



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



CLUB MEETINGS - BY [JANE GEUDER](#)

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Thursday, January 10, 2019 “Butterflies of Howard County, Maryland,” by Linda Hunt and Kevin Heffernan. Linda and Kevin will present results and observations from the five-year Howard County Butterfly Survey, a citizen-science project involving at least 60 participants and documenting almost 100,000 butterflies. The program will feature butterfly pictures contributed by survey participants. Linda is a Master Naturalist and speaker on butterfly gardening. Kevin is a past president of the Howard County Bird Club and a butterfly enthusiast.

Thursday, February 14, 2019 “Birds of the Meadows, Fields, and Marshes,” by Bonnie Ott Learn how to identify the different species of birds that inhabit the fields, meadows, and marshes of the Piedmont. This is the first program in a series of birding by habitat presentations. Understanding where to find various species of birds is as important as knowing their field marks. Bonnie will help to separate some of the more confusing species as well as describing where to find them.

Meetings are at the Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044. Hospitality at 7:00 p.m. Meeting with program begins at 7:30 p.m. Nature Center doors unlocked at 6:45 p.m. There is no admission charge. For further information call Mary Lou Clark at 410-465-4061.

Website: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RobinsonNatureCenter>

Feeder Watching with a Cooper’s Hawk By Jeff Culler

It all started innocently enough on August 12th, when a juvenile Cooper’s Hawk showed up in my backyard. What a lovely sight to behold. Unfortunately, this bird settled in for an extended stay. I often saw it during my neighborhood walks and have observed it at my feeders on 23 occasions. While frustrating for feeder watching, I was intrigued by the hawk’s ambush style of hunting and amazed as it gradually molted from juvenile to adult plumage. It’s a bird hawk and has taken two American Goldfinch and a Northern Cardinal from the yard. I believe it is a male and too small or too young to take a squirrel. Once when a squirrel approached too close, the hawk spread its wings and flared its tail in an attempt to scare off the intruder. It didn’t work and the hawk retreated from its fencepost perch.

Having a Cooper’s Hawk nearby sure puts a damper on feeder watching. How do you hawk-proof the feeders anyway? Cornell Lab of Ornithology suggests taking down the feeders for a few days and the hawk should move on. That may work in a rural environment, but in my neighborhood, there are plenty of feeders for a Cooper’s Hawk to choose from, and this one does. While not ideal, the multiple-choice neighborhood feeder system keeps the hawk occupied elsewhere while the birds and I enjoy some quality feeder time. When “Coop” was not around, the backyard feeders attracted Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and Red-breasted Nuthatches, plus all the usual suspects.





WINTER FIELD TRIPS BY [JOE HANFMAN](#)

Field trips are a great way to improve birding skills, explore new places and meet other birders. Arrive at the meeting site ready to leave at the designated time with appropriate footwear and gear. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. The leader may cancel due to inclement weather/hazardous driving conditions. Directions for trips not on ADC maps are on the Club's website. Questions? Contact the trip leader or Field Trip Coordinators Joe Hanfman at auk1844@gmail.com. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets.

START YOUR YEAR LIST

January 1, 2019, Start at 8:00 a.m. (half day). Meet at the Howard County Conservancy – Mount Pleasant Farm. Easy walking on woodland trails. Plan to carpool to different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year when every bird is new! Facilities available at some locations.

Leader–Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

    **BLACKWATER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**
January 12, Saturday, all day trip. Plan to stop at the Choptank River Bridge for ducks and coffee. Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly. Entrance fee or Duck Stamp required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. We will carpool. Facilities at some spots.
Leader–Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net, 410-461-1643

ALPHA RIDGE LANDFILL

January 19, Saturday, half day. Reservations required. Carpooling is required. Moderate walking over hills and fields of the landfill. We will search for Short-eared Owls with no guarantee of finding one. Other possibilities are Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Horned Lark, American Pipit, and Eastern Meadowlark. No facilities at the landfill. Limited to a maximum of five cars. Contact Joe Hanfman for reservations, auk1844@gmail.com, 410-772-8424.

MID-WINTER COUNT

February 2, Saturday. See [page 6](#) for details.

