to host the tally yet. Announcement will be in next Goldfinch.

New Business

Bioblitz at MPEA and MD Biodiversity Project – Robin reported that he had received an email from Sue Muller asking Robin to pose a question she wanted to bring to the board. Rec & Parks is considering partnering with the Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP) to have a BioBlitz at the MPEA. There will be a \$1000 fee to make this happen. The fee would go toward creating a subsite on the MBP website for the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. Her question, "Would the bird club consider contributing to the \$1000 fee (partially or in full)?" Sue expects many bird club members would participate in this BioBlitz. Robin agreed to advise her that we are tentatively in favor of providing some funding, but need to know when the BioBlitz will be and more detail on how the money will be used.

Greenfest – Sue Muller had also asked if the club plans to have a booth at Greenfest (Saturday, April 16 from 10 am – 4 pm). Web link is www.HCGreenFest.org. We agreed we wanted to participate again this year. Cindy agreed to find application form on-line and send check for our registration. Robin will need to find a volunteer to coordinate finding club members to setup, man the booth, and take it down.

Around the Room -

- Nancy expressed her appreciation for the article in Goldfinch announcing her Mom Big Year blog site.
- John McKitterick reported that he will be unable to attend the March 10 meeting and needs to make arrangements to have someone bring the laptop and audio equipment to the meeting and return it. Jeff Friedhoffer will attend and set up the system.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Offer suggestions for potential candidates for club Vice President to Nominating Committee – All
- Draft a short announcement for the next Goldfinch seeking a volunteer to host the May Count tally – Howard DONE
- Send a check to All Creatures Great and Small for \$300 – Cindy DONE
- Send Kate an email asking her to contact the YMOS Bird-a-thon coordinators and inform them that we have pledged \$2/species again this year – Cindy DONE
- Contact Allan Lewis as Publicity Chair and suggest he publicize the club's meetings on MD Birding and on the website TotallyHoCo.com – Bob DONE
- Contact Meg Schumacher Boyd to assess The Howard Conservancy interest in the club sponsoring a hawk watch site at Mt. Pleasant – Jo DONE
- Identify other projects or causes for us to support with our habitat preservation funds - All

New/Continuing Action Items

- Offer suggestions for potential candidates for club Vice President and State Director to Nominating Committee – All
- Identify other projects or causes for us to support with our habitat preservation funds – All
- Inform the nominating committee that we also need a State Director candidate – Robin
- Share Sue Muller email regarding the BioBlitz with the Board and contact Sue for further details – Robin
- Register the club to participate in GreenFest and submit check for registration fee – Cindy
- Proceed with development of Skywatch/Hawkwatch site and keep the Board informed of progress – Mike Kerwin
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate GreenFest participation - Robin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	Robin Todd
April 28, 2016	-	Kate Tufts
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – HCBC Board February 25, 2016
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – January 2016
- Webmaster Email report – Using Plain Text for Messages
- Email Report from Jo Solem – “Howard County Conservancy: Possible Skywatch/Hawkwatch Platform at Mt. Pleasant – Co-sponsorship of occasional events – Feb. 17, 2016 9:01 am
- Mike Kerwin’s Hawk Watch Initial Thoughts
- Map of Potential Skywatch/Hawkwatch locations at Mt. Pleasant

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda**

February 25, 2016

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips All set until April 25th - Robin
 - Records Robin for Jo
 - Conservation Kurt
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Robin for Bob

7. Old Business
 - Hawk watch stand for Mt. Pleasant – Mike Kerwin
 - VP candidate – committee still searching - Robin
 - Re-hosting Club website – Robin for Bob
 - Potluck March 19th – Kathie
 - Still need site for May count tally rally

8. New Business
 - MPEA BioBlitz Robin for Sue Muller
 - GreenFest Robin

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
John McKitterick
10018 Maple Ave
Columbia MD 21046
(410) 997-3122
jbmck@verizon.net

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16**

	Budget 2015-16	January Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income			
Membership Dues		82.53	5,221.53
State Dues Paid		(1,460.00)	3,000.00
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00		2,221.53
Contributions to Habitat Preservation			2,086.33
Contributions to Emy's fund			2,365.00
Contributions to MOS			110.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	(1,377.47)	6,782.86
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	50.00	515.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00		7.00
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	103.00	281.00
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S			
Greenfest	35.00		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000.00		1,000.00
Total Operating Expense	2,685.00	153.00	1,803.00
Income over Expense		(1,530.47)	4,979.86

T Rowe Price Prime Reserve acct.

Reserve Account beginning bal. 1/1/16	\$10,649.24
Interest Received in January	0.06
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance	5,540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 1/31/16	16,189.30

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 01/31/16	13,341.17
Petty Cash	45.03
Total Assets	29,575.50



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Using Plain Text for messages

1 message

Webmaster <howardbi@howardbirds.org>

Sat, Feb 20, 2016 at 5:18 PM

To: "Albright, Cindy" <cindy@cindyalbright.com>, "Earp, Wesley" <wesandsue@gmail.com>, "Geuder, Ralph & Jane" <Oldhawk@aol.com>, "Hanfman, Joe" <auk1844@gmail.com>, "Harris, John" <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>, "Harris, Meg" <mctharris@gmail.com>, "Heffernan, Karen" <Khdarcy4@aol.com>, "Lewis, Allen" <allenrlewis@gmail.com>, "Lillie, Kathie" <klillie12@verizon.net>, "McAllister, Nancy" <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>, "McKitterick, John" <jbmck@verizon.net>, "Ott, Bonnie" <bonnieott@verizon.net>, "Patterson, Howard" <howard21042@verizon.net>, "Schwarz, Kurt" <krschwa1@verizon.net>, "Solem, Bob & Jo" <odenata@msn.com>, "Stirrat, Chuck" <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, "Todd, Robin" <Totnesman@aol.com>, "Tufts, Kate and Dick" <ktufts@verizon.net>

This email message uses plain text instead of HTML. It does not permit inclusion of images. It does allow one to attach files.

The imbedded link is not supported: Howard County Bird Club

Instead one must include the link (<http://www.howardbirds.org/>)so that the reader can cut-and-paste it into a browser.

I am still researching how to give other people the ability to compose and send out emails from this account. (When I do, Jeff Culler will be the first one with whom I share the information since

he is the back-up for the Rare Bird Alert.)

I will also be reporting on this this at the Board meeting on Feb 25 at McKittericks.

One other feature activated for this message is the request for a "return receipt." It is something that could be used in any Board correspondence (not just from this site) whenever the sender wants to be sure who has received a message. Like the President sending out a message to the Board to take action by email in lieu of a special meeting.

Bob



Howard_logo-small.jpg

11K



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Howarrd County Conservancy: Possible Skywatch / Hawkwatch Platform at Mt. Pleasant - Co-sponsorship of occasional events

1 message

Solem <odenata@msn.com>

Wed, Feb 17, 2016 at 9:01 AM

To: Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, "Patterson, Howard" <howard21042@verizon.net>, John McKitterick <jbmck@verizon.net>, "Heffernan, Karen" <Khdarcy4@aol.com>, "Tufts, Kate" <ktufts@verizon.net>, Bonnie Ott <bonnieott@verizon.net>, "McAllister, Nancy" <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>, "Geuder, Jane" <Oldhawk@aol.com>, Robin Todd <Totnesman@aol.com>, Kurt Schwarz <krschwa1@verizon.net>, "Earp, Wes" <the_earps@verizon.net>, "Lillie, Kathie" <klillie12@verizon.net>, Bob & Jo Solem <odenata@msn.com>, "Lewis, Allen" <allenrlewis@gmail.com>, "Harris, John" <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>, "Harris, Meg" <mctharris@gmail.com>, "Hanfman, Joe" <auk1844@gmail.com>, "Albright, Cindy" <cindy@cindyalbright.com>
Cc: "Kerwin, Mike" <m63kerwin@verizon.net>

Board Members,

Per discussion at the January board meeting, I met with HCC Exec. Dir. Meg Schumacher Boyd on February 12.

Co-sponsorship of Events: By good fortune the staff had recently had a strategic planning meeting. Among the subjects discussed was an increased emphasis on working with partner organizations. Meg was definitely receptive to the possibility of an occasional co-sponsorship of a "name" speaker whose fee might be substantial for either of our organizations. Another possibility might be co-sponsorship of more birding courses, but that was barely touched on. She anticipated there would be more opportunities once their addition is complete, which they hope will be sometime in mid-2017.

Skywatch / Hawkwatch Platform: Again she was receptive to the idea, especially the educational aspect and wanted to clarify that there would be some type of signage so people could learn about the subject even when there was no one present. This project has to be approved by the Grounds Committee (Woody Merkle chair)--which happened to be meeting that same afternoon. At the meeting Meg was able to briefly summarize our proposal and the committee seemed receptive. They would like to meet with us at their April meeting to check precise location and examine our proposal. At this point, of course, there is no specific idea of what the site would look like or what kind of signage would be adopted. That is up to a committee to determine. I assured Meg that we would abide by any guidelines that the HCC already had in place.

At Pres. Robin Todd's request, I contacted Mike Kerwin who graciously agreed to chair a committee overseeing the establishment of this site. Past-President Wes Earp has also agreed to lend his experience and expertise. If any members of the board wish to volunteer to be part of this committee, please contact Mike within the next week.

Jo Solem

--

odenata@msn.com
Laurel MD 20723

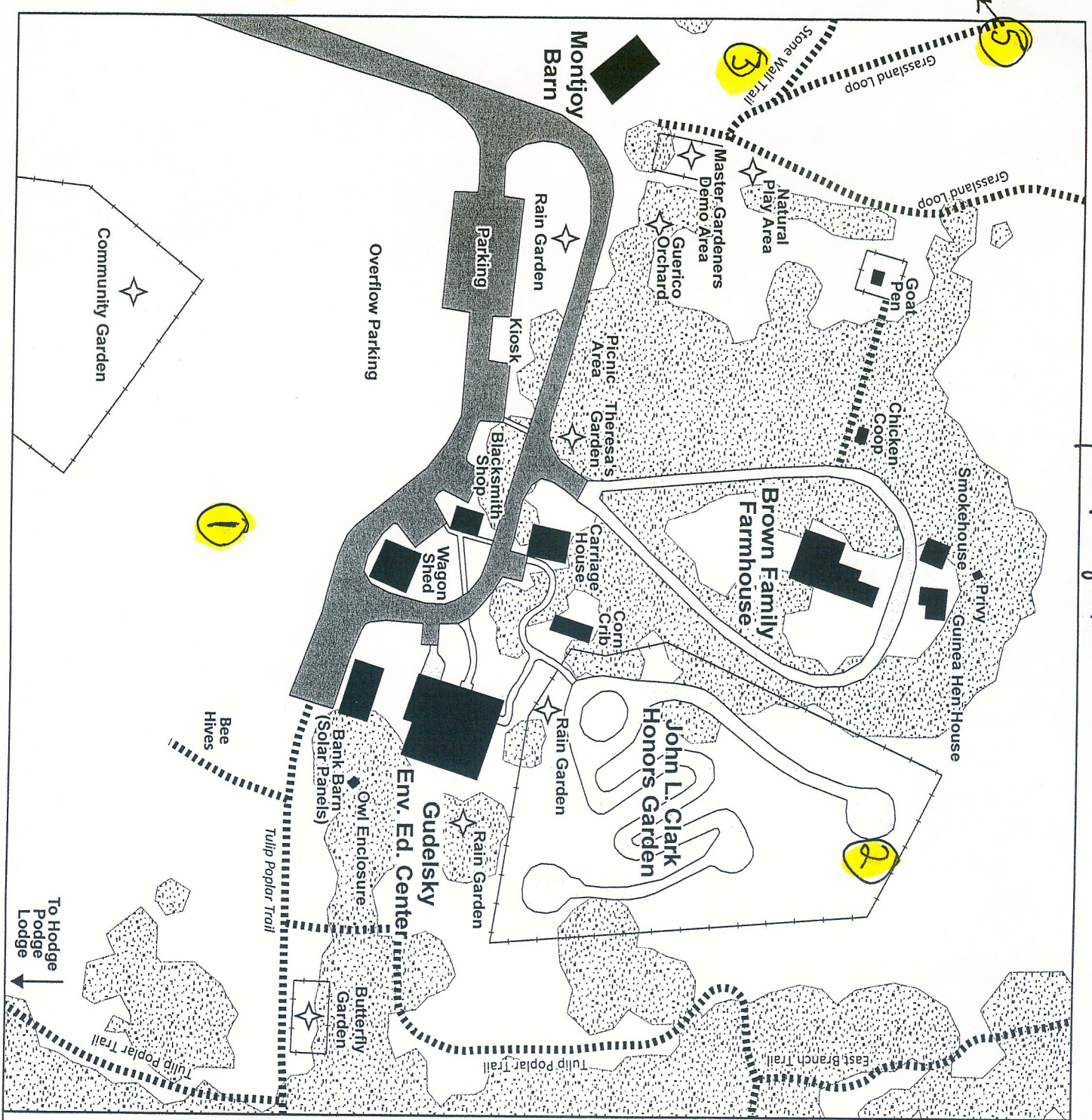
HAWK WATCH INITIAL THOUGHTS 2-25-2016

Considerations

1. Purpose
 - a. Establish a skywatch/hawkwatch site at Mt Pleasant
 - b. Does the skywatch part merit including the astronomy folks
 - c. Count Raptors and other migrants, butterflies, odenates etc.
 - d. Educate the public
2. Relationship HCBC and HCC
 - a. HCC
HCC Executive Director Meg Schumacher Boyd
meg.boyd@hcconservancy.org
HCC Grounds Committee Woody Merkle
Merkfam2@verizon.net
 - b. HCBC
HCBC Board
Mike Kerwin
Wes Earp
Harry Fink
Russ Ruffing
 - c. Who pays what
 - d. Who is liable
 - e. Who decides what
3. Site location
 - a. Walk the grounds 2-27-16 at 830 am with Woody to access sites and discuss future plans of the property
Easily accessible
Good fall and spring site lines
Limited impact
Limited maintenance
Handicap accessible
4. Site amenities
 - a. TBD
5. Site maintenance
 - a. TBD

6. When site will be staffed
 - a. TBD
 - b. Spring Migration
 - c. Fall Migration
7. Site reporting
Contact Ft Smallwood
8. Location signage
 - a. TBD
9. Decision process
How formalized?
MOA

Big Swale tree

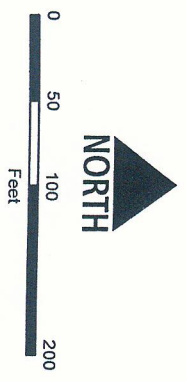


Howard County Conservancy
connecting people to nature

10520 Old Frederick Road / P.O. Box 175
 Woodstock, MD 21163
 410.465.8877
www.hccconservancy.org

DETAIL MAP

- Legend**
- Buildings
 - Driveway
 - Major Paths
 - Nature Trails
 - Gardens
 - Garden Fence
 - Trees



June, 2012

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 24, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.)
Meg Harris (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Mary Lou Clark √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Robin Todd. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 10 was 68 people. Dr. Robert K. Musil gave a program entitled “Rachel Carson and Her Maryland Legacy.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy was not present but had submitted the attached February Treasurer’s Report in advance.

President’s Remarks (Todd): Robin reported that he and John Harris are leading a beginner’s field trip at Mt. Pleasant on Saturday April 2.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): John mentioned that he had reviewed the spreadsheet that Kevin Heffernan put together with the calendar depiction of all the items that have to be done routinely as club activities. He was confident it would be very helpful in leading the club as President.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): It was reported that Joe has scheduled one new field trip for the spring. There will be a trip to Smith Island on Saturday April 23.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the MD/DC Records Committee has accepted the record of Trumpeter Swans photographed at Lake Elkhorn last year. As a result Trumpeter Swan is officially added to the Howard County list.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was absent but had reported he plans to speak at the Planning Board hearing on April 7 regarding General Plan Amendment 2016-1 – Growth Tiers Designation. Earlier drafts had called for significant changes that would open large portions of western Howard County to development. The latest draft, as received via email today, seems to temper that assessment significantly. *Sec. Note: Kurt forwarded a copy of this email to the board after the meeting.* Bob plans to include this item in next NEWSGRAM.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported that the current deadline is tomorrow and that he is on schedule.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that the current version of the electronic payment form on the web has been being misinterpreted by a number of the users. He passed around copies and received a number of suggestions on ways to make it more understandable and hopefully eliminate the problem.

Potluck (Lillie): See Old Business.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): See New Business for one item that John McKitterick brought from the latest meeting.

Old Business

SkyWatch site for Mt. Pleasant – Robin reported that the Mt. Pleasant Grounds Committee is expected to meet sometime after the middle of April. Before then we need to have a written proposal that can be distributed to them before that meeting. Mike Kerwin has started a draft and he with help of others need to finalize the proposal. Robin agreed to inform Mike that he has this action. We also need a draft Memo of Understanding to start negotiations with the Conservancy on the MOU. Robin agreed to take a first cut at drafting the MOU. Jo listed a number of items that the MOU should address, including: 1) we accept responsibility for the cost, 2) we are responsible for all maintenance (refresh of mulch, mowing of the border, painting if needed), and 3) cost and design/development of signs consistent with Conservancy guidelines. We discussed whether we needed a policy on usage and agreed that it should be limited to an agreement that if either organization schedules a formal event that will use the site they should inform the other party so as to avoid conflicts.

Potluck March 19 Wrap-up – Kathie reported that the event seemed to go well and there were 32 attendees including two RNC staff members. She acknowledged the help of many members with setup and cleanup. She learned that we are welcome to leave excess food in the refrigerator and inform the desk that staff is welcome to have it.

New Business

YMOS request to sell raffle tickets at April meeting – Robin had received an email request from Ron Irons to permit his sons Daniel and Jonathan to attend our April meeting and sell raffle tickets supporting the YMOS World Series of Birding team. The boys are very avid birders and are active members of the Youth Division of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS). They are preparing to compete in the 2016 World Series of Birding in New Jersey in May for the fifth time. As a fund raiser for their team, they are selling raffle tickets for a pair of high quality binoculars - Vortex Diamond 8X32's. We agreed to let Daniel and Jonathan attend the next club meeting on April 14, where they will give a very short presentation on the World Series of Birding and the YMOS, and will offer raffle tickets for sale. Apparently the Irons live in Howard County but are not members of our club. John Harris agreed to prepare a short paragraph announcing this for Bob's next NEWSGRAM.

Members needed at GreenFest with club display – Robin is coordinating getting volunteers to man the booth at GreenFest at Howard Community College on Saturday, April 16. Bob has volunteered to setup and takedown the display. Kate mentioned several names of those who have volunteered in the past that Robin could contact. Robin took an action to provide Bob a draft announcement for the next NEWSGRAM.

Host the June MOS Board meeting? – John McKitterick reported that at the latest MOS Board meeting it was announced that the June meeting originally scheduled to be held in Garrett County needed to be relocated as a venue for the meeting had not been found. John asked if we wanted to volunteer to host the meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 4. If a new venue cannot be found they will attempt to hold the meeting during the MOS Conference the following weekend. After a brief discussion we agreed that if The Howard Conservancy was available as a venue we would be willing to host although it's just been one year since we last hosted. Robin took an action to check with the Conservancy to determine if we could use the facility on June 4.

Club display at Illchester Girl Scout Camp Earth Day – Kurt has arranged for us to have an MOS/HCBC display at the Earth Day celebration at Illchester Girl Scout Camp on April 24 10:00 am – 3:00pm. We will have our Bird Club display on the grounds. Volunteers are needed to man the booth. Bob agreed to draft an announcement for the next NEWSGRAM.

Mission Statement? – Cindy had sent an email wondering if we wanted to adopt a formal mission statement that recognizes the club’s broadened interest beyond birds. In response Bob had located and passed out three different versions that might be used as reference for such a discussion. First was the short synopsis he has drafted for the “About Us” page on the club website, the second was the opening paragraphs from the club’s By-laws, and lastly the stated purpose of MOS. Chuck had started with the first of these and reformatted it as a mission statement. He shared copies with the Board. We agreed it would be a reasonable starting point for further discussion at a subsequent Board meeting after others had time to think about it. The draft mission statement reads:

“The mission of the Howard County Bird Club is to promote the knowledge, development, protection, and conservation of bird life, butterflies, dragonflies, flowers and everything else that is part of nature including preservation of habitat and natural resources.”

Around the Room –

- Jo reported that she had learned that Marty Chestem, one of the last remaining founders of our club and a Past President of the club and MOS, is apparently living in an assisted living setting near Denver. Apparently she went to visit a relative (?) over the holidays and never returned despite having her town house still here in Wilde Lake and planning to return. Apparently the Florence Bain Senior Center received contact information but is unwilling to violate privacy and provide it. Accordingly Jo has sent a certified letter to her address here in Columbia in hope it will be forwarded and she will get a reply that allows us to regain contact with her.
- Howard reported that Joe Hanfman told him that Chan Robbins is in failing health and Jo confirmed that he had been in the hospital. Several attendees shared recollections of Chan and his “keep going attitude” well into his 90’s.
- When asked Mary Lou agreed that having attended a Board meeting she was willing to have her name added to the nomination slate as candidate for Vice President.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Offer suggestions for potential candidates for club Vice President and State Director to Nominating Committee – All DONE
- Identify other projects or causes for us to support with our habitat preservation funds – All
- Inform the nominating committee that we also need a State Director candidate – Robin DONE
- Share Sue Muller email regarding the BioBlitz with the Board and contact Sue for further details – Robin PLANS CANCELED
- Register the club to participate in GreenFest and submit check for registration fee – Cindy DONE
- Proceed with development of SkyWatch/HawkWatch site and keep the Board informed of progress – Mike Kerwin CONTINUING
- Solicit volunteer to coordinate GreenFest participation – Robin IN PROGRESS

New/Continuing Action Items

- Identify other projects or causes for us to support with our habitat preservation funds – All
- Proceed with development of SkyWatch/HawkWatch site including finalize a formal written proposal and keep the Board informed of progress – Mike Kerwin
- Coordinate Green Fest participation including draft a NEWSGRAM announcement for Bob– Robin
- Inform Mike Kerwin that the formal SkyWatch proposal should be ready by mid-April (in advance of Conservancy committee meeting) – Robin
- Draft MOU between The HC Conservancy and the HCBC regarding the SkyWatch site – Robin
- Check with The HC Conservancy on availability of facility to host the MOS Board meeting on June 4 – Robin
- Draft NEWSGRAM article on YMOS raffle ticket sale – John Harris
- Draft NEWSGRAM article on Camp Illchester Earth Day display – Bob
- Add Mary Lou as Vice President to the slate read at the March meeting and distribute the election notice along with the club directory - Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	Robin Todd
April 28, 2016	-	Kate Tufts
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – March 24, 2016
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – February 2016

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

March 24, 2016

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt (away)
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - Hawk watch stand for Mt. Pleasant update – Robin for Mike Kerwin
 - Potluck March 19th – wrap up report from Kathie

8. New Business
 - YMOS to sell raffle tickets at April meeting?
 - Members needed at GreenFest with Club's display
 - *Host the June MOS Board meeting?*
 - *Club display at Illchester Girl Scout Camp Earth Day*
 - *Mission Statement?*

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Robin & Hyacinth Todd
10174 Green Clover Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-313-8154 (H)
410-491-5333 (C)
totnesman@aol

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16**

	Budget 2015-16	February Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income			
Membership Dues		25	5,246.53
State Dues Paid		(75.00)	(3,075.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	(50.00)	2,171.53
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		25.00	2,111.33
Contributions to Emy's fund			2,365.00
Contributions to MOS			110.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	(25.00)	6,757.86
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00		515.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00		
Postage, Copies	250.00	144.83	151.83
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	85.00	366.00
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S		300.00	300.00
Greenfest	35.00		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1000.00		1,000.00
Total Operating Expense	2,685.00	529.83	2,332.83
Income over Expense		(554.83)	4,425.03

T Rowe Price Prime Reserve acct.

Reserve Account beginning bal. 2/1/16	\$10,649.30
Interest Received in January	0.06
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance	5,540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 2/29/16	16,189.36

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 02/29/16	12,786.34
Petty Cash	45.03
Total Assets	29,020.73

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 28, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.) √
Meg Harris (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Bonnie Ott
Programs: Jane Geuder √
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kate Tufts. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 14, 2016 was 62 people. Sue and Wes Earp gave a program entitled “On the Shores of Gichi-gami... .” Gichi-gami is the formal Ojibwe name for Lake Superior, vice the usage of “Gitchee-gumee” used by Longfellow in “The Song of Hiawatha.”

This regular meeting held April 14 was the annual club business meeting to elect the officers for next year. The slate of officers had been presented by the nominating committee at the March meeting and distributed to the membership by email/mail. The slate presented was President – John Harris, Vice-President – Mary Lou Clark, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Cindy Albright, State Directors – Karen Darcy, John McKitterick, and Robin Todd, and Chapter Director – Woody Merkle (1st Yr). Nancy McAllister will be serving the second year of her two year term. Sue Muller, chair of the nominating committee, announced the slate and moved that the slate be elected by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously. Following the meeting the contact information for the new officers was sent to the MOS Secretary and President for inclusion in the State MOS listing of officers.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved with minor changes provided by Board members. Latest version of minutes, with changes, were sent to Bob for posting on the website.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): The Treasurer’s Report for March was sent to Board in advance and is attached. New members continue to join using the automated web application.

President’s Remarks (Todd): No introductory remarks.

Vice-President’s Remarks (J. Harris): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman, Ott): Not present. Howard reported that Joe had no one volunteer to lead trips in May. As an experiment Jo and Howard put together a series of “Leaderless” trips and published them in The Goldfinch.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo mentioned that spring migration is in full swing. The Trumpeter Swan photographed by the Holm’s was accepted by the MD/DC Records Committee adding that species to the Howard County list. Albert

and Gail have joined the club. A Glossy Ibis was reported and photographed this week at Elioak Farm by a farm employee. Unfortunately it was on a pond not visible from public areas and was not refound.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present and there was no report.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported that he and Jo are taking a break from newsletter activity until the deadline for the September issue in late July.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported the website is up to date.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, Etc.): Robin had contacted the Howard County Conservancy to see if their facility would be able to host the State Board meeting on June 4; however it was already booked. We subsequently learned that no place to hold the meeting on that date was located. Instead the meeting will be held on Saturday, June 11 after the general meeting during the annual MOS Conference in Salisbury.

Old Business

SkyWatch at Mt. Pleasant Update – Robin reported that a final draft of the MOU between HCC & the club and a map & site plan for the proposed SkyWatch at Mt. Pleasant was submitted via Woody Merkle. The Grounds Committee is to meet the next day after our meeting and Robin plans to attend. *Secretary's Note: I have attached the portions of the email reporting on this meeting that Robin sent to the Board right after the meeting.* Presuming the SkyWatch will be approved we agreed to tell the committee they are authorized to spend up to \$5000 in developing the site without seeking further approval. If additional funds are required given the potential cost of signage and/or ongoing maintenance they should submit a request to the Board.

In a related matter Jo reported that Russ Ruffing and Steve Collins are planning to conduct a Howard Big Day on Sunday May 8 as a bird-a-thon to raise funds for support of the SkyWatch at Mt. Pleasant. They will be soliciting pledges from club members, friends, and co-workers. Pledges will be in form of a specific amount per species seen during the day or as a fixed total amount. Bob agreed to put together an announcement of the bird-a-thon for a NEWSGRAM and web site. The announcement will need to use a generic future project as the purpose if the final approval is not received before the event.

Camp Ilchester – Robin reported that Kurt had supported the Camp Ilchester Girl Scout Camp Earth Day celebration on April 24. He had a few volunteers who helped man our exhibit table. Bob Solem brought and set up the display and stayed to man it for a while. Megan Lu, one of the club's few young members, had her feeder watch display set up next to the club table. Kurt was able to show the Great Horned Owls at their nest to a few visitors.

GreenFest – Robin coordinated our participation at the annual GreenFest celebration held at Howard Community College on April 16. He had several volunteers who manned our table. He reported that the event was well attended if not as large a crowd as some past GreenFests.

Brief talk to Master Gardeners at MPEA on May 24th – Robin had sent an email reporting that Jeff Claffy (Assistant Resources Manager for MPEA) had contacted him regarding his Master Gardener partners' interest in the birds of MPEA. These volunteers spend a lot of time in MPEA and know about its flora, but much less about its birds. They have asked Jeff for a '101' briefing on the birds of MPEA. This group is interested in how MPEA birds are impacted by the vegetation which they are encouraging, as well that which they are discouraging. There is also interest in which migrants pass through, and which nest in, this area. Jeff had asked if there is anyone from the Club who would be willing to brief this group for 1-2 hours at MPEA on the morning of Tuesday, May 24th. He had reported that if this date does not work, he is flexible. The MG's are an 'easy crowd' according to Jeff, so no need for anything formal. It was agreed that since the club has a field trip scheduled for May 24 that will probably not work but we should see if anyone would be interested in doing this at a future date agreeable to Jeff and the Master Gardener partners. In rescheduling we should be aware that it is rumored that construction on the new parking area at Trotter Road will begin this fall.

John Harris stated that if the construction is to begin in the fall he may want to move the location of his Robinson NC sponsored Woodpecker Walk to the RNC grounds.

Mission Statement – Chuck reminded the Board that we had agreed to revisit the topic of a “mission statement” for the club at this meeting. He summarized the email discussion of the earlier draft that followed the last meeting and then read what the statement would be if those inputs were incorporated. After a series of proposed changes were considered it was moved and approved that the club would adopt the following as our mission statement:

“The mission of the Howard County Bird Club is to promote the knowledge, development, protection, and conservation of bird life and other naturally occurring species and their habitats.”

New Business

Film shows at some Club meetings instead of guest speakers? – Jo explained that Sue Muller had requested the club purchase a copy of the documentary film “The Messenger” for her use in promoting the cause of birds with groups she works with. With Robin’s approval she was reimbursed for the \$25 purchase price. Jane attended the meeting to ask if we felt it was appropriate that a film be substituted for a guest speaker at our meetings when one such as The Messenger is available. We discussed a couple of issues this would present. One is their enough time to show the film within our meeting timeframe, in this case the film runs 1 hour 29 minutes so we would need to limit or eliminate the business meeting if we wanted to permit a period of discussion following the showing. Also we would need to confirm that the A/V capabilities in the auditorium support showing the film with sufficient quality. Given these constraints the Board felt it was appropriate to show a film occasionally and this one specifically as Jane can fit it into her schedule of programs. Jo then proposed the club officially donate the copy of The Messenger that Sue is holding to Howard County Recreation and Parks. In this way Sue will be able to manage use of the film as part of her job responsibilities and won’t require a member of the club to participate in every showing she sets up. Robin agreed to send Sue (and other R&P staff?) an email donating the film to them and informing Sue we tentatively want to use the film at our October 2016 meeting, presuming the test of A/V equipment is successful.

Jane then asked the Board for guidance on a request she has received via a second party informing her that a Tour Leader from Uganda is available to give a program to the club and would like to do so at the September meeting as he will be in USA attending an ABA event. Jane stated she has another speaker tentatively scheduled in September, namely Chan Robbins, if his health permits, and she has no intention to change that. However her issue is does the Board support talks by Tour Leaders who will obviously make an appeal for business. We discussed briefly and the consensus is that it is really a matter of degree, but if the speaker is focused on providing information on birds and other species, and only marginally marketing his services this would probably be alright. Robin agreed to take an action item to draft a general policy (probably revising prior direction to be quite restrictive on marketing content) that Jane can use in lining up speakers.

Funding for Howard County Rec & Parks – Cindy had sent an email to Board requesting the Board address the funding in our Habitat Fund (~\$4500), primarily the funds in the Emy Holdridge memorial fund designated for pollinator plots being developed by Howard County Rec & Parks (\$2365). She requested clarification on who authorizes her to send gifts such as this to the recipient. In answer we stated that this requires an action by the Board. Jo reminded Cindy and the Board that Rec & Parks had indicated that the Centennial pollinator meadows were a test case and future efforts would depend on how they work out. As a result they specifically did not want to receive the funds until the way ahead was clear as funds received without clear path to expenditure can be swept up into unrelated activities. They were considering hiring an intern to coordinate and oversee volunteer activities on the plots as one use for the funds we are holding. Jo recently inquired whether any progress had been made on this idea, only to learn that this idea had not progressed but was now again being pursued following Jo’s recent inquiry as they realize that formal supervision of volunteers is a necessity now that they have held several weeding sessions. It was suggested they may want to contact the Master Gardeners as they have been helpful in this regard at Mt. Pleasant and MPEA. Cindy was directed to hold off sending any funds to them for now. Jo agreed to continue to be liaison to Rec & Parks on this matter and will attempt to motivate them to take action.

Funding request from HCC/Mt. Pleasant – bird display – Robin had received the attached letter from the Howard County Conservancy asking the club to donate \$5000 toward their campaign to expand the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center (letter attached). The funds are being requested to go toward the design and fabrication of display

signage in the outdoor classroom to showcase common birds of Howard County. Jo had discussed the proposal with their staff. Nancy shared her experience with coordinating the development of professional indoor signage at the Conservancy's Belmont location. It was her opinion that \$5000 was not excessive for professional quality signage consistent with the guidelines which the Conservancy has as policy. It was also agreed that we would need to have an input as to what species are selected and the information incorporated to ensure its accuracy. Jo moved and it was seconded and approved that we authorize Cindy to disburse \$5000 for this purpose. Robin took an action item to inform the HCC staff of our gift and request to consult on signage content. *Secretary's Note: Robin informed them the next day and they agreed they want our assistance with content. Robin will draft a letter to accompany the check that Cindy will prepare.*

President's Chapter Report to MOS – items needed from chairpersons – Robin reported that he needs to prepare the annual report the club needs to submit to MOS prior to the annual conference in early June. He plans to send a request asking club chairpersons to provide him with material for inclusion in the report.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Identify other projects or causes for us to support with our habitat preservation funds – All DONE
- Proceed with development of Sky Watch/Hawk Watch site including finalize a formal written proposal and keep the Board informed of progress – Mike Kerwin DONE
- Coordinate Green Fest participation including draft a NEWSGRAM announcement for Bob– Robin DONE
- Inform Mike Kerwin that the formal Sky Watch proposal should be ready by mid-April (in advance of Conservancy committee meeting) – Robin DONE
- Draft MOU between The HC Conservancy and the HCBC regarding the Sky Watch site – Robin DONE
- Check with The HC Conservancy on availability of facility to host the MOS Board meeting on June 4 – Robin DONE
- Draft NEWSGRAM article on YMOS raffle ticket sale – John Harris DONE
- Draft NEWSGRAM article on Camp Illchester Earth Day display – Bob DONE
- Add Mary Lou as Vice President to the slate read at the March meeting and distribute the election notice along with the club directory – Bob DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Attend the meeting of the Howard County Conservancy Grounds Committee meeting on April 29 to present SkyWatch plans and MOU – Robin
- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Robin/John
- Prepare Bird-a-thon announcement for NEWSGRAM and website – Bob
- Send email to HC Rec & Parks staff donating copy of “The Messenger” – Robin
- Draft a proposed policy for Program Speakers and amount of marketing content permitted – Robin
- Prepare letter formally informing HCC of our donation toward signage for the outdoor classroom - Robin

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	Robin Todd
April 28, 2016	-	Kate Tufts
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – April 28, 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – March 31, 2016
- Portions of Robin’s email dated April 29 with results of initial meeting with HCC Grounds Committee on SkyWatch (post-Board meeting)
- Howard County Conservancy letter to Howard County Bird Club – April 27, 2016

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

April 28, 2016

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt (away)
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch at Mt. Pleasant update – Robin
 - Camp Ilchester – Robin
 - GreenFest - Robin
 - Brief talk to Master Gardeners at MPEA on May 24th – Robin

8. New Business
 - Film shows at some Club meetings instead of guest speakers? - Jane Geuder
 - Funding for Howard County Rec & Parks? - Cindy
 - Funding request from HCC/Mt. Pleasant – bird display – Jo
 - President's Chapter report to MOS – items needed from chairpersons - Robin

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Kate & Dick Tufts
2830 Duvall Road
Woodbine MD 21797
(410) 489-7052
ktufts@verizon.net

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16**

	Budget 2015-16	March Current Month	Year To Date
Operating Fund			
Income			
Membership Dues		249.24	5,495.77
State Dues Paid		(20.00)	(3,095.00)
Net Membership Dues	2,000.00	229.24	2,400.77
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		100.00	2,211.33
Contributions to Emy's fund			2,365.00
Contributions to MOS			110.00
Total Operating Income	2,000.00	329.24	7,087.10
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100.00		
Meetings:			
Programs	600.00	300.00	815.00
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50.00		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200.00	330.33	330.33
Postage, Copies	250.00	135.00	286.83
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50.00		
Newsletter & Directory	400.00	131.00	497.00
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
Habitat Preservation - All Creatures G & S			300.00
Greenfest	35.00	35.00	35.00
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1000.00		1,000.00
Total Operating Expense	2,685.00	931.33	3,264.16
Income over Expense		(602.09)	3,822.94
<hr/>			
T Rowe Price Prime Reserve acct.			
Reserve Account beginning bal. 3/1/16			\$10,649.36
Interest Received in March			0.06
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5,540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 3/31/16			16,189.42
PNC Bank Balance			
Checking Bal. 03/31/16			12,184.25
Petty Cash			45.03
Total Assets			28,418.70

Portions of Email From Robin Todd to HCBC Board dated April 29, 2016

Subject: SkyWatch discussed by HCC Grounds Committee.....

Hello All,

As promised, I presented our SkyWatch (SW) proposal (MOU, Mike's map and site plan and HCC's sign policy) to the HCC's Grounds Committee meeting this afternoon.

Woody Merkle introduced me, Meg Boyd presided, while Groundskeeper Tabby Fique took the minutes. I did not catch the names of other 5 members present.

The committee accepted our proposal in principal and felt that it is in line with HCC's vision. The committee complimented the Club on its plan.

The items discussed were:

Liability: one of the guys present wondered if the MOU statement was adequate to protect HCC. HCC has lawyers among their board: they may review the MOU.

Termination: Meg said there needs to be termination clause - now it is open-ended - if they ever want to close it down. Therefore HCC will add a clause allowing them to close the SW. I said that HCBC also needs a termination clause (e.g. if we find it is too much to maintain or it is not being used).

Benches: HCC wants more details and the right to review what type of bench we propose to install. There was some concern that someone might carry them away.

Schedule: I advised that we want the SW installed and functioning by September. We will not delay this for the signage, but this will be in place without undue delay. Tabby said she would suggest suitable contractors.

Next steps:

1. HCC will add termination clause - and possibly make other revisions to the MOU - and return to HCBC for comment. We will add an HCBC- initiated termination clause. Return MOU to HCC.
2. Revised MOU and associated documents will be discussed at the May or June General Board meeting of HCC. This will be when the official decision will be made.



Gina M. Zawitoski
President

Randolph S. Sergent
Vice President

W. Craig Engelhaupt
Treasurer
Immediate Past President

Kimberly Dorsey Bronow
Secretary

Trustees

Marianne Alexander
Alice Giles
Elmina J. Hilsenrath
Jonas Jacobson
Edward J. Kasemeyer
Woody Merkle
Charles H. Miller
Brett S. Plano
Mark Southerland, Ph.D.
Holly Stone
Ryan Sturm
Audrey Suhr
Cheron Victoria Wicker
Nat Williams

Meg Schumacher Boyd
Executive Director

April 27, 2016

Robin Todd
President
Howard County Bird Club

Dear Mr. Todd,

Now in its 26th year, the Howard County Conservancy serves central Maryland by providing educational opportunities for students, preserving open space and connecting people to nature. To further its mission, the Conservancy has embarked on ***Fulfilling the Mission: The Next 25 Years for the Howard County Conservancy***, a \$1.8 million campaign to renovate and expand the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center. This Center, which opened in 2005, is the heart of the 232-acre property, and it hosts school groups from pre-K school through high school as well as numerous community programs.

Thanks to the increased popularity of the Conservancy and its programs, the current space is no longer adequate. Program growth includes:

- Our educational programs have grown by 150% in the last three years, with more than 27,000 participants last year alone from 169 school programs and 49 public events
- Attendance at our public events has increased by 230% in the last 5 years
- To keep up with the increased demand for programs, our staff has increased five-fold and now includes 10 regular and eight seasonal employees

To serve our growing programs for both students and the public at large, the Conservancy is scheduled to break ground on the expansion of the Gudelsky Center in November 2016, with a target completion date of spring 2017.

The expansion will enlarge and relocate the nature center, which is used both as a classroom and exhibit space, to a space adjacent to a new outdoor classroom. A community meeting room, a volunteer work room, and a dedicated space for animal care will also be created.

MT. PLEASANT LOCATION
10520 Old Frederick Road
PO Box 175
Woodstock, MD 21163

BELMONT LOCATION
6553 Belmont Woods Road
Elkridge, MD 21075

Phone 410-465-8877
www.hcconservancy.org


The new outdoor classroom will overlook the John L. Clark Honors Garden. The space will allow us to better accommodate student groups, which are larger and more numerous than in the past. In addition, the outdoor classroom will be an excellent observation point for the Honors Garden. This one-acre garden is filled with native plant species that attracts birds and other pollinators.

This is an ideal location for visitors to see the variety of birds and pollinators that are attracted to the native plant garden. To educate both students and the general public about the garden and the important role native plants play in our ecosystem, we will be creating and installing several displays in the outdoor classroom. One of these displays will be devoted to the birds of Howard County to assist visitors with identifying birds and understanding the role they play in a healthy ecosystem. The display will be professionally designed, waist-high angled signs to maximize opportunities to learn about birds and pollinators while observing the garden.

Mt. Pleasant Farm is an important viewing spot for both migratory and non-migratory birds in Howard County, and we are grateful for our long-standing relationship with the Howard County Bird Club. The display in the outdoor classroom will encourage more people to study birds at Mt. Pleasant, as well as help them understand the importance of providing habitat for them in their own yards.

