



Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2024

Attendance [In-person presence indicated by (√), virtual attendance by (#), Voting Member by (*)]

2023-2024 Club Officers:

President:* Gregg Petersen √
Vice-president:* Val Swan #
Secretary:* Chuck Stirrat √
Treasurer:* Tim Thompson √
Chap. Directors:* Lauren McDougle (1st yr.)
Nancy McAllister (2nd yr.) #
State Directors:* Donna Carollo V
John McKitterick #
David Sandler #
Sherry Tomlinson #
Past President:* Mary Maxey √

Standing Committees:

Records:* Jo Solem #
Publicity/Outreach:* Kelsey Wellons #
Programs:* Mary Lou Clark
Newsletter:* Megan Bolcar #
Habitat:* Sue Probst √
Butterflies:* Kevin Heffernan
Field Trips:* Joe Hanfman
Conservation:* Robin Todd

Working Groups

Webmaster/Membership: Bob Solem
Potluck: Sherry Tomlinson/
Meghaan Lane #
BBA3: Sue Muller

Others:

General Notes

The meeting was held in a hybrid format with the in-person portion held at the home of Gregg Petersen, as Mary Lou was sick and couldn't host as scheduled. The total number in attendance was 17 (6 in person/ 11 Zoom). Attendance at the regular club meeting held January 11, 2024, was 71 (45 in person/ 26 Zoom). Sue Muller gave a program entitled "Finding Eagles and Owls for the Final Year of the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 (BBA3) "

Officer's Reports

President's Remarks (Petersen): Gregg opened by thanking everyone for their service, reminded us he wanted to wrap up by 9 pm, and talk of politics was inappropriate. He remarked that as we met, Kurt was attending the HCPSS Board meeting that was discussing staffing cuts, including the school's Environmental Educator position that operates out of Howard County Conservancy. He had provided the attached Appreciation Coin update (corrected to add Jeff Culler and Ralph Cullison that had been left out). Gregg summarized his efforts to present two Valued Service Awards at the April meeting. He has selected the awardees and asked MOS to prepare the certificates. He asked seven prior winners of the award to vote and comment on five potential candidates that he had narrowed down to from 11 suggested. He stated there were two clear winners.

Vice-President's Remarks (Swan): Val briefly discussed the recent "loon rescue," Gregg had prepared a paper with a summary of the links to news outlets reporting on the rescue. It also included a draft of an article describing the rescue for the Goldfinch. (the links are attached, but the draft is not included.)

Review of Minutes/Secretary (Stirrat): There were only minor changes to draft minutes. The new annual Zoom subscription is \$160 vice the \$150 I had recorded. Minutes failed to capture discussion of need for appointing a nominating committee in January (need new Chapter Director to replace Nancy) and to confirm others agree to continue in current role. *Sec. Note – Since meeting Donna and David have indicated they are stepping down, so we need candidates for two State Director as well.* The minutes were approved with the minor changes.

Treasurer's Report/Treasurer (Thompson): Tim provided the attached Treasurer's Report. He commented that our total assets had a value of \$522,542 (including unrealized market gain). He reported that Chuck and he were working to respond to a series of questions the tax accountants had asked and review the preliminary drafts of the

club's tax returns. Gregg assured the Board that ultimately the entire Board would be asked to review the final versions of the returns before they are filed. John asked what the club's annual revenue had been independent of the market change. *Sec. Note: The club's tax return for our Tax Year 2022 (5/2/22-4/30/23) shows a total revenue of \$14,348 (contributions \$2,894, dues \$2393, and investment income \$9061).* Sue P. asked about the various "funds" referred to in the Treasurer's Report, especially as it regards "habitat." It was explained that the Habitat Fund is historical and largely funded by individual contributions to the club for habitat and related items. The Chestem Fund was funded by the bequest left to the club by Marty and a committee established guidance that it would primarily be used for habitat projects of larger scope than had been possible prior to its receipt. The Ponce fund was funded by the bequest of Elsa Orly Ponce and to date we have reinvested in a Vanguard account but have not begun to spend this yet. No formal guidance has been developed but the sense is that it gives us an option to consider even larger projects, mostly dealing with habitat. The Mountjoy fund was a smaller bequest from Marjorie Mountjoy that specified the funds should not be used for habitat but rather be used to fund other club needs (to date primarily audiovisual and computer equipment). In the Treasurer's records there is a separate tab for each of the funds that tracks the income and expenses. These are available to members upon request.

Standing Committee Reports

Records (Jo Solem): Jo had provided the attached report and did not spend time on it. She did note that she had just submitted the report, when Clayton Koonce found and photographed an amazing record of Blue-headed Vireo near Oakland Manor in Vantage Point. Jo said this is the first January record for Howard, only a second winter record, and one of very few Maryland January records.

Publicity/Outreach (Wellons): Kelsey reported that Bonnie Ott has started posting a series on birding that is being well received. She mentioned that via being picked up and posted elsewhere the "loon rescue" video has had over 4,000 possible viewers. A couple of club members have purchased the T2 infrared lens for phones as Dave Ziolkowski had mentioned on a Centennial field trip. Bonnie posted an infra-red image of squirrels at night.

Programs (Clark): The attached list provides information on the regular meeting programs for the rest of 2024. The previously open September slot has been filled with Dave Ziolkowski agreeing to give a yet unidentified program. John reported that he had found the reason for the virtual attendees losing sound at the last meeting. He found and corrected a corrupted driver on the laptop. Our announcement of the next "Merlin" class has been delayed until Howard County Conservancy is ready to release it at the same time on their website as it is co-sponsored and requires registration on the HCC site, Val reported that it had just been placed on the calendar today and she agreed to send Bob the information so he could post it on our website and calendar. Gregg made the point that the program developed and presented by Steve Luke and Lauren McDougale is an excellent presentation on the benefits of Merlin and how to use it.

Newsletter (Bolcar): Megan had no remarks. Sherry asked if it would be possible to include the announcement article for the potluck in the next issue. Megan said she would include a condensed version. Given the timing it won't be possible to publish the article Sherry writes after the potluck summarizing the event and thanking participants until the May/June issue.

Habitat (Probst): Sue said she hasn't had the opportunity to follow-up with Brenda Lee about the policy and rationale behind the mowing of Emy's Meadow at Centennial. Sue hoped to see her the next day. The committee working on the "HCC Meadow" project had received a proposal for preparing and planting the meadow from RJO Services, The proposal combined with an estimated cost of \$10K for seed brings the estimate to \$53K. In an attempt to determine if the cost is reasonable, Sue agreed to ask Brenda Lee about Howard Rec & Parks experience using RKO for planting the pollinator plot in the meadow east of the Davis Branch.

Butterflies (Kevin Heffernan): No report. Someone commented that with "the high temperature expected tomorrow, someone might get the first butterfly of the year."

Field Trips (Hanfman): Joe was not present. Gregg commented that we continue to add more field trips. Due to bad weather several of them have slipped into February. Effort continues to find new field trip leaders. Russel Hillsley has agreed to lead a trip to Schooley Mill Park on April 15. A date and location for John Henri Rorabeck to lead a

trip are under consideration. Cathy Hallam and Terri Berkheimer have indicated willingness to be co-leaders with someone for “beginner” trips. The Beginner trips and workshops have been very popular and fill up quickly. Mary Lou shared some feedback she has received from other chapters that they feel we don’t have enough field trips. No mention of the action item to pursue a Winter Feeder Watch trip was made, probably because it was overcome by the fact it was too late to set it up for this year. . In lieu of the Winter Feeder Watch trip Val has organized two Beginning Birder Watch and Walks at HCC for March where the trip starts observing at the HCC feeders.