LAKE ELKHORN

February 8, Friday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. Meet at Dockside parking lot. Easy walking along the lake and to Forebay Pond. Waterfowl, sparrows, and winter finches are possible. The lake can turn up interesting surprises. No facilities. Leader – Allen Lewis, allenlewis@gmail.com

BLANDAIR PARK NORTH

February 10, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. Meet at the south end of Summer Hollow Ln, Columbia. Walk the trails along scrubland and woods. Non-winter birds sometimes overwinter here. No facilities, boots recommended.

Leader - Anthony VanSchoor, tonyvanschoor@gmail.com

HOW TO FIND AN OWL

February 23, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., possibility of birding at dusk for owls and early woodcocks for those in the afternoon group. Learn how to find owls by habitat and signs. Jay is an expert at finding owls and will share his skills and knowledge as to how to find different species. Contact Jay to sign up so participants can be advised of weather-related changes and where to meet. Group size is limited and RSVP required. Our target species are Long-eared, Northern Saw-whet, and other owls. No facilities.





Leader: Jay Sheppard, jaymsheppard95@gmail.com (preferred), 301-725-5559

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 3, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. Meet at the west end parking lot off Centennial Lane. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Leaders - Richard and Renee Peters, Richard@rrrrpeters.org

CENTENNIAL PARK

March 10, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. Daylight Saving Time starts (set clocks ahead). Meet at the west end parking lot off Centennial Lane. Easy walking around the lake on paved path. Facilities available. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Leader - Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com

-  = Reservations required
-  = Fee for this trip
-  = Great for beginning birders
-  = Wheelchair Accessible

QR CODE—LINK TO HCBC HOME PAGE

Look for the QR code next to the Howard County Bird Club address on the last page of this and future issues of The Goldfinch. Download a free QR code reader to your smartphone and scan this QR code to take you to the home page of the club's web site.



2018 HOWARD COUNTY BUTTERFLY SURVEY

BY LINDA HUNT AND KEVIN HEFFERNAN

The butterfly year often begins by looking for the overwintering adult butterflies (Mourning Cloak, Eastern Comma, Question Mark) or early Cabbage Whites on warm, late winter days. The first butterfly of 2018 was a Mourning Cloak found by Clayton Koonce on February 21st at Lake Kittamaquidi. A cold, wet spring this year, however, kept the butterfly numbers low. The early challenge was to find the single or early-brood butterflies of spring (Falcate Orangetip, elfins, Juvenal's Duskywing, Dusted Skipper, Northern and Southern Cloudywing, Juniper Hairstreak). As the weather warmed and more nectar plants bloomed, the butterfly numbers increased. By mid-June when the milkweed bloomed, things were hopping, and in mid-July, they exploded. This continued through August, September, and October when the late season migrants appeared.

Initiated by Richard (Dick) Smith, Jo Solem, and Sue Muller in 2013 as a joint project of the Howard County Bird Club and the Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, the five-year Howard County Butterfly Survey addresses several basic questions. What is the status of butterfly species historic to Howard County? What are the flight times of each species? Where are the best places in the county to find each species (particularly the rare ones)? Can multiple locations for each species be found to minimize the risk of losing them? Can the large variation in the numbers of some species be documented from year to year?

Each year of the survey, as the chart below indicates, the numbers of surveyors, counts, and geographically diverse locations continued to increase. *In 2018, more than 60 people spent over 930 hours completing 958 counts at 98 locations.* During the rainiest year in Maryland (60+ inches of rain and counting, as of mid-December), with only 64% of the days from late March to early November with any sun, surveys were done on 71% of the days. Surveyors persisted under less than optimal conditions. More homeowners submitted reports of butterflies in their gardens. Attendance at eight butterfly counts continued strong: one count each month at Schooley Mill Park with Sue Muller from June through September; Meadowbrook Park with Kathy Litzinger in June; Howard County Conservancy with Kevin Heffernan in July; Alpha Ridge Park with Woody Merkle in August; and Elkhorn Gardens with Linda Hunt in September. The Fall Bird Count also continued to include tallies of butterflies.

