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**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, September 27, 2018

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2017-2018 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √

Vice-president: Mary Maxey

Secretary: Chuck Stirrat

Treasurer: Cindy Albright √

Chap. Directors: Allen Lewis (1<sup>st</sup> yr.)  
David Sandler (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √

State Directors: Karen Heffernan √

Sarah Romero √

Vacant

Past President: John Harris

Field Trips:

Programs:

Conservation:

Newsletter:

Records:

Webmaster:

Potluck:

Publicity:

Butterflies:

**Others:** Sue Muller √

Joe Hanfman

Jane Geuder

Kurt Schwarz √

Howard Patterson

Jo Solem √

Bob Solem √

Kathie Lillie √

Allen Lewis

Kevin Heffernan √

## General Notes

Meeting was held in home of Mary Lou Clark. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 13 was 61 people. Beth Decker and Carolyn Parsa gave a program entitled "In Light of Recent Trends in Development, What Does the Future Hold for our Birds? Safe Skies Maryland, Working Toward a Model of Real Sustainability."

## Officer's Reports

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Corrected copy approved.

**Treasurer's Report/Treasurer** (Albright): Approved. Paid balance of Adler bill for SkyWatch Signage on July 20 (\$1971.58).

### President's Remarks (Clark)

- Welcome new Board members: Sarah Romero (state director), Mary Maxey (vice president), Allen Lewis (chapter director on vacation)
- The recent Open House at RNC was on Sunday. Though the weather was rainy and the event was mostly held indoors, it was still pretty well attended. Mary Lou tried to encourage potential YMOS birders to attend our next meeting in order to hear from the three YMOS birders who will give the talk. We have three backpacks which have a bird book and pair of bins to give to potential YMOS members.
- After watching Gill Bentley engage several family groups with her little butterfly cage with an empty chrysalis at RNC, and seeing the interest of so many bird club members in butterflies in general, she thinks we need to include butterflies on the display board to be used when the bird club is at events such as the recent RNC open house.
- Ward Ebert will present the financial audit at the October board meeting.
- Mary Lou is writing an article for the Yellowthroat about the Dickcissel story from beginning to now. I will need to ask for people to give permission for their pictures to again be used.
- Robert Solem has agreed to also become the MOS Website editor for the HCBC. He will continue in his role of webmaster for the HCBC.

- The Conservancy is awaiting a firm cost estimate for installation of a couple of different types of film applications on windows in the new expansion area of the Education Center. This will be in addition to the Accopian Bird Saver product which has already been installed. Once they have a firm cost in hand we plan to request funding from the Bird Club funds from the Marty Chestem bequest.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Maxey): Not present.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Sent in report that the club needs more people willing to lead field trips.

**Records** (Jo Solem): This was the best season for summer records ever. There was a Wood Stork on June 2-3 (first county record), a Limpkin on June 10, and a Tricolored Heron the end of July. In contrast, the first two months of the fall season (August-September) have been somewhat disappointing.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): On September 1, Safe Skies began their program at Howard Community College to collect carcasses of birds that collided with windows. Kurt also talked about a case in Baltimore County where a homeowner was cited for feeding birds and allegedly attracting rodents (rats); she was given a cease and desist order.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard said he would be taking a shovel to Mount Pleasant SkyWatch to do weeding.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob sent out the notice to renew memberships along with the link to the Sept-Oct *The Goldfinch* in mid-August and the seed sale notice in mid-September.

**Potluck and Audio-Visual** (Lillie): Kathie said she will be arranging for the 2019 Potluck for March 23 or 30. She distributed to the Board the fee schedule for Robinson Nature Center, which showed that if the club had to pay the regular fees as a non-profit, it would cost the club over \$400/month for regular meetings and around \$1000 for the potluck.

She also asked the Board to clarify and designate those club members who could assist in operating the audio-visual equipment at regular meetings and at the potluck. After discussion, it was determined that David Sandler would coordinate the effort (insuring there was one or more members of the committee at each meeting and the potluck) and that Kathie Lillie, John Harris, Chuck Stirrat, and Kevin Heffernan would assist since John McKitterick said he would no longer be responsible for it.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): To date in 2018, 70 species of butterflies have been recorded in Howard County; in a typical year, there may be 73-74. Most of the observers use the electronic butterfly sighting report on the web for their records. This is the final year of the 5-year butterfly survey in Howard County; there will be a meeting in mid-winter to determine whether to continue the survey for additional years and what format will be used. He said he hoped they could do more to "target" specific species near year and notify people in a timely manner when rarities were seen or there was an expected emergence of particular species.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Heffernan, Romero, Etc.):

- Orietta Estrada requests photographs of summer birds for The Maryland Yellowthroat
- The 2019 MOS convention will be on May 31-June 2 at Washington College in Chestertown, Kent County. Registration and field trip signups will be online beginning about Jan 1. The MOS website will be integrating with a new convention website being built by CCC. Anyone wanting to assist should contact Meg Harris, [mctharris@gmail.com](mailto:mctharris@gmail.com).
- The next MOS Board meeting will be on Dec 1, 2018 at Piney Run Park in Carroll County.

- The next Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas will be from 2020-2024. It will be coordinated with the Cornell Lab.
- The next MOS Planning Retreat will be on Saturday, October 20, 9 am-4 pm at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore

### **Old Business**

- Seed Sale: *On Saturday (September 29), Bob received an email from Jeff Friedhoffer who said he had received 58 seed sale orders!*
- Update on MOS membership application process. Mary Lou was the only one present who had used the MOS web site to renew her membership. Just before the meeting, Bob received from Maryann Dolan a form completely revised by Tom Strikwerda to be used by all of the chapter Treasurers/Membership chairs for reporting to MOS the memberships for the past month. Bob replied to Maryann Dolan it was impossible on such short notice to comply; she replied in an email “We’ll work around it, Bob. Send the data in the format you are used to.” We have received no feedback from MOS about the names, category, or details of members who have renewed through MOS; Mary Lou will send an email to Robin Todd (MOS President) and John McKitterick (MOS Vice President) asking for clarification. Bob in mid-October will send out an email to all of those Howard County Bird Club members for which Bob has no record of renewal and include an apology (that MOS has not notified us about renewals through the MOS web site). If MOS has provided such notice, the apology will not be needed. David said he thought the chapter directors should continue the practice of previous years of having the two of them contact all of those for which we have no record of renewal, so Bob will prepare a list to give to them at the October Board meeting as he has done in previous years. Kevin will continue to compile the Excel spreadsheet with the names and expressed interests of club members as he has done for many years.
- Dickcissel field and mowing: Mary Lou has been exchanging emails with Wes Earp about the question of spraying the field that HCBC leased during the Dickcissel breeding season in 2018. No further action is needed in 2018, but the question will have to be resolved if the club contemplates renewing the lease in 2019.

### **New Business**

- Certificate of Appreciation for the Dan Ellis family for hosting the Wood Stork: Jo passed around draft certificates; the Board selected the one with a picture on it. She also suggested that a “Blood, Sweat, and Tears” certificate be prepared and presented to Matthew and Silvester Williams who spent all day Sunday, June 3 making sure that birders showing up to see the bird were given correct information; in addition, Matthew went over on Monday morning and determined that the bird had flown the coop.
- Budget need for butterfly pamphlet: Kevin said this could be deferred until February when the butterfly group had made plans for the next year.
- Mist nets at Elkhorn Garden Plots: Mary Lou will write a letter to the person in charge of the plots explaining why the club is concerned about the improper stringing of netting to keep out small animals and birds. Woody Merkle will be notified to make sure the people using the garden plots at the Howard County Conservancy are also aware of the problem.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Send the Board the interim status report from Ward Ebert on the financial audit. – DONE
- Ask Sue Muller to take the lead on the Project Snowstorm donation – DONE; awaiting action by Sue.
- Contact HCC (Meg Boyd) and propose the “Chestem” speaker series – PENDING; Mary Lou will check.
- Contact Sue Muller and ask her to take lead on the bat detector donation – DONE; awaiting action by Sue.
- Send final HCBC Annual Report to Board and MOS President – DONE
- Post Annual Report on the website – DONE
- Extract financial or other items of interest to be shared with membership - DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Certificates – check with Williamses and Ellis family on a date for presentation after receiving the certificates – Jo
- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou
- Send email in mid-October to those for whom we have no indication they have renewed membership – Bob
- Audit report – highlight sections and email to Board at least 10 days before Oct meeting – Mary Lou

### Around the room

- Sarah showed the Board a business card-sized handout from a hawk watch and thought it was something the club could produce at Howard County Conservancy for the SkyWatch; she will check with Russ Ruffing about the feasibility of getting local information and a method of disseminating the information here.

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

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	- Robin Todd	
March 28, 2019	- <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	
April 25, 2019	- Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2019	- <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – September 27, 2018
- Treasurer’s Report – May, June and July, 2018

Minutes taken and prepared by Bob Solem.

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club



- Update on MOS membership application process Bob
- The dickcissal field and mowing. Mary Lou

9. New Business

- Certificate of Appreciation for the Dan Ellis family for hosting the wood stork-Jo
- Budget needs for butterfly pamphlet Cindy
- Mist Nets at Elkhorn Garden Plots

10. Action Items Chuck

11. Around the room

Meeting Location

Mary Lou Clark

5153 Morningside Lane

Ellicott City, Md 21043

410-465-4061

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB  
 TREASURER'S REPORT  
 May, June and July, 2018  
 (new format)

	Budget 2018-19	May-July 1st Qtr	Y-T-D
<b>Income</b>			
Membership Dues		339	339
MOS State Dues Paid			
Net Membership dues	2,750	339	339
Contributions			
Habitat Conservation	3,000	950	950
Seed sale	750		
MOS Refreshment reimb.			
Dividend Income - TRowe Price		160	160
Total Operating Income	5,750	1,449	1,449

**Expenses**

Meetings			
Programs	1,000	50	50
Hospitality	75		-
Publicity & Outreach			-
Internet Account	350		-
Postage, Copies	300		-
Newsltr/Directory/Labels/Brochures	550	44	44
Greenfest	35		-
Grants (from contributions & investments)			-
Habitat Conservation-inc. Dickcissel		1,030	1,030
Rehabilitators - All Creatures & Friskies	600		-
YMOS	200		-
Total Operating Expense	3,110	1,124	1,124
Income less Expense	2,640	325	325

**Investments - Asset subdivision**

**T Rowe Price Govt Money Fund \***

(beg. bal. 5/1/18)		43,735
(end bal 7/31/18)	(see detail below)	41,923
Mountjoy	5,540	
Unrestricted	10,926	
Chestem *	25,297	

\* Funds withdrawn 7/20/18 for Robbins signs \$ 1,971.58

**PNC Bank Balance**

Beg. Checking Bal. 05/01/18	488
End Checking Bal. 07/30/18	602

<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$42,525</b>
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**TRowePrice 1st Qtr (May-July)**

Mountjoy	5540
Unrestricted	10926
Chestem	25297
plus div.	<u>160.09</u>
end bal	41923



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, October 25, 2018

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Cindy Albright √  
Chap. Directors: Allen Lewis (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
David Sandler (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √  
Sarah Romero √  
Vacant  
Past President: John Harris

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Jane Geuder  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of David Sandler. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 11, 2018 was 40 people. Joshua Heiser and Daniel and Jonathan Irons, YMOS birders, gave a program entitled “*Youth Birding in Maryland.*”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes that had been prepared by Bob Solem were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Albright): Cindy had sent out the same quarterly report that was published with last month’s minutes. The next quarterly report won’t close until the end of October.

**President’s Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou expressed her and the Board’s thanks to Ward Ebert for his time and excellent effort spent on the audit of our financial records and compliance with reporting requirements as a tax-exempt charity. She also pointed out that we are currently in a transitional period as MOS is inserting themselves into the club membership process. She wanted to also thank the others who assisted with the audit and membership enrollment.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary had no specific comments but she was congratulated on her move to a new home over the summer.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Mary Lou notified Bob of two changes to the upcoming field trips. She will be leading the Centennial walk on Nov. 11. Kurt had decided he needed to attend the MOS Board meeting on December 1 and could not lead the Blackwater trip. David Sandler and John Harris have agreed to co-lead the trip in Kurt’s stead.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo stated there had been no major excitements like we had last June but that the last month had been a good start to the winter season. The forecast that this would be a good year for Boreal species has proven true with an influx of first Red-breasted Nuthatches, second Purple Finches, and just recently Pine Siskins. There have been a few Grey-cheeked Thrushes. Two Sandhill Cranes were found at Triadelphia Reservoir. Shore birds have been scarce with a Dunlin and a few Pectoral Sandpipers being found at Fulton pond.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was out of town and had not sent a report.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard had sent an email announcing that the deadline for the Jan-Feb Goldfinch issue is November 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has sent out a couple of Newsgrams this month. The next planned one will be the one announcing the next club meeting program. He will include appeals for positions for which we need volunteers as well as announcement of the dates and location for the MOS Convention. He also plans to include information on a Raptor box program he has extracted from the MD Bird Partnership newsletter. Lastly he will include an item from the Master Naturalists newsletter reporting yards with a preponderance of non-native plants exhibit reduced numbers of Carolina Chickadees compared to yards with native plants.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had sent an email confirming the potluck will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Robinson Nature Center. She will prepare an announcement article for the Goldfinch.

**Butterflies** (Heffernan): Kevin reported that the butterfly season is wrapping up. He announced that Jim Wilkinson found a new species for the county. Jim found a caterpillar for a Brazilian Skipper. Linda Hunt is finishing up the spreadsheets for the final report of the 5 year survey. Kevin announced that he and Karen are planning to re-landscape their yard with native plants. In support of that effort he has been accumulating a large amount of information on the subject of native plants. He is developing a spreadsheet that captures his research. He plans to share it and have it posted on the butterfly portion of the club website.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Harris, Todd, Heffernan, McKitterick, Etc.): The next board meeting is on December 1 at Piney Run Park in Carroll County.

## Old Business

There was no old business on the agenda. In discussing old action items Jo reported that she is waiting to receive the certificates from Joy Aso before setting up a date and venue for presenting them to Williamses and Ellis family. Mary Lou reported she has not yet addressed the action item on using netting in the public garden plots.

## New Business

### Financial Audit – Ward Ebert

Ward was asked by John Harris last Spring to review and assess the financial records of the club. This is consistent with club by-laws that specify the President shall periodically appoint an Audit Committee to review the club's financial books. Ward delivered his final audit report to Mary Lou who forwarded it to the Board in advance of this meeting. Ward reviewed key points from the report for the Board and answered questions. The report is an internal proprietary document of the HCBC, not intended for public access or disclosure except at the discretion of the elected officers of the club. *Sec. Note: Accordingly the audit report is not attached to these minutes as the minutes will be posted on the club website.* The report is written to assist future audits. Ward asserted that he is not a CPA and is not qualified to certify or approve financial statements of the organization. His intent was to provide an internal assessment of the completeness and accuracy of records and reports and our compliance with financial requirements levied on the club as a tax-exempt charitable organization. His purpose was to identify areas where change or improvement is required.

Ward addressed each of the area appearing in the audit report Summary section.

Control and Access – Audit found assets are present as stated in records and secure with adequate controls over financial transactions.

Accuracy of Financial Records – In reviewing records from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2018, the audit found discrepancies that were reported to the Treasurer for correction. This observation suggests that there is a need for having a second person (Treasurer's Assistant?) review the records more frequently. As a result of the missed MOS dues liability the FY 2017-18 financial statement will need to be modified. Ward identified the missed MOS dues

payment of \$620 as a finding requiring action. Cindy reports that the payment has been made and the year-end financial statement will need to recognize this as a liability.

Accuracy of Membership Records – The audit uncovered a problem with invoices and payments to MOS for membership dues in FY 16-17. Several members' memberships did not appear on incremental reports that result in invoices from MOS. They did appear on complete lists of membership and thus they did receive all membership benefits. The problem occurred while accounting systems for dues at MOS and HCBC were changing at the time and may have contributed to the problem. Reporting the MOS obligations in the treasurer's reports might have uncovered the problem at the time. Bob stated that he wasn't able to help Ward reach full understanding of this issue as he had lost portions of the applicable data in a disk crash. He believes he has implemented changes that will preclude loss in the future. The club also needs to identify someone to backup Bob as Membership chair.

Conformance to Generally Accepted Accounting Standards (GAAS) – The financial reports generated for board meetings should not be advertised as the required public access financial statement required of public charities. Although posting them as part of the minutes is appropriate they should not be available under the heading of Financial Reports. The Board agreed with this recommendation and directed Bob to remove them. An annual financial statement compliant with standards understandable by an outsider needs to be available upon request as this is a formal requirement, perhaps posted on web site. Cindy and Ward took an action item to develop such a report using FY 17-18 data that will serve as a template for future reports.

Regulatory Compliance – The club is in compliance with IRS 990-N filing requirements.

Ward concluded that there is no indication of any fraud or gross mismanagement of funds. He recognized the efforts of those involved in making progress and seeking additional ways to improve the processes. The irregularities in the processes through which the club collects and forwards MOS dues require further attention but the entire process is in flux as MOS has recently implemented a dues collection process as part of the new MOS web site.

During the discussion Cindy announced that she plans to step down as Treasurer following the completion of the current Fiscal Year (April). She stated the decision was not motivated by the audit but rather reflects her desire to cease having formal volunteer commitments. She had actually made that decision before becoming club treasurer but had stepped in when the club found itself in need of a Treasurer following Emy's passing. She also doesn't feel comfortable going out after dark. She remarked that with all the automated processes she has implemented the job does not take a significant amount of time. It was pointed out we will need to purchase QuickBooks for who we find as a volunteer.

Cindy's announcement means the club now needs to find volunteers for the Programs Chairman and a new Treasurer.

Membership Report – Bob provided David and Allen with the list of past year's members that have not yet renewed their membership. Due to the possibility that members can renew/join either through the club or on the MOS web site, it is more difficult for Bob to track membership. He receives a membership report from MOS shortly after the first of the month. As a result the list he provided may include those who joined on the MOS web site after September 30 and really shouldn't receive a reminder. Bob stated his opinion that there probably aren't too many people for whom this would be the case this year. Bob stated that the rate of renewal is significantly behind what has historically been the case. He provided the attached graph showing this year (through Oct. 25) compared with past year experience. MOS has stated that the individual clubs will need to be responsible for collecting dues and supplying reports and funds to MOS for those who want to use paper forms to renew/join. It was observed that if this is the case we could also continue to use our web based membership process.

Bob also recommended that he remove the option to donate to MOS (as opposed to Howard Chapter) from our web renewal page since the MOS site doesn't offer an option to donate to your chapter and only includes donations to the state organization as an option. The Board approved this proposal.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Certificates – check with Williamses and Ellis family on a date for presentation after receiving the certificates – Jo PENDING
- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou PENDING

- Send email in mid-October to those for whom we have no indication they have renewed membership – Bob DONE
- Audit report – highlight sections and email to Board at least 10 days before Oct meeting – Mary Lou DONE

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Certificates – check with Williamses and Ellis family on a date for presentation after receiving the certificates – Jo
- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou
- Remove the “Treasurer Reports” from the club web site – Bob
- Contact those who apparently have not renewed membership – David & Allen
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Hold minutes distribution until Bob provides membership progress graph for inclusion – Chuck DONE
- Delete the opportunity for donation to MOS from club web membership page - Bob

**Board Meeting Schedule**

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

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	- Robin Todd	
March 28, 2019	- <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	
April 25, 2019	- Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2019	- <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – October 25, 2018
- 2018 Progress on Membership Graph as of Oct 25

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

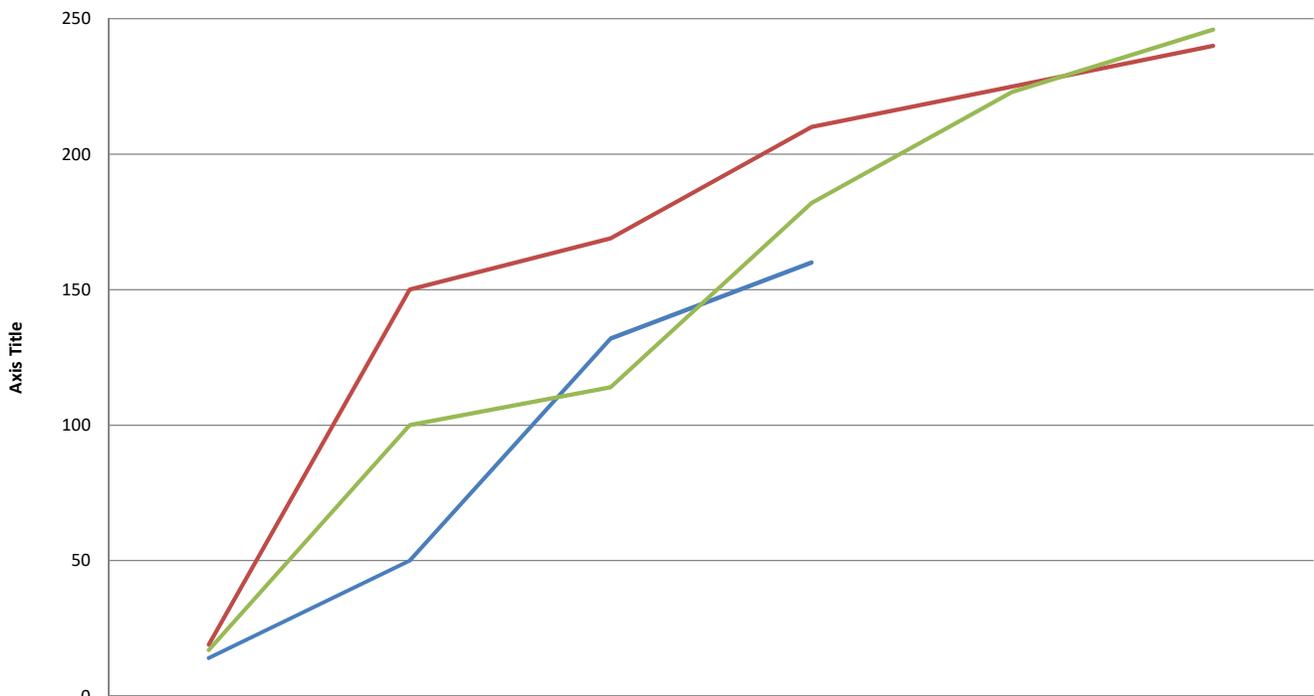
**Agenda**

October 25, 2018

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson  
Articles for the January - February 2019 Goldfinch should be submitted to me by November 25.
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie  
The Annual Potluck Dinner is now scheduled for Saturday, March 30, 2019, at the RNC. Kathie is going to prepare an announcement for the newsletter about this event.
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  
7. Old Business
  
8. New Business
  - Financial Audit-Ward Ebert
  
9. Action Items                                  Chuck
  
10. Around the room

Meeting Location  
David Sandler  
6587 Madrigal Terrace  
Columbia, Md 21045  
410 370 0747

### Howard County Bird Club Number of Votes



	Prev	14-Sep	30-Sep	25-Oct	1-Dec	31-Jan
18-19	14	50	132	160		
17-18	19	150	169	210	225	240
16-17	17	100	114	182	223	246



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, January 24, 2019

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Cindy Albright  
Chap. Directors: Allen Lewis (1<sup>st</sup> yr.)  
David Sandler (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)  
State Directors: Karen Heffernan √  
Sarah Romero √  
Vacant  
Past President: John Harris

**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:** Woody Merkle √  
Sue Muller √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was eleven. The November Board meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 8, 2018 was 57 people. Joyce Kelly gave a program entitled "Nicaragua: Birds, Volcanos, and Cultural History." Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 13, 2019 was 61 people. Mark Hendricks gave a program entitled "Natural Wonders of Assateague Island." Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 10, 2019 was 59 people. Linda Hunt & Kevin Heffernan gave a program entitled "Butterflies of Howard County, Maryland." Mary Maxey ran the Jan. 10 meeting in Mary Lou's absence.

**Officer's Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Previously distributed minutes reflected primary feedback of Ward Ebert regarding his briefing on the Audit Report. The minutes only had minor changes following distribution. They were accepted as amended and will be posted on the club website for anyone wishing to review the changes.

**Treasurer's Report/Treasurer** (Albright): Cindy was not present but had sent a report covering the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. of our Fiscal Year. It has preliminary estimates for Jan. 31 balances as the report was generated for the meeting in advance of the end of month reports being available. In discussion it was pointed out that a final installment of the Chestem bequest had been received (\$8,839) and for now has been deposited in the PNC checking account. The current balance of the Chestem fund is not shown on the report as in addition to the final distribution the report shows dispersals for the Snowy Owl Project Snowstorm and the Bat Meters for MBP which were approved projects to be funded by the Chestem bequest. Sue mentioned that Project Snowstorm had recently changed to being funded as a GoFundMe campaign, and someone pointed out that this means the GoFundMe website takes a commission. *Sec. Note: In the initial draft of these minutes I noted an inconsistency in the entry for the Project Snowstorm. The attached treasurer's report is an updated version correcting that issue and a few other minor entry errors.* Cindy also sent an email saying she had recently sent donations to the rehabilitators that were approved as part of the budget.

**President's Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou expressed her thanks to all who have handled club activities while she was having some health issues. She thanked Mary Maxey for chairing the January club meeting, stating she had heard favorable reports on her performance. She is feeling much better and getting out again. She made a point to single out those on the Web Site Evaluation committee for the effort they have put into the matter.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Maxey): No remarks.

## **Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Trip plans are in place. Mary Lou commented that Joe was doing a great job not only scheduling club field trips but also making arrangements for the trips we conduct for Robinson Nature Center.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Summarizing results for two or more months she mentioned several records. Multiple sightings of Sandhill Crane flyovers were reported on one day. Similarly there were multiple sightings of Golden Eagle over the SkyWatch and Ruffing home on one day. Winter visitors in numbers include Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Recently waterfowl have started to arrive. There have been several lingering Grey Catbirds and Brown Thrashers, that it will be interesting to see if they survive the upcoming extreme cold. Another species that traditionally hasn't stayed for the winter but has lingered so far is Double Crested Cormorant. Lastly a few reports of Lapland Longspur from West Friendship would benefit from more definitive identification (photo?).

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was not present and hadn't sent a report.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard wasn't present but the deadline for the next issue of the Goldfinch is January 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): See new business for report.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Potluck is scheduled for Saturday, March 30 at Robinson Nature Center. Kathie reported that 23 people signed up at the January meeting. She will solicit attendance at the February and March club meetings.

**Butterflies** (Heffernan): Kevin commented that other than having been working on the program given at the recent January club meeting there had been little activity on butterflies. He replied to a question that he is hoping to continue the survey this coming season even though they had completed the original five year survey. A number of the members of the butterfly committee are planning to analyze the data further with an ultimate goal of an academic paper. Numerous board members complimented Kevin on how good the presentation Linda Hunt and he had given.

## **State Board Reports**

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Karen Heffernan, Etc.): Last meeting was in December. No report provided.

## **Old Business**

Funding for Safe Skies Initiative at Mt. Pleasant – Woody Merkle summarized the proposal (attached) received from The Howard County Conservancy asking the club to fund the completion of a bird strike remediation project for the Gudelsky Education Center at Mt. Pleasant. The proposal was prepared in concert with the Safe Skies Maryland group who has partnered with the Conservancy for this project. The proposal contains several options and reflects significant discounts that Safe Skies Maryland has offered and/or negotiated. The total cost of finishing bird strike remediation on the Conservancy expansion at Mt. Pleasant is \$4,803. That includes \$3,958 for custom and standard film applications on most of the remaining windows not already treated with the Accopian Bird Saver system and \$845 for signage. The Conservancy is requesting funding for the full amount. In discussion it was agreed the signage would acknowledge Marty Chestem as funding source and the club as donor. Woody stated in response to a question the age of the window film is variable dependent on conditions but that typically 5 to 10 years would be a good estimate. It was moved and seconded that the club should fund this project in full. The motion was approved unanimously.

Need for a New Treasurer – Mary Lou asked the board to brainstorm ideas on how to find a volunteer to serve as the club's treasurer. Even if we could find a paid part-time accountant the cost would likely be prohibitive. The need is becoming urgent as we really want to have someone available before Cindy steps down. We agreed to include the call for treasurer in upcoming NEWSGRAM. One idea put forward was to explore contacting the Volunteer Center for Howard County and having them post our position as an opportunity. Mary Maxey stated she had a contact with

them and would send them the duties description after Mary Lou updated it and forwarded it to her. *Sec. Note: After the NEWSGRAM club member Brian Moyer volunteered to be club treasurer.*

Report of the Ad Hoc Education Committee – Jo Solem reported that the committee (Jo, Kevin Heffernan, Allen Lewis, Chuck Stirrat, Woody Merkle) has met twice and plans are in place for offering a free course on Birding Basics co-sponsored with The Howard County Conservancy. Registration for the class is open. The classroom portion will be Saturday, March 9, 2019 from 9:30 am to 12:30 p.m. at the Conservancy. A field trip for class members will be held on a separate date to be determined. Woody reported that at the time of this meeting there were only six openings left out of 35. The class was described in latest Goldfinch and will be announced in the upcoming NEWSGRAM.

## **New Business**

Web Site Evaluation Committee Report – Bob summarized the attached committee report. The committee had met once and exchanged multiple emails to arrive at the major interest areas the website should have as topic headings and how to organize the material. Bob revised the “top” 25 pages of the web site to incorporate this framework and let the committee could confirm the proposed features worked as envisioned. The committee concluded there were three options going forward longer range. Besides updating the web site to a more appealing and modern look, the committee had another objective. We felt that ultimately we would be faced with looking for a new webmaster when Bob is no longer able or willing to serve in that capacity. It was the committee’s assumption that in the future we are more likely to find a new webmaster with the requisite skills if the web site were designed using a modern Content Management System (e.g., WordPress). Another benefit of a CMS design is that it should be more compatible with a variety of platforms (PC, Mac, tablets, and smart phones). Accordingly the committee recommended the Board approve Option 1. Namely:

1. Solicit proposals from up to three web developers. Estimated cost ~\$4000; annual maintenance and site hosting ~\$600/year. The Board would later evaluate the proposals, select one, and approve the expenditure.

In discussion Jo made the point that this was a significant expenditure and an annual cost that might be more than what the club wants to commit to. She stated that this would not be an appropriate project to fund with the Chestem bequest, although it might be an acceptable use of the Mountjoy fund. In discussion it was made clear that the board felt by soliciting proposals we would have more information to further evaluate our options. It was moved and seconded that Bob prepare a request for proposal, and after review by the committee, provide it to Mary Lou for submittal to at least three vendors. The motion passed unanimously. After we receive and evaluate the responses we will be better prepared to decide how to proceed.

## Around the Room -

- Kathy observed that she had read that 1 in 3 GoFundMe campaigns are for medical treatments and as such it is one of the largest providers of medical “insurance.”
- Kathy reported that Kate Tufts was scheduled to go home in two days from rehab facility after having fallen on the ice and breaking her hip and requiring surgery.
- Chuck having reviewed what was planned for discussion at the canceled November meeting asked if MOS had approved hiring the consulting company to help with running the 2019 Annual Conference. The answer was yes and some thought the Conference web site was up. *Sec. Note: I was unable to find web site and the MOS web site says it is coming.*

### Review of Prior Action Items:

- Certificates – check with Williamses and Ellis family on a date for presentation after receiving the certificates – Jo CONTACTED BUT NO RESPONSE YET
- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou
- Remove the “Treasurer Reports” from the club web site – Bob DONE
- Contact those who apparently have not renewed membership – David & Allen DONE
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert STATUS?
- Hold minutes distribution until Bob provides membership progress graph for inclusion – Chuck DONE
- Delete the opportunity for donation to MOS from club web membership page – Bob DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Certificates – With Williamses and Ellis family settle on a date for presentation of certificates – Jo
- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Notify HCC and Beth Decker on approval to fund bird strike remediation project – Woody
- Update Treasurer Duties description for NEWSGRAM – Mary Lou DONE
- Contact Volunteer Center Howard County about posting treasurer opportunity – Mary M. OBE
- Prepare request for proposal soliciting redesign, maintenance, and hosting of web site - Bob

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 27, 2018	- Mary Lou Clark
October 25, 2018	- David Sandler
November 15, 2018	- Allen Lewis CANCELED (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING
January 24, 2019	- Jo Solem
February 28, 2019	- Jo Solem
March 28, 2019	- Karen & Kevin Heffernan
April 25, 2019	- Kathie Lillie
May 23, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark (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 - January 24, 2019 (amended during meeting)
- HCBC Treasurer’s Report – 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. (Nov, Dec 2018 and Jan 2019) - Updated
- Safe Skies Maryland/Howard County Conservancy Bird Strike Remediation Proposal
- Adler Display Quote to design and provide signage on Bird Strike Remediation
- HCBC Web Site Evaluation Committee Report

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Agenda**

January 24, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Cindy Albright
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  
7. Old Business
  - Funding for Safe Skies Initiative at Mt. Pleasant-Woody Merkle
  - Need for new treasurer
  - Ad Hoc Education Committee report
  
9. New Business
  - Web Site Evaluation Committee Report
  
10. Action Items                              Chuck
  
11. Around the room

Meeting Location  
Bob & Jo Solem  
10617 Graeloch Road  
Laurel MD 20725  
(301) 725-5037

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
3rd Qtr. (Nov, Dec 2018 and Jan 2019)

Income	Budget 2018-19	Nov - Jan 3rd Qtr	Y-T-D
Membership Dues		1,836	5,614
MOS State Dues Paid*		2,415	3,035
Net Membership dues	2,750	(579)	2,579
Contributions			
Habitat Conservation	3,000	2,657	3,519
Chestem Bequest - final dist.		8,839	8,839
Total Operating Income	5,750	10,917	14,937
<b>Expenses</b>			
Meetings			
Programs	1,000	60	360
Hospitality	75		
Publicity & Outreach			
Internet Account	350	152	152
Postage, Copies	300	124	124
Newsltr/Directory/Labels/Brochures	550	97	252
Greenfest	35		
Grants (from contributions & investments)			
Dickcissel project			1,030
Chandler Robbins signs			1,972
Snowy Owl Project SNOWstorm		3,010	3,010
Bat meters -Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP)		200	200
Rehabilitators - All creatures & Friskies	600	300	300
YMOS - Birdathon	200		
Total Expense	3,110	3,943	7,400
Income less Expense	2,640	6,974	7,537
<b>Investments - Asset subdivision</b>			
<b>T Rowe Price Govt Money Fund *</b>			
(beg. Bal. 11/01/18)		42,103	
Mountjoy	5,540		
Unrestricted	11,106		
Chestem	25,297		
3rd qtr Div		210	
(end bal 01/31/19)			42,313
<b>PNC Bank Balance</b>			
Beg. Checking Bal. 11/01/18		5,771	
End Checking Bal.			11,131
(total PNC above includes Chestem \$8,839 final distribution)			11,131
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>\$53,444</b>



Nature Center Entrance / West Elevation

Bird Strike Remediation Proposal



Background

In March of 2018 Safe Skies Maryland partnered with the Howard County Conservancy to install Accopian Bird Savers on the North Elevation windows of the first floor. Upon the successful remediation of bird strikes at that location, the Conservancy requested a design recommendation for decorative vinyl on the Nature Center Entrance / West Elevation, where reflectivity of the natural environment is a causal factor for bird strikes.

Summary

Safe Skies presented an initial design recommendation in August of 2018 for a vinyl paneled mural installation at the Nature Center Entrance / West Elevation:



Following the submission of the above drawings, the Conservancy submitted this List of Species Requested for the Nature Center Entrance Window Mural:

- Milkweed
- Monarch (butterfly)
- Salamander
- Owl (maybe sitting on a tree branch)
- Songbird
- Snake
- Fox
- Deer
- Box turtle
- Dragonfly

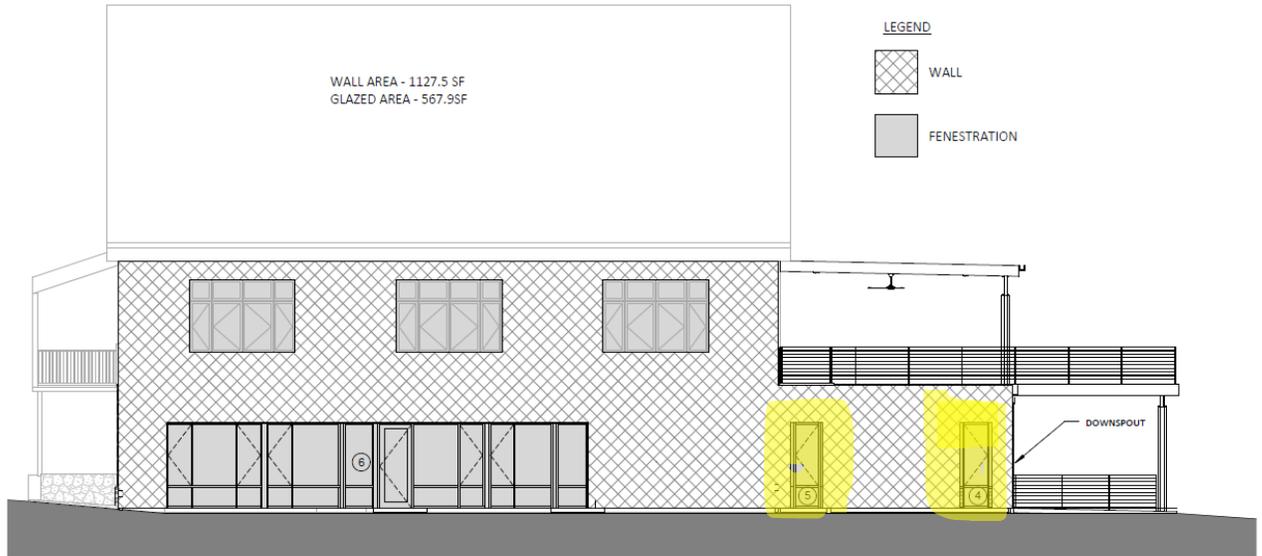
Safe Skies will develop an updated mural design for approval by the Conservancy. Following approval of the design, Safe Skies will work with one of its preferred partners to have the vinyl mural application manufactured. Upon delivery of the vinyl Safe Skies will work with the Conservancy to schedule installation and install the Nature Center Entrance mural.

Project Estimated Cost for West Elevation Mural

Description	Original Cost	Discounted Cost
Volunteer and Design Time	\$800	\$0 (Donated)
Vinyl Mural (Approximately 140 sq ft based on 40% of total glazed sq ft for West Elevation)	\$3,080 (\$22/sq ft custom design)	\$1,400 (SSMD Manufacturers Discount)
Standard vinyl for two east windows, two north patio doors, two north patio window panels, one north expansion door		
Miscellaneous Installation Materials	\$200	\$200
Installation Labor (if outside assistance required)	\$250	\$250
<b>Total West Elevation Mural</b>	<b>\$4,330</b>	<b>\$1,850</b>

# Standard Window Film Applications

## East Elevation – Two East Windows

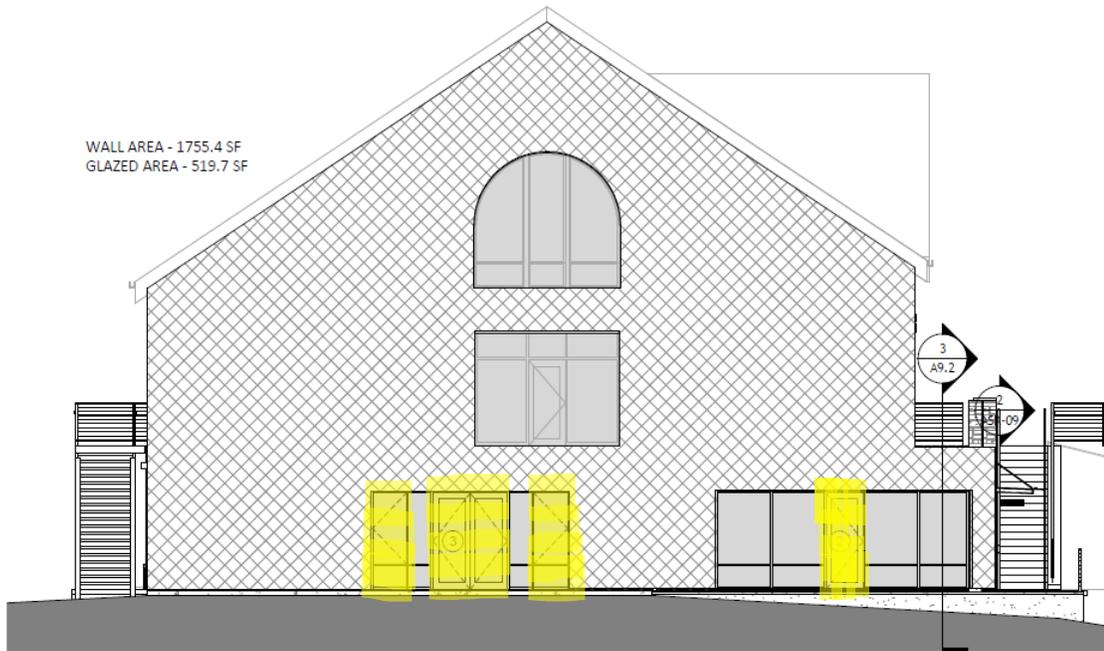


### 1 EAST ELEVATION - CODE

A1.0 A4.0A 1/8" = 1'-0"

Description	Cost
East elevation – 2 Windows	\$435
Installation Labor – If outside support required	\$100
<b>Total East Elevation</b>	<b>\$535</b>

North Elevation – Updates to Retrofit



**4** NORTH ELEVATION - OVERALL CODE  
 A1.0 A4.0a 1/8" = 1'-0"

Description	Cost
Two outer window panels on North patio doors	\$435
Two North side patio doors	\$435
Single North side door on expansion	\$218
Installation Labor – If outside support required	\$250
<b>Total North Elevation</b>	<b>\$1,338</b>

West Elevation – Window Transom



This area has been identified as Priority 1 due to high incidence of collisions reported.

Description	Cost
West elevation – Window Transom (6 running feet)	\$185
Installation Labor – If outside support required	\$50
<b>Total West Elevation Transom</b>	<b>\$235</b>

## Total Estimated Costs for Howard County Nature Conservancy Bird Strike Remediation

Description	Cost
West Elevation Mural	\$1,850
East Elevation	\$535
North Elevation	\$1,338
West Elevation Transom	\$235
<b>Total estimated cost</b>	<b>\$3,958</b>



7140 windsor boulevard, baltimore, md 21244  
 phone 410-281-1200 fax 410-281-2187  
 www.adlerdisplay.com

## Quote

**Quote To:**  
 Howard County Conservancy  
 Meg Boyd  
 10520 Old Frederick Road  
 Woodstock, MD 21163  
 52-1712913

**Ship To:**  
 Howard County Conservancy  
 Meg Boyd  
 10520 Old Frederick Road  
 Woodstock, MD 21163  
 52-1712913

**Quote #** ADLQ36141  
**Date** 08/02/18  
**Sales Rep.** Ron Adler  
**Terms** Net 30

**Ship Via** Delivered  
**Due Date**

Here is the quote you requested.

Qty	Description	Unit Price	Ext. Price
1	Snapper Stand with Graphic. Aluminum frame stand for 11" x 17" graphic. -Portrait or landscape presentation options provided -Angled aluminum snap frame allows quick and easy graphic changes -Silver powder-coated base steel with anodized aluminum frame -Includes clear protective lens for snap frame graphic	\$345.00	\$345.00
1	Estimated Design time for lobby sign is 4 hours. Adler Display charges \$125.00 per hour for design work.	\$500.00	\$500.00
		SubTotal	\$845.00
		Sales Tax	\$0.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$845.00</b>

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Howard County Bird Club

## Web Site Evaluation Committee Report

The web site is a marketing tool designed to reach

- existing members
- people interested in birding and natural history
- general public

A well-designed website is

- attractive and attention-getting
- informative and easy to navigate
- secure
- easy to maintain

The Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) is a superstructure build on a Content Management System (html5/css) that is dated . An ad-hoc committee of Mary Lou Clark, Cindy Albright, Meg Harris, Kevin Heffernan, Anne Looker, David Sandler, Chuck Stirrat, and Bob Solem was formed to evaluate the existing HCBC web site and make recommendations. The committee met on December 4, 2018 and exchanged many emails to

- view and evaluate features on other webpages
- choose major interest areas for Howard as topic headings
- organize subject matter under each topic

As a result of these deliberations, the webmaster created a new website that incorporated features requested by the committee. The web site was activated January 1, 2019 by modifying 25 pages (of the ~2000 in the existing web site) to the new format. Currently it is being evaluated and refined, and changes will continue to be made. But longer range, there are three options:

1. Solicit proposals from up to three web developers. Estimated cost ~\$4000; annual maintenance and site hosting ~\$600/year. The Board would later evaluate the proposals, select one, and approve the expenditure.
2. Continue revamping current web page. Cost ~ \$100; current annual site hosting ~\$250/year. On-going process.
3. Delete the existing HCBC web site and use the HCBC page on the Maryland Ornithological Society web site (<https://mdbirds.org/join/chapters/howard-county-bird-club/>).

The ad-hoc committee recommends the Board approve option one.

# Abbreviated Website Map for [howardbirds.org](http://howardbirds.org)

## MAIN PAGE

### ABOUT US

Programs & Field Trips <link>  
Seasonal Bird Counts <link>  
Newsletter: [The Goldfinch](#)  
Habitat Preservation & Seed Sale <link>  
Seed Sale <link>  
[Places saved](#)  
HCBC Officers & Committees  
*In Memoriam* + 2pages + 2 pdf  
Club Records  
[Constitution & Bylaws](#)  
[Annual Reports](#)  
[HCBC Board Minutes](#)  
[Financial](#)  
Archives  
Bird Count Results <link>  
Newsletters <link>  
Field Trip Reports <link>  
HCBC Board Minutes <link>  
Financial <link>

### BIRDING

Programs & Field Trips  
*Birding Howard County, MD*  
[Site Guides](#)  
[Birding Year](#)  
[Directions](#)  
Seasonal Bird Counts  
[Howard County Annotated Bird Records](#)  
Bird Lists & Records  
[Field Checklist: \*Birds of Howard County\*](#)  
[Howard Annual Bird List](#)  
[Birds of Maryland](#)  
[Field Trips Reports](#)  
200 Club  
[Breeding Bird Atlases](#)  
Policy  
[Rare Bird Policy](#)  
[ABA Code of Ethics](#)  
Bird & Wildlife Rehabilitators <link>

### CONSERVATION

[Habitat Preservation](#)  
Seed Sale <link>  
[Bird & Wildlife Rehabilitators](#)

### NATURAL HISTORY

[Birds – species location list](#)  
Butterflies  
[Main Page](#)  
[Species location list](#)  
[The Butterflies of Howard County](#)  
Amphibians & Reptiles (Herps)  
[Howard Atlas](#)  
[Species location list](#)  
Dragonflies & Damselflies (Odonates)  
[List & Phenograms](#)  
[Species location list](#)  
Fungi (Mushrooms)  
Lichens  
[Species location list](#)  
Mosses  
Bees

### PHOTO GALLERIES

[Birds](#)  
[Butterflies](#)  
[Fungi \(Mushrooms\)](#)  
[Amphibians & Reptiles \(Herps\)](#)  
[Dragonflies & Damselflies \(Odonates\)](#)  
Lichens <link>  
Mosses <link>  
MOS <link to the MOS web site>

[Website Map](#) <in footer>

## Pages not converted to interim format:

- Birding Howard County, Maryland Site Guides: **219**
- Photo Galleries: Birds: **322**
- Photo Galleries: Butterflies: **85**
- Photo Galleries: Odonates: **100**
- Breeding Bird Atlases: **140**
- Field Trip Reports: **974**

**RED** : 36 unique pages in primary, secondary, and tertiary tabs converted.

**Green**: 20 PDFs accessible through web site.

TOTAL: 1840 pages



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, February 28, 2019

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Interim Treasurer: Cindy Albright  
Chap. Directors: Allen Lewis (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
David Sandler (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
Vacant  
Vacant  
Past President: John Harris

**Chapter Committees:**

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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 Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was ten. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 14, 2019 was 77 people. Bonnie Ott gave a program entitled “Birds of the Meadows, Fields, and Marshes.”

Following the prior Board meeting Brian Moyer responded to the NewsGram seeking a volunteer to replace Cindy Albright, who had announced her intention to retire as Treasurer. Brian volunteered to take the position, although he has a work assignment that will have him out of town from mid-March until late July. Cindy submitted her resignation effective February 20 so the Board could appoint Brian as interim Treasurer to fill out the remainder of her term. The Board approved Brian’s appointment by an email vote on February 21-22. Cindy and Brian began the transition immediately but when it became obvious that a complete transition would not be completed before Brian leaves, Cindy volunteered to continue handling the treasurer’s tasks until Brian returns and the transition can be completed. The Board approved this arrangement.

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):** Chuck reported that a few minor discrepancies had been identified in the Treasurer’s Report distributed with the draft minutes. An updated report is included in the minutes that were emailed to the Board as part of the agenda for this meeting. These updated minutes were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer):** Brian introduced himself and summarized the progress he and Cindy have made in beginning the transition. He is the Director of Environmental Quality for the US Army, working at the Pentagon. He and his wife live in Columbia with two college-age daughters. He has been a life-long birder and is looking forward to working with the Board.

**President’s Remarks (Clark):** Mary Lou offered her remarks at the beginning of the meeting so she could welcome Brian as the newly appointed Treasurer. She thanked him for volunteering and made note of the fact that Cindy has volunteered to continue the duties of Treasurer until Brian returns from his work assignment in Hawaii.

Mary Lou thanked Jo Solem and Sue Muller for their presentations at a Master Naturalists Retreat held at the Howard County Conservancy on January 25. Both promoted the bird club in their presentations, with Sue even showing the club’s website on-line to illustrate her presentation. Mary Lou also thanked Bob Solem for all the work he has been putting in on the website. She stated that our website is a role model for all other bird clubs to follow.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Maxey): Mary had no formal remarks but noted she had seen Tree Swallows at Patuxent NWR during the week.

## **Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe wasn't present. Chuck observed that the March Centennial walks were beginning on the upcoming Sunday.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo reviewed some of the key sightings from the winter season including: Greater White-fronted Goose, Trumpeter Swans (8 at Wilde Lake, 1 at Stone Lake for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> records), Snow Goose, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red-headed Wood-pecker (4), Tundra Swan (5), Evening Grosbeak.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was out of town but has been actively soliciting support for three bills in the Maryland legislature. 1) Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019, 2) Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition, 3) Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products – Prohibition.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard was not present but had sent email stating the deadline for the next Goldfinch is March 25. Early submittals are welcome as he will be on a trip in early April so has less time available for the editing process.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has completed applying the new format to all pages on the website.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had sent an email reporting that plans for the potluck on March 30 are on track. As of now 39 people have signed up.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin was not present and had sent an email stating there had been no new butterfly activity since what was reported at the last regular club meeting.

## **State Board Reports**

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Etc.): The next meeting was scheduled for March 2 in Harford County.

### **Old Business**

Response to solicitation to web developers – Bob reported that he has received one proposal and expects two more by March 4. We will discuss further at March board meeting.

Update on Birding Basics Class Registration – Jo reported that class scheduled for March 9 has sold out (35 attendees). Committee/Instructors are Allen Lewis, Kevin Heffernan, Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, John Harris, and Woody Merkle. Jo requested the Board authorize \$25 for copying handout material for the class. It was moved, seconded, and approved that the request be authorized.

### **New Business**

Ratify the addition of Chuck to PNC account – In discussing the transition of treasurers it was suggested having another person, besides the Treasurer and President, added to those authorized for the PNC Bank checking account. It was proposed the Secretary, Charles Stirrat, would be an appropriate individual for this since he has been a continuing presence on the Board. Chuck has already been added to the T Rowe Price account. It was moved and seconded that Chuck be authorized to be added to the club's PNC account. The motion passed unanimously. At the earliest opportunity Chuck and the current President, Mary Lou Clark, should be added to the bank's account records. The opportunity to replace Cindy Albright with Brian Moyer as treasurer won't occur until later this summer when Brian returns; however this is appropriate since the Board has approved Cindy continuing until then.

Accept Cindy Albright Resignation Letter – See discussion in introductory General Notes.

Need for two State Directors – Mary Lou is attempting to formulate the slate of officers for announcement at the March meeting. She confirmed that all the current officers have agreed to continue with the exception we need a new first year Chapter Director and two new State Directors to replace Karen Heffernan and Robin Todd. Kelsey Wellons has agreed to be nominated for Chapter Director. After the responsibilities of State Director were explained David Sandler volunteered to be nominated for one of the State Director positions. As a result the only opening on the slate left to be sought is a state director.

Triadelphia Reservoir – bridge and passes – Jo had stopped at the new WSSC office at Triadelphia Reservoir and obtained an update on the (lack of) access we will have for the next year or more. She had shared her findings with the listers email group and has provided the directions to Bob for inclusion in an upcoming NewsGram.

Updates to the Membership Application Webpage – Bob reminded the Board that for the past year we have allowed new/renewing members to use either the HCBC website OR the MOS website to join/renew as a trial period. As this past year was the first year the state website supported on-line membership. Bob wished to discuss whether we wanted to continue offering both methods or just point to the MOS website from our membership page. The major benefit of continuing the local website process is having applicants complete a survey of interests. The survey is not available on the MOS site. Kevin Heffernan had concluded that the spreadsheet summarizing the survey results was not being used so he has discontinued preparing it. Hence if we want to continue collecting the survey results we will need to find a way to disseminate the results. A number of ideas were proposed and finally Mary Lou proposed that she, Jo, and Bob would get together and brainstorm how to proceed. *Sec. Note: Following the meeting they got together and decided the first destination page for “Join Us” should be changed to show the HCBC electronic form, the MOS electronic form and the HCBC paper form but NOT to change the contents of the HCBC actual forms. In other words, the HCBC electronic form and paper form will continue to show Activities/Interests, etc. The change has been implemented on the web.*

Support for Wildlife Rehabilitators – Bob moved that we should donate \$300 to Friskies. The motion was seconded and approved. *Sec. Note: A donation to All Creatures Great and Small has already been made.*

Support for YMOS Bird-a-thon Fundraiser – Bob moved that we donate \$200 to the YMOS Bird-a-thon. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### Around the Room –

- Bob announced the membership directory will be sent to the membership on next day (March 1). It will only be provided in electronic form only as previously decided by the board. He has adopted a new format that is more compact and consistent with the format he has to provide to MOS.
- Sue Muller asked if Jo would like to receive the breeding wild turkey records that the county had acquired this year. Jo said yes she would.
- Sue Muller asked if anyone else was planning to attend the I Bird – I Vote Summit being held March 2 at Patuxent NWR. No one present indicated they were, but it was expected Kurt would be attending.
- Sue reported that the county had re-advertised the RNC Director position because they hadn't received sufficient qualified applicants.
- Chuck observed that the Howard County Rec and Parks Spring/Summer Activity Guide had two programs that appear to be ones we are providing. David Cummings is doing a Timberdoodle walk on March 9 and Wes Earp is leading a Bluebird Trail walk on June 1 at Schooley Mill. Another walk labeled Spring Migration is a walk around Centennial Park on May 16 for \$25. *Sec. Note: This walk includes a “field guide” and is being led by Dawn Thomas who, according to Sue Muller, is associated with the Adventure Shack at Centennial Park.*

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Certificates – With Williamses and Ellis family settle on a date for presentation of certificates – Jo SCHEDULED FOR APRIL MEETING 4/11
- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Notify HCC and Beth Decker on approval to fund bird strike remediation project – Woody DONE
- Update Treasurer Duties description for NEWSGRAM – Mary Lou DONE
- Contact Volunteer Center Howard County about posting treasurer opportunity – Mary M. OBE
- Prepare request for proposal soliciting redesign, maintenance, and hosting of web site – Bob DONE

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Brainstorm how to handle membership webpage options and forms – Mary Lou, Jo, & Bob – DONE
- Notify Cindy to make donations to Friskies and YMOS Bird-a-thon – Chuck/Cindy
- Make arrangements to add Mary Lou and Chuck to PNC account - Cindy

**Board Meeting Schedule**

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

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	- Jo Solem	
March 28, 2019	- Karen & Kevin Heffernan	
April 25, 2019	- Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	(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 – February 28, 2019

Minutes submitted by:

Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Agenda**

February 28, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  
7. State Board Reports
  
8. Old Business
  - Response to solicitation to web developers      Bob Solem
  - Update on Birding Basics Class Registration (Including request for \$25)      Jo Solem
  
9. New Business
  - Ratify the addition of Chuck to PNC Account
  - Accept Cindy Albright's Resignation Letter
  - Need for two State Directors
  - Triadelphia Reservoir-bridge and passes
  
10. Action Items                              Chuck
  
11. Around the room

Meeting Location  
Bob & Jo Solem  
10617 Graeloch Road  
Laurel MD 20725  
(301) 725-5037



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, March 28, 2019

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer  
Interim Treasurer: Cindy Albright  
Chap. Directors: Allen Lewis (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
David Sandler (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
Vacant  
Vacant  
Past President: John Harris

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Jane Geuder  
Sue Muller  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
**Others:** Karen Heffernan √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Kevin & Karen Heffernan. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 14, 2019 was 58 people. Jay Sheppard gave a program entitled “Chasing a Desert Apparition: Le Conte’s Thrasher.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Minutes were approved with only change being the adding Cindy as interim treasurer done to support meeting with PNC Bank.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Chuck reported that Cindy had acknowledged request to send donations to Friskies and YMOS Bird-a-thon per actions from last meeting. Chuck and Mary Lou described meeting in which they were added to Cindy on the PNC Bank checking account. Following that meeting signatures were obtained and delivered to the bank in which Robin Todd and John Harris agreed to having their names removed from the account.

**President’s Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou had no specific remarks.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary had no remarks.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report. Trips are scheduled through summer.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo observed that the Spring waterfowl migration is underway including Northern Pintail, Blue- & Green-winged Teal, and Canvasbacks. Rusty Blackbirds and Purple Finches are being reported. She conducted the annual survey of the Great Blue Heron heronry at Vantage Point and counted 24 active nests including 4 new ones.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): No report.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Newsletter due date has passed. The newsletter will be distributed after Howard returns from his trip after April 15.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): No report. See discussion under old business.

**Potluck** (Lillie): All preparations are in place for potluck on the coming Saturday, March 30. Forty people have signed up so we will have a fairly full house. John Harris will handle photo show.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Butterfly committee planning session was scheduled for next night, March 29 at Heffernan's. Sarah pointed out that the on-line reporting form still is labeled 2018. Bob will correct as committee still wants people to submit reports.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Etc.): Mary Lou summarized the latest meeting held earlier in March.

- MOS has found a qualified volunteer to serve as Treasurer.
- See below for status of Breeding Bird Atlas 3 discussed at meeting.
- YMOS is looking for a volunteer to serve as the adult coach for a Youth World Series of Birding Carbon Free team at Cape May on May 11.
- MOS Convention registration website is up and running.

## Old Business

Options to Redesign the HCBC Website – In accordance with Board direction Bob had drafted the attached RFP. In total seven potential web designers were contacted. Bob provided Mary Lou with a summary sheet and copies of proposals and communications from responders. She shared that package with the board for review prior to our meeting. Bob explained the format of the summary sheet which listed all seven responders on the bottom and why some of them were not considered further. The three remaining proposals were Connect4Consulting, SPARKS, and Solem (current webmaster). The three remaining proposals were compared in greater detail as to development design, cost, delivery timeline, and vendor experience. Continuing maintenance costs were displayed separately. After introducing this material Bob & Jo announced that they would leave the room so the board could freely discuss the options, since Bob was one of the options under consideration. Before leaving Chuck asked Bob to confirm that we should interpret his proposal as he would undertake to implement the current web design in WordPress with the only costs being purchase or subscription to the necessary WordPress elements to accomplish this, i.e., no labor charges. He concurred with the understanding that it would be done on a much longer and variable timeline as he will be learning WordPress. He shared a web link where he has created a first cut of home page in WordPress (<http://howardbirds.orgn/WordPress>).

During the subsequent discussion the board agreed with the downsizing to three proposals Bob had offered. We also quickly agreed that the SPARKS proposal which would only address Option 2 (a small subset of current web pages) was unacceptable. We also agreed we still wanted to have the website converted to WordPress as part of a long-term strategy that this should make it easier to find another webmaster when Bob is no longer willing or able to serve in that role. This eliminated the unstated option of choosing to do nothing. The discussion then focused on the pros and cons of the Connect4Consulting and Solem proposals. The cost savings inherent in the Solem proposal was a major positive for that proposal (both for development and continuing maintenance). There was consensus that for now what we have as a website is excellent and thus there is no time crunch that would disqualify the Solem proposal due to timing. It was expressed that if Bob tries the development for a few months and discovers it is more difficult than he expected and has to abandon the effort we would still be able to seek a professional design firm such as Connect4Consulting. A straw poll showed that we would favor going with Bob if he confirmed that he really wanted to do it.

After Bob and Jo returned we asked Bob to clarify that he really wanted to do this. He stated that he had given the issue a great deal of thought but wouldn't have put forward his proposal if he didn't want to do it. It was moved that we accept the Solem proposal. The motion was seconded and approved. In a related discussion the subject of finding a second person to work with Bob as deputy webmaster was raised. Bob agreed that if such a volunteer could be found he would be amenable. One possibility would be to have this second person assume responsibility for routine content management/entry. Another idea mentioned would be try and find someone with professional WordPress experience that could serve as a consultant to Bob in his efforts. Bob took an action to notify the other proposers that we had chosen someone else.

SkyWatch Upkeep – Mary Lou discussed the need for an organized approach to our commitment to maintain the SkyWatch at Mt. Pleasant. The weeds growing up through the mulch are becoming hard to pull as no plastic was put down under the mulch in the original installation. Secondly the need to mow the area surrounding the edges outside the mulched area needs to have an organized approach as the majority of effort has been falling on Woody Merkle. It is preferable to use a lawn mower or heavy duty weed wacker as the weeds are heavy duty. Unfortunately that means volunteers need to bring the equipment with them. It was proposed that removing the mulch, putting down plastic (consistent with HCC requirements), and re-mulching might make a good Eagle Scout project. Suggestions on how to solicit scouts for such a project are needed. Volunteers to do the perimeter mowing need to be sought and a formal schedule of mowing established. Mary Lou took an action to draft a NewsGram article seeking volunteers to coordinate/do the perimeter mowing and weeding. It should also request suggestions on how to connect with scouts looking for Eagle Scout projects.

Birding Basics Class Recap – Jo summarized the class co-sponsored by the club and Howard County Conservancy on March 9. She passed out the attached outline of class that was a handout to participants. The class was deemed a success. We had 27 attendees (35 had registered). Students were very complementary and seemed to enjoy the class. Instructors were Woody Merkle, Jo Solem, Chuck Stirrat, Allen Lewis, Kevin Heffernan, and John Harris. Audrey Sur, the Mt. Pleasant Program Manager for HCC was very complementary so we anticipate support if we choose to offer a future class. An optional field trip for class participants was held at Wilde Lake on the following Saturday. Four attendees were led by four of the instructors. One lesson learned was we should send a reminder email with detailed instructions on where the trip would meet should be sent just prior to the field trip. Copies of class presentation material and instructor notes are being retained in club secretary's files.

## **New Business**

Creation of shorebird habitat in the county – Jo reported that Russ Ruffing and John Harris had begun discussing whether it would be possible to address the relative lack of shorebird habitat in the county. Russ spoke with Wes Earp about the idea and asked him if he would contact farmers in the county that might have land and habitat that would be a potential location for such a project. Wes has agreed to approach Chuck Sharp about the potential of such a project at Waterford Farm. Wes' professional experience makes him a logical choice to help with designing/engineering such a project. Jo stated that if such a project looks feasible it would be an obvious choice for funding from the Chestem bequest.

Breeding Bird Atlas – Mary Lou reported that planning for the 3rd Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas (2020-2024) is underway. The Atlas Committee is asking for nominations of potential County Coordinators. They wanted suggestions but implied the committee would make the selection. Several members felt this was somewhat presumptuous of the committee as the local club will generally have more insight into the qualifications of members than the state committee. The attached Responsibilities & Skills "desired" in county coordinators was passed around. Mary Lou will speak to Robin Todd and convey our opinion the local club is probably in better position to ensure an acceptable coordinator is selected for Howard. Mary Lou mentioned that one of the field trips at the MOS Convention will be an atlas training opportunity.

Requests to the Bird Club for Help – Mary Lou led a discussion on how we should reply to the variety of requests the club receives for help. For example she referred to a recent request to provide a display at an elementary school earth day. It was agreed that we had to assess how extensive the audience would be, whether our display was appropriate for the participants, and whether volunteers to support the request were likely to be available. The existing policy has been that when the webmaster receives a request he forwards it to the president. The board has authorized the President to make a decision of whether the request is one the club would like to support, sufficient time exists, and volunteers are likely to step forward. If this is the case then the President will take steps to support the request including finding volunteers. If the request doesn't satisfy those conditions the President should just gracefully decline the request. Mary Lou stated that she now understood how to proceed as requests arrive.

Dickcissel Field Update – Jo reported that Wes Earp had been asked to contact Tim Jones and see if he would be willing to let the field lay fallow for another year. He feels he has to take action to control thistle consistent with regulations that impact his government subsidies. Accordingly he will be spraying the field this year. The family has sold their dairy herd so the long term future of the farm is unclear. This coming year the pasture land (interior to the farm) will not be mowed and might provide habitat for the birds. Unfortunately the pastures aren't visible from the road. Pastures are accessed during seasonal counts but that won't provide opportunity for continued monitoring.

### Review of Prior Action Items:

- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou WAITING RESPONSE
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Brainstorm how to handle membership webpage options and forms – Mary Lou, Jo, & Bob – DONE
- Notify Cindy to make donations to Friskies and YMOS Bird-a-thon – Chuck/Cindy DONE
- Make arrangements to add Mary Lou and Chuck to PNC account – Cindy DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou WAITING RESPONSE
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Contact Cindy to see if she will agree to develop a financial report for end of fiscal year – Chuck
- Develop proposed annual budget for approval at April Board meeting – Cindy/Chuck
- Notify other website proposers of our decision - Bob
- Contact Robin Todd to clarify process for naming County Coordinator for Breeding Bird Atlas – Mary Lou
- Prepare NewsGram article seeking volunteers to maintain SkyWatch (weeding, mow perimeter) – Mary Lou
- Prepare NewsGram seeking suggestions on how to contact Eagle Scout candidates with idea of project to refurbish SkyWatch (install plastic and replenish mulch) – Mary Lou

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

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	- Jo Solem	
March 28, 2019	- Karen & Kevin Heffernan	
April 25, 2019	- Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – March 28, 2019
- Outline – Birding Basics class
- Request for Proposal to redesign club website using WordPress
- Options to Redesign HCBC Website – summary sheet (attached)
- Proposals and communications from five responders (not attached – distributed to board separately)
- MD Breeding Bird Atlas 3 – The Responsibilities and Skills of a County Coordinator

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
**Agenda**

March 28, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  
7. State Board Reports
8. Old Business
  - Options to Redesign HCBC Website              Bob Solem
  - SkyWatch Upkeep                                  Mary Lou Clark
  - Birding Basics Class Recap                      Jo Solem
  
9. New Business
  - Creation of shorebird habitat in the county      Jo Solem
  - Breeding Bird Atlas                                  Mary Lou Clark
  - Requests to the Bird Club for Help              Mary Lou Clark
  - Dickcissel Field Update                          Jo Solem
10. Action Items                                  Chuck
11. Around the room

Meeting Location  
Karen & Kevin Heffernan  
9775 Diversified Lane  
Ellicott City, MD 21042  
(410) 857-1789



# Howard County Bird Club

**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**

P.O. Box 1323  
Columbia, MD 21044  
January 30, 2019

## **Request for Proposal**

The Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) wishes to replace its current web site with one using a modern Content Management System such as WordPress. Attached is an outline of the desired primary, secondary, and tertiary menu headings. HCBC has the registered domain [howardbirds.org](http://howardbirds.org). The current web site is offered as a suggestion of the kind of display preferred.

Please submit a proposal by March 1, 2019, with several options and pricing for each:

1. Creation of a new web site for all of the current ±1840 pages.
2. Creation of a new web site for only the 32 web pages shown in red font on the attached outline with links provided to access the remaining pages currently on the web site.
3. Regular maintenance and updates of framework.
4. Host, backup, and secure the newly created web site.

Please send your responses to the webmaster, Bob Solem at [howardbirds@howardbirds.org](mailto:howardbirds@howardbirds.org)

Mary Lou Clark  
President  
Howard County Bird Club  
[doctorfx\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:doctorfx_99@yahoo.com)

## Abbreviated Website Map for [howardbirds.org](http://howardbirds.org)

### MAIN PAGE

#### ABOUT US

Programs & Field Trips <link>  
Seasonal Bird Counts <link>  
**Newsletter: The Goldfinch**  
Habitat Preservation & Seed Sale <link>  
    Seed Sale <link>  
    Places saved  
**HCBC Officers & Committees**  
**In Memoriam**  
Club Records  
    Constitution & Bylaws  
    Annual Reports  
    **HCBC Board Minutes**  
    **Financial**  
  
Archives  
    Bird Count Results <link>  
    Newsletters <link>  
    Field Trip Reports <link>  
    HCBC Board Minutes <link>  
    Financial <link>

#### BIRDING

Programs & Field Trips  
**Birding Howard County, MD**  
    Site Guides  
    Birding Year  
    Directions  
  
Seasonal Bird Counts  
Howard County Annotated Bird Records  
Bird Lists & Records  
    Field Checklist: *Birds of Howard County*  
    **Howard Annual Bird List**  
    *Birds of Maryland*  
    Field Trips Reports  
  
200 Club  
**Breeding Bird Atlases**  
Policy  
    Rare Bird Policy  
    ABA Code of Ethics  
  
Bird & Wildlife Rehabilitators <link>

#### CONSERVATION

Habitat Preservation  
Seed Sale <link>  
Bird & Wildlife Rehabilitators

#### NATURAL HISTORY

Birds – species location list  
Butterflies  
    Main Page  
    Species location list  
    *The Butterflies of Howard County*  
  
Amphibians & Reptiles (Herps)  
    Howard Atlas  
    Species location list  
  
Dragonflies & Damselflies (Odonates)  
List & Phenograms  
Species location list  
  
**Fungi (Mushrooms)**  
Lichens  
    Species location list  
  
Mosses  
Bees

#### PHOTO GALLERIES

Birds  
Butterflies  
Fungi (Mushrooms)  
Amphibians & Reptiles (Herps)  
Dragonflies & Damselflies (Odonates)  
Lichens <link>  
Mosses <link>

MOS <link to the MOS web site>

Website Map <in footer>

### Remaining pages:

- Birding Howard County, Maryland Site Guides: **219**
- Photo Galleries: Birds: **322**
- Photo Galleries: Butterflies: **85**
- Photo Galleries: Odonates: **100**
- Breeding Bird Atlases: **140**
- Field Trip Reports: **974**

TOTAL: 1840 pages

## Options to Redesign HCBC Website

Howard County Bird Club Board at its January 24, 2019 meeting approved option #1 of the website evaluation committee report: "Solicit proposals from up to three web developers. Estimated cost ~\$4000; annual maintenance and site hosting ~\$600/year. The Board would later evaluate the proposals, select one, and approve the expenditure."

The webmaster actually was able to contact a total of seven potential website developers. The RFP requested a response by March 1, 2019. A summary of the results is shown in the chart below. (Remaining pages have pertinent correspondence: RFP, pp 2-3. Connect4Consulting, pp 4-14. SPARKS, pp. 15-26. Site to be Seen, pp. 27-30. Solem pp 31-32. ELEVATION pp 33-35.)

Factor/Vendor	Connect4Consulting	SPARKS	Solem
Site theme	Will recommend theme	Will recommend theme	Reproduce current website theme
Scope:	See options below	See options below	Entire website
CMS:	WordPress	WordPress	WordPress
Flexibility	Additions & additional pages may be subject to add'l fees	Additions & additional pages may be subject to add'l fees	Add pages, change content; but additions may be subject to add'l fees
Events calendar	Like MOS	Included (no other details)	Like current website
Training	2 hours remote web training.		Ongoing

<b>Option 1 (entire site):</b>	Yes	Verbal quote but details not in proposal	Yes
Cost	<b>\$4500</b>	~\$10000	<b>\$50-400</b>
<b>Option 2 (32 pages; remaining ~1800 static &amp; migrated.):</b>	Not recommended but included in proposal as an option.	Yes	No
Cost	<b>\$4000</b>	<b>\$4500</b>	----

Project start date and payment	Upon signing and payment of 1/2. Remainder upon completion. Client will be notified if additional payments are necessary or advised for additional third-party licenses to satisfy objectives.	A 30% deposit is required upon acceptance of proposal, progress payments billed monthly. Recurring fees (i.e., advertising, Site Management, domains, subscriptions) may require credit card and will be renewed automatically. All payments are due upon receipt.	Immediately. Client will be notified if additional payments are necessary or advised for additional third-party licenses to satisfy objectives.
Time to complete	12 weeks (#2 on p 6 ) Four weeks (#7 on p 7)	August 1, 2019; allows for fitting in work among higher priority jobs.	Minimum six months (#2 on p 32) Eight months (#5 on p 32)
Vendor experience	15 years with HTML/CSS 10 years with WordPress	President Greg Pierce developed his first website in 2000	18 years with HTML/CSS 2 months with WordPress

### Maintenance

Hosting/maintenance	90 day notice to end \$85/month: (\$1020/year)	Basic Plan: 6 month min. term \$50/month: (\$600/year)	JustHost + license renewals \$575/year
Annual renewal (if needed) of Third Party licenses	Included in above	First year included; then \$375/year	Included above
Site support	Minor revisions included; major at \$125/hour.	Basic Plan site management includes 6 hours/year; then \$95/hour.	Included.

### Website Designers Contacted:

Vendor	Location	Remarks
Connect4Consulting	Tacoma Park, MD	Designer of Maryland Ornithological Society website. See above.
ELEVATION	Washington, DC	Found in web search of website designers. Missed deadline but sent email March 8. Judged too expensive since would need grant assistance to be competitive.
LaboradorDesign	Havre de Grace, MD	Designer of Harford Bird Club new website. Contacted by email sending RFP and asking for bid; never responded.
Site to be Seen	Maryland	Designer solicited by Maryland Ornithological Society to design website. Only does Wild Apricot membership management websites, so \$3500 proposal is not included above.
SPARKS	Hunt Valley, MD	Designer solicited by Maryland Ornithological Society to design website. See above.
WebLinX	Chicago, IL	Found in web search of website designers for non-profit organizations. Promised proposal by mid-February. In follow-up phone call Feb 26, Dan said they could not design a website of that size for the \$4000 budgeted. Added that the club must have received a cut rate to have the current website designed.
Solem	Laurel, MD	Current Howard County Bird Club webmaster. See above.

## MD Breeding Bird Atlas 3 — 2020-2024

### The Responsibilities and Skills of a County Coordinator

1. Knowledge of their county, its birds, and birders. The coordinator is familiar with the area's birdlife, its seasonality, and the county's habitat. They should have familiarity with and good relations with local birders and county residents. Knowledge of land ownership is valuable.
2. Assigns all blocks in the county to observers. Usually one per observer but teams may be set up if enough birders are available. In less birder-rich counties multiple blocks per observer will be necessary. Works with neighboring county coordinators to work out who will cover blocks that have land in more than one county. It's simplest and most efficient to have blocks be the sole responsibility of one county coordinator.
3. Keeps track of progress in all blocks and notifies the atlas coordinator of specific needs. Reassigns blocks that are not being covered effectively if necessary. Identifies blocks that may need block busting or remedial work, e.g. night birding.
4. Does at least some data entry and all data-checking online. As such a county coordinator should be familiar and reasonably comfortable with computers and smart phones and an e-bird user with experience with data entry and navigating submitted data. The county coordinator should attempt to provide observational support for any rarities or other unusual records.
5. Maintains the volunteer observers base and keeping in touch with and helping observers stay excited about the atlas. Coordinators should recruit new observers whenever the opportunity arises. Arranges field trips and workshops, offers educational information, joins observers in the field when possible, and may even provide small but meaningful incentives.
6. Covers a block or (more likely) many blocks of their own.
7. Helps the atlas coordinator locate their replacement if it becomes necessary to step down.

NB: This is idealized. Real life brings inevitable tradeoffs and complications. For instance, there may not be a sizable resident birding population in a county, or no one living in the county has enough of the skills listed above to be the coordinator requiring an absentee expert on the county to be the coordinator; several instances of this existed in both prior atlases.

"Counties" traditionally has included the District of Columbia as a "county" as well as the other Maryland counties.

By Walter Ellison Feb. 10, 2019



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, April 25, 2019

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer  
Interim Treasurer: Cindy Albright  
Chap. Directors: Allen Lewis (1<sup>st</sup> yr.)  
David Sandler (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
Vacant  
Vacant  
Past President: John Harris

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Jane Geuder  
Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem  
Webmaster: Bob Solem  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
**Others:** Karen Heffernan √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Kathie Lillie. Total number in attendance was nine. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 11 was 48 people. Kathleen Woods, director of the Phoenix Wildlife Center gave a program entitled “Wildlife Rehabilitation.”

The regular meeting held April 11 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 – Brian Moyer, State Directors – Sarah Romero, David Sandler, Clayton Koonce, and Chapter Director – Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> Yr.). Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> Yr.) will be serving the second year of his two year term. John Harris 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 for 2019-2020.

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Minutes were approved as distributed by email following the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Albright/Moyer): Chuck stated that Cindy won’t prepare the quarterly financial statement until after April bank statements are received. Chuck had asked Cindy to prepare a proposed budget for the board to review and finalize for the next fiscal year in early May. Chuck passed out copies of the proposal. After review the board made a couple of changes. First the item labeled “Internet & email” was amended to “Website, Internet & email” and the amount was increased from \$150 to \$500. This reflects the approximate total maintenance cost Bob had provided in his proposal to convert the website to WordPress. Second a line item was added for Hospitality to cover miscellaneous costs, primarily for the Potluck in an amount of \$50. Third the line item for Greenfest was increased to \$70 as plans call for two booths next year, one for birds and one for butterflies. Last the line item for Education was increased from \$200 to \$250 to include funds for the Birding Class project as well as the \$200 donation to the YMOS bird-a-thon. It was moved we approve the proposal with these amendments. The motion passed and the approved budget is attached.

**President’s Remarks** (Clark): None.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Maxey): None.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo wasn't present but had emailed the following report. "Following is the report from the previous month since Bob and I will not be at the April board meeting. Migration is in full swing with new migrants arriving daily. Two Trumpeter Swans at Lake Kittamaqundi stayed a day (4/6) and then were seen lifting off and flying north. Good luck enabled the same two to be verified arriving at Centennial Park less than 10 minutes later. American Bitterns have been well reported this spring. Another Sandhill Crane was seen--this one flew past John and Meg Harris's car along Old Frederick Rd 4/4. A Swainson's Thrush along the Cascade Trail, PVSP 4/22 was one of the earliest records ever (Anthony VanSchoor). The female Evening Grosbeak stayed to April 10 (last seen by homeowner on 4/4; heard only on 4/10 - Sarah Romero, Mary Lou Clark). Two Cerulean Warblers along the Cascade Trail 4/21 (Mike Hudson) were not only early but away from the usual locations where they have been known to nest recently. More Yellow-throated Warblers than usual have been reported which is good news. Russ Ruffing's NFC equipment continues to pick up much more than birders hear and see on the ground. This has included multiple flocks of migrating Long-tailed Ducks the night of 4/5, one or more Barn Owls, and a Sora the night of 4/20."

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt sent an email requesting the Board have the club sign-on to a letter supporting the federal bill called the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Act. The Act is set to be introduced into both the House (by Rep. Don Beyer, D-VA) and Senate (by Sen. Tom Udall, D-NM) soon. The Wildlife Corridors Conservation Act of 2019 is substantively the same as last year's version; if passed, it would create a program to designate wildlife corridors on federal public lands and also provide funds for states, tribes, and other entities to protect wildlife corridors on non-federal lands. The Board voted to sign on.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob sent the following report: "I have started a "sandbox" website with the provider BlueHost with the URL howardbirds.website (which is private so that I can use it to learn the many ins & outs of WordPress as well as develop a prototype new website in WordPress)."

**Potluck** (Lillie): There was general consensus that the evening was a success. Kathie mentioned that problems with getting the audio/visual configuration setup before meetings and at potluck continue. The hardware configuration is usually modified and not left in a standard configuration so that staff assistance is often needed. No obvious ways to remedy this were evident. When someone proposed discussing it with staff, Sue shared that the interviewing for a new RNC Director are just beginning. Sue also asked who she should use as the person she should refer speakers to discuss A/V issues. David Sandler agreed he would be the appropriate person to use as a reference.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that the butterfly subgroup held a planning meeting the day after our last Board meeting. They have setup a Flickr site to allow posting of pictures of butterflies found in the county. They have begun setting up a butterfly text message group similar to the bird "listers" group to share alerts of rarities with those interested in chasing them. Plans are to organize trips of opportunity "on-the-fly" when rarities are found. Recent sighting include: Falcated Orange-tips, Pine Elfins, Juniper Hairstreaks, White "M's", and Tiger Swallowtails.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Etc.): No meeting since our last Board meeting.

## Old Business

Creation of shorebird habitat in the county - Mary Lou reported that the possibility of using Chestem bequest funding to create shorebird habitat has moved forward. Wes Earp was asked to consider this idea and suggest potential sites for such a development. He proposed working with Chuck Sharp on his property, Waterford Farm. Wes was out of town for this meeting but will attend the next Board meeting in May to discuss more fully with the

Board. A meeting was held with Chuck Sharp on April 7. Club attendees were Wes, John Harris, and Mary Lou. Russ Ruffing who first proposed this idea was out of town but will be involved in future discussions. Notes from this meeting are attached, and include a comment added by Jo Solem that was added later. Mary Lou also passed out the attached diagram of the water control structure (a typical dike cross-section) and a very early cost estimate. Russ was present at a second meeting where the group walked the proposed site with Chuck Sharp. *Sec. Note: I generated the attached map showing roughly the proposed location.* Another opportunity to walk the site for board/club members with Wes is being organized. *(Current estimate is it will be on May 18 or 19.)* Board members who would like to participate in viewing the site should send Wes and Mary Lou indicating their interest and preference for which date is better for them. Mary Lou stressed that there are many issues with a project of this scope and she wants to have everyone on the board explore and understand them. Many of these are briefly raised in the attachments but she proposes they be discussed in detail at the May Board meeting. She mentioned access needs to be resolved both for routine visits and especially in the event a major rarity is observed. The latter would probably need to involve Joe Hanfman as he had handled rarity information slow release in the past. All board members were given an action to review the attached information and formulate questions to be addressed. Questions should be shared with Wes and Mary Lou in advance of the next board meeting (ideally share with full Board in advance of the site visit in case they might best be addressed on site),

Breeding Bird Atlas – Mary Lou spoke to Robin Todd about the process of nominating county coordinators for the BBA. She shared our concern that the state organizing committee might not be familiar with who would make a fine coordinator and that the club would be in a better position to identify them. She also told him someone with the complete list of qualifications was unlikely to be found. She is hopeful of finding two people to serve as county co-coordinators.

SkyWatch Maintenance – Mary Lou had written a NewsGram article asking for volunteers to help maintain the SkyWatch. She had no volunteers respond. The fact that the Conservancy had mowed the entire field around the site as part of their process of controlling invasive plants has lowered the priority on this. Woody Merkle has agreed to bring his lawn mower and mow the area external to the mulched area as necessary. Visitors to the site are encouraged to spend a few minutes weeding the mulched area when they visit. *Sec, Note – During the Earth Day bird walk I briefly discussed the need for refreshing mulch and possibility of putting down plastic with Woody and Audrey Suhr. They both were positive this project wouldn't qualify as an Eagle Scout project. They weren't sure the plastic would make that much difference but agreed we definitely need to refresh mulch regularly. I mentioned we had discussed Plan B would be to hire someone to do the task. Woody mentioned that we could have access to free wood chips from Conservancy but would need to supply labor.*

## **New Business**

Budget needs for butterfly pamphlet – Kevin said that he only has 20 butterfly pamphlets left of the original printing of 350. He would like to print another 350. David moved we approve up to \$250 to cover the second printing. The motion was approved.

### Around the Room -

- Sue reports that she has programs setup for next year through March.
- In addressing concerns he had heard expressed regarding how late the Board meetings last asked if we had considered starting at 7:00 pm. A brief discussion ensued but there was no strong support for changing the start time.
- Sarah stated she wondered if the club might want to sponsor a road cleanup as a potential idea. She had looked into what this would involve, thinking we might want to do this for a stretch of road that has a birding related connection. She spoke to Larry Wiley of the county about whether a portion of Race Road would be available. She was proposing we might consider the stretch from where we park up to Church Road as this is a road where many of us bird. He stated we would have to agree to take all three miles of Race Road. She told him that wouldn't work. The website says sections as short as a mile are acceptable. Sue Muller knows Larry and she said she would speak to him and explore why he was insistent on the three miles. If we were to do this it would involve scheduling a pickup 3-4 times a year and would need a volunteer to coordinate organizing them.

### Review of Prior Action Items:

- Mist nets – send letter to Elkhorn Garden Plots person and check with Woody about Howard County Conservancy garden plots – Mary Lou NO RESPONSE - DELETE
- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Contact Cindy to see if she will agree to develop a financial report for end of fiscal year – Chuck DONE
- Develop proposed annual budget for approval at April Board meeting – Cindy/Chuck DONE
- Notify other website proposers of our decision – Bob DONE
- Contact Robin Todd to clarify process for naming County Coordinator for Breeding Bird Atlas – Mary Lou DONE
- Prepare NewsGram article seeking volunteers to maintain SkyWatch (weeding, mow perimeter) – Mary Lou DONE
- Prepare NewsGram seeking suggestions on how to contact Eagle Scout candidates with idea of project to refurbish SkyWatch (install plastic and replenish mulch) – Mary Lou CONSIDER OTHER APPROACH

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Develop annual financial report for FY 17-18 as template for future reports – Cindy & Ward Ebert
- Decide how to proceed with SkyWatch refurbishment – Mary Lou
- Notify Wes & Mary Lou if want to attend shorebird project site – All
- Review shorebird project info attached and formulate/share questions before next Board meeting – All
- Order reprint of butterfly pamphlet - Kevin

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

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	- Jo Solem	
March 28, 2019	- Karen & Kevin Heffernan	
April 25, 2019	- Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – April 25, 2019
- Howard County Bird Club – Approved Budget – 5/1/19 – 4/30/20
- Proposed Shorebird Habitat Project Meeting Notes – April 7, 2019
- Water Control Structure Detail – Typical Dike Cross-Section
- Preliminary Cost Estimate for Proposed Shorebird Habitat Project
- Proposed Project Location Map

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Agenda**

April 25, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  
7. Old Business
  - Creation of shorebird habitat in the county                      Mary Lou
  - Breeding bird atlas                                                              Mary Lou
  
9. New Business
  - Budget needs for butterfly pamphlet                                                              Kevin
  
10. Action Items                                  Chuck
  
11. Around the room

Meeting Location  
Kathie Lillie  
4102 Roxbury Mill Road  
Glenwood MD 21738  
(301) 807-3785

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB**

**Approved Budget**

**5/1/19-4/30/20**

	<b>Actual 2014-15</b>	<b>Actual 2015-16</b>	<b>Actual 2016-17</b>	<b>Actual 2017-18</b>	<b>Y-T-D 2018-19</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2019-20</b>
<b>Operating Fund</b>						
<b>Income:</b>						
Net Membership Dues (HCBC share)	1,933	2,426	2,814	2,946	3,413	3,200
Contributions to HCBC	2,145	4,626	3,128	2,343 *	12,429	3,500
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>5,192</b>	<b>7,052</b>	<b>5,942</b>	<b>5,289</b>	<b>15,842</b>	<b>6,700</b>
* (includes \$8,840 Chesterm final distribution)						
<b>Expense:</b>						
Meetings:						
Programs	650	890	400	400	610	700
Hospitality (inc. Potluck)						50
Publicity & Outreach						
Newsletter & other printing	504	644	507	470	425	500
Website, Internet & email	203	330	300	120	152	500
Postage & Copies	258	287	230	223	230	250
Greenfest	35	35	35	35	35	70
Grants (from Contributions & Investments)						
All Creatures & Frisky's	200	300	300	600	600	600
Education & other (YMOS)	244	254			200	250
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>1,772</b>	<b>1,848</b>	<b>2,252</b>	<b>2,920</b>
<b>Income over Expense</b>	<b>3,099</b>	<b>4,312</b>	<b>4,170</b>	<b>3,441</b>	<b>13,590</b>	<b>3,780</b>

**Year-end Net Worth (T Rowe Price + PNC Bank)**

2018-19	\$ 53,024 (inc. \$8,840 Chesterm final distribution)
2017-18	\$ 43,735
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

April 7, 2019 Notes from meeting of Chuck Sharp, Wes Earp, John Harris, and Mary Lou Clark about building a shorebird habitat at Sharp's Waterford Farm

Site:

Will not be using a site Russ had suggested. Instead will use a site of about 3 acres which is near a horseshoe shaped pond.

A dike will have to be built around the pond. Two ways to do it:

- Bring in dirt from another area. The problem with this is that the cleanliness of the dirt may be suspect.
- Use the dirt which is there, just move it around.

Before the dike is built, a machine will have to dig down to disrupt the drainage materials which are under the area. Otherwise, the dike may not hold water.

The water level in the pond will need to be regulated by 'risers'.

- The pond will be filled in the fall. The ways to get the water into the pond are:
  - Bring in water in a tanker
  - Get the water from a different pond
  - Get water from a spring
- The water will need to be lowered by about an inch a week and be low by March. This needs to be done so that the shoreline will be ready for birds by June and to keep the temperature of the water cooler.

The birds:

There needs to be a food source for the shorebirds. The sand or dirt on the shore should have a film on it so that sandpipers can dip their bills into it.

Comment on this from Jo Solem: One doesn't choose a way to produce shorebird food for migrants. That develops naturally and it may well take time. And whether any particular shorebird stops for an hour or stays two weeks is unpredictable. What you want is an area pretty much free of vegetation that can be adjusted depending on the amount of natural rainfall. Watching the various Triadelphia mudflats, ponds at U of M Farm, Brown's Bridge, and Western Regional Park entrance pond over the decades has given an idea of how tricky it can be to keep water levels at a useful height. Dropping water levels too fast in hot weather produces a hard-useless crust, while water that is too deep will only benefit a few of the larger types like Greater Yellowlegs. It's a balancing act that requires regular oversight. Ideally, what is required is a variety of low habitats from grassy edges to bare somewhat dry dirt, shading into mud, and water of varying depths from less than an inch to 5-6 inches. A gravelly island can also be a plus. From John's photo the slightly broad bowl shape of the area should be excellent. But, it's not just "build it and leave it alone."

## The other birds

- From October-March there will be waterfowl on the pond. They will not be hunted on the pond but will be hunted after leaving the pond. Chuck will be using the pond in this way when there are not shorebirds there.

## Other living things

- There may be a time where the water level is regulated to allow amphibian eggs to hatch

## Maintenance

- Every 2-3 years the area will have to be turned over by a disc so that it doesn't revert to the original soil (hatboro soil)
- Once a year the area will need to be mown
- 

## Permits

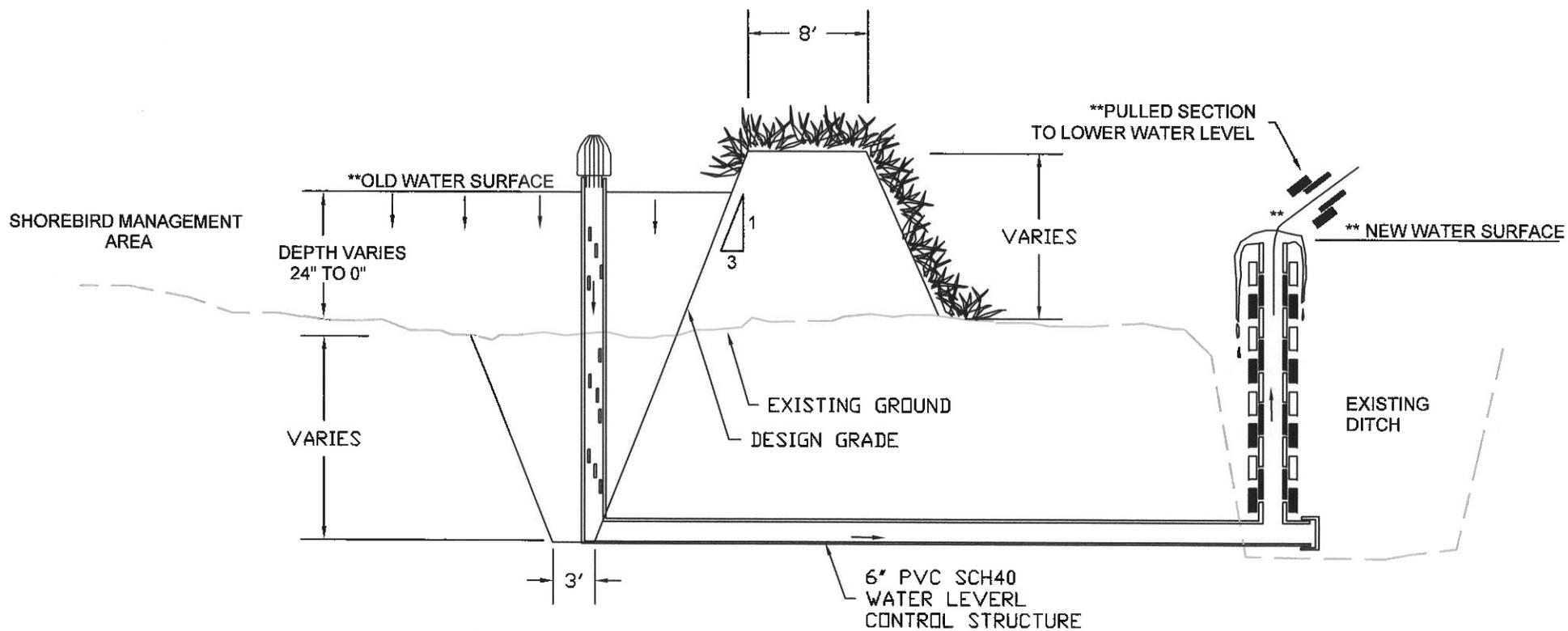
- Permits need to be acquired since this area is a flood plain. We may need permits from the federal government, the DNR, and the MDEA. The federal programs will have a lot of regulations.

## Access

- Access to this pond by birders, members of the HCBC will have to be regulated. There are some times when access to the farm is restricted due to hunting.

## Timing

- Chuck Sharp would like this done sooner rather than later.
- Wes mentioned to Mary Lou that it seems the fall, when there is dryer weather, might be a good time to start.
- Wes said he would try to get something written up for the next HCBC board meeting on April 25, 2019.



TYPICAL DIKE X-SECTION  
NTS





The blue line is a crude indicator of where dike would need to be added to allow flooding field below the existing pond.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, May 23, 2019

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer  
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Vacant  
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Past President: John Harris √

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Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Jane Geuder, Sue Muller  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan  
**Others:** Wes Earp √, Robin Todd √,  
Clayton Koonce √, Kelsey  
Wellons √, Russ Ruffing √,

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Mary Lou Clark. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 9 was ~55 people. Gail Mackiernan gave a program entitled “Mongolia: Birding in the Footsteps of Genghis Kahn.” Newly elected Board members Clayton Koonce and Kelsey Wellons were attending their first meeting.

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted as distributed following the last meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Albright): No Treasurer’s Report was received. Chuck stated he would contact Cindy and ask if she can generate a report as of the end of April.

**President’s Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou deferred her comments to the Business portions of the meeting.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary had no remarks.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Mary Lou commented that Felicia Lovelett was considering cancelling the field trip scheduled for the coming Saturday due to a search for a missing person in her neighborhood. Subsequently the trip was held as the police had confirmed the risk to others was minimal.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo summarized the significant sightings since our last board meeting. These included: Hooded Merganser (1 female with 6 young) at MPEA; two reports of Whip-poor-will from Western Howard County on 4/23 & 5/4 (both were migrants heard only one night – it has been 3 years since last reported); Virginia Rail (1) recorded by Russ NFC equipment on 4/30; Dunlin (1) found by Russ Ruffing and seen by multiple observers on Old Frederick Road; American Bittern seen multiple days at Mt. Pleasant and 1 observed on 5/11 at Belmont; one Glossy Ibis was found on the Mihm Farm on 5/11 (1/4 mile east of Morgan Station Road bridge over Patapsco River); Osprey are nesting on relay tower on Murphy Road for second year (5/20); Mississippi Kite were observed on evening of 5/19 (1 at Blandair and 1 off US 29) and on morning of 5/20 at Font Hill Wetland Park (1). Fort

Smallwood hawk watch reported 24 Mississippi Kites on 5/20. Other sightings include two Barred Owl fledglings photographed at Gwynn Acres on 5/14 suggest unusually early egg date of early March; one Alder Flycatcher was at Waterford Farm on 5/6; a Brown Creeper found at Robinson Nature Center on 5/18 was late but not the latest and suggests nesting may be possible; late Pine Siskins were still being reported as of 5/21 at Thornbrook Road feeder; 1 Clay-colored Sparrow visited an Allview yard on 4/30; warbler highlights included Golden-winged on 5/1 at Gwynn Acres, Mourning on 5/17 at Blandair, and many reports of Yellow-throated; and Dickcissels were reported on Underwood Road on 5/14 and 5/16.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): No report.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report>

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that he is “making haste slowly on the conversion project” He has converted all past field trip reports to PDF format.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Kathie reported 44 people attended and the evening was a success. She then announced that the 2020 Potluck will be her last one as coordinator. She intends to write a “how-to” guide for coordinators that follow her. Mary Lou will have to seek a volunteer to replace Kathie, hopefully in time for them to work with her on the 2020 coordination.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): No report.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, etc.): Annual MOS business meeting will be held at MOS Convention at Chestertown on Saturday evening June 1. A regular MOS Board meeting will be held in Frederick County on Saturday, June 8 at 10:00 AM. Sarah stated she won’t be able to attend as she will need to work. David and Clayton were told they were welcome to attend if they are able to.

## Old Business

Creation of Shorebird Habitat in County – Mary Lou explained that a couple of members (Russ Ruffing, John Harris) had proposed the club pursue creating shorebird habitat, which continues to disappear, using funds from the Marty Chestem bequest. We have learned that it is almost impossible to influence the planning cycle for public (park) land in a manner that would allow for creating this unique type of habitat, e.g. disappearance of habitat at Western Regional Park,. Accordingly the discussion has focused on working with the private sector, e.g. farmers, as we did with the Dickeissel field lease. Russ explained that he had been motivated by a joint project between The Nature Conservancy and eBird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology). The concept was to use eBird data to identify when the peak shorebird migration occurs in the central valley of California and then have The Nature Conservancy pay rice farmers to flood their fields at those peak times (instead of attempting to purchase the land outright). The approach has been very successful and suggests a unique approach to creating habitat just when the birds need it most. *Sec. Note: Following the meeting Russ shared a link to a Washington Post article describing this project in detail.* Russ stated that at the right time if mud appears the birds will come, witness the recent muddy field on Old Frederick Road. Mary Lou then stated what she sees as the goals of this project. Primary goal is to develop habitat with a secondary goal of viewing the birds. Given his professional experience and knowledge of rural Howard County Wes Earp was asked and agreed to help with the project. Initial discussions quickly focused on working with Chuck Sharp and his property, Waterford Farm. A couple of meetings have been held with Chuck and he is interested in the project and wants to hear more. A portion of the Board toured the proposed site with Wes, Russ, and John H. on Sunday May 19 to discuss the issue in advance of this Board meeting.

Wes summarized what he saw as the three major elements to be pursued. 1) Come up with a conceptual design for how to manage water level. 2) Obtain the necessary permissions from government agencies – permits. 3) Present and reach an agreement with Chuck Sharp on responsibilities, management (simple), and access. Wes has already developed a first cut at item 1 which was included in last month’s minutes. As for the permitting process Wes proposes we will need a “state waterway construction permit” as the site is in the floodplain of Cattail Creek. During this process the proposal will be routed to multiple agencies. We may well have to respond to concerns

rising from this project potentially releasing warm water into a stream theoretically being managed for cold-water fishing. It would be extremely beneficial to have contacts in these agencies that are supportive of our plan. MOS members that are DNR employees should be sought (Gwen Brewer, Lynn Davidson, others?) to aid in finding a proponent in DNR. Russ felt he might have a contact to approach in the Maryland Environmental Service. Someone suggested Tim Carney might be a contact to consider asking although his agency may not be directly involved. During the field visit we had concluded the next step would be to seek board approval to pursue this project with further approval of funds dependent on what that initial investigation revealed. Bob moved that the Board authorize pursuit of this shorebird habitat creation project (i.e., take exploratory actions). The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Mary Lou then asked for volunteers to be on an Oversight Committee. The following committee members were named: Russ Ruffing, Wes Earp, John Harris, Sarah Romero, David Sandler, and Mary Lou Clark (ex-officio).

In follow-up discussion a number of points that the committee will want to address were mentioned. Need to develop a Water Management Timeline (when, depth, storm water control, pest weed control). Wes felt we might seek advice from others involved in "Moist Soil Management." He mentioned we might want to speak with those at Blackwater WMA to better understand what works and what doesn't. Seek contacts in agencies responsible for permitting. Wes also mentioned the potential of working through the Soil Conservation District office and the USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Plan (EQIP).

SkyWatch Refurbishment – During discussion of action items Mary Lou reported that in discussing plans with Woody Merkle he expressed belief that based on HCC experience this project would not qualify as an Eagle Scout project. He also stated that HCC experience and that of many gardeners is that putting plastic down under wood chips for weed control is no more effective than when no plastic is used. He recommended we should just obtain wood chips and have volunteers put down a new layer of chips. Mary Lou stated she has asked Woody to pursue this approach.

## **New Business**

BioBlitz help needed at the Howard County Conservancy – Mary Lou had received a second request for the club to solicit volunteers to help with the Belmont BioBlitz on June 6 and 7. Bob reported that such an appeal had already been sent in a club NewsGram (April 6).

Audio-visuals help needed – Kathie has been helping John McKitterick but she is resigning. David Sandler has agreed to help but hasn't really been active. Kevin Heffernan was also mentioned as having said he could help. It would be good to get another volunteer as all of these people occasionally travel together and could be gone. At last meeting we discussed issues with the equipment not left in a compatible configuration for our use requiring calling in Kevin Costen of RNC for assistance. David agreed to talk with John McKitterick to understand what the issues are and then contact Kevin Costen to discuss this issue.

Potluck Dinner Help Needed – See Potluck committee report above.

2019 Seed Sale Schedule Set – The seed sale schedule has been agreed to by Ward Ebert, Jeff Friedhoffer, Brian Moyer, Bob Solem, and The Wildlife Authority. The pickup dates will be October 5-12.

Chimney Swift Tower – Russ Ruffing had asked the Board to consider donating a Chimney Swift tower at Mt. Pleasant to the Howard County Conservancy. Russ stated he has decided to design and build a tower on his property and the Board might want to wait and see the results of his project before taking any action. The Board agreed this would make sense as if he doesn't successfully get swifts it wouldn't make sense for us to have one installed at Mt. Pleasant. Russ was reminded that Felicia Lovelett had a tower built on her property but it has not attracted swifts. It was suggested he might want to investigate her situation for any lessons learned.

Sustainability Concerns at General Meetings – Mary Lou reported that a member had approached her about the club's use of plastic glasses with refreshments at regular meetings. They suggested we might want to set a better sustainability example. Paper cups are also available and we could propose people bring their own cup/glass/bottle. After a short discussion we chose to take no specific action on the matter.

Appeal for Atlas Howard County Coordinator – Robin Todd took the opportunity to encourage us to actively seek and find volunteer(s) to serve as county atlas coordinator. He promised Mary Lou he would provide her an updated job description and list of capabilities coordinators should possess.

Board Meeting Schedule for 2019-2020 Club Year – Hosts for the early dates spoke up as shown but we need volunteers for the last four meetings of the club year:

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	
March 26, 2020	- <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	
April 23, 2020	- <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	
May 28, 2020	- <b>NEED VOLUNTEER</b>	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

Around the Room –

- Sarah asked what we knew about development plans for Blandair Park (North). The general consensus was that the plans are to turn it into a more park like setting with amenities but mostly passive vice active (sports) activities. It will very likely be dramatically different habitat than currently.
- Kelsey – asked about a reference she had seen to MOS and/or Bill Hubick referring to a Woodcock habitat creation project in Howard County. She was told this was likely the ongoing efforts at MPEA.
- Clayton reported he responded to the appeal at last club meeting for someone to survey the bird life present around the MedStar building in Columbia for the Safe Skies Maryland project. They are considering extending their monitoring from Howard Community College and wanted a baseline of what is present in that area. He stated he has been doing this already and was able to send Carolyn Parsa his eBird lists to fulfill their needs.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Develop annual financial report for FY 18-19 as template for future reports – Cindy, Brian & Ward Ebert
- Decide how to proceed with SkyWatch refurbishment – Mary Lou SEE OLD BUSINESS
- Notify Wes & Mary Lou if want to attend shorebird project site – All DONE
- Review shorebird project info attached and formulate/share questions before next Board meeting – All DONE
- Order reprint of butterfly pamphlet - Kevin

### **New/Continuing Action Substances**

- Develop annual financial report for FY 18-19 as template for future reports – Cindy, Brian & Ward Ebert
- Order reprint of butterfly pamphlet – Kevin
- Investigate A/V issues at meetings and then speak to RNC staff to see if any corrective actions are available – David
- Solicit volunteer for Potluck Coordinator – Mary Lou
- Kick-off Shorebird Habitat Oversight Committee meetings – Mary Lou
- Contact Cindy and ask her to prepare a quarterly financial report as of April 30, 2019 - Chuck

## Board Meeting Schedule

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

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	- Jo Solem	
March 28, 2019	- Karen & Kevin Heffernan	
April 25, 2019	- Kathie Lillie	
May 23, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda - May 23, 2019

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Agenda**

May 23, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Old Business-Creation of shorebird habitat in the county
4. President's Remarks              Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                              Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                  Jo Solem
  - Conservation                          Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                              Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                              Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                  Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                              Kevin Heffernan
  
7. New Business-
  - BioBlitz help needed at The Howard County Conservancy
  - Audio-visuals help needed
  - Potluck Dinner help needed
  - 2019 Seed Sale Schedule Set
  - Chimney Swift Tower
  - Sustainability concerns at general meetings
  - Appeal for Atlas Howard County Coordinator – Robin Todd
  
8. Action Items                              Chuck
  
9. Around the room

Meeting Location  
Mary Lou Clark  
5153 Morningside Lane  
Ellicott City, Md 2104



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, September 26, 2019

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce √  
Past President: John Harris

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie √  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √

**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Mary Lou Clark. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 12 was 49 people. Suzanne Shoemaker, Director & President of the Owl Moon Raptor Center gave a program entitled "Farmland Raptor Nest Box Project in Montgomery and Frederick Counties."

**Officer's Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted.

**Treasurer's Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Treasurer's reports for 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr FY 2018 (Feb-Apr 2019) and 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr FY 2019 (May-July 2019) were accepted as sent (copies attached). Brian reported by email that Cindy had submitted the IRS Form 990.

**President's Remarks** (Clark): This will be an exciting year for the birding community.

- We are preparing to launch the third Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA3). She stated she has not been a part of a breeding bird atlas and looks forward to the experience.
- We still are considering creating the Shorebird Habitat at Sharps at Waterford Farms. This next year we should be able to see if it will be a feasible project for us.
- Finally, on the Conservation front in Howard County:
  - Howard County has become part of the Bee City initiative to create sustainable habitats for pollinators.
  - Howard County also signed The Paris Agreement which is an international effort to combat climate change.
  - And today Dr. Ball was to pre-file legislation that bans certain harmful pesticides from being used on County property in order to promote public health and protect our environment.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Maxey): None.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): The BIG SIT and the field trip scheduled for the same day (Oct 5) are cancelled because there will not be an Open House this year.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo summarized the significant sightings since our last board meeting. These include potentially 3 Least Tern; new late dates for a Redhead and a Dark-eyed Junco; 2 records of Pine Siskin; and several reports of Dickcissel at Underwood Road for the summer. For the fall: steady Common Nighthawk migration; large and somewhat early Broad-winged Hawk migration with peak migration Sep 15-25 (e.g., 700+ on Sep 16; 2500 at SkyWatch and ~150 elsewhere); several Yellow-bellied Flycatchers; a couple of valid Philadelphia Vireo reports. YBFL and PHVI are difficult to identify; eBird reports may not be evaluated for several days after the report is submitted. There was a decent warbler migration; and a Summer Tanager was reported on Sep 19.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): None

**Newsletter** (Patterson): None; deadline for Nov-Dec newsletter was Sep 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem):

Bob said that he added the memorial for Nancy Magnusson and current program and field trip information to the website since the last meeting. He will open the developmental version of the website (which uses WordPress CMS) — to the public in October so that interested parties can comment. In December, he will port the developmental version to the regular site and close the sandbox.

**Potluck** (Lillie): March 2020 will be the last that she chairs. She requested a volunteer at the September meeting but got no response. A date for the 2020 Potluck will be decided no later than the November Board meeting.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin purchased 350 more trifold butterfly handouts. Linda Hunt will be presenting the program on butterflies at the January 2020 meeting.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): Mary Lou had earlier distributed her summary of the previous MOS Board meeting.