Conservation (Todd): Robin was not present as he was representing the club, along with Kurt, at the HCPSS Board meeting addressing staff cuts. Gregg mentioned that we had lent our support for retaining the school support of the Environmental Educator position at Howard County Conservancy in the face of the planned staff cuts MOS has sent letters to Anne Arundel recommending leaving a parcel next to Oxbow Lake in its natural state vice adding amenities for games and other development. Gregg wanted to send similar letters from HCBC. Gregg shared that if anyone had heard a rumor that Robinson Nature Center was filling the Environmental Educator mission for the county, he had talked to Shannon Davis and that was incorrect. Robin continues to address the dangers of neonicotinoid insecticides (‘neonics’) and currently is urging us to respond to an EPA call for comments on a citizen’s position that calls for requiring efficacy data for ‘neonics.’ He subsequently provided an alert document that provides information on how to comment via email. (attachment)

Work Group Reports

Webmaster/Membership (Bob Solem): Bob covered web updates, membership, and gift memberships. He provided the following points that he provided for the minutes:

- Web updates and changes: 1) Joe Hanfman’s “Birds seen in 2023,” 2) Joe Hanfman’s and Jo Solem’s “200 Club,” 3) “Field Checklist of Birds....” 4) Bird section of “Species Lists” for all of the Site Guides, and 5) current Programs and field trips now on the Calendar. All of the updates with birds now are in eBird phylogenetic order.
- Membership: 354 voting members + 20 Affiliate members. Six new members since the last board meeting. We are discouraging new memberships until after March 1 when they will get 18 months for the price of 6.
- Gift memberships: Tom Strikwerda has implemented a change for all chapters that allows people to give a gift membership in MOS and the chapter. It is on the “Join Us” page of the web, we will not publicize it until after March 1 for the reason shown above.

Potluck (Tomlinson/Lane): Sherry reported that as of the meeting 27 have signed up and 5 plan to provide pictures. It was suggested that if the sign-up clipboards were available beginning at 7 pm, rather than waiting to pass them around during the meeting proper the clipboards might get to all present before the end of meeting. Sherry asked if we could send a “personal” email to each member inviting them to attend and register on-line using the Perfect Potluck website. Bob said that the email could be done and that we already have the “Events” feature on our email that was previously used for registering field trips. Meghaan agreed to work with Bob to draft the email and setup the registration process. Also, Sherry has spoken with RNC staff, and they reassured her that should we have an overflow crowd for the potluck they would be able to work with us and make it work.

Breeding Bird Atlas 3 / Safe Skies (Muller): Sue was not present as she was monitoring the Gateway Planning Conference. The proposed changes for Gateway could be a threat to the grasslands currently present there. Sue is hoping to motivate having Howard atlasers assist with atlasing in under-covered counties. Gregg reported that MOS and Gabriel Foley (state coordinator) hope to find ways to do this but are not in favor of reimbursing mileage. Sue had submitted the attached proposal for funding participation (lodging) in two atlas block-busting weekends in Somerset County (attached). An additional issue is whether this could be extended to non-HCBC members. Bob proposed and it was agreed to table this proposal until Sue was present.

As for Safe Skies activities, Gregg had forwarded an email providing a Robinson Nature Center Safe Skies Update. The update is attached. In addition, see the item added to New Business.

State Board Director Reports

State Board Meeting (Petersen, Carollo, McKitterick, Sandler, Tomlinson, Todd, etc.): There has been no meeting since our last board meeting. Gregg did report that there continues to be a need for volunteers to help with the November 2024 Convention in Ocean City. Meg Harris has reported that consideration is being given to trying to hold a Convention in May 2025 in Perryville (a new Great Wolf Lodge). If this is pursued it will require a separate Convention Committee and Chairperson as there would only be 6 months between the two conventions.

Old Business

Need Hosts for Board Meetings – We still need volunteers for March and May.

Club Information Card Update – Mary Lou said there has been no action and there is no rush on this as we have a considerable supply of old cards.

Hat and Logo Wear Requested Site Additions – Gregg has approached the company about adding Women’s embroidered V-neck shirts and sizes, and an embroidered windbreaker.

YMOS Committee Formation – This item has been tabled for now. Val has suggested we should try and involve youth in potluck by _ of the planning.

YMOS Backpack – Gregg reported that Brittany Parsons had agreed to run the award competition with his assistance. Plans are to have the competition open from March 1 – 31, to be ready to announce and award the winners at the April regular club meeting. One focus this year is to seek applicants through the school system.

Waterford Flats – He reported he has had no luck in getting approval to have all MOS granted access. Mr. Sharp has chosen to defer that issue until the renewal of the MOU covering the first five years. Gregg had no other updates on the continuing action item to work on a new MOU.

Purchase of mobile/outdoor Microphone to Use with Camera for Video Recording – Kelsey reported she had completed her research and selected a microphone that will cost \$250. John moved, David seconded, and it was approved that she purchase the microphone and submit a request for reimbursement to Tim. This will come from the Mountjoy Fund. Action: Purchase the microphone – Kelsey.

“Carbon Footprint as a Birder” Final Recommendation/COA -_Robin has decided he doesn’t feel comfortable with some of the items that had been suggested being included in the draft and asked to not work further on this. Mary Maxey agreed to take this for action. Gregg requested this be available by the February board meeting.

Butterfly Table Scarf & Trifold Posterboard – The posterboard has been purchased. Sue Probst reported that work on the design to be used on the scarf continues.

MOTUS Tower – Gregg had provided the attached paper as background on this as a potential project. Preliminary estimates suggest a ballpark cost of \$7.5K for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of a ‘typical’ station. Further discussion of this project was tabled.

Detailed Implementation of Club Restructure – Gregg reported that he had been working with Kelsey on details of the Publicity/Outreach committee.

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings (document as Old Business - if any)
None

New Business

Youth Binoculars for Brownie and similar youth events - Val had provided a proposal (attached) for the club to purchase twelve pairs of children's binoculars that would be used for an upcoming Brownie field trip and other on-going opportunities to expose children to the fun of birding. The discussion focused on questions about whether the two options for binoculars were extensive enough or could we gain insight into what others had as experience. It was proposed that we should check with RNC and YMOS (Radcliff). Issues raised were size, weight, ruggedness, quality of optics (cost) and age of children we were targeting. Generally, we agreed the age was around 8 years old. Others questioned whether we wanted to undertake tracking who had the binoculars at any time given that some have found such sharing and tracking a "headache." We agreed to table the proposal and readdress after further research.

Nominating Committee – Gregg has not had anyone volunteer to be on the committee, so he will appoint membership. We need candidates for Chapter Director (1st year) to replace Nancy McAllister, and two State Directors to replace Donna Carollo and David Sandler. We spent a few minutes brainstorming possibilities.

VIPs/Partners to invite to Events – Gregg would like to have suggestions for who we might want to invite and when or what events would be appropriate for them.

Bird Safe Window Treatment at Howard County Conservancy – This item was not on the agenda, as Gregg received a request for support from the Conservancy on the day of the meeting (attached). They asked for a donation to treat the upper windows of the Gudelsky Education Center that had not been treated as part of the original project we financed. They wish to treat these as they continue to have multiple bird strikes. Gregg provided the proposal to the board via email earlier in the day. They asked for \$3,168 and indicated they desire to do it with effective, expedient materials that can be installed right away. Tabby has assured Gregg that with a grant, they can move quickly on the installation. Gregg argued, we approved \$7000 for a possible grant to Robinson Nature Center for bird safe windows last year, none of which has been tapped to this point. So, he felt that we definitely had identified and had the intent to provide similar support, as well as we had helped HCC out previously and effectively with their lower levels. In discussion the point was made that the prior project had dragged on and required considerable intervention by us to get the project completed, and ensure the desired educational value of window treatment was being promoted. Gregg agreed he would communicate these concerns to HCC staff and ensure that they were addressed appropriately. A motion to approve the donation was moved, seconded, and approved, unanimously as those voting members not present were polled and approved after the meeting.