We are requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider a donation of \$5,000 toward the design and fabrication of display signage in the outdoor classroom to showcase the birds common to Howard County, and in particular, ones that visitors may encounter in the John L. Clark Honors Garden. We will recognize the Club for this donation on the sign and on a permanent plaque, along with other donors to the campaign, within the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center. Thank you so much for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg S. Boyd", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Meg S. Boyd
Executive Director

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: Robin Todd √
Vice-president: John Harris √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1st yr.)
Meg Harris (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Kate Tufts √
Past President: Wes Earp

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Mary Lou Clark √
Woody Merkle

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Meg & John Harris. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 12 was 44 people. Middleton Evans gave a program entitled "Nature at Its Finest Moments."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The Minutes were accepted after minor corrections and an expansion of the description of the Camp Ilchester Earth Day display.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had distributed the attached Treasurer's Report for the end of April. She had also distributed the attached proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The budget was approved as proposed.

President's Remarks (Todd): Robin noted that this was his last Board meeting as President and wished John good luck. He has been working on the annual report to MOS and expects to share a draft for comment with the Board in the near future. He was reminded that as a State Director he would be continuing to attend our meetings.

Vice-President's Remarks (J. Harris): John commented that the Trumpeter Swan at Fulton on Tuesday was a life bird for him.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): Joe was not present. Howard had sent an email before the meeting in which he remarked that he felt the "leaderless" field trips in May had worked well. His only regret was that we hadn't got more participation from new members. Mary Lou asked what the ratio of retired to non-retired members of the club was. Her point was that all the trips, except May Count, in May were mid-week. We generally agreed that it would be best to have a mix of weekday and weekend trips. Bob proposed we might choose a label that would be less intimidating to new members than "leaderless." It was agreed we should provide this feedback to Joe for his planning next year.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that this Spring has been a relatively good migration compared to recent years. The Swallow-tailed Kite found and photographed by Joe Hanfman and Ralph Cullison was the second modern

county report and the first with photos. The Trumpeter Swan on Tuesday was only the second record and likely a county bird for all those who got to see it. Lastly she reported that the sightings of Ravens along the Patapsco strongly suggest that there is a nest in the county or very close to the border. The only other nest has been the one on the dam at Duckett Reservoir.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported that we need to remain vigilant. The amendment to the County General Plan will come up for a vote by the County Council this summer. The planning board had recommended defeating the amendment but the recommendation is non-binding on the council. Kurt also mentioned that the Governor's initiative to reduce fees has reduced the fee for incidental take permits for endangered species from \$25 to \$10. The Governor has not yet acted on the Pollinator Protection Act which will become law if he does not veto it by Saturday. *Secretary Note: The Governor did not veto the bill and it became law.* The county policy on neonicotinoids is on hold pending resolution of state law.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard was not present but had sent an email in advance. The due date for the Sept-Oct Goldfinch is July 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has added a new section (box) to the website with current highlights (like the Swallow-tailed Kite picture) and a link to the Birds of the Month section of Birding Howard County.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Tufts, etc.): The next meeting is Saturday night at the MOS Conference in Salisbury. Robin, Kurt, John McKitterick and Kate will be unable to attend. Karen will be at the Conference and can attend. John and Meg Harris were asked to attend as proxies.

Old Business

SkyWatch Update – Robin reported that he had attended the meeting of the HCC Grounds committee and discussed the MOU/proposal. Their response was generally positive. Several revisions were proposed to the MOU and Robin shared that markup with the board by email. He has incorporated the revisions and returned it to Woody for a decision by the Conservancy full board at their next meeting in June. Once we receive approval Mike Kerwin and the committee will need to get the project underway quickly as we are trying to have it ready by September 1. We have approved the SkyWatch committee can spend up to \$5000 without asking the Board to authorize additional funding if they find it necessary.

Brief Talk to Master Gardeners at MPEA in October? – Robin reported we still need to find someone to do this. The talk would be at MPEA as part of their monthly work sessions.

Policy for Program Speakers and Commercial Content – Robin had drafted a policy and distributed it to the Board by email (attached). The policy which reads as follows was approved by the Board:

GUIDELINES FOR GUEST SPEAKERS AT HCBC MEETINGS REGARDING PROMOTION OF THEIR SERVICES OR PRODUCTS

Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) welcomes and values its guest speakers, including those who own or represent businesses that provide services or products to the birding community. Such services typically include leading birding trips to other parts of the US or overseas, when the speaker or their company is paid by trip participants. Such products would include optical gear, books or software. Talks by such speakers should provide information about birds, other wildlife and life forms, habitat, environmental issues and related subjects, but they should not be used for the promotion of the speaker's business. What is permissible is for speakers to leave their business cards and brochures on a table at the back of the meeting room and to include their contact information on the last slide of their presentations. At the end of their talk, speakers may indicate that these cards and brochures are available. In the question-and-answer session at the end of the meeting, questions about the speaker's services or products should be answered by a promise to give the answer after the meeting.

Donation to the Howard County Conservancy – Robin reported that he had formally notified the HCC that we are making a donation of \$5000 toward signage on common birds to be displayed in a new outdoor classroom as part of the Conservancy's major expansion plans. Cindy reported that she had sent them the check.

New Business

Recreation and Parks request for \$1000 for intern to coordinate Pollinator meadow activities – Jo summarized what she had learned about why there had been no activity by Howard Rec & Parks on our offer to provide additional funds for the Holdridge Pollinator Meadow. In general other items, including Wine-in-the-Woods, had taken priority for the Natural Resource section. In discussion with Sue Muller, Jo made it clear we would consider having some of the money used for support of staff to coordinate and monitor the project. As a result Sue requested the club consider providing a \$1000 for an intern she had interviewed for a volunteer position as an unpaid intern with the county this summer. The intern accepted a position to, among other duties, coordinate volunteer activities on the meadow and document species using it. Sue's request and a series of emails among board members regarding the request are attached. Although having the intern receive compensation would potentially enhance the volunteer's performance and dedication, the county is unwilling to accept our funding so that they can pay her directly as it is unbudgeted. We are unwilling to employ the staff directly with all the legal requirements that would entail. Kate asked could this be considered an honorarium, as we provide to speakers without assuming legal responsibilities. We reviewed the definition of honorarium and decided that should be an acceptable approach. We are not required to report payment of an honorarium; however the recipient is to report it as income when filing their taxes. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we give the intern an honorarium of \$1000, with the details such as timing of payment(s) to be decided in consultation with Sue Muller. Jo then mentioned that there is also a potential need to purchase additional tools to be used by the volunteers weeding the meadow. It was moved and approved that we authorize up to \$300 for the purchase of tools if we receive such a request. Jo took the action to inform Sue of these decisions and coordinate accomplishing them.

Budget – See Treasurer's Report above.

Howard Community College request for a FAST speaker – Robin had received a request from Ho CC to provide a speaker for their Facilities and Sustainability Team (FAST) lunch and learn series. We discussed but decided that although we are in support of sustainability we did not feel we could identify a topic or speaker that would be appropriate for this series. Robin took an action to decline the request.

Donation of '90's birding gear – Robin had been contacted by someone whose partner had been an active birder and recently passed away. She provided Robin with a box of miscellaneous birding items to see if anyone in the club could use them. Most of the items are outdated but Robin was advised to bring the box to a meeting and offer any of the items to attendees on a first come first serve basis. We agreed any unclaimed items can be disposed of.

Seed Sale – Robin and Bob reported that Ward has begun preparations for this fall's seed sale. We will continue the arrangement with The Wildlife Authority. The sale pickup will begin Saturday October 8 with pickup possible anytime during the following week. Ward will be out of town during this period but Jeff Friedhoffer has again volunteered to serve as the order compiler. Bob stated that a series of milestone dates for sending out sale forms, receiving orders, getting orders to Kevin Cassidy at The Wildlife Authority, etc. have been agreed to. Bob stated that all forms will need to be printed and completed manually and mailed to Jeff (i.e., there will not be an interactive form). Bob accepted an action item to update the list of past supported activities with this year's disbursements from donations to the club.

Hosts for Next Year's Board meetings – The following volunteered to host Board meetings next year:

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Around the Room –

- Cindy mentioned the recent Washington Post article reporting that the YMOS Merlins team had won the junior division of the World Series of Birding, tying the winning adult team, with 190 species.
- Bob reported that at Cindy's request he had developed a link she can provide to potential donors who would like to donate to the club via PayPal separate from the membership application.
- Jo asked if the Board felt there would be any interest in purchasing window decals with the club's seal on it. She would include one in each new member packet, and they would be available for current members as well. The Board felt this might be a good idea. Jo took an action to research what would be involved, including cost, and send the Board an email with what she learns.
- Kate reported that the Daisy Pollinator Meadow has been planted. It is located at the corner of Union Chapel and Daisy Roads.
- John McKitterick reported that Sue Muller had provided the "The Messenger" DVD back to the club so that he can check it out for any Audio/Visual issues with our using it for an October program.
- Lastly the Board recognized that this was Kate Tufts last Board meeting and expressed its sincere thanks to Kate. Kate joined the Board as a Chapter Director in 2001 and was elected as State Director in 2004. She has faithfully represented the club at State Board meetings ever since, including recently serving as the chair of the State Scholarship committee. We will miss her participation in club and state board deliberations and willingness to accept many assignments; while looking forward to seeing her at club activities in the future.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Attend the meeting of the Howard County Conservancy Grounds Committee meeting on April 29 to present SkyWatch plans and MOU – Robin DONE
- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Robin/John
- Prepare Bird-a-thon announcement for NEWSGRAM and website – Bob DONE
- Send email to HC Rec & Parks staff donating copy of "The Messenger" – Robin DONE
- Draft a proposed policy for Program Speakers and amount of marketing content permitted – Robin DONE
- Prepare letter formally informing HCC of our donation toward signage for the outdoor classroom – Robin DONE
- Jo had been asked to contact Rec & Parks to find out the status of the pollinator meadows and why there had been no requests for funds. She contacted Brenda Belensky and Dan McNamara by email and reiterated the amount of money available and that it could be used however they chose, including staffing. DONE.

New/Continuing Action Items

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Robin/John
- Inform Sue Muller of decisions on intern honorarium and tools - Jo
- Send a reply to Howard Community College declining request to provide a FAST speaker – Robin
- Update the list of donations made from seed sale proceeds and other gifts to include with the seed sale form – Bob
- Investigate getting club seal window decals and provide results to Board - Jo

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2015	-	Robin Todd
October 22, 2015	-	Karen Heffernan
November 19, 2015	-	Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 28, 2016	-	Bob & Jo Solem
February 25, 2016	-	John McKitterick
March 24, 2016	-	Robin Todd
April 28, 2016	-	Kate Tufts
May 26, 2016	-	Meg & John Harris (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – May 26, 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – April 30, 2016
- Proposed Budget for 2016-2017
- Summary of Board email exchange regarding an intern with Howard County Rec & Parks to coordinate volunteer activities on Pollinator Meadows
- Summary of emails requesting a speaker for Howard Community College FAST series

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

May 26, 2016

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy
4. President's Remarks Robin
5. Vice President's Remarks John

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips
 - Records Jo
 - Conservation Kurt
 - Newsletter Howard
 - Web Master Bob

7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch update – Robin
 - Brief talk to Master Gardeners at MPEA in October? – Robin

8. New Business
 - R&P request: \$1000 stipend for intern – manage Emy's & Daisy Meadows - All
 - Budget – Cindy
 - Howard Community College requests FAST speaker from HCBC - Robin
 - Donation of '90's birding gear - Robin

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

John & Margaret Harris
6400 Ripe Apple Ln
Columbia MD 21044
(240) 755-0183
(703) 772-4501
jaybee.harris@gmail.com
mctharris@gmail.com

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
5/1/15-4/30/16

	Budget 2015-16	April Current Month	Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		25	5,272
State Dues Paid			(3,095)
Net Membership Dues	2,000	25	2,177
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		50	2,161
Contributions to Emy's fund			2,365
Contributions to MOS			110
Total Operating Income	2,000	75	6,813
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100		
Meetings:			
Programs	600	75	890
Hospitality-Chapter & Stat	50		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		330
Postage, Copies	250		152
Projector Expense			
General Supplies			
Equipment			
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50		
Newsletter & Directory	400	147	513
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund			
All Creatures G & S			300
Greenfest	35		35
YMOS Birdathon		254	254
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		1,000
Total Operating Expense	2,685	476	3,474
Income over Expense		(401)	3,339

T Rowe Price Prime Reserve acct.

Reserve Account beginning bal. 4/1/16	10,649
Interest Received in April	0
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance	5,540
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 4/30/16	16,189

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 04/30/16	11,783
Petty Cash	45
Total Assets	28,018

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
Proposed
5/1/16-4/30/17

	Actual 2014-15	Actual 2015-16	Proposed Budget 2016-17
Operating Fund			
Income:			
Net Membership Dues	1,933	2,426	2,750
Contributions to HCBC	845	2,261	2,500
Contributions to Howard Co Bird Club	1,300	2,365	-
Contributions to MOS	1,114	110	75
Contributions to Butterfly Garden	2,025		
Total Operating Income	<u>4,288</u>	<u>7,162</u>	<u>5,325</u>
Expense:			
Meetings:			
Programs	650	890	1,000
Hospitality-Chapter & State	62		75
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	203	330	350
Postage, Copies	258	287	300
Newsletter & Directory	504	644	650
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots	1,300		1,000
Habitat Preservation - All Creatur	200	300	300
Greenfest	35	35	35
YMOS Birdathon	244	254	260
Total Operating Expense	<u>3,456</u>	<u>2,740</u>	<u>3,970</u>
Income over Expense	<u>832</u>	<u>4,422</u>	<u>1,355</u>

5/16/2016 * Contribution made to HCConservancy for outdoor signage \$5,000 from retained earnings in PNC bank acct.

Year-end Net Worth	
2015-16	\$ 28,018
2014-15	24,788
2013-14	22,538
2012-13	20,519
2011-12	19,659
2010-11	18,218
2009-10	18,762

5/22/16 email

To clarify. This is a college student who will be working as a summer intern for Sue Muller. If we provide her a stipend from the pollinator fund, a good deal of her time and efforts will be spent (among other responsibilities) overseeing an expanded and consistent weeding program at Emy's Meadow (and perhaps the new one at Daisy Rd). Rec & Parks was receptive to our paying her a stipend (I believe she would have been an unpaid intern) but they did not want to involve the county financial apparatus in receiving our money and paying her. Apparently because it would be an unbudgeted item, it would make life more complicated than the amount involved. Sue's superiors made it plain that any payments would have to be directly between the HCBC and the intern.

Unfortunately, Sue is in New York State this week at her father's funeral so we can't ask her whether the intern would continue with the position even if she were unpaid. Obviously, this seemed much simpler in theory than it has turned out to be.

Jo

Solem odenata@msn.com Laurel MD 20723

On 5/21/2016 9:40 PM, Ward Ebert wrote:

This is a really complicated question, and I don't have any definitive answer as to what to do. What I do know is that "intern" and "scholarship" aren't IRS terms that affect our liability for employment taxes. If work is being done in exchange for money it is employment. Fundamentally there are two types of employment relationships - employee or contractor - and the difference hinges on who directs the work. If Sue is directing the person on a day-to-day basis it would be hard to convince an auditor that there is a contract employee relationship, particularly since the person is not holding a specific legal contract for the job and is not the employee of any agency or company that provides contract labor. Also, one who claims to be a contract employee may have to show that they also work for other customers or publicly advertise services in the community. As Sue wears two hats, there is a risk that the person might be considered an employee of the county even if the money flows directly from us (I think that unlikely, but if the employee isn't a contractor somebody is the employer in the eyes of the IRS). It would seem most logical to have the county treat her as an employee - they already have the mechanisms in place to do that. We would spend as much effort trying to get the paperwork done as would be spent on the project. That said, as our employee she would need to provide us a W4 for withholding Federal income. We would pay that and FICA to the feds, but we are exempt from federal unemployment tax. Then there's Maryland tax which I know nothing about.

It might be worth a call to Dave Webb to see if he has any advice. If you wish, I could give a call to a lawyer I know who works with charitable organizations.

Ward

On Saturday, May 21, 2016 10:59 AM, Cindy Albright [<cindy@cindyalbright.com>](mailto:cindy@cindyalbright.com) wrote:

Going the Scholarship route sounds least complicated. I'll check re IRS ramifications unless someone else already knows.

Cindy

On May 21, 2016 10:36, "Solem" <odenata@msn.com> wrote:

If this has to be decided at the May meeting (see Sue Muller's email at the bottom), it is going to take some preliminary work to understand all of the ramifications (which is why we included Ward Ebert). Sue's proposal that funding for her summer intern would be provided as a part of the Pollinator Protection effort, specifically using some of the funds that remain in the Emy Holdridge memorial pot. I think we need to understand just how we label this money to be paid to Sue's intern (assuming we agree to the funding).

Rec and Parks would love to have a paid intern for the summer and could then justify using much of her time to oversee the pollinator meadows, but they do not want to have any money we provide funneled through the county. We would have to pay her directly. Because there are no strings attached to Emy's Meadow money and this is one of the realistic ways of getting someone to organize consistent weeding, it would be a valid use of the money. As we are all aware, the first years need consistent weeding to maintain a *viable* pollinator meadow, and that includes annual maintenance (particularly during the first years after planting until the perennial plants become established).

We don't want to raise unnecessary questions; however, does the Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) paying her directly present problems for us?

If the HCBC provides a "stipend" to the intern, what does that mean? Is the intern an **employee** of the HCBC, and the club has to do all of the bookkeeping associated with an employee (withholding, FICA, etc.)? Or is the intern a **contract employee**? If the "stipend" in any way shape or form can be considered by the IRS as *wages*, the intern and the club have to be prepared to produce the appropriate documentation and forms.

OR could we treat this as a **scholarship** to be paid in two parts, one at the beginning of the season and the remainder at the end, with the at least implied understanding that the intern would use it in that way?

Or is there some other possibility? Cindy, do you have any ideas here? Are we worrying needlessly?

Since we do not have another board meeting until fall, this is something that needs to be decided in May--and the weeding requires a decision as well.

Jo & Bob

Solem odenata@msn.com Laurel MD 20723

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Re: stipend

Date:Fri, 20 May 2016 08:25:02 -0400

From:Robin Todd <totnesman@aol.com>

To:smuller@howardcountymd.gov

CC:odenata@msn.com

Hi Sue,

Thanks. Interesting request. Will run it by the Board at next Thursday's meeting.

Would the 2nd \$500 be contingent on the student doing a decent job?

Best regards,

Robin

-----Original Message-----

From: Muller, Sue <smuller@howardcountymd.gov>

To: robin todd <totnesman@aol.com>

Cc: Solems (odenata@msn.com) <odenata@msn.com>

Sent: Thu, May 19, 2016 3:22 pm

Subject: stipend

Robin,

I just interviewed a student from University of Maryland who will be interning with me this summer for 9 or 10 weeks. Her project is going to be working at Emy's Meadow organizing volunteers for Weed Warrior activities and documenting species using the meadow etc. It is possible she will work on the Daisy Rd. meadow as well. Would the bird club consider a \$1000 stipend for the student? I would recommend a \$500 payment in the beginning and a \$500 payment at the completion of the internship.

Sue Muller

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks

Natural & Heritage Resources Division

7120 Oakland Mills Rd.

Columbia, MD 21046

Maryland Amphibian & Reptile Atlas Coordinator, Howard County

Howard County GreenFest, Co-chair

smuller@howardcountymd.gov

[410 313-4697](tel:4103134697)

Sent from my iPhone

On May 25, 2016, at 11:10 AM, "Gulliford, Regina" <rgulliford@howardcc.edu> wrote:

I appreciate you getting back to me. Our presentations have been by Master Gardeners, Howard County Office of Sustainability and the Columbia Association. Here is a list of some presenters and titles of their presentations. I've also attached one of the handouts that the beekeepers brought. Most presenters have a powerpoint presentation to deliver their talk. Let me know if you need more information and thank you.

Kent Phillips, Master Gardener, Sustainable Organic Vegetable Gardening
Donna White, Herb Gardening
Pat Greenwald, Decorating with Greens, Planting Native Plants
Caroline Feil, Rain Barrels
Rachel Beebe, Stream MAPPING
Jim Caldwell, Columbia Redevelopment
Doris Walsh, Beekeeping
John McCoy and Bob Marietta, Weed Warriors

Gina Gulliford

From: Robin Todd [<mailto:totnesman@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 10:05 PM
To: Gulliford, Regina <rgulliford@howardcc.edu>
Cc: jaybee.harris@gmail.com; odenata@msn.com
Subject: Request for FAST presentation on November 2nd.

Hi Ms. Gulliford,

Thank you for asking if one of the Howard County Bird Club members would give a FAST presentation at HCC on November 2nd. Could you provide some examples of previous presentations so that we can assess whether this is something we can do? Titles, presenters and, if possible abstracts, would be helpful.

I will be handing over the presidency to John Harris this summer, so he is copied.

Best regards,

Robin Todd
President
HCBC

Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Question about Howard Bird Club

Date:Wed, 18 May 2016 14:40:29 +0000

From:Gulliford, Regina <rgulliford@howardcc.edu>

To:'info@howardbirds.org' <info@howardbirds.org>

The **Facilities and Sustainability Team (FAST)** at Howard Community College promotes a comprehensive sustainability program at the college. I am writing you today to invite one of your speakers to come and do a presentation at the college on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Our lunch & learns are educational programs where we invite speakers to discuss a topic of sustainability. The lunch & learn starts at 12 noon and continues till 1:00PM. The college will provide the computer, projector, mics, etc. Most speakers only need their presentation on a flash drive. Thank you for your consideration.

Gina Gulliford

Howard Community College

Administration & Finance Office

10901 Little Patuxent Pkwy, MH258

Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: 443-518-4542

Fax: 443-518-4480

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 22, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.) √
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:
Sue Muller √
Barbara Sikorski √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John Harris. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 8 was 40 people. Lindsay Jacks, Director of Lights Out Baltimore, gave a program entitled "The Impact of Buildings on Birds."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had distributed the attached Treasurer's Reports for June/July and August. Primary disbursements were: Donation to HC Conservancy for signage as part of their major expansion (\$5000), Honorarium (1st half) for Barbara Sikorski (Rec & Parks intern)(\$500), tools for Howard Rec & Park's use in maintain butterfly meadows (\$300), All Creatures Great & Small (\$300), and HCBC decals (\$450). Cindy reported that she has received 81 memberships, nearly half of which were submitted and paid for using the on-line option.

President's Remarks (Harris): John H had a couple of heads-up items for next month. It will be time to begin process of having Chapter Director's contact members who have not renewed by phone. Second it will be time to confirm pot luck coordinator and date. He then asked Jo and Sue to say a few words on preliminary planning for a BioBlitz to be held at Mt. Pleasant next fall (tentative date September 7, 2017). Discussions have begun with the Conservancy and the Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP). MBP would establish and maintain a special Mt. Pleasant collection for an initial fee of \$1000 and an annual continuing cost of \$500. Jo and Bob Solem are prepared to make a personal donation to cover these costs, but we agreed to discuss the potential of the club helping to fund this effort at a future meeting.

Vice-President's Remarks (Clark): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): No report. Kurt has made arrangements for an additional field trip to Belt Woods on October 29. There is time to get this added to the Goldfinch currently being assembled as it will arrive before then. It will also be announced in an upcoming Newsgram. *Sec. Note – The trip was cancelled because the area was opened to general hunting.*

Records (Jo Solem): Jo summarized the highlights of the past season's birds. *Sec. Note: I chose not to repeat them here as they will all appear in her upcoming seasonal report in the next issue of The Goldfinch.*

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.

Newsletter (Patterson): No formal report, but the newsletter is coming together and is waiting for the completion of an article on the recent Fall Count.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob was not present but had provided the attached graph depicting the status of incoming memberships. Jo also mentioned that the schedule of managed deer hunts in the county parks and WSSC have been posted on the website.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie reported that she has a proposed date for the potluck, namely March 25, 2017.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): John McKitterick had sent an email to the Board summarizing the highlights of the September 10 meeting that is attached.

Old Business

SkyWatch – Cindy had asked about status of bill from contractor for services to date and payment. John H had determined that Mike Kerwin had told them to bill him and he would then submit it to Cindy for payment. The estimate was \$3488. The bill has not been received yet, but Woody reported that there has been a change in the ownership/management of the contractor that may explain the delay. As for future efforts we are responsible for all aspects of maintenance (pull weeds, weed wack perimeter, future wood chip replenishment, etc.). Future improvements such as informational signs and seating are contemplated but not expected soon. The Conservancy has plans to change the signs on the property and we may want to coordinate with them, although Woody expressed his opinion that might not be soon as the major renovation will occupy staff for for-seeable future. Nancy mentioned she had taken pictures of signs at Cape May Hawk Watch that might be useful in planning signs for the SkyWatch. She agreed to send them to Mike Kerwin.

September To-Do item – John H mentioned it is time to confirm our reservation with RNC for our meetings next year. Karen took an action to contact RNC and confirm we are on the schedule. In a related measure John M asked if we had any responsibility for the relatively limited success of the events we conduct for RNC (several did not have enough participants to run). We agreed to not take any different actions unless RNC staff expresses that they have an issue. Accordingly John H agreed to ensure Joe Hanfman is continuing to organize our four RNC events.

New Business

Davis Branch Stream Restoration – As announced in a recent Newsgram Howard County Government is holding an informational public meeting on this topic on September 27 at Mt. Pleasant. Woody explained that although comments will probably be accepted the plans are complete and work is to begin this winter with completion by March. It is Woody's understanding that the plan is to create a new stream bed running west of the current stream from the road to just past the bridge at foot of stone fence trail. Woody will be attending in his role as a Conservancy officer and feels it would be worthwhile for a few bird club members to attend.

Dick Smith Remembrance – The sudden unexpected death of Dick Smith is a great loss to the club and the knowledge of butterflies in Howard County. The Board discussed potential ways to honor his memory. One obvious choice is to continue the annual Labor Day Weekend butterfly walks as a memorial walk in Dick's memory. The first was held this past Labor Day and was very well attended. John Harris took an action to notify Joe Hanfman to include this walk annually in the field trip schedule. Linda Hunt is by default now the point person for club butterfly activities. One other suggestion as a memorial would be to plant hackberry shrubs in or near the Centennial and/or Daisy pollinator plots to attract Tawny Emperor. Sue Muller agreed to talk to the county forester about this idea.

Barbara Sikorski – Barbara gave a short talk entitled “My Summer Internship at Emy’s Meadow.” She was the intern the club had offered an honorarium to in recognition of her volunteering to work with Sue Muller in monitoring, coordinating, and maintaining the pollinator meadow at Centennial. Her presentation had photos of many of the species she observed in the meadow. She is pursuing a major in Environmental Science & Policy. She recommended that management of invasive plants needs to begin earlier in the season as the height of grasses makes access much more difficult later in summer. However, this is somewhat problematic as an intern to coordinate volunteer activity usually won’t be available until school summer vacation begins.

Marty Chestem Books – Long time club member, Marty Chestem, is now living in an assisted living setting in Colorado. Recently one of her relatives was in town to clean out her place here in Columbia and contacted Jo to see if there were things that the club could use. Jo picked up several boxes of books, knickknacks, etc. that might be have interest to club members. One item that was very interest was Marty’s journal with many observations from her early involvement in birding in the 70’s. It was agreed that Jo would bring the items to the November meeting and they would be offered to club members first come first served. Donations to the habitat fund would be solicited but not required.

Around the Room –

- Robin reported that the Patapsco Valley State Park was holding a meeting on August 27 at Soldier’s Delight to plan a bird blitz.
- Chuck mentioned that MOS was registered as a recipient of a portion of purchases made on Smile.Amazon.com.
- Nancy reported that her Mom’s Big Year total was up to 429.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Robin/John H
- Inform Sue Muller of decisions on intern honorarium and tools – Jo DONE
- Send a reply to Howard Community College declining request to provide a FAST speaker – Robin DONE
- Update the list of donations made from seed sale proceeds and other gifts to include with the seed sale form – Bob DONE
- Investigate getting club seal window decals and provide results to Board – Jo – DECALS AVAILABLE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Robin/John H
- Notify Joe H. to include Dick Smith Memorial butterfly trip annually – John H.
- Discuss idea of Hackberry plantings with county forester – Sue Muller
- Disburse second half of honorarium (\$500) to Barbara Sikorski - Cindy

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – September 22, 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – June/July 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – August 2016
- Membership - Running Total Chart
- Notes from MOS Board Meeting held September 10

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

September 22, 2016 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Heads-up for next month:
 - Follow up email/phone-contact to members that did not renew
 - Potluck dinner - confirm coordinator, set date
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem

7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - Payment for services to date
 - contractor will bill Mike Kerwin by around October 14, 2016
 - Proposal stated \$3,488
 - Coordination with HCC
 - Maintenance, signage
 - September To-Do item:
 - Check and update reservations for Club Meetings
 - Response to HCBC-RNC events

8. New Business
 - Davis Stream Branch restoration
 - Howard County Government hosts public meeting
 - Tuesday, September 27th at 7:00pm in the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center at Mt. Pleasant
 - Dick Smith – ideas for remembrance
 - Barbara Sikorski
 - “My Summer Internship at Emy's Meadow”

9. Action Items Chuck

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
June & July 2016

	Budget 2016-17	June-July Current Month	May-July Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		92	185
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000		
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		60	598
Contributions to MOS			
Total Operating Income	2,000	152	783
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100		
Meetings:			
Programs	600		50
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200	250	250
Postage, Copies	250		
USPS Postal Box rental			
Donations			
Pot Luck Supplies	50		
Newsletter & Directory	400		
Miscellaneous			
Pollinator Plots - Emy's fund		800	Intern + tools
Skywatch		5,000	HCConservancy
		* From PNC prev. yrs reserves	
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon			
Total Operating Expense	1,985	250	300
Income over Expense		(98)	483
TRowe Reserve Account beginning bal. 6/1/16			10649.54
Interest Received in June/July			0.12
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance			5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 7/31/16			16189.66
PNC Bank Balance			
Checking Bal. 06/01/16			12413.62
Checking Bal. 07/31/16		*	6465.73
Petty Cash			45.03
Total Assets			22700.42

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of August 31, 2016

	Budget 2016-17	August Current Month	May - Aug Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		1,441	1,626
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000		
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		128	726
Contributions to MOS			
Total Operating Income	2,000	1,569	2,352
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100		
Meetings:			
Programs	600		50
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		250
Postage, Copies	250	107	107
HCBC Decals		450	450
Pot Luck Supplies	50		
Newsletter & Directory	400	97	97
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,985	654	954
Income over Expense		915	1,398

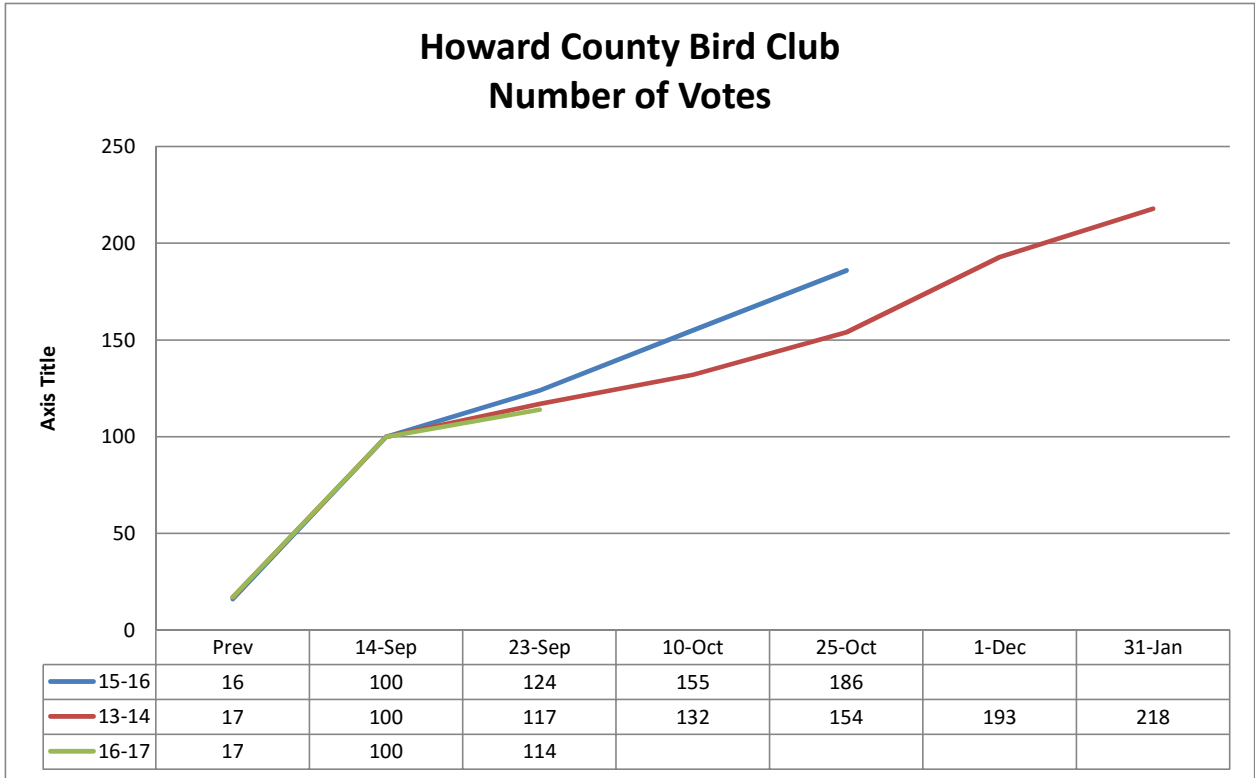
T Rowe Price Prime Reserve acct.

Reserve Account beginning bal. 8/1/16	16189.66
Interest Received in August	0.08
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 7/31/16	16189.74

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 08/01/16	6465.73
Checking Bal. 08/31/16	7381.05
Total Assets	23570.79

YEAR	Prev	14-Sep	23-Sep	10-Oct	25-Oct	1-Dec	31-Jan	
15-16	16	100	124	155	186			Blue line.
13-14	17	100	117	132	154	193	218	Red line.
16-17	17	100	114					Green line. Current total.





Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Notes from the MOS Board meeting

John McKitterick <jbmck@verizon.net>

Mon, Sep 19, 2016 at 5:16 PM

To: John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>, Cindy Albright <cindyalbright@gmail.com>, Robin Todd <Totnesman@aol.com>, Karen Heffernan <khdarcy4@aol.com>, Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>, Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, "Lillie, Kathie" <klillie12@verizon.net>, Howard Patterson <howard21042@verizon.net>

To all (and I'm missing some email addresses on the local board):

The state MOS board meeting was held on Saturday, September 10th at Cylburn arboretum. The following are my notes from that meeting:

1. An ad-hoc committee is being formed to investigate better methods of paying dues. Currently, each local club collects the dues and then forwards some of the money onto MOS. The motivation for this committee is to simplify the process so that the appropriate money is automatically delivered to the right places, without having to write checks. Volunteers are being sought, club treasurers in particular.
2. Budget requests (for next year) need to be in to Paul Zucker by January 1st.
3. The MOS conference will held at Wisp on the weekend of May 19th-21st. Rooms can be booked directly through Wisp.
4. Fred Fallon led a discussion of moving the conference around in the calendar. He noted that there had been a period of time when the conference was held twice a year, with the winter meeting held in Ocean City. Given the decline in attendance at the conference, Fred put forth the idea of having the conference every 18 months, with the fall/winter conferences being held on the Eastern Shore (as the only suitable location during November - January).

5. The on-line MD/DC Birding Guide is getting closer to completion, with the descriptions of 167 sites already completed and accessible on line. More help is needed to complete write-ups of the remaining sites, mostly on the Eastern Shore. The website can be found at MDBirdingGuide.com (note the two 'G's).

--John

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 27, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.) √
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick
Robin Todd
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Sue Muller √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Karen Heffernan. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 13, 2016 was 50 people. Sue Muller introduced and led a discussion on the film “Messenger” that the club had purchased for this purpose and to make it available for other groups that would be interested in learning more about the many threats birds face.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy provided the attached Treasurer’s report for September. Membership dues continue to come in. The invoice for the work on the SkyWatch was received and has been paid. The payment will appear on the October report.

President’s Remarks (Harris): John had included several items on the agenda to be addressed as his remarks. Those who have not yet renewed have received an email reminder. Bob reported that memberships continue to be received on a rate consistent with recent years. He provided a list of those who have not yet renewed to Woody and will send the list to Nancy. As renewals arrive he will provide them with updates so that they can begin calling those on the list. The intent is to have contacted all on the list who have not renewed before Thanksgiving. Sue Muller expressed surprise that our membership was only a little over 200 in such a populous county. Mary Lou commented that she had a number of ideas for increasing club membership. John asked Mary Lou and Sue to serve as an ad hoc membership committee making suggestions for ways to solicit new members.

John mentioned the need to finalize coordinators and tally location for Mid-winter count will be next month’s board meeting. In addition he will need to appoint a Nominating Committee and we should start discussing candidates for Chapter Director, as that is only open position presuming current officers agree to continue. The current officers present agreed that they plan to continue.

We discussed potential actions in memory of Dick Smith. The first agreement was that we would hold a butterfly Labor Day weekend walk at the Lake Elkhorn gardens and butterfly field. It will be called the “Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk.” Sue Muller had spoken to the Rec and Parks Forester and he had agreed they could purchase several Common Hackberry trees to be planted at the Daisy butterfly meadow location, as hackberry is preferred by three species of butterfly (American Snout, Tawny Emperor, and Hackberry Emperor). Although the county will purchase the trees we agreed to inform club that any gifts received in memory of Dick will be given to

Rec and Parks in compensation for the purchase. Sue also stated that although no signs will be posted it might be acceptable to informally refer to the Daisy site as “Dick’s Meadow” as we have promoted “Emy’s Meadow” at Centennial. We did not take any formal action on this idea. *Sec. Note: Subsequently it was pointed out that the meadow was the fruition of actions by the Concerned Citizens of Western Howard County and other community members. Those who worked to save it as a pollinator meadow are best honored by referring to it by the neighborhood’s preference, “Daisy Meadow”. Hence the announcement of the memorial gift opportunity referred to the “Dick Smith Memorial Grove” to potentially be planted at the Daisy Meadow site.*

Several members had made note of an error in the latest Yellowthroat calendar incorrectly listed Dec 18 as a meeting where the “Messenger” will be shown. Bob will post a correction on our web site and include it in a Newsgram later. In reference to Newsgrams, Bob requested that someone agree to carefully proof-read his drafts. Mary Lou agreed to do this.

Sue reported that she had been in touch with Lindsay Jacks who has agreed to give a talk on Lights Out Baltimore at Greenfest 2017.

Lastly Jo described plans for Marty Chestem’s books and miscellaneous item to be made available to members before the November club meeting. Items will be displayed in hallway. There will be no prices but voluntary donations for habitat will be solicited. This will be announced in Newsgram prior to the meeting. Jo (or her designate) will collect donations as Cindy will not be able to attend. Bob will accept membership applications in Cindy’s absence.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): No report.

Records (Jo Solem): No report.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report.

Newsletter (Patterson): Next deadline is November 24.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob has been reformatting the front page of website with better drop-down menus. Galleries are now listed under “Natural History.”

Potluck (Lillie): We have a reservation for the RNC auditorium Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 6 – 10 pm.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): No meeting since our prior Board meeting.

Old Business

SkyWatch – As noted in Treasurer’s Report the invoice for initial construction of the SkyWatch for \$3488 was paid to BrightView Landscape Services. In a related topic Tabby Fique, the Land Manager for the Howard Conservancy had alerted the club to a very good sale price for convertible benches that we might want to purchase for the SkyWatch site. It was agreed we should order four of them. Bob agreed to inform Mike that this purchase could be made using funds remaining in the original \$5000 we had authorized for the SkyWatch.

New Business

Greenfest 2017 – It is time to make early application for participation in the next Greenfest to be held February 4, 2017. Cindy agreed to fill out the application and submit it along with a check for the registration fee. Sue reminded us that early application ensures getting a better location for display. Mary Lou agreed to coordinate finding members to man the display. Bob volunteered to set up and take down the display.

Invitation to “Celebration of Partners in the Parks” – Robin had received and forwarded the club’s invitation to this event to John H. This event sponsored by Howard County Rec and Parks gives organizations that partner with Rec and Parks an opportunity to meet key government officials responsible for the parks. The Solem’s also are invited and recommended John should attend. He will RSVP to the invitation.

2017 Hog Island Scholarships – John H. asked what we need to do regarding the MOS scholarship program. The club should seek potential applicants. Applicants should be Maryland teachers, youth leaders, park rangers, and nature center staff. Applicants need not be MOS members but need to be endorsed by a member or chapter. Bob and Jo agreed to develop an information sheet on the scholarship program to be provided potential candidates. Sue mentioned a newly hired group of Park Rangers who might be candidates. Woody mentioned staff at Mt. Pleasant might be candidates, as well as RNC staff.

Request for Speaking Time at Club Meeting – MOS President, Barbara Johnson had approached John about having 5 minutes to speak to the club at our November meeting. She and Marion Clement, new Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative Coordinator, are trying to attend MOS chapter meetings as a way to communicate with the MOS membership. After consulting the Board, John asked Barbara if she could visit another of our meetings as Chan Robbins is the speaker and the Marty Chestem book give-away is already scheduled for the November meeting. Barbara agreed to reschedule her visit for a future meeting.

Howard Rec & Parks Species Lists – Bob and Jo stated the sudden unexpected death of Dick Smith has motivated them to begin actively working on transition planning. They want to ensure future maintenance and retention of the large amount of natural history data that they are currently responsible for is in place. Cindy stated she would like to volunteer to help this effort. They see the data falling into two major categories, essential bird club material and Rec and Parks reference data. With Sue's help they recently met with Rec and Parks staff responsible for their web site to discuss how they currently link to our web site for species lists for each of the parks. As a first step Bob had prepared a proposed set of revised links that would go directly to the species lists for each individual park instead of the current link which only goes to the Flora and Fauna overview page. They are hopeful that as the county wants to have this material available they will be willing to provide resources and manpower to help maintain and archive the species lists and eventually do the same for more of the reference material we have on the club website, e.g. Amphibian and Reptile Atlas data.