## Old Business

Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County - Wes has been working on getting things squared away on the red tape/bureaucracy end. He forwarded to MDE copies of a completed design for the Shallow Water Impoundment; the design was pretty much what had previously been discussed. He met with Ms. Debra Correia of MDE about a month ago and will provide her with additional copies of information. It is up to Chuck Sharp to apply for Environmental Quality Incentive Program funding; these applications are reviewed in the winter and approved in late winter to early spring for 2020 funding. Wes said he wants someone from HCBC to continue negotiations with Sharp on what funding HCBC might provide and any management understandings. He provided the contact information for people in Howard Soil Conservation District who are involved.

SkyWatch Refurbishment -- The refurbishment was completed on July 9 under the supervision of Woody Merkle and a host of volunteers. Jo suggested that Mary Lou write a NEWSGRAM article with details thanking them for their efforts.

Safe Skies project at the Howard County Conservancy -- Project (which received financial support from HCBC) was introduced on September 14 at HCC..

## New Business

Creation of Howard BBA3 Committee - President Clark created an *ad hoc* BBA3 Committee from 2020-2024 with Sue Muller as Chair.

BBA3 Update - BBA3 Committee Chair Muller said that Gabriel Foley (BBA3 State Coordinator) will be holding a meeting October 27 of the County Coordinators. There will be a training meeting at Robinson in February of the Howard County block heads.

Nominating Committee - President Clark appointed Mary Maxey chair of the nominating committee to find candidates for vice-president, chapter director, and a state director; Mary Lou will appoint two additional committee members.. She said she will also be looking for a Potluck Committee Chair and Program Committee Chair (since Sue Muller is BBA3 Howard County Co-coordinator. David Ziolkowski has been appointed as the other BBA3 County Co-coordinator.

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Develop annual financial report for FY 18-19 as template for future reports – Cindy, Brian & Ward Ebert DONE
- Order reprint of butterfly pamphlet – Kevin DONE
- Investigate A/V issues at meetings and then speak to RNC staff to see if any corrective actions are available – David DONE
- Solicit volunteer for Potluck Coordinator – Mary Lou PENDING
- Kick-off Shorebird Habitat Oversight Committee meetings – Mary Lou DONE
- Contact Cindy and ask her to prepare a quarterly financial report as of April 30, 2019 – Chuck DONE

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Appoint additional Nominating Committee members – Mary Lou
- Find Potluck Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Decide who is hosting February 27, March 26, April 23, and May 28 Board meetings. Clark, Heffernan, Sandler, and Solem have offered but need to decide who does which meeting.- Mary Lou coordinate
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)

**Around the Room**

- Kevin said participation in Fall Count this year was low and opened the floor to discussion on how to get more to participate since there are people who expressed interest in participating (on the membership questionnaire) who are not taking part in the counts.
- Sue Muller said that at the Robinson Open House on September 22, she was approached by Kathy Peet (RNC Director) to provide a little information on Beth Decker and Carolyn Parsa since Kathy was to meet with them on retrofitting the windows on RNC. Sue also talked to Raul Delorme (Director of Department of Recreation and Parks) who is very interested in pursuing the RNC project; he has already approved changes to the North Laurel Swimming Pool and will incorporate appropriate measures into the design of a new Cultural Arts Center. County Executive Calvin Ball has also expressed interest in making county government buildings safer for birds.

**Board Meeting Schedule**

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

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- <b>Kevin Heffernan</b>	<b>Confirm Feb, Mar, Apr &amp; May hosts!</b>
March 26, 2020	- <b>David Sandler</b>	
April 23, 2020	- <b>Jo Solem</b>	
May 28, 2020	- <b>Brian Moyer</b>	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

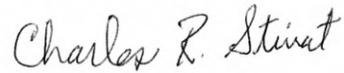
Agenda – September 26, 2019

Treasurer's Report -- 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr FY 2018 (Feb-Apr 2019)

Treasurer's Report -- 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr FY 2019 (May-July 2019)

Minutes were taken and drafted by Bob Solem. Thanks to Bob for doing this in my absence.

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Agenda**

September 26, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer  
The treasurer's reports for 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr (Feb, Mar and Apr 2019) and 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr (May, June, July 2019) were attached to the email with the agenda.
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman  
There will NOT be a Big Sit nor field trip at the U of Md Central Farm this year.
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson  
The Nov/Dec Goldfinch articles were due September 25.
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  
7. State Board Meeting-                      Minutes already sent out by Mary Lou Clark
8. Old Business-
  - Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County-Wes has been working on getting things squared away on the red tape/bureaucracy end. His notes will be passed out at the meeting.
  - SkyWatch Refurbishment-The refurbishment was completed on July 9 under the supervision of Woody Merkle and a host of volunteers.
  - We still need hosts for the Board Meetings on Feb 27, March 26, April 23, and May 28.
  - The Safe Skies project at the Howard County Conservancy which received financial support from the HCBC was introduced on September 14.

9. New Business-
  - Creation of a BBA3 Committee Chair Position on the Board from 2020-2024 with Sue Muller as Chairperson
  - Update on the BBA3 by the new BBA3 Committee Chair
  - Creation of a nominating committee for the purpose of finding a vice-president for 2020-2022, a chapter director for 2020-2022, and a state director beginning in 2020.
10. Action Items Chuck
11. Around the room

Meeting Location

Mary Lou Clark

5153 Morningside Lane

Ellicott City, Md 21043

(410) 465-4061

Meeting Begins at 7:30 pm

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
4th Qtr. (Feb, Mar and Apr 2019)

<b>Income</b>	Budget 2018-19	Feb - Apr 4th Qtr	Y-T-D
Membership Dues		144	5,693
MOS State Dues Paid*			2,910
Net Membership dues	2,750		2,783
* MOS reimb. \$125		125	
Contributions			
Habitat Conservation	3,000	70	3,589
Chestem Bequest - final dist.			8,839
Total Operating Income	5,750	339	15,211
<b>Expenses</b>			
Meetings			
Programs	1,000	250	610
Total Programs		250	610
Hospitality	75		
Publicity & Outreach			
Internet Account	350	152	152
Postage, Copies	300	124	124
Newsltr/Directory/Labels/Brochures	550	97	252
Greenfest	35	35	35
Grants (from contributions & investments)			
Dickcissel project			1,030
Chandler Robbins signs			1,972
Snowy Owl Project Snowstorm			2,947
Bat meters -Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP)		200	200
Green Fest		35	35
Rehabilitators - All Creatures & Friskies	600	300	300
YMOS Birdathon	200	200	200
Total Expense	3,110	1,393	7,856
Income less Expense	2,640	(1,054)	7,355
<b>Investments - Asset subdivision</b>			
<b>T Rowe Price Govt Money Fund *</b>			
(beg. bal. 02/01/19)		42,313	
Mountjoy	5,540		
Unrestricted	10,502		
Chestem	25,297		
Div. for 12 mos,	766		
<b>(Distribution for Skywatch signs \$1,972)</b>			
(end bal 04/30/19)		42,529	
<b>PNC Bank Balance</b>			
Beg. Checking Bal. 02/01/19		11,131	
End Checking Bal. 04/30/19		10,568	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>53,097</b>	

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

TREASURER'S REPORT

1st Qtr. (May, June, July 2019)

<b>Income</b>	Budget 2019-20	May - July 1st Qtr	Y-T-D
Membership Dues		92	92
MOS State Dues Paid*			
Net Membership dues	3,200	92	92
Contributions			
Habitat Conservation	3,500		
Chestem Bequest - final dist.			
Total Operating Income	6,700	92	92
 <b>Expenses</b>			
Meetings			
Programs	700		
Publicity & Outreach			
Internet Account	150		-
Postage, Copies	250		
Newsltr/Directory/Labels/Brochures	500		
Greenfest	35		
Grants (from contributions & investments)			
Dickcissel project			
Chandler Robbins Skywatch		335.23	335.23
Snowy Owl Project Snowstorm			
Bat meters -Maryland Biodiversity Project (MBP)			
Green Fest			
Rehabilitators - All Creatures & Friskies	600		
YMOS Birdathon	200		
Total Expense	2,435	335	335
Income less Expense	4,265	(243)	(243)
 <b>Investments - Asset subdivision</b>			
<b>T Rowe Price Govt Money Fund *</b>			
		42,529	
(beg. bal. 05/01/19)			
Mountjoy	5,540		
Unrestricted	10,502		
Chestem	25,297		
Div. for 3 mos,		222	
(end bal 07/31/19)		42,751	
 <b>PNC Bank Balance</b>			
Beg. Checking Bal. 05/01/19		10,568	
End Checking Bal. 07/31/19 *		9,077	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>51,828</b>	

\* inc. Final Dist. From Chestem bequest \$312.09



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, October 24, 2019

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler  
Clayton Koonce √  
Past President: John Harris

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: *Sue Muller*  
**Others:** Karen Heffernan

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Clayton Koonce. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 10 was 49 people. Bruce Beehler gave a program entitled “North on the Wing – Travels with the Songbird Migration of Spring.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck reported he had received two additions to the draft minutes distributed to the board after last meeting. An acknowledgement that David Ziolkowski has been appointed as the Howard Co-coordinator with Sue Muller for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA3) was added. Brian Moyer volunteered to host a board meeting and the minutes now reflect he will host the May 28 meeting. The minutes were accepted as modified.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian was not present but had sent a preliminary treasurer’s report as of the meeting date. In reviewing it we found several items that should be corrected before a final end of quarter report through October 31 is prepared for inclusion in the next board meeting minutes. It was agreed to provide Brian with further background on these items and other areas of club financial transactions. Chuck and Mary Lou agreed to meet with Brian to do this.

**President’s Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou reported that we need to remain vigilant for emails from MOS and bird club board members with suspicious requests. She had received a spam email appearing to come from Robin Todd that morning.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary reminded the board that she had forwarded the request seeking volunteers to assist with data entry/scanning of the backlog of nest cards at the Patuxent Wildlife research center. Bob said it would be included in the next NewsGram.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): It was reported that the November Centennial Sunday walks will not be significantly impacted by the on-going replacement of the red metal bridge on north side of the lake. A new bridge has been built over the dam on the pond behind the closed bridge construction site permitting a safe detour around the construction.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo reported that it has not been a super fall with no mega-rarities. She mentioned the Connecticut Warbler and Sedge Wren at Mt. Pleasant. There has been a minimal shorebird migration and thrush reports have been spotty. One late Green Heron stayed at Lake Kittamaqundi. Several Merlins have been reported. The latest Ruby-throated Hummingbird she had heard of was Jeff Culler's report of Oct. 13. Lincoln Sparrow reports have been down. The only Boreal species reported was one Red-breasted Nuthatch at Daniels found by Fred Shaffer.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt had sent the attached Conservation report email. Sue reported she and Kurt had spent earlier that day at the Howard Community College "Campus Sustainability Day." She said this is now planned as an annual event.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard had sent an email notifying the board that the due date for the Jan-Feb issue of the Goldfinch is November 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that beta-testing of the new web-site will continue until December. Bob plans to take the new website live in December. Bob, as Membership Chair, provided Allen and Kelsey with copies of the list of members who have not yet renewed their membership. As Chapter Directors they will contact those on the list and remind them to renew. Bob also passed around the attached graph displaying how the membership renewals have progressed this year as compared to the prior two years.

**Potluck** (Lillie): We still need a volunteer to help Kathie this year and assume responsibility for the potluck after that. She had sent an email stating she has contacted her POC at Robinson Nature Center requesting use of the auditorium for the potluck on either Saturday March 28 or March 21.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported the butterfly season is waning. Although several board members reported seeing one or two species in the past couple of days. In response to a query about whether we should continue with a joint bird/butterfly display at events or have separate tables Kevin felt most would be fine with joint display. He felt the one exception is GreenFest. It was agreed that next year's budget should include funds for reserving two tables at GreenFest (\$70).

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that RNC has finally taken action regarding "safe skies" treatment of the buildings windows. They have applied the commercial product "Feather Friendly" tape on the outside of office windows on the lowest level of the building. They are also considering additional treatment approaches for the other large windows in the building. It was asked if we should consider offering to assist with funding that effort. Sue said that they have asked the Robinson Foundation if they would support the effort. We agreed we should wait to see if they agree to do so before we make an offer to help.

Sue reported that she and Dave Ziolkowski will be attending training for County Coordinators on Sunday, October 27. She anticipates knowing a lot more about plans after that session. Having given former block coordinators an opportunity to pick a block for this atlas she is now accepting volunteers from others as she still has quite a few blocks that need coordinators. Dave has volunteered to give a presentation on the atlas at Howard County Conservancy for the public on Saturday, Jan. 18. Sue doesn't expect this to be atlas training but will let the club know who should attend.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): The next state Board meeting is December 7.

## Old Business

Nominating Committee Progress – Mary Lou has appointed Mary Maxey as chair of the committee and eventually should add one or two additional members but that is not critical. What needs to be the focus is finding candidates for three vacant positions. Candidates are needed for Vice President, Chapter Director (1<sup>st</sup> year), and State Director (replacing Sarah Romero who is moving to Rome in September 2020). Mary was advised to consult with other Board members for suggestions to fill these positions.

Need for Program Chair & Potluck Chair – Mary Lou reported that she has not had anyone express interest in these two positions. She stated that she was considering volunteering to be Program Chair after her term as President is over. Sue informed Mary Lou that she has a list of several potential programs that members have suggested to her that did not fit in this year's schedule.

#### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

*July 26 – early August:* In a sometimes contentious series of emails the board approved sending a letter of written testimony to the county council in support of CB-38-2019 an act restricting development in the Ellicott City watershed. The primary purpose of the legislature was flood control but it contained elements that will help habitat preservation. The act eventually failed by a vote of 3-2.

*October 17:* In an email exchange the Board agreed to sign onto a letter to the County Executive prepared by the organization Smarter Growth of Maryland that applauds efforts to protect trees.

*October 20:* In an email meeting the board overwhelmingly voted to send a letter to the County Council providing written testimony in support of CB-51-19 an act restricting use of certain pesticides and an herbicide on county property. This act subsequently was passed by the council.

*October 21:* In another email meeting the Board agreed to sign onto a similar letter to the one sent to the County Executive County supporting protections of trees to the members of the County Council.

*November 5-6:* In an email exchange the Board approved written testimony should be sent to the County Council supporting CB-62-19 an act repealing and reenacting the Forest Conservation Act of Howard County. The letter was sent on November 12.

### **New Business**

Procedure for motions to be made outside of Board meetings – Mary Lou reviewed the issues that arose over the summer in responding to requests for the club to take a stand on several proposals for club action with short deadlines that precluded waiting for a formal board meeting. She summarized the procedure she is proposing for how to handle proposals/motions when timing precludes waiting to discuss the pros/cons of club taking a position/action at a board meeting going forward. Person raising the issue is responsible for contacting the President first and providing her with material explaining the proposed issue. If she feels the matter requires action that cannot wait for a board meeting she will work with the initiator to formulate an email providing the background information and the proposed motion (a formal second of the motion won't be required). The email will be sent to the voting board members (currently 18 members). Members will reply by voting or initiating additional email discussion (reply all). Mary Lou, as President, will tally the votes. Ten votes in approval will be required for the motion to pass. The results of these activities will be summarized by the Secretary in the minutes of the next formal board meeting (see Old Business above). Lastly it was confirmed that if an issue arises that clearly deals with matters the board had discussed and developed an official position on the President could authorize a response in concert with that position without conducting a formal email vote.

Bird Count issues ??? – Mary Lou stated she had included this item on agenda because of an earlier perception that the participation in bird counts was dramatically decreasing. She since had noted that the Fall Count article reported participation was typical and in speaking with Kevin he confirmed this was generally true for Spring Count. Kevin and Chuck stated that her impression results from the fact that leading up to counts the numbers committing early seem to be down and coordinator comments reflect this. At the same time there is a need to find ways to bring in new participants, especially new members. Bob proposed that he would like to brainstorm with the count coordinators and any other interested members to come up with ideas and actions that would bring in new participants to the counts. We need to ensure all new members that indicate interest in counts on membership survey are personally approached prior to each count. In discussion someone asked about feeder counters participation during winter count that has declined. It became obvious several present didn't even know about the winter count feeder sheet. It was proposed that we should have copies of the feeder sheets and promote feeder counts at the January club meeting. Kevin also proposed that Chuck share his historical participant spreadsheet with all area counters in advance to help that all recent prior participants are approached.

Authorization of who will be on HCBC accounts – Chuck stated that the board needed to formally authorize who should have signature authority on the club’s financial accounts since Brian was now taking charge as Treasurer. The board formally approved the following authorizations:

- PNC Checking Account: Treasurer, Brian Moyer; President, Mary Lou Clark; Secretary, Charles Stirrat
- T Rowe Price Money Market Fund: Treasurer, Brian Moyer; Secretary, Charles Stirrat
- PayPal Account: Treasurer, Brian Moyer; Membership Chairman, Bob Solem

Convention Help Needed (May 15-17, 2020) Cumberland, MD – Meg Harris has agreed to be the chairman of MOS Convention committee again this coming spring. Mary Lou urged us to consider volunteering to help her in planning and supporting the convention.

Planned Giving on Website – Bob stated that Cindy had mentioned to him that many charitable organizations include information on “planned giving” on their website to encourage people to consider including that organization in planning their charitable giving. Accordingly he had developed a proposed webpage that would provide such information and appear as an active link in the footer of webpages. The proposed page is available in the beta testing version of the website at the following link – <https://howardbirds.website/planned-giving/>. Bob asked for proposed corrections or changes if any. The consensus of the Board was that this was a good idea.

Around the Room -

Kelsey reported that volunteers to provide treats and drinks are in pretty good shape following the sign up at past meeting.

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Appoint additional Nominating Committee members – Mary Lou
- Find Potluck Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Decide who is hosting February 27, March 26, April 23, and May 28 Board meetings. Clark, Heffernan, Sandler, and Solem have offered but need to decide who does which meeting.- Mary Lou coordinate  
DONE
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Appoint additional Nominating Committee members – Mary Lou
- Find Potluck Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Contact Russ Ruffing/John Harris about meeting with Chuck Sharp as next step in shorebird habitat project – Mary Lou
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob
- Contact members who have not yet renewed to remind them to renew – Allen, Kelsey

**Board Meeting Schedule**

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

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- Kevin Heffernan	
March 26, 2020	- David Sandler	
April 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
May 28, 2020	- Brian Moyer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – October 24, 2019
- Conservation Report – October 24, 2019
- Membership Progress Graph – October 24, 2019

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Agenda**

October 24, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks    Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks    Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                              Joe Hanfman  
The replacement of the red steel bridge at Centennial Park will not affect the bird walks.
  - Records                                  Jo Solem
  - Conservation                          Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                              Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                              Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                  Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                              Kevin Heffernan
  - BBA3                                      Sue Muller
  
7. State Board Meeting- The next meeting will be Saturday, December 7, 2019
8. Old Business-
  - Nominating Committee progress
  - Need for program chair and potluck chair
  
9. New Business-
  - Procedure for motions to be made outside of the club meetings
  - Bird Count issues????
  - Authorization of who will be on HCBC accounts-Chuck
  - Convention Help Needed (May 15-17, 2020) Cumberland, Md
  
10. Action Items                              Chuck
  
11. Around the room

Meeting Location  
Clayton Koonce  
5587 Vantage Point Road  
Columbia, Maryland  
Meeting Begins at 7:30 pm



Conservation Report, October 24, 2019

I want to thank the Club joining the Smarter Growth Alliance of Howard County letter in support of greater forest conservation in Howard County. I realize that the SGA is an unknown quantity for virtually everyone, and I will be providing further information on this entity in the coming weeks. I have worked with similar efforts/alliances in my capacity as MOS Conservation Chair, and can attest to their good and effective actions on behalf of Smart Growth in Maryland. Stay tuned.

A forest conservation bill was announced last Thursday and the text is available. It does not have a bill number yet, and it would be premature to draw up any written testimony at this time. Per a former member of the Sustainability Board, it is a good first step. More to follow as I digest this bill and get feedback from others.

I attended the hearing on Monday of the Council for bill CB-51, which would ban or curtail use of certain pesticides and herbicides on County-owned property. I think the Club for sending in a letter of support. Several individuals spoke in support of the bill. Emily Ransom of Clean Water Action also spoke in favor, and submitted a detail letter in support. Another group speaking in favor was Our Revolution Howard County. OrHoCo is a new entity to me. From what I have learned, it's may raison d'être is support for the Green New Deal and it may or may not be affiliated with the Sanders presidential campaign. Their website is less than informative, and the FB page, as most are, chaotic.

Oppositions was expressed by the Farm Bureau in the person of Howie Feagea, and two other farmers. They all claimed to have been blindsided by the bill, and were concerned that it would interfere with farming. The former claim I believe to be disingenuous at best. The announcement was widely advertised and very public. As for interfering with farm operations, this is just misinformation. The bill applies only to County-owned property, and does not apply to private property. Furthermore, it explicitly does not apply to county-owned property leased to farmers. So, these concerns have no basis.

I was able to ambush Councilperson Walsh, who represents my district, on the way to the restroom. I tried to extract from her position on the bill. She made no commitment, but I got the impression she was favorable.

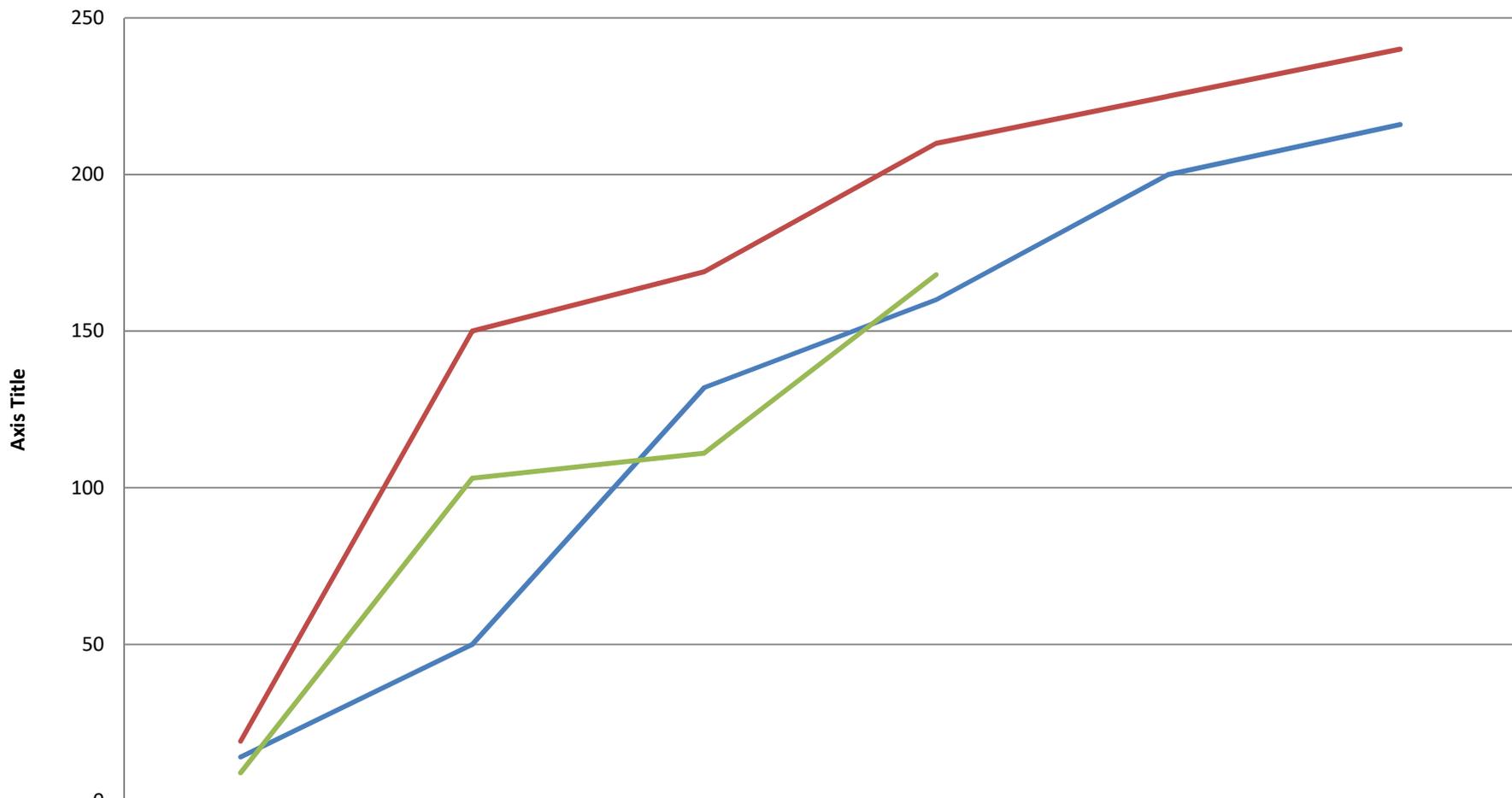
Respectfully submitted,

Kurt

Added comment sent in email after initial release:

Regarding CB-51, the Sierra Club was unable to draft a letter of support or oral testimony. This is perplexing in that Sierra did send talking points and a link to legislators to their members on the bill. It is to the credit of HCBC and Clean Water Action that they were able to draft, approve, and submit testimony in the space of just three days.

## Howard County Bird Club Number of Votes



	Prev	14-Sep	25-Sep	24-Oct	1-Dec	1-Mar
18-19	14	50	132	160	200	216
17-18	19	150	169	210	225	240
19-20	9	103	111	168		



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, November 21, 2019

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce √  
Past President: John Harris √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: *Sue Muller*  
**Others:** Karen Heffernan √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Allen Lewis. Total number in attendance was 16. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 14 was 43 people. Bill Mahoney, Howard County Office of Community Sustainability, gave a program entitled “The Howard County Green Infrastructure Network: An Approach to Defending Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck reported that Kurt had clarified how signing onto letters prepared by the organization Smarter Growth of Maryland did not imply we were members of that organization, so a sentence referring to this was deleted. The minutes were approved as amended..

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian was able to attend his first board meeting. He had sent a template of a monthly report generated using Excel (rather than the exported reports from QuickBooks). There are still several entries that need to be corrected and the board mentioned a few items we would like to see added or changed. Chuck will meet with Brian to provide background on these requests and help develop a report format and an updated report for the second quarter.

**President’s Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou warned the board that some people are still receiving spam mail appearing to come from her. She urged everyone to be alert for this. Any unusual requests from her (especially if they come from a “strange” email address) should not be replied to and should be deleted.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Maxey): See Old Business.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe was not present. Schedule is in good shape. Mary Lou reported that she had received a request from the Meg Boyd, Howard County Conservancy, asking to include a reference to our birding field trips in the list of 30 activities to consider doing as part of the HCC 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mary Lou was asked to provide feedback to refer to them as “walks” or trips but not hikes which would give a false impression of the pace we move at. Also it was suggested that they should refer to both birds and butterflies. Mary Lou will provide Meg with updates and Bob will send her the URL for the web page that will have a current list of trips.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo reported that Cheryl Farfaras had reported that the MPEA parking lot on Trotter Road is not yet open, despite the gate being open and signs missing. The county needs to complete a walk-through and officially sign off on the work by contractors. Jo will send an email to listers when the entrance is officially opened.

Best sighting since the previous Board meeting is the two Rufous Hummingbirds coming to feeders off Manahan Road. Kurt reported that the one remaining male was still being seen that day but it's pattern has changed and is not visiting the feeder as frequently. Posting on-line still being repressed, but if people contact Kurt he will coordinate a visit. Also noteworthy was the large flock of Cackling Geese (28) coming to Scott's Pond on South Trotter Road. A few winter finches have been reported including Purple Finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Other sightings include Bonaparte's Gulls (55), a late Osprey, American Woodcock at or near end of migration, Vesper Sparrow, Rusty Blackbirds (20), and some late warblers: Tennessee, Orange-crowned, and a new late date Black-throated Green on 11/4.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Mary Lou summarized an email she had received from Carolyn Parsa expressing appreciation for the excellent effort Kurt does for conservation. Mary Lou added her personal thanks as well. Kurt noted that David Sandler, Kathie Lillie, and he had attended the council meeting on Nov. 18 in support of CB-62, Forest Conservation Act. The vote on this bill is set for Dec. 2. Kurt indicated he was working on an action alert asking club members to personally contact the county council members urging them to support the bill which replaces the current Forest Conservation Plan with a new one greatly improving its protection of the environment. Once ready he will forward it to Mary Lou for approval and Bob for sending. Kurt then asked to revisit the discussion we had at prior meeting adding greater formality to Board actions held on-line between regular board meetings. He stressed the short timelines often associated with conservation issues especially when legislative actions are involved. He pointed out that we had been allowing him to initiate such actions without the formality of having to rely on the President to initiate them for many years. After discussion we agreed that as long as the request is sent to all members of the board (currently 18) and are accompanied by the information necessary to assess the proposed action we could resume the historical process where Kurt as Conservation Chair can initiate a request for the Board to vote on a proposed action.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): The due date for next issue is November 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob stated that in the NewsGram prior to the December meeting he will announce that the club website will be down at various times during December as he accomplishes the transition from the current website to the new one developed with WordPress. He will refer people to the MOS website calendar during those periods. He also encouraged people to continue beta testing of the new website.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had confirmed via email she has reserved RNC for the potluck on Saturday, March 28.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that he and Linda have begun preparation for their presentation at the January meeting. He has been working on a spreadsheet with information on landscaping a yard for pollinator. It will also include multiple references. He and Linda have been participating in the county led Pollinator meetings formed as part of the Bee City! Program announced by the County Executive. Julie Constantino, who is county representative for this program, will participate in the club January meeting.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue announced she has block coordinators for about 2/3 of county blocks. She reminded us that we are only 6 weeks from the official start of BBA3 on January 1. A training session for block coordinators will be held at RNC from 1 to 3 pm Sunday January 12 at RNC. A presentation on the atlas, "Citizen Science Birding," meant for the general public will be held from 10 – 11 am, Saturday Jan 18 at Belmont. The presentation is free but requires advance registration on the Howard County Conservancy website.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): The next meeting is Saturday, December 7 at the Conowingo Visitors Center, 4948 Conowingo Road, Darlington, MD 21034.

## Old Business

Nominating Committee progress – Mary Lou reported that David Sandler and Kevin Heffernan had volunteered to serve on the nominating committee along with committee chair Mary Maxey. Mary M. reported they are looking to fill the positions of Vice President, State Director, and Chapter Director. The Board brainstormed for a few minutes identifying potential individuals for the committee to approach.

Need for program chair and potluck chair – Mary Lou reported that Linda Hunt has volunteered to serve as a Co-chairman for the Potluck. Mary Lou stated she is still looking for someone to join Linda as a Co-chair and we still need someone to serve as Program Chair.

### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

*November 5-6:* In an email exchange the Board approved written testimony should be sent to the County Council supporting CB-62-19 an act repealing and reenacting the Forest Conservation Act of Howard County. The letter was sent on November 12.

## New Business

Follow-up by Chapter Directors on members who haven't joined for the new year – Kelsey reviewed her experience in calling those who were members last year who haven't yet renewed. She indicated that many appear not to be answering the phone or replying to voice mail messages. Allen reported that he seemed to have better luck emailing those on his list. Since his personal phone shows as being from Puerto Rico area code he didn't expect he'd have much luck with phone calls. Brian and Bob reported that there has been a pickup in memberships received in last two weeks so it appears the attempt at a targeted reminder has been beneficial. Bob reported he would have an update on membership after MOS sends him an update at end of November. He asked Chuck to wait and send out an updated membership graph after he receives the update (attached). *Sec. Note – The chart shows the increase and that the membership already exceeds 200 voting members which qualifies the club for having three directors on the MOS Board.* Bob also pointed out that when he sends out the Jan-Feb Goldfinch link those who have not yet renewed will get an email that says “Sorry but the newsletter is only available to paid up members.”

Safe Skies window display at the Conservancy – Mary Lou and Sarah had observed the bird strike decals placed on the windows of the Gudelsky Center were already peeling off as if they had not been applied properly. Mary Lou contacted Meg Boyd who reassured her that what is there is only a temporary (prototype) installation. Meg reassured them she will be addressing and monitoring the installation.

Name tags at general meetings? – Mary M. proposed we might want to institute a formal use of nametags at club meetings. She proposed we have a table setup outside door manned by a greeter with two different colored tags. She suggested we have one color for current members and another color for new members and visitors. In this way one could make a point to welcome the new members/visitors. We used to have name tags but no formal way of distinguishing guests. It was agreed to implement this and see how it works. Volunteers to man the table will need to be solicited for each meeting. Mary agreed to purchase the nametags and man the table for the first meeting.

### Around the Room –

Jo reported that the supply of club window decals she includes in new member packets is about depleted. She indicated some had complained the ones we have had (use static to cling to inside of window) are not visible in cars with darkened windows. She asked if people would prefer she order the same kind or an alternative type that would stick on outside (like bumper). Board indicated strong preference for external. Jo will research options and report back to board in future.

Sue relayed an interesting exchange and outcome from her Safe Skies monitoring of the “Gateway Building” (County owned) on Gateway Drive in Columbia. A woman that works in Risk Mgt. in the Gateway Building has seen her picking up dead birds several times and she has educated her about the problem. Unbeknownst to Sue, she contacted the head of the facilities Dept. and told him about the lady from Rec & Parks picking up dead birds every day that hit the windows and asked what could be done about it. The Facilities Manager was unaware of her surveys and the problem until this employee contacted him. He went ahead and got an estimate to put a film over the windows. Sue spoke with the man and asked him to meet with Beth Decker and herself to find the best solution for the money and the birds. Felicia Lovelett had helped with surveys in the past and had inquired what the cost was to

treat the windows at Gateway as she wanted to make a contribution. Felicia is aware of the problem there and helped Sue survey the Gary Arthur Center during the migration season.

### Review of Prior Action Items:

- Appoint additional Nominating Committee members – Mary Lou DONE
- Find Potluck Committee Chair – Mary Lou FOUND ONE CO-CHAIR
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Contact Russ Ruffing/John Harris about meeting with Chuck Sharp as next step in project – Mary Lou
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob
- Contact members who have not yet renewed to remind them to renew – Allen, Kelsey DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Find 2<sup>nd</sup> Potluck Committee Co-Chair – Mary Lou
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Contact Russ Ruffing/John Harris about meeting with Chuck Sharp as next step in project – Mary Lou
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob
- Send Meg Boyd proposed update for HCC anniversary activity list – Mary Lou
- Send Meg Boyd URL for field trip web page – Bob
- Send out an email (text from Kurt) urging members to contact County Council in support of Forest Conservation Act – Mary Lou
- Send out email(s) to Listers on current status of MPEA Trotter Road access and when she is informed it is officially re-opened – Jo
- Purchase name-tags and coordinate/staff a welcome table at regular meetings – Mary M.
- Research alternatives for club decals that would go on outside of car/etc. vice the current internal style - Jo

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- Kevin Heffernan	
March 26, 2020	- David Sandler	
April 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
May 28, 2020	- Brian Moyer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – November 21, 2019
- Howard County Bird Club Membership Chart as of Dec 1 2019

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

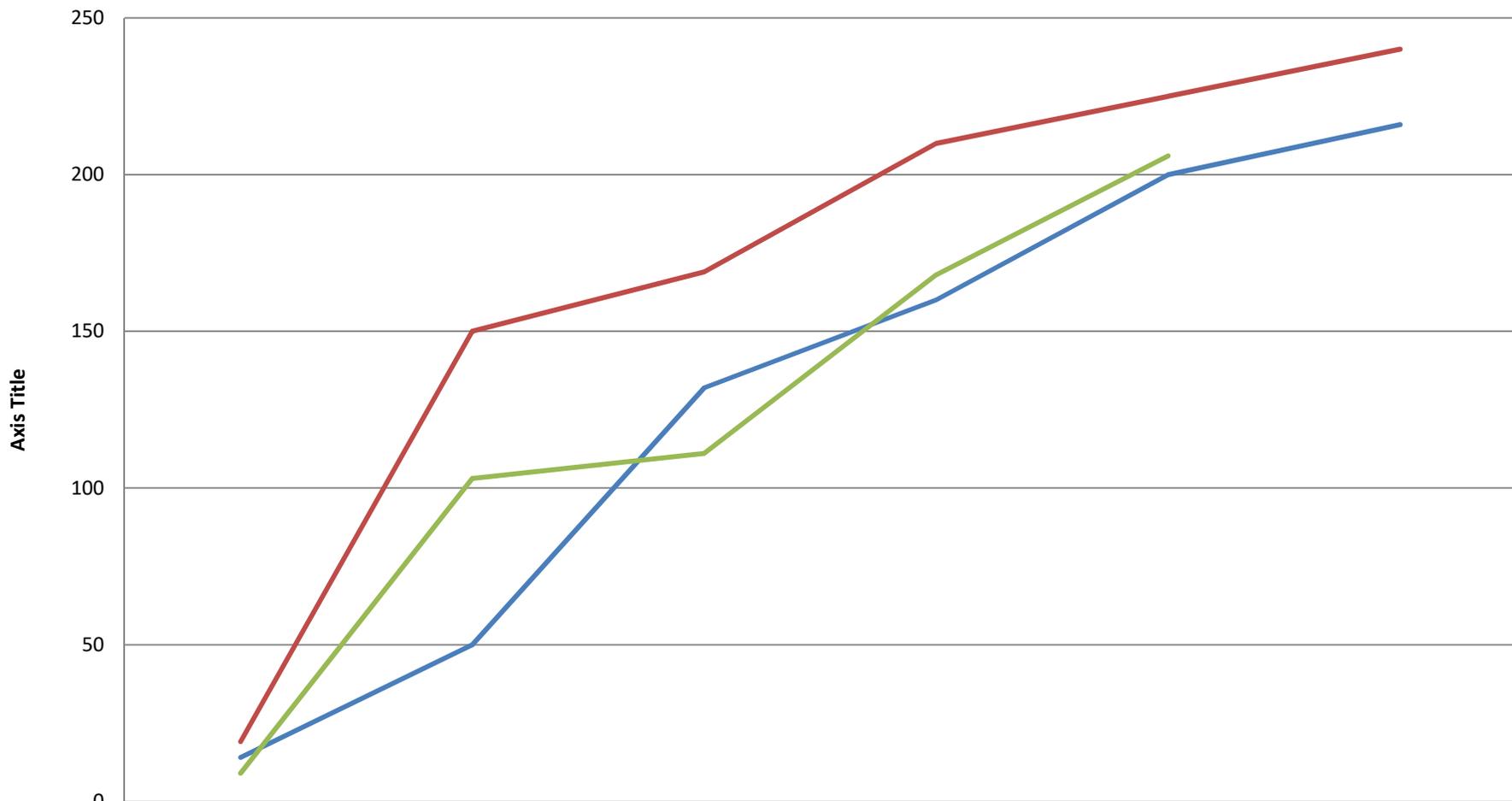
**Agenda**

November 21, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Goldfinch submissions due November 25
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  - BBA3                                            Sue Muller
  
7. State Board Meeting- The next meeting will be Saturday, December 7, 2019
8. Old Business-
  - Nominating Committee progress      Mary Maxey
  - Need for program chair and potluck chair
  
9. New Business-
  - Follow-up by Chapter Directors on members who haven't joined for the new year.
  - Safe Skies window display at the Conservancy
  - Name tags at general meetings?
  
10. Action Items                              Chuck
  
11. Around the room

Meeting Location  
Allen Lewis  
7226 Lasting Way  
Columbia, Md  
757-590-4501  
Meeting Begins at 7:30 pm

## Howard County Bird Club Number of Votes



	Prev	14-Sep	25-Sep	24-Oct	1-Dec	1-Mar
18-19	14	50	132	160	200	216
17-18	19	150	169	210	225	240
19-20	9	103	111	168	206	



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, January 23, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce  
Past President: John Harris √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: *Sue Muller*  
**Others:** Karen Heffernan √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of Jo Solem. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 12, 2019 was 43 people. Dr. Peter P. Marra PhD gave a program entitled “Cat Wars – Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer.” Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 9, 2020 was 58 people. Linda Hunt and Kevin Heffernan gave a program entitled “Howard County Butterfly Conservation” and Julie Constantino gave a program entitled “Bee City, USA.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):** Minutes were approved with the correction dealing with the discussion of spam emails appearing to be from Mary Lou. Chuck had forwarded a rewrite of the paragraph just after he first distributed the minutes. The underlying leak of email addresses is believed to be the MOS website. Kelsey remarked that when she discovered the MOS website publicly displayed the personal emails of chapter officers she requested they remove them for the Howard chapter and they have been removed. They are still listed for other chapters.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer):** Brian reported that the net holdings for the club are \$54,888. He stated we are in good shape and that the membership dues received are very close to the amount assumed in the budget. Kevin asked how funds received designated for club activities related to butterflies are being tracked. Brian stated that the records have not been being tracked separately but that this could be done easily.

**President’s Remarks (Clark):** None.

**Vice-President’s Remarks (Maxey):** None.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips (Hanfman):** Joe sent the following report: “I plan to send the field trips for April - early September off soon to The Yellowthroat and The Goldfinch. Just waiting on when we can do the Patapsco Scrubland walk, which depends on a competition that Felicia's stallion will be in. The Yellowthroat is going to a quarterly publication. This will not be a problem for our field trips since I schedule them six months in advance.

I have changed two of our Robinson Nature Center walks. The May 2nd walk will be at MPEA instead of West Friendship Park because of the Sheep and Wool Festival. I will lead that one for the Master Naturalists. October 10th will be another Master Naturalists walk at West Friendship Park. Jeff Culler will lead that one. Along with our other two scheduled RNC walks, our commitment for 2020 will be met.”

Mary Lou said she is leading one of the RNC walks and John Harris is leading the other.

**MOS Convention:** Mary Lou reminded the board that the Convention is May 15-17 in Cumberland. She stated that a Facebook page is being created for Convention information and promotion. Hotel reservations can be made anytime, convention registration opens Feb. 15, and field trip sign up begins April 1.

**Records (Jo Solem):** Jo stated that there has not been a lot of activity this winter. Some waterfowl is showing up, especially at Race Road. There have been a number of Cackling Geese sightings. One Snow Goose was reported during the Christmas Count in mid-December. A few Double-crested Cormorants have remained so far. The Rufous Hummingbird continues. Hank has become almost obsessive in his care for the hummer. Access control, and the ban on posting location via social media/eBird, remains in effect.

**Conservation (Schwarz):** Kurt was unable to attend but sent an email with the following: “As for Conservation, the General Assembly is in Session and many bills of interest are on the table. MOS and hopefully HCBC will concentrate on the Chlorpyrifos Ban and Sustainable Buildings (formerly Bird-Safe, but renamed to broaden appeal). I have not made any firm decision yet but other bills we could get into are balloon release ban and single-use plastic bags.” The board has already taken a position in support of the Chlorpyrifos ban and sustainable buildings so Kurt already has our approval for ee

**Newsletter (Patterson):** Howard had sent word he has nothing to report.

**Webmaster (R. Solem):** Mary Lou expressed her thanks to Bob for his completion of the website transition. The Board unanimously concurred in expressing their appreciation for his efforts. Bob stated that although the historical “howardbirds.org” will still work, the official club website URL is “howardbirds.website” and it should be used on future club materials (e.g., business cards, pamphlets). He urged all of us to please use the new link. If you had established bookmarks for the former website you will need to recreate them with the new URL. Bob has been working on a new webpage for the Breeding Bird Atlas 3 that includes access to prior Howard County atlas results as well as multiple links to MOS atlas site. He passed around a sheet showing usage statistics for the new website (a new feature that the new platform provides).

**Potluck (Lillie):** Kathie was unable to attend but sent a brief note. As of that date 28 people had signed up to attend. Linda Hunt is still willing to be the Potluck chair starting next year, but Mary Lou is still hoping to find a co-chair.

**Butterflies (Kevin Heffernan):** Kevin announced that the first newsletter from the Bee City initiative has been published. It announces that the week of June 22-28 will be “Pollinator Week.” Kevin is hoping to offer one or more butterfly walks at Mt. Pleasant during that week. He would like to have them be promoted by the club as well as Bee City and the Conservancy. He also commented that he has a new “Pollinator/Bee” poster that he will use as part of a display at Greenfest. The Butterfly Committee will be meeting in early March. The slides from the presentation Linda and Kevin gave at the January meeting are posted on the club website.

Kevin reported that he and Karen are in the midst of a major re-landscaping project and it could complicate their hosting the February board meeting. David Sandler agreed to swap hosting with the Heffernan’s. As shown in the schedule below the February meeting will be at David’s and the March meeting will be at Kevin and Karen’s. Kevin agreed to alert Howard of this change for the upcoming newsletter.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3 (Muller):** Sue reported that atlas activities are beginning. Bob mentioned that he is working on an Incidental Atlas Sighting report form for the website that would allow non-eBird users to submit sightings. He was assuming this would only be for “confirmed” codes as you couldn’t expect the incidental user to be aware of safe dates. It was suggested that he should also include “probable” codes as these can be submitted outside of safe dates. “Possible” codes should probably not be included as they are not to be entered outside of safe dates. Sue

reported that there was disagreement on how to treat submitting eBird lists for owls especially those suspected to be on nests. One group lobbies for “hiding” the list (until unhidden these will not be available to the atlas). Another group supports entering the location as a “bogus” location that doesn’t reveal where owl is but this will need to be corrected after the owls are done nesting and until this will show incorrect status for the atlas block containing the “bogus” location until it is corrected. The state atlas coordinators are lobbying for entering correct location, contending the probability of disturbing the nesting success is minimal. Resolution may or may not be reached. Several eagle sightings have been reported.

Vehicle Sign / Business Cards for BBA3 – Sarah related how she was approached by police while parked after dark while “owling.” She stated when she explained what she was doing they were very understanding but it reinforced in her that you should have documentation that formalizes your actions if you are stopped. The BBA3 eBird site has a sign you can print to put in window as well as a sheet for producing business cards that you will want to have with you when atlasing (day or night). She also felt a more extensive handout about the atlas project might be useful to hand out if approached. She had prepared a draft of such a handout that she shared with the board. It was suggested that it should include the email address that goes to the two Howard coordinators (Sue Muller & Dave Ziolkowski). Bob moved we approve having Sarah get copies of this handout printed after she adds the email address and has Sue review the content.

## **State Board Reports**

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): Mary Lou had forwarded a report from Robin Todd (MOS President) summarizing recent MOS activities. Robin has agreed to provide monthly reports to keep the chapters informed of what the state organization was doing (attached). Mary Lou added one other item from the most recent Board meeting that she felt we should be aware of. Last year the MOS Scholarship committee had only seven applicants for the Audubon Hog Island scholarships. They had funding for even more than seven so all applicants received the scholarship. One of the recipients was Erin Eve from our chapter. Given the limited applicants the committee has suggested we might want to consider other ways to use the scholarship funds that are targeted for applicants who work with kids. They are considering award of mini-grants to people working with kids that would expose children to birds, the natural world, and/or environmental science.

## **Old Business**

Nominating Committee Progress – Mary Maxey reported that Kristin Troutman has agreed to be nominated for Vice President and Allen Lewis has accepted nomination as a State Director. The only remaining position on the slate to be filled is Chapter Director 1<sup>st</sup> year.

Feedback on Name Tags – Mary M. reported that she had purchased name tags and they were used at the January meeting. The absence of sufficient tables precluded placing one in the hall to catch people as they entered but even with just going around and asking people to use one worked reasonably well. Mary took an action to speak to RNC staff and ask if we could have an additional table set up for our meetings.

Decal Status – Jo reported on her investigation into new decals for the club. At the last meeting the board expressed a preference for decals that go on the outside of window vice the type used previously. Jo reported that she had priced exterior vinyl decals with a 3 inch diameter printed in 4 colors. This is consistent with using the same design we have on current decals. She stated that 1000 decals would cost \$331. It was moved, seconded, and passed that she should order a 1000 decals.

Education Committee – Jo stated that the committee has met and is working on the next class, Beyond Birding Basics: Bird Sounds, Technology and Tips. The class will be held at The Howard County Conservancy (Mt. Pleasant) the morning of Saturday, April 18. Advance registration on the HCC website is required and is open now.

### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

Nov. 23 – Kurt drafted the action alert asking the County Council to support CB-62, The Forest Conservation bill, he had mentioned in his Conservation report at the November board meeting. The board voted by email to approve sending the alert to the club membership with a request they contact the Council individually. The alert was sent on Nov. 24 and the Council passed the bill on Dec.2.

Nov. 23 – Kurt forwarded a request for the club to sign on to a letter drafted by National Audubon to sign on to a letter to the Secretary of the Interior. The letter expressed opposition to an action taken by Secretary Bernhardt overturning a 25-year-long policy that protected undeveloped coastal areas in the Coastal Barrier Resources System from federally-funded sand mining operations. The board approved signing onto the letter in an email vote.

Jan. 15 – Kurt recommended the club support SB-500: Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition. Mary Lou approved signing on to a letter supporting the bill as the club officially took this position last year when a similar bill was being considered.

### **New Business**

GreenFest Tabling Event – Mary Lou is preparing the applications for GreenFest. She will request two tables, one for birding and one for butterflies. The butterfly table will need a new tri-fold poster board similar to the one we have already with the bird display. Mary Lou reported she had not located one. Kevin volunteered to research them and was authorized to purchase one using funds from the “Butterfly Fund.” Sue mentioned that the \$100 honorarium from Linda and Kevin’s talk had been designated for that fund.

Funding a Grant – Sue Muller stated she is asking the board to approve a grant for a stipend to support a summer intern in her office for this year. Bob requested that she prepare and submit a formal proposal so that the board can review it formally. She agreed to do that. *Sec. Note: Sue prepared the proposal (attached) and submitted it to Mary Lou the next day. Mary Lou distributed the proposal and asked the board to vote on approving the proposed stipend of \$1500. The motion received sufficient Yea votes by Saturday January 25 to pass.*

### Around the Room –

- Brian commented that he had explored whether the Board communications would benefit if we purchased “messaging software” to use in lieu of email. He concluded that at the current time it didn’t appear to be worth pursuing further.
- Sarah stated that she feels it would be worthwhile to remind “atlas” participants when new species reach their “safe dates.” She is volunteering to send out an email with this information. She will start with the “listers” email list, the board membership, and others she knows are block coordinators. She will add anyone who asks to be added to the list. Feel free to invite others to contact her about being added.
- Bob stated he had the BBA3 web page he has setup on our website available for inspection while we were having refreshments after the meeting adjourned.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Find 2<sup>nd</sup> Potluck Committee Co-Chair – Mary Lou
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Contact Russ Ruffing/John Harris about meeting with Chuck Sharp as next step in project – Mary Lou  
JOHN WILL WORK WITH MARY LOU
- Send Meg Boyd proposed update for HCC anniversary activity list – Mary Lou DONE
- Send Meg Boyd URL for field trip web page – Bob DONE
- Send out an email (text from Kurt) urging members to contact County Council in support of Forest Conservation Act – Mary Lou DONE
- Send out email(s) to Listers on current status of MPEA Trotter Road access and when she is informed it is officially re-opened – Jo DONE
- Purchase name-tags and coordinate/staff a welcome table at regular meetings – Mary M. DONE
- Research alternatives for club decals that would go on outside of car/etc. vice the internal style – Jo DONE

## New/Continuing Action Items

- Find 2<sup>nd</sup> Potluck Committee Co-Chair – Mary Lou
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Take next steps and meet with Chuck Sharp on project – Mary Lou & John Harris
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob
- Setup and track donations “ear marked” for butterflies in an informal “butterfly fund.” – Brian
- Inform Howard of the switch in board meeting locations for February and March – Kevin DONE
- Add county BBA3 coordinator email address to info card, have Sue review, then get printed – Sarah
- Add request for second table to Greenfest application forms – Mary Lou
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Submit summer intern stipend proposal – Sue Muller DONE
- Order new decals - Jo

## Board Meeting Schedule

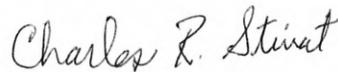
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- David Sandler	
March 26, 2020	- Kevin Heffernan	
April 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
May 28, 2020	- Brian Moyer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – January 23, 2020 (Amended)
- MOS Monthly Newsletter to the Chapter Presidents – January 7, 2020
- *Proposal to provide stipend for summer intern in Howard Rec & Parks – Sue Muller – January 24, 2020*

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Amended Agenda**

January 23, 2020

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
  
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - MOS Convention                          Mary Lou Clark
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  - BBA3                                          Sue Muller
    - Vehicle Sign/Business Card              Sarah Romero
  - State Board Reports                      Mary Lou Clark
  
7. Old Business
  - Nominating Committee Progress              Mary Maxey
  - Feedback on Name Tags                      Mary Maxey
  
9. New Business
  - Greenfest tabling event                      Mary Lou Clark
  - Funding a grant                              Sue Muller
  
10. Action Items                              Chuck
  
11. Around the room

Meeting Location  
Bob & Jo Solem  
10617 Graeloch Road  
Laurel MD 20725  
(301) 725-5037

## Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) Monthly Newsletter to the Chapter Presidents

January 7, 2020

One of the recommendations that emerged from the MOS Retreat on November 2<sup>nd</sup> was that the Society needed to be more communicative with the Chapters, in order to show how the State organization provides value for the chapters. I plan to send monthly newsletters to the Chapter presidents updating them on what MOS has been doing. So, bear with me, as I provide the first such communication.

### 1. Christmas Donations Appeal

MOS sent a letter to all members early last month requesting end of year donations. I am pleased to report that this yielded over \$4500 in donations via the mail and \$1220 from donations made online. I must thank Barbara Johnson for this letter. For a past president, who no longer even lives in the state, she certainly remains active.

### 2. Atlas (BBA3)

The Third Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas began at midnight on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Our atlas coordinator, Gabriel Foley, reports that the first confirmed breeding species was by Jim Stasz for a bald eagle, before sunrise on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Way to go Jim! As of January 6, 86 atlasers had submitted 403 checklists to the atlas portal. Pretty impressive. There is now an easy-to-use chart giving the safe dates for each species.

### 3. Convention Planning Underway

Convention Chair Meg Harris advises that registration will open on February 15<sup>th</sup> and close on April 30<sup>th</sup>. You can sign up for field trips from April 1<sup>st</sup>. Rooms at the Cumberland Ramada will be available at the favorable group rate of \$109 per night until April 17<sup>th</sup>. Dave Wilson, of Conservation Community Consulting LLC, and his team are organizing field trips. Seminars are being arranged and the key note speaker will be Ian Davies of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology – expert on all things eBird. A celebration of MOS' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is being planned. Meg notes that we still need more volunteers, so please ask your members if any want to help out.

### 4. Irish Grove Expands

It is now official: in late November Beverly DuBose III donated 670 acres of marsh to MOS. This very generous donation adds to the Irish Grove sanctuary on both sides of Rumbly Point Road all the way down to the point. A small area, around the cabin at the end of this road, is not part of the donation. Certain family members of the owner of neighboring marsh will be allowed to hunt waterfowl over these 670 acres for the next ten years (we plan to exclude rails from any list of target species). This addition will help us ensure that this area is maintained for the benefit of birds and other wildlife.

### 5. New Sanctuary Chair Needed

Speaking of sanctuaries, many of you will have heard that Dominic Nucifora will be stepping down from being the Sanctuary Chair. Dominic has done a sterling job of maintaining our sanctuaries, including regular work weekends at Carey Run and Irish Grove. He will be greatly missed. So now I need to ask each of you to look for candidates in your chapters to become our new Sanctuary chair. Please send any suggestions to Dominic ([d.nucifora@yahoo.com](mailto:d.nucifora@yahoo.com)) and Marcia Watson ([marshwren50@comcast.net](mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net)).

Please circulate this newsletter to your members. If there are any questions, do let me know.

I hope you all get in some good birding and look forward to seeing you at our March 7, 2020, board meeting, which is being hosted by the Talbot County Chapter.

Best regards,



Robin G. Todd  
President MOS



# Howard County

## RECREATION & PARKS

7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, Maryland 21046

John S. Marshall  
Bureau Chief of Parks  
jsmarshall@howardcountymd.gov

Phone: 410-313-4640 Fax: 410-313-1699  
www.howardcountymd.gov/rap Voice/Relay: 410-313-7275

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January 24, 2020

Howard County Bird Club Board Members,

I am writing to Board members seeking support to provide a stipend for a summer intern in the Natural Resources Office of the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks. This intern will work under Sue Muller and help in a capacity of ways described in the following list:

- Enter BBA3 data sheets into eBird for individuals who do not use eBird.
- Conduct breeding bird survey at Daisy Meadow and along the roads of the Woodbine CW block.
- Perform invasive plant removal at two pollinator meadows in Centennial Park.
- Conduct moth surveys in two pollinator meadows at Centennial Park, photograph all species and submit them to the Maryland Biodiversity Project. New species documented for the park will be added to the existing spreadsheet for Centennial Park.
- Conduct butterfly surveys in two pollinator meadows at Centennial Park, photograph all species and submit them to the Maryland Biodiversity Project. New species documented for the park will be added to the existing spreadsheet for Centennial Park. Species list will be provided to Linda Hunt and Kevin Heffernan as well.
- Provide a summary of the internship for Howard County Bird Club Board members.

I am requesting a stipend amount of \$1500 for the internship. The prospective intern is a junior at UMBC majoring in Environmental Studies and already an all around naturalist.

Sue Muller, Co-coordinator BBA3



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, February 27, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.)  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce √  
Past President: John Harris √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem  
Webmaster: Bob Solem  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: *Sue Muller*  
**Others:** Karen Heffernan √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held in home of David Sandler. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 23 was 72 people. Bonnie Ott gave a program entitled “Birds and Other Natural Wonders of Mature Woodlands and Rivers of Howard County.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): There were no suggested changes to the minutes. They were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian reported that we had some significant outlays that have decreased the checking balance to \$10,046. Our expenditures have already exceeded our budgeted amounts for the 2019-2020 year. Specifically printing costs (\$1200) are already approximately three times the budgeted amount. Primarily because of costs of printing butterfly materials and the BBA3 information cards that were not in budget. Mary Lou stated that she had informed YMOS bird-a-thon that we were pledging \$250. Brian stated he thought the budgeted amount was \$200. She stated the approved budget had \$250 and she would provide Brian with an updated copy of approved budget. Kevin asked about the butterfly “fund” and Brian stated he had initiated it with recent donations designated to butterflies. Kevin requested Brian go back and attempt to determine the amount from prior donations and club actions. Kevin offered to provide information on gifts he and Linda Hunt had made in past. Lastly Brian mentioned that the T Rowe Price Government Money Market Fund earned a \$48 dividend in January.

**President’s Remarks** (Clark): None.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Maxey): None.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report. John mentioned that he had volunteered to lead the first Centennial walk on March 1 if the Peters were still under the weather with the flu.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo was unable to attend but sent the board a report. Before the meeting she and Mary Lou worked on the following synopsis of that report with a few additional points included.

“The rufous hummingbird has been seen by at least 59 people since it was first seen on November 3. The painted bunting which was at Mary Lou’s home from Jan 24-25 is most likely the same one which has just started coming to a feeder about half a mile from her house on February 20th. That owner doesn’t seem to want her name mentioned and is still thinking about having the bird banded. The white-eyed vireo seen from Feb 1st-4th at Howard Chapel Road was a February Maryland State record. The February American Woodcock at Hipsley Mill and MPEA were at expected sites; those at Race Road Wetlands beginning Feb 8 were only the second record (first 2009). There were three Baltimore orioles seen in the county, two males and a female. The most reliable one is at Jeff Culler’s home. Wes Earp had 23 Cackling Geese at Scott’s Pond, S. Trotter Rd on Feb. 16. A large flock of Eastern meadowlarks has been seen near West Friendship Park in both January and February. The mid-winter count produced long-tailed ducks. The Lincoln’s sparrow is still at Alpha Ridge Park, and Wes had a large number of cackling geese at Scott’s pond, and the new bald eagle’s nest at the Old Frederick Road pull-off still has eagles near-by.” Sarah and Mary Lou reported they have christened the male eagle on Old Frederick Road as “Old Fred.”

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was unable to attend but sent the following report. “Balloon Bill has passed Senate. Chlorpyrifos Ban has passed Senate Committee and is before full Senate. Sustainable Buildings is still in Committee.

There will be a bill for Howard County Council that makes bird safe mandatory for LEED certification in the building code. I don’t have any details yet, but this is a Safe Skies effort and we should get behind it. I will take the lead on letters, testifying, etc. as I am able.”

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard sent the following message. “Input for the May/June issue of The Goldfinch is due March 25. Have a good meeting!”

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob was unable to attend but sent the following report. “On Monday, March 2, I will be sending a NEWSGRAM to all current members asking them to verify by March 15 their identifying information for the next directory. It’s time to prepare another directory for the 2019-2020 members.”

Following the meeting Bob sent the attached Membership Summary as of February 29. (March 1 is the cutoff for membership totals for the 2019-2020 membership year.) The final number of voting members is 239. It also presents statistics on what methods were used to join/renew and assessing the shift to registration on the MOS website this being the first year that has been fully implemented.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Kathie was not present but sent message. “Plans for Annual Potluck: 35 people have signed up as of the last bird club meeting. (Last year 35-40 people attended.) We could use more main dishes. Linda Hunt agreed to take over as chairperson for next year’s potluck, and Sherri Tomlinson is willing to assist as a co-chair!”

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin first summarized the activities related to the Howard County “Bee City” pollinator initiative. He is on the coordinating committee. A “Bee City” open meeting is planned for March 9 to inform the public of activities. The Bee City GreenFest display will focus on garden plot designs for pollinators. A Howard County “Official pollinator plant” has been named and will be revealed by the County Executive at an upcoming event. There is an attempt by the committee to reach out to garden clubs. Kevin recently made a presentation to a garden club. The spreadsheet he has developed to assist with landscaping for pollinators continues to expand. He will have the next version ready to post on the club website prior to GreenFest.

There have only been a couple of butterfly sightings so far but as the temperature rises activity will heat up. Kevin was asked if there was a list of great places to find butterflies on the website (similar to the bird Site Guides). He said no but that he thought it would be a worthwhile idea to pursue.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that the atlas is underway even though only a few species are in safe dates. A number of confirmations have been recorded with a couple of owls and eagles building or on nests. She has been sending out periodic emails to block coordinators, but a few haven't been received. She will try and determine why not. She will investigate adding active atlas participants that are not formally block coordinators to her emails. When asked for contact information for block coordinators she said she had sent it already but most didn't remember receiving it. She agreed to resend it as many would like to notify the block coordinator if they find something good in other than their own block.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): There has been no meeting since last Board meeting. Next meeting is March 7 in Easton.

## Old Business

Nominating Committee Progress – Mary Maxey reported that the committee has volunteers for two of the three positions requiring new people: Kristen Trouton (Vice President), Allen Lewis (State Director), TBD (Chapter Director 1<sup>st</sup> year). They have one good lead on the Chapter Director position. Kevin agreed to follow up with this lead. Mary M. won't be present at the March meeting to announce the slate, so David Sandler agreed to do it.

GreenFest Tabling Event – Mary Lou reported she has reserved two tables for GreenFest on April 4. The cost of two tables without electricity is \$50. We will have electricity available due to a creative arrangement reached with Sue Muller who has electricity at her BBA3 table. Sue also is going to try using the batteries (purchased by the club) she uses to power lamps for her moth surveys. Mary Lou asked for volunteers to join her in manning the booths. The festival is one hour shorter this year running from 10 AM to 3 PM. Lastly Kevin had looked into purchasing a poster tri-fold for the butterfly display at events but was surprised how expensive they were (~\$140). He was assured that wasn't unexpected. It was moved, seconded and approved that he should select and purchase one as long as the cost wasn't dramatically more than this preliminary estimate.

Sue asked the board for funding to have a banner made that promotes the BBA3 for her use at events such as GreenFest. She has had it designed by Howard Rec and Parks staff and has an estimate of \$170 to have it made. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we would pay for having the banner made with the understanding the banner would be the property of the HCBC not the county. Sue will retain the banner in her role as the Howard Atlas Coordinator. Sue agreed to supply Brian with the information on who to make the check payable to.

Shorebird Habitat Project - Having volunteered to help Mary Lou with assessing where we were on this project and formulating a plan for going forward John Harris sent the board an email summarizing his findings. He recommended finding a volunteer to serve as a primary program manager who would have overall responsibility on this major project. Ideally that person should have experience in environmental/civil engineering and project/budget management. Brian volunteered that his experience might be applicable as he has many contacts with Maryland government agencies dealing with environmental issues due to his job with the Army. Chuck commented that he thought the attempts to contact Gwen Brewer was simply she was the only DNR person that some on the board knew and it was hoped she could identify DNR contacts. Chuck also stated that he felt Wes wanted someone else from the club to take the lead in dealing with Chuck Sharp. John agreed to send Brian what information he had on the project.

Miscellaneous – Mary Lou passed around the Howard County Conservancy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary brochure that contains the quote on the value of HCC, attributed to Mary Lou as club president, but worked on by multiple board members. She also passed around copied of the BBA3 information card to be used by atlas participants to share what the atlas is all about. It can be used if approached while atlasing or seeking access or support from others not familiar with the atlas. Sarah developed the card and David got the cards printed (\$224 for 1000 cards).

### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

Jan. 24-25 – Sue had submitted a proposal (attached to January minutes) to fund an intern in her office. He would work on BBA3 and other similar projects. She requested the club fund a stipend of \$1500. The motion passed after the board voted by email. She has extended the offer to Emilio but he has not yet accepted but Sue is optimistic that he will. Someone mentioned that audio recorders are being set up at MPEA with an attempt to see if species can be identified from songs recorded randomly. The comment was triggered because they thought this might be one task an intern could help with.

### **New Business**

Setting up two new hotspots – Sarah reported success in her requests to have two new eBird hotspots added in the county. One is the “Old Frederick Road pull-off (Howard Co.)” which is on the south side of Old Frederick Road 0.4 miles west of MD 32. It has views of the ponds on Rhine farm, open fields, occasional mud flats, and a distant woodlot where the Bald Eagle nest is being built. The second one is “Patuxent Branch Trail, Elkhorn” which is the northern section of the old “Patuxent Branch Trail” hotspot which now should be used for the southern stretch of the trail. The dividing line is where the trail crosses the power line right of way south of MD 32. Although it was not the only reason for the proposal being accepted the division is where one crosses an atlas block boundary (Savage – CW to Savage – SW).

Meeting with Pamela Reese – Mary Lou and Mary met with Pamela, the community liaison coordinator for Robinson Nature Center, to review updating the Memo of Understanding the club has with RNC. The changes being made were trivial. RNC staff will send them the updated MOU and it will be presented to the board at the meeting after it is received.

### Around the Room -

David asked if we ever had developed HCBC “swag” such as T-shirts. We did have T-shirts for the club’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Brian commented that in setting up the treasurer’s files he included line items for selling “swag” but he has learned we tend to give it away, namely the new decals. There was some interest in exploring this further.

Sue mentioned that the county Safe Skies building act was gaining momentum with three of the county board seeming to support it. She wanted to testify in the bill hearings but has been told she can’t because of her job conflict of interest.

John Harris reminded the board that if they ever thought they would become a “day” tick lister you should get out on Saturday as February 29 only comes every four years. The BBA3 is sponsoring a “Leap into MDDCBBA3” event with an evening tally to raise funds for the atlas.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Find 2<sup>nd</sup> Potluck Committee Co-Chair – Mary Lou DONE
- Find Program Committee Chair – Mary Lou volunteered to be Program Chair next year.
- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Take next steps and meet with Chuck Sharp on project – Mary Lou & John Harris
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob
- Setup and track donations “ear marked” for butterflies in an informal “butterfly fund.” – Brian
- Inform Howard of the switch in board meeting locations for February and March – Kevin DONE
- Add county BBA3 coordinator email address to info card, have Sue review, then get printed – Sarah DONE
- Add request for second table to GreenFest application forms – Mary Lou DONE
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Submit summer intern stipend proposal – Sue Muller DONE - Offer extended to Emilio but hasn’t yet accepted.
- Order new decals – Jo DONE

### **New/Continuing Action Items**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Take next steps and meet with Chuck Sharp on project – Mary Lou & John Harris
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob
- Provide Brian with information on past donations designated for “butterflies” - Kevin
- Setup and track donations “ear marked” for butterflies in an informal “butterfly fund.” – Brian
- Resend contact information for Howard Block Coordinators to the coordinators - Sue
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Supply Brian with info on paying for the BBA3 banner – Sue
- Send Brian information on Shorebird Project – John H.

### **Board Meeting Schedule**

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

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- David Sandler	
March 26, 2020	- Kevin Heffernan	
April 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
May 28, 2020	- Brian Moyer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – February 27, 2020
- Membership Summary as of March 1, 2020

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

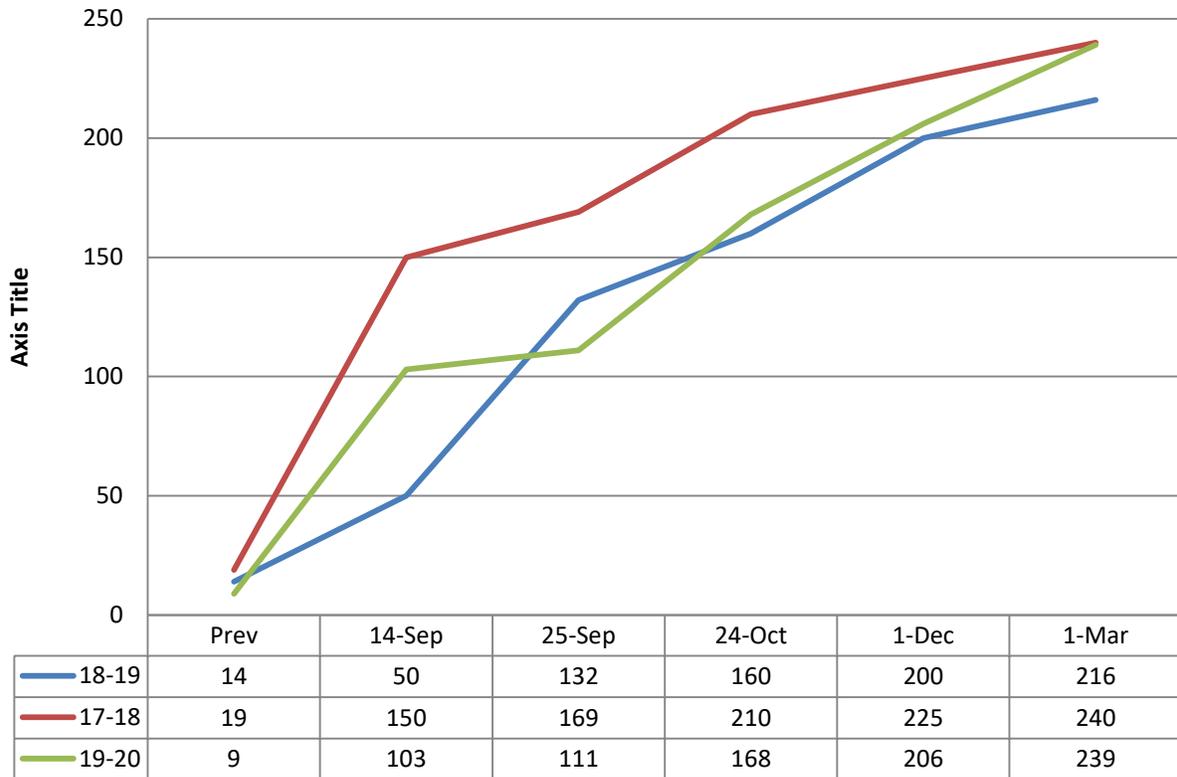
**Agenda**

February 27, 2020

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                        Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  - BBA3                                            Sue Muller
7. Old Business
  - Nominating Committee Progress              Mary Maxey
  - GreenFest Tabling Event                      Mary Lou Clark
9. New Business
  - Setting up two new hotspots                      Sarah Romero
  - Meeting with Pamela Reese                      Mary Lou Clark
10. Action Items                                  Chuck
11. Around the room

Meeting Location  
David and Karen Sandler  
6587 Madrigal Terrace  
Columbia, MD 21045  
(410)370-0747

## Howard County Bird Club Number of Votes



Full transition in 2019-20 to using MOS as the primary method of joining/renewing did not have a noticeable impact on number of votes.

### Payment Method 2019-2020

Via MOS	By check	By credit card	By PayPal
53%	30%	11%	6%
2018-19: 5%	2018-19: 40%	Through HCBC PayPal portal	

Instead of most members using the HCBC electronic form (55% in 18-19), in 19-20, most used the MOS website. There was also a drop in the members paying by check.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, March 26, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce  
Past President: John Harris √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller

**Others:**

**General Notes**

This was the first board meeting since the outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19) epidemic. The meeting was held as a virtual phone conference using Google Hangouts. Total number in attendance over the phone was 14. The regular club meeting scheduled for March 12 was canceled consistent with government guidance to limit gatherings of more than 10 people.

The teleconference worked reasonably well except that Kevin and Kurt could not be heard when they first logged in. During the meeting we learned that after an initial number has joined subsequent dial-ins are automatically muted. They must enter \*6 to unmute and let the group know they have joined. We found that the process worked best if all but the moderator (Mary Lou) muted their phones when they weren't speaking.

**Officer's Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):** Chuck reminded the Board that Jo had sent an email providing a rewrite of the Records section of the minutes that had been distributed by Chuck. In addition minor corrections to the wording of the opening sentences of the discussion of the Shorebird Habitat project inserted a missing reference that it was John Harris making the report and clarified John's primary recommendation to appoint a project manager with primary responsibility for the project. The minutes with these changes were approved and Bob agreed to post the minutes on the website. *Sec. Note: Posted as of April 6.*

**Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Moyer):** Brian had sent a treasurer's report to the board in advance of the meeting. The total balance as of Feb. 26 is \$53,399 (PNC Checking \$10,272, TRP Treasury Money Market [Feb 31] \$43,127). Income in past month included club share of dues for 2 households and 4 individuals and a habitat donation of \$50. Expenses included Post Office Box annual rental, website hosting fees, BBA3 promotional banner approved at last board meeting, February meeting speaker honorarium, and miscellaneous supplies (mailers). Chuck commented that to provide Mary Lou with information she could share with MOS (Robin Todd) on what we had done so far with the Chestem bequest he had determined the remaining balance of the bequest. The remaining balance of the original total bequest of \$36,421 is \$27,986. He also reported that the remaining balance in the Marjorie Mountjoy fund is \$5,540.

**President's Remarks (Clark):** Mary Lou commented that she wanted to thank all those who have participated in the many board actions that have felt like a roller coaster ride over the past month as we confront the Corona Virus pandemic.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Maxey): No comments.

## **Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe was not participating but since we have cancelled all field trips through May there was nothing to discuss.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo provided the following report to the board by email in advance of the meeting: "The spread of Covid-19 has changed our lives. For birders, it has forced adjustments as to how we bird, where, and with how many. Despite those changes, it has been a memorable—even historically important—four weeks for Howard County birding. Each of the following four items individually would be significant; together they are quite astonishing.

1. Winter's male Rufous Hummingbird and female Painted Bunting continued at their respective sites to date.
2. Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Common Ravens all have active nests on cell towers in the county. This is the first time these species have been known to use such towers concurrently. (All three towers are located in the eastern third of the county.)
3. The White-eyed Vireo, found on 2/1/20 (HCMC) at Howard Chapel/Patuxent River, was last reported 3/8/20 (across the river from the original location in Montgomery Co.). This established the first record in Maryland of a wintering White-eyed Vireo. (There were no reports subsequent to the few previous January records; thus, it was not possible to be sure that any of the individuals survived what is usually the most severe part of the winter.)
4. Normally, Lincoln's Sparrows are a rare wintering species in the Piedmont. During the unusually mild 2019-20 winter, at least two (possibly three or four) Lincoln's wintered in the county. The Alpha Ridge Park bird was documented consistently and was still present in early March. At Mt. Pleasant, a bird was reported in early January and again in mid-March. A third bird was photographed at Font Hill Wetland Park on 3/14. Since the park has a substantial soggy, vegetated area where a secretive sparrow could reside, and this date is more than two weeks earlier than the all-time early date for this county and more than a month prior to normal migration, it is likely that this bird overwintered. One at Sewell's Orchard on 3/22, likewise, could represent a wintering bird rather than an early migrant.

Otherwise, waterfowl migration was in full swing during the first week of March with Snow Geese, Canada Geese, and Tundra Swans moving north, as usual. Other waterfowl moved all month also. A Barn Owl, heard at Sewell's Orchard 3/24, was likely a migrant (it would be nice if it weren't). The two Red-headed Woodpeckers (one adult) along the Patuxent Branch Trail continued. A single Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported 3/4 during a winter with few boreal species. March brought the usual surge of Rusty Blackbird sightings, but no large flocks were reported. You know spring has arrived when swallows and multiple warbler species are being reported.

Lastly, after 2½ years, repairs to Brighton Dam were completed. Triadelphia Reservoir opened on March 15 and birders promptly began finding long-anticipated species. Nine days were productive, but proved to be ephemeral. As of March 23, the watershed closed again, thanks to Covid-19."

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt offered a short recap of the MD legislative session bills of interest to us. The Chlorpyrifos bill passed but contains a 4 year sunset clause. Kurt hopes the sunset clause will be overturned in future sessions. The Balloon Bill did pass both chambers but in the crush to crank out priority bills before the abrupt closure of the legislative session, it was apparently not deemed a priority and the two bills were not reconciled. . The sustainable buildings bill did not pass. Currently a special May session is planned but whether any of these bills will be addressed is unknown.

Someone asked Kurt the status of the Rufous Hummingbird as Kurt had put out an email announcing that a hotspot had been added to eBird and people could enter their past sightings and the location was closed for future visitations. He stated that Hank Stanton had reported the bird was still present. The closure reflects the Covid-19 restrictions.

He also pointed out that the hotspot on eBird was intentionally obfuscated as to the precise location. It was stated the club will recognize Hank and Jennifer for their allowing visitations at a future meeting once they resume. Several people commended Kurt and Mary Lou for the excellent job they did as co-coordinators as POC and gatekeepers for this rare bird visitation.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): The deadline for the next newsletter was the day before this meeting.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has removed all club events through May from the website.

**Potluck** (Lillie): Kathie was not present but had sent the following email:

“I will not be participating in the Thursday meeting. This March 2020 was to be my last as potluck chairperson. Unfortunately, the potluck didn’t happen. Linda Hunt and Sherri Tomlinson have agreed to take over as chairperson and assistant, respectively. When things settle down I hope to transfer the potluck supplies (about 8 bins or so) to them. I also have concocted a “how to do the potluck” handbook to give them. I thank all of you for your help, support, and moral support (over the last 9? years) in making the potluck happen with me. Thanks.” Multiple board members responded to Kathie with expressions of thanks and appreciation for her many years of service as Potluck chair.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that butterflies are starting to appear. All butterfly trips are cancelled until June. Woody has been working on the butterfly garden at Mt. Pleasant. Kevin has an update to the spreadsheet he developed for planting a pollinator garden that he will be having added to the website. He reported that once GreenFest was canceled he had stopped pursuing purchase of a display board for the butterfly displays at events. Since the board will be needed for future events once we get through the current crisis he was urged to continue and go ahead and order one.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reviewed preliminary atlas results in the county. She pointed out that since we have accepted coordination of a number of blocks on the county perimeter that technically are shown in the statistics of other counties. We are coordinating 35 blocks whereas only 24 blocks appear in the statistics for Howard on the BBA3 website. As of the meeting date 23 species had been confirmed in the county (24 blocks) and 561 hours of effort had been reported.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): No meeting since last board meeting.

## Old Business

Nominating Committee Progress / HCBC Elections – Mary M. reported that the slate was the same as reported at the previous board meeting. Namely: **President:** Mary Maxey, **Vice President:** Kristin Trouton, **Secretary:** Chuck Stirrat, **Treasurer:** Brian Moyer, **State Directors:** Clayton Koonce, Allen Lewis, David Sandler, **Chapter Director:** Sharon Smith. (Kelsey Wellons will be serving her second year as Chapter Director.) Mary Lou thanked the members of the nominating committee (Mary Maxey (Chair), Kevin Heffernan, David Sandler) for their efforts.

When the board voted to cancel the club regular meetings for March and April they made it necessary to establish alternatives to the regular election process. The requirement to announce the slate of officers, nominally at the March meeting, was accomplished by including the slate in the NewsGram first announcing the April meeting cancellation. This was sent to the membership on March 12 (the nominal date of the March meeting). The NewsGram signed by Mary Lou as club president alerted the membership that in lieu of the April meeting election they would receive an email with instructions on how to vote. At this meeting Bob proposed he would send out the instructions on how to vote about April 1 and require ballots be returned by April 9. (See attached NewsGram). The board approved conducting the election in this manner.

Shorebird Habitat Project – John had prepared the attached summary of the status of this project. He reported that Wes Earp and he had met with Chuck Sharp of Sharp’s at Waterford Farm (SAWF) on March 5. At that time Chuck had expressed eagerness to proceed with this project. Wes has completed a formal design and it has been submitted to the Maryland Environmental Service. Their approval is required to move forward with a decision possible as

mid-April. John indicated that we are responsible for drafting a Memo of Understanding. John agreed to work with Wes to produce a draft to be provided to the Board for review prior to sharing it with Chuck Sharp. John agreed he would share the attached status report with Chuck Sharp.

#### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

Mar 10 – In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the board voted by email to cancel the annual potluck on March 28 and the regular club meeting scheduled for March 12.

Mar 12 – In response to MOS guidance and the expanding pandemic the board voted to cancel the remaining regular club meetings (April & May) for this meeting year. We also agreed to find a manner (teleconference) to hold remaining board meetings without a face to face gathering.

Mar 14 – In recognition that our field trips are social events with no means to maintain social distancing the board voted to cancel formal birding field trips scheduled by the club for the remainder of the spring season are canceled. Discussion at that time chose not to take action on the May Count until the status of virus spread was better understood.

Mar 17 – Robin Todd announced that the MOS Conference was being postponed until May 2021 at the same venue.

Mar 18 – The board approved a motion to have the club sign on to an organizational letter prepared by the Bird Conservation Alliance. The letter expressed opposition to a new regulation proposed by the Department of the Interior significantly weakening the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Mar 21 – Board approved a motion for the club to cancel our club’s sponsoring this year’s May Count. MOS has chosen to wait and see on this issue as of the date of this board meeting.

#### **New Business**

Setting up a nominating committee – Mary Lou shared the idea that it would be a good idea to include Past Presidents on nominating committees. Mary Maxey stated she would consider that when selecting committee next year.

#### Around the Room -

- Kevin provided Brian with the estimate that over the past two years he and Linda Hunt had donated \$440 to the “Butterfly Fund.”
- Sarah asked the board if we wanted to take any formal action on the issue of dogs off leash that had been the subject of a series of emails following a confrontation Sarah and Mary Lou had with a dog owner letting his dog run loose and “approach” them in a threatening manner. Authorities had been quite responsive to Sarah’s emails reporting the incident agreeing that if possible they would intervene but usually weren’t present. Sue suggested that in such situations occurring in Howard Rec & Park locations a call to the Park Ranger phone number would be appropriate. We agreed individual response rather than a formal response from the bird club was appropriate. We did agree the Park Ranger phone number would appear in a future NewsGram. Sarah agreed to draft a short note for inclusion.
- David mentioned that the on-line response to our decision to cancel May Count was met with a mixed response including a number that felt we were being too conservative. Mary Lou expressed her opinion that she was still very comfortable with the position the board adopted.
- Someone asked where the cell towers that were reported having Osprey and Raven nests were located. The Osprey nest is on a cell tower near Wincopin Farm Way with the best viewing locatin the south bound rest stop on I-95. The Raven nest is on the cell tower near the junction of MD 108 and US 29 best viewed from the parking lot of the Leelyn’s Dining Room and Lounge.
- Jo reported that the survey of the Great Blue Heron herony north of Lake Kittamaqundi found 20 active nests.

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Take next steps and meet with Chuck Sharp on project – Mary Lou & John Harris DONE
- Discuss ideas for increasing count participation – Kevin, Chuck, Joe Hanfman, Mike McClure, Bob OBE
- Provide Brian with information on past donations designated for “butterflies” - Kevin
- Setup and track donations “ear marked” for butterflies in an informal “butterfly fund.” – Brian
- Resend contact information for Howard Block Coordinators to the coordinators - Sue
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Supply Brian with info on paying for the BBA3 banner – Sue DONE
- Send Brian information on Shorebird Project – John H. DONE

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Setup and track donations “ear marked” for butterflies in an informal “butterfly fund.” – Brian
- Resend contact information for Howard Block Coordinators to the coordinators – Mary Lou
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Send copy of Shorebird Habitat status report to Chuck Sharp – John H.
- Draft MOU between HCBC and SAWF for Shorebird Habitat Project – John H.

**Board Meeting Schedule**

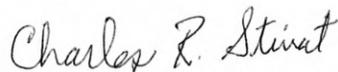
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- David Sandler	
March 26, 2020	- Kevin Heffernan	HELD VIRTUAL PHONE CONFERENCE
April 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
May 28, 2020	- Brian Moyer	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – March 26, 2020
- NewsGram – March 31, 2020 – Howard County Bird Club ELECTION
- Shorebird Habitat Project status report – March 20, 2024 – John Harris

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Agenda**

March 26, 2020

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz.
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Potluck                                      Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  - BBA3                                          Sue Muller
7. Old Business
  - Nominating Committee Progress              Mary Maxey
  - Shorebird/Habitat Project                      John Harris
9. New Business
  - HCBC Elections                                  Bob
  - Setting up a nominating committee              Mary Lou
10. Action Items                                  Chuck
11. Around the room

Meeting was held as a conference call.

# Howard County Bird Club ELECTION

Howard County Bird Club Board

<howardsbirds@howardsbirds.org>

Tue, Mar 31, 2020 at 6:59

AM

Reply-To: Howard County Bird Club Board <howardsbirds@howardsbirds.org>

To: stirrcr1@gmail.com

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

### **NEWSGRAM**

#### **HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB ELECTION BY EMAIL**

Because the April meeting has been cancelled, election of officers will be by email.

Forward this email to Chuck Stirrat, [stirrat1@gmail.com](mailto:stirrat1@gmail.com) to record your vote for the slate of officers below. As HCBC Secretary, Chuck will tally the votes.

**President:** Mary Maxey

**Vice President:** Kristin Trouton

**Secretary:** Chuck Stirrat

**Treasurer:** Brian Moyer

**State Directors:** Clayton Koonce, Allen Lewis, David Sandler

**Chapter Director:** Sharon Smith

(Kelsey Wellons will be serving her second year as Chapter Director.)

All ballots from current Howard County Bird Club members received by email through Thursday, April 9, 2020, will be counted.

Howard County Bird Club Nominating Committee: Mary Maxey (Chair), Kevin Heffernan, David Sandler.



**Our mailing address is:**

Howard County Bird Club

P.O. Box 1323

Columbia, Md 21044

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Howard County Bird Club · P.O. Box 1323 · Columbia, Md 21044 · USA



Fellow Board Members - Wes Earp, Chuck Sharp and John Harris met at Sharp's at Waterford Farm (SAWF) on Thursday, March 5, 2020. During this meeting we reviewed the shorebird-habitat design (see attachment) and Wes answered questions about the design and operation of the shorebird-habitat area. We met at the site of the proposed habitat.

- The meeting did not result in changes to the design proposed by Wes. So, the design is ready to be implemented.
- Chuck and Wes are responsible for the engineering design and any changes which may be needed.
- The design was provided to the Maryland Environmental Service (MES) for review and approval. Wes believes that a decision by MES could be made by mid-April 2020. **Approval is required to move forward.**
- Chuck stated that he will most likely implement the shorebird-habitat plan regardless of participation of Howard County Bird Club (HCBC). This project has the potential to enhance the farm's paid-hunting business by providing a food/rest place for waterfowl. Subsequent to the meeting, Wes remarked that SAWF anticipates receiving funds from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). More on EQIP below, under Funding Requirements. If EQIP does not fund this project, SAWF may be willing to work on a cost-sharing arrangement with HCBC.
- Chuck, with support from Wes, will handle meeting with contractors and getting bids, awarding the contract and they will manage the construction phase. A contractor that has done similar work for SAWF visited the site and was briefed on the design on 3/4/2020.
- HCBC is responsible for developing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which defines the relationship between HCBC and Sharp's Waterford Farm. John Harris will create a draft document and work with the HCBC president and Board to develop an approval plan. This is an initial list of the topics which this document will include:
  - Principal points-of-contact for all parties.
  - Operations and maintenance of the shorebird-habitat: schedule for managing water levels, mowing, etc.
  - Concept and rules for managing access by visiting birders.
  - Parking rules, approved paths/areas (perhaps a map showing where visitors may and may not go).
  - Concept for monitoring the site and recording wildlife activity. HCBC should consider forming a team which would regularly check the site during defined periods and create eBird reports. An annual summary report could then be created for SAWF and other interested parties.
  - Initial construction
    - Entity for managing construction phase.
    - Entities responsible for paying initial construction costs.
  - Periodic maintenance
    - Entities responsible for performing periodic maintenance.
    - Entities responsible for paying periodic maintenance costs.
  - Time-frame or term covered by document (5-years, 10-years?).
  - Guidelines for handling requests by press and other media to report on this effort.

- Conditions which may require the shorebird-habitat to be closed during spring/fall shorebird migration periods. Possible examples: infestation by unwanted plant-life, unforeseen environmental or engineering issues.
- Crops - identify what crops may be grown in the habitat area and what time of year.
- Procedure for changing the MOU.
- Wes requested that HCBC provide a person to be the primary point-of-contact between HCBC and SAWF for the operations and maintenance phase of this project. John Harris, at the request of the President, HCBC, agreed to serve in this role, for the time being. Chuck and John exchanged contact information.
- Funding Requirements
  - Initial construction
    - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - this is a United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) program which can pay to help manage wetlands and shallow-water habitats. Wes believes that EQIP could provide about \$12,000 for this project. However, there may be EQIP requirements which run counter to the goals of this project. Wes and SAWF will continue to explore this possibility.
    - The total cost estimate provided earlier by Wes, is for a total of \$17,531. SAWF believes that EQIP could pay a significant part of the initial construction costs. If this turns out not to be the case, HCBC should explore a cost sharing arrangement with SAWF.
  - Maintenance - regular activities
    - Potential activities include: mowing, disc-ing (farm equipment turns-over soil to mitigate unwanted plant-life), 3-year soil-testing, clearing debris from the open-ditch, required inspections.
      - HCBC should work with SAWF and Wes to estimate maintenance costs and what portion of those costs HCBC may need to budget for.

--  
John Harris



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, April 23, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler  
Clayton Koonce  
Past President: John Harris √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: *Sue Muller*  
**Others:** Wes Earp √

**General Notes**

This was the second board meeting since the outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19) epidemic. The meeting was held as a virtual video conference using Hangout Meets (licensed by MOS). Total number in attendance over the computer or phone was 14. The regular club meeting scheduled for April 9 was canceled consistent with the government stay at home order.

The annual election of officers was conducted by an email ballot as described in the March minutes between March 31 and April 9. The number of votes received exceeded the quorum limits specified in the club by-laws. The following slate of officers was elected unanimously. **President:** Mary Maxey, **Vice President:** Kristin Trouton, **Secretary:** Chuck Stirrat, **Treasurer:** Brian Moyer, **State Directors:** Clayton Koonce, Allen Lewis, David Sandler, **Chapter Director:** Sharon Smith. (Kelsey Wellons will be serving her second year as Chapter Director.) The Secretary will provide the MOS Secretary with the results of the election.

**Officer's Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were approved with the minor corrections proposed by Kurt in the email he shared with the board after they were distributed.

**Treasurer's Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian reported that it had been a very quiet month with only two transactions. He received one membership renewal and paid a bill to the printer for printing the newsletter. He also confirmed that he has reset the balance in the "Butterfly/Polinator Fund" to the \$440 total of donations with that designation that Kevin reported at the prior meeting.

**President's Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou commented that she was enjoying the on-line virtual meeting process.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Maxey): Mary had no remarks.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo sent the following report for March 26 – April 21 in advance of the meeting: “A new county species is always important bird news. On 4/14/20 at 8:45 p.m., Bryan Sirotkin found a dead Clapper Rail at the edge of the Whole Foods parking lot on the south side of Lake Kittamaqundi. He photographed it, collected the specimen, and delivered it to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Many new county species are anticipated for various reasons. This one most definitely was not. Clappers are birds of salt and brackish marshes and are seldom found west of the Bay. Mid-Atlantic birds winter mostly along the southeastern U.S. coast. Howard County’s was not the only errant member of this species moving north during that period as several others were reported in Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. This was, however, the only bird noted in the Piedmont.

Other headline species during the last month were the following: two Trumpeter Swans at Lake Elkhorn 4/6 (probably the same two earlier reported from Wilde Lake); the male Rufous Hummingbird south of Ellicott City continued from November--last seen April 5; a Forster’s Tern was photographed at Fulton Pond 4/18 (this species is not seen every year in the county and was missed in 2019); and the female Painted Bunting was last noted on 4/14.

Additional uncommon species reported included Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Red-breasted Merganser, numerous reports of Bonaparte’s Gulls and Caspian Terns, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Broad-winged Hawk (almost daily reports during much of April), Red-headed Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, American Pipit, Vesper Sparrow (three locations), Lincoln’s Sparrow, male Baltimore Oriole continuing from January daily at Thornbrook Dr with one male at Diversified Lane (once), and more than a dozen Rusty Blackbird reports (two flocks of at least 20).”

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt reported there were no current active initiatives for Howard County. He stated that the earlier consideration of having a special session of the state legislature in May has been discarded. He has recently completed submitting comments from MOS on a revision to the plan for the Nez Perce–Clearwater National Forest in Idaho. One item that was stressed was protection for breeding habitat for Harlequin Ducks.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob commented that the website has been very unsettled lately. Specifically numerous pictures have been disappearing, especially from the Fungus photo section. He doesn’t know what is causing this but he has been forced to reload multiple pictures.

**Potluck** (Lillie): No report.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that both butterflies and butterfly watchers are practicing social isolation. One Falcate Orange Tip was found at Mt. Pleasant, a new species for that location. Kevin has been working on a task to review of the Maryland Biodiversity Project records to find additions to the county records. In reviewing ~6 years of records he has added 3 species to the Mt. Pleasant list, up to 61 species the highest of any location in the county. Kevin said he hasn’t taken any action yet on the purchase of a poster display board for use at butterfly/pollinator events.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue had trouble with her connection to the video conference. She could see and hear others and was visible to them but she could not be heard. Accordingly she was unable to make a report. She has been active in her role as county co-coordinator sending frequent reports to the atlas participants. Mary Lou commented that Gabriel Foley, state atlas coordinator, will be holding a virtual video conference as the Anne Arundel Bird Club meeting on April 28. Sarah chimed in to remind the board that Gabe is holding a video conference/webinar for atlas participants on Monday, April 27 with a theme of “Ask me anything.”

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): Next meeting will be a virtual (video teleconference) meeting on June 6. In addition note that the election of state officers will be held on-line. Voting will take place from **May 15th to May 22nd** via a link to a page on the MOS website, [www.mdbirds.org](http://www.mdbirds.org). The Nominating Committee has put forward the election slate: John McKitterick (Howard) for President, Bonnie Borsa (Frederick) for Vice President, Maryanne Dolan (Cecil) for Secretary, and Carol Daugherty (Montgomery) for Treasurer.

## Old Business

Shorebird Habitat Project – John began by thanking everyone who reviewed the MOU. He reviewed the following items:

- All comments were evaluated and changes made where appropriate
  - Changes tracked in Word 365 and Google-docs - our secretary, Chuck Stirrat has both versions in his files
- Note these important changes to the MOU since it was shared with Board:
  - Added language to limit HCBC implementation/construction costs to the estimated amount (\$17,000) - note that this figure is a maximum, the likely figure is likely lower
  - Added language about maintenance and a requirement by HCBC to review maintenance costs and approve, if appropriate
  - Added termination clause
  - Added HCBC Rare Bird Policy
  - Added documents provided by Wes Earp:
    - Design documents
    - Maintenance Plan
    - Management Plan

John expressed a very special thanks to Wes Earp, who was present (on-line). In addition to creating engineering designs and submitting them for approval, Wes:

- Submitted the EQIP application for funds
- Provided several rounds of valuable comments for the MOU
- And, Wes reported on April 17, 2020:
  - EQIP funds approved
  - Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has issued the permit

John then turned the update over to Wes for his perspective on where we are in this process. Wes repeated John's report that funding by the federal EQIP program had been approved and the MDE had issued the permit for this project. The permit requires a few more actions by the Soil Conservation office but Wes stated these were routine. Chuck Sharp will have responsibility for selecting the contractor to do the work on the project and Wes anticipates it will be a contractor that has done similar work on the other ponds Chuck has at Waterford. Exactly what our share will be is still unclear but it should be well less than the \$17,000 maximum stated in the MOU given the EQIP funding has been approved. Wes repeated the earlier reports that Chuck Sharp is very much interested in this project and as an indication he recently drew down one of his ponds to expose mud and see if any shorebirds showed up. It is early in the season but a Killdeer has already shown up.

John then reviewed what he continued the next steps. He expects the Board to review the latest updates of the MOU summarized above. He then asked the board to authorize sharing the MOU with the Waterford Farm Manager, Chuck Sharp and approve the HCBC liaison to discuss the MOU with Chuck Sharp. It was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously to do precisely that. Given that authorization John will provide the document to Chuck and meet (probably virtually) to discuss the MOU. Mary Lou proposed that John include Mary Maxey as the club president-elect in these discussions so she can be introduced to Chuck Sharp. John concluded with stating his goal was to have an MOU approved by the HCBC and Sharp's Farm by the May HCBC Board meeting (May 28, 2020).

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – No actions since last meeting except for the election of officers discussed above.

## New Business

May Count – The Board previously had voted to cancel the annual May Count due to the corona virus pandemic and Governor's stay-at-home order. MOS did not adopt this decision until sometime later in mid-April. MOS chose to conduct an alternative event in its place. In the place of the traditional May Count, MOS invited everyone to participate in the C-Free May Count, a weekend of Carbon-Free and COVID-Free birding. For the weekend of May 9th and 10th, MOS urged all birders to sit in their backyards or take to their feet or to their bicycles, to observe social distancing, and go out birding! All participants were invited to submit their observations, via eBird, email, or telephone (but not on paper). There was but one rule for this event: Go Birding!

As our May Count coordinator Kevin had given some thought to how we should treat the data from this event in the county. He and Chuck had discussed this and reached some proposals on how to proceed. Having given this some thought they concluded we shouldn't even consider this a May Count. It is more like a "get out of the house and do some local birding" day. The results won't be suitable for any comparisons with historical May Count data. As such:

1. We won't need area coordinators and be making assignments for territories
2. We shouldn't even attempt to break up the data into the seven traditional areas
3. We will be getting the data from the state in a csv file from eBird and a separate spreadsheet for those not using eBird that will be created at the state level but permit identifying and separating Howard results.
4. We can keep # of hours birding and number of miles as received from eBird but don't need to hassle people that haven't provided that data
5. We will keep a count for Saturday and a count for Sunday and probably provide a species count for the weekend.
6. We will add up the number of individual birds reported and not attempt to take the max of a specific location if multiple people counted there.
7. If there is a rarity seen, we will adjust the count to the max seen at that location for that species.

A few commented that they felt item 6 was a gross over simplification and improper treatment of the data. Kevin replied that a significant amount of effort would likely be required to identify the maximum if in fact many multiple reports were received for duplicate areas. Since the data wasn't really going to be of much scientific use he and Chuck had felt it not necessary. John Harris stated he thought he could develop an automated way to do this for the eBird results. We agreed that if he did come up with a sufficiently straightforward way to identify the maximum for each species at a location we would revise the proposed process accordingly. Kevin and Chuck plan to prepare a simplified report for publishing in the Goldfinch and on the website.

Donations to Rehabilitators – Bob had noted that the Treasurer's Report had a footnote indicating the last gift to Friskies was in January 21, 2019. Accordingly Bob moved that we donate \$300 each to Friskies and All Creatures Great and Small consistent with our practice of doing so each year and the proposed budget for 2019-2020 fiscal year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. *Sec. Note – Following the meeting it was learned that the footnote was in error and should have been 2020 so the donation to Friskies for that year had been made. It was also learned that the reason no payment was made to All Creatures was that they had informed us they really didn't need the funds as they had just received a fairly large bequest in someone's will. We probably should include both donations in next year's proposed budget but before actually making them confirm they are still needed. Mary Lou also learned that All Creatures is now directing any injured raptors go to the Owl Moon Raptor Center in Severna Park.*

#### Around the Room -

- Kevin noted that a newsgram article informing the membership that the Wildlife Authority and Mother Nature's will deliver seed to your home. The article will provide details on how to order seed or other merchandise from these stores during the Covid-19 crisis.
- Kurt mentioned there was a Green-winged Teal at Centennial and that Mike Kerwin had a Prothonotary Warbler.
- Bob reminded Chuck to send him the updated minutes.
- Since Sue's microphone wasn't working Jo mentioned that Sue had been busy as Howard atlas co-coordinator. Sue has recruited one new Block coordinator. Jo mentioned that Kelsey has found several active nest sites including a hole with a Downy Woodpecker nest at eye level from her balcony. Sue reminded all to check potential nest holes when atlasing. Jo also mentioned that Kristin Trouton had made a video at David Force Park of a White-breasted Nuthatch dusting a cavity opening with a piece of white fur. This is a behavior referred to as "bill sweeping" in which the nuthatch will dust the opening with an insect or piece of fur. I believe Jo referred to it as "bill wiping" of which this is a particular form. The assumption is this is some form of protection for the cavity from predators or possibly squirrels since they often use cavities large enough for squirrels to want to use. However the exact mechanism/purpose is not fully understood.

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Setup and track donations “ear marked” for butterflies in an informal “butterfly fund.” – Brian DONE
- Resend contact information for Howard Block Coordinators to the coordinators – Mary Lou DONE
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Send copy of Shorebird Habitat status report to Chuck Sharp – John H. DONE
- Draft MOU between HCBC and SAWF for Shorebird Habitat Project – John H. DONE

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Share MOU with Chuck Sharp – John
- Send checks to rehabilitators – Brian CANCEL - OBE
- Include Mary Maxey in discussion of MOU with Chuck Sharp – John H.
- Invite new members of the Board to attend the May Board meeting – Mary Lou

**Board Meeting Schedule**

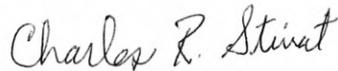
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

- September 26, 2019 - Mary Lou Clark
- October 24, 2019 - Clayton Koonce
- November 21, 2019 - Allen Lewis (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
- December - NO MEETING
- January 23, 2020 - Jo Solem
- February 27, 2020 - David Sandler
- March 26, 2020 - Kevin Heffernan
- April 23, 2020 - Jo Solem
- May 28, 2020 - Brian Moyer (Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – April 23, 2020

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

## Agenda

April 23, 2020

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks                Mary Maxey
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Records                                  Jo Solem
  - Newsletter                                Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                Bob Solem
  - Butterflies                                Kevin Heffernan
  - BBA3                                        Sue Muller
7. Old Business
  - Shorebird/Habitat Project              John Harris
9. New Business
  - May Count
10. Action Items                              Chuck



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, May 28, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce  
Past President: John Harris √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:** Kristin Troutan √  
Sharon Smith √

**General Notes**

This was the third board meeting since the outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19) epidemic. The meeting was held as a virtual phone conference. Total number in attendance over the phone was 16. The regular club meeting scheduled for May 14 was canceled consistent with government guidance to limit gatherings of more than 10 people.

**Officer's Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were accepted with two minor spelling errors corrected.

**Treasurer's Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had provided a proposed budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year (Rev.2) by email prior to the meeting. Several changes were suggested and accepted to that proposal. The item for GreenFest Support was moved from Projects/Grants to general expenses. A generic line for Habitat was added to Projects/Grants with the amount to be determined **later to remind** us that we anticipate donations for habitat in addition to the bequest funds that should be disbursed. The butterfly actual income amount reflects the balance established for that fund when it was established this year. It was donated over several years and probably exceeds what will be received in income this year. The actual expense amount for the butterfly fund was changed from \$440 to not previously reported (NPR) since expenses associated with butterflies were recorded in other expense lines (e.g. printing) during this year. The proposed budget (attached) was approved with these modifications. Since the checking account currently has a balance in excess of \$10,000 and we don't expect significant outlays in the near term Brian and Chuck made a proposal. Specifically they proposed moving \$5000 from PNC Bank to the T Rowe Price Government Money Market account so that it can earn interest. The Board approved this move. Brian has assumed responsibility for tracking club membership from Bob now that most memberships are received through the MOS website. He reported we have received 7 new memberships since January 1 (five since March 1). There have also been two renewals since March 1.

**President's Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou stated she would include her remarks in the discussion of old and new business.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Maxey): Mary commented that since we have no organized bird walks right now she would appreciate if individuals are going out they would think of her and give her an opportunity to join them in small groups practicing social distancing.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No trips are scheduled through end of summer.

**Records (Jo Solem):** Jo sent the following report to the Board in advance of the meeting covering the period: April 22 – May 26, 2020.

“Unusual bird species have been a welcome bright spot during the pandemic. Unfortunately, a lengthy period of wet, chilly weather with adverse winds during much of April and early May created unpleasant conditions for birders and delayed much northward bird movement. Only in the last week has there been a dramatic influx of migrant passerines and wanderers.

A male Rufous Hummingbird showed up for several days in early May in the Woodstock area (it was almost certainly a bird that had been banded in Montgomery Co.; no address provided, fide Dave Ziolkowski). Two different Common Gallinules (Race Road Wetlands and Meadowbrook Park) were unexpected. A Tricolored Heron made a brief appearance flying along the river at Daniels. Mississippi Kites can be anticipated in late May. So far, recently there have been three reports: 5/23 over Sarasota Ct, ph., 5/24 Diversified La, and 5/25 Bushy Park Rd/MD 144. There are 20 or fewer county records for the above species.

Other noteworthy sightings included an Eastern Whip-poor-will seen and photographed during daylight on the Savage Mill Trail; an adult Little Blue Heron at Centennial Park; an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Sewell’s Orchard Ponds; and records of three different Osprey pairs nesting on cell towers. The last week produced an above-average six Alder Flycatchers at four locations. The cell tower at Dorsey’s Search fledged two Common Ravens for the first known successful nest at a county location other than Rocky Gorge Dam. Multiple Summer Tanager were noted, and jaw-dropping reports and numbers of Prothonotary, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, and Magnolia warblers piled up, most in the last week. There was good news from Underwood Rd where up to three Dickcissels of both sexes were heard and seen. Despite not being able to lease the prime nesting field in 2019, the breeding success of the previous two years seems to have brought birds back to the area.”

When queried Jo acknowledged she had failed to make note of the pair of Virginia Rails that were being seen at Font Hill Wetlands Park.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he expected the letter to local papers regarding the need to override the Governor’s veto of the chlorpyrifos ban would be published next week. *Sec. Note: the letter appeared in the Howard County Times on June 4.* He has been working on an MOS effort to sign onto a letter to the BLM regarding pinyon pine habitat. Lastly he mentioned that another success from the recent Maryland legislative session was passage of SB 420 and HB 581, Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, PFAS. This bill places modest limits on these dangerous PFAS chemicals that don’t break down over time in the environment. The bill bans use for fire training and directs Maryland Department of Environment to submit a report to General Assembly on use of the substances in food packaging. MOS took no position on this, nor did we generate any testimony. Passed both houses, but governor likely did not sign it but also did not veto it so it goes into effect.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard sent the following report prior to the meeting. “The Goldfinch: submissions for the September - October issue are due July 25. It has been an interesting spring season. I am gathering photos to include with Jo’s Spring Bird Records article. And would welcome pics from those who don’t post on Flickr or who don’t allow downloads.

Congratulations to Joe Hanfman on being the first to attain 200 species In the county this year with the Mourning Warbler on May 26. Several others are close.”

Jo commented that we should recognize that at current time with no meetings or field trips we should recognize that the newsletter will be one of the major means of connecting with the club membership. Accordingly she solicited interesting anecdotes that could add a personal note to the Goldfinch. She mentioned the recent story Sarah reported regarding a baby nuthatch would be an example.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has been maintaining announcements and adding photos being submitted to the web site. Also there has been a fairly steady stream of NewsGrams to keep the club membership informed and aware of the club.

**Potluck** (Lillie): No report or activity.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that there are no formal butterfly walks scheduled. It has been a fairly cold and wet spring so butterflies haven't been very abundant. He mentioned that there have been several misses: Dusted Skipper, Henry's Elfin (long shot). One Pine Elfin was found. He mentioned that the weather has provided opportunity to work on pollinator gardens by planting native plants. He is considering preparing an article on "Bee City" activities for a future Newsgram. His spreadsheet on developing pollinator gardens and landscapes is nearly ready for reposting. He has not taken any action on the purchase of a tri-fold poster board. Chuck commented that the purchase would be an ideal example of something that could make use of funds in the Mountjoy Fund.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that atlas program is off to a good start in Howard. There have been over 120 people who have atlased in Howard County blocks. Sixty-nine species have been confirmed as of meeting date. A purple martin colony was one highlight. Osprey have been confirmed. It looks like the internship for Emilio to work with Sue looks like it will be a go, only need final signoff by the lawyers and rest of management. His stipend (\$1500) will be paid in two increments (half at beginning and half after completes the internship). He is expected to do significant atlasing in Woobine NE an pollinator surveys in Daisy meadow.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): The next state board meeting will be a virtual one on June 6.

## Old Business

Shorebird Habitat Project – John Harris reported that he had shared the draft MOU with Chuck Sharp on April 25. John believes Chuck is waiting to hear whether the project received EQIP funding before discussing the details further. The expectation is that DNR won't take up the EQIP funding until the summer time. John will check in with Chuck periodically and keep Mary Lou and Mary informed.