Review of Prior Action Items

- Review and edit the club information card when it is sent to the board – All
- Inform board of microphone chosen for video recording and purchase it – Kelsey DONE
- Prepare a formal proposal on "Carbon footprint as a Birder" for consideration – REASSIGNED to Mary Maxey
- Continue to develop a detailed implementation of the restructured organization – Gregg
- Speak to Brenda Lee about Howard Rec & Parks pollinator meadow mowing policy – Sue Probst
- Seek volunteers to be hosts and a leader to coordinate a Winter Feeder Watch Trip – Gregg Replaced by Val's Beginning Birder Watch and Walks at HCC
- Develop and send a fact sheet about what a MOTUS tower is to the Board prior to the January meeting.- Gregg, Sue Probst DONE
- Draft new/updated MOU for Waterford Flats addressing MOS access - Gregg, Russ Ruffing, and Flats Committee
- Obtain renewal of MOS Letter for WSSC Access to greater Triadelphia and Howard Duckett Reservoirs for 2024 - Gregg with MOS President (Evelyn Ralston) DONE
- Find volunteer(s) to lead YMOS Backpack Competition - Gregg DONE
- Find hosts for Mar and May Board Meetings - All
- Develop design for the Butterfly scarf for tabling events with input from the Butterfly committee – Probst, Litzinger?
- Draft sentence for field trip leader instructions on potential to divide very large group for website - Val DONE
- Renew Zoom subscription – Kelsey

- Prepare preliminary answers to questions asked by tax advisor – Tim, Chuck PROVIDED INTITIAL RESPONSE BUT NEED TO REPLY TO FOLLOW-UP

New/Continuing Action Items

- Review and edit the club information card when it is sent to the board – All
- Prepare a formal proposal on “Carbon footprint as a Birder” for consideration – Mary Maxey
- Continue to develop a detailed implementation of the restructured organization – Gregg
- Speak to Brenda Lee about Howard Rec & Parks pollinator meadow mowing policy – Sue Probst
- Draft new/updated MOU for Waterford Flats addressing MOS access - Gregg, Russ Ruffing, and Flats Committee
- Find hosts for Mar and May Board Meetings - All
- Develop design for the Butterfly scarf for tabling events with input from the Butterfly committee – Probst, Heffernan, Litzinger
- Renew Zoom subscription – Kelsey
- Prepare response to latest responses from tax advisor – Tim, Chuck
- Provide Bob with information to post “Merlin” class on website - Val
- Develop mailing inviting members to potluck and establish on-line registration – Meghaan, Bob
- Research others experience with providing children loaner binoculars – Val, Gregg
- Buy microphone – Kelsey
- Coordinate the YMOS Backpack competition – Brittany Parsons, Gregg

Around the Room

Any items of interest have been incorporated in the above minutes.

Board Meeting Schedule

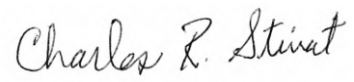
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM (hybrid)

September 28, 2023	- Gregg Petersen	
October 26, 2023	- Mary Maxey	
November 2023	- NO MEETING	(moved to the first Thursday of December to avoid
December 7, 2023	- Val Swan (Gregg absent)	Thanksgiving & even out time between meetings
January 25, 2024	- Gregg Petersen	
February 22, 2024	- Mary Lou Clark	
March 28, 2024	- Mary Maxey	
April 25, 2024	- John McKitterick	
May 23, 2024	-	(Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

- Agenda – January 25, 2024
- Appreciation Coin Update – January 25, 2024
- Common Loon Release and HCBC in the News
- Treasurer’s Report – December 1-31, 2023
- Records Committee Report, January 25, 2024 (December 1, 2023 – January 22, 2024) – Joanne Solem
- Howard County Bird Club Programs 2024 – Mary Lou Clark – Programs Chairperson
- Alert: Urge EPA to Require Efficacy Data on Systemic Neonics – Robin Todd
- Request for Somerset County Atlasing Reimbursement Approval - Sue Muller
- Robinson Nature Center Safe Skies Update
- Motus Wildlife Tracking System – Bird Studies Canada
- Proposal to Purchase 12 Pairs of Children’s Binoculars – Val Swan
- Proposal for Window Treatment at HCC with attached quote

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles R. Stirrat".

Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

Howard County Bird Club Board Agenda January 25, 2024

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - January 25 @ 7:30 PM

Time: Jan 25, 2024 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83648296136?pwd=b0RCekpwGdxM29HS1JxMDhsS2JsUT09>

Meeting ID: 836 4829 6136

Passcode: 812254

Agenda

- President's Remarks –
 - Thanks for your continuing service!
 - 2 reminders: 9pm conclusion and no politics please.
 - HCC Environmental Educator related HCPSS Board meeting is tonight-Kurt Schwarz attending and will update us.
 - Appreciation Coin Update (Update attached-2)
 - 2 Valued Service Awards decided for award at April meeting and requested from MOS.
 - 7 prior winners voted and commented on finalists. 11 candidate field narrowed to 5 that were voted on.
 - 2 clear winners.
- Vice President's Remarks – Val Swan
 - Loon release in the news (Newslinks-3)
- Review of Minutes - Chuck Stirrat (Minutes enclosed-4)
- Treasurer's Report-Tim Thompson (Dec report enclosed-5)
 - 2021/2022 Filing correction update – final draft
 - Will need board review – probably in the next 2 weeks.
- Standing Committee Reports
 - Records-Jo Solem (attached-6)
 - Publicity/Outreach-Kelsey Wellons
 - Programs 2024 Schedule-Mary Lou Clark (schedule-7)
 - Newsletter-Megan Bolcar
 - Habitat-Sue Probst
 - Butterflies-Kevin Heffernan
 - Field Trips –Joe Hanfman
 - Hillsley-Schooley Mill Park addition in April possibly, Rorabeck???
 - Conservation-Robin Todd
 - Neonics, Oxbow Lake
- Work Group Reports
 - Webmaster/Membership – Bob Solem
 - New membership goal for 23-24 is 371

- 370 in 1979 was the top number.
 - 346 was 25 year high.
 - Gift Membership update.
- Potluck-Sherry Tomlinson w/Meghaan Lane March 23, 2024
- Safe Skies/BBA-Gregg Petersen for Sue Muller (monitoring Gateway Planning Conference)
 - HCBC funding proposal for Somerset County Atlasing (Proposal enclosed-8)
 - Funding for mileage? Gabriel Foley response.
 - Robinson Nature Center (Update enclosed-9)
- **State Board Director Reports** – Carollo, McKitterick, Tomlinson, Sandler
 - MOS Convention Ocean City November 22 – 24, 2024
 - MOS needs volunteers
 - ● finding sponsors and vendors (waiting for Meg for criteria)
 - ● leading the pin design contest,
 - ● selling raffle tickets, and
 - ● leading field trips.
 - Worth an HCBC club coin to our volunteers
- **Old Business**
 - Need Hosts for Board Meetings – All Board Members
 - Mar & May open.
 - Hat and Logo Wear Requested Site Additions
 - Women’s embroidered V-neck shirts & sizes
 - Embroidered Windbreaker
 - YMOS Committee Formation -tabled.
 - Val suggested youth connect at potluck to Jayden Ward.
 - YMOS backpack – Brittany Peters will run the award competition.
 - 1-31 March competition in time for award at the April meeting
 - Would like to reach the schools this time.
 - Waterford Flats-Petersen-No update
 - Still no luck including all MOS members for access. Mr. Sharp deferred to wait until renewal of 5-year MOU. **ACTION:** Gregg work on new MOU Waterford Flats draft with Russ and Flats Committee.
- **New Business**
 - Youth binoculars for Brownie and similar youth events – Val
 - See enclosure for 2 options (Enclosure 10). **ACTION:** Board vote tonight.
 - Nominating Committee
 - Committee Members
 - Successors needed for Carollo, Sandler, and McAllister
 - Any nominees? Brainstorm possible candidates.
 - VIPs/partners to events? Which ones? When?
- **Review of Prior Action Items**
 - Club Information Card Update – Mary Lou Clark