Blandair Park query – Kurt had received a query from club member, Mary Maxey, regarding the pending development of the northern section of Blandair Park. She wanted to know if there was anything the club could do to influence the plans for park which she characterizes as a major loss of habitat. Kurt asked the Board for guidance. The Board discussed the question. Because the period for public comment has long passed, we decided the HCBC will not take action on this issue. John agreed to provide that feedback to Kurt.

Around the Room –

In response to a question Jo reported that Bob and Linda Hunt had received the butterfly information that was on Dick Smith's personal computer.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – John H.
- Notify Joe H. to include Dick Smith Memorial butterfly trip annually – John H. DONE
- Discuss idea of Hackberry plantings with county forester – Sue Muller DONE
- Disburse second half of honorarium (\$500) to Barbara Sikorski – Cindy DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – John H.
- Provide the membership renewal call list to Nancy and Woody – Bob
- Make renewal calls before Thanksgiving – Nancy and Woody
- Draft an item on Dick Smith memorial Hackberry Tree gifts for Newsgram – Bob/Jo
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Draft MOS Scholarship information sheet and provide it to Sue and Woody – Bob & Jo
- Complete Greenfest application and submit with fee – Cindy
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou
- Inform Kurt on our decision on Blandair development – John H.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- HCBC Board of Directors Meeting Agenda – October 27, 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – September 2016

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

October 27, 2016 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Tasks for this month
 - email to members that did not renew
 - Potluck – confirm date
 - Heads-up for next month:
 - Confirm coordinator and area coordinators for Mid-winter Count and tally rally location
 - Follow-up phone calls to members that did not renew
 - Form Nominating Committee/ Discuss possible candidates for next year
 - Need wording for title of annual butterfly walk in memory of Dick Smith
 - This year's title was "Butterflies through Binoculars"
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - BrightView invoice
8. New Business
 - GreenFest 2017
 - Invitation to "Celebration of Partners in Parks"
 - 2017 Hog Island scholarships
 - Request for speaking time at club meeting:
 - Barbara Johnson – President, MOS
 - Marion Clement, new Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative coordinator
9. Action Items Chuck

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10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Karen & Kevin Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City MD 21042
(410) 857-1789
(443) 668-7618

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of September 30, 2016

	Budget 2016-17	September Current Month	May - Sept Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		1,083	1,626
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,000		
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		420	1,146
Contributions to MOS		40	40
Total Operating Income	2,000	1,543	2,812
Expenses			
Supplies for Bird Counts	100		
Meetings:			
Programs	600		50
Hospitality-Chapter & Stat	50		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		250
Postage, Copies	250		107
HCBC Decals			450
Pot Luck Supplies	50		
Newsletter & Directory	400		97
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,985		954
Income over Expense		1,543	1,858

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 9/1/16	16189.74
Interest Received in Sept	0.07
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 9/30/16	16189.81

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 09/01/16	7381.05
Checking Bal. 09/30/16	8923.70
Total Assets	23570.86

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2016

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.)
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Sue Muller √
Kate Tufts √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John McKitterick. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 10, 2016 was 101 people. Chandler Robbins, age 97 and honorary lifetime member of the HCBC, gave a program entitled “My Lifetime Quest for Extinct and Vanishing Birds.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy was not present but had distributed the attached report in advance. The Greenfest fee is \$35 vice the non-profit rate of \$25 as we request to have an electric outlet at our booth so we can use the digital picture frame. Discussing the display prompted Jo to ask who has the display and it was mentioned that Wes Earp was the last to have it for the U of MD Central Farm open house. Jo stated that Wes had proposed having material on the display focused on “Birds and Agriculture.” John agreed to contact Wes and ask him if he has the time to develop this display material.

President’s Remarks (Harris): John stated he will appoint a nominating committee to select candidate for Chapter Director. All of us are encouraged to propose/solicit potential candidates. John H. will confirm Joe Hanfman is still planning to coordinate winter count. Lastly John reported we normally donate a portion of the seed sale proceeds to bird rehabilitator, Judy Holzman at this time of year. Bob moved and it was approved that we donate \$300 to All Creatures Great and Small.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou reported she had shared some of her ideas on membership with Sue Muller but they have not yet met to discuss further. Bob reminded them that if anyone joins after February they get membership for remainder of this membership year and all of the following year.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): Joe has been working on spring schedule. Sue Muller reported that she had attended an event at West Friendship Antique Machinery Museum promoting partnership between Recreation and Parks and the Antique Machinery club. She raised the possibility that we could use this initiative to motivate RNC staff into letting us hold one of our four RNC events at West Friendship Park, rather than being restricted to RNC and MPEA.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo remarked it has been a quiet fall. Few waterfowl have been observed except for the two Greater White-fronted Geese and one Long-tailed Duck. She remarked the SkyWatch seems to be off to a good start. Mount Pleasant staff appears to be pleased with the activity. There were at least two good Broadwinged Hawk flight days.

Conservation (Schwarz): See below for discussion of Belt Woods issue. Kurt is planning to attend the “Pesticides and The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Project annual conference on Friday November 18.

Newsletter (Patterson): No remarks.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has added “breadcrumbs” to the top of each web page so that you can see where you are in the website structure and navigate more easily.

Potluck (Lillie): No report.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): No meeting since prior Howard board meeting. Next meeting is December 3.

Old Business

Hackberry Tree grove discussion – In follow-up to our plans to have a few Hackberry trees planted in Dick Smith’s memory, John H. had asked Kate Tufts to attend representing the groups responsible for acquiring and having Rec and Parks establish the pollinator meadow in Daisy. Sue Muller summarized the meeting she and the Solem’s had with Rec and Parks staff in which one of the staff had raised the possibility of informally referring to the site as Dick’s Meadow as we have been doing with Emy’s Meadow at Centennial. Subsequently we learned and agreed that given the preference of the local community the site is best referred to as the Daisy Meadow. In honor of Dick we will informally refer to a planting of Hackberry trees adjacent to the meadow as the Dick Smith Memorial Grove. Sue had visited the site with the county forester and he proposed planting the trees in a “stub” on the south of the property where he had planned to clear out the existing undesirable Pear and Ash trees. Kate expressed concerns that too many trees would be planted and that as they grow to full height they could create excess shade on the meadow. We agreed that the forester, Dave Keane, would be able to address these concerns in planning the planting. Sue took an action to speak with Dave and communicate these concerns, and then let Kate and John know the status after she speaks to him. In response to a question Sue stated that the variety of Hackberry to be planted is the one preferred by the rare butterflies.

Marty Chestem’s book sale results – Jo reported that the large turnout at the meeting resulted in getting rid of most of the books. The RNC staff were very helpful in her setting up the displays. Over \$300 was donated for habitat. Sue Muller took the remaining books for use at various Rec and Parks events and locations. Jo has sent Marty, who is the last surviving original founding member of HCBC, a nice thank you note. Jo still has several miscellaneous items from Marty that she chose to separate from the books. These include pottery oil lamps, music boxes, bookends, a stone owl carving, and an ivory carving. It was noted that the ivory carving may well be quite valuable and we need to have a proper valuation before disposing of it.

Request for speaking time at club meeting – John indicated that Barbara Johnson, MOS President, had agreed to come speak to the club at a future meeting. We agreed to extend her an invitation to attend the December meeting. John took an action to contact her. *Sec. Note: Subsequently she and Marion Clement, MD-BCI Coordinator, agreed to attend and speak briefly at our December meeting.*

Membership renewals update – Bob reported that as the current membership renewal is up to 227 which is ahead of normal pace. Nancy and Woody had approximately 50 names on the list of non-renewals to be called and renewals have been coming in as a result.

New Business

HCBC Bird Lists and AOU 57 – Bob reported that the latest Supplement to the American Ornithological Union list of birds (No. 57) has been published and implemented in the Official List of Maryland Birds published by the MD/DC Records Committee. This supplement makes some fairly dramatic changes in the sequencing of birds. Bob had distributed a list of Howard County birds that shows how the sequence will change. Bob wanted to get agreement on when we would adopt the change in our documentation. Chuck stated that he had already had updated his master spreadsheets used for seasonal counts and would prefer to implement the change with the first of the year. The first count to be impacted would be the Mid-winter Count. The Board agreed to adopt AOU 57 at the beginning of 2017. *Sec. Note: Bob provided an updated version of the checklist after the meeting that I have attached.*

Belt Woods letter – Kurt summarized an issue he has been addressing dealing with a change in deer hunting practices at the Belt Wood NEA. Belt Woods is the last remaining old growth forest areas in Maryland. HCBC had donated \$2000 to the purchase of the property to preserve it in 1997. DNR opened the property to public hunting this October. Prior to that limited managed hunts had been conducted under the auspices of a manager from the Western Shore Conservancy who had been hired by DNR. The concern is that the increased access of public hunting will damage the unique habitat of the woods that was to be preserved in accordance with requirements established when the property was purchased for the state. Secondly the change was made with no opportunity for public comment by the stakeholders. Kurt had drafted a letter to the Secretary of DNR as chair of the MOS Conservation Committee. He was asking the board to have HCBC sign onto the letter. It was moved and approved that we would adopt the MOS position and add our endorsement to the letter. Kurt was planning to continue working on the letter, including getting support from other chapters and the American Bird Conservancy. He stated his plans included attending a meeting of the Bowie town council the following week in which the issue was to be discussed.

Around the Room –

- Howard remarked that of the ten participants in the Bob Ringler led trip to Costa Rica, eight are from HCBC.
- Bob reported that his query regarding adding a link to "Birdwatching Guide" (<http://www.tripbuzz.com/birdwatching-guide/>) had only received one reply, but since it was positive he has added it as a resource link on our website.
- Bob reported he will put out a Newsgram with several topics: Belt Woods issue, fact that the Rec & Parks website now has links direct to our species list by park, and the results of Chestem books donation.
- Kurt urged everyone to keep eyes open for Brown Pelicans in county, given major irruption being observed on the Chesapeake Bay.
- Jo reported that they had attended the Rec and Parks "Partners in the Park" event at RNC the previous Sunday. She took the opportunity to speak with John Marshall, Chief, Parks & Program Services, about plans for Blandair Park. She informed him our position is that it is too late to impact plans for north side of park. He expressed his belief that the north portion is to have a "nature focus." Lastly Jo asked about the repairs to board walks damaged by flood at Font Hill Wetlands Park. She learned repairs have begun and are expected to be repaired within two weeks.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Solicit volunteers for a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – John H. UPDATE
- Provide the membership renewal call list to Nancy and Woody – Bob DONE
- Make renewal calls before Thanksgiving – Nancy and Woody DONE
- Draft an item on Dick Smith memorial Hackberry Tree gifts for Newsgram – Bob/Jo DONE
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Draft MOS Scholarship information sheet and provide it to Sue and Woody – Bob & Jo DONE
- Complete Greenfest application and submit with fee – Cindy DONE
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou
- Inform Kurt on our decision on Blandair development – John H. DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H.
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou
- Ask Wes Earp to prepare material on “Birds and Agriculture” for club display – John H.
- Send donation of \$300 to All Creatures Great and Small – Cindy
- Communicate concerns about number of trees and shade on the meadow to forester – Sue Muller
- Extend invitation to Barbara Johnson and Marion Clement for December 8 meeting – John H.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 17, 2016
- Treasurer’s Report – October 31, 2016
- Field Checklist of the Birds of Howard County, Maryland – sorted into AOU 57 order

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

November 17, 2016 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions? All
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Tasks for this month
 - Form nominating committee /discuss possible candidates for next year
 - Heads-up for next month:
 - State Board of Directors meeting
 - "All Creatures Great and Small" letter
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - Hackberry Tree grove discussion
 - Marty Chestem's book sale results
 - Request for speaking time at club meeting
 - Barbara Johnson, President, MOS, Marion Clement, MD-BCI coordinator
 - Membership renewals update
8. New Business
 - HCBC bird lists and AOU57
 - Belt Woods letter
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

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Meeting Location:

John McKitterick
10018 Maple Ave
Columbia MD 21046

(410) 997-3122

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of October 31, 2016

	Budget 2016-17	October Current Month	May - Oct Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		1,416	4,234
State Dues Paid		1,805	1,805
Net Membership Dues	2,000	(389)	2,429
Seed - donation from Wildlife Auth.		750	750
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		493	1,679
Total Operating Income	2,000	854	4,858
Expenses			
Skywatch Installation (drawn from PNC reserve)		3,488	3,488
Honorarium - Intern Barbara Sikorski		500	1,000
Programs	600	100	150
Hospitality-Chapter & State	50		
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		250
Postage, Copies	250		107
HCBC Decals			450
Newsletter & Directory	400		179
Potluck supplies			
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,835	600	1,136
Income over Expense		254	3,722

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 10/1/16	16189.81
Interest Received in Oct	0.05
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 10/31/16	16189.86

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 10/01/16	8923.70
Checking Bal. 10/31/16	5688.42
Total Assets	21878.28

Field Checklist of the Birds of Howard County, Maryland

Howard County Bird Club

Sorted into AOU 57 order

_____	Pink-footed Goose *	A	_____	Rufous Hummingbird *	A	_____	Common Loon	M,WV
_____	Gtr White-fronted Goose *	A	_____	Black Rail *	A	_____	Double-crested Cormorant	M,SV,WV
_____	Snow Goose	M,WV	_____	King Rail *	C	_____	Anhinga *	A
_____	Ross's Goose *	A	_____ ●	Virginia Rail	M, SR	_____	American Bittern	M
_____	Brant *	H	_____	American Coot	M,WV	_____	Least Bittern *	C
_____	Cackling Goose	WV	_____	Limpkin *	A	_____ ●	Great Blue Heron	M,PR
_____ ●	Canada Goose	M,PR	_____	Sandhill Crane *	C	_____	Great Egret	M,SV
_____ ●	Mute Swan *	C	_____	Black-necked Stilt *	A	_____	Snowy Egret *	C
_____	Trumpeter Swan	A	_____	American Avocet *	C	_____	Little Blue Heron	M,SV
_____	Tundra Swan	M,WV	_____ ●	Sora	M	_____	Tricolored Heron *	A
_____ ●	Wood Duck	M,SR,WV	_____	Black-bellied Plover	M	_____	Cattle Egret	M,SV
_____ ●	Gadwall	M,WV	_____	American Golden-Plover	M	_____ ●	Green Heron	M,SR
_____	Eurasian Wigeon *	A	_____ ●	Common Gallinule *	C	_____	Black-crowned Night-Heron	M,SV
_____	American Wigeon	M,WV	_____	Semipalmated Plover	M	_____ ●	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	SV
_____ ●	American Black Duck	M,WV	_____	Piping Plover *	A	_____	White Ibis *	C
_____ ●	Mallard	M,PR	_____ ●	Killdeer	M,PR	_____	Glossy Ibis	C
_____	Blue-winged Teal	M	_____	Upland Sandpiper	C	_____ ●	Black Vulture	M,PR
_____	Northern Shoveler	M,WV	_____	Whimbrel*	H	_____ ●	Turkey Vulture	M,PR
_____	Northern Pintail	M,WV	_____	Ruddy Turnstone *	H	_____	Osprey	M,SV
_____	Green-winged Teal	M,WV	_____	Red Knot *	H	_____	Swallow-tailed Kite *	A
_____	Canvasback	M,WV	_____	Stilt Sandpiper *	C	_____	Mississippi Kite *	C
_____	Redhead	M,WV	_____	Sanderling	C	_____ ●	Bald Eagle	M,PR
_____	Ring-necked Duck	M,WV	_____	Dunlin	C	_____	Northern Harrier	M,WV
_____	Greater Scaup	M,WV	_____	Baird's Sandpiper *	A	_____	Sharp-shinned Hawk	M,WR
_____	Lesser Scaup	M,WV	_____	Least Sandpiper	M,SV	_____ ●	Cooper's Hawk	M,PR
_____	Surf Scoter *	C	_____	White-rumped Sandpiper *	C	_____	Northern Goshawk *	M,WV
_____	White-winged Scoter *	C	_____	Buff-breasted Sandpiper *	C	_____ ●	Red-shouldered Hawk	M,PR
_____	Black Scoter *	C	_____	Pectoral Sandpiper	M,SV	_____ ●	Broad-winged Hawk	M,SR
_____	Long-tailed Duck	M,WV	_____	Semipalmated Sandpiper	M,SV	_____ ●	Red-tailed Hawk	M,PR
_____	Bufflehead	M,WV	_____	Western Sandpiper *	C	_____	Rough-legged Hawk *	M,WV
_____	Common Goldeneye	M,WV	_____	Short-billed Dowitcher *	C	_____	Golden Eagle *	C
_____ ●	Hooded Merganser	M,WV	_____ ●	Long-billed Dowitcher *	A	_____ ●	Barn Owl *	C
_____ ●	Common Merganser	M,WR	_____ ●	Wilson's Snipe	M,WV	_____ ●	Eastern Screech-Owl	PR
_____	Red-breasted Merganser	M,WV	_____	American Woodcock	M,SR,WV	_____ ●	Great Horned Owl	PR
_____	Ruddy Duck	M,WV	_____	Spotted Sandpiper	M,SV	_____	Snowy Owl *	A
_____ ●	Northern Bobwhite *	PR	_____	Solitary Sandpiper	M,SV	_____ ●	Barred Owl	PR
_____ ●	Ring-necked Pheasant *	PR	_____	Greater Yellowlegs	M,SV	_____	Long-eared Owl	C
_____ ●	Wild Turkey	PR	_____	Lesser Yellowlegs	M,SV	_____	Short-eared Owl	C
_____	Pied-billed Grebe	M,WV	_____	Wilson's Phalarope *	A	_____	Northern Saw-whet Owl	C
_____	Horned Grebe	M,WV	_____	Red Phalarope *	A	_____ ●	Belted Kingfisher	PR
_____	Red-necked Grebe *	C	_____	Sabine's Gull *	A	_____ ●	Red-headed Woodpecker	M,WV, SR
_____	Eared Grebe *	A	_____	Bonaparte's Gull	M,WV	_____ ●	Red-bellied Woodpecker	PR
_____	Western Grebe *	H	_____	Little Gull *	A	_____	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	M,WV
_____ ●	Rock Pigeon	PR	_____	Laughing Gull	M	_____ ●	Downy Woodpecker	PR
_____	Eurasian Collared-Dove *	A	_____	Ring-billed Gull	M,SV,WR	_____ ●	Hairy Woodpecker	PR
_____ ●	Mourning Dove	PR	_____	Herring Gull	M,WR	_____ ●	Northern Flicker	M,PR
_____ ●	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	M,SR	_____	Thayer's Gull *	A	_____ ●	Pileated Woodpecker	PR
_____ ●	Black-billed Cuckoo	M,SR	_____	Iceland Gull *	C	_____ ●	American Kestrel	M,PR
_____	Common Nighthawk	M	_____	Lesser Black-backed Gull *	C	_____	Merlin	M,WV
_____	Chuck-will's-widow *	C	_____	Glaucous Gull *	C	_____	Peregrine Falcon	M,WV
_____ ●	Eastern Whip-poor-will	M,SR?	_____	Great Black-backed Gull	M,WV	_____	Olive-sided Flycatcher	M
_____ ●	Chimney Swift	M,SR	_____	Least Tern *	A	_____ ●	Eastern Wood-Pewee	M,SR
_____	Mexican Violetear *	A	_____	Caspian Tern	M,SV	_____	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	M
_____ ●	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	M,SR	_____	Black Tern	C	_____ ●	Acadian Flycatcher	M,SR
			_____	Common Tern *	C	_____	Alder Flycatcher *	C
			_____	Forster's Tern	M	_____ ●	Willow Flycatcher	M,SR
			_____	Red-throated Loon *	C	_____ ●	Least Flycatcher	M,SV

_____ ●	Eastern Phoebe	M,SR,WV	_____	Pine Siskin	M,WV	_____	Swamp Sparrow	M,WR
_____ ●	Great Crested Flycatcher	M,SR	_____ ●	American Goldfinch	PR	_____	White-throated Sparrow	M,WR
_____ ●	Eastern Kingbird	M,SR	_____	Evening Grosbeak *	C	_____	Harris's Sparrow *	A
_____	Loggerhead Shrike *	C	_____	Lapland Longspur *	C	_____	White-crowned Sparrow	M,WR
_____	Northern Shrike *	A	_____	Snow Bunting *	C	_____	Dark-eyed Junco	M,WR
_____ ●	White-eyed Vireo	M,SR	_____ ●	Ovenbird	M,SR	_____	Summer Tanager	M,SV
_____ ●	Yellow-throated Vireo	M,SR	_____ ●	Worm-eating Warbler	M,SR	_____ ●	Scarlet Tanager	M,SR
_____	Blue-headed Vireo	M	_____	Orange-crowned Warbler	M,WV	_____	Western Tanager	A
_____	Philadelphia Vireo	M (fall)	_____ ●	Louisiana Waterthrush	M,SR	_____ ●	Northern Cardinal	PR
_____ ●	Warbling Vireo	M,SR	_____	Northern Waterthrush	M	_____	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	M
_____ ●	Red-eyed Vireo	M,SR	_____	Golden-winged Warbler	M	_____ ●	Blue Grosbeak	M,SR
_____ ●	Blue Jay	M,PR	_____ ●	Blue-winged Warbler	M,SR	_____ ●	Indigo Bunting	M,SR
_____ ●	American Crow	PR	_____ ●	Black-and-white Warbler	M,SR	_____	Painted Bunting *	A
_____ ●	Fish Crow	PR	_____ ●	Prothonotary Warbler	M,SR	_____ ●	Dickcissel *	M,SV,WV
_____ ●	Common Raven	C,PR	_____	Tennessee Warbler	M	_____	Bobolink	M
_____ ●	Horned Lark	M,PR	_____	Nashville Warbler	M	_____ ●	Red-winged Blackbird	M,PR
_____ ●	Purple Martin	M,SR	_____	Connecticut Warbler	M (fall)	_____ ●	Eastern Meadowlark	PR
_____ ●	Tree Swallow	M,SR	_____	Mourning Warbler	M	_____	Yellow-headed Blackbird *	A
_____ ●	N. Rough-winged Swallow	M,SR	_____ ●	Kentucky Warbler	M,SR	_____	Rusty Blackbird	M,WV
_____ ●	Bank Swallow	M,SV	_____ ●	Common Yellowthroat	M,SR	_____	Brewer's Blackbird *	A
_____ ●	Cliff Swallow	M,SR	_____ ●	Hooded Warbler	M,SR	_____ ●	Common Grackle	M,PR
_____ ●	Barn Swallow	M,SR	_____ ●	American Redstart	M,SR	_____ ●	Brown-headed Cowbird	M,PR
_____ ●	Carolina Chickadee	PR	_____	Cape May Warbler	M	_____ ●	Orchard Oriole	M,SR
_____	Black-capped Chickadee *	C,WV	_____ ●	Cerulean Warbler	M,SR	_____ ●	Baltimore Oriole	M,SR
_____ ●	Tufted Titmouse	PR	_____ ●	Northern Parula	M,SR			
_____	Red-breasted Nuthatch	M,WV	_____	Magnolia Warbler	M			
_____ ●	White-breasted Nuthatch	M,PR	_____	Bay-breasted Warbler	M			
_____	Brown Creeper	M,WR	_____	Blackburnian Warbler	M			
_____ ●	House Wren	M,SR	_____ ●	Yellow Warbler	M,SR			
_____	Winter Wren	M,WR	_____	Chestnut-sided Warbler	M			
_____	Sedge Wren *	C	_____	Blackpoll Warbler	M			
_____	Marsh Wren	M	_____	Black-throated Blue Warbler	M			
_____ ●	Carolina Wren	PR	_____	Palm Warbler	M			
_____ ●	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	M,SR	_____ ●	Pine Warbler	M,SR			
_____	Golden-crowned Kinglet	M,WR	_____	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	M,WV			
_____	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	M,WV	_____ ●	Yellow-throated Warbler	M,SR			
_____ ●	Eastern Bluebird	PR	_____ ●	Prairie Warbler	M,SR			
_____ ●	Veery	M,SR	_____	Black-throated Green Warbler	M			
_____	Gray-cheeked Thrush	M	_____	Canada Warbler	M			
_____	Bicknell's Thrush *	A,M	_____	Wilson's Warbler	M			
_____	Swainson's Thrush	M	_____ ●	Yellow-breasted Chat	M,SR			
_____	Hermit Thrush	M,WR	_____ ●	Eastern Towhee	M,PR			
_____ ●	Wood Thrush	M,SR	_____	American Tree Sparrow	M,WR			
_____ ●	American Robin	M,PR	_____ ●	Chipping Sparrow	M,SR,WV			
_____	Varied Thrush *	A	_____	Clay-colored Sparrow *	C			
_____ ●	Gray Catbird	M,SR,WV	_____ ●	Field Sparrow	M,PR			
_____ ●	Brown Thrasher	M,SR,WV	_____ ●	Vesper Sparrow	M,SR			
_____ ●	Northern Mockingbird	PR	_____	Lark Sparrow *	A			
_____ ●	European Starling	PR	_____ ●	Savannah Sparrow				
_____ ●	Cedar Waxwing	M,PR	_____	M,WR,SR?				
_____ ●	House Sparrow	PR	_____	Grasshopper Sparrow	M,SR			
_____	American Pipit	M,WV	_____	Henslow's Sparrow *	C			
_____ ●	House Finch	PR	_____	LeConte's Sparrow *	A			
_____	Purple Finch	M,WV	_____	Nelson's Sparrow *	M			
_____	Red Crossbill *	C	_____	Fox Sparrow	M,WR			
_____	White-winged Crossbill *	C	_____ ●	Song Sparrow	M,PR			
_____	Common Redpoll *	C	_____	Lincoln's Sparrow	M			

For comparison purposes only. This does not include all of the information in the current official version.

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2017

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.) √
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Sue Muller

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Howard Patterson. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 8 was 57 people. Greg Kerns gave a program entitled "Of Rice and Rails." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 12 was 81 people. David H. Johnson was scheduled to give a program entitled "Owls in Myth and Culture: In-depth Results from a Global Study" but he was a no show due to illness. Steve Sheffield, Bowie State University faculty and a fellow collaborator, gave an extemporaneous synopsis of what he knew of Johnson's topic and his own experience with owls.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had distributed the attached Treasurer's report as of the end of December. She also passed around the attached table showing the balance of club funds in our checking and savings accounts at the end of the club fiscal year (April 30) for the past eight years. She was observing the expenditure of funds for habitat was coming from our annual income and not our long term savings. In preparation for the discussion of the MPEA request it was noted that the Treasurer's Report shows a balance of \$2357 for Contributions to Habitat Preservation. *Sec. Note: This balance does not reflect that in the past year we spent \$5000 for Gudelsky Center expansion, \$3488 on the SkyWatch installation, \$1000 for Pollinator Plot intern, and \$300 for All Creatures Great and Small. Historically these might all have been considered habitat fund expenditures. The \$566 spent on benches was deducted from the Habitat Fund balance.*

President's Remarks (Harris): John was out of town but had provided the agenda and briefed Mary Lou on his remarks.

Vice-President's Remarks (Clark):

- In preparation for May Count John wanted to confirm coordinators and hostess for the tally. Karen confirmed that she and Kevin are still planning to coordinate. Kathie confirmed that she will be hosting the tally at her home.
- Planning for the four RNC events are required to be planned in time to have information to RNC staff by late April. Joe Hanfman has begun planning but status was not known.
- The MOS Planning Retreat is scheduled for this coming Saturday, Jan 28. Mary Lou, Robin, Kurt, and Sue Muller are planning to attend. John is not expected to be back from helping his Mom so will probably not attend.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): No report from Joe. Howard reported he has schedule through April 22 and has asked Joe if there are other trips following that would go in the next March-April issue of The Goldfinch. Someone pointed out that we list two events on April 22, a trip to Mt. Pleasant and Greenfest. It was agreed this was not an issue as even if someone wanted to do both they could visit Greenfest after the field trip.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo commented that there has been only limited evidence of boreal species so far this winter. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches, no Pine Siskins, and a few Purple Finches. There have been both Ross' and Snow Geese. One Long-eared Owl gave some an excellent views/photos and at least one Northern Saw-whet Owl at Annapolis Rock. A few ducks have begun to arrive but not in large numbers. No super rarities have been reported in the county.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present. He has put out a heads up that we need to monitor the County Executive's recent proposed revision of Tier IV zoning in the western part of the county.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard is hoping to have a short article on the results at SkyWatch for the next issue. He was informed the Mike Kerwin was supposed to be working on the report for The Howard County Conservancy and would be best bet for newsletter article. He also would like to get an announcement article for the August 5 Odenate Count from June Tveekrem. This date was chosen to avoid conflict with the BioBlitz scheduled for Mt. Pleasant on August 12.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has added a series of bar counts at the bottom of the Seasonal Count page that shows historical total species for each of the three counts for all past counts.

Potluck (Lillie): Plans are in place for the potluck on March 25.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): The latest state board meeting was held at Conowingo Dam Visitor Center on December 3. John McKitterick sent the Board an excellent summary of the meeting in an email dated December 4.

Old Business

Hackberry Tree grove discussion – Sue Muller reported that after consideration Rec and Parks decided not to plant the proposed grove at the Daisy meadow location. Instead they have chosen to plant three smaller groves (probably 4-5 trees) at three different parks. They will be planted at Western Regional, Meadowbrook, and West Friendship Parks most likely next spring. Although no signs are placed with memorial plantings we can and will still refer to these as the Dick Smith Groves just as we refer to Emy's Pollinator Plots at Centennial or the Clegg Meadow at MPEA. Cindy stated that there have been a few donations made in Dick's memory and these should be provided to Rec and Parks to apply toward the purchase of trees.

Committee for find new Chapter Director – The nominating committee, composed of Nancy McAllister and Mike Kerwin, will need to announce the slate of officers at the club March meeting. David Sandler has agreed to be nominated as the Chapter Director.

SkyWatch Signage – Woody reported that HCC is making progress on their plans to have all new signs at Mt. Pleasant. They will have them designed and made by a professional firm. Their hope is have them prepared in time for the opening of the new expansion of the Gudelsky Center this spring. We will probably want to have the signs for the SkyWatch prepared by the same firm so they are consistent with the rest of signs on the property. The committee has exchanged several emails regarding what they will want in the way of signs. Jo stated they are envisioning three items at the site and a fourth up near the trail head pointing the way to the SkyWatch. The three items envisioned are 1) sign explaining that the site was donated by the HCBC and potentially a formal name for the site, 2) a sign with silhouettes of 13 commonly expected raptors, and 3) a kiosk with storage space and a means to mount a white board on which a day's sightings would be entered. Lastly

she mentioned that Mike Kerwin had proposed we might want to name the site the “Chandler S. Robbins SkyWatch.” After a brief discussion it was clear that it is the sense of the board that we approve of this proposal. Woody took an action to determine the status of Mt. Pleasant signage efforts and inform them of our interest in employing the same design firm for consistency. Second he will find out if the Conservancy would be supportive of our proposal to dedicate the site in Chan’s honor.

New Business

Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU) – John H. had forwarded a copy of the updated MOU to the Board just prior to the meeting. We agreed that all should read the draft and offer any comments for consideration. Following that John will send out an email asking the board to vote on approving the MOU amendment.

Membership report and online application procedure – Bob had distributed the attached membership summary in advance of the meeting. Sue Muller asked where she could get copies of our membership “rack cards” to hand out at a program she is giving at RNC in early February. Robin said he thought they had been given to John H, but he is out of town. Sue was told there are probably some in the rack at RNC to satisfy her need. Bob pointed out that we may need to get some more printed and must update the meeting time on the card. Cindy agreed to follow-up on determining how many we have left and updating the form for reprinting when needed. Bob also has revised the online application web pages to address several problems some had using it by making it less confusing. The updated pages are attached.

Subsequent to the meeting, the webmaster added the following to the online and printed membership application forms: "MEMBERSHIP YEAR is September 1 thru August 30 (*not* 12 months from the time you joined). NEW MEMBERS *ONLY* joining *after* February 1: You become members of the Howard County Bird Club for the remainder of the current membership year *and* all of the next membership year but *not* members of Maryland Ornithological Society until September 1. (You can still use all of the feature on the [MOS web page.](#)) For other arrangements please [email us.](#)

Proposal for funding for MPEA – Kurt had forwarded a habitat improvement grant request he had received from Cheryl Farfaras, Natural Resources Manager, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (attached). The proposal is for Virginia Pine Stand Enhancement and Transitional Edge Planting as part of the Early Successional Habitat Restoration project. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we fund this grant for \$1,170. Cindy will contact Cheryl and issue check for grant.

HCC Storytelling Workshops – Woody had been asked to forward a query from Howard County Conservancy asking if we could promote their upcoming workshops on Storytelling. The consensus of the Board was that this wouldn’t be consistent with our basic policy on what we will promote to our membership as it doesn’t have any direct connection to our basic purpose of promoting birds and nature in general nor is it being given by a club member and additionally it charges for attendance. Accordingly we will not promote these events.

March 2017 club meeting and event in honor of Dick Smith – Initial concerns that trying to hold the Dick Smith event in advance of the March speaker might create a time crunch have been resolved. Nancy McAllister ,speaker, and Linda Hunt, handling the memorial, are both comfortable with the plan.

Robinson Nature Center request for list of names which may borrow skins - As part of the MOU review, RNC has asked that we update the list of club members authorized to borrow some of the bird skin specimens for making educational presentations. *Sec. Note: Following the meeting the Secretary distributed the list that was contained in the original 2000 MOU to the Board. It has a number of former members that are no longer active in club and should be deleted from the updated list.*

Around the Room -

- Kathie said she was thinking about putting together a slide show of “bird cartoons” for the potluck, in a way of continuing Marty Chestem’s traditional placemats. She was soliciting other to submit cartoons. Mary Lou pointed out it might be easier to just search on-line for cartoons as there wouldn’t be much time for others to collect them.

- Kathie also stated that the issue with using our computer with RNC A/V setup may be resolved by steps being taken by RNC. She and John McKitterick are recommending we hold off on potential purchase of a new computer until we know how things work at next meeting. We have fallback of using RNC computer for now.
- Woody reported that construction is proceeding at Mt. Pleasant and they are still on track for completion by mid-May. The stream restoration is also proceeding. When work in in progress people are asked to avoid the area.
- Chuck summarized the email Wes Earp had sent John H regarding his proposals for potential changes to our display, especially as it is used at the CMREC Open House. John had an action to ask Wes if he would work on display material regarding birds and agriculture. Wes responded that he felt a display on eagles might be a better idea. He would need to do some research if he were to tackle the birds and agriculture topic. The Board agreed that eagles might be an easier and better topic for display. John H was given an action to contact Wes and see if he would be willing to work on the eagle display.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H.
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou
- Ask Wes Earp to prepare material on “Birds and Agriculture” for club display – John H. DONE
- Send donation of \$300 to All Creatures Great and Small – Cindy DONE
- Communicate concerns about number of trees and shade on the meadow to forester – Sue Muller DONE
- Extend invitation to Barbara Johnson and Marion Clement for December 8 meeting – John H. DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H.
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou
- Ask Wes Earp to prepare material on “Eagles” for club display – John H.
- Discuss status of signage with HCC and ask about proposed naming of SkyWatch – Woody
- Conduct an email vote on Board acceptance of amended MOU – John H
- Assess need to reprint membership “rack cards” & prepare updated version as needed – Cindy
- Contact Cheryl Farfaras and issue check for MPEA grant – Cindy
- Coordinate updated list of members approved for use of bird skins/specimens – Jo/John H

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – January 26, 2017
- Treasurer’s Report – Howard County Bird Club – December 31, 2016
- Membership Report – January 25, 2017
- HCBC Historical Summary of Net Worth
- On-line Application revised web page screen shots
- Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal – MPEA – January 2017

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

January 26, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Confirm coordinators for May Count and location of tally rally
 - Begin planning next year's RNC Programs with details for late April delivery
 - MOS retreat
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - Hackberry Tree grove discussion?
 - Committee to find new Chapter Director
 - Committee: Nancy McAllister, Mike Kerwin
 - Slate to be announced at March meeting
 - Skywatch signage
8. New Business
 - Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU)
 - Membership report and online application procedure (Bob)
 - Proposal for funding for MPEA – Kurt Schwarz
 - HCC Storytelling Workshops
 - March 2017 club meeting and event in honor of Dick Smith
 - Robinson Nature Center request for list of names which may borrow skins
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

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Meeting Location:

Howard Patterson

4209 Hermitage Dr.
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(410) 461-9686
(410) 736-3064

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of December 31, 2016

	Budget 2016-17	December Current Month	May - Dec Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		498	5,497
State Dues Paid		1,410	3,215
Net Membership Dues	2,000	(912)	2,282
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		404	2,357
Total Operating Income	2,000	(508)	4,639
Expenses			
Skywatch install (Used PNC funds-didn't deduct from current income)			[3488]
Honorarium - Intern Barbara Sikorski			1,000
Programs	600	100	260
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		250
Postage, Copies	250		180
HCBC Decals			450
Newsletter & Directory	400	100	379
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300	300	300
Greenfest	35	35	35
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,785	535	2,854
Income less Expense		(1,043)	1,785

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

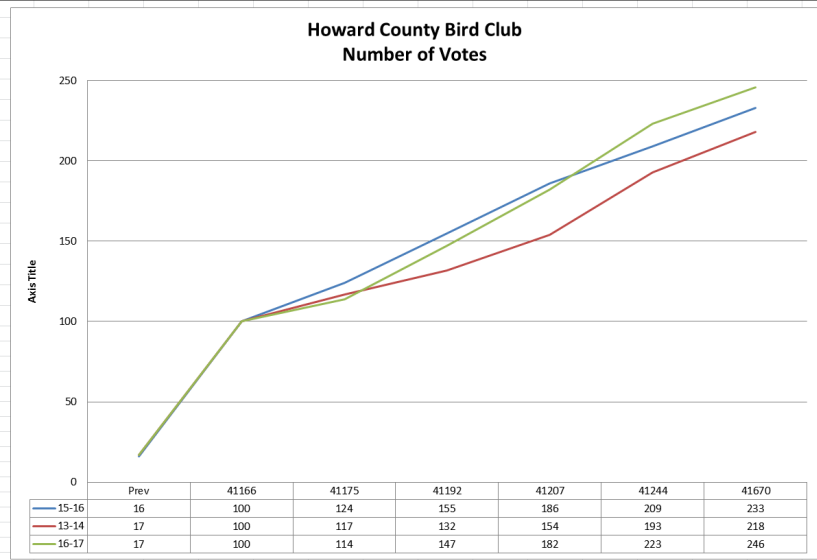
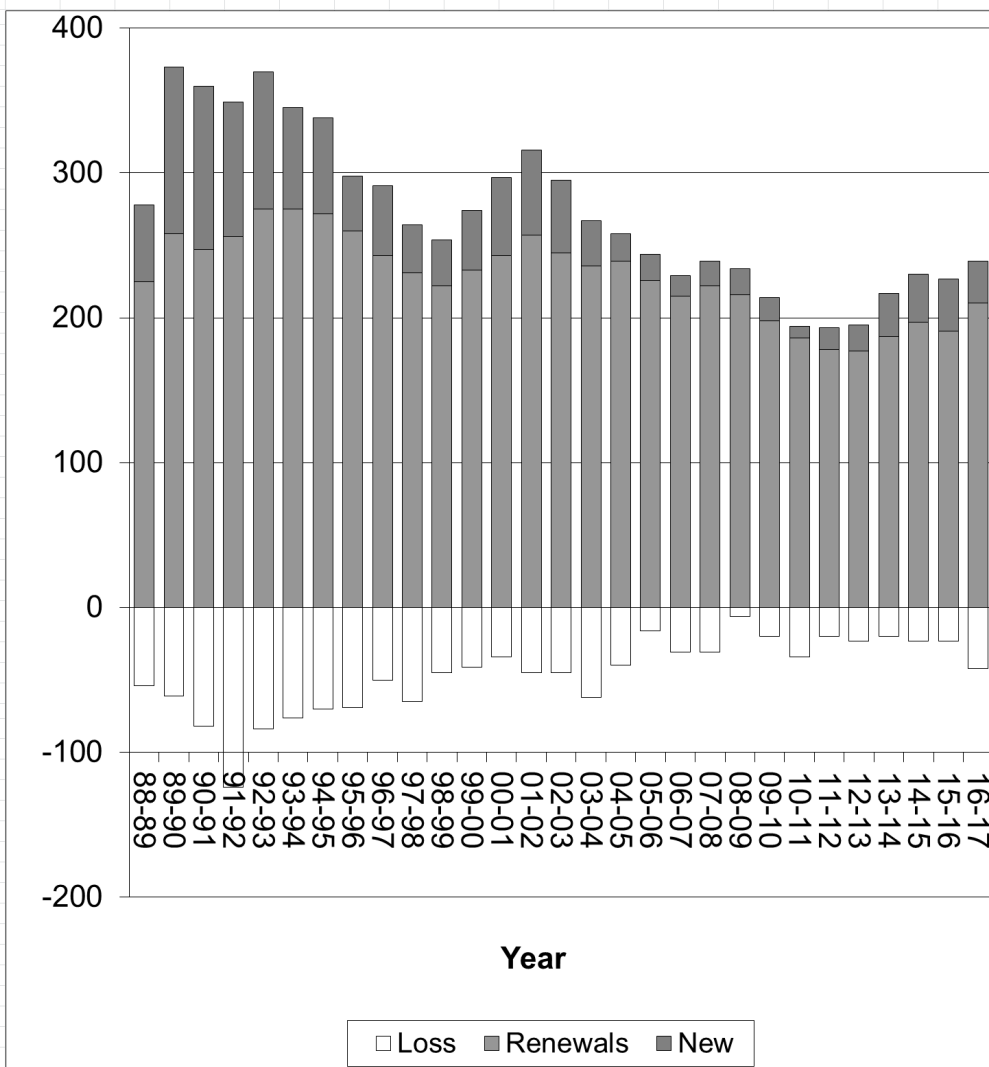
Reserve Account beginning bal. 12/1/16		16189.92
Interest Received in Dec		1.01
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00	16190.93
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 12/31/16		

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 12/01/16		6451.79
Checking Bal. 12/31/16		4807.62
Total Assets		20998.55

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
Net Worth
Fiscal year from May 1 - April 30
since 2009

	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016-17 as of 12/31/16	\$ 4,968	\$ 16,190	21,158
2015-16	11,783	16,190	27,973
2014-15	8,554	16,189	24,743
2013-14	6,305	16,188	22,493
2012-13	4,267	16,187	20,454
2011-12	3,409	16,186	19,594
2010-11	1,990	16,185	18,175
2009-10	2,536	16,183	18,718



Class of Membership & Payment Method REQUIRED

\$40.00 Household (one address)
Number of Juniors in household:

\$25.00 Individual

\$5.00 Junior (under 18, no adult is member)

\$5.00 If member of another chapter: Howard County Chapter dues only
Primary Chapter:

\$90.00 Sustaining. **The Goldfinch (newsletter), directory, and special notices are delivered by E-mail.**

\$5.00. Hard copy delivery (by postal mail) of newsletter & directory.