May Count – Kevin reported that he had just received the data from the MOS coordinator earlier in the week. He and Chuck had just begun to examine the results. The data received was all the Howard data merged in one Excel file as well as a preliminary filtering that only kept the highest number of individuals for a species when more than one list was submitted for the location on Saturday or Sunday. There were 35 participants in Howard.

## Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

May 15 – Kurt drafted letter to local papers urging an override of the Governor's veto of the bill banning use of chlorpyrifos. After review by the board the letter was signed by Mary Lou and Kurt and forwarded to paper.

## New Business

General Meetings, Board Meetings, Field Trips for next year – Mary Lou led a discussion of options and plans for resuming club activities this fall. The general consensus was that we are still in a state of limbo and still unable to predict what the conditions regarding the Covid-19 outbreak will be in September. There was agreement that the makeup club membership with many older members more at risk we needed to be conservative in whatever plans we do come up with. One conclusion was that we should investigate trying to hold our September regular meeting as a virtual one. It was decided that finding a speaker who could do either an in-person presentation or a virtual one was a good idea. Kurt reported that he had given a virtual presentation to a club in northern Virginia recently and it worked quite well. An ad hoc committee of Mary Lou, Mary, John Harris, and Kurt agreed to investigate how we would conduct the meeting virtually, including what application to use. In the hope we would have more information to make future plans it was agreed we should hold an extra meeting later in the summer (see next item).

Meetings in July/August – Having agreed to hold extra meeting the group decided that since the deadline for the next Goldfinch is July 25 we should have a meeting in advance of that. We decided to hold another virtual board meeting on Thursday, July 23.

#### Around the Room -

- Bob proposed that we prepare a special Newsgram that will inform the club membership that the club is still active even though we have not been able to have our regular activities due to the pandemic. He asked several article drafts by June 5:
  - Summary of club activities – Mary Lou and Mary
  - Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas activities – Sue
  - Butterflies to be found in yard – Kevin
- Kurt reminded board that if they visit Font Hill they should keep eyes open for “black fuzz balls,” namely baby Virginia Rails
- Jo mentioned that she reviews all eBird lists for county and has observed that the virus restrictions has produced a significant increase in new eBirders reporting. Hoperfully this will lead to some of them becoming new members. It has also led to seeing some unexpected species reports that unfortunately the eBird reviewers aren’t always following up on. As a result she urged us to set example and include details for any unusual sightings.
- Jo then pointed out that the club is in its 48<sup>th</sup> year and in December 2022 we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She noted that only David Holmes and her were the only remaining members from that original group. She asked for volunteers to form an anniversary planning committee. Mary Lou will put this item on the agenda for the July meeting.
- Sue mentioned that the black bear that was seen near Hammond Park hadn’t been seen for a couple of days but people should be alert.
- David reported that he got lost searching for Cerulean Warbler in Patuxent River State Park off Jennings Chapel near the junction with Daisy Road. Others echoed this area could be very confusing and had similar experience.
- Sarah shared recent atlas highligts. Brown Thrasher carrying food and baby Horned Larks.
- Kristin commented that she has been excited with how many new birders she has run into while birding in this time of corona restrictions.
- John Harris thanked Mary Lou for the great job she has done as President for the past two years.
- Kelsey reviewed her recent birding around home including fledged Downy Woodpeckers at neighbors feeder.
- Mary Lou thanked Meg Harris for her assistance in setting up our virtual meeting environment.

#### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Share MOU with Chuck Sharp – John DONE
- Send checks to rehabilitators – Brian CANCEL - OBE
- Include Mary Maxey in discussion of MOU with Chuck Sharp – John H.
- Invite new members of the Board to attend the May Board meeting – Mary Lou DONE

#### **New/Continuing Action Items**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Include Mary Maxey in discussion of MOU with Chuck Sharp – John H.
- Investigate holding regular club meeting as virtual on-line events – Mary, Mary Lou, John, Kurt
- Transfer excess funds from checking account to TRP money market fund – Brian
- Prepare for special July 23 board meeting – Mary Lou
- Draft articles for special NewsGram – Bob, Mary Lou, Mary, Sue, Kevin

## Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- David Sandler	
March 26, 2020	- <del>Kevin Heffernan</del>	VIRTUAL
April 23, 2020	- <del>Jo Solem</del>	VIRTUAL
May 28, 2020	- <del>Brian Moyer</del>	VIRTUAL
July 23, 2020	- VIRTUAL	

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

- Agenda – May 28, 2020
- Proposed Budget for 2020-2021 as Approved May 28, 2020

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Agenda**

May 28, 2020

1. Additions?
2. Introduction of New Members Mary Maxey
3. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
4. Treasurer's Report Brian Moyer
5. President's Remarks Mary Lou Clark
6. Vice President's Remarks Mary Maxey
7. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
  - Records Jo Solem
  - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster Bob Solem
  - Pot Luck Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies Kevin Heffernan
  - Breeding Bird Atlas3 Sue Muller
8. Old Business
  - Shorebird Habitat Project John Harris
  - May Count Kevin Heffernan
9. New Business
  - General Meetings, Board Meetings, Field Trips for next year Mary Lou Clark
  - Meeting in July/August Mary Lou Clark
10. Action Items Chuck
11. Around the room- This will be a little different for this meeting. Remember how we share what we have been seeing/doing during the refreshments break after the meeting? Well, bring your refreshments to the meeting. We won't mind. Then when we go around the room, share what you might have shared after a regular meeting.

## Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal

**2020-2021**

Preliminary Approval 5/28/2020

**NPR = Not previously reported**

**TBD= To Be Determined**

	Actual YTD 2019-20	Approved 2019/20 Budget	Proposed 2020/21 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Net Membership Dues	3,692	3,200	3,200
Contributions to HCBC		3,500	3,500
Habitat Preservation	3,282		
Butterfly Fund	440		
Interest income	215	NPR	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Meeting Programs (speakers)	225	700	700
Hosiptality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	50
GreenFest Support	50	70	70
<b>Office Expenses</b>			
Newsletter/other printing	1,407	500	1,000
Website/Email/Internet	540	500	500
Postage/Copies/Office Supplies	454	250	300
Bank fees	93	0	
<b>Projects/Grants</b>			
All Creatures	0	300	300
Frisky's	300	300	300
Education	0	NPR	100
YMOS	200	250	250
Butterfly Fund	NPR	NPR	TBD
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3319</b>	<b>2920</b>	<b>3,570</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>4,310</b>	<b>3,780</b>	<b>3,130</b>

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**T Rowe Price + CHESTEM**

2019/2020	49,689
2018/19	43,152
2017/18	53,024
2016/17	43,735

**Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)			27,986
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR	
Balance			27,986

**Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)			5,540
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD	
Balance			5,540

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Mountjoy Fund			5,540
Chestem Fund			27,986
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)			9,626
Balance			43,152

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance			10,272
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**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, July 23, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Clark √  
Vice-president: Mary Maxey √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Allen Lewis (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)  
State Directors: Sarah Romero √  
David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce  
Past President: John Harris √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Sue Muller √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Kathie Lillie  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: *Sue Muller*  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

This was the third board meeting since the outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19) epidemic. The meeting was held as a virtual phone conference. Total number in attendance over the network was 12. This summer meeting of the board was a special meeting called by the President to discuss club plans for the coming Fall season in the presence of the corona virus.

**Officer's Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were approved with two minor corrections to the version distributed for review.

**Treasurer's Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian distributed the attached report. There have only two transactions since the last meeting. He transferred \$3000 from checking to the T Rowe Price money market account and wrote a check for \$750 the first half of stipend to Emilio Concari, the intern working with Sue Muller for the summer. We briefly discussed what funds were applicable to use for intern and agreed that it was appropriate to use funds from the Chestem bequest for this purpose.

**President's Remarks** (Clark): Mary Lou thanked everyone for their support during the prior 2 years of her service as President.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Maxey): No remarks.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had provided the attached report prior to the meeting. In her remarks she highlighted the first county record of White-winged Dove at Jeff Culler's.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was not present but had sent the board an email with the attached report of current conservation issues he is tracking. In this report he asked the board to sign onto a letter to the Howard County Council from the Smart Growth Alliance for Howard County (See new business for discussion).

**Newsletter** (Patterson): The deadline for articles for the next issue of Goldfinch is July 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob had no separate report but referred to the discussions under New Business which will require several changes to the website.

**Potluck** (Lillie): No report.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that it has been a slow butterfly season. There has been no effort on the poster board action item. Kevin asked Bob about an issue with butterfly sightings posted to the website not being forwarded. Bob acknowledged he was aware of issue but that it was currently low priority as he is working on the time sensitive web changes arising from the items discussed under new business.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue stated that with the pandemic it had been an initial atlas year but overall she was pleased with the start and felt we were doing a good job. Currently there were over 180 people who had submitted atlas eBird reports for the county, She cautioned this number was inflated by reports submitted by non-regulars submitting reports when they visited the Culler's to view the White-winged Dove.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Clark, Romero, Sandler, Koonce, etc.): No report from the State Board meeting held as a virtual meeting on June 6. Mary Lou distributed Robin Todd's July MOS Presidents report to the HCBC Board on July 12. One item of future interest is a potential new MOS sanctuary in Frederick County, the Lingnore Farm.

## Old Business

Shorebird Habitat Project – John reported that he received several changes to the MOS draft from Chuck Sharp. The copy has gone back and forth several times. Wes has been involved in exchanges. Chuck prefers a shorter document so the Engineering document has now been changed to a Reference rather than an attachment. The farm business is described as agro-tourism. Chuck has proposed he receive compensation for the loss of crop proceeds he would have received from the area being removed from crop production. He is asking for \$1000 per year for the five year term of the agreement, for a total of \$5000 to be paid in advance. If the agreement ends up being terminated early we would get back the payment for years remaining. John believes this request is being made because the farm's agro-tourism business has taken a significant hit due to COVID-19. An impact Chuck did not foresee in our initial discussions. Chuck has received 3 bids for the initial construction work. These are expected to be about \$13,000. Approval of the EQIP government funding is imminent. John believes the MOS is very close to final and proposes to share it with the Board. He will send it to Mary Lou for her to distribute to Board.

YMOS Big Day Follow-Up – Wayne Bell sent the attached report to Mary Lou in acknowledgement of our donation.

Mt. Pleasant Bird Strike Project – Mary Lou stated that the initial installation of bird strike window treatment at the Gudelsky Center foyer at Mt. Pleasant was never completed. She intends to contact Mt. Pleasant staff and Beth Decker and attempt to get this project completed before her term ends in September. Kevin volunteered to assist as he is in contact with Meg Boyd as part of his membership on the butterfly "team." *Sec. Note – Mary Lou initiated an email exchange trying to determine the status on July 28 with Meg Boyd and Bev Decker. A significant number of difficulties in completing this project were offered and a promise to raise the priority on project were made but a follow-up prior to our next board meeting is warranted.*

### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

June 10 – Kurt drafted letter to Howard County Council in support of CB-2020-11 establishing bird safe practices for LEED certification in county construction including private buildings. The board was already on record supporting bird-safe buildings so this activity did not require additional board approval.

## **New Business**

Smart Growth Alliance – Howard County Letter Proposal – As mentioned above in Kurt’s email report he asked the board to consider signing on to the attached letter draft from SGA-HC. The letter generically proposes amendments to CR90-2020, the annual allocations chart that sets the annual cap per region on residential unit development. It refers to “protecting environmentally sensitive areas” but was considered by a number of board members to not be specific enough in how it relates to birds and other wildlife. Some expressed lack of confidence in accepting blanket endorsement of the proposals made by the key players in SGA-HC. Others expressed dissatisfaction with how the letters from this organization often arrive with short timelines and without supporting material to help better understand what is being proposed. Some felt we should insist that when we weigh into issues there should be a clearer link to “birds. Etc.” It was proposed we vote on Kurt’s proposal that we sign onto this letter. The motion failed with a majority opposed. There were a couple of approvals and two abstentions.

Seed Sale – Bob reported that no one has volunteered to coordinate the seed sale. Bob agreed to contact Kevin Cassidy of the Wildlife Authority to discuss potential alternative approaches to holding the seed sale. Bob agreed he would keep Mary Maxey informed. It was agreed if no alternative was identified we would have to cancel the seed sale. Members should be reminded that when they purchase seed from the Wildlife Authority and identify themselves as a bird club member they will get a 10% discount. *Sec. Note: Bob contacted Kevin by July 28 and no alternatives were identified. Subsequently the seed sale was canceled.*

New MOS Membership Procedures – Bob provided the attached sheet describing the new MOS membership procedures and their impact on our chapter. To first order MOS is taking over all membership processing and is strongly urging on-line payment through the MOS website. Board was asked to provide comments on the new paper application form (attached). We need to destroy all old member application forms. The sheet showed three options for how to provide for hardcopy delivery of The Goldfinch. The board strongly rejected the option of mailing hard copies to all members. The new MOS procedure does not provide for collecting additional funds to cover hardcopy delivery. It does still allow for asking members to complete a separate club specific survey of activities and interests. We agreed one option would be to include an option on that survey to choose hard copy delivery with a request that those choosing it make a voluntary donation to the club to defray the cost of delivery. Sarah, Mary Lou, and Mary agreed to work on the wording of this survey. One other issue with the new procedure is that it assumes everyone joining will have an email address. Currently 3 club members do not have an email address and receive a hardcopy of the newsletter by snail mail. Bob agreed to provide Mary Lou with names and contact information for those three. She will assist them with filling out a mail-in application and check and getting it sent to MOS Treasurer.

HCBC Planning Survey of Members – Bob provided the attached summary of the survey. Based on survey we agreed no in-person meeting should be held at RNC for the rest of 2020. Mary Lou agreed to notify Robinson staff that we plan no meetings during through December. John Harris reported that he and Meg had been working with John McKitterick who is working on virtual meeting options for all MOS chapters. Use of the MOS subscription to Google Meet is the planned approach. This will require sending an email to participants containing a link to a specific meeting. If we limit the attendance to club members we can just send invite to member list. If we want to have it open to others we would need to have a functioning registration system to collect email addresses per MOS restrictions with their r. We concluded that the September meeting would be open to members only. Investigation of how to have subsequent meeting open to non-members will be pursued by Bob, John, and Mary.

Survey results made it clear we should not consider traditional unlimited field trips (even enforcing corona virus protocols). We agreed that we would try and hold limited field trips with registration required. Limited to 10 or less participants plus leader. Joe Hanfman offered these rules: enforce attendance limit, require masks, no sharing of scopes, social distancing as possible. I don’t think we agreed to limit to members only. *Sec. Note – Field trips are set through January 21.*

Chuck stated that he, as state-wide Fall count coordinator, had proposed to all counties that they attempt to hold traditional-type counts adhering to official COVID protocols in place on weekend of Sept. 19-20. Many of them have concurred with that plan. Mike McClure and Chuck are serving as Howard co-coordinators for count on Saturday Sept. 19. Details will be posted on website by time of the regular September club meeting. There will be no in-person tally. *Sec. Note – Chuck hasn’t acted on the idea but is wondering if trying to have some kind of virtual tally using Google Meets would be wanted but some participants.*

American Kestrel Nest Box Proposal – Sue reported that her intern, Emilio Concari, came down with Lyme’s Disease and is on medication that makes him photo-sensitive. Hence he has had to work in the office. Sue asked him to do the research and work up proposals for three ideas she would like the bird club to consider funding. The first is for nest boxes for American Kestrels a species that appears on the decline in the county. Sue has had the county purchase two boxes that will be put up at West Friendship Park. She would also like to have one obtained for a private Conservation Farm in her atlas block. The farmer would be willing to put the box up. Boxes could be built for roughly \$40 in material or purchased for around \$55. Monitoring would be much easier if it were mounted on a telescoping pole (\$120 - \$180 depending on height). Monitoring any nest box program is a requirement. The board took no action on this proposal.

Chimney Swift Tower Proposal - The second proposal she put forward was building a Chimney Swift tower at West Friendship Park or Mt. Pleasant (dependent on approval). Tower construction materials would be around \$600. Sue was informed that Felicia Lovelett has one built on her property that hadn’t been successful as of a year or two ago. Russ Ruffing has investigated building one on his property and is very interested in the idea. Sue stated he has offered to do the construction if one were to be put up at Mt. Pleasant in the past but she hasn’t spoken to him recently to see how viable that offer is. The club felt such a project would be an appropriate use of Chestem bequest funds. Sue was authorized to pursue this concept further to see if Russ’ offer is still valid or other labor could be located.

Purple Martin Gourds Proposal – The last proposal Emilio had prepared was nest boxes for a Purple Martin colony. It was observed there are numerous issues with gourds over a house as cleaning and banding young is much more difficult. Also since the gourd installation at MPEA was never successful moving it to another location should be considered.

Around the Room -

- Bob reminded Chuck to send him the updated approved prior minutes for posting on website
- Sarah expressed her thanks to the board and club for a wonderful time while she has been here. This was her last board meeting as she will be moving to Rome in late September.
- Kevin expressed his thanks to Mary Lou for her performance as club president for the past two years. This was her last Board meeting as President. The rest of the board joined in expressing their thanks for her good job.

The virtual meeting using Google Meets worked well. We adjourned at 9:50 pm.

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Include Mary Maxey in discussion of MOU with Chuck Sharp – John H.
- Investigate holding regular club meeting as virtual on-line events – Mary, Mary Lou, John, Kurt
- Transfer excess funds from checking account to TRP money market fund – Brian DONE
- Prepare for special July 23 board meeting – Mary Lou DONE
- Draft articles for special NewsGram – Bob, Mary Lou, Mary, Sue, Kevin DONE

## New/Continuing Action Items

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Include Mary Maxey in discussion of MOU with Chuck Sharp – John H.
- Investigate holding regular club meeting as virtual on-line events – Mary, Mary Lou, John, Kurt *DONE*
- Provide Shorebird project MOU to Mary Lou for sharing with the board – John, Mary Lou
- Speak to Kevin Cassidy about alternative seed sale approaches and inform Mary – Bob *DONE*
- Provide Mary Lou with names and contact info for 3 members without email – Bob *DONR*
- Contact and assist members without email in applying for membership – Mary Lou *DONE*
- Inform Robinson Nature Center that we will not hold meetings through December – Mary Lou *DONE*
- Work on and finalize the updated membership survey and provide to Bob – Mary, Mary Lou, Sarah
- Work on developing a means to register non-members and invite them to meetings – John H., Mary, Bob
- Inform Joe H. that he should solicit and provide information for limited field trips – Mary Lou, Mary *DONE*
- Provide information for fall field trips with new requirements – Joe H. *DONE*
- Finalize and enter field trips with registration system once Joe provides input – Bob *DONE*
- Pursue options for building a chimney swift tower at Mt. Pleasant or elsewhere – Sue
- Request WSSC access permission email for Fall and Winter count – Kevin *DONE*

## Board Meeting Schedule

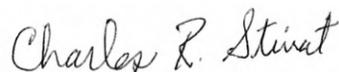
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 26, 2019	- Mary Lou Clark	
October 24, 2019	- Clayton Koonce	
November 21, 2019	- Allen Lewis	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 23, 2020	- Jo Solem	
February 27, 2020	- David Sandler	
March 26, 2020	- <del>Kevin Heffernan</del>	VIRTUAL
April 23, 2020	- <del>Jo Solem</del>	VIRTUAL
May 28, 2020	- Bian Moyer	VIRTUAL (Joint meeting with new and old members)
July 23, 2020	- Special Meeting	VIRTUAL

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

- Agenda – July 23, 2020
- Treasurer’s Report – July 22, 2020
- Records Committee Report: May 26 – July 21, 2020 – Joanne Solem
- Conservation Issues for July 23 2020 Board Meeting – Kurt Schwarz
- Draft Letter – Re: Requested Amendment to CR90-2020 – July 12, 2020 – SGA-HC
- The YMOS Big Day – Wayne Bell
- New MOS membership procedures: - Bob Solem
- HCBC Paper Application Form – Bob Solem
- Howard County Bird Club Planning Survey of Members – Bob Solem
- Howard County – American Kestrel Nest Box Proposal – Emilio Concari
- West Friendship Park – Chimney Swift Tower Proposal – Emilio Concari
- Howard County – Purple Martin Gourds Proposal – Emilio Concari

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Amended Agenda**

July 23, 2020

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes                      Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report                      Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks                      Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks              Mary Maxey
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips                                  Joe Hanfman
  - Records                                      Jo Solem
  - Conservation                                Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter                                  Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster                                  Bob Solem
  - Pot Luck                                      Kathie Lillie
  - Butterflies                                  Kevin Heffernan
  - Breeding Bird Atlas3                      Sue Muller
7. Old Business
  - Shorebird Habitat Project                      John Harris
  - YMOS Big Day Follow-Up                      Mary Lou Clark
  - Mt Pleasant Bird Strike Project                      Mary Lou Clark
8. New Business
  - Seed Sale                                      Mary Lou Clark
  - New MOS Membership Procedures              Bob Solem
  - HCBC Planning Survey of Members              Bob Solem
  - American Kestrel Nest Box Proposal              Sue Muller
  - Chimney Swift Tower Proposal                      Sue Muller
10. Action Items                                  Chuck
11. Around the room-

NPR = Not previously reported  
 TBD= To Be Determine

### Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal

7/22/2020

### 2020-2021

	Actual YTD 2019-20	Approved 2019/20 Budget	Proposed 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2020/21 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Running Subtotal
<b>Income</b>								
Net Membership Dues	3,692	3,200	3,200	3,200	115	0	0	115
Contributions to HCBC		3,500	3,500	3,500	40	0	0	40
Habitat Preservation	3,282				186	0	0	186
Butterfly Fund	440				0	0	0	0
Interest income	215	NPR		NPR	0	0	0	0
								0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>341</b>
								0
<b>Expenses</b>								0
								0
Meeting Programs (speakers)	225	700	700	700	0	0	0	0
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	0
								0
<b>Office Expenses</b>								0
								0
Newsletter/other printing	1,407	500	1,000	500	0	0	0	0
Website/Email/Internet	540	500	500	500	0	0	0	0
Postage/Copies/Office Supplies	454	250	300	250	0	0	0	0
Bank fees	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenfest Support	50	70	70	70	0	0	0	0
								0
<b>Projects/Grants</b>								0
								0
All Creatures	0	300	300	300	0	0	0	0
Frisky's	300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0
Education	0	NPR	100	100	0	0	0	0
YMOS	200	250	250	250	0	0	0	0
Butterfly Fund	440	NPR	440	NPR	0	0	0	0
								0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3759</b>	<b>2920</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>3020</b>				0
								0
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>3,780</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>3,680</b>				0
								0
								0
								0

NPR = Not previously reported  
 TBD= To Be Determine

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal**

7/22/2020

**2020-2021**

	Actual YTD 2019-20	Approved 2019/20 Budget	Proposed 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2020/21 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Running Subtotal
<b><u>T Rowe Price + CHESTEM</u></b>								
2019/2020	49,689				43,152	46,153		
2018/19	43,152							
2017/18	53,024							
2016/17	43,735							
<b><u>Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)</u></b>								
Balance (4/28/2020)				27,986				
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR		NPR				
Internship - Concari		1500		2,000		750		
Balance				27,986				
<b><u>Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)</u></b>								
Balance (4/28/2020)				5,540				
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD		TBD				
Balance				5,540				
<b><u>T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)</u></b>								
Mountjoy Fund				5,540				
Chestem Fund				27,986				
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)				9,626				
Balance				43,152				
<b><u>PNC Checking Account</u></b>								
Balance				6,454	2 transactions; -\$3K to TRP account; -\$750 to intern			

## **Records Committee Report: May 26 – July 21, 2020 – Joanne Solem**

Despite the challenges 2020 has posed, birders continued to find much of interest. For the second consecutive season, Howard County notched a new species. A White-winged Dove appeared on 6/23 in Jeff Culler's yard, Thornbrook Rd; it accommodatingly stayed through 6/25 enabling dozens of Maryland birders to see it.

Wood Ducks did well this year with broods continuing to be reported well into July. A Hooded Merganser at Centennial Park, present since 6/28, turned out to be of unusual interest. According to Dave Ziolkowski (Patuxent Research Refuge), it is rare "to find a male in eclipse plumage like this outside the northern tier of US states." The pair of Virginia Rails at Font Hill Wetland Park was last reported 6/2 which does not augur well for successful breeding. Some laggard waterfowl are reported almost every year. This summer a non-breeding Common Loon at Centennial was last reported 7/6.

A presumed pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was seen along the Patuxent Branch Trail 6/24 raising hopes for nearby nesting. As yet, no nest has been located nor have any recently fledged young been observed. The last week of May produced multiple Mississippi Kite sightings with the last one over the Skywatch at Mt. Pleasant on 5/31. A Broad-winged Hawk, spotted from Brighton Dam flying into Howard County on 7/3, was a remarkable date for a species which, in recent decades, has nested sparingly, if at all, in the county. The Patapsco River Valley was their last stronghold. A family of American Kestrels along Underwood Rd 7/15 was an excellent record for this declining species.

Warbler migration, along with that of many other passerines, was impacted by cold, rainy weather during the last half of April which lasted well into May. Long awaited warblers came through mostly the third week of May. Thanks to unusual wind patterns some seldom-seen species were frequently reported. Perhaps the most notable was Bay-breasted Warblers, normally seen by only a fortunate few birders. This year they were reported from a minimum of 19 sites, often more than one with highs of six and ten counted! A few migrant warblers lingered, as usual, into June. The latest was a Chestnut-sided at Mt. Pleasant on 6/25.

Dickcissels appeared in small numbers along Underwood Rd (2018 was the last year the HCBC was able to lease a field). Birders continued to track two or three distant birds from the first two on 5/19 until the last bird was reported on 6/25. No evidence of breeding was established.

First off, CB-11 has passed and been signed by Executive Ball. Howard County is the second jurisdiction on the East Coast to pass bird-safe legislation. Bird-Friendly standards will be required now for LEED certification on any new buildings. If you want environmental certification for your building, you will now need to install bird-safe glass, etc. I thank the club for its support of this bill

MOS and HCBC sent a letter to State Senator Hester, asking she support an override of Governor's veto of the bill banning the pesticide Chlorpyrifos. The Governor claimed the bill was superfluous, and the MD Dept of Agriculture had enacted regulations phasing out use of Chlorpyrifos. Regulations can be changed at will, only a law is permanent. So an override is a priority for the next session. The letter also asked why Senator Hester supported a sunset clause, ending the ban in five years. Getting that sunset removed is another goal for subsequent sessions. Last week The Carroll Chapter sent an identical letter. Senator Hester represents District 9, which overs northern Howard County (Greater Ellicott City) and much, if not all, of Carroll County.

MOS will likely sign a letter to Howard Council from the Smarter Growth Alliance of HowCo in support of CR90. This bill would place caps on housing allotments by regions, in support of the General Plan, protecting environmentally sensitive areas, and promoting Smart Growth. There is also a request for HCBC to join the letter. Joining the letter does not automatically make HCBC a member of SGAHC. Mary Lou sent around a proposal on this letter a few days ago. I ask you consider and if agreed, authorize Mary Lou to sign on hopefully by the weekend.

Lastly, it has been brought to my attention that a proposed Mag-Lev train route would destroy large chunks of Patuxent Refuge and Beltsville Agricultural Research Area. At this point I know virtually nothing about the state of play, intervention points, etc. I have only vague info that is circulating among devotees of lesser orders, bugs and plants. I am making inquiries. Our members do visit PWRC with some frequency, and I'm wearing a t-shirt right now.

MOS is hosting a press conference on Bureau of Land Management efforts to remove landscape-scale vegetation management and fire prevention projects across millions of acres in six western states from public oversight. The event will be on July 29. Stay tuned to the MOS Facebook Page for details.

Kurt

# Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

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July 12, 2020

The Honorable Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**RE: Requested amendment to CR90-2020**

Dear Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to foster healthy, equitable and sustainable communities through smarter development and transportation decisions and improved protections for the county's natural, historic and cultural resources.

CR90 is the annual allocations chart up for approval to set the annual cap per region on residential unit development. We believe that, given the current characteristics of the defined regions of the County, allocations are not being utilized as a planning tool as effectively as they could be. The General Plan's growth goals could be met while protecting environmentally sensitive areas by creating a region for sensitive areas and watersheds, such as that which flows to Old Ellicott City and other flood prone areas.

While we understand that these charts have been delayed for some time and need to be authorized, we urge you to address the idea of setting regions that can have much lower allocations to protect our scarce and sensitive natural resources and to incentivize and direct density where it is more beneficial to the county and infrastructure and public services are already available.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive

*Audubon MD-DC • Audubon Society of Central Maryland • Bicycling Advocates of Howard County  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation • Clean Water Action • Coalition for Smarter Growth • Community Ecology Institute  
Earth Forum of Howard County • HARP • Horizon Foundation • Howard County Citizens Association  
Howard County Conservancy • Howard County Sierra Club • Maryland Conservation Council  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters • Maryland Ornithological Society • Patapsco Heritage Greenway  
Preservation Maryland • Safe Skies Maryland • Savage Community Association • The People's Voice • Transition Howard County*

## **The YMOS Big Day**

Like so many groups, YMOS had to significantly modify its activities this spring. Canceling all scheduled trips, the group still ran trips with students birding separately. Beginning with the March Birdathon where each member birded separately, the members then had a Big Sit and an Atlasing weekend. Normally the World Series of Birding (WSB) in New Jersey would be the culminating event for the group in early May with YMOS teams participating as they have since 2000. New Jersey Audubon decided to run their event with teams staying in their respective states, but under those conditions, YMOS decided to run its own event.

What started as a small YMOS event grew in scope with the result that many more participated in the YMOS Big Day than previously in the WSB. While originally 16 YMOS members on 4 teams had planned to participate in the WSB, the YMOS Big Day had 45 participants on 11 teams with students participating from England, Washington State, Delaware, Virginia, and North Carolina. Almost twice as many students participated in the YMOS Big Day as in the 2020 WSB event. Each team set its own goal based on the geographic area they chose to cover, from a single Maryland county to, in one case, 3 states with a team member in each state. All coordinated routes in advance and developed a team target list for the Big Day. While safety was the driver of the event, the YMOS format promoted flexibility in participation and allowed remote students to participate.

When the dust settled late in the evening on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the teams had found a collective 309 species with 255 found in the MD/DE/Northern VA area. 36 warbler species were found as well as 7 species of owl. Team scores ranged from 67 species for the youngest team (ages 6 – 10) to 199 species with 4 teams recording 185 or more species. Among the many unusual species found were Barn Owl, Wilson’s Phalarope, Orange-crowned Warbler, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Black Tern.

Like previous WSB competitions, the focus of the YMOS Big Day was for each team to scout, set a goal, and then to work together to reach that goal. With the success of this year’s Big Day and the potential for including a greater number of students, the YMOS Big Day may become a regular event, allowing for teams to either compete together or apart if either geography or the virus prohibits in-person birding.

Trips are scheduled to reduce in a slightly modified format in August if the situation permits.

*“The Big Day was a great idea. I had never done a competition like this before. Our team couldn’t bird together, but we used Zoom to plan our day and come up with our target list. We kept in contact during the day as we neared our target total, and it was exciting when we ended up beating it. What a great day for all of us.”*

## New MOS membership procedures:

MOS President notified all chapter presidents that new membership procedures have been presented to the MOS Board electronically for a vote. These procedures take effect in September for the 2020-2021 membership year.

- All electronic memberships will be through the MOS membership portal.
- Chapters will modify their paper forms to reflect that checks will be made out to MOS (not the chapter) and the form will be mailed to the MOS treasurer (not mailed or hand delivered to the chapter treasurer)
- The chapters in their communications to members and on their paper membership form will stress that electronic membership applications is strongly preferred.
- Abolish 1/2 year memberships. A new member who joins after March 1st will pay full membership fees, but will be a member for the upcoming year as well as the remainder of the year that they enroll. This applies ONLY to new members. (This is what Howard has done for years.)

### Impact on Howard County Bird Club. The following changes must be made:

- Modify the membership page on the web site to show ONLY electronic membership through MOS and the link to download the revised paper membership.
- Simplify the paper membership form to indicate that checks are to be made out to MOS and mailed to the MOS treasurer. HCBC is no longer involved except to distribute the forms. Destroy all copies of the existing paper forms.
- Create a separate online membership survey (the Activities/Interests section of the HCBC existing electronic membership form).
- Joining or renewing membership as part of the Seed Sale is no longer possible. Twelve renewed via the seed sale blank in 2019.
- The HCBC treasurer will no longer receive or process membership checks. (Last year around 40 paid by check.)
- HCBC currently sends hard copies of *The Goldfinch* to 25 mailing addresses who paid an extra \$5 for that privilege. There is no provision on the MOS membership page to charge the extra \$5. All of the 25 are existing members. None of the new members for the 2019-2020 membership year opted to pay for hard copy. Only three current HCBC members (included in the 25 above) do not have an email address; without an email address there will be no way for them to renew their membership or pay for hard copies. What should be done?

<p><b>Grandfather without charge</b> those 25 forever as long as they remain members as part of the annual cost of printing and mailing the newsletter of around \$875.</p>	<p><b>Mail hard copies to all 162</b> mailing addresses of club members and increase the budget for printing and mailing the newsletter budget from about \$875 to around \$5700.</p>	<p><b>Provide an option on a survey</b> form for email only or printed copy. If 50 opted to receive it, the current newsletter cost would double to \$1750—or it might decrease if fewer opted for hard copies.</p>
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# Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

## Paper Application Form

This year the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is **strongly encouraging** new and renewing members to pay dues online. Just open the MOS website [mdbirds.org](http://mdbirds.org). Click on the "Chapter Map" tab in the upper row. Click on "Howard" on the map. Click on "Membership" and choose your level of membership. It's easy!

Please use the paper application form below if you need to send in the form and check by mail. **Do not mail either to the HCBC. It needs to go to the MOS Treasurer, Carol S. Daugherty.**

<input type="radio"/> <b>New Member</b>	<input type="radio"/> <b>Renew</b>			
<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>				
Member	First name	Surname	Phone number	Email address
1				
2				
Address:				
City:		State:		ZIP code:
<i>List a second full name, phone number, and email address <b>ONLY</b> for a second household member!</i>				
<input type="radio"/> <b>\$40 Household</b> (all at one address) Number of juniors in household <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px; border: 1px dashed black;" type="text"/>			<b>Make check payable to</b> <b>Maryland Ornithological Society</b>	
<input type="radio"/> <b>\$25 Individual</b> <input type="radio"/> <b>\$5 Junior</b> (under 18, no adult is member) <input type="radio"/> <b>\$5 Chapter</b> . If member of <u>another</u> chapter: Howard County chapter dues only. <u>Primary chapter</u> : _____			Mail check to <b>Carol S. Daugherty</b> <b>MOS Treasurer</b> <b>11925 Oden Court</b> <b>Rockville, MD 20852</b>	
<input type="radio"/> <b>\$90 Sustaining PER PERSON</b>				

## Howard County Bird Club Planning Survey of Members

Below is the text and results of the questionnaire sent to all current members of the Howard County Bird Club. The email was sent June 19 and an answer was requested by June 30. The answers (as a percentage) are incorporated into the following.

**HCBC Questionnaire**

The Howard County Bird Club Board is continuing to plan the activities for this fall, and we need your input. Reply to this email and answer each question below by typing **Yes, No, Maybe** or your answer after each question. Please reply by Tuesday, June 30.

Mary Lou Clark and Mary Maxey  
President and President-elect  
Howard County Bird Club

**Live, in-person meetings:** If Robinson Nature Center is again open so the Bird Club can have meetings inside a building (using safe social distancing and procedures), would you attend?

<i>Yes: 30%</i>	<b>No: 50%</b>	<i>Maybe: 20%</i>
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**Virtual meetings:** If in-person meetings cannot be held, would you register to view virtual Bird Club meetings that use web software such as Zoom, Adobe Connect, Google Hangout, or You Tube live stream?

<b>Yes: 73%</b>	<i>No: 13%</i>	<i>Maybe: 13%</i>
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How many monthly meetings of the Howard County Bird Club did you attend in 2019? N/A

**Field trips:** If the Bird Club field trips, practicing safe social distancing and procedures, resumed would you attend if

- There were only 10 attendees plus a leader

<b>Yes: 48%</b>	<i>No: 30%</i>	<i>Maybe: 22%</i>
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- There were the usual number of attendees

<i>Yes: 26%</i>	<b>No: 59%</b>	<i>Maybe: 15%</i>
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Would you be willing to lead Bird Club field trips that practiced safe social distancing and procedures if they resumed? *The few who said "Yes" are currently leaders.*

How many Howard County Bird Club field trips did you attend in 2019? N/A

**Comments and suggestions:** See next page.

**Note:** "Safe social distancing and procedures" will be in accordance with governing directives in effect at the time of the event.

The NEWSGRAM was sent to 219 recipients and 129 (60%) opened it. Thirty people (23% of those opening the email) sent in a response. Questions on the number of meetings attended in 2019 and the number of field trips attended in 2019 were included to see whether the responses of those who actually go to meetings and go on field trips differ from those who do not; it would appear there is no statistical difference so the results are marked "N/A" in the summary above.

- **If RNC opens, should HCBC have live meetings (subject to COVID-19 rules in effect for Robinson Nature Center (RNC))?** As of mid-July RNC was open but was NOT scheduling any gatherings in the auditorium or classrooms.
- **Should HCBC have virtual meetings instead?** Meg & John Harris have been researching methods and will be able to make a recommendation. HCBC will also need a method of notifying participants how to participate (URL, etc.). MOS uses Modern Tribe The Events Calendar PRO (\$89/year, an addon for their website); the free version may be adequate for HCBC needs. (For eleven meetings from Jan 2019 thru Feb 2020, live attendance ranged from 41 to 77; there were five meetings with over 50 people.)
- **Should HCBC have field trips again starting fall 2020?**  
**Unlimited number (but following COVID-19 restrictions)?** Method of registering needed.  
**Limited to 10 people (but following COVID-19 restrictions)?** Method of registering and limiting number needed.  
**If held, should be field trips be restricted to HCBC members?**

Joe Hanfman proposed the following:

1. Limit the field trips to 10 people.
2. Require reservations.
3. Require that everyone wear a face mask.
4. No sharing of scopes.

- **What procedures should be used for Fall Count?**

Comments and suggestions:

<p>I have two family members living with me that are high-risk. I do go out "Atlasing" and monitoring bluebirds, but do it solo.</p>
<p>I am new to birding and am really anxious to start going on walks with experienced birders. I have so much to learn! However, I understand that we need to be safe, so will cool my heels until there are safe guidelines/ procedures for birding activities.</p>
<p>Even in spite of covid, there could be so much learning about birding going on right now through zoom or webinars with workshops or speakers.</p>
<p>I have attended several wildlife gardening and bird photography workshops this year via Zoom and the platform has worked well. Since the majority of the bird club's membership probably falls into the high risk category for Covid-19, it seems like virtual meetings might be a good way to play it safe until the virus threat is lessened.</p>
<p>I think 10 people is too many to manage safely under the current conditions (which are unlikely to improve soon). 5 plus the leader seems a better number. I would also encourage the use of masks even though the activity is outdoors. What about the fall count? The seasonal counts are usually done with 1-3 people per territory and should be relatively safe. The tally obviously needs to be virtual. Thanks for asking about all of this.</p>
<p>I would love to be able to attend meetings, either in-person or by Zoom or something similar. One advantage of Zoom for me is that if we are out of town, I could still attend a virtual meeting.</p>
<p>Our age and age related conditions are a major issue for us. While we enjoy the birding, we enjoy the banter and visiting as much and the virus puts a "damper" on that. Until there is a reasonable expectation of safety (who knows what defines that) I expect we will lie low and wait for better times.</p>
<p>Virtual is very good idea.</p>
<p>I don't attend meetings or go on field trips</p>
<p>With my age and health I will be fairly conservative in my decisions to participate in person.</p>
<p>This is a tough time for all such groups and us old folks! Not sure of any easy answers!</p>
<p>What about Fall count and Tally rallies? No mention here. It is my suggestion that Fall, Winter and May counts continue but the tally at private homes should be stopped. If there is a need for a tally rally it should be held at a location that would allow for social distancing.</p>
<p>I bird alone, but I would continue to participate in leading counts though! Mid-Winter, Spring, Fall etc.</p>
<p>I would suggest starting the field trips as usual but maybe hold off the first club meeting until October or later. Hopefully by then we may know a little more about where the virus is heading. I am not a particularly big fan of virtual meetings but it may be the best way to go for now.</p>
<p>This is a very thoughtful response to what is going on. I appreciate it.</p>

# Howard County – American Kestrel Nest Box Proposal

Howard County Recreation & Parks Intern

**Emilio Concari**

emcflip1@comcast.net

## Introduction

Hello, my name is Emilio Concari. As part of my summer internship with naturalist Sue Muller, I'd like to propose the construction/ purchase and distribution of American Kestrel nest boxes in various locations within Howard County. Erecting these nest boxes will provide this declining bird species (and potentially other small birds of prey) with reliable nesting sites that they'll use for many years.

## Background & Products

American Kestrels are North America's smallest bird of prey, and are only about the size of a pigeon. This species is nonetheless a very efficient and acrobatic hunter for its size, and can be found across the entirety of the US. Kestrels are secondary cavity nesters, preferring to nest in old woodpecker holes or large man-made bird boxes. The latter will be the main subject of this report, as these birds are in serious need of reliable nesting sites due to their steadily declining population.

There are a few different options for kestrel box designs, although I'll be including what I believe to be the two best options. The first option would be to construct a nest box from scratch; the detailed plans can be found in the linked .pdf file below. I've included an estimate of the expenses as well. The other option would be to purchase a pre-constructed BestNest kestrel box. A link to this product can also be found below. Both options will need to be mounted 8-20 feet high, and filled with a small amount of wood shavings to cushion the eggs, as ketrels don't typically use any bedding for their nests. A telescoping pole will also be needed for checking on nest progress.

- **BestNest Premium Screech Owl / Kestrel House (\$53.99):** This design is already fully built, and can be used by Eastern Screech Owls as well:  
[https://www.bestnest.com/bestnest/RTProduct.asp?SKU=BN-PSCRCH&src=froogle&kw=BN-PSCRCH&qclid=CjwKCAjwgdX4BRB\\_EiwAg8O8HX2E0mFAQffh8VOPFPIG\\_aA1doz5W2BEq4dszYCfbfDcS8CzuS6l-zhoC0IYQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.bestnest.com/bestnest/RTProduct.asp?SKU=BN-PSCRCH&src=froogle&kw=BN-PSCRCH&qclid=CjwKCAjwgdX4BRB_EiwAg8O8HX2E0mFAQffh8VOPFPIG_aA1doz5W2BEq4dszYCfbfDcS8CzuS6l-zhoC0IYQAvD_BwE)
- **American Kestrel Nest Box Instructions:** This box design will cost roughly 40 dollars to build.  
<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiqvtnB-t7qAhW3IXIEHY-5A0YQFjALegQIAxAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wildlifecenter.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2FPDFs%2FNestbox%2FAmerican%2520Kestrel%2520Nest%2520Box%2520Plans.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3QXR7gUmtmDSRf828WluKa>

- **Telescoping Pole:** The most reliable brands seem to be Telepole (<https://tele-pole.com/telescoping-bird-poles>) and Bird's Choice (<https://www.amazon.com/Birds-Choice-Telescoping-Purple-Martin/dp/B0006TWH8I>)

## Conclusion

American Kestrels are a very ecologically important species, and for the incredibly low overall cost of erecting a nest box, I feel as though they'd be a great investment. Not only would they attract kestrels, but the versatile size of the box would also attract larger



American Kestrel Nest

woodpeckers and Eastern Screech Owls. The latter species is also declining in some areas. As we continue to remove kestrels' natural cavities, it's our responsibility to provide them with suitable replacements.



# West Friendship Park – Chimney Swift Tower Proposal

Howard County Recreation & Parks Intern

**Emilio Concari**

emcflip1@comcast.net



## Introduction

Hello, my name is Emilio Concari. As part of my summer internship with naturalist Sue Muller, I'd like to propose the construction of Chimney Swift towers at West Friendship Park, also known as Pfefferkorn Natural Environmental Area, in Howard County. Erecting this tower will provide this declining bird species with a crucial, safe, and long-lasting nesting/ roosting site.

## Background & Materials

Chimney Swifts are a small, fast-flying bird species, and can be found across the eastern US. Swifts are perhaps most known for their habits of roosting and nesting inside chimneys, as they cannot perch horizontally like other birds. Unfortunately, this species is in steep decline across much of its range due to habitat loss and pesticide usage. The lack of chimneys in modern housing (as well as the use of chimney caps) has further restricted swifts' options for suitable nesting and roosting sites. However,

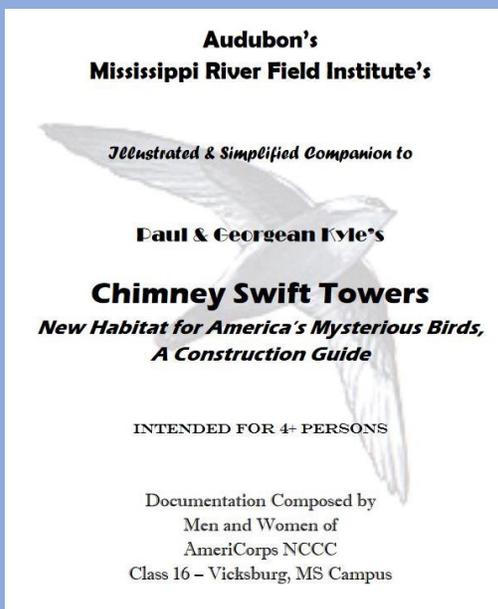
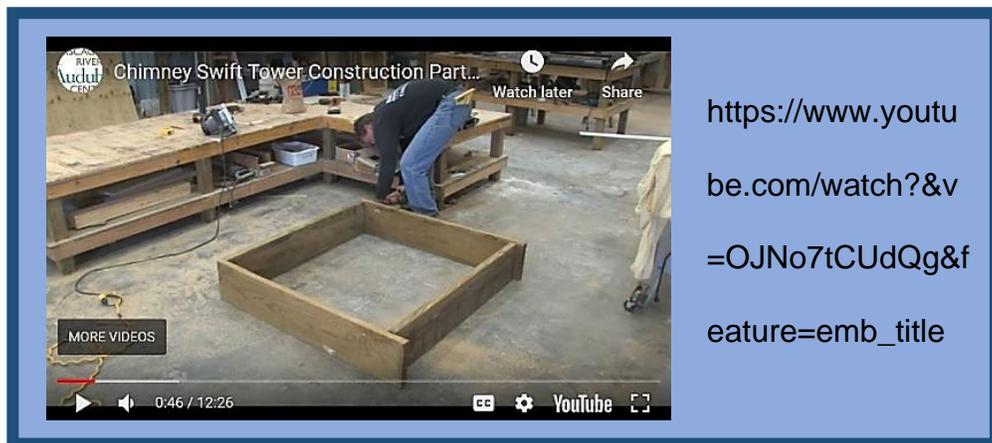
thanks to the dedication of Paul and Georgean Kyle, there now exists a reliable and simple tower design, which will be the main focus of this proposal.

According to Sue Muller, the aforementioned location of West Friendship Park would be an optimal place to build one. The tower would need to be placed in an open area such as a meadow or field, at least 25 feet away from any trees or structures. West Friendship Park seems to have many options for tower placement, along with prime swift habitat. A single tower costs only around \$500 or \$600 in materials, depending on the exterior siding choice; a comprehensive materials list and construction plan can be found below.

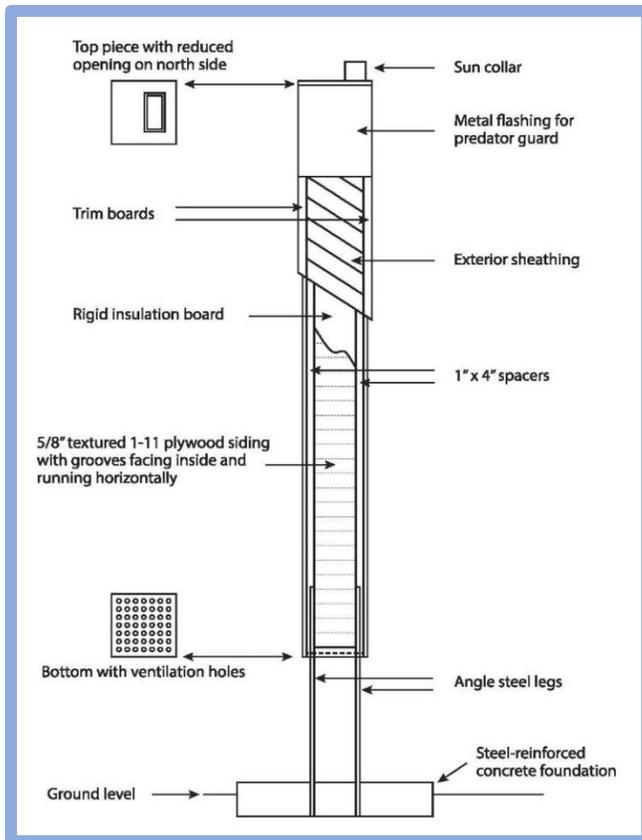
- **Foundation (About \$110 Total):** Two pieces of 2" x 10" x 10' lumber, eight ten-foot  $\frac{3}{4}$ " rebar, & twenty 40lb bags of quick-drying concrete (QUIKRETE, preferably)
- **Tower Support (About \$130 Total):** Eight 12-foot pieces of 1" x 4" lumber, & four six-foot pieces of 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " angle steel
- **Structure & Entrance (About \$120 Total):** Two pieces of 8' x 4' textured T1-11 plywood w/ inward-facing grooves, one 8' x 4' piece of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood & one eight-foot piece of 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1  $\frac{1}{2}$ " lumber
- **Insulation (About \$15 Total):** 8' x 4'  $\frac{3}{4}$ " rigid/ reflective insulation board
- **Predator Guard (About \$70):** 24" flashing
- **Exterior Sheathing (Variable Price):** vinyl siding, painted exterior grade plywood/ T&G or other approved weather-proof material
- **Entrance Weatherproofing (Variable Price):** weatherproof paint (preferably white)
- **Miscellaneous Materials (About \$40 Total):** 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 2" & 3" deck screws,

## Assembly

The tower is built in multiple parts, as seen above, then fully assembled on site. Please view the linked .pdf file and YouTube video for more information about material usage/ detailed tower instructions. According to Audubon North Carolina, some aspects of the design can also be changed for extra stability and cost reduction, or if certain materials are unavailable. I'd recommend viewing their webpage on the subject for extra information, if needed.



[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiO8rub7tnqAhX4hHIEHbIIAxwQFjAMegQIAxAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elliottdutcher.com%2Fjobs%2Fwork\\_samples%2FManual%20for%20Chimney%20Swift%20Bird%20Tower%20Construction.pdf&usq=AOvVaw0XemrP1LzfJ98Rw6SLP\\_Am](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiO8rub7tnqAhX4hHIEHbIIAxwQFjAMegQIAxAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elliottdutcher.com%2Fjobs%2Fwork_samples%2FManual%20for%20Chimney%20Swift%20Bird%20Tower%20Construction.pdf&usq=AOvVaw0XemrP1LzfJ98Rw6SLP_Am)



As seen in this diagram, the tower is constructed similar to an actual chimney, but has additional features that the birds would find more desirable. This includes a grooved interior (which helps with roosting and nest integrity), a predator guard, a sun collar, and extra insulation/ ventilation to prevent excess heat buildup. The base of the tower is also very structurally sound, with steel legs and a steel-reinforced concrete foundation.

## Conclusion



Overall, I feel as though this tower would be incredibly beneficial to our declining Chimney Swift populations. For its relatively low cost and the ease at which it can be constructed, this tower would be a great investment. If erected at an optimal spot within West Friendship Park, it would provide countless adult swifts with a safe evening roosting spot, and could potentially foster hundreds of new chicks.

# Howard County – Purple Martin Gourds Proposal

Howard County Recreation & Parks Intern

**Emilio Concari**

emcflip1@comcast.net



## Introduction

Hello, my name is Emilio Concari. As part of my summer internship with naturalist Sue Muller, I'd like to propose the purchase and distribution of Purple Martin gourds in various locations within Howard County. Creating these gourd communities will provide this declining bird species with reliable nesting sites that they'll use for many years.

## Background & Products

Purple Martins are a small, acrobatic bird species, and can be found across the eastern US. Martins are a very social, communal species, preferring to nest in very large groups. These birds are also an important part of Native American history, as aboriginals would provide hollowed-out gourds for the bird to nest in. Even today, this species prefers man-made martin houses and artificial gourds over natural nest cavities. However, this has actually become a bit of a hinderance for them, as they often rely too heavily on man-made communities. With that said, it's important that we provide Purple

Martins with more nesting sites, as to help curb their population declines. Thankfully, there are many different commercially available gourd/ house designs out there, which will be the main focus of this proposal.

Below, you will find links to various martin gourd/ house products which I feel are the best candidates. Purple Martins prefer gourd-style nests, but house-style nests also suffice. Both need to be mounted at least 10 feet high, preferably in an open area.

- **(8) SuperGourds + Mounting System (\$559.95):** These gourd/ mounting apparatus designs are incredibly reliable, and are widely used by nature centers, Purple Martin researchers, and farmers.

<http://store.birdwatching.net/economical-gourd-rack-with-8-crescent-holed-supergourds-and-porches-gr8-sgcp.html>

- **(12) SuperGourds + Mounting System (\$649.96):** This is otherwise identical to the above product, but features 4 more gourds.

<http://store.birdwatching.net/deluxe-gourd-rack-with-12-supergourds.html>

- **(12) SuperGourds (\$299.95):** Additionally, the gourds can be purchased on their own for custom mounting. [http://store.birdwatching.net/12-](http://store.birdwatching.net/12-supergourds.html)

[supergourds.html](http://store.birdwatching.net/12-supergourds.html)

- **Troyer Martin House + Mounting System (\$1,349.00):** This house design serves as more compact alternative to gourds.

<http://store.birdwatching.net/troyer-t14pb.html>

- **Troyer Martin House (\$619.95):** Additionally, the house design can be purchased separately for custom mounting.

<http://store.birdwatching.net/troyer-cedar-house-and-roof.html>

## Operation

Both the house and gourd mounts featured above can be raised and lowered on the included pole via a nylon rope system in order to check on nest progress. A winch can also be purchased for easier operation, as well as a predator guard; both extra accessories can be purchased on the same website for \$79.95 and \$49.95 respectively.

## Conclusion

As someone who's visited a martin researcher and seen how effective SuperGourds are, I'd highly recommend them. The sturdy, safe, and reliable nature of these products makes them the optimal choice for starting new martin communities. For



Purple Martin Nestling

such an ecologically important species, providing them with long-lasting nest sites is the least we can do for helping their populations rebound. Purple Martins have relied on us for a very long time, and it's our responsibility to uphold our age-old promise by giving them what they need.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, September 24, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristen Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Sharon Smith (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce  
Allen Lewis √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Google Meets due to continuing COVID-19 concerns. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held virtually on September 10, 2020 was ~36 people. Kurt Schwarz gave a program entitled “California Dreaming.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Minutes distributed to board were approved with a few minor corrections. One correction added was to add DONE to the action item for Bob to provide Mary Lou with contact information for the three members without email. She reported that she contacted them and assisted two of them who needed help with renewing their membership. Chuck agreed to send Bob the updated minutes and an update to the cumulative minutes file including the past club year for posting on the website.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had sent the attached treasurer’s report prior to the meeting. He reported that so far he had received 101 membership renewal payments from MOS. He paid the final instalment of the intern stipend to Emilio. In response to a query he confirmed that he has received \$1122 in donations in past month.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary mentioned that David Sandler will be giving a presentation at The Howard County Conservancy on October 9. It will be held outdoors at the SkyWatch.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): No report.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe sent no report. Mary Lou reported on the first field trip at Rockburn Branch that she led under the new method requiring registration and limited participation. All participants wore masks. They had an exciting morning and the results are posted on the website.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo forwarded the attached records committee report prior to the meeting.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt mentioned a few issues he is tracking but felt he had not clearly articulated them to the board. He provided the following text to clarify his report:

“I wasn’t too articulate last night. State actions were three letters. First to MD Senators opposing bill from Sen Feinstein and Daines which would increase logging and limit public input to ostensibly suppress western forest fires. We expressed concern this could be extended to eastern National Forests.

Second was opposing import of Japanese nuclear waste to mill on the doorstep of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. The issue there should be obvious. Also threatens water supply of Ute community there. BENM was created by Pres Obama and illegally shrunk by Pres Trump.

Third opposing oil and gas leasing right to the boundary of Chaco Culture National Historic Park in NW New Mexico. A massive Pueblo complex from circa 1000-1300, and I have actually been there.

Lastly letter to FDA. seeking approval of recombinant Factor C (rFC) to test vaccines and medical devices. Currently only Limulus amoebocyte lysate, (LAL) taken from horseshoe crab blood is approved for use in USA. rFC is approved in Europe and about to be in Japan and China. Demand for LAL will skyrocket with a COVID vaccine. Approval of rFC would reduce that demand. Horseshoe crab populations in DEL BAY are stagnant and shorebird populations are not blooming. Bleeding crabs results in up to 30% mortality and reduces fitness in those that survive.”

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob provided the following text that he used in making his remarks during the meeting:

“Modified HCBC website membership page to reflect using only MOS website or new paper form to join or renew. Prepared and uploaded new paper membership form for web and distribution. Contacted and coordinated information for ad hoc Committee (How will Howard County Bird Club meetings and field trips be handled for the remainder of 2020; final report was sent to Chuck.) These changes are reflected in the “Program and Field Trips” page of the HCBC website. Designed and coordinated review of new survey form (Howard County Bird Club Member Activities and Interests Annual Survey). This must be completed every year by members to continue getting hard copy of newsletter and remaining on Rare Bird Alert. New members will receive notice of the survey when Jo & Bob receive their information from MOS. Notified Rare Bird Alert members that they have to renew every September 1 to stay on list. (The list had grown to 147 names, few of whom ever bother to show up to view the bird after they are notified.) Notified current members of link to download Sept-Oct newsletter and changes occurring this fall. Included a printed page along with the hard copy of The Goldfinch (distributed to 25 members) that they must specify on the annual survey that they want to continue to receive hard copies, that HCBC can no longer collect \$5 with their membership renewal, and that they can make a voluntary contribution instead. (Only 3 of the 25 do not have or use email.) Prepared PowerPoint instructions on screen adjustments to make when viewing Google Meet HCBC presentations. Prepared interactive PDF Fall Count Tally Sheet.”

Chuck thanked Bob for the interactive Tally Sheet that was used successfully by several count participants.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): No report.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin gave a short synopsis of some butterfly activity this season. He mentioned Snouts appearing. Others that I noted were Pearl Crescent, Long-tailed Skipper, and White M Hairstreak. Misses included Great Swallowtail and a couple more that I did not catch.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue joined us late as she was virtually attending a presentation for beginners Gabe Foley was giving to another club. He mentioned the contrast in atlas effort between this one and the prior one. In this first year using eBird there has been ~60,000 hours of effort in contrast to the total effort over 5 years in the prior atlas was ~35,000 hours. Sue mentioned an effort she is proposing to make sure we monitor and map the use of cell towers for nesting during the atlas. Mary Lou reported that Gabe is scheduled to present to our club at the December meeting. Last Sue revealed that she is going to retire next Spring.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Koonce, Lewis, etc.): Mary reported that the state board met in September. The one item she highlighted is the establishment of a new Black/Latinix Birders Scholarship. MOS is a sponsor of these scholarships being offered under the auspices of the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership.

### Old Business

Shorebird Habitat Project – Mary Lou reported that the MOU with Chuck Sharp was finalized and signed on August 20 (attached). She, John, and Wes met with Chuck in mid-September to approve proceeding with the construction. Construction work has begun as of this board meeting. Mary Lou quoted an estimate of approximately \$13,000 as our anticipated net cost.

Mt. Pleasant Bird Strike Project – Mary Lou reported that this project is back on track. The window treatments is expected to be delivered by October 1. She stated she needs volunteers to assist with installing the treatments and asked potential volunteers to contact her. The Conservancy is holding a fund raiser on October 3 and it would be ideal if the treatments could be installed by then.

Chimney Swift Tower Proposal – Sue hasn't begun pursuing this project yet.

Seed Sale – Bob reported that he had officially promulgated the announcement there would be no seed sale this year. However, just this morning Kevin Cassidy of The Wildlife Authority had emailed the club with a proposal for a way to conduct an on-line seed sale that would contain a way to generate donations to the club. The essence of Kevin's email proposal is quoted here:

“Through the power of google and the internet, I have developed an online order firm, where the user can enter quantities of a limited offering of seed and suet. All the basics (black oil, chips, safflower, high energy suet, peanut butter and hot pepper suet, and more), and here's the bonus: I have created a "donation" line, where folks can donate. In the description, I mention that I will match those donations, all to the HCBC.

No telling how successful this will be, but I am going to give it a shot, with the blessing of the HCBC. I will be posting the link on our website, on facebook, and hopefully through the HCBC, too. Like before, it is a "order and pay (credit card) now, then I know how much to order, pick up at a specific later date". Because I have to process through credit cards, the discounts might not be as strong as before, but I will offer the best I can.

I am still trying to figure out minor details, but am confident enough that I can launch this in the next week or so...take orders for 2 weeks, then pick up in mid/late October.”

It was moved, seconded, and approved that we accept this offer. Bob took an action to coordinate final details with Kevin and then advertise it to our seed sale mailing list and on website. When asked, Bob stated that given our inability to find a seed sale coordinator future seed sales might well be done in a similar fashion if this approach is successful for us and Kevin.

Virtual Meetings – The October meeting is scheduled to be Dr. Kevin Omland speaking about the Bahama Oriole. Mary Lou reported that overall the September meeting went fairly well. We experienced and learned from a few technical issues. We then discussed how to allow for non-members to attend the virtual meetings. We settled on a method where the announcement on website would direct non-members wishing to attend to send an email to Mary Lou requesting an invitation. Mary Lou would then send the Google Meet link to those requesting an invitation. When the idea of recording the meeting came up, Kelsey agreed to investigate what recording would require. Mary said she would provide Kelsey a contact with info on recording and posting on YouTube. It was pointed out that we now have virtual meetings and field trips requiring registration they should be added to the MOS calendar on MOS website. Mary Lou and Joe Hanfman were given action items to have their events added to the MOS calendar.

## Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None

### **New Business**

HCBC Facebook – Mary reported that Tony VanShoor has stepped down as the coordinator for the club’s Facebook page. At her request Kristen has assumed the responsibility. Kristen is soliciting ideas for ways to get more views. One idea is to change the permissions on the page to permit the public to post items. There were questions raised on if this might permit display of spam like material. Kristen said she would explore how to permit posting with review before it appears. Most felt the risk wasn’t that great. Another idea to explore would be to create a related separate group focused on reporting Howard County birds only. Bob moved that the board approve making the Facebook page open for public posting. The motion passed. Kristen took an action to implement this motion.

### Around the Room -

- Chuck commented that he felt we need to share solutions to some of the technical issues we experienced during the virtual September meeting. Specifically we need to make sure all are seeing the program after he shares his screen before he begins speaking. Also ask all but the speaker and moderator to mute their microphone and disable their camera. Brian emphasized this last point was very important based on his work environment experience. Bob stated he would update the PowerPoint with tips on using Google Meet and provide it to Kelsey so she would have it available.
- Kelsey stated she would share some Facebook ideas she has with Kristen
- David said he is ready for his October 9 talk at Mt. Pleasant
- Kurt reported that he had planted three trees today that he received from Howard County and recommended those interested should investigate this program next year
- Jo reported that she is working on an article summarizing the 40 years of HCBC seed sales. She has interviewed Eileen Clegg and Ward Ebert among other resources. Besides its value as a fund raiser she finds it played an interesting role in club community building.
- Allen expressed his concerns about the coming field trip at Lake Elkhorn for which he is the trip leader. He is concerned that the paths around the lake are extremely crowded on weekends. As a result he feels it will be impossible to have a group of ~10 people maintain social distancing. David Sandler also expressed he had similar concerns over the Centennial walks. Allen agreed to contact Joe Hanfman and discuss options including moving the trip to a less crowded location or cancelling the trip. Bob should be copied on the discussion so he can update the website.

The meeting came to a sudden end as Google services experienced an area-wide interruption of services at 9:00 pm.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Include Mary Maxey in discussion of MOU with Chuck Sharp – John H. *DONE*
- Investigate holding regular club meeting as virtual on-line events – Mary, Mary Lou, John, Kurt *DONE*
- Provide Shorebird project MOU to Mary Lou for sharing with the board – John, Mary Lou *DONE*
- Speak to Kevin Cassidy about alternative seed sale approaches and inform Mary – Bob *DONE*
- Provide Mary Lou with names and contact info for 3 members without email – Bob *DONE*
- Contact and assist members without email in applying for membership – Mary Lou *DONE*
- Inform Robinson Nature Center that we will not hold meetings through December – Mary Lou *DONE*
- Work on and finalize the updated membership survey and provide to Bob – Mary, Mary Lou, Sarah *DONE*
- Work on developing a means to register non-members and invite them to meetings – John H., Mary, Bob *DONE*
- Inform Joe H. that he should solicit & provide information for limited field trips – Mary Lou, Mary *DONE*
- Provide information for fall field trips with new requirements – Joe H. *DONE*
- Finalize and enter field trips with registration system once Joe provides input – Bob *DONE*
- Pursue options for building a chimney swift tower at Mt. Pleasant or elsewhere – Sue
- Request WSSC access permission email for Fall and Winter count – Kevin *DONE*

## New/Continuing Action Items

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Update website to permit non-members to attend meetings by contacting Mary Lou - Bob
- Pursue options for building a chimney swift tower at Mt. Pleasant or elsewhere – Sue
- Provide Bob with updated cumulative minutes fund for posting – Chuck
- Coordinate with Wildlife Authority to finalize plans and advertise the seed sale – Bob
- Explore recording future virtual meetings and posting them on YouTube – Kelsey
- Send Kelsey contact info for Chris Ebberly for help with recording & posting meetings – Mary
- Ensure future Programs are added to the calendar on the MOS website – Mary Lou
- Ensure future Field Trips are added to the calendar on the MOS website – Joe Hanfman
- Implement public posting on the HCBC Facebook page – Kristen
- Provide Kelsey PowerPoint presentation on Google Meet tips – Bob
- Discuss options for field trips at crowded locations with Joe Hanfman – Allen

## Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 24, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
October 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
November 19, 2020	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 28, 2021	-	
February 25, 2021	-	
March 25, 2021	-	
April 22, 2021	-	
May 27, 2021	-	Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – September 24, 2020
- Treasurer’s Report – September 23, 2020
- Records Committee Report – Aug. 18 – Sept. 22, 2020
- MOU for the Shorebird Habitat Area at Sharp’s at Watford Farm – Aug. 22, 2020

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

**Amended Agenda**

September 24, 2020

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes  
Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report (Brian sent email)  
Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks  
Mary Maxey
5. Vice President's Remarks  
Kristen Trouton
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips  
Joe Hanfman/Mary Lou
  - Records (attached)  
Jo Solem
  - Conservation  
Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter  
Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster  
Bob Solem
  - Pot Luck  
Sharon Smith
  - Butterflies  
Kevin Heffernan
  - Breeding Bird Atlas3  
Sue Muller
  - State board report  
Mary Maxey
7. Old Business
  - Shorebird Habitat Project  
John Harris, Mary Lou
  - Mt Pleasant Bird Strike Project  
Mary Lou Clark
  - Chimney Swift Tower Proposal  
Sue Muller
  - Seed Sale  
Bob Solem
  - Virtual meetings  
Kelsey, Kristen, Bob
8. New Business
  - HCBC Facebook  
Kristen Trouton
9. Action Items  
Chuck Stirrat
10. Around the room-



**T Rowe Price + CHESTEM**

2019/2020	49,689				43,152	43,152	43,153	43,154
2018/19	43,152							
2017/18	53,024							
2016/17	43,735							

**Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)				27,986				
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR						
Internship - Concari		1500		2,000		1500	750	750
Balance				27,986				

**Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)				5,540				
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD				TBD	0	0
Balance				5,540				

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Mountjoy Fund				5,540	5,540	0	0	0	0
Chestem Fund				27,986	27,986	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)				9,626	9,626	0	0	0	0
Balance				43,152	46,153			3,000	
Interest						0.36	0.34	0.38	

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance				6,454					7,035
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## Records Committee Report – August 18 – September 22, 2020

Fall migration, so far, has been rather normal, a contrast with much of 2020. Many of the unusual species turn up later in the season so there is still much to anticipate.

A Blue-winged Teal on 8/22 at Fulton was one of the few species of waterfowl of note. The male Hooded Merganser in eclipse plumage at Centennial continues. There was a brief discussion concerning whether it was a male or female based on eye color, but Dave Ziokowski, who had made the original determination, had consulted with Peter Pyle about the plumage. Peter determined it was definitely a male. There were more than the usual number of reports of adult turkeys with partially grown young, a positive side effect of the BBA3. Common Nighthawk migration was consistent during appropriate weather, but numbers were almost all 10 or below. Chimney Swifts continued to attract attention at roosts with the flock at Glenelg H.S. topping out at 428 on 8/24. (Bill Hill counted them leaving the chimney around 10:00 a.m. which made it easier to count than in the declining light in evening.) Savage Mill's large chimney hosted ~1,000 the evening of 8/26. Jay Sheppard estimated they were dropping into the opening at about 50-100/minute. Shorebird migration has been mediocre with Pectoral Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper the best species.

Broad-winged Hawks may have already reached their peak days of passage, although the days this week could hold many more. Fall Count on 9/19 listed many parties reporting a few Broad-wings with some noon and later numbers of 365 at Viburnum Dr (Sarah Romero), 200 over Burleigh Manor (Mike Kerwin), and 84 at Thornbrook Rd (Jeff Culler). Equally good numbers were reported the following day. Clear blue sky for much of the period meant that unless one was lucky or caught the birds coming or going to roost, they were so high that they were easily overlooked. A Merlin (Ott) and a Peregrine Falcon (Allen Lewis) were also noted during this month.

Several Olive-sided Flycatchers, including two near each other at Mt. Pleasant were a bonus (Kristin Trouton). There were multiple reports of Least and a few Yellow-bellied (uncertain how many, if any, of those will be accepted). All signs point to this coming winter as bringing large numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches from northern locations. Already there have been multiple credible reports of both species. A Sedge Wren at Mt. Pleasant 8/23 was spotted by Bonnie Ott. A Marsh Wren at Fulton schools 9/19 by Kurt Schwarz and Mary Maxey stayed at least a few days. The first Lincoln's Sparrow of the season was spotted at Centennial 9/20 by Howard Patterson.

Warbler migration has produced a good variety and reasonable numbers for those who have been checking consistently. A Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid) in Russ Ruffing's yard at Cavey Lane 9/8 was a good sighting. There were also sightings of Mourning, Connecticut, and Golden-winged warblers.

Jo Solem  
[odenata@msn.com](mailto:odenata@msn.com)  
Laurel, MD 2072

**Memorandum of Understanding for the Shorebird Habitat Area at the  
Sharp's at Waterford Farm**

**Parties:**

- i) Howard County Bird Club (the Howard County chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.), henceforth 'HCBC' and
- ii) Sharp's at Waterford Farm, henceforth 'SAWF'.

This document is the Memorandum of Understanding ('MOU') for the Shorebird Habitat Area (henceforth 'SHA') at SAWF.

**Purpose:**

The SHA is intended as a site to provide an important migratory stopover habitat for shorebirds.

**HCBC and SAWF Contacts:**

HCBC designates John Harris to be the principal contact for scheduling its events at the SAWF and to liaise with the SAWF contact. The contact for SAWF will be the Farm Owner. HCBC will notify the SAWF should the principal contact change.

**Description and Responsibilities:**

The SHA will be located on the property of SAWF, 4003 Jennings Chapel Rd, Brookeville, MD 20833. The SHA will be constructed according to the design entitled *Waterford Shorebird Habitat* provided by Howard County Soil Conservation District (HSCD).

SAWF and HCBC will work together to pay for and oversee the installation and subsequent maintenance of the SHA in the following manor:

1. HCBC is not to exceed total construction reimbursements of \$17,521.00.
2. At the completion of the construction of the SHA and upon certification by Mr. Wes Earp that the construction meets the as-built requirements specified in the design, HCBC will reimburse the contractor for the full amount of the contract-bid. Mr. Earp will send an email to HCBC stating that the site meets all design requirements.
3. HCBC will reimburse \$5,000 to SAWF for loss, rent of crop field for a 5-year period. If SAWF terminates this MOU before May 1st during the 5-year period, HCBC will be reimbursed \$1,000.00 for each remaining year through 2025. When the EQIP program reimburses SAWF, SAWF will reimburse HCBC the sum of the EQIP funding amount minus \$5,000. The amount of the EQIP funding is \$13,357.
4. If this MOU is terminated after May 1, 2025, then SAWF will not be required to provide further reimbursement payments.

5. SAWF is responsible for complying with the rules and regulations specified by the EQIP agreement.

**Usage:**

The SHA shall be available for visiting by HCBC members from April 1 through June 15 and July 15 through September 30 of each year. During these time periods, SHA visitors may enter SAWF during the hours from 7:00 AM to 5 PM. HCBC members will park behind the right shed/barn that is perpendicular to the lane. Upon parking, they will sign in and place a designated marker on the south and north side of the barn (this will allow SAWF to know of SHA visitor presence), to be removed before leaving. Visitors will use the hayride trail to ingress, egress the SHA. Handicap or non-able members may park to the right of the hayride road at the closest point to SHA. On the first Wednesday of each month, SAWF will allow SHA visitors to arrive one half hour before sunrise. If SAWF is conducting activity that would put any members at risk, (Spraying of pesticides on crops, etc.) SAWF will place a do not enter marker on the barn.

The SHA will not be available for visiting by HCBC members outside of the periods and times described above, unless approved by SAWF

The HCBC contact will notify the Farm Owner in advance of any HCBC fieldtrips planned for the SHA. The SAWF Farm Owner will then promptly advise the HCBC contact of any conflicts with SAWF events. If a conflict cannot be resolved, the SAWF event will prevail.

**Maintenance:**

A designated HCBC representative may enter the SHA on a regular basis to manipulate the waterline, from the April 1 to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The HCBC will train volunteers to manipulate the SHA water levels per the *Management Plan*, provided by Howard County Soil Conservation District (HSCD).

Water level management may be done by SAWF, HCBC or both in cooperation. HCBC will maintain records of water levels and water level adjustments.

HCBC and SAWF will work to keep the SHA free of unwanted plant life. HCBC will monitor the site for plant life and will determine when a degradation of quality occurs due to encroachment of unplanned plant species. The HCBC liaison will work with the Farm Manager to determine the best course of action to deal with unwanted plant life. Moist soil management methods using disking will be the preferred method but more aggressive agronomic practices including cropping of the SHA may be warranted for harder to control species.

The HCBC liaison will work with the Farm Manager to create an annual maintenance plan prior to the start of the Spring usage season and will update the plan at the end of the Fall season. The plan will identify upcoming SHA maintenance activities and costs, if any, which require HCBC funds. The HCBC Board will review maintenance funding requests and will authorize payment when appropriate. The annual maintenance plan will include actions specified in the *Maintenance Plan* provided the by Howard County Soil Conservation District (HSCD).

**Records:**

HCBC will determine what records will be kept of wildlife observations made at the SHA as well as how these records will be distributed and archived. HCBC will provide copies annually or when requested.

Any release of information about the SHA to the press or other media will be done so only with the approval of SAWF.

**Revisions:**

This MOU can only be changed with the written agreement of the president of the HCBC and the SAWF Farm.

**Effective Date and Termination:**

This MOU is effective from July 15, 2020 through July 15, 2025. This MOU may be renewed at the end of five years if both parties agree. Either party may terminate this MOU for any reason or no reason with 30 days prior notice.

**Education**

If available, a member or members of HCBC will present an educational open house on either a Saturday or a Sunday, up to three programs per year, starting no earlier than year 2021. All programs will be designed and managed to ensure that COVID-19 safety standards specified by the state of Maryland and the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) are met.

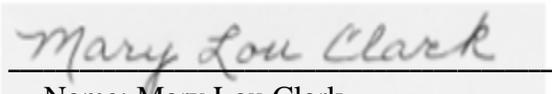
The signatures of the representatives of the parties below shall confirm their agreement to this MOU.

**SHARP’S AT WATEFORD FARM**

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB**



Name: Chuck Sharp  
Title: Farm Owner  
Email: calansharp@gmail.com



Name: Mary Lou Clark  
Title: President, HCBC

Date: August 20, 2020

Date: August 20, 2020



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, October 22, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristen Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Sharon Smith (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce  
Allen Lewis √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:** Emilio Concarì √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the virtual club meeting held October 8, 2020 was 31 people. Dr. Kevin Omland gave a program entitled “The Bahama Oriole.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Corrections to the distributed draft included adding Sue Muller’s attendance as she joined later. Another change corrected the action item regarding providing Kelsey with a contact in the Anne Arundel chapter, Chris Ebberly, who was knowledgeable about posting recorded meetings on YouTube. The person tasked was Mary rather than Mary Lou. The minutes were approved with these minor changes.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had provided the attached treasurer’s report prior to the meeting. The only significant transaction was to reissue the payment for the Safe Skies project installing bird collision prevention measures at the Howard County Conservancy. This was required because the check written last fall was lost and never cashed. This resulted in a minor change in the remaining balance for the Chestem Bequest fund. The new balance is \$26,486.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary reported that there were 65 seed sale orders received. The total donation was \$1,230 including Kevin Cassidy’s matching donation. Mary was interviewed for a video being produced by Howard Rec and Parks in which she was able to express the benefits of the counties beautiful parks and open space for birding and nature enjoyment. She mentioned Font Hill Wetlands Park and the Virginia Rails found there this summer. MOS has canceled plans for the Convention in Cumberland next Spring and currently are delaying it until May 2022. Applications for the scholarships at Hog Island and for the Black/Latina Scholarship are being solicited. Lastly she reported that Kevin Heffernan has resigned as coordinator for May Count and she is soliciting ideas for seeking a replacement. She also thanked Kevin for his many years of service as the coordinator.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin reported she was to lead a small group of Girl Scouts in birding at Mt. Pleasant the next day.

**Special Presentation** – Emilio Contari the summer intern we sponsored at Howard Rec and Parks gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing his activities. He had conducted a variety of surveys including Breeding Bird Atlas in a couple of blocks, butterfly and moth surveys and fungi. He also developed proposals for potential projects the club could consider sponsoring in the future that we reviewed at last board meeting. He expressed his gratitude and thanks for the club's support. Largely because of the contributions his surveys had made to the Maryland Biodiversity Project he has been offered an opportunity to work for them.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had submitted the attached report.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt reported a recent victory for the environment. The Atlantic Fishing Commission has adopted a new model for harvestable fishing. The new model adds a term for impact on the ecosystem, specifically for Menhaden. In the past month new limits for Menhaden were established with a decrease of 18% due to the role they play in the environment. Kurt also reported that George Alderson filed an MOS comment today opposing a step the Forest Service was getting ready to take. The Forest Service has the final say on actions in forests on Bureau of Land Management lands. The Forest Service has indicated they plan to abdicate this role and defer to BLM. MOS took a position opposing this proposed change and urging the Forest Service to continue to oversee BLM actions.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported he has posted announcements, handled emails, and posted photos but had nothing of importance to report.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): No report.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin stated the season is winding down and he didn't have much to report. Field outings are typically only finding 6 or 7 species. He mentions Snouts and Pipeline Swallowtail sightings. He agreed his report could probably be removed from agenda until March.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue indicated she has been thinking about how to find owls and had recently asked hunters to report any owls they heard or saw during managed deer hunts that she oversees. At the latest MPEA hunt hunters reported hearing two Great Horned Owls at deer stand #28. Another initiative is that someone at work is exploring uses for drone technology and she has proposed using them to find Great Horned Owl nests. She commented that there is limited atlas activity at this time. Pigeons are the only species in safe dates currently. She also commented that she had numerous Monarch pupae in her yard this year.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Koonce, Lewis, etc.): No meeting since our last board meeting.

## Old Business

Shorebird Habitat Project – John Harris had submitted the attached status report that Mary shared with the board prior to the meeting.

Mt. Pleasant Bird Strike Project – The installation of materials has resumed. The custom design portion and one door has been completed. It has been difficult to schedule as installers need to work closely so it is preferred not to have any other activity underway in the building due to COVID-19. In addition Carolyn Parsa from Safe Skies has had a back injury that precluded her helping. It is estimated the work will be completed in a couple of weeks.

Seed Sale – Mary reported that the seed sale seems to have been fairly successful. A total of 65 orders were received which is good given we had first announced there would be no sale. As mentioned above donations totaled \$1230 including the matching contribution. Bob has extracted contact information from those who donated that were not members or on the seed sale mailing list already. Mary thanked Bob for working with the Wildlife Authority to successfully conduct the seed sale. *Sec. Note: Since the meeting the Secretary has sent emails to all donors expressing our thanks and providing them a tax receipt.*

Virtual Meetings – The website now explains how non-club members can request to attend our club meetings. Mary Lou who sends the access information to those who email her their request to attend said that the process was working fine. It was suggested that Mary should send invites to other MOS chapter presidents inviting them to announce our meetings to their own membership. Mary reported that the Anne Arundel chapter was hosting informal virtual get-togethers. We agreed to open our virtual club meeting earlier (7 pm) to provide an opportunity for social interactions. In the future we might attempt adding photos as we have been doing during the social period in advance of the formal meeting. Mary said she attended the Montgomery chapter meeting the prior evening. We discussed adding the committee reports to the virtual meeting rather than attaching them to the NewsGram announcing the meeting as we have been doing since non-members would not receive those reports. We chose to continue what we have been doing and just have Mary make announcements prior to speaker.

HCBC Facebook page updates – Kristin reported that we have a Facebook “page” rather than “group” and you cannot open pages to public postings. We would need to create a HCBC group if we wanted public posting. We decided not to do that at this time. Kristin will review inputs she receives and post them if appropriate.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – We took no actions during the past month. Kurt had forwarded a request that we sign on to a letter drafted by the Center for Biological Diversity to Fish & Wildlife Service opposing a new regulation weakening critical habitat definition for endangered species. The request had an overnight deadline and as a result we did not act on the matter. Kurt did sign MOS on as he had already submitted an MOS comment letter taking a similar stance on the matter.

## **New Business**

Contact members who have not renewed – Bob had prepared lists of those who we have not been notified by MOS that they renewed their membership. He has shared those lists with Kelsey and Sharon. They will contact these members by email to remind them they have not renewed. After waiting a while they will give them a phone call with a final reminder.

### Around the Room –

- Kelsey reported that she had found a Pygmy Grasshopper and a Lont-tailed Skipper.
- Kurt reported that he was hearing Spring Peepers and had his moth light setup for the evening.
- Bob stated that he had a collection of photos of the Font Hill Virginia Rails that he hadn't yet posted and wondered if he could now post them. He was told he could now post them.
- Sue reported she had spent time at Cedar Lane Park and also had peepers.
- Jo reminded us that as the leaves come down we should look for Baltimore Oriole and American Goldfinch nests as evidence to confirm breeding during the past breeding season for the atlas.
- Jo also mentioned that an article thanking Tony VanShoor for his hosting of the club Facebook page was needed. She also said items for the web, NewGram, and Goldfinch should announce that Kristen is the new Facebook page administrator.
- Kristen reported she had a Red-breasted Nuthatch in yard. She also had made a trip to Patterson Park for an American Bittern and to the harbor for the Brown Booby.
- Allen reported that he has had Pine Siskins coming and going from his feeders. He also had a Blue-headed Vireo at the feeder.
- Mary Lou reported she had Purple Finches at her feeders.

### Review of Prior Action Items:

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Update website to permit non-members to attend meetings by contacting Mary Lou – Bob DONE
- Pursue options for building a chimney swift tower at Mt. Pleasant or elsewhere – Sue TABLE
- Provide Bob with updated cumulative minutes fund for posting – Chuck DONE
- Coordinate with Wildlife Authority to finalize plans and advertise the seed sale – Bob DONE
- Explore recording future virtual meetings and posting them on YouTube – Kelsey
- Send Kelsey contact info for Chris Ebberly for help with recording & posting meetings – Mary DONE
- Ensure future Programs are added to the calendar on the MOS website – Mary Lou DONE
- Ensure future Field Trips are added to the calendar on the MOS website – Joe Hanfman DONE
- Implement public posting on the HCBC Facebook page – Kristen OBE
- Provide Kelsey PowerPoint presentation on Google Meet tips – Bob DONE
- Discuss options for field trips at crowded locations with Joe Hanfman – Allen DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Explore recording future virtual meetings and posting them on YouTube – Kelsey
- Establish a practice of inviting other chapter presidents to announce invites to our meetings – Mary
- Contact Wes Earp and explore presenting photos during pre-meeting period - Kelsey
- Contact members who have not renewed with reminders that their membership has lapsed – Kelsey, Sharon

### Board Meeting Schedule

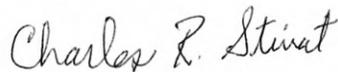
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
October 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
November 19, 2020	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 28, 2021	-	
February 25, 2021	-	
March 25, 2021	-	
April 22, 2021	-	
May 27, 2021	-	Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – October 22, 2020
- Treasurer’s Report – October 21, 2020
- Records Committee Report Sept. 23 – Oct. 19, 2020
- Shorebird Habitat Facility - Project Status Report – October 22, 2020

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

Link for the board meeting on Thursday - [meet.google.com/tjq-sgni-qva](https://meet.google.com/tjq-sgni-qva)

Phone call-in information - 401-287 8914 PIN: 625164245

**Agenda**

October 22, 2020

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report (attachment) Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks Mary Maxey
5. Vice President's Remarks Kristen Trouton
6. Sue's intern presentation Emilio
7. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
  - Records (attached) Jo Solem
  - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster Bob Solem
  - Butterflies Kevin Heffernan
  - Breeding Bird Atlas3 Sue Muller
8. Old Business
  - Shorebird Habitat Project John Harris
  - Mt Pleasant Bird Strike Project Mary Lou Clark
  - Seed Sale (attachment) Bob Solem
  - Virtual meetings Kelsey
  - HCBC Facebook page updates Kristin
9. New Business
  - Contact members who have not renewed
10. Action Items Chuck Stirrat
11. Around the room

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal  
2020-2021**

**2020-2021**

**NPR = Not previously reported  
TBD= To Be Determine**

	Actual YTD 2019-20	Approved 2019/20 Budget	Proposed 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2020/21 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Running Subtotal
<b>Income</b>											
Net Membership Dues	3,692	3,200	3,200	3,200	115	0	0	305	860		1280
Contributions to HCBC		3,500	3,500	3,500	40	0	0	0	40	100	180
Habitat Preservation	3,282				186	0	200	315	1122		1823
Butterfly Fund	440				0	0	0	0	0		0
Interest income	215	NPR		NPR	0	0	0	0	0		0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>2022</b>		<b>3183</b>
<b>Expenses</b>											
Meeting Programs (speakers)	225	700	700	700	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	0		0
								Oct Covered by MLC, entered as donation			0
<b>Office Expenses</b>											
Newsletter/other printing	1,407	500	1,000	500	0	0	0	69	0		69
Website/Email/Internet	540	500	500	500	0	0	0	0	0		0
Postage/Copies/Office Supplies	454	250	300	250	0	0	0	0	0		0
Bank fees	93	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	33	39
Greenfest Support	50	70	70	70	0	0	0	0	0		0
									Oct Stop payment		0
<b>Projects/Grants</b>											
All Creatures	0	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0		0
Frisky's	300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0		0
Education	0	NPR	100	100	0	0	0	0	0		0
YMOS	200	250	250	250	0	0	0	0	0		0
Butterfly Fund	440	NPR	440	NPR	0	0	0	0	0		0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3759</b>	<b>2920</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>75</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>3,780</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>3,680</b>					<b>3108</b>		<b>3108</b>

					May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<b>T Rowe Price + CHESTEM</b>										
2019/2020	49,689				43,152	43,152	43,153	43,154	43,154	
2018/19	43,152									
2017/18	53,024									
2016/17	43,735									

<b>Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)</b>										
Balance (4/28/2020)			27,986							
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR		NPR						
Internship - Concari		1500	2,000	1500		750			750	
Balance			27,986						Internship paid in full	

<b>Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)</b>										
Balance (4/28/2020)			5,540							
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD		TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance			5,540							

<b>T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)</b>										
Mountjoy Fund			5,540	5,540	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestem Fund			27,986	27,986	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)			9,626	9,626	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance			43,152	46,153			3,000			
Interest					0.36	0.34	0.38			

<b>PNC Checking Account</b>										
Balance										Oct Transactions: 3,937.00 SAFE SKIES project / designated CHESTEM fund expense but funded from checkng

## Records Committee Report: Sept. 23 – Oct. 19, 2020 – Joanne Solem

A productive fall month with just enough lows mixed with blue skies to provide a variety of species, some in good numbers. If passerines were your interest, Mt. Pleasant was the place to be much of the month.

Ducks are slowly beginning to appear. The male Hooded Merganser in eclipse plumage remained at Centennial Park with a visible change in its appearance. Nothing amazing on the shorebird front. An American Woodcock was flushed at Hugg-Thomas WMA 10/4. The number of Double-crested Cormorants is slowly increasing at Wilde Lake; by mid-Oct. it was up to 11. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was still reported at Brush Run 10/8, but that is not unusual since the late date goes into early Nov. **Common** Egrets, likewise, could be around for another month or even two.

As expected, Merlins, Peregrine Falcons, and Northern Harriers are being reported in small numbers. Broad-winged Hawk numbers usually drop quickly after early Oct. The last report was one at Clarksville 10/13. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Winter Wrens have both made an appearance. One Least Flycatcher on 9/30 pushed the 10/1 late date, but that was quickly eclipsed by one at Plumtree Path on 10/7. Red-breasted Nuthatches moved in and have been reported at many sites. Thrush migration was not notable with the usual smattering of Gray-cheeked reports.

Purple Finches and Pine Siskins are living up to their predicted irruption. P. Finch numbers have been mostly in single digits. Siskins, however, appear to be making a major invasion. The two at Howard Patterson's feeder 10/7 were the vanguard. Numbers and reports rose rapidly to 18, 25, 35, 48, 65, 75, and ~100 in two instances, all by 10/18. Perhaps most of these birds will continue beyond us, but many may stay. The winter of 2008-09 brought numbers in excess of 200 to at least one feeder setup!

If October is sparrow month, then we are doing well. Winter sparrows have arrived including Vesper, Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned. A Nelson's at Mt. Pleasant 10/2 (by who else? Bonnie Ott) was the best one. Lincoln's, as usual, are a county specialty. The number at Mt. Pleasant rose to 5, 6, 8, and finally 10 on 10/13. A Rusty Blackbird was photographed at Mt. Pleasant, also on 10/13.

Warblers continued to appear in sufficient numbers and variety to keep field birders happy. The peak seemed to be the last week of Sept. It was possible to log a dozen species (as several parties did) with a high of 14 species on 9/24 at Plumtree Path. At least two Connecticut Warblers were photographed in the county. An Orange-crowned was picked out at Mt. Pleasant 9/27 and It (or another bird) was still present into the middle of Oct. A Yellow Warbler at Meadowbrook on 10/9 was late for this species.

Finally, a Dickcissel was heard and then spotted as it flew over Cavey Lane on 9/29.

## Shorebird Habitat Facility - Project Status Report – October 22, 2020

Hello Mary - I met with Wes Earp at Sharp's Farm on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 to review progress on the Shorebird Habitat Facility at Sharp's Farm. Please see the project status report below and attached files with photographs from before and after construction began. I copy Mr. Earp on this report.

- The firm Mark D. Hereth Construction, Llc. began construction on September 15, 2020.
- Grading, construction of surrounding ditch, seeding, dike construction, and pipe preparation are underway.
- The project is about 33% percent complete overall.
- No significant obstacles to completion have been encountered.
- Recent wet conditions have delayed some construction activities.
- The construction effort is being monitored by the Howard Soil Conservation District.

Best regards - John

--

John Harris

## April 7, 2019 (HCBC field-trip) - Pre-construction - agricultural field

The water source (existing pond) for the Shorebird Habitat Facility can be seen on the right, with the shorebird area on the left. This photo looks east.



Preconstruction views of Shorebird Habitat Facility. These pan from west to east.





September 15, 2020 - Construction kick-off meeting



October 20, 2020 - Construction work in progress





**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, November 19, 2020

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2015-2016 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristen Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Sharon Smith (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Clayton Koonce  
Allen Lewis √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson -/√  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Google Meets. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held virtually on November 12, 2020 was approximately 44 people. Sam Droege gave a program entitled “The Birds and the BEES.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Minutes were accepted with only minor typographical errors corrected from the draft submitted to Board prior to the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had forwarded the attached report in advance of the meeting. He reported that effort had been underway trying to reconcile the membership lists with MOS records so that we could have an accurate list before the Chapter Directors begin contacting those who have not renewed. Bob reported he felt he now had a reconciled list to use. Brian reported he anticipated making payment for our share of the Shorebird Habitat Project in the near future. The payment to contractor will be approximately \$18,300 and payment to Chuck Sharp will be \$5000.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary reported that she had fallen and broke her wrist earlier in the week. She welcomed Sherry who was attending her first board meeting since volunteering to be a co-chair of the Potluck committee. She provided Sherry with a brief description of the Shorebird Habitat Project. Mary reported that MOS has canceled plans for the Convention that was to be held in Cumberland this coming May. It will be rescheduled for May 20-22, 2022. Volunteers to work on a “virtual” convention to be held June 11-13, 2021 are being solicited. Volunteers should contact John McKittrick. Mary offer Bob “kudos” for his prompt posting of web announcements she provided him. She will attempt to provide announcements she receives of other chapters meetings that are available on-line. MOS would like us to post our meetings on MDBirding and our Facebook page. MOS is seeking volunteers for Editor of the Yellowthroat, someone to help with the MOS Facebook page, and a Sanctuary Committee chairman. Mary will provide Bob with the text for a NewsGram soliciting volunteers for these positions.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Nothing to report.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report. Several commented that trips had been going well with social distancing and masks being used. In reply to a question Bob stated that registration closes at noon day prior to trip and a list of registrants is sent to trip leader. He also reported that there is no formal provision for a wait list.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had provided the attached report prior to the meeting.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was not able to attend but had sent the attached report in advance.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob further clarified the reconciliation of membership lists with MOS records. The list originally generated listed 80 non-renewals. Bob working with Tom Strikwerda was able to reduce this to 29 memberships. He noted that we used to track votes where a family membership was considered 2 votes for determining the number of State Directors we are entitled to. He feels that our being entitled to 3 Directors is now well established. Lastly Bob reiterated that Brian is now responsible for tracking memberships.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry was attending her first meeting but we don't anticipate any activity on potluck in near term.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Expect no report for the next few meetings.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue said she was looking for photos of Oriole nests in winter as finding nest would confirm breeding. She has continued to talk to Gabe about gaining access to BGE right of ways so they could be searched for eagle nests but so far haven't received permission. She has received reports of eagle nest that was at the county sewage treatment plant but that tree has fallen. She is hopeful another nest might be found nearby. She had hoped to send an email to deer hunters participating in registered hunts asking them to report owls they see, but so far that hasn't happened. Sue reported she gave a talk to the Sierra Club about the atlas project.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Koonce, Lewis, etc.): No meeting since our last board meeting on October 22. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5. Mary asked the Directors who attend to prepare a summary of highlights of Board meeting for our board. David agreed to do this for December. Allen said he will do so at a future meeting. *Sec. Note: Mary notified the board on Nov. 25 that Clayton Koonce has resigned as State Director and we will need to find a volunteer to fill the vacancy.*

## Old Business

Mt. Pleasant Bird Strike Project – Mary Lou reported that the window treatments had been installed. Carolyn Parsa, who was lead from the Safe Skies organization, estimated that nearly 50 hours of volunteer effort went into the installation. Mary Lou said the custom treatments look great. In response to a query from Chuck, Mary Lou reported that the sign describing the project, which we paid for previously has been put up. Through the efforts of Safe Skies Howard County was the first county in the state to mandate bird safe treatment on new buildings.

Virtual Meetings – Kelsey reported that the attempt to record our November regular meeting had failed because the MOS Google Meet subscription is not an Enterprise version which does not support this capability. Her attempt at a fall back approach during the meeting did not work. She thought she had another option to try for the next meeting. It was suggested that recording might be easier if we were using the Zoom program rather than Google Meets. A quick check showed that an annual Zoom subscription that would have an unlimited time limit would be \$149. It was moved and passed that we should purchase a subscription if further investigation showed that this product would work better. Kelsey took an action to investigate purchasing Zoom for use by the December 10 meeting. If she decides it is the best way to proceed she should work with Brian to purchase a subscription. Chuck pointed out this might be funded from the Mountjoy fund.

HCBC Facebook Page Updates – Kristen reported there have been no changes.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None.

## **New Business**

Habitat Donation Discussion – Chuck asked to add this item to the agenda. He stated that in addition to the Chestem bequest the balance in the Habitat Fund has continued to increase and we should formally search for projects to use the money on as we used to do annually. We used to alternate between local and national/international projects but Jo remarked we should not be afraid to focus on local uses if valid ones are identified. Bob pointed out that there is a list of habitat projects we have funded in the past on the website. A number of ideas were offered including:

- 1) Explore whether the Robinson Nature Center would be open to help with funding bird-strike treatments on their windows,
- 2) A Chimney Swift Tower as was proposed earlier this year,
- 3) Grants on an annual basis for establishing and maintaining pollinator habitats including on private farms
  - o Ask Wes Earp for potential farmers to approach
  - o Kevin mention Bee City initiative for establishing habitats in centers of Columbia cul de sacs
  - o Sue mentioned the farmer she has been working with in a Woodbine atlas block,
- 4) Stipend for an intern at Howard Recreation and Parks

Mary will add discussion of potential projects will be added to next Board meeting agenda. Ideally members with proposals should provide details of proposals in advance of the meeting.

## Around the Room -

- Brian asked if we owed an honorarium to Sam Droege for his talk on bees. As a government employee with restrictions on accepting he might want to donate it. Mary Lou said she would check with him.
- Kristin reported she had 13 Bald Eagles at the Triadelphia Reservoir today. Her Red-breasted Nuthatch continues at her feeder.
- Kevin reported on the activities of the county pollinator committee. They are developing a sign for posting on gardens/cul de sacs that identify them as pollinator friendly habitat. They have templates for planting habitats. He and Linda Hunt are planning to give their annual program on pollinators to the club in January. In response to a query he replied that the proposal to create cul de sac habitats assumes the neighbors would be responsible for maintenance.
- Sue shared a photo that Kristin had come across in her family records. The photo showed Sue leading a group of Girl Scouts that included Kristin taken 25 years ago. It was commented this seemed like a great item for the Goldfinch.
- Kelsey commented that she had just removed Sarah from her email group for board meeting announcements.
- Mary reported that she still has a Red-breasted Nuthatch coming to her feeder. She asked if anyone felt a report of 12 Ravens was possible as a friend had reported to have seen one. Jo said it there were reports of family groups and this might be possible. Jo would like details for her records.
- Brian reported he has a cardinal with large white eye-rings. The bird looks very much like a parrot.

## **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Explore recording future virtual meetings and posting them on YouTube – Kelsey DONE
- Establish a practice of inviting other chapter presidents to announce invites to our meetings – Mary DONE
- Contact Wes Earp and explore presenting photos during pre-meeting period – Kelsey OBE
- Contact members who have not renewed with reminders that their membership has lapsed – Kelsey, Sharon

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing)
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Contact members who have not renewed with reminders that their membership has lapsed – Kelsey, Sharon
- Investigate purchasing Zoom for our virtual meetings and if warranted order a subscription – Kelsey, Brian
- Provide Bob with material for NewsGram announcing MOS volunteer needs – Mary
- Add discussion of ideas for habitat donation funded projects to next Board agenda - Mary

### Board Meeting Schedule

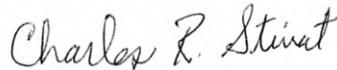
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May 27, 2021	-	Joint meeting with new and old members)

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- Agenda – November 19, 2020
- Treasurer’s Report – November 17, 2020
- Records Committee Report – Oct. 20 – November 14, 2020
- Conservation Report – November 19, 2020

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

Link for the board meeting on Thursday -

[meet.google.com/mng-pdcn-ovy](https://meet.google.com/mng-pdcn-ovy)

Phone call-in information -

(US) [+1 219-488-1891](tel:+12194881891) (PIN: 583437335)

**Agenda**

November 19, 2020

1. Additions?
  2. Review of Minutes
  3. Treasurer's Report (attachment)
  4. President's Remarks
  5. Vice President's Remarks
  6. Chapter Committee Reports
    - Field Trips
    - Records (attached)
    - Conservation
    - Newsletter
    - Webmaster
    - Butterflies
    - Breeding Bird Atlas3
  7. Old Business
    - Mt Pleasant Bird Strike Project
    - Virtual meetings
    - HCBC Facebook page updates
  8. New Business
    - Habitat Donation Discussion
  9. Action Items
  10. Around the room-
- Chuck Stirrat  
Brian Moyer  
Mary Maxey  
Kristen Trouton
- Joe Hanfman  
Jo Solem  
Kurt Schwarz  
Howard Patterson  
Bob Solem  
Kevin Heffernan  
Sue Muller
- Mary Lou Clark  
Kelsey  
Kristin
- Chuck Stirrat

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal**  
**2020-2021                      2020-2021**

**NPR = Not previously reported**  
**TBD= To Be Determine**

	Actual YTD 2019-20	Approved 2019/20 Budget	Proposed 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2020/21 Budget	Actuals for May 2020-April 2021							Running Subtotal	
					May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov		
<b>Income</b>													
Net Membership Dues	3,692	3,200	3,200	3,200	115	0	0	305	860	40	200	1520	
Contributions to HCBC		3,500	3,500	3,500	40	0	0	0	40	100	130	310	
Habitat Preservation	3,282				186	0	200	315	1122	0	0	1823	
Butterfly Fund	440				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Seed Sale					0	0	0	0	0	0	1230	1230	
Interest income	215	NPR		NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
												0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>4,883</b>	
												0	
<b>Expenses</b>												0	
												0	
Meeting Programs (speakers)	225	700	700	700	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
												0	
<b>Office Expenses</b>												0	
												0	
Newsletter/other printing	1,407	500	1,000	500	0	0	0	69	0	0	61	130	
Website/Email/Internet	540	500	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Postage/Copies/Office Supplies	454	250	300	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bank fees	93	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	33	4.8	43.8	
Greenfest Support	50	70	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
												0	
<b>Projects/Grants</b>												0	
												0	
All Creatures	0	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Frisky's	300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Education	0	NPR	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
YMOS	200	250	250	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Butterfly Fund	440	NPR	440	NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
												0	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3759</b>	<b>2920</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>273.8</b>	
												0	
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>3,780</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>4,609</b>	
												0	


0  
0

**T Rowe Price + CHESTEM**

2019/2020	49,689			43,152	43,152	43,153	43,154	43,154	43,154
2018/19	43,152								
2017/18	53,024								
2016/17	43,735								

**Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)			27,986							27,986
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR		NPR						0
Internship - Concari		1500	2,000	1500	750			750		1500
										0
Balance			27,986							26,486

**Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)			5,540							5,540
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD		TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance			5,540							5,540

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Mountjoy Fund	5,540	5,540	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestem Fund	27,986	27,986	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)	9,626	9,626	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	43,152	46,154			3,000			
Interest			0.36	0.34	0.38	0.33	0.34	0.37

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance 5,132

Nov. Transactions; -\$174.02 Check printing fee; printing \$61.00 newsletter

**Records Committee Report: Oct. 20 – Nov. 14, 2020 – Joanne Solem.**

With Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) once again open this year, birders watched autumn cold fronts with anticipation. They were well-rewarded on Oct. 30 with a fine assortment of waterfowl; however, the prize that day was not a duck but a shorebird: a late Black-bellied Plover (JHf). Bufflehead numbers there grew to 228 on 11/2 (MKw), likely a new high count. Elsewhere during that period, at least five Cackling Geese appeared on 10/31 at the So. Trotter Rd pond which they have favored the last few years (WE). Two Northern Shovelers over Mt. Pleasant 11/1 were unexpected (C/SPr). The second week of November brought heavy rain and high winds on 11/12 producing a major fallout at TRIRS. Among the many species of waterfowl tallied at that location were 15 Greater Scaup and 225 Lesser Scaup, both probably new highs. All three scoter species were also, a likely first for the county (JHf). Although ducks were forced down by the wind, terns and small gulls are notorious for flying ahead of or within fronts. A few Forster's Terns and 300 Bonaparte's Gulls in three flocks were part of the special species at the reservoir that same day. Meanwhile, also on 11/12, Tundra Swans were reported over half a dozen county locations. Each of the central lakes received at least a few notable waterfowl as part of the fallout from the dramatic change in the weather.

For the second consecutive winter, a Rufous Hummingbird appeared at an Ellicott City feeder (not the same one as last year). The Hatch Year male appeared 10/29 and was banded successfully on 11/13 (BPj, DHm, DZk). It appears to have moved on after spending several weeks adding fat. A Green Heron at Jackson Pond 11/13 was one of a handful of November records (RVr).

As expected, there were a few sightings of Peregrine Falcons, Merlins, and Northern Harriers. Two excellent raptor species (with photos) were a Rough-legged Hawk at the SkyWatch on 10/28 (MKw) and a Golden Eagle over Cavey La 11/13 (RRf). Another great find was a Short-eared Owl over the Davis Branch wetland at Mt. Pleasant 11/8 (BO, ph.). The same general area hosted a Marsh Wren on 11/1 (TFy).

Boreal species continued attracting attention with siskins producing the most reports and highest numbers with a few flocks in excess of 100 birds. Equally exciting was the appearance of Evening Grosbeaks. Reports of small flocks from at least 10 locations created anticipation of winter feeder variety not seen in many years.

Among the numerous arriving or lingering sparrows, a LeConte's Sparrow was the standout species. It was spotted in the swale in the far west field at Mt. Pleasant 11/1, establishing the fourth county record (KS). It is likely to go down in memory as the most cooperative individual of this species most birders have ever seen. (Imagine having a choice of multiple excellent photographs to post on the website's Bird Gallery!) So far, the season's latest Baltimore Oriole appeared in an E. Columbia yard during heavy rain on 11/11 (MO'S). Since a few individuals may winter, there could well be subsequent sightings of this species.

The last migratory warblers were a Cape May 10/20 (GPs), American Redstart 10/30 (DSn), Tennessee 11/6 (B/DFy), and Palm 11/10 (TFy). Several of those could prove to be new late dates; Palms, however, can continue into December.

Observers: WE – Wes Earp, B/DFy – Bernard/Dawn Foy, TFy – Tim Frye, JHf – Joe Hanfman, DHm – David Holmes, MKw – Mike Kerwin, MO'S – Michael O'Sullivan, BO – Bonnie Ott, C/SPr – Cindy/Steve Parr, BPj - Bruce Peterjohn, GPs – Gregg Petersen, RRf – Russ Ruffing, KS – Kurt Schwarz, DSn – David Sun, RVr – Roshan Vignarajah, DZk – David Zilkowski.

Thanks,

Jo,

Solem

[odenata@msn.com](mailto:odenata@msn.com)

Laurel, MD 20723

## **Kurt Schwarz – Conservation Report - November 19, 2020**

At the State level there have been a few letters, most notably in support of expansion of Wildlands (State wilderness) at Pocomoke State Forest and opening a trail from Snow Hill to Pocomoke State Park through said lands. Also we wrote to an entity in Texas that owns what is known as Salineno, asking them not to sell said land along the Rio Grande, as it is a prime birding destination (Morelet's Seedeater) and would be subject to Border Wall. Said entity has pledged not to sell.

Closer to home, a Magnetic Levitation Train line has been proposed adjacent to the BW Parkway between DC and Baltimore. We are just getting into this. The line, which would cost a tremendous amount per mile to build, well in excess of any rail, and take out at least 200 acres for barren train yards, will do nothing to lessen traffic, as the fares will be exorbitant. Land will taken from Patuxent Refuge, Beltsville Ag Center, NASA Goddard, and other public lands. For private profit. These areas have been extensively studied, and also house rare pine barrens. And one route goes under Maryland City, in particular, Jay Sheppard's house. The EIS will be open for public comment o/a January 22, but prior to that, we plan to contact Congress, and maybe local jurisdictions.

Lots of details here:

<https://www.stophisttrain.org>

Sam Droege is one of the leading voices in opposition. Again, this is NOT mass transit, only the elite will use this service, with stops only in DC, Balto, and BWI.

Kurt



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, January 28, 2021

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey (√)  
Vice-president: Kristen Trouton (√)  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat (√)  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer (√)  
Chap. Directors: Sharon Smith (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) (√)  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) (√)  
State Directors: David Sandler (√)  
Allen Lewis (√)  
Vacant  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark (√)  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz (√)  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem (√)  
Webmaster: Bob Solem (√)  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/Tomlinson (√)  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan (√)  
BBA3: Sue Muller (√)  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Google Meets. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 8, 2020 was 43 people. Gabriel Foley gave a program entitled “The Maryland and DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3.” Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 14, 2021 was 63 people. Linda Hunt and Kevin Heffernan gave a program entitled “Backyard Butterflying: Howard County Butterfly Survey Results during the 2020 Survey.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The only change to minutes after they were distributed was to correct Jo’s Records report to indicate that the scoters were found by Joe Hanfman alone and Howard Patterson didn’t want to lay claim to finding them. The minutes were accepted with this minor correction.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had sent the attached report effective as of Jan 16, 2021. It shows payment of our share of the cost of sponsoring owl program at the Howard County Conservancy. Since then he has repaid Chuck for stepping in to pay the bill for the Shorebird Habitat Project due by Dec 31 when we had an issue with transferring funds from the T Rowe Price account to our checking account. He transferred \$25,000 from TR Price to checking using snail mail but he is still working to activate electronic transfer. He mentioned that new memberships continue to be submitted. One possibility is that the virtual meetings have encouraged people to join. Also some of the new members are active eBirders who have become aware of the club. Someone suggested we may want to explore continuing the virtual access to meetings even after we resume in-person meetings.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary expressed thanks to all who have volunteered on club activities. She mentioned Kelsey’s efforts to support club and board meetings virtually. She thanked Chuck for his efforts as Secretary. She did suggest that his efforts are critical and we should think about finding someone who could serve as a backup and that it would be very worthwhile if he could work on a continuity guide. She thanked Kevin for his service as May Count coordinator for many years. She announced that Greg Petersen and Amy Anderson have stepped up to be co-coordinators going forward. She mentioned that the Board needs to select a new State Director replacing Clayton Koonce who resigned (See New Business).