2013-2018 Howard County Butterfly Survey Totals						
Year	# Counts	Minutes/Hours	# Surveyors	# Locations	# Species	# Individuals
2018	958	55,787/930	60	98	72	25,249
2017	855	48,757/>812	66	89	71	23,897
2016	569	31,422/>523	53	44	74	21,695
2015	>272	-----	35	21+	70	17,457
2014	175	-----	14	41	68	10,340
2013	>140	Prototype Year	5 + Fall Count	11	59	3,943

By the Numbers: A total of 95 species of butterflies have been seen in Howard County. Of these seven are extirpated and 14 are considered very rare. This leaves 74 species in the abundant, common, uncommon, and rare categories. We have reached the low 70s in species counts each of the last four years, a huge tribute to the leppers spending the time doing the butterfly surveys. This year was very exciting in that we added two species new to Howard County: Henry's Elfin and Brazilian Skipper. These were the first species new to the county during the five years of the survey. Four species were not seen this year: Spring Azure, Eastern Pine Elfin, Giant Swallowtail, and Little Yellow. Of the 72 species seen, 10 had three or fewer individuals including three each of Long-tailed Skipper and Silvery Checkerspot, two each of Northern Cloudywing, Common Sootywing, Coral Hairstreak, Henry's Elfin, and Appalachian Brown, and singles of Clouded Skipper, Checkered White and Harvester.



Coral Hairstreak by Kevin Heffernan

There are several possible reasons for the low numbers of sightings of a species. First, the species may be/is hard to identify and thus is not counted as often (e.g. Crossline Skipper, Northern Broken-Dash, Spring Azure). While more people looking for butterflies probably accounts for increased numbers of common and easily recognizable butterfly species, totals of difficult to identify species, especially of skippers, have remained unchanged. Second, the species is a late-season migrant that only reaches Howard County during some years (e.g. Checkered White, Giant Swallowtail, Long-tailed Skipper). Third, the species is single-brooded and/or is primarily found in only a single location (e.g. Dusted Skipper, Northern and Southern Cloudywing, Tawny Emperor, Little Yellow). Fourth, the species is just rare in Howard County (Harvester, Clouded Skipper, Coral Hairstreak, Eastern Pine Elfin).

(Butterfly continued on page 4)

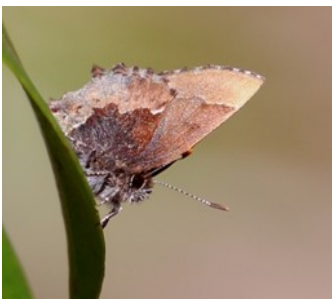
(Butterfly continued from page 3)

Selected 2018 sightings: There was a single American Snout seen in 2017 and 30 found in 2018, mostly on the Hackberry trees at Mt. Pleasant. Snouts seemed to be more common around the Mid-Atlantic this year. There were 63 Ocola Skippers found in 2016, 17 in 2017, and 103 this year, a big invasion year for this late-season migrant. Painted Lady was hard to come by in 2016 with seven being seen. Last year was a huge invasion year with 486 seen. This year there were 29. Kathy Litzinger had 34 Tawny Emperors on the Hackberry tree in her backyard last year, the only location this species had been seen in the county. This year, Paul Petkus and Sue Muller each found a single Tawny Emperor in different locations, but the total number in the county dropped to nine. There was one Harvester found in the county again this year by Kevin and Karen Heffernan. When Kathy went looking for it, she found a Harvester caterpillar instead. Kathy also spotted her 50th yard species, a Viceroy, on October 9th. Congrats Kathy!! Coral Hairstreak numbers (14 last year, two this year) also illustrate year to year species variation. Monarch numbers have been steadily rising throughout the survey (178, 377, 587, 857 and 1,937) seen from 2014 through 2018. Part of the reason for the increase is the additional number of people and hours spent in the field, but we suspect that this was a good Monarch year in the East.