- Butterfly table scarf designs being coordinated & table trifold complete– Sue Probst
- Review and Find Equipment: Mobile/outdoor Microphone buy @ \$200 – Wellons
 - [Camera Mount Shotgun-Microphone](#) \$250
- “Carbon Footprint as a Birder” final recommendations/COA – Robin Todd
 - Conservation Committee-forward recommendation by Feb '24 Board meeting.
- Detailed implementation of reorg for website – Petersen –
 - Working on publicity details with Kelsey
- Reimbursement of BBA3 Atlasing mileage outside county? – Sue Muller
- **New/Continuing Action Items**
 - MOTUS Tower – Petersen **ACTION:** In coordination with Sue Probst, develop and send fact sheet about what it is to board for Jan meeting. (Enclosure 11)
 - \$7.5k as a ballpark for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of a “typical” station.
 - Updated MOU Waterford Flats MOU **ACTION:** Petersen work on new MOU with Russ Ruffing and Flats Committee to consider add of all MOS access.
 - YMOS Backpack Competition Lead - Brittany Parsons leading/Gregg assist.
 - Mar & May Board Meetings **ACTION:** Need hosts.
- **Around the Room**
- **Upcoming Schedule**
 - February 3rd
 - Mid-Winter Count
 - MOS Interim Meeting – John McKitterick covering.
 - 2024 Board Meetings
 - Need hosts for March and May HCBC Board Meetings (attendance @7-9 people)
 - February 22, 2024 – Mary Lou Clark host
 - **March 28, 2024 - Needs host**
 - April 25, 2024 – John McKitterick host
 - **May 23, 2024 - Needs host (Val Swan absent)**

Howard County Bird Club Coin Award Record

1. Chuck Sharp 8/12/23 Chestem Ceremony by Gregg
2. Wes Earp 8/12/23 Chestem Ceremony by Gregg
3. Jo Solem 8/12/23 Chestem Ceremony by Gregg
4. Russ Ruffing 8/12/23 Chestem Ceremony by Gregg
5. John Harris 8/31/23 Bird walk by Chuck
6. Meg Harris 8/31/23 Bird walk by Chuck
7. Dave Ziolkowski 9/2/23 Nighthawk watch by Gregg
8. Mary Lou Clark 9/9/23 Bird Walk by Chuck
9. Roshan Vignarajah 9/14/23 by Gregg
10. Peter Kaestner 9/14/23 Club Meeting by Gregg
11. Kimberly Kaestner 9/14/23 Club Meeting by Gregg
12. Kate Tufts 9/15/23 Home Visit by Gregg
13. Chuck Stirrat 9/16/23 Fall Count Potluck by Gregg
14. Sue Probst 9/16/23 by Fall Count Potluck by Gregg
15. Manager Shannon Davis 9/24/23 Robinson Nature Center Open House by Val
16. Maryland State Delegate Terri Hill HCC Safe Skies Legislation Event 9/30/23 by Val
17. Maryland State Senator Clarence Lam HCC Safe Skies Legislation Event 9/30/23 by Gregg
18. Jeff Swan 10/5/23 at Sharp's Farm water structure final installation by Gregg
19. Larry Zoller 10/12/23 at HCBC meeting by Gregg
20. Sue Muller 10/12/23 at HCBC meeting by Gregg
21. Bonnie Ott 10/18/23 at Beginner Bird Walk by Val
22. Steve Luke 10/21/23 at Merlin Class by Gregg
23. Lauren McDougale 10/21/23 at Merlin Class by Gregg
24. Kurt Schwarz 10/27/23 at Centennial Beginner class by Val
25. Russ Kovach 11/5/23 at Centennial Walk by Gregg
26. Kristin Trouton 11/5/23 at Skywatch by Gregg
27. Robin Todd 11/09/23 at HCBC meeting by Gregg
28. Kim Abplanalp 11/09/23 at HCBC meeting by Gregg
29. Ben Costello 11/11/23 at Val beginner trip by Val
30. Renee Peters 11/12/23 at Centennial Walk by Gregg
31. Richard Peters 11/12/23 at Centennial Walk by Gregg
32. Bob Solem 11/12/23 at Centennial Walk by Gregg
33. David Holmes 11/19/23 at Centennial Walk by Gregg
34. Joe Hanfman 11/19/23 at Centennial Walk by Gregg
35. Jay Sheppard 11/20/23 at Owl Trip by Gregg
36. Marcy Stutzman 11/20/23 at Owl Trip by Gregg
37. Anna & Harry Fink 12/3/23 via mail by Gregg (accounting, email server, past club supt)
38. Eileen Clegg 12/14/23 at club meeting by Gregg
39. Ron Fedorocz 12/14/23 at club meeting by Gregg
40. David Sandler 12/14/23 at club meeting by Gregg
41. John McKitterick 12/14/23 at club meeting by Gregg
42. Wil Hershberger 12/14/23 at club meeting by Gregg
43. Eddie Franceschi 12/22/23 at Brighton Dam WSSC by Val and Gregg
44. Ralph Cullison III 12/28/23 at Alpha Ridge Owl Search by Val
45. Jeff Culler 12/28/23 at Alpha Ridge Owl Search by Val
46. Ann Rogers Finneran 1/5/24 at her home by Gregg

Common Loon Release and HCBC in the News

WTOP: <https://wtop.com/howard-county/2024/01/howard-county-loon-rescue/>
Newsbreak also referenced the WTOP video:
<https://www.newsbreak.com/columbia-md>

HCBC Facebook: <https://fb.watch/pN8tfommzq/>

Village Green/Town Blog: <http://villagegreentownssquared.blogspot.com/2024/01/local-heroes-to-rescue.html>

Patch: <https://patch.com/maryland/columbia/loon-left-die-frozen-pond-rescued-howard-county-bird-watchers>

MOS Facebook: <https://fb.watch/pNcOwavSza/> (recorded by Kurt Schwarz)

WBAL Channel 11: See MOS Facebook page.

Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 1/24/24 2:59 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Dec-2023

Ending: 31-Dec-2023

Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	\$1,787.97	\$146.00	See sheet below	12/29
Vanguard	\$521,153.89	\$27,185.41	See Notes 3	12/31
Current Total	\$522,941.86	\$27,331.41		

Virtual Fund Balances

Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
12/31/23	Operations Fund (O)	\$16,877.03	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
12/29/23	Habitat Fund (H)	\$7,896.92	Received \$50 member donation
12/29/23	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$587.63	Purchased display board
12/31/23	Unrealized Vanguard Market Change (U)	\$70,775.82	virtual fund tracked in the right most columns of Vanguard tab

Gift Funds

7/17/23	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$3,068.48	no activity
10/24/23	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$13,735.98	no activity
1/1/23	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$410,000.00	no activity

Income Activity

1-Dec-2023

to

31-Dec-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY Income as of Prior Report			\$2,222.73	FYTD
MOS	Chapter portion of dues	CK	\$450.00	O
Member donation	Member donation to Habitat fund	Ck	\$50.00	H
Income for this Period			\$500.00	
Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date			\$2,722.73	FYTD

Expense Activity

1-Dec-2023

to

31-Dec-2023

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
Total FY expenses as of prior report			\$4,090.63	FYTD
Wil Hershberger	Speaker Honorarium	CK	\$100.00	O
Sue Probst	Reimburse member for butterfly display board	CK	\$252.27	B
Brown & Associates	Printing Jan/Feb Newsletter	CK	\$65.00	O
Jo Solem	Reimburse member for stamps and mailing labels	CK	\$93.54	O
MailerLite	Payment for email service	Debit	\$157.41	O
Expenses for this Period			\$668.22	
Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date			\$4,758.85	FYTD

SEE note 1

Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year	5/1/23 - 4/30/24	(\$2,036.12)	FYTD
--	------------------	---------------------	-------------

Additional Remarks/Comments:

- 1. Club Fiscal Year is May 1 - Apr 30.
- 2. Net change of Vanguard account is net of \$27,185.41
 - o Dividend from VESGX - \$7,850.15
 - o Monthly dividend from VMFXX \$187.69
 - o Month **increase** in market value of VESGX (Global ESG Select Admiral Fund) **\$26,997.72**
- 3. Vanguard Performance To Date
 - o Total Deposits since established \$ 440,000.00
 - o Total Account Balance as of 12/31/2023 \$ 521,153.89 (including unrealized market changes)

Note 2 & 3 is updated with Dec data

Gift Funds Activity

1-Dec-2023
Month Activity

to

31-Dec-2023
Current Balance

Mountjoy Fund Transactions

No Activity.

Chestem Fund Transactions

No activity

Ponce Fund Transactions

No Activity.

Records Committee Report, January 25, 2024 (December 1, 2023 – January 22, 2024 – Joanne Solem

Although the first half of the winter season is history, birders have already recorded some special birds: Ross's Goose (J. Hanfman), Greater White-fronted Goose (Val Swan), Sandhill Crane (Bruce/Toni Evans), Short-eared Owl (Ralph Cullison), Western Tanager (Ann Rogers Finneran), Vesper Sparrow (Gregg Petersen), and Orange-crowned Warbler (Kristin Ostlie).

December 2023

December produced above average temperatures and almost double the amount of normal precipitation. Waterfowl continued to filter through taking advantage of open water, while some lingering passerines were seen in dwindling numbers.

Some of the special birds of the month included a blue morph Ross's Goose 12/1, multiple Cackling Geese, a lone male Redhead 12/22, Common Mergansers increasing to 800+ on Triadelphia Reservoir, Sora 12/1, Sandhill Crane 12/8, Northern Saw-whet Owl 12/12, multiple Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers, flocks of Cedar Waxwings the last week of the month, and a few American Tree Sparrows.

A Short-eared Owl was found at Alpha Ridge Landfill 12/23. Despite the considerable efforts of more than 20 birders on 12/28, the bird could not be relocated.

January 2024

The El Nino-generated moderate weather pattern continued into mid-January. At that point, back-to-back snowstorms in less than a week, followed by a polar air mass, provided more typical winter weather.

The first day of January set off the usual feverish search by county birders for 2024 species. A Canvasback, American Coot, Great Black-backed Gull, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Baltimore Oriole were all logged on 1/1. Together with a Snow Goose, Cackling Goose, and Long-tailed Duck on 1/2. On 1/4, a Western Tanager appeared at a feeder in a yard southwest of US 29/ MD 32. Fortunately, Joe Hanfman arranged visiting protocols with the homeowner. The bird remained in the neighborhood a few days and was last seen 1/7. A great start for the new year.

These first weeks of January also produced Bonaparte's Gull (scarce in winter) on several dates and Common Goldeneye 1/13. On 1/15, during the most significant snowfall in two years, an Orange-crowned Warbler appeared at a Columbia feeder. On 1/16, in the one-day window after the snowstorm departed but before dropping temperatures sealed smaller bodies of water, a Greater White-fronted Goose, multiple Redheads, Greater Scaup, and Common Loon were all logged. On a bitterly cold 1/20, a Peregrine Falcon was spotted at Brighton Dam and a Vesper Sparrow (rare in winter) was photographed in a Triadelphia Mill Rd cattle pasture.

Although Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin have all been reported this winter, numbers have been low and records erratic. There is still hope for possible February appearances.

The final excitement of the season was the capture by Val and Jeff Swan of a stranded Common Loon on 1/22 from an iced-over pond. It was released successfully on Springdale Quarry.

Howard County Bird Club Programs 2024
Mary Lou Clark-Programs

February-Miles and Miles of Texas; Hill Country and Big Bend by Kurt Schwarz

March-Explore the Macro World by Bonnie Ott

April-The 2023 Howard County Butterfly Survey Results by Kevin Heffernan

May- Recent Advances in Owl Biology and Conservation by Steve Sheffield

Sep- TBD by Dave Ziolkowski

Oct-Marbled Murrelet Research by Josh Ward

Nov-RaptorQuest, Chasing America's Raptors by Scott Harris

Dec- Birding in Idaho by Sue and Wes Earp

ALERT: URGE EPA TO REQUIRE EFFICACY DATA ON SYSTEMIC NEONICS

Neonicotinoid insecticides ('neonics') are directly lethal to birds, all insects (not just agricultural ones) and many other creatures, and indirectly harm birds by killing their insect prey. Seeds pre-treated with neonics before planting are heaviest and most widespread use of these insecticides. Amazingly EPA does not require efficacy data on most insecticide products, including neonic-treated seeds. So no data is required showing that neonic-treated seed results in increased crop yields. Meanwhile many independent studies have shown that treating seeds leads to little if any increase in crop yield and in some cases yields are lower.

Recently EPA responded to a citizens' petition (from PEER and ABC, protesting the absence of efficacy data) by deciding to reassess whether such data should be required. If EPA decides to require efficacy data, neonic-treated seeds would be tested to determine if they increased crop yields. The Agency is requesting public comments on this matter, with a deadline of March 23, 2024. This our chance to help eliminate ineffective, but bird-killing, seed treatments. Please send your comments to EPA. Submission is via the Agency portal at:

www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0428. If you have trouble are not familiar with these type of submission, I will go over it step by step.

- 1). Click on the link above.
- 2). Click on 'Browse Documents'.
- 3). Click on the middle document (entitled 'Pesticides: Petition Seeking Rulemaking for Registration of Neonicotinoid Insecticides and Other Systemic Insecticides').
- 4). Click on the 'Comment' button. This will take you to a screen with 'Comment' at left - type your comment here. (Don't worry if it says January 23; the deadline has been extended). Or you could upload a file under 'Attach Files'.
- 5). Either leave your name and address or remain anonymous. You can leave your email address or not.
- 6). Click on the 'reCAPTCHA' to show you are not a robot. Finally click on Submit and you are done. Good deed for the day!

Your comments can be brief, as in: 'Please require performance data on seeds that have been treated with neonicotinoids. These treatments do not produce greater crop yields, but they do kill birds and the insects that they feed on.' Or: 'EPA must obtain performance data on seeds pretreated with neonicotinoids to make sure that their benefits exceed their risks. If not, these products should be taken off the market.'