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): No report.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): The club anticipates organized field trips will be canceled until the vaccination program will make it safe to resume. Someone suggested we might want to organize some virtual events to substitute for the absence of field trips.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had submitted the attached report. The European Goldfinch that had been visiting Mother Nature's feeders appeared at Allen Lewis' feeder yesterday.

**Conservation** (Kurt Schwarz): Kurt reported that the Maryland legislature is in session and there are several bills he is tracking. One is the override of the Governor's veto of the ban on Chlorpyrifos and attempting to close a loophole in the bill. He has MOS supporting the sustainable buildings act. He is also supporting the plastic bag reduction act. He is anticipating considerable activity opposing the proposed 40 mile MagLev train from D.C. to Baltimore. The project relies on gifting federal lands to private developers. It will require a 200 acre train yard and will impact Patuxent NWR and/or the Beltsville Agriculture Center. It will also need multiple ventilations shafts and power substations. The project is based on an unproven technology. It will be very expensive and only have stops at the two ends and at the BWI airport. MOS is opposed and the Board approved a motion confirming it is the consensus of the Board that we are opposed as well. Bob volunteered to help Kurt work on this opposition. The draft environmental impact statement is scheduled for April. We should anticipate multiple calls for contacting legislators and other decision makers.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported the web activity has been fairly quiet and that all is going well.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): No report.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that the Bee City project is considering trying to sponsor a program on bee identification by Heather Holm. He anticipates it would require a fee of \$500 for an on-line presentation. He asked if the Board would approve him contacting Mt. Pleasant about co-sponsoring such a program. We approved the idea. *Sec. Note: Kevin later reported that the Conservancy will split the fee with us and they are searching for a date.*

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that it is still early in the atlasing calendar but several people have actively been searching for eagle and owl nests. One eagle nest on a BGE tower will not be removed until after the nesting season. She reported that Wild Turkeys were added to one block for last year based on a photograph that was submitted. A Raven nest has been found in Savage. Sue is scheduled to give multiple virtual talks to several groups including Trout Unlimited, Sierra Club, Columbia homeowners group, and Patapsco Heritage. She also discovered a feral cat colony outside the motel where Sarah Romero was staying during a recent visit.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou thanked the people who continue to provide her with suggestions for future speakers.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Koonce, Lewis, etc.): No report.

## Old Business

Virtual Meetings - After a brief discussion we decided that the risk of exceeding the maximum user level of 100 is minor and we should consider listing the access link on the website so non-members don't need to ask Mary Lou for it. Mary Lou indicated she didn't mind serving as contact for non-members if necessary. *Sec. Note: After the meeting, Mary Maxey contacted John McKitterick, who was adamant that the Google Meet link and password NOT be posted in the website since he said that was an open invitation for spammers and disrupters. Accordingly we will continue the practice of providing the link in a NEWSGRAM to members and requiring non-members to email Mary Lou requesting the link.* Kelsey proposed that we purchase a subscription to Zoom and try it as she finds speakers

are much more familiar with it. It also supports recording the meeting more easily. We had approved this purchase in November but put it off when Brian had an issue purchasing it. We agreed to do that and try it out for the regular meeting in February. Kelsey also asked if we should consider holding a virtual PotLuck where members could show their pictures via Zoom. It could also include a social period. Sherry agreed to talk with Linda Hunt her co-chair and decide if they thought it was a good time and what date would we hold it.

HCBC Facebook Page Updates – Kristen said she is posting new items once or twice a month. She has included photos, meeting announcements, and has had one “give-away” postings. Several people felt they had some items that could be used as future give-aways.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None

## **New Business**

Estate of Elsa Orley Ponce – Brian reported that we had received notification from a lawyer representing the personal representative for the estate of Elsa Ponce a former member of the club (1982-2006) who passed away in July 2020. Ms. Ponce had included the club as a beneficiary of her estate. Her will specifies that we receive one-fifth of her residuary estate currently estimated at \$1.9 million. We are being asked to sign a Consent to Compensation for Personal Representative and/or Attorney (attached) in the amount of \$15,000 plus potential additional fees up to maximum allowed by Maryland law. This compensation will be deducted from our share of the estate which nominally would be around \$350,000 once the final value of the estate is determined. According to the estate inventory more than 95% of the value is in banking accounts and investment accounts. After discussion we agreed to have Brian sign and return the Consent document. We also discussed whether we need to have a lawyer to represent us in this manner. Since we don't know of any lawyers who are currently members of the club it was suggested we see if MOS has someone that provides legal advice and services that we could consider using.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Jo stated the the official 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting would be November or December 2022. Given the difficulties experienced this year due to the pandemic she proposed that we push our anniversary celebration activities and events into the 2022 calendar year. She proposed forming an Anniversary Committee to develop plans. Jo has agreed to Co-chair the committee. Others volunteering include Mary Lou (Programs), Mary Maxey, and David Sandler. Several ideas were put forth including Special Program speaker(s), awards, web pages (old timer memories), T-shirts, cups, etc.

Replacement of State Director - Bob had reviewed the by-laws and determined that when an opening among the officers occurs during a term the Board is authorized to elect a replacement to fill out the remainder of the term. Sherry Tomlinson has agreed to accept the position of State Director. It was moved and passed that she fill the remainder of the term. She will need to be re-elected in the coming April election for next year's slate of officers.

The slate of officers for next year needs to be finalized by March. With this being the second year of Mary's term we would normally only need a new Chapter Director presuming the other officers agree to serve again. Kelsey said she would agree to serve as a Chapter Director for another two year term. Mary felt that would be beneficial given the key role Kelsey is playing as our virtual IT expert. Other officers agreed they were willing to serve again.

Owl Nests Lost to Dead Tree Removal – Sue stated she had been contacted by a citizen who observed that a tree with an owl nest had been cut down by a crew clearing dead ash trees in program to remove threats of falling dead trees. This particular issue occurred on Columbia Association property not Rec and Parks land so Sue has no formal role. She asked if the club would like her to approach CA about asking if they would appreciate receiving notification of owl nest locations in advance of clearing operations. The Board agreed that the response probably wouldn't be very positive but that Sue was welcome to make an approach to CA.

Around the Room –

- Sherry expressed her pleasure to serve as a State Director and continue as Co-chair of the Potluck committee.
- Sue asked if the Board felt there was an advantage to having a member of Howard Recreation and Parks attend our board meetings. She has been doing that for a number of years but with her pending retirement she would no longer be able to serve in that role. We agreed there had been benefits of having a liaison to Rec & Parks but that the person really needed to be a club member to provide the most benefit. Sue stated

she was thinking of Erin Eve as someone who might serve in this role but would need to propose the idea of a continuing liaison to Rec & Parks management. It was moved and approved that we supported the idea and authorized Sue to approach Rec & Parks with the idea.

- Sue commented that the Ponce bequest showed that members that weren't necessarily active birders could be silent members who value board projects and club stewardship.
- Brian mentioned his displeasure with a neighbor who was feeding cooked meat to vultures and Red-shoulder Hawks which is not healthy for the birds.

### Review of Prior Action Items:

- Creation of Shallow Water Shorebird Habitat in County – Board (ongoing) DONE
- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Contact members who have not renewed with reminders that their membership has lapsed – Kelsey, Sharon DONE
- Investigate purchasing Zoom for our virtual meetings and if warranted order a subscription – Kelsey, Brian DONE
- Provide Bob with material for NewsGram announcing MOS volunteer needs – Mary DONE
- Add discussion of ideas for habitat donation funded projects to next Board agenda - Mary

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Add discussion of ideas for habitat donation funded projects to next Board agenda – Mary
- Contact Howard County Conservancy to determine if they would co-sponsor Bee ID program – Kevin
- Discuss idea of a virtual potluck with Linda Hunt – Sherry
- Contact John McKitterick to find out who MOS uses for a lawyer – Mary of Brian?
- Seek additional volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and initiate planning – Jo
- Approach Columbia Association about protecting active owl nests as part of ash tree clearing – Sue
- Look for someone for back-up training and to prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, others?

### Board Meeting Schedule

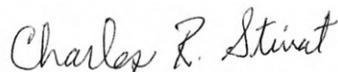
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 24, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
October 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
November 19, 2020	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
February 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
March 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
April 22, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
May 27, 2021	- VIRTUAL	Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – January 28, 2021
- Treasurer's Report – January 16, 2021
- Records Committee Report – Nov 15, 2020 – Jan 21, 2021
- Consent to Compensation for Personal Representative and/or Attorney (draft)

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

Link for the board meeting on Thursday -

Join with Google Meet

[meet.google.com/myo-qikz-hiu](https://meet.google.com/myo-qikz-hiu)

Join by phone

(US) [+1 323-538-2198](tel:+13235382198) (PIN: 415080628)

**Agenda**

January 28, 2021

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes (November) Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report (attachment) Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks Mary Maxey
5. Vice President's Remarks Kristen Trouton
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
  - Records (attached) Jo Solem
  - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster Bob Solem
  - Butterflies Kevin Heffernan
  - Breeding Bird Atlas3 Sue Muller
  - Programs Mary Lou Clark
7. Old Business
  - Virtual meetings Kelsey
  - HCBC Facebook page updates Kristin
8. New Business
  - estate of Elsa Orley Ponce Brian Moyer
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Jo Solem
  - Replacement of State Director Bob Solem
9. Action Items Chuck Stirrat
10. Around the room-



**T Rowe Price + CHESTEM**

2019/2020	49,689			43,152	43,152	46,153	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,155
2018/19	43,152										
2017/18	53,024										
2016/17	43,735										

**Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)			27,986									
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR		NPR							\$23,356	23,356
Internship - Concari		1500	2,000	1500	750			750			Internship paid in full	750
Balance			27,986									

**Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)			5,540									
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD		TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance			5,540									

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Mountjoy Fund			5,540	5,540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestem Fund			27,986	27,986	0	0	3000	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)			9,626	9,626	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance			43,152	46,154	43152	43153	46,153	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,155	21,155
Interest					0.36	0.34	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.34	0.33

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance	7,140
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Transactions;  
 -\$61.00 newsletter  
 -\$5,000 Sharp (Shorebird)  
 \$25,000 Deposit from Chestem  
 -\$18,356 Hereth Construction (Shorebird)  
 -\$250 Howard Conservancy

## Records Committee Report for January 2021 Board Meeting: Nov 15, 2020 – Jan 21, 2021 – Joanne Solem

A Snow Goose was spotted flying over the Robbins Skywatch with Canadas the early a.m. of 1/12 (LGg). At a little after 11:00 a.m. probably the same bird was noted in a flock of Canadas flying west along I-70 near the Marriottsville exit (J/MHr); by noon it was picked out with many Canadas at the Marriottsville Pond, south of Willow Green Way (LGg). With most water open, wintering Common Merganser numbers, as usual, were above 1,000 at Triadelphia Reservoir. A constantly changing mix of waterfowl were reported from lakes and ponds; Northern Shovelers and Gadwalls were consistent at Race Road Wetlands. The relatively mild winter has meant that a few Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons are still present.

Bald Eagles are one of the success stories of the last 50 years with sightings increasing each year. From 1951 until the early 1980s, eagles were a rare county species; 1979 was the last year in which NOT A SINGLE EAGLE was reported. Thanks to the current atlas effort, new nests continue to be found. Parts of a dead Barn Owl were found adjacent to a wet meadow along McNeal Rd 1/13 (MW).

A Common Raven nest, on a cell tower in Kings Contrivance 1/17 (SMu), marks another new nesting pair. The unusual number of American Pipits in mid-December was detailed in the summary prior to the Jan HCBC meeting. That same report highlighted the presence of various boreal species. Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins are currently the most reported species, while a Black-capped Chickadee continues at Mt. Pleasant.

Several American Tree Sparrows have been noted which is welcome news. A Lincoln's Sparrow, a rarity in winter, was reported at W. Friendship Park 1/18/21 (JHf). The male Baltimore Oriole at Thornbrook Rd, Mt Hebron, continues its almost daily feeder visits (JCu).

Lingering warblers were enumerated in the Jan HCBC meeting summary. The Wilson's at a St Michael's Rd feeder is still appearing intermittently; likewise, the Orange-crowned Warbler in Savage continues at a peanut feeder.

Although a gaudy male Painted Bunting on the C&O Canal became a media darling earlier this month, Howard Co had a few sightings of a female (probably the same bird that was present in east-central Howard Co during the 2019-20 winter). It made only a few sporadic appearances in that same general area and has not been reported since early Jan 2021.

Exotics: A European Goldfinch has been visiting feeders at Mother Nature's store in Oakland Mills for several weeks. Although it is not a "countable" bird, as it has long been a caged species, there are some areas of North America where it is spreading in the wild. The day may come when, like House Finches, we may see this attractive species regularly and it could be added to the county list.

Corrections of Oct 20 - Nov 14, 2020 report: Par. 1: It was the second record for all three scoter species in one location. Last par: correct dates are Cape May 10/30 and American Redstart 10/31.

Observers: JCu – Jeff Culler, D/LGt – David/Linda Gottschlich, LGg – Lynn Gregg, JHf – Joe Hanfman, J/MMr – John/Meg Harris, SMu – Sue Muller, MW – Mark Wallace.

BEFORE THE REGISTER OF WILLS FOR Howard County, MARYLAND

IN THE ESTATE OF:

Estate of Elsa Orley Ponce

ESTATE NO: 31475

**CONSENT TO COMPENSATION FOR  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND/OR ATTORNEY**

I understand that the law, Estates and Trusts Article, §7-601 provides a formula to establish the maximum total commissions to be paid for personal representative's commissions. If the total compensation for personal representative's commissions and attorney's fees being requested falls within the maximum allowable commissions, and the request is consented to by all unpaid creditors who have filed claims and all interested persons, this payment need not be subject to review or approval by the Court. A creditor or an interested party may, but is not required to, consent to these fees. The formula sets total compensation at 9% of the first \$20,000 of the adjusted estate subject to administration PLUS 3.6% of the excess over \$20,000. Based on this formula, the adjusted estate subject to administration known at this time is \$ 1919365.8. The total allowable statutory maximum commission based on the adjusted estate subject to administration known at this time is \$ 70177.17, LESS any personal representative's commissions and attorney's fees previously approved as required by law and paid. To date, \$ 0 in personal representative's commissions and \$ 0 in attorney's fees have been paid.

**IF ALL REQUIRED CONSENTS ARE NOT OBTAINED, A PETITION SHALL BE FILED, AND THE COURT SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID**

**Cross References** - See 90 Op. Att'y Gen. 145 (2005).

Total combined fees being requested are \$ 15,000.00, to be paid as follows:

Amount	To	Name of Personal Representative/Attorney
\$5,000.00		<u>Lauren N. Leffler, Esquire</u>
\$10,000.00		<u>Linda Leffler, Personal Representative</u>

I have read this entire form and I hereby consent to the payment of personal representative and/or attorney's fees in the above amount.

Date	Signature	Name (Typed or Printed)

Attorney Lauren N. Leffler, Esquire  
6851 Oak Hall Lane, Suite 202  
 Address  
Columbia, Maryland 21045  
 Address  
410-740-1180  
 Telephone Number  
 Facsimile Number  
lauren@oliverfamilylaw.com  
 Email Address

Personal Representative Linda Leffler  
Personal Representative  
Personal Representative



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, February 25, 2021

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristen Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Sharon Smith (√1<sup>st</sup> yr.)  
Kelsey Wellons √ (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:** Wes Earp √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 16. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 11, 2021 was 43 people. Fred Tutman gave a program entitled “Patuxent Riverkeeper.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck had prepared a summary of corrections to the draft minutes that was distributed with the agenda. The minutes were approved with those corrections incorporated and will be posted on our website.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had provided the attached report that was distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting. The only outlay was the \$150 for the Zoom annual fee. The only income was for several new memberships. A total of 17 memberships were received in January and February. Several of these were memberships for individuals who had let their membership lapse. Bob pointed out that Brian is tracking memberships whereas in the past we tracked votes where a family membership counted as two votes. The current membership clearly exceeds 200 votes, so we are entitled to three State Directors.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary reported that John McKitterick had sent an email to MOS Board and chapters announcing that Carolyn Parsa was the new Chair for the Safe Skies project. The former chair was relieved for misconduct. The MOS Executive Board is establishing protocols whereby instances of misconduct by MOS officers or Board members can be reported.

Mary also commented that whereas Jo has volunteered to be a Co-chair for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee we still need a volunteer for a second Co-chair. Other committee members include Mary, Mary Lou, and David Holmes. She doesn’t anticipate any activity until after April when David will be available.

Mary reported she had received a letter asking us to submit a letter in support of a Howard County Conservancy grant request for fund to improve trails at Mt. Pleasant. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we should provide the support letter. Mary took an action to prepare and send them the letter of support.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): None.

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Jo reported that the club's official rare bird policy was invoked for the appearance of the Western Tanager. The policy calls for Joe Hanfman (or his designate) to coordinate access with a slow release of information on the location if on private property. However, in this case unauthorized posts on social media led to having unauthorized individuals show up and even had individuals trespassing on the private property of homeowner.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo sent the attached report in advance of the meeting.

Jo also reported on a request for the club to provide teachers for the bird portion of the Master Naturalists class to be held at Robinson Nature Center. The class is tentatively scheduled for 10 am to noon on April 20. Jo has taught the class in the past, but she has a conflict with this date. She is looking for others to volunteer to teach the class. There is a PowerPoint presentation with most of the material which just skims the surface of birds and birding. Kristen, Kurt, and Mary Lou indicated they would consider helping with the class. There is usually an optional field trip offered to the class. After discussion we agreed that the difficulties imposed by COVID would preclude trying to offer the field trip this year. Jo will provide this feedback and names of volunteers to Kelly Vogalpohl at RNC.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt discussed a letter to the USFWS opposing their intent to implement the change in the incidental take clause that would permit it without penalty. The letter requests delay in implementation and return to the original rule. We agreed the HCBC should sign onto the letter. Kurt will forward Mary the letter for her signature. Kurt is urging MOS and us to oppose the proposed MagLev prototype between Washington and Baltimore. The Board passed a motion to approve our being in opposition. Bob agreed to draft a NEWSGRAM action alert calling on the membership to act in opposition to this proposal.

Other conservation issues Kurt is tracking include: Plastic bill before Howard County Council, Chlorpyrifos override won't be addressed until there is any indication the regulations put in place show signs of weakening, an attempt to close a loophole found in the Pollinator Protection Act, Plastic Bag Reduction, Sustainable Buildings, and a bill to collect and dispose of Carbofuran that is still being used despite having been banned for many years.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that over 50 people get free electronic copies of The Goldfinch. These include county council members, county executive, Howard Recreation and Parks leadership, Baltimore Sun neighborhood editors, other MOS chapters. He proposed adding Chuck Sharp and the Howard Soil Conservation Board given the shorebird habitat project. Board agreed that would be a good idea.

Bob announced that with concerns for privacy he has decided we should no longer prepare and publish a club directory with contact information (email, phone numbers, addresses). He will prepare a list for those Board members who have a legitimate need for the information if they ask him for it. It will be available shortly after March 1.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry reported that she talked to Linda regarding the idea of conducting a virtual "potluck." They agreed it would be difficult to control a Zoom session with people trying to socialize if the attendance was typical. Also eating at our computers would be problematic. However, she and Linda thought having the member picture/slide show would be relatively straight forward and a good idea. Kelsey agreed she could support doing that. We agreed to have the committee select a date in the next two months and work with Kelsey to organize it.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that the butterfly sub-group held an organizing meeting on Feb. 18. They began work on a year schedule. They are going to offer a basic butterfly ID class for a group of gardeners on March 4. Preliminary plans for the virtual Bee ID class to be offered jointly with HCC will tentatively be held on either June 22, 23 or 24 (Tues. – Thur.) during pollinator week. The class is to be taught by Heather Holm a well-known biologist, pollinator conservationist, and author. The money is not needed until later.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that the dead eagle and crows that were found and reported to DNR did not show any evidence of poisoning. She has 207 atlas participants registered for Howard County. She reported she has a friend who flies a drone that has volunteered to help her find Great Blue Heron rookeries and

raptor nests. She was reminded there are regulations about flying drones, including that they are to always be in line of sight which could be a problem flying over large, forested areas. There was a report that one drone pilot was using his drone to repeatedly check an eagle nest and appears to have agitated them enough to abandon the nest. Sue stated she had taught a BBA3 class for a homeowner's group at the Long Reach Village Center that was attended by 3 people.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou is proceeding with planning programs assuming that all regular meetings held this fall will still be virtual.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Koonce, Lewis, etc.): No meeting.

## Old Business

Shorebird Habitat Committee – monitoring & management – Wes reported that construction of the habitat had been completed and that it was time to formulate a committee focused on monitoring and managing the project. He reminded us that the federal government has approved an EQIP grant of \$13,000 that is still to be paid to the club once the grass seeding comes up indicating the formal completion of planned construction project. With the Spring season scheduled to open April 1 we need a committee to manage, monitor and record water levels. Chuck Sharp is interested in planting food plots, so the committee needs to meet with him in mid-March. The cool water release structure is not working properly. After spring migration a chisel plow will be used to open the soil over the systems buried tile collection grid. This may preempt fall flooding of the site. Wes agreed to chair the committee. Other committee volunteers included David Sandler, Brian Moyer, Russ Ruffing, John Harris, Kristin, Mary Lou, and Mary. Wes envisions a planned water management schedule (e.g., drop 6 inches every two weeks) that will be adjusted if data suggests necessary. Goal is to have fresh mud every two weeks. Chuck Sharp is willing to adjust level if the committee doesn't choose to do it. There is a plaque on the barn to indicate when someone is birding at the pond. The MOU calls for an annual meeting with Sharps at Waterford Farm to plan the upcoming seasons management. The committee needs to meet with Chuck Sharp to discuss access during the two seasons and how to handle rare bird visitation. We will plan to have regular field trips to the site after COVID issues are behind us. Wes agreed to schedule a meeting of the committee with Chuck shortly. *Sec. Note: Committee met on March 4 and recommended the name Waterford Flats for the habitat. In person training sessions were scheduled for March 20 and a virtual training Zoom session is scheduled for Wed. evening March 24. The board voted via email to approve the name and to approve a request from Wes for \$250 to purchase a ledger and desk. They will be placed in the barn to log water management actions and water levels results as well as bird sightings. The email also raised the idea of procuring a plaque to honor Marty Chestem as donor for the project.*

Estate of Elsa Orley Ponce – Brian reported that he sent the signed form agreeing to fees to the estate lawyer and received acknowledgement of receipt just after the last meeting. There has been no action since then. Brian was reminded he should contact John McKitterick to ask if MOS had a lawyer to recommend who could represent us in this matter.

Virtual Meetings – Kelsey reported that she chose to delete the Q & A discussion when posting the recording of the last meeting. If we get 100 subscribers to our page on YouTube, we could change the name of link to a more intuitive one but that is unlikely. If anyone wants to post other birding videos on our page, they can send them to Kelsey and ask her to post them. Mary Lou commented that if people recorded videos from county birding locations, they might be an interesting addition to the site guides on the website.

HCBC Facebook page updates – Kristen asked Mary Lou whether she had noticed a late influx of requests for access to the last club meeting. She didn't post the announcement on Facebook and she wondered if that was where people were getting the announcement. It probably isn't a bad idea to forward announcements closer in time to the meeting as people see it and then forget it by time the meeting comes around. This might be true for Mary forwarding announcement to other chapters as well.

### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

- On Kurt's recommendation Mary signed the club on to a letter requesting the county budget for 2022 include funding to update the county's Climate Action Plan. March 5.
- Board approved sending letters of thanks to the County Council members who supported the plastics bill (CB13) and the County Executive who signed it. – March 15-16
- Board approved endorsing a joint effort by Audubon and the American Bird Conservancy proposing an ambitious agenda to promote bird conservation. The text of which is here:

<https://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/bringbirdsbackpolicies.pdf> March 18

### **New Business**

100,000 lists – Sue reported that Ken Clark had observed that Howard County was about to record it's 100,000<sup>th</sup> eBird checklist. A brief discussion was held whether we should recognize the event and who submits it when it occurs without a final resolution of a way ahead. *Sec. Note: The 100,000<sup>th</sup> list was submitted on March 8. However, it turned out that the way eBird provides the data did not allow precise identification of who submitted the list. In an email exchange it was suggested an article for the Goldfinch that was more generic in discussing what the eBird milestone means would probably be a better response.*

GreenFest – Mary Lou reported that a virtual event is to be held on April 10 from 10 am – 3 pm. No registration fee is required. Sue reported she is submitting an introductory video about Breeding Bird Atlas 3. Kevin mentioned that there is to be document shredding and a tree give away held in the parking lot at the community college. We might want to submit a link to a short video about birds. Mary Lou took an action to respond to the email from GreenFest (*Sec. Note: Ultimately we chose not to participate this year as we didn't have material needed ready.*)

### Around the Room -

- Bob reminded us that it was time to make a pledge to the YMOS bird-a-thon. It was moved we pledge \$300 consistent with the budget. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Brian took an action to send them the check.
- Kurt observed that a species believed to be extinct and last seen 172 years ago was recently found in the Borneo rainforest, a Black-browed Babbler.
- Mary reported she was going to participate in this year's bike challenge for Multiple Sclerosis and would appreciate donations in response to an email request she was going to send out.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Research, select, and purchase Tri-fold poster board – Kevin
- Add discussion of ideas for habitat donation funded projects to next Board agenda – Mary
- Contact Howard County Conservancy to determine if they would co-sponsor Bee ID program – Kevin  
DONE
- Discuss idea of a virtual potluck with Linda Hunt – Sherry DONE
- Contact John McKitterick to find out who MOS uses for a lawyer – Brian
- Seek additional volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and initiate planning – Jo
- Approach Columbia Association about protecting active owl nests as part of ash tree clearing – Sue DONE
- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, others?

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Add discussion of ideas for habitat donation funded projects to next Board agenda – Mary
- Contact John McKitterick to find out who MOS uses for a lawyer – Brian
- Seek additional co-chair and volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Mary
- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, others?
- Send letter in support of grant to Howard County Conservancy– Mary
- Provide feedback to RNC on Master Naturalists class – Jo
- Kurt forward “incidental take” letter to Mary for her signature – Kurt, Mary
- Schedule meeting of Shorebird Habitat committee with Chuck Sharp – Wes
- Draft NEWSGRAM action alert on MagLev opposition - Bob
- Reply to GreenFest – Mary Lou
- Schedule and organize a virtual member picture evening on Zoom – Sherry, Linda, Kelsey
- Send pledge to YMOS - Brian

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 24, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
October 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
November 19, 2020	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
February 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
March 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
April 22, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
May 27, 2021	- VIRTUAL	Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – February 25, 2021
- Treasurer’s Report – February 25, 2021
- Records Committee Report – Jan 22 – Feb 19, 2021

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

Link for the board meeting on Thursday -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89754252642?pwd=OU9BN1hhb2o3eWlkZ2hXZkovbHA1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 897 5425 2642

Passcode: 607702

**Agenda**

February 25, 2021, 2021

1. Additions?
2. Shorebird Habitat Committee - monitoring & management Wes Earp
3. Review of Minutes (J) Chuck Stirrat
4. Treasurer's Report (attachment) Brian Moyer
5. President's Remarks Mary Maxey
5. Vice President's Remarks Kristen Trouton
7. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
  - Records (attached) Jo Solem
  - Master Naturalist Class Jo Solem
  - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster Bob Solem
  - Butterflies Kevin Heffernan
  - Breeding Bird Atlas3 Sue Muller
  - Programs Mary Lou Clark
8. Old Business
  - estate of Elsa Orley Ponce Brian
  - Virtual meetings Kelsey
  - HCBC Facebook page updates Kristin
8. New Business
  - 100,000 list Sue Muller
  - Greenfest Mary Lou/Sue Muller
9. Action Items Chuck Stirrat
10. Around the room-





## **Records Committee Report for February Board Meeting: Jan. 22 – Feb. 19, 2021 – Joanne Solem**

Almost the entire month of January was unusually dry with temperatures several degrees above normal. From the end of January into mid-February, more typical winter temperatures dominated along with snow and ice.

The open water in early winter at locations as diverse as Race Road Wetlands, the central lakes, and Triadelphia Reservoir continued autumn's fine assortment of waterfowl including Snow Goose, Tundra Swan, Redhead, Common Goldeneye, and Long-tailed Duck. A scattering of sightings of Wilson's Snipe, Double-crested Cormorant, and Great Blue Heron attested to the relatively mild early winter weather.

A pleasant surprise was one or more light-phase Rough-legged Hawks, a species for which there are fewer than two dozen county records. Although Russell Hillsley, Mary Lou Clark, Mary Maxey, Tim Frye, and Dean Mahlstedt did not see the Western Tanager at the site on 2/4, they could take solace in an excellent overhead view of a Rough-legged Hawk. On 2/5, the same bird or another was spotted over the Alpha Ridge Landfill, seen from Alpha Ridge Park by Joe Hanfman. It was last reported from the same location on 2/9 (Allen Lewis).

Boreal species continued to make appearances although the reports of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches were many fewer than those of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins. The Black-capped Chickadee remained at Mt. Pleasant.

Early February's Lapland Longspurs along Old Frederick Rd were still being reported in the middle of the month (Russ Ruffing).

American Tree Sparrows have been reported from a minimum of eight locations this winter—a heartening number after so few individuals were sighted the last few winters. The high was six at Mt. Pleasant on 2/13 (Kurt Schwarz).

The Baltimore Oriole at a Thornbrook Rd feeder is an almost daily visitor (Jeff Culler).

The Western Tanager, detailed in a previous report at two different locations in early February, was seen by at least 52 individuals according to Joe Hanfman. He had scheduled 68 people and there were still 15 on the waiting list when weather shut down the visits. Most birders registered for the two-hour time slots as required and followed Joe's instructions for observing this rarity on private property. There were, unfortunately, a few trespassers who failed to follow directions/guidelines or blatantly ignored them.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, March 25, 2021

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristen Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Sharon Smith (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solemn √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 11, 2021 was 38 people. Emilio Concarì gave a program entitled “Creek Ecosystem Importance for Breeding Birds and Aquatic Life.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Minutes were approved with minor corrections provided by Wes Earp, Kurt, and Kevin.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian provided the attached treasurer’s report. He noted that the last column presents how totals to date compare with the annual budget. He reported that we have had 15 new memberships join since January. Mary Lou commented that a couple of them were received due to a club member reaching out to ask someone who they noted on-line or ran into and just asked if they were members. She mentioned Steve Luke and Russel Hillsley as two examples.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary remarked that the prior evening’s Shorebird Habitat virtual training session was excellent and extremely exciting. Kelsey reported she will have the video of training session on the web very soon. Mary reminded the board that access to the “Waterford Flats” will open on April 1. Visitors to the site are to watch and adhere to the training or visit with someone who has completed it.

Mary is still searching for co-chair for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee. Kelsey and Kristen have volunteered to be on committee in addition to those mentioned in prior minutes.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): No report.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo’s report is attached. Chuck mentioned that the day after she cut off her report was the day Howard Patterson had the juvenile White-winged Crossbill at his feeder. Jo said she was planning to include it in next month’s report. When asked she said she hadn’t yet looked up when was our last sighting of the Crossbill. She

did note that information like that is generally available in the Howard County Annotated Bird Records that Russ Ruffing maintains and is available on the club website. She mentioned that Russ has just recently updated the file with data through 2020,

Jo forwarded names who had shown some interest in teaching the Master Naturalists birding class to her RNC contact. She also told them we recommended against the optional field trip under COVID protocols. The feedback was that when contacted those who had shown interest really weren't strongly interested so RNC is looking for other options. Jo said they probably will have Erin Eve teach the birding portion this year.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was not present but sent an email with the following remarks: "I don't think I have anything to report on the Conservation front. The General Assembly is still in session, and I don't think any of our bills have made any significant strides as of this time: Sustainable Buildings (bird-safe), Pollinator Protection Plan update, Plastic Bag Ban. One bill, the Low Impact Landscaping act, would get homeowner associations off the backs of homeowners who want to plant native vegetation, establish a meadow, etc.

The deadline for comment on the Mag-Lev line has been extended to May 24. I have not been able to get around to drafting comments, let alone letters to the Maryland Congressional Delegation (CODEL), due to other stuff non-conservation etc. impinging on my time and motivation."

Kurt also sent the attached email he received that reports on the status of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported nothing new to report. Mary asked Bob if we could send out an extra meeting announcement that would be based on a "glitzier" format that Mary Lou has developed for sending to other chapter presidents inviting them and their members to attend. Bob indicated if they provide him content he can mail it to the membership. Bob will continue to send the same NEWSGRAM announcement with access link and reports on the Monday before the meeting. Mary Lou took an action to draft the additional announcement for the next meeting and provide it to Bob. Mary will continue to assemble and provide content for the traditional announcement with link from Kelsey and reports from committee chairs as in the past.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry reported that they hadn't taken any action on a virtual Member Picture Night (in lieu of Potluck) but indicated they needed to pick a date. It was suggested the event could be in the summer. The committee will investigate holding the event on a Saturday in June but needs to avoid the weekend of MOS Conference and Father's Day. The date for the Pollinator Week talk by Doug Tallamy (see New Business) has not been set yet but might be on Saturday June 26. Will need to avoid conflict if that talk ends up being scheduled for Saturday of Pollinator Week.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that the butterfly season is underway. There have been 5 species reported so far. He remarked that Linda is working to train RNC staff/volunteers in butterfly identification and monitoring. Kevin has made initial contact with Leslie Reis who is a professor at Georgetown University. She has played a key role in establishing the North American Butterfly Monitoring Network. Kevin will report on what he learns about opportunities to formalize our monitoring efforts in the future.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported she has 209 individuals participating in the county atlas effort. She is going to hold an eBird/atlas introductory session with a group of 4 people associated with the Dorsey Hall Village Center. Her efforts tracking nests on cell towers continues with multiple Osprey nests being reported around the county. One tower that had Ravens in January has now been taken over by Osprey. A sixth Eagle nest is suspected near Sharp's Farm as one was reported carrying a stick in that area recently. Her friend with a drone was able to count the number of nests at a rookery. In a second visit eggs were confirmed in the nest using the drone. She commented she needs to make sure drone visits are limited to avoid agitating the herons. She led a couple groups to find Woodcocks at Gateway site recently. She reported that discussions continue about installing window treatments at RNC, and that they may well ask the club for support. Kristin reported she has a pair of Fish Crows building a nest high in trees at her home. She also observed a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks copulating and performing arial mating displays in vicinity of the Fish Crow nest. Unclear if the hawks have their eyes on the

crow's nest. Howard Rec & Parks (Erin Eve) is putting up a Kestrel nest box at West Friendship Park. Sue reports she has started countdown to retirement – this was day 28.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou reported all is set for our two remaining programs before summer. She has begun work on fall schedule. She is proceeding as though all meeting before next January will be virtual. We will in all likely not resume in-person until the pandemic is “over.” Someone asked if we have a contingency reservation for our meetings that ensures once RNC opens we will be able to start in-person meetings. Mary took an action to speak with RNC staff and confirm our status for contingency resumption of meetings. Mary Lou would welcome ideas for bringing in attendees/members while we are limited to virtual programs.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Tomlinson, Lewis, etc.): Allen Lewis had provided Mary with the attached notes of the MOS Board meeting held on March 6, 2021.

## Old Business

Estate of Elsa Orley Ponce – Brian stated that there is nothing new to report. When asked he reported that he contacted John McKitterick about whether MOS has a lawyer they use. They really don't have one that would be useful in this situation. Chuck reminded Board that we didn't have a lawyer in receiving the Chestem bequest. We will wait and see what happens and whether we really need one. *Sec. Note: Brian received an email on the day after the meeting that stated the first administration account is due to be filed with the Court on or before May 4, 2021. If this is not the final account, the deadline for final is 6 months later.*

Virtual Meetings – Kelsey had no items to discuss.

HCBC Facebook Page Updates – Kristen had no updates to discuss.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – Items for March were reported in the February minutes as those minutes were not completed until March 22.

## New Business

Doug Tallamy HCC – Kevin requested the club to co-sponsor a second virtual presentation during Pollinator Week (June 21-27). Recall that the club has already pledged \$250 to co-sponsor a talk by Heather Holm on Bee Identification. Kevin stated the Bee City / Pollinator Group would like to have a talk by Doug Tallamy an entomologist/author who is a professor at the University of Delaware. Kevin anticipates his talk would draw from his recent books, among which is “Nature’s Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard.” It was moved, seconded, and approved that we would provide \$250 to co-sponsor a talk by Tallamy. Someone asked if the HCC plans to charge for these two virtual talks. Kevin agreed to inform HCC of our agreement, to ask about charging for programs, and to provide the board with date, formal title, and an answer about charging for the programs as soon as they are set.

WSSC Permit – Sue had requested the club reimburse the two BBA3 County Coordinators for the cost of WSSC permits so that they can visit the blocks adjacent to the reservoirs. WSSC has agreed to provide block coordinators with access permits (gratis) but the agreement did not address any County Coordinators that don't have one of those blocks as their responsibility. Currently Sue has one of the blocks (following Paul Zucker's passing), so she already has access. However, Dave Ziolkowski does not have one of these blocks and would require a permit. (cost \$72/year). It was moved we agree to reimburse any county coordinator for cost of WSSC permit for the duration of the atlas (4 more years) unless they have access already (e.g., block adjacent to the reservoir, over 65 years old). Motion passed. Sue agreed to inform Dave to purchase a permit and submit a bill for reimbursement to the treasurer.

PUMA Monitoring – Kristen was approached by Sue Polniaszek at Millers Grant Retirement Community about having someone from the club monitor and maintain the Purple Martin colony on the grounds. The colony has been being monitored by two of the male residents (we suspect this may be Ron Polniaszek and Dave Pardoe). The process is more that their health allows, so they are unable to continue monitoring. When the subject came up

earlier there was discussion implying if the person(s) monitoring the colony was not a resident they might have to be subject to a security background check for access to the grounds. It is unclear if the boxes are on a telescoping pole or one would need a ladder. Kristin agreed to get back to Sue and explore these issues further before we seek volunteers.

GroupMe for Beginners – Kristin stated she had a discussion with Steve Luke (a relatively new birder) concerning the idea of forming a GroupMe text message group for less experienced birders. Apparently a few less experienced birders have joined the existing Howard County Rare Bird GroupMe group and when they ask questions considered by the die-hard listers who want the group to be just rare birds have pushed back. Steve thought a GroupMe that was lower key and geared to less experienced birders (i.e., not listers) would be a useful alternative. Several felt this might work if a few experienced birders who are not so focused on listing and rarities were members and could serve as mentors/shepherds for the newer birders. They could reinforce the ethics of birding as one benefit. We were reminded by Bob that neither the Lister’s email group nor the GroupMe- Howard County Rare Bird are official HCBC activities although there is a strong overlap in membership. We agreed that this was worth pursuing further, possibly with our official sponsorship, and would like to discuss it further next meeting. Kristen agreed to contact Steve Luke and invite him to attend our next board meeting for a further discussion of the proposal.

Engaging Beyond the Pandemic – Kelsey indicated she was thinking about ways to keep the club’s YouTube page current and active once we go back to in-person meetings and don’t have meeting programs to post on the page. A period of brainstorming followed throwing out ideas that I captured in concise form that would need a lot of further development:

- Songs of warblers
- Videos of Howard County birding sites (Mary & Mary Lou plan to try one or two)
- Building nest boxes
- Hummingbird feeders
- Nest box cameras videos with unique behavior (live probably too much of a technical challenge) with unique activity)
- Offer virtual summertime programs and post recordings
- Laura Wolf painter volunteered to make video of her process
- Interviews discussing birding activities linked to profession
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary videos/interviewing long-time members

Kelsey will continue to think about this and welcomes suggestions.

Around the Room -

- Bob reported that he has begun working on adding information to the Bequest web page entry for Marty Chestem to include the Shorebird Habitat project. Sue Earp has been helping him with photos.
- Mary thanked those who supported her in making her goal for the MS bike challenge.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Add discussion of ideas for habitat donation funded projects to next Board agenda – Mary
- Contact John McKitterick to find out who MOS uses for a lawyer – Brian DONE
- Seek additional co-chair and volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Mary
- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, others?
- Send letter in support of grant to Howard County Conservancy– Mary DONE
- Provide feedback to RNC on Master Naturalists class – Jo DONE
- Kurt to forward “incidental take” letter to Mary for her signature – Kurt, Mary DONE
- Schedule meeting of Shorebird Habitat committee with Chuck Sharp – Wes DONE
- Draft NEWSGRAM action alert on MagLev opposition – Bob DONE
- Reply to GreenFest ?? – Mary Lou WON’T PARTICIPATE THIS YEAR
- Schedule and organize a virtual member picture evening on Zoom – Sherry, Linda, Kelsey
- Send pledge to YMOS – Brian DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Add discussion of ideas for habitat donation funded projects to future Board agenda – Mary
- Seek additional co-chair and volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Mary
- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, others?
- Schedule and organize a virtual member picture evening on Zoom – Sherry, Linda, Kelsey
- Provide Bob with proposed new meeting announcement NEWSGRAM content – Mary Lou
- Speak to RNC about contingency reservations for club meetings – Mary
- Inform HCC of agreement to co-sponsor Doug Tallamy program – Kevin
- Provide dates and formal subjects for both Pollinator Week talks – Kevin
- Ask HCC whether they plan to charge for either of the talks – Kevin
- Inform Dave Ziolkowski to purchase WSSC permit, and we will reimburse – Sue
- Follow-up on Purple Martin monitoring at Millers Grant - Kristen

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 24, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
October 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
November 19, 2020	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
February 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
March 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
April 22, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
May 27, 2021	- VIRTUAL	Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – March 25, 2021
- Treasurer’s Report – March 24, 2021
- Records Report – Feb 20 – Mar 19, 2021
- Status of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act – March 24, 2021
- Notes from virtual MOS Board Meeting – Allen Lewis – March 6. 2021

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

Link for the board meeting on Thursday -

Topic: HCBC March Board Meeting

Time: Mar 25, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83435984766?pwd=VVRoZEZWMWR0dWdDbIhKV0pnZ0FrUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 3598 4766

Passcode: 812858

**Agenda**

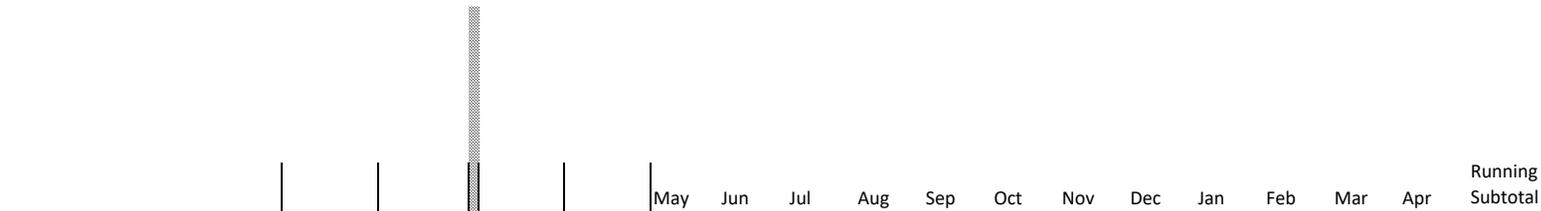
March 25, 2021

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report (attachment) Brian Moyer
4. President's Remarks Mary Maxey
5. Vice President's Remarks Kristen Trouton
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
  - Records (attached) Jo Solem
  - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster Bob Solem
  - Butterflies Kevin Heffernan
  - Breeding Bird Atlas3 Sue Muller
  - Programs Mary Lou Clark
7. Old Business
  - estate of Elsa Orley Ponce Brian
  - Virtual meetings Kelsey
  - HCBC Facebook page updates Kristin
8. New Business
  - Doug Tallamy HCC Kevin
  - WSSC permit Mary Lou
  - PUMA monitoring Kristin
  - GroupMe for beginners Krisitn
  - Engaging beyond the pandemic Kelsey
9. Action Items Chuck Stirrat
10. Around the room

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal**  
**2020-2021      2020-2021**

**NPR = Not previously reported**  
**TBD= To Be Determine**

	Actual YTD 2019-20	Approved 2019/20 Budget	Proposed 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2020/21 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal	
<b>Income</b>																		
Net Membership Dues	3,692	3,200	3,200	3,200	115	0	0	305	860	40	510	100	150	110			2190	
Contributions to HCBC		3,500	3,500	3,500	40	0	0	0	40	100	230	5	40	50			505	
Habitat Preservation	3,282				186	0	200	315	1122	0	126	0	0	0			1949	60% of 2020 donations
Butterfly Fund	440				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0			50	11% of 2020 donations
Seed Sale					0	0	0	0	0	0	1230	0	0	0			1230	
Interest income	215	NPR		NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,924</b>	88% of goal
<b>Expenses</b>																		
Meeting Programs (speakers)	225	700	700	700	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	50	250	100	100		700	100% of goal
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
<b>Office Expenses</b>																		
Newsletter/other printing	1,407	500	1,000	500	0	0	0	69	0	0	61	61	0	61			252	50% of expected
Website/Email/Internet	540	500	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	149.9	0			149.9	30% of expected
Postage/Copies/Office Supplies	454	250	300	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0% of expected
Bank fees	93	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	33	4.8	0	0	0.75			44.55	not budgeted
Greenfest Support	50	70	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	no contribution yet
																	0	
<b>Projects/Grants</b>																		
All Creatures	0	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	no contribution yet
Frisky's	300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	no contribution yet
Education	0	NPR	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	no contribution yet
YMOS	200	250	250	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300			300	120% of contribution budgeted
Butterfly Fund	440	NPR	440	NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3759</b>	<b>2920</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>165.8</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>399.9</b>	<b>461.75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1446.45</b>	Tracking 50% approved budget w/only 2 months left
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>3,780</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-210</b>	<b>-302</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,478</b>	121% of budgeted income



**T Rowe Price + CHESTEM**

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
2019/2020	43,152	43,152	46,153	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,155	21,155	21,155	21,155			
2018/19													
2017/18													
2016/17													

**Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)			27,986										
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR		NPR					23356				23356
Internship - Concari		1500	2,000	1500	750		750						1500
Balance			27,986										

**Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)			5,540										
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD		TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance			5,540										

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Mountjoy Fund	5,540	5,540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestem Fund	27,986	27,986	0	0	3000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)	9,626	9,626	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	43,152	46,154	43152	43153	46,153	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,155	21,155	21,156		
Interest			0.36	0.34	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.34	0.33	0.34		

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance	6,691	Transactions;	\$110 deposit MOS dues
			\$100 Emilio Honorarium
			\$100 Fred Honorarium
			\$61 Printing Fee Goldfinch

Records Committee Report for March Board Meeting: February 20 – March 19, 2021 – Joanne Solem

In late February, the calendar says spring's arrival is still a month away, but ornithological spring begins March 1—and birds are attuned to that coming season even sooner. Waterfowl usually begin moving in late winter. A major northward push of Canada Geese and Tundra Swans the last week of February and first 10 days of March are an annual local indicator of the turning of the seasons. This year, birders were treated to 800+ swans resting on Triadelphia Reservoir the morning of 2/26 (Joe Hanfman).

American Woodcock usually begin performing courtship flights the last half of February. In addition to such expected locations as Hipsley Mill Rd and Race Road Wetlands, there were reports from several other sites including the field at Samuel Morse Drive, Gateway, again productive after a long hiatus.

The most astonishing shorebird report was a Lesser Yellowlegs on 3/1 (a new early date) in the soggy field at Ten Oaks Rd/Brighton Dam Rd (Steve Luke).

An American Bittern in cattails at Alpha Ridge Park was a welcome surprise on 3/9 (Bonnie Ott). Other than two unusual winter dates, this sighting was just one day shy of the earliest spring date.

Signs of spring were obvious as birders notched the appearance of a Great Egret, paired Eastern Phoebes, Tree Swallows, a Rough-winged Swallow, multiple Pine Warblers, and more Rusty Blackbirds.

Although the weather isn't always favorable in late winter and early spring, some species are nesting. Bald Eagle, Great Horned Owl, and Common Raven are well into their breeding cycles. Nests of all three species were verified. BBA3 is proving to be a boon in establishing the increasing use of cell towers by a variety of species.

**Another Thing for the Conservation Report Kurt Schwarz March 24, 2021**

I got this from the Trumpeter Swan Society, some good news, the MBTA is back on track.

Dear Kurt,

Thanks to you, there is good news to report about the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Early in March, the Department of the Interior announced it will rescind its Solicitor's "M-Opinion" which allowed the killing of any migratory birds unless it was the intention of the entity to do so.

You really helped—thank you for taking action if you submitted comments in response to the Federal Register notice and my February email asking for your help.

This is a big win for migratory birds.

**Your help will be needed for at least two more steps later this year to restore bird protections of the MBTA.**

The next step will be to actually rescind the federal rule that is still in place which allows the incidental, non-purposeful take of migratory birds. There will be a public comment period for the rule's removal sometime this year.

After that will be a **new** rulemaking process that could reassert and strengthen the important prior MBTA practice that bans incidental take and makes them subject to criminal judgements. There will also be a public comment period for a new rule.

## Report on virtual MOS Board Meeting

10:00 AM to 12 PM

March 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by the president John McKitterick.

### **Committee reports:**

Planning continues for the MOS Convention, June 11-13. The conference will be held on line with virtual activities. Field trips will be self-guided. Meg Harris

Planning continues for the YMOS Youth Birdathon. George Radcliffe

The Hog Island camp will be open this year following last year's cancellation. Participants selected for last year's session will take part this year. Names of the winners are in the scholarship report. Anna Urciolo

The Sanctuary Committee is in the hands of a new chairman who reported on his working visits to various MOS bird sanctuaries. Wayne Gordon

The Investment Committee reported some concern about stability of stock prices, but no changes seem planned for now. The committee manages approximately \$2,000,000 which grows more robustly in stock funds than in certificates of deposit. Jim Moore

The new editor of the Yellowthroat thanked contributors and noted that the deadline for the next issue was April 1. Dave Wood

The editor of Maryland Birdlife reported slow going on the next issue. The suggestion emerged that frequency of publication should be evaluated; it might make sense to drop to one issue per year. Gene Scarpulla

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership between DNR, FWS, and MOS coordinates bird conservation initiatives such as monitoring Bald Eagle nests. The Bird City initiative encourages cities to implement bird friendly practices. Chris Eberly

### **New Business:**

1. Bylaws update: A change to Article III, section 5, was approved. In the new version new members pay full dues to join MOS. If a new member joins between March 1 and September 1, their membership will be extended through the following membership year. This does not apply to members whose membership has lapsed due to nonpayment of dues.
2. The operating budget for 2021-2022 was approved at 45,281.00.

3. An extended discussion ensued over the purpose of the Endowment Fund. The Executive Committee will meet over the coming months and present a plan to the MOS board for how to best use these monies.
4. An even more extended discussion ensued over how handle situations where people with authority to carry out work on behalf of MOS exhibit problematic personal behavior. This discussion is ongoing.
5. A third extended discussion concerned EDI policy (equality, diversity, and inclusion). Consequently, a Committee for EDI was created and funded. An EDI statement will be formulated and placed at the front of the MOS website.

**More Committee reports:**

As time was running out and some committee chairs had already found themselves obligated to leave the meeting, the remaining committee reports were summarily presented. I don't have a clear enough view of what these committees were doing to summarize their activity.

Records, Phil Davis

MD/DC Birding Guide, Marcia Watson

Long-range Planning, Colin Rees

Conservation, Kurt Schwarz

Awards, Joy Aso

Atlas- 2020-2024, Gabriel Foley

World Series of Biding, Wayne Bell

Research, Dave Ziolkowski

The meeting was adjourned by the President around 12:30 PM.

Submitted by Allen R. Lewis

March 9, 2021



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, April 22, 2021

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristen Trouton  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Sharon Smith (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:** Steve Luke √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 8, 2021 was 52 people. Gwen Brewer and George Jett gave a program entitled “Ghana: Birds, Butterflies, and Mammals.”

The annual election of officers was conducted by an email ballot between March 29 and April 8. The number of votes received exceeded the quorum limits specified in the club by-laws. The following slate of officers was elected unanimously. **President:** Mary Maxey, **Vice President:** Kristin Trouton, **Secretary:** Chuck Stirrat, **Treasurer:** Brian Moyer, **State Directors:** Allen Lewis, David Sandler, Sherry Tomlinson; **Chapter Director:** Kelsey Wellons (Sharon Smith will be serving her second year as Chapter Director). The Secretary will provide the MOS Secretary with the results of the election.

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were approved with minor corrections that Chuck had received and summarized for the Board.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian provided the attached Treasurer’s Report. He also reported on memberships. He currently has 210 memberships (note that Household membership represent two members). He has not yet reconciled his records with the reported MOS membership but will shortly. He provided the following details: 105 Individual, 81 Household, 19 Affiliates, 4 Sustaining, and 1 Special. The Special membership (name Arachni?) is an unknown category and will require further investigation. *Sec. Note: After the meeting Brian told me this was an entry in his report from MOS for \$186 with no amount allocated to MOS, even more suggesting a need for further investigation.* Kelsey had asked Brian if he knew how many affiliated memberships had been received since the announcement of the Waterford Flats with its restrictions on visiting only by HCBC members. The answer was only two memberships so far that appeared to be prompted by the restrictions. Chuck remarked that the total net income was significantly below what we had assumed in the annual budget. Bob stated he felt this has been true for several years when we were collecting the funds and providing the MOS share to them. Chuck also recommended moving the \$250 paid to HCC in Jan from Programs to the Chestem fund as it was our share of cosponsoring the talk on Owls given at HCC.

**President's Remarks** (Maxey): Mary said her remarks would be addressed during later discussions.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin was not present but had sent a report included below dealing with the Purple Martins.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe sent the following:

"I am planning on setting up the Fall field trips. We have plenty of time to decide how we want to proceed but I would like to have a schedule if we are able to resume field trips, with whatever guidelines we feel would be appropriate." We agreed we will need to make some decisions on protocols before the deadline for the September Goldfinch, which is July 25.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo sent the attached Records Committee Report. She mentioned that new species are arriving every day, and some listers are chasing species that will be easy to find soon. The one exception she mentioned was the true rarity, Little Blue Heron, that showed up at Centennial the day before our meeting.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): The committee has been meeting and is going forward. They still feel corona virus restrictions may preclude some activities they have considered. So far she had nothing concrete to report. They have their next meeting in early May.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was not present and had sent no report.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report. The deadline for the September issue is July 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that he has gone back and added the ability to search the PDFs in the archive of club newsletters on the website. (He was unable to add searchability to the earliest versions which were mimeographs and have faded too much to allow the process to work.) Bob has also expanded the archive of field trips to list all previous trips listed in the historical newsletters, even when they did not have a field list report. He has also added a webpage listing the titles and speakers for all club programs since 1972 by searching the archive of club newsletters. Chuck mentioned that he has been scanning the early Board minutes while working on his Secretary Continuity Book. He said he had been successful enhancing the contrast on some of the minutes which were mimeograph format. *Sec. Note: After the meeting I tried to make the enhanced PDF searchable in hope of helping Bob, but the test failed.* Bob reported that he and Jo had added several writeups to the website In Memoriam section and had a few more to prepare.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry reported that the committee working on a virtual Member Picture Evening in lieu of a potluck has decided on holding it on Saturday, June 26 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Kelsey will assist in setting up the Zoom meeting and receiving the pictures to be displayed from members. As in the past members can provide up to 15 pictures. Sherry agreed to draft and provide Bob with a short NEWSGRAM article announcing the event by May 7. A more detailed NEWSGRAM article with the details for the Zoom connection and how to submit pictures to Kelsey will be needed for distribution in June closer to the event. Kelsey felt they could use the email address as part of the Google Meet account for sending the pictures.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin sent the following status report:

"Butterfly season is in full swing. We have had ~115 incidental butterfly reports already. We have exceeded last year's totals for Mourning Cloak, Falcate Orangetip, Juniper Hairstreak and Eastern Comma already. We have had zoom meetings with the RNC people, the butterfly gardeners, and the Master Gardeners that has resulted in an email list of 72 people. We are wrestling with how to set up impromptu butterfly walks." In an earlier email, in response to action items, Kevin provided the dates, descriptions of the pollinator talks, and speakers that we are co-sponsoring with Howard County Conservancy(attached). He also reported that no fee is being charged for the virtual talks. Jo reminded Brian that the payment of our share for these talks should come from the Chestem fund as part of the Chestem Speaker series.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue informed the Board there was great news on the bird-proofing of the windows at the Robinson Nature Center. She learned in an email from Marisa Olszewski that the county government put funding for this in this year's capital budget. They have started planning and are even considering employing a graphic artist on the project. We may want to make/receive a proposal for the club to fund the preparation of educational materials to go with the project. Mary Lou then reminded us that there is one element of our funding the window-proofing at HCC that was never finished, namely "outreach" is still needed. By this she means there should be materials readily available to explain to visitors how they could do something similar in their own homes or support initiatives to do it on other buildings. She envisions someone re-working existing pamphlets on the process. Possibly a display of the materials used and where they can be obtained. Sue was given an action to broach this subject with Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue has been active sending out multiple emails on atlasing. She also led an in-person training session with three people who had attended a talk she gave at the Dorsey Center. One of the three lives in Washington, DC so he will probably be making entries for D.C. The suspected Osprey on the Clark Farm cell tower was seen carrying sticks, but the viewer doesn't have eBird. Kurt agreed to try and confirm this sighting and enter it in his name. She related spotting a large nest just off US40 in Ellicott City SW while driving and she alerted Kurt who confirmed it was a Red-tailed Hawk nest. There was some discussion of the anticipated 17-year Cicada irruption starting soon and impacting birding including atlas work. Mary Lou shared her recollection of the 1987 irruption was that the noise didn't become major until around 10 am, so early birding may be the answer. Sue also said that we should expect to see communications on ensuring the location entered on atlas eBird checklists is consistent with which block you are in. If you cross a boundary you need to start another list (e.g., you cross one as you walk from parking lot to the Waterford Flats). Mary Lou shared an eBird tip she learned from Joe Hanfman. On the eBird mobile app there is a small "Hide" button, that has nothing to do with hiding your list when it is submitted. Instead, it allows you to hide one list in your phone and open a second list without closing the hidden one. Thus you can go back and forth between the two lists as you cross back and forth a block boundary.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou asked again if we can give her any guidance on when we might return to in-person meetings. Her concern is that as long as we are virtual, she can book speakers who live further away which isn't possible with in-person programs. She has several leads on speakers for whom this would be a factor. She was reminded that we decided not to resume until the "pandemic" is declared over, and that isn't likely to happen soon. Mary reported that she had spoken to RNC and our use of the room is booked whenever we want it. She told them our plans are not to start using it until there are major changes, even though they apparently can host meetings with up to 60 people now. Mary asked Mary Lou if she intended to have the alternative second meeting announcements like she had done for the talk on Ghana. She was non-committal stating it depends on whether the speaker wants to provide a picture.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Koonce, Lewis, etc.): No meeting.

## Old Business

Virtual meetings – Kelsey said she felt things were going well. The Ghana talk by Gwen and George seemed to be very well received as reflected in the number of questions asked following the talk.

YouTube – She reported 11 people have subscribed. It has been running 50-60 viewings of each meeting after they are posted. She suggested we might want to make an announcement at the meeting that it is being recorded and where it is posted on YouTube.

PUMA monitoring – Kristin reported "My update on the PUMA boxes at *Miller's Grant* is that they've approved me to monitor since I have family living there. Gene Streagle and I opened the boxes on Tuesday (April 6), with some tree swallows eager to move in immediately. I checked them yesterday and big surprise, house sparrows have started building nests in 3 of the 14 boxes. Gene placed 6 gourds up as well." In a later update it was reported that three pairs of Purple Martin have been seen at the boxes.

GroupMe for Beginners – Steve Luke was invited to attend and expand on the proposal he had discussed with Kristin prior to our last board meeting. He explained that he is a relatively new birder (his first list was in March 2020). Despite a strong initial motivation, he found it difficult to get oriented as a new birder. A few Board members reminded him that beginning during the pandemic and its isolation it was undoubtedly more difficult than in better times. With the club not having in-person meetings, no field trips, and introductory birding classes interfered with the most frequent recommendation we would make for new birders. Steve summarized some of the things he had done in his attempt to get started and it was very extensive and showed how motivated he was. He visited the club’s website but found it “overwhelming.” He read books and tried to find locations on his own. He joined eBird and learned about eBird alerts, but this still fell short in many ways. In his wandering he stumbled on to several members and was invited to join the Rare Bird GroupMe text group. He found this more useful as it “pushes” the information on sightings to you. When he and other newer birders asked for more details on how to find locations and other information, he became aware that there are two categories of birders (listers and those more relaxed in their approach to birding). He received “push back” that the Rare Bird text group should only focus on rarities and messages asking for information needed by the less experienced birders wasn’t appropriate content for the text group. In response he broached the idea of a second GroupMe group that would be for the “chattier” less experienced birders to Kristin. Kristin brought the idea to the Board last meeting and we found the idea interesting, especially if a few experienced birders would agree to join the group and serve as mentors. This would then be where they could find the information they were seeking as new birders. Accordingly we invited Luke to this meeting so that he could explain his idea. We also responded to Steve’s impression that the website needed to have introductory material for the beginning/new birder with links right on the home page to avoid the site overwhelming them. The Board agreed it would be extremely useful to have Steve’s insight on the new birder perspective, although it is apparent that he has through his self-motivation already moved past that characterization. Steve volunteered to take an active role in developing material that would address how the club can help the new/less experienced birder. In summary it was the sense of the Board that we should pursue this further. Mary took an action item to ask Steve to provide a more detailed proposal for what was needed.

Engaging beyond the pandemic – Kelsey remarked that most of what she had been considering on this topic will probably be addressed as part of the planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities. The one item she still wants to pursue is posting of videos in our YouTube page that provide introductions to birding locations around the county. She envisions this as a more visual supplement to the Site Guides on the club website. Mary and Mary Lou still want to experiment with this idea and made tentative plans to develop a prototype video soon.

Habitat Donation Proposals – Mary had sent the board soliciting ideas for habitat donation projects to spend some of the donations directed to habitat preservation that have been building up over time. Most specifically we need to allocate funds received from the past two seed sales. The only replies she had received was an email from Kurt that mentioned three possibilities to pursue.

“How much are we talking?”

- Check with Cheryl Farfaras at MPEA, She often has stuff, and that would be something local
- A little further afoot, the Delaware Ornithological Society is doing a bird-a-thon to raise money to buy inholdings along the Delaware Bay.
- And I am sure we can ask Audubon of the Mid-Atlantic if they have any projects. Recently they have been pumping mud out of the Blackwater River into the marshes to raise them and protect them from sea level rise. The Saltmarsh Sparrows are grateful.

If I get time I’ll try and find some stuff.” Mary took an action to ask Kurt to pursue these in order of priority from first to last, unless he identifies another option that appears more appealing.

*Sec. Note: We have over \$2000 from the last two seed sales, and I think we could easily spend \$5000 from accumulated donations that were associated with habitat and haven’t been spent. This reminds me we are finishing the Fiscal Year on the 30<sup>th</sup> and according to Brian’s latest report we haven’t made annual donations to All Creatures Great and Small and Friskies.*

Continuity Notebooks – We revisited this topic in reviewing the action items. Chuck reported that he is making good progress on the Secretary book. He will ask a couple of Board members to review it before finalizing it. He intends to include a compilation of all the files he has saved on his computer relating to club activities on USB sticks. He also asked Bob about the security of saving it on the club’s website as it contains old club directories, etc. Chuck also volunteered that he should create a notebook for his role of seasonal count compiler. Kevin has prepared and shared one for May Count Coordinator that Greg and Amy are using. It would make an excellent guide to

drafting one for Fall and Mid-winter Count. There is a notebook for Potluck chairman already. Other officers Mary would like to have prepare notebooks for are Treasurer, Webmaster, MailChimp coordinator. Reference was made to a hardcopy notebook used by the Program chairman that should probably be backed up somehow (scanned?). *Sec. Note: Are there others needed?*

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – No actions taken since prior meeting.

## **New Business**

No new business items were on the agenda.

### Around the Room:

- Sue stated she was now retired as this was her last day at work. She said she felt herself wanting to skip down the steps as she left today. She had already taken most of her personal items home but had not taken down a deer skull with antlers hanging on her wall planning to bring it home today. When she arrived someone had taken it down and already had hung it in their office. She did get it back.
- Mary Lou reported that this week she had awarded the YMOS backpack we get each year from YMOS to Steve Luke's 13-year-old son. The pack contains a nice pair of binoculars and she had observed him birding with his Dad without a pair of his own.
- Sherry congratulated Sue on retiring and said she was expecting Sue to be traveling and then giving some great programs on her trips.
- Allen congratulated Sue.
- Kelsey reported that the Downy Woodpecker is back at the nest hole used last year and she is looking forward to young in a few weeks, assuming she can hear them over the sound of cicadas.
- Mary asked Sue if there had been any interest in having Howard Rec & Parks identify a liaison to the club. Sue replied that there was currently no plan for identifying someone as liaison.

## **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Add discussion of ideas for habitat donation funded projects to future Board agenda – Mary DONE
- Seek additional co-chair and volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Mary
- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, others? SEE ITEM IN OLD BUSINESS
- Schedule and organize a virtual member picture evening on Zoom – Sherry, Linda, Kelsey
- Provide Bob with proposed new meeting announcement NEWSGRAM content – Mary Lou DONE
- Speak to RNC about contingency reservations for club meetings – Mary DONE
- Inform HCC of agreement to co-sponsor Doug Tallamy program – Kevin DONE
- Provide dates and formal subjects for both Pollinator Week talks – Kevin DONE
- Ask HCC whether they plan to charge for either of the talks – Kevin DONE
- Inform Dave Ziolkowski to purchase WSSC permit, and we will reimburse – Sue DONE - NO INTEREST

## **New/Continuing Action Items**

- Seek additional co-chair and volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Mary
- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, Brian, Bob, others?
- Inform Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee that the HCC project still needs to develop “outreach” materials– Sue
- Inform Steve Luke the club is interested in his ideas and would like him to provide a more detailed proposal – Mary
- Inform Kurt we would like him to pursue habitat donation proposals further – Mary
- Propose habitat donation project(s) to fund – Kurt
- Provide Bob with NEWSGRAM announcement of the virtual Member Picture Evening event – Sherry
- Send the results of election and contact information to the MOS Secretary - Chuck

## Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 24, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
October 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
November 19, 2020	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
February 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
March 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
April 22, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
May 27, 2021	- VIRTUAL	Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – April 22, 2021
- Treasurer’s Report – April 20, 2021 (thru March 31)
- Records Committee Report for April HCBC Board Meeting: March 20 – April 17, 2021 – Joanne Solemn
- Email from Kevin Heffernan – “Date, Times, Bios, and talk descriptions for the Doug Tallamy and Heather Holm talks” – April 14, 2021

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - April 22, 2021

Time: Apr 22, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87993396001?pwd=U290YnZjWU5pY0lxSIBHdW5rSjJWUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 9339 6001

Passcode: 890143

**Agenda**

April 22, 2021

1. Additions?
  2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
  3. Treasurer's Report (attachment) Brian Moyer
  4. President's Remarks Mary Maxey
  5. Vice President's Remarks Kristin Trouton (can't attend)
  6. Chapter Committee Reports
    - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
    - Records (attached) Jo Solem
    - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Jo Solem
    - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
    - Newsletter Howard Patterson
    - Webmaster Bob Solem
    - Butterflies (see report) Kevin Heffernan
    - Safe Skies Sue Muller
    - Programs Mary Lou Clark
  7. Old Business
    - Virtual meetings Kelsey
    - YouTube Kelsey
    - PUMA monitoring Kristin
- My update on the PUMA boxes is that they've approved me to monitor since I have family living there. Gene Streagle and I opened up the boxes on Tuesday (April 6), with some tree swallows eager to move in immediately. I checked them yesterday and big surprise, house sparrows have started building nests in 3 of the 14 boxes. Gene placed 6 gourds up as well. - Kristin
- GroupMe for beginners Steve Luke
  - Engaging beyond the pandemic Kelsey
  - ?
8. New Business
    - None
  9. Action Items Chuck Stirrat
  10. Around the room

NPR = Not previously reported

TBD= To Be Determine

	Actual YTD 2019-20	Approved 2019/20 Budget	Proposed 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2020/21 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
<b>Income</b>																	
Net Membership Dues	3,692	3,200	3,200	3,200	115	0	0	305	860	40	510	100	150	110	110		2300
Contributions to HCBC		3,500	3,500	3,500	40	0	0	0	40	100	230	5	40	50	0		505
Habitat Preservation	3,282				186	0	200	315	1122	0	126	0	0	0	0		1949
Butterfly Fund	440				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0		50
Seed Sale					0	0	0	0	0	0	1230	0	0	0	0		1230
Interest income	215	NPR		NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
																	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,629</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>2,096</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,034</b>
																	0
<b>Expenses</b>																	0
																	0
Meeting Programs (speakers)	225	700	700	700	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	50	250	100	100		700
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
																	0
<b>Office Expenses</b>																	0
																	0
Newsletter/other printing	1,407	500	1,000	500	0	0	0	69	0	0	61	61	0	61	0		252
Website/Email/Internet	540	500	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	149.9	0	0		149.9
Postage/Copies/Office Supplies	454	250	300	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Bank fees	93	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	33	4.8	0	0	0.75	0		44.55
Greenfest Support	50	70	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
																	0
<b>Projects/Grants</b>																	0
																	0
All Creatures	0	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Frisky's	300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Education	0	NPR	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
YMOS	200	250	250	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0		300
Butterfly Fund	440	NPR	440	NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
																	0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3759</b>	<b>2920</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>165.8</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>399.9</b>	<b>461.75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1446.45</b>
																	0
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>3,780</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-210</b>	<b>-302</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,588</b>

**NPR = Not previously reported**

**TBD= To Be Determine**

	Approved 2019/20 Budget	Proposed 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2020/21 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
2019/2020	49,689			43,152	43,152	46,153	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,155	21,155	21,155	21,155	21,156		
2018/19	43,152															
2017/18	53,024															
2016/17	43,735															
<b>Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)</b>																
Balance (4/28/2020)		27,986														
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR	NPR								23,356					23,356
Internship - Concari		1500	2,000	1500	750			750								750
Balance			27,986													
<b>Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)</b>																
Balance (4/28/2020)		5,540														
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD	TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance			5,540													
<b>T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)</b>																
Mountjoy Fund		5,540	5,540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestem Fund		27,986	27,986	0	0	3000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)		9,626	9,626	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance		43,152	46,154	43152	43153	46,153	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,155	21,155	21,156	21,156	21,156	21,156	
Interest				0.36	0.34	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.34	0.33	0.34	0.27	0.27		
<b>PNC Checking Account</b>																
Balance		6,590														
																Transactions; \$110 deposit MOS dues

## **Records Committee Report for April HCBC Board Meeting: March 20 – April 17, 2021 – Joanne Solem**

Trumpeter Swan has become an annual, albeit uncommon, species since 2015. Likely the same individual wandered the county in early April. It was photographed at Waverly Pond 4/4 (Lynn Gregg), turned up at Lake Elkhorn 4/5 (Michelle Stewart), and appeared at Centennial Park 4/14 (Joe Hanfman). On 4/17, three were photographed at Wilde Lake (Kit Carson).

Boreal species, especially Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins, continued countywide. There was the usual April upsurge of Purple Finches beginning 4/14 with more than a dozen reports as they moved north. An immature female White-winged Crossbill was the most notable invasive. It appeared briefly at Hermitage Dr 3/20 (Howard/Craig Patterson). After two weeks of unpredictable appearances, it began visiting the hulled sunflower feeder often enough that Howard was willing to spread the word to the birding community. From 4/5 through 4/10, at least 48 people saw the bird. Its presence was particularly remarkable because it was the only one reported in the state during the 2020-21 winter/spring seasons.

During this last month, Howard County birders systematically turned up first-of-the-year species almost daily—and the pace accelerates with each passing day. Of particular interest was a Virginia Rail on 4/10 at Mt Pleasant (Russ Ruffing), a Forster's Tern, a species that is unusual away from reservoirs, on 4/14 at Wilde Lake and then Lake Kittamaqundi (Howard Patterson), and more Caspian Tern reports in one recent week than in all of 2020.

April 1st marked the opening of Waterford Flats on Sharps of Waterford Farm, Jennings Chapel Road. This joint venture between the Howard County Bird Club (HCBC) and the farm's owners, Chuck and Denise Sharp, was made possible, in large part, by the Chestem bequest. Continuing management of the site's water level will be necessary to attract the maximum number of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. By a stroke of good fortune, one of the first birds to appear at the location was a Glossy Ibis, a species recorded fewer than two dozen times in the county. It was spotted on 4/8, fittingly, by Chuck Sharp. The ibis stayed the day allowing for excellent documentation. The HCBC's Shorebird Committee is to be congratulated for creating such an attractive site. Waterford Flat's enthusiastic reception by the birding community almost guarantees that few visiting birds will escape detection.



Charles Stirrat &lt;stirrcr1@gmail.com&gt;

## Dates, Times, Bios and talk descriptions for the Doug Tallamy and Heather Holm talks

Kevin Heffernan &lt;kjheff122@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 11:39 AM

To: Mary Maxey <maximom11998@gmail.com>, "stirrcr1@gmail.com" <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, Kristin Trouton <kristing4420@gmail.com>, "amanda.sullivan@howardnature.org" <amanda.sullivan@howardnature.org>, Nancy Lawson <nancy@humanegardener.com>, "Costantino, Julie" <jcostantino@howardcountymd.gov>, Meg Boyd <meg.boyd@howardnature.org>, Susan Tucker <sjennist@gmail.com>, Helen Lowe Metzman <helometz@hotmail.com>, Solem <odenata@msn.com>, Mary Lou Clark <doctorfx\_99@yahoo.com>, Linda Hunt <Raven10322@hotmail.com>

All,  
The BeeCity committee has organized a couple of zoom talks for this spring by a couple of very important speakers. The talks are co-sponsored by the Howard County Conservancy and the Howard County Bird Club. This email is my response to an action item I received at the March HCBC board meeting.

The first talk is by **Doug Tallamy**. It will be on Wednesday, May 26 at 7:00. Doug's bio and a description of his talk are below.

Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 104 research publications and has taught insect related courses for 40 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book [Bringing Nature Home](#) was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writers' Association. [The Living Landscape](#), co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014; [Nature's Best Hope](#), a New York Times Best Seller, was released in February 2020, and his latest book [The Nature of Oaks](#) was released by Timber press in March 2021. Among his awards are the Garden Club of America Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation and the Tom Dodd, Jr. Award of Excellence, the 2018 AHS B.Y. Morrison Communication Award and the 2019 Cynthia Westcott Scientific Writing Award.

### A guide to restoring the little things that run the world

A recent UN report predicts that as many as 1 million species will disappear from planet earth because of human activities. Many of these are insects and nearly all species at risk rely on insects. Insects have already declined 45% since 1974. The most alarming part of this statistic is that we don't seem to care, despite the fact that a world without insects is a world without humans! So how do we create beautiful landscapes brimming with life; landscapes that support the pollinators, herbivores, detritivores, predators and parasitoids that run the ecosystems we depend on? Tallamy will remind us of the many essential roles insects play, and describe the simple changes we must make in our landscapes and our attitudes to keep insects on the ground, in the air and yes, on our plants

The second talk is by **Heather Holm**. It will be on Wednesday, June 23. (Nancy, did we ever decide on the time?). Heather's bio and talk description are below.

Heather Holm is a biologist, pollinator conservationist, and award-winning author. In addition to assisting with native bee research projects, she informs and educates audiences nationwide, through her writing and many presentations, about the fascinating world of native pollinators and beneficial insects, and the native plant communities that support them.

Her first book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, was published in 2014, and her second book, *Bees*, published in 2017, has won six book awards including the 2018 American Horticultural Society Book Award. Her latest book, *Wasps*, was

published in February 2021.

Heather is a National Honorary Director of Wild Ones. She also serves on the board of the Friends of Cullen Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary, a 501(c)3 non-profit that is facilitating the restoration of a 32-acre preserve in her community..

Native Bee ID

*A Beginners Guide to Bee Identification and Appreciation*

With over 800 bee species in eastern North America, how does one learn to identify one bee from all these possibilities? Heather will highlight common bee groups and genera, and provide some identification tips and techniques so you can start to hone your bee identification skills. Her presentation will also cover the life cycle, seasonality, and nesting strategies of the different bee groups and genera featured, and highlight some unique plant relationships, including native plant specializations.

Thanks again to both the Howard County Conservancy and to the Howard County Bird Club for co-sponsoring these talks.

Please let me know if I have missed anything.

Bob, can we put out a reminder just before each of these?

Thanks.

Kevin followed up with an email stating that no fee is to be charges for either talk.

Kevin



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, May 27, 2021

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristen Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Sharon Smith (1<sup>st</sup> yr.)  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis  
Sherry Tomlinson  
Past President: Mary Lou Clark

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller  
**Others:** Steve Luke √  
Wes Earp √  
John Harris √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 13. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 13, 2021 was 28 people. Paul Baicich and Soledad Pegliuca gave a program entitled “Birding and Beyond in Cuba.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):** Sue provided the correct spelling of Marisa Olszewski who works for RNC. It was the only change made in the draft distributed to the Board. Chuck reported that he had sent the results of our election to the MOS Secretary per MOS procedures. Chuck reported that he had finished his draft of the Secretary Continuity Notebook and it was reviewed by several Board members. Any other Board member wishing to review the notebook need only ask. He indicated he plans to include a digital zip file with an archive of all the material he has accumulated as club secretary along with the notebook. His intent was to periodically refresh this archive. His original draft proposed this archive would be saved on USB sticks given to two Board members as well as storing a copy in a password protected file on the club website with two other officers given the password. Bob expressed the opinion that he felt we didn’t need to have both methods employed. *Sec. Note: Although I personally would prefer to employ both methods, I will for the time being prepare the USB sticks and give them to the President and Vice President.*

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer):** Brian had sent the attached treasurer’s report. There were annual transactions in April for web services, Quick Books subscription, and the post office box rental that resulted in those categories approaching budgeted totals for the year. The portions of the report addressing the fund balances are not updated. The deposit in the T Rowe Price fund of \$13,131.88 is the receipt of the government reimbursement (QUIP) for a portion of the Waterford Flats construction costs. The resulting T Rowe Price balance is \$34,287. After outlays the remaining balance in the Chestem fund is \$16,012.

Brian also sent a proposed budget for next year (a revised proposal was sent just prior to the meeting). In discussion we reduced the amount for Hospitality to \$50 (explaining to Brian it did not include the drinks and snacks at regular meetings as those are donated by volunteers.) It was observed that All Creatures Great and Small had indicated that thanks to a bequest they wouldn’t need donations until they asked. Accordingly we deleted that \$300 donation from

budget. Kevin observed that the “Bee City” committee’s grant had run out and that we might want to donate to them. It was moved and seconded that we redesignate the \$300 we had planned for All Creatures as a donation to “Bee City.” The motion passed. Two new items were added to the budget to support the activities of two committees recently formed. The “New Birder Initiative” was budgeted at \$200 and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration has \$300 budgeted. *Sec. Note: Jo Solem chose not to explain the story behind the \$300 seed money for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration as time was limited but sent me the attached detailed explanation after the meeting.*

The proposed budget was approved with the changes made. The final budget is shown in the column labeled “Approved 2021/22 Budget” in the attached table.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary took this opportunity to thank everyone who had stepped up to help her and the club during this pandemic year. She specifically highlighted Kelsey’s work with virtual meetings. She informed us that she was reminded that she needs to prepare an annual report of the club’s activities during the year. The report is nominally due in advance of the virtual MOS Convention during the weekend of June 11-13.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin took this opportunity to thank Mary for the excellent job she had done during her first year. Several Board members chimed in to offer their thanks to Mary.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe had not sent a report, but Mary mentioned that Joe had mentioned he was hopeful of having a few field trips this fall. The pandemic does appear to be easing and with many vaccinated we may well want to schedule some. The deadline for including them in the Goldfinch is July 25. Mary also mentioned that there had been discussion of having one or more club trips out of the county. Someone mentioned Joe had talked about a visit to Smith Island.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had sent the attached Records report.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo reported that planning is going forward. The response to the T-shirt survey was very positive so it is likely we will have them. Kristin commented that they are considering having a design contest for the shirts.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Mary reminded the board he has had to step down as Conservation Chairman for both MOS and the club due to family matters. Mary said she needs to speak with him and determine if he thinks she should look for a permanent replacement or would an interim appointment be appropriate anticipating he will be able to resume as Chair sometime in the future.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report. The deadline for the Fall issue is July 25.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob had no comments as Webmaster but he did report that he had completed the continuity documentation of the duties of the Mail Chimp Monitor. He had sent it out for review but had not received any comments and considered it complete.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Neither Sherry nor Linda was in attendance. The virtual Picture Sharing evening is scheduled for June 26 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): The butterfly season is well underway. They are receiving reports on-line. Everything is going fine. The talk by Doug Tallamy that the club co-sponsored at HCC was scheduled for the prior evening but must be rescheduled. A thunderstorm had caused the speaker to lose power. Those who had previously registered will be sent email confirming the new date. Kevin apologized for not ensuring the club membership received notification of the talk in advance of the wider announcement. By the time our announcement went out the Zoom maximum of 100 had been reached and no reservations were left. Kevin worked with HCC to provide additional openings for this case, so that a second announcement went out. Kevin stated it is his intent to ensure that in the future when we co-sponsor an event our announcement will go out before the wider announcement appears on Facebook, etc.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue was not present, and she had not sent a report.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue was not present as there was a conflict with a BBA3 meeting.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou asked for guidance as to whether we might consider having meetings in person anytime this Fall as restrictions continue to be lessened. Her concern is that she can schedule speakers who are further away if we are virtual but would not work if in person required. John McKitterick had proposed we consider holding a hybrid meeting using the RNC audio/visual capability. After a brief discussion we decided that we did not feel comfortable with doing that. The September meeting is already scheduled, and we agreed that a decision was needed regarding the October meeting before July 25 as that is the deadline for the Goldfinch. There was discussion of holding a board meeting in July in hope that the environment might be clearer then, but there was reluctance to have a meeting in July. Chuck proposed that we just decide that the meeting in October will be virtual and let Mary Lou schedule it with that assumption. This allows decisions regarding the November and December (Dec. already not an issue as it is on BBA3) to be deferred until there is much greater likelihood the pandemic situation will be much clearer. This proposal was accepted and Mary Lou will proceed to schedule October as a virtual meeting.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Tomlinson, Lewis, etc.): There has not been a MOS Board meeting in past month.

## Old Business

Virtual Meetings – Kelsey had nothing to report in this regard.

YouTube - Kelsey had nothing to report about the club YouTube page.

Habitat Donation Proposals – Mary reported that a few club members had begun discussion of another major habitat development project as we finish up work on the Waterford Flats project at Sharp's and anticipate receipt of a rather large bequest from the Ponce estate. As a result, she had invited Wes Earp, John Harris, and Russ Ruffing (not present) to attend and share their thoughts on this topic. John has suggested we try and develop a grassland habitat and Russ is an advocate for another shorebird habitat project. One location suggested for grassland is the crop field surrounding the "swale" at Mount Pleasant west of the Davis Branch. Currently the crop is usually harvested right at the peak time birds are nesting, and it was thought we might be able to remedy this in some way and potentially increase the acreage as grasslands. Also the subject of trying to renegotiate the Dickcissel field on Underwood was raised. Sites mentioned for shorebirds were the Rhine property south of the pull-off on MD 99 west of MD 32. In wet seasons the low part next to the road has had mud that attracts shorebirds. Some suggested the other parts of field might even be a potential grassland. Another site mentioned was the wet field on the NE corner of Ten Oaks Road and Brighton Dam Road that has shorebirds in times of wet weather. Wes let the Board know of the many challenges and complexity that projects like this present. He wanted to make clear he is not opposed to pursuing such ideas but rather to make sure we recognize and address the challenges. First he pointed out that the HC Conservancy successfully planted warm season grasses in the past. The slopes west and north of the house were planted several years ago and has not been very successful. Wes characterized what one is doing in this area when you try and maintain land in grassland is to "hold it in a successional stage." The grass cover will give way to brambles and low woody vegetation on its way to the natural long-term vegetation that is normal for here, namely forest. Accordingly, any grassland habitat retention project is looking at a ~5-year renovation cycle. One thing that needs to be considered is what is/are the "target species" for the project. For example we don't really know what made the field on Underwood so attractive to Dickcissel. Germinations of prior year residual crop seeds may have been an incentive. Another target might well be Grasshopper Sparrow. Wes related an experience where before Western Regional Park was developed, he witnessed a crop of Red clover, adjacent to a weedy patch that was overrun with Grasshopper Sparrows. Unmanaged, the clover had become infested with leafhoppers. John Harris mentioned someone he talked to knows a professor who had done a lot of research on Grasshopper Sparrows and might be an excellent resource. Wes commented that there are two or three other locations where attempts to grow native Short- and/or Tall-grasses have been made. One is at the corner of Pheffercorn and MD 99 is the Moxley

property where 15-20 acres were planted 5-10 years ago. It is not very accessible as it is behind a row of pines where there is no parking. In such instances the low woody vegetation invades along with other invasive species such as Canada Thistle. Jo remarked that there are several reasons why the planting of warm season grasses at HCC wasn't successful for field bird species. We pointed out that amended soil fertility allows such plantings to come in too dense to provide the desired natural cover characteristics. Trees may be in too close proximity, so if we undertake a grassland for field species, we need to be sure to avoid a location with trees nearby. We then turned to the challenges that come with the shorebird habitat projects. First we need a reliable source of water!! The Ten Oaks site is an unusual topography known as a "saddle." On one side water flows to the Patuxent River watershed and on the other to the Middle Patuxent Watershed. It rises away in the other directions and such formations are usually associated with ridges. The flat expanse drains runoff inefficiently. This can create temporary ponding in depressions or perched water tables in the soil. But there is no reliable source of water so this location would require drilling a well. Access might be a problem unless the church across the street would approve parking there. The Rhine site would also require a well in all likelihood. Another issue with shorebird habitat is regulatory issues. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has declared most streams in Howard County as Class 4 recreational trout water which considers releasing warm water into the stream as a "no-no." Ponding water would require permits. This is in fact an issue at Waterford where the "cool water release" component of the out-flow structure seems to be malfunctioning. Another regulatory issue that could arise if it is determined we were impacting native non-tidal wetlands. We emphasized that a major concern for any of these projects is that we have "Public Access." Also having a landowner who is genuinely interested in the project would be a major plus. Chuck reminded the Board that there is no "rush" to make decisions on such a major project until we do receive the bequest funds. There are still enough funds in the Chestem fund to complete any additional improvements we are considering in the near future but not enough to undertake a completely new major project. We should disburse some of the recently received donations to habitat preservation that was received from the seed sale and individual donations (see the next item). John Harris took an action to try and contact the expert on Grasshopper Sparrows to see if he would be interested in sharing his expertise.

DOS Bird-a-thon – Mary reported that no action had yet been taken in this regard. Since Kurt's other suggestion about projects at MPEA had resulted in a reply from Cheryl Farfaras that she wouldn't have any projects to propose until this Fall we felt his other proposal was appropriate. Accordingly a donation to the Delaware Ornithological Society's Bird-a-thon raising funds for habitat preservation, including habitat for the threatened Red Knot was proposed. A motion to donate \$2000 to the DOS bird-a-thon was approved. Kevin asked if there was any interest in donating to the "Bee City" initiative as their grant has been exhausted. It was proposed that since All Creatures Great and Small had indicated they didn't need our gift of \$300 that was already budgeted in last year's budget we could donate that to "Bee City." A motion to donate \$300 to them was approved. *Sec. Note – although we noted that last year's gift to Friskies had not been made, to my recollection we did not authorize Brian to send them a check.*

PUMA Monitoring – Kristin reported that Mary Lou and Mary have agreed to monitor the Purple Martin boxes and gourds at Miller's Grant while Kristin is on vacation. Mary Lou joined Kristin for training on the process during the prior week. Five of the cells had Martin eggs. They found four broken eggs on the ground. House sparrows are the likely culprits as there are many sparrows in the area and several cells had to be blocked off as the house sparrows had started nests. Mary Lou indicated they may try to poke holes in some House Sparrow eggs in hope they will be deceived and continue to incubate infertile eggs and not attack Martin nests.

PUMA House and Pole Donation – Mary has been contacted by Richard Schrad who is offering to donate a Purple Martin House and telescoping pole that he no longer needs. Although Sue wasn't present, she has indicated that she might well have need of Martin houses. Since it comes with the telescoping pole Mary was directed to indicate we would take the house and pole. We will need to find somewhere to store it until a location to put it up is identified.

CHSW, AMKE, & PUMA Boxes – Sue was not present so we will address Chimney Swift, American Kestrel, and Purple Martin nest boxes at a future meeting.

GroupMe/website for Beginners – Steve Luke had listened to some of the ideas discussed during the last Board meeting and our invitation to take a stab at flushing out a proposal for what was needed by beginning birders. He developed some initial material for adding to the website that would provide material about learning to bird and specific birding tips. Jo observed that only about 10% of the club membership are "listers." Bob proposed we

should have a section on the website that specifically addresses how to learn to bird. The section should be very accessible and obvious to those interested in exploring birding but not be for avid listers. Jo informed Steve that we had recently taught a course on Basic Birding that has a lot of material that would be an excellent source of material for developing the website material. Jo also described the Centennial Park Birding Bulletin Board that Jeff Culler maintains. Jeff has collected material on common birds that beginners can use to help identify birds that are likely to be seen at the park. Jeff has indicated that Karen, his wife, is becoming a birder. Jo said that having Jeff and Karen helping with this project would be a great plus as Karen could bring the perspective of a beginner and complement Jeff's material. Bob mentioned that when this topic came up, Sarah Romero expressed a strong interest and might well be able to contribute even if it will be remotely as she is still in Italy. We agreed that a committee should be formed with an initial effort to define the scope of the problem and defining what we are trying to do. Steve agreed to take the lead of the committee. Potential membership includes Bob, Sarah, Jeff, and Karen. Mary took an action to send an email to this group introducing Steve and asking for their support of the effort.

Engaging beyond the pandemic – Kelsey indicated that this topic can be closed and is being addressed in other activities.

Recognition Awards – Mary said that Joe Hanfman is preparing awards recognizing the two homeowners who hosted the Western Tanager at two different locations in February. She was reminded that we traditionally do not issue awards to club members that host rarities. As a result, although we are very appreciative of Howard Patterson hosting the White-winged Crossbill and Gregg Peterson the Evening Grosbeak, they will not receive certificates.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – No actions taken since last Board meeting.

## **New Business**

Should Big Day Summaries be added to the website? – Jo commented that we have traditionally not included reports of Big Days done in the county on our website. Since the interest in these activities has risen and the recent group setting a new high for a big day of 129 species on May 10 has added to the interest. Jo said she is preparing a history of the 15 field trips that were run as “big days” in the past. She asked the Board if we should assemble summaries of these big days and post them on the website. The board expressed strong support for adding them to the website.

Around the Room –

- Chuck commented that in assembling the archive of secretarial materials Jo provided him hard copies of early club membership lists. In the package was a multi-page summary describing the club and what it was about for potential members circa 1973. He has scanned the documentation and found it interesting to read and offered to share it with anyone who would like to have a copy. He said just drop him an email and he will send you a copy.

## **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Seek additional co-chair and volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Mary
- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, Brian, Bob, others?
- Inform Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee that the HCC project still needs to develop “outreach” materials– Sue
- Inform Steve Luke the club is interested in his ideas and would like him to provide a more detailed proposal – Mary DONE
- Inform Kurt we would like him to pursue habitat donation proposals further – Mary DONE
- Propose habitat donation project(s) to fund – Kurt DONE
- Provide Bob with NEWSGRAM announcement of the virtual Member Picture Evening event – Sherry DONE
- Send the results of election and contact information to the MOS Secretary – Chuck DONE

## New/Continuing Action Items

- Seek additional co-chair and volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Mary
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- Inform Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee that the HCC project still needs to develop “outreach” materials– Sue
- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about assisting us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Inform Richard Schrad that we will take the Purple Martin house and pole - Mary
- Send email to potential membership of committee developing website material for beginning birders and introducing Steve Luke as committee lead – Mary

## Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 24, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
October 22, 2020	- VIRTUAL	
November 19, 2020	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
February 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
March 25, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
April 22, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
May 27, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – May 27, 2021
- Treasurer’s Report – May 24, 2021
- Proposed Budget for 2021-2022 Club Year
- Explanation of Seed Money for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
- Records Committee Report – April 18 – May 21

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

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Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
May 27, 2021

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - May 27, 2021

Time: May 25, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88496631043?pwd=WHRqd1lvNFZCRlYvL3FmWmhxWU1lZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 9663 1043

Passcode: 025177

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report (attachment)
4. President's Remarks
5. Vice President's Remarks
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips
  - Records (attached)
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Conservation
  - Newsletter
  - Webmaster
  - Butterflies
  - Safe Skies
  - BBA3
  - Programs
7. Old Business
  - Virtual meetings
  - YouTube
  - Habitat Donation Proposals
  - DOS birdathon
  - PUMA monitoring
  - PUMA house and pole donation
  - CHSW, AMKE, PUMA boxes
  - GroupMe/website for beginners
  - Engaging beyond the pandemic
8. New Business
  - Should Big Day summaries be added to website?
9. Action Items
10. Around the room

Chuck Stirrat  
Brian Moyer  
Mary Maxey  
Kristin Trouton  
  
Joe Hanfman  
Jo Solem  
Jo Solem  
Kurt Schwarz  
Howard Patterson  
Bob Solem  
Kevin Heffernan  
Sue Muller  
Sue Muller  
Mary Lou Clark  
  
Kelsey  
Kelsey  
Mary / Wes Earp  
Mary  
Kristin  
Mary  
Sue  
Steve Luke  
Kelsey  
  
Jo  
  
Chuck Stirrat

NPR = Not previously reported TBD= To Be Determine	Actual YTD	Approved	Proposed	Approved	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running
	2019-20	19/20 Budget	20/21 Budget	20/21 Budget													Subtotal
<b>Income</b>																	
Net Membership Dues	3,692	3,200	3,200	3,200	115	0	0	305	860	40	510	100	150	110	110	170	2470
Contributions to HCBC		3,500	3,500	3,500	40	0	0	0	40	100	230	5	40	50	0	5	510
Habitat Preservation	3,282				186	0	200	315	1122	0	126	0	0	0	0	0	1949
Butterfly Fund	440				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	50
Seed Sale					0	0	0	0	0	0	1230	0	0	0	0	0	1230
Interest income	215	NPR		NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7629</b>	<b>6700</b>	<b>6700</b>	<b>6700</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>2096</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>6209</b>
<b>Expenses</b>																	
Meeting Programs (speakers)	225	700	700	700	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	50	250	100	100	100	800
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Office Expenses</b>																	
Newsletter/other printing	1,407	500	1,000	500	0	0	0	69	0	0	61	61	0	61	0	61	313
Website/Email/Internet	540	500	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	149.9	0	0	434.88	584.78
Postage/Copies/Office Supplies	454	250	300	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	178.45	178.45
Bank fees	93	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	33	4.8	0	0	0.75	0	2	46.55
Greenfest Support	50	70	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Projects/Grants</b>																	
All Creatures	0	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frisky's	300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	NPR	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YMOS	200	250	250	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	300
Butterfly Fund	440	NPR	440	NPR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>3,759</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>165.8</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>399.9</b>	<b>461.75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>776.33</b>	<b>2222.78</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,870</b>	<b>3,780</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,930</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>-210</b>	<b>-302</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-601</b>	<b>3,986</b>

**T Rowe Price + CHESTEM**

2019/2020	49,689	43,152	43,152	46,153	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,155	21,155	21,155	21,155	21,156	21,156
2018/19	43,152												
2017/18	53,024												
2016/17	43,735												

		Proposed 20/21 Budget	Approved 20/21 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
<b>Chestem Bequest Fund (Targeted Projects)</b>																
Balance (4/28/2020)		27,986														
Shorebird Habitat Project	0	NPR	NPR								23356				-13132	10,224
Internship - Concari		1500	2,000	1500	750			750								1,500
Chestem Speaker Series												250				250
<i>Future entry</i>																
Balance		27,986		27,986	27,236	27,236	27,236	26,486	26,486	26,486	3,130	2,880	2,880	2,880	16,012	16,012

**Mountjoy Fund (Targeted Projects)**

Balance (4/28/2020)		5,540														
Poster Board for Butterfly Display	0	TBD	TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Future entry</i>																
Balance		5,540		5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540	5,540

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Mountjoy Fund		5,540	5,540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Chestem Fund		27,986	27,986	0	0	3000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)		9,626	9,626	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deposits																13132
Balance		43,152	46,154	43152	43153	46,153	46,154	46,154	46,154	46,155	21,155	21,156	21,156	21,156		34,287.88
Interest				0.36	0.34	0.38	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.34	0.33	0.34	0.27	0.27		

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance 6,117

Transactions; 100 Speaker  
 Web Services 359.88  
 QB subscription 75  
 Web / Postage 178.45  
 Printing Fee 61.00

**Proposed Budget for 2021/2022  
Howard County Bird Club**

5/27/2021

**NPR = Not previously reported**

**TBD= To Be Determine**

	Actual YTD 2020/21	Approved 2020/21 Budget		Proposed 2021/22 Budget	Approved 2021/22 Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Net Membership Dues	2,470	3,200		2,500	2,500
Contributions to HCBC		3,500		3,500	3,500
Undesignated	510				
Habitat Preservation	1,949				
Butterfly Fund	50				
Seed Sale	1,230				
Interest income	0	NPR		0	NPR
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>6,700</b>		<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>					
<b>Expenses</b>					
Anniversary 50th Celebration				300	300
Meeting Programs (speakers)	800	700		1,000	1000
Hosiptality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50		240	50
New Birder Initiative				200	200
<b>Office Expenses</b>					
Newsletter/other printing	313	500		750	750
Website/Email/Internet	585	500		600	600
Postage/Copies/Office Supplies	178	250		250	250
Bank fees	46	0		50	50
Greenfest Support	0	70		70	70
<b>Projects/Grants</b>					
All Creatures	0	300		300	0
Frisky's	0	300		300	300
Education	0	100		100	100
YMOS	300	250		300	300
Butterfly Fund	0	0		440	440
Bee City	NPR	NPR		NPR	300
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2272</b>	<b>3020</b>		<b>4,600</b>	<b>4410</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,937</b>	<b>3,680</b>		<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,590</b>

## Visit Howard County Maryland essay and photos

Hi Chuck,

Please add the above attachment to the minutes for the May HCBC board meeting. In the interest of saving time last evening, I didn't explain how the club came into the \$300 check which will be seed money for our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration.

On March 30, 2021, Mary Maxey received an email from the Sales and Marketing Coordinator for Visit Howard County Maryland (a business supported group publicizing the county as a tourist destination). Their state organization was planning a statewide birding publication to attract visiting birders and the Howard County group wanted to provide input for local birding. Needed was information for an essay so a variety of questions was included. Mary referred them to the club's website.

Within a day or two, Amanda Hof, the Executive Director, then inquired whether someone from our group would like to write a 600-word essay about the wonders of birding the county. Oh, and incidentally the deadline was the following Friday (about a week away). Mary asked me what she should do. With the tight deadline, I said the quickest thing would be for me to write something and they could edit it to suit their aims. I provided them with the above material and they were thrilled.

Then they mentioned that they also needed some bird photos. (At some point in my communication with Amanda she mentioned that they had a small budget and, if \$300 would be sufficient, they would pay me. I thought this would be an excellent way to obtain seed money for the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration without dipping into club funds.) I knew Bonnie not only had an assortment of excellent photos on her Flickr site, but the quality of her photos would make for good reproduction no matter whether the publication would be newsprint, glossy paper, or a website. Bonnie agreed (attribution required) on condition that she would provide the Flickr site address and they could choose what they wanted as she didn't have time to go through photos. Bonnie also agreed to ask that the promised check be made out to the HCBC and sent directly to the treasurer.

Visit Howard County Maryland submitted the total package to the state organization on 4/13/21 and asked us to submit an invoice which I did on 4/13/21. Brian received the check on 5/22/21. A copy of the eventual publication, if produced in hard copy, was requested. To date, nothing has been received.

Jo  
Solem

Records Committee Report for May HCBC Board Meeting: April 18 - May 21, 2021 – Joanne Solem

Solid Wood Duck breeding trend continued including multiple broods of downy young at Centennial Park. A hen with 18 young on the river at the Middle Patuxent Env. Area 5/11 (Tim Frye, ph.) was almost certainly an example of a parasitized nest. Most clutches of more than 15 eggs involve two or more females. Incubating that many eggs is not always successful. A female Bufflehead was still present at Waterford Farm 5/20 (Ken Clark). There are at least seven previous May records.

Most vagrant hummingbirds from the West turn up in mid to late fall, usually on the heels of strong weather systems. A bird at Centennial 5/14 (Jeremy Krasnick, ph.) was a surprise. It could be a Rufous, but, because there is no chance of it being banded and examined in hand, it may never be positively identified. (An exchange between Joe Hanfman and Bruce Peterjohn, retired head of the Bird Banding Laboratory, suggests that a species, rare in North America, could not be ruled out).

A Virginia Rail at Font Hill Wetland Park 4/19 (Bonnie Ott) once again raised hopes for possible nesting at that location, but the bird did not stay. Recently created Waterford Flats was the most productive county shorebird site. Recent fine sightings included Pectoral Sandpiper and two Semipalmated Plovers on 5/14 (Ken Clark) and a Semipalmated Sandpiper on the same date (Joe Hanfman).

Forster's Terns are scarce migrants in late summer with few detected in spring. A sighting at Brighton Dam on 5/10 (Russ Ruffing, Kristin Trouton, Steve Luke, Gregg Petersen) was the second this spring. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was photographed at Henryton 5/18 (Russell Hillsley). A Sedge Wren at Belmont 5/8 was a choice sighting (Kristen Trouton).

Some of the county's Mississippi Kite records coincide with high cicada numbers. An adult soaring over Allview 5/21 (John McKitterick) might be the first of many this year.

Boreal species continued to be reported with Pine Siskins still present into mid-May. A female Evening Grosbeak appeared on 5/9 at Parrot Dr (Russell Hillsley, ph.) and a male on 5/7 at Hilltop Ln (Gregg Petersen, ph.), joined by a female 5/9, with the male lingering until 5/12.

Avid field birders scoured habitats for warblers and came up with all the expected species. (Connecticut is not a spring migrant, Golden-winged is not seen every year, and Orange-crowned is unusual, especially in spring). Yellow-throateds were spotted at half a dozen sites and were back at their usual breeding locations on the Patapsco. Finding one nest building at Henryton 5/17 (Kristin Trouton) was a bonus for the current atlas. Ceruleans are one of the scarcest warblers. The first was noted 5/12 at Centennial (Brian Moyer); sightings at Marriottsville 5/14 (Jim Wilkinson; Russell Hillsley) and Henryton 5/17 (Elaine Hendricks), both locations where they once nested, were especially welcome sightings.

A Summer Tanager at Annapolis Rock Road parking area on 5/20 (John/Meg Harris, ph., recording) was unusually well documented.

A Howard County Big Day on 5/10 by the team of Russ Ruffing, Kristin Trouton, Steve Luke, and Gregg Petersen set a new county record of 129 species in 17.5 hours of non-stop birding. This beat the previous record of 122 set by Russ Ruffing, Hark Fink, and Matt Rogosky on May 11, 2013.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, September 23, 2021

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristin Trouton  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Sharon Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler  
Allen Lewis √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 12. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 9, was 29 people. Katie Fallon gave a program entitled “Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were approved with minor editorial corrections. Bob reminded Chuck that with approval of the May minutes it is time to update the file with the cumulative Minutes that is posted on the club website. Chuck took an action to provide Bob with the update.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian began by mentioning that the Ponce estate is still making its way through the court. Based on a recent inventory of estimated assets suggest we should expect nearly \$400,000. Brian had sent a Treasurer’s report in advance of the meeting. A few questions led to a number of corrections. The income item of “In Kind Donation” was the donation of the Purple Martin house and pole but since there is no net cash generated there should be an expense item of \$200 added. The \$500 shown as a donation to the Howard County Conservancy is not a donation but payment of our share of the sponsorship of the two talks related to pollinators. The income item shown as “Targeted Special” should appear as an undesignated donation which was given in honor of someone’s birthday. Bob said he had sent a reply and a note to the person who’s birthday was being honored. Brian will update these entries in next report. Jim Wilkinson continues to send his membership to Cindy Albright and when it finally makes it to MOS they were unable to cash it. Bob reported the check has been voided and Jim was sent the application form with instructions to send his payment directly to MOS. Lastly Brian stated he needs to contact Chuck Sharp and remind him that we need to receive the invoices for items still outstanding on the Waterford Flats project. *Sec. Note: After reviewing the draft minutes Wes Earp reports that he has some invoices that he is sending to Brian, but is unaware of Chuck having any additional invoices.*

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary welcomed everyone back after the summer break. She stated it was good to be back. She reported that the few field trips held so far have gone well.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin was unable to attend.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe had sent no report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had submitted her report in advance. Chuck informed her that the conclusion reached was that the reported Western Sandpiper on Fall Count was determined to not be a Western. Jo sent a revised report which is attached.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the committee has been meeting to begin planning. Members include Jo, Mary, Mary Lou, David Holmes, David Sandler, Kristin, and Kelsey, with Bob as an ex officio member providing web support. The plans are to have an all inclusive set of activities that will include all members from long-time members to new members. They envision activities ongoing from January 1, 2022 through December or even longer. Since the initial formation meeting of the club was in November 1972 plans are to have an official birthday party held at the Gudelsky Center at the Howard County Conservancy on October 30, 2022. HCC has graciously agreed to donate the use of the Center (nominal \$1000 rental) in recognition of our two organizations ongoing collaboration. A T-shirt design contest has been announced with submittals due by October 1. It is hoped the T-shirts will be available by the Christmas holidays so they can be purchased as potential gifts. Another planned activity is to ask everyone in the club to share memories of the club and/or nature topics. There will be pages on the club website where these memories will be available. These may be written submittals, recorded videos or audio messages, or recorded interviews. Jo urged that we consider making notes of possible items as they occur to us. An effort to capture historical material for inclusion on the web has already begun. Historical topics include Seed Sales, Big Days, Half Big Days, and Little Big Days. Another item being pursued is population of a Timeline of club activities. Already assembled are Board Minutes and Newsletters. Other items being pursued are digitizing historical photos of early club activities, rare bird photos, and special field trips. Lastly the committee hopes to put together a list of things individuals could undertake to involve them in the celebration of this anniversary. This might include a contest with prizes for those completing most of the activities on the list. Jo said the committee may need to ask for additional funding but doesn't see it being any problem with our current financial status.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt reported that he had received two draft letters (attached) prepared by Smarter Growth Alliance of Howard County supporting two county bills (CB64 and CB66). These bills serve to strengthen forest conservation in the county. Kurt stated under his guidance MOS has signed on to these letters but he recommends the club sign as well. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we do so. Kurt took an action to provide Mary with contact information so she could sign the club on to these letters. Second Kurt reminded the board that he will step down as Conservation Chair for the club and MOS effective next September and we will need to find a volunteer to serve as Conservation Chair. Mary and the Board expressed our sincere thanks for his exemplary service in this role since 2004. We also expressed our appreciation in giving us nearly a year to find his replacement.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard had no report. Mary reminded us that we need to have a new Goldfinch editor by September 2022 issue. Also the Yellowthroat Chapter Chatter editor is still in need of "chatter" items from our club.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported he is populating a "sand box" web page for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The new Beginning Birder pages are established and seem to be a hit. He received a request from someone interested in putting up an "owl box". Bob contacted Jay Shepard and Jay is helping the requestor with a box.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry reported that the "potluck notebook" recommends selecting a date for potluck and reserving date with RNC at this time. We agreed that although we cannot see how the pandemic will play out, there is no problem with reserving a date and then canceling later if necessary. We settled on a first choice of March 26 and a second choice March 12. Mary agreed to provide Sherry with contact information for RNC. Sherry will contact RNC and schedule the potluck.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that the butterfly season is slowing down. It has been an interesting year. Linda had surgery early and as a result wasn't as active early in year. Kevin and Karen haven't been as active as well. As a result he anticipates the total number of butterflies reported will be down this year. He is hopeful a third co-leader for the Butterfly effort can be found to share the effort. The field trip that was held had no rarities but had approximately 15 participants. A butterfly field trip is already on the HCC schedule for next year and he hopes to have the club schedule a few as well.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue was on vacation and had no report. Mary reminded us that there is still a need to develop the outreach material to close out the HCC window treatment project.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue had no report but has continued to send out periodic BBA3 emails as the atlas season winds down.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou asked for guidance on whether we anticipate still holding our regular meetings virtually after the first of the year. She needs to provide inputs for the January and February meetings to the Yellowthroat calendar shortly. It was noted that our attendance via Zoom is less than our traditional attendance in person before the pandemic. Mary Lou also commented that some of the speakers she would like to schedule do not like the virtual format. After discussion we agreed that none of us have a crystal ball but that she should schedule the January and February as virtual with the remainder of the club year undecided. Jo commented that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Programs are scheduled as Fall programs in the hope that by then they can be held in person. Sherry mentioned that it was announced at the MOS Board meeting that several of the speaker programs from the virtual MOS Convention are available on YouTube and are available for use at club programs if needed.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Koonce, Lewis, etc.): No report.