Special Contributions:
(in addition to dues)

\$ to Howard for:

\$ to MOS for:

\$ **TOTAL amount submitted**

Payment Method:

- Credit Card
- PayPal
- Check sent by mail

Howard County Bird Club

Amount Due

Membership dues: 40
E-mail Newsletter: Free

TOTAL: 40

REMEMBER YOUR TOTAL!

Payment by: **PayPal**

On the next screen ENTER THE AMOUNT YOU ARE PAYING.
(Even though it says Donation, it will be correctly allocated.)

Everything is OK. Click

Home ► Current page

The Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS)
and a 501(c)(3) Public Charity

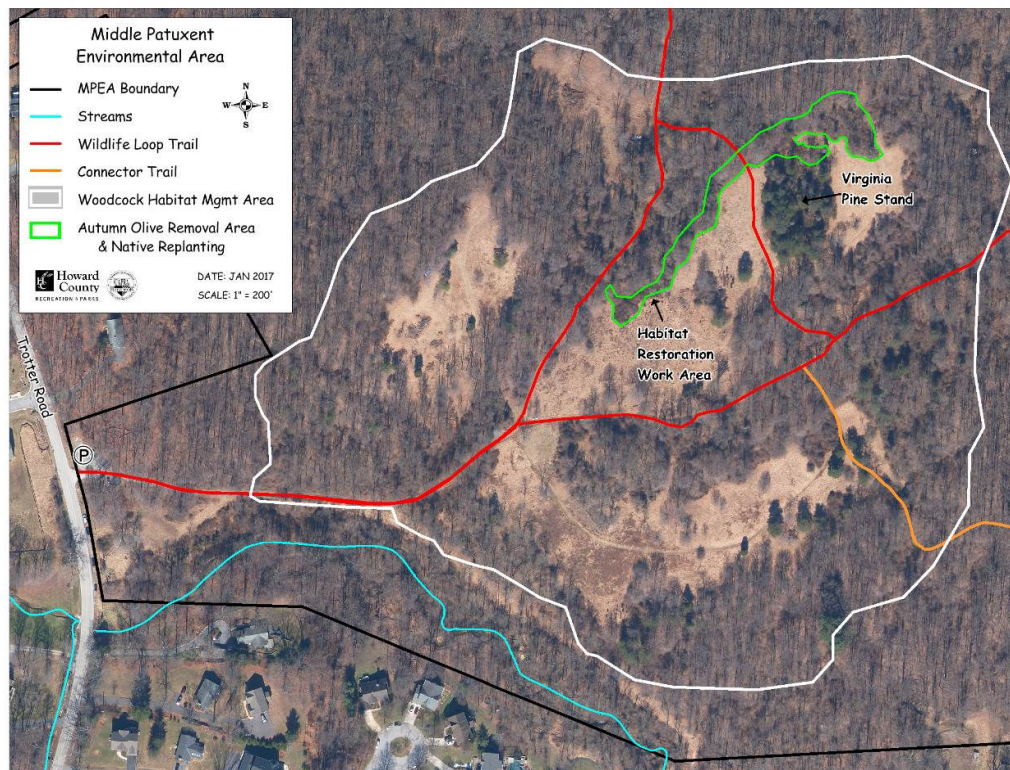


Make out check to
Howard County Bird Club
and mail to

Howard County Bird Club
P.O. Box 1323
Columbia, MD 21044

Howard County Bird Club
Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal
for Middle Patuxent Environmental Area – Early Successional Habitat Restoration
Virginia Pine Stand Enhancement and Transitional Edge Planting
January 2017

Natural Resource Managers at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area are seeking funding for early successional habitat restoration in the Woodcock Habitat Management Area. The goal of this project is to enhance a stand of Virginia pine in the center meadow and to replace non-native invasive autumn olives with native shrubs to create a transitional edge between the meadow and the surrounding tall trees.



An approximately one-half acre area of autumn olive, as shown on the map above, will be removed this winter using a contractor with a piece of equipment called a Forestry Mulcher (a shredder on tracks). We are starting to get control on the autumn olive in the meadows after several years of selective spot-spraying. The objective here is to start going after the masses of autumn olive bordering the meadows which are pumping out millions of seeds. The area will be reseeded with native grasses and wildflowers, and replanted with native shrubs and small trees. Maintenance will include monitoring for invasive species, selective spot-spraying as needed, and maintaining the shelters with assistance from MPEA Weed Warrior and Conservation Stewardship volunteers.

The Virginia pine stand will be prepared for supplemental planting by selectively removing hardwood trees which have invaded the stand. In addition, non-native vines (i.e. Oriental bittersweet and Japanese honeysuckle) invading the canopy will be cut and the stumps painted with herbicide. Invading multiflora rose and autumn olive will also be removed. Large empty spots in the stand will then be replanted with new Virginia pines.

We are requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider funding this project in the amount of \$1,170.00, which would be used to plant 38 native trees and shrubs as described in the table below. The larger size trees will provide better survivability by getting above deer browse height faster, be easier to maintain against competition from invasives, and help jump-start the project faster towards its objectives. The County will purchase fencing and posts to construct tree shelters to protect against deer browse.

<u>Woodcock/Early Successional Habitat Mgmt Area</u>		<u>Qty</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Virginia pine	Pinus virginiana	10	7-gal (5-7')	41.00	410.00
Flowering dogwood	Cornus florida	2	7-gal (4-6')	41.00	82.00
Witch hazel	Hamamelis virginiana	4	5-gal (4-6')	30.00	120.00
American holly	Ilex opaca	4	3-gal (2-5')	34.50	138.00
Elderberry	Sambucus canadensis	4	3-gal (3-5')	25.00	100.00
Arrowwood viburnum	Viburnum dentatum	4	5-gal (2-5')	30.00	120.00
Blackhaw viburnum	Viburnum prunifolium	<u>10</u>	3-gal (2-4')	20.00	<u>200.00</u>
		Total: 38			\$1,170

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal,
Cheryl Farfaras
 Natural Resources Manager, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
 Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks
 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
 410-313-4726
cfarfaras@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2017

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.) √
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Sue Muller √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Bob & Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was twelve. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 9 was 36 people. Rachel Joiner, Major Gifts Officer, The Conservation Fund gave a program entitled “Making Conservation Work for America.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy was not present. In an email she reported there had been very limited activity in January and she would prepare a joint Jan/Feb report prior to our next Board meeting.

President’s Remarks (Harris): John remarked that the slate of officers was ready for announcement at the March meeting. John had brought a box of the rack cards that he had and we agreed that there were enough that we need not get any printed in the near term. It was agreed that Cindy should work on recreating the file for cards but that for now we would simply manually correct the meeting time on the existing cards.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): Joe had sent an email asking for leaders for walks in May. David Sandler agreed to lead one. Howard reminded us that the “leaderless” walks held last May worked well and we might want to do the same again. John H. stated that he could lead a “Woodpecker Walk” for RNC as our fourth event for the year. Joe Hanfman had asked not to have his name included in the RNC MOU as the POC for the events we are responsible for providing. We agreed that the MOU will list John Harris as the POC.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the latest deliberations of the state Records committee included no new Howard records.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present having gone to the Howard County Conservancy to hear Dave Brinker speak on owls. In an email he had reported on his testimony before the Howard County Council on CB16-2017 that proposes to change the zoning of several Tier IV parcels and permit more dense development. The Board was unanimous in expressing our thanks to Kurt for his actions representing MOS and the club in opposing this bill.

Kurt also reported that the Pollinator Habitat Bill Amendment has passed the Senate Environment Committee and will need support going forward. His email also pointed out the MOS and the Talbot and Frederick Chapters have signed a petition calling for a ban on fracking in Maryland.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported that the timeline for the next issue is tighter than normal as he will need to finish the issue before April 9 when he and several other club members are going on a tour for grouse in Colorado.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob commented that the response to his email asking whether recipients would prefer to have the email sending the Goldfinch include a link to the document or include the file as an attachment. Over 39% of the recipients responded. Only 23 people said they would prefer the attachment, 9 had no preference, and the rest expressed desire for the link. Given that the file is nearly 2 Mbytes he will continue to send the much smaller email with a link to all recipients.

On February 14, Bob sent an email to the Board requesting an emergency board meeting to address a problem that had arisen with the ability to email the club membership using eHost, our ISP for the club web site. Initial indications were that our non-profit account was not able to email more than 50 addresses at a time. It appeared we would need to purchase a mailbox from eHost for \$60 a year. Bob moved that the Board approve this additional expense. Via email the Board seconded and approved this motion. However at this meeting Bob reported that since then he has heard from eHost and it appears that if we have a mailbox there should not be a limit of 50 addressees, and that our account should include one free mailbox. Accordingly Bob has not had to shell out the \$60 and may not have to.

Potluck (Lillie): Plans are proceeding for the pot luck on Saturday, March 25. Jo has provided a number of Marty Chestem's knickknacks that will be available on a "free" table.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): The next meeting is Saturday March 4 at the College Park Airport.

Old Business

Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU) – John and Mary Lou summarized the meeting they had with RNC staff discussing the draft MOU. The major change they asked for was to have specific names for who was our POC for various activities. In discussing this we agreed that the only additional name still missing from the MOU was Karen, who we had originally designated as our primary contact to RNC. The staff also made the point that they have had their budgets reduced so they wanted to be very specific in identifying the times for our activities. For example we need to be aware that saying we would be done by 10 PM means that the parking lot should be emptied by then so the staff can lock the gates and leave. We may need to remind attendees of this when our program runs late but normally don't think this should be an issue. Lastly they will need an updated list of club members authorized to check out specimens for educational programs. John H. will delete the names Jo had proposed and add the names we discussed (John H, Mary Lou, & Sue Muller). After we sign the MOU it will need to work through a formal review by Recreation and Parks. When Chuck pointed out that he did not have a signed version of the prior MOU amendment, Robin replied that he didn't think he ever received a copy. We should follow-up and request a copy of the signed agreement after the county has time to review and sign it. John will make the minor changes we discussed and then distribute it to the board for a final vote on approving the MOU. *Sec. Note – The MOU draft was distributed and approved by the Board on February 27. The approved MOU and list of HCBC specimen users that were forwarded to RNC for signature are attached.*

SkyWatch Signage – In talking to the Conservancy staff Woody learned that they have contracted with Adler Display for the design, production, and installation of signage and displays both interior at the Gudelsky Center expansion as well as exterior signs on the property. They would hope that we would use the same firm for signage at the SkyWatch for consistency in appearance and quality. They are well along in this process as they hope to have at minimum the signage for the Center ready by the reopening in late May. We will need to coordinate our purchase with Tabby Fique when we have decided on what signs we want. The next step is for Mike Kerwin and his committee to work on detailed sign content. Woody also spoke to Meg Schumacher Boyd about the proposal to

name the sign in Chan's honor and felt the question would not need to go to the main Conservancy board but should be presented to the Grounds Committee for their concurrence. Woody, as chair of that committee, will put the proposal on their next agenda not later than this spring.

In a related matter Jo raised the issue of content for the SkyWatch report we are to provide the Conservancy annually in accordance with the MOU. The report that Mike Kerwin submitted was just a list of the birds seen at Mt. Pleasant during 2016 extracted from eBird. Although this was a partial year and was serving as a prototype Jo felt that we should take steps to ensure we can provide a report more focused and complete regarding the SkyWatch. She asked for ideas on how we could collect sightings limited to the site, including all birds (not just raptors), butterflies, participants, visitors, official club events, etc. Earlier the consensus was to reject a separate eBird hotspot interior to the Mt. Pleasant hotspot. One idea would be to solicit volunteers qualified to serve as official hawk counters as is done at other hawk watch sites and try to schedule manning of the site during migration seasons. Another idea proposed by John Harris, which seemed promising, was to create an eBird account for the SkyWatch that would be added as a share whenever someone created an eBird list using the Mt. Pleasant hotspot but limited to the sighting while at the SkyWatch site. Comments could be added for such things as butterflies sighted, the number of observers, and if others were present and the list was shared with them their names would be listed. Another idea would be to provide a "sign in book" where visitors would sign in and could list unusual sightings. John H agreed to contact Mike Kerwin and Joe Hanfman to discuss the idea of a special eBird account and related issues. He will also speak to Mike about signage status.

New Business

Jug Bay trip – During Greg Kearn's recent program for the club he mentioned the potential of having the club attend a field/boat trip to Jug Bay for Ospreys that he would lead. Mary Maxey had taken the initiative and contacted Greg about a trip potentially to be held on June 30. Sue Muller said the last she had heard about the trip was that we would have to commit soon to having the trip with a reasonably firm list of attendees (there would be a small fee). Sue agreed to contact Mary and determine the status and then ensure John H, Joe Hanfman and Bob are informed of the status, assuming they would be involved in planning and publishing the trip.

Meeting with the Photographers Guild? – There have been several recent reports of photographers harassing the Barred Owl on Gwyn Acres path. In an attempt to remedy this situation it had been suggested we might want to meet with or attend a meeting of the Photographer's Guild. Sue Muller had identified another approach which was to call the Park Ranger duty phone number and report whenever someone is observed harassing the owls. She had sent out the number and this recommendation to her extended email list. She reported that the rangers had already responded to a call about the owls on the past weekend. We may still want to pursue meeting with the photographers but our first step will be to have Bob include the phone number in an upcoming Newsgram. It should include a recommendation to store it on your cell phone so you can report any park violation to the ranger on duty.

Presentation to the Howard County Garden Club – John H had received an email request asking if we could supply a speaker to present a program on birds to their club. Jo explained that she believes they have a requirement to have one program not specifically about gardening each year and she has presented for them in the past. It was agreed that a program on butterflies and attracting them might be an excellent topic. John H agreed to ask Linda Hunt if she would like to speak to them and if so he will put her in contact with them.

Marty Chestem items – Jo had the remaining knickknacks from Marty on display seeking to either have someone ask for one or for suggestions on how to dispose of them. Initially we thought the MOS Conference silent auction was a possibility. However Robin and John H reported that there will not be a silent auction at this year's conference. Perhaps some of the items are nice enough to be included as raffle prizes at the conference. Items include a set of bookends, 2 music boxes, 2 small Inuit ivory carvings and an oil lamp, all with a bird theme or connection.

Around the Room –

Mary Lou and Sue reported that while attending the recent MOS retreat there was considerable discussion on how to recruit and maintain members. They mentioned such ideas as using Citizen Science, holding family programs, and kid programs. Many reported that other chapters reported that they experience the recruitment being followed by just a one year membership and then dropping out. There was a general consensus that the most effective approach

was a one-on-one invitation when you meet someone who shows interest when encountered out birding. Another idea proposed during our discussion was to co-sponsor events with the Howard County Conservancy.

Jo reported that the interest in butterflies by club members continues to increase. Linda Hunt hosted a planning meeting to discuss how to proceed with the butterfly initiative over the next couple of years. They agreed to continue the 5 year survey through 2018. Linda has nearly 200 people on her butterfly email list. Woody and Sue Muller were also attendees. Someone suggested that Linda should be encouraged to put together butterfly images for the potluck “slide show.”

Bob stated that it was unclear why the email capability was lost in the first place. See Webmaster report above.

Sue commented that she had wanted to include an invitation to attend the showing of “Messenger” at Greenfest in the MOS Yellowthroat, but was informed she had missed the deadline.

John M stated that he still had the club’s Kodak Carousel slide projector and wanted to know if he could dispose of it. Based on the number of other board members who chimed in they still have one that isn’t being used, it would appear it is not necessary to keep it.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H.
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou
- Ask Wes Earp to prepare material on “Eagles” for club display – John H. - CLOSE
- Discuss status of signage with HCC and ask about proposed naming of SkyWatch – Woody - DONE
- Assess need to reprint membership “rack cards” & prepare updated version as needed – Cindy - POSTPONE
- Contact Cheryl Farfaras and issue check for MPEA grant – Cindy - DONE
- Coordinate updated list of members approved for use of bird skins/specimens – Jo/John H

New/Continuing Action Items

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H.
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller
- Coordinate volunteers for the Greenfest display – Mary Lou/John H
- Conduct an email vote on Board acceptance of amended MOU – John Harris
- Coordinate updated list of members approved for use of bird skins/specimens – Jo/John H
- Talk to Mike Kerwin about SkyWatch signage – John Harris
- Talk to Mike Kerwin and Joe Hanfman about the idea of a SkyWatch eBird account – John Harris
- Contact Mary Maxey and assess status of plans for Jug Bay trip – Sue Muller
- Ask Linda Hunt if she would be willing to give a program on butterflies to the Garden Club – John H
- After Sue sends him the number for Park Ranger include it in an upcoming NEWSGRAM – Sue/Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- HCBC BOD Agenda – February 23, 2017
- 2nd Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- List of approved Howard County Bird Club specimen users

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

February 23, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright (will not be present)
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Slate of nominees - complete

5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - CB16-2017 Testimony
 - Pollinator Habitat Bill Amendment
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem

7. Old Business
 - Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU)
 - Skywatch signage

8. New Business
 - Jug Bay trip
 - Meeting with Photographers Guild?
 - Presentation to Howard County Garden Club
 - Marty Chestem items

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Bob & Jo Solem

10617 Graeloch Road
Laurel MD 20723
(301) 725-5037

2ND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS SECOND AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“this Amendment”) is entered into this _____ day of _____, 20__, by and between the **Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks** (the “Department”), the **James and Anne Robinson Nature Center** (the Nature Center) and the **Howard County Bird Club a Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.** (the “Society”).

RECITALS

- A. The Department and the Society are parties to a Memorandum of Understanding entered into on February 15, 2000, as amended on the 6th day of January, 2014 (“the First Amendment”) collectively, (“the Prior Agreement”) which established certain responsibilities of the Department and the Society for a mounted bird collection owned by the Society.

The Department and the Society wish to amend the Prior Agreement in order to change certain sections of the Prior Agreement, and to add sections establishing a system for coordinating certain events at the Department’s James and Anne Robinson Nature Center, and to recognize the Society as a community partner of the Department’s James and Anne Robinson Nature Center (the “Nature Center”).

AGREEMENT

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the mutual promises and covenants contained in this Agreement, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Department, the Nature Center and the Society agree to amend the Prior Agreement as follows:

Section IV, paragraphs D and E are replaced with the following:

- D. Partnership Term. The term of this Section IV of this Agreement shall be from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018. The parties may renew this Section IV of this Agreement for an unlimited number of additional two year terms. Renewal is effective when the Director of the Department, the Director of the Nature Center and the President of the Society, or their authorized representatives, have both indicated in writing (which may be by letter or email) that they wish to renew.
- E. The Department Commitments. The Department, through the Nature Center, commits to take the following actions:

Provide After-Hour Meeting Space and Staff

- The Nature Center will provide a room in which the Society can conduct monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month. The Nature Center will provide an after-hours staff person to facilitate the after-hours operation

and closing of the building on the second Thursday of each month for each Society meeting. Meetings will be held between the hours of 6:45 PM and 10:00 PM and for members of the club to set up and provide a hospitality session. If there is a need to adjust this time, the Society will provide notification in writing to the Nature Center no less than two weeks in advance of the meeting date so that staff can accommodate the request. The Nature Center contact is Kevin Costin, 410-313-0400, kcostin@howardcountymd.gov. The contact information for the Society is Bob Solem, 301.725.5037, odenata@msn.com

- The Nature Center will host the Bird Club's annual potluck dinner in the auditorium from 6:00pm until 10:00pm on Saturday, March 25 2017 and a date TBD in March 2018 which will be provided free of charge with kitchen access. The Nature Center will provide an after-hours staff person to facilitate the after-hours operation and closing of the building for the Society's annual potluck dinner. The Nature Center contact is Kevin Costin, 410-313-0400, kcostin@howardcountymd.gov. The Bird Club's contact for the Potluck is Kathie Lillie, 301.807.3785, klillie12@verizon.net or Karen Heffernan, 410 857 1789, Khdarcy4@aol.com

Event Coordination

- Communicate with the Society on logistical/programming details for four programs each year. These programs will run between September 1st and May 31st, as well as for the Nature Center's annual Wild for Water Day on July 9 2017 and annual Anniversary Open House on September 17 2017. Dates for 2018 TBD.
- Provide assistance in set-up for the Society (tables/chairs/audio-visual equipment) if requested by Society members for the programs and events at which they will participate.
- The Nature Center contact for public programs is Meagan Downey, 410-313-0405, mdowney@howardcountymd.gov. The Nature Center contact for the Anniversary Open House event and Wild for Water Day is Brian Campbell, 410-313-0406, bcampbell@howardcountymd.gov.

Cross-Promotion of the Society

Acknowledge the Society as a community partner to further increase the Society's visibility in the community.

- Include a link to the Howard County Bird Club's website on Nature Center's "Community Partners" web page.
- Cross-promote through Facebook by "Liking" the Society's Facebook page.
- Recognize the Society in the Nature Center's public relations materials for days/events when the Society is participating in Nature Center programming.

F. Society Commitments. The Society commits to take the following actions:

Participation in the Nature Center Annual Anniversary Event and Insect Extravaganza.

- Provide outreach and activities at the Nature Center's annual Anniversary Open House event on September 17, 2017 and Wild for Water Day on July 9, 2017, dates for both events in 2018 TBD, while promoting the Society to new audiences. These activities can include bird watching on the center's green roof, bird crafts or bird presentations. The Wild for Water event will be held on July 9, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a set-up time of 10:30 a.m. The Anniversary event will be held on the September 17, 2017 from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., with a set-up time of 10 a.m. The contact for coordinating participation is President John Harris, 240-755-0183, jaybee.harris@gmail.com

Provide leaders for the Nature Center Seasonal Programs.

- Provide four seasonal programs as part of public programming at the Nature Center. These programs will run between September 1st and May 31st, program dates will be selected and agreed upon prior to each season by the Nature Center Program Manager and Society President or Representative. The Society will commit to leading four programs a year with flexibility on the season in which they are held. Club members may lead two programs in one season and no programs in another. Programs will be based on the best timing for the program rather than a per-season basis. Program dates will be selected approximately 6 to 8 months in advance of programs to allow for marketing and recruitment of Society members to provide said programs. The society representative will fill out the Field Trip Planner form, see attached example. The contact for coordinating participation is President John Harris, 240-755-0183, jaybee.harris@gmail.com

Cross-Promotion of the Nature Center

Acknowledge Nature Center as a community partner to further increase Nature Center's visibility in the community

- Include a link to the Nature Center website on the Society web page.
- Cross-promote through Facebook by "Liking" the Nature Center's Facebook page.
- Share Robinson link with information about upcoming Nature Center programs with members through Goldfinch newsletter, word of mouth or by including program flyers/brochures on a table of printed materials at meetings.

- Share Nature Center link in Goldfinch newsletter advertising the Club's Potluck Dinner

Use of mounts for educational outreach

- The Club will provide a list of any members approved and authorized to borrow mounts from the Nature Center.

G. Legal Effect. This Section IV serves only as a written record of the arrangement of cooperation between the Society, the Department and the Nature Center, and is not intended to impose any legal or financial obligations on or create any legal rights or remedies for or between the Society, the Nature Center, and the Department.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

February 27, 2017

The following is the updated list of individuals from the Howard County Bird Club, a Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, who may give educational presentations using mounted bird specimens.

- 1) Jane Geuder
- 2) Ralph Geuder
- 3) John Harris
- 4) Mike Kerwin
- 5) Mary Lou Clark
- 6) Woody Merkle
- 7) Sue Muller
- 8) Bonnie Ott
- 9) Joanne Solem
- 10) Eva Sunell

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 23, 2017

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.)
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick
Robin Todd
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Sue Muller

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Mary Lou Clark. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 9, 2017 was 80 people. Nancy McAllister gave a program entitled “Mom’s Big Year.” Linda Hunt also spoke briefly about butterflies and a memorial remembrance of Dick Smith.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy was not present but had sent the attached report covering January and February.

President’s Remarks (Harris): The election of officers will be held at the upcoming April club meeting. John thanked Mary Lou for running the January Board meeting in his absence. We are due to consider a budget for the 2017-2018 club fiscal year at this time. John agreed to ask Cindy to put together a draft budget for our consideration at the next board meeting.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou reported she is preparing to give a birding talk and demonstration for elementary age kids at Forest Ridge Elementary on April 1.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): John announced that he and Joe had decided that the fourth RNC event will be a “Bird Walk for Kids” aimed at parents and grandparents to bring their children. This subject may have more appeal than a repeat of the “Woodpecker” walk John has been doing in the past.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo had no recent rarity sightings to report.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt discussed four items currently active on the conservation front. 1) The MD Senate has passed an amendment to last year’s pollinator act that bans the use of neonicotinoids on sites. The House passed the bill with an amendment that weakens the bill. It is hoped that the weakening can be remedied in conference committee. 2) The fracking ban has passed the Senate and the Governor has expressed support for it so there is hope the ban will go into effect. 3) Howard CB-16 that attempted to remove land from Tier IV development status was defeated by the county council 3-2. Kurt testified in favor of CB-23 that would permit farmers to value their

property based on the property zoning rather than its Tier IV zoning for the purpose of farmland preservation easements. Kurt was pleased to find farmers and him supporting legislation. CB-24 which would have changed septic system rules was withdrawn. 4) Kurt attended an initial meeting on developing the Belt Woods Comprehensive Plan. He felt the approach being taken seems promising.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard reported he is catching up after just returning from Costa Rica. He has the upcoming programs from Jane Geuder. She reports that she will be rescheduling the speaker who was a no show due to illness as part of next year's schedule. He has an article reporting on the finding of the Long-eared Owl. Kathie reported that she will send him a report on the pot luck immediately after the event this coming Saturday.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob surveyed the Board to see if we had all received the latest NewsGram and concluded that the email system is functioning properly again. He will put off looking at MailChimp as a possible replacement for now, although he noted that MOS is using it for their mailings. He has posted the Chan Robbins memorial article on the website. We all agreed it was nicely done. Bob and Jo thanked those who had provided feedback as proof readers of the article.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie reported all is in readiness for Saturday. Thirty-six people have signed up and two RNC staff members are planning to attend. John McKitterick will make sure laptop is there although he had missed the Board meeting with a cold and may not make the potluck. RNC has provided a pass for two people to attend the nature center that will be a prize in the raffle.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): No report on the meeting held Saturday, March 4 at the College Park airport.

Old Business

Robinson Nature Center Memo of Understanding (MOU) – John met with Pamela Reese to finalize the MOU on March 7. The only issue was that RNC would like to set the end time for our meetings at 9:30 pm with an option to ask for later if we foresee a special need to run longer. John had surveyed the board earlier and we agreed that this would work. John will sign the MOU and deliver it to RNC.

Howard County Garden Club speaker – Linda Hunt will give a presentation to the garden club on butterfly/pollinator gardening. She has been in contact with their incoming Vice-President and the event is scheduled for June 2018.

SkyWatch eBird hotspot update – John had contacted eBird and inquired if they had a preference between the two options we discussed at last meeting. Namely 1) creating a SkyWatch hotspot interior to the Mt. Pleasant hotspot OR 2) a pseudo-account for the site that would be shared by anyone creating an eBird list at the site. They said either or both options would be OK. After discussion with Mike Kerwin and Joe Hanfman the preferred approach will be to create a hotspot. John has submitted that request but so far, he is waiting for the local volunteer hotspot coordinator to get around to it. Eventually we will announce the hotspot in NewsGram, Goldfinch, on the website (permanent), and on signs at the SkyWatch. Announcement should explain how we want people to use it, including using the comments section to note non-bird sightings. For those who don't do eBird we agreed we should create a separate eBird account maintained by one person (Mike Kerwin (?), John Harris) and have the non-eBird users send a list of what they observed to that person. The recipient would then enter the data in that eBird account so that we would have a more thorough list of sightings to report to The Howard County Conservancy. John agreed he could act as the person entering records from non-eBirder's but would check to see if Mike would like to do that.

Events Volunteer Coordinator position – Sue Muller had not had any responses to initial NewsGram announcement of need for a volunteer to solicit/seek volunteers to man a club table/booth at various events such as GreenFest. Sue will announce need at coming club meeting, in another NewsGram, and in an article for the Goldfinch.

New Business

Chandler Robbins remembrance - Chan passed away earlier in the week. Jo announced that the family is planning a memorial service on April 15 at the United Methodist Church in Laurel. Bob will include the details for the memorial in an upcoming NewsGram. Jo reported that the staff at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is hoping to hold a “living” outdoor activity at the refuge in Chan’s memory. MOS and the chapters are to be included and proposals for this event are welcome. We will announce the naming of the SkyWatch after Chan in the future but will limit the article in next Goldfinch to a short announcement of Chan’s death and a pointer to the website memorial page. Woody has reported that the Mt. Pleasant Grounds Committee will meet next week and he would like to be able to state the official name we are proposing. We agreed that it will be called the “Chandler S. Robbins SkyWatch.” John will notify Woody of this wording. We agreed it would be appropriate to send the family a sympathy card from the club and John took an action to do so.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Coordinate and give a future Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners – Woody/John H. SCHEDULED
- Serve as an ad hoc Membership Committee – Mary Lou and Sue Muller REPORTED LAST MEETING
- Coordinate volunteers for the GreenFest display – Mary Lou/John H SEEKING COORDINATOR
- Conduct an email vote on Board acceptance of amended MOU – John Harris DONE
- Coordinate updated list of members approved for use of bird skins/specimens – Jo/John H DONE
- Talk to Mike Kerwin about SkyWatch signage – John Harris MIKE DECLINED TO DESIGN SIGNS
- Talk to Mike Kerwin and Joe Hanfman about the idea of a SkyWatch eBird account – John Harris DONE
- Contact Mary Maxey and assess status of plans for Jug Bay trip – Sue Muller DONE
- Ask Linda Hunt if she would be willing to give a program on butterflies to the Garden Club – John H DONE
- After Sue sends him the number for Park Ranger include it in an upcoming NEWSGRAM – Sue/Bob DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Ask Cindy to draft proposed budget for next Board meeting – John H.
- Provide text of request for an Event Volunteer Coordinator to Bob and Howard for inclusion in NewsGram and Goldfinch – Sue Muller
- Notify Woody of name for SkyWatch – John H.
- Send sympathy card from club to Robbins family – John H.
- Sign the RNC MOU and deliver it them for county signature – John H.
- Seek a person to serve as design coordinator for SkyWatch signage (ask Nancy McAllister) – John H.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – HCBC Board of Directors Meeting – March 23, 2017
- Howard County Bird Club Treasurer’s Report – January & February (as of Feb. 28, 2017)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

March 23, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright (will not be present)
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Announce slate of nominees in April meeting
 - Thank you Mary Lou Clark for running the January Board meeting
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU)
 - Howard County Garden Club speaker – Linda Hunt will present
 - SkyWatch eBird hotspot update
 - Events Coordinator position
8. New Business
 - Chandler Robbins remembrance
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Mary Lou Clark

5153 Morningside Lane
Ellicott City MD 21043

(443) 878-2546

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT (Jan & Feb)
as of February 28, 2017

	Budget 2016-17	Jan & Feb Current Month	May - Feb Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		330	5,867
State Dues Paid			3,215
Net Membership Dues	2,000		2,652
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		100	3,023
Total Operating Income	2,000	430	5,675
Expenses			
Skywatch install (Used PNC funds-didn't deduct from current income)			[3488]
Habitat Preserv. To purchase trees for HCC			[1170]
Honorarium - Intern Barbara Sikorski			1,000
Programs	600	150	410
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		250
Postage, Copies	250	90	270
HCBC Decals			450
Newsletter & Directory	400		379
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		300
Greenfest	35		35
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,785	240	3,094
Income less Expense		190	2,581

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 1/01/17	16190.93
Interest Received in Jan \$1.69 & Feb 1.58	3.27
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 02/28/17	16194.20

PNC Bank Balance

Checking Bal. 01/01/17	4807.62
Checking Bal. 02/28/17	3959.15
Total Assets	<u>20153.35</u>

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 27, 2017

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.)
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Kathie Lillie. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 13 was 61. Gail Mackiernan gave a program entitled “Madagascar.”

This regular meeting held April 13 was the annual club business meeting to elect the officers for next year. The slate of officers had been presented by the nominating committee at the March meeting and distributed to the membership by email/mail. The slate presented was President – John Harris, Vice-President – Mary Lou Clark, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Cindy Albright, State Directors – Karen Darcy, John McKitterick, and Robin Todd, and Chapter Director – David Sandler (1st Yr). Woody Merkle will be serving the second year of his two year term. Bob Solem, given none of the nominating committee were present, announced the slate and it was moved that the slate be elected by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously. Following the meeting the club secretary sent contact information for the new officers to the MOS Secretary and MOS President for inclusion in the state MOS listing of officers.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had provided the attached report for March prior to the meeting.

President’s Remarks (Harris): John noted that the election of officers had been completed at the last club meeting. He reported that Woody and he had taken the Master Gardeners on a bird walk at MPEA. There were approximately 14 participants including two staff from Rec and Parks. They walked the loop trail and all seemed to enjoy the opportunity to see some of the birds that benefit from their efforts at MPEA. John suggested it might be good to repeat the walk again in the future. As shown on the agenda the administrative task that John will work on this coming month is to confirm all committee chairs/coordinators are willing to continue in their current positions. Lastly he reported that he had learned from RNC staff that the projector in the auditorium that has been problematic at our meetings is being replaced. The new one should be ready for our next meeting.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): There are only 3 field trips left for this season, including the Jug Bay trip this summer.

Records (Jo Solem): Recent highlights include the Red-throated Loon, the American Bittern observed catching and eating a Marsh Wren at Race Road, and a Cattle Egret. The Clay-colored Sparrow was a first spring record and by far is the longest stay for that species.

Conservation (Schwarz): The bill enhancing pollinator protection has passed in the legislature but is still waiting for the Governor's signature.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard had nothing to report.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that Nancy Magnusson had pointed out that the dragonfly portion of the website had disappeared. Bob admitted he had started to update it and then failed to finish the process. The updated material is now available on the site.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie is considering putting together a survey for club members attempting to determine what would make the potluck more appealing. She is concerned that attendance continues to dwindle.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): No MOS Board meeting since our last meeting.

Old Business

Robinson Nature Center Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – John reported that he signed the MOU for us and Stacey Yankee signed for RNC. The MOU must be approved by county management but appears to be complete for now. It is valid until December 31, 2018.

SkyWatch – eBird Hotspot Update – John reported that the new hotspot for the SkyWatch has been established. Hopefully it will be used by all those who conduct stationary watches from the site. It will allow us to provide the Conservancy with a list of all species observed during the year from the site.

SkyWatch – Signage – Woody presented our proposal to name the SkyWatch the “Chandler S. Robbins SkyWatch” to the HCC Grounds Committee and they approved the proposal. As reported earlier Mike Kerwin had declined coordinating the design of signs for the SkyWatch. John spoke to Mike and he is willing to help with content but not the actual design. John approached Nancy McAllister about helping with the signs and she tentatively agreed. John will speak again to Nancy about being design coordinator and how to proceed. The Conservancy is shooting to have their new signage for the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center ready for the dedication of the new expansion. The dedication is scheduled for 4:30 pm in concert with the Wine in the Woods event on May 25 (date of our next Board meeting).

Greenfest – John expressed his thanks to all who helped him with Greenfest (Mary Lou, Jo, Bob, Kathie, Linda Hunt & Sue Muller). He mentioned manning the booth, showing “The Messenger”, butterfly program, cookies (for adults) and wrapped candy (for kids). Mary Lou pointed out that having the candy handout got kids to stop and that motivated parents to stop and engage. She also suggested we should have a handout listing upcoming field trips and club meeting programs. Another suggestion was to schedule a Beginner's Bird Walk for the Saturday following Greenfest that we could encourage booth visitors to attend. We agreed this was a good idea and John took an action to contact Joe Hanfman and ask him to try and schedule such a walk suitable for families one week after Greenfest next year (perhaps Wilde Lake). Greenfest provides us the heaviest traffic to engage the general public.

Nancy McAllister had stopped by having attended the showing of “The Messenger” and said there were about 20 attendees. Sue Muller reported that Lisa Colangelo had indicated she would be willing to man the booth in the future. Lisa didn't volunteer to serve as the “Volunteer Coordinator” despite Sue's assurances that the task was easy given the info on Kevin's survey results spreadsheet. It was suggested that perhaps the role of Volunteer

Coordinator could be assumed by one of the Chapter Directors (2nd year, as 1st year coordinates refreshments). John H. agreed to contact Woody and discuss this with him.

Lastly during Linda Hunt's butterfly program she mentioned that the crop timothy was a host plant for some rare butterflies. One of the attendees associated with the Farm Bureau spoke to her and remarked that timothy was not planted often but that there was a federal program for farmers designed to promote pollinator plots and he might be able to put her in contact with farmers who might be interested in her efforts. It was suggested that Wes Earp might also be a resource about this program.

New Business

2017-2018 Budget – Cindy had prepared a proposed budget for next year and distributed it in advance of the meeting. It was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously. The approved budget is attached. It contains a summary of the special donations made to habitat projects during 2016-17 and a list of club year-end net worth for the past 8 years. Cindy had originally had trouble with this task as her outdated version of QuickBooks was not working. She was able to update her copy at a cost of \$50 using a software supplier for non-profits (TechSoup).

Howard County Bird Club Permanent Address for IRS – June Tveekrem originally volunteered to have the club use her address as the official club address as the IRS required a physical address (not a Post Office Box) at the time we had to obtain a EIN for the club. June is anticipating retirement in a couple years and may not stay in her current home. As a result she has asked the club to find an alternative address. Cindy stated that she thought the IRS may have changed policies and might now accept post office boxes. Since we now have a box this would be our best option if possible. Cindy took an action to research the issue and report back.

Around the Room –

- Robin reported that he had a wonderful trip to Ireland.
- Kathie asked if we were expecting to host an MOS Board meeting in the next year and was told we don't expect to have to.
- Cindy reported seeing 3 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Wilde Lake. She met a fellow who lives in the white townhouses on the lake, named Conrad, who gave her a DVD with many wonderful pictures of wildlife around the lake that he had taken.
- Chuck reported that he will be absent for our next Board meeting in May and would need someone to take minutes. Bob volunteered. Chuck will provide him with a blank template for the minutes.
- Howard, Karen, and Chuck reported that their trip for Colorado Grouse was very successful. Chuck had his 600th ABA species on the trip. He was urged to prepare a short note on this for the next copy of The Goldfinch. An item for the MOS Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter describing the trip, taken by 7 club members, would also be a good idea.
- John H. reported he is making good progress on his annual report to MOS (due by the Conference). He plans to ask Kurt for a summary of his conservation efforts. It was pointed out that Kurt will be preparing a committee report as chairman of the MOS Conservation Committee and all that John needs in his report is a very short synopsis of items unique to Howard County.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Ask Cindy to draft proposed budget for next Board meeting – John H. DONE
- Provide text of request for an Event Volunteer Coordinator to Bob and Howard for inclusion in NewsGram and Goldfinch – Sue Muller DONE
- Notify Woody of name for SkyWatch – John H. DONE
- Send sympathy card from club to Robbins family – John H. DONE
- Sign the RNC MOU and deliver it them for county signature – John H. DONE
- Seek a person to serve as design coordinator for SkyWatch signage (ask Nancy McAllister) – John H. DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Provide Chuck with a copy of the final MOU that was signed for secretary records – John H.
- Ask Joe Hanfman to attempt to add a family-friendly bird walk for week after Greenfest – John H.
- Contact Woody about possibility of Chapter Director acting as Volunteer Coordinator – John H.
- Research whether IRS still requires non-profit organization to have a physical address – Cindy

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Karen Heffernan
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – April 27, 2017
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – March 31, 2017
- Approved HCBC Budget for 2017-2018

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

April 27, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Election results
 - Birds 101 presentation to MPEA Master Gardeners
 - This month's administrative task: Confirm committee chairs continued service: Field trips, Records, Conservation, Newsletter , Web Master, Seed Sale, Potluck dinner, Count Coordinators (3),Audio/Visual

5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem

7. Old Business
 - Robinson Nature Center memorandum of understanding (MOU) – signed!
 - SkyWatch
 - eBird hotspot update
 - Signage
 - Greenfest – Thanks all: The Messenger, Linda Hunt's butterfly program, the booth

8. New Business
 - 2017-2018 Budget
 - Howard County Bird Club Permanent Address for IRS

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Kathie Lillie

4102 Roxbury Mill Road

Glenwood MD 21738

Phone: (301) 807-3785

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of March 31, 2017

	Budget 2016-17	March Current Month	May - March Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		156	5,983
State Dues Paid			3,215
Net Membership Dues	2,000		2,768
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		50	3,128
Contributions to MOS		40	40
Total Operating Income	2,000	246	5,936

Expenses

Habitat Preserv. To purchase trees for HCC		155	
Honorarium - Intern Barbara Sikorski			1,000
Programs	600		410
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200	50	300
Postage, Copies	250	49	319
HCBC Decals			450
Newsletter & Directory	400	128	507
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		300
Greenfest	35		35
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	1,000		
Total Operating Expense	2,785	382	3,321
Income less Expense		(136)	2,615

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 3/01/17	16194.20
Interest Received in March	3.47
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 03/31/17	16197.67

PNC Bank Balance

Beg. Checking Bal. 03/01/17	3959.15
End. Checking Bal. 03/31/17	3743.71
Total Assets	19941.38

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
BUDGET - Approved 4/27/17
5/1/17-4/30/18

	Actual 2014-15	Actual 2015-16	Actual 2016-17	Budget 2017-18
Operating Fund				
Income:				
Net Membership Dues	1,933	2,426	2,814	2,750
Contributions to HCBC	2,145	2,261	3,128	3,000
Contributions to HCBC (Emy)		2,365	-	-
Total Operating Income	4,288	7,162	5,942	5,825
Expense:				
Meetings:				
Programs	650	890	400	1,000
Hospitality-Chapter & State	62		10	75
Special Supplies - Decals			450	-
Internet Account	203	330	300	350
Postage, Copies	258	287	230	300
Newsletter & Directory	504	644	507	550
Miscellaneous				
Pollinator Plots	1,300	(see Habitat Projects - below)		
All Creatures Great & Small	200	300	300	300
Greenfest	35	35	35	35
YMOS Birdathon	244	254		260
Total Operating Expense	3,456	2,740	2,232	2,870
Income over Expense	832	4,422	3,710	2,955

2016-17 Special Donations to Habitat Projects *

HCConservancy	5,000
Skywatch installation	4,054
Meadow intern + expenses	1,300
MPEA trees in woodcock area	1,170
Dick Smith Memorial tree purchase	155
*from retained earnings in PNC bank acct.	
Total	\$ 11,679

Year-end Net Worth

2016-17	\$ 19,925
2015-16	28,018
2014-15	24,788
2013-14	22,538
2012-13	20,519
2011-12	19,659
2010-11	18,218
2009-10	18,762

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 25, 2017

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: Woody Merkle (1st yr.)
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan
John McKitterick
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: David Sandler √
Sue Muller √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Cindy Albright. Total number in attendance was 10. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 11, 2017 was 63. Bonnie Ott gave a program entitled “Three Decades of Birding Howard County.” The Board welcomed David Sandler, who was elected Chapter Director at the April general election, replacing Nancy McAlister.