Brazilian Skipper Caterpillar
by Kevin Heffernan

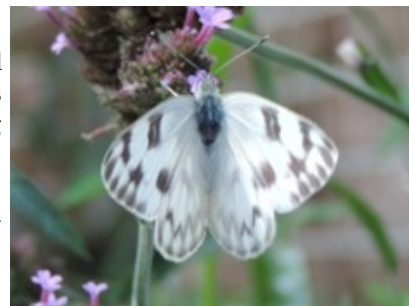
Caterpillar of the Year: Brazilian Skipper. Brazilian Skipper caterpillars were found on their host plant, Canna Lily, in several locations in the Mid-Atlantic this year. There was much discussion online about whether this was an actual invasion year or whether the caterpillars were on the Canna Lilies when they were sent to the nurseries. Jim Wilkinson checked the Canna Lily next to the parking lot at Hopewell pool for weeks looking for Brazilian Skipper caterpillars and on October 9th, his persistence paid off. This is the first-ever sighting of Brazilian Skipper in Howard County. Great find, Jim!!! Honorable mention: Harvester caterpillar.



Henry's Elfin
by Linda Hunt

Butterfly of the Year: Henry's Elfin. This award was wrapped up on April 26th when Linda Hunt found a pair of Henry's Elfins at High Ridge Park in Laurel. This is the first sighting of this species ever in Howard County.

Honorable mention: Checkered White found by Grazina McClure in her garden on October 10th.



Checkered White
by Grazina McClure

In conclusion, in the five years that this survey has been ongoing, many more people have become interested in and involved in butterflying. We have made much progress in documenting which species are found in Howard County, their flight times, and where they can be found. Two species new to the county were documented. More people are putting in butterfly gardens. There are still issues with development encroaching on critical habitats and park mowing and herbicide spraying times. Improvements can be made in skipper ID and knowledge of host plants. Too many species have three or fewer individuals seen each year and/or have only one known location in the county. The information that we have put together may become useful in facilitating planning for habitat preservation, enhancement, or creation as development continues to reduce existing natural habitat.

We wish to thank the field trip leaders and participants for their enthusiasm and eagle eyes. And special thanks to everyone who spent so many hours surveying parks, walking utility easements, checking their gardens, who then took the time to submit reports. 2018 Volunteers: Paul Bade, Kathy Barlyski, Gill Bentley, Jonathan Blithe, Karan Blum, Emily Calkins, Mary Lou Clark, Wes Earp, Ward Ebert, Robyn Evans, Timothy Foard, Mary Fox, Pam Franks, Meg and John Harris, Karen and Kevin Heffernan, Pam Henry, Robin Hessey, Gayle and Bill Hill, Pat Hooker, Linda Hunt, Kathy Kaberle, Clayton Koonce, Cathy Latham, Kathie Lillie, Kathy Litzinger, Anne Looker, Mary Love, Brigitte Lund, Janet Lydon, Nancy Magnusson, Grazina McClure, Woody Merkle, Sue Muller, Richard Orr, Michael Osborne, Bonnie Ott, Siobhan Percy, Paul Petkus, Sue Probst, Tim Reichard, Linda Roberts, Sarah Romero, Kurt Schwarz, Sharon Smith, Jo and Bob Solem, Carol Spangler, Ann Strozyk, Tim Thompson, Tony VanSchoor, Barbara White, Jim Wilkinson, Silvester Williams, Katherine Wilson, Michelle Wright, Carol Zancan, Dave Ziolkowski. We particularly want to thank Bob Solem who compiled the data, a tedious and lengthy task.

In 2016, with the death of Dick Smith, we lost our mentor and decades of butterfly knowledge. Although we can never replace that loss, through this survey he designed, we have learned a lot and, most importantly through it, many more people have become interested in butterflies and active in butterflying. We like to think that Dick would be proud of our collective accomplishment. Now that we have completed the five-year butterfly survey, the question is, where do we go from here?

The Thursday, January 10, 2019, Howard County Bird Club meeting will include a more detailed presentation of survey results, photographs of Howard County butterflies, and an opportunity to make suggestions for future butterfly activities.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL

BY TEX WILKINS



On November 6th, as millions of Americans were preparing to vote in the midterm election, eleven intrepid members of the Howard County Bird Club, having already voted, were on their way to Harlingen, Texas to be part of the 25th annual Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival. The festival, which attracted 585 attendees, spanned five