## Old Business

Habitat Donation Proposal – Sue had sent Mary an email announcing that the Howard Community College is installing a Pollinator Trail with six flower beds. They are seeking organizations to sponsor one of the beds with a donation of \$200 to the HCC Foundation. The plans for the beds are attached. Sharon pointed out that some of the plants being used are not deer resistant and are frequently eaten if deer are present. After discussion it was moved that we sponsor one or two of the beds. The motion passed. Kevin agreed to contact Bob Marietta and see if there were any beds still not sponsored. *Sec. Note: Kevin contacted him the next day and there was only one bed left. Kevin confirmed we wanted to sponsor it and he provided Brian with information on where to send the check.*

Purple Martin (PUMA) Boxes – Mary read an email (attached) she had received from Mary Lou and Kristin reporting the results of their research on the cost of purchasing a PUMA box for the Howard County Conservancy. Russ Ruffing was tasked with contacting HCC to discuss the idea of our erecting a PUMA box on the grounds at Mt. Pleasant. Mary invited him to attend this meeting but he did not make it. Since we didn't have feedback on whether this would be acceptable to HCC we decided that we need to receive a formal proposal reporting on all aspects of the project. We will discuss at next month's Board meeting.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – See committee report above.

Flats at Waterford Farm – Wes Earp had sent Mary the attached preliminary report that she read. He plans to have a formal report ready to discuss at the November board meeting.

Beginner Birders Website – Bob confirmed that the beginning birder website pages were completed over the summer. Mary thanked those who contributed to this great addition to our website.

Continuity Notebooks – Chuck has received feedback on the draft of Secretary's Notebook and is finalizing it. Bob has completed the MailChimp Monitor notebook. Mary mused that perhaps she should prepare a notebook for the President's position.

### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

- Board approved signing on to a Smarter Growth Alliance of Howard County letter supporting Council Bills CB-56 and CB-57 which proposed adding additional “teeth” to the Forest Plan passed two years ago. – July 19 These bills were overcome by events. See Conservation Report.
- The Board approved signing on to a letter to Columbia Village Boards providing Home Owner Association recommendations on environmentally friendly landscaping and other practices to help wildlife. – August 20

## New Business

No new business items.

### Around the Room –

- Seed Sale – Bob reported that he had been contacted by Kevin Cassidy of the Wildlife Authority about sponsoring a seed sale in the same way as last year. Kevin will develop a website where people can order seed with a 15% price break. The website provides for making donations to the HCBC and he will match those donations (up to \$25). Bob will send out an email announcement to the seed sale mailing list just before the website becomes active on Oct. 1. Orders must be placed by Oct. 15. All purchases must be picked up on Saturday Oct. 23.

### Review of Prior Action Items:

- Seek additional co-chair and volunteers for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Mary DONE
- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, Brian, Bob, others?
- Inform Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee that the HCC project still needs to develop “outreach” materials– Sue
- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about assisting us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris AWAITING RESPONSE
- Inform Richard Schrad that we will take the Purple Martin house and pole – Mary DONE
- Send email to potential membership of committee developing website material for beginning birders and introducing Steve Luke as committee lead – Mary DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, Brian, Bob, Kurt, Mary?
- Inform Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee that the HCC project still needs to develop “outreach” materials– Sue
- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about assisting us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Update Cumulative Minutes file for the website and provide it to Bob – Chuck
- Contact RNC and schedule the potluck for next March – Sherry
- Contact Howard Community College about our sponsoring a flower bed on the Pollinator Trail – Kevin
- Prepare a formal proposal for the PUMA box at HCC – Russ, Mary Lou, Kristin
- Send out seed sale announcement - Bob

### Board Meeting Schedule

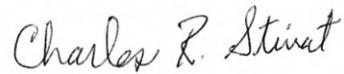
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
October 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
November 18, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
February 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
March 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL ?	
April 28, 2022	- VIRTUAL ?	
May 26, 2022	- VIRTUAL ?	Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – September 23, 2021
- Treasurer’s Report – September 23, 2021
- Records Committee Report for Sept. 23 Board Meeting: Late May – September 19, 2021 – Joanne Solem
- SGAHC Draft Letter – Re: Requested amendments to CB-64-2021
- SGAHC Draft Letter – Re: Support of CB-66-2021
- Email soliciting donations for flower bed at HCC Pollinator Trail
- HCC Pollinator Garden briefing
- Email with preliminary cost estimate of PUMA box
- Email – Flats at Sharp’s – Wes Earp

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
September 23, 2021

Meeting link:

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - September 23 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: Sep 23, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88124691993?pwd=Y25EeWR1TVBaZ3M2WlpJVWJ4OU9jZz09>

Meeting ID: 881 2469 1993

Passcode: 338954

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. President's Remarks
5. Vice President's Remarks
6. Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips
  - Records (attached)
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Conservation
  - Newsletter
  - Webmaster
  - Potluck
  - Butterflies
  - Safe Skies
  - BBA3
  - Programs
7. Old Business
  - Habitat Donation Proposals
  - PUMA boxes
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - Flats at Waterford farm
  - Beginner Birders website
  - Continuity books

Chuck Stirrat  
Brian Moyer  
Mary Maxey  
Kristin Trouton  
  
Joe Hanfman  
Jo Solem  
Jo Solem  
Kurt Schwarz  
Howard Patterson  
Bob Solem  
Sherry Tomlison  
Kevin Heffernan  
Sue Muller  
Sue Muller  
Mary Lou Clark

Mary  
Russ?  
Jo  
Mary  
Bob  
Bob, Chuck, Brian

New Business

9. Action Items
10. Around the room

Chuck Stirrat

## Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal 2020-2021

NPR = Not previously reported  
TBD= To Be Determine

	Actual YTD 2020-21	Approved 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2021/22 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
<b>Income</b>																
Net Membership Dues	2,470	3,200	2,500	50	210	25	155	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	440
Contributions to HCBC	510	3,500	3,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Targeted Special	0			0	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
Habitat Preservation	1,949			0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Butterfly Fund	50			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Seed Sale	1,230			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In-kind Donation				200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
Interest income	0	NPR		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>815</b>							
<b>Expenses</b>																
Anniversary 50th Celebration			300	0	0											0
Meeting Programs (speakers)	800	700	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Birder Initiative			200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Office Expenses</b>																
Newsletter/other printing	313	500	750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Website/Email/Internet	585	500	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Postage/office	178	250	250	17.49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bank fees	46	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenfest Support	0	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Projects/Grants</b>																
Howard County Conservancy	0	0	500	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
All Creatures	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frisky's	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**BRM Redtail:**  
Kathy's Birthday Donation  
from Olow's

**BRM Redtail:**  
Purple Martin Box

**BRM Redtail:**  
President mailing supplies

**BRM Redtail:**  
Board approved donation  
not specifically budgeted  
for

YMOS	300	250	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butterfly Fund	0	0	440	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	2272	3020	5,400	17	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	3,937	3,680	600	233	-290	100	255	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	315
																	0
																	0
																	0

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Mountjoy Fund	5,540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestem Fund	21,156	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)	9,626	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deposits		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest		0.26	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	36,322	34,288	34,288	34,288	34,289	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance 5,934

Transactions; 68 printing  
20 membership manual reimb

## **Summer**

Brood X cicada emergence brought at least a few Mississippi Kites. Three at Summer Hill, W. Friendship 6/26-28 were entertaining as they captured the flying insects

Perhaps BBA3 was the reason for more than the usual number of Wood Duck families verified. This cavity nester appeared to have had a banner year locally with reports of ducklings from mid-spring well into July. A Pied-billed Grebe at Lake Kittamaqundi 6/24 was a summer rarity.

Increasing use of cell phone towers for nesting by Osprey, Bald Eagles, and Common Ravens was well-documented. The most surprising evidence of raptor breeding was a Broad-winged Hawk in immature plumage photographed at Lake Elkhorn 7/14. If the bird fledged from a nest in the vicinity of the lake, it would be the first known record in decades in the southern part of the county.

Two verified nestings of Red-headed Woodpecker in a season were definitely notable, with one along A.E. Mullinix Rd and one at Bon Secours Spiritual Center, Marriottsville Rd. A third just across the Patuxent River in Montgomery Co (in a Howard Co atlas block) was near one of the first verified county nest of this species (1980, J. Sheppard). Cliff Swallow colonies away from reservoirs or major highway bridges are unusual. An open shed at Waterford Farm hosted up to 12 nests this year. Unfortunately, after some nests were completed, House Sparrows moved in quickly and few, if any, of the swallow nests were successful. (Only an active sparrow trapping program is likely to swing the odds in the swallows' favor.) Two different White-throated Sparrows (Ellicott City and Long Corner), seen multiple times during July, were unusual but not unprecedented.

The May 25<sup>th</sup> male Summer Tanager along the Patapsco River east of Marriottsville Rd remained on territory through 6/11. At the edge of its breeding range, the odds were against it attracting a female, and none was seen. Another Summer Tanager was reported at Alpha Ridge Park 6/3 eating a cicada.

The Dickcissel colony along Underwood Rd is in a precarious state. One male was spotted on 6/1 along with a female on 6/2, and nest building was observed. There appeared to be only one pair in the area; no evidence of adults feeding young or fledged young was ever noted.

## **Autumn**

The autumn season begins on August 1 and is often the year's most exciting with waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and passerines vying for attention. Blue-winged Teal on 8/21 and 8/29 at two different sites were the vanguard of the ducks.

A Common Gallinule was a noteworthy species for Fall Count, 9/18 and for the season. It was on a pond visible from Barberry Way and Underwood Rd. Shorebirds were mostly unremarkable. Waterford Flats, the newly-created shorebird habitat which showed great promise during spring migration, was plagued with a summer's growth of vegetation making the flats unattractive to shorebirds recently. It will take some time to fine-tune the water level to maximize use by shorebirds during both migration periods.

Raptor migration, as expected, is increasing with hundreds of Broad-winged Hawks reported in the last few days, along with a smattering of falcons. One of the potential stars of the season will only be listed as a "probable." A Swallow-tailed Kite reported to Joe Hanfman by an anonymous observer was

considered very likely valid, but without details or a photo, it cannot be added as a definite county record.

A Little Blue Heron in wetlands adjoining Grace Church, Fulton 8/13 was a fine record. Chimney Swifts were in August roosted in a few chimneys. August and the first half of September also brought crepuscular sightings of Common Nighthawks. A Sora was spotted in the wetlands along Davis Branch at Mt. Pleasant 9/13.

Migrant passerines began moving through with a mid-August weather change. Among the flycatchers, vireos, and warblers were some less common species: Olive-sided, Least, and Yellow-bellied flycatchers, Philadelphia Vireos, and Connecticut and Mourning warblers. Almost all of the adults of these species pose identification challenges for even the most experienced birders. Throw in the number of immature birds in varying plumages in the fall, and it can be difficult to sort the valid records. Digital cameras have been a major boon in some cases.

There have been a couple of reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches, but I have not yet seen a winter forecast for boreal species.

Photos of two different Blue-winged/Golden-winged hybrids were submitted: one at Rockburn Branch Park 9/13 and the other at Mt. Pleasant 9/17. Most warbler species have been reported including several Connecticut. A Golden-winged was spotted at MPEA 9/15.

An immature Lark Sparrow was spotted briefly at Mt. Pleasant 9/13. No photo was possible and an incomplete view meant several diagnostic plumage characteristics were not seen. Although the observer is well-acquainted with virtually all plumages of county sparrows, acceptance of a record is based on the material submitted which must also eliminate other possible species. Both this bird and the Swallow-tailed Kite illustrate why maintaining the species records for any geographic area is not as simple as it may first appear.

A female Summer Tanager was reported at MPEA 9/19 continued this year's string of sightings for this species.

Russ Ruffing continues to utilize his NFC monitoring equipment to track night flights. A Least Bittern 9/10 and a Black-bellied Plover 9/19 were among the most interesting species he verified as night flyovers.

*Revised/corrected 9/24/21 after HCBC board meeting.*

JKS

# Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

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The Honorable Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

## **RE: Requested amendments to CB64-2021**

September 20, 2021

Dear Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to foster healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities through smarter development and transportation decisions and improved protections for the county's natural, historic and cultural resources.

We are content to see a system set up to create further protections of specimen trees. It is vital to retain forest cover as new plantings do not come close to replacing lost trees for so very long. To fully implement the preservationist goals in the Bill, we offer the following requests for fewer exemptions.

The exemption for development subject to Forest Conservation regulations should instead read to have whichever more restrictive requirements apply; for current and future protection. For so long, Howard County was not in non-compliance with MD law and allowed more tree removal than was appropriate. We are playing catch-up. Thus, it would be best to have a stronger requirement and define specimen trees as a diameter of 75% or more of the diameter of the current State or County champion tree of that species, which is a smaller size measured at 4.5 feet above the ground, AND trees that are 24 inches in diameter or larger, measured at 4.5 feet above the ground.

The need to make non-compliance will affect the fiscal business decision never occurring due to more processing delays. The description of delay penalties for developments that do not comply should state that they begin after all other regulatory and procedural halts are completed, for example, after APFO waits are concluded.

The exemption for the agricultural activity should be related to a parcel's primary purpose. The usage of farm machinery alone, for exemption, should be clarified solely for correct farming needs.

*Audubon MD-DC • Audubon Society of Central Maryland • Bicycling Advocates of Howard County  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation • Clean Water Action • Coalition for Smarter Growth • Community Ecology Institute  
Earth Forum of Howard County • HARP • Horizon Foundation • Howard County Citizens Association  
Howard County Conservancy • Howard County Sierra Club • Maryland Conservation Council  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters • Maryland Ornithological Society • Patapsco Heritage Greenway  
Preservation Maryland • Safe Skies Maryland • Savage Community Association • The People's Voice • Transition Howard County*

In addition, there should be removal on the exemption for parcels less than an acre. Overall, it could be more productive to use a set number of trees, which requests must be made and exemptions not granted, versus the size or purpose of parcels. It would lead to more relevant and significant volume decisions. The County should not exempt itself from these evaluations either

Herein, please recall, that any lost exemption is not a disallowance of tree removal, but simply applying the process requiring permitting.

Sincerely,

Howard County Citizen's Association

Stu Kohn

President

Safe Skies Maryland

Mark Southerland

Legislative Director

Maryland Conservation Council

Paulette Hammond

President

Savage Community Association

Susan Garber

Board Member

Maryland Ornithological Society

Kurt Schwarz

Conservation Chair

The People's Voice

Lisa Markovitz

President

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive

# Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

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The Honorable Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

**RE: Support of CB66-2021**

September 20, 2021

Dear Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to foster healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities through smarter development and transportation decisions and improved protections for the county's natural, historic and cultural resources.

The recently updated Forest Conservation regulations were needed after a long history of non-compliance with State Law; with the severe loss, in Howard County, of far more intended trees and forests than should have been allowed. The County has areas they need to improve on forest conservation regulations; but, the implementation of the updates, and exemptions, have delayed the process of getting appropriate preservations in place.

CB66-2021 seeks to eliminate the exemption of certain Planned Unit Developments and Planned Business Parks. It is commendable that additional land added to a preliminary plan must adhere, but grandfathering; of any kind in Forest Conservation is inappropriate given how long we were out of compliance, removing trees inappropriately.

CB66 is very different from CCB64, which should be treated independently and passed on its own with considerable and commendable merits.

Sincerely,

*Audubon MD-DC • Audubon Society of Central Maryland • Bicycling Advocates of Howard County  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation • Clean Water Action • Coalition for Smarter Growth • Community Ecology Institute  
Earth Forum of Howard County • HARP • Horizon Foundation • Howard County Citizens Association  
Howard County Conservancy • Howard County Sierra Club • Maryland Conservation Council  
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Susan Garber

Board Member

Maryland Ornithological Society

Kurt Schwarz

Conservation Chair

The People's Voice

Lisa Markovitz

President

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[sonicsusiee@gmail.com](mailto:sonicsusiee@gmail.com)>  
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 8:22 PM  
Subject: FW: Pollinator Trail gardens at HCC  
To: Mary Maxey <[maximom11998@gmail.com](mailto:maximom11998@gmail.com)>

Mary,

HCC is looking for sponsors for 6 pollinator garden beds. Cost is \$200 and the club would have their name on the garden. Seems like a nice idea.

Sue

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

From: Marietta, Robert <[rmarietta@howardcc.edu](mailto:rmarietta@howardcc.edu)>  
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 10:26 AM  
To: [sonicsusiee@gmail.com](mailto:sonicsusiee@gmail.com); Green, Belinda <[bgreen@howardcc.edu](mailto:bgreen@howardcc.edu)>; Julie Dunlap <[juliejdunlap@earthlink.net](mailto:juliejdunlap@earthlink.net)>; Carolyn P <[carolyn@safeskiesmaryland.org](mailto:carolyn@safeskiesmaryland.org)>; John McCoy <[John.McCoy@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:John.McCoy@columbiaassociation.org)>  
Cc: 'Costantino, Julie' <[jcostantino@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jcostantino@howardcountymd.gov)>; Susan Tucker <[sjennist@gmail.com](mailto:sjennist@gmail.com)>; Ana Maria Layton <[anamalayton@gmail.com](mailto:anamalayton@gmail.com)>; Kathleen Reilly <[katerei42@gmail.com](mailto:katerei42@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Pollinator Trail gardens at HCC

?Here are the flower bed plans created by local Master Gardeners working with the Counties Bee City campaign.

The trees donated by Howard County survived the cicadas with minimal damage thanks to being wrapped.

In addition there will be six flower beds each marked for the donating organization. We are asking for a \$200 donation to the Howard Community College Foundation for each bed. Flowers will be planted on Wednesday October 20th at HCC's Campus Sustainability Day event.

FYI the college's support staff group is considering adopting the Pollinator Trail as the first HCC Adopt-A-Spot so the beds will be maintained. Of course donating groups are welcome to assist.

Thanks Everyone

Bob Marietta  
Environmental Health & Safety Supervisor Howard Community College  
10901 Little Patuxent Pkwy.  
Columbia, MD 21044  
443 518-4962

# HCC Pollinator Garden

Susan, Ana Maria, and Kate

# Plants

5 gal. plants

7 NJ tea

8 white fringe tree

5 redbud

5 black gum





Not updated

 Redbud  
(5)

 Black  
gum (5)

Fringetr  
ee (8)

 NJ Tea  
(7)

# Plant list

## Plants: plugs or quarts

Golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*) - spring

Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) - spring

Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*) - spring

Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*) - spring

Eastern blue star (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*) - spring

Sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa*) - late spring & summer

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) - summer

Narrow leaved mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*) - summer

Liatris (*Liatris spicata*) - summer

Threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata* Zagreb) - summer

Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) - summer

Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) - summer

Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) - summer/fall

Aromatic aster (*Symphyotrichum aromaticum*) - fall

Golden fleece goldenrod (*Solidago sphacelata*) - fall

Calico aster (*Symphyotrichum laterifolium*) - fall

Gray goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*) - summer/fall

## 3 Bed combinations (approx size 6 ftx12 ft half-oval)

### Beds 1 & 4

Golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*) - spring 

Blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*) - spring 

Sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa*) - late spring & summer 

Narrow leaved mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*) - summer 

Golden fleece goldenrod (*Solidago sphacelata*) - fall 

Aromatic aster (*Symphyotrichum aromaticum*) - fall 

### Beds 2 & 5

Eastern bluestar (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*) - spring 

Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) - spring 

Threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata* Zagreb) - summer 

Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) - summer 

Obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) - summer/fall 

Aromatic aster (*Symphyotrichum aromaticum*) - fall 

(fill in amsonia w/extra sundrops from beds 1&4)

### Beds 3 & 6

Penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*) - spring 

Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) - summer 

Liatris (*Liatris spicata*) - summer 

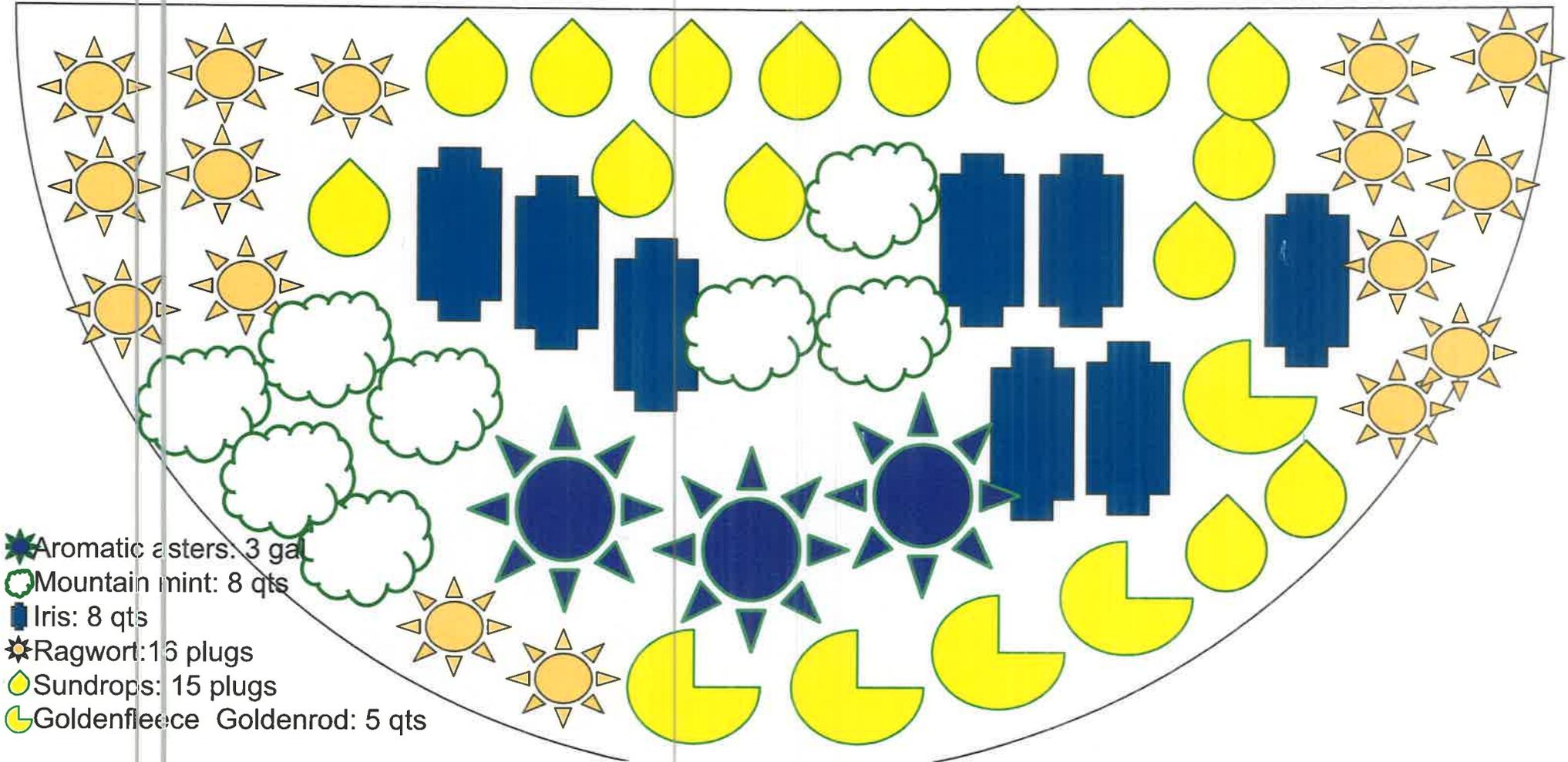
Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*) - summer 

Gray goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*) - summer/fall 

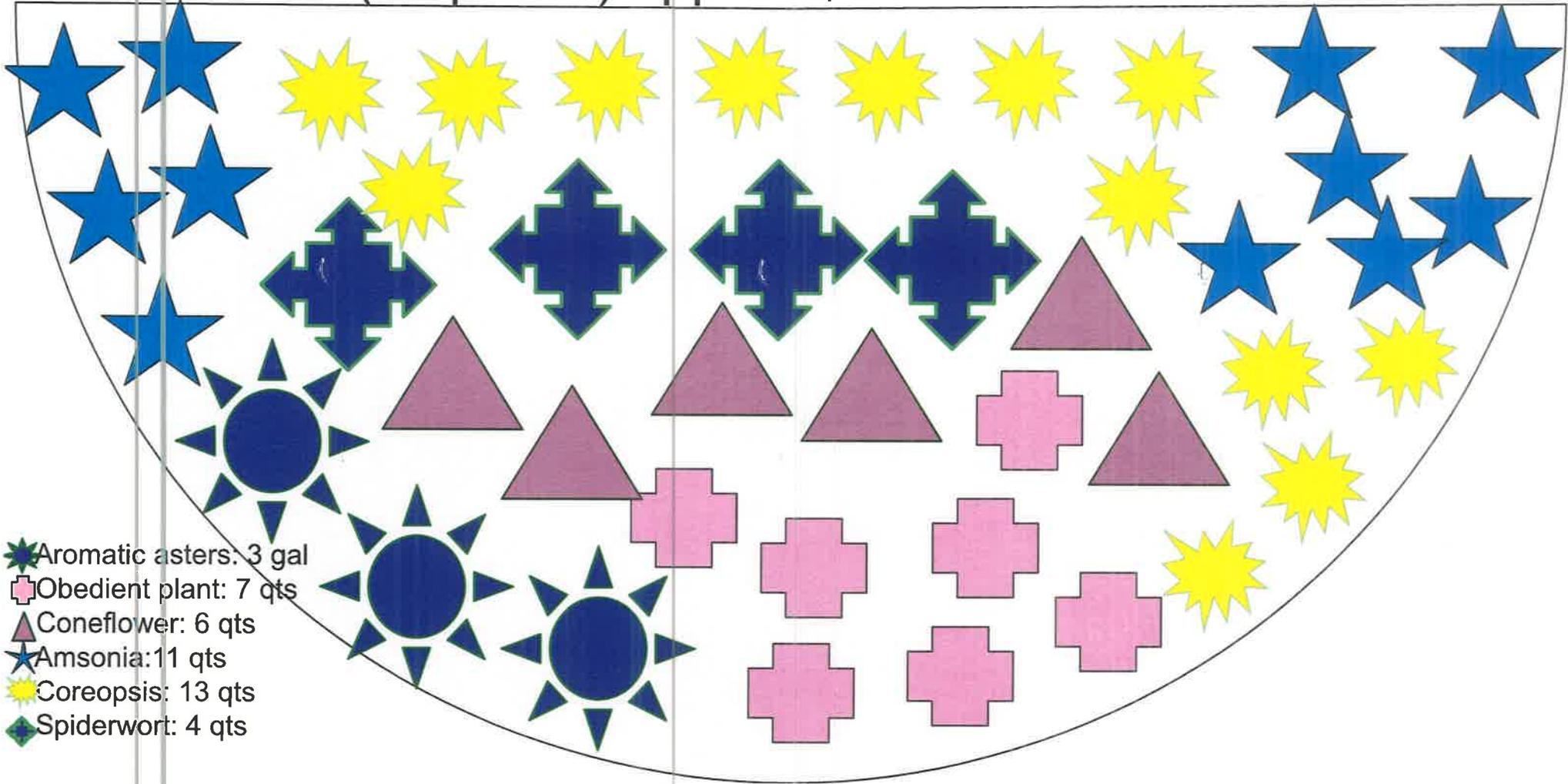
Calico aster (*Symphyotrichum laterifolium*) - fall 

# Beds 1 & 4 (56 plants) approx \$173

Path on this side



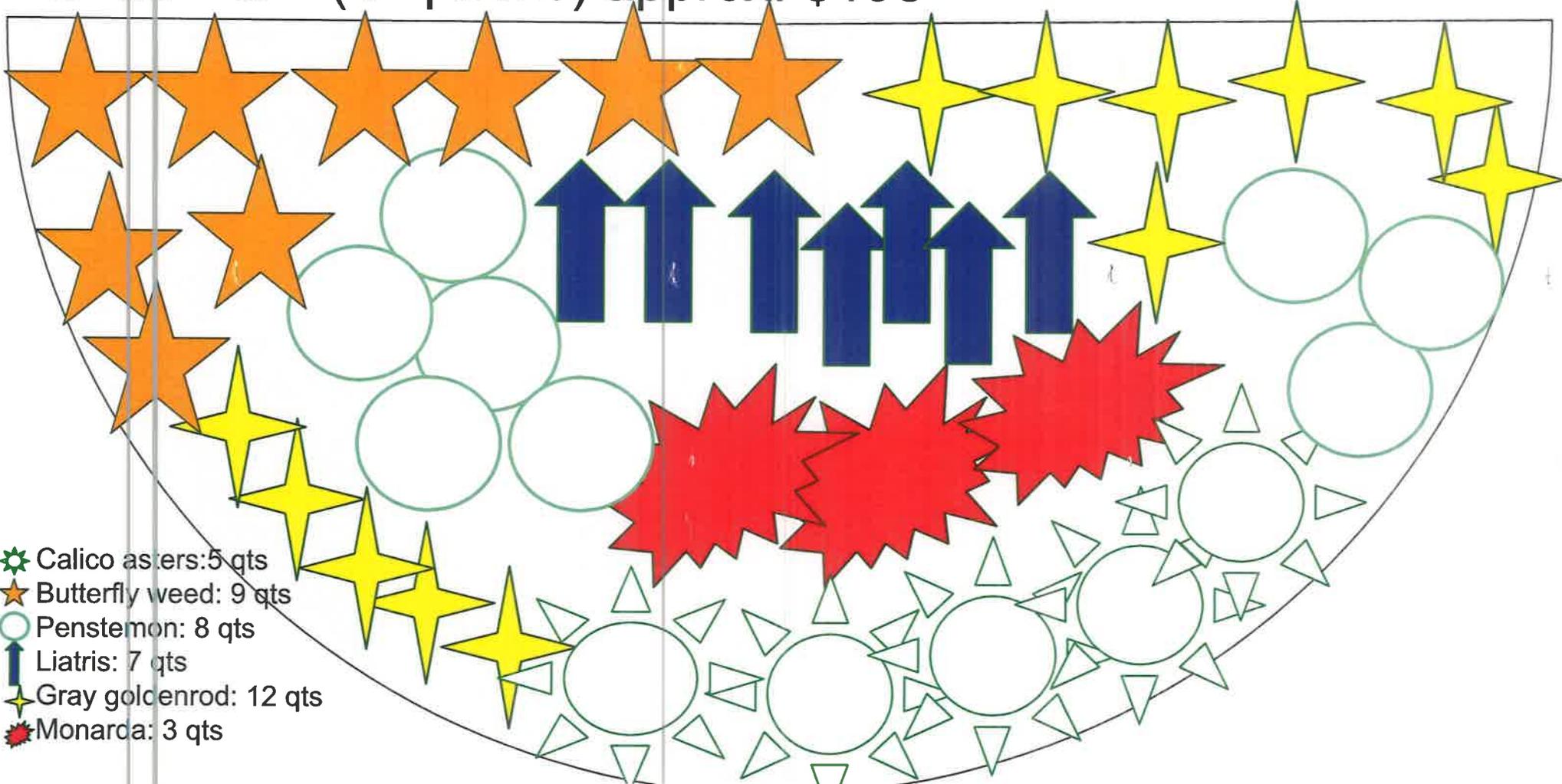
Beds 2 & 5: (42 plants) approx \$208 Path on this side



- ★ Aromatic asters: 3 gal
- ⊕ Obedient plant: 7 qts
- ▲ Coneflower: 6 qts
- ★ Amsonia: 11 qts
- ☀ Coreopsis: 13 qts
- ⬠ Spiderwort: 4 qts

# Beds 3 & 6 (46 plants) approx. \$198

Path on this side



- ✿ Calico asters: 5 qts
- ★ Butterfly weed: 9 qts
- Penstemon: 8 qts
- ↑ Liatris: 7 qts
- ✦ Gray goldenrod: 12 qts
- ✿ Monarda: 3 qts

## Fwd: Thursday's board meeting 9/23/2021

Inbox



**Mary Maxey**

Thu, Sep 23, 9:27 PM (16  
hours ago)

to Allen, Bob, Brian, David, Howard, Joe, Kelsey, Kevin, Kristin, Kurt, Linda, Mary, Sharon, Sonic, me

**Information from Kristin on the PUMA houses.**

**We will need more information from Russ and Kristin at the next meeting.**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristin Trouton** <[kristing4420@gmail.com](mailto:kristing4420@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Re: Thursday's board meeting 9/23/2021

To: Mary Maxey <[maximom11998@gmail.com](mailto:maximom11998@gmail.com)>

Hi Mary, I won't be able to attend the meeting tomorrow. About the puma boxes- Russ, Mary Lou and I discussed which box/gourds we'd like to purchase. It will be a bit over \$2000 including the list below and added gourd set up and concrete mix for mounting the pole. Russ will be able to tell you the location at HCC.

Polywood T-14 System (with pole & cable): \$1309.95

Nest Trays: \$12.95 x 14 = \$181.30

Owl Guard: \$46.95

Shipping: \$223.04

Total for polywood w/shipping: \$1761.24

Sent from my iPhone



Charles Stirrat &lt;stirrcr1@gmail.com&gt;

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**Flats at Sharps**

1 message

**Mary Maxey** <maximom11998@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 9:15 PM

To: Allen Lewis <allenrlewis@gmail.com>, Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, Brian Moyer <bmoyer36@yahoo.com>, David Sandler <detour65@gmail.com>, Howard Patterson <howard21042@verizon.net>, Joe Hanfman <auk1844@gmail.com>, Kelsey Wellons <kelseyphu@gmail.com>, Kevin Heffernan <kjheff122@gmail.com>, Kristin Trouton <kristing4420@gmail.com>, Kurt Schwarz <krschwa1@verizon.net>, Linda Hunt <raven10322@hotmail.com>, Mary Lou Clark <doctorfx\_99@yahoo.com>, Sharon Smith <sksolympie@gmail.com>, Sonic Sue Muller <sonicsusiee@gmail.com>, "Stirrat, Charles" <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, "Tomlinson, Sherry" <stbirder@yahoo.com>

Below is the email that I read from Wes regarding the shorebird habitat.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wes Earp** <wesandsue@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 5:44 PM

Subject: Re: Board meeting on Thursday

To: Mary Maxey <maximom11998@gmail.com>

Hey,

I am sure there is a fair amount of buzz regarding the condition of the Flats. I was planning a committee approved report after the fall season ends that would cover many of the various issues at had.

Short choppy answers will probably not suffice and long extended ones can eat up a lot of time. Hard to say were a discussion with a group might end up because there is a lot to "kick" around.

Here is some of it:

We did not chisel plow this fall. We did not because the site was too wet at the end of the spring period.

Chuck is pushing the idea of chisel plowing next fall and using the adjacent "Horseshoe" impoundment for shorebirds.

We did not dewater the site fully through the period because of concerns about the site drying down and becoming weedy. We held the waterline fixed until the end of the season at that point.

Weeds are going to be a problem. Both upland and emergent. Chuck and I have been pulling cattails. There are still some to come out. But there is another aquatic species we did not anticipate that occupied the shallow open water as summer progressed. It are present now.

We will not know about the spring condition until after the waterfowl season. I am hoping that the ducks and geese knock down the weed crop after refilling.

The committee has discussed other management steps, such as improving the big pond intake and using one of the upper ponds for quick refilling of the Flats. A management tool to fight the weed growth.

It might be better for me to put this discussion in a report and then attend a meeting to answer questions afterwards. I can shot for the November meeting. I don't promise anything in October. But, if you feel providing some explanation Thursday night would be helpful I should be available.

Let me know, I will plan on the report and committee review regardless.

Wes

On 9/20/2021 4:52 PM, Mary Maxey wrote:

Just to let you know that the HCBC meeting is this Thursday.  
Wes, do you have a committee report or anything you want me to convey to the club regarding the shorebird habitat? Is the issue at this point that the flats are too wet to manage (chisel plow, or other)/  
Russ I am letting you know in case you want to attend to update the board regarding the chimney swift towers or other habitat ideas.  
Please let me know your thoughts.

--

Mary Maxey  
President , Howard County Bird Club

--

Mary Maxey  
President , Howard County Bird Club



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, October 28, 2021

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristin Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Sharon Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz √  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller  
**Others:** Gregg Petersen √  
Russ Ruffing √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 14 was 28 people. Larry Zoller gave a program entitled “Ecotourism and the Asa Wright Nature Center.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck reviewed the minor corrections he had received from review of draft. The minutes with those corrections were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had forwarded the attached Treasurer’s report. He reported that he is scheduled to attend a meeting next Wednesday with the financial firm responsible for disbursement of the funds from the Elsa Orley Ponce estate. The meeting is to discuss the first round of disbursements as the firm is liquidating the assets. Final disposition of the estate is still pending but an initial disbursement is expected soon. We have received a check for \$1100 from the recent seed sale. Half of this amount is individual contributions and the other reflects the matching contribution from Kevin Cassidy of The Wildlife Authority. Brian reported we are in good shape financially. He mentioned that he had received invoices from Wes Earp as final costs of Waterford Flats for this season (Chestem funds).

Chuck recommended some corrections to the report. Three items in the approved budget column still listed the original proposal and did not reflect what was finally approved (Hospitality \$50, All Creatures \$0, and an added item – Bee City \$300). In addition, the Chestem fund balance needs to be updated to \$16,012 reflecting deductions for the construction contractor at Waterford and reimbursement from federal EQIP funds. Chuck agreed to meet with Brian and share a few ideas for improving the report.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary expressed her thanks for the many long-time volunteers that keep the club running. She mentioned that we are still seeking a Goldfinch editor, a Conservation chairman, and a candidate for Vice President. She mentioned that she had virtually presented a Valued Service Award and pin to Kevin Heffernan and a Distinguished Service Award to Chuck Stirrat at the recent club meeting. She then shared pictures of her presenting these in person earlier in the week.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Trouton): No remarks.

## **Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Mary said they were looking for a leader for a Big Day field trip for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May. Jo reminded her that we have conducted these as a “leaderless” trip if necessary. Other special trips are being planned for next year as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A field trip to Smith Island in April is planned. Under consideration for next Fall are trips to Wagoner’s Gap and an overnight trip to Cape May.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo provided the attached report prior to the meeting.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo reported the committee is making good progress. The purchase of T-shirts will be on-line with the vendor shipping the merchandise directly to the purchaser. There will be an opportunity to make a donation for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the same time you make a purchase. There will be several styles and colors available. A Newsgram announcing the sale will go out soon and should provide option to have shirts in-time for Christmas. Field trips and other COVID safe activities will begin in January. This includes the opportunity to share memories including oral recordings.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): No report.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard had sent a note reminding the deadline for the next issue is November 25. He also mentioned that no one has expressed interest in the Editor position as of yet.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported he has been doing the usual things keeping the website current. In the background he has been supporting Jo and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee preparing material they are supplying for posting on the website right after the first of the year.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry had contacted RNC requesting to reserve a date for the Potluck. Mary reported that she had just been contacted by Pamela Reese who stated that due to RNC turnover they don’t have any staff formally handling reservations. They have penciled our potluck in for March 26, 2022, but it won’t be formally confirmed until someone is named to coordinate all reservations. Pam then mentioned our commitment under the MOU and implied “they” weren’t pleased we had not supported their “10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary” celebration. We had found no one who felt comfortable in current COVID environment, but Pam said she had observed some of our members participating in “Bee City” activities. She also asked about our recent queries for “habitat” projects as another instance where communication could have been better. Lastly, she asked about the MOS scholarships to “Hog Island” for staff. Concluded asking who was our POC? We concluded she should be told our POC is the President, Mary Maxey. Mary agreed to contact Pam and discuss the POC role. She should also provide her with the information on scholarships.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin indicated that he was requesting permission to print another batch of the “butterfly cheat sheets” as he only has about 20 left. He estimated this would be approximately \$250. Motion made, seconded and approved. Kevin also reported he manned the club’s butterfly table and one for Bee City at the Sustainability Day at Howard Community College. He reported the turnout was very low. He also observed they were planting the gardens, including the one we funded, on the college’s Pollinator Trail.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue had another commitment. Mary mentioned that Sue reported she has been asked to put together a program for an Audubon Society of Central Maryland meeting. This will involve Gabriel Foley and a panel of the BBA3 Coordinators for Frederick, Carroll, and Howard County.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou reported that all the programs she has scheduled through February will be virtual. She is trying to have the rest of the year be done by locals that could support either virtual or in-person formats but isn’t sure she can do so. She also mentioned that MOS recently sent out a survey asking who would be interested in attending a Convention held in person next Spring.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Koonce, Lewis, etc.): No report.

### Old Business

Memberships – Bob pointed out the agenda was wrong showing him as reporting on membership. Brian now handles tracking membership as part of the Treasurer role. Brian said he will shortly be sending the Chapter Directors (Sharon and Kelsey) the list of last year’s members who have not yet renewed with a reminder to please do so.

Seed Sale – Bob reported there were 39 orders received with 32 of them including a donation to the club. He reported that the orders totaled 3850 lbs. of seed plus 40 boxes of suet. This continues a trend of the amount of seed sold declining significantly. In the 2019 sale there were 64 orders and more than double the seed sold. Brian reported he has received the donation check as reported in the Treasurer’s Committee report above (individual donations \$550 + matching donation \$550 = \$1100). Brian mentioned that a number of locations were holding their seed sales at the same time. Bob agreed he will prepare the thank you receipts for those who donated and send Brian and I the spreadsheet with sales and donations (not to be published).

PUMA Boxes – Kristin provided a cost estimate for the purchase of a commercial Purple Martin setup to be installed at the Howard County Conservancy as one of the habitat projects funded by donations over the recent past. The proposed installation is very similar to the setup at Miller’s Grant that she and others have been monitoring this past breeding season. The installation includes the house and gourds that will hang from it and the pole on which to mount it. The estimated total cost is ~\$2000. Russ Ruffing reported on discussions with HCC staff on the location being proposed at HCC and plans for installation (see attachment). They are in agreement with proposed location. Some wondered if the foliage beneath the box would grow up and be a problem. Russ said he would explore moving it into the adjacent area that is mowed or trimming beneath the box. Russ indicated he would handle installation but would welcome a couple volunteers helping. David volunteered. A motion to purchase and install the PUMA setup was seconded and approved unanimously. Jo suggested we should consider making arrangements for signage that would educate people about Purple Martins and the purpose of the colonial nesting site. Kristin will place the order and be reimbursed by Brian. Hopefully it will arrive in time to get the installation completed before the ground freezes so the box will be up early next spring when Martin “scouts” are arriving. Russ will coordinate the installation once it arrives.

Grasshopper Sparrow Habitat – John Harris was unable to attend but had shared an email exchange he has initiated with Kevin Omland and Bernie Lohr who are professors at UMBC. Bernie has done research on grassland bird species and hopefully he will get back to John. If not, then John expressed desire to discuss further with the Board before he proceeds further.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – See committee report above.

Continuity Books – Chuck has completed his Continuity Book for the position of Secretary. He has provided Mary with a USB containing an archive of all the secretary’s historical files through early this summer. He has one prepared for Kristin as well. He will refresh these archives periodically (~ 6 month cycle). Because the contents include limited sensitive information they will not be posted on the web.

Bob has completed his guide for the Mail Chimp position and has distributed a draft of the guide for Web Master. These guides need to be dynamic as there is almost continual change in the process, especially for the Web Master. The Mail Chimp role could be performed using the guide by someone with elementary computer skills unlike the Web Master position which would require someone with more formal IT expertise. These guides do not contain sensitive information such as passwords, which he changes frequently. Backups are made often, and Jo would have access to the current passwords and backups if necessary. After discussion we decided we should try and find someone to learn the Mail Chimp process that allows us to keep the membership informed by email. Bob agreed to draft a message seeking someone to learn the Mail Chimp Monitor process.

Brian is working on his guide for the Treasurer. He envisions it will describe what the position involves but won't be a detailed "how to" for all the activities. We have other board members who are listed as signatories on the PNC checking account and the T Rowe Price investment account. Brian will provide Mary with the passwords either as a hard copy.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None.

## **New Business**

Revised May Count Date Policy Proposal - Gregg Peterson had received an email from Marilyn Veek the state-wide coordinator for the May Count. She was asking Gregg his reaction to change the policy determining the date for the annual May Count. Stated simply she proposes that each county/club would have choice of selecting EITHER the second Saturday or second Sunday in May. The email with the proposal and her reasons for proposing change is attached. Gregg felt the change would have no impact on us as we would continue to hold our count on Saturday. Chuck asked Gregg to attend the Board and make the State Directors aware of the proposal and hold a brief discussion of the proposal in preparation for their voting at upcoming MOS Board meeting. Chuck mentioned he had sent Marilyn a suggestion she should change the wording to be "EITHER the Saturday or Sunday of the second Saturday in May." This avoids any confusion in those cases when the second Saturday falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> and you want the alternative to be the 15<sup>th</sup> not the 8<sup>th</sup> which would be the second Sunday. Chuck also mentioned that the primary reason this approach was adopted for Fall Count was to allow counties with a lot of hunting to have count on Sunday when hunting is prohibited or more restricted. Hunting is less of a concern in the Spring. Discussion mentioned that although this could allow making a change due to adverse weather it would be very difficult in counties with large organized assigned coverages such as we have. We agreed with Gregg's initial reaction we would continue with a Saturday count and didn't have any reason to take a reason for the Board to take an official stand on the proposal one way or another.

## Around the Room -

- Kevin reported he has drafted an article for the next Newsgram supporting a Bee City initiative. A Bee City committee is developing a set of Best Practices for Mowing and Application of Herbicides/Pesticides. As part of the effort, they would like to identify prime habitats and specific locations that should be addressed. Kevin feels the club membership is in an ideal position to provide inputs on specific locations around Howard County which have prime habitats that could benefit from these Best Practices. The article asks for lists of these locations.

## **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, Brian, Bob, Kurt, Mary?
- Inform Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee that the HCC project still needs to develop "outreach" materials– Sue
- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris PENDING REPLY FROM EXPERT
- Update Cumulative Minutes file for the website and provide it to Bob – Chuck DONE
- Contact RNC and schedule the potluck for next March – Sherry DONE
- Contact Howard Community College about sponsoring a flower bed on the Pollinator Trail – Kevin DONE
- Prepare a formal proposal for the PUMA box at HCC – Russ, Mary Lou, Kristin SEE OLD BUSINESS
- Send out seed sale announcement - Bob DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, Brian, Bob, Kurt, Mary?
- Inform Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee that the HCC project still needs to develop “outreach” materials– Sue
- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Contact Pam Reese (RNC) about POC – Mary
- Order the Butterfly Cheat sheets - Kevin
- Prepare thank you receipts for seed sale donors – Bob
- Send the seed sale results spreadsheet to Brian and Chuck - Bob
- Order the PUMA setup – Kristin
- Coordinate installation of the PUMA setup – Russ
- Prepare request for volunteer to learn the Mail Chimp Monitor process – Bob
- Provide Mary with a hardcopy of the current passwords for on-line access to the financial accounts – Brian

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 23, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
October 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
November 18, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
February 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
March 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
April 28, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
May 26, 2022	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – October 28, 2021
- Treasurer’s Report – October 16, 2021
- Records Committee Report – September 20 – October 24, 2021
- Proposed Location for Purple Martin box at Mt. Pleasant
- Email from John Harris reporting status of pursuing grassland habitat expertise
- Email with Proposed Change to May Count Date Policy

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
October 28, 2021

Meeting link:

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - October 28 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: Oct 28, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84394700377?pwd=eU8vZ3RTR3JqMld5RGFvNGo1ZmV1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 843 9470 0377

Passcode: 708092Additions?

- |                                            |                              |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Review of Minutes                       | Chuck Stirrat                |
| 2. Treasurer's Report (attached)           | Brian Moyer                  |
| 3. President's Remarks                     | Mary Maxey                   |
| 4. Vice President's Remarks                | Kristin Trouton              |
| 5. Chapter Committee Reports               |                              |
| • Field Trips                              | Joe Hanfman                  |
| • Records (attached)                       | Jo Solem                     |
| • 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary             | Jo Solem                     |
| • Conservation                             | Kurt Schwarz                 |
| • Newsletter                               | Howard Patterson             |
| • Webmaster                                | Bob Solem                    |
| • Potluck                                  | Sherry Tomlison              |
| • Butterflies                              | Kevin Heffernan              |
| • Safe Skies                               | Sue Muller                   |
| • BBA3                                     | Sue Muller                   |
| • Programs                                 | Mary Lou Clark               |
| 6. <u>Old Business</u>                     |                              |
| ▪ Memberships                              | Bob                          |
| ▪ Seed Sale                                | Bob                          |
| ▪ PUMA boxes                               | Russ, Kristin, Mary Lou      |
| ▪ Grasshopper Sparrow Habitat              | John Harris sending a report |
| ▪ 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary             | Jo                           |
| ▪ Continuity books                         | Bob, Chuck, Brian            |
| 7. <u>New Business</u>                     |                              |
| • Proposed Change to May Count Date Policy | Gregg Petersen               |
| 8.. Action Items                           | Chuck Stirrat                |
| 9. Around the room                         |                              |

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal  
2020-2021**

NPR = Not previously reported  
TBD= To Be Determine

Oct Board Mtng Report  
10/16/2021

	Actual YTD 2020-21	Approved 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2021/22 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
<b>Income</b>																
Net Membership Dues	2,470	3,200	2,500	50	210	25	155	0	735	0	0	0	0	0	0	1175
Contributions to HCBC	510	3,500	3,500	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50 Moyer - Anniversary
Habitat Preservation	1,949			0	0	75	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	175
Butterfly Fund	50			0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100 Heffernan
Seed Sale	1,230			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undesignated Donation	0			200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200 Birthday donation
Interest income	0	NPR		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1700</b>
<b>Expenses</b>																
Anniversary 50th Celebration			300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meeting Programs (speakers)	800	700	1,000	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500 Board directed add (H Conservancy talks)
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	240	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Birder Initiative	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Martin Boxes	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200 Board directed change
HCC Butterfly Gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	200 New Board approved
<b>Office Expenses</b>																
Newsletter/other printing	313	500	750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Website/Email/Internet	585	500	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Postage/office	178	250	250	17.49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17.49
Bank fees	46	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenfest Support	0	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Projects/Grants</b>																
Howard County Conservancy	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Creatures	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frisky's	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YMOs	300	250	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butterfly Fund	0	0	440	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Martin Boxes	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2272</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>917.49</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,937</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>-290</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>783</b>
																0
																0
																0

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Mountjoy Fund	5,540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chestem Fund	21,156	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)	9,626	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deposits		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest		0.26	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Balance	36,322	34,288	34,288	34,288	34,289	34,289	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34,289.00

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance 6,612 Transactions; 68 printing

## **Records Committee Report for October 28th Board Meeting: Sept. 20 – Oct. 24, 2021 - Joanne Solem**

A productive, although hardly spectacular, month. As might be expected, waterfowl are beginning to filter in; hawk migration continues; and sparrows are receiving much of the passerine attention.

The fine Broad-winged Hawk count on the last day of the previous report (9/19), turned out to be the peak day of the season. A few good numbers continued to be tallied during the last week of Sept. Peregrines had been well-reported in Sept.; good numbers continued during Oct. which is the more expected month for falcons.

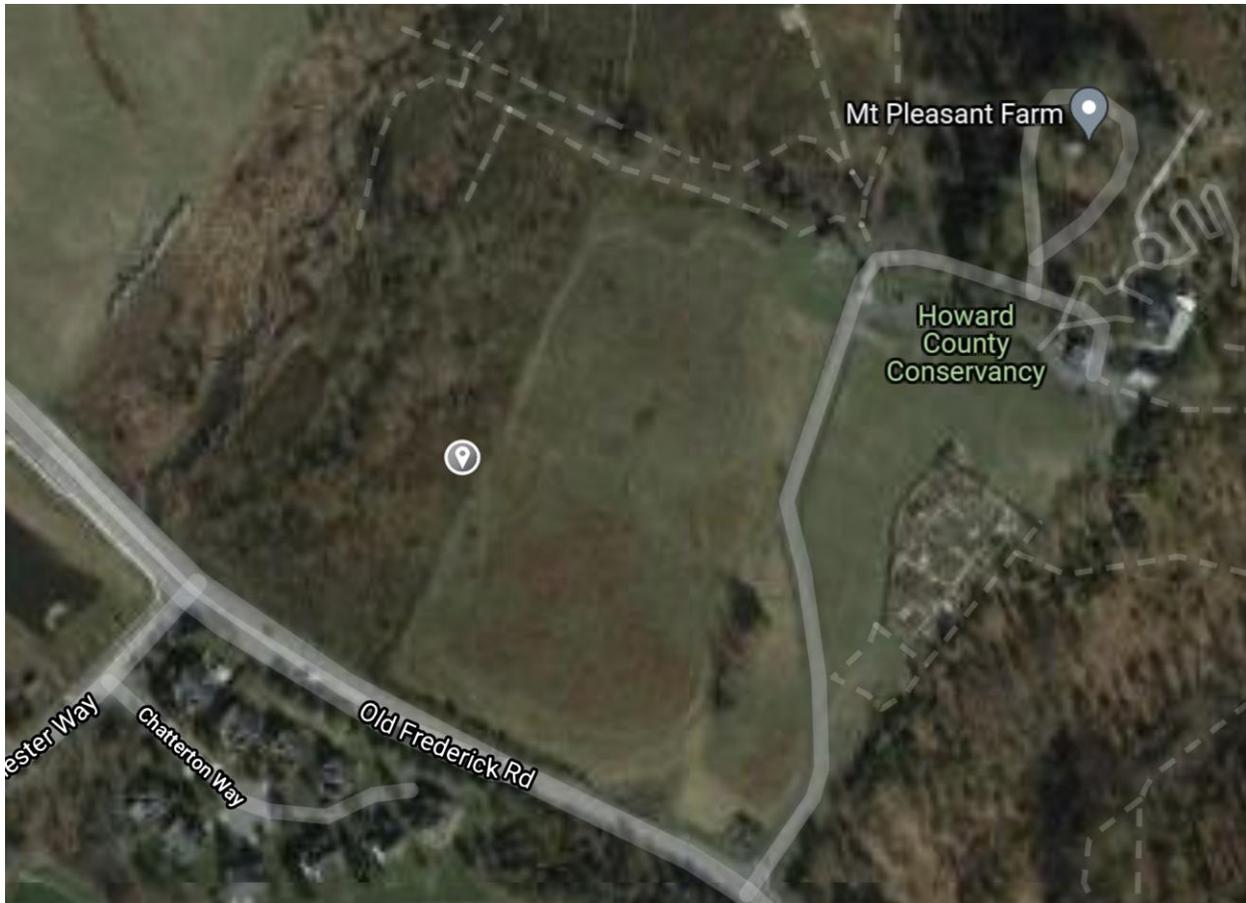
A few Common Nighthawks passed through in Oct. with the last on 10/14, among one of the latest dates on record. Green Herons are often scarce after the first week of Oct., one at Daniels 10/11 may be this year's last. A single Caspian Tern 9/24 at Centennial was the only report. Marsh Wrens appeared at Lake Elkhorn, Mt. Pleasant, and Blandair. Thrush migration was thin, but steady with almost all Gray-cheeked sightings single birds.

Boreal species have made a limited appearance with a few Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins reported. Numbers may be meager during the coming winter if the forecast is accurate.

Mt. Pleasant's swale and fields provided a variety of sparrows: Grasshopper, Clay-colored, White-crowned, Vesper, Nelson's, and Lincoln's. Alpha Ridge Landfill also had Grasshopper and Vesper. The first two Rusty Blackbirds appeared at Mt. Pleasant 10/19.

An Orange-crowned Warbler 10/13 at the Elkhorn Garden Plots was a good sighting. There seemed to be more than the usual number of Connecticut Warbler reports. Many, of course, turned out to be Nashvilles, but accompanying photos verified a good number as correct identifications which is a credit to Howard birders.

A late Indigo Bunting was spotted at the landfill 10/21. Dickcissels were reported at both Mt. Pleasant 10/7 and at the landfill 10/8.



Proposed location for Purple Martin Box at Mt. Pleasant – Howard County Conservancy



Charles Stirrat &lt;stirrcr1@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Developing grassland species habitat in Howard County**

1 message

**Mary Maxey** <maximom11998@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 28, 2021 at 3:41 PM

To: Allen Lewis <allenrlewis@gmail.com>, Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, Brian Moyer <bmoyer36@yahoo.com>, David Sandler <detour65@gmail.com>, Howard Patterson <howard21042@verizon.net>, Joe Hanfman <auk1844@gmail.com>, Kelsey Wellons <kelseyphu@gmail.com>, Kevin Heffernan <kjheff122@gmail.com>, Kristin Trouton <kristing4420@gmail.com>, Kurt Schwarz <krschwa1@verizon.net>, Linda Hunt <raven10322@hotmail.com>, Mary Lou Clark <doctorfx\_99@yahoo.com>, Sharon Smith <sksolympie@gmail.com>, Sonic Sue Muller <sonicsusiee@gmail.com>, "Stirrat, Charles" <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, "Tomlinson, Sherry" <stbirder@yahoo.com>

See below for the email exchange from John Harris to Kevin Omland and Bernie Lohr regarding grassland habitat. John is unable to meet with us tonight but should be able to in the future.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Harris** <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Oct 28, 2021 at 3:26 PM

Subject: Fwd: Developing grassland species habitat in Howard County

To: Mary Maxey &lt;maximom11998@gmail.com&gt;

Hi Mary - please see my email below for Bernie Lohr, a colleague of Dr. Omland, that I sent today as a follow-up to Dr. Omland's message to Bernie in September. I'd like to hear back from Bernie. However, if he does not respond, we may need to look elsewhere. I do think that we should get some guidance from someone that has expertise. Before I consider reaching out to others, I would like to discuss the matter with the Board.

If I don't hear back within maybe two weeks, I'll let you know and we can go from there. I'll make a calendar reminder, but please reach out to me if you don't hear from me.

Best regards - John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Harris** <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Oct 28, 2021 at 2:26 PM

Subject: Re: Developing grassland species habitat in Howard County

To: Lohr Bernie &lt;blohr@umbc.edu&gt;

Cc: Kevin Omland &lt;omland@umbc.edu&gt;

Hi Bernie - My name is John Harris and I'm a past president of Howard County Bird Club. I am helping the club look for opportunities to invest in habitat development projects for bird species that need help. I spoke with Kevin Omland previously and again yesterday (10/28/21) about the concept of managing habitat for grassland bird species in Howard County Maryland. Kevin suggested that it should be okay to reach out to you. I would like to get an idea about what to look for in target properties, such as size, topography, soils and existing plant life, and what sort of management and maintenance activities, such as mowing and controlling invasive species, to plan for. The Club has experience in developing and maintaining habitat for shore-birds and persevering habitat for Dickcissel breeding, both in Howard County.

I'd like to have a brief phone/zoom conversation to discuss this at your convenience. At this time Club is less interested precise answers for all of our questions. Rather, we would like to determine if such a project is feasible and likely to have the desired effect, and if so, any suggestions for how to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration - John Harris

--

John Harris  
Columbia, MD

On Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 9:06 AM Kevin Omland <[omland@umbc.edu](mailto:omland@umbc.edu)> wrote:

Hi Bernie. A friend of mine John Harris who has helped us a lot with orchard oriole localities wanted me to forward this to you. HoCo Bird Club are especially interested in dickcissel's, but I'm sure grasshopper sparrows would be another species that could be targeted. See the message below and if you have a chance to hit reply to all. Kevin

PS, John - Bernie/Bernard Lohr has worked on grasshopper sparrows for years, especially on the Eastern shore at a field site associated Washington College. However that site switched over to focusing on bobwhite. Bernie has had some luck finding savannah sparrows at Kontera Dr in PG County and down at Patux Naval air station this summer

Sent from my iPhone  
Kevin Omland. UMBC Biology  
<http://omlandlab.umbc.edu>

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** John Harris <[jaybee.harris@gmail.com](mailto:jaybee.harris@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** September 22, 2021 at 8:23:59 AM EDT  
**To:** "Omland, Kevin" <[omland@umbc.edu](mailto:omland@umbc.edu)>  
**Subject:** Developing grassland species habitat in Howard County

Hi Kevin - I just remembered that I had an action item with the Howard County Bird Club to look into the potential for managing public/private land in Howard County in a way that supports grassland bird species. We discussed this briefly this summer and I recall that you had a colleague that studies grassland species. If you think that it would be appropriate, I would like to discuss the feasibility of this idea with this person. The Club has funds which could be used to create and maintain habitat for grassland species and has had success in doing this for Dickcissels.

If you have questions or concerns, perhaps we could discuss.

Best regards - John

--

John Harris

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John Harris

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John Harris

--

Mary Maxey

## Fwd: May count dates

Inbox



**GREGG PETERSEN**

Oct 26, 2021, 6:33 PM (2 days ago)

to Amy, me, Mary

Hi Amy, Chuck, & Mary,  
See the note below please. Any issues with this? I expect we would probably still do Saturday or do you want to send fir general membership comment?

Gregg

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [marilyn.veek@mdbirds.org](mailto:marilyn.veek@mdbirds.org)

**Date:** October 26, 2021 at 15:46:39 EDT

**To:** ,,, Amy Anderson <[amyanderson72@gmail.com](mailto:amyanderson72@gmail.com)>, GREGG PETERSEN <[sig29@aol.com](mailto:sig29@aol.com)>, .....

**Subject:** May count dates

**Reply-To:** "[marilyn.veek@mdbirds.org](mailto:marilyn.veek@mdbirds.org)" <[marilyn.veek@mdbirds.org](mailto:marilyn.veek@mdbirds.org)>

Traditionally, the Maryland May Count has been held on the second Saturday in May. I'm contacting you for your opinion on suggesting a change to the date, as background for a proposal to the Maryland Ornithological Society Board.

My proposal is that counties be provided the option of holding their May Count on EITHER the second Saturday or second Sunday in May. This is analogous to how the Fall Count is held.

Reasons for the change include:

1. The Second Saturday in May is now a Global Big Day. Some organizations have special events that day, that might draw counters away from the May Count.
2. Having a choice of days would allow for better coverage of counties, since birders could participate in two different counties.
3. Although the intent is that counties would select their May Count date in advance, having a choice of days would provide flexibility in the event of adverse weather.

I would appreciate hearing your thoughts concerning this proposal and how it might impact your activities as compiler.

Thanks,  
Marilyn Veek  
State May Count Compiler

**G Petersen**

Oct 27, 2021, 6:24 PM (19 hours ago)

to marilyn.veek@mdbirds.org, Harry, David, Mark, Steve, Sherman, Libby, Scott, Debb y, Lynne, Sharon, Walter, Diane, Matthew, Pat, Tyler, Ronald, Ellen, Marcia, Mark, Amy , me

Thanks Marilyn. The proposal allows us more latitude so I have no issues with it. No significant impact to compiler activity.  
R/, Gregg Petersen, Howard County



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, November 18, 2021

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristin Trouton  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Sharon Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:** Wes Earp √  
John Harris √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 11, 2021 was 28 people. Joe Hanfman gave a program entitled “Birding in Alaska.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were approved with minor changes from draft forwarded for review. The corrected copy is posted on the club website.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had sent the attached report in advance of the meeting. He reported on the status of the Ponce bequest as he attended a meeting with the staff of Widmann Financial Services who are responsible for the disbursement of the estate. Brian has signed the necessary documentation and provided them with information on our accounts so that they have the information they need to make the first disbursement as soon as it is approved. After we receive it, we will then need to discuss how we want to proceed. Brian reported that he has been working with Chuck to develop a revised stream-lined version of his regular report to the board.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary reminded the club that we will not have a board meeting in December. She announced that she will be in Vermont on a ski trip on date of the club December 9 regular meeting. She is hopeful she will be able to attend via Zoom but if not, Kristin will need to chair the meeting. We need a number of volunteers for elected offices and committee positions. We need candidates for Vice President and Chapter Director, as well as Goldfinch Editor, Conservation Chair, and Mail Chimp assistant. Kevin later mentioned that we also need someone to take over/assist with the Butterfly Survey data compilation.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin was not present.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had submitted the attached report. She repeated her caution that submissions of Black-capped Chickadee need to have details on multiple field marks, especially since hybrids are possible. She urged if people we know submit such reports, we respectfully help educate them on the difficulty in separating Black-capped from Carolina in this area. Mary Lou reported that Merlin seems prone to incorrectly identifying Black-capped.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo had expected Kristin to report on T-shirt sales but in her absence, she stated at her last check over 40 had been sold. She mentioned that the NewsGram announcing the solicitation of “memories” from members had gone out. A few have been received and they will be first posted when the Anniversary webpage is posted around January 1. Both written and video formats are welcome. Those wanting to make a video should contact David or Kelsey. Once the webpage is active Bob will be making constant changes, so people will want to keep returning to see what new information has been added. The Board was asked to encourage other members to provide memories and inputs as we interact with them.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt wasn’t present but had reported that the Anne Arundel County “bird safe bill” had failed by wide margin (2 to 5) in their council vote.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that it has been a quiet month with just routine entries and trying to keep up with developing web pages for material that Jo and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee were developing. Sherry reported that she had located a video of the dedication ceremony for the Chandler Robbins SkyWatch at HCC. It would be a great item to add to the website material for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is on Sherry’s phone, but she hasn’t been able to figure out how to get it off her phone so that it can be given to Bob for adding to the website. It is over 2 Gbits so it is too large to just email it. Sherry asked if someone could help with the process. Kelsey volunteered to help with the transfer,

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry reported she is just waiting to hear formal response on our tentative reservation at RNC in January. Mary commented that she had informed Pam that she should consider Mary as her point of contact with the club.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Season is basically over. He has only had four responses to his request for lists of habitats suitable for application of guidelines on county mowing/herbicide/pesticide best practices policies. Kevin urged others to provide lists. He stated the printing to replenish the supply of butterfly “cheat” sheets is still pending. During around the room, Kevin brought up the need to find a third volunteer to help with the Butterfly Survey as he and Linda have conflicting demands on their time. He agreed to draft a NewsGram item seeking this volunteer.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue stated the process for county buildings is not proceeding very fast. She has been in touch with Bob Linz of Rec and Parks and he confirms that the county capital budget does include funding for bird proofing the Robinson Nature Center building. He has requested bids but does not expect the work to be done until next spring. As for the Gateway Building (renamed Ulman Building?) she hasn’t been able to confirm whether funding is available in budget, as her prior POC has changed jobs and she just identified a new contact today. She manned both the Safe Skies and BBA3 booths at the recent Sustainability Day, but it had very few attendees. Lastly Mary reminded Sue that Carolyn Parsa had prepared the “outreach” material for the Howard County Conservancy to help educate visitors on the bird proofing applied to the Gudelsky Education building. In addition, Carolyn has reached out to HCC and offered to give a program on Safe Skies and the accomplishments at HCC.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue said she is ready to start the new season. She mentioned that eagles and Rock Doves are active. She is scheduled to give two programs in December. She noted that the BBA3 website has not yet been updated to identify which blocks are “complete.” She thinks Gabe is supposed to do that assessment but is prepared to do so if he asks the county coordinators to do it. Lastly, she reminded us that she is looking for pictures of eagles carrying a stick or a fish.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): No report.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Lewis, Tomlinson, etc.): No report. Next meeting is December 4. Mary asked for a volunteer from the State Directors for one of them to take notes and prepare a report for our Board. David volunteered.

## **Old Business**

Waterford Flats – Wes Earp joined us at the beginning of the meeting to discuss the annual report he had provided the Board in advance of the meeting (Corrected version attached). Wes prepared the plan and anticipates we will want to continue the practice on an annual basis. Wes provided a synopsis of the report for those who had not read it yet and to make a few points. He recommends continuing to have the committee remain going forward. He recommends not trying to replicate the daily drawdown in the future but make less frequent changes as the labor involved proved not to be necessary. It turned out that most of the birds used the shoreline and not the central mud flats, probably due to the detritus present on edges and absent in the center of area. The vegetation growth turned out to be more of a problem than anticipated and remains unresolved. It will require attention in the future. Hopefully the waterfowl will knock down the vegetation during the winter or it will be a problem in spring as the area is flooded and will preclude disking until after the spring season. Visitors are encouraged to pull young cattail shoots as they see them, to avoid them becoming deep rooted. David asked if we should hold a training session to learn what and how to help with vegetation control. Wes did not seem to find that necessary, but the report does suggest this may require annual volunteer effort to remove cattails and willow. The report summarizes accomplishments and items purchased and donated. Chuck Sharp donated an old “white board” that doesn’t erase, and Wes spent a lot of time and effort cleaning it. It was proposed and approved a new one be purchased. Mary Lou agreed to purchase a black board, chalk, and eraser and David volunteered to help her install it. Bob commented that the process had been a valuable learning experience for these kinds of projects. It was observed that Wes had put in most of the time and effort during this year, although he expressed he was motivated by curiosity and self-interest, we all expressed our appreciation for his role and effort.

Grassland Species – John Harris joined the meeting for a short time to give us an update on his attempts to find individuals who have expertise on grassland species. Our hope is they might be available to advise us on a project to develop, support, and maintain habitat for these species. On advice from Kevin Omland, John had emailed Bernie Lohr another professor at UMBC who has done research with grassland species. Bernie replied to John this week and although he is quite busy, implied he would get back to him. Kevin had cc’d Dave Curson on one of the emails to John as another possible source. Dave, who is the Audubon MD/DC Director of Conservation, replied to John expressing his interest in discussing the topic after the coming holiday week. Another name that has been proposed is Doug Gill who has done extensive research and support of grassland species on the Eastern Shore. Jay Sheppard is a good reference for contacting Doug. John will continue to pursue this effort and will get back to us.

Memberships – Sharon and Kelsey summarized the results of their sending reminders to members that had not yet renewed their membership. There were 77 names on the list and so far 29 of them have renewed. There was limited feedback, but the most frequent was thank you for the reminder. One person had moved away but still renewed as an affiliate. One person said they had lost interest and asked to be removed from future contacts. Bob asked Kelsey to send the name so he could ensure they will be removed from email database. Brian summarized the current membership numbers. There are a total of 217 memberships (82 Family, 107 Individual, 7 Supporters, and 21 Affiliates). Brian commented that there have been 71 new memberships in 2021. In response to a query Bob stated that those not renewing in a timely fashion will continue to receive emails including the Goldfinch until the membership is purged on March 1 in line with MOS policy. In response to a query by Mary, Bob stated that he and Brian have straightened out responsibilities relative to membership and MailChimp duties.

PUMA Boxes – Mary summarized the status of the purchase and installation of the Purple Martin box at Mt. Pleasant. Kristin ordered the equipment, and it has been received. Brian has issued a check reimbursing Kristin. Russ picked up the equipment and has begun the installation. On Saturday, November 13th, Russ Ruffing and his son installed the ground stake for the Purple Martin houses. They dug a 36-inch-deep hole and set the pole into it with concrete. (This is the thing that the rest of the pole mounts onto). He will let it cure for a week before putting up the pole and the houses. Mary remarked that you can see the ground stake from the Mt. Pleasant entry drive.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – See committee report above.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None.

**New Business**

No new business items introduced.

Around the Room –

- Mary asked for someone to take notes at next MOS Board meeting – See State Board Meeting above.
- Kevin mentioned the need for a third volunteer to support Butterfly season – See Butterflies report above.
- Just for her own edification Mary posed a question to Jo about how Jo goes about assembling the Records Committee reports. Jo provided a few of the details and noted that the process has evolved significantly over time with the introduction of on-line sources. She mentioned the following activities:
  - Follow all eBird reports for Howard County daily or every 2 days. Extract the interesting sightings – timely due to so many routine entries
  - Review all Group Me Howard County Rare Birds text messages
  - Review all Howard Listers Email Group messages
  - At end of season request individual season reports (primarily for those who don't use eBird)
  - Review the seasonal reports received in response to request
  - Monitor photos submitted to the website for interesting sightings or unusual events
  - Follow-up with person submitting all suspect sightings to confirm or revise them

Bob remarked that this all results in Jo spending 1 to 2 hours a day on this effort.

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Look for someone for back-up training and prepare Continuity Notebooks for Secretary position and other key board positions – Chuck, Brian, Bob, Kurt, Mary? MOST DONE SEE NEW ACTION ITEMS
- Inform Carolyn Parsa and the Lights Out committee that the HCC project still needs to develop “outreach” materials– Sue DONE
- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris IN PROGRESS
- Contact Pam Reese (RNC) about POC – Mary DONE
- Order the Butterfly Cheat sheets - Kevin
- Prepare thank you receipts for seed sale donors – Bob DONE
- Send the seed sale results spreadsheet to Brian and Chuck – Bob DONE
- Order the PUMA setup – Kristin DONE
- Coordinate installation of the PUMA setup – Russ IN PROGRESS
- Prepare request for volunteer to learn the Mail Chimp Monitor process – Bob DONE
- Provide Mary with a hardcopy of the current passwords for on-line access to the financial accounts – Brian

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Draft/update Continuity Notebooks for President and other key board positions (Conservation?) – Mary, Kurt?
- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Order reprints of the Butterfly Cheat sheets - Kevin
- Complete installation of the PUMA box– Russ
- Provide Mary with a hardcopy of the current passwords for on-line access to the financial accounts – Brian
- Assist Sherry with transferring SkyWatch Dedication video – Kelsey
- Attend and prepare a report for board on the next MOS Board meeting on December 4 – David
- Purchase a black board and accessories and install it at Waterford Flats – Mary Lou, David
- Send Bob and Brian the name of former member who asked to be removed from records – Kelsey
- Prepare NewsGram item asking for a volunteer to handle Butterfly Survey data - Kevin

## Board Meeting Schedule

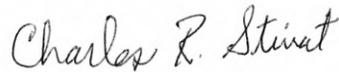
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
October 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
November 18, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
February 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
March 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
April 28, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
May 26, 2022	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – November 18, 2021
- Treasurer’s Report – November 13, 2021
- Records Committee Report – Oct. 25 – Nov. 15, 2021 – Jo Solem
- Waterford Flats – 2021 Report – Nov. 9, 2021 – Wes Earp

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
November 18, 2021

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - November 18 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: Nov 18, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85736128586?pwd=MGINd0JPZHBwcTVGQ1F4Y2dDK0cyZz09>

Meeting ID: 857 3612 8586  
Passcode: 989536

- |                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Waterford Flats               | Wes Earp          |
| 2. Review of Minutes             | Chuck Stirrat     |
| 3. Treasurer's Report (attached) | Brian Moyer       |
| 4. President's Remarks           | Mary Maxey        |
| 5. Vice President's Remarks      | Kristin Trouton   |
| 6. Chapter Committee Reports     |                   |
| • Field Trips                    | Joe Hanfman       |
| • Records (attached)             | Jo Solem          |
| • 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary   | Jo Solem          |
| • Conservation                   | Kurt Schwarz      |
| • Newsletter                     | Howard Patterson  |
| • Webmaster                      | Bob Solem         |
| • Potluck                        | Sherry Tomlison   |
| • Butterflies                    | Kevin Heffernan   |
| • Safe Skies                     | Sue Muller        |
| • BBA3                           | Sue Muller        |
| • Programs                       | Mary Lou Clark    |
| 7. <u>Old Business</u>           |                   |
| ▪ Memberships                    | Sharon and Kelsey |
| ▪ PUMA boxes                     | Kristin, Mary Lou |
| ▪ 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary   | Jo                |
| 7. <u>New Business</u>           |                   |
| 8.. Action Items                 | Chuck Stirrat     |
| 9. Around the room               |                   |

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal  
2020-2021**

**NPR = Not previously reported  
TBD= To Be Determine**

Brian Input (Reformatted to fit on two pages landscape)

	Actual YTD 2020-21	Approved 2020/21 Budget	Approved 2021/22 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
<b>Income</b>																
Net Membership Dues	2,470	3,200	2,500	50	210	25	155	985	295	0	0	0	0	0	0	1720
Contributions to HCBC	510	3,500	3,500	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Habitat Preservation	1,949			0	0	75	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	175
Butterfly Fund	50			0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Seed Sale (habitat)	1,230			0	0	0	0	0	1100	0	0	0	0	0	0	1100
Undesignated Donation	0			200	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	350 Kendall
Interest income	0	NPR		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3495</b>
<b>Expenses</b>																
Anniversary 50th Celebration			300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meeting Programs (speakers)	800	700	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Birder Initiative	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Martin Boxes	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
HCC Butterfly Gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
Howard County Conservancy Speake	0	0		0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
<b>Office Expenses</b>																
Newsletter/other printing	313	500	750	0	0	0	68	0	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	124
Website/Email/Internet	585	500	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	203.4	0	0	0	0	0	203.41
Postage/office	178	250	250	17.49	0	0	0	0	0	71.03	0	0	0	0	0	88.52
Bank fees	46	0	50	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Greenfest Support	0	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Projects/Grants</b>																
Howard County Conservancy	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bee City (formerly All Creatures)	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	300
Frisky's	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YMOS	300	250	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butterfly Fund	0	0	440	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Martin Boxes	0	0	200	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2272</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>5,410</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1824.93</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>3,937</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>-169</b>	<b>-292</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>-574</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,670</b>

MUTUAL FUND ACTIVITIES (NOT REFLECTED IN ANNUAL BUDGET)

**T Rowe Price Account (sub-accounts)**

Fund Name	Date	Project	Current Value
Mountjoy Fund		Initial	5,540

Fund Name	Date	Project	Current Value
Chestem Fund	10/15/2017	Initial	27,269

		Speaker fee 1/2 (Ackerman)	500.00	\$26,769.16
	5/15/2018	Dickcissel Field	80.00	\$26,689.16
	12/15/2018	Bat Meter	200.00	\$26,489.16
	1/15/2019	Deposit fr Estate Project SnowStorm	8,839.00	\$35,328.16
	3/15/2019	(Snowy Owl)	3,010.00	\$32,318.16
	7/17/2019	Deposit fr Estate Window bird prrof (Mt.	312.09	\$32,630.25
	9/15/2019	Pleasant Signage Window	4,645.00	\$27,985.25
	9/15/2019	Bird proofing Summer Intern	687.00	27,298.25
	6/15/2020	1st half	750.00	26,548.25
	9/10/2020	Safe Skies	3,958.00	22,590.25
	9/10/2020	Stop Payment	33.00	22,557.25
	9/15/2020	Restore Balance from safe skies Summer Intern	3,991.00	26,548.25
	9/15/2020	2nd half Safe Skies	750.00	25,798.25
	9/28/2020	Windowproofing Lost crop reimbursement	3,925.00	21,873.25
	12/15/2020	Sharp Farm Purple Martin	5,000.00	16,873.25
	10/30/2021	Box project Reimburse	1,904.10	25,769.12
	11/1/2021	Waterford Flats Expenses	257.97	25,511.15

Fund Name	Date	Project	Current Value
Miscellaneous (Habitat, interest, other)		Initial	9,626.00

Deposits				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest				0.26	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0
Balance				34,288	34,288	34,288	34,289	34,289	34,289	34,289.00

**PNC Checking Account**

Balance	5,756
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## **Records Committee Report for November 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting: Oct. 25 - Nov. 15, 2021 – Joanne Solem**

Waterfowl are dribbling in with low numbers and scattered reports. Freeze-up has been slow in the Prairie Provinces and the pothole states of the Upper Midwest so major movement has been slow.

Two Mute Swans are back at Turf Valley Resort. They had been removed while the pond with the fountain was being repaired. We can anticipate that some relatively new birders will begin reporting them. Remind birders these are not wild birds and are not countable on any lists.

Shorebird migration during this period was minimal. The most interesting reports were three American Woodcock in relative proximity with one at Mt. Pleasant 10/20 and two at Green Clover Dr 10/23 and 10/28, barely one-half mile away.

October's usual falcon and accipiter migration continued with the expected uptick of early November Red-tails and Bald Eagles. No Golden Eagles, alas. The most interesting observation was of 433 Turkey Vultures in mid to late afternoon streaming north to south over Cavey La on 10/23 (R. Ruffing). As a carrion eater, TVs do not have the charisma of hawks and are often disparaged by raptor enthusiasts. Unlike Black Vultures, Turkey Vultures do migrate, but seldom are large numbers tallied. (Except at official hawkwatch sites where tallies continue all day, most birders are not likely to be birding in mid to late afternoon, so perhaps that leads to under-reporting of migrants.)

Although the coming winter is not predicted to produce a major influx of boreal species, there has been a scattering of Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin reports. The first third of November has brought a small bump of Purple Finches. With the drop in temperatures, there was the usual increase in Black-capped Chickadee reports—all lacking adequate documentation. Without photos and/or excellent details, these reports will not fly.

A Grasshopper Sparrow hung on until 10/31. The Nelson's at Mt. Pleasant on 10/17 was a sparrow highlight of the season.

By late October, passerine migration had slowed to a trickle. A Blue-headed Vireo at Wincopin Neck 11/3 was nice. A Tennessee Warbler on 10/26, a Magnolia on 11/7, and a Nashville on 11/12 were the last of the season.

Now, look up. The swans are coming!

# Waterford Flats 2021 Report

November 9, 2021

## Preface:

There are no provisions for an annual report, but a written record of elevations and decisions would seem logical for future reference. The author has tried to set a balance between the presentation of technical data and brevity. The format and use of appendices hopefully serves this purpose.

## Management committee:

- Formed by the HCBC Board in the spring of 2021 to manage the Waterford Flats water level to expose shorebird habitat.
- Members: Mary Lou Clark, David Sandler, Wesley Earp (Chair), John Harris, Mary Maxey, Brian Moyer, Russ Ruffing, Kristin Trouton.
- Coming up with a project name and adoption of Club polices regarding birder access was taken on subsequently. Much time and effort was redirected to these topics along with the release of sightings information.

## Adopted 2021 Management Plan:

- April 1 start dropping the water line 0.3 inches per day. This was expected to completely empty the pool by July 15<sup>th</sup>. (A receding shoreline was expected to provide habitat through the spring period.)
- Do not refill the pool, July 15 to August 15, for the fall season.
- Once dried down, chisel-plow the soil over the Cool Water Release to attempt to increase soil permeability. (See Appendix E for further explanation.)

## 2021 Water Level Management History:

- For date and elevation data see Appendix A.
- March 20 – A modified 17 inch calibrated PVC pipe section, referred to as the Release Control (RC), was placed atop the external control riser after removing the top two couplings with connecting sleeve. With sixteen ¼ inch holes in the lower end that could be opened or plugged, a continuous release could be varied to achieve the 0.3”/day draw-down planned. Drawdown was begun. Elevation 61.9
- March 20 to April 22 the drawdown continued. Evaporation rates were estimated to average 0.17 inches per day (Dayton weather site). For the most part, the water level stubbornly remained an inch higher than planned through the period. Rainfall influenced rates and the number of open holes was adjusted as deemed necessary. Elevation 61.0 on 4/22.

- April 22 - The controlled drawdown was stopped. Concern within the committee regarding the extent of exposed dry area initiated an attempt to halt the receding water line. All holes were plugged and the pond discharge was directed fully into the Flats, but this was not sufficient to offset losses and the level continued to drop at a slower rate until 5/25 at elevation 60.7.
- May 25 – An intense rainfall halted the waterline decline and rainfall continued to elevate the waterline through July 20. The water surface elevation ranged from 61.0 up to 61.5 on 7/20.
- July 20 – The pond discharge was directed into the wetland and the waterline began to recede again. The waterline was dropped on Aug 28 to 60.3.
- Since the pool was not completely emptied in the manner planned, by July 15th, Waterford decided the site was too wet to chisel plow and this action was postponed.
- A subsequent effort was made to expose the remaining inundated portion of the site, about 0.25 acres, for fall migrants. This effort proved unsuccessful in attracting birds possibly due to limited size and rapid spread of an emergent species as yet to be identified
- September 17 – two couplings with connecting sleeves were removed dropping the waterline well into the drainage ditch and exposing any remaining bare soil. This was done to enable installation of the gauge post in the bottom of the upper end of the drainage ditch.
- September 24 – The gauge post was installed and steps were taken to refill the pool. The gauge was installed on 9/27 with the survey assistance of Mr. John Vargo, Howard Soil Conservation District and associates.

## **Discussion:**

For the spring and fall migration seasons, the success was mixed. The early appearance of a Glossy Ibis certainly bode well and lifted expectations. There are no prior year data to compare the spring season to, but it would seem to have had success. The ten species of shorebirds noted peaked at 71 individuals on May 10 (Appendix D). Subsequent discussions suggested the feeling that numbers would have been higher if the site were flatter with an expanse that simulated the more limited existing shoreline conditions.

The unplanned attempt at providing fall habitat may have been thwarted by a lower water level, a rapidly spreading emergent aquatic species and a 3-foot stand of foxtail covering much of the prior drained site that was partially re-flooded to elevation (61.5, 7/20). Only four species used the site between July 15 and August 15, three were singletons (Appendix D).

Appendix B recounts efforts and actions taken to initiate the opening of the flats and facilitate its management. Much of this was a necessary distraction from the planning and manipulation of the water surface but is not perceived to be detrimental to the habitat provided. The goal of lowering the pool daily by 0.3 inches proved to be labor intensive given the complex interrelationships of pond discharge, rainfall intensity, rainfall runoff, evaporation, soil infiltration and controlled release. In hindsight, with the site topography, such an effort was unnecessary and purely an academic exercise. Dropping the waterline by removing couplings and connecting sleeves at fixed intervals or when deemed necessary would have sufficed.

It is now clear that volunteer vegetation is problematic for the fall migration period. Further, if not flattened by waterfowl, the lingering standing stems pose a problem for the 2022 spring period. Disking of the emptied site during the mid summer interval is a possible solution for the 2022 fall season. The implications of the present site condition, with annual weed and emergent residue remains a mystery for the spring 2022 season.

A few willow and many cattails seedlings have emerged in the site. The propagule sources remain unknown and were present, introduced by waterfowl and/or shorebirds and/or wind deposited. Presently, complete removal by hand has proven elusive. Disking will help, but the Club should be prepared for annual volunteer efforts to extract “hard to reach” plants. The earlier the better in both cases, since both arise from detached viable roots or tubers. A constant vigilance has been required since midsummer.

A summary of birder visits is provided in Appendix C. Appendix D holds bird records. Appendix F provides a brief presentation of ideas and projects that might be pursued in the future depending on further consideration. Expenses by the Committee for the migration period were \$257.97.

L. Wesley Earp  
Waterford Flats Committee Chair

## Appendix A: Management and Elevation Schedule and Elevation Conversion

Date	AC Reading (inches)	Target 0.33"/day	Elevation <sup>4</sup> (Tenths)	Gauge <sup>5</sup> Equivalents	Input: Rainfall <sup>3</sup> (Inches)	Pond Base Flow	Pond + Stream <sup>6</sup>	Outflow: RC Holes Open	Couplings	RC=Release control
3/8			61.8	1.8		Y	N	n/a	+1 <sup>1</sup>	Placed last coupling atop stack.
3/17			61.8			Y	N	n/a		
3/18					0.6	Y	N	n/a		
3/20	I	I	61.9			N	N	11	-2	Installed 17" RC.
3/25	II.3		61.9		1.7	N	N	10		
3/28					0.5	N	N	10		
4/1	III.6		61.7	1.7		N	N	10		
4/3	IV.3		61.6			N	N	10		
4/7	VI.1		61.5			N	N	11		
4/9					0.25	N	N	11		
4/10	VII.2	VIII	61.4	1.4		N	N	9		
4/12	VII.2		61.4 vs .5 <sup>2</sup>		0.5	N	N	12		
4/14					0.4	N	N	12		
4/15	VIII.1		61.3			N	N	13		
4/17	X.7		61.1			N	N	9		
4/20	XI		61.1	1.1		N	N	n/a		Turned RC section upside down.
4/22	XII.1	XII	61.0			Y	N	n/a		Flipped RC right side up.
4/24	XI.9		61.0			Y	N	5		
4/25					0.5	Y	N	5		
4/26	XII.1		61.0			1/2	N	5		
4/27						Y	N	2		
4/28						Y	N	0		
5/5	XIV.0		60.8		0.7	Y	N	0		
5/10	XIV.0.		60.8			Y	Y	0		Cleared plugged stream intake.
5/12	XIV.2		60.8			Y	Y	0		
5/15	XIV.5		60.8	0.8		Y	Y-	0		
5/16					0.3	Y	Y--	0		
5/19	XIV.5		60.80			Y	Y	0		Cleared plugged stream intake.
5/21	XV		60.70			Y	Y-	0		
5/25	XV.25		60.70		3.4	Y	Y--	0		
5/27	XIV.6		60.80	0.80	0.3	Y	Y---	0		
5/29	XI.2		61.10		1.5	Y	nil	0		
6/3	IX.3		61.30			N	n/a	0		All flow directed into wetland
6/4	IX.2		61.00		0.3	N	n/a	0		

## Appendix A Continued:

Date	RC Reading (inches)	Target 0.33"/day	Elevation <sup>4</sup> (Tenths)	Gauge <sup>5</sup> Equivalents	Input: Rainfall <sup>3</sup> (Inches)	Pond Base Flow	Pond + Stream <sup>6</sup>	Outflow: RC Holes Open	Couplings	RC=Release control
6/15	IX		61.30		2.45	N	n/a	n/a	-2	Removed RC.
6/24					0.85	N	n/a	0		Put RC section back on riser.
7/7	XI.3		61.10	1.30	2.4	N	n/a	0		
7/15					0.4	Y	Y---	0		Full pond discharge into Flats.
7/20	VI.5		61.50		1.25	N	n/a	1		Pond discharge to wetland.
7/28	IX		61.30			N	n/a	2		
8/3	XI		61.10		0.70	N	n/a	n/a		Removed RC.
8/4	XIII.5		60.90	0.90		N	n/a	n/a		
8/10	XVI.75		60.60		0.5	Y	Y---	n/a		
8/28	XVII		60.30		3.55	Y	Y---	n/a	-1	Removed 1 section.
9/17					4.25	Y	Y---	n/a	-2	Removed 2 couplings & 3 stems.
9/24					2.7	Y	Y---	n/a		Installed gauge.
9/27			61.05	1.05						Survey
11/6				1.56						

### Footnotes:

- 1 Waterford kept riser 1 coupling short through winter to protect against wave erosion.
- 2 A level survey this date found the actual waterline to be 61.5
- 3 Pool elev. gain includes direct site rainfall, pond rainfall & pond watershed runoff, a function of amt. & intensity. Rainfall elev. impacts were nil to significant and varied greatly seemingly independent of rainfall amounts.
- 4 Design elevations: 63.0 Dike top, 62.0 Winter & Spring, 61.5 August 15 max., 60.0 flats empty.
- 5 Gauge readings. To convert to design elevations add 60.0.
- 6 Accounts for the diversion of stream water to Flats via the pond. Y is Yes, the (-) signs indicate diminished flows. N is No meaning flow is either blocked or directed into the wetland and none is reaching the Flats.

## Appendix B: 2021 Site Improvements and Accomplishments:

- Modification of 8” pond inflow pipe cap to aide in pond discharge control.
- Secured and installed “sign-in” wall desk.
- Developed access protocols, held trainings, and with help of Kelsey Wellons, developed a training video.
- Addition of Waterford Flats section, with pictures, to the Club’s webpage by Bob Solem.
- Goldfinch opening announcement article.
- Cleaned and hung white board donated by Waterford Farm.
- Initiated a “picture book” for members to show photos and to help visitors with bird identification...
- Manufactured a riser segment to facilitate an attempt at a steady draw-down rate.
- Installation of steps and concrete pad for management of the segmented external water control riser.
- Installation of a water level gauge for future management of the water surface elevations.
- Installed post with a rain gauge and thermometer.
- Hand removal of cattails on four occasions.

## Appendix C: Birder and Farm Visitor Use

- 290 logged-in visits were made during the management period by approximately 35 individuals.
- Two short impromptu presentations were made to Waterford group clientele, a private school group (20 – teacher, parents and students) and an informal collection of parents and children (about 12).
- Visits by other farm visitors were noted by birders but there is no record.

## Appendix D: Bird records

Bird sighting forms were kept in the "Sign-in" binder. Individuals could report the number of individuals for a given species by date and time. Those records are presently held by Russ Ruffing. Spring digital copies are available.

Shorebird usage peaked on 5/10 with 71 birds of six species. Nine species were present on 5/14.

### **Reported Sightings by Period**

(Max #, date; first, last)

#### **Spring: April 1 to June 15**

Semipalmated Plover (2, 5/14; 5/14, 5/22)  
Killdeer (6, 4/22; 3/25, 6/12)  
Least Sandpiper (43, 5/10; 4/21, 5/25)  
Pectoral Sandpiper (1, 5/14)  
Semipalmated Sandpiper (1, 5/14; 5/14, 5/22)  
Wilson Snipe (5, 5/25; 4/7, 5/3)  
Spotted Sandpiper (9, 5/10; 4/21, 5/31)  
Solitary Sandpiper (16, 5/3; 4/11, 5/22)  
Greater Yellowlegs (9, 4/25; 4/11, 5/14)  
Lesser Yellowlegs (11, 5/10; 4/25, 5/14)

#### **Other Birds of Note:**

Blue-winged Teal  
Glossy Ibis (1, 4/8)

#### **Fall: July 15 to September 30**

Killdeer (1, 7/24; 7/24, 9/21)  
Lesser Yellowlegs (1, 8/4; 8/4, 8/7)  
Least Sandpiper (1, 8/11)  
Solitary Sandpiper (3, 8/11; 8/11, 9/21)

#### **Other Birds of Note**

Green-winged Teal  
Great Egret

## Appendix E: Cool Water Release

As part of the permit review Maryland Department of Environment and Natural Resources required consideration of mitigating actions to deal with the release of warm water during the late spring through July 15<sup>th</sup>. 250 feet of perforated underground pipe was proposed and installed to collect soil cooled water for release. It was expected that water passing through soil would be cooled.

This system is not functioning and presently water tight without a conclusive explanation. The working theory is that the soil texture and historic compaction, due to farm and construction operations, has made the soil impervious to water infiltration.

Chisel-plowing was developed to deal with soil compaction. The plow cuts deeper than other tillage implements, lifting and shattering the soil profile. To be effective the soil profile must be completely dry so shattering occurs instead of smearing. Waterford Farm owns a chisel plow and is prepared to plow the intake pipe field, approximately a quarter acre.

## Appendix F: On Going Issues:

**Flatten the site.** During the spring season it was suggested the site be regarded to be level. This would remove the “shoreline effect” but create a larger expanse of pools and hummocks with little elevation variation. No action was taken to move toward such construction. Further discussion is needed regarding the ability to dry down such topography to enable weed management.

**Replace the pond stream intake device.** For refilling the Flats quickly for the fall period, Waterford has offered to release pond water from one of the uppermost ponds on the farm. Presently, this flow would proceed down the stream corridor and most, if not all, would bypass the existing large pond that feeds the Flats. There is a pipe that conveys water from the stream into this pond, but it needs a more efficient entrance that can be managed to better capture the released water.

Sufficient rainfall and runoff can offset this deficiency but is unpredictable. Allowing the site to dry down for disking will shorten the time to refill the pool making the release water a possible solution. A design concept has been sketched and the farm inventoried for pipe materials. Waterford is “on board” with the project. But logistics remain to be worked out.

**Food Plots:** Waterfowl food plantings were discussed and, given the problem with lingering standing residue, considered problematic. It remains to see how waterfowl traffic will impact residual standing volunteer growth from foxtail and Fall panicum.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, January 27, 2022

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristin Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Sharon Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3 / Safe Skies: Sue Muller √

**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 9, 2021 was 34 people. Bill Young gave a program entitled “The Wildlife of Uganda.” Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 13, 2022 was 67 people. Kevin Heffernan and Linda Hunt gave a program entitled “Pocket Habitats: The 2021 Howard County Butterfly Survey.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were approved with minor editorial corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had provided the attached Treasurer’s Report and an accounting of the Chestem bequest current balance sheet. He reported that the first electronic transfer of funds (\$20,000) from the Ponce estate had gone smoothly. He plans to have us liquidate all the assets as they are released so that we will only be dealing with cash. There is a second transfer of \$36K ready to transfer. He anticipates we will receive another disbursement of \$100 K in February. He anticipates the disbursement process will likely not be finished until the Fall. He anticipates the total bequest will be around \$380,000. He proposed that we should invest a sizable portion of the bequest in an investment that would produce a significant amount of income that would provide sustainment for the club. He moved the Board authorize him to investigate investments and come back with a proposal. The motion was seconded and passed. In response to a question from Jo he responded that the estate placed no restrictions on how we use the estate funds.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary extended thanks to board members for their support and wished them Happy New Year.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Trouton): No report.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe has been actively working on field trips for the Spring. David Sandler has volunteered to lead a trip to Western Regional Park. The Smith Island trip is sold out and has a waiting list of over 30 people. Jo commented that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee had discussed holding a Big Half-Day without a formal leader. It was pointed out that two of the weekends in May are already booked with May Count and the MOS Convention.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had provided the attached records committee report. The weather this winter has supported one reason the Mid-winter Count was created. Namely that the Audubon Christmas Counts may not fully capture all the birds spending the winter in Maryland as migration may not be over when Christmas counts are held. The late arrival of waterfowl in January this year shows this to be true.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the committee has been very busy. Kristin reported on the sale of T-shirts and sweatshirts. The second opportunity to purchase has opened and has several more purchases already. The sale has resulted in \$388 of profit and donation of ~\$290 more so far. As a result, the committee feels funding for the anniversary is in decent shape. The web site is up and continues to be expanded with additional material. There are approximately 24 memory submissions to date. No one has yet opted to provide a video recording. A description of seasonal counts has been added and they are working on a description of count tally rallies. A discussion of the MOS Conference pin contest and Sue Probst's success in winning the contest numerous times is also planned. We were reminded to encourage others to participate in the Anniversary Challenge competition. Sharon complimented the committee on having the challenge include items for the diverse membership of the club.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): No report. Mary commented that Robin Todd has agreed to be the Conservation Chairman for MOS and our club when Kurt steps down later this year.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard was not present but had forwarded an email stressing the need to find his replacement.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported he has been updating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pages as new material comes in. He has recently updated the Mail Chimp database to improve its capabilities. He has produced a list of last year's members who have not yet renewed. Board members are urged to make personal appeals to people on the list that they see or speak to. The list was distributed by email during the meeting.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry said she hadn't heard anything, but Mary reported she had just been informed that the date we had chosen was not available. RNC is short of staff and hosting Saturday night is a problem. They offered Friday March 4 or April 1 as possible. We decided those wouldn't work and we still have COVID concerns. Mary Lou asked if we should consider an outdoor event after the weather improves. Another possibility is to postpone until Fall. It was suggested we should send the membership a survey to see if there is interest in any of the possibilities. Kristin agreed to draft a series of survey questions. Bob agreed that if provided the questions he can put together a MailChimp survey. Mary agreed to notify RNC that we won't be using either of the dates they proposed and would be considering our options.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that Linda Hunt will be stepping back her involvement with the butterfly survey, especially the data analysis. The extent of her continued involvement is still to be determined. As a result, Kevin has not put together a request for another participant in the survey until he determines what the new person would be expected to do. In another effort the committee and Bee City are discussing ways to entice planting of pollinator gardens.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that the committee is having a meeting (1/28) with a representative of the county to discuss the possibility of conducting a bird strike survey at the county courthouse.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported she has two upcoming presentations on the atlas coming up. The talks are for beginners and focus on owls and eagles. The coordinator of the Sykesville SW block has moved out of the county and stepped down. There is a couple who have been hearing Great Horned Owls near Benson Branch Park that may be interested in being coordinator. She knows of at least three pairs of Great Horned Owls who are calling in county. She sent an email detailing how Nocturnal Hours are computed for the atlas. She noted there is a difference between traditional eBird definitions of nocturnal and those for the atlas.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): No items. She is beginning to think about Fall programs and whether we will be able to hold meetings in person then.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Lewis, Tomlinson, etc.): The meeting held December 4 was held both in person and virtually. Mary, David, Mary Lou, and Sherry attended. David reported there were two prime issues discussed. One was misconduct by MOS Board members and how to handle it. It was decided it would take reports of misconduct by at least two people before any action would be taken (e.g., impeach). The second was whether MOS would subsidize individual participation at the MOS Convention to be held at Solomons Island. It will be in person and as currently the attendance is very light, individual cost would be quite high to cover committed costs. Discussion was to subsidize at ~\$40 / person. It is still unclear whether they will require attendees at the coming convention to have had the COVID booster vaccination. They can still postpone the convention (at same location) without incurring costs up to a month before the convention. If they cancel all together MOS would incur some significant costs. There was a discussion of what to do about declining attendance at conventions. One idea put forward was a series of smaller more regional venues. The editors of both the Yellowthroat and MD Birdlife were soliciting articles. David reported he has a YMOS Backpack that we can award to a worthy youth. He will provide it to Mary.

## **Old Business**

Waterford Flats – The committee met on Monday before this meeting to discuss plans for the coming year. Wes reported that given the difficulties we had with controlling water level and vegetation Chuck Sharp has floated the idea of a “trade” where we would try and manage the adjacent plot for shorebirds and the plot we developed would serve as a food plot for waterfowl. Chuck had asked for what we proposed to do going forward. The committee arrived at the attached plan to provide for Chuck’s consideration. We were reminded that if Chuck Sharp decides to break the MOU, he would need to reimburse the club \$1000 for each remaining year of the 5-year MOU term.

Ponce Estate Funds – See Treasurer’s Report for this discussion.

HCBC Board of Directors Vacancies – The list of currently known vacancies and a few identified replacements is:

- Goldfinch Editor – Howard is stepping down with the May-June 2022 issue but needs a replacement as soon as possible so that he can train the new editor as he prepares next two issues.
- Alternate MailChimp Monitor – Need a person to learn how to send email to the club membership and provide a backup to Bob for this essential club function that currently has no backup.
- Club Treasurer – Although this is an elected officer position, Brian has provided us advance notice that he will be stepping down and we will need to elect a new treasurer for the 2023-2024 club year (election in April 2023). Ideally this would be a volunteer who would be able to work with Brian in his last few months in office.
- Conservation Chairman – Robin Todd has agreed to serve as MOS and HCBC chairperson when Kurt steps down next Fall.
- Facebook Administrator – Kelsey has agreed to take over this responsibility when Kristin assumes the club presidency next Fall.
- See new business for discussion of elected officers we need nominees for the 2022-2023 club year.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

- The club signed on to a multi-organization letter to the Maryland congressional delegation urging them to support the “Recovering Wildlife Act.”

## **New Business**

Elections – Mary asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for next April’s election. Kristin, Mary, and Kelsey volunteered to be on committee. The following have agreed to be nominated for next year: Kristin for President, Chuck for Secretary, Bryan for Treasurer, David, and Sherry for State Director. Kelsey will be serving her second year as Chapter Director. As a result, we need to have nominees for the following positions: Vice-President, one person for State Director, and someone to serve the first year of a two-year term as Chapter Director. All were asked to propose people to be contacted to the committee and to make personal appeals when they meet individuals they feel would make good candidates. Mary asked Bob to provide a list of those who are primary members to assist us in identifying potential candidates.

GreenFest – Sue announced she had received information on this year’s event. It will be held on April 9 but will be reduced in scope and duration (10 AM – 3 PM and only positions for 50 vendors indoors). Registration is \$35 per table. There was a discussion that dependent on COVID environment we might want to consider having an unmanned table with handout materials. The budget has funds for two tables, believing we should have one for birds and one for butterflies. Volunteers offered to set-up and man the booths if the environment is improved. One idea discussed was to create a field trip shortly after GreenFest that could be advertised as for beginners, only announced at GreenFest. Mary Lou had ideas for creating a handout tailored to this event to supplement the supply of old newsletters and bird lists we usually have as handouts. We decided to register two tables to promote birds, butterflies, and BBA3. Someone mentioned the Anniversary Challenge checklist might be handed out, but Jo reminded us that the challenge is limited to members. Mary, who had also received the announcement of how to register, agreed to send it to Brian so that he can send in the registration.

Revise Schedule for Board Meetings - Mary proposed that we consider changing the date of future November Board meetings. Traditionally held on the third Thursday of November there is typically only three weeks between the October and November meetings and then because we don’t have a meeting in December, we go 9 or 10 weeks between the November and January Board meetings. The proposal is that we change the November meeting to the first Thursday in December. It was moved, seconded, and approved that we would make this change starting next Fall.

Mary had a second personal request regarding this year’s May Board meeting. Her son is graduating in May and the family is planning a trip to Yellowstone National Park that would cause her to miss our regular meeting. Since it will be the last meeting she would preside over as President she would like to not miss it. Accordingly, she asked if we would agree to moving it to June 2. The Board agreed to do this.

#### Around the Room -

- Jo thanked Chuck and Brian for the Chestem Bequest Fund accounting. She agreed a similar accounting of the Mountjoy Bequest Fund wouldn’t be possible. Chuck agreed but said he believes the balance we have been carrying (\$5540) is correct.
- Sue broached the subject of the roads built in grasslands at West Friendship Park by the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club. They were built to support a Christmas light show, apparently without obtaining the necessary permissions. Sue was suggesting we make an issue of this matter. Bob responded that we do not want to do that as right now we have a reasonable relationship with the local farm community and broaching this issue would only stir up a hornet’s nest and destroy that relationship. The Board concurred in this position.
- Mary Lou told Kevin that she has an additional 20 of the laminated Butterfly “cheat sheets” if that influences his schedule to print more.
- Kevin reminded the Board that when he was President, he had the board hold a discussion of who in the club would be the best candidate for a position and not just focus on “finding a body” to fill the position. He urged the Board to give this thought and make proposals to the nominating committee.

#### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Draft/update Continuity Notebooks for President and other key board positions (Conservation?) – Mary, Kurt? **CONSIDER PRESIDENT COMPLETED**
- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris **WILL UPDATE NEXT MEETING**
- Order reprints of the Butterfly Cheat sheets – Kevin **WILL PURCHASE WHEN NEEDED - REMOVE**
- Complete installation of the PUMA box– Russ **DONE**
- Provide Mary with a hardcopy of the current passwords for on-line access to the financial accounts – Brian
- Assist Sherry with transferring SkyWatch Dedication video – Kelsey
- Attend and prepare a report for board on the next MOS Board meeting on December 4 – David **DONE**
- Purchase a black board and accessories and install it at Waterford Flats – Mary Lou, David
- Send Bob and Brian the name of former member who asked to be removed from records – Kelsey **DONE**
- Prepare NewsGram item asking for a volunteer to manage Butterfly Survey data – Kevin **OBE**

## New/Continuing Action Items

- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Provide Mary with a hardcopy of the current passwords for on-line access to the financial accounts – Brian
- Assist Sherry with transferring SkyWatch Dedication video – Kelsey
- Purchase a black board and accessories and install it at Waterford Flats – Mary Lou, David
- Investigate investment options for Ponce bequest and provide a proposal – Brian
- Prepare Potluck survey questions – Kristin
- Produce a MailChimp survey with questions Kristin provides – Bob
- Inform RNC that our plans for potluck are in flux – Mary
- Register the club for two tables at GreenFest – Brian
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair - Kurt

## Board Meeting Schedule

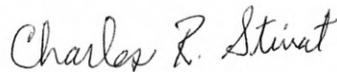
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
October 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
November 18, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December	- NO MEETING	
January 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
February 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
March 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
April 28, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
June 2, 2022 ( <b>Note change</b> )	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda - January 27, 2022
- Treasurer's Report – 17 January 2022
- Reconciliation of Chestem Bequest Balance – January 27, 2022
- Records Committee Report for January 27, 2022 Board Meeting (Nov. 16, 2021 – January 25, 2022)
- Waterford Flats Management for Shorebirds – 2022 to 2025

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
January 27, 2022

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - January 27 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: Jan 27, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82167971419?pwd=c2FVNHVucnY0TUZRRFRVa2E3b1NJQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 6797 1419  
Passcode: 227885

- Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
- Treasurer's Report (attached) Brian Moyer
- President's Remarks Mary Maxey
- Vice President's Remarks Kristin Trouton
- Chapter Committee Reports
  - Field Trips Joe Hanfman
  - Records (attached) Jo Solem
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Jo Solem
  - Conservation Kurt Schwarz
  - Newsletter Howard Patterson
  - Webmaster Bob Solem
  - Potluck Sherry Tomlison
  - Butterflies Kevin Heffernan
  - Safe Skies Sue Muller
  - BBA3 Sue Muller
  - Programs Mary Lou Clark
- Old Business
  - Waterford Flats Shorebird Habitat Committee
  - Orley estate funds Brian Moyer
  - HCBC BOD vacancies Mary Maxey
- New Business
  - Elections Mary Maxey
  - Green Fest Sue Muller
- 8.. Action Items Chuck Stirrat
- 9. Around the room

# Howard County Bird Club

Treasurer Report

17 Jan 2022

Financial information for period 19 Nov to 17 Jan 2022

## Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment
T. Rowe Price	34,290.21	.33	Interest added
PNC Bank	24,206.58	21,500.04	See sheet below
PayPal Transfers	52.59	52.59	Included in bal
			Paid \$2000 to HCConservancy
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,496.79</b>		<b>+ 20,000 Estate</b>

## Income Activity

Nov 19 – Jan 17 2022

Description	Method	Purpose	Amount
MOS Deposit 11/24	E-deposit	MOS memberships	\$200
Deposit 11/24	E-deposit	MOS memberships	\$150
Donation 12/15	PayPal	Donation Habitat	\$52.59
Donation 12/20	Check	Habitat on behalf of Jane Gueder	\$50.00
Deposit 1/5/22	Check	MOS Nov memberships	410.00
Deposit	EFT	Estate funds	20,000.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>24,206.58</b>

Expense Activity

Nov 19 – Jan 17 2022

Description	Method	Purpose	Amount
Delaware Ornithological Society	Check	Donation approved by Board May 21	\$2000
Howard County Conservancy- Bee City	Check	Donation approved by Board	\$300
Bob Solem	Check	Internet + Office	\$274.44
Kristin Trouton	Check	T-shirt award to designers	78.20
Brown & Associates	Check	Printing fees	54.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$2706.54</b>

Income over Expenses

\$21,500.04

Chestem Bequest I  
Est.