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Solem for Stirrat): Accepted.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Accepted. (copy attached)

President’s Remarks (Harris):

John said this was his fourth MOS convention, with good field trips (one of which was led by Kevin Heffernan) which he enjoyed. Most noteworthy non-birding news from the convention was that Gene Scarpulla and Marcia Watson are getting married in October!

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark):

MaryLou is looking forward to what she calls her “year of apprenticeship” and that John is going to be a hard act to follow.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): None

Records (Jo Solem): Passerine sightings have been OK, but there has been a noteworthy lack of thrushes (except the expected Wood Thrush and American Robin). The Bald Eagle nest on University of Maryland Central Facility was not used this year and seems to be falling apart. Other good sightings include Northern Harrier, and two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (with the hope that they *might* try nesting again this year). Dickcissel on Bowling Green Farm were seen carrying nesting material and in courtship display.

Conservation (Schwarz):

Kurt (who was not able to attend) sent an email to John H. saying that Governor Hogan signed the Pollinator Habitat Act (SB 386/HB 830) on Thursday, May 25.

Newsletter (Patterson by email): Sept-Oct newsletter submissions are due July 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Nothing.

Potluck (Lillie): Nothing.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (H., Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, etc.): Nothing. Next meeting June 3.

Old Business

- SkyWatch – signage. Cindy reported there is \$1512 remaining in the approved appropriation for the SkyWatch. Nancy (by email) requested guidance. The Board believes that a minimum of two boards (one saying it is the “Chandler S. Robbins Memorial SkyWatch by the Howard County Bird Club” and a second for raptor identification. A small directional sign at that top of the path does not have to be as fancy. Future efforts might include a kiosk to show other club and bird identification and sighting information. Cindy will coordinate the signage effort with Nancy. The Board deferred appropriating additional funds for signage until they have a specific proposal and cost estimate. The Solems sent Nancy and the Board the picture of a proposed raptor identification board that the club has prepared many years ago.
- Event Volunteer Coordinator – Chapter Director. John H. had contacted Woody and David Sandler (the incoming director) about how to share the duties of the Chapter Directors. The newly added duty is for one of them (David) to arrange for club members to attend the current three events for which the club provides a display (GreenFest—already held this year; the RNC special event; and the RNC annual anniversary open house). Bob provided David with a list of the remaining events (and hours) for this year and a list of names from Kevin’s spreadsheet showing names of members who had volunteered to staff special events. Board members offered other names or volunteered to staff the event.
- Official Club Address for IRS – Cindy had taken an action to determine if the IRS still requires a physical address for club IRS registration or we could use our post office box address when we change it from June Tveekrem’s home per her request. Cindy’s investigation found that we can now use the club’s post office box as our official address for the IRS. *Sec. Note: Presumably Cindy agreed to file a change of address at the appropriate time (now?).*

New Business

- UM Big Sit –John H. has been corresponding with Wes Earp about having a club display at the University of Maryland Central Maryland Research & Education Center (CMREC), i.e. Central Farm, open house this year. Wes has also been discussing with them the possibility of having a bird walk in conjunction with the open house, but no date for the event is available at this time.
- SkyWatch maintenance—the area with chips has to be weeded and a three-foot strip mowed at the margin per the club’s agreement with HCC. Joanne weeded the area earlier this month but no mowing has been done this year. John H. will contact Mike Kerwin on the matter and pursue getting the matter resolved (with MaryLou writing a Newsgram item to be posted if necessary).
- Host MOS Board meeting – the Board proposed hosting the MOS Board meeting March 18, 2018 and Robin agreed to coordinate the item with MOS. Mount Pleasant and Belmont are possible locations. Cindy volunteered to help with arrangements.
- Mid-Winter 2018 count date –The typical first Saturday in February date conflicts with the 2018 MOS conference scheduled for February 2-4 in Ocean City. Following the meeting Robin confirmed the date of the MOS conference, so John H. will pursue with Joe Hanfman setting a different date for Mid-Winter count.

- Cpl. Mike Lathroum's request—the club has been asked to write a letter of support of vigorous prosecution of an alleged violation of using leg traps to control animal pests. The traps have illegally trapped birds because of their use. John H. will write the letter and coordinate with the Board.
- Seed sale
 - Set date—Ward Ebert in conjunction with *The Wildlife Authority* proposed pick-up dates of October 7-14, 2018 with September 29 as the last day to order seed. This is acceptable with the Board; Ward will work with Bob and *The Wildlife Authority* for logistics of the sale.
 - Other Seed Sale actions? Not discussed.
- May administrative tasks:
 - Deliver to RNC four programs with all details and write-ups for next program year—completed.
 - Confirm coordinator and area coordinators for Fall Count and location tally rally—John H. will take action.
- Board meeting locations for 2017 – 2018. Board members volunteered for all of the next year's meetings as shown:

September 28, 2017	-	John Harris
October 26, 2017	-	Robin Todd (<i>needs to confirm</i>)
November 16, 2017	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 25, 2018	-	Howard Patterson
February 22, 2018	-	Jo & Bob Solem
March 22, 2018	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 26, 2018	-	Kathie Lillie
May 24, 2018	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Provide Chuck with a copy of the final MOU that was signed for secretary records – John H.--PENDING
- Ask Joe Hanfman to attempt to add a family-friendly bird walk for week after GreenFest – John H.--PENDING
- Contact Woody about possibility of Chapter Director acting as Volunteer Coordinator – John H.--DONE
- Research whether IRS still requires non-profit organization to have a physical address – Cindy--DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Provide Chuck with a copy of the final MOU that was signed for secretary records – John H.
- Ask Joe Hanfman to attempt to add a family-friendly bird walk for week after GreenFest – John H.
- Cindy will provide Nancy McAlister with additional information and work with her on the display signs at the SkyWatch.
- John H. investigate the possibilities for maintenance of the HCC SkyWatch site.
- John H. will coordinate with Joe Hanfman moving the 2018 Mid-Winter count date.
- John H. will write a letter on the alleged illegal trapping incident.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2016	-	John Harris
October 27, 2016	-	Robin Todd (tentative)
November 17, 2016	-	John McKitterick (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	-	NO MEETING
January 26, 2017	-	Howard Patterson
February 23, 2017	-	Bob & Jo Solem
March 23, 2017	-	Mary Lou Clark
April 27, 2017	-	Kathie Lillie
May 25, 2017	-	Cindy Albright (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda
- Treasurer's report

Minutes submitted by:

Bob Solem for Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

May 25, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Annual Report – delivered to MOS- thanks to all that contributed
 - MOS Conference at Wisp
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - Signage
 - Event Volunteer Coordinator – Chapter Director
8. New Business
 - UM Big Sit
 - SkyWatch maintenance
 - Host MOS Board meeting – 2017-2018?
 - Mid-Winter 2018 count date – possible conflict with MOS conference
 - Cpl. Mike Lathroum's request
 - Seed sale
 - Set date
 - Other Seed Sale actions?
 - May administrative tasks:
 - Deliver to RNC four programs with all details and write-ups for next program year
 - Confirm coordinator and area coordinators for Fall Count and location tally rally
 - Board meeting locations for 2017 – 2018
 - September, 2017 - John Harris
 - November, 2017 - John McKitterick
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

|

Meeting Location:

Cindy Albright

10363 Windstream Dr.

Columbia MD 21044

Phone (302) 562-7082

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of April 30, 2017

	Budget 2016-17	April Current Month	May - April Year To Date
Income			
Membership Dues		48	6,077
State Dues Paid			<u>3,240</u>
Net Membership Dues	2,000		2,837
Contributions to Habitat Preservation		50	3,178
Total Operating Income	<u>2,000</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>6,015</u>

Expenses

Habitat Preserv. To purchase trees for HCC			155
Honorarium - Intern Barbara Sikorski			1,000
Programs	600	100	500
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	200		300
Postage, Copies	250		230
HCBC Decals			450
Newsletter & Directory	400		507
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		300
Greenfest	35		35
YMOS Birdathon			
DOS Bird-a-thon	<u>1,000</u>		
Total Operating Expense	<u>2,785</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>2,322</u>
Income less Expense		<u>(2)</u>	<u>3,693</u>

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 4/01/17	16190.93
Interest Received in March	<u>11.11</u>
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	<u>5540.00</u>
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 04/30/17	16202.04

PNC Bank Balance

Beg. Checking Bal. 04/01/17	3743.71
End. Checking Bal. 04/30/17	<u>3657.06</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>19859.10</u></u>

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, September 28, 2017

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: David Sandler (1st yr.) √
Woody Merkle (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others: Sue Muller √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Robin Todd. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 14 was 66 people. Allen Lewis gave a program entitled "Namibia Overland."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as submitted. Bob asked Chuck to resend the May minutes and the cumulative summary through May 2016 for posting on the website.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had submitted the attached treasurer's report. The major item shown is the deposit in the checking account of the bequest from Marty Chestem's trust of \$27,269.16. In addition membership dues received in August are reported. Bob passed around the attached graph showing the rate of receipt of dues this year in comparison to the prior two years. It shows a significantly earlier receipt of dues this year compared to recent past. Most of these are renewals so it is unlikely to indicate a significant increase in overall membership.

President's Remarks (Harris): John expressed his thanks to Mary Lou for attending the September MOS Board meeting in his stead. He also thanked those who volunteered to man our booth at the RNC Anniversary Open House (see attached agenda for names). He also mentioned that he has received an invitation to attend the HC Recreation & Parks – Celebration of Partners in Parks on November 5 and plans to do so. Bob and Jo also receive an invitation for their many efforts with Rec and Parks.

John then summarized the Martha Chestem trust bequest for those who had not heard the details previously. Marty's trust specified that 75% of her estate should be divided on a specified percentage basis for 16 individuals and institutions. Our club received 2% and MOS received 4%. Marty was the last founding member still active in our club. She had held a variety of positions in the club and MOS including serving as President for both. A memorial article in Marty's memory is posted on the club website.

Vice-President's Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou was not present and had sent no report.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): No report.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo commented that summer is usually slow BUT this summer has seen an unprecedented number of records. She mentioned the following: nesting Dickcissels, Ring-necked Duck, Glossy Ibis, nesting Osprey, Mississippi Kites (5), Northern Harrier, late & early Least Sandpiper records, Short-billed Dowitcher, Barn Owl, nesting Red-headed Woodpecker (2 nestings), probable nesting by Summer Tanager, Bobolinks just before and after safe dates. Also multiple records from Russ Ruffing night recording station included up to 60 Swainson's Thrushes and a late Grey-checked Thrush. Details of the June-July records will appear in Jo's season report in the next Goldfinch.

Conservation (Schwarz): No report. Kurt had sent an e-mail indicating he will coordinate a club display at the Campus Sustainability Day for October 18 at Howard Community College. John had replied to Kurt that he had the display board for his use. Chuck reminded John that Wes Earp will likely have the board as he will need it for the open house at the Central Maryland Research & Education Center ("U of MD Central Farm") on October 14. John agreed to inform Kurt that he will need to get the display from Wes.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard was not present but had sent a note that he was wrapping up the next issue. He is waiting for an article from Russ Ruffing describing Russ' night recording efforts.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has made two significant changes to the web site. 1) At Joe Hanfman's suggestion he is now including a "handicapped accessible" symbol on field trips listings when appropriate. 2) He revamped the Fungi photo ID section.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathy reported that she is tentatively planning to hold the potluck on March 24, 2018.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): Mary Lou, Karen, and John McK, attended the meeting held in Caroline County on September 9. John sent the Board an email with a brief synopsis of the meeting shortly after the meeting.

Old Business

SkyWatch Maintenance – It appears that so far the maintenance is being handled ad hoc. Woody commented that the perimeter is currently in fairly good shape. The center will need some weeding. Mary Lou had sent an email seeking volunteers but it was unknown if she had received responses and attempted to set up a maintenance schedule. John agreed to check the status with her and discuss whether the ad hoc approach will be adequate or do we need a more formal approach.

SkyWatch Signage – Nancy had sent an email (attached) reporting on the information she has gathered regarding signs for the SkyWatch when she realized she couldn't report in person. She proposes one larger (24" x 18") sign with hawk ID and migration info similar to content originally drafted for a sign at Meadowbrook. Jo passed around a copy of this draft. Nancy suggested a second sign, potentially smaller with the tribute naming the SkyWatch after Chan Robbins. She had obtained a quote for a 8.5" x 11" sign, however the discussion concluded we didn't feel the second one should be that small and wondered if there would be an intermediate size that would be better. The Board felt these signs should be at the site with at least the info sign being posted at an angle low enough to be viewed by children. We also felt a smaller sign pointing the way "To SkyWatch" to be placed at trail head would be desirable if acceptable to The Conservancy. Woody agreed to contact the HCC staff and propose adding the location of the SkyWatch to their trail map and explore our idea of a trail head sign pointing to the SkyWatch. John agreed to contact Nancy and describe our interest in an intermediate size sign for the Chan tribute/name. We didn't officially state it but it appeared the Board was acceptable with using Adler Display for the signs.

Hosting MOS Board Meeting – Robin as MOS VP is responsible for finding venues for MOS Board meetings and had wondered if the club would consider hosting the Board on the first Saturday in March 2018. We agreed we would be willing to do so if a venue was available. Robin took the action to investigate potential locations for the meeting. He will start with asking The Conservancy if a room in the newly remodeled Gudelsky Education Center could host the meeting.

HCBC – RNC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – In accordance with an action item John had contacted the RNC staff asking for a signed copy of the MOU covering the two calendar years of 2017-2018. Amazingly he learned that they had a number of updates to propose. Fortunately they do not appear to be issues and the most important one is that they want to change the term of the MOU to five years (ending December 31, 2022). Overall the extended term seems a very positive change. John will share the new draft with the Board by email and if we have no problems he will sign the revised MOU.

Seed Sale Update – The deadline for orders was the next day and so far the response has been very low. Hopefully we are looking at procrastination but the proceeds will probably be down again.

New Business

Martha Chestem Bequest – See President's Remarks above for the background of this bequest. Cindy had deposited the \$27,269.16 in our checking account with PNC Bank when she received the check but felt we should consider investment opportunities that would deliver a better return (checking pays no interest). She asked Ward Ebert and Chuck for advice. Cindy put together some of their comments and a recommendation for immediate action that she shared with the Board by email (attached). Chuck summarized that Ward and he both felt we should choose very conservative investments that preserve the principal such as Money Market Funds, Certificates of Deposit, or very short term bond funds rather than accepting the greater risk involved in chasing higher returns. Some suggested that significantly higher CD rates were being offered but Bob and Chuck explained that there was significant effort involved in the club opening accounts with new institutions. The Board will have to address how we plan to use these funds and the associated time line will strongly influence how we invest the funds. Cindy had proposed that we immediately deposit the funds in our TRP Government Money Market Fund (currently yielding a 7 day annualized return of 0.67%) so as to keep our options open as we discuss how to use the funds. The Board agreed to this action.

Jo mentioned that she had discussed ideas for using the funds with Wes Earp, as one who may have the best opportunity to identify potential investments to preserve habitat in the county. He commented that it is not likely that we will have an opportunity like the lease of farm land for Dickcissel habitat that arose this spring any time soon. However she made sure that Wes knew of the bequest and asked him to keep his eyes open. We discussed how it would be desirable to preserve or even create suitable shorebird habitat as well as grassland habitat for field birds. One point made was we want to remember that we would need an appropriate level of access to any such habitat preservation effort.

During this discussion Bob reminded the Board that we still only had one person authorized to sign for the T Rowe Price account, namely Cindy. He reminded us that when Emy passed away we had considerable difficulty as she was the only authorized signatory on our account(s). Accordingly we agreed that Chuck, as secretary and a long-standing officer, should be added to the T Rowe Price account. Currently Cindy, John Harris, and Robin Todd are listed on the PNC checking account. Cindy took an action to investigate how to have Chuck added to the T. Rowe Price account.

Dickcissels – Dickcissels were observed this spring in a field along Underwood Road next to the driveway to Bowling Green Farm. This field had not been remained uncut over the winter and held promise for potential nesting if left undisturbed. It was proposed that the family might agree to not cut the field during the summer if they could be reimbursed for the value of the crop they would be planting in that field. The Board agreed to spend habitat funds for this purpose if the Jones family agreed to the proposal for a cost we could afford. Wes Earp approached them with the idea and they agreed to hold off mowing the field until September 1 for \$100/acre. The club agreed to pay them \$1030 for the 10.3 acre field. This lease did not grant us access to the field but since the field is adjacent to one edge of the field we were able to monitor the Dickcissels throughout the summer. The endeavor was considered a successful endeavor all around. In fact we received voluntary donations to our habitat fund as a result of the lease that covered the cost. There were at least two broods observed with at least one successful nest in each brood. Russ Ruffing, Mike Kerwin, and Jo Solem were primary monitors throughout the summer. Jo expressed hope that an article describing the entire project and results could be prepared for Maryland Bird Life. Jo agreed to talk to Russ and encourage him to write such an article. It was agreed that we should contact Joy Aso, who prepares certificates for MOS, to have a Certificate of Appreciation prepared expressing our thanks to the Jones family of

Bowling Green Farm for their agreeing to the lease. It was suggested we should have Wes and John Harris present them with the certificate and photo(s) of the Dickcissels, taking the opportunity to take a photo and get some publicity for the project. Jo agreed to contact Joy Asso for the certificate.

Henryton Parking – In early September Chuck discovered, while attempting to visit PVSP-Henryton, that the entire parking area had been posted as “No Parking.” He mentioned it to Jo in passing and she contacted a series of Howard County employees seeking insight into what had motivated this change that effectively negated easy access to this prime birding area of Patapsco Valley State Park. She was eventually directed to the HC Police Department where she learned they had requested the signs due to a series of complaint from some local residents about partying and drinking in the area. She announced at the regular club meeting that she was hopeful that some resolution might be received without involving others. Separately Kate Tufts had contacted her councilman (Fox) after she found the signs. She was told there would be no change as there had been few complaints raised about the signs. When he heard this Kurt took the lead and it was decided a much more visible response was in order. Kurt with help from Bob and others drafted letters to the County Executive, County Council members, Chief of Police, Director of Howard County Department of Public Works, and Superintendent-Maryland Park Service (this action was taken without consulting Park Service). These letters offered a compromise of amending the no parking to being from dusk to dawn. A Mailgram to club membership was sent with a request for members to send an email (sample draft content was provided) to all of the above. These letters and the relative barrage of subsequent emails generated a prompt response. All who had contacted the addressees received a reply from Executive Kittleman that the signs would be modified to say no parking from 7 pm to 7 am. The revised signs were in place by September 30. Overall this was a very prompt resolution to the issue. Bob also suggested if necessary we might want to consider requesting special permission from the police department to park outside these hours for seasonal counts.

Around the Room –

- Woody – He reminded us that this coming Sunday (Oct 1) would be The Howard County Conservancy Fall Fest from 11 am to 3 pm. There will be a very large crowd in attendance. Secondly he pointed out that the HCC board had directed their director, Meg Boyd, to write an opinion piece for the Howard County Times and Columbia Flyer. They wanted to express their opinion that at a minimum the county should purchase compensating habitat/parkland elsewhere in the county if they proceed with the proposal to build a new high school on 50 or more acres of Rockburn Branch Park land.
- Sue Muller – She expressed her opinion that with a little time to think about it she would have a number of ideas on how to use some of the Chestem funds. She also reported on recent actions for the Bird Collision Task Force. This activity is sponsored by the state MOS Conservation Committee. The focus of this initiative is bird strikes in the downtown Columbia area. Her request to use the freezer at RNC had been turned down because it is needed to store mice for the nature center’s snakes. Luckily the Howard Community College has agreed that the task force can use HCC’s specimen freezer for recovered birds. Two club members have been active proponents of this initiative (Carolyn Parsa and new member Beth Decker).
- John Harris – He reported that Joe Hanfman had proposed one of our RNC events be titled “Take Your Child Birding.” The event scheduled for Saturday, September 30 is sold out and has a waiting list. John stated that he along with some RNC staff will be leading this trip to be held at the RNC location.
- Chuck – Following the meeting Chuck asked Bob to take minutes for the October Board meeting as he will be out of town. Bob agreed to do so.

Review of Prior Action Items

- Provide Chuck with a copy of the final MOU that was signed for secretary records – John H. **OBE**
- Ask Joe Hanfman to attempt to add a family-friendly bird walk for week after Greenfest – John H. **DONE**
- Cindy will provide Nancy McAlister with additional information and work with her on the display signs at the SkyWatch. **IN PROGRESS**
- John H. investigate the possibilities for maintenance of the HCC SkyWatch site. **SEE NEW ACTION**
- John H. will coordinate with Joe Hanfman moving the 2018 Mid-Winter count date. **DONE**
- John H. will write a letter on the alleged illegal trapping incident. **DONE**

New/Continuing Action Items

- Contact Mary Lou to determine status of SkyWatch maintenance planning - John H.
- Coordinate getting display to Wes Earp for CMERC Open House and to Kurt afterward – John H.
- Provide Nancy with feedback on signage, e.g. intermediate size, 3rd sign at trail head – John H.
- Ask The Conservancy about adding SkyWatch to trail map and having a sign at trail head – Woody
- Find a venue for the March 2018 MOS Board meeting – Robin
- Determine how to add Secretary to TR Price account and then do it – Cindy, Chuck
- Deposit the Chestem bequest in TR Price Government Money Market Fund – Cindy
- Talk to Russ Ruffing about an article on Dickcissel project for Maryland Bird Life – Jo
- Arrange with Joy Aso for a certificate of appreciation for Jones family for Dickcissel field – Jo
- Send Bob copies of the May 2016 minutes and the cumulative PDF of minutes for web posting - Chuck

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2017	- Robin Todd	
October 26, 2017	- John Harris	
November 16, 2017	- John McKitterick	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 25, 2018	- Howard Patterson	
February 22, 2018	- Jo & Bob Solem	
March 22, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark	
April 26, 2018	- Kathie Lillie	
May 24, 2018	- Cindy Albright	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – September 28, 2017
- Treasurer’s Report – As of August 31, 2017
- Graph – Howard County Bird Club – Number of Votes (as of 28 Sept 2017)
- Investment Guidelines Discussion Handout – Prepared by Cindy Albright, Treasurer 9/19/2017
- Email – SkyWatch Sign Quote – Sept 27, 2017, 9:47 pm – Nancy McAllister

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

September 28, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Thank you to Mary Lou Clark for attending September MOS Bard meeting in Caroline County
 - Thank you to Meg Harris, Woody Merkle, Howard Patterson ,David Sandler for working the HCBC at booth Robinson Nature Center (RNC) Anniversary Open House
 - HC Recreation and Parks - Celebration of Partners in Parks (Nov 5, 2017)
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - Maintenance
 - Signage
 - Hosting MOS Board Meeting
 - HCBC-RNC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - Seed sale update
8. New Business
 - Martha Chestem bequest
 - Dickcissels
 - Henryton parking
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Robin Todd

10174 Green Clover Drive

Ellicott City MD 21042

(410) 491-5333

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of August 31, 2017

	Budget 2017-18	August Current Month	Y-T-D
Income			
Membership Dues	2,750	3,078	3,117
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,750		
Contributions to Habitat Preserva	3,000	142	1,315
Contributions to DOS		24	24
Total Operating Income	5,750	3,244	4,456

Expenses

Habitat Preserv. to lease Dickcissel land			1,030
Honorarium - Intern Barbara Sikorski			
Programs	1,000		100
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	350		50
Postage, Copies	300		
Newsletter & Directory	550	115	203
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon	260		
Total Operating Expense	2,795	115	1,383
Income less Expense	2,955	3,129	3,073

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 8/01/17	16,223
Interest Received in August	9.20
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 08/31/17	16,232.01

PNC Bank Balance

Beg. Checking Bal. 08/01/17	3,729.29
Chestem Trust - deposit 8/11/17	27,269.16
End Checking Bal. 08/31/17	33,724.17

Total Assets	49956.18
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Howard County Bird Club

(Prepared for Investment discussion at **Sept. 2017 Board Meeting** re \$27,269 Chestem Bequest)

Below is a summary of notes from **Ward Ebert and Chuck Stirrat**. See recommendation below

CD rates

Here are some examples for a minimum of \$10,000 (PNC pays a bit more for \$25,000 minimum):

6 mos	PNC: 0.08%	APLFCU: 0.15%
12 mos	PNC: 0.13%	APLFCU: 0.30%
24 mos	PNC: 0.28%	APLFCU: 0.50%
48 mos	PNC: 0.55%	APLFCU: 0.92%

Bonds

The next option would be TRBUX, a T. Rowe Price ultra-short bond fund that should net around 1%. If (Alternately, if we opened a brokerage account there would be a number of index ETFs in this investment category.)

Next step up increasing risk and return would be intermediate-term bonds, like PBDIX or PRTIX at T. Rowe Price, and again numerous index ETFs are available; these yielding in the **range of 2% but with more capital risk** - specifically, rate hikes by the Fed.

Note from Chuck Stirrat

I don't believe we have ever established any formal investment guidance for the club's funds. The only significant bequeath (\$10K) I can recall was the **Mountjoy gift which specified it be used for club activities vs. just a habitat pass through.**

We've talked about wanting to have enough funds for larger habitat projects. This obviously would permit that if we really have some specific ideas.

TRowePrice Government Money Market fund

Current balance \$16,232

Currently yielding **0.26%** (per website as of 9/1). **To match this rate with PNC Bank CD's over \$25K we would need to commit for 18 months (per web site).**

Recommendation

Chestem Bequest Funds \$27,269 should be deposited in our TRowePrice fund now and then after the Board addresses this we will have some idea if our timeline would indicate a need to search further for alternate investments.

Ad hoc Investment Committee

Ward Ebert
Charles Stirrat
Cindy Albright

Prepared by Cindy. Albright, Treasurer

9/19/2017 **Investment Guidelines**

September, 2017

Define the nonprofit's objectives for investing, identifying the nonprofit's risk tolerance, and adopting an investment policy.

There are three competing interests for any funds that a nonprofit invests:

- (1) protecting (and growing) the investment,
- (2) earning a reasonable interest rate, and
- (3) maintaining access to the invested cash when needed. An investment policy can address all three, as well as define who is accountable for investment-related activities.

* <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources/investment-policies-nonprofits>



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Sky Watch sign quote

Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>

Wed, Sep 27, 2017 at 9:47 PM

Reply-To: Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>

To: John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>, Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, Howard Patterson <howard21042@verizon.net>, M63kerwin <m63kerwin@verizon.net>, Woody Merkle <merkfam2@verizon.net>, Joe Hanfman <auk1844@gmail.com>

Hi group,

I've copied several of you who I thought would be interested in the info I have gathered regarding the Sky Watch signage. I was hoping to attend the Board meeting tomorrow night, but alas, the kids have 3 activities tomorrow and only 2 parents, so I'm going to have to be with you in spirit. I'm happy to answer any questions via phone or email though!

Could one of you please read off the quote below and ask the questions I have listed at the end of this email?

We could do one with Hawk ID and migration info, (like one we had from Meadowbrook) and one the same size or smaller with a tribute to Chan. Or we could try to achieve both on the same sign? Any thoughts or strong feelings welcome.

Assuming we decide to go with Adler Display, I will be sending content to one of their designers and they will work their magic and come back with some ideas for mock-ups. I will send those along to the Board for your review as soon as I receive them.

I talked with Andy Davenport at Adler Display based in Baltimore. Andy was the project manager for the design and signage for the Howard County Conservancy expansion project. I also worked with Adler previously on a two large watershed displays at the Conservancy's Belmont location and they did excellent work.

I asked for estimates for signs similar to the new ones at the Conservancy. I specifically mentioned the one the bird club sponsored just outside the downstairs of the expansion.

Here are the numbers:

24" x 18" sign made with materials designed to withstand the outdoors (10 year life warranty), aluminum powder coated base, angled top. = \$1500/sign

design time= \$125/ hour (estimated 4-6 hours, maybe more= ~\$500)

complete installation of 1 or 2 signs (dig hole, backfill and clean up) - same price for 1 or 2 signs= \$250

8.5" x 11" sign- same materials as above = \$895

design time= \$125/hour

So, in short, here are my questions:

1. I was thinking one sign for hawk ID migration and one as a tribute to Chan--- but am completely open to suggestions. Do we want 1 or 2 signs?
2. Any strong feelings on what size we want these 1 or 2 signs? One large and one small? Both large? Only one large? The designers might have some recommendations too, based on the material we send them.
3. Any strong feelings on where we place the sign(s)? At the actual Sky Watch sight? Closer to the parking lot? Near the path leading to the Sky Watch?

Thank you all for your help on this!

Look forward to hearing what the Board is thinking.
Wish I could be there.
Thanks for understanding. We'll be in touch!

Best,
Nancy

~Nancy McAllister

“Don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

~Howard Thurman

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 2017

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris√
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark√
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer: Cindy Albright√
Chap. Directors: David Sandler (1st yr.)√
Woody Merkle (2nd yr.)√
State Directors: Karen Heffernan√
John McKitterick√
Robin Todd
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson√
Records: Jo Solem√
Webmaster: Bob Solem√
Potluck: Kathie Lillie√
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John Harris. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 12 was 47 people. Sue Muller gave a program entitled “Rescuing Cold-stunned Sea Turtles.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Accepted as amended.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Accepted as sent (attached).

President’s Remarks (Harris): John led a program/walk at the Robinson Nature Center, “Take Your Child Birding” and said there was a waiting list. (This is one of four the club is required to provide annually.) Because it was so successful, all encouraged giving the same program in the future.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): None.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): None

Records (Jo Solem): Russ Ruffing has been listening to bird calls during the night and this month has identified a Barn Owl, an American Bittern, and several thrush species.

Conservation (Schwarz): None.

Newsletter (Patterson): Next deadline is November 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob updated the format for the membership application page and contribution page and is working on updating the bird photo gallery pages. He passed around a graph (attached) showing membership to date and gave the Chapter Directors the list of those who had not renewed so they could begin called the non-renewals by phone.

Potluck (Lillie): Preferred date is Saturday, March 24, 2018.

Old Business

SkyWatch maintenance: Mary Lou has contacted some people and checked into a heavy-duty weed-wacker. Woody said that Tabby had a group of volunteer high-schoolers, so she put them to work pulling weeds in the mulched area. (Weeds are a problem because no landscaping fabric was put under the mulch.)

SkyWatch signage: Although there has been no additional information about details for a second sign size, the Board authorized Nancy McAllister to proceed with development of two signs. When the design has been approved by the bird club, it will also have to be approved by the Howard County Conservancy's Grounds Committee. Woody will check into a directional sign and adding the SkyWatch to HCC's trail maps. Russ Ruffing will be leading a field trip to the SkyWatch the first weekend of November so placement of the signs can be discussed by participants; John H. will work with Russ on placement of the signs.

MOS Board meeting March 3, 2018: It is in the hands of Robin Todd. Kathie Lillie will prepare a list of food, beverages, and equipment that the bird club will have to provide.

There was no new information on the results of the seed sale.

New Business

Jennifer Ackerman program: The Board agreed to co-sponsor the program with the Howard County Conservancy and provide the \$500 from the Marty Chestem bequest. Jo will answer Meg Boyd's email, accepting co-sponsorship; Jo will also see what arrangements can be made to publicize the bird club at this activity.

Hard copy of *The Goldfinch* printed in color: The Board approved printing future issues of *The Goldfinch* in color.

Safe Skies: Deferred until November because Sue Muller could not attend.

Annual butterfly update question: John H. is to contact Linda Hunt and establish the policy.

Around the Room:

- John McKitterick hoped the club would be able to fund a large project with the Chestem bequest rather than spreading it out over many small projects.
- Howard knew of a Fish and Wildlife survey being conducted and provided Tony VanSchoors name as someone who would be a knowledgeable participant.
- Kathie will not be in town on Saturday, May 12 (May Count) and will see if Linda Hunt can host the tally.
- Jo still has material from Marty Chestem that she will bring to the November meeting. She asked John McKitterick to pick up more membership cards at the December MOS Board meeting.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Contact Mary Lou to determine status of SkyWatch maintenance planning - John H. CLOSED
- Coordinate getting display to Wes Earp for CMERC Open House and to Kurt afterward – John H. CLOSED
- Provide Nancy with feedback on signage, e.g. intermediate size, 3rd sign at trail head – John H. CLOSED
- Ask The Conservancy about adding SkyWatch to trail map and having a sign at trail head – Woody
- Find a venue for the March 2018 MOS Board meeting – Robin CLOSED
- Determine how to add Secretary to TR Price account and then do it – Cindy, Chuck CLOSED
- Deposit the Chestem bequest in TR Price Government Money Market Fund – Cindy CLOSED
- Talk to Russ Ruffing about an article on Dickcissel project for Maryland Bird Life – Jo CLOSED
- Arrange with Joy Aso for a Certificate of Appreciation for Jones family for Dickcissel field – Jo circulated rough draft from Joy.
- Send Bob copies of the May 2016 minutes and the cumulative PDF of minutes for web posting – Chuck CLOSED

New/Continuing Action Items

- Ask The Conservancy about adding SkyWatch to trail map and having a sign at trail head – Woody
- Make arrangements to present the certificate to Jones family – Jo, John H.
- Jennifer Ackerman program: Send email to Meg Boyd seeking clarification on a number of questions before the Board commits to co-sponsoring program – Jo
- Safe Skies program: Provide Board with details at November Board meeting – Sue Muller
- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at December MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Annual butterfly update policy: John Harris seek clarification from Linda Hunt

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2017	- Robin Todd
October 26, 2017	- John Harris
November 16, 2017	- Cindy Albright (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING
January 25, 2018	- Howard Patterson
February 22, 2018	- Jo & Bob Solem
March 22, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark
April 26, 2018	- Kathie Lillie
May 24, 2018	- John McKitterick (Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – October 26, 2017
- Treasurer’s Report – thru September 30, 2017
- Progress on Membership Totals

Minutes submitted by:

Bob Solem for Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

October 26, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - RNC event "Take Your Child Birding" – September 30, 2017
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - Maintenance
 - Signage
 - Hosting MOS Board Meeting - March 3, 2018
 - Field trip, food, set-up, etc.
 - Seed sale update
8. New Business
 - Jennifer Ackerman program
 - Color edition of Goldfinch
 - Safe Skies proposal – Sue Muller
 - Annual butterfly update question
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

John Harris
6400 Ripe Apple Lane
Columbia, MD 21044
(240) 755-0183

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of September 30, 2017

	Budget 2017-18	Sept Current Month	Y-T-D
Income			
Membership Dues	2,750	1,393	4,175
State Dues Paid			
Net Membership Dues	2,750		
Contributions to Habitat Preservation	3,000	261	631
Contributions to DOS			24
Total Operating Income	5,750	1,654	4,830

Expenses			
Programs	1,000		100
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	350		50
Postage, Copies	300		
Newsletter & Directory	550		203
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon	260		
Total Operating Expense	2,795	-	353
Income less Expense	2,955	1,654	4,477

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

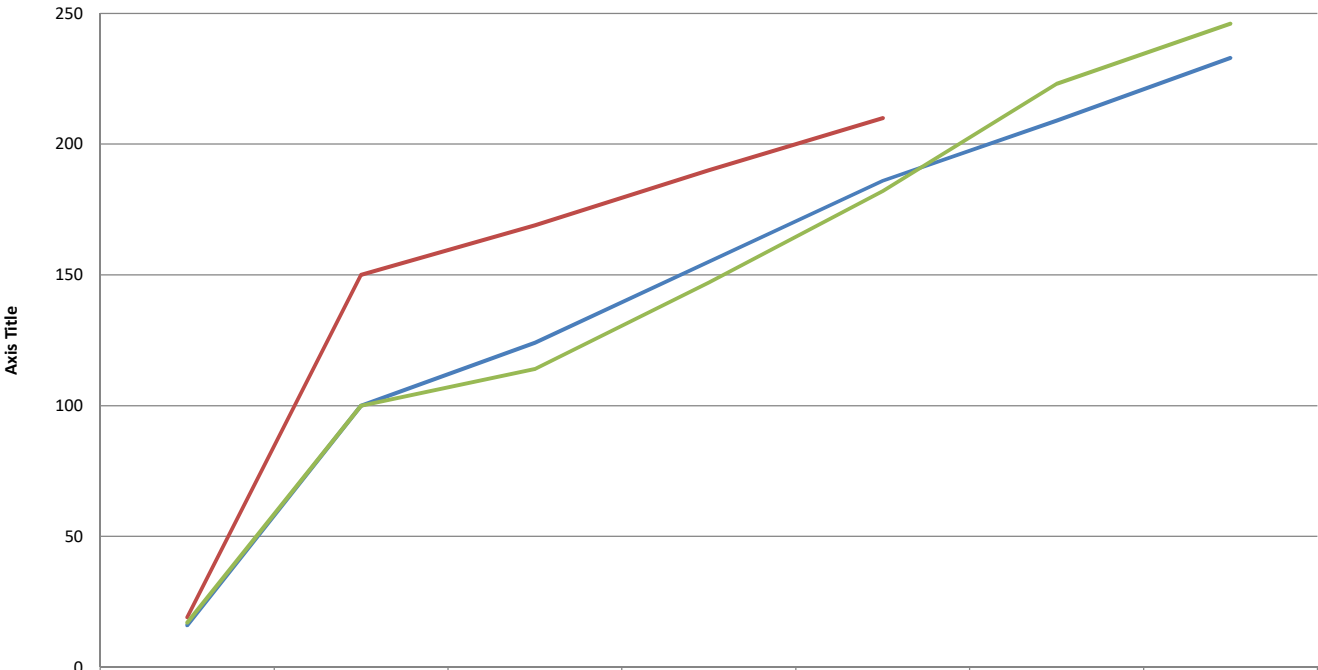
Reserve Account beginning bal. 9/01/17	16,232
Interest Received in Sept.	9.48
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 09/30/17	16,241.49

PNC Bank Balance*

Beg. Checking Bal. 09/01/17	33,724
End Checking Bal. 09/30/17	35,404
Total Assets	\$ 51,645

* Chestem Bequest \$27,269.16 deposited to PNC 8/11/17 transferred to TRowe 10/8/17

Howard County Bird Club Number of Votes



	Prev	14-Sep	28-Sep	10-Oct	26-Oct	1-Dec	31-Jan
15-16	16	100	124	155	186	209	233
17-18	19	150	169	190	210		
16-17	17	100	114	147	182	223	246

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, November 16, 2017

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: David Sandler (1st yr.) √
Woody Merkle (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick
Robin Todd
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:
Sue Muller √
Nancy McAllister √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Cindy Albright. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 9 was 54 people. David H. Johnson, Director, Global Owl Project gave a program entitled "Owls in Myth and Culture – A Global Perspective."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes taken by Bob were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had distributed the attached treasurer's report for October prior to the meeting. She commented that she had just received 6 additional renewals as a result of the calling campaign by David and Woody. She also stated she would send the check for \$300 for All Creatures Great and Small as budgeted.

President's Remarks (Harris): John reported he and the Solems had attended the Howard Rec & Parks Celebration of Partners event held at Belmont Manor.

Vice-President's Remarks (Clark): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): John reported that Joe has scheduled a Beginner's Walk at Mt. Pleasant for the weekend after GreenFest that we can promote at the event as a way to exploit interest expressed by visitors to our display. It was suggested we should have a handout describing the walk to hand out at GreenFest.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo mentioned that the end of October and first half of November had been quite active with numerous rarities. She mentioned Greater White-fronted Goose, Black Scoter, Red-throated Loon, Golden Eagle (2), Bonaparte's Gulls, Clay-colored Sparrow, and American Woodcock.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt reported there had been an oil spill on the Keystone pipeline, and the USFWS has lifted a ban on import of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia. There are currently no hot topics at the county-level. At the state level he is proposing to give positive feedback to those drafting a new vision plan for Idylwild WMA in Caroline County. Nationally he noted that a proposal to not fine hunters who inadvertently shoot Trumpeter Swans during the authorized Tundra Swan hunt in the western flyway has been proposed. This is

problematic given how difficult swan identification is, and that swan hunting may be expanded. While waiving of the fine may be warranted, among the proposals is that Trumpeter kills need not be documented, which MOS as well as the Trumpeter Swan Society would likely oppose. MOS filed comment with the NPS over the proposed dramatic increase in entrance fees for 17 National Parks during the peak seasons.