Very important note: Write your comments in your own words since EPA will count all which have the same text as being just one comment. I've looked at comments received so far and see that many have exactly the same or very similar texts; these will probably count as only one comment. There is strength in numbers. We need to show that we are a grass roots group.

Regards,

Robin Todd

Request for Somerset County Atlasing Reimbursement Approval from Sue Muller

In one of our recent conversations, I mentioned that Somerset County has set up a couple blockbusting weekends.

Request for Approval of Up to 8 birders' lodging for 2 days = \$1,198.72 or for 4 days = \$2397.44?

- **Would HCBC reimburse non-HCBC birders?**

Details:

May 24/25 & June 8 & 9.

- I would like to propose the club cover the cost of the hotel rooms if anyone participates. I called Econo Lodge in Somerset and the costs for each weekend are:
 - 2 singles per room- \$310.78 for the weekend x 2 days= @\$621.56
 - King bed for couples \$288.58 for the weekend x 2 days= @\$577.16
 - **Would the club consider reimbursing up to 8 birders for up to \$1,198.72**

I can't say how many would participate, I would not expect a high number though.

- **Another question would be if this offer was only for bird club members?**

- Many atlasers are not HCBC members-would the club reimburse them for lodging?

Sue

Robinson Nature Center Safe Skies Update

From: Wilder, Jaimie <jwilder@howardcountymd.gov>

Date: Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 10:48 AM

To: sig29@aol.com <sig29@aol.com>

Subject: RNC Safe Skies Update

Morning, Gregg,

Happy to provide some “seeds” of info for you to share!

Feather Friendly is still working on final design and quotes for us. They are waiting on me to fit some images to the custom sizes of the windows to allow their graphic artists the best chance at sizing for printing.

Jeff Rank from Collidescape just responded to me with the following quotes:

For **dots ONLY**: 1215 ft² at **\$7,900**

For **images ONLY**: 8 imaged panes at \$118.50 each for total of **\$948**

Waiting for final pricing quote for both dots and the images. Guessing that the dots are roughly \$6.50 per square foot, that gives us something like 1,070 ft² to cover in dots.....so if I can math right.....**I expect the total quote for dots and images to be \$948 + \$6,955 or \$7,903.**

Regardless of the company we source, my initial conversations with Shannon include that in this, phase I, we do the images and dots and then for phase II (balcony) and phase III (rest of large windows), we use Collidescape for their “spiderweb” sheets and dots that are clear. See link here: <https://shop.collidescape.org/product/clear/> and the dots here: <https://shop.collidescape.org/product/clear/>

Let me know if you have any further questions!

Cheers,

Jaimie

Jaimie Wilder (*She/They*), CPP
Development & Exhibits Specialist
Robinson Nature Center
6692 Cedar Lane Columbia, MD 21046
Howard County Recreation & Parks
jwilder@howardcountymd.gov

410-313-0672 (Direct)

410-313-0400 (Front Desk)

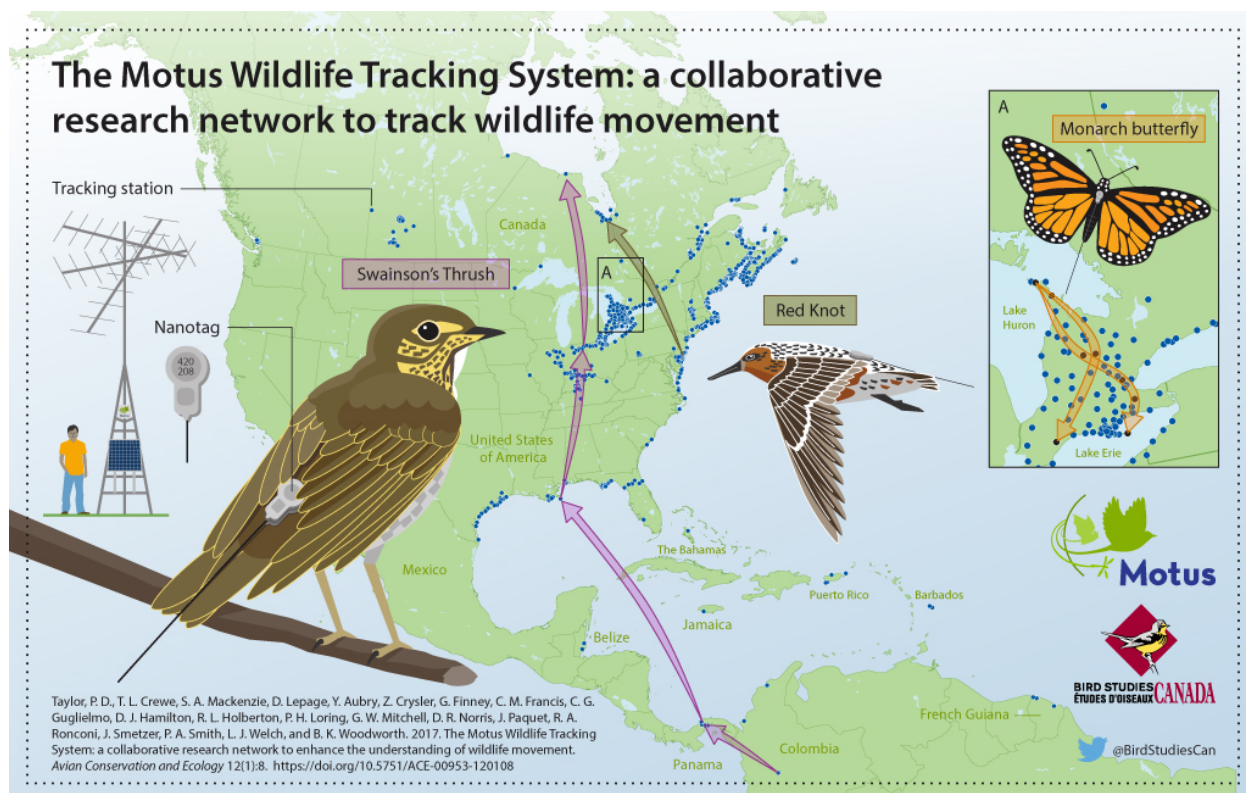
♻️ I took the EcoPledge 2023

Please note, Robinson Nature Center is closed Mondays & Tuesdays

Motus Wildlife Tracking System

motus@birdscanada.org

<http://motus.org/>



Introduction:

Some of the largest barriers to effective conservation and management of migratory animals is our ability to determine the importance of various landscapes and how they are utilized throughout their annual cycle. Our landscape includes numerous geographic (e.g. Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, mountains) and anthropogenic features (major urban centers, industrial, utility and transportation infrastructure) that might influence migratory animals use of and movement through the landscape. Gaining a better understanding of these processes will help decision-makers and other stake holders make informed and ecologically sound decisions with regards to wildlife management, policy, and regulation.

Automated radio-telemetry systems allow researchers to track the movements of radio-tagged birds, bats and insects throughout the land and seascape with unprecedented temporal precision. The Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus | <http://motus.org/>) is a coordinated hemispheric collaboration of researchers maintaining a network of automated receiving stations throughout the Americas, and recently Europe. Motus is a program of Bird Studies Canada (BSC), Canada's leader in bird research and conservation, in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations. The purpose of Motus is to facilitate landscape-scale research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals.

The current Motus array comprises over 375 stations across the globe operated by more than 75 collaborators. The configuration of each telemetry station is described below, Figure 1 shows a picture of a typical telemetry station. Figure 2 shows the current distribution of stations.