Howard County Bird Club

Date	Item Description	Income	Expense	Net Balance	Comment
10/15/2016	Martha "Marty" Chestem Deceased			\$0.00	
4/15/2017	Notified we are to receive 2% of 75% of her estate			\$0.00	date chosen to reflect sequence
10/1/2017	Initial installment of bequest	\$27,269.16		\$27,269.16	reported on Oct Treasurer report, transferred to TRP
10/25/2017	Half of Jennifer Ackerman speaking fee at HCC		\$0.00	\$27,269.16	authorized at Oct board meeting, discussed having a Chestem speaker series but - No
1/18/2018	Ad hoc Committee on Bequest Guidelines report accepted		\$0.00	\$27,269.16	Jan 2018 minutes
5/15/2018	Net cost of Dickcissel Field lease for 2018 season		\$119.70	\$27,149.46	Rent \$1030 less habitat donations designated to lease of field \$950
5/28/2018	Initial list of proposed projects to fund was approved		\$0.00	\$27,149.46	May 2018 Board minutes
12/15/2018	Purchase Bat Meter for Maryland Biodiversity Project		\$0.00	\$27,149.46	reported on Nov. 18 - Jan 19 treasurer report - no record of the purchase
12/17/2018	Second installment of bequest received	\$8,839.96		\$35,989.42	deposited in PNC checking account
1/8/2019	Project SnowStorm (Snowy Owl tracking project)		\$3,010.00	\$32,979.42	reported on Feb-Apr 19 treasurer report or is it \$2947.03 from 8/12/19 email
3/28/2019	Shorebird Habitat Project proposed as use for bequest if successful		\$0.00	\$32,979.42	no funds have yet been expended as of 2/28/2020
7/17/2019	Final installment of bequest. Total bequest received was \$36,421.21.	\$312.09		\$33,291.51	footnote on 1st qtr 2019 treasurer report & email from Cindy 8/12/2019. deposited PNC
9/15/2019	Window bird proofing at Mt. Pleasant (Gudelsky Center)		\$3,958.00	\$29,333.51	Accomplished by Safe Skies MD (MOS). Orig est. was \$3958 for window treatment & \$845 for signage.- \$4803. \$4645 source??
9/15/2019	Signage for bird proofing at Mt. Pleasant (Gudelsky Center)		\$687.83	\$28,645.68	est was \$845. Paid 9/19/19 Were signs posted? YES
6/15/2020	Summer intern at Howard Rec & Parks (with Sue Muller) - first half		\$750.00	\$27,895.68	Emilio Concari; pd 6/8/2020
9/10/2020	Check to Safe Skies reported lost had never been cashed. They agreed to reimburse for stop payment fee.	\$3,958.00		\$31,853.68	restore balance
9/10/2020	Stop Payment Charge reimbursed by Safe Skies		\$33.00	\$31,820.68	will debit for this when issue new check to Safe Skies
9/15/2020	Summer intern at Howard Rec & Parks (with Sue Muller) - final half		\$750.00	\$31,070.68	Emilio Concari pd 8/25/2020
9/28/2020	Window bird proofing at Mt. Pleasant (Gudelsky Center)- reissue check with balance less stop payment fee.		\$3,925.00	\$27,145.68	3958-33; pd 9/30/2020
12/15/2020	Payment to Chuck Sharp for compensation of lost crop income due to Sharebird Project		\$5,000.00	\$22,145.68	five years worth; pd 12/17/2020
1/10/2021	Club share Shorebird Project Construction Costs		\$18,355.79	\$3,789.89	Check issued to Chuck Stirrat who paid bill from personal funds prior to Dec. 31.
1/15/2021	Co-sponsor talk with HCC at HCC on Jan 28. Topic "Owls" Speaker ??		\$250.00	\$3,539.89	Part of Chestem "speaker" series; pd 12/4/2020
5/24/2021	Shorebird Habitat Project - Environmental Quality Incentive Program contribution	\$13,131.88		\$16,671.77	Received EQIP refund as check from Chuck Sharp - May 14, 2021. Deposited in TRP Govt
8/1/2021	Purchase ledger and wall desk for Shorebird Project logging station		\$257.97	\$16,413.80	\$250 authorized by Board on March 8 via email. Pd 10/21/21
				\$16,413.80	
				\$16,413.80	
2/25/2022	<b>Total Bequest/Total outlays/ CURRENT_BALANCE</b>	<b>\$53,511.09</b>	<b>\$37,097.29</b>	<b>\$16,413.80</b>	

Records Comm. Report for January 27, 2022 Board Meeting (Nov. 16, 2021 - Jan. 25, 2022) – Joanne Solem

Numbers of waterfowl were slow to build in December; it took until January 22 before more than 2,000 Common Mergansers were counted on Triadelphia Reservoir (TRIRS) which probably means a delayed freeze-up in the northern U.S. and Canada. A valid Cackling Goose 12/7 and a Snow Goose 1/8 at Springdale Quarry, a White-fronted Goose at Larriland Farm 1/12, and three Trumpeter Swans at TRIRS 1/18 were the best waterfowl reports of the season. Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Greater Scaup were also fine sightings.

A Rufous Hummingbird appeared at a Cavey La feeder 11/19, was banded by Bruce Peterjohn 11/20 and departed on 12/13.

Several late flocks of Bonaparte's Gull moved over TRIRS 11/21-22. One laggard came through on 1/25 at TRIRS. Although there are at least 15 January records, the species is definitely unusual in mid-winter.

Bald Eagle numbers built with migrants joining the residents. Twenty were counted at Brighton Dam on 1/20. Merlins appeared in above-average numbers. Five were notched on 11/28: four by the Big Day team and one near the dam during the Centennial Walk. That bird provided excellent views for trip participants as it perched and flew several times. Several Peregrine Falcons appear to have settled in for the winter.

A Long-eared Owl was photographed near Rockburn Branch Park on 1/21 (*fide* B. Ott).

A scattering of Gray Catbirds and even fewer Brown Thrashers continued to be reported into mid-January.

Boreal species were scarce. Purple Finches were reported at half a dozen sites in December. After that, reports were rare. At least half a dozen Red-breasted Nuthatches are wintering.

Up to two American Tree Sparrows are winter residents at Mt. Pleasant.

Two male Baltimore Orioles returned: one at Lake Elkhorn for the fifth or sixth winter; one at Mt. Hebron for the third winter. Rusty Blackbirds were scarce with five at Hipsley Mill Rd 11/18.

Lingering warblers included an Ovenbird at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area 12/5 and a yellow Palm at Long Corner 1/5. Both records were accompanied by photos.

On 1/8, a female Painted Bunting showed up at an east-central county feeder for the third winter. A female Dicissel hung around a Sewell's Orchard feeder 11/27-29.

Correction to report of Nov. 18, 2021. The Turf Valley Resort has two Whooper Swans (not Mutes). They are not countable birds.

Waterford Flats Management for Shroebirds 2022 to 2025

Year	Late March	April to June 15	June 16 <sup>th</sup> .	July 15 to Sept 30 <sup>th</sup> .	October 1 <sup>st</sup> .
2022	Burn off weed residue	Manage waterline for shorebirds. Empty by June 15 <sup>th</sup> .	Disk when site dries down & chisel plow over cool water release. Refill pool. <sup>1</sup>	Manage waterline for shorebirds	Refill for waterfowl season
2023	Burn off weed residue	Manage waterline for shorebirds. Empty by June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Disk when site dries down & refill pool <sup>1</sup>	Manage waterline for shorebirds	Refill for waterfowl season
2024	Burn off weed residue	. Manage waterline for shorebirds. Empty by June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Disk when site dries down & refill pool <sup>1</sup>	Manage waterline for shorebirds	Refill for waterfowl season
2025	Burn off weed residue	Manage waterline for shorebirds. Empty by June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Disk when site dries down & refill pool <sup>1</sup>	Manage wate line for shorebirds	Refill for waterfowl season

The proposed is based on the first years experience and literature.

1. Based on 2021, it is uncertain that the rainfall and baseflow from the pond will refill the Flats sufficiently before July 15<sup>th</sup>. Supplementing the refill effort with stored pond water may be desirable in some years.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, February 24, 2022

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristin Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Sharon Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler  
Allen Lewis √  
Sherry Tomlinson  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*  
ha

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller  
**Others:** John Harris √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 11. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 10 was 35 people. Dave Ziolkowski gave a program entitled “USGS North American Breeding Bird Survey.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes had a few corrections worth noting. The amount remaining in the initial disbursement from the Ponce estate is \$36K vice the \$20K reported in the initial draft. Rather than reporting the continuity notebooks are completed, Mary asked that an action item should be assigned to Kurt for the Conservation Chair position. Lastly the minutes clarified that Sharon complimented the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee for coming up with a Challenge that allowed participation by a widely diverse membership. Minor editorial and grammatical errors were corrected. The minutes were approved as modified. They are available for reference on the club website. Mary asked if the draft minutes could be provided in Microsoft Word format so that reviewers could more easily provide corrections using Word’s track change feature. Chuck replied he could do that but has been using the PDF format so that he could include the text and attachments in the proposed final format. It was agreed to continue the current version, but I am willing to provide the text in Word format for those who plan to provide a thorough review and edit. Just send me a note that you would like to have the text in Word format as well as the PDF.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian provided the attached Treasurer’s report. Brian reported that he had received an email requesting renewal of the club’s internet domain name and the board approved paying for 5 years at a cost of \$275. *Sec. Note: After the meeting Bob followed up and it was determined that the request was an internet scam. Bob has all web activity set up with BlueHost and all billing will come to him from them. Hence the action item for Brian was deleted.* Brian stated the next disbursement from the Ponce estate is anticipated to be \$40,000. He reported he is still pursuing potential investment ideas for the funds with T Rowe Price. Bob recommended that Brian refrain from including donors’ names in his reports as the minutes are published on the web and the donor may not want their name published. Lastly Brian reported he had submitted registration for two tables at GreenFest, but their acceptance is still pending as apparently they have more applicants than this year’s event called for.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary thanked those logged on for attending.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Trouton): No report.

## **Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Most field trips for Spring are set up and announced in the Goldfinch. Mary Lou reported she has been scouting for woodcocks in hopes of holding a field trip for them on March 5 but was considering postponing in hope of better weather. *Sec. Note: It was rescheduled for March 8 at Hipsley Mill Road site as the birds at Gateway were not reliably displaying.*

**Records** (Jo Solem): See attached report.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): The committee has been working diligently. There have been 90 shirts sold. The next sale period will occur in mid-April. Submissions of memories continue to dribble in. The committee has been providing periodic tips for accomplishing the Challenge. Their goal is to keep members involved throughout the year. They have added a new activity – A Pictorial Natural History for 2022. Members are asked to submit up to three photos taken in each of the four seasons depicting natural history in the county. These are to be “best” images not just the “rarest” bird, etc.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was not present. It was reported that the “Bird Safe Building” bill had passed.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard will be working with Megan Bolcar on next newsletter as she has expressed interest in assuming the role of editor.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob has set up the new photo page as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pages. He is also adding new tidbits to the pages as material continues to be generated. Bob reported he had sent a final reminder to those members who have not renewed. Once he receives the latest membership lists from MOS in mid-March those who have not renewed will be removed from the records. He also plans to send these people an email asking them why they did not renew in hope of getting some feedback.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry was not present. We decided to hold off further planning until we receive the results of the survey Kristin has prepared asking a series of questions about what social events people would feel comfortable attending. Consideration of smaller more focused events than the traditional potluck is one option being proposed. Bob will include a comment bar on the survey. Kristin agreed to have the final survey questions to Bob the next day.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that Kathy Litzinger has agreed to help with the butterfly survey sheets. Kevin has been working on the additional data analysis he had listed as future effort in their January program. The analysis on overwintering species is complete. The update of early and late dates and flight time analysis is almost done. The first butterfly of the year was found on February 21. Lastly, he agreed that he will man the butterfly table at GreenFest even if indoors. Mary Lou stated she would also staff the bird table. We will merge the displays if we only get authorized one table. Bob emphasized that the idea of having an unmanned table discussed at previous board meeting was not viable. Other volunteers to staff the table are welcome.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue was not present. Mary stated she had not heard the outcome of the meeting to discuss possibly doing a bird strike survey at the county courthouse.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): In a recent email Sue had reported that 25% of the county blocks are “complete” as they meet the specified criteria but will certainly continue but this does not mean no more effort will be expended in these blocks.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): No report.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Lewis, Tomlinson, etc.): There has been no meeting since our last board meeting. The next meeting is on Saturday, March 5.

### Old Business

Waterford Flats – Mary reported that the flats had been burned a couple of weeks ago. There was still some ice present and it prevented completely removing the vegetation leaving clumps of stubble. Following the burn, flooding the area has begun. Currently the shoreline is 4 to 5 feet from the desired shoreline. The sign-in wall desk is now unlocked. The pond stream inlet has been modified.

Grassland Habitat – John Harris attended to provide an update on his exploration of the possibility of the club undertaking a habitat restoration project focused on grassland species. He had been in touch with Bernard Lohr, an Associate Professor at UMBC who has conducted Grasshopper Sparrow research. He provided John with a paper that Doug Gill, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland, was the primary author on. It reports on an extensive study of managing grassland habitats. John found the academic paper to be very pertinent and provided a few of the key points he took from it. The study was conducted at Chino Farms on the Eastern Shore and it tracked 230 acres divided into 12 separate blocks planted and managed in a variety of ways. The process proved quite successful for grassland species. There was involvement from the US Department of Agriculture. The process required a significant amount of management. *Sec. Note: I've attached the abstract from this paper with a link to the full paper to these minutes.* John has a few questions and asked if the Board would approve him trying to contact Dr. Gill and ask him some of the issues we would face if we took on such a project. The board approved having John continue to pursue this idea. The board then did some brainstorming with the following items broached. We might well need someone to provide the expertise in this area that Wes Earp has provided for the Waterford Flats project. We would need numerous volunteers willing to work on such a project. Finding a supportive property owner would be mandatory. If the project was tried at West Friendship Park, we would need support of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club. One of the key management practices used at Chino Farms was burning but this is probably unviable here in Howard County. Jo remarked that we may have to consider funding this project elsewhere, i.e., outside Howard County. John was urged to contact Cheryl Farfaras about her experience with managing the warm season grass areas at MPEA.

Elections – The nominating committee has identified the following candidates: President – Kristin Trouton, Vice-President – Gregg Petersen, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Brian Moyer, State Directors – David Sandler, Sherry Tomlinson, and Donna Carollo (a new member), and Chapter Director – Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> year). They still need a candidate for Chapter Director (1<sup>st</sup> year). Chuck commented that he ran into Nancy McAllister, and she said her term on the County Sustainability Board was up and she was looking forward to getting active with the bird club again. Mary said she would approach Nancy. *Sec. Note – Nancy was added to slate as Chapter Director (1<sup>st</sup> year) before the announcement of the slate was sent out.*

GreenFest – See Treasurer and Butterfly reports.

Ponce Estate – Brian reported that there is still more than \$200,000 left to receive.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – Kurt proposed that the club sign on to a letter (attached) prepared by the Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County dealing with CB14-2022, which amends the county's *Forest conservation plan*. The letter proposes an additional amendment to the bill and supports its passage only if the proposed amendment is included. An email vote approved signing the letter and Mary asked that we be added to the letter on February 21.

### New Business

Use of Funds – Mary reminded us that as we receive the balance of the Ponce estate, we will have to decide how to use the money. The estate does not place any restrictions on how we use it, but we will want to formulate some guidance. Jo proposed we should form a committee to establish the guidelines. Since we have a significantly larger amount than ever before the committee should be encouraged to think outside the box. Mary proposed that we don't

need to rush this as funds will still be coming for some time. She proposed that the formation of a committee could wait for a while especially as we are now focused on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The board concurred with delaying.

Potential New Members – Jo reported she routinely reviews all eBird reports submitted in the county as part of her records compilation process. She has noted that many people list an address as a location for their feeder/yard watching. She has been assembling a list of names and addresses for people using eBird that are not current club members. She has identified nearly 40 people who are potential new members. She proposes we develop a flyer introducing the club and asking them to join that we can send via snail mail. It will announce a “special promotion” if you join now, you will receive membership for the rest of this year (~6 months) and all the next membership year for the price of one year’s membership. She asked for volunteers to help develop the flyer. Kristin volunteered to do the on-line research to see if the address and name can be confirmed as a home address, although if a few aren’t confirmed there is no real problem if someone else receives and discards the solicitation. Sharon also said she would do an on-line search for those non-members posting routinely at a location that is not an address by name alone to see if she can find a potential address. It was moved to approve up to \$40 for printing flyers and postage to give this innovative approach to finding new members a try.

PUMA MOU – Mary had forwarded a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding dealing with the Purple Martin House and Gourds that has been installed at Mt. Pleasant. The MOU was drafted by Mt. Pleasant staff. Russ Ruffing, who has been the lead on this project, sent a detailed mark-up of the MOU with his suggested changes (attached). It was agreed that the MOU should have been worked out before the box was installed but the goal was to have it up before the Purple Martin scouts start arriving this Spring. Mary took the action to work with Mt. Pleasant to finalize the MOU.

Volunteer to take notes for next MOS meeting – Mary asked Allen, the only State Director present, if he could take notes at the March 5 meeting. He said he was going to be out of town so someone else will have to take the notes.

#### Around the Room –

- Mary asked Allen if he will agree to continue handling publicity for our meetings after he is no longer a State Director. He agreed that he was sending the newspapers announcements when we had in-person meetings. He agreed he could continue to do that.
- Mary had received an email from Woody Merkle in which he proposed we need to refresh the wood chips at the SkyWatch at Mt. Pleasant. He is hoping to solicit a group of Boy Scouts or others with “strong backs” to load and push wheelbarrows of the chips from the parking lot to the SkyWatch. We will need to provide a few volunteers to spread the chips and supervise the process.

#### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Provide Mary with a hardcopy of the current passwords for on-line access to the financial accounts – Brian DONE
- Assist Sherry with transferring SkyWatch Dedication video – Kelsey
- Purchase a black board and accessories and install it at Waterford Flats – Mary Lou, David ORDERED
- Investigate investment options for Ponce bequest and provide a proposal – Brian
- Prepare Potluck survey questions – Kristin DONE
- Produce a MailChimp survey with questions Kristin provides – Bob
- Inform RNC that our plans for potluck are in flux – Mary DONE
- Register the club for two tables at GreenFest – Brian DONE
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair - Kurt

## New/Continuing Action Items

- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Assist Sherry with transferring SkyWatch Dedication video – Kelsey
- Install black board and accessories at Waterford Flats – Mary Lou, David
- Investigate investment options for Ponce bequest and provide a proposal – Brian
- Send Bob “potluck” survey questions – Kristin DONE
- Produce survey with questions Kristin provides – Bob DONE
- Inform the board outcome of registration for two tables at GreenFest – Brian
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair – Kurt
- Provide Bob with Election Slate by March 6 – Nominating Committee DONE
- Develop new member solicitation flyer, confirm name-address pair on-line, mail – Jo, Kristin
- Develop list of non-members who submit regularly with no implied address to Sharon – Jo
- Conduct on-line search for addresses for list of names provided by Jo – Sharon
- Work with Woody Merkle to schedule and solicit volunteers for SkyWatch chip refresh - Mary

## Board Meeting Schedule

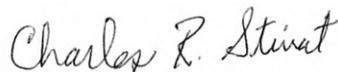
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PMW

September 23, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
October 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
November 18, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving,
December	- NO MEETING	in future will be on first Thursday of December)
January 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
February 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
March 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
April 28, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
June 2, 2022	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – February 24, 2022
- Treasurer’s Report – February 12, 2022
- Records Committee Report for February 24, 2022 Board Meeting (Jan. 26 – Feb. 21)
- Draft of HCC & HCBC MOU on Purple Martin House with Ruffing edits & comments
- SGAHC letter – CB14-2022
- Doug Gill paper on grassland management - Abstract and Link

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
February 24, 2022

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - February 24 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: Feb 24, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81569142723?pwd=dVpUSzBmd2EwSEhQbndiQ3psZWxyUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 6914 2723

Passcode: 617673

Review of Minutes

Treasurer's Report (attached)

President's Remarks

Vice President's Remarks

Chapter Committee Reports

- Field Trips
- Records (attached)
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Conservation
- Newsletter
- Webmaster
- Potluck
- Butterflies
- Safe Skies
- BBA3
- Programs

Chuck Stirrat

Brian Moyer

Mary Maxey

Kristin Trouton

Joe Hanfman/Mary Lou

Jo Solem

Jo Solem

Kurt Schwarz

Howard Patterson

Bob Solem

Sherry Tomlinson

Kevin Heffernan

Sue Muller

Sue Muller

Mary Lou Clark

Old Business

- Waterford Flats
- Grassland Habitat
- Elections
- Green Fest
- Ponce Estate

Shorebird Habitat Committee

John Harris

Election committee

Mary Lou

Brian Moyer

New Business

- Use of funds
- Potential new members
- PUMA MOU
- Volunteer to take notes for next MOS meeting

Mary Maxey

Jo Solem

Mary Maxey

Action Items

Chuck Stirrat

Around the room

# Howard County Bird Club

Treasurer Report

12 Feb 2022

Financial information for period 17 Jan to 12 Feb 2022

## Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment
T. Rowe Price	34,290.50	.29	Interest added
PNC Bank	24,765.11	558.53	See sheet below
PayPal Transfers	192.95	192.95	Included in bal
Commonwealth FN	36,131.50	N/A	
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,187.11</b>		<b>+ 36,131.50</b>

## Income Activity

Jan 17 to 12 Feb 2022

Description	Method	Purpose	Amount
MOS for Neri Membership	CK 1180	MOS memberships	\$20
Deposit	CK Bonfire	Anniversary Proceeds	425.90
Donation – [REDACTED]	PayPal	Donation Habitat	200.00- PP fee = 192.53
Deposit	Check	MOS Dec memberships	110.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>24,765.11</b>

Expense Activity

Jan 17 to 11 Feb 2022

Description	Method	Purpose	Amount
Auto payment	E-payment	Zoom Renewal	- 149.90
USPS	Check	Mailbox renewal	- 182.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ - 331.90</b>

Income over Expenses

\$24,433.21

Records Committee Report for February 24, 2022 Board Meeting (Jan. 26 – Feb. 21) - Joanne Solem

Waterfowl were the stars of the season. Although a Snow Goose was reported at Stone Lake, there were no supporting details to determine the stated species vs. a Ross's. It was removed from eBird. Three Cackling Geese at Springdale Quarry 2/5 were one of the few validated records this winter. Trumpeter Swans are now so consistent annually that any small group could be this species or Tundras. Hearing them or providing definitive photos/description is vital for an accurate ID. At least one group of five Tundras was both seen and heard over Woodbine 2/19 and a flock of 14 rested on Triadelphia Reservoir 2/21 so spring migration is underway. Triadelphia and Lake Elkhorn both hosted a few Trumpeters during this period.

For the second consecutive winter, WSSC allowed public access to both reservoirs. Birders appreciated the opportunity to track the waterfowl, as well as Bald Eagles and a wintering Peregrine Falcon. As usual, the mix of species changed frequently.

By mid-February, Race Road Wetlands was again ice-free. Almost immediately puddle ducks began to show up; Northern Shovelers and Wood Ducks were among the first. As ice disappeared from ponds, as well as Triadelphia and central lakes, a few of the early migrant special duck species appeared including Northern Pintail, Redhead, Greater Scaup, and Common Goldeneye.

February American Woodcock are a significant sign of spring. By the third week of the month, woodcock had been reported from Gateway Business Park, Hipsley Mill Road, and Jessup (private property).

Bald Eagles, Great Horned Owls, and Common Ravens are all at various stages of breeding with active nests for all three species. Although Red-shouldered Hawks are not usually among the earliest nesters, three pairs were observed nest-building.

Both Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers have been reported in mid-February so at least a few individuals have made it through the worst of the winter. Forty House Finches on 1/28 at Mt. Hebron was the largest flock in recent years. Boreal species were notable by their absence. Only a handful of Red-breasted Nuthatches were consistently reported. In late February, there was a report of one to 10 Pine Siskins for several days with no substantiating details; with House Finches also on the list, it is possible it is a valid sighting, but hard to say. Purple Finches were almost nonexistent.

An American Tree Sparrow at Hugg-Thomas WMA, along with the two at Mt. Pleasant, headed the sparrow list. Two male Baltimore Orioles (Mt. Hebron, Lake Elkhorn) were consistent through the winter. Rusty Blackbirds, as usual, were scarce. An uptick of migrants can be anticipated in the coming weeks.

A female Painted Bunting continued its sporadic appearance in the east-central part of the county. This marks the presumed third winter for this individual.

**Memorandum ~~Of~~ Understanding for the Purple Martin Tower at the Mount Pleasant Property of the Howard County Conservancy**

**Parties:** i) Howard County Bird Club (the Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.), henceforth 'HCBC' and 'MOS', respectively, and ii) Howard County Conservancy, henceforth 'HCC'.

This document is the Memorandum ~~Of~~ Understanding ('MOU') for the Mount Pleasant Purple Martin Tower (henceforth 'PMT').

**Purpose:**

The PMT ~~is the sole property of the HCBC and~~ is intended as a nesting site for Purple Martins at Mount Pleasant. ~~Purple Martins -which have been identified by members of HCBC-are routinely observed in the area during spring and summer-nearby the area of installation, and a former Purple Martin colony existed approximately ¼ mile to the west of the HCC up until recently a few years ago. It is HCBC's hope that a new colony or remnants of the previous colony will take up residence in the PMT within one or two breeding seasons. This-~~The PMT will offer educational and observational activities ~~by-to~~ both HCBC and HCC.

**SW Contacts:**

HCBC shall designate a member to be the principal contact for ~~scheduling its events~~ at the PMT and to liaise with HCC's contact. -The contact for HCC will be the **LAND MANAGER**.

**Commented [RR1]:** I volunteer

**Description and Responsibilities:**

The PMT is located on HCC's Mount Pleasant property at 10520 Old Frederick Rd, Woodstock, MD 21163, ~~in the southwest corner of the property uphill from the wetland mitigation site.~~ -The PMT ~~will be~~ is in an open area, well situated for Purple Martin activity. -The PMT is set in a twelve-foot metal post and includes a white three-tier martin house with four white gourd houses secured underneath the three-tier house. Any changes made to the PMT will be made **ONLY BY THE HCBC BUT WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE HCC LAND MANAGER**.

**Commented [RR2]:** by this do you mean our maintenance and monitoring efforts? If so, I would define it that way. Merely visiting the site should NOT be considered an "event." I would even remove monitoring efforts as an event...see comment below to that effect.

HCBC will pay for and ~~oversee-maintain~~ the upkeep of the PMT. -Such upkeep shall include cleaning out the PMT at the end of nesting season, ~~removing the nests of non-protected pest species such as House Sparrows and European Starlings,~~ cleaning and repainting the houses as needed, ensuring the hand crank mechanism is in good working order, maintaining the lock and chain, ~~providing HCC with the current key for the lock,~~ picking up and removing trash in the area, and the maintenance of ~~any access pathway~~ and the perimeter area around the PMT.

**Commented [RR3]:** We should reconsider this, since I don't believe HCC should have the ability to raise or lower the house for educational purposes (especially during nesting season). And since we are responsible for maintenance and monitoring, they really have NO reason to ever mess with it.

If any signage is desired by the HCBC, this will only be added with the **APPROVAL OF THE HCC LAND MANAGER**. -Such signage will comply with HCC's policy on signage. -The cost of installing and maintaining this signage shall be the responsibility of HCBC.

**Commented [RR4]:** I would strike this, because otherwise it requires us to mow the path, and we don't have the ability to do that. HCC should continue to mow the pathway that goes by that area.

Any enhancements or other changes to the PMT ~~after its installation~~ shall be subject to approval by HCC ~~but~~ **ONLY BE IMPLEMENTED BY HCBC.**

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**Usage:**

The PMT shall be accessible any time when Mount Pleasant is open. This will include accessibility to HCC’s school field trips when students may ~~use-observe~~ the PMT as a learning station. -Such field trips will be brief and designed so as not to negatively impact Purple Martin breeding or nesting activity associated with the PMT. AT NO TIME will any field trips be allowed to lower and/or examine the PMT for observance without the presence of an HCBC-designated representative. Such field trips must not preclude access to the PMT by ~~other- HCBC members for conducting nest monitoring or routine maintenance~~ individuals ~~but may result in temporary noise and distractions.~~

The HCBC contact will notify the HCC contact in advance of any HCBC events planned at the PMT. ~~The HCC contact will then promptly advise the HCBC contact of any conflicts with HCC events.~~ - If a conflict cannot be resolved, the HCC event will prevail.

Access to the PMT ~~by either party~~ for an event shall not preclude use of this site by any other individual or individuals for informal, unscheduled use as defined under Purpose above, provided that such informal use does not conflict with the event.

**Commented [RR5]:** again, I think this is too all-encompassing. I don't think we should have to notify them every time we want to monitor nests. Maybe just provide them with a rough schedule of our monitoring days?  
**Commented [RR6]:** I reiterate that "access", i.e. the ability to lower and raise the box, should not be given to HCC

**Liability:**

In matters of liability, use of the PMT for HCBC events will be covered by the insurance policy of the MOS.

**Records:**

HCBC will decide what records will be kept of observations made at, and use of, the PMT as well as how these records will be distributed and archived.

By January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, the HCBC contact will provide the HCC contact with a summary report of the observations made at, and use of, the PMT during the previous year.

**Revisions:**

This MOU can only be changed with the written agreement of the president of the HCBC and a designated member of the HCC.

**EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION:**

**THIS MOU IS EFFECTIVE XXXXXX 2022. EITHER PARTY MAY TERMINATE THIS MOU AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON OR NO REASON WITH 30 DAYS NOTICE.**

The signatures of the representatives of the parties below shall confirm their agreement to this MOU.

**HOWARD COUNTY CONSERVANCY**

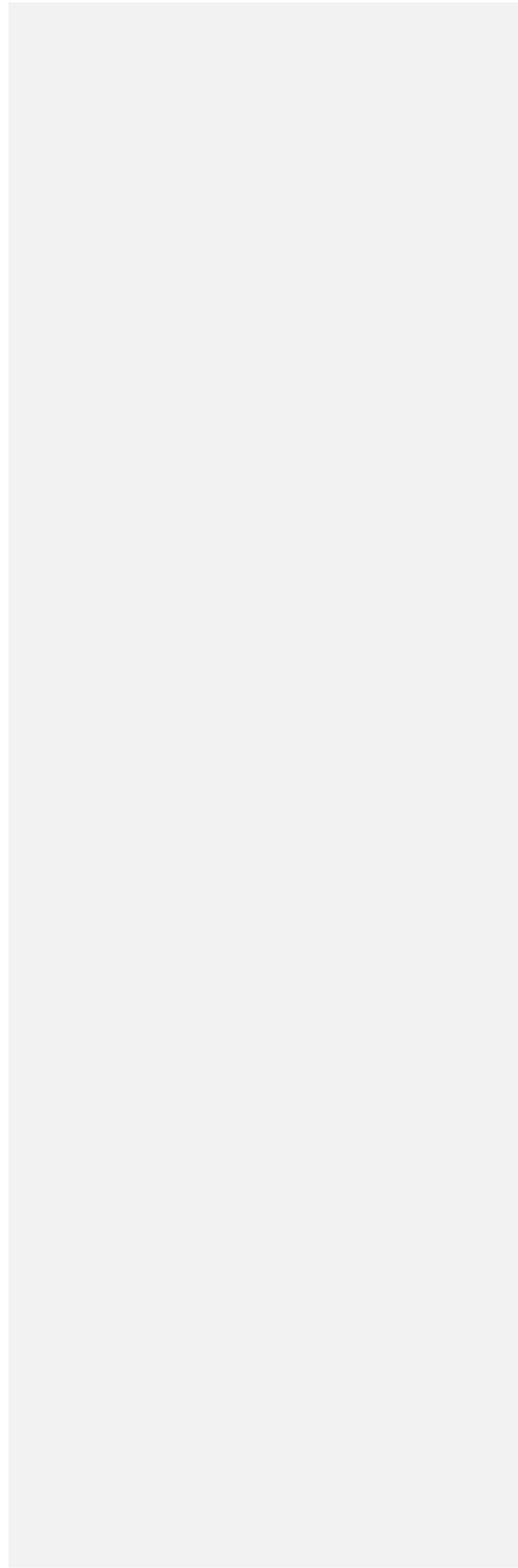
**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Meg Boyd

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Mary Maxey

Title: Executive Director  
Date:

Title: President  
Date:



# Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County

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The Honorable Howard County Council  
George Howard Building  
3430 Court House Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

## **RE: Support of CB14-2022 with Amendment**

February 16, 2022

Dear Howard County Council Members:

The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County (SGAHC) is an alliance of local and state organizations working together to foster healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities through smarter development and transportation decisions and improved protections for the county's natural, historic and cultural resources. The Alliance has long-standing interests in forest conservation, and as such, we support CB14 *only with the proposed amendment below*. Without that amendment, we cannot support the legislation.

The benefits of forests to the health and wellbeing of Howard County are vast and varied. SGAHC has been proud to work over the last few years to ensure that Howard County does all it can to protect its forests as development continues throughout the county. CB14 comes as a response to the County Executive's veto of previous legislation (CB78-2021), which sought to protect more trees from development by decreasing the tree diameter to be retained on-site, from 30 to 24 inches. Current law has the minimum diameter as 30 inches to be retained on site.

This bill would amend the *Forest conservation plan* section of the Forest Conservation Subtitle (Subtitle 12 - Sec. 16.1204) and places the onus on the applicant to locate and list trees of a specific width, with the inferred understanding that those are trees that should be protected. While this change is good, we believe that the legislation is only step one in the process to conserve those trees. CB14 will not achieve the supposed goal because it only requires the applicant to identify and list the trees with no real protections for those trees. It does not clearly indicate that 24-30" trees being identified, would protect them if they are more than 75% width of a champion tree of their species; however, even that would save very few trees, versus reducing the minimum to 24".

*Audubon MD-DC ● Audubon Society of Central Maryland ● Bicycling Advocates of Howard County  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation ● Clean Water Action ● Coalition for Smarter Growth ● Community Ecology  
Institute  
Earth Forum of Howard County ● HARP ● Howard County Citizens Association  
Howard County Conservancy ● Howard County Sierra Club ● Maryland Conservation Council  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters ● Maryland Ornithological Society ● Patapsco Heritage  
Greenway ● Safe Skies Maryland ● Savage Community Association ● Smart Growth Maryland ● The  
People's Voice ● Transition Howard County*

Fortunately, a minor amendment could correct that. We suggest that an amendment be made to the *Forest retention priorities* subtitle of the County code (Subtitle 12 – Sec. 16.1205) to decrease the minimum diameter to 24 inches from 30 inches, thereby requiring such trees to be retained on-site and not just identified in section 1204.

We understand the impetus to require the applicant and not the County to create and submit the forest conservation plan, including the new list that would be required by CB14. However, it is worth noting that there is no penalty for applicants who submit inaccurate or incomplete plans. While we appreciate that this creates less work for DPZ, there must be penalties in place for any inaccurate or incomplete submissions, and it is unfortunate that CB14 does not address this.

In summation, we are supportive of the proposed goal of CB14, the conservation of more trees, and request an amendment be made to ensure that the goal is achieved. Without the attached amendment, we do not believe that this legislation will have any measurable effect on forest conservation in Howard County.

Please make this amendment so that the promise of the goal of saving the 24” and larger trees is reached. The Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County stands ready to help in anyway possible to achieve that goal. Thank you.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Calvin Ball, County Executive

Amendment to CB14

Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County

Code is amended as follows:

By amending:

Title 16. Planning, Zoning, and Subdivisions and Land Development Regulations.

Subtitle 12. Forest Conservation.

Section 16.1204. Forest conservation plan.

**SECTION 16.1205. FOREST RETENTION PRIORITIES.**

**SEC.16.1205. FOREST RETENTION PRIORITIES**

(a)*On-Site Forest Retention Required.* Subdivision, site development, and grading shall leave the following vegetation and specific areas in an undisturbed condition.

3) State champion trees, trees 75 percent of the diameter of state champion trees, and trees ~~30~~**24** inches in diameter or larger.

## Plants and Breeding Bird Response on a Managed Conservation Reserve Program Grassland in Maryland

DOUGLAS E. GILL,<sup>1</sup> Department of Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA

PETER BLANK, Marine and Estuarine Environmental Studies Graduate Program, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA

JARED PARKS, Chestertown, MD 21620, USA JASON B. GUERARD, New Jersey Audubon Society, Cape May Bird Observatory, Northwood Center, Cape May Point, NJ 08212-0003, USA

BERNARD LOHR, Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA

EDWARD SCHWARTZMAN, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Brevard, NC 28712, USA

JAMES G. GRUBER, Chestertown, MD 21620, USA

GARY DODGE, Department of Biology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA

CHARLES A. REWA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Inventory and Assessment Division, Beltsville, MD 20705, USA

HENRY F. SEARS, Chestertown, MD 21620, USA

### Abstract

Currently over 14.6 million ha of land at an annual cost of US\$1.76 billion are enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The habitat benefits of CRP frequently are lauded, but documentation that wildlife is responding as hoped is urgently needed. We evaluated plant and breeding bird responses to 92.4 ha of CRP grasslands at Chino Farms in northeastern Maryland, USA. In 1999 we seeded 12 contiguous CRP fields with 5 mixtures of warm-season grasses representing various growth-form heights in a replicated experimental design, and used mowing and topical herbicide applications to control noxious weeds and facilitate stand establishment. In 6 years cumulative plant species richness increased to 261, 105 of which were species exotic to the region. During the third growing season, we initiated a schedule of prescribed burning on a 3-year rotation to remove accumulated litter and to retard woody succession, and in 2003 we added additional management to control aggressive plant species. Several at-risk bird species colonized the restored grasslands in the first year and established sustainable breeding populations. We implemented a comprehensive observation and banding program, which included mapping male territories for selected bird species and recording nest locations. We marked 1,985 grasshopper sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*; GRSPs) in 7 years. Breeding GRSP populations ranged annually from 70 to 90 socially monogamous pairs with an additional 40 non-territorial males. Annual return rates in the last 5 years were 57% for adult males, 41% for adult females, and 12% for hatch-year individuals. Adults and young birds exhibited high site fidelity, but overgrown fields left unburned for 2-3 years were unpopulated by GRSPs but attracted several shrub-land bird species. Habitat preference for territories was influenced more by vegetation structure than by plant species composition. We recommend the management of grasslands restored for birds include spatial and temporal rotation of prescribed fire and herbicide applications to sustain vegetation physical structure rather than species composition.

URL for Full article:

[https://www.washcoll.edu/learn-by-doing/ces/ces\\_documents/fbbo\\_documents/peerreviewed\\_publications\\_fbbo/gill\\_etal\\_fbbo.pdf](https://www.washcoll.edu/learn-by-doing/ces/ces_documents/fbbo_documents/peerreviewed_publications_fbbo/gill_etal_fbbo.pdf)



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, March 24, 2022

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristin Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Sharon Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was thirteen. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 10, 2022 was 43 people. Gail Mackiernan gave a program entitled “Birding in Panama.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck reported that he had misspelled the names of the potential editor for the Goldfinch, Megan Bolcar, and the new State Director candidate, Donna Carollo. Thanks to a tip from Jo, he corrected his use of “setup” to “set up” in a couple of places. He also clarified a sentence describing the grassland study that John Harris had referenced. Lastly, he removed the clause “See Treasurer Report” in the paragraph on Ponce Estate. The minutes were approved with these corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had submitted a spreadsheet with the current history of all the club’s “virtual” accounts history and current balances. It was distributed with the agenda in advance of the meeting. He summarized the month’s activity briefly. A second distribution from the Ponce estate of \$40,000 was deposited in the account at Commonwealth FN and it currently has a balance of \$76,131.50. He paid for printing services for the butterfly handouts and newsletter printing (\$479). He also reimbursed Mary Lou for the purchase of a blackboard for Waterford Flats (\$23.13). He had received confirmation that we have two tables for GreenFest. He also received notice of and funds for one new membership. Lastly, he reported on his exploration of potential investment options with T Rowe Price. He concluded that if we could not find a fund or investment that was “directly” related to our purpose we would need to pay taxes on it, and that we would be limited to funds and accounts comparable to money market funds or bank accounts. Several members questioned this interpretation of what we could invest in as MOS invests in a variety of Vanguard mutual funds. Bob asked if Brian had spoken to the MOS treasurer, Carol Daugherty, to discuss and find out what the limits/restrictions are regarding filing and/or paying income tax for a non-profit organization. He had not done so but took an action to do so and report what he learns.

**President’s Remarks** (Maxey): Mary expressed her excitement as the birding season moves into spring migration. She had requested we consider changing the date of the May Board meeting at our last meeting, but the reason for her request has disappeared. Hence the meeting will be on it’s regular date May 26. She suggested we might want to hold the May meeting in an outdoor setting so that it can be in person so the new officers who will attend get to meet others in person. We agreed to discuss this further at the next board meeting.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Trouton): Nothing to report.

## **Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Mary Lou reported that the Woodcock field trip was a great success. There were several new people who had never seen a Woodcock or their display flights. She expressed that it was a very enjoyable evening. Mary reported that MOS is seeking field trip leaders for field trips at the convention. They need leaders for Friday afternoon and Sunday morning. Mary proposed sending the request to the Lister's Group.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo provided the attached report prior to the meeting.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): The committee continues its work. The next sale of T-shirts will open on April 1. The committee is using the Potluck Survey results as guidance in planning activities. (See Potluck below for survey results.). They are working on plans for the October 30 celebration (it may include the whole weekend). They are looking for someone to serve as the official photographer for the 30<sup>th</sup> activities and are asking for people to propose potential people to approach.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt has a conflict but sent an email with the following report. "The Sustainable Buildings Act (bird safe) appears to be on its way to passage. But don't count your chickens before they've hatched. Two bills that MOS backed, one banning Per and Poly Fluorinated Substances (PFAS) in mosquito sprays, and another moving pesticide enforcement from MD Dept of Agriculture to the Dept of Environment, both failed. Another bill MOS backed with testimony, the Environmental Rights Amendment, did not advance into the House."

**Newsletter** (Patterson): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): The new club directory was attached to the agenda email and should be downloaded. It is provided for Board member use but should not be distributed further. Bob also provided a chart (attached) showing a historical view of how our membership has fluctuated since the club was formed.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Kristin reported on the results of the survey attempting to determine interest in potluck and other in-person events. She reported that 48 people responded with 65% indicating they would likely attend an outside venue but only 36% if it were indoors. The idea of smaller focused gatherings rated even higher at 83%. She related some of the comments: response dependent on vaccination, I prefer to bring my own food or pay for box lunch, use pre-wrapped food, I'm a new member and desire to meet others in person. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee asked Sherry to decide on a way ahead based on the responses. She proposed we try one or two smaller outdoor activities. Several ideas were shared, and we settled on a small gathering for lunch at the Mt. Pleasant SkyWatch advertised as a meet and greet especially for new members. It would require sign up with about 12 attendees to bring own lunch. We need to be sure there is no conflict with Mt. Pleasant activities. Lastly Sherry commented that she will miss the May 26 Board meeting.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin was not present. Jo commented how busy Kevin had been producing results using the cumulative survey data. He is to be commended for the excellent graphs and charts being developed for sharing on the club website.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that the monitoring of the new County Courthouse building for bird strikes has begun. No fatal strikes have occurred in the first three weeks of monitoring. She suspects there will be few strikes for some time until the trees around the building grow up.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Breeding activity is picking up. The county coordinators have a meeting in the next week with the State Coordinator, Gabe. The meeting is to deal with data filtering. Supposedly the first round of filtering has been completed. Sue reported one attendee at the Woodcock walk reported he had a property where he had seen Woodcocks but not their display flights. He invited Sue to visit his property for atlas purposes and she found a Great Horned Owl nest on his property. Sue asked if we would approve re-printing the cards describing the Breeding Bird Atlas that Sarah Romero originally developed. Sue is running out of them. These can

be used to help promote the atlas. Jo moved, it was seconded, and approved that we authorize reprinting the cards. Mary Lou had the template file (there are 4 cards per sheet). We decided to order 500 cards (125 sheets). The file was sent to Brian who agreed to take them to Staples and get them printed on card stock. Operating funds should be used, but we will need to up the future operating budget printing item to reflect our increasing use in addition to printing newsletters.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou is conflicted about how to proceed with this Fall's programs, namely should the meetings and programs be in person or virtual. Someone suggested we might want to try and have a hybrid approach with both in-person and virtual available. Sherry commented that when the MOS Board tried to use a hybrid approach the audio was a problem. It was agreed that if we tried this it would be best only used for the speaker's program and not the period in advance of speaker where not all speakers are directly using the microphone. When asked if RNC was ready to allow in-person meetings, we agreed this was the first question to be answered. Mary took an action to speak to Robinson staff about this. She also plans to address renewing the MOU and introducing them to Kristin as our next President.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Lewis, Tomlinson, etc.): Sherry provided the attached notes on the March 5 MOS Board meeting.

## Old Business

Waterford Flats – Mary reported that the Waterford Flats committee is scheduled to meet the following weekend. Mary reported that the blackboard had been received but has not been installed. When she got around to opening the package, she found the blackboard was broken. We will need to rely on the old "white board" when the season opens on April 1.

Grassland Habitat – Mary reported John Harris has continued to pursue this topic. He met with Cheryl Farfaras of MPEA on March 8 (see attached email with John's report of this meeting.) John also had a brief meeting with Eric Walker the newest employee at MPEA, who expressed interest in this initiative. Eric sent John an email with two applicable references (see attached email). John has been in contact with Dr. Doug Gill who was very enthusiastic about our interest in such a project. Dr. Gill and John are to meet as soon as Dr. Gill returns. Cheryl had suggested John talk to Sue Mueller about the lessons learned with Recreation and Parks management of pollinator plots. Cheryl was focused on the use of volunteer groups for invasive species management. Sue weighed in to stress that it took a lot of effort to find and manage volunteers for this purpose at Emy's Meadow and Daisy Meadow. She was not sure that this effort will continue since her retirement as her position was filled with a Trail Management Manager position. Jo weighed in with her opinion that we should be very careful and avoid dependence on volunteers for such a program. She mentioned we will need to grapple with what we are willing to pay for in the short term and going forward for the long term. She urged we carefully decide what we want to come from such an initiative. She quoted Wes in this regard "Money Talks!" We might want to explore working with farmers and available government programs such as the EQIP program that helped with Waterford Flats.

Potential New Members – Jo reported on the attempt to invite eBird users posting in Howard County that could be identified as non-members to join the club. The flyer was prepared, and the letters were mailed out. Surprisingly, it produced no responses. Although there were 3-4 new memberships received from MOS in this period but none of them were on the mailing list for this initiative. Unfortunately, the MOS membership report doesn't provide us any feedback on what motivated a membership.

GreenFest – As mentioned we have two tables, one for birds and one for pollinators. Sherry has agreed to set up the birding display. Mary Lou will staff the display and said she could take it down. Kevin will handle the butterfly display. Sue is going to hold an outdoor class for beginners on the BBA3 from 2 – 3 pm.

Ponce Estate – Total received so far is \$96,131.50.

PUMA MOU – The MOU with the Howard County Conservancy dealing with the Purple Martin house and gourds put up on Mt. Pleasant property has been signed. Kristin reported that they had opened the box for an initial

inspection early in the week. They found an infestation of wasps in the box even though the holes had been closed. Jo asked what the plans were for a dedication and potential signage about Purple Martins and their use of such boxes. No one knew the status of the initial inquiry by Bonnie Ott regarding a possible involvement by HCC Master Naturalists including a proposed information booklet.

SkyWatch Workday – Woody Merkle has arranged with a local Boy Scout troop to provide help with the task of refreshing the wood chips at the SkyWatch site. They will do the hard labor of loading and pushing the wheelbarrows of chips from where it will be dumped in the parking lot to the site. We need to provide 4 or more volunteers to spread the chips around at the site. The workday is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 2, from 9 – 11 am. A call for volunteers will be included in a NewsGram to go out this coming Monday.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – NONE

### **New Business**

May Count Tally Rally – Gregg Petersen had asked the board to provide guidance on whether this year's tally rally could be in-person or should it be virtual as had been done for recent counts. Gregg and his wife Shirley were willing to host the tally if we did support an in-person tally. We discussed briefly but agreed we would support it being in person. We did feel he should conduct a survey via the Area Coordinators to see if there would be a reasonable number in attendance to make it worthwhile to hold it in person. Mary agreed to inform Gregg of our decision.

Earth Day at Clarksville Commons – Mary announced that we have been asked to have a Bird Club display table at this Earth Day event. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 1- 4 pm. A call for volunteers to staff the booth will go out in the upcoming NewsGram.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Identify and contact Grasshopper Sparrow expert about aiding us in evaluating habitat development concepts – John Harris IN PROGRESS
- Assist Sherry with transferring SkyWatch Dedication video – Kelsey
- Install black board and accessories at Waterford Flats – Mary Lou, David
- Investigate investment options for Ponce bequest and provide a proposal – Brian SEE NEW ACTION
- Send Bob “potluck” survey questions – Kristin DONE
- Produce survey with questions Kristin provides – Bob DONE
- Inform the board outcome of registration for two tables at GreenFest – Brian DONE
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair – Kurt
- Provide Bob with Election Slate by March 6 – Nominating Committee DONE
- Develop new member solicitation flyer, confirm name-address pair on-line, mail – Jo, Kristin DONE
- Develop list of non-members who submit regularly with no implied address to Sharon – Jo OBE
- Conduct on-line search for addresses for list of names provided by Jo – Sharon OBE
- Work with Woody Merkle to schedule and solicit volunteers for SkyWatch chip refresh – Mary DONE

### **New/Continuing Action Items**

- Identify and contact experts about aiding us with grassland habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Assist Sherry with transferring SkyWatch Dedication video – Kelsey
- Install black board and accessories at Waterford Flats – Mary Lou, David
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair – Kurt
- Contact Carol Daugherty to discuss tax and investment rules for non-profits - Brian
- Get the BBA3 information cards reprinted – Brian
- Provide Chuck with a copy of the final signed PUMA MOU – Mary
- Provide inputs calling for volunteers to Bob for the NewsGram – Mary DONE
- Send Gregg a response on board position on in-person tally rally – Mary DONE

## Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 23, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
October 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
November 18, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving,
December	- NO MEETING	in future will be on first Thursday of December)
January 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
February 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
March 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
April 28, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
May 26, 2022	- VIRTUAL ??	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – March 24, 2022
- Treasurer’s Report – multi-sheet spreadsheet sent to board but it is not attached
- March 24, 2022 Board Meeting - Records Committee Report
- Changes in club membership through the years
- MOS Board Meeting – March 5, 2022
- Gmail - Meeting notes from 3\_8\_2022 with Cheryl Farfaras at MPEA - grassland bird species habitat
- Gmail - Meadow restoration resources

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
March 24, 2022

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - March 24 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: Mar 24, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87914967030?pwd=NTNrNm5RZG53cW5ZMGNFQnNgeFIGUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 1496 7030

Passcode: 445226

Review of Minutes

Treasurer's Report (attached)

President's Remarks

Vice President's Remarks

Chapter Committee Reports

- Field Trips
- Records (attached)
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Conservation
- Newsletter
- Webmaster
- Potluck
- Butterflies
- Safe Skies
- BBA3
- Programs

Chuck Stirrat

Brian Moyer

Mary Maxey

Kristin Trouton

Joe Hanfman/Mary Lou

Jo Solem

Jo Solem

Kurt Schwarz

Howard Patterson

Bob Solem

Sherry Tomlinson

Kevin Heffernan

Sue Muller

Sue Muller

Mary Lou Clark

Old Business

- Waterford Flats
- Grassland Habitat
- Potential new members
- Green Fest
- Ponce Estate
- PUMA MOU
- Skywatch work day
- GreenFest

Shorebird Habitat Committee

Mary Maxey/Jo Solem

Jo, Kristin, Sharon

Mary Lou

Brian Moyer

Mary Maxey

Mary Maxey

Mary Lou, Sherry, David

New Business

- May count tally rally

Mary Maxey

Action Items

Chuck Stirrat

Around the room

**Records Committee Report for March 24, 2022 Board Meeting (February 22 – March 21, 2022) –  
Joanne Solem**

As usual, Canada Geese and Tundra Swans began their northward push in late February reaching a peak the first few weeks of March. This movement coincided with movement of other waterfowl including Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Goldeneye. As expected, Triadelphia Reservoir attracted the greatest diversity and highest numbers.

Bad weather during migration always raises the anticipation of a fallout. March 12 began with rain, but as a front moved through accompanied with strong winds, dropping temperatures, and snow, birders checked lakes and reservoirs. Horned Grebes were particularly affected by the adverse conditions and dropped onto all the Columbia lakes, with a high of 32 on Triadelphia Reservoir.

Some American Woodcock continued to display. Race Road Wetlands was unproductive and Gateway Business Park's birds were erratic or no-shows. Although the species was reported from a few other locations, Hipsley Mill Rd was the most consistent site with up to six birds.

An Osprey at Wilde Lake 3/11 was a certain sign of spring.

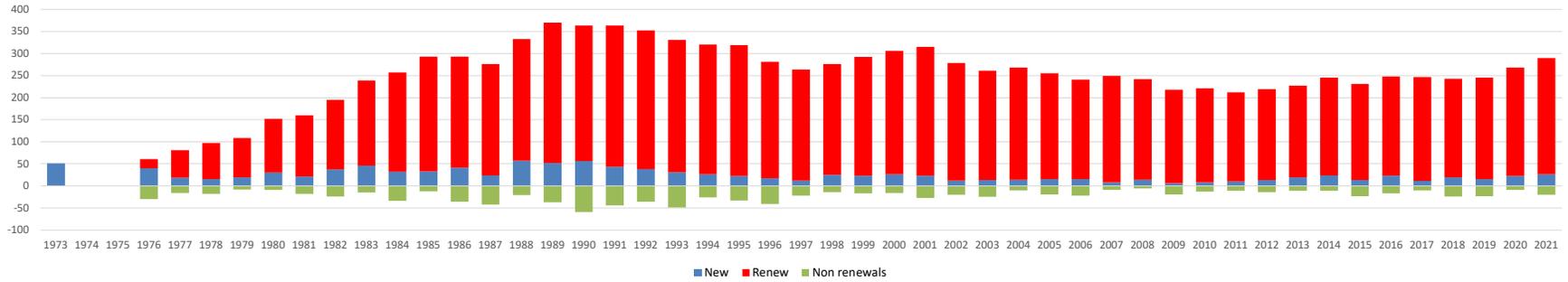
The male Baltimore Oriole at Mt. Hebron continued into March. A male's brief visit to a Burleigh Manor feeder 3/14 was, undoubtedly, a wandering wintering bird and not an early migrant.

Most Rusty Blackbird sightings numbered in the low single digits. They appeared at half a dozen sites during the first half of March.

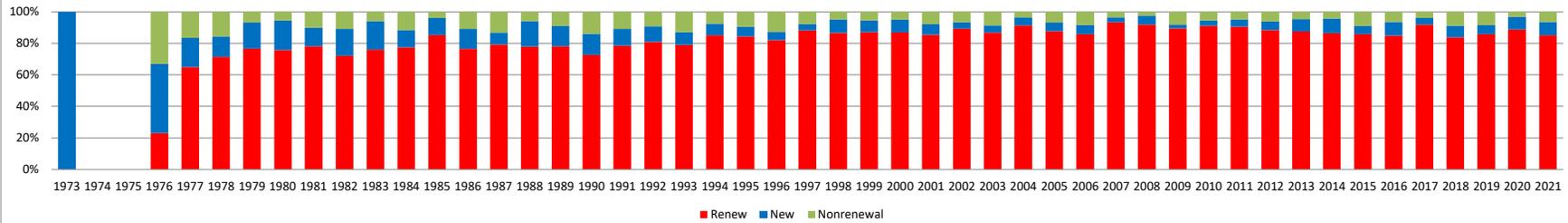
The female Painted Bunting that had spent a third winter in east-central Howard County met an untimely death 2/26 at Stone Hill Drive. The bird had been harassed by an American Robin, a Northern Mockingbird, and a flock of House Sparrows from a neighbor's yard. The bunting was found dead outside the back door so may have flown into the door when attempting to evade attackers. Dave Ziolkowski will examine it in order to determine whether it is from the southeastern or the southwestern population. Eventually, he will pass the specimen along to a friend in charge of the bird collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

Note: The questionable Pine Siskin report mentioned in the February 2022 committee report was removed by eBird reviewers.

**Changes in Number of Adult Members in HCBC:  
number of renewing, new, and non-renewing**



**Renewals, New Members, and Non-renewals as percentage of total**



# MOS Board Meeting 3/5/2022 10am-12pm

MOS March 5<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting was held virtually. MOS Treasury Report shows the MOS finances and Investments are in good shape with Net Assets of \$3,797,683.99. Vanguard investments were up as of January 31, 2022.

Long time MOS member Bob Ringer passed away and the MOS is looking for suggestions to honor Mr. Ringler. The following suggestions were made: name a trail after him at one of the sanctuaries, dedicate a bench, establish a Bob Ringler Award, or a Bob Ringler Scholarship to attend the MOS Annual Convention.

Starting September 1, 2022 Robin Todd is taken over as Conservation Chair. Until then Robin and Kurt will work together.

Meg Harris gave an update on the MOS Convention. We are back to an in-person convention this year. As of this meeting 41 people have registered. MOS is teaming up with Southern Maryland Audubon for some of the field trips. There will be a silent auction open to all, and the highest bidder wins. Zeiss Binoculars will be one of the signature items up for auction. Meg encourages us all to encourage other members to attend this year's convention.

Irish Grove's spring-cleaning weekend will be held April 1-3, 2022. Andy Brown will be doing a Barn Owl Research project at Irish Grove. There are 4 new Barn Owl nest boxes at the sanctuary.

Carey Run Sanctuary has an infestation going on with the Hemlock Forest which is not good for the trees.

A binocular program was discussed for each chapter where each chapter will have a couple of extra binoculars to have on field trips and walks for people to borrow.

YMOS has 22 members going to the World Series of Birding Annual Birdathon 2022. They have \$3,000.00 in pledges so far.

This year MOS has awarded 8 scholarships to Hog Island. Hog Island prices have increased. MOS is increasing the Hog Island budget for 2023.

New business. The new MOS president will be Bonnie Borsa, Vice President is position is vacant. Treasurer is Carol Daugherty and Secretary is Maryanne Dolan.

The Maryland Yellowthroat – David Wood is looking for a back-up editor or editor assistance. This person must be a detailed person and committed to the publications.

MD Birdlife spring issue is on track.

The Maryland Bird Atlas is moving along fine. 98% of blocks have data and 30 blocks are completed.

Tom Strikwerda needs a backup person to assist with the MOS website.

Joy Aso will work on awards to be handed out at this year's MOS Convention.

The next MOS Meeting is June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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**Fwd: Meeting notes from 3/8/2022 with Cheryl Farfaras at MPEA - grassland bird species habitat**

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Mary Maxey <maximom11998@gmail.com>  
To: "Stirrat, Charles" <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 24, 2022 at 8:57 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Harris** <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 9, 2022 at 9:11 AM

Subject: Meeting notes from 3/8/2022 with Cheryl Farfaras at MPEA - grassland bird species habitat

To: Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, Mary Maxey <maximom11998@gmail.com>, Kristin Trouton <kristing4420@gmail.com>

Date: March 8, 2022 9:00-10:00 AM

Where: Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA), Trotter

Who:

John Harris

Cheryl Farfaras, Natural Resources Program Manager

Topic: managing habitat for wildlife

- Cheryl and I discussed the efforts to develop and maintain early-successional habitat in various areas in the MPEA.
  - The area that was developed consisted of what was once farm fields, but it was left unattended for years and invasives took over, including small to bigger trees
  - Heavy equipment was used
    - A machine like a “MeriCrusher” - to clear undergrowth and woody growth
    - A big “seed drill” - I don’t have specifics but I believe it’s a piece of heavy farm equipment
  - The herbicide Roundup was used during the initial development - after using heavy machinery to clear unwanted invasive growth.
    - The chemical in Roundup is no longer available
  - Getting this property to the early-successional stage was expensive and required several years
  - **Conclusion - recommend avoiding properties that have similar levels of degradation by invasives. Prefer starting with farm/corn fields.**
  - Seed mixes came from Ernst Seeds (<https://www.ernstseed.com>)
  - Current management includes:
    - Spot spaying of targeted herbicides (MPEA staff) and larger applications of herbicide in the bigger areas (contractor)

- This effort requires specific knowledge about target plant species and appropriate herbicide
    - Broadleaf vs. grass
  - Regular (once or twice a year) mowing - staggered to avoid mowing all of the habitat at once.
    - Expertise required to plan the mowing - adjust mowing height to achieve goals
- Cheryl pointed out that Emy's Meadow (Centennial) could be used to draw lessons from:
  - Noted the use of volunteer groups to help manage invasive species
  - Sue Muller may have valuable insights into the development and care of Emy's Meadow
  - Current Rec and Parks person responsible for Emy's Meadow is Brenda Belinsky
  - Cheryl made an interesting point about Emy's Meadow - I'll try to capture the thought here. There may be concern from the public about removing trees, even if they are invasive. However, the habitat that benefits grassland birds - many of which the general public may not even be aware are present in our area - also benefits pollinator species. So, depending on the property and what condition it is in at the start, it may be wise to include mention of highly recognizable species, like the Monarch Butterfly, to help ease the way to acceptance.
- Other than the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Cheryl was not aware of programs at the Federal, State, or county level that may be able to assist with funds or expertise.
- Cheryl has, and I think continues, to work with the Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary, Mt Airy. This is a property that has been actively managed to maintain early-successional habitat. We may want to visit it to see what they have done.
- Cheryl made the point that we should consider not just the property to be actively managed, but also the areas that surround it. I don't have all of the examples, but suffice to say that particular species may have needs that include access to things like water, edges, forest, singing perches, etc.
  - Also consider how well-controlled deer are in the surrounding area. Cheryl noted, and I did not know this, that our White-tailed Deer usually are not interested in grasses, they prefer to browse on other plants.
- During development, if the property is visible and accessible by the general public, consider using "Pardon Our Mess" signs which explain the effort (or provide a link) to help avoid complaints.
- Cheryl suggested that the game-bird hunting organization, Pheasants Forever (\*) may have useful resources. I know - "shooting some birds to save other birds" is a tough choice, but many WMAs are amazing birding venues.

(\*)<https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/Why-Habitat.aspx>

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John Harris

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Mary Maxey  
President , Howard County Bird Club

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**Fwd: Meadow restoration resources**

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**Mary Maxey** <maximom11998@gmail.com>  
To: "Stirrat, Charles" <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 24, 2022 at 8:57 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Harris** <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>  
Date: Fri, Mar 11, 2022 at 12:59 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Meadow restoration resources  
To: Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, Kristin Trouton <kristing4420@gmail.com>, Mary Maxey <maximom11998@gmail.com>

Hello all - I bumped into Eric Walker, the newest employee at MPEA this morning. We had an interesting conversation about habitat management and Eric followed up with two articles of interest. See links below. John

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Walker, Eric** <ewalker@howardcountymd.gov>  
Date: Fri, Mar 11, 2022 at 12:28 PM  
Subject: Meadow restoration resources  
To: jaybee.harris@gmail.com <jaybee.harris@gmail.com>

John,

Nice talking with you today- here are two links providing great insight on meadow restoration. Matthew Sarver's paper is focused on bees, but same concepts apply to birds. Let me know how I can help with the bird club's efforts on this front. Reach out or stop by the office anytime!

[Meadows\\_and\\_Buffers\\_for\\_Bees.pdf \(matthewsarver.com\)](#)

[Mid-Atlantic Native Meadows: Guidelines for Planning, Preparation, Design, Installation, and Maintenance \(xerces.org\)](#)

**Eric Walker**

Invasive Species Management Project Coordinator

Middle Patuxent Environmental Area

Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks

[5795 Trotter Rd](#)

[Clarksville, MD 21029](#)

[ewalker@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ewalker@howardcountymd.gov)

410.313.4036

410.313.0409 (fax)

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

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Mary Maxey  
President , Howard County Bird Club



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, April 28, 2022

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey √  
Vice-president: Kristin Trouton √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Sharon Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: David Sandler √  
Allen Lewis  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was eleven. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 14 was 25 people. Former State Senator Gerald Winegrad gave a program entitled “Expedition to the Kingdom of the Ice Bear.”

The annual election of officers was conducted by a show of hands during the Zoom meeting of the club held April 14. The following slate of officers was elected unanimously. **President:** Kristin Trouton, **Vice President:** Gregg Petersen, **Secretary:** Chuck Stirrat, **Treasurer:** Brian Moyer, **State Directors:** David Sandler, Sherry Tomlinson, Donna Carollo; **Chapter Director:** Nancy McAllister (Kelsey Wellons will be serving her second year as Chapter Director). The Secretary will provide the MOS Secretary with the results of the election.

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):** There were a few minor corrections to the draft of minutes. The Potluck Survey had a few respondents indicate their response was dependent on “vaccination” not “vacation.” Corrected “into” to “in to” in Grassland paragraph and “QUIP” to “EQIP” in the same paragraph. The minutes were approved with these corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer):** Brian had sent the attached Treasurer Report (effective as of 3/31/22). The format is a changed one that he had worked on with Chuck. It provides the balance of each of the three financial accounts, with the total assets of the club. It also provides the balances of seven virtual funds that will be tracked. These include three gift funds from bequests (Mountjoy, Chestem, & Ponce) and four operating funds (Habitat, Butterfly, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and Operations). The first three are funded by donations which specified the purpose for which it would be used. The Operations fund is the difference between club total assets and the sum of the other six virtual funds. It is funded by member dues and donations which are unspecified. The report also provides income and expenses for the operating funds for the period covered by the report (which will typically be effective at the end of the month preceding the board meeting). Transactions for the three gift funds will be reported separately as these are not included in the club’s proposed annual budget. Bob asked Brian if he was using QuickBooks and if not, why had Brian renewed the subscription. Brian stated that although he is not using it, there are prior transactions documented in the QuickBooks database and he wanted to maintain the option for the new Treasure (expected to take office in club year 23-24) to use it if they are proficient in its use.

Brian also provided the attached budget proposal for the 22-23 club year. It addresses income and expenditures expected for the operating funds but does not include the gift funds. Board members should review this proposal and be prepared to modify or approve it at the May Board meeting.

Lastly Brian had sent an Investment Proposal based on the proposal he had received from Widman Financial Services for investing the Ponce estate funds. Brian stated the proposal was designed to provide the club with a continuing source of income at moderate risk. Bob stated that he had some alternative ideas for investing the funds and asked to postpone the discussion of this topic until he could discuss them with Brian. The topic was tabled.

*Sec. Note: With Mary's approval Bob, Brian, and Chuck are meeting to arrive at a proposal for the Board to consider.*

**President's Remarks** (Maxey): Mary expressed her appreciation for the cooperation, help, and kindness she has received from the Board. She singled out the guidance Mary Lou had offered her in the role of President. She thanked all those who step up and volunteer to support the club activities. She mentioned several events: Mulching at the Robinson SkyWatch (6 club members and Cub Scouts and their parents), staffing the table at GreenFest (Mary Lou, Meg, and Sherry for birds, as well as Kevin and Bob handling the butterflies), and staffing the table at the Earth Day celebration at the Clarksville Commons (Kristin, Mary, and Mary Lou). Mary reported that she is scheduling a meeting with Katie Peet, Director of RNC, to introduce Kristin and discuss renewal of the MOU between RNC and the club.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin expressed how great a time she had at the Earth Day table and on Gregg Petersen's field trip at Mt. Pleasant on Earth Day.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Mary mentioned the Spring Wildflower walk led by Bob and Jo the prior week, the Alpha Ridge trip led by Ralph Cullison and Joe Hanfman, and the Sharp's Waterford Farm trip led by Wes Earp. On upcoming trips, she commented that reservations for the Smith Island trip had sold out in 2 hours, David Sandler will lead a trip to Western Regional Park on May 8, and May Count will be on May 14. The busy schedule in May has precluded holding a Half-Big Day as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee had hoped to have. Lastly, she mentioned the excitement around the one-day visit of the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks at Wilde Lake.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo was not present but had sent the attached report.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Committee members reported in Jo's absence. Kristin reported that during the recently closed sales period we sold 16 shirts. Some of the original color offerings are no longer available. The next sales period will begin in mid-May and remain open until some time after the MOS Convention in the hope if we wear them at convention it may motivate additional sales. In answer to a question from Chuck, Kristin stated that the proceeds we receive are both a cut of the profit on shirts and donations to the committee made with the purchase. Mary Lou described an additional committee effort. They have taken two photo albums that Jo Solem had assembled in the past with a large collection of photographs and newspaper articles of club activities over many years. Jo had annotated all the material, so it is an interesting glimpse at the club's past. Mary Lou has scanned all the material and Bob will post it in the Anniversary portion of the website. The committee would like people to review the material and provide suggestions on what ones should be printed and posted on poster board at the Anniversary Celebration at the end of October. Mary Lou will email the board a link to the material and the Board is asked to look at it and provide suggestions for individual photos and articles to post and any potential themes for the displays. The committee is now planning for the celebration to be a two-day weekend with a bird walk on Saturday and the formal celebration at the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center (Howard County Conservancy) on Sunday, October 30 with speakers. They are trying to decide if the celebration should have more than cake and drinks. Some have suggested box lunches, but HCC has very stringent requirements and we might have to use a caterer if we try for a more extensive offering. All food has to be store bought.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Kurt was out of town, but Mary mentioned that Howard County and the Girl Scouts have made a deal to let the county purchase Camp Ilchester and prevent it being sold for residential development. Kurt asked the club to sign on to a letter prepared by Smarter Growth Alliance for Howard County in Support of CB14-2022 with Amendment. The letter urges the County Council to approve the \$6 million funding and preserve its forested character. It was moved and unanimously approved that we sign on to the letter.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Howard is meeting with and working with Megan Bolcar to acquaint her with the editing of the Goldfinch so she can decide if she will assume the duties of editor. In answer to Mary's question, Bob told her that the position is one appointed by the President and does not require Board action. *Sec. Note: Howard reports Megan has agreed to be the next editor. He asked if the Board would approve her to purchase Microsoft Publisher.*

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported he has been doing routine maintenance as well as posting pictures of the Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and posting 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary material.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry reported that she is about to provide Bob with the announcement for a small outdoor "Meet and Greet" event to be held at the Robinson SkyWatch at Mt. Pleasant (Howard County Conservancy) on Saturday, June 4 from 11 am – 2 pm. There is an open agenda and attendees are expected to bring their own lunch. The Conservancy has another event later that afternoon so we will be expected to leave by 3 pm. The discussion turned to potential larger events in lieu of our traditional potluck and photo night at RNC. One example cited was the Baltimore Bird Club "potluck" picnic which this year is being held at Eagle Mill Farm in Parkland. If we were to plan a picnic, we would need a "location" with a cover in event of rain. Some felt a park pavilion could be expensive which is true of the larger ones at Centennial, but it looks like some of the other parks are less expensive (e.g., Rockburn Branch 90 people is \$250, 60 people is \$170 at several of the parks).

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): No report.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue reported they had the first window strike at the new County Courthouse today since they started monitoring in March. It was a White-eyed Vireo. Speaking of dead birds, she mentioned there is an App for smartphones where you can report fatal window strikes or other dead birds found (dBird?). *Sec. Note: I was unable to find this or any other app for reporting dead birds on the App Store.* Subsequently learned that it is not an app but a website dbird.org.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that Bruce Ballard located a new Barred Owl nest. She reported that she had received permission to atlas a private farm adjacent to the Clark Elioak Farm and was able to see the cell tower at the back of Clark's property and confirm another Osprey nest. (Note that Osprey is a new species for Howard atlases as it was not found in the prior two atlases. On the same private farm, she found another Great Horned Owl nest. She commented how appreciative she is to those who have offered access to their private property. We will want to find some way to express appreciation to these people, probably at the end of atlas field work. Having discussed Camp Ilchester she pointed out that it is in Mary Lou's block. Sue said she had been exposed to COVID and had been isolating but her PCR test come back negative today. She also mentioned there is an Osprey nest on the cell tower at Guilford Road and Murray Hill. Last she observed that the count of Great Horned Owl and Barred Owl are running neck and neck (around 8 to 9 each). She expects to receive information on which blocks have met the criteria for "COMPLETION" soon. This characterization doesn't mean stop atlasing those blocks but hopefully rather than continue to focus on those blocks people should consider helping with other less well covered blocks.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou will wait on scheduling programs for the fall until after Mary and Kristin meet with the RNC Director and determine the status of activities at RNC this fall.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Lewis, Tomlinson, etc.): There has been no MOS Board meeting since our last board meeting. Mary asked if any of the Directors would be able to attend and take notes, at the next meeting but they all indicated they will be unable to attend. Mary (or Mary Lou) said she would take notes.

## Old Business

Waterford Flats – Mary reported that the committee met at the end of March just after our last Board meeting. Controlling the water level has proved difficult and sizable portions of the area are drying up due to limited rain. *Sec. Note: As I draft these minutes two solid days with over 2 inches of rain may help with this condition.*

Grassland Habitat – Mary reported that John Harris did talk to Doug Gill and is going to set up a meeting with him. Hopefully, Mary and Kristin will be able to join them.

PUMA – Mary reported that the MOU with the Howard County Conservancy dealing with the Purple Martin Box we erected has been signed. Kristin reported that Russ lowered the box and found straw in one of the holes (possibly a Tree Swallow?). She also mentioned that Mary Lou and she had begun monitoring the boxes at Miller’s Grant. They observed 12 PUMA today, 4 flew out of the box, and there was one House Sparrow nest with 5 eggs.

May Board Meeting – Mary reported that Mary Lou has offered to host our May 26 Board meeting in person. We agreed to hold the meeting in person. New members of the Board are invited to attend this meeting. Mary will send invitations to Gregg Petersen, Donna Carollo, Nancy McAllister, Robin Todd and Megan Bolcar. *Sec. Note: I will add them to the email forwarding the draft of the minutes so they will have a little background for ongoing club business.*

Tabling Events – Mary reported that while they were staffing the club table at the Earth Day celebration at the Clarksville Commons the sun was very bright, and they talked about having a “pop-up” canopy as a sunshade. It was moved to authorize Mary to spend up to \$120 for a canopy to use at outdoor tabling events. The motion passed unanimously. Mary will purchase it and submit the receipt to Brian. **We agreed this was an appropriate use for funds from the Mountjoy gift fund.**

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None.

## **New Business**

Signs for PUMA and Flats – Mary stated that she wanted to explore getting at minimum a small plaque or sign on or adjacent to the Purple Martin box we erected at Mt. Pleasant. The sign would acknowledge the box was erected by the Howard County Bird Club using funds donated for habitat preservation. Mary Lou reported that the small sign explaining the bird strike window treatment on the Gudelsky Center cost us about \$800 and was designed in a joint effort with the Conservancy staff. Mary said she would speak to Allison Anderson about our purchasing such a sign for the PUMA box and working with HCC staff to design and find a vendor.

Similarly, Mary indicated she would like to have a sign at the site acknowledging our role in developing “Waterford Flats” using funding from the Marty Chestem Fund. Mary has asked Wes Earp to broach the idea with Chuck Sharp.

## Around the Room –

- Mary asked Kristin about the Netflix documentary she had been watching. It was the documentary produced and narrated by Barack Obama about National Parks. It was recommended by several present.
- David reported that John McKitterick had sent word to the MOS Board that a memorial for Bob Ringle was scheduled at Downs Park in Anne Arundel County on May 3 at 1:00 pm.
- Sherry reminded us that although we paid for two tables at GreenFest we only had one. Brian was informed and is going to contact the coordinators and ask for some remediation.
- Sherry informed us that she will be unable to attend the May Board meeting.
- Mary Lou related an unusual sighting in her yard where she had a fox with a squirrel clinging to its back.
- Kelsey stated she had just sent Sherry a procedure to use in trying to get the video of the Robinson SkyWatch dedication transferred from her phone. *Sec. Note: This was successful.*
- Mary remarked that Sue Muller was doing a fantastic job as our county coordinator for BBA3. She noted that many other counties didn’t have coordinators doing anywhere close to what Sue is providing.

### Review of Prior Action Items:

- Identify and contact experts about aiding us with grassland habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Assist Sherry with transferring SkyWatch Dedication video – Kelsey DONE
- Install black board and accessories at Waterford Flats – Mary Lou, David DONE
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair – Kurt
- Contact Carol Daugherty to discuss tax and investment rules for non-profits - Brian
- Get the BBA3 information cards reprinted – Brian DONE
- Provide Chuck with a copy of the final signed PUMA MOU – Mary DONE
- Provide inputs calling for volunteers to Bob for the NewsGram – Mary DONE
- Send Gregg a response on board position on in-person tally rally – Mary DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Identify and contact experts about aiding us with grassland habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair – Kurt
- Contact Carol Daugherty to discuss tax and investment rules for non-profits – Brian
- Send MOS Secretary results of club election – Chuck DONE
- Review proposed budget for next year attached to the minutes prior to next meeting – Board Members
- Refine proposal for investing Ponce estate funds – Brian, Bob, Chuck
- Review historic photo album contents online and recommend items to post at Anniversary celebration – Board Members
- Purchase a “pop-up” canopy for use at outdoor tabling events (will use Mountjoy funds) – Mary
- Contact Allison Anderson at HCC to discuss idea of small sign on or at the PUMA box – Mary
- Approach Chuck Sharp about idea of a sign at “Waterford Flats” – Wes Earp
- Contact GreenFest POC to report we paid for but didn’t get two tables and ask what our options are - Brian

### Board Meeting Schedule

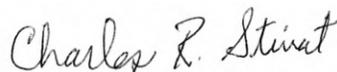
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 23, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
October 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
November 18, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving,
December	- NO MEETING	in future will be on first Thursday of December)
January 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
February 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
March 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
April 28, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
May 26, 2022	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – April 28, 2022
- Treasurer’s Report – March 31, 2022
- Proposed Budget for Club Year 2022-2023 (5/1/22 – 4/30/2023)
- Record Committee Report for April 28, 2022 Board Meeting

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
April 28, 2022

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81267335125?pwd=Q1FNNjVvSVZFOWRETUJjUkFCckRldz09>

Meeting ID: 812 6733 5125

Passcode: 471660

Review of Minutes

Treasurer's Report (attached)

President's Remarks

Vice President's Remarks

Chapter Committee Reports

- Field Trips
- Records (attached)
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Conservation
- Newsletter
- Webmaster
- Potluck
- Butterflies
- Safe Skies
- BBA3
- Programs

Chuck Stirrat

Brian Moyer

Mary Maxey

Kristin Trouton

Joe Hanfman

Jo Solem

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Kurt Schwarz

Howard Patterson

Bob Solem

Sherry Tomlinson

Kevin Heffernan

Sue Muller

Sue Muller

Mary Lou Clark

Old Business

- Waterford Flats
- Grassland Habitat
- PUMA
- May board meeting
- Tabling events

Shorebird Habitat Committee

Mary Maxey

Mary Maxey

Mary Maxey

Mary Maxey

New Business

- Signs for PUMA and Flats

Mary Maxey

Action Items

Chuck Stirrat

Around the room

# HCBC - Treasurer Report

Printed: 4/26/22 1:19 PM

Financial information for period

Starting: **28-Feb-22** Ending: **31-Mar-22**

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment
T. Rowe Price	34,291.09	\$0.31	Interest added 3/31
PNC Bank	23,446.90	-\$564.08	See sheet below for income & expenses
Commonwealth FN	414,757.50	\$318,625.67	Balance of 3rd Disbursement (cash equivalent)
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$472,495.49</b>	<b>40,481.28</b>	

**Virtual Fund Balances**

**Operating Funds**

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$7,498.60	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
11/12/2022	Habitat Fund (H)	\$6,921.02	retroactively added cosponsor HCC talks on pollinators
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	
2/1/2022	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	\$647.70	

**Gift Funds**

3/25/2021	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$5,540.00	
4/26/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$16,390.67	
3/31/2022	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$434,757.50	Commonwealth balance + \$20K in PNC.

**Income Activity**

28-Feb-22

to

31-Mar-22

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$24,765.11</b>	<b>YTD</b>
MOS Deposit	Feb Memberships	Check	\$180.00	O
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$180.00</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$24,945.11</b>	

**Expense Activity**

28-Feb-22

to

31-Mar-22

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Expenses as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$3,220.65</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Internet & Office Reimburse Solem	Annual renewal Bluehost and Stamps	Check 1186	\$545.34	O
BBA Info Cards	Copying	ATM debit	\$123.74	O
Quickbooks Renewal	Software updates	Check 1185	\$75.00	O
				O
				O
				O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$744.08</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$3,964.73</b>	

<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>	<b>5/1/21 - 4/30/22</b>	<b>\$20,980.38</b>	<b>YTD</b>
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**Gift Funds Activity**

**28-Feb-22**

to

**31-Mar-22**

**Mountjoy Fund Transactions**

No activity.

**Chestem Fund Transactions**

No activity.

**Ponce Fund Transactions**

Third disbursement of estate to our Commonwealth FN account.

Multiple equities (non cash) with market value of \$318,625.67 on March 31 added during this period..

**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

1. PayPal fees associated with donations online entered as expenses and income shows amounts as net received. Fund tabs show whole number total donation.
2. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, and 50th Anniversary Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.

NPR = Not previously reported

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal**

TBD= To Be Determine

	2022-2023				Actuals 2021/2022												
	Approved 2021/22 Budget	Actual YTD 2021/22	Proposed 2022/23 Budget	2022/23 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
<b>Operating Income (Does not include investment funds)</b>																	
Net Membership Dues	2,500	2,600	2,500		50	210	25	155	985	295	410	110	180	180	0	0	2600
Contributions to HCBC (roll-up)	3,500	3,201	2,500														
Habitat Preservation/Promote Conservation		344			0	28.83	75	47.76	0	0	0	192.53	0	0	0	0	344.12
Seed Sale		1,100			0	0	0	0	0	1100	0	0	0	0	0	0	1100
Butterfly Fund		226			0	0	0	0	96.02	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	226.02
50th Anniversary (include sale proceeds)		726			300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	425.9	0	0	725.9
Undesignated Donation		805			200	0	0	0	47.76	154.34	350	52.59	0	0	0	0	804.69
Draw down the Habitat fund balance			1000														
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>5,801</b>	<b>6,000</b>		<b>550</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5800.73</b>
<b>Operating Expenses (Club operations, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, &amp; 50th Anniversary Fund)</b>																	
<b>Club Events/Promotion/Outreach/Misc.</b>																	
Meeting Programs (speakers)	1,000	0	700		100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	0	50		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education: Undesignated & New Birder Initiative	300	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenfest Support	70	70	70		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	70
Butterfly Fund	440	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anniversary 50th Celebration	300	78	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	78.2	0	0	0	0	0	78.2
<b>Office Expenses</b>																	
Newsletter/other printing	750	720	750		0	0	0	68	0	56	0	54	0	65	414	63	720
Website/Email/Internet	600	682	700		0	0	0	0	0	0	203.41	0	0	0	478.86	0	682.27
Postage/office	250	271	275		17.49	0	0	0	0	0	71.03	0	0	182	0	0	270.52
Bank fees	50	9	50		2	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
<b>Projects/Grants (from Habitt Fund)</b>																	
Rehabilitators (e.g., Frisky's)	300	0	300		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education/Co-sponsor Speakers:			600														
Howard County Conservancy Speakers		500	0		0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
New Birder Initiative	200	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undesignated	100	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations to Other Organizations:			2000														
HoCoComCollege Butterfly Garden	0	200	0		0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
Delaware Bird-a-thon DOS		2000	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	2000	0	0	0	0	0	2000
Bee City (formerly All Creatures)	300	300	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	300
YMOS	300	300	300		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Martin Box at HCC	200	0	100		200	0	0	0	0	0	1904.1	0	0	0	0	0	2104.1
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>5,210</b>	<b>5129.99</b>	<b>5895</b>		<b>319</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>4,557</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>6934.09</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>105</b>														

The Budget proposal only addresses Operating Funds (Operations, Habitat, Butterfly, and 50th Anniversary. Gift funds (Mountjoy, Chestem, and Ponce) are not addressed as any transactions from those will be handled on a case basis

Financial Institution Accounts	Date	
T. Rowe Price	34,291.09	3/31/2022
PNC Bank	23,446.90	3/31/2022
Commonwealth FN	414,757.50	3/31/2022
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$472,495.49</b>	

Records Committee Report for April 28, 2022 Board Meeting (March 22 – April 26) – Joanne Solem

Migration is accelerating. With each passing day, at least one new migratory species is reported. Along with the anticipation of expected species, there is always hope for a rarity. That hope was realized the morning of Monday, April 25th when Diane Eidelman reported a flock of 13 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Wilde Lake. A new county record! The handsome birds moved around the lake throughout the day offering birders views of them grazing, sleeping, swimming, and perching. Although they stayed just a single day, at least 75 birders were able to appreciate them.

Other notable sightings during this period were up to two Soras at Waterford Farm 4/16-17. Three American Bitterns appeared in an intriguing cluster: one was heard the night of 4/11 with NFC equipment followed by two sightings at different sites the following day. A Least Bittern was heard in the Davis Branch wetlands at Mt. Pleasant on 4/16 and again on 4/24. A Sandhill Crane at Henryton, along the Patapsco River on 4/23, was not relocated after the initial sighting. An exciting breeding record for two atlasers was a hen Hooded Merganser with 12 downy young in a stormwater management pond with a limited amount of edge vegetation—definitely atypical habitat.

Numbers of most migratory waterfowl gradually dwindled. A flock of 70 Green-winged Teal at Waterford 3/27 set a new county high. Blue-winged Teal, often a difficult duck to locate, were more widespread than usual with reports from at least eight sites since early March.

Bonaparte's Gulls were consistently seen over many of the lakes and reservoirs. The largest flock was 132 at Scott's Cove, Rocky Gorge Reservoir on 4/7. Caspian Terns were noted more frequently than last spring, although most sightings were brief and in the low single digits.

An adult Black-crowned Night Heron turned up at Lake Kittamaqundi on 4/9 (notable because it was seen at this location first instead of the more favored Wilde Lake). An adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was picked out at Centennial Park on 4/18.

The number of Osprey pairs nesting on cell towers continued to show a slow, but steady, increase. Broad-winged Hawks began drifting through on 4/9 when one was spotted during the Alpha Ridge Landfill field trip to the delight of the participants.

Boreal species were scarce following a winter in which there was little southward movement. A few Red-breasted Nuthatches continued. A scattering of Purple Finches appeared, as anticipated, during the late March/April period.

Of the few wintering American Tree Sparrows, the last was noted on 3/29 at Mt. Pleasant. Vespers have been verified from Alpha Ridge Landfill, Waterford Farm, and West Friendship Park. Five Grasshopper Sparrows arrived at West Friendship Park on 4/22.

New warblers continue to arrive almost daily along with flycatchers, vireos, swallows, and thrushes. The Blackpoll at Wilde Lake on 4/26 appears to be a new early record. A Prothonotary on 4/25 along the Patapsco at Woodstock was not unexpected. Feeder watchers are beginning to report Indigo Buntings and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

For a few precious weeks each spring, every moment outside provides the possibility of seeing or hearing a new species or one not seen for months. It's a drug that's hard to resist!



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, May 26, 2022

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

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Mary Maxey ✓  
Vice-president: Kristin Trouton ✓  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat ✓  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer ✓  
Chap. Directors: Kelsey Wellons (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) ✓  
Sharon Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) ✓  
State Directors: David Sandler ✓  
Allen Lewis  
Sherry Tomlinson  
Past President: *Mary Lou Clark*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark ✓  
Conservation: Kurt Schwarz ✓  
Newsletter: Howard Patterson  
Records: Jo Solem ✓  
Webmaster: Bob Solem ✓  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: *Allen Lewis*  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan ✓  
BBA3: Sue Muller ✓  
**Others:** Gregg Petersen ✓  
Robin Todd ✓ Megan Bolcar ✓ Donna Carollo ✓

**General Notes**

Although originally planned as an in-person meeting, the rise in COVID positivity caused it to be held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 17 including new Board members for next year. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 12 was 35 people. Kurt Schwarz gave a program entitled “The Kaleidoscope of Birds of the DMV.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat):** Chuck reported that he had received a few corrections to the draft. He added Sherry as another GreenFest volunteer, spell check again changed Solem to Solemn, clarified that Mary Lou not Bob would email the link to historical photos, changed name of town where BBC picnic is being held from Parkton to Parkland, Mary added that HCC requires all food served at events held there must be “store bought”, removed reference to the scanned photo album material from Webmaster report as it is not yet on the website. Mary reported that the reference to an app called Dbird was in fact a website-Dbird.org and added Robin Todd to new members to receive draft and be invited to this board meeting, as he is also a new member of the Board for next year as the Conservation Chair. Minutes were approved with these changes.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer):** Brian had submitted the Treasurer’s Report covering the month of April prior to the meeting. The attached version reflects corrections including a revised balance for the Habitat Fund and the PNC and Commonwealth FN balances. He had also submitted a proposed budget for the 2022/2023 club fiscal year. After a brief discussion it was moved that the proposed budget be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. The approved version of the proposal is attached. It has a few minor corrections to the actuals for 2021/2022 but no changes to the approved budget amounts.

Lastly Brian discussed the proposal he had submitted on behalf of the committee (Bob, Chuck, & Brian) who were asked to propose an investment strategy for the club. The need for an updated investment strategy was motivated by the receipt of the Ponce estate funds. Brian’s written proposal is attached. The committee discussed a wide range of options but settled on investing in a family of mutual funds/ETFs managed by the club’s account signatories rather than paying management fees to a brokerage firm. This is consistent with how MOS has chosen to manage their much larger investment portfolio. The envisioned approach will merge assets we now have with T Rowe Price and Commonwealth FN into a new single account with Vanguard. The plan envisions a significant portion of the assets

will be in a liquid Money Market Fund that the club would attempt to use for major projects consistent with our chapter. A larger portion of the assets will be invested in an Environmental/Social/Governance (ESG) mutual fund with the long-term goal of providing the club a continuing annual income stream for future projects. After a brief discussion it was moved and seconded that the proposed investment strategy be adopted. The motion passed. The Board agreed that the Treasurer, President, and Secretary will be authorized to act or sign on behalf of the club, as we have for the checking account.

**President's Remarks** (Maxey): Mary welcomed the new Board members who were in attendance. She introduced the current board members in attendance to the new members and asked each of us to provide a personal introduction of themselves and their responsibilities. Mary then thanked the board for all their support during her four years as Vice President and President. Several members expressed their appreciation to Mary for her excellent service.

**Vice-President's Remarks** (Trouton): No remarks.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had provided the attached report prior to the meeting.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo provided a brief synopsis for the new board members of the plans for celebrating the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The seven members of the committee have been actively developing activities and plans. She recommended visiting the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pages on the club's website. She recommended reviewing the Member Memories and Photo Gallery. Plans for the primary celebration on the weekend of 29-30 October are firming up. On Saturday there will be field trip(s) at Mt. Pleasant and then on Sunday a formal in-person celebration program (3-4 hour). The committee is looking for a series of leaders for the field trips on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Conservation** (Schwarz): Mary thanked Kurt for his exceptional performance over many years as the club and MOS Conservation Chair. Kurt and Mary both thanked Robin for stepping up to take on both roles. Kurt has been reviewing the many accomplishments in protecting the birds and environment over his tenure. He recently remembered one of the major ones that allowed us to continue access to a key birding location in the county, namely keeping parking open at PVSP-Henryton when it looked like it was lost. Kurt is working on a continuity book for the Conservation Chair.

**Newsletter** (Patterson): Megan as the new editor has been working with Howard to learn the task. She didn't have any comments at this her first board meeting.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob stated he had nothing of significance to report.

**Potluck/Meet & Greet** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry wasn't in attendance but the plans for the "Meet and Greet" at Mt. Pleasant SkyWatch are set for June 4 from 11 am – 1:30 pm. It was noted that some of the board members will be unable to participate as they will be attending the MOS Board meeting at that time.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin stated that there isn't a lot to report on the butterfly scene. There have been no special sightings, but the season is proceeding. He is planning to schedule a series of pollinator walks in June. He took an action to provide Bob with the dates and announcement for these walks. Brian said he thought he had seen a Monarch and asked if that was possible at this time of year. He was assured that a few of them are around at this time.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that there had been one bird strike found during the survey at the new County Courthouse last week. This is the only one in the nearly 3 months the survey had been underway. So, it appears the building is currently not a major impediment to the birds. Sue said she had emailed Carolyn Parsa to see if she had any follow-up to report about plans to treat the windows at the Robinson Nature Center. Carolyn had not replied,

but Kurt commented that Carolyn had been out of town. As a former Rec & Parks employee, Sue has been trying to not get directly involved in this issue.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that the eagle nest tree on the reservoir fell over, and accordingly failed. The dead tree had been leaning and having it fall was not surprising. Osprey nests continue to be found in the county. Sue expressed her disappointment that the atlas was not the focus (even mentioned) during the recent MOS convention. She had hoped it would get a lot of attention and has volunteered to lead a trip focused on atlasing at the next convention.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou said she was waiting for guidance as to whether the fall meetings will still be virtual. Mary reported that she and Kristin had met with Katie Peet, Director of RNC, to discuss renewing the MOU and introduce Kristin. Since the Sustainability Board will not be meeting on the second Thursday any more RNC asked if we would consider changing our meeting night to the first Friday to help them with leveling their staffing needs. The Board rejected that idea and agreed we would not change our meeting night. This will be included in the MOU when it is renewed. The MOU must be signed by November. We told Mary Lou to proceed assuming the fall meetings will be virtual, and we will make a decision on future by late November.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Maxey, Sandler, Lewis, Tomlinson, etc.): No report.

## Old Business

Waterford Flats – Mary summarized an email Wes Earp had sent her reporting the status as of May 17. Wes reported that we have a blockage of the openings in the internal standpipe that is retarding the release rate by the outer stack. The waterline should be several inches lower, but water is exiting too slow to quickly drop the waterline. It is dropping though, and that rate will increase as the days get hotter and if rainfall slackens. He also mentioned there was a Greater Yellowlegs present on day he was writing. Lastly, he indicates the waterline had dropped 0.91 feet in five days with 0.75 inches of rainfall input. Wes had also spoken to Chuck Sharp about the idea of a sign acknowledging the club using Martha Chestem bequest funds in developing the “flats.” Chuck proposed the best location for a sign would be at the sign-in location. The shorebird habitat committee was given responsibility for designing and acquiring a sign for that location.

Grassland Habitat – Mary reported that she, John Harris, Kristin, and Gregg had met with Doug Gill at West Friendship Park as part of a continuing information gathering effort. The park was chosen just as a representative potential location and allowed the committee to seek Doug’s opinion on a number of questions. How large does a site need to be? Target pollinators for smaller sites was one idea. Target species? Choose species that are “known” and/or “likable.” It was noted that having Doug Gill as a speaker for a club meeting would be worth pursuing.

In a related matter it was noted that the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club has a three day “Fantasy Wood Festival” scheduled for the next weekend on the West Friendship Park property. Lisa Colangelo had approached some club members with concerns whether this would result in mowing grasslands that are currently hosting nesting Grasshopper Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks. Lisa had approached Bryan Moody, Bureau Chief of Parks, who referred her back to David Keane, Forestry and Natural Resource Protection Manager with her concerns. Although we may share her concerns she can only speak as a private citizen and not invoke the club support unless the board has taken a position on an issue. Sue recommended that we should work together with Lisa in the future. As of the meeting the field had not been mown (possibly due to rain). Jo reminded the club that we don’t want to get on the wrong side of farmers in county, but the fact is despite our offers to provide advice, “They don’t ask for advice.”

On another topic Ralph Cullison had reported to Jo that the Alpha Ridge Landfill had just been mowed. She reported that in the past the mowing schedule has changed from a rolling effort done by county staff and took months to having contractors now that come in and mow the entire landfill in 3 days. She suggested maybe we should try to ask the county to mow on a schedule that wouldn’t impact nesting. *Sec. Note: At the “meet & greet” I listened to Ralph and Jo discuss this and Ralph expressed the opinion that he didn’t think the mowing was significantly impacting the nesting and he wouldn’t recommend approaching the county on this matter.*

PUMA – Kristin and Mary Lou reported that there were three active Tree Swallow nests in the box at Mt. Pleasant. This may have discouraged any use by Purple Martins. There are eight PUMA nests in the colony at Miller’s Grant. They found one dead martin in this box. Mary reported that she talked to HCC staff about our interest in placing a sign at the Mt. Pleasant PUMA box location. They said that Tabby would be our POC for this effort. They also have a new graphic artist firm to work with. The PUMA committee have action to design and acquire this sign. Anyone else interested in working with them are welcome to contact Kristin or Mary Lou.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None.

**New Business**

No new business on the agenda.

Around the Room -

- Kurt commented that he ran into Kate Tufts, and she said she hadn’t been receiving club emails. Bob replied that he supposedly has corrected this issue, but he will contact Kate to confirm it worked.

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Identify and contact experts about aiding us with grassland habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair – Kurt
- Contact Carol Daugherty to discuss tax and investment rules for non-profits – Brian OBE
- Send MOS Secretary results of club election – Chuck DONE
- Review proposed budget for next year attached to the minutes prior to next meeting – Board Members DONE
- Refine proposal for investing Ponce estate funds – Brian, Bob, Chuck DONE
- Review historic photo album contents online and recommend items to post at Anniversary celebration – Board Members DONE
- Purchase a “pop-up” canopy for use at outdoor tabling events (will use Mountjoy funds) – Mary
- Contact Allison Anderson at HCC to discuss idea of small sign on or at the PUMA box – Mary DONE
- Approach Chuck Sharp about idea of a sign at “Waterford Flats” – Wes Earp DONE
- Contact GreenFest POC to report we paid for but didn’t get two tables and ask what our options are – Brian DONE -NO RESPONSE

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Identify and contact experts about aiding us with grassland habitat development concepts – John Harris
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair – Kurt
- Purchase a “pop-up” canopy for use at outdoor tabling events (will use Mountjoy funds) – Mary
- Design and acquire sign for Waterford Flats – shorebird habitat committee
- Design and acquire sign for PUMA site at Mt. Pleasant in concert with HCC staff – PUMA committee

**Board Meeting Schedule**

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

September 23, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
October 28, 2021	- VIRTUAL	
November 18, 2021	- VIRTUAL	(this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving,
December	- NO MEETING	in future will be on first Thursday of December)
January 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
February 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
March 24, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
April 28, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
May 26, 2022	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – May 26, 2022
- Treasurer’s Report – 31 March 2022 – 30 April 2022
- Howard County Bird Club Proposed Budget 2022-2023 (Approved)
- Howard County Bird Club Investment Proposal – 26 May 2022 – Brian Moyer
- Records Committee Report – April 28 – May 23

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
May 26, 2022

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - May 26 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: May 26, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87828724085?pwd=eXJ5Q2JidVJaUGk5eitlOFBRNzBXQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 2872 4085

Passcode: 724709

Review of Minutes

Treasurer's Report (attached)

President's Remarks

Vice President's Remarks

Chapter Committee Reports

- Field Trips
- Records (attached)
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Conservation
- Newsletter
- Webmaster
- Potluck/Meet and Greet
- Butterflies
- Safe Skies
- BBA3
- Programs

Chuck Stirrat

Brian Moyer

Mary Maxey

Kristin Trouton

Joe Hanfman

Jo Solem

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Kurt Schwarz

Howard Patterson

Bob Solem

Sherry Tomlinson

Kevin Heffernan

Sue Muller

Sue Muller

Mary Lou Clark

Old Business

- Waterford Flats
- Grassland Habitat
- PUMA
- Signs for PUMA and Flats

Shorebird Habitat Committee

Mary Maxey

Kristin and Mary Lou

Mary Maxey

New Business

Action Items

Chuck Stirrat

Around the room

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed (NOW): 8/2/22 8:44 PM

Financial information for period

Date of Report (Latest update)(manual entry): 22-Jul-22

Starting:

31-Mar-22

Ending: 30-Apr-22

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment
T. Rowe Price	34,291.41	\$0.32	Interest added 4/30
PNC Bank	23,678.91		See sheet below
Commonwealth FN	398,744.49	\$16,013.01	Primarily market decline, dividends
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$456,714.81</b>	<b>16,013.33</b>	

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

<u>Date (Latest Update)</u>	<u>Fund (Code)</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Comment</u>
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$26,349.60	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
5/12/2022	Habitat Fund (H)	\$8,021.02	Added \$100 Honorarium Apr talk/corrected duplicate entries
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	
4/21/2022	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	\$929.03	Added latest check from Bonfire

### Gift Funds

3/25/2021	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$5,540.00	
3/12/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$16,390.67	
4/30/2022	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$398,744.49	market reduction

**Income Activity**

31-Mar-22

to

30-Apr-22

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			\$24,765.11	YTD
MOS Deposit	Mar Memberships	Check	\$160.00	0
<b>Income for this Period</b>			\$160.00	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			\$24,925.11	

**Expense Activity**

31-Mar-22

to

30-Apr-22

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Expenses as of Prior Report</b>			\$3,220.65	YTD
Gerald Winegrab	Speaker Honorarium	Check 1187	\$100.00	0
Brown & Associates	Printing Newsletter	Check 1188	\$65.00	0
				0
				0
				0
				0
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			\$165.00	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			\$3,385.65	

<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>	5/1/21 - 4/30/22	\$21,539.46	YTD
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**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

1. Remember that if there are any PayPal fees associated with donations online we are going to enter them as expenses and income will show amount as net received.
2. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, and 50th Anniversary Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.

**Gift Funds Activity**

31-Mar-22

to

30-Apr-22

**Mountjoy Fund Transactions**

No activity.

**Chestem Fund Transactions**

No activity.

**Ponce Fund Transactions**

Market value declined significantly.

NPR = Not previously reported

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal - Approved**

TBD= To Be Determine

	2022-2023				Actuals 2021/2022												
	Approved 2021/22 Budget	Actual YTD 2021/22	Proposed 2022/23 Budget	Approved 2022/23 Budget	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Running Subtotal
<b>Operating Income (Does not include investment funds)</b>																	
Net Membership Dues	2,500	2,935	2,500	2,500	50	210	25	155	985	295	410	110	180	180	175	160	2935
Contributions to HCBC (roll-up)	3,500	3,201	2,500	2,500													
Habitat Preservation/Promote Conservation		344			0	28.83	75	47.76	0	0	0	192.53	0	0	0	0	344.12
Seed Sale (for Habitat Fund)		1,100			0	0	0	0	0	1100	0	0	0	0	0	0	1100
Butterfly Fund		226			0	0	0	0	96.02	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	226.02
50th Anniversary (include sale proceeds)		726			300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	425.9	0	0	725.9
Undesignated Donation		805			200	0	0	0	47.76	154.34	350	52.59	0	0	0	0	804.69
Draw down the Habitat fund balance			1000	1,000													
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,136</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>1,129</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>6135.73</b>
<b>Operating Expenses (Club operations, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, &amp; 50th Anniversary Fund)</b>																	
<b>Club Events/Promotion/Outreach/Misc.</b>																	
Meeting Programs (speakers)	1,000	100	700	700	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	0	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education: Undesignated & New Birder Initiative	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenfest Support	70	70	70	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	70
Butterfly Fund	440	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anniversary 50th Celebration	300	78	0	Note 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	78.2	0	0	0	0	0	78.2
<b>Office Expenses</b>																	
Newsletter/other printing	750	720	750	750	0	0	0	68	0	56	0	54	0	65	414	65	722
Website/Email/Internet	600	682	700	700	0	0	0	0	0	203.41	0	0	0	478.86	0	0	682.27
Postage/POBox/Office Supplies	250	271	275	275	17.49	0	0	0	0	0	71.03	0	0	182	0	0	270.52
Bank fees	50	9	50	50	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
<b>Projects/Grants (from Habitat Fund)</b>																	
Rehabilitators (e.g., Frisky's)	300	0	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Education/Co-sponsor Speakers:			600	600													
Howard County Conservancy Speakers		500	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
New Birder Initiative	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Undesignated	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Donations to Other Organizations:			2000	2,000													
HoCoComCollege Butterfly Garden	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
Delaware Bird-a-thon DOS		2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	2000
Bee City (formerly All Creatures)	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	300
YMOS	300	300	300	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	300
Purple Martin Box at HCC	200	2104	100	100	200	0	0	0	0	0	1904	0	0	0	0	0	2104
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>5,210</b>	<b>7334</b>	<b>5895</b>		<b>319</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>4,557</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>7336.09</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>-1,198</b>	<b>105</b>														

The Budget proposal only addresses Operating Funds (Operations, Habitat, Butterfly, and 50th Anniversary. Gift funds (Mountjoy, Chestem, and Ponce) are not addressed as any transactions from those will be handled on a case basis

Financial Institution Accounts	Date	
T. Rowe Price	34,291.59	4/30/2022
PNC Bank	23,678.91	4/30/2022
Commonwealth FN	398,744.49	4/30/2022
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$456,714.99</b>	

Note 1 - The 50th Anniversary Committee is authorized to spend all of the funds in the Anniversary Fund as they see fit (Currently \$726)

## Howard County Bird Club

26 May 2022

### Investment Proposal

Brian Moyer  
Treasurer

Reference Widman Proposal for PONCE Funds:

Discussion with some Board members on disposition of funds and wide potential for investment and use occurred 13 May 2022.

Of the myriad possibilities and combinations possible for the estate funds, I have summarized a Course of Action as outlined below from the several options discussed:

1. Transfer balance of the T. Rowe Price Account to a new established Vanguard mutual fund account (~\$35,000)
2. Establish a new Vanguard mutual fund account that is invested in Environmental/Social/Governance (ESG) stocks with the combined balance of ~\$35,000 from TRP transfer and \$250,000 of the Commonwealth Fund (Ponce estate) for a total of ~\$285,000.
3. The forecasted Annual percentage rate for the aforementioned funds would be targeted at 5-7%; a conservative return to reduce risk
4. Remainder (~\$159,000) would be in a money market fund checking account or "liquid" cash fund account for Club use.
5. Funds would be managed by the Club Account holders (signees on account), not by brokerage firm to reduce management fees that would be borne by the Club.
6. The estimated return at 5% would be \$14,250 annually.

Tax implications are that funds invested for Club mission purposes remain tax deductible. We will acquire CPA services much like MOS is using annually to file taxes, at least for 2022.

**Records Committee Report** – May 26, 2022 Board Meeting (April 28 – May 23) – Joanne Solem

Waterfowl numbers drop rapidly by mid-April. Two late mergansers on May Count, May 14, were seen at opposite ends of the county: a male Common Merganser at Duckett Dam and a female Red-breasted at Marriottsville.

Wild Turkeys are now so frequently reported that they no longer merit special mention. A Virginia Rail at Meadowbrook Pk 5/9 was the only report. Although a Common Gallinule at Race Road Wetlands 5/11 was seen and heard just one day, the dense aquatic vegetation could easily hide the species.

An Eastern Whip-poor-will on a large, gray rock in the Middle Patuxent River at Gorman Stream Valley NRA 5/1 offered birders extraordinary views. Unfortunately, after a day of showers and high winds with no change in the bird's position, it was concluded the bird was dead. Without examination of the specimen, no determination can be drawn as to cause of death.

Shorebird migration produced little excitement. Notable were two Upland Sandpipers at the Alpha Ridge Landfill 4/29-30, where they have appeared several times in past years. American Woodcock reports at Pigtail 5/7 and MPEA 5/21 were within atlas "safe dates." Breeding woodcock are always good news.

A Little Blue Heron with scant details was reported from Gwynn Acres on 5/14, while an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was present at Race Road Wetlands 5/2-3.

Perhaps the single most exciting sighting during this period was the county's fourth Swallow-tailed Kite 5/23 (Eric/Kristin Trouton, ph.). It flew over US 40/Frederick Rd intersection with several crows in pursuit. By late May, birders are attuned to watch for Mississippi Kites. A perched bird was seen at Warfield's Pond Pk 5/15 and one was photographed flying over Mt. Pleasant 5/20.

Flycatchers pose some of the trickiest identification problems. An Olive-sided at Mt. Pleasant was photographed the evening of 5/19 from the Skywatch. Silent Empids are a particular ID challenge. Fortunately, an Alder at Mt. Pleasant was singing a definitive song at Mt. Pleasant 5/19; it stayed for several days. Unfortunately, almost half the Least Flycatcher reports lacked even minimal details.

Bank Swallows were late in arriving and few in number with the first two at Centennial Pk 5/8. Thrush migration was unremarkable with a sprinkling of Gray-cheekeds reported and photographed.

A stunning, bright white Chipping Sparrow with a few black wing and tail feathers was photographed at Cavey La 5/18.