Sec. Note: Kurt provided the prior paragraph correcting my original draft and offered the following updates: The Nebraska Public Service Commission has okayed the Keystone XL, as of Nov 20. I, i.e. Kurt, read recently that the PSC was legally enjoined NOT to consider safety of the pipeline in their deliberations. Talking about stacking the deck..... And President Trump has put the trophy import plan proposed by USFWS on "hold." Reports state, that unlike his sons, he does not favor trophy hunting.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard was not present but Bob reported the deadline for the next issue of the Goldfinch is November 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob stated the phone calls to members who have not renewed were bringing in several renewals. He stated he will not email the Jan-Feb newsletter to members who have not renewed when it goes out near the end of December. The same will be true of newsgrams. He is currently updating the club "contacts" database (includes non-members such as seed sale contacts, government officials, etc.). The updated database will be compatible with MailChimp so he will only need to maintain one database for all contact functions.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie had sent an email with the following points. We were not able to get our first choice of date for the potluck so now it is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2018 (St. Patrick's Day). She has submitted the announcement article to Howard for inclusion in the Jan-Feb Goldfinch. On another matter Kathie has confirmed that Linda Hunt is willing to host the Spring Count tally rally, May 12, 2018 as Kathie will be away.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): The next meeting is December 2, 2017 hosted by the Montgomery Chapter at Seneca State Park.

Old Business

SkyWatch – Signage Update – Nancy began reporting on the follow-up to her Mom's Big Year. She had just returned from the Lower Rio Grande birding festival where she had given her presentation and participated on a panel discussing Big Year experiences. She also has a lead on a potential book deal describing her adventures.

She then presented where she is in the process of developing signs for the SkyWatch site. She passed out a copy of the quotes she has received from Adler Display Studios and the sample which had been developed earlier when the potential of establishing a Hawk Watch at Meadowbrook Park had been considered (both attached). The designer who was her initial POC at Adler has changed but she is pleased with the current designer assigned as she has worked with him before. In reviewing the quote recognize that we would only be choosing the first large (18" x 24") and only one of the three smaller signs listed. Nancy asked the board to confirm our agreement that the quotes were reasonable (agreed) and provide feedback on which of the three smaller sizes we favored (agreed we lean toward largest one but would depend on if content warrants it – Nancy provide advice after develops content). She asked if the smaller sign should just have title ("Chandler S. Robbins SkyWatch") or should also have short text describing who Chan was and his connection to Howard County and possibly pictures of Chan. Nancy has spoken to Chan's family and they have provided pictures that could be used. Board favored text and pictures. Nancy will develop draft and provide for comment. She then asked for board feedback on informational sign content using the sample as starting point. Since the SkyWatch title will be on the other sign might want to have a "Question" such as "Can you identify raptors?" or other way to draw reader in to sign. We liked having the silhouettes and images for ID. Need to add vultures if eliminate the kettling diagram as was suggested. Might want to condense the text or eliminate it altogether. Liked having the bar charts of when most abundant migrants. Potentially look into adding some color but probably leave the images in black & white. Contacts for samples are Wes Earp and Ralph Geuder. They may know where the images came from. Mike Kerwin should have the original PDF that Jo and Bob provided him. Hopefully we can find images in higher detail formats. Nancy will contact them. David mentioned that there was a large sign at the Cromwell Valley hawk watch site that might have useful info. He will get Nancy a picture of

that sign. Nancy then asked about the potential of one or more signs providing direction to the SkyWatch. She was told that Woody was her point of contact on that as he is checking with the Conservancy about such signage. Mary Lou pointed out that it can be confusing at the trail split to know which way to go and it would also be nice to have a sign closer to the parking lot. Nancy also wanted insight as to where the two major signs would be placed. Several attempts to describe decisions made by a group that discussed this while at the site were confusing. Nancy was directed to contact Woody for this information as well as he was a part of that discussion. She will need a site drawing showing the sign positions for meetings with the Conservancy and Adler. Ultimately she would like to have the locations pointed out (and marked?) during an on-site visit to ensure the Adler installer have clear directions. Lastly we discussed plans for a dedication ceremony that would include some of Chan's family. Both Jo and Nancy have already broached this with them and they are very interested in attending. A date in April will likely match with Chan's out-of-town family visits so that will likely be when the dedication will occur. Accordingly the signs will need to be installed by early spring which Nancy felt would not be a problem.

Hosting MOS Board Meeting – March 3, 2018 - Robin has arranged for us to host the meeting at the Howard County Conservancy on this date. He needs to coordinate volunteers for setup and food. He may want to check with Kathie who stated she could help with identifying what food is needed during the last Board meeting. Kurt volunteered to lead a bird walk at Mt. Pleasant before the meeting.

Jennifer Ackerman program – Arrangements have finalized for us to split the speaking fee for this talk at the Conservancy on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:00 pm. That would normally be our Board meeting night and it was proposed and agreed we would hold a board meeting at the Conservancy starting at 5:00 pm prior to the talk. The potential of ordering pizza for the meeting was suggested as that would normally be dinner time. Kathie was scheduled to be the host for that meeting but won't need to now.

New Business

Robinson Nature Center bird skins loan program – Stacy Yankee from RNC had contacted John H. with her concerns about the collection of taxidermy bird specimens that the club originally donated to Rec and Parks. She expressed concern the specimens are extremely fragile and subject to damage when taken out on loan. She wonders if we would consider further limiting or eliminating the potential to take the specimens out from RNC where they are on display. After discussion it was moved, seconded, and approved that we would discontinue the ability to have members borrow birds from the collection. John took an action to notify RNC of this decision. Mary Lou took an action to draft a NEWSGRAM item announcing this decision to the membership.

Committee for Chestem bequest guidelines – Jo reported that several members have expressed concerns on just how to use this bequest (not the actual use but what types of projects would be appropriate to consider expending it on). She had proposed to John he might want to form a committee to formulate such guidelines for consideration by the board. John agreed and asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. Members volunteering were Jo, Cindy, Karen, and Sue Muller. The action item for Sue to discuss the Safe Skies program was deferred as it would potentially be impacted by what is finally decided on bequest guidelines.

MOS Convention – The convention will be held in Ocean City February 2-4, 2018. MOS has asked the individual chapters to email the brochures as they are more likely to have current email addresses than are in the state database. Bob will email the brochures to the membership as soon as it is ready. There are only 3 members who don't have email and will receive their brochures by snail mail. This Saturday would normally be our Winter Count but as a result the count will be held one week earlier, January 27, 2018. *Sec. Note: An update to the WSSC permission email with the updated date will need to be requested.*

Form Nominating Committee (2018–2019 officers) - John stated he needed to form a nominating committee to find candidates for next year with the focus on finding candidates for Vice President and Chapter Director assuming others will continue in their current positions. Mary Lou will be one member and will contact Robin to see if he would be willing to serve on committee. All are encouraged to suggest potential candidates to approach.

Around the Room -

- Jo had brought the two remaining items left from Marty Chestem's donated collection. These included a carved ivory puffin and a carved stone owl. Jo stated Kathie had shown some interest in the puffin earlier

(having looked a carved ivory prices on-line finding \$100 to \$400). Kurt offered a \$100 for the puffin. Jo stated she would offer Kathie a chance to exceed that and if she passes let Kurt have it for that donation.

- In discussing the action item to give the Jones family a certificate of appreciation, John H. stated we have the certificate. He said he would contact Wes Earp and ask him to approach the family about attending the potluck and if that doesn't work have Wes make arrangements to have a few key participants visit the farm to give the family the certificate.
- In discussing his action to seek clarification on Linda Hunt's plans for an annual update on butterfly surveys at the December meeting, John stated he confirmed that she plans to do so annually. Her update will be timed to complete by the regular program speaker start time, so that they will not have to rush their program.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Ask The Conservancy about adding SkyWatch to trail map and having a sign at trail head – Woody
- Make arrangements to present the certificate to Jones family – Jo, John H. UPDATED BELOW
- Jennifer Ackerman program: Send email to Meg Boyd seeking clarification on a number of questions before the Board commits to co-sponsoring program – Jo CLOSED
- Safe Skies program: Provide Board with details at November Board meeting – Sue Muller DEFERRED
- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at December MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Annual butterfly update policy: John Harris seek clarification from Linda Hunt CLOSED

New/Continuing Action Items

- Ask The Conservancy about adding SkyWatch to trail map and having a sign at trail head – Woody
- Contact Woody for info on the Conservancy input on trail head signs and sign locations at site – Nancy
- Contact Wes, Ralph, and Mike for help with the content of the large sign - Nancy
- Request a quote from Adler based on our discussion for John's approval & signature - Nancy
- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at December MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Visit Cromwell Valley hawk watch site and get photo of signs for Nancy - David
- Talk to Wes Earp about arrangements to present the certificate to the Jones family – John H.
- Notify RNC of our decision to terminate the bird specimen loan agreement – John H.
- Provide Bob with a NEWSGRAM item informing members of decision to terminate specimen loans – Mary Lou

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2017	- Robin Todd	
October 26, 2017	- John Harris	
November 16, 2017	- Cindy Albright	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 25, 2018	- Howard Patterson	
February 22, 2018	- Jo & Bob Solem	
March 22, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark	
April 26, 2018	- Kathie Lillie	(Meeting will be held at HCC at 5:00 pm)
May 24, 2018	- John McKitterick	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – November 16, 2017
- Treasurer's Report – October 2017
- Adler Display Studios quote (preliminary) – ADLQ34799-01 – November 1, 2017
- Sample Content for large information sign (drafted for Meadowbrook Park)

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

November 16, 2017 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris

5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Added Mt. Pleasant Beginners' Walk - April 28, 2018 – after Greenfest
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem

7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - Signage update
 - Hosting MOS Board Meeting - March 3, 2018
 - Field trip, food, set-up, etc.
 - Jennifer Ackerman program
 - April 26, 2018 Board meeting

8. New Business
 - Robinson Nature Center bird skins loan program
 - Committee for Chestem bequest guidelines
 - MOS Convention – e-mail brochure, snail-mail for non e-mail members
 - Form nominating committee – 2018-2019 officers

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Cindy Albright
10363 Windstream Dr
Columbia MD 21044
(240) 463-5380

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
as of October 31, 2017

	Budget 2017-18	Oct Current Month	Y-T-D
Income			
Membership Dues	2,750	1,070	5,392
State Dues Paid		2,960	2,960
Net Membership Dues	2,750		2,432
Contributions to Habitat Preservation (Inc. donation from Wildlife Auth. \$750)	3,000	606	1,977
Seed payments from members (6375 lbs of seed)		5,386	
Contributions to DOS			24
Total Operating Income	5,750	10,022	4,433

Expenses			
Programs	1,000		100
Special Supplies			
Internet Account	350		50
Postage, Copies	300		
Newsletter & Directory	550	104	307
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300		
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon	260		
Seed pymt to Wildlife Authority		5,386	
Total Operating Expense	2,795	104	457
Income less Expense	2,955	9,918	3,976

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 10/01/17		16,241
Addition from Chestem Bequest*		27,269
Interest Received in Sept.		23.86
Marjorie Mountjoy Fund Balance (part of total)	5540.00	
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 10/31/17		43,535

PNC Bank Balance*

Beg. Checking Bal. 010/01/17		35,404
End Checking Bal. 10/31/17		10,803
Total Assets		\$54,337

* Chestem Bequest \$27,269.16 deposited to PNC 8/11/17 transferred to TRowe 10/8/17



7140 windsor boulevard, baltimore md 21244
 ph. 410-281-1200 fax 410-281-2187
 www.adlerdisplay.com

Quote

Quote To:

Howard County Bird Club
 Nancy McAllister

Ship To:

Howard County Conservancy

Quote # ADLQ34799-01

Date 11/01/17

Sales Rep. Ron Adler

Terms 50/50

Ship Via TBD

Due Date

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Ext. Price
6	Design of the sign below. Estimated at 6 hours. Additional time will be billed at \$125.00 per hour. The client is to provided the content and images in a production ready format.	\$125.00	\$750.00
1	One (1) angled waist height exterior graphic signs, 18" tall by 24" wide on a single post. Includes one proof for color of one of the graphics and PDF proofs for the others.	\$1,345.00	\$1,345.00
1	Installation during normal working hours Monday thru Friday.	\$250.00	\$250.00
	SubTotal		\$2,345.00
3	Design and layout of a smaller sign.	\$125.00	\$375.00
1	Fabricate exterior sign that will match the existing on the property. The sign is 8.5" by 11" by 1/2" thick and is mounted to a black pole.	\$835.00	\$835.00
1	Installation during normal working hours Monday thru Friday.	\$125.00	\$125.00
	SubTotal		\$1,335.00
	Smaller sign option		
3	Design and layout of a smaller sign.	\$125.00	\$375.00
1	Fabricate exterior sign that will match the existing on the property. The sign is 11"x14" by 1/2" thick and is mounted to a black pole.	\$878.00	\$878.00
1	Installation during normal working hours Monday thru Friday.	\$125.00	\$125.00
	SubTotal		\$1,378.00
	Smaller sign option		
3	Design and layout of a smaller sign	\$125.00	\$375.00
1	Fabricate exterior sign that will match the existing on the property. The sign is 12"x18" by 1/2" thick and is mounted to a black pole.	\$923.00	\$923.00
1	Installation during normal working hours Monday thru Friday.	\$125.00	\$125.00

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Ext. Price
	SubTotal		\$1,423.00
		SubTotal	\$6,481.00
		Sales Tax	\$388.86
		Total	\$6,869.86

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Freight to ship hardware from manufacturer to Adler Display and Adler Display to client is additional. Any applicable taxes are additional. Graphic prices are subject to change upon final review of artwork provided to Adler Display.

Prices outlined in this quote are subject to change at the discretion of Adler Display should a signed contract not be returned to Adler Display within 30 days from the date on the quote.

Adler Display accepts the following forms of payment; cash, checks, EFT & credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and American Express only for purchases up to \$5,000.00).

Note that all deposits are non-refundable.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL: The above prices, terms, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and hereby accepted. Adler Display is authorized to do the work as specified.

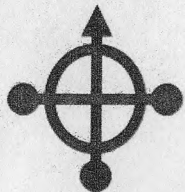
Date of Acceptance: _____

Signature: _____

Ralph Grewler
Wes Garp

MEADOWBROOK PARK HAWK WATCH SITE

Silhouettes are not to scale. Illustrations are roughly proportional to true size. Adults are pictured.



Falcons

American Kestrel



Merlin



Peregrine Falcon



Accipiters

Sharp-shinned Hawk



Cooper's Hawk



Buteos

Broad-winged Hawk



Red-shouldered Hawk



Red-tailed Hawk

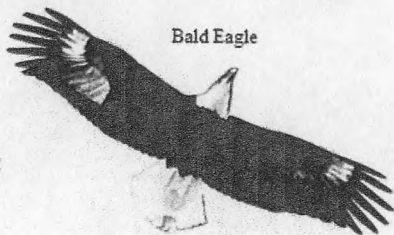


Osprey

Osprey



Bald Eagle



Northern Harrier

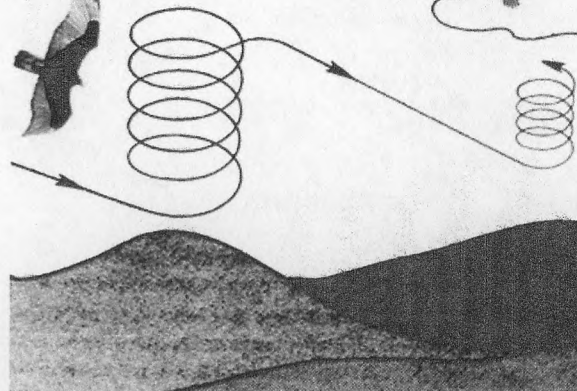


Broad-winged Hawk

Turkey Vulture



Black Vulture



Some raptors (hawks, eagles, vultures) migrate long distances conserving energy by using cross winds (vertically deflected) or soaring on strong updrafts. The most dramatic autumn flights are often the second or third day after the passage of a cold front with accompanying north or west winds. Locally, during periods of stable weather, sun-warmed columns of air called thermals are the primary means of providing lift, especially for the broad-winged hawks and vultures. By midday birds may be out of sight carried aloft thousands of feet by the rising air. Groups or "kettles" of these circling raptors constantly peer southward for uplifted debris or other circling raptors locating new thermals to glide to. This behavior is best illustrated during the third week of September during the peak Broad-winged Hawk movement. On a good day, thousands of kettling hawks may be counted within a few hours. Spring migration is far less concentrated in our vicinity of the Piedmont.

Howard County Hawk Migration

	March	April	May	September	October	November
Turkey Vulture				██████████	██████████	██████████
Osprey	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Northern Harrier		██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Sharp-shinned Hawk		██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Cooper's Hawk		██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Red-shouldered Hawk		██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Broad-winged Hawk			██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Red-tailed Hawk	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
American Kestrel		██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Merlin		██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████
Peregrine Falcon		██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████	██████████

Erected by the Howard County Bird Club
A chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2018

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: David Sandler (1st yr.) √
Woody Merkle (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Others:
Mary Maxey √
Nancy McAllister √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Howard Patterson. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 14, 2017 was 62 people. Pam Spencer of the Baltimore County Master Gardeners gave a program entitled “Monarch Butterflies: Their Amazing Life History and Current Conservation Status.” Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 11, 2018 was 50 people. Murray R. Bakst gave a program entitled “Bird Sex and Breeding.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck reported that he had amended the draft submitted to the board to incorporate a rewrite of the Conservation report that Kurt supplied correcting some errors. Kurt also provided a couple of updates that were added. The date of the mid-winter count was corrected and a spelling error caught by Wes Earp was corrected. The minutes were accepted as amended and will be posted on the club web site.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had sent the board the attached Treasurer’s Report for November-December 2017. She reported that she had received two new memberships this week. She stated that over the past year we had funded a number of projects that had achieved the goal of decreasing our holdings to put them to good use. The receipt of the Chestem bequest has raised the balance again but we are taking steps to address that. Last she mentioned having received a thank you from Massachusetts Audubon for the \$100 they were sent after Sue Muller asked they receive her honorarium following her program on sea turtle rescue.

President’s Remarks (Harris): John mentioned that he will not be at the February regular meeting and Mary Lou will chair the meeting.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou introduced Mary Maxey who was attending at the invitation of the nominating committee so she could see what being a club officer would involve.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): No report.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that it had been an exciting late December and early January. She mentioned Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese, Trumpeter Swan (P95), a new species for the county with two King Eiders found at Brighton dam, Iceland Gulls, Rough-legged Hawk, and Snowy Owl.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present but had sent John an email listing some of the bills under consideration by the Maryland legislature that MOS will be weighing in on. These included: Forest Conservation Act, Chlorpyrifos Ban (toxic to birds), Styrofoam food container ban (also toxic to birds, with solid science behind it), and per Beth Decker, a bird safe building act will be introduced.

Newsletter (Patterson): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has added a “Web Site Tour” button to the club web site. The recent emailing to solicit corrections prior to publishing the club directory was very successful. Bob received 20 responses with corrections out of the 178 message he sent out.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had sent an email reporting that so far she has 31 attendees signed up for the potluck on March 17.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): Most recent meeting was held December 2 at Seneca State Park in Montgomery County. John McKitterick sent out a summary of the meeting highlights in an email dated December 4. Maryanne Dolan, the secretary, was absent due to a broken shoulder hurt on a birding trip to Trinidad. As a result, John was unable to get the MOS membership cards that Jo had requested. He'll try again at the March meeting.

Old Business

SkyWatch – Signage Update – Nancy had sent PDF's of the preliminary workup of the two signs just prior to the meeting. She had a series of questions that she wanted feedback from the board on. We agreed that the correct spelling was SkyWatch with the capital “W” if font would require a choice. Everyone liked the “books” on Chan's sign. The proposed text was accepted as proposed for the small sign and minor changes (remove “peak”, consider adding “spring”) made on the larger sign. Use of “Raptors” with subtext “Birds of Prey” was fine. It was OK to seek copyright permission for use of silhouette drawing from HMANA. As for which birds to include it was agreed to use the falcons, buteos, and accipiters already on the draft except that N. Goshawk should be removed. We proposed adding Osprey, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, and Black Vulture. Nancy will investigate if there is a way to include silhouettes from both perspectives for these additional species. Add something like “not drawn to scale” on large sign. Add the club logo or text Howard County Bird Club and logo on one or both signs. It looks like the production schedule will support a dedication in April when Chan's son is to be in town. Various ideas for a dedication were discussed. One possibility was to hold it on HCC Earth Day (April 21). Lastly Woody had determined that the HCC policy is not to have permanent direction signs other than the trail sign posts. The SkyWatch will be added to their map of property. Lastly Woody said it will be possible to have temporary direction signs in the parking lot area if holding an event at the SkyWatch. *Secretary Note: The large (4MB) workup files are not attached to the version being sent to the Board as they have already been sent by Nancy, but they will be included in the final version to be posted on the website archive.*

Committee Report on Chestem Bequest Guidelines – The committee had submitted the attached report. Jo briefly reviewed the five guidelines in the report. She suggested we might want to put something like half of the money away to retain the goal of at least one large project if we start to using the fund on smaller projects that meet the other guidelines. She emphasized not waiting too long to use the bequest as the committee felt it was important to use it while there are still members who remember Marty. John McK expressed his desire that we have the treasurer's report track the balance of bequest funds. John H mentioned that at the latest MOS board meeting it was announced that there may be additional money coming as the estate is finalized.

We then briefly discussed the suggested ideas for projects listed in their report. Committee members felt the Safe Skies project and water fountains stood out. We agreed we should solicit ideas from the general club membership. Jo agreed to draft an article for a NewsGram asking for ideas.

It was proposed that it would be appropriate to use our regular habitat funds to support the Safe Skies project described in the committee report. It was moved and approved that we donate \$500 to this project. Sue will investigate and provide Cindy with information so that she can send a check.

Nominating Committee Update – The committee is proceeding with finding a candidate for Vice President. After filling that position they will work on identifying a Chapter Director candidate. Their final slate is not needed until March. *Sec. Note: Would it be appropriate to seek another State Director to replace Robin as he will be on the MOS Board as President?*

New Business

MPEA Grant Proposal – Cheryl Farfaras had sent John the attached Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal for Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. The board was very much in support of the project and it was moved and approved that we would support with a grant of \$1912.50. Cindy will contact Cheryl and determine who to make the check out to and forward it.

Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary, Inc. – funds donation – Jeff Culler had sent an email to John asking the board to consider supporting Frisky's as a second wildlife rehabilitator in the county more readily used by those in northern parts of the county. He also asked that the directory provide contact information for them in the club directory as we do for All Creatures Great & Small. It was moved and approved that we donate \$300 to them and add them to the directory. Bob indicated he had already included them in his current working draft of directory.

Ornithology Instructor for Master Naturalists at Robinson Nature Center – John H. had received a request from Kelly Vogelpohl, Environmental Educator/Coordinator at Robinson looking for a volunteer instructor to lead the Ornithology portion of Robinson's Master Naturalist Class, which will be taking place this spring, March - May. Knowing that the Howard County Bird Club members have a wealth of knowledge up their sleeves about local birds, and a sincere passion, she thought the Howard County Bird Club might be able to help. The Ornithology portion of the class would take place on Tuesday, May 8th, from 9-12 pm. A portion of the session would be inside (natural history of birds, flight, feathers, anatomy, migration, conservation, etc.) and there would be an outside hike/birding portion as well. Jo Solem stated that she and Mike Kerwin have led the Ornithology portion in the past, however, this year, she & Bob are teaching the fungi portion instead. Jo stated that Harry Fink had helped put together a PowerPoint presentation for the classroom portion and probably still has it. She said Mike did the lab portion in the past. John will approach candidates, including Mike, to see if they would be willing to do this.

Earth Day Celebration at Clarksville Commons, Saturday, April 14th from 11 am to 4 pm – The webmaster received a request to have us participate in this Earth Day celebration intentionally scheduled a week before the normal weekend. It was agreed we should agree to participate and solicit volunteers to man our "booth". *Sec. Note: During the meeting it was stated that this is the Columbia village center at Clarksville, but looking at the web site included in the email it is not, Rather it is the new commercial center across MD 108 from the Clarksville Village Center.* www.clarksvillecommons.com

Editing Membership Application – Bob handed out copies of the application page from the web site with intent to see if the list of activities needed any revisions. It was decided to delete Dragonfly Count and Plants/Wildflowers as we no longer have formal activities dealing with these topics. John McK pointed out that MOS is making progress on a new website and has a goal of taking over collecting membership data and dues from the chapters. Bob pointed out that he is a participant in the web redesign effort and the membership goal is not part of initial design focus. In his opinion this capability will not be in place for several years.

Around the Room

- Jo said they are running out of club postage return labels. Accordingly Bob worked up two potential designs that use the club's P.O. Box and logo. The difference between the two was that one included the words "Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society" and one didn't add these words. The board favored the version with the extra words. Bob will order labels for which he had received an estimated cost of \$20.

- Bob stated one change he has made in the club application form is an option to indicate when there have been no changes in your contact information so that you don't need to reenter the data. This will help him as it will eliminate case where people are inconsistent year to year and he has to resolve inconsistencies.
- Sue reported that Anna Schrad is taking a new position at Howard Rec and Parks.
- Woody reported that Howard County Conservancy has two programs scheduled the morning of Saturday, February 8. He will teach a Frog Identification section and then Karen & Kevin Heffernan will teach an Introduction to the Great Backyard Bird Count (scheduled for the following weekend).
- John McK asked Robin to review preparations for our hosting the March meeting of the MOS Board at Mt. Pleasant. Robin reported that Wes and Sue Earp and Kathie Lillie have volunteered to assist. Robin then stated that in addition to the regular Board meeting in the morning a follow-up to the MOS planning retreat will be held from 1 – 4 pm. Robin was told that Kurt has volunteered to lead a bird walk before the morning meeting.
- John H. “dramatically” reported and held up a SIGNED copy of the Memo of Understanding between the Robinson Nature Center and the club. The MOU is valid until 2022. He will retain the original in the President's records and send Chuck a PDF copy for his records.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- Ask The Conservancy about adding SkyWatch to trail map and having a sign at trail head – Woody DONE
- Contact Woody for info on the Conservancy input on trail head signs and sign locations at site – Nancy DONE
- Contact Wes, Ralph, and Mike for help with the content of the large sign – Nancy DONE
- Request a quote from Adler based on our discussion for John's approval & signature – Nancy DONE
- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at December MOS meeting – John McKitterick PENDING
- Visit Cromwell Valley hawk watch site and get photo of signs for Nancy - David DONE
- Talk to Wes Earp about arrangements to present the certificate to the Jones family – John H. PENDING
- Notify RNC of our decision to terminate the bird specimen loan agreement – John H. DONE
- Provide Bob with a NEWSGRAM item informing members of decision to terminate specimen loans – Mary Lou DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at December MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Talk to Wes Earp about arrangements to present the certificate to the Jones family – John H.
- Draft NewsGram soliciting ideas for using Chestem bequest – Jo
- Determine who to make out check for Safe Skies project to and send the check – Sue Muller, Cindy
- Determine who to send the check for MPEA project to and send the check – Cindy
- Prepare and send a donation of \$300 to Frisky's – Cindy
- Solicit volunteer(s) to teach the Ornithology portion of Master Naturalists course at RNC – John H.
- Accept Columbia Commons Earth Day invitation and solicit volunteers to man booth – John H.
- Prepare a NewsGram article describing the two programs at Mt. Pleasant on Feb. 8 – Woody
- Send Chuck a PDF copy of the MOU with RNC – John H.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2017	- Robin Todd	
October 26, 2017	- John Harris	
November 16, 2017	- Cindy Albright	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 25, 2018	- Howard Patterson	
February 22, 2018	- Jo & Bob Solem	
March 22, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark	
April 26, 2018	- Howard County Conservancy	(Meeting will be held at HCC at 5:00 pm)
May 24, 2018	- John McKitterick	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – January 25, 2018
- Treasurer’s Report – November – December 2017
- SkyWatch Signs – initial drafts – ADLQ34799 (*only attached to final copy posted on club website*)
- Chestem Bequest Guidelines - Committee Report – Jan. 15, 2018
- HCBC Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal for MPEA–South Wind Meadow Habitat Restoration – Jan 2018

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

January 25, 2018 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris

5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem

7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - Signage update
 - Committee report for Chestem bequest guidelines
 - Nominating committee update

8. New Business
 - MPEA grant proposal
 - Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary, Inc. – funds donation
 - Ornithology Instructor for Master Naturalists at Robinson
 - Earth Day celebration at Clarksville Commons, Saturday, April 14th, from 11am-4pm
 - Editing Membership Application

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Howard Patterson
4209 Hermitage Dr
Ellicott City MD 21042
410-736-3064

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
November and December 31, 2017

	Budget 2017-18	Nov & Dec Month	Y-T-D
Income			
Membership Dues	2,750	920	6,307
MOS State Dues Paid			2,960
Net Membership dues			3,347
Contributions to Habitat Preservation	3,000	213	2,190
Contributions to DOS			24
Total Operating Income	5,750	1,134	5,561

Expenses			
Programs	1,000	250	350
Signage - Mt. Pleasant Conservancy		2,000	2,000
Internet Account	350		50
Postage, Copies	300		
Newsletter & Directory	550		307
Miscellaneous			
All Creatures G & S	300	300	300
Greenfest	35		
YMOS Birdathon	260		
Total Operating Expense	2,795	2,550	3,007
Income less Expense	2,955	(1,416)	2,554

T Rowe Price Government Money Fund (renamed from T Rowe Prime Reserve Fund)

Reserve Account beginning bal. 10/31/17	\$ 43,535
Includes addition from Chestem Bequest in Oct. 2017*	
Interest Received in Nov & Dec	58.75
Total T Rowe Price ending balance 12/31/17	43,593

PNC Bank Balance*

Beg. Checking Bal. 011/01/17	10,803
End Checking Bal. 12/31/17	6,226
Total Assets	\$49,819

* Chestem Bequest \$27,269.16 deposited to PNC 8/11/17 transferred to TRowe 10/8/17

Chestem Bequest Guidelines – Committee Report

There is no significance to the order in which the following items are listed.

1. Use the bequest in Howard County; Maryland would be the second choice.
2. Use most of the bequest, or a significant portion, on a single project.
3. Project(s) should benefit birds as the first option, but wildflowers, butterflies, etc. could also be considered.
4. Adult projects preferred over those for children/youth.
5. Try to use the bequest (or a significant portion) within five years.

The committee is aware that the size of the bequest is not sufficient for land purchases. They agreed that the bequest should not be banked for an indefinite project possibly many years in the future. Using at least a portion of it while people still remember Marty was considered a primary consideration.

Although the committee was not specifically asked to suggest ideas, the following were submitted and are listed here to provide the board with a starting point. (Some may be more suitable to club's Habitat Funds.)

- A bench with Marty's name at one of the county lakes or at the SkyWatch.
- Materials for teaching novice birders, i.e. a pair of binoculars to lend on field trips
- Annual Beginning Birders Walk in Marty's name.
- Donate to Project Snowstorm (Snowy Owl transmitters ranging from \$300 for 6 month on one owl to \$3,000 for a 5-year transmitter)
- Donation to Maryland Biodiversity Project
- Safe Skies Project (checking buildings in downtown Columbia for birds found dead during migration seasons—multi-year). See page 2.
- Fountains for refilling bottles at county parks. One station \$3,810. See page 3.
- Supplies for college intern to conduct moth and insect surveys in county parks (including the two butterfly meadows) \$100 - 200.

The committee thanks various board members for input and suggestions.

Joanne Solem, Committee Chair
Cindy Albright
Karen Heffernan
Sue Muller
1/10/18

Safe Skies Project

Howard Community College Faculty and Staff together with students wish to begin a bird building collision monitoring program to gather data about the concerning volume of bird deaths associated with the substantial increased use of glass and nighttime lighting on the campus since it was remodeled. College campuses across the nation are beginning to recognize the opportunities their students have to participate in gathering and analyzing data and their role in leading the mitigation efforts in their communities. These efforts encourage students to become involved in protecting resident and migratory birds from one of the most significant factors of bird mortality in the modern world: collisions with glass. It is estimated that populations of neotropical migrant songbirds suffer the unsustainable losses in North American of one billion birds annually. The following is a list of supplies that would support the MOS Safe Skies Maryland initiative, helping Howard Community College begin a formal data monitoring program consistent with the standardized data monitoring goal for all counties in Maryland.

Printed Materials (Training and Greenfest) total \$237.

- Window Collision Trifold

- ABC Guide for preventing window collisions

- Training forms

- Data forms

Plastic Ziplock Sandwich Bags (deceased birds): 500 ct. @\$13., 250 ct. @\$7. / total 750 @ \$20.

Medical Gloves: 600 ct. / 4@\$18, total \$72.

Nets: 4 pack @\$13. / 2 packs (8 nets) total \$26.

Stickers/Labels/Tags: 500 @ \$9. / total \$9.

Binder Clips for paper bags (live birds going to rehab) 20 ct. @\$3. / 80 ct. total 4 packs @\$12.

Paracord (Acopian Bird Saver): 500 ft. @ \$60. / 2 total @ \$120. (1000 ft.)

Paper Bags, free

Flashlights, donated

Total dollar amount for Student monitoring program and Greenfest outreach is \$496.

Howard County Bird Club has the opportunity to assist students in making accurate bird identification and supporting increased learning about and advocacy for Maryland's unique avifauna. All printed materials related to the project will reflect the support of Howard County Bird Club in making this effort possible for the Howard Community College Faculty, Staff, and Student Body.

Fountain



Howard County Bird Club
Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal
for Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
South Wind Meadow Habitat Restoration
January 2018

Natural Resource Managers at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area are seeking funding for early successional habitat restoration in the South Wind Meadow area. The goal of this project is to replace a stand of non-native invasive autumn olive with native shrubs and small trees to create a transitional edge between the meadow and the surrounding residential lawn areas. In addition, it is the goal of this project to add more native wildflower species to South Wind Meadow to improve the habitat for native pollinators, including bees, butterflies, other insects, and hummingbirds.



South Wind Meadow is about 2.5 acres in size, and adjacent to the South Wind Trail just inside the environmental area trail entrance. The meadow is currently comprised of warm-season grasses (i.e. switchgrass, indiagrass, big and little bluestem, etc.), with scattered persimmon trees. Other than a large, beautiful patch of common milkweed along the trail, there is virtually no other native wildflowers present in this grassy meadow. There is a large patch of autumn olive along the northern edge of the meadow that adjacent residents have complained is aggressively encroaching upon their property and fence lines. About a one-half acre portion of the meadow in and around the autumn olive patch is dominated by non-native invasive stiltgrass.

An approximately one-quarter acre area of autumn olive, as shown on the map above, will be removed this winter, and the immediately adjacent area of stiltgrass-dominated meadow (for a total area of one-half acre) will also be prepared for subsequent replanting. The above-ground woody vegetation removal work will be accomplished using a contractor with a piece of equipment called a Forestry Mulcher (a shredder on tracks). The soil preparation work, including grinding the woody mulch, stumps and roots, incorporating them into the soil, and providing a good soil surface for seeding, will be accomplished using a contractor with a piece of equipment called a Forestry Tiller.

The one-half acre area in South Wind Meadow will be reseeded with native grasses and wildflowers, using the “Showy Northeast Native Wildflower & Grass Mix” (ERNMX-153) from Ernst Conservation Seeds. A small linear section along the boundary will be replanted with native shrubs and small trees to improve the habitat for wildlife and to maintain the adjoining residents’ view.

The tree and shrub species selected are described in the table below. The larger plant sizes (7-gal trees and 3-gal shrubs) will provide better survivability by getting above deer browse height faster, being easier to maintain against competition from invasives, and will help jump-start the project faster towards its objectives. Metal wire fencing and posts will be used to construct tree shelters to protect against deer browse. Maintenance will include monitoring for invasive species, selective spot-spraying as needed, and maintaining the shelters with assistance from MPEA Weed Warrior and Conservation Stewardship volunteers.

Additional Habitat Restoration Work:

With both pieces of equipment, the Forestry Mulcher and the Forestry Tiller, the contractor has a 4-hour minimum. Since the area outlined in South Wind Meadow should be completed in 2 hours, the additional 2 hours will be put to good use. Nearby, between the west and center legs of the South Wind Trail is an area where volunteers and staff have been hand-cutting autumn olive, doing basal bark herbicide applications, follow-up spot-spraying, and replanting cleared areas with native plants for several years. Some areas within this project site are too onerous for hand-clearing, and these areas would be the target to fill the minimum hours for the contractor equipment. This will be a great boost to moving this additional habitat restoration work forward.

South Wind Meadow Habitat Restoration Area – Materials and Contractor Work Needed:

Forestry Mulcher (above ground woody vegetation removal) **\$1,110.00**
4 hours (minimum contract) @ \$225 per hour: \$900.00
plus Travel and Equipment Mobilization: \$210.00

Forestry Tiller (soil preparation work) **\$1,210.00**
4 hours (minimum contract) @ \$250 per hour: \$1,000
plus Travel and Equipment Mobilization: \$210.00

“Showy Northeast Native Wildflower & Grass Mix” 10 lbs. at \$35 per lb. = **\$350.00**
ERNMX-153 from Ernst Conservation Seeds,
seeding rate 20 lbs. per acre

		<u>Qty</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
Flowering dogwood	Cornus florida	6	7-gal	57.50	345.00
American hazelnut	Corylus americana	6	3-gal	20.00	120.00
Witch hazel	Hamamelis virginiana	6	3-gal	20.00	120.00
Arrowwood viburnum	Viburnum dentatum	6	3-gal	25.00	150.00
Blackhaw viburnum	Viburnum prunifolium	<u>6</u>	3-gal	20.00	<u>120.00</u>
	Total plants:	30		Sub-total:	855.00

30 Tree Shelters **\$300.00**
30 posts @ \$4 each, 3 rolls wire fencing @ \$60 each

Grand total: \$3,825.00

We are requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider funding this project in the amount of **\$1,912.50**, which represents 50% matching of the project costs with the other 50% coming from the MPEA budget funded by the Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal,

Cheryl Farfaras

Natural Resources Manager, Middle Patuxent Environmental Area
Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks
6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
410-313-4726
cfarfaras@howardcountymd.gov

THE CHANDLER S. ROBBINS SKYWATCH

CHAN ROBBINS 1918-2017

Chan was a visionary leader of 20th century bird conservation. Over a career spanning more than seventy years, he had an enormous influence on how we identify, count, and conserve birds. He had boundless interest and energy, conducting field work, writing books on field identification, and encouraging others to participate in the study of birds.



HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THESE RAPTORS?

BIRDS OF PREY

Many raptors (hawks, eagles, vultures) migrate long distances. They conserve energy by using cross winds or soaring on strong updrafts. In our area on peak migration days in September, October and November, thousands of raptors may be counted within a few hours overhead. March, April and May are also peak months for migration. **Keep a look out!**

KNOW YOUR SILHOUETTES



FALCONS

Streamlined - Long pointed wings:
Long compressed tapered tails:
Strong rowing wing beats.



ACCIPITERS

Short, wide rounded wings:
long tails. flap, flap, flap - sail flight.



BUTEOS

Broad wings and broad rounded tails; often seen soaring in wide circles high in the air.



Peregrine Falcon



Northern Goshawk



Red-tailed Hawk



Merlin



Cooper's Hawk



Red-shouldered Hawk



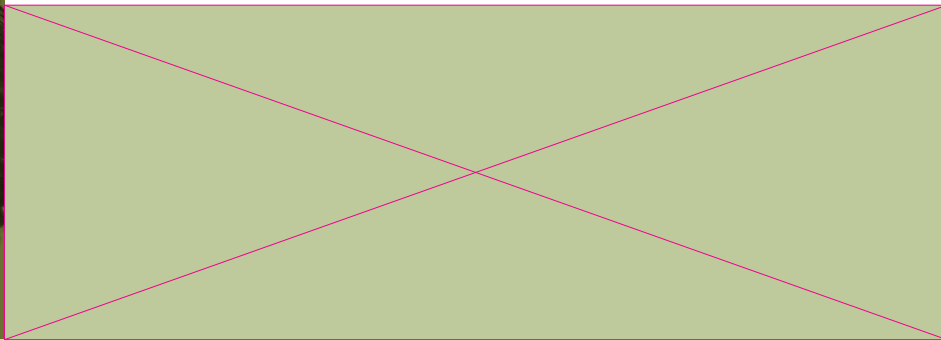
American Kestrel



Sharp-shinned Hawk



Broad-winged Hawk



Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, February 22, 2018

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: David Sandler (1st yr.) √
Woody Merkle (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson √
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis

Others:

Sue Muller √
Nancy McAllister √

a

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Jo and Bob Solem. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 8, 2018 was 78 people. Bonnie Ott gave a program entitled “Common Sparrows of Central Maryland.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Chuck reviewed a few minor corrections made to the draft minutes. These have been reflected in the minutes that will be posted on the web site. The minutes as amended were approved.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright):Cindy did not provide a January report as there was little activity. She will publish a report covering January & February at the beginning of March. She had sent a draft of a proposed budget for next year but as it is not needed yet and she had several suggestions for changes she will provide another draft next month.

President’s Remarks (Harris): John congratulated John McKitterick on his recent election as MOS Vice-President at the recent MOS Convention. His term of office doesn’t start until next September.

John reported that both Eva Sunell and Mike Kerwin had been approached about teaching the Ornithology session for the Master Naturalists program at RNC. Both expressed willingness to support. Mike will teach the class. Eva has provided the copy of the PowerPoint presentation that she used in teaching the class before. The presentation had been developed by Jo Solem and Harry Fink. A copy of it has been archived on the club’s Google Drive on the web and the secretary has an electronic copy in his records.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Clark): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): It was reported that Joe is looking for a leader to lead a short bird walk at Mt. Pleasant prior to the MOS Board meeting being held there. The trip would start at 8:00 am and finish prior to the board meeting start at 10 am.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reviewed recent sightings including Trumpeter Swan, Woodcock displaying, gulls at the trash transfer station, a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers, 3 over-wintering Baltimore Orioles, a Long-eared Owl on Mid-winter Count, a Palm Warbler, 2-3 Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and a Great Horned Owl on nest.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt had provided John H. an email with a summary of 4 current bills in the Maryland legislature that MOS is supporting. These are 1) Chlorpyrifos ban, 2) Styrofoam food container ban, 3) Bird Safe Building Act, and 4) Forest Conservation Act.