Since 2013, more than 10,000 animals of more than 100 species have been monitored using the system. Data collected from these arrays feed into a master database at BSC's National Data Centre where it is archived, visualized, and distributed to researchers and the general public.

For more detailed information you can read our research paper in Avian Conservation and Ecology - <http://www.ace-eco.org/vol12/iss1/art8/>

Landowner contributions:

We are seeking assistance from individual landowners to:

- Grant permission to install one or more telemetry stations on suitable land
- Grant access to project staff for periodic inspections, downloads, and maintenance throughout the life of the project (minimum once a year, max 3 times a year)
- Provide a point of contact to facilitate the process
- Site specific: When amenable and appropriate, allow the use of current infrastructure to affix antenna and store hardware in lieu of independent towers
- Site specific: When amenable and appropriate, supply minimal power required to run equipment
- Site specific: When amenable and appropriate, supply internet access to allow automatic data download
- When possible, fund the equipment, installation, and maintenance of Motus stations.

Funding a Motus Station:

The cost of the equipment ranges from about \$3,000 to \$10,000 depending on the type of setup (e.g. solar vs. power, tower vs. building, number of antenna, etc.). Annual maintenance

costs range from \$100 to \$5,000 per station/year depending on the remoteness of the station, whether or not they are powered or have internet access.

Landowners or interested parties can also fund a station which enables Motus and collaborators to expand and maintain the system elsewhere, and help to support the fundamental database management, web tools, program and project coordination that keep the whole system operating.

For more information visit <https://motus.org/donate/>, or contact motus@birdscanada.org.

Average cost of Motus station components, setup, and maintenance.

Equipment	Quantity	Cost	Total (typical station)
Receiver	1	~\$1500	\$1500
Tower/Mast	1	~\$800 – pop-up mast ~\$1-2,000 bracketed tower	\$800
Antenna and Cables	1-6 per station	~\$600 per antenna (price will vary depending on length of cable)	\$1,200
Solar Power	1, 100W solar panel 1, 110 amp/hr battery 1, charge controller 1, wiring and fuses	~\$750-1,000	\$1,000
Miscellaneous parts	Waterproofing, hardware, cables, fasteners, storage box, rebar.	~\$500	\$500
Total			\$5,000
<i>Approximate procurement and setup cost ~ \$2,000</i>			<i>\$2,000</i>
<i>Approximate annual Maintenance cost ~ \$500</i>			<i>\$500</i>
Total			\$7,500

Procurement, setup, and annual maintenance costs can vary substantially depending on the specifics of each installation.

Telemetry Station Equipment, Setup, and Maintenance:

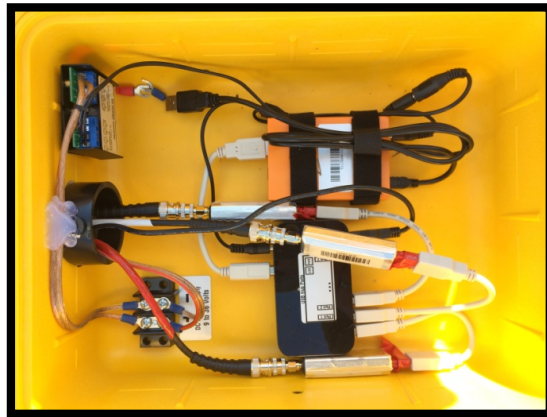
Project technicians will need to access equipment throughout the year for routine inspections, downloads of data, and maintenance. BSC takes full responsibility for the setup and maintenance of the telemetry stations.

The dedicated and approved frequency used for the project is 166.380 MHz.

Specific details regarding our automated telemetry systems can be found at www.sensor gnome.org.

Basic System Components:

1) SensorGnome Receiver - see www.SensorGnome.org / <https://compudata.ca/sensor gnome/>



2) Antenna - a combination of 5 or 9-element Yagi antenna and associated cables.



3) Power Source: Either solar panels and batteries, or 120/240V standard electric supply.

4) Connectivity: If the receiver has wired or wireless internet access, then data will stream automatically to the Motus server. Otherwise manual downloads will have to occur every 3-4 months.

Existing infrastructure:

How antenna are affixed to existing infrastructure varies with each location. Typically, they are affixed to a steel pole that is secured to the infrastructure with u-bolts. A variety of examples of station setups on current infrastructure can be found here -

https://sensorgnome.org/Automated_VHF_Telemetry/4_Receiver_Station_Set-up

Free-standing Tower:

Telemetry stations comprise a 20-30' pop-up tower, 2-4, 9' yagi antenna, guy lines, SensorGnome receiver and hardware, power supply and solar panels. The towers are not permanent structures and can be taken down or moved at anytime.

The footprint of the tower tripod, power supply and computer box is about 3'x3'. Depending on the height of the tower, the guy-lines extend from a minimum of 14' to a maximum of 20' from the tripod, which cover a ground area of approximately 98 to 220 square feet. Guy lines will be marked with reflective tape and appropriate yellow wire covers.

Timeline:

Telemetry station installations can begin as soon as all permissions are granted. It is our preference that permanent stations be established for at least 5-10 years. At any point the agreement can be reevaluated and stations taken down or moved.

Preferred Sites:

Sites with high elevation (highest locations within ~ 20 km in each direction) and open areas with direct line-of-sight to intended targets are strongly preferred. Secluded, somewhat rural areas are helpful, but not essential. We welcome suggestions about potential locations. Specific details are unique to each site and will be determined after consultation and approval of landowners.

Insurance:

Bird Studies Canada holds \$5 million public liability insurance to cover staff and volunteers during the installation of the equipment, as well as all public and private landowners from liability created by installed equipment throughout the duration of the project.

Benefits to the Landowner:

- Supporting one of the largest migratory animal conservation science and research initiatives in the world
- Access to visualizations of animal movement data collected from your and other sites
- Opportunities to utilize the system to collaborate or participate on local or broad research and monitoring projects
- Opportunities for mutual outreach, promotion and community engagement in collaboration with BSC.
- Conversation starter/piece
- Decorative landscape art



Figure 1. Examples of automated radio telemetry stations.