Several Vesper Sparrows and the usual few Lincoln's appeared. A Nelson's at the landfill 5/23 (RCu) was one of the few May records. An exciting was a Swamp at MPEA with a grass stalk in its bill. County nesting records for this species are few; further verification of success would be excellent news.

Warblers were found in varying numbers. No Orange-crowneds were spotted, and Connecticut are not expected in spring. There were at least a few reports of most other species including a Golden-winged and several Mourning. Summer Tanagers appeared at Mt. Airy and in the Ellicott City area on the same dates (5/7-9). Another was at Abbott's Park, WSSC property 5/14.

A Dickcissel at Bowling Green Farm, Underwood Rd, on May 14 was exciting. Because the HCBC has been unable to lease land at this location since 2018, there has been a concern that the species would no longer be successful at this site. Each succeeding year, however, there has been at least one pair present. On 5/19, two birds were seen; on 5/21 there were three. Any breeding activity appears to be some distance from the road, so it will likely take patience, skill, and a telescope to verify nesting in 2022.

Note: The Sandhill Crane record mentioned in the April report has been withdrawn by the observer.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, September 22, 2022

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Kristin Trouton √  
Vice-president: Gregg Petersen √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Donna Carollo √  
David Sandler √  
Sherry Tomlinson  
Past President: Mary Maxey √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Robin Todd  
Newsletter: Megan Bolcar √  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held September 8, 2022 was 48 people. Dr. Douglas Gill gave a program entitled “Bird Colonization in a Restored Prairie in Maryland.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary:** Minor corrections to the minutes as distributed included: 1) In the Programs section the day for the Sustainability Board conflict was changed from “second Tuesday” to “second Thursday; 2) In the Old Business “PUMA” discussion capitalized “Tree Swallow” and the dead swallow at Miller’s Grant was found “in the box” not “on the ground.” The minutes were approved with these corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer (Moyer):** Brian had sent a preliminary report that he described as a work in progress that he and Chuck have been refining. In reviewing the preliminary version with Chuck they found several corrections. The version of the report attached here covers transactions through August 31 and includes the corrections. An application to open a Vanguard account has been submitted and is under review by Vanguard. He anticipates the account will be opened shortly. After that, all funds with T Rowe Price and Commonwealth FN will be transferred to Vanguard and those accounts will be closed. Chuck asked if anyone knew anything about the check received from Benevity for \$500 as the check only indicated it was for our organization but did not specify the donor. Kristin said it was from she and her husband through his employer which matches their donation. When asked if they wished to designate it for some purpose. After a brief discussion she asked it to be placed in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund with the understanding that if after all Anniversary expenses are paid there is still a balance, the balance should go to the Habitat Fund.

**President’s Remarks (Trouton):** Kristin began by congratulating Jo Solemn on reaching 300 species in the county with the Western Kingbird on Tuesday after reaching 299 on Sunday with the Anhingas. She then went on to thank Mary for her leadership as Vice- President and President over the past four years. She also thanked all those who have served in leadership positions as officers and committee chairs. She stated she looked forward to working with the Board and offered a special welcome to those new this year. Lastly, she reminded us that we should treat each other with kindness as we are all volunteers.

**Vice-President’s Remarks (Petersen):** Gregg extended his congratulations to Jo on her amazing milestone.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report. There are a number of trips scheduled this Fall and they are listed on the website as well as in the Goldfinch.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo submitted the attached report for the summer and early fall seasons. She commented that the past week had been fantastic.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo reported the committee has been meeting monthly. Some members met with the staff of Howard County Conservancy to discuss plans for the celebration to be held at the Gudelsky Center on October 30. Memories and photos continue to be received for posting on the website. Invitations to the celebration were sent out last week. So far, she has received 36 acceptances. Next week a Newsgram will go out asking for volunteers to help with the celebration. Plans are to resend the invitations again in October (closer to the event). The deadline for submitting Anniversary Challenges is September 30. Several VIPs have been invited. Jane Robbins, Chan's daughter, has replied that she will not be able to attend on the 30<sup>th</sup>, but weather permitting she hopes to attend the field trips on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Others wishing to participate on the field trips should contact Joe Hanfman as he is taking reservations. Meg Boyd, Director of HCC has accepted. Bonnie Borsa, President of MOS, has also accepted. None of those invited from Howard Rec & Parks has yet accepted. Jo reminded people that all who attend will receive souvenir gifts, and there are additional special prizes.

**Conservation** (Todd): Robin had a family conflict but sent the following remarks to Kristin.

"As incoming chair of the conservation committee for the club, I just want to urge members to do two things: i) let me know of any conservation matters impacting the county and ii) when I ask people to contact their local elected representative or other official about some matter, please do so. The more of us that speak out, email or write letters in support of our birds, the better!"

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): Megan reminded us that the deadline for the Nov-Dec issue is September 25, the coming Sunday. She plans to send out a reminder this weekend for items she still has not received.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob said he has had an exciting summer. He took the time to update the bird species lists for all the site guides. He recently added two new bird photo pages (Anhinga and Western Kingbird). The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee continues to add new material that he is posting as it comes in. Kristin thanked Bob for all the time and effort he puts in making the website a central focus for club activities.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): No activity or report.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin stated they have had seven butterfly walks this season (six at Mt. Pleasant and the Dick Smith Memorial walk at the Elkhorn Garden plots). The attendance at these has been good. Kevin proposed that rather than trying to track and post the walks sponsored by HCC as separate from those sponsored by the club, we should merge them and post them on both websites. Bob said he could do this if the Board approved posting the HCC walks. The Board agreed. Kevin took an action item to provide Bob with the announcements. The Board also approved having Kelsey post them on the club Facebook page. Kevin will provide her the same information he will send Bob. Kevin reported he has taken over the email list that Linda Hunt had been sending out (275 members). So far this season there have been 70 species found. Lastly Kevin discussed a talk on the butterfly survey that he was scheduled to give for the Audubon Naturalist Society on September 15 (cost to attend). The person who was his point of contact had not contacted him until he forced a response and learned that only one person had signed up (Kevin's daughter) and it would be canceled if it didn't have a minimum of six. Kevin complained that he had spent effort on the talk and didn't appreciate they had not promoted it other than minimally. They agreed to reschedule it for September 29 and do some promotion. It appears there are now enough attendees, but Gregg offered to contact some of the staff at ANS he knows well and share Kevin's experience and urge they owe speakers more support and promoting their talks.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue said the Fall monitoring for bird strikes began September 1. The focus is the new County Courthouse and so far, there have been no fatal strikes so far. There are four regular volunteers and two alternates participating. She has observed that the newly refurbished Howard High School has a lot of glass that doesn't appear to be bird friendly (probably approved prior to the new law going into effect). She will check it out

and may choose to monitor it next year. Someone asked about the status of the window bird-proofing at Robinson Nature Center. She didn't have any updates, but it appears to be stalled (there have been changes in personnel responsible for project).

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue characterized this as the “downtime” period of the atlas year. Only a few species are still exhibiting breeding behavior (e.g., cardinals, goldfinch). The next activity will be owls at the end of the year. She has a lead on another potential Great Horned Owl nest site that she will check out next season. She briefly discussed the block completion scoring process and reported 23 of the 24 county blocks are complete. The remaining block is Clarksville NW. Bob clarified that a block must have less than 25% possible species. She recently had received a picture of Wild Turkey with young (perhaps too big to be counted as fledglings) in her block. Sue reported she is scheduled to give two talks on the atlas in the near future (one at the Gary Arthur Senior Center and another at a Baltimore County garden club).

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou reported she has scheduled virtual talks through January (January speaker is Kevin Heffernan and it could be either in-person or virtual). She asked the board to give her direction on whether the following meetings will be virtual, in-person or hybrid. She reported that we are one of the few MOS chapters that have not returned to some form of in-person (with hybrid most prevalent). Discussion favored returning to a form of in-person. Several voiced the opinion that hybrid will be the standard going forward. A benefit of this is those who want to meet in-person can do so, but those who no longer feel they can go out at night can view the meeting and program. Bob expressed opinion that if we do adopt hybrid it needs to be high quality or people will drop off rather than sit listening to technical issues or not hearing what is spoken from the audience. We decided we should explore trying hybrid at the January meeting. Kevin was willing to be the “guinea pig. We reaffirmed our prior decision that in negotiating the renewal of the MOU with RNC we insist on keeping our meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. This means we will need to find four events/field trips for RNC as in the past. We will need to have an IT expert present at all meetings so resolving issues doesn't fall on the speaker. Another essential is that the internet connection in the RNC meeting room needs to be robust. We will hopefully be able to arrange a test run of the setup prior to the January meeting. Mary Lou reported that John McKitterick has been providing guidance to MOS events in this regard and would be an excellent resource to tap. Mary Lou took an action item to contact John and seek his assistance in establishing the infrastructure for a quality hybrid meeting. Other issues to be addressed later include refreshments for those who attend and whether we want to have the member photos displayed before the meeting as in the past.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Trouton, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, etc.): The latest meeting was held September 10 at Allegany College in Cumberland, MD in a hybrid mode. Attendees from Howard were Kristin, Mary, Mary Lou, Sherry, and Robin. Evelyn Ralston, immediate past President of the Montgomery Chapter, was elected Vice President. The board approved creating a position of Conservation Chair Emeritus and naming Kurt Schwarz to the position in honor of his long service and to continue to tap his experience. The Board approved setting the registration fee for the next convention at \$50 after discussion as this impacts the eventual amount MOS subsidizes the convention. The 75th MOS Convention will be held at the Wisp Resort in McHenry, Maryland May 19 - 21, 2023. The Treasurer asked for a volunteer to assume the task of sending thank you notes to MOS donors and a volunteer stepped forward at the meeting. Bonnie Borsa, the new President, introduced a series of discussion topics that will be addressed during coming meetings some of which may impact our club (see attachment). The hybrid meeting worked quite well, although the far western location probably contributed to a smaller in person attendance (11). The entire meeting was recorded.

## Old Business

Waterford Flats – Kristin had shared the attached email from Wes Earp announcing his withdrawal as chairman and member of the Waterford Flats committee. She also announced that Mary Lou has stepped down as a committee member for personal reasons. Kristin posed the question whether we still needed a committee as the initial construction is completed. She expressed her feeling that she, and some others on the committee, feel they have no technical knowledge to bring to managing the project. She wondered if it was not time to seek professional help with managing weed control, water levels, and additional construction. There appears to be differing thoughts on how to proceed given the total loss of the past season, due to the overgrowth of weeds and inability to manage the

water levels. Russ Ruffing has proposed flooding the entire area in hope it would eliminate the weeds and just rely on the remaining edge habitat for shorebirds. Bob expressed the opinion that the attempt to actively manage the area is the primary problem. "Nature" does what it wants. He asked if it might just be better to turn it into a pond. Mary said there is a need to deal with all the weeds in the water. The attempted controlled burn done in the past winter was not successful due to ice still present at the time of burn. Gregg suggested the need to use herbicides, probably in concert with a controlled burn, to control the weeds. He proposed the remnants of the committee should meet in October to discuss the way ahead we would propose before meeting with Chuck Sharp. Jo reminded the Board that lack of money is not a concern as we have the Chestem Fund allocated to this project. She suggested that we may need to descope our effort and only try to manage for one season (choose either Spring or Fall migration). Jo also reminded us that Chuck Sharp has made an investment in this project and has his goals for it that we will have to include in our deliberations. She also pointed out the emergence of weeds is completely consistent with the experience Dr. Doug Gill reported about the "seed bank" that resides in the soil and emerges when the soil is disturbed. She also said she would like to know more about the proposed use of herbicides. Gregg reported he had put together a paper on herbicides that he will circulate to the Board. *Sec. Note – Gregg sent this after the meeting.* Bob reiterated his desire that the committee provide a formal proposal for the Board to consider. In conclusion, Kristin took an action to schedule a meeting of the remnants of the committee to try and identify a way ahead to be discussed with Chuck Sharp.

Robinson Nature Center Open House – Kristin thanked those who have volunteered to help at our table at the RNC Anniversary Open House on September 25. Mary, Mary Lou, Jo, and Bob had volunteered.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None.

## **New Business**

Seed Sale – It was pointed out now is the time when seed sale planning should commence if there is going to be one. Bob said that it is up to Kevin Cassidy of The Wildlife Authority to agree with having a sale if we continue the recent approach. Bob agreed to contact Kevin and ask if he is willing to hold a sale this Fall.

## **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Identify and contact experts about aiding us with grassland habitat development concepts – John Harris  
DONE
- Prepare a continuity book for Conservation Chair – Kurt OBE
- Purchase a "pop-up" canopy for use at outdoor tabling events (will use Mountjoy funds) – Kristin DONE
- Design and acquire sign for Waterford Flats – shorebird habitat committee ON HOLD
- Design and acquire sign for PUMA site at Mt. Pleasant in concert with HCC staff – Mary

## **New/Continuing Action Items**

- Design and acquire sign for Waterford Flats – shorebird habitat committee ON HOLD
- Design and acquire sign for PUMA site at Mt. Pleasant in concert with HCC staff – Mary
- Provide future announcements for both HCC and club sponsored butterfly walks to Bob and Kelsey for posting on club website and club Facebook page – Kevin
- Contact John McKitterick for technical advice on conducting hybrid club meetings – Mary Lou
- Organize and schedule a meeting to discuss way ahead for Waterford Flats – Kristin
- Contact The Wildlife Authority to explore holding a seed sale - Bob

## **Around the Room**

- Nancy asked for a short refresher statement of the primary duties of a Chapter Director. In short, the regular duties include attending board meetings, coordinating refreshments for the club meetings, and contacting those who fail to renew to remind them to renew or solicit the reason they chose not to renew (done in concert with the other Chapter Director). In addition, they may volunteer or be asked to help with other club activities that arise.

## Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 22, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
October 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
November 2022	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings)
December 1, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
January 26, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
February 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
March 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
April 27, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
May 25, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – September 22, 2022
- Treasurer Report – June 1 – August 31, 2022
- Records Committee Report – May 26, 2022 Board Meeting (April 28 – May 23)
- Discussion Topics – MOS Board meeting September 10, 2022
- Email from Wes Earp – resigning from Waterford Flats committee

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
September 23, 2022

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - Sept. 22 @ 7:30  
Time: Sep 22, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89010144804?pwd=RkhONHZBVFTQXdfMzI1Nm5ERnEvUT09>

Meeting ID: 890 1014 4804

Passcode: 280755

Review of Minutes

Treasurer's Report (attached)

President's Remarks

Vice President's Remarks

Chapter Committee Reports

- Field Trips
- Records (attached)
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Conservation
- Newsletter
- Webmaster
- Potluck
- Butterflies
- Safe Skies
- BBA3
- Programs

Old Business

- Waterford Flats
- Robinson Nature Center Open House

New Business

Action Items

Around the room

Chuck Stirrat

Brian Moyer

Kristin Trouton

Gregg Petersen

Joe Hanfman

Jo Solem

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Robin Todd

Megan Bolcar

Bob Solem

Sherry Tomlinson

Kevin Heffernan

Sue Muller

Sue Muller

Mary Lou Clark

Shorebird Habitat Committee

Kristin Trouton

Chuck Stirrat

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 10/6/22 1:47 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Jun-2022

Ending: 31-Aug-2022

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
T. Rowe Price	34,418.74	\$117.85	8/31 Statement	8/31
PNC Bank	24,462.26	\$845.63	See sheet below	8/31
Commonwealth FN	392,653.25	(\$9,511.38)	market adjustments	8/31
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$451,534.25</b>	<b>(\$8,547.90)</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$26,336.60	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
8/17/2022	Habitat Fund (H)	\$9,014.99	Flats
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	
8/2/2022	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	\$997.75	Added latest check from Bonfire

### Gift Funds

8/12/2022	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$5,434.01	Canopy Purchase
6/13/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$16,357.65	Supplies Waterford
8/31/2022	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$392,653.25	market activity

## Income Activity

1-Jun-2022

to

31-Aug-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$281.33</b>	<b>YTD</b>
MOS Deposit	Chapter portion of dues	Check	\$35.00	O
MOS Deposit	Chapter portion of dues	Check	\$175.00	O
Bonfire -50th Anniv	Proceeds of 50th Ann. T-shirt sales & donations	Check	\$68.72	A
Member Donation	Waterford Flats improvements	PayPal	\$993.07	H
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$1,271.79</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$1,553.12</b>	

## Expense Activity

1-Jun-2022

to

31-Aug-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$785.34</b>	<b>YTD</b>
May Count Tally Hospitality	Gregg Petersen reimbursement	Check 1189	\$198.66	O
Mary Lou Clark Reimbursement	Reimburse for printing handouts (GreenFest, Earth Day); balance of 33.02 to Chestem Fund for Waterford	Check 1190-1	\$23.49	O
Brown & Associates	Newsletter printing	Check 1192	\$65.00	O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$287.15</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$1,072.49</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>		5/1/22 - 8/31/22	<b>\$480.63</b>	<b>YTD</b>



**Records Committee Report – September 22, 2022 Board Meeting** (May 24 – September 20) – Joanne Solem

The spring records article is in the Sept/Oct Goldfinch. Most notable from the last week of May was the flock of 30 Whimbrels over Alpha Ridge Landfill 5/24, just the second visual record. That same evening two flocks were heard over Cavey Lane, at least one with Night Flight Call equipment.

The summer season brought a nice array of unusual species: Common Merganser, Wilson's Snipe, Mississippi Kite, Broad-winged Hawk, Bank Swallow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Purple Finch, Northern Waterthrush, Savannah Sparrow, Prothonotary Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Dickcissel. A number of those records involved either breeding or early/late dates. Sue Muller will, undoubtedly, highlight some breeding records in her atlas report; the others are detailed in the upcoming summer seasonal article.

Of those listed, two were of particular interest. One was a male Summer Tanager that stayed at Schooley Mill Park 5/21 – 7/6. This is the only record I can recall in which a singing male was in a county park for an extended period (not on a border with another county) with numerous birders cooperating to try to establish breeding. Unfortunately, breeding was not detected. The second species was Dickcissel. Despite the HCBC's not being able to lease land along Underwood Rd since 2018, the two-year venture five years ago has paid off with the continuing return of at least a few individuals. The colony has not grown, but Val Swan photographed at least one fledgling from the first brood and a nest building female for a possible second brood.

We are not quite halfway through the autumn season, but if reporting were suspended at this point, the season would still be counted an unqualified success. In addition to Sora, Mississippi Kite, a well-documented Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Semipalmated Plover, multiple Red-breasted Nuthatches, Marsh Wren, Lincoln's Sparrow, Golden-winged, Cerulean, and Connecticut warblers, and a record-early Rose-breasted Grosbeak, two rarities made an appearance within a few days of one another.

On 9/18, Kurt Schwarz photographed three Anhingas at Wilde Lake. Although this species was technically not a new county bird, it definitely felt that way. There is a historical record of a bird in the old Peale collection (Baltimore) that was reported to have been shot at Elkridge Landing (now Elkridge) prior to 1805. There is a modern record of five over the Columbia Mall 4/22/06 (B. Klick) accepted by the MD/DCRC. The recent Anhingas were intent on spending time at Wilde Lake, but the Sunday morning they were discovered coincided with community events so there were people everywhere until noon or later. Several times the birds rose, circled, and seemed to leave; in fact, each time they flew out of sight they actually made a large circle and eventually returned. Monday 9/19 meant fewer people, but, instead, produced a machine in the lake chopping weeds under the roost tree. Again the birds came and went. They were still present the morning of 9/20. Numerous birders have seen and photographed them, so there is no longer any question of whether it is a valid county species. (Considering all the surrounding counties have had records for at least 20 years or more, this was a long overdue species.)

The second species to appear was a new county record: Western Kingbird! Chalk up another species for Mt. Pleasant! The bird was discovered mid-morning of 9/20 by Allen Lewis at the north edge of the property at the end of a small swale. It spent the day feeding along the north to south hedgerow.

**Discussion Topics – MOS Board – September 10, 2022 – Bonnie Borsa**

- A) DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO GET NEW LEADERSHIP AT BOTH CHAPTER AND STATE LEVELS.
- B) BETTER INFORM CHAPTER MEMBERS ABOUT MOS BOARD/STATE LEVEL.
- C) DO WE WANT TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT CONVENTION FORMAT?
- D) WE NEED TO BE MORE WELCOMING TO YMOS.
- E) RESTRUCTURE THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE?
- F) SHOULD WE OFFER ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO MEMBERS?
- G) RESTRUCTURE THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE?
- H) OUR 5-YEAR COMMITMENT TO FUND MBC HAS RUN OUT; DO WE CONTINUE TO FUND IT?
- I) SHOULD WE SCALE BACK?

The file with slides for each topic is available on request from Secretary.



**From:** Wes Earp wesandsue@gmail.com

**Subject:** Circumstances have changed

**Date:** September 8, 2022 at 7:40 AM

**To:** David Sandler detour50@verizon.net, Kristin Trouton kristing4420@gmail.com, John Harris jaybee.harris@gmail.com, Clark, Mary Lou doctorfx\_99@yahoo.com, Mary Maxey maximom11998@gmail.com, Russ Ruffing russruffing@gmail.com, Gregg Petersen sig29@aol.com

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All,

Over the past several weeks it has become clear to me that my snail pace was not working as the chairman of the Flats committee. When I suggested to the Board that they needed to address management of the Flat's waterline in the early spring of 2021 I had not envisioned being part of a committee. Once it formed and I was asked to serve on it, I had second thoughts about being the chairman because of my long relationship with Chuck Sharp. There have been some awkward moments with Chuck since. And with our early success, I had envisioned expansion of the effort and suggested some actions that I now question because of our later lack of success.

At any rate, this past season has been a total loss and I now seem to be out of step with the present Board. So I am making a break with the committee. As of today, I will no longer be the chairman of the committee nor a member. I will consult on the design for the intake I sketched and on other matters if desired. My birding endeavors have always been recreation. When that stops, its time to move on.

On a final note there has been talk of a meeting with Chuck and four committee/Board members. It was to be in the immediate future but it would seem that meeting has moved to November. For anyone not aware of it, the concept originated outside of the committee leadership, and I was going to notify everyone when a date and time had been arranged, although the intent seems to be to intentionally limit participation.

Wes



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, October 27, 2022

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Kristin Trouton √  
Vice-president: Gregg Petersen √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.)  
State Directors: Donna Carollo √  
David Sandler √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: Mary Maxey √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Robin Todd √  
Newsletter: Megan Bolcar  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was fifteen. Attendance at the regular club meeting held October 13 was 36 people. Fred Shaffer gave a program entitled “Gulls of North America.” *Sec.*  
*Note: Due to conflicts by key board members the next Board meeting is moved to **December 15** but will return to the first Thursday in December in future years.*

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): The minutes were approved without change from the version distributed for review.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had distributed the attached Treasurer’s Report prior to the meeting. He reported that the new account with Vanguard has been setup. Unfortunately, the process of transferring funds into the account has experienced technical difficulties. The first step to resolving it is to establish the electronic link between the PNC Bank checking account and Vanguard. That requires an in-person meeting between the bank and Brian, Kristin, and Chuck. Brian is working to setup that meeting.

**President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin stated she was very excited about the coming weekend celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the club.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Petersen): Greg had no remarks.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe was not present, but he had reported that he had 29 people who registered for field trips scheduled for Saturday as part of the celebration. Additional participants who have not registered are welcome to come as the weather forecast is favorable.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo stated that with the last-minute planning for the weekend she had not prepared a formal records report. She mentioned that the fall season can bring in unusual species. The last Common Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts typically depart around October 15, but lately that was as late as the 27<sup>th</sup>. There are still a few hummingbirds visiting feeders but the possibility for rarity goes up the later it is. There have been very few shorebirds reported during this migration, probably due to very limited mud flats due to high water levels. The last

major Broad-winged Hawk flight was on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Typically, Alder Flycatchers would be reported as Trail's Flycatcher as without them singing they are hard to distinguish from Willow Flycatcher. One Alder Flycatcher reported by Russ Ruffing was supported with sufficient details to be accepted. Jo mentioned other species that need detailed descriptions in Fall, namely Philadelphia Vireo and Orange-crowned Warbler. Other species of note included both Sedge and Marsh Wrens. So far there have been a few boreal species including Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and a few Pine Siskins. One Evening Grosbeak was photographed during a thirty-minute visit to a feeder, but it did not return.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo reported that the committee has been working hard and that plans for the Saturday field trips and the Sunday program are coming to fruition. In addition to the VIPs planning to attend that were reported at our meeting in September, the Director of Recreation and Parks, Raul DeLorme has replied that he will be attending. The committee has purchased a micro cleaning cloth with the club logo imprinted on the cloth and the "pouch" as an anniversary souvenir. Members who did not attend any of the weekend events will receive a souvenir at club activities until the supply is exhausted. Souvenirs will be mailed to some of the long-time members. Lastly Jo reported that Meg Boyd, HCC Executive Director, had donated a pair of tickets to next year's HCC Wine in the Garden celebration to award as a door prize at the celebration on Sunday.

**Conservation** (Todd): Robin mentioned several issues that the MOS Conservation Committee had been weighing in on over the past couple of months. Some of these issues included: District of Columbia Bird-safe Building Act; a moratorium on opening more deep water ports for oil; acceptance of the Adaptive Resource Management (ARM) framework by the Delaware Bay, Horseshoe Crab Board for managing harvests despite it finding no impact on Red Knot populations and not being validated; opposing including a rider on the appropriations bill to exclude funding for protecting Greater Sage-grouse (*Sec. Note: Unfortunately this rider was included*). Other issues included: Management plan for Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument, EPA refusal to regulate neonicotinoid-coated seeds, DNR position on development on Old Legislative Road in Allegany County, and the fate of the chimney on the Hamden Bookbindery building scheduled for destruction as it is a major Chimney Swift roost. Lastly, they have been trying to influence mowing schedules that potentially impact grassland bird breeding success. Gregg offered that he has been in touch with Brian Moody of Howard Rec and Parks with respect to grassland bird habitat at West Friendship Park. He has or is trying to locate a fact sheet that provides recommendations for mowing schedules in Maryland. He offered to share his findings with Robin.

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): No report.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that most of his time has been spent updating the website 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary material.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry noted that since we are planning to resume in-person (hybrid) meetings in January and the relatively large attendance at the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration suggest we should consider holding an in-person potluck next spring. She asked if she should approach the RNC staff to ask for a date. It was pointed out that the MOU needs to be renewed by December and that we probably should wait until that is complete before taking action on the potluck.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): No report.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that the monitoring of strikes at the new courthouse that has been underway since September 1 has had an increase in dead birds over the past two weeks. They have found Black-throated Green Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat. The most recent meeting of the Safe Skies committee was canceled as Carolyn Parsa came down with COVID.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Most atlas activity is on hold currently. One item she mentioned dealt with the field off the end of John McAdam Drive in Gateway Drive. This is where Grasshopper Sparrows were heard this past summer but not confirmed possibly due to mowing. John Harris is on the MPEA advisory board, and another member of that board is a representative from the Howard Research & Development Corporation (HRD). John spoke to her about our interest in finding who to talk to about mowing the fields in Gateway because HRD has a management role for much of the property in Gateway. She was very responsive and offered to help with

exploring managing the mowing schedule to benefit the birds. Sue ended by reporting that she had a Monarch Butterfly leave her yard today.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou reported that plans are to begin holding club regular meetings in-person (hybrid) in January with Kevin presenting the annual butterfly survey report. She reported that she had watched at least three other club hybrid meetings and they all had considerable technical difficulties. John McKitterick had been approached and indicated he felt the difficulties could be avoided. In response to questions, it was unclear whether John had made a commitment to attend and assist with the IT setup for our first foray into hybrid meetings. Mary Lou agreed to confirm with John and info Kristin and David on the correspondence. *Sec. Note: I mentioned this to John during the celebration and he replied he had been contacted and confirmed that he has the meeting on his calendar. He would very much like to get an opportunity to run a dry run at RNC in advance of the meeting just to be sure we have the issues worked out.* We need to get the MOU approved and confirm dates for our meetings and a dry run session.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Trouton, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, etc.): No MOS Board meeting since our last meeting.

## Old Business

Waterford Flats – Gregg provided the attached report from the planning session the Waterford Flats Committee held on October 18. The next step is a meeting with Chuck Sharp on November 4.

PUMA Signs – Kristin reported that there had been no recent activity on signage for the Purple Martin box at Mt. Pleasant. Mary stated that the HCC contact, Tabby Figue, had stated they would prefer to limit any signage to only at the base of the pole. Since there is no trail that goes to the pole, this would not support our desire to provide education as part of this project. If limited to the pole location, we would probably only have a small plaque that indicates the box was erected and maintained by the Howard County Bird Club using habitat donations. After discussion we agreed to reapproach HCC about the potential for an educational sign within sight of the box (perhaps near the junction of the stone wall trail and trail and the first trail that goes up the hill to the south (toward but not to the box). *Sec. Note: Perhaps on the brow of hill on this side trail where the box is more visible.* Kristin took an action to talk to Tabby further about the possibility of an educational sign.

Member Non-renewals – Bob reported that Tom Strickwerda, MOS Webmaster, went on vacation from mid-September to mid-October, and unfortunately the Howard page for joining/renewing on the MOS website froze shortly after Tom left. So, for a period a few members were unable to join or renew. MOS sent out an appeal to renew after this and fortunately members who clicked on the link in the appeal were able to join. After Tom's return the Howard page was repaired and is now working. The result of this has delayed our normal schedule for contacting non-renewing members. Bob will get an updated membership report from MOS after November 1. Once he receives that he will put together the list of non-renewing members and provide them to Chapter Directors (Kelsey and Nancy) so they can contact them with a personal reminder. Bob also plans to send a NewsGram reminder to those non-renewing members with the link for renewal. He will keep the Chapter Directors informed of any memberships received so they are working from an up-to-date list. He will provide an update to the Board at the December meeting.

Seed Sale – Bob contacted Kevin Cassidy at The Wildlife Authority to ask if Kevin was interested in holding the club seed sale this year. Kevin indicated that he could not hold a sale for the club this year due to price volatility and availability of seed. Bob notified all those on our seed sale email list that we would not be having a sale this year. Bob then reviewed the history of the club holding seed sales. In the beginning the activity was totally managed by the club and distributed the seed out of a church. It served multiple roles as a fund raiser, social event, and even a workshop. Later it evolved as we formed a coalition with The Wildlife Authority to have the seed distributed out of the store but still were involved in collecting checks and orders. In the past two years the process evolved again, and Kevin Cassidy developed a website where he collected orders and payment along with allowing for purchasers to make a donation up to \$25 that he would match. However, with his decision to not have a sale this year, Bob proposed we should consider whether we need to try and hold seed sales going forward. He stated that we are no longer dependent on the seed sale for contributions to continue our charitable activities in support of habitat

preservation and natural history education. Between individual donations and significant endowment funds we do not appear to need the seed sale funds. He recommended that we not hold the seed sale in the future. This motivated a brief discussion of the seed sale and broached our relationship with the bird stores (The Wildlife Authority and Mother Natures). It revealed that several of those on the Board were unaware that both stores currently give club members a 10% price reduction on almost all their products including seed at all times. It was pointed out that we don't advertise this benefit of membership. Both stores also post information about the club, and we might want to explore ways to increase the extent of what "quid pro quo" we can offer between the club and the stores. Gregg took an action to explore options for such interactions with the stores (including other stores that were mentioned). We concluded with a decision to formally address Bob's recommendation to no longer hold seed sales at our next Board meeting.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – None.

### **New Business**

Kestrel Box – Gregg reported that he and Russ Ruffing want to erect an American Kestrel box (donated previously) at Mt. Pleasant that they have in storage. Jo expressed concern that putting it up any where near the Purple Martin box might be a mistake as kestrels may predate Purple Martins. Mary pointed out that **before** we take any action relative to putting it up at Mt. Pleasant it will be necessary to finalize a Memo of Understanding with HCC. Jo suggested that West Friendship Park might be a better location since a pair used to nest in the old farmhouse near the barn (until the house was rehabbed and openings closed), and kestrels are still consistently seen at that park. Gregg took an action to explore the idea of posting it at West Friendship Park.

### Around the Room -

- Jo mentioned that Mother Nature's expressed appreciation that one of the prizes offered to those completing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge was a gift certificate to their business.
- Robin reported that he has been hearing a Great Horned Owl behind his house recently
- David expressed his excitement for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on the weekend and offered his thanks to Jo for her excellent leadership of the planning committee.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Design and acquire sign for Waterford Flats – Waterford Flats committee ON HOLD
- Design and acquire sign for PUMA site at Mt. Pleasant in concert with HCC staff – Mary
- Provide future announcements for both HCC and club sponsored butterfly walks to Bob and Kelsey for posting on club website and club Facebook page – Kevin DONE
- Contact John McKitterick for technical advice on conducting hybrid club meetings – Mary Lou DONE
- Organize and schedule a meeting to discuss way ahead for Waterford Flats – Kristin DONE
- Contact The Wildlife Authority to explore holding a seed sale – Bob DONE

### **New/Continuing Action Items**

- Design and acquire sign for PUMA site at Mt. Pleasant in concert with HCC staff (Tabby) – Kristin/Mary
- Provide list of non-renewing members and contact those on list with reminder – Bob, Nancy, Kelsey
- Explore options for interactions between the club and stores with a focus on birds/natural history – Gregg
- Place decision on future seed sales on the agenda for next board meeting – Kristin
- Explore options for putting up the kestrel box at West Friendship Park - Gregg

## Board Meeting Schedule

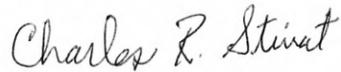
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
October 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
November 2022	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings)
December 15, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
January 26, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
February 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
March 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
April 27, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
May 25, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – October 27, 2022
- Treasurer’s Report – September 1 – 30, 2022
- Minutes – HCBC Waterford Flats Committee – Oct. 18, 2022

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
October 27, 2022

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - Oct. 27 @ 7:30  
Time: Oct 27, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83194550366?pwd=b1lRNVNUREwxdEVKYWFaaXA3Zk1Ldz09>

Meeting ID: 831 9455 0366

Passcode: 855573

President's Remarks

Vice President's Remarks

Review of Minutes

Treasurer's Report (attached)

Chapter Committee Reports

- Field Trips
- Records (attached)
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Conservation
- Newsletter
- Webmaster
- Potluck
- Butterflies
- Safe Skies
- BBA3
- Programs

Old Business

- Waterford Flats
- PUMA Signs
- Member non-renewals
- Seed Sale

New Business

Action Items

Around the room

Kristin Trouton

Gregg Petersen

Chuck Stirrat

Brian Moyer

Joe Hanfman

Jo Solem

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

Robin Todd

Megan Bolcar

Bob Solem

Sherry Tomlinson

Kevin Heffernan

Sue Muller

Sue Muller

Mary Lou Clark

Gregg Petersen

Mary Maxey/Kristin

Bob Solem

Bob Solem

Chuck Stirrat

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 10/24/22 5:37 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Sep-2022

Ending: 30-Sep-2022

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
T. Rowe Price	34,487.45	\$68.71	9/30 Statement	9/30
PNC Bank	24,615.33	\$153.07	See sheet below	9/30
Commonwealth FN	370,539.85	(\$22,113.40)	market adjustments & div income	9/30
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$429,642.63</b>	<b>(\$21,891.62)</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$26,275.31	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
9/20/2022	Habitat Fund (H)	\$9,311.01	memorial donations
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	
9/14/2022	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	\$984.80	donation minus expenses

### Gift Funds

8/12/2022	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$5,434.01	
6/13/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$16,357.65	
9/30/2022	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$370,539.85	Market Activity and div income

## Income Activity

1-Sep-2022

to

30-Sep-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$1,553.12</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Benevity	Charity Donation from Online	Check	\$500.00	A
Member Donation	Donation memorial	Check	\$100.00	H
Member Donation	Donation memorial	Check	\$50.00	H
Member Donation	Donation memorial	Check	\$50.00	H
Member Donation	Donation Paypal of \$100	Electronic	\$96.02	H
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$796.02</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$2,349.14</b>	

## Expense Activity

1-Sep-2022

to

30-Sep-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$1,072.49</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Brown & Associates	Printing Business Cards	Check	\$65.00	O
Kristin Trouton	Reimburse Microfiber Cloths	Check	\$512.95	A
Brown & Associates	Printing Newsletter	Check	\$65.00	O
				O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$642.95</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$1,715.44</b>	<b>YTD</b>

<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>	5/1/22 - 8/31/22	<b>\$633.70</b>	<b>YTD</b>
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**Minutes of Howard County Bird Club Waterford Flats Committee**  
**October 18, 2022**

**Attendees/Members:** Russ Ruffing, Mary Maxey, David Sandler, Kristin Trouton, Gregg Petersen

The Committee convened via Zoom on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Agenda:**

- **Continue the committee?** - Kristin had proposed possibility of seeking outside help if the Committee would rather not continue. It was agreed to continue efforts to improve the site via the Committee coordination with Chuck Sharp. In addition, Chuck had indicated a preference to work with the Committee rather than an outside agency.
- **Committee Chair** - Russ Ruffing was unanimously elected as the new Committee Chairman.
- **Site Issues & Management:**
  - A discussion was had about the proper management of water levels at the site to maximize shorebird usage. The issue appears to be that the site does not receive enough water and/or was not managed at the appropriate water levels to maximize shorebird usage and minimize upland weed growth. We must get the water supply and management issue fixed before going down the road of implementing other management tactics. To that end, Russ proposed that we explore building the drainage structure to improve water supply to the site. Russ requested copies of Wes Earp's proposed structure and Wes provided both plan and elevation views.
  - The goal will be to have enough water supply to inundate the flats throughout the winter months (assuming this agrees with Chuck Sharp's goals for the site), which should help to rid the site of upland vegetation and manage the site in the spring to keep the water elevation at higher levels than in past years. This will keep more of the site wet and not orphan large portions of it, which induces weed growth and reduces shorebird usage.
  - Based on our meeting with Chuck Sharp, it may be determined that a burn-off of the weeds that have grown on the site could be a useful tactic ahead of the winter months. We will revisit this issue after meeting with Chuck.
  - It was agreed that any usage of chemical weed control tactics should be deferred until next spring/summer until we see how the site performs under our proposed water elevation and management practices.
  - The committee also discussed whether some additional grading of the site may be needed and a possible implementation of that to support the new management approach. Mary indicated that funding from the HCBC would likely be available if needed (there was a \$1,000 donation made and the HCBC Board approved a \$1,000 expenditure in September for the Drainage Improvement Structure). It was agreed that grading of the site should also be tabled until next year until we see how the site performs under our proposed water elevation and management practices.
  - All agreed that this will be an iterative process and we will have to adaptively manage the site and/or change tactics as needed until we achieve a desirable outcome.
- **Next Committee Meeting:** The next step for the Committee is to meet with Chuck Sharp who agreed to a meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm on the farm.

- **Primary and secondary committee contacts for Chuck Sharp:** Russ and Gregg will handle these duties, respectively.
- **Mudflats Committee Membership:** With the resignations of several members and Kristin now the HCBC President, the committee membership going forward will be Russ (Chairman), Gregg (Assistant Chairman), Mary, and David. Gregg will relay all updates and activities to the HCBC Board as required.



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, December 15, 2022

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Kristin Trouton √  
Vice-president: Gregg Petersen √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer  
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Donna Carollo √  
David Sandler √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: *Mary Maxey*

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Robin Todd √  
Newsletter: Megan Bolcar √  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Linda Hunt/S. Tomlinson  
Publicity: Allen Lewis √  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √

**Others:**

Woody Merkle √  
Tabby Figue √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 18. Attendance at the regular club meeting held November 10 was 35 people. David Holmes gave a program entitled “Historic Amazements” describing rare birds found in Howard County as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Attendance at the regular club meeting held December 8, was 25 people. Leighann Cline gave a program entitled “Loggerhead Shrike Conservation: Saving North America’s Butcherbird.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck received several corrections to the original draft that have been incorporated into the final version. Jo clarified that the intent was not to have sufficient souvenir cloths for every member of the club, but they will be distributed to those who didn’t attend the weekend events as they attend other club activities until they are exhausted. If necessary, souvenirs will be mailed to some long-time members who could not attend. Jo was who suggested we might consider erecting the kestrel box at West Friendship as they used to nest in the old farmhouse and are still present there frequently. Mary submitted a few grammatical and improved wording suggestions that have been incorporated. Finally, the misspelling of Kristin’s name in several places were corrected. The minutes with these corrections were accepted. Bob took minutes at the December meeting since Chuck was in Minnesota. *Secretary’s Note: I wish to express my thanks to Bob for agreeing to take and prepare the minutes.*

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian provided the attached narrative summary and reports for October and November prior to the meeting. The reports were accepted and are attached. *[Note: He later amended the November report (attached version) to include the Commonwealth account balance as of November 30.*

**President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin said the new business item *Mt Pleasant Hayfield* would be discussed before committee reports were given so that the two guests from Mt Pleasant would not have to stay for the rest of the meeting.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Petersen): None

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Joe sent in the following:” I am still looking for an Area 2 coordinator for the Midwinter Count. Mary Lou said she could assist the coordinator. I have a field trip set up on 4/11 at Belmont. Mike Bowen is going to join us and tell us stories about birding there when it was The American Chemical Society. Mike has a huge Belmont list.”

**Records** (Jo Solem): See attached.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): None.

**Conservation** (Todd): In addition to the list of actions in the attached, Robin provided additional material on a proposed meeting with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to urge a reduced harvest of Horseshoe Crabs (see attached).

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): Jan-Feb 2023 issue of *The Goldfinch* is ready to go to the printer. Jo complimented Megan on the excellent job she is doing and how quickly she picked up the process from Howard Patterson.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob has been busy making changes to the web about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and holding hybrid meetings at Robinson Nature Center (RNC) starting in January 2023 plus the usual maintenance.

**Potluck** (Hunt/Tomlinson): Sherry proposed March 25, 2023 as the date with March 18 as an alternate date. The Board preferred March 25 and asked that she arrange with RNC. [*Note: After the meeting Sherry confirmed the March 25 date with RNC.*]

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): None.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue said there has been no action by the Department of Recreation and Parks to install window treatments at RNC although the county has appropriated money. Gregg and Sue will draft a letter to Raoul Delorme (head of Red & Parks) for statistics on bird kills since 2011. Sue will contact someone at RNC about an initiative to protect birds from their windows, especially the large glass wall on one side of the building.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): It is the start of the fourth year of the atlas since Great Horned Owl is now in safe dates. Mary Lou Clark heard one calling after midnight today. Sue said Cornell will publish statistics on BBA3 after January 1, 2023.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou will provide Chuck and Bob with a list of programs for January- May 2023. [*Note: Mary Lou sent the list after the meeting.*]

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Trouton, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, etc.): Donna submitted the attached outline of topics discussed at the MOS December 3 Board meeting. The MOS president hoped that future summer scholarships would be at venues in Maryland and that speakers at the MOS convention would be from Maryland in order to minimize costs.

## Old Business

**Waterford Flats:** Gregg reported that parts for the structure have arrived, and they are setting up a schedule for installation.

**Kestrel Box location at West Friendship Park (Farm Museum):** Gregg reported he has set a meeting with the Living Farm Heritage Museum representative (John Frank) to review a recommendation for a location on high ground that would be suitable as a nest box location, as well as begin work with them on an MOU. *Update: Meeting was cancelled by Living Farm Heritage Museum president due to family emergency. Gregg is trying to reschedule.*

**Purple Martin signs at Mount Pleasant:** Kristin met with Tabby Fique, who said Howard County Conservancy will design a sign (conforming to the HCC criteria) and coordinate with HCBC.

**Robinson Nature Center MOU:** Kristin and the Ellen Reinecke of RNC signed the new agreement and are waiting for county review of the document. Significant portions involve HCBC participating in RNC Annual Anniversary Open House, annual training for the RNC staff on bird watching or bird identification, annual presentations to Master Naturalist trainings and interns on alternate years, and promotion of RNC in HCBC media. The draft for this 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the MOU was attached to the announcement for this meeting but not included in these minutes.

**Member renewals:** Nancy said she had emailed or phoned the people on the list provided by Bob. She took on the task this year so that Kelsey would have time to devote to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary material (YouTube videos and pdf photo gallery of the celebration weekend, etc.) Bob added that there was response from 35 of the 92 on the list (39%) despite the MOS membership portal being unavailable from the last half of October to the first half of November plus a shorter outage in early December.

#### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings

Kristin sent a thank you letter to Meg Boyd of the Howard County Conservancy for hosting and participating in the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

#### **New Business**

**Mt. Pleasant hayfield:** Woody and Tabby Fique (Howard County Conservancy [HCC] Land Management and Easement Coordinator) presented a proposal for joint management of an 11-acre parcel shown on the attachment. This parcel is west of the entrance road next to MD99. The proposal is for HCBC to fund annual mowing of the parcel to maintain it as a pollinator plot and grassland for birds. Annual cost of mowing is currently estimated to be \$650; 5-year estimated cost (allowing for inflation) \$3600-4000. The proposed agreement would encourage additional improvement paid by HCBC in consultation with HCC such as reseeding areas with a pollinator seed mix, hedgerow development, additional plots, etc. The area last year was a hayfield which satisfies the requirement that it be used for "agricultural use." After discussion it was moved/seconded/passed that HCBC compensate HCC for mowing the parcel in early 2023 and that Kristin appoint HCBC members to a joint committee (HCBC and HCC) to develop a plan of operation and future action, propose an MOU, and report interim progress to the HCBC Board. The joint committee would include a member of the HCBC butterfly committee.

**Youth Backpack:** David will try to contact the parents of a youth mentioned as a recipient of the first backpack. Other members of the Board will work with David to identify a recipient of a second backpack he just received at the above-mentioned MOS Board meeting.

**Wine in the Garden tickets from 50<sup>th</sup>:** David said that the winner of the tickets at the prize drawing indicated she wanted to surrender the tickets to HCBC. There was a long discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of various ways to offer the tickets to HCBC members, but the Board did not agree on a solution, so it will be discussed at the January 2023 board meeting.

**Rare Bird Alerts to current members:** The Board has no objection to Bob changing the requirement that members had to sign up if they wanted to be a recipient of the alerts and instead send alerts to all current members. The proposed action would be simpler and is not expected to add a burden to Joe Hanfman, who coordinates arranging timed admittance to restricted areas when a rare bird is found there.

**Food for programs:** Nancy and Kelsey (Chapter Directors) will work with Mary Lou on refreshments for the meeting at RNC in January, and the Chapter Directors will work out procedures for the remainder of the membership year.

**HCBC membership benefits & website location:** Gregg provided the attached list of benefits to be on the web. The proposal was accepted, and the webmaster will incorporate them. The same list will be on the back of the HCBC business card.

**HCBC business card design:** The 1000 business cards ordered in August 2022, do not have the QR code or the list of benefits on the back of a business card. Gregg provided a mockup of a new design on one for HCBC. After discussion, it was moved/seconded/passed that Gregg order 1000 new cards. [*Note: Gregg has ordered the cards.*]

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Design and acquire sign for PUMA site at Mt. Pleasant in concert with HCC staff (Tabby) – Kristin/Mary DONE
- Provide list of non-renewing members and contact those on list with reminder – Bob, Nancy DONE
- Explore options for interactions between the club and stores with a focus on birds/natural history – Gregg DONE
- Place decision on future seed sales on the agenda for next board meeting – Kristin DONE
- Explore options for putting up the kestrel box at West Friendship Park – Gregg DONE

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Draft a letter to Raoul Delorme (head of Red & Parks) for statistics on bird kills since 2011. -- Gregg and Sue.
- Contact someone at RNC about an initiative to protect birds from their windows, especially the large glass wall on one side of the building. – Sue.
- Work with a representative of West Friendship Park on an MOU for locating a kestrel box on the property - Gregg.
- Notify HCC that HCBC will pay for mowing the 11-acre parcel in early 2023 and will create and appoint HCBC representatives to a joint committee to develop proposals for the 11 acre parcel in question and an MOU -- Kristin.
- Contact the parents of the youth proposed to receive the first backpack, bring the second backpack to the January 2023 meeting at RNC, and work with other members of the Board on a process to give the second backpack just received from MOS. -- David
- Alternatives on how to award the “Wine in the Woods...” tickets to a HCBC member. -- Board
- Work out a process for getting volunteers to provide refreshments at the live meetings at RNC through May 2023 -- Nancy and Kelsey.
- Implement changes on the HCBC website to show that hybrid meetings are at RNC, show “Benefits of Membership,” implement the change that all members are sent Rare Bird Alerts and reflect that HCBC no longer sponsors seed sales -- Bob.
- Develop proposed wording for the front page of the website to promote RNC on the HCBC website -- Bob.

**Board Meeting Schedule**

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

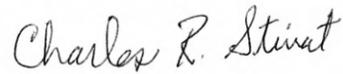
September 22, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
October 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
November 2022	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid
December 15, 2022	- VIRTUAL	Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings, but
January 26, 2023	- VIRTUAL	due to conflicts moved to 15 <sup>th</sup> for just this year)
February 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
March 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
April 27, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	
May 25, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – December 15, 2022
- Treasurer Report – October 1-31, 2022
- Narrative Treasurer’s Report – December 15, 2022
- Treasurer Report – November 1-30, 2022 [*Note: the amended report is attached.*]
- Bird Records Report – Jo
- Conservation Report – Robin
- Benefits of HCBC Membership – Gregg
- MOS board meeting – Donna
- Mt Pleasant hayfield map – W. Merkle
- Mt Pleasant hayfield proposal – W. Merkle

Minutes prepared by: Bob Solem

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
December 15, 2022

Topic: HCBC Board meeting - Dec. 15 @ 7:30  
Time: Dec 15, 2022 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89024476276?pwd=dU5lWXhPNGYvcHVzOVcyYXNpZXJOQT09>

Meeting ID: 890 2447 6276

Passcode: 463008

President's Remarks	Kristin Trouton
Vice President's Remarks	Gregg Petersen
Review of Minutes	Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer's Report (attached)	Brian Moyer
Chapter Committee Reports	
• Field Trips	Joe Hanfman
• Records (attached)	Jo Solem
• Conservation	Robin Todd
• Newsletter	Megan Bolcar
• Webmaster	Bob Solem
• Potluck	Sherry Tomlinson
• Safe Skies	Sue Muller
• BBA3	Sue Muller
• Programs	Mary Lou Clark
<u>Old Business</u>	
• Waterford Flats	Gregg Petersen
• Kestrel Box location- West Friendship	Gregg Petersen
• PUMA Signs	Kristin Trouton
• Robinson MOU	Kristin Trouton
• Member Renewals	Nancy McAllister
• Seed Sale- vote	Bob Solem
<u>New Business</u>	
• Mt Pleasant Hayfield	Woody Merkle
• MOS Board Meeting	David Sandler/Donna Carollo
• Youth Backpack	David Sandler
• Wine in the Garden tickets from 50th	David Sandler
• Rare Bird Alerts to current members	Bob Solem
• Food for Programs	Nancy McAllister
• HCBC Membership Benefits & Website Location	Gregg Petersen
• HCBC Business Card Design	Gregg Petersen
<u>Action Items</u>	Chuck Stirrat
<u>Around the room</u>	

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 11/14/22 12:52 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Oct-2022

Ending: 31-Oct-2022

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
T. Rowe Price	34,563.78	\$76.33	10/31 Statement	10/31
PNC Bank	26,320.33	\$1,705.00	See sheet below	10/31
Commonwealth FN	389,670.58	\$19,130.73	market adjustments & div income	10/31
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$450,554.69</b>	<b>\$20,912.06</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$27,956.64	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
10/14/2022	Habitat Fund (H)	\$9,411.01	memorial donations
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	
9/14/2022	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	\$984.80	donation minus expenses

### Gift Funds

8/12/2022	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$5,434.01	
6/13/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$16,357.65	
10/31/2022	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$389,670.58	Market Activity and div income

## Income Activity

1-Oct-2022

to

31-Oct-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$2,349.14</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Member check	Membership dues	Check	\$25.00	O
Member check	Memorial Contribution Randle/Coskren	Check	\$100.00	H
MOS Check	Membership dues	Check	\$290.00	O
MOS Check	Membership dues	Check	\$1,290.00	O
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$1,705.00</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$4,054.14</b>	

## Expense Activity

1-Oct-2022

to

31-Oct-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$1,715.45</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$1,715.45</b>	<b>YTD</b>

<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>	5/1/22 - 8/31/22	<b>\$2,338.69</b>	<b>YTD</b>
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This email provided both the narrative and Treasurer Report for the period ending 30 Nov 2022.

The Club continues to be in a strong financial position as our investments are strong and the YTD income is over expenses.

- Notable activities shown in the report include some upgrades at Waterford Farm, donations and reimbursements for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and other donations in memorial of those passed.
- Commonwealth statement not received for Nov so Oct 31 balance remains the same for this report; other investment accounts increased so safe to assume this one did as well. Will adjust for Jan.

Additional Notes of interest:

- Vanguard account open and linked to PNC (thank you Chuck/Kristin/Mary M.) for accommodating the in-person visit to PNC
- PNC transfer of \$10,000 (test) to Vanguard executed
- TRP Account closed with check 34,660.97 distributed to Treasurer – upon arrival I will deposit into PNC checking and transfer to Vanguard as prescribed
- Commonwealth not yet contacted for that transaction into Vanguard.
- Successfully moved funds within Vanguard to ESG type funds (Environment/Social/Governance)...also in concert w/May Board decision.

Conclusion: Thanks to all who have been supporting me, especially Chuck in review of these materials monthly. It really does help to have open lines of communication to make proper determinations as to how to allocate to the virtual accounts (Habitat etc.) Thanks to Kelsey for never missing a beat on Zoom meeting facilitation.

I wish all of you a very Happy Holiday Season and a fantastic New Year too! I appreciate the flexibility of providing this narrative so my wife and I can celebrate 28 years of marriage in New England.

Brian

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 12/19/22 2:31 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Nov-2022

Ending: 30-Nov-2022

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
T. Rowe Price	34,660.94	\$97.16	11/30 Statement	11/30
PNC Bank	23,873.56	-\$2,446.77	See sheet below	11/30
Commonwealth FN	406,433.36	\$16,762.78	market adjustments & div income	11/30
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$464,967.86</b>	<b>\$14,413.17</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$27,934.22	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
11/4/2022	Habitat Fund (H)	\$9,507.03	memorial donations
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
11/23/2022	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	-\$11.51	donation minus expenses

### Gift Funds

8/12/2022	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$5,434.01	no activity
11/9/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,930.75	Waterford Supplies
10/31/2022	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$406,433.36	Market Activity and div income

## Income Activity

1-Nov-2022

to

30-Nov-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$4,054.14</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Member check	Bonfire Fundraiser	Check	\$127.84	A
Member check	Correction for Overpayment	Check	\$357.00	A
Member check	Donation to Habitat after PayPal fee	Check	\$96.02	H
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$580.86</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$4,635.00</b>	

## Expense Activity

1-Nov-2022

to

30-Nov-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$1,715.45</b>	<b>YTD</b>
CK 1197	Schaffer Honorarium Speaker	Check	\$100.00	O
CK 1198	50th Reimbursement	Check	\$117.50	A
CK 1199	50th Reimbursement	Check	\$734.43	A
CK 1200	Waterford Flats Supplies	Check	\$1,426.90	C
CK1201	50th Reimbursement	Check	\$629.22	A
ATM	Office Supplies	ATM	\$19.58	O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$2,075.70</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$3,791.15</b>	<b>YTD</b>

<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>	5/1/22 - 11/30/22	<b>\$843.85</b>	<b>YTD</b>
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**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, and 50th Anniversary Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.

**Gift Funds Activity**

1-Nov-2022

to

30-Nov-2022

**Mountjoy Fund Transactions**

None

**Chestem Fund Transactions**

\$1426.90 for supplies

**Ponce Fund Transactions**

None (market gain plus income)

## **Records Committee Report – December 15, 2022 Board Meeting (October 27 – December 12)**

Waterfowl were obvious during this period as would be expected. Two Snow Geese were singles, one each in a flock of Canada Geese and Tundra Swans. Three reputable reports of Cackling Geese were received. The peak Tundra Swan migration was on time in mid-November; no exceptionally large numbers were reported. Ducks filtered through with the best variety on 11/20 at Triadelphia Reservoir when more than a dozen species were recorded along with loon, grebe, heron, Peregrine Falcon and Bonaparte's Gull (typical period for a few Bonies). More than a dozen Northern Shovelers appeared again at Race Road Wetlands. Fortunately, a Surf Scoter at Centennial on 10/27 was photographed as its visit was brief. Common Merganser numbers have begun to build on Triadelphia, although it may take a few more weeks to reach their usual peak of 1,000+.

Hummingbirds (yes, plural) were headline species. A Ruby-throated stayed until 11/21 at a feeder in Dorsey's Search to extend the departure date by several weeks! Two Rufous Hummers appeared about mid-October in the Woodmark Lake area. When they began visiting feeders on a second property, it became possible for Joe Hanfman to arrange visits. Banding has, so far, been unsuccessful. The male was still present in early December.

Shorebird migration was mostly a bust, perhaps mostly due to minimal habitat this fall. A Green Heron was last seen at Lake Kittamaquidi 11/3, not one of the three latest dates, but any November record is noteworthy.

The October 29<sup>th</sup> Field Day as part of the HCBC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Weekend at Mt. Pleasant notched a group of 11 Common Ravens at the Skywatch, equaling the county's all-time high. Morning field trips also recorded a Lincoln's Sparrow and a total of 26 Purple Finches, an excellent count after last winter's depressing totals. A Marsh Wren at Belmont 12/8 was almost a month later than the latest fall migrant and is just the third winter record.

An Eastern Bluebird was photographed with a Northern Brownsnake in its bill. One might surmise that the bird might have thought the lethargic reptile was an earthworm. Whatever the reason, a snake is an extremely unusual prey item for this thrush. It's a good example of how careful observation can continue to add knowledge to the life histories of even the common species.

Boreal species have been spreading over the area since September with good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Purple Finches reported. A few credible Pine Siskin records have been noted and three Evening Grosbeaks were either photographed or recorded.

American Tree Sparrows continue to be few. So far, well-described singles have been spotted at Schooley Mill Park and Belmont. During this period, three Vesper Sparrows on one day were notched at Alpha Ridge Landfill (where they are expected) and one was photographed at Barberry Way (where they are not).

A male Baltimore Oriole appeared at a feeder on So. Trotter Rd on 12/11. A few Rusty Blackbirds have been reported but no more than two at any location.

One of the three well-described Orange-crowned Warblers this fall hung on at Mt. Pleasant until 10/27. A male Nashville Warbler turned up on the Centennial Walk on 11/20. Although Nashvilles are among the later warblers to depart, any Nov/Dec record is notable as there are only a handful of records for this species for those months. A photographed Blackpoll set a new late record by remaining until 10/29.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 HCBC BOARD MEETING  
11/29-12/14/22 (expanded 12/18/22)

1. Letters sent to Sens Cardin and Van Hollen urging their continued support for RAWA (Recovering America's Wildlife Act).
2. Plans being made to meet with DNR to urge a moratorium for harvesting of horseshoe crabs in MD waters. This follows ASMFC's recent disappointing decision to approve the revised ARM (Adaptive Resources Management) which could allow a resumption of harvest of female crabs. The meeting is being organized with Mid Atlantic Audubon. Gwen Brewer of DNR has made initial approach to DNR management; meeting should be in January. Keeping in contact with DE Audubon, who are going to push for a legislative fix. We need to approach DNR as just one member of a broad coalition, not just birders.
3. Signed on in support of a ban on fracking and use of water for fracking in the Delaware Watershed.
4. Sent out a call for comments to be submitted to USFWS on proposed measures to streamline the permitting process for new wind turbines. – which could increase hazards to eagles. This was not a situation where one could sign on for a society.

**PROPOSED MEETING WITH DNR TO URGE REDUCED HARVEST OF HORSESHOE CRABS**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) recently approved the revised ARM (Adaptive Resources Management) for harvesting horseshoe crabs: this could allow a resumption of the harvest of female crabs. The numbers of crabs and red knots visiting the Delaware shore have not recovered from their precipitous declines from their 1990's levels. The conservation community is very disappointed with the ASMFC decision because female crabs are much more important to health of the crab population than are males. In addition, we are skeptical of the validity of the model upon which the ARM is based for several reasons (e.g. it does not accept that red knot numbers largely depend on horseshoe crab numbers, it does not use crab egg density data, it extrapolates data for years when no crab surveys were conducted, the inner workings of the model have not been made public for independent expert scrutiny).

Since the ASMFC does not seem interested in reducing the crab harvest, we have decided to approach MD's DNR to urge for reducing the harvest of crabs in Maryland's waters. Colin Rees originated the idea, Kurt Schwarz is also involved. The meeting is being organized in conjunction with Mid Atlantic Audubon. Gwen Brewer of DNR has asked her management about such a meeting; she was advised that late January or February is the likely time frame.

This meeting will probably be the start of a long campaign; we may need to meet with DNR more than once. We need to enlist the support of other groups, including those that are not bird-orientated in order to show that there is broad-based concern about the plight of the horseshoe crabs and the shore birds (not just red knots) that depend upon them. We will keep in touch with parallel efforts in Delaware. We need to do a lot more fact finding in order to present a credible case to DNR.

This campaign could go on for years. In future I may be asking to HCBC members to add their voices in support campaign as we move forward.

Respectfully submitted,



## Benefits of Howard County Bird Club Memberships

1. Monthly meetings/programs at the Robinson Nature Center (September—May).
2. Learning from friendly, helpful county birders.
3. Inside information about Howard County birding (including Rare Bird Alerts) and sites.
4. Access to private property not normally available.
5. Opportunities to participate in frequent field trips in Howard County and elsewhere in the state.
6. Seasonal counts with after-count tally rallies with experienced birders.
7. Access to statewide Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) activities, including their annual conference.
8. Opportunities to develop friendships with other birders.
9. Being a citizen scientist who is contributing meaningful data.
10. Learning about natural history in general.
11. Receive a monthly emailed copy of chapter newsletter *The Goldfinch* and the MOS newsletter *The Yellowthroat* directly and receive hard copies of the MOS journal *Maryland Birds*.
12. Participate in conservation efforts and improving habitat.
13. 10% discount at Mother Nature's and at The Wildlife Authority.
14. 20% discount on a 1-year Cornell's *Birds of the World* subscription through MOS.

MOS board meeting Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 10-12:30pm

Virtually attended Donna Carollo- notes

1. Records being moved from Patuxent to West VA, if you need anything contact Phil Davis
2. Treasurer report:
  - a. Dues \$26K-good compared to last year
  - b. Donations \$10K- included \$5k from Laura Spadon
  - c. Special fund- sanctuary \$18K for new roof also needs parking pad total \$27K
  - d. Funds- Vanguard \$380K lost \$85K this year
3. MOS convention 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - a. Speakers- use local to keep costs down. Panel discussion on Sat night to discuss future and give gift cards to panel
  - b. Use speakers in MOS without going outside group. Have 35 local speakers in MOS group- suggested to have Peter Kaestner as speaker who is the #1 lister in MD
  - c. Tiffany Kirsten will not be a speaker due to her cost. She will be speaking at Baltimore Bird Club
4. New Project-Educator/student workshop
  - a. To begin Summer 2024-scholarship money available but due to covid hasn't been advertised. Already in budget.
  - b. Need volunteers for planning committee and want program to be ready by Fall 2023
  - c. Need a way to advertise
5. Request for funding-
  - a. Tim Carne-requested funding for program to benefit under privileged kids in Baltimore City- money for binoculars and field guides
  - b. \$1K will be funded
6. Internships at Washington College to honor Rick Blum, deceased ornithologist-
  - a. Gene Scarpulla requesting funding- Formerly Ornithological Scholarship changed to Blum Internship
  - b. Costs \$1,500/student for Spring and Fall for 3 students

- c. Requesting MOS fund 2 additional students so \$3K per year
  - d. Will discuss more and possibly fund and review each year not a permanent funding
  - e. There is still \$3K left in this year budget for scholarships
7. Revisit MOS Committees-
- a. There are some committees that haven't been active in years so should be eliminated
  - b. Request for money should be a new committee
8. Hog Island funding debated-
- a. Spend \$10-12K every year which is too much
  - b. Only 11 applicants this year and 6 were granted and paid-why such few applicants???
  - c. Cost's \$1,690 for room and board and \$1,590 for salary of teachers
  - d. Don't get any feedback from students afterwards
  - e. Why do we send people to ME when we should be utilizing MD locations??- Will look into more MD locations for future
  - f. Suggested to decrease to 2 scholarships to Hog Island and fund MD locations
9. Suggested to increase membership fees \$10/year
10. Committee input before budget Jan-
- a. Sanctuary committee repairs and parking pad already approved
  - b. Iris Grove work weekend April 1<sup>st</sup>
11. Chairs to speak- none

MT PLEASANT HAYFIELD

Approximately 11 acres



## Proposal for Conversion of a Mt Pleasant Hayfield to Meadow

The Bird Club to sponsor the conversion of an 11 acre agricultural field (currently used for hay production) at Mt Pleasant to a meadow area that will provide a more diverse habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife.

Attached is a map showing the field's boundaries. It is the area immediately to the west of the Mt Pleasant driveway and is where the Club installed a Purple Martin colony box this year.

Sponsorship involves the Club paying for the yearly mowing of this field to keep out woody plants like Bradford Pear. Tabby Figue, Land Manager at the Conservancy, recently received an estimate of \$650 for a one-time mowing. A five year total cost for annual mowing would be between \$3600 and \$4000 assuming a 5 to 10 percent yearly increase in costs. There is an immediate need to have the hay field mowed before the spring of 2023.

The Club could also consider sponsoring the replanting of some or all of this new meadow area with a wider variety of native plants than what is there now. The costs for this would depend on the amount of field replanted and the nature of that replanting. It may be best to form a small group of representatives from the Club and the Conservancy to explore this idea further.

11/30/2022



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, January 26, 2023

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Kristin Trouton √  
Vice-president: Gregg Petersen √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer  
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Donna Carollo  
David Sandler √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: Mary Maxey √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Robin Todd √  
Newsletter: Megan Bolcar  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Sherry Tomlinson  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √

**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 12 was 58 (26 in-person/32 on Zoom) people. Kevin Heffernan gave a program entitled “The 2022 Howard County Butterfly Survey Results.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin had no opening remarks.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Petersen): Gregg reported that he had put Dave Ziolkowski in touch with Liz Guertin, a HCBC member, who is coordinating an outing at Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary for Nature Forward Master Naturalists to see the large population of overwintering geese. Dave volunteered to help her out with background and history of resident/migrant geese populations, etc. Gregg also said he continued his efforts to distribute the new format club business cards.

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Only one correction received was a proposed revision of the item dealing with the Kestrel Box. The update reads “Gregg reported he has set a meeting with the Living Farm Heritage Museum representative (John Frank) to review a recommendation for a location on high ground that would be suitable as a nest box location and work with them on an MOU. *Update: Meeting was cancelled by Living Farm Heritage Museum president due to a family emergency. Gregg is trying to reschedule.*” I also want to thank Bob again for taking and preparing the minutes while I was in Minnesota. The minutes were accepted with the above correction.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had shared the attached Treasurer Report and narrative. Chuck added that the Vanguard account has funds in two funds with the following balances as of December 31:

Vanguard Global ESG Select Stock Fund Investor Shares - \$400,811.49  
Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund - \$5,013.89

Chuck pointed out that the balance of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary virtual fund was a negative \$333.54. He suggested that since the Anniversary Committee is disbanding, we should close this fund by moving funds from the Mountjoy fund to zero the balance. Chuck made a motion to do this. It was seconded and passed.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo provided the attached report before the meeting. Jo reported that Joe Hanfman, Russ Ruffing, and she had been discussing an issue they were seeing with eBird reports for species that are difficult to separate and a lack of details in the eBird comments explaining how the ID had been made. Examples include distinguishing between Lesser/Greater Scaup, Cackling Goose, and American Tree Sparrow. Their concern is that the eBird reviewers don't have the time or alerts to ensure these are valid reports. They are considering how to encourage eBird users to recognize that when finding one of these species it is necessary to document what they saw and not go with such phrases as "continuing" as justification.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (Jo Solem): Jo had provided the attached detailed report on the activities of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee so that it will be available as a resource for future similar events and celebrations of the club in the Minutes archive. She has also prepared a 3-ring binder with all the committee's materials. Chuck has agreed to store this binder with the other hard copy archives for the foreseeable future.

Jo provided a summary of the update she had received from Meg Boyd on the status of the recovery efforts at the Howard County Conservancy Gudelsky Education Center following the flooding disaster brought on by freezing pipes during the Christmas Eve cold snap. Cleanup is basically complete with the insulation and flooring ripped out and new material ordered. Estimates for obtaining the bamboo flooring are at a minimum 6 weeks. Meg reported they have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support they have received. Over 40% of donations have come from people they had never heard from before. One of the donations came from George Robbins (Chan's son) in New Hampshire on behalf of the Robbins family. The total recovery cost is estimated to be over \$400,000, most covered by insurance, with donations expected to help fund continuing operations and lost income from programs that won't be possible until the repairs are complete. Lastly, in reply to a question, Jo stated that they had received enough donations to meet the Challenge Match of \$20K.

**Conservation** (Todd): Robin was attending on-line from Cayman Brac in the Cayman Islands south of Cuba. He reported that Kurt was standing in for him as state Conservation chair while he was away. He mentioned that testimony on the state PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) bill (SBSB158 - Pesticide Registration–PFAS Testing–Requirements Bill) is scheduled for February 2. He urged us to contact our state senators and urge support for the bill. MOS is supporting a MD Bird-Safe Building bill. A ruling that had threatened the Tongass National Forest has been reversed. A bill has been introduced that denies any state funding for the MAGLEV proposed MAGLEV project. There has been no progress in trying to influence the limits on Horseshoe crab harvesting. MOS is trying to schedule a meeting with the newly appointed head of DNR. Chris Eberly has stepped down as the MD Bird Conservation Partnership coordinator and Robin said that will be a major loss. Lastly Robin mentioned that the population of the Brown Booby colony on Cayman Brac is threatened by feral cats. He provided an email with links to articles on this issue after the fact that is attached.

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): Megan was not present, but it was mentioned her deadline had just passed so if people have inputs for the March Goldfinch they should get them to her immediately.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob reported that he had been busy over the past month. He wrapped up the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary portion of the website, adding a celebration page including a photo album by Kelsey Wellons. He also updated the Program/Field Trip page adding a description of how the new hybrid meetings work. He also mentioned that someone noticed an announcement of our meeting in the Baltimore Sun. Allen Lewis, as Publicity Chair, sends the info about our programs to the paper and when they have room, they include them. Lastly, he commented that if someone wanted to see an excellent example of documenting your sightings of a rare or difficult to identify bird you could look at the Photo Gallery – Varied Thrush entry.

**Potluck** (Tomlinson): Sherry reported that so far 13 people have signed up for the potluck on March 25. She said that Kathy Lillie has agreed to help as a co-host for the evening. We discussed whether we wanted to try and have this be a hybrid event but agreed that it will be a traditional in-person only event. John McKitterick has agreed to load the photos from the USB sticks presenters will bring and coordinate the photo show. She will get an article for the Goldfinch to Megan as soon as possible. She took an action to provide Bob the text for a NewsGram

announcement of the potluck by February 3. While discussing the idea of hybrid events Gregg announced that the May Count tally will be a hybrid event with Mary Lou agreeing to host the in-person portion.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin didn't have a report.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Robin asked that he be included as Conservation Chair in future Safe Skies discussions. Sue and Gregg are working toward a meeting with Emily Sizemore, Acting Director of RNC on February 7. Gregg had obtained a spreadsheet containing the record of bird strikes at RNC over the past 12 years (see attached email). Some of the past reluctance to pursue treating the windows at RNC were framed as esthetic concerns but with the former Director gone the current staff agreed to revisit the topic. A range of costs estimates for the treatment have ranged from \$10K to \$60 K. Sue and Gregg also hope to meet with Bryan Moody, Bureau Chief, Parks and Program Services. Gregg would like to have something that conveys the club's strong interest in having the RNC windows treated to prevent bird strikes to present at the meeting. Gregg moved that the club authorize him to inform the RNC staff that the club is willing to pledge \$7,000 toward the cost provisional on RNC moving forward on the windows proofing. Mary Lou expressed some reluctance based on the experience we have had with the similar project at the Howard Conservancy. Gregg stressed the provisional nature of the offer. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reminded the Board that John Harris had met an officer of the Howard Research and Development Corporation as a member of the Middle Patuxent Environmental Foundation board. He had mentioned to her that we were interested in influencing the timing of when grasslands (managed by HRD) in the Gateway area are mowed to avoid disturbing nesting species such as Grasshopper Sparrows. She pursued this and the outcome is that they have agreed to mow the properties at the end of John McAdam Drive once a year (~Nov. 1). Someone proposed we work with HRD to put together a press release showing the positive cooperation between the club and the corporate world to preserve breeding habitat. Sue also reported she is giving a talk on "Eagles and Owls" with a BBA3 focus on February 3. She mentioned that we currently have confirmed breeding in nine blocks for Great Horned Owls and eleven blocks for Barred Owl.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou said she had no report. She mentioned that the first hybrid meeting had gone very well. This was in large part due to the efforts of David Sandler, Kristin Trouton, Kelsey Wellons, and John McKitterick working in the background. Although it went well, they are taking feedback and going forward are looking to improve. Credit should also go to Kevin for the excellent presentation.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Trouton, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, etc.): There has not been an MOS Board meeting since our last meeting.

## Old Business

Waterford Flats – Gregg had sent the club a few pictures of Wes Earp and David Sandler assembling the new water control structure that he took at a work day held January 8. The next step will require drawing down the water level and deal with the vegetation.

Kestrel Box location – West Friendship - Gregg has a meeting scheduled for Monday, January 30 with a new point of contact, that was identified when the President of the museum group had a family medical issue and had to cancel the prior scheduled meeting. The new contact is Mike Bowen (not the birder).

Mt. Pleasant Hayfield – It was reported the mowing of the field was not yet scheduled, but is expected in next couple of weeks. *Sec. Note: The field has now been mowed.* Looking beyond this initial mowing and deciding what follows will require a committee with representatives from the club and HCC. Jo volunteered for the committee and proposed that Kevin and Nancy be members. Another person mentioned was Lauren Hubbard (MD Natural Plant Society) might be able to recommend some names. Someone mentioned that Howard EcoWorks does work on the HCC yard and might be able to provide consultation. Another name proposed to contact was Larry Weaner (Larry Weaner Landscape Associates) who is a recognized professional in among other things - meadow design. He also is a speaker who gives lectures that are listed on their website. (<https://lweanerassociates.com/>) *Sec. Note: His website*

also recommended joining a local chapter of WildOnes (<https://wildonesbaltimore.wixsite.com/home>) as a resource for native environment management.

Robinson MOU – The MOU draft that Kristin provided for the previous Board meeting is in routing within the county offices that need to approve it. With the major reorganization where RNC fits into the county government structure will likely delay formal approval. The lawyers have floated the idea of that the MOU should have the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Maryland Ornithological Society as participants in the document. Hopefully this will not come to pass. We are proceeding as if the agreements reached in the draft will govern what we are to provide in support of RNC in return for use of the facility for our meetings. Sherry commented that she had attended a program in the RNC planetarium and wondered if we could propose a program on birds that could be shown in that facility (e.g. is there a movie that would benefit from display in that format).

Wine in Garden tickets – The pair of tickets to the HCC event that were won by a couple attending the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration were re-donated to the club, and we discussed ways to award them to someone else. The decision was to have a drawing at the potluck. An announcement of the raffle will be sent to club members and those who are **truly interested in attending** the Wine in the Garden event will be able to send an email to Sherry asking that they be entered in the drawing. They need not be present at the potluck to win. Attendees at the event would also be able to ask they be added to the drawing while at the potluck. Sherry will add this opportunity to her potluck announcements.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – December 29, 2022. The Board voted by email and passed a resolution authorizing a donation of \$1000 to the Howard County Conservancy Restoration Fund for repairs following the catastrophic flooding in the Gudelsky Center during the bitter cold snap over the Christmas holidays. This donation will be taken from the Habitat Fund (promotes conservation).

January 17, 2022 – The Board voted by email and approved a purchase of a new laptop that will support hybrid club meetings. John McKitterick recommended purchasing one that will cost approximately \$664. This will be funded from the Mountjoy fund.

## **New Business**

Speakers – The club periodically gets requests to provide speakers to various groups (e.g., senior centers, retirement homes, garden clubs) to speak on bird topics (local birds, Birds of Maryland, migration). Generally, these are not technical ornithology talks but they want a “just to be entertained” talk. Nor do they produce new members. We used to give talks like this using the club’s specimens but that type of education for young people and schools is now provided by HCC, RNC, and Rec and Parks. Jo asked just how much volunteer time do we have to provide these generic talks? She proposed we may need to focus our primary volunteer effort in more focused ways that make use of our greater level of knowledge. In discussion we agreed if there were members who wanted to develop and provide such generic talks when we are approached there is no reason that a “pool of speakers” should be precluded from providing this service. It was proposed we ask the membership (in a NewsGram or newsletter article) if anyone is interested in providing such talks, and if volunteers do step forward, they will be sent any requests to respond to the requestor. If no one responds we will simply reply that we are unable to provide a talk.

Table Runners Purchase – Kristin and Mary Lou had discussed an idea that our display tables at events would be more inviting if they had a table runner with the club’s logo on it. Kristin had sent an email with three possible color combinations for the background (white, black, and yellow). The yellow was rejected in discussion, but pros and cons for the other two colors made it hard to make a choice. It was decided we really had a use for two at some events, so we decided to purchase two (one on white and one on black). The cost is approximately \$60 each, so Kristin will purchase them and submit a receipt for the total to Brian. The money will be taken out of the Mountjoy Fund.

GreenFest – The event will be held on April 15, 2023 at Howard Community College. Brian has sent in the application for two stations (one birds/one butterflies). Masks are to be worn. Someone commented that the tables are only 4 feet long so we may have to limit what is in the display. *Sec. Note: Brian told me that each station is to have two tables as he understands it.* No one knew whether we had requested to have power at our stations. Kevin will arrange for manning the butterfly table. Kristin, Jo, and Bob have volunteered for the bird table. Sue Muller will be there but is leading a mid-day field trip related to the atlas.

Determining Health of HCBC – Bob said he and Gregg had discussed how we might assess the health of the club and Bob put together some thoughts on the subject. Bob shared on-line the attached slides on this topic. He reviewed the club mission and identified four categories that we might want to find either quantitative or qualitative measures for. The categories are Finances, Members and participants, Public Policy Influence, and Citizen Science. He listed several measures related to these and focused on one in particular, namely number of members. As shown, he identified three different measures of membership that if monitored could provide some insight into whether the club's health is stable, improving, or declining. The intent would be to do something similar for other of the categories he proposed as measures of the club's health.

Chan's Notes at Patuxent – Mary wanted to make members of the club aware that an effort is underway at Patuxent to go through Chan Robbins historical records at Patuxent, identify and catalog them and decide which ones need to be retained in government records, which might be of use or interest to others, and which should just be destroyed. If someone was interested in some of these Mary might be able to put them in contact with those involved in this effort. Mary mentioned that Bonnie Borsa had pointed out a fairly extensive biography of Chan's career had been published in a 2015 issue of Maryland Birdlife.

HCBC Magnet Concept – Gregg said he would defer this topic until the next meeting in recognition of the time.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Draft a letter to Raul Delorme (head of Red & Parks) for statistics on bird kills since 2011. -- Gregg and Sue. DONE
- Contact someone at RNC about an initiative to protect birds from their windows, especially the large glass wall on one side of the building. – Sue.
- Work with a representative of West Friendship Park on an MOU for locating a kestrel box on the property - - Gregg.
- Notify HCC that HCBC will pay for mowing the 11-acre parcel in early 2023 and will create and appoint HCBC representatives to a joint committee to develop proposals for the 11-acre parcel in question and an MOU -- Kristin. NOTIFICATION COMPLETE
- Contact the parents of the youth proposed to receive the first backpack, bring the second backpack to the January 2023 meeting at RNC, and work with other members of the Board on a process to give the second backpack just received from MOS. – David PROPOSED RECIPIENT TOO ADVANCED FOR BACKPACK
- Alternatives on how to award the “Wine in the Garden...” tickets to a HCBC member. -- Board DONE
- Work out a process for getting volunteers to provide refreshments at the live meetings at RNC through May 2023 -- Nancy and Kelsey. DONE
- Implement changes on the HCBC website to show that hybrid meetings are at RNC, show “Benefits of Membership,” implement the change that all members are sent Rare Bird Alerts and reflect that HCBC no longer sponsors seed sales -- Bob. DONE
- Develop proposed wording for the front page of the website to promote RNC on the HCBC website -- Bob. DONE

### **New/Continuing Action Items**

- Contact someone at RNC about an initiative to protect birds from their windows, especially the large glass wall on one side of the building. – Sue.
- Work with a representative of West Friendship Park on an MOU for locating a kestrel box on the property - - Gregg.
- Now that the 11-acre parcel at HCC has been mowed create and appoint HCBC representatives to a joint committee to develop proposals for the 11-acre parcel in question and an MOU -- Kristin.
- Work with other members of the Board on a process to give the two backpacks received from MOS to young birders including explore scouts as one option. – David & Sherry
- Provide Bob with NewsGram announcement for the potluck including Wine in the Garden raffle – Sherry
- Send Chuck material on Health of HCBC for minutes – Bob
- Purchase table runners for event tables – Kristin

- Appoint someone to draft newsletter article seeking volunteers for “speaker pool” - Kristin

### Board Meeting Schedule

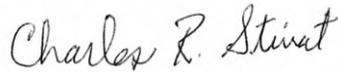
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
October 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
November 2022	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid
December 15, 2022	- VIRTUAL	Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings, but
January 26, 2023	- VIRTUAL	due to conflicts moved to 15 <sup>th</sup> for just this year)
February 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
March 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
April 27, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
May 25, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – January 26, 2023
- Treasurer Report – December 1-31, 2022
- Treasurer Report Narrative – January 26, 2023
- January 2023 Board Meeting Records Comm. Report – Corrected
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Summary – Joanne Solem – January 24, 2023
- Gmail - Brown booby colony threatened by feral cats on C .Brac
- Gmail - Re\_ Jan 26 Board Meeting Background Materials-Robinson Nature Center Bird Strike Spreadsheet
- Determining the health of HCBC – Bob Solem

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat -  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
January 26, 2023

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - Jan. 26 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: Jan 26, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89000748091?pwd=MTFpZnBTZ0tKNXB1N1U4c3JLeWZGZz09>

Meeting ID: 890 0074 8091

Passcode: 294395

President's Remarks	Kristin Trouton
Vice President's Remarks	Gregg Petersen
Review of Minutes	Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer's Report (attached)	Brian Moyer
Chapter Committee Reports	
• Field Trips	Joe Hanfman
• Records (attached)	Jo Solem
• Conservation	Robin Todd
• Newsletter	Megan Bolcar
• Webmaster	Bob Solem
• Potluck	Sherry Tomlinson
• Safe Skies	Sue Muller
• BBA3	Sue Muller
• Programs	Mary Lou Clark
<u>Old Business</u>	
• Waterford Flats	Gregg Petersen
• Kestrel Box location- West Friendship	Gregg Petersen
• Mt Pleasant Hayfield	Kristin Trouton
• Robinson MOU	Kristin Trouton
• Wine in Garden Tickets	David Sandler
<u>New Business</u>	
• Speakers	Kristin Trouton
• Table Runners Purchase	Kristin Trouton
• Greenfest	Kristin Trouton
• Determining Health of HCBC	Bob Solem
• Chan's notes at Patuxent	Mary Maxey
• HCBC Magnet Concept	Gregg Petersen
<u>Action Items</u>	Chuck Stirrat
<u>Around the room</u>	

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 1/23/23 6:53 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Dec-2022

Ending: 31-Dec-2022

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
T. Rowe Price	0.00	-\$34,290.21	Check at MOS See Note 2.	12/31
Cash (undeposited check)	34,684.40		See Note 2	12/31
PNC Bank	7,696.87	-\$440,467.73	See sheet below	12/31
Vanguard	405,825.38	\$400,811.48	initial transfers fr CFN & PNCbelow	12/31
Commonwealth FN	97.21	(\$406,336.15)	Market Adjustment & Deposit to PNC	12/31
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$448,303.86</b>	<b>(\$480,282.61)</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$27,929.09	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
11/4/2022	Habitat Fund (H)	\$9,507.03	memorial donations
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
12/22/2022	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	-\$333.54	donation minus expenses

### Gift Funds

8/12/2022	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$5,434.01	no activity
11/9/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,930.75	Waterford Supplies
12/31/2023	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$390,096.52	Market Activity and div income

## Income Activity

1-Dec-2022

to

31-Dec-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			\$4,635.00	YTD
Membership Dues	MOS membership dues - Oct 2022	Check	\$338.00	O
TRP Check	Cash out Investment TRP	Check	\$34,684.40	O
CNF Cash out	Cash out Commonwealth FN	E-Deposit	\$389,173.93	O
Bonfire	Bonfire Donation	ATM	\$94.71	A
<b>Income for this Period</b>			\$424,291.04	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			\$428,926.04	

## Expense Activity

1-Dec-2022

to

31-Dec-2022

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			\$3,791.15	YTD
Frisky's Donation	Annual Donation for Wildlife Rehab Center	PayPal	\$306.59	O
TRP Check	Not depositable through electronic means	ATM	\$34,684.40	O
Member Reimburse	Member reimbursement Anniversary exp	Check	\$178.40	A
USPS	Stamps / Shipping supplies	ATM	\$60.00	O
Member Reimburse	Mugs reimbursement	Check	\$238.34	A
Transfer	Transfer to Vanguard	EFT	\$5,000.00	O
Transfer	Transfer to Vanguard	EFT	\$5,000.00	O
Transfer	Transfer to Vanguard	EFT	\$10,000.00	O
Transfer	Transfer to Vanguard	EFT	\$385,000.00	O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			\$440,467.73	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			\$444,258.88	YTD
			See Note 3	
<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>		5/1/22 - 12/31/22	(\$15,332.84)	YTD

**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, and 50th Anniversary Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
2. The check from TRPrice was written to MOS (account registration) rather than Howard County Bird Club. PNC did not accept for deposit. Solution was to send to MOS Treasurer for them to deposit and then issue us a check/transfer to PNC for the same amount. In process but not yet deposited in PNC so for now show as cash (otherwise operations fund would be negative,).
3. Note that the transfers in and out of PNC from CN, TRP. and Vanguard are not truly income and expenses so that the FY YTD totals are misleading.

**Gift Funds Activity** 1-Dec-2022 to 31-Dec-2022

**Mountjoy Fund Transactions**

None

**Chestem Fund Transactions**

**Ponce Fund Transactions**

None (market gain plus income from Commonwealth and Vanguard)

This email provided both the narrative and Treasurer Report for the period ending 31 Dec 2023.

The Club continues to be in a strong financial position as our investments are strong and the YTD income is over expenses though the report is misleading due to recent investment and cash movements.

Notes of interest:

- Vanguard account open and linked to PNC (thank you Chuck/Kristin)
- PNC transfer of \$20,000 to Vanguard executed
- TRP Account closed with check 34,660.97 distributed to Treasurer – MOS deposited; awaiting check from MOS
- Commonwealth funds distributed and moved to Vanguard.
- Successfully moved funds within Vanguard to ESG type funds (Environment/Social/Governance)...also in concert w/May Board decision.

Conclusion: The club assets are healthy with ~ \$380K in Vanguard investments and over \$6,000 in checking as of 31 Dec.

Once all the funds level details are settled, a simpler and more accurate report will be share next month. Apologies for not making this meeting. I'll be back for Feb as usual.

Brian

**Records Comm. Report, January 26, 2023 (December 13, 2022 – January 23, 2023) – Joanne Solem**

With just one winter cold snap so far (late December into early January), ice-free water predominated. The variety of waterfowl was headed by a Ross's Goose on January 1. At least one Snow Goose, several Cackling Geese (the majority with no descriptions or photos), and a few Tundra Swans were tallied, as well as most of the expected duck species. In late December, Common Merganser numbers at Triadelphia Reservoir approached their usual ~2,000; other waterfowl species there included Redhead, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Horned Grebe. Race Road Wetlands hosted puddle ducks including a high of 23 Northern Shovelers and two Northern Pintails.

Multiple Wild Turkey sightings topped out at 30 (one of the all-time high county counts) in a field along MD 97 near Cooksville on January 18.

The male Rufous Hummingbird at Woodmark was last seen on December 15, the day after it was banded.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull was spotted at the Jessup Trash Transfer Station on January 1. Was it just serendipity that it and the Ross's Goose, arguably two of the best county winter species so far, were notched on New Year's Day--or might the number of birders starting a fresh bird list for 2023 have improved the odds? Great Black-baced Gull was the only other less common gull to be reported.

Great Horned Owls are early nesters, but this year has been astonishing. One was noted on a nest at Alpha Ridge Landfill on January 3, which would be a few days earlier than the state early egg date, but that was not the only one. An atlaser told Coordinator Sue Muller that she had had a Great Horned on a nest in late December! Both owls were using a nest for the second consecutive year. Both records have to be verified by photographing nestlings and judging their age to determine if, indeed, the potentially state early egg dates are valid. Whether or not they are early state dates, they are record-early county dates.

A Marsh Wren at Belmont discovered on December 8, hung on until December 28. A Gray Catbird was photographed near Elkridge on January 18. Two Brown Thrasher were reported; no details were provided for either. Boreal species have been spotty with few consistent locations except for Red-breasted Nuthatches.

American Tree Sparrows have been reported from five locations, sadly no more than two at any site. Observers have been inconsistent about providing details for this often misidentified species.

Presumably, the same male Baltimore Oriole appeared for the fourth successive winter at a Mt. Hebron feeder on January 1 and has been an almost daily visitor since. Another was photographed at an Owen Brown, Columbia feeder on January 16 and continues. As usual, winter Rusty Blackbirds have been scarce with just two reports, a maximum of two.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Summary

President Mary Maxey established the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee at the January 28, 2021 board of directors meeting. Joanne Solem volunteered to be co-chair (none was found). Additional committee members who volunteered were Mary Lou Clark, David Holmes, Mary Maxey, David Sandler, Kristin Trouton, and Kelsey Wellons. Webmaster Bob Solem was added as an ex officio member.

The first meeting was held virtually on March 30, 2021. Because of the pandemic, the committee's monthly meetings were held via Zoom, most often on the third Tuesday of the month. In addition, one in-person meeting was scheduled on June 27, 2022 at Mt. Pleasant with Howard County Conservancy (HCC) staff member Grace Gillespie. The committee's final meeting was October 18, 2022.

***Choice of time period and extent of celebration.*** The committee's initial decision was to determine whether to confine the celebration to a single event or to expand it. If the former, a date near the November 1, 1972 Founding Committee meeting date should be chosen; if the latter, then the time period needed to be determined.

It was quickly decided that the 50<sup>th</sup> year deserved an extensive celebration. The designated period could be either all of 2022 or the MOS membership year from September 2022 through August 2023. The consensus was that naming all of 2022 would enable the committee to plan a series of events culminating in a major celebration close to the club's 50<sup>th</sup> "birthday."

Because the country was still in the middle of a pandemic, a number of other decisions were less easy or obvious. Limited in-person events and masking/distance protocols made it impossible to anticipate social interactions more than a year in the future. During initial meetings, a variety of options for indoor and outdoor events and locations were discussed. In late summer, Mary M. contacted the HCC to determine the availability of the Gudelsky Center as one option. HCC generously made the large room and adjoining deck available without charge so long as a mutually agreeable date could be found. Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> was agreed to by both parties. Decisions relating to specifics of this culminating event were postponed. For the remainder of 2021, the committee's focus was on activities during 2022.

***Funding.*** Before proceeding far with planning, funding needed to be addressed. A \$300 private donation by two members was the seed money. The committee knew at least a few HCBC members could be counted on to make donations, but an additional funding source would be prudent. Some HCBC members had inquired whether 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary shirts were going to be available. Commemorative shirts were an obvious way to create event excitement, as well as an income stream. After investigating several options over a few months, at the October 26, 2021 meeting, the committee chose Bonfire, an on-line company designed for fundraising. Kristin directed the project. During the approximately one year the t-shirts and sweatshirts were available, a total of 160 were sold raising \$1,059. To choose a design for the shirts, a contest was held for HCBC members during September 2021. The winner, with an American Goldfinch design, was Sue Probst. (Coincidentally, she had also designed the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary shirt.) Choosing the winner had been difficult because two entries were of almost equal interest. By chance, the winning design was square—an appropriate shape for the front of a shirt. In second place was a linear black-and-white logo by Pam Perna. Webmaster Bob saw that design as ideal for the header

on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary website page he was creating. The committee was satisfied that both excellent designs could be used.

**Field Trips and Programs.** Both Field Trip Chair Joe Hanfman and Program Chair Mary Lou Clark were asked to plan some significant 2022 trips and programs. Joe arranged a visit to Smith Island. This one-day trip on April 30, 2022, co-sponsored with the Baltimore Bird Club, involved a boat ride to and from the site, several hours on the island, the promise of a wide variety of waterbirds, and a glimpse of a special Maryland culture. Under Joe's leadership, 21 HCBC members enjoyed a beautiful spring day while tallying 108 bird species. Two additional special field trips were pop-up trips to the New Cut Landfill. Led by Dave Ziolkowski, the "Non-alcohol Nighthawk Happy Hours" on August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> attracted 54 people on two pleasant evenings. Satisfyingly, Common Nighthawks were seen on each trip.

Mary Lou planned a fine assortment of programs despite several desired speakers being unavailable for virtual presentations. "Historic Amazements," the November 10, 2022 program by Founding Committee member David Holmes, featured 50 years of Howard County's rare birds.

**Potluck.** The annual potluck, normally in March, was, again, a victim of the pandemic. Instead, after discussion with the board, Potluck Chair Sherry Tomlinson scheduled a "meet-and-greet" at the Robbins Skywatch on Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. On a lovely day, this proved to be a fine alternative to a potluck.

**Activities: Members Memories, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge, Pictorial Natural History 2022.**

Planning a few activities that could be completed individually was a committee priority. HCBC members were offered the following: *Members' Memories*, *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge*, and *Pictorial Natural History 2022*. *Members' Memories* required members to write or record personal bird or natural history incidents. These memories were posted on the club's website. The *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge* was a list of 50 bird or nature-related activities drawn from nature, sports, literature, etc. Completing a minimum of 20 activities between January 1 and September 30, 2022 earned the individual a small prize. At the time the Challenge was created in late 2021, the committee could not announce the prize because no decision had been made. More than a dozen suggestions for a prize were explored. Eventually the list was narrowed to three: a gift certificate from a local nature store, a canvas tote bag with the club's logo (at the committee's request Sue Probst had added the dates 1972-2022 to the logo), or a mug with the club's logo. After several lively discussions, a vote indicated that the committee was almost evenly split between gift certificates and mugs. It was decided that both items would be offered to anyone completing the Challenge. Soon after the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, Challenge participants were asked to choose a prize (the mug became the fallback choice). Mugs were ordered on October 11<sup>th</sup> and delivered before October 30<sup>th</sup>. Gift certificates for Mother Nature's and The Wildlife Authority were purchased the third week of October. Almost all of the prizes were delivered to individuals during the 50th Anniversary Weekend. *Pictorial Natural History 2022* offered photography enthusiasts the opportunity to submit up to three images for each of the four seasons. This activity was added in early 2022. From submissions each season, Bob created montages that were posted on the HCBC website's anniversary page.

**Souvenirs.** The committee early agreed that everyone participating in any activity on the culminating October event (later weekend) should receive a small remembrance. Trying to choose an item that was useful, had an imprint of the club's logo, and was something everyone did not

already have proved challenging. It became a recurring topic at meetings with more than a dozen suggestions discussed and, mostly, discarded. The choice of a button with the club's logo was the seeming choice, though it may have been adopted for want of anything better. In July 2022, the committee authorized the purchase of several hundred buttons. Fortunately perhaps, ordering them fell through the cracks. When the topic came up in September and we realized no order had been placed, Kristin mentioned an alternative, a microfiber cloth with the club logo. It appealed to most of the committee and became the choice. The cloth had originally been suggested as a prize for the Anniversary Challenge; however, the minimum order was 125 which was far more than would be needed for Challenge participants. As a souvenir for everyone, however, the minimum was more realistic. It was ordered in bright yellow with the club's logo imprinted with the hope that it would attract attention as well as prove useful for birding optics.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary page on HCBC website.** During the fall of 2021, Bob planned a special page that would feature the anniversary year. It would be launched January 1, 2022 and would be constantly updated. The page was headed by Pam Perna's logo. Below it were six large yellow boxes. The three activities listed above occupied three of the boxes, two more involved history (Jo compiled a graphic Timeline of highlights along with a club history by both individual year or as a continuous narrative.) The sixth of the yellow boxes was labeled *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*. It contained the photos, text, and souvenirs pertaining to the October 29-30, 2022 weekend. Below the yellow boxes were 25 smaller black boxes (the majority were created by Bob), mostly answering questions about the HCBC. Jo's histories of the club's seed sales and Big Days were incorporated into these boxes by links.

**Anniversary Weekend: Oct. 29-30, 2022.** By early 2022, it became apparent that the pandemic, although reduced in danger thanks to vaccines, was going to be a factor in planning the anniversary celebration. An unknown percentage of members would not participate in any indoor event, but relying solely on an outdoor activity in late October was risky because of the weather. In late 2021, the committee was still thinking in terms of a single October 30<sup>th</sup> event with field trips in the morning and an afternoon program inside with food/cake. Subsequent discussions raised an increasing number of questions about the logistics of trying to plan and execute morning field activities and provide noon food while setting up displays and preparing for the afternoon program. Gradually, the original one-day event morphed into a weekend, with Saturday for field activities and Sunday for an indoor event. All activities would be at Mt. Pleasant. By designating Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> as the Field Day, members who were unwilling to risk an inside social gathering would have an opportunity to join a field trip or sit at the Skywatch. To help plan for the indoor event, an in-person meeting was held at the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center on June 27, 2022. This enabled the committee to examine the physical layout, ask questions about items in the contract, and understand some of the rules to which all users must adhere. The committee also asked for potential brief use of the Montjoy Barn, in case of rain, for opening remarks and prize drawings the early morning of October 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Publicity.** The January/February *Goldfinch* carried an initial article outlining some plans for the 2022 anniversary year. Because it was produced by the November 2021 newsletter deadline, not everything mentioned occurred as described, but it was valuable as a way to introduce some of the year's activities and special events. The May/June issue (March 25 deadline) had a short "hold the date" article, while the September/October 2022 *Goldfinch* provided specifics about the

anniversary. It listed activities on both Saturday and Sunday of the last weekend in October, how to register with Joe Hanfman for field trips on Saturday, and when to expect emailed invitations (early September). Any time a Newsgram was sent out in September or October something about the celebration was mentioned as a continuing reminder. The January/February 2023 *Goldfinch* contained an almost four-page summary text and photographs detailing the events of the October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> weekend. Kelsey had photographed the Field Day and Mary M. provided the bulk of the photos from the 30<sup>th</sup>. Kelsey created a photo montage of photos from both days which was posted on the HCBC website. She also posted the complete video of David H.'s and Nanine's interview with David S. and made Jo's PowerPoint from the 30<sup>th</sup> into a YouTube presentation. Both items were added to the website.

**Final preparations.** Beginning with early September, preparations moved into high gear. Invitations were emailed, individual invitations were extended to special guests, and committee members took responsibility for various aspects of the final weekend: Kristin and Mary M. – food; David S. - supplies and interview; Mary Lou – historic photos and printing name tags; Bob – website, floor plan for setup, PowerPoint technology; Kelsey – mugs for Challenge winners and photography; Jo – program, prizes, volunteers, responses from attendees, general coordination.

**October 29<sup>th</sup>.** One of the major concerns had been the weather, but Mother Nature cooperated. The almost ideal conditions for late October provided the kind of backdrop we had hardly dared dream of. It enabled dozens of people to enjoy Saturday's field activities on the trails and Sunday's social hour and cake-cutting to take place on the covered deck. Saturday kicked off with a welcome from President Kristin Trouton and remarks by Field Trip Chair Joe Hanfman who also introduced the day's leaders. Souvenirs were distributed and drawings for a few prizes were completed. The 35 people were divided into two groups for the initial field trip with Bonnie Ott leading one and Kurt Schwarz the other. The two bird trips notched 47 species. At 10:00 a.m., Sue Muller led a small group on a habitat walk. Throughout the morning, Wes and Sue Earp with Ralph Cullison led those who turned up at the Skywatch, as they scanned for raptors and other flyovers. The scheduled walks finished there. Participants could then leave whenever they chose. Although there was no major raptor movement at the Skywatch, they did count six Bald Eagles and a group of 11 Common Ravens. Kelsey managed to be in multiple locations to photograph the activities.

**October 30<sup>th</sup>.** Setup began officially at noon. In actuality, Woody Merkle had been at the Gudelsky Center with a HCC staff member 20 minutes earlier to help hang nature photos that often grace the walls. The setup volunteers arrived promptly. Tables and chairs inside and on the deck were moved into position, historical and butterfly displays were arranged, historical photos mounted on display boards were placed on tables, prizes set out, and registration materials positioned.

The social hour on the deck was popular as people enjoyed meeting new members and connecting with friends they may not have seen since before the pandemic. The program began at 2:15 p.m. with greetings from HCBC President Kristin Trouton, HCC Executive Director Meg Boyd, and MOS President Bonnie Borsa. Written greetings by Jane Robbins on behalf of the Chandler Robbins family were read by Kristin. Guests MOS Vice president Evelyn Ralston, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks Director Raul DeLorme, and Natural Resource Conservation Manager Brenda Belensky were introduced. The historical reminiscences of Nanine Rhineland and David Holmes in a videotaped interview with David Sandler set the stage for Joanne Solem's half hour PowerPoint of club history. Various groups of volunteers were thanked and long-term

members acknowledged. Special awards were presented: a Founders Award to Nanine, Valued Service to David H., and Founders Awards to Bob and Joanne. Jo was also surprised with framed photos of her 299th and 300th Howard County birds. Drawings for prizes followed. The finale was cutting of the decorated cake by current president Kristin and first president Nanine. Cleanup was remarkably efficient since the team was assisted by many attendees who stayed to help. As a result, everything was back in order well before the 5:00 p.m. deadline. The sun set on a weekend to long remember.

**Final event.** The last significant celebratory event was the HCBC's November 10th meeting "Historic Amazements" by David Holmes. He utilized records of bird rarities during the first half century combining and highlighting them in his unique way. What he could not have forecast or expected when he began putting the program together earlier in the year was that 2022 would be a year of rarities. Two new county species, Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Western Kingbird, were added and a third, Anhinga, for which there was a single modern record, also appeared. In its planning, the committee was not only well-organized, but lucky.

*Committees are often portrayed as inefficient to the point of being a laugh line. That was not our experience. This committee has set a high bar for future celebrations. They can be proud of what they accomplished under challenging circumstances.*

*The group worked well together; individuals were willing to discuss and investigate until the best possible solution was reached. Despite the vagaries created by the pandemic, the end result was, by all measures, an enormous success. It was a source of personal pleasure and pride to be part of this group.*

With this report of the 50th anniversary celebration, the committee can be disbanded.

*Joanne Solem, Chair*

*January 24, 2023*



Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

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## Brown booby colony threatened by feral cats on C .Brac

1 message

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**Robin Todd** <robintodd1948@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 2:42 PM

To: Chuck Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>

Hi Chuck,

In case anyone is interested and for possible inclusion with the minutes, here are two links to articles on the threat that feral cats are posing to Cayman Brac's small colony of brown boobies.

<https://caymannewsservice.com/2023/01/more-brown-booby-birds-killed-on-cayman-brac/>

<https://apnews.com/article/science-cats-cayman-islands-caribbean-3f4cca8224b8f4f29f61d60dba48d4e8>

There is also an article in the W Post dated Jan 11th, but I cannot find the link.

Hope the winter count goes well - I will think of you guys braving the cold on Saturday next!

Hyacinth and I have seen markedly fewer boobies on this visit than on previous ones.

Best regards,

Robin  
Robin G. Todd PhD  
Chair, Conservation Committee  
Maryland Ornithological Society  
[www.mdbirds.org](http://www.mdbirds.org)  
410-491-5333

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**Re: Jan 26 Board Meeting Background Materials-Robinson Nature Center Bird Strike Spreadsheet**

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**G Petersen** <sig29@aol.com>

Thu, Jan 26, 2023 at 10:28 AM

To: Kristin Trouton <kristing4420@gmail.com>, Jo & Bob Solem <odenata@msn.com>, Mary Lou Clark <doctorfx\_99@yahoo.com>, Mary Maxey <maximom11998@gmail.com>, Robin Todd <robintodd1948@gmail.com>, Brian Moyer <bmoyer0@gmail.com>, David Sandler <detour65@gmail.com>, "Hanfman, Joe" <auk1844@gmail.com>, "Wellons, Kelsey" <kelsey@psu@gmail.com>, Kevin Heffernan <kjheff122@gmail.com>, Linda Hunt <raven10322@hotmail.com>, Charles Stirrat <stirrcr1@gmail.com>, stbirder <stbirder@yahoo.com>, Megan Bolcar <megbolcar@gmail.com>, Sue Muller <sonicsusiee@gmail.com>, Allen Lewis <allenlewis@gmail.com>, Nancy McAllister <nancymcallister@yahoo.com>, Donna Carollo <dcarollo@comcast.net>

We received the enclosed up-to-date bird strike spreadsheet on January 5<sup>th</sup>-some of you have seen. Sharing to the whole board here.

Bottom line: 89 dead birds plus 28 fate unknown in the last 12 years or an average of about 7-10 dead birds a year. 155 total strikes including the 89 dead equaling 13 strikes per year total where at least 38 of the 155 flew away. Mark Southerland tells us that 40% of the fly aways perish later due to the effects of the strike-that equals 15 of the 38. So 127 estimated fatalities over 12 years.

R/, Gregg

89	30	28	8
<b>Dead</b>	<b>Flew Away Injured</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Released</b>
	155	Total	

**RNC Birdstrike Record Jan 5 23.xlsx**

32K

# Determining the health of HCBC

A 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to promote the knowledge, development, protection, and conservation of bird life and other naturally occurring species and their habitats.

Finances

Members and participants

Public policy influence

Citizen science

Quantitative and qualitative measures

Treasurer's report  
Outreach events

Monthly attendance  
Testimony as organization

Variety of field trips  
BBA and butterfly surveys

# Number of HCBC members

Number of members per MOS:	302	(only 2023 as of Jan 9, 2023; mail-ins thru Nov 30, 2022)
Voting members per MOS:	284	(excludes 18 Affiliate members)
Number of receiving emails:	362	(includes 2022 members to be dropped Mar 1, 2023)



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, February 23, 2023

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Kristin Trouton √  
Vice-president: Gregg Petersen  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Donna Carollo  
David Sandler √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: Mary Maxey √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Robin Todd √  
Newsletter: Megan Bolcar √  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Sherry Tomlinson  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller √

**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. The total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held February 9, 2023, was 60 (30 in person and 30 on-line). Allen Lewis gave a program entitled “Birding in Colombia.”

**Officer’s Reports**

**President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin had no opening remarks.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Petersen): Gregg was unable to attend but sent writeups for several topics incorporated below. He also mentioned “On March 4th, I will take Scout Troop 601 kids on a bird walk at HCC after they finish an invasive plant removal session for Tabby.”

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck reported that he had received several corrections to the draft distributed. In the Records report Jo corrected the number of winters that Jeff Culler has had the Baltimore Oriole from three to four. The sentence reporting on HRD’s agreement on grassland mowing in Gateway was corrected to make it clear they will mow the field once per year on or about November 1. The sentence on a committee for the Mt. Pleasant hayfield was modified to reflect that Jo Solem volunteered to be on the committee. In one place the Robinson MOU had been referred to as the “Robinson MOS.” The phrase that implied that education for young people “is not” provided was changed to “is now” provided. In the opening sentence of the Chan notes a word was missing, it now reads “Mary wanted to make members of the club **aware** ... In the first prior action item the spelling of the name of the head of Rec and Parks was corrected to “Raul Delerme.” Changed “Wind in the Garden” to “Wine in the Garden” in an action item. Lastly, as an explanation, in the list of officers if someone is listed in a second position one of the occurrences will be italicized. The minutes were approved with these corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had provided the attached Treasurer’s Report. He made note of the fact that all the funds from T Rowe Price and Commonwealth Financial have now been moved into the Vanguard account. All club assets are either with Vanguard (two mutual funds) or PNC Bank (checking). The club finances are in good standing. In the future we will need to decide how we want to treat the gains or losses that the Vanguard funds experience. To date they have been considered part of the virtual Ponce Fund, but ultimately we will probably want to freeze the value of the Ponce Fund (less outlays we authorize for projects) and assign the gains or losses to other funds. We will revisit this before the end of the club fiscal year (April 30). Lastly Brian mentioned that he is

working with an accountant to file this year's club tax forms, as due to the Ponce bequest the forms are more complex.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had provided the attached report in advance of the meeting with a closing date of February 20. Several sightings reported since then were worthy of mention. After further examination and discussion of the photos of the owl found on the owl search field trip on Feb. 18 the species was identified as a Long-eared Owl vice the Great Horned Owl identification made in the field. Kate Tufts had 23 Purple Finches on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Val Swan had 402 Tundra Swans fly over on Feb. 22. An Indigo Bunting came to a feeder and was photographed on Feb. 22. Lastly American Woodcock have been seen in at least four sites with two found the previous evening at Gateway.