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard announced that the deadline for the May-June Goldfinch is March 25. He urged early receipt of inputs as he will be in Costa Rica early in April.

Webmaster (R. Solem): See new business for Bob discussion of MOS membership requirements.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie reported that she has 41 attendees signed up currently. She was informed that the Jones family will also be attending to receive our certificate of appreciation for working with the club to support the successful nesting of Dickcissels.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): The club is hosting the next Board meeting on March 3 at the Howard County Conservancy. Robin stated that arrangements, including refreshments, are in good shape except for still needing a leader for a pre-meeting bird walk.

Old Business

SkyWatch – signage update – Nancy began with an announcement in the “Mom’s Big Year” story. She has been invited to be on a panel “Power Women in Birding” at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory’s “Biggest Week in American Birding” festival (<http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com>). She had sent copies of the latest mock-ups of the two signs. She is hoping to have the dedication on Earth Day (April 21). She needs to confirm this with Meg Boyd (HCC) and the Robbins family. We agreed holding it mid-morning (after the club led bird walk?) made the most sense. She asked for someone to work on getting approval from HMANA to use graphics. Chuck took an action to do this. *Sec. Note: Approval received as long as sign acknowledges Hawk Migration Association of North America.* She asked for help with the text in center of silhouettes and received a number of proposals. She will take these back and work with designer to decide which looks best. She will remove words “Howard County Bird Club” beneath seal. She will spell out HMANA. We agreed to add 2018 under the seal. She will get next mockup and send it to the Board for final review. Hope is to start production around March 1 as production nominally takes 6 weeks.

Chestem Bequest Ideas – The NEWSGRAM soliciting ideas from the club membership was sent out after the last Board meeting and asked for inputs by April 1. To date John H. received one reply from Orrey Young proposing establishment of an Environmental Resource Center in Howard County. John H. is contemplating an idea for how we might tackle the problem of “cats” as presented by Peter Maara, author of “Cat Wars,” at the MOS Convention, e.g., hire a professional lobbyist. John will expand his thoughts and submit them more formally. John McK has broached the idea of working with a land owner (e.g. BGE) to establish and maintain a grassland habitat. He specifically mentioned the area under the powerlines on the north side of the Middle Patuxent River at Murray Hill. Lastly it was pointed out we will need to establish how we will make final decisions on how to use the bequest.

Nominating Committee Update – Mary Lou reported they have candidates for Vice-President, Mary Maxey, State Director, Sarah Romero. They still need candidates for another State Director and for Chapter Director. Suggestions are welcome.

New Business

MOS Membership Requirements – Bob had distributed the attached handout outlining MOS policy regarding membership and summarizing our compliance (or lack of) that he, as web master, has been responsible for. The impending (multi-year) development of a new MOS website that will implement collection of MOS dues directly by MOS with them distributing chapter dues to the chapters motivated Bob’s review of our compliance. Although the

MOS policy is to collect half the dues for anyone joining after March 1, since 1988 we have had a different policy. Namely, “NEW MEMBERS ONLY joining after February 1: You become members of the Howard County Bird Club for the remainder of the current membership year and all of the next membership year but not members of Maryland Ornithological Society until September 1.” No mention of paying for half price. Bob’s review shows a great variation in how other chapters handle this topic. After a discussion it was the sense of the Board that we not change our existing policy, except to use March 1 as the cutoff to be consistent with MOS criteria for half a year, until we are required to by MOS implementing another approach. In a related matter Bob stated he has been sending hard copies of the directory to those who pay the extra \$5 to receive hard copies of the newsletter. He pointed out that it costs us roughly \$10 to print and send 5 issues of the Goldfinch and \$2 to print and send the directory. Currently 33 members (of ~150 street addresses) pay the extra \$5 for hard copy. The application states the \$5 fee is for newsletters and says nothing about directory. After discussion we agreed to continue the current charge of only \$5 for hard copies of the “high quality” newsletters but stop providing hard copies of the directory next year. Bob will personally print copies of the directory for the 3 members who do not have an email address.

MOS privacy policy requires that we report to MOS whether the member will allow publication of their phone number and other contact information on MOS webpages. Bob proposed, and the Board agreed, that the wording under RESTRICTIONS on the attachment appearing on our membership application are sufficient to collect and supply the necessary information to MOS and allow us to comply with the privacy policy.

Bob proposed, on the attachment item 3, to collect the information in Part 1 on our application in order to satisfy MOS required information. The Board was satisfied with this approach. Lastly Bob remarked the discussion of what to do with the Activities and Interests section of the form (Part 2) can be delayed for now.

Possible Bird Classes Co-sponsored with HCC – Jo reminded the Board that the club has offered classes about birds and birding in the past (frequently using the stuffed bird specimen collection). Watching Bonnie Ott’s recent program on identifying common sparrows made her realize that the availability of modern photography provided an opportunity to offer classes. Bonnie has agreed to present a talk on “habitat birding” next February. Jo has discussed with Bonnie the idea of offering a series of classes (with classroom time and associated field trips) that would address birding in a variety of habitats (e.g., forests, fields, urban, wetlands). Jo stated we might also want to offer classes in Introduction to Birds (like the planned class for Master Naturalists) or Introduction to Birding (use of binoculars, field guides, eBird, etc.). Jo had approached Woody to see if he thought that the Howard County Conservancy might want to co-sponsor and host such a series of classes. She envisions the classes being free but requiring at least the commitment to register in advance. Woody thought this might well be possible but stressed we would need to be clear on who was the target audience for the classes (e.g., beginners, families, youth). If there were costs for educational materials or other costs we could use club funds. This won’t be a near term reality but it was the sense of the Board that it seemed to be a very good idea to pursue. Woody took an action to approach Howard County Conservancy staff/board and determine their interest in pursuing further.

Rockburn Branch Park Statement – Woody explained that the Howard Conservancy Board had recently agreed to sign onto the attached statement in which a variety of community organizations support permanent preservation of the portion of Rockburn Branch Park recently considered as a school site. Meg Boyd, HCC Executive Director, had mailed the statement (attached) to John H. asking if the club wanted to sign on to the statement. John shared it with the Board prior to the meeting. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we would sign on. John took an action to inform Meg of our intent to sign on. *Sec. Note: We might want to inform Meg that the correct name of the park is Rockburn Branch Park not just Rockburn Park.*

Around the Room

- Woody proposes to provide an item for a future NEWSGRAM soliciting birders to help with a HCC sponsored youth “bioblitz.” It will be held at the HCC Belmont location on May 15-18. Volunteers would join one other naturalist to help small groups (~10 7th graders) identify all they locate and record it using iNaturalist in a couple of hours in the field. (<https://www.hcconservancy.org/belmont-bioblitz>).
- Sue had several items: 1) RNC has a collection of Hissing Cockroaches that “have to go” and Sue is trying to find a new home for them, 2) In her Citizen Scientist – biodiversity project she is looking for someone to put together an entry tutorial for using eBird (John H. volunteered), 3) She has a need for used shepherd hooks and asked if anyone had extra ones, 4) She stated she has several ideas for using the Chestem bequest and will submit them before April 1, 5) Sue asked about the email request from Rec and Parks she

had forwarded for help with funding a pollinator plot at Schooley Mill Park. John H. said he must have missed the email. Since we did not have the proposal in front of us we agreed to consider it by email. *Sec. Note: The request from Brenda Belensky was to donate \$708.20 to purchase the native grasses and wildflowers seed for a 1 acre parcel at the park. The board voted and approved this donation via email on Feb. 23. I've attached the proposal to these minutes for the record.*

- Bob reported that a group (including Linda Hunt, Heffernans) planning butterfly survey activities had identified the need to print several educational materials. Kevin has developed a two page tri-fold brochure (ID cheat sheet) for the common butterflies in the county. Linda has a different brochure that they would like to print as well. Estimated printing costs are \$300 for the tri-fold, \$200 for the other material. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we authorize them to spend up to \$500 for printing educational supplies for Howard County butterflies. Bob recommended using Brown & Associates, Inc. who prints the newsletter.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at December MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Talk to Wes Earp about arrangements to present the certificate to the Jones family – John H. DONE
- Draft NewsGram soliciting ideas for using Chestem bequest – Jo DONE
- Determine who to make out check for Safe Skies project to and send the check – Sue Muller, Cindy
- Determine who to send the check for MPEA project to and send the check – Cindy DONE
- Prepare and send a donation of \$300 to Frisky’s – Cindy DONE
- Solicit volunteer(s) to teach the Ornithology portion of Master Naturalists course at RNC – John H. DONE
- Accept Columbia Commons Earth Day invitation and solicit volunteers to man booth – John H. DONE
- Prepare a NewsGram article describing the two programs at Mt. Pleasant on Feb. 8 – Woody DONE
- Send Chuck a PDF copy of the MOU with RNC – John H. DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at March MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Determine who to make out check for Safe Skies project to and send the check – Sue Muller, Cindy
- Investigate getting permission to use HMANA graphics on SkyWatch signs - Chuck
- Send copy of the bequest use proposal received from Orrey Young to the Board – John H.
- Prepare a more formal statement of his proposal on using the bequest for “cat problem” – John H.
- Approach HCC about co-sponsoring a series of bird/birding classes in future – Woody
- Inform Meg Boyd that the club desires to sign on to the Rockford Branch Park statement – John H.

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2017	- Robin Todd	
October 26, 2017	- John Harris	
November 16, 2017	- Cindy Albright	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 25, 2018	- Howard Patterson	
February 22, 2018	- Jo & Bob Solem	
March 22, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark	
April 26, 2018	- Howard County Conservancy	(Meeting will be held at HCC at 5:00 pm)
May 24, 2018	- John McKitterick	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – February 22, 2018
- SkyWatch Sign Mockups –ADLQ34799 Rev 3 (*only attached to final copy posted on club website*)
- MOS Membership Requirements
- Draft Rockburn Branch Park Statement on permanent protection
- Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal – Schooley Mill Park – Meadow Habitat Restoration – Jan. 2018

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

February 22, 2018 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris

5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem

7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch
 - Signage update – Nancy McAllister
 - Chestem bequest ideas – All
 - Nominating committee update – Mary Lou Clark

8. New Business
 - MOS membership requirements – see attachment “MOS membership requirements.pdf” – Bob Solem
 - Possible bird classes co-sponsored with HCC – Jo Solem
 - Rockburn Park Statement – see attachment “Draft Rockburn Park Preservation Statement.pdf” - Woody Merkle

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
Bob & Jo Solem
10617 Graeloch Road
Laurel MD 20723
301-725-5037

MOS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Compliance with MOS membership definitions

March 1, 2014

MOS Manual of Operation

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. MANUAL OF OPERATION

I. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

I.B. *Methods of dues payment:*

I.B.3. The membership year begins September 1. **Dues by new members joining on or after March 1 shall be one-half for all classes, except Sustaining and Life.**

Membership year is September 1 through August 31
Your membership will expire August 31 if you join now!

- Household: \$20 (All at one address)
- Individual: \$12.50 (One adult)
- Junior: \$2.50 (Under 18 years old)
- Sustaining: \$90 **PER PERSON**
- Chapter Dues Only: \$5.00 (MUST be member of another MOS chapter)
- Charge for postal mail delivery of newsletter: \$5
E-mail delivery of newsletter (now printed in COLOR) is included in the basic cost of membership.

2. Compliance with MOS privacy rules

III.B. *They shall follow these requirements:*

III.B.1. To forward Society dues to the Treasurer and membership reports, including changes or additions to contact information, on a monthly basis, to the Society Mailing List Coordinator. **The reports would include a designation as to whether each member will allow publication of his or her telephone numbers or other contact information on any of the MOS State or Chapter web pages.**

RESTRICTIONS

- NO E-mail address(es) in Directory
- NO Phone number(s) in Directory

We need an email address and phone number even if they do not appear in the directory. We use email to contact you for special notices and a phone number if you change your email address without notifying us.

- The Yellowthroat* (MOS newsletter) by email only.
- DO NOT put my contact information on the HCBC or MOS web pages.

3. Compliance with MOS membership submissions

Making Howard County Bird Club Membership Information Consistent With Maryland Ornithological Society Membership required information and proposed standardized membership form:

Part 1

At least one full name, phone number, email address, and mailing address are needed.

Member	First name	Surname	Phone number	Email address
1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Address:

City: State: ZIP code:

Part 2

Remove the "Activities and Interests" section of the form and instead, send it out as a questionnaire each year.

MOS Chapters Dues Structure

How chapters treat “half year – half price” dues for new members as shown on their web pages:

- Allegany/Garrett: “To join/renew, fill out and mail in the application form ...” **Not covered; only provision is to pay for full year.**
- Anne Arundel: “Dues for new members joining after March 1st shall be 1/2 for all classes except for Sustaining and Life.”
- Baltimore: “New members only (Individuals & household) joining in March or April may pay half-year rate. A full year’s dues received after April 30 will be applied to the next membership year.”
- Caroline County: **No information on membership dues.**
- Cecil County: “The membership year begins on September 1, but new memberships are accepted at any time. Those who join later than March 1 should remit half the dues shown below.”
- Frederick County: “Frederick Bird Club dues are payable in September of each year.” **Not covered; only provision is to pay for full year.**
- Harford County: “If you would like to join or renew your Harford Bird Club and MOS membership, please print this page and mail the completed form along with a check ...” **Not covered; only provision is to pay for full year.**
- Howard County: “NEW MEMBERS ONLY joining after February 1: You become members of the Howard County Bird Club for the remainder of the current membership year and all of the next membership year but not members of Maryland Ornithological Society until September 1.” **No mention of paying for half price.**
- Kent County: “The annual program runs from September through June. Dues are payable September 1st.” **Not covered; only provision is to pay for full year.**
- Montgomery County: “I/we wish to join the Montgomery Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, for the year beginning September 2017”. **Not covered; only provision is to pay for full year.**
- Patuxent Bird Club: “The membership year runs from September to August, and membership dues are payable annually by September 30 for renewing members. New members may join at any time in the year.” **Not covered; only provision is to pay for full year.**
- Tri-County Bird Club: “Memberships shorter than one year will be prorated.”
- Washington County Bird Club: “Dues are payable each September ...”. **Not covered; only provision is to pay for full year.**

The undersigned community organizations support permanent preservation of the Rockburn Park property that was recently under consideration as a school site. This area contains forest, wetlands and streams and is not suitable for development. Our parks are precious, and this site is designated as a green hub – an ecologically significant natural area -- as defined by the county. A conservation easement is an effective way to preserve environmental areas while still allowing park uses. We ask that you move forward with permanent preservation for Rockburn Park.

Signed,

Save Rockburn Park

EAAA - Elkridge Adult Athletic Association

EYO - Elkridge Youth Organization

Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park

Elkridge Heritage Society

Howard County Conservancy

Muddy Pedals

MVD Mountain Bikers

Rockburn Land Trust

Howard County Bird Club
Habitat Improvement Grant Proposal
Schooley Mill Park
Meadow Habitat Restoration
January 2018

The Natural Resource Manager and Park staff at Schooley Mill Park are seeking funding for Native Wildflower seeding mix for a 1.0 acre early successional habitat restoration project. The goal of this project is to replace a stand of non-native grass and invasive autumn olive and Calery Pear trees with native wildflower and grass species to Schooley Mill Park to improve the composition of an existing meadow habitat area for native pollinators, including bees, butterflies, other insects, and hummingbirds.

The site is 1.0 acres in size and is located south of the Cricket Field. The area is currently maintained as “meadow” and mown on an annual winter mowing schedule. The meadow is currently comprised of cool-season grasses with scattered autumn olive and Calery pear. Other than a large, beautiful patch of goldenrod and some small patches of common milkweed along the trail, there is virtually no other native wildflowers present in this grassy meadow.

The site has currently been mown. Park staff will be working to grind out residue tree and shrub stumps in anticipation for a contractor to complete the soil preparation work using a piece of equipment called a Forestry Tiller, that will grind the woody mulch and roots and incorporate them into the soil, and providing a good soil surface for seeding this spring.

The one acre area will be reseeded with native grasses and wildflowers, using the “Showy Northeast Native Wildflower & Grass Mix” (ERNMX-153) from Ernst Conservation Seeds.

Schooley Mill Meadow Habitat Restoration Area – Materials and Contractor Work Needed:

Forestry Tiller (soil preparation work)		\$1,210.00
4 hours (minimum contract) @ \$250 per hour:		\$1,000
plus Travel and Equipment Mobilization:		\$210.00
“Showy Northeast Native Wildflower & Grass Mix”	20 lbs. at \$35 per lb. =	\$688.20
ERNMX-153 from Ernst Conservation Seeds,	s/h	\$20.00
seeding rate 20 lbs. per acre		
	Grand total:	\$1,918.20

We are requesting that the Howard County Bird Club consider funding this project in the amount of **\$708.20**, which represents approximated a 40% matching of the project costs with the other 60% coming from the Natural Resource Conservation Section budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal,

Brenda Belensky

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda Belensky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brenda" and last name "Belensky" clearly legible.

Natural Resources Manager,
Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Road Columbia, MD 21044
410-313-4724
bbelensky@howardcountymd.gov

Schooley Mill Park Meadow Restoration

1" = 500'

Stream



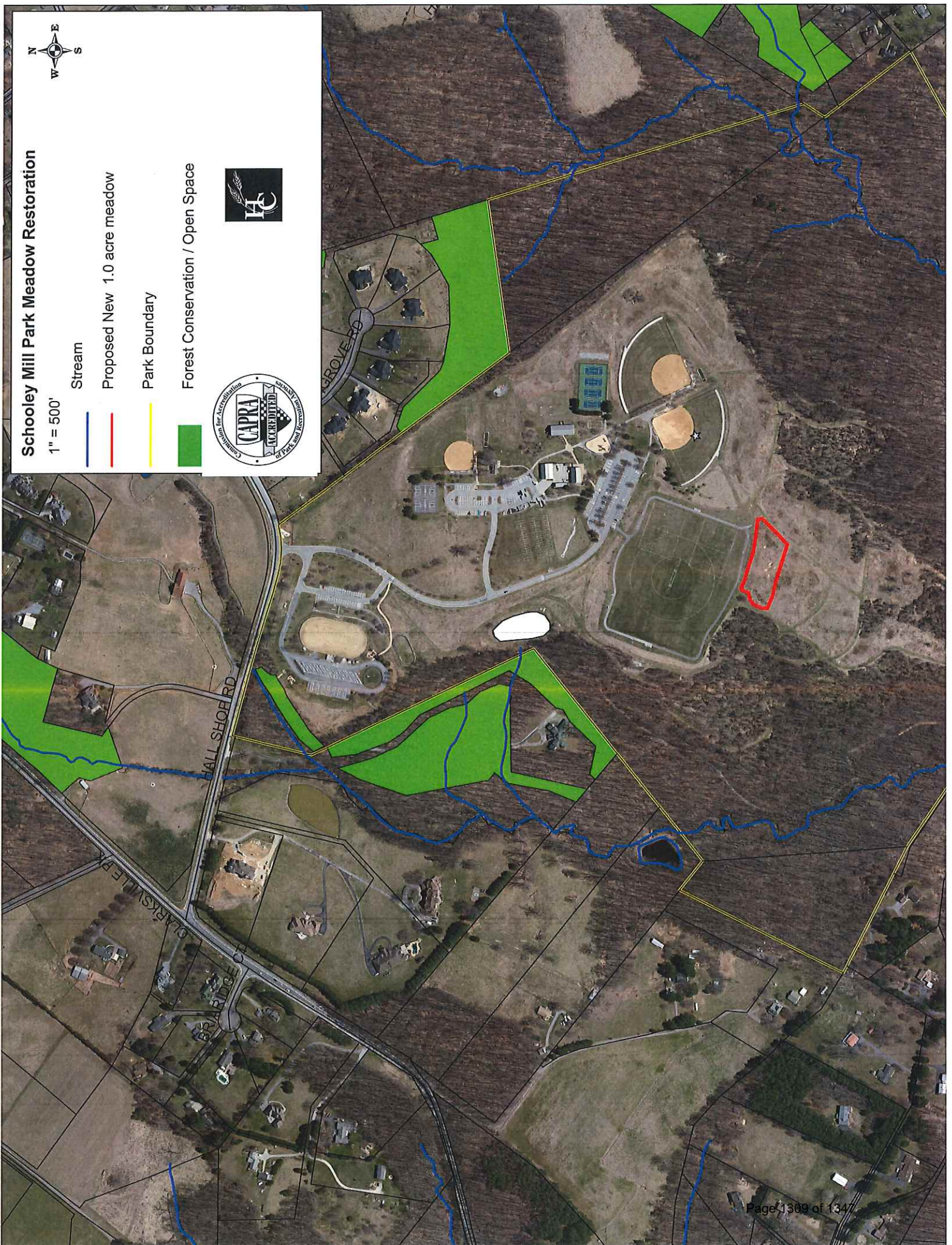
Proposed New 1.0 acre meadow




Park Boundary

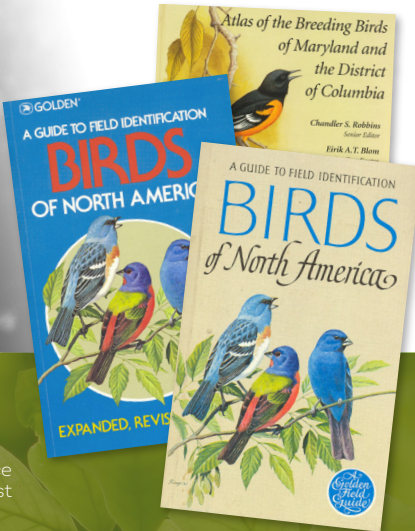


Forest Conservation / Open Space






THE CHANDLER S. ROBBINS SKYWATCH



CHAN ROBBINS 1918-2017



Chan was a visionary leader of 20th century bird conservation. Over a career spanning more than seventy years, he had an enormous influence on how we identify, count, and conserve birds. He had boundless interest and energy, conducting field work, writing books on field identification, and encouraging others to participate in the study of birds.



HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THESE RAPTORS?

BIRDS OF PREY

Many raptors (hawks, eagles, vultures) migrate long distances. They conserve energy by using cross winds or soaring on strong updrafts. In our area on peak migration days in September, October and November, thousands of raptors may be counted within a few hours overhead. Spring migration also occurs in March, April and May.

Keep a look out!

Proudly brought to you by:



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Photos by Anthony VanSchoor

KNOW YOUR SILHOUETTES



FALCONS

Streamlined - Long pointed wings;
Long compressed tapered tails;
Strong rowing wing beats.



ACCIPITERS

Short, wide rounded wings;
long tails. flap, flap, flap - sail flight.

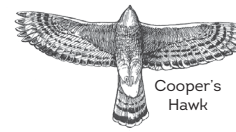


BUTEOS

Broad wings and broad rounded tails; often seen soaring in wide circles high in the air.



Peregrine Falcon



Cooper's Hawk



Red-tailed Hawk



Merlin



Sharp-shinned Hawk



Red-shouldered Hawk



American Kestrel



Broad-winged Hawk

OTHER BIRDS IN THE AREA



Turkey Vulture



Osprey



Black Vulture



Bald Eagle



Northern Harrier

Not drawn to scale. Used with permission from HMANA.

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, March 22, 2018

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: David Sandler (1st yr.)
Woody Merkle (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem
Webmaster: Bob Solem
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √

Others:

Sue Muller √

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Mary Lou Clark. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 8 was 65 people. Phil Davis gave a program entitled “The Azores and Madeira Islands: Endemics and Island Beauty.”

Officer’s Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes as distributed were approved with correction to reflect Bob will use March 1 vice prior practice of using February 1 as break point for applying dues to following year membership for MOS.

Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy had emailed board the attached report covering January and February. She had also distributed a proposed budget for next year. It was pointed out that she did not include a gift to YMOS as we hadn’t done so this year. It was moved that we give the YMOS bird-a-thon a gift of \$200 for this year and have the budget reflect we plan to do so next year. The attached approved budget reflects this change. Cindy took an action to send the donation to YMOS. She also mentioned that she had received and paid the bill from Brown Printing for printing the Butterfly Cheat Sheet.

President’s Remarks (Harris): John stated that he felt the potluck evening had been very successful. He will send out a thank you to all those who played a key role in the event. He mentioned Kathie’s coordination, Wes making arrangements to attend with the Jones family, Joy Aso preparing the certificate, Sue and Wes preparing the framed pictures of Dickcissels, and Sue, Kevin Heffernan, and Tony VanShoor providing the photos. A thank you article with some of the artifacts will be prepared for the Goldfinch or a NewsGram.

John reminded the Board that our next meeting on April 26 will be held at Mt. Pleasant starting at 5:00 pm prior to the program by Lennifer Ackerman. If you want to attend her talk you will need to purchase a ticket from HCC.

John announced that he has formally established a committee to coordinate club activities related to butterflies. Kevin Heffernan and Linda Hunt are co-chairing these activities. Kevin will serve as liaison from the committee to the Board. John will add this committee report to the default board meeting agenda.

John then proceeded to read the various reports he had received from those not able to attend. See below.

Vice-President's Remarks (Clark): No formal comments. She mentioned she had found an early Cabbage White butterfly.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): Joe was not present but he has indicated he needs ideas and leaders for two more RNC trips/programs. Kathie mentioned that we should appreciate the benefits we receive as a result of doing these trips. Specifically the normal rent for the auditorium on a Thursday night would be \$400 and the use of the room for the potluck on a Saturday night would be \$1000.

Records (Jo Solem): John read the email report Jo had sent in her absence. The email is attached.

Conservation (Schwarz): John read the email report Kurt had sent in his absence. The email is attached.

Newsletter (Patterson): No report.

Webmaster (R. Solem): No report.

Potluck (Lillie): Kathie commented that there were 43 people in attendance at the potluck on March 17.

Butterflies (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that a group of those interested in butterflies met and had initiated a number of activities to be sponsored by the club. Linda Hunt is organizing several field trips. The committee has agreed to be responsible for the "children's plot" in the community gardens at HCC. They will be focused on making it even more attractive for butterflies. They have established a new Gmail account shared by Bob, Kevin, and Linda. Every entry to the club's website's incidental butterfly sighting report page will be forwarded to this account so that the records will be archived on three separate computers. The group is considering holding some out of county field trips but it hasn't been determined if those would be formally sponsored by the bird club.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): John McKitterick commented that he had not sent out a report following the meeting held at the Howard County Conservancy on March 3. Items of interest included a discussion of whether MOS and the Maryland Bird Conservation relationship will continue. MOS has paid half the salary of the coordinator (\$25K) for last two years but this was intended to be a temporary situation and may not be continued. The Executive Board has held initial discussions about hiring a professional to organize and coordinate the MOS annual conventions. Tom Strikwerda reported that the professional hired to develop the new MOS website is making excellent progress. Eventually how the MOS website will interact with our website will need to be worked out. Bob has been in close communication with Tom so for now our interests are represented.

Old Business

Offer Bird/Birding Classes in Future - Woody reported that he had broached this idea with HCC and they are interested. Dependent on details and audience they would serve as host, co-sponsor, or even add them to their formal program. Jo was not present but will need to further refine the proposal.

SkyWatch Update – Nancy McAllister had sent an update to John by email (attached). It states she plans the dedication for 9 am after the walk, but as we discussed the walk which as a HCC event will likely have many bird club non-members and the walk probably won't be over by 9 am. The trip leader, Anthony VanSchoor, could lead the trip by the SkyWatch at that time or if not those who want to attend could break off from the field trip for the dedication. Bob will issue a NewsGram with details shortly before the event (~April 13). Nancy has an action to provide Bob with wording for the announcement. She will schedule the installation for the week of April 16 and try and have Woody and Mike Kerwin join her to help with final placement location. *Sec. Note: The HCC website lists the bird walk as being from 8 am to 9 pm.*

New Business

Moth Survey Equipment Proposal – On March 14 John H. received a proposal from Howard Rec and Parks submitted by Sue Muller. It asked the club to fund the purchase of equipment to conduct moth surveys at various parks, primarily at pollinator plots. The proposal was emailed to the Board for a vote (see attachment). A majority of the respondents voted yes and the request was approved. Cindy prepared the check for \$307.94 and sent it to Sue.

Add link to HCBC web-site seeking volunteers for HC Public Schools System environmental education program – John had received the attached email from the Elementary Science Office of the HCPSS. Sue Muller had been working with this office on a Monarch Butterfly program for 3rd graders in the elementary schools and it was mentioned the request may be soliciting volunteers for that effort. Reviewing the email after the fact it appears they are looking for volunteers for another program for 4th graders held at West Friendship Park. The program is called “Our Environment in Our Hands.” We agreed to include a link on our website similar to what we did soliciting volunteers for the HCC sponsored BioBlitz at Belmont. John will inform them of our decision to grant request.

Birdstrike Prevention Project at the Conservancy – Woody reported that HCC has been working with Beth Decker of SafeSkies Maryland to evaluate the bird strike threat presented by the newly remodeled Gudelsky Environmental Education Center. They have identified a problem with the north facing windows. Woody and other volunteers have put up “paracord” on the inside of several windows as a test of one relatively simple solution. Beth plans to do a full building evaluation. HCC is interested in exploring other “higher end” approaches. This might include bird collision avoidance film on the outside of the windows. Woody thought the club might want to consider using some of the Chestem bequest funds in support of such a program. So far the scope and cost of the project is unknown but Woody wanted to broach the subject with the board. As a rough guess he thought it might cost between \$2K to \$4K. In discussion the concept of having a “teaching” application with several methods in place and signage explaining the problem and possible solutions was broached as one possibility. If we were to pursue this the potential of extending the project to address the problems with bird strikes at RNC was also mentioned. Woody will submit a preliminary proposal for use of the Chestem funds.

Around the Room –

Sue Muller reported that she was hoping to schedule a field trip for May 5 when eBird is holding a world-wide Big Day. She would like to be offer participation in this trip to attendees at John Harris’ presentation on “Using eBird” at Greenfest. She also mentioned two ideas she has for using the Chestem funds including 1) a donation to Project SnowStorm for a transmitter to be placed on a Snowy Owl that would be named “Marty” (\$3200) and 2) a donation to the Maryland Biodiversity project for a “bat recorder” (\$1200). Lastly Sue reminded the Board that the committee that developed guidelines for what types of projects the bequest should be used for had NOT developed guidelines for how to select the projects. Having asked for suggestions to be submitted by April 1 we need to develop those guidelines. John stated he would include a review of the submissions and development of guidelines as a topic on the April agenda.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at next MOS meeting – John McKitterick STILL OPEN
- Determine who to make out check for Safe Skies project to and send the check – Sue Muller, Cindy DONE
- Send copy of the bequest use proposal received from Orrey Young to the Board – John H. DONE
- Prepare a more formal statement of his proposal on using the bequest for “cat problem” – John H.
- Approach HCC about co-sponsoring a series of bird/birding classes in future – Woody DONE
- Inform Meg Boyd that the club desires to sign on to the Rockford Branch Park statement – John H. DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at next MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Prepare a more formal statement of his proposal on using the bequest for “cat problem” – John H.
- Send a check to the YMOS Bird-a-thon – Cindy
- Follow-up on bird/birding class proposal – Jo
- Draft an announcement of the SkyWatch dedication for a NewsGram – Nancy McAllister
- Inform Jennifer Brown-Whale that we will add link to HCPSS web-site – John H.
- Draft a preliminary proposal on the HCC Bird Strike Prevention project - Woody

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2017	- Robin Todd	
October 26, 2017	- John Harris	
November 16, 2017	- Cindy Albright	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 25, 2018	- Howard Patterson	
February 22, 2018	- Jo & Bob Solem	
March 22, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark	
April 26, 2018	- Howard County Conservancy	(Meeting will be held at HCC at 5:00 pm)
May 24, 2018	- John McKitterick	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – March 22, 2018
- Treasurer’s Report – January & February 2018
- Approved Budget for 2018-2019
- Email – Bird Records Comm. Report – J. Solem – March 22, 2018 4:34 pm
- Email – Fwd: Tonight’s Board Meeting – *Conservation Report* – Kurt Schwarz – March 22, 2018 9:46 am
- Email – SKYWATCH update – March 21, 2018 11:01 pm
- Email - Moth Survey Equipment Proposal – March 14, 2018 2:51 pm
- Email - REQUEST: Adding a Volunteer Sign-Up Link to Howard County Bird Club web page – March 6, 2018 4:38 pm

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

March 22, 2018 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Reminder: the next (April 26, 2018) meeting will be held at Howard County Conservancy at 5:00 pm
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch update – John Harris
8. New Business
 - Moth equipment proposal – approved
 - Add link to HCBC web-site for volunteer sign up for Howard County Public Schools System environmental education program
 - Birdstrike Prevention Project at the Conservancy – Woody Merkle
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Mary Lou Clark

5153 Morningside Lane

Ellicott City MD 21043

(443) 878-2546

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
January and February, 2018

	Budget 2017-18	Jan-Feb Month	Y-T-D
Income			
Membership Dues		243	6,556
MOS State Dues Paid		(600)	3,560
Net Membership dues	2,750		2,996
Contributions			
Habitat Conservation	3,000	103	1,594
Seed sale	750		750
Contributions to MOS			24
Total Operating Income	5,750	(254)	5,364
			2,344
Expenses			
			750
Meetings			
Programs	1,000	50	400
Hospitality	75		
Publicity & Outreach			
Internet Account	350	70	120
Postage, Copies	300	223	223
Newsletter/Directory/Labels	550	235	1,000
Greenfest	35	35	35
Grants (from contributions & investments)			
Signage - Mt. Pleasant Conservancy			2,000
All Creatures G & S	300		300
Frisky's		300	300
YMOS Birdathon	260		
Total Operating Expense	2,870	913	4,378
Income less Expense	2,880	(1,167)	986
Investments			
T Rowe Price Govt Money Fund (as of 3/06/18)		43,657	
Mountjoy fund (part of above)			5,540
Chestem fund (part of above)			27,269
What HCBC has squirreled away over the yrs.			10,848
PNC Bank Balance			
Beg. Checking Bal. 01/01/18		6,226	
End Checking Bal. 02/28/18		5,159	
Total Assets			\$48,816

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
Proposed Budget
5/1/18-4/30/19

	Actual 2014-15	Actual 2015-16	Actual 2016-17	Y-T-D 2017-18	Proposed Budget 2018-19
Operating Fund					
Income:					
Net Membership Dues (HCBC share)	1,933	2,426	2,814	2,946	3,000
Contributions to HCBC	2,145	4,626	3,128	2,343	2,700
Total Operating Income	5,192	7,052	5,942	5,289	5,700
Expense:					
Meetings:					
Programs	650	890	400	400	450
Hospitality-Chapter & State	62		10	10	75
Publicity & Outreach					
Newsletter & Directory	504	644	507	470	500
Special Printing -Butterfly brochure				240	100
Internet & email	203	330	300	120	150
Postage & Copies	258	287	230	223	250
Greenfest	35	35	35	35	35
Grants (from Contributions & Investments)					
Signage/MPEA trees/Seeds for Meadow				4,624	3,340
All Creatures & Frisky's	200	300	300	600	600
Education & other (YMOS)	244	254		200	200
Total Operating Expense	2,156	2,740	1,782	6,922	5,700
Income over Expense	3,036	4,312	4,160	(1,633)	-

Year-end Net Worth (T Rowe Price + PNC Bank)

2017-18	\$ 46,743 est.
2016-17	49,689 (inc. \$27,000 Chestem bequest)
2015-16	28,018
2014-15	24,788
2013-14	22,538
2012-13	20,519
2011-12	19,659
2010-11	18,218
2009-10	18,762



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Bird Records Comm. Report - J. Solem\

Jo & Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>

Thu, Mar 22, 2018 at 4:34 PM

To: John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Cc: Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Hi John,

Bob and I will be unable to make tonight's meeting (middle of a project). Bob does not have anything to report as webmaster.

My Bird Records Committee Report from late February - March 21, 2018 follows:

Migration of geese and swans began the last few days of an unusually warm February. The wintering Trumpeter Swan left with this wave (last seen 2/26); below average March temperatures delayed the second major goose/swan wave until March 17 - 19.

Double-crested Cormorants did not winter.

A Barn Owl was reported at dusk at West Friendship Pk in early March.

Two Rough-winged Swallows on 3/18 at Race Road Wetlands were slightly ahead of normal migration.

In this non-invasion winter, a few Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were reported by reliable observers.

A Lincoln's Sparrow at MPEA 3/1 was the first-ever March record, so far before the usual April timing that it probably should be considered a wandering winter bird (which is also extremely unusual).

Jo

--

Solem

odenata@msn.com

Laurel MD 20723



Fwd: Tonight's Board Meeting**John Harris** <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 22, 2018 at 9:46 AM

To: Kurt Schwarz <krschwa1@verizon.net>

Cc: Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>

Thanks Kurt - Chuck, I'll mention these tonight, but for the record, here are Kurt's conservation notes.
John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kurt Schwarz** <krschwa1@verizon.net>

Date: Thu, Mar 22, 2018 at 9:43 AM

Subject: Tonight's Board Meeting

To: jaybee.harris@gmail.com

John,

I had hoped to attend, but I am still sniffing, coughing, etc. from some bug that I picked during my Texas trip. I don't want to share that! If you care, to a few things to report on conservation front.

MOS is supporting 4 bills in the current session, and seeking modification of a fifth.

The Chlorpyrifos Bill was referred back to committee for study in the Senate, killing any chance of passage this session. Opposition from the Golf Course community and agricultural interests were responsible. The ag industry threw up the red herring of spotted lanternfly, a newly emerging ag pest, currently in PA, and also sighted in VA. Chlorpyrifos is not among the methods recommended for control of this insect, so the need to keep it in the "toolbox" is specious.

The Bird-Safe Building Act was unfavorably reported in the House Government Affairs Committee, and has been withdrawn.

The Expanded Polystyrene Food Container Ban was favorably reported the Senate Health, Enviro, Etc Committee and unfavorably by the Senate Finance Committee. Fate uncertain.

Status of the Forest Conservation Act update is not known to me.

A bill to establish a dedicated fund drawn from exise tax on off-road vehicles has been amended, along the lines that we advocated asking that the fund not be used to build off-road vehicles on existing state lands, and neighbor and environmental issues be addressed in any new lands leased or acquired for off-road vehicle purposes.

The Ravens/Stadium Authority proposed 4 white light columns at the stadium, 365 days a year. Lights Out Baltimore and Audubon Maryland-DC negotiated, seeking more bird friendly lighting, purple lights, and shutting them down once an hour so birds trapped in the column could escape. In a surprise announcement just last week, Ravens Pres Dick Case said there would be no light columns at all. MOS joined in this effort late, but we are seeking to join the thank you letter, if one comes about.

Kurt Schwarz
krschwa1@verizon.net

--

John Harris

President, Howard County Bird Club

240-755-0183



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

SKYWATCH update

Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com> Wed, Mar 21, 2018 at 11:01 PM
Reply-To: Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>
To: John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>, Mary Lou Clark <doctorfx_99@yahoo.com>, Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, Woody Merkle <merkfam2@verizon.net>
Cc: Jo & Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>

Hi all,

Happy Snow Day!

I wanted to be sure you knew so you can report to the Board...

The SkyWatch signs have been ordered and sent to production through Adler Display. They are expected to arrive early in the week of April 16 with the installation planned prior to the 4/21 Earth Day event at the Conservancy. I'm planning to be there for the installation and am hoping Woody can join us too. (Woody I can contact you when the signs come in and if you around that week, we can coordinate a time)

I have confirmed the 4/21 date/time with the Robbins family and the Conservancy. We are planning an informal dedication/unveiling of the SkyWatch at 9am, immediately following the Earth Day bird walk.

Who from the club is running the walk again?

I am hoping Jane Robbins will say a few words at the dedication. I will hammer out more details with her. John and/or Jo, would you like to say something as well?

I'll cover the signs with a cloth or ribbon and reveal them at the dedication.

I'll also reach out to the Howard County times.

Can you all help drum up participation from bird club members? It would be great to have a good turnout!

Thanks so much!

~Nancy

~Nancy McAllister

“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

~Howard Thurman



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Fwd: Moth Survey Equipment

John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 3:57 PM

To: "Clark, Mary Lou" <doctorfx_99@yahoo.com>, Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, "cindy@cindyalbright.com" <cindy@cindyalbright.com>

Please see Sue's request. In an effort to reduce agenda items for Board meetings, is this something that we could decide with an e-mail exchange and possibly vote?
John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Muller, Sue** <smuller@howardcountymd.gov>

Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 2:51 PM

Subject: Moth Survey Equipment

To: John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Cc: "Muller, Sue" <smuller@howardcountymd.gov>

Moth Survey Equipment

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks is seeking funding for equipment to conduct moth surveys, especially at Emy's Meadow and Daisy Meadow. To conduct surveys, a rope needs to be tied to two objects in order to hang a white sheet over the rope as well as a black light. Shepherds hooks were donated by club members to tie a rope and hang the sheets. The black light attracts moths which will then land on the sheet. Staff, volunteers and interns will then photograph the moths so they can be later identified and submitted to the Maryland Biodiversity Project as well as the Park Management Plans for each site. The Department is requesting funding to set up two stations at each survey. Equipment would also be used in conjunction with Maryland Biodiversity Project bioblitzes and a public moth survey in recognition of National Moth Week in July.

1. 2 auto battery chargers - \$99 each = \$198. This will allow lights to be plugged into the chargers where no electric outlets are available (Daisy & Emy's Meadow).

<https://www.homedepot.com/p/Schumacher-Battery-Extender-12-Volt-1-200-Amp-Battery-Jump-Starter-BE01255/207126115>.