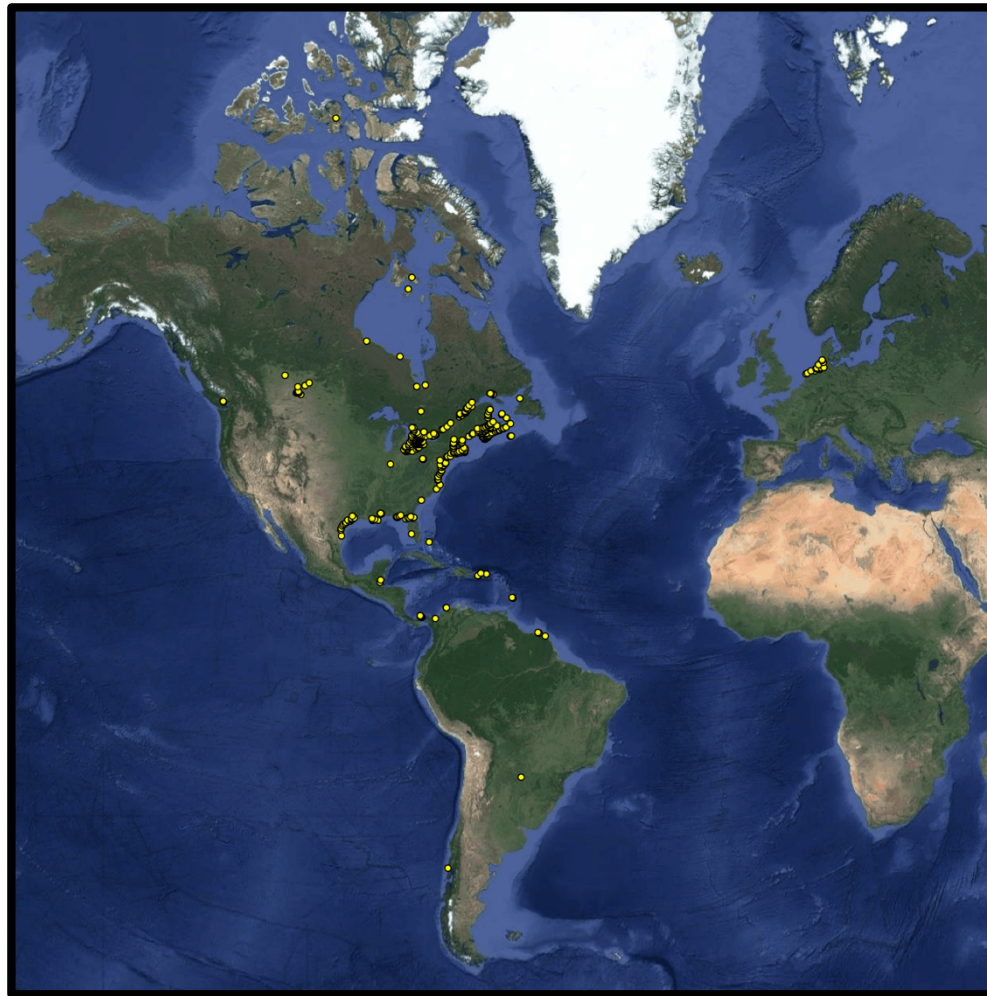


Figure 2. Current configuration of Motus stations. Active nodes in Colombia, Texas, and Saskatchewan are not displayed. By 2016 stations will be active in the south-east USA, including Florida and the Bahamas.

PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE 12 PAIRS OF CHILDREN'S BINOCULARS by Val Swan

Issue: We need kids' binoculars for upcoming Brownie trip, club member Terri Berkheimer has expressed a need for Community Ecology Institute teaching events for kids, and similar outings that happen fairly often.

2 Options for Consideration:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1) OBERWECK 6.5 x 32 @ \$100 | Total Cost: \$1200 |
| 2) CELESTRON OUTLAND 8 x 25 @ \$65 | Total Cost: \$763 |
| 3) Plus cost of a backpack (rollers, water resistant) | Estimate: \$64 |
| a. MATEIN Rolling Backpack, 17 inch Water Resistant Wheeled | |

Recommendation: Oberweck, but Celestron is still acceptable. Both pairs were selected because they were good children's binoculars at an affordable price.

Both pairs have:

Recommendations for children 8 and up

Twist up eye cups to accommodate those that wear glasses

Rubber coating for easy grip and durability

Waterproof and nitrogen filled for anti fogging



OBERWECK 6.5 x 32 (The brown pair) <https://oberwerk.com/product/65x32mm-lightweight-binoculars/>

9- 5 star reviews, 1- 4 star (stiff focus wheel) Everyone raved about these. Recommended by a Cloudy Nights chat. Reviewer states, "Dropped 100's of times by the kids. So durable."

Designed for kids

Smaller 8 degree field of view

Larger objective Lens 32-brighter view, better detail

Heavier 1.07 lbs

Largest range of interpupillary distance 51-74 for small faces

More expensive \$99.95. No tax or shipping if ordered from their website.. Total for 12=\$1200, which is \$437 total more than other choice. Comes with 4 attachable lens caps, case, and neckstrap



CELESTRON OUTLAND 8 x 25 (The black pair) https://www.amazon.com/Celestron-Binoculars-Waterproof-Multi-Coated-Protective/dp/B004KM82GS/ref=sr_1_3?crd=1B2IQOYH84F50&keywords=CELESTRON%2BOUTLAND%2B8%2Bx%2B25&qid=1706133947&sprefix=celestron%2Boutland%2B8%2Bx%2B25%2B%2Caps%2C80&sr=8-3&ufe=app_do%3Aamzn1.fos.006c50ae-5d4c-4777-9bc0-4513d670b6bc&th=1

807 reviews, 4.3 stars avg / 63%- 5, 19%- 4, 8%-3, 5%- 2, 4%- 1. Not liked for "poor optics, fogged after 5 yrs, poor image in poor lighting, stiff focus wheel, built for small faces." Most found them to be a good value and well built. Voted in top 5 kid pick by Audubon Magazine.

Designed for kids or adults

Larger 8.2 degree field of view

Smaller Objective lens 25-less light,diminished detail

Lighter weight .72 lbs.

Less versatile IPD-starting at 56 (I need 54!!!)

Less expensive \$60 on Amazon, tax \$43 (Don't know how to exempt on Amazon) free shipping. 12 =\$763. They cost \$5 more from the manufacturer..

Comes with only 2 semi-attached lens caps-the other lenses have a "flat glass lense in front of the objective lens for protection.", case, and neckstrap.

We also would need to purchase a bin or backpack to transport/store them.

From: Tabby Fique tabby.fique@howardnature.org

Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 1:43 PM

To: GREGG PETERSEN <sig29@aol.com>, krschwa1@verizon.net <krschwa1@verizon.net>, Woody Merkle merkfam2@verizon.net

Subject: Bird Safe Glass Installation on the Gudelsky Education Center

Hello GREGG, Kurt and Woody,

I wanted to connect with the HCBC to see if the club would be willing to sponsor the installation of more bird safe glass on the Gudelsky Education Center. We have been tracking bird collisions on our building since 2017. All windows on the lower level have been addressed.

However, the windows on the upper levels are now the concern. We have had several bird strikes on the large windowpanes above the entrance doors and on the bathroom windows to the left of the entrance doors. We also believe the larger rounded windows on the north and south side of the building are a hazard as well. We would like to treat all of these window areas to help protect birds from deadly strikes at our nature center.

We have a quote from an experienced company that will install the bird safe glass treatment using scaffolding to access the window areas. The estimate includes cleaning the window surfaces properly before installing the product. Please see attached.

If we chose to use window film, we would need to wait until spring for the installation. **We plan to use Feather Friendly Window Collision tape instead which can be installed any time of year.** We have used this product on the windows next to my cubicle, and they have been very effective in preventing bird collisions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

--

Tabby Fique

Land Manager

[Howard County Conservancy](http://HowardCountyConservancy.org)

tabby.fique@howardnature.org

(410) 465-8877 ext. 109

CC Quote# 7190.pdf 74K

Excel Glass Tinting, LLC

24 Northwood Drive, Timonium, MD 21093

www.excelglasstint.com/ anthony@excelglasstint.com

443-834-6761

Quote

BILL TO

Howard County Conservancy
10520 Old Frederick Road
Woodstock, MD 21163

SHIPTO

10520 Old Frederick Road

Quote No: 7190

Date: 1/13/2024

DESCRIPTION	QTY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
Install Feather Friendly Material	4 Glass Panels		750.00
Furnish & Install Blackout	4 Glass Panels		605.00
Install Feather Friendly Material North Side & South Side	12 Glass Panels		1728.00
4 Bird decals to remove interior			85.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00
			0.00

SUBTOTAL 3168.00

0.00

SUBTOTAL LESS DISCOUNT 3168.00

TAX RATE 6.00%

TOTAL TAX 0.00

0.00

Quote Total \$ 3,168.00

Note: Scaffolding Required

Thank you for your business!