**Conservation** (Todd): Robin was logging in from Cayman Brac again. He reported Kurt had stepped in and has been testifying at several hearings in Robin's absence. Robin expressed his thanks to Kurt for doing so. House Bill HB319 has been introduced as the Pesticide Registration-PFAS Testing-Requirement Bill complimentary to SB158. Robin stated he will be sending out an email urging MOS members to take action contacting their House representatives urging them to support the bill. This initiative is being led by the Smart on Pesticides Coalition. In another issue Robin reported that MOS is supporting a petition to the EPA prepared jointly by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) and the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). The petition urges reinstatement of efficacy data requirements, waived in 1984, for pesticide registration in assessing the risk-benefit tradeoff in approving pesticides. The focus is on neonicotinoids but would ideally apply to all pesticides. There is growing evidence of deadly impact of neonics but there is no requirement that manufacturers provide evidence that their product works as intended. More detail is available at the following link: <https://abcbirds.org/news/neonic-reforms-petition-to-epa/>. Robin urged lobbying to support the Farm Bill 2023 that has proposed as much as \$20B for initiatives that could benefit conservation and birds. Lastly he mentioned an initiative seeking to urge/require electric companies to mow their rights-of-way less and at better times for birds breeding success.

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): Megan said she has been exploring having a email address separate from her personal one to support her duties as Goldfinch editor starting next year. Kelsey stated that there is one she has access to that doesn't get much use and could be used by Megan. The Board had no objections to her having a second email address for this purpose if she chooses to set one up.

**Webmaster** (R. Solem): Bob said he has been making the routine web changes and updates. He has not received the latest formal membership report from MOS (Strikwerda). However, there have been two new individual memberships and two new household memberships. In addition, there were one individual, four household and one affiliate renewal.

**Potluck** (Tomlinson): Sherry reported that so far, she has 27 attendees who have registered. Kathie Lillie has agreed to be Sherry's co-lead. Kathie has cautioned Sherry to expect some late registrants in the week before the potluck. She will provide RNC the table setup before that and then just keep them informed if she gets late requests. David reported that he has the tickets for the Wine in the Garden raffle that he will give them to Sherry at the club meeting. Someone mentioned that in the past we have sometimes given an award to those who hosted recent rarities. David mentioned that Joyce Kelly had hosted the Rufous Hummingbird. Jo reminded us that traditionally the award have only been done for non-members hosting visits, and Joyce is a member.

**Butterflies** (Heffernan): Kevin reported that the first of year butterfly was a Mourning Cloak found on February 15. A Cabbage White was also found that day. He then went on to say, "And then there was today." The weather today with a high temperature in the high 70's F., resulted in a fantastic day for butterflies in February. They had 12 sightings today. He described this as "freaking amazing."

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Gregg provided the following on the status of Safe Skies for Robinson Nature Center: On February 7th, Mark Southerland talked with Brian Moody, Howard County Bureau Chief of Parks, who said he would look into the Robinson Nature Center Safe Skies install and let us know how we can help move Robinson along. Mark said Brian seemed supportive, saying he didn't know why the Department of Recreation and Parks HQ building had not been done yet. Mark mentioned to Brian that HCBC might be able to help if needed (but no specifics were given, in case Howard County proceeded to fully fund the project).

In a separate conversation between Gregg Petersen and Emily Sizemore, the Acting Director of Robinson Nature Center, Emily confirmed she had placed the project on the "back-burner" to allow the new RNC Director to make the decision, when he or she arrived, to decide on the implementation and design. However, Emily said that if she received direction from her supervisors to move forward with the project, she would and support from HCBC would be welcome. Emily also shared that with the previous RNC Director's departure, there would be less resistance to the installation.

At the meeting Sue commented that we were now in a wait and see status, dependent on whether Emily gets some direction to proceed.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that the annual meeting of County Coordinators will be held on the coming Monday. She stated that on the prior Monday she had given a talk to the Long Reach Community Association on the atlas. There were approximately 50 attendees to the Zoom session. Sue has reserved the MOS Carey Run Sanctuary for the Thursday evening before the MOS Convention for those interested in doing atlasing before the convention. Anyone interested should contact her for more information. She has had a significant number of new recipients added to her BBA3 email group and it has resulted in several new owl leads to pursue. She also is pleased with the response to the idea of recruiting "site coordinators" vice "block coordinators."

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou had nothing to report.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Trouton, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, etc.): There has been no MOS meeting since our last meeting. The next meeting will be in March.

## Old Business

### Waterford Flats - Russ Ruffing/Gregg Petersen

Gregg and Russ discussed the way ahead on February 17th. With the ground no longer frozen, there appears to be opportunity to install the water diversion structure before the next Board Meeting. The next steps after that will be the installation of a deck and treatment of weeds in the flats area.

### West Friendship Kestrel Box Installation -Russ Ruffing/Gregg Petersen

Howard County has granted permission to install the box on the property. On January 30th, Gregg Petersen met with John Frank, the President of the Howard County Antique Farm Machinery Club Inc. and Mike Bowen (not the birding one) about the Kestrel Box placement on the West Friendship property and provided a draft MOU. It became clear in the meeting that John was not in control of the property. On February 3rd, Gregg was contacted by Brenda Lee (formerly Belensky), the Howard County Natural Resource Conservation Manager. Brenda used the draft MOU to issue a permission letter to Kristin Trouton. Club must coordinate for transport of the Kestrel box material to the installation site, maintain and monitor the box, and provide her a written report of nest box activity annually. Signage, movement of the box, and events at the box must be coordinated with Brenda. A copy of the letter has been provided to Chuck for HCBC records (attached). Russ Ruffing is acquiring an anchor pole and may request reimbursement for a nominal charge for a pole similar to what we used for the Purple Martin box. We expect to install the box in early March.

Speakers – Kristin had asked Kurt if he would take responsibility for coordinating volunteers interested in giving talks to groups that request programs from the club. He agreed to take on this task. He will handle attempting to find

speakers when Kristin forwards requests received; He then will provide a response to the requesting group, either scheduling a program or sending them a note informing them when we are unable to provide a program.

Table Runners Purchase – Kristin reported that she had run into a snag in ordering the table runners. Namely the quality of the logo she forwarded to the provider was of insufficient quality/resolution to be printed at the size needed on runners. She thought Sue Probst had created the original and contacted her, but Sue said she had not done the original but given time might be able to help. Bob spoke up and said he had the original material that should be of sufficient quality. He agreed to send Kristin the high quality logo and in fact she had received it before the meeting was over. She will send it to the company and order the runners, hopefully they will be received before the next event.

GreenFest – Kristin asked Brian if he knew whether there would be power at the station(s) we had requested. He didn't know, but he said he hadn't received approval of our application, but expected to soon. He agreed to inquire about power if he had a contact already or when he received the approval. When someone asked about possibility the photo display could run on batteries, Bob confirmed it required a plug in power connection. Kristin said she and Bob and Jo had volunteered but we still needed other volunteers to man the birding table. Kevin will be manning the butterfly station or arranging for others to help him. GreenFest is on April 15.

Mt. Pleasant Hayfield – Kristin reported that the field has been mowed. She will send Brian the invoice as soon as she receives it. She has proposed that the committee will meet on March 16 or March 30. Dependent on availability of the committee members, both from the club and HCC. Chuck asked if perhaps there was a better term than “Hayfield” for this initiative. Robin suggested we call it a “Meadow” which met with positive reaction.

Youth Backpack – Kristin reported that Jo had proposed another avenue to explore as a way to find a youth worthy of receiving the backpack. She suggested we explore collaborating with RNC to come up with a means of naming a young person as the Young Birder or Young Naturalist of the Year from among the youth involved in RNC activities. We would provide the backpack to be awarded to the winner. If successful, this would be a way to decide the recipient every year. Kristin also mentioned that Gregg and she were scheduled to lead birding events with scout troops in the near future and there might be an opportunity to look for someone to give the packs to at those. Sherry commented that the scouting organizations have been shifting their focus from outdoor activities to STEM activities. Others expressed that it might be difficult to know how to pick the recipient at these scouting events and we really want it to go to someone who is truly interested in birds. David has one of the packs and Kristin has the other. We finally decided to ask Gregg to reach out to his contacts at RNC to explore Jo's proposal.

#### Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –

Feb. 3, 2023 – Because the MOS renewal site was off-line for an extended period, Bob proposed we offer those who have not yet renewed an extra issue of the Goldfinch and urge them to make another attempt to renew. The board approved this in an email vote.

## **New Business**

Election of Officers – Kristin stated, assuming the officers who haven't stated their intent to not run will accept nomination, there are two positions we need to find nominees for - a Treasurer to replace Brian and a new Chapter Director to replace Kelsey. Despite announcing the need for a treasurer in numerous forums no one has stepped forward. It is time to identify candidates with the necessary skills and ask them directly to consider volunteering. Kelsey said if necessary she would be willing to volunteer for another two year term as she enjoys the involvement in club activities. Chuck told her that there were other ways to keep her and her skills involved, including creating a new position. Someone mentioned approaching some of the new members. One possibility mentioned was Lauren McDougle.

Earth Day - Clarksville Commons – Kristin said the event is on April 22 from 1–4 PM. She plans to setup and man the exhibit but would welcome help. She said she will need to get the display and materials from whoever has them. Mary Lou reminded her that will be whoever breaks down the exhibit at GreenFest as it is just one week before.

Earth Day – HCC Bird Walk – Kristin hadn't realized that Joe had already arranged for Gregg to lead this walk at Mt. Pleasant on the morning of April 22 when she put this item on the agenda.

HCBC Business Cards (Gregg Petersen): Gregg provided this writeup in advance of the meeting:

We have drawn down the first set of the new business cards pretty rapidly. We have issued cards to members and field trip leaders as well as placed some in The Wildlife Authority and Mother Natures. In addition, Ron Fedorocz places cards with bird food in local markets. I request authorization for \$80 to buy another 1,000 cards. It was moved, seconded, and approved to authorize Gregg to purchase the thousand business cards.

As a side note, Mary Lou Clark introduced our HCBC business card design to Bonnie Borsa, the president of MOS, who asked Mary Lou to create a state MOS QR business card version in time for the annual MOS Convention in May. Mary Lou reported at the meeting she has produced a preliminary design with help from Gregg and her son.

HCBC Magnets (Gregg Petersen): Gregg provided the following in an email in advance of the meeting:

Jeff Culler recommended we consider magnets and showed me a sample of his wife's ABA oval car magnet. Others of you have indicated it would be another good promotional item for club publicity. I have enclosed a few rough designs for consideration and comment. We are definitely not ready to go final, but I thought a few drafts would stimulate the discussion. We will need a better resolution circular graphic for the HCBC Goldfinch logo. There is one on our website, but it has square white edges.

Rough magnet costs: Oval 5" x 3" 100 for \$153/Circular car magnets 5" x 5" 100 for \$189. No final decision required now beyond whether I should proceed with designs for later board consideration.

In the meeting discussion there were several who felt the proposed design without the QR code was preferred. Brian said another point was that we would have to be sure that the magnets were of the highest quality, as several had bad experiences with magnets that damaged their car's exterior. Chuck stated he was unclear on just what the rationale for the magnets was (e.g., replacement for decals, publicity, able to take off if not wanting to have them everywhere you go, refrigerator magnets). He would like to have discussion of the purpose before supporting. We decided to address at a future meeting.

Additional IT equipment for Hybrid Meetings – David had been with John McKitterick earlier in the day learning what it takes to setup and run our hybrid meetings. John will be out of town for our next meeting and David is going to be responsible for the IT setup and execution. David and John identified that we need a USB extender (\$15) and a web camera (\$60) so that we can show the speakers more easily. At the last meeting we used John's personal equipment, but David proposed we purchase ones for the club. It was moved, seconded, and approved that David could purchase these and submit the bill for reimbursement (Mountjoy funds to be used). David will bring his tripod to mount the camera so it will be easier to follow and show the people speaking (including during the announcements before the meeting). *Sec. Note: We may want to purchase a tripod for the club in the future.* Kelsey told David that she will open the Zoom session at 6:30 pm so David will be able to test the setup in advance of the social period. Nancy commented that she may have a conflict and wanted to make sure there would be someone to help Chuck and Laurie Lewis, who are bringing refreshments, with the setup. David said he could do that, and Mary Lou said she would bring the hospitality bin.

### **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Contact someone at RNC about an initiative to protect birds from their windows, especially the large glass wall on one side of the building. – Sue. DONE
- Work with a representative of West Friendship Park on an MOU for locating a kestrel box on the property - - Gregg. DONE
- Now that the 11-acre parcel at HCC has been mowed create and appoint HCBC representatives to a joint committee to develop proposals for the 11-acre parcel in question and an MOU -- Kristin. DONE
- Work with other members of the Board on a process to give the two backpacks received from MOS to young birders including explore scouts as one option. – David & Sherry DONE
- Provide Bob with NewsGram announcement for the potluck including Wine in the Garden raffle – Sherry
- Send Chuck material on Health of HCBC for minutes – Bob DONE
- Purchase table runners for event tables – Kristin
- Appoint someone to draft newsletter article seeking volunteers for “speaker pool” – Kristin DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Purchase table runners for event tables – Kristin
- Coordinate installation of the Kestrel box with Rec & Parks staff – Gregg, Russ Ruffing
- Approach RNC staff about the proposal for awarding the backpack to a youth selected as “Young Birder of the Year” – Gregg
- Setup process for coordinating providing programs and speakers in response to group queries – Kurt
- Investigate getting power at one of our stations at GreenFest – Brian
- Purchase a USB Extender and Web Camera - David

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 22, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
October 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
November 2022	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid
December 15, 2022	- VIRTUAL	Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings, but
January 26, 2023	- VIRTUAL	due to conflicts moved to 15 <sup>th</sup> for just this year)
February 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
March 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
April 27, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
May 25, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – February 23, 2023
- Treasurer’s Report – January 1 – 31, 2023
- Records Committee Report, February 23, 2023 (January 24 – February 20) – Joanne Solem
- Howard Rec & Parks letter: Kestrel Box Installation and Maintenance at West Friendship Park – Feb. 16, 2023

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
February 23, 2022

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - February 23 @ 7:30  
Time: Feb 23, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85002339987?pwd=dHA2UFZhTkVPekViNnptZEh5S5i9QUT09>

Meeting ID: 850 0233 9987

Passcode: 799689

President's Remarks	Kristin Trouton
Vice President's Remarks	Gregg Petersen
Review of Minutes	Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer's Report (attached)	Brian Moyer
Chapter Committee Reports	
• Field Trips	Joe Hanfman
• Records (attached)	Jo Solem
• Conservation	Robin Todd
• Newsletter	Megan Bolcar
• Webmaster	Bob Solem
• Potluck	Sherry Tomlinson
• Safe Skies	Sue Muller
• BBA3	Sue Muller
• Programs	Mary Lou Clark
<u>Old Business</u>	
• Waterford Flats	Gregg Petersen
• Kestrel Box	Gregg Petersen
• Speakers	Kristin Trouton
• Table Runners Purchase	Kristin Trouton
• Greenfest	Kristin Trouton
• Mt Pleasant Hayfield	Kristin Trouton
• Youth Backpack	Kristin Trouton
<u>New Business</u>	
• Election of Officers	Kristin Trouton
• Earth Day- Clarksville Commons	Kristin Trouton
• Earth Day- HCC Bird Walk	Kristin Trouton
• Business Cards	Gregg Petersen
• HCBC Magnet Concept	Gregg Petersen
<u>Action Items</u>	Chuck Stirrat
<u>Around the room</u>	

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 2/25/23 4:43 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Jan-2023

Ending: 31-Jan-2023

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
T. Rowe Price	0.00	-\$34,290.21	Check deposited in PNC	1/31
PNC Bank	41,582.40	\$33,885.53	See sheet below	1/31
Vanguard	433,326.10	\$27,500.72	initial transfers fr CFN & PNCbelow	1/31
Commonwealth FN	0.00	\$0.00	Market Adjustment & Deposit to PNC	1/31
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$474,908.50</b>	<b>\$27,096.04</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$27,880.03	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
1/10/2023	Habitat Fund (H)	\$8,657.03	memorial donations & gift to HCC for recovery
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
12/22/2022	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	\$0.00	transfer from Mountjoy to zero balance

### Gift Funds

1/31/2023	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$5,103.44	transfer to 50th Anniversary to zero balance
11/9/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,930.75	no activity
1/31/2023	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$417,597.25	Market Activity and div income

## Income Activity

1-Jan-2023

to

31-Jan-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$428,926.04</b>	<b>YTD</b>
MOS Check	TRP investment reimbursement	ATM	\$35,044.36	O
Commonwealth	Cash Out Residual	ATM	\$8.60	O
Bonfire Deposit	Anniversary fund sale	ATM	\$2.97	A
Member Donation	Donation in memoriam (Gardner, Gerald (Burdell))	ATM	\$150.00	H
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$35,205.93</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$464,131.97</b>	

## Expense Activity

1-Jan-2023

to

31-Jan-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$444,258.88</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Membership Fee	MOS membership fees for manual check	Check	\$20.00	O
How County Consev	Donation for Flood Damage Recovery	Check	\$1,000.00	H
Reimburse Member	Office - Business Cards Printing for Chapter	Check	\$80.55	O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$1,100.55</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$445,359.43</b>	<b>YTD</b>
			SEE note 2	
<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>		5/1/22 - 1/31/23	<b>\$18,772.54</b>	<b>YTD</b>

**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, and 50th Anniversary Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
2. Note that the transfers in and out of PNC from CN, TRP, and Vanguard are not truly income and expenses so that the FY YTD totals are misleading.

**Gift Funds Activity** 1-Jan-2023 to 31-Jan-2023

**Mountjoy Fund Transactions**

Tx to Anniversary Fund

**Chestem Fund Transactions**

None

**Ponce Fund Transactions**

None (market gain plus income from Commonwealth and Vanguard)

## **Records Committee Report, February 23, 2023 (January 24 – February 20) – Joanne Solem**

One of the mildest winters on record continued with the first measurable snowfall finally falling on February 1. Ironically, despite the unusual number of above average days so far, observers on Howard County's Mid-Winter Count drew one of the coldest days of the season.

Compiler Joe Hanfman's brief summary of the count states: "A cold and partially cloudy day with temperatures 14 – 24° F and no precipitation. The ponds were 90% frozen and rivers were flowing. We recorded 81 species which is below the average of 88.2 species recorded in the last 37 years. The total number of individual birds was 19,412 which is 28,005 below the average number of bird records and 145,488 below the maximum number of birds recorded.

"The top birds were a Long-tailed Duck and Pine Warbler for the eighth time, and a Baltimore Oriole was seen for only the sixth time on the count. The Baltimore Oriole returned to the same feeder for the fourth winter eating apple jelly."

A Greater White-fronted Goose at Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens spotted on 2/19 by Jeff Culler added to the list of notable species recorded at that location. A few Cackling Geese were reported with a high of four along Old Frederick Rd on 2/19. A likely family group of eight Trumpeter Swans noted by Chuck Stirrat were one-day wonders at a Larriland Farm pond on 2/18.

Open water most of the winter meant a variety of waterfowl were reported. Even shallow Race Road Wetlands was iced over only briefly, so a varied number of dabbling ducks were usually present. Two Greater Scaup appeared on Triadelphia Reservoir 2/11, while the Long-tailed Duck Kurt Schwarz reported on Waverly Pond 2/4 was an oddity at that location.

Wild Turkeys were mostly seen west of MD 32, although a flock of 17 in a field at the northeast edge of Clarksville on 1/28 drew the most attention.

Courting American Woodcock are a sign of spring with the first one detected at Race Road 2/14. Within a few days birds were also "dancing" at Hipsley Mill Rd and at a River Road, Sykesville location.

One of the county's few February Osprey records was notched at Lake Kittamaqundi 2/12 by Carly Costello, consistent with several early sightings in adjoining counties.

Black-capped Chickadees pose among the trickiest identification problems. One was spotted with three Carolinas along A.E. Mullinix Rd (Gregg Petersen documented it nicely with photographs and details).

As might be expected during a mild winter, a few wintering Gray Catbirds were reported; however, none was well documented.

So far, the finch invasion has not lived up to its billing. There have been scattered, mostly sporadic, Pine Siskin and Purple Finch sightings (perhaps April will bring an influx). Red-breasted Nuthatches continue to be more widespread and consistent.

A male Baltimore Oriole in a Mt. Hebron neighborhood returned for the fourth winter. Rusty Blackbirds have been few. Spring's showers usually produce an uptick near floodplain pools.



7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, Maryland 21046

Bryan Moody  
Bureau Chief of Parks  
bmoody@howardcountymd.gov

Phone: 410-313-4640 Fax: 410-313-4646  
www.howardcountymd.gov/rap Voice/Relay: 410-313-7275

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February 16, 2023

Kristin Trouton  
President of the Howard County Bird Club

RE: Kestrel Box installation & maintenance at West Friendship Park

Dear Ms. Trouton,

This letter grants the Howard County Bird Club permission to install and maintain a kestrel box mounted on a telescoping 12-foot-tall pole on the West Friendship Park property located at 12985 Frederick Road in West Friendship, Maryland in 2023.

It is understood that the Club wishes to install this nest box on the southeast edge of the property near the scout kiosk/camp area at approximate coordinates 30.2961663, -79.9643338. In addition, the Club agrees to maintain the box and monitor activity within the nest box.

Prior to installation, I ask that the Club members that will be installing the nest box contact me first to schedule the date. I will coordinate the use of a county vehicle and staff member to assist to get supplies to the location. The Club is not authorized to drive vehicles to the nest box location.

If the Club desires to install signage, move the box to a different location or make other enhancements, the Club must contact me first to ensure Howard County policies are followed.

The nest box is accessible when the Park is open to the public. If the Club would like to schedule an event in relation to the nest box, the Club must contact me first to ensure there are not conflicts with existing events or programs occurring on the property.

I would also request the Club send me a written report of nest box activity reported for the year.

See attached map for approximate nest box location.

Please contact me if you need further assistance at [brlee@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:brlee@howardcountymd.gov) or (410) 313-4724.

Brenda Lee  
Natural Resource Conservation Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Lee".



**Legend**

- Park Property Boundary
- Stream
- Hiking trail
- ★ Kestrel Nest Box

**West Friendship Park  
Kestrel Box Location**

2/16/2023

B. Lee



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**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, March 23, 2023

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Kristin Trouton √  
Vice-president: Gregg Petersen  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer  
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Donna Carollo √  
David Sandler √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: Mary Maxey √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Robin Todd √  
Newsletter: Megan Bolcar √  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: Sherry Tomlinson  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan √  
BBA3: Sue Muller

**Others:**

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held March 9 was 69 (29 in person, 40 on-line) people. Andy Brown gave a program entitled “Barn Owls of Maryland.” Kelsey commented that when she looked at the YouTube analytics for the recording of the talk it was among the highest number of viewers we have ever had, and many viewers weren’t club members.

**Officer’s Reports**

**President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin didn’t make any opening remarks other than to welcome everyone.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Petersen): Not present. See below for inputs he provided in advance.

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Received only a couple of corrections. I failed to check off Megan in the beginning of minutes, so the attendance was 15 vice 14. Corrected the spelling of country in title of Allen’s talk to Colombia. Learned that the name of first butterfly of the year is “Mourning Cloak” with a “u”, and not a period of the day. One of the proposed days for the Mt. Pleasant Meadow committee was March 16 vice 13. The minutes with these corrections were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian was not present but had forwarded the attached Treasurer Report for February. In his forwarding email he reported all transactions with the move of investment funds to Vanguard have been completed. The club is in good financial condition with over \$400K in assets. Brian is assembling material for filing the club’s tax return which will be filed after the completion of our Fiscal Year (April 30). There had not been a lot of activity during February, with the only major item being the purchase of a new laptop.

Chuck pointed out that Brian had indicated we will need to establish a policy on how to treat the market movement and income for the Vanguard account as it now contains a mix of gift funds and is not solely the Ponce fund, as we had been doing while it was at Commonwealth Financial. Chuck stated he and Brian will try to have a proposed approach to share with the Board by the next meeting.

**Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): See attached report. Jo's only comment was "Spring is springing."

**Conservation** (Todd): Robin reviewed the status of several bills in the Maryland General Assembly that are of interest to MOS and the club. In a subsequent follow up he notes that the following bill titles are not exact, but are briefly descriptive. He also notes that there are two bills for each proposed action; one for the House (HB numbers) and one for the Senate (SB numbers). Bills that have been passed by both houses include: Pollinator-friendly powerlines (HB62/SB062), Maryland the Beautiful (HB631/SB470, also known as '30x30' for its goal of achieving protection of 30% of Maryland by 2030), Maryland Native Plants (HB950/SB836), Wildlife Conservation, DNR Funding, Deer Plan (HB983/SB327); Sunday hunting amended out of these bills). Sustainable Buildings (Birds) (HB006/SB092) is still stuck in committee in the Senate. Bamboo (HB090) which would restrict the planting of invasive bamboo, is still in committee in the Senate.

The PFAS bill (Pesticide Registration - PFAS Testing – Requirements (HB319/SB158) is still in committee in both houses and is running out of time. It likely will not pass, even after the requirement for annual testing of all pesticide products was eliminated. The farm lobby is against these bills. These bills will be resubmitted next year. David said he thought the federal government had taken action to ban PFAS. Robin said the press has mischaracterized EPA's recent announcement that it is proposing to establish a national standard for PFA in drinking water. This would include monitoring drinking water for six PFAS and warning communities if high levels are detected. He mentioned that we might want to watch the movie "Dark Waters" that deals with Dupont's history of environmental pollution with the PFAS. He mentioned that anyone who wants to be on his emailing list for taking action on conservation issues should let him know and he will add them to the list.

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): Megan mentioned the deadline for the next issue is this Saturday, March 25, so if you have any last minute material please get it to her soon.

**Webmaster** (Bob. Solem): Bob has modified the layout of the opening web pages based on some feedback from board members. He has been updating the routine programmatic and field trip pages as usual. In regard to membership he reported that we have received two new household memberships and two individual memberships. Lastly he commented that Steve Parr's membership application was successful after a number of false starts.

**Potluck** (Tomlinson): Sherry reported that currently she had 41 attendees signed up with a variety of dishes promising a delicious meal. She is going to shop for a few supplies such as dinner plates, fresh salt & pepper. David said he would bring some of the leftover supplies from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. There have been quite a few submissions for the Wine in the Garden raffle and the Conservancy provided her a copy of the brochure for last year's event. So far six people have said they will bring pictures to share. In keeping with the recent program on Barn Owls she is going to have copies of the application for the Southern Maryland Audubon Adopt a Raptor program. She had recently adopted a raptor and described what she received in return. Lastly, she asked Megan if she could submit an article on the potluck, thanking those who helped, a couple days past the Saturday deadline. Megan said that would be fine.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin reported that there have been 6 species (19 individuals) reported so far this year. The dates for the butterfly walks have been established. They are all being co-sponsored by the club and HCC. Kevin took an action to send Bob the schedule for posting on the website.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): Sue was not present but had sent Kristin a couple of items to mention. Sue was pleased the Sustainable Building bill had passed the House (unfortunately Robin's update showed it was stuck in the Senate committee). Sue also reported that the Safe Skies program wasn't surveying any buildings in the county during the Spring migration this year.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): No report.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): No report.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Trouton, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, etc.): The meeting was held March 4. Sherry, David, and Kristin attended. Sherry reported that there were two major topics of discussion at the meeting. The first was the storage facility that MOS rents in Ellicott City. They would like to not have to keep paying rent on it, if no longer necessary. An initial visit by a committee was able to throw out some things that are clearly outdated such as envelopes with letterhead, etc. There may be some material that could be used as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the convention. Further activity is expected as the cost is a consideration. The second discussion focused on the status and future of YMOS. There are currently over 70 kids participating in the program. To date the success of the program has been largely due to the dedication of George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell, but it is hoped that additional MOS members can be found to share the responsibility and be mentored in preparation for taking over in the future when George and Wayne are no longer available. This involves a major commitment with field trips, extensive email traffic, and fielding the World Series of Birding teams (this year 6 teams/26 participants). Another issue broached was finding a centralized place for YMOS to meet.

David added that they reported that the financial status of MOS is OK. As expected the investments are down and the income they are generating is lower than in the past few years. Overall membership is up. The proposed budget for the year was approved. At the time of the meeting there were ~50 people signed up for the convention (Mary Lou reported that currently the number was up to 140). David reminded us that MOS is subsidizing the registration cost to keep it more acceptable and keep attendance up. Lastly, he mentioned that they decreased the number of Hog Island scholarships that will be awarded this year and are considering finding closer and less expensive opportunities for the future.

## **Old Business**

Waterford Flats – Gregg submitted the following update:

On or about March 2nd, former Flats Committee member John Harris was contacted by Chuck Sharp about an update to the annual maintenance plan/MOU. I reached Chuck on March 7th to discuss the way ahead (In the course of the conversation, Chuck mentioned that his neighbor had observed Sandhill Cranes over his farm-I referred research of this observation to Joe Hanfman-see Jo Solem's records for this month). Near term actions are a controlled burn to be conducted at Chuck's discretion on a calm day prior to April and the installation of the water structure. I have discussed a tentative date of March 26th with Committee chair Russ Ruffing for the water structure installation effort. I plan to send a draft MOU action update to Chuck in the next 5 days and finalize a date with Russ, David Sandler, and Wes Earp for the water structure installation. David reported that the installation is currently scheduled for Sunday, March 26 at noon.

Kestrel Box – Gregg provided the following report of the installation on March 21. The pictures he included are attached.

“Brenda Lee, Natural Resource Conservation Manager Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks Natural & Historic Resources Division, and I installed a Kestrel Box at West Friendship Park yesterday. This completes the action.

In the very near future, I think we need to have Brenda in to talk about her plans for various areas around Howard County. I think she and HCBC need to be close partners.

The box now requires periodic monitoring. Donna Carollo has volunteered to do some of that periodic monitoring. This requires a sign up with the Howard County volunteer site:

<https://hocovolunteer.org/recruiter/index.php?recruiterID=501&class=OppDetails&opportunityID=3010>

It is late in the year, but perhaps we will still get a Kestrel. Per recommendations from Jay Sheppard, as time goes on, if we do not get the desired occupants, we may later seal the box against Starlings until the next window for Kestrel occupation.

I received excellent service and support from Patrick at The Wildlife Authority on some of the needed supplies. He gave me a 15% discount on a one-time basis.”

Donna reported that she is planning to monitor the box about once every two weeks. Kristin reported that Gregg had told her he and Russ had decided the old box that Russ had would not work as it was painted black and would overheat. Accordingly, Gregg purchased a kestrel box and pole from The Wildlife Authority. The total supplies and equipment came to approximately \$215. The board approved reimbursing Gregg from the Habitat Fund.

Table Runners Purchase – Kristin said she has purchased the runners. She believes they look very good and will improve the visible impression our display tables will make. They will be used first at GreenFest.

GreenFest – Kristin began by thanking Bob for the NewsGram that solicited volunteers to staff the GreenFest displays. The response was amazing as she received enough volunteers to fill all the necessary time slots. She will send the volunteers a detailed schedule of time slot assignments as we get closer to GreenFest. One of the volunteers was Arlene Kerber who joined just last year. She has confirmed that we have two tables and the layout has the bird and butterfly displays adjacent to each other. There is an electric outlet nearby (we will need a 25 foot extension cord that Mary Lou volunteered to provide). Mary Lou has the display material and will deliver it to Kristin. Kevin stated that he and Linda Hunt will be manning the butterfly display but would welcome having help from the others who are present that feel comfortable covering butterflies. Jo said she would be available for that during her time slot.

Mt. Pleasant Meadow – Kristin reported that the meadow committee met in the prior week. Attendees included Kevin, Jo, Nancy, Kristin for the club and Tabby Fique and Woody Merkle representing HCC, and lastly Kevin had invited Lauren Hubbard of Native by Design. Lauren is a professional with experience that they found very worthwhile to tap. The committee discussion showed that there was a strong desire to ultimately have portions of the meadow transformed into a pollinator habitat but just how to do that is what they need to work on. They agreed this will likely need to proceed slowly and over many years. It might take multiple years before the way ahead works out and they agreed that until the plan firms up they would recommend mowing the field annually (in winter as this year) in order to control emergence of woody plants such as Bradford Pear. The next step is to receive the notes that Tabby had agreed to document the meeting. After that the next meeting will be scheduled.

Youth Backpack – Gregg provided the following report in advance of the meeting with a proposal for consideration. Gregg discussed with Jo Solem and Kristin Trouton on March 4. After discussing Scout, Robinson Nature Center approaches, and a bright young man from the Feb 18 Owling Trip, Gregg recommended the following (with some updates from discussion with Jo and Kristin):

“For future backpacks, I propose we open a 1 month window for kids 8-14 years old to submit a one page application (hand-written or double-spaced 12 font Times New Roman) via an HCBC webpage link on “How I could use the MOS backpack\* in my birding.” Applications to be judged by 3 member HCBC panel for final decision of award. 1 month window from April 1 to 30th. Award at May meeting in time for winner to participate in May Count if desired. This would cause focus (and generate positive publicity) on HCBC and potentially include a membership.”

\*MOS Backpack consists of backpack, a set of binoculars, and a bird book.

We can post to HCBC website and publicize with HCC and Robinson. I confirmed with Scout Troop 601 that there is at least one scout who needs and would likely apply for the backpack (provided we proceed on this action in a timely manner).

The board approved Gregg’s proposal. He was assigned an action item to flesh out and implement the competition including preparing announcements, application procedures/forms, advertising the contest, recruiting a panel to judge the submittals, judging criteria, and arranging for the awarding of the backpack(s). Kristin reported that the backpacks don’t have anything about them that indicates they were provided by MOS or HCBC and they probably should. As a result, Kristin asked her Mom to sew patches on them. Kristin also added our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary microfiber cloths to the binocular straps. Mary Lou mentioned that at a recent Anne Arundel chapter meeting they had cards with YMOS information (attached) that we should include in the backpacks.

Election of Officers – Kristin reported that we do not yet have candidates identified for either the Treasurer or Chapter Director 1<sup>st</sup> Year. Other officer positions have agreed to continue. At last meeting Kristin had proposed approaching new member Lauren McDougle about the Chapter Director position. She asked Lauren and she replied that as such a new member she was unwilling to agree this year but would welcome being asked again next year. Nancy McAllister stated she thought it would be worth approaching new member (experienced birder) Jane Chandler. Nancy agreed to approach her about the position when she meets her for coffee tomorrow (3/24). If Jane declines, Nancy will let Kristin know and Kristin will approach another possibility she has identified. There are no leads on the Treasurer position. Bob reminded the board that April 8 is the deadline for having a slate identified so it can be included in the April meeting NewsGram. If either position doesn’t have a candidate, it will be listed as Vacant, indicating we are desperate for someone to step forward.

Kristin announced she had created a Board position for a Facebook Manager and named Kelsey Wellons to the position. Kelsey will continue as Facebook administrator as well as being available to support many of the other tasks she has been handling for the past few years.

HCBC Magnet Concept – Gregg submitted the following report:

“I regret I cannot join you tomorrow night due to a standing annual commitment for Shirley and I. Sorry for my late submission. I request a vote at the meeting for or against magnets for the club. If you vote for magnets, please indicate which of the 3 designs in the enclosure (*attached*) you favor, or what alternate design we should consider. I understand the reception at the last board meeting was lukewarm at best for the magnets. Jeff Culler (cc-ed in this note) submits the following justification for club magnets:

- 1) They are magnets and can stick on any metal surface i.e., refrigerator, work station, book case, car, etc.
  - 2) Many people will not place stickers on their motor vehicle but will place a magnet.
  - 3) Trade or sell your vehicle the magnet is transferrable, the sticker is not.
  - 4) The ABA (American Birding Association) magnet is sent to all new members as a welcome gesture.
- What do we do?

I agree with Jeff. I have no use for stickers except to put on my sunroom screen to keep people walking into it or birds flying into it or my kids put stickers on their water containers.

Board members Joe Hanfman and I vote yes to magnets. Perhaps due to mailing weight and cost we do not send to all members. We can have them available at general meetings or on request.”

In discussion we decided these would be another means of publicizing the club. It was agreed that we were talking about purchasing 100 magnets with no intent to provide them to every member and would require them to be obtained in person, primarily at club meetings/events (no mailing). There was a concern about needing to control distribution to club members only and limiting it to reasonable amounts (1 or 2?). The strong consensus was for the circular design without the QR code. We voted on the proposal to purchase magnets and it passed with several abstentions, but no one strongly opposed. The estimated cost was approximately \$189 for 100 5”x5” circular magnets. Gregg was assigned an action item to purchase the magnets and setup a procedure to monitor/track distribution.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings – No actions since last meeting.

## **New Business**

Education Outreach Summary – Kristin announced that this item would be postponed.

### Around the Room

- Nancy said she would be unable to attend the potluck as Saturday is her birthday and her family is taking her out to dinner.
- Kelsey reported that when she entered “Barn Owls in Maryland” in her browser the recording of our latest program on YouTube came up.
- Jo reported the sad news that long time (>25 years) club member, Sue Buzwell died earlier this month. Jo summarized an incident when Sue had a hen Wild Turkey in the backyard of her town home. She has lived in and monitored the birds, GBHE heronry and chimney swifts, near and around Vantage House for the past 15 years.
- Mary M. commented that she was seeing lots of birds pairing up on her most recent walks.
- Kristin reported seeing a pair of Wood Ducks and hearing a pair of Cooper’s Hawks in her neighborhood.

## **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Purchase table runners for event tables – Kristin DONE
- Coordinate installation of the Kestrel box with Rec & Parks staff – Gregg, Russ Ruffing DONE
- Approach RNC staff about the proposal for awarding the backpack to a youth selected as “Young Birder of the Year” – Gregg SEE ABOVE
- Setup process for coordinating providing programs and speakers in response to group queries – Kurt
- Investigate getting power at one of our stations at GreenFest – Brian DONE
- Purchase a USB Extender and Web Camera – David DONE
- Purchase additional business cards – Gregg DONE

## New/Continuing Action Items

- Setup process for coordinating providing programs and speakers in response to group queries – Kurt
- Flesh out and implement the competition for the Youth Backpack – Gregg
- Purchase magnets and setup process for implementing and monitoring distribution to members – Gregg
- Contact George Radcliffe to ask for YMOS information cards for backpacks and other uses – Mary Lou

## Board Meeting Schedule

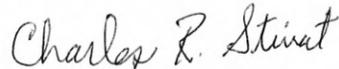
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM

September 22, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
October 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
November 2022	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid
December 15, 2022	- VIRTUAL	Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings, but
January 26, 2023	- VIRTUAL	due to conflicts moved to 15 <sup>th</sup> for just this year)
February 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
March 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
April 27, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
May 25, 2023	- VIRTUAL ?	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – March 23, 2023
- Treasurer Report – February 1-31, 2023
- Records Committee Report, March 23, 2023 (February 21 – March 20) – Joanne Solem
- Photo Attachments to Email – Kestrel Box Install Complete – Gregg Petersen – March 22, 2023
- YMOS Information Card
- Proposed HCBC Magnet Designs

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
March 23, 2023

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - March 23 @ 7:30  
Time: March 23, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81293225467?pwd=S0d6QzJhVkIHaFU5bDA0UTd6cVFUZz09>

Meeting ID: 812 9322 5467

Passcode: 471760

President's Remarks	Kristin Trouton
Vice President's Remarks	Gregg Petersen
Review of Minutes	Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer's Report (attached)	Brian Moyer
Chapter Committee Reports	
• Field Trips	Joe Hanfman
• Records (attached)	Jo Solem
• Conservation	Robin Todd
• Newsletter	Megan Bolcar
• Webmaster	Bob Solem
• Potluck	Sherry Tomlinson
• Butterflies	Kevin Heffernan
• Safe Skies	Sue Muller
• BBA3	Sue Muller
• Programs	Mary Lou Clark
<u>Old Business</u>	
• Waterford Flats	Gregg Petersen
• Kestrel Box	Gregg Petersen
• Table Runners Purchase	Kristin Trouton
• Greenfest	Kristin Trouton
• Mt Pleasant Meadow	Kristin Trouton
• Youth Backpack	Kristin Trouton
• Election of Officers	Kristin Trouton
• HCBC Magnet Concept	Gregg Petersen
<u>New Business</u>	
• Education/Outreach Summary	Jo Solem
• Election of Officers	Kristin Trouton
<u>Action Items</u>	Chuck Stirrat
<u>Around the room</u>	

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 3/17/23 10:04 AM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Feb-2023

Ending: 28-Feb-2023

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	6,106.55	(\$35,475.85)	See sheet below	2/28
Vanguard	454,693.06	\$21,366.04	See Note 3	2/28
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$460,799.61</b>	<b>(\$14,109.81)</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$14,389.94	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
1/10/2023	Habitat Fund (H)	\$8,657.03	no activity
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
2/28/2023	50th Anniversary Fund (A)	\$0.00	Bonfire deposit Xfer to Mountjoy

### Gift Funds

2/28/2023	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$4,484.64	Laptop purchase & reimburse amt of Bonfire check from 50th
11/9/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,930.75	no activity
1/31/2023	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$417,597.25	No change pending policy decision

## Income Activity

1-Feb-2023

to

28-Feb-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$464,131.97</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Bonfire	Anniversary shirt sales (reimbursed Mountjoy fund)	check	\$46.14	A
MOS	Membership dues	check	\$240.00	O
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$286.14</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$464,418.11</b>	

## Expense Activity

1-Feb-2023

to

28-Feb-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$445,359.43</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Program IT	New Computer for Programs	Check	\$664.99	M
Vanguard Transfer	Investment Fund	EFT	\$35,000.00	O
PO Box renewal	Mailbox Renewal Club	EFT	\$97.00	O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$35,761.99</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$481,121.42</b>	<b>YTD</b>
			SEE note 2	
<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>		5/1/22 - 2/28/23	<b>(\$16,703.31)</b>	<b>YTD</b>

**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, and 50th Anniversary Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
2. Note that the transfers in and out of PNC from CN, TRP, and Vanguard are not truly income and expenses so that the FY YTD totals are misleading.
3. Net change of Vanguard account is net of
  - o Purchase \$35,000 shares of VMFXX (Federal Money Market Fund) - originally in the TR Price account
  - o Month dividend from VMFXX \$108.24
  - o Month decline in market value of VEIGX (Global ESG Select Fund) **(\$13,633.04)**

**Gift Funds Activity**

1-Feb-2023

to

28-Feb-2023

**Mountjoy Fund Transactions**

Purchase new laptop - \$664.99 & deoisut reimburse from 50th \$46.14

**Chestem Fund Transactions**

None

**Ponce Fund Transactions**

No change - need policy decision on how to treat market variation in Vanguard investment account. Treated as Ponce through 1/31/23

**Anniversary Fund**

Received final Bonfire check for \$46.14. Transferred to Mountjoy as partial reimbursement of amount provided to zero this account

## **Records Committee Report, March 23, 2023 (February 21 – March 20) – Joanne Solem**

Temperatures in the past month were close to normal; still without snow. No matter what the weather, however, Howard birders continued to turn up fine birds.

A Greater White-fronted Goose was photographed over the Skywatch at Mt. Pleasant heading north with a flock of Canadas on 2/23. That day was one of major goose movement with numerous high-flying flocks heading north.

Three sightings of Sandhill Cranes were reported during March: 1) a flock of at least 30 heard and seen over a farm north of Waterford Farm in early March (*fide* Joe H.), 2) seven over Centennial Park 3/6 (A. Lewis) and 3) five over I-70/Marriottsville 3/17 (J. Culler).

A spring movement of Bonaparte's Gulls entertained birders for a week beginning on 3/10 with a high of nine that day, with varying numbers in the low single digits continuing through 3/17.

Although a Northern Saw-whet Owl eluded the owl trip on 2/18, one was heard in the Annapolis Rock area on both 2/23 and 3/5.

As geese left on 2/23, Tree Swallows were arriving the same day with one over the Skywatch and another on a utility line at So. Trotter Rd. Within the last few days, No. Rough-winged Swallows began appearing.

A chickadee at Tiller Dr 2/22 was "in the range of a Black-capped," according to Joe Hanfman who examined the photos comparing them with some he had taken recently in western Maryland.

Four Lapland Longspurs in near breeding plumage at Alpha Ridge Landfill 3/27 (R. Cullison, J. Hanfman) were one of the month's highlights. A Rare Bird Alert assembled a group of birders the following day, but no longspurs were found. On 3/2, Ralph found one. Joe H. hastily assembled a repeat field trip--this time it was successful.

One of the best birds of the season illustrated again that experienced birders aren't the only ones to find rarities. Joe Hanfman regularly peruses several social media sites, including the Maryland Bird Watchers' And Identification Group on Facebook. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> a photo was posted of a first winter male Yellow-headed Blackbird by Jeanne Williams Markowski of Ellicott City (Burleigh Manor), Howard County. She wanted an identification for the bird that had appeared in her yard that morning. Turned out the bird was present only briefly, but it's another example of the who-knows-how-many-rarities that are never noticed or reported.

Another highlight was an immature male Indigo Bunting at Indian Hills Dr, Sykesville. It had arrived on 2/15 and was last seen 3/3. It ate mostly cracked corn and black oil sunflower on the ground or on a low feeder.



**Kestrel Box 2.jpg**  
810K



**Kestrel Box 3.jpg**  
675K



**Kestrel Box 1.jpg**  
254K

# YMOS



Youth Division of the Maryland Ornithological Society



YMOS is a subgroup of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) and was established to make the world of birds accessible to school age youth. The group supports youth birding throughout Maryland by:

- Facilitating communication among youth birders throughout the State.
- Providing opportunities for young birders to get started in birding and to develop their skills.
- Providing educators with resources and knowledge to develop local programs.



[www.ymos.org](http://www.ymos.org)

# YMOS

## Youth Backpack Program

Each year YMOS provides each of the MOS chapters with a backpack to be distributed to a deserving youth in their area. Each chapter decides how to award the backpack. The backpack contains binoculars, field guides, and free membership to a local MOS chapter for the year. For more information for your specific chapter, consult the chapter president.

## Monthly Trips

While each chapter runs its own field trips, and youth are always welcome on these, YMOS runs a series of trips throughout the year for youth only. These are always listed both on the YMOS website.



## World Series of Birding

YMOS also supports teams of Maryland youth at the World Series of Birding. This international birding event held in Cape May, NJ in early May each year, although disguised as a competition, actually raises money for bird conservation worldwide. It is a fantastic learning venue for student participants, and any student is welcome to apply. More information is found on the website.



## Summer Birding Program

Each June YMOS co-sponsors with Washington College week long summer residential programs for both educators and youth. The programs provide opportunities for both educators and youth to learn birding skills and how to use technology to access, collect, and report data. All educators and students incoming to grades 7 – 12 may apply. Scholarships are available for educators and for some youth. Application deadline is March 31 each year. Details and application information are found on the YMOS website.



MOS website: [www.mdbirds.org](http://www.mdbirds.org)

For additional information, consult the website or contact:

George Radcliffe - [radclifg@gmail.com](mailto:radclifg@gmail.com)

[www.ymos.org](http://www.ymos.org)

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**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, April 27, 2023

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**2020-2021 Club Officers:**

President: Kristin Trouton √  
Vice-president: Gregg Petersen √  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Donna Carollo  
David Sandler √  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: Mary Maxey

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Robin Todd √  
Newsletter: Megan Bolcar  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solemn √  
Potluck: Sherry Tomlinson  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:**

Val Swan √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. The total number in attendance was 14. Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 13 was 60 (34 in person, 26 virtual) people. Kurt Schwarz gave a program entitled “South Africa: More than Birds.”

The annual election of officers was conducted at the regular meeting by a ballot as a whole, asking for a show of hands for those present in person and those attending by Zoom. The following slate of officers was elected unanimously. **President:** Kristin Trouton, **Vice President:** Gregg Petersen, **Secretary:** Chuck Stirrat, **Treasurer:** Mary Parks, **State Directors:** David Sandler, Sherry Tomlinson, Donna Carollo; **Chapter Director:** Lauren McDougle; (Nancy McAllister will be serving her second year as Chapter Director). The Secretary will provide the MOS Secretary with the results of the election. See below for discussion of multiple circumstances that will change the officers that will take office in September.

**Officer’s Report**

**President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin thanked Sherry for the success of the potluck. She also expressed her thanks to all those who worked at GreenFest. She then announced that she is expecting a baby girl and plans to step down in September. Gregg has agreed to step in as the President beginning in September and Val Swan has volunteered to assume the position of Vice President at that time. Mary Maxey will serve an extra year as Past President.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Petersen): Gregg wished Kristin good luck and stated he is happy to take over as President. Val also stated she is looking forward to joining the board and learning more about the club’s workings.

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck reported he had received no comments or corrections after the draft was sent out. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): Brian had sent out the attached Treasurer’s Report. He stated that overall the club’s finances are good. He pointed out that he and Chuck had agreed to a policy for how to treat the Ponce Fund going forward. Market changes experienced before the funds were transferred from Commonwealth Financial to the club were tracked in the Ponce fund, but going forward future changes will not be credited uniquely to the Ponce fund. Thus, the current Ponce balance is the sum of the two transfers received and is set at \$410,000. Going forward the balance will be debited as the Board authorized expenditures from the fund for various projects. To

track unrealized market changes and not have the balance of the Operations Fund fluctuate in an unmeaningful way, a new virtual fund (Unrealized Vanguard Market Change) is added to the Operating Funds table on page 1 of the Treasurer's Report. A total of \$440,000 was deposited with Vanguard from December through early February and as of March 31, the balance is up to \$468,735. Brian reported that he had finally made touch with Mary Parks, and he was planning to meet with her soon. Lastly Bob asked who had the two keys to our post office box. Brian said he has both, one at home and one he carries with him.

Kristin then broached the worry some on the board had felt with Mary Parks not attending the meeting with the election of officers and subsequent long to non-existent response times for email communications. The concern was that perhaps she was having second thoughts about volunteering. Kristin stated she had called her the day before, after first confirming Tim Thompson (the second person who volunteered) was still available. In discussion Mary agreed she was wondering if she had the time and skills for the position and when she was told we did have an alternative, expressed opinion she would be willing to step aside. After discussion the Board concluded it would be best to have Mary submit a formal resignation, and have the Board appoint Tim as a replacement. Kristin took an action to ask her for a formal (email) resignation but ask if she might want to help the club in a role with less pressure for her time. One option proposed was that she might be willing to serve as a co-chair for the potluck.

## Chapter Committee Reports

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo had submitted the attached report. The most significant item she highlighted was the appearance of the flock of Anhingas, and that as of this meeting one or two were still present at Wilde Lake.

**Conservation** (Todd): Robin summarized several of the wins for birds and conservation in general from the recently completed first session of the Maryland General Assembly that MOS had supported. He was referring to his draft of an article he was preparing for The Maryland Yellowthroat. He provided the attached draft of that article which provides further detail. (*Sec. Note: The final article appears in the recently released May 2023 issue of the Yellowthroat.*) Sherry asked if anything was being done to ensure the new Columbia library to be erected on the lake front at Lake Kittamaquidi is bird friendly. Robin said he and others are monitoring the planning but are hopeful the fact the building is to meet LEED standards and the new Sustainable Buildings law, just enacted, will mandate compliance with safe bird designs.

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): Megan was not present, but Jo volunteered that she is doing a great job as the new editor. She commented that Megan is hoping to reinstitute a listing in the Goldfinch welcoming new members.

**Webmaster** (Bob Solem): Bob reported that since the last meeting we have seven new household memberships and one individual membership (which was purchased for someone else). There has been up to a four-month delay between when someone signs up as a member on the MOS website before we receive notification and can begin to send them our NewsGrams and newsletter. In an attempt to shorten this, he has added a message on our website. On the "Join Us" page, Bob added under the "Pay by check" portion, "**Do not send a check or application to HCBC if your intention is to join or renew; the membership process is in the hands of MOS.** MOS uses batch-processing in two-month increments for mailed-in applications. We would like to make the HCBC benefits available to you as soon as you have completed your paper application, so please also include the information you sent to MOS on the form in Membership." Bob provided the attached Cumulative HCBC Membership Graphs and stated this year is consistent with past experience.

**Potluck** (Tomlinson): Sherry stated she felt the event was a fantastic success. Others agreed and said she had done a great job in organizing the event. She said she will be submitting a bill to Brian for some of the things she had to purchase. She has already scheduled a date in late March with the RNC for next year's potluck. She commented that the staff at RNC had been very helpful with all aspects of the process. Lastly, she remarked that Kathie and Ralph Lillie had been amazingly helpful. She mentioned that it would be useful to find a co-chair for the committee. *Sec. Note: Mary Parks has since volunteered to be co-chair (see above).*

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): No report.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): See the discussion in the Conservation report above and under Old Business about the new library building.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue said she had recently spoken to a group at the Roger Carter Community Center on BBA3. She is looking for help with atlasing in Clarksville NW as the coordinator is out of town for an extended period. Lastly, she mentioned she was going to man a table on BBA3 at a Bio-blitz being held at RNC on the coming Saturday (April 29).

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou mentioned the enjoyable trip to Oxbow Lake that Jay Sheppard organized. She didn't have any remarks on programs but raised another topic. She said that we have several events where we set up a table and man it with volunteers as a form of public outreach. She mentioned GreenFest, RNC Anniversary celebration, and Earth Day at Clarksville Commons. She proposed we should have a committee for "Tabling Events" that would formalize planning for these events. This would include setting up standards for these events, preparing a list what needs to be done for each one, and putting together a list of those willing to volunteer to man the table. She stated she would agree to be the initial chairman of this committee. The butterfly group will likely need to be included in this effort as they support some of these events. It was moved, seconded, and passed that we would establish this committee.

Kristin announced that the Earth Day celebration at Clarksville Commons had been rescheduled due to rain. It will now be held on May 6.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Trouton, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, etc.): No meeting since our last board meeting.

## Old Business

Waterford Flats – Gregg provided the following report. Starting on March 26th, and continuing March 28th, April 1st, 3rd, 6th, & 16th, committee members David Sandler, Russ Ruffing, and Gregg Petersen were joined by Wes Earp and Chuck Stirratt to install the water control structure uphill from the flats. All that remains for the structure is to build a deck onto the installed support posts.

Regarding shorebirds, only Killdeer, Solitary Sandpipers, Wilson's Snipes, and a Greater Yellowlegs have been observed in the flats to date, but the habitat looks promising...to us humans at least. Russ Ruffing also observed a Sora in a nearby ditch.

One action remains and that is to place a sign honoring Marty Chestem whose bequest funds the project. After Gregg discussed sign placement with the host farmer Chuck Sharp today, April 27th, Chuck indicated that he would support HCBC placing a sign both at the sign in/out board and one down at the flats attached to an existing pole next to a control pipe. Action: Flats Committee

Kestrel Box at West Friendship Park - Gregg provided this report. On Sunday, Donna Carollo who has been monitoring the house, noted this week that it had occupants: a Tree Swallow family. Apparently, they are planning a BIG family! While the swallows are not kestrels, they are good birds and will be allowed to stay in the house in accordance with state law about not disturbing bird nests.

Robinson Nature Center Windows Update (& Lake K) - With regard to Robinson Nature Center Gregg Petersen received this response on March 31, 2023:

"I'm Dawn Thomas, the new Superintendent of the Recreation, Adventure and Nature Division with Howard County Recreation and Parks. Robinson Nature Center is part of the division that I supervise.

I met with the center staff (Brian Campbell and Emily Sizemore) yesterday to discuss the Bird Safe Windows project. Center staff informed me that the center had decided not to move forward with the Collidescape window film. Due to the accessibility and difficulty in treating/maintaining them on a regular basis and it was cost prohibitive. The center elected to use specialized decals and dots on the windows instead. Staff have been monitoring their effectiveness since installation and have seen a decrease in the number of bird strikes. Additionally, these decals and dots do not impact the visual experience of the visitor.

The last part of this window project is to complete a decal mural for the mezzanine windows. Robinson staff are currently working with a local artist to design the decal. This will be the most cost-effective measure going forward and maintain the aesthetic of the building and of course will reduce bird strikes. We expect completion of this project to occur by the end of year 2023.”

One action item remains and that is to determine if the county has need of any of the \$7,000 the HCBC Board voted to provide to help mitigate window funding. Action: Gregg

New Library on Lake Kittamaquidi: Several club members and at least one community mentioned concerns about the danger the extensive windows in the design would pose to birds. We contacted Mark Southerland, Safe Skies Maryland legislative liaison who confirmed that by a law passed in this session, any building with more than 51% state funding requires bird safe mitigation for windows.

YMOS Backpack Contest Update - Gregg reported there are three days left in the competition and we have one entry for the two backpacks. He has been informed by a scout troop leader that two more entries will be submitted by the deadline.

Officers Update – This topic was discussed above under the President’s Remarks and Treasurer’s Report. The Board will finalize the slate of officers that will be in office next September at the next Board meeting.

HCBC Magnet Update - Gregg reported magnets have been obtained and are personally controlled by Kristin and Gregg and distribution is monitored at HCBC meetings. No more than 2 magnets have been provided per member. They are now adorning cars throughout the county (much as the stickers and clings are).

May Count Update - Gregg reported that we are coming up on May 13th. Count Coordinator Gregg Petersen will be checking with Area Coordinators on how they are doing in the next couple days. Amy Anderson had a work commitment, so Meghaan Lane has stepped up to be the Area 7 Coordinator. Gregg will be joined by young birder Vitus Chiu and his mom Chen for owling and day birding in Area 2. Vitus has plans to compete in the YMOS World Series of Birding.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings –None

## **New Business**

Education/Outreach Summary - Jo Solem summarized her thoughts on future roles in education and outreach for the club. This has been part of the club’s role from the beginning. She has been motivating a discussion with the education committee and others on where the club should go in this regard in the future. She reviewed our endeavors in the past five years, including a Birding Basics class, and planning a Beyond Basics class that was canceled due to the pandemic. Bonnie has begun sharing her knowledge in a series of field trips relying on referring participants to the Beginning Birders section of our website (developed under Steve Luke’s leadership) as preparation for the field trips. John Harris is planning to offer a couple of participatory field workshops this fall that will expose beginning/intermediate birders to practical tips that can make their birding more fruitful. One theme that has emerged is the importance of mentorship as a key component of advancing birding skills. She is hoping to spark discussion of ideas on how to promote mentorship. The focus of this initiative is trying to decide what the club can do best, which will probably focus on more advanced birding and less on beginner birders.

Question about HoCo YMOS Org from Mrs. Chiu - Gregg Petersen was asked following the Earth Day walk he led at Howard Community College if there is a Howard County YMOS organization. Mrs. Chiu was on the walk with her family, including her son, Vitus Li, who is very much interested in birds. They have been in touch with YMOS but find that most of their activities have an Eastern Shore focus. The simple answer is that there is no formal HoCo YMOS organization. We agreed that if adult leaders could be found it would be desirable to have a “Western Shore” YMOS chapter. MOS has been actively looking for additional adult leaders to help with YMOS in general and ideally address geographic disparity. Sue

Muller volunteered that she has been interested in forming a youth birding group in the past and will likely turn to that after her BBA3 commitments are done. Bob said a first step that would be very useful, is for MOS/YMOS to provide a list of those youth that have joined YMOS who are in our chapter or resident in the county.

Additional Access for HCBC Members to WSSC Areas During the Upcoming Dredging and During Non-Count Days - Gregg reported that he talked to Mr. Eddie Franceschi, the Patuxent Watershed Manager Apr 27 about access to Triadelphia Reservoir areas during the planned dredging of the Triadelphia Reservoir from mid-May to Oct 31 and on non-count days. He received positive feedback, based on our history of access for counts and now for the BBA3 block coordinators, that suggests we may be able to work out an agreement for increased access in the future.

Failure to Maintain Garden Plots at HCC – Kristin mentioned that John McKitterick had received notification that two garden plots assigned to the club are overgrown and not being maintained. These were plots obtained by the Butterfly Group to demonstrate planting pollinator friendly plants. Apparently, those who had been maintaining them have not done so this year. Kristin took an action to contact Kevin and have him either find someone to clean-up and maintain the plots or release them back to HCC so they can be assigned to someone else.

**Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Setup process for coordinating providing programs and speakers in response to group queries – Kurt DONE
- Flesh out and implement the competition for the Youth Backpack – Gregg DONE
- Purchase magnets and setup process for implementing and monitoring distribution to members – Gregg DONE
- Contact George Radcliffe to ask for YMOS information cards for backpacks and other uses – Mary Lou DONE – MOS will take responsibility for adding YMOS info to future backpacks.

**New/Continuing Action Items**

- Contact Mary Parks and ask her for a formal resignation and propose alternative roles she might want to assume – Kristin
- Inform Tim Thompson that we are accepting his volunteering to be the club treasurer – Kristin
- Coordinate finding volunteers for the rescheduled Earth Day at Clarksville Commons – Kristin
- Organize initial plans for the Event Tabling committee as Chairman – Mary Lou
- Design, procure, and mount two signs for Waterford Flats – Waterford Flats Committee
- Determine if the county will need any or all the \$7000 we pledged for RNC window bird proofing – Gregg
- Inform Kevin Heffernan that HCC had approached John McKitterick about two garden plots that are assigned to the club (butterfly group) about them not being maintained – Kristin
- Follow-up to resolve issue of garden plots maintenance with HCC – Kevin
- Prepare a summary of the Education/Outreach Summary presentation and circulate it to the Board for comments - Jo

**Board Meeting Schedule**

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

September 22, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
October 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
November 2022	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid
December 15, 2022	- VIRTUAL	Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings, but
January 26, 2023	- VIRTUAL	due to conflicts moved to 15 <sup>th</sup> for just this year)
February 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
March 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
April 27, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
May 25, 2023	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – April 27, 2023
- Treasurer’s Report – March 1-31, 2023
- Records Committee Report, April 27, 2023 (March 21 – April 24)
- Conservation Corner – draft of article for the May 2023 issue of The Maryland Yellowthroat
- Cumulative HCBC Membership Graphs

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
April 27, 2023

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - April 27 @ 7:30  
Time: Apr 27, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89264574867?pwd=SHhQVFlodHB4UmhNT0FIUGplS01KQT09>

Meeting ID: 892 6457 4867

Passcode: 412123

President's Remarks	Kristin Trouton
Vice President's Remarks	Gregg Petersen
Review of Minutes	Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer's Report (attached)	Brian Moyer
Chapter Committee Reports	
• Field Trips	Joe Hanfman
• Records (attached)	Jo Solem
• Conservation	Robin Todd
• Newsletter	Megan Bolcar
• Webmaster	Bob Solem
• Potluck	Sherry Tomlinson
• Butterflies	Kevin Heffernan
• Safe Skies	Sue Muller
• BBA3	Sue Muller
• Programs	Mary Lou Clark
<u>Old Business</u>	
• Waterford Flats	Gregg Petersen
• Kestrel Box	Gregg Petersen
• Robinson Nature Center Windows Update (& Lake K)	Gregg Petersen
• YMOS Backpack Contest Update	Gregg Petersen
• Officers Update	Kristin Trouton
• HCBC Magnet Update	Gregg Petersen
• May Count Update	Gregg Petersen
<u>New Business</u>	
• Education/Outreach Summary	Jo Solem
• Question about HoCo YMOS Org from Mrs. Chiu	Gregg Petersen
<u>Action Items</u>	Chuck Stirrat
<u>Around the room</u>	

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 5/1/23 3:11 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Mar-2023

Ending: 31-Mar-2023

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	5,241.52	(\$865.03)	See sheet below	3/31
Vanguard	468,735.42	\$14,042.36	See Note 3	3/31
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$473,976.94</b>	<b>\$13,177.33</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/15/2022	Operations Fund (O)	\$8,086.59	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
3/3/2023	Habitat Fund (H)	\$8,059.45	Meadow Mowing
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
2/28/2023	Unrealized Vanguard Market Change (U)	\$27,797.41	new virtual fund tracked in the right most columns of Vanguard tab

### Gift Funds

3/6/2023	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$4,362.74	Table runners
11/9/2022	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,930.75	
1/1/2023	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$410,000.00	Propose restart with balance equal the sum of what we have received from Commonwealth

## Income Activity

1-Mar-2023

to

31-Mar-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$464,418.11</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Member Donation	Member Donation to Habitat	PayPal	\$52.42	H
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$52.42</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$464,470.53</b>	

## Expense Activity

1-Mar-2023

to

31-Mar-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$481,121.42</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Habitat Mgmt	Mowing of Meadow	ATM	\$650.00	H
Printing	Mar/Apr Newsletter Brown & Associates	CK	\$65.00	O
Exhibit Supplies	Table Runners	CK	\$121.90	M
Printing	Business Cards HCBC	CK	\$80.55	O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$917.45</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$482,038.87</b>	<b>YTD</b>
			SEE note 2	
<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>		5/1/22 - 2/28/23	<b>(\$17,568.34)</b>	<b>YTD</b>

**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, and 50th Anniversary Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
2. Note that the transfers in and out of PNC from CN, TRP, and Vanguard are not truly income and expenses so that the FY YTD totals are misleading.
3. Net change of Vanguard account is net of
  - o Month (Qtrly?) dividend from VEIGX \$564.12
  - o Month dividend from VMFXX \$156.61
  - o Month increase in market value of VEIGX (Global ESG Select Fund \$13,321.63.

Corrected VMFXX dividend

Note 3 is updated with March data

**Gift Funds Activity**

1-Mar-2023

to

31-Mar-2023

**Mountjoy Fund Transactions**

Table runners reimbursement.

**Chestem Fund Transactions**

No Activity

**Ponce Fund Transactions**

Made policy decision to restart tracking Ponce with balance being sum of what was transferred from Commonwealth.  
Future investment income will be tracked as investment income and not added to Ponce as some is from other sources.

**Anniversary Fund**

No activity. No longer track in future.

### **Records Committee Report, April 27, 2023 (March 21 – April 24) – Joanne Solem**

Much of the period was dry. Above average temperature gave way to below normal in late April, but weather deterred neither birds nor birders. As usual, it has been a rewarding month. New 2023 species arrived almost every day, so it was not surprising that it became increasingly difficult for birders to keep track of the changing species. Most wintering waterfowl quietly slipped away with only a few laggards grabbing attention; migrants like Bonaparte's Gulls delighted birders, sometimes for several weeks; and arriving local breeders, along with birds heading farther north, drew birders to multiple locations.

After three Anhingas visited Wilde Lake in September 2022 for one of the few county records, it was surprising to have a flock of 27 drop in at the same lake during the late afternoon of 4/21/23 (Michael Oberman). They mingled with the Double-crested Cormorants and stayed overnight. On 4/22, between 9:00 – 10:00 a.m., most of the flock left, leaving two. Those two remained several days and, as of the evening of 4/24, were still present.

Another headliner was an adult Little Blue Heron at Waverly Pond 4/15 spotted ~9:30 a.m. (Russ Ruffing). It spent the rest of the day and two nights; it was last seen at 6:30 p.m. on 4/17.

Additional species of note were Virginia Rail, Sora, American Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, and Bank Swallow. Bald Eagles were verified in a new nest location; the Great Blue Heron colony at Vantage Point continued stable with 20 occupied nests; and Ospreys have seemingly found another cell tower that meets their specifications. Both Vesper and Lincoln's sparrows were notched one or more times.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

The recently completed first session of the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) produced several wins for birds and conservation in general, all of which the Committee supported in some fashion. Here they are in summary.

### 1. Study PFAS Testing in Pesticides Bill

This awkwardly-named bill originally sought to require annual testing of all pesticide products which are registered for use in Maryland, to determine if they contained PFAS (commonly known as 'forever chemicals' owing to their persistence in the environment). Any pesticide products found to contain PFAS would not be allowed to be sold in Maryland. The chemical industry and pesticide users fought hard against this bill, in part because they alleged there are no reliable testing methods for PFAS. In fact there are reliable test methods. MOS teamed with SPOC group (Smart On Pesticides Coalition), who helped lead efforts to pass the bill. As a compromise, the bill was eventually amended down to one which requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the MD Depts of Environment and Health, and USEPA to a study to clarify several questions about how to test for PFAS in pesticides and to report on this study to the Governor by November 1, of this year. This report will be the basis for a 2024 bill to restrict the use of test pesticides found to contain these troubling chemicals. So be ready for me to ask you to register your support for this bill!

### 2. Pollinator-Friendly Powerlines Bill

The strips of land lying beneath powerlines could provide valuable habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife, but the utility companies are required to keep these areas mowed regularly so that all vegetation is less than 12 inches high. The Pollinator Friendly Powerline bill will allow these companies to only mow once every other year, between November 1 and March 31 (October 1 and April 30 in Western Maryland. As an example, reduced mowing along the powerline corridor that runs across Sligo Park has resulted in the growth of a rich assemblage of wildflowers and shrubs, which attract pollinators and birds. With 50,000 acres of such corridors throughout the state, this bill has the potential for enhancing large areas for pollinators and birds.

### 3. Maryland Native Plants Program Bill

This bill will encourage the use of native plants in the state by setting up a Maryland Native Plants program through the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland Extension. There will be an online list of Maryland native plants, a Maryland grower/retailer certification program, a voluntary labeling program and a logo. There is funding a native plant specialist who will educate the public about these plants. The net result should be to make it easier for general public to obtain and successfully grow native plants. This in turn will provide more food sources for herbivorous insects and this food for birds.

4. Maryland the Beautiful Bill

Also known as the 30x30 bill since it aims to protect 30% of Maryland land area by 2030 (and 40% by 2040). With the establishment of the Local Land Trust Revolving Loan Program, funds will be made available for the rapid purchase of land and conservation easements by local land trusts. In 2025, \$10,000,000 will be made available for such purchases. Recurring funds will also be available for training in land stewardship and monitoring.

5. Forest Retention Bill

Maryland lost more than 19,000 acres of forest from 2013 through 2018, so this bill is good news. It is intended to result in a net gain rather than no net loss.

Notably, current regulations only require developers to replace areas of forest cut down on a 1 to 4 basis. Thus, if 4 acres of forest are cut down, the developer only has to plant 1 acre to mitigate the loss. Picture it: 4 acres of mature forest are cut down, only to have 1 acre elsewhere planted with saplings. The bill requires 1 for 1 replacement. It also gives local governments more flexibility in meeting their forest conservation goals.

6. Sustainable Building Bill

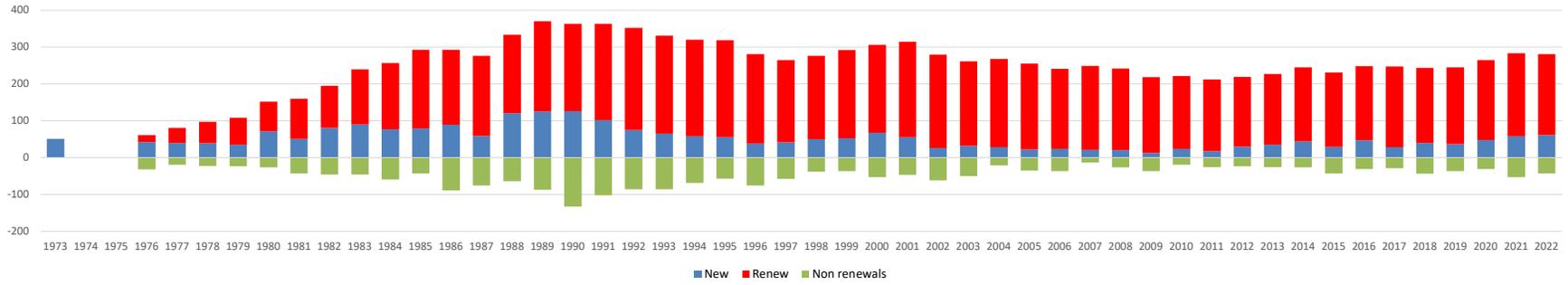
This bill is designed to minimize adverse impacts (literally) to birds. It will require all buildings and substantial renovations to existing buildings, which are more than 50% funded by the state, to include bird-friendly and energy conservation features. The former will include measures to minimize bird collisions and to reduce lighting during the spring and fall migration months. The bill also requires buildings to take energy conservation measures in accordance with LEED guidance. This bill was promoted tirelessly by Safe Skies, so congratulations are in order, notably to Carolyn Parsa and Mark Southerland.

Other

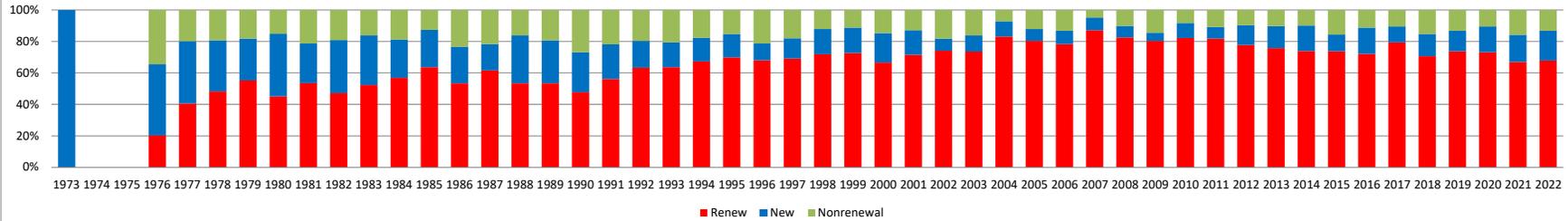
New plans for MD State Forests Includes More OHV trails

DNR's Forest Service's draft plan for Maryland's State Forests includes expansion of trails for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. These noisy vehicles disturb birds, wildlife and other users of these forests, including birders. We submitted comments on behalf of the committee arguing against expanding OHV trails. In addition, I sent out a MailChimp alert asking MOS members to individually contact the Forest Service directly. I was gratified to hear from several members that had done so.

**Changes in Number of Adult Members in HCBC:  
number of renewing, new, and non-renewing**



**Renewals, New Members, and Non-renewals as percentage of total**





**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, May 25, 2023

**Attendance** [Presence indicated by check mark (√)]

**202-2022 Club Officers:**

President: Kristin Trouton √  
Vice-president: Gregg Petersen  
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat √  
Treasurer: Brian Moyer √  
Chap. Directors: Nancy McAllister (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Kelsey Wellons (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) √  
State Directors: Donna Carollo  
David Sandler  
Sherry Tomlinson √  
Past President: Mary Maxey √

**Chapter Committees:**

Field Trips: Joe Hanfman  
Programs: Mary Lou Clark √  
Conservation: Robin Todd √  
Newsletter: Megan Bolcar √  
Records: Jo Solem √  
Webmaster: Bob Solem √  
Potluck: *Sherry Tomlinson*  
Publicity: Allen Lewis  
Butterflies: Kevin Heffernan  
BBA3: Sue Muller √  
**Others:** Val Swan √  
Tim Thompson  
Lauren McDougle √

**General Notes**

Meeting was held virtually using Zoom. The total number in attendance was 15. Attendance at the regular club meeting held May 11, 2023 was 65 (46 in person/19 on-line) people. Kojo Baidoo gave a program entitled “Birding During a Semester Abroad in Panama.”

Update on Officers for Club 2023-2024 Membership Year (9/1/2023-8/31/2024)

Since the annual election on April 13 several developments have resulted in a need to document the names of who will assume office on September 1. Kristin has announced she is expecting and will resign on August 31 so Gregg Petersen will serve as President, Valerie Swan has volunteered to serve as Vice President, and since Mary Parks decided to resign as the new Treasurer the Board elected Timothy Thompson on May 16.

The new slate of officers is:

**President:** Gregg Petersen, **Vice President:** Valerie Swan, **Secretary:** Charles Stirrat, **Treasurer:** Timothy Thompson, **State Directors:** David Sandler, Sherry Tomlinson, Donna Carollo; **Chapter Director:** Lauren McDougle; (Nancy McAllister will be serving her second year as Chapter Director).

The club has established that the President, Secretary, and Treasurer are authorized as signatories on club financial accounts.

**Officer’s Reports**

**President’s Remarks** (Trouton): Kristin, who has been active on the Purple Martin committee, expressed her delight today as Kurt reported eight martins, visiting the box at Mt. Pleasant. Someone said they thought there had been a report the day before, and Robin spoke up that he had indeed reported four martins at the box. It usually takes a couple seasons for the birds to find a box and establish a colony, but this box was found after one year. Kristin reported she had informed Russ Ruffing, but he is out of town, and that although she has one of the keys for lowering to check the box, it is at least a two-person job as the box is heavy and doesn’t stop at the correct height when it comes down. Thus likely the lowering to formally check content will await Russ’ return.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Petersen): Gregg was not able to attend as his daughter’s wedding is this weekend but had sent several reports updating the status of various initiatives.

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck reported there were several changes proposed to the draft circulated to the Board. In the President's Remarks he was informed that Kristin will step down "in September" rather than "before." Jo informed him that the plural of Anhinga has an "s." It turns out Megan intends to institute a "listing" of new members rather than a "column" for the Goldfinch. Jo pointed out in the discussion of YMOS motivated by Mrs. Chiu, her son's last name is Li (eBird reports) rather than Chiu. One point raised at the meeting was that we should formally ask Kathie Lillie if she would like to continue working with Sherry before we just assign the task to Mary Parks. Mary Lou took an action to check with Kathie. The minutes were accepted with these changes.

**Treasurer's Report/Treasurer** (Moyer): This discussion was delayed until Brian was able to join the meeting a little late. Brian had submitted the attached Treasurer's Report covering April 1- 30. He pointed out that there were quite a few expense items, most from operating funds and a few from the Chestem Fund for expenses on the water level management equipment at Waterford Flats.

Brian then presented a version of the proposed budget file that he and Chuck had developed. It was slightly different than the one that had been distributed in advance (since a few corrections had just been uncovered earlier in the afternoon)(cells changed are gray). He shared the table on his screen and pointed out the changes and items the board should weigh in on. The actual dues income had changed to a total of \$2700. He pointed out that the proposed amount for contributions reflects there will not be the one-time donations and earnings that were associated with last year being the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The proposal assumes we will withdraw funds from the liquid (Vanguard money market fund) which conservatively can be expected as the income from the Vanguard account. This is also consistent with the balance of the virtual "Habitat Fund" is just under \$10,000 and we should be spending it down as it has continued to grow.

Turning to the proposed expenses, he pointed out that although three speakers did not choose to request their honorarium this year, we should budget for all seven programs. The expenses for hospitality (potluck) were elevated this year since we had not held one in three years and several supplies had to be restocked, accordingly the proposed amount is lower. Sherry felt the proposed \$200 was appropriate, though expected to stay under that amount. The cost of web presence has gone up over the approved prior amount due to price increases and the proposal provides for a further modest increase. Although we budgeted for co-sponsoring speakers with Howard County Conservancy as in prior years there were none this year, so the proposal is to plan for one speaker, so added an undesignated amount in this category. The club has traditionally passed through some of the donations received for habitat and promoting conservation to other non-profit organization initiatives. This year the only such payment we made was to HCC for the water damage recovery fund, The proposed amount is an undesignated \$2000 with the presumption we will actively seek initiatives as we have done in the past (e.g., DOS Bird-a-thon (Red Knot habitat), Bee City). Although the cost of mowing the meadow at HCC was shown as a Habitat Fund expense this year, Jo pointed out that the presumption the Meadow Committee has been operating under is that related expenses would be drawn from the Ponce Fund. Hence the proposed \$650 expense shown in the handbook is deleted from the proposed operating budget and future expenditures will be tracked as Ponce expenses. Lastly a Project/Grant Undesignated Habitat Expenses line was added. The Board moved to approve the budget.

The approved proposed budget is attached. It shows a positive value of Income minus Expenses of \$2,255, reflective of withdrawing \$5000 from the Vanguard money market fund. This could be less but will likely be needed to meet expenses expected from the Gift funds that are not addressed in this operating budget (e.g., Mowing \$650).

## **Chapter Committee Reports**

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): No report.

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo provided a report prior to the meeting. Jo also congratulated the Big Day Team and has added an item dealing with the record in the updated version of her report (attached).

**Conservation** (Todd): Robin had no formal issues to report. He did mention that the Howard County Conservancy had asked for people to contact the Howard County Board of Education and ask them to reconsider a decision to eliminate the county environmental educator position at HCC that has been in place for over 20 years. *Sec. Note: At the next Board of Education meeting the position was restored to the budget.*

Chuck mentioned the recent Supreme Court decision in *Sakett vs the EPA* that dramatically weakens the Clean Water Act.

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): No report.

**Webmaster** (Bob. Solem): Bob supplied this summary of recent membership activities:

“New members: six Individual, four Household, five Junior. What is interesting is that this included one gift membership from an existing member to a new member (birthday present) and the first person to use the “Membership” on our “Join Us” page when she mailed in her new membership. (By sending the information on the paper form electronically, we get it immediately instead of having to wait four months for the MOS treasurer to send it.)

“And the five “Junior” memberships are the ones the club granted to the five who wrote an essay for the MOS backpack contest.”

**Potluck** (Tomlinson): Sherry reported that she had submitted her expenses for the potluck and Brian had reimbursed her.

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): No report.

**Safe Skies** (Sue Muller): No report.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3** (Sue Muller): Sue reported that she had found an Ovenbird nest today. It flew out when she almost stepped on it but returned after she backed away. She stated that the only atlas block in the county that is not “complete” is Clarksville NW. Lastly, she mentioned that Val had been very helpful adding Barn Swallow confirmations in several blocks.

**Programs** (Mary Lou Clark): Mary Lou reported that she is confirming speakers for the Fall programs. She is also looking for, and would appreciate suggestions, for younger speakers or those who would appeal to young people.

## State Board Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Trouton, Sandler, Carollo, Tomlinson, etc.): MOS Convention was held May 10-21 at Wisp Resort in Garrett County. A fairly large contingent of chapter members attended. The next MOS Board meeting is in June.

## Old Business

Waterford Flats - Gregg Petersen reported:

“The water level was lowered in last 3 days to see if it improves the attraction of the habitat for the birds.”

Chestem Sign for Waterford Flats - Mary Maxey

See attachment with sample sign.

Robinson Nature Center Windows Funding – Gregg provided the following report:

“\$7000 funding for Robinson Nature Center Safe Skies window approach. I discussed this with Brian Campbell, and he was unsure whether the funding might be needed. So, the funding authorization from the board remains open and I recommend we contact Brian in October when the solution design and implementation will be imminent.”

Robinson Nature Center MOU - Gregg Petersen provided the following report:

“I recommend we add this to our action items until complete. Our previous MOU lapsed in December, but RNC has continued to allow us access while Emily Sizemore tried to get the MOU through some Howard County bureaucracy. Kristin and I contacted Jessee Standbridge, the acting Director of RNC about this in the last couple days and she is researching it with Emily.

On standby until the election or selection of a new RNC Director sometime soon.”

YMOS Backpack Contest Update - Gregg Petersen provided the following report:

“YMOS backpacks-Junior memberships for the 5 contestants were submitted this week and Bob Solem added them to the email/electronic distribution, Winners, Luke Ni and Luke Orndorff, were presented their backpacks at the May 11 meeting.

Education Update - Jo Solem provided a summary of the presentation she had given at the April Board meeting in a May 2 email as her response to an action item. She attached to that email a proposed set of Guidelines for Bird Identification Skill Levels that Val had prepared to help people determine their broad general skill level. Jo stated that we will certainly want to continue some activities that are part of our desire to educate including Field Trips, Meeting Programs, and Seasonal Counts. At the same time, we want to explore potential new ways to expand our educational role. She mentioned the set of beginner walks that Bonnie Ott is undertaking. Val has been helping Bonnie with these. Also plans are in the works for John Harris to hold some hands-on field workshops that will use interactive learning for “tips” that can enhance one’s birding skills. In discussion the idea of enhanced attempts to “pair” less experienced birders with more experienced ones on seasonal counts could be fruitful. Another area to explore was how to increase the educational nature of “rarities” announcements. Less experienced birders may not be able to distinguish an annual rarity from a “mega-rarity” and this might offer an educational opportunity. There was much agreement that “mentorship” is one area we should focus on trying to encourage and exploit. One-time small group field trips with potential mentor leadership might be worth exploring. We also need to recognize that there are multiple ways to enjoy the field experience, not just “listing.” The idea is to have fun experiencing birds in the field. Jo stressed this effort is open to anyone who would like to contribute or add to the discussion.

Treasurer Update – Kristin summarized that after she received Mary Parks formal resignation as the newly elected Treasurer Kristin put forward a motion for the Board to elect Tim Thompson as the Treasurer. The election was held by email on May 16 and the Board approved the motion. A meeting to introduce Tim to the club officers and the outgoing Treasurer, Brian Moyer, will be held on June 1.

Garden Plots – Kristin reported that this was a false alarm. When this was followed up it was determined the plots in question have no connection to the club and this was just a misunderstanding. Issue solved.

Event Tabling Committee – Mary Lou reported that GreenFest is the primary event we need to be prepared to handle. The next event is the Robinson Nature Center event in September. It was agreed we would not plan to support the Clarksville Commons Earth Day event in the future. There appears to be a pool of people who would volunteer for these events if they were paired with other more experienced people. It was proposed we should put together a list of this pool, but it is too early to ask for volunteers for specific dates. Mary Lou still feels we should have a document that documents “how to prepare and conduct” these events.

## **New Business**

Year Round WSSC Access – Gregg reported he is exploring:

“Year-round access for all HCBC members to WSSC deer hunting areas (see areas with hooves in Triadelphia and Duckett maps attached) during non-hunting seasons. These areas have a great habitat for many birds as seen during our yearly count days. I obtained Kristin’s approval to make this request to Mr. Franceschi, the WSSC manager, this last week. I will inform the board of results.”

Committee structure and voting board positions – In mid-May in an email Jo pointed out that the recent creation of new committees raised an issue that arises out of the club’s by-laws. Specifically, the number of non-elected voting board members cannot exceed the number of elected officers. Our practice of having most committee chairs attend the board meetings and allowing them all to vote violates this clause in the by-laws. Gregg has agreed to appoint a committee to address this issue over the summer and report to the board in the Fall.

## **Review of Prior Action Items:**

- Contact Mary Parks and ask her for a formal resignation and propose alternative roles she might want to assume – Kristin DONE
- Inform Tim Thompson that we are accepting his volunteering to be the club treasurer – Kristin DONE
- Coordinate finding volunteers for the rescheduled Earth Day at Clarksville Commons – Kristin DONE

- Organize initial plans for the Event Tabling committee as Chairman – Mary Lou
- Design, procure, and mount signs for Waterford Flats – Waterford Flats Committee
- Determine if the county will need any or all the \$7000, we pledged for RNC window bird proofing – Gregg DONE
- Inform Kevin Heffernan that HCC had approached John McKitterick about two garden plots that are assigned to the club (butterfly group) about them not being maintained – Kristin OBE
- Follow-up to resolve issue of garden plots maintenance with HCC – Kevin OBE
- Prepare a summary of the Education/Outreach Summary presentation and circulate it to the Board for comments – Jo DONE

### New/Continuing Action Items

- Coordinate finding volunteers for the rescheduled Earth Day at Clarksville Commons – Kristin
- Organize initial plans for the Event Tabling committee as Chairman – Mary Lou
- Design, procure, and mount two signs for Waterford Flats – Waterford Flats Committee
- Track status of MOU with RNC periodically and motivate its signing - Gregg
- Contact Brian Campbell in October to check status of RNC window treatment funding – Gregg
- Check with Kathie Lillie on her interest in formally supporting Sherry on Potluck – Mary Lou
- Appoint committee to address committee structure and voting board positions - Gregg

### Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 22, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
October 27, 2022	- VIRTUAL	
November 2022	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid
December 15, 2022	- VIRTUAL	Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings, but
January 26, 2023	- VIRTUAL	due to conflicts moved to 15 <sup>th</sup> for just this year)
February 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
March 23, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
April 27, 2023	- VIRTUAL	
May 25, 2023	- VIRTUAL	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

See attachment below for next year’s schedule (note the need for volunteers to host the meetings).

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

- Agenda – HCBC Board – May 25, 2023
- Treasurer Report – April 1- April 30, 2023
- Proposed Budget – May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024
- Records Committee Report, May 25, 2023 (April 25 - May 29) - Updated
- Proposed sign for Waterford Flats
- WSSC Maps for Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge Reservoirs
- Volunteer hosts are needed for next year board meetings

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Agenda  
May 25, 2023

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - May 25 @ 7:30 PM  
Time: May 25, 2023 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89510316158?pwd=djJpaE5yOXlkM01ac0U0L3d0VWliQT09>

Meeting ID: 895 1031 6158

Passcode: 597594

President's Remarks	Kristin Trouton
Vice President's Remarks	Gregg Petersen
Review of Minutes	Chuck Stirrat
Treasurer's Report (attached)	Brian Moyer
Chapter Committee Reports	
• Field Trips	Joe Hanfman
• Records (attached)	Jo Solem
• Conservation	Robin Todd
• Newsletter	Megan Bolcar
• Webmaster	Bob Solem
• Potluck	Sherry Tomlinson
• Butterflies	Kevin Heffernan
• Safe Skies	Sue Muller
• BBA3	Sue Muller
• Programs	Mary Lou Clark
<u>Old Business</u>	
• Waterford Flats	Gregg Petersen
• Chestem Sign for Waterford Flats	Mary Maxey
• Robinson Nature Center Windows Funding	Gregg Petersen
• Robinson Nature Center MOU	Gregg Petersen
• YMOS Backpack Contest Update	Gregg Petersen
• Education Update	Jo Solem
• Treasurer Update	Kristin Trouton
• Garden Plots	Kristin/Kevin
<u>New Business</u>	
• Year Round WSSC Access	Gregg Petersen
<u>Action Items</u>	Chuck Stirrat
<u>Around the room</u>	

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 7/3/23 1:28 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Apr-2023

Ending: 30-Apr-2023

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	3,364.18	(\$1,877.34)	See sheet below	4/30
Vanguard	476,280.08	\$7,544.65	See Note 3	4/30
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$479,644.26</b>	<b>\$5,667.31</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
4/30/2023	Operations Fund (O)	\$6,640.85	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
4/15/2023	Habitat Fund (H)	\$7,946.92	Kestrel Box / April Honorarium donated
10/21/2021	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$740.00	no activity
4/30/2023	Unrealized Vanguard Market Change (U)	\$35,184.28	new virtual fund tracked in the right most columns of Vanguard tab

### Gift Funds

3/6/2023	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$4,362.74	no activity
4/16/2023	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$14,769.47	Waterford Flats supplies
1/1/2023	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$410,000.00	no activity

## Income Activity

1-Apr-2023

to

30-Apr-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$464,470.53</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$464,470.53</b>	

## Expense Activity

1-Apr-2023

to

30-Apr-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$482,038.87</b>	<b>YTD</b>
Magnets	Public Affairs -magnets for members	CK	\$238.50	O
Kestrel Boxes	Kestrel Box Project	CK	\$212.53	H
Web Hosting	Annual Web Hosting Fees	CK	\$901.02	O
Honorarium	Owl Speaker	CK	\$100.00	O
Printing	Brown & Associates	CK	\$163.00	O
Waterford	Waterford Supplies	CK	\$135.45	C
Waterford	Waterford Supplies	CK	\$25.83	C
Printing	Newsletter May/June	CK	\$65.00	O
Office Supplies	Staples	ATM	\$18.00	O
Office Supplies	Staples	ATM	\$18.01	O
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$1,877.34</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$483,916.21</b>	<b>YTD</b>
			SEE note 2	
<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>		5/1/22 - 4/30/23	<b>(\$19,445.68)</b>	<b>YTD</b>

**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

1. The Operating Income/Expense Report includes transactions from the Operations Fund, Habitat Fund, and Butterfly Fund. Transactions for the three Gift/Investment Funds, if any, are reported separately below.
2. Note that the transfers in and out of PNC from CN, TRP, and Vanguard are not truly income and expenses so that the FY YTD totals are misleading.
3. Net change of Vanguard account is net of
  - o No dividend for VEIGX
  - o Month dividend from VMFXX \$157.78
  - o Month increase in market value of VEIGX (Global ESG Select Fund \$7,386.87).

Note 3 is updated with April data

**Gift Funds Activity** 1-Apr-2023 to 30-Apr-2023

**Mountjoy Fund Transactions**

No Activity

**Chestem Fund Transactions**

Supplies purchased for water control structure materials

**Ponce Fund Transactions**

No Activity.

NPR = Not previously reported

TBD= To Be Determine

Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal

2023-2024

	Approved 2022/23 Budget	Actual YTD 2022/23	Proposed 2023/24 Budget	
<b>Operating Income (Does not include investment funds)</b>				
Net Membership Dues	2,500	1,645	2,500	
Contributions to HCBC (roll-up)	2,500	3,570	2,100	
Habitat Preservation/Promote Conservation		1,788	0	
Seed Sale	0	0	0	
Butterfly Fund	0	0	0	
50th Anniversary (include sale proceeds)	0	1,528	0	
Undesignated Donation	0	254	0	
Money Market Cash Funds	0	0	5,000	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>8,785</b>	<b>9,600</b>	
<b>Operating Expenses (Club operations, Habitat Fund, Butterfly Fund, &amp; 50th Anniversary Fund)</b>				
<b>Club Events/Promotion/Outreach/Misc.</b>				
Meeting Programs (speakers)	700	400	700	4/7 requested
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	50	334	200	1st Since COVID
Greenfest Support	70	70	70	
Butterfly Fund	0	0	0	
Anniversary 50th Celebration	0	2,457	0	
Education/Outreach/Promotion	0	238	100	
<b>Office Expenses</b>				
Newsletter/other printing	750	454	750	
Website/Email/Internet	700	900	1000	Cost increase for hosting / web presence
Postage/office	275	220	275	
Bank fees	50	50	50	
<b>Projects/Grants (from Habitat Fund)</b>				
Rehabilitators (e.g., Frisky's)	300	300	300	
Education/Co-sponsor Speakers (rollup):	600	500	600	
Howard County Conservancy Speakers	0	500	500	
Undesignated	0	0	0	
Donations to Other Organizations (rollup):	2,000	0	2,000	
Undesignated	0	0	0	
Delaware Bird-a-thon DOS	0	0	0	we should contribute?
Bee City	0	0	0	
Meadow Mowing (HCC)	0	650	650	
YMOS	300	300	300	
Bird Boxes (Kestrel/Purple Martin)	100	213	100	
Undesignated Habitat Expenses	1,000	1,863	1000	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>9449</b>	<b>8595</b>	
<b>Income over Expenses</b>		<b>-664</b>	<b>1,005</b>	

The Budget proposal only addresses Operating Funds (Operations, Habitat, Butterfly, and 50th Anniversary). Gift funds (Mountjoy, Chestem, and Ponce) are not addressed as any transactions from those will be handled on a case basis.

Financial Institution Accounts	Date	
PNC Bank	3,364	4/30/2023
Vanguard	476,280	4/30/2023
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>479,644</b>	<b>4/30/2023</b>

## Records Committee Report, May 25, 2023 (April 25 - May 29) – Joanne Solem

Although the last month was drier than normal, it didn't seem to affect the variety of spring migrants. Howard birders made the most of this peak migration period.

No waterfowl set late dates, but females or pairs of Common Mergansers lingered into May at four locations. Unfortunately, breeding was not detected.

A variety of shorebirds were notched at Waterford Flats and at Triadelphia Reservoir (appearance of mudflats aided by dropping water levels for dredging). Nothing unexpected turned up. The Semipalmated Plovers topped out at 10 at the Cattail section of Triadelphia on 5/13.

Caspian Terns were scarce with the last two over Norris La 5/14. A Black Tern made the Rare Bird Alert on 5/19 (J. Hanfman) spending several hours refueling over a pond at Waterford Farm. The species had not been recorded since a flock of 16 over Triadelphia, August 21, 2016!

Sporadic sightings of Anhingas continued. The last Wilde Lake bird left 5/29, reappearing at Centennial 5/1 - 5/4; the early afternoon of 5/8, a pair was present there briefly; and on 5/11, two were spotted flying over MPEA by the Big Day team. A Glossy Ibis appeared at the wildlife end of Centennial on 5/7, remaining until the evening of 5/8.

In recent years, May has usually produced at least one Mississippi Kite. The string continued with one photographed over Centennial 5/17.

A scattering of Red-headed Woodpeckers appeared; nesting has not been verified this year. The biggest woodpecker surprise was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker photographed at MPEA 5/13, bumping up against the 5/14 county late date.

Olive-sided Flycatchers have only been noted a few times in the last few years, so one at Henryton, PVSP 5/15 was welcome. The other notable flycatcher was an Alder at Waterford on 5/18 seen three times that day and nicely documented each time.

Marsh Wrens were noted on 5/5 at both Fulton (under the powerlines) and at Mt. Pleasant. The most surprising boreal species during this period was Evening Grosbeak. Two were photographed at an Ellicott City feeder 5/5. Interestingly, the first-week-of-May is consistent with late dates decades ago when the species was a regular winter visitor.

A few Vesper Sparrows and Lincoln's were noted. White-crowns made their usual appearance during the last few days of April and first 10 days of May. Bobolinks were counted in varying numbers at about a dozen sites; the high was ~100 spotted in west meadows at Mt. Pleasant 5/18.

Warblers in breeding plumage are the crown jewels of spring eagerly sought by birders who came up with thirty-two species. More exciting than species numbers, however, was a pair of nest-building Prothonotary Warblers, a rare county nester, along the Sykesville section of River Road 5/20 (B. Ott). Summer Tanagers were detected at three locations.

The final highlight was one, possibly two, Dickcissels at Underwood Rd (first on 5/13). More may still arrive the last days of May and first week of June.

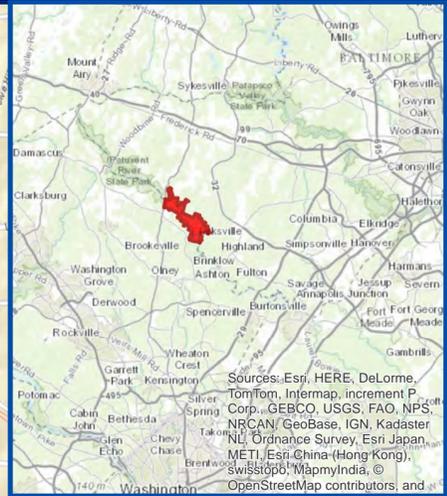
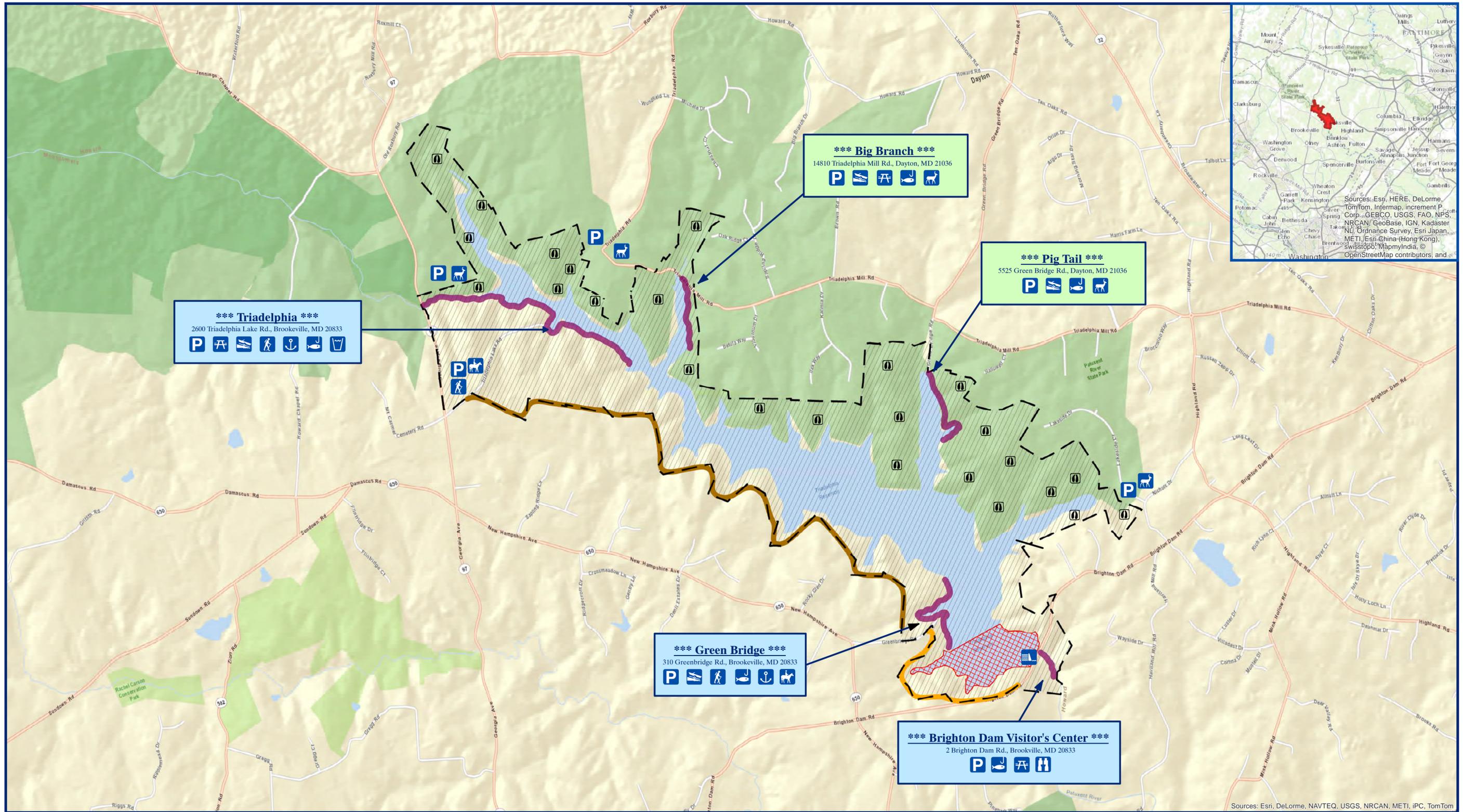
**Big Day team breaks record** - Most years, Russ Ruffing assembles a team to attempt at least one Big Day in May. This year's initial attempt on 5/7 (Russ, Steve Luke, Val Swan, Lauren McDougale) did not have a good flight the preceding night, so the effort was aborted partway through the day. Rescheduled to 5/11, this team (Russ, Val, Gregg Petersen) hit prime passerine movement. Their efforts paid off with a total of 130 species, one more than the previous record set in 2021! Congratulations to all team members!



# Welcome to Waterford Flats

established 2020

This site made possible in large part by a  
bequest from HCBC founding member  
Martha “Marty” Chestem.  
1923-2016



**Legend**

- Shore Fishing
- Hiking Trail
- Multi Purpose Trail
- Reservoir Property
- Bow Hunting - Deer Only
- No Boating, Fishing, or Trespassing

**Signs:**

- Dam
- Boat Mooring
- Shore Fishing
- Equestrian
- Hiking
- Bow Hunting - Deer Only
- Azalea Gardens
- Parking
- Picnicking
- Boat Ramp
- Fishing Pier



# Triadelphia Reservoir

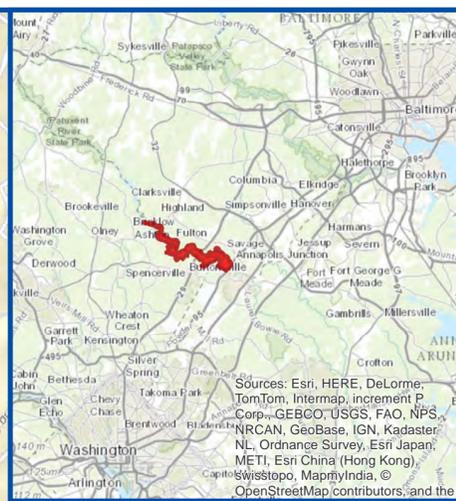
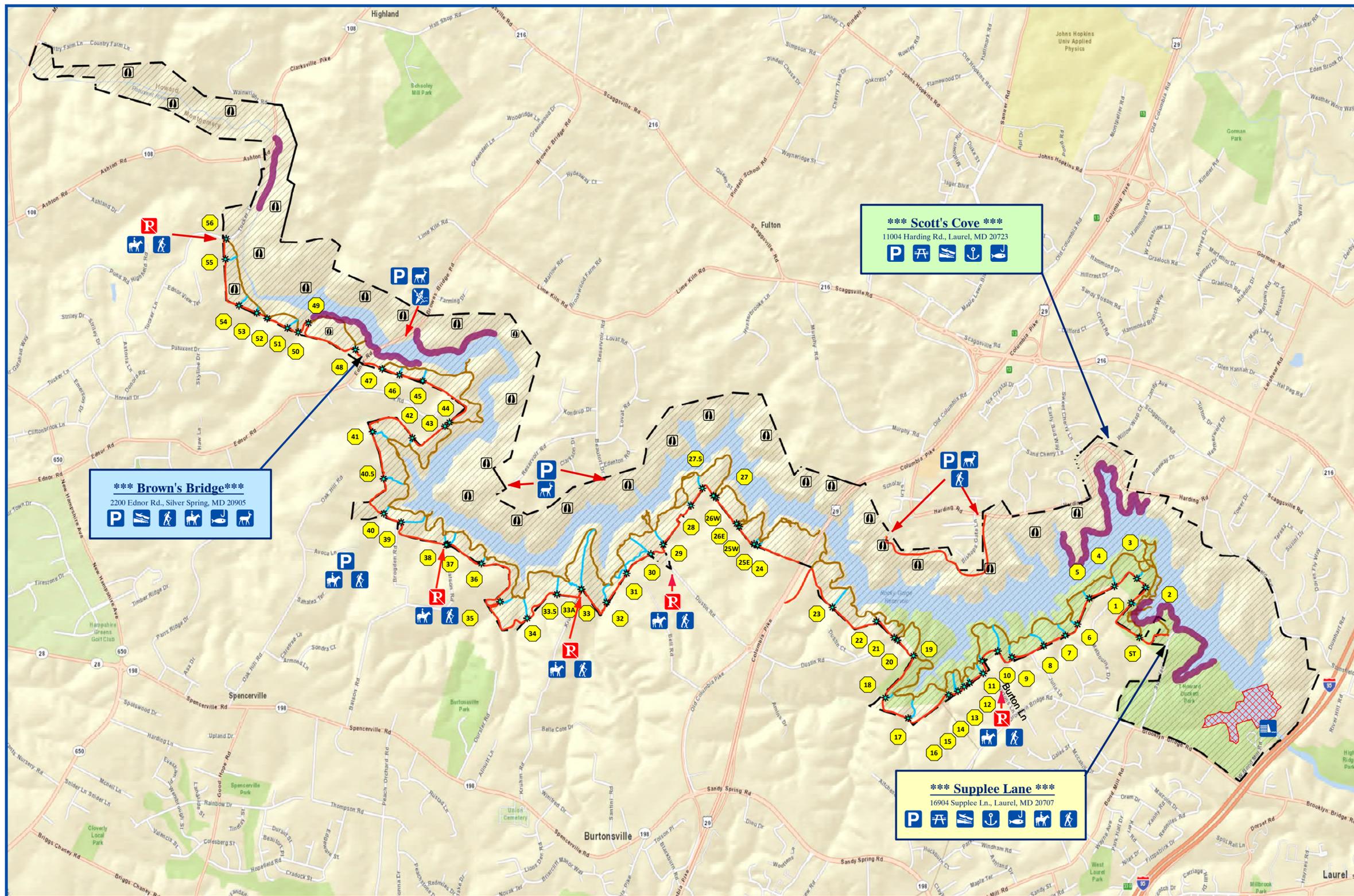
## 2016 Season



1:30,000



No Public Access  
WSSC Permit Required  
(301) 206-7485 for Permit



**WSSC's Duckett and Triadelphia Reservoirs**  
 Recreation and Scenic Beauty for Public Enjoyment

Nestled on more than 4,000 acres of protected, forested land, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) Triadelphia and T. Howard Duckett reservoirs along the Patuxent River hold approximately 11 billion gallons of water combined and serve as a water supply source for more than 1.8 million people in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Along with the vital role as major drinking water sources, these two reservoirs provide numerous recreational opportunities in a beautiful, scenic environment just minutes outside of the Capital Beltway.

Recreational activities permitted in designated areas include: shore fishing, boat fishing from approved craft, boating from rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and sailboats, picnicking, horseback trail riding and hunting. WSSC also offers the nationally-acclaimed Brighton Dam Azalea Gardens with approximately 26,000 amazingly colorful azalea plants covering five acres of wooded land along the banks of the Triadelphia Reservoir. Blooming season is usually in late April and early May.

Enjoy your visit and help us keep the reservoirs and watershed property clean and safe for everyone. Use trash receptacles and obey the rules that have been established to protect you and these pristine water supply sources and environmental treasures.

Full details about permitted recreational uses are stated in the WSSC Watershed Regulations which may be obtained at no charge. Visit [www.wsscwater.com/watershedregs](http://www.wsscwater.com/watershedregs) or contact the Brighton Dam Information Center at 301-206-7485.

For information on WSSC's comprehensive watershed protection program, including community involvement such as watershed cleanups, reforestation and numerous outreach and education events, please call our Community Relations Office at 301-206-8100.

- Legend**
- Shore Fishing
  - Trail Access Markers
  - Access Road
  - Access to Trail
  - Multi Purpose Trail
  - Reservoir Property
  - Bow Hunting - Deer Only
  - No Boating, Fishing, or Trespassing
- Signs:**
- Dam
  - No Parking
  - Parking
  - Kayaking
  - Picnicking
  - Boat Ramp
  - Boat Mooring
  - Shore Fishing
  - Equestrian
  - Hiking
  - Bow Hunting - Deer Only



# T. Howard Duckett

## 2016 Season



No Public Access  
 WSSC Permit Required  
 (301) 206-7485 for Permit

Prepared By: John Kasprzak - Systems Control Group - March 2016

Volunteer hosts are needed for next year board meetings.

Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM and will be hosted by board members but will be hybrid in nature.

- September 28, 2023 - Gregg Petersen
- October 26, 2023 - Mary Maxey
- November 2023 - NO MEETING (moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings)
- December 7, 2023 -
- January 25, 2024 -
- February 22, 2024 -
- March 28, 2024 -
- April 25, 2024 -
- May 23, 2024 - (Joint meeting with new and old members)