2. 2 black party lights - \$39.00 each = \$78 <https://www.amazon.com/American-Black-Blacklight-Tube-Fixture/dp/B0006MQSR6#customerReviews>

3. 2 spare black light bulbs - \$15.97 = \$31.94 <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Philips-40-Watt-48-in-T12-Linear-Fluorescent-Black-Light-Bulb-157628/202229378>

total = 307.94

Sue Muller

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks

Natural & Heritage Resources Division

[7120 Oakland Mills Rd.](#)

[Columbia, MD 21046](#)

[Maryland Amphibian & Reptile Atlas Coordinator, Howard County](#)

Howard County GreenFest, Co-chair

smuller@howardcountymd.gov

[410 313-4697](#)

--

John Harris

President, Howard County Bird Club

[240-755-0183](#)



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Fwd: REQUEST: Adding a Volunteer Sign-Up Link to Howard County Bird Club web page

John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 24, 2018 at 8:22 AM

To: Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Hello Chuck - I had an action to forward this message to you.
John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jo & Bob Solem** <odenata@msn.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 8, 2018 at 9:43 PM

Subject: REQUEST: Adding a Volunteer Sign-Up Link to Howard County Bird Club web page

To: John Harris <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Cc: "Clark, Mary Lou" <doctorfx_99@yahoo.com>

John,

This appears to be another good way to reach out to the Howard County education system and offer an opportunity for our members to participate with youth. What Jen is asking is an announcement in our calendar (see example in her email) of how people can sign up to help. It would also be possible to put an article in the NEWSGRAM going out the end of this month (not the pending one about the potluck) if you wish.

Could be brought up at the Board meeting in March is you wish.

Would you reply to her when you can of our response (and cc me) please.

Bob Solem

odenata@msn.com

Laurel MD 20723

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:REQUEST: Adding a Volunteer Sign-Up Link to your website

Date:Tue, 6 Mar 2018 16:38:44 +0000

From:Jennifer Brown-Whale <Jennifer_Brown-Whale@hcpss.org>

To:howardbirds@howardbirds.org <howardbirds@howardbirds.org>

CC:smuller@howardcountymd.gov <smuller@howardcountymd.gov>, Amy L. Reese <Amy_Reese@hcpss.org>

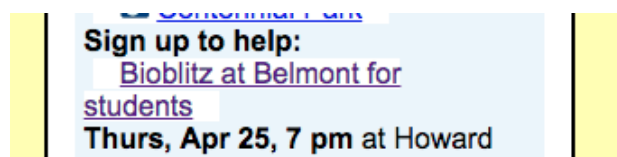
Good morning,

My name is Jen Brown-Whale and I serve as Resource Teacher for the Elementary Science Office of the Howard County Public School System.

Our office (Amy Reese and I) are working closely with several community partners and stakeholders to establish supports for classroom instruction regarding the Monarch butterfly.

One person we have been working closely with is Sue Muller. This morning, in one of our Monarch meetings, Sue brought up the Howard County Bird Club.

I was exploring your website out of curiosity and I saw at <http://www.howardbirds.org/> that you have included a link to the volunteer sign-up for the Howard County Conservancy's BioBlitz.



The HCPSS Elementary Science Office hosts an environmental education program at the Howard County Living Farm Heritage Museum for 4th graders from six(6) Elementary schools. The program is called Our Environment in Our hands (OEOH). Some of your members may already have served as volunteers in the past. Please watch "Discover HCPSS - Our Environment in Our Hands" at <https://vimeo.com/184745613> if you and/or your members would like more information about the program.

I am wondering if you would be willing to publish the link for volunteer sign-up on your web page.

- The link to sign up is <https://goo.gl/forms/o7oheWjNNRWLm9KI3>
- The due date to complete the form is Monday, April 23, 2018

The six program dates are (also included in the sign-up form)

- Monday, May 21 - Bryant Woods Elementary
- Tuesday, May 22 – Stevens Forest Elementary
- Wednesday, May 23 – Phelps Luck Elementary
- Tuesday, May 29 – Guilford Elementary
- Wednesday, May 30 – Longfellow Elementary
- Thursday, May 31 – Running Brook Elementary

Thank you for your consideration. Have a good day,

Jen Brown-Whale
Resource Teacher, Elementary Science

Follow us on Twitter @HCPSSElemSci

<http://www.hcpss.org/academics/elementary-science/>

Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21042

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Maya Angelou

--

John Harris

President, Howard County Bird Club

[240-755-0183](tel:240-755-0183)



Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2018

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √
Chap. Directors: David Sandler (1st yr.) √
Woody Merkle (2nd yr.) √
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity: Allen Lewis
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √

Others:

Sue Muller √

General Notes

Meeting was held at the Howard County Conservancy prior to a presentation by Jennifer Ackerman co-sponsored by the club. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 12 was 50 people. Marcia Watson gave a program entitled "From Mountains to Salt Marsh: Rediscovering the MOS Sanctuaries."

The regular meeting held April 12 was the annual club business meeting to elect the officers for next year. The slate of officers had been presented by the nominating committee at the March meeting and distributed to the membership by email/mail. The slate presented was President – Mary Lou Clark, Vice-President – Mary Maxey, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Cindy Albright, State Directors – Karen Heffernan, Sarah Romero, a 3rd position was vacant, and Chapter Director – Allen Lewis (1st Yr). David Sandler will be serving the second year of his two year term. Chuck Stirrat, given none of the nominating committee were present, announced the slate and it was moved that the slate be elected by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously. Following the meeting the club secretary sent contact information for the new officers to the MOS Secretary and MOS President for inclusion in the state MOS listing of officers.

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as distributed to Board following last meeting.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy will send the board a treasurer's report covering March and April transactions after she receives statements early in May. Cindy had broached the subject of whether we needed to have insurance and/or audits regarding the club's finances. John McKitterick confirmed the MOS umbrella insurance policy covers us up to \$25,000. We traditionally have had periodic audits of the club's books done by another member. *Sec. Note: The club by-laws specify periodically an Audit Committee appointed by the President shall review the financial books of the club.* The Board directed Cindy to contact Ward Ebert and ask if he would review the books.

President's Remarks (Harris): John started by thanking those who had provided food for the meeting as we were meeting at supper time. He also thanked those who helped with Earth Day at the Clarksville Commons and at GreenFest. He reported that he has confirmed that those who have been serving as Committee chairs have agreed to continue in that capacity. He has confirmed all who have been coordinating seasonal counts with the exception of Fall Count as he had not heard back from Mike McClure. Chuck agreed he would check with Mike to confirm he

will continue as Co-coordinator with Chuck. Lastly John reported he is working on the annual report on chapter activities to be submitted to MOS.

Vice-President's Remarks (Clark): No remarks.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): Joe still needs two more activities for our Robinson Nature Center obligation. Board members were urged to make suggestions.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported it has been an active month. She mentioned: 3 Surf Scoters, Red-throated Loon, 3 Glossy Ibis, ~20 Great Blue Heron nests at the Vantage Point heronry, successful fledging of 2 Great Horned Owls at Centennial, a few Purple Finch and Pine Siskin feeder reports, early Caspian Terns, a very early Wilson's Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Blue Grosbeak.

Butterflies (Heffernan): Kevin reported the list of Extirpated, Rare, & Possible Butterflies he handed out at the club meeting had already required a change. Henry's Elfin, which had been listed as possible (had appeared in 3 or more surrounding counties), has been elevated to "rare" in the county as one was found at High Ridge Park in Laurel. He also mentioned that the number of known Hackberry trees in the county was expanding rapidly, many on the grounds of Mt. Pleasant. Lastly he mentioned that at Greenfest Dave Zilkowsky reported that he had found a Great Purple Hairstreak in the past and would look to see if he had a photo. If confirmed that would raise the county list to 95 species.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not present but had sent an email report to John. He reported: "The legislative session was a disappointment for MOS. All four bills we backed failed: The Chlorpyrifos Ban, Bird-Safe Building Act, Poly-styrene Food Container Ban, and the Forest Conservation Act Update. The Chlorpyrifos Ban seemed to be a lock, but the golf course industry came out against it. That and scares of the spotted lanternfly, which is loose in PA, and also has been seen in VA. Chlorpyrifos is not among the control methods used to control the lanternfly, so keeping Chlorpyrifos to fight makes no sense.

One minor success, we learned that a bill to establish a fund for off-road vehicle trails based on an excise tax on said vehicles was proposed. We sought to have the fund not be used for new trails in existing parks, and for new lands bought or leased, that environmental norms be observed. We got the latter in the bill which was passed. This does not cover State Forests, where I think most if not all the ORV trails are."

Newsletter (Patterson): Not present. The due date for the Sept-Oct issue of the Goldfinch is July 25.

Webmaster (R. Solem): A webpage about the SkyWatch has been added to the website.

Potluck (Lillie): No report.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): No meeting in past month.

Old Business

SkyWatch – dedication – recap – John referred to the report and web page put together by Jo, sent to the membership as a NewsGram was a good recap. He asked her if she had anything to add. She shared that Anthony VanShoor had been nervous about leading the field trip prior to the dedication due to so many signed up for it (>44). Jo recalled that this was appropriate as when Chan used to lead field trips at MOS Conferences in the early days, "everyone" wanted to go on trips led by Chan and he would often lead "very large" groups. All participants were "forced" to car pool by Eleanore, Chan's wife. Chan would lead this mob of birders with everyone appreciating his expertise and pleasant manner. Lastly the Board recognized the excellent job done by Nancy McAllister in leading the SkyWatch signage effort and coordinating the dedication program. Chuck mentioned the Nancy, Joe Hanfman,

and he had spent another hour after the dedication birding the Conservancy with the Robinson family. They were very appreciative of the SkyWatch dedication and wonderful grounds that it was now a part of.

Chestem Bequest Ideas – John shared his decision that he has decided, at least personally, not to pursue the “cat problem” as in his reading the proponents of cats have a reputation for being very hostile to those attempting to remedy the problem. We also agreed that the idea of a professionally led program to address this would be very expensive and more than the bequest amount.

John reported that he had not had time to organize the ideas and planned to develop a grid/spreadsheet with all the proposals received to date. He proposed we defer effort until he has done that. He will attempt to set up a way to rank the proposals and share that with the Board prior to the next meeting. We agreed that we do not need to spend all of the bequest funds on this first round of proposals.

Bird/birding Classes Proposal – Jo reported that as Woody stated at prior meeting the Howard Conservancy was interested and would be willing to host a series of classes. Woody clarified that the extent of co-sponsorship was yet to be determined. If events are to be included in the formal HCC annual program published in January the deadline is June. Whether the Conservancy could use their on-line registration process if not in official program will need to be determined. Jo has identified several members interested in serving as a committee to plan this program of classes: Jo Solem, Woody Merkle, Kevin Heffernan, Allen Lewis, Chuck Stirrat and Bonnie Ott (Consultant). She envisions this to be part of an adult education nature study program.

New Business

Request to publish notice of Jones Family certificate of appreciation (Dickcissels) in The Maryland Yellowthroat.- John had attached a copy of the request as an appendix to the agenda (see attached). We agreed that if this were alright with the Jones’ we should do this (not before September issue of Yellowthroat). John took an action to ask Wes if he would approach the Jones family to determine their willingness for this level of statewide publicity.

Rack Cards - It was agreed we need to print an updated club rack card for handouts at events. Since the file for the prior version had been lost Bob took an action to draft a revised version based on a hard copy of existing ones. He will share the draft with the Board and when finalized get approximately 500 copies printed. He was authorized up to \$200 for this project.

Around the Room

- Mary Lou ? mentioned that at Greenfest one of the guards at Howard Community College mentioned that they have a significant problem with bird strikes on campus.
- Woody stated that this would be his last Board meeting as a Chapter Director as he won’t be in town for the May meeting. He thanked the Board for an enjoyable and satisfying experience. We mentioned that we would like to consider him as our continuing POC to the Conservancy which he was amenable to.
- Mary Lou mentioned we need to remember to invite the new members of the Board to attend the May meeting.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at next MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Prepare a more formal statement of his proposal on using the bequest for “cat problem” – John H. OBE
- Send a check to the YMOS Bird-a-thon – Cindy DONE
- Follow-up on bird/birding class proposal – Jo COMMITTEE FORMED
- Draft an announcement of the SkyWatch dedication for a NewsGram – Nancy McAllister DONE
- Inform Jennifer Brown-Whale that we will add link to HCPSS web-site – John H. DONE
- Draft a preliminary proposal on the HCC Bird Strike Prevention project – Woody DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at next MOS meeting – John McKitterick
- Ask Ward Ebert if he would be willing to conduct review of financial books – Cindy
- Ask Wes Earp to contact the Jones family about article for the Yellowthroat – John H.
- Prepare summary of Chestem bequest proposals suitable for ranking – John H.
- Draft rack card and arrange for printing after board review – Bob
- Ask Mike McClure if he is willing to continue as co-coordinator for Fall Count - Chuck

Board Meeting Schedule

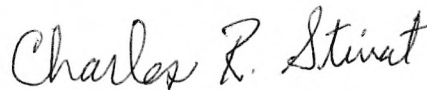
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2017	- Robin Todd	
October 26, 2017	- John Harris	
November 16, 2017	- Cindy Albright	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 25, 2018	- Howard Patterson	
February 22, 2018	- Jo & Bob Solem	
March 22, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark	
April 26, 2018	- Howard County Conservancy	(Meeting will be held at HCC at 5:00 pm)
May 24, 2018	- John McKitterick	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – HCBC Board meeting April 26, 2018 (including Appendix A)

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

April 26, 2018 — 5:00 PM!!!!

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris
 - Clarksville Commons, Greenfest recap
 - Committee chairpersons and count coordinators for next year
 - HCBC Annual Report - started
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Butterflies Kevin Heffernan
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - *Input for the September-October Goldfinch is due July 25*
 - Web Master Bob Solem
7. Old Business
 - SkyWatch – dedication – recap
 - Chestam bequest ideas
8. New Business
 - Request to publish notice of Jones Family certificate of appreciation (Dickcissels) in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. See Appendix A.
9. Action Items Chuck
10. Around the room

Meeting Location:

Howard County Conservancy – Mt. Pleasant
10520 Old Frederick Rd,
Woodstock, MD 21163
843-592-4041 (John Harris' cell phone)

Appendix A – Request from Barbara K. Johnson, President, Maryland Ornithological Society

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Barbara Johnson** <barbarajohnson222@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Mar 25, 2018 at 8:47 AM

Subject: Re: Howard County Bird Club Certificate of Appreciation for Dickcissel habitat presented March 17, 2018

Dear Howard County Bird Club members,

On behalf of MOS, I thank you and applaud your efforts on the dickcissel nesting habitat from start to finish.

Much of the membership is aware of HCBC's work and its compensation to the Joneses to manage for dickcissels, but your follow-through with these lovely physical acknowledgements could be an example for all of us in our public outreach.

If you've not done this already, and family wouldn't object, I think the MOS membership would appreciate a notice about the award included in *The Maryland Yellowthroat's* Chapter Chatter, or elsewhere in the newsletter. (The deadline for June-August is today but I bet Richard would give you a day or two.) I understand that the family might not want state-wide publicity.

Thank you all!

best regards,
Barbara

Barbara K. Johnson
President, Maryland Ornithological Society
www.mdbirds.org
president@mdbirds.org
410-703-4664

Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, May 24, 2018

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:

President: John Harris √
Vice-president: Mary Lou Clark √
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer: Cindy Albright
Chap. Directors: David Sandler (1st yr.) √
Woody Merkle (2nd yr.)
State Directors: Karen Heffernan
John McKitterick √
Robin Todd √
Past President: Robin Todd

Chapter Committees:

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman
Programs: Jane Geuder
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz
Newsletter: Howard Patterson
Records: Jo Solem √
Webmaster: Bob Solem √
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √
Publicity(Ch.Dir Elect): Allen Lewis √
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan

Others:

General Notes

Meeting was held in home of John McKitterick. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 10 was 70 people. Dr. Steve Sheffield gave a program entitled "Global Owl Distribution, Diversity, and Conservation."

Officer's Reports

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Albright): Cindy was not present. She had sent the Board the attached report for March – April 2018 in early May.

President's Remarks (Harris):

- Welcome new Board members: Allen Lewis, Mary Maxey (will not attend)
- Provided information about Goldfinch publication history to MOS (Phil Davis requested)
- RNC event "Take your kids birding" (5/19/2018) was cancelled due to weather (heavy rain)
- Need host for Fall Count Tally Rally (September 15, 2018)
- Need volunteers for two summer RNC events:
 - "Wild for Water" - Sunday, July 8, 2018
 - "Anniversary Open House" - around 3rd Sunday in September
- Joe Hanfman delivered the two 2018 remaining RNC programs:
 - Mom's Big Year - Nancy McAllister - 9/8/2018
 - Take Your Kids Birding - David Cummings - 9/29/2018
- Seed Sale
 - Ward Ebert will coordinate Seed Sale, write Goldfinch article
 - Jeff Friedhoffer agreed to handle payments
- New Rack Cards available - thanks to Bob Solem
- Financial audit - Ward Ebert provided interim status. Suggest inviting Ward to a Fall 2018 meeting to present and discuss results
- Jones article for Yellowthroat - Wes Earp will check when he returns from travel
- Fall Count co-coordinator - Mike McClure agreed to continue
- MOS Convention proposal - vote at MOS meeting June 2, 2018

Vice-President's Remarks (Clark): Mary Lou thanked John for his performance as President over the past two years and the rest of board echoed their appreciation. John graciously accepted our thanks and stated it had truly been a wonderful experience.

Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): Joe had informed John he had scheduled the last two RNC trips for this year.

- David Cummings is going to do a Take Your Kids Birding on 9/29. His brother Kermit wrote a kid's birding book and David will be giving out copies to the participants.
- Nancy McAllister is going to give a Mom's Big Year talk and a walk around Robinson on 9/8.

Records (Jo Solem): Jo reported that Spring migration had been good but not great. There were multiple reports of Gray-cheeked Thrust, one Olive-sided Flycatcher, a late strange report of Red-breasted Nuthatch in a non-irruption winter, and what appears to have been higher numbers of Bay-breasted Warbler and Lincoln's Sparrow than normal. In early breeding bird reports we have the return of the Dickcissels to Underwood Road, the potential movement of the Red-headed Woodpeckers from the trees they have frequented at Fox Chase (starlings using nest hole), one active Osprey Nest, and the apparent abandonment of Bald Eagle nest at the UMD Central Farm. The nest on the WSSC property off Triadelphia Mill appears to be successful.

Conservation (Schwarz): Kurt was not feeling well and was unable to attend but sent an email with following: "Nothing to report on Conservation front other than the strategic plan for Belt Woods is near completion and there will be a meeting on Tuesday in Annapolis. Two issues I plan to raise are cutting into Wildland to improve entrance (object to loss of Wildland, state equivalent of wilderness) and how do they ensure deer take is spread all over appropriate ground and doesn't all bunch up by parking area (nobody wants to drag a carcass miles)."

Newsletter (Patterson): Howard was not present but deadline for next issue is July 25. He has requested the following articles: President's Welcome – Mary Lou and Seed Sale – Ward Ebert.

Webmaster (R. Solem): See New Business discussion of Outreach.

Potluck (Lillie): No report.

Butterflies (Heffernan): Not present. No report.

State Board Reports

State Board Meeting (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): The next meeting is Saturday June 2. There are at least two proposals on the agenda of interest to the club. The Membership Committee is proposing to purchase materials to send new members as an introduction to MOS (this will negate our needing MOS membership cards for inclusion in our new membership packet. The second proposal from the MOS Executive Committee is an effort to save and enhance the MOS Conference. They are proposing to hire a professional meeting planning company, Conservation Community Consulting, LLC to take over certain aspects of the conference planning functions at a cost of \$11,000. John had forwarded the proposal to the Board (attached) and asked the Board to discuss and provide advice as to how our MOS Board members should vote. Robin and John McK explained that with the declining attendance and difficulty retaining volunteers willing to plan and conduct the Conference it was felt a drastic change in approach was deemed necessary to save the annual Conference. After discussion the sense of the Board seemed to be in favor of accepting the proposal. Jo Solem pointed out that given Marty Chestem had been a strong proponent of the Conference (actively involved in planning) it might be appropriate to use some of her bequest to MOS to supplement the cost of this experiment initially.

Old Business

Chestem Bequest Voting Results – John had assembled a list of 10 potential project areas based on member inputs (attached). Twelve Board member provided a ranking of these items. John tallied the votes (assigning a value of 10 for 1st through 1 for 10th, and zero if the person didn't rank a project. The result of the voting is shown in the attachment. Bob moved and it was seconded to consider only the first five items in the ranking (thereby rejecting further consideration of the last five on the list). In discussion there was general agreement to ignore the last five, but the discussion focused on further defining what is included in approving the top five.

1. Bird Strike Prevention – This includes providing funds for the bird strike prevention efforts for the Howard County Conservancy Gudelsky Education Center that is not yet formalized but is likely to include an education aspect of installing prevention methods. (Details to be provided) It also includes potential projects that might arise out of the Safe Skies program and other building that may be suggested (e.g. Robinson Nature Center).
2. More Dickcissel Projects – In addition to the recently signed agreement with the Jones family to again lease the same field as last year on Bowling Green Farm, we will explore longer range agreements with the Jones family and/or other farmers to lease farm land with good bird habitat for a breeding season including having the farmer agree to manage the land consistent with the welfare of the birds (not limited to Dickcissels).
3. Project Snowstorm – This proposal is more concrete and should be able to be accomplished sooner. The proposal is donate \$3000 to Project Snowstorm for the purchase of a transmitter and the monitoring and collection of data for 5 years on one Snowy Owl. It would be our request that in exchange for the donation the owl will be named “Marty.” John H. took an action to ask Sue Muller to take the lead on this as she proposed it.
4. Chestem Speaker Series at HCC – Considering the success of the Jennifer Ackerman program at Howard County Conservancy propose to HCC that we would like to co-sponsor a “Martha Chestem” series of bird-related programs at the Conservancy. John H. took an action to contact Meg Boyd and make this proposal. Suggestions for potential speakers will likely enhance the likelihood of this becoming a reality.
5. Bat Detectors at MBP – The Maryland Biodiversity Project is asking for donations to purchase 6 Echo Meter Touch 2 handheld bat detectors for use in a program to record bat occurrence across the state. A quick Google search reveals they are approximately \$350 each. John took an action to ask Sue Muller to check whether they still need donations and if so offer to fund at least one but we would consider more if they are still in need.

After this discussion the motion to approve these topics as suitable for funding from the Chestem bequest passed unanimously. It was made clear in our discussion that if additional areas for funding consistent with the original guidelines are proposed the Board is free to add them to this list and fund them as appropriate.

Adult Education Classes – Committee Report – Jo summarized the meeting held by the committee. They agreed to go slow in initiating this series of classes. In 2019 they propose to offer two classes in 2019. The first is “Basic Birding” that will be co-sponsored and hosted by HCC including being on their annual program calendar. It will be offered on a Saturday morning in March, will be free, lasting 1 – 3 hours, restricted to age 12 or above, and taught by a “team.” It will be paired with a field trip limited to participants who attended the classroom portion on a separate day following the classroom session. As part of the HCC program they will handle on-line registration and provide the classroom. The second class will be Habitat Birding – Field/Edge Birds taught by Bonnie Ott in late June/early July. This class will be offered in cooperation with HCC but won't be a part of their annual program, but may make use of their registration process. The committee is still discussing whether to offer this on the weekend or on a workday. Jo will probably take an informal survey at the September club meeting regarding what day would likely get the greatest attendance. This course will have a follow-up field trip to be held at Mt. Pleasant. Lastly she mentioned that HCC expressed interest in a Bird Photography class but the committee is unsure what the scope of such a course would be and is delaying pursuing it at this time.

Sec. Note: Woody Merkle was not present but provided the following clarifications to this topic – “1. Basic Birding - I have spoken with Audrey Suhr, the Chair of the Conservancy's Program Committee, and asked her to put the Club's proposal to include this class as a Conservancy program for 2019 on her agenda. The Program Committee will be meeting next month to set the 2019 calendar. While I have every expectation that the Club's proposal will be approved, I don't want to get ahead of the Conservancy's decision.”

2. *Habitat Birding* - This class would be sponsored by the Club using the Conservancy's classroom facilities. It is my understanding that the Conservancy would not provide registration support for this class. This is something that we could perhaps discuss further with the Conservancy if it poses a major problem for the Club."

New Business

Review of Outreach – Bob has been concerned the club is falling short in our outreach both to the public and even in ensuring the rest of club membership knows what the Board has been doing. He prepared the attached sheet summarizing the potential forms of outreach we do and could employ.

Nocturnal Flight Call Recording and HCBC counts – Jo wanted the Board to be aware of an email discussion happening between key players in the club seasonal counts since Russ Ruffing now has a NFC recording system and submitted his results for inclusion in seasonal counts. In discussion we recognized that such new technology needs to be factored in (especially as others set up similar situations) but for the near term we want to track these results separately. Ideally sonograms of the results will be archived but that is still subject to discussion. John H. had shared an extensive eBird article on the subject and agreed to send it to the rest of Board. It is already accepted that birds identified by NFC will be included in the annual list of Howard County birds.

2017 – 2018 HCBC Annual Report – John had shared his draft of report with the board and received a few comments. The general consensus was that it was a very good report of the club's activity over the past year. He announced he has another version that adds a description from Russ Ruffing of his Annotated Bird Records of Howard County. John took an action to share the final report with the Board and send it to MOS President Barbara Johnson. Bob took an action to post it on the website when received.

2018 Dickcissel Habitat Preservation – The return of the Dickcissels to the field on Underwood Road where they bred last year was first reported on May 11 by Anthony VanSchoor. After it was proposed we again attempted to reach an agreement with Tim Jones to lease the field as we did last year, John H. called Tim and learned he would be willing to repeat the agreement for the same amount as last year (\$1030). A motion to sign the lease was made and the vote conducted via email. The motion passed and the agreement was signed. Cindy sent the check along with a letter of thanks on May 19. As of that date Cindy had already received donations and pledges of nearly \$700 to the habitat fund to help cover this expense. As a side note Chuck and Mary Lou mentioned that when they spoke to Sarah Jones (Tim's mother) during May Count Sarah expressed her intent to lobby on behalf of keeping the habitat for the birds, as she is in favor of having the farm be a virtual preserve. Similarly when John spoke to Tim he alluded to having to decide what he wanted to do with the field on a long term basis.

Set Board Meeting Locations for 2018 – 2019 – The following volunteers agreed to host.

September 27, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 25, 2018	- David Sandler	
November 15, 2018	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 24, 2019	- Jo Solem	
February 28, 2019	- NEED VOLUNTEER	
March 28, 2019	- NEED VOLUNTEER	
April 25, 2019	- Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2019	- NEED VOLUNTEER	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Around the Room –

- David asked about finding volunteers to bring drinks and snacks for the September meeting as no one will have signed up on the clip board as happens on subsequent meetings. Robin volunteered to bring drinks and Chuck said he will do snacks.
- John McKitterick asked who was attending the MOS Board meeting on June 2 and proposed car pooling.
- John H. asked the Board for guidance on MOS proposal to hire professional event planners for Conference. See above under State Board.
- Bob stated that regarding the financial audit he had discussed with Ward Ebert and they felt the Board did not inform the club membership how and what we were spending club assets on. There was considerable

agreement expressed on this by board members. Some felt the minutes did this but agreed that probably very few read the minutes after they were posted on web. Bob proposed and took an action to go through recent minutes and put together items that would be suitable for sharing with the club membership (via NEWSGRAM or other means). Some felt there was a need to communicate better for local and MOS activities.

Review of Prior Action Items:

- MOS membership cards: Obtain more at next MOS meeting – John McKitterick OBE
- Ask Ward Ebert if he would be willing to conduct review of financial books – Cindy DONE
- Ask Wes Earp to contact the Jones family about article for the Yellowthroat – John H. DONE
- Prepare summary of Chestem bequest proposals suitable for ranking – John H. DONE
- Draft rack card and arrange for printing after board review – Bob DONE
- Ask Mike McClure if he is willing to continue as co-coordinator for Fall Count – Chuck DONE

New/Continuing Action Items

- Send the Board the interim status report from Ward Ebert on the financial audit. – John H.
- Ask Sue Muller to take the lead on the Project Snowstorm donation – John H.
- Contact HCC (Meg Boyd) and propose the “Chestem” speaker series – John H.
- Contact Sue Muller and ask her to take lead on the bat detector donation – John H.
- Send final HCBC Annual Report to Board and MOS President – John H.
- Post Annual Report on the website – Bob
- Extract financial or other items of interest to be shared with membership - Bob

Board Meeting Schedule

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 28, 2017	- Robin Todd	
October 26, 2017	- John Harris	
November 16, 2017	- Cindy Albright	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 25, 2018	- Howard Patterson	
February 22, 2018	- Jo & Bob Solem	
March 22, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark	
April 26, 2018	- Howard County Conservancy	(Meeting will be held at HCC at 5:00 pm)
May 24, 2018	- John McKitterick	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Attachments (Copies of handouts provided at meeting and club correspondence filed with original minutes)

- Agenda – May 24, 2-18
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – March – April 2018
- Proposal to Save and Enhance the MOS Conference
- Review of Outreach
- Member suggested projects for Chestem bequest funding
- Results of Board Rank Ordering of proposed projects

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda

May 24, 2018 - 7:30 PM

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks John Harris

5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark

6. Committee Reports
 - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
 - Records Jo Solem
 - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
 - Newsletter Howard Patterson
 - September-October Goldfinch articles due around July 25:
 - President's Welcome
 - Seed sale
 - Web Master Bob Solem
 - Butterflies Kevin Heffernan

7. Old Business
 - Chestem bequest voting results – John Harris
 - Adult education classes – committee report – Jo Solem

8. New Business
 - Review of outreach (see attachment) – Bob Solem
 - Nocturnal Flight Call recordings and HCBC counts – Jo Solem
 - 2017-2018 HCBC Annual Report – John Harris
 - 2018 Dickcissel habitat preservation
 - Set Board meeting locations for 2018-2019

9. Action Items Chuck

10. Around the room

Meeting Location:
John McKitterick
10018 Maple Ave
Columbia MD 21046
(410) 997-3122

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB
TREASURER'S REPORT
March and April, 2018

	Budget 2017-18	Mar-Apr Month	Y-T-D
Income			
Membership Dues			6,556
MOS State Dues Paid		540	4,101
Net Membership dues	2,750	(540)	2,455
Contributions			
Habitat Conservation	3,000		1,603
Seed sale	750		750
MOS Refreshment reimb.		75	99
Dividend Income - TRowe Price		44	274
Total Operating Income	5,750	(421)	5,181
Expenses			
Meetings			
Programs J. Ackerman- with HCC	1,000	600	1,050
Hospitality	75	10	10
Publicity & Outreach			
Internet Account	350	51	120
Postage, Copies	300	50	273
Newsltr/Directory/Labels/Brochures	550	348	890
Greenfest	35		35
Grants (from contributions & investments)			
Signage - Mt. Pleasant Conservancy			2,000
Seed for Schooley Mill Meadow		711	711
MPEA Trees & moth equip		308	2,221
All Creatures G & S	300		300
Frisky's			300
YMOS	200	200	200
Total Operating Expense	2,810	2,278	8,110
Income less Expense	2,940	(2,699)	(2,929)
Investments			
T Rowe Price Govt Money Fund (beg. bal. 3/1/18)		43,657	
Mountjoy fund			5,540
Chestem fund			27,269
HCBC Undesignated funds			10,926
T Rowe Price Govt Money Fund (4/30/18)			43,735
PNC Bank Balance			
Beg. Checking Bal. 03/01/18		5,159	
End Checking Bal. 04/30/18		488	
Total Assets		48,922	\$44,223

	Trove Price
Div Income	<u>2017</u>
	5 May
	7 June
	8 July
	9 August
	9 September
	24 October
	27 November
	<u>32 December</u>
	122 May to Dec 2017
	152 Jan to Apr 2018
	<u>274 YTD</u>

PROPOSAL TO SAVE AND ENHANCE THE MOS CONFERENCE

For several years members of the Executive Committee have investigated hiring professional meeting planners to help with the MOS conference. Until now we could not find a company that combined professional assistance with a knowledge of birding and the natural world.

WHAT WE PROPOSE

To hire Conservation Community Consulting, LLC to take over certain MOS conference functions. We believe this will elevate the conference to a more professional level and expand participation by more MOS members who have not attended a conference, attract non-MOS members, and attract both sponsors and media. The Conference would then be multi-functional: a showplace for MOS activities, a marketing tool for new members, and retaining the familiar conference elements of field trips, seminars and a meeting place to renew friendships.

SOME BACKGROUND

An annual conference has been an important part of the MOS for 74 years. It is the time members meet to elect officers, to learn what the various committees and chapters are doing, to greet old friends and make new ones, and perhaps most importantly, to bird in a new location along unfamiliar trails. Without the conference, MOS would still need to hold an annual meeting. But it would be just that – a business meeting.

From being comfortably over 200 participants most years, attendance at our annual conference began dropping around 2012. Numbers fluctuated, but the decline was steady, reaching an all-time low in 2016 of 127. The numbers came up a bit in the ensuing two years, but never reached the previous high of 200+. The decline in numbers has several negative effects: a potential loss of cohesion in MOS, and fixed costs are spread among a smaller pool, driving up the conference price.

Of equal concern has been the lack of volunteers. It has been harder and harder to recruit adequate numbers of volunteers and difficult to keep them for more than a few years. These dwindling numbers meant more work for the few who remained. Attracting a larger pool of volunteers from a larger conference attendance means members could cycle on and off without a significant loss of institutional memory and ease the burden on dedicated volunteers.

We have three options:

1. Continue on our present course. Given the declining numbers, the demand for a yearly conference will decline as well until there are simply too few attendees to warrant the effort.
2. Suspend the conference for a year or two to see if that generates renewed interest to restart.

3. Look for some way of expanding and improving the conference to attract more attendees.

The Executive Council proposes that we take the third option and aim high. Over the last several months the Council has been working with Conservation Community Consulting (CCC) to formulate a way forward. We believe they offer a very viable approach to achieving our goals.

[Conservation Community Consulting](#) is owned by Jim Rapp and Dave Wilson, both avid birders and naturalists well known among the Maryland birding community. Their skill sets include outreach, strategic planning, public policy, campaigns, nature and birding recreation, and wildlife interpretation and management. Working together for over 20 years, they have an impressive track record of coordinating birding-centered events both in the field and on the water such as the Delmarva Birding Weekend and the Delmarva Paddling Weekend. They contracted with Maryland/DC Audubon to coordinate the “I Bird, I Vote” summits, and last year’s successful [Baltimore Birding Weekend](#) (the second is in the works). Because of the breadth of their work, their mailing list reaches thousands of interested parties. They are adept with internet communication and social media, as MOS experienced when Jim and Dave coordinated the pelagic trips for the recent MOS convention in Ocean City.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?

Jim and Dave would set up a website for the conference. It would include a homepage and pages for field trips, speakers, social events and sponsors. That site would be linked to the MOS webpage. Just as important, they would keep the website updated on a daily, if not hourly basis. The [Baltimore Birding Weekend](#) site is a good example.

CCC would identify and help recruit sponsors. We are particularly excited about this opportunity as it could offset CCC costs and may reduce MOS’s costs. Jim and Dave believe a conference like ours would attract a number of sponsors happy to have MOS publicize its enterprises to conference attendees. The webpage, too, would be geared to attract sponsors.

CCC would write and distribute press releases for MOS and other print media, link to other national birding calendars, and connect to state and county tourism offices, and state and regional media. Jim and Dave would also use Facebook and other social media platforms to advertise the conference.

Given their prior work, our expectation is that Jim and Dave would have conference details published well in advance of the event. They would communicate with MOS members and their own mailing list via newsletters, including “Save the Date” notices, notice of when registration opens, updates on trip openings and closings, features on speakers, sponsor spotlights, last minute change updates and a post-event summary.

While working with MOS members, they would take the lead on establishing field trips – including some areas not usually birded by MOS members – and write field trip and tally rally descriptions. Field trips would be announced on the webpage and attendees would be able to sign up using the webpage. Jim and Dave would construct and include easy-to-use Google maps with meeting locations and directions to field trips. They would provide on-site management of the event during the conference.

We believe this is an opportunity not only to jump-start renewed interest in the conference, but to compete with other regional and national birding events. It has the potential to upgrade the conference to become a forum to showcase what MOS offers, and to become a good marketing tool to attract new attendees and members. It's a gamble, but one we think is worth taking.

MOS volunteers would need to continue to: coordinate details of housing and food with the venue, select the keynote speaker and workshop and seminar leaders, coordinate the research poster session, run the annual meeting, and other annual/special events such as the pin contest and photo contest.

What would it cost? CCC has made a proposal to do all of the items listed here for \$11,000. Again, we hope sponsors will offset some of the cost.

The Executive Council recommends acceptance of the following proposal:

THAT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BE AUTHORIZED TO HIRE CONSERVATION
COMMUNITY CONSULTING AT A COST OF \$11,000 TO ASSIST WITH THE MOS
CONVENTION

Task	Proposal from CCC
Website	
build event website (WordPress): to include homepage, and pages for field trips, speakers, social events, sponsors, etc. - will be built from new WordPress platform for MOS website	\$3,500.00
website updates & maintenance (WordPress): regular updates to keep website informative -- this may include multiple daily updates closer to convention	\$1,000.00
Communication with MOS members and convention participants	
guest communication e-newsletters (MailChimp): 8 to 14 e-newsletters to MOS subscribers, including save-the-date, registration open, updates on trip openings and closings, features on speakers, sponsor spotlights (if appropriate), last-minute updates right before and during convention (trip cancelations due to weather, etc.), and post-event summary	\$1,500.00
Promotions	
write and distribute event press releases (for Yellowthroat, other print media?) - links on other national birding calendars, connect to state and county tourism offices, state and regional media	\$1,000.00
Social Media	
social media management (via Facebook, possible other platforms) - this may include weekly updates when registration begins, and may increase to multiple daily updates right before and during event, Facebook posts can also be scheduled in advance	\$600.00
Field Trips	
establish field trip and tally rally sites - this may require travel expenses for areas of Maryland new to CCC (Western MD, Southern MD)	\$400.00
write field trip and tally rally descriptions, including directions to meeting locations	\$400.00
build online map of field trip meeting locations (Google Maps)	\$200.00
Sponsors	
sponsor recruitment: help plan and strategize sponsor recruitment and benefits	\$500.00
Planning and Event Management	
planning meetings with MOS Convention Committee: to include minutes, notes, and planning documents	\$400.00
on event	\$1,200.00
provide post-event reports	\$300.00
total:	\$11,000.00

Review of Outreach

<p style="text-align: center;">Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person • Facebook • Media • Rack cards • Business cards • Free newsletters • Emails <p style="text-align: center;">Personal contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While birding • On HCBC field trips • On scheduled trips by and for other groups <p style="text-align: center;">Media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Baltimore SUN</i> publications • <i>Hoco Events this week!</i> (totallyhoco@gmail.com) • MDBirding • HCBC web page <p>Everyone not a member who orders seed or goes on a field trip and leaves name & email address will receive an invitation to join in August (at the time the renewal notice is sent to members).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Public venues (rack cards+):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenfest • Robinson anniversary event • Robinson nature event (e.g., “water”) • Howard County Conservancy (HCC) Earth Day • Clarksville Commons, etc. • Wildlife Authority • Mother Nature’s <p style="text-align: center;">Free newsletters (by email):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard County Council • Howard County Maryland legislators • <i>HC TIMES</i> neighborhood columns • MOS officers and chapter presidents • John Byrd (Director Dept of Rec & Parks) • John Marshall (Director Dept of Parks) • Stacey Yankee (Robinson Nature Center) • Meg Boyd (Director HCC)
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Short Name	Idea	Sponsor	Cost
Environmental Library	Environmental Resource Center somewhere in Howard Co. that would include an extensive library of ornithological (and other) texts and other materials	Orrey P. Young, Ph.D.	Unknown
Bird Strike Prevention	Funding the installation of bird strike prevention measures on the windows at the education center at Mt. Pleasant.	Woody Merkle	Between \$2,000 and \$5,000
TNR Lobbyist	Obtain services of a professional conservation lobbyist to promote legislation in Howard County to prevent cat trap-neuter-release (TNR) from becoming law.	John Harris	Unknown
More dickcissel projects	I thought the effort the Club did last year re the dickcissel was really excellent. Maybe more efforts like that.	Joyce Kelly	Recurring, ~ \$1,000 to ~ \$2,000 per effort
Chestam Speaker Series at HCC	Considering the success of the Jennifer Ackerman program at HCC, perhaps HCBC could co-sponsor a "Martha Chestem" series of bird-related programs at HCC.	John Harris	Recurring, ~ \$500 per program
Water Bottle Filling Station	Recreation & Parks is accepting donations to purchase water fountains with bottle filling stations in efforts to reduce plastic and promote reusable bottles. A bird friendly park could be chosen and the club would have a plaque with their name on it as well as Marty's name. Estimated cost is \$3810. Fountains will be completely funded by donations.	Sue Muller	\$3,810
Bat Detectors for MBP	The Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP) is moving forward with plans to record bat occurrence across the state in 2018. MBP would like to obtain funds to purchase six Echo Meter Touch 2 handheld bat detectors, which can attach to a smart phone and record bat audio. Enthusiastic volunteers around the state will use these meters and mammal expert Steve Sheffield (Bowie State University) has agreed to review the data and vet the results. In addition to documenting what species are still found where (and when), there are some Southern species of bats expected to drift north into Maryland, such as Mexican Free-tailed. North American bat populations have declined at alarming rates due to threats such as White Nose Syndrome (WNS). Data will be shared with Maryland DNR Natural Heritage Program and Bat Conservation International. Howard County Recreation & Parks staff will receive one of the meters to survey in County parks in 2018	Sue Muller	Donation of any amount.
Project Snowstorm	Donation to Project Snowstorm, \$3000 funds a full transmitter providing 5 years of data on one owl, \$1200 will provide data for 2 years from one transmitter, \$600 will provide data for 1 year, \$300 will provide data for 6 months	Sue Muller	\$300 - \$3,000
Bench	A bench with Marty's name at one of the county lakes or at the SkyWate	?	?
Loaner binoculars	Materials for teaching novice birders, i.e. a pair of binoculars to lend on field trips	?	\$100 - \$200
Moth survey equipment	Supplies for college intern to conduct moth and insect surveys in county parks	?	\$100 - \$200

Rank	Idea	Voters	TotalPoints
1	Bird strike prevention	12	109
2	More dickcissel projects	12	92
3	Project snowstorm	12	85
4	Chestem Speaker Series at HCC	12	75
5	Bat detectors for MBP	12	61
6	Water Bottle Filling Station	12	41
7	Loaner binoculars	12	30
8	TNR lobbyist	12	28
9	Chestem Bench	12	27
10	Environmental library	12	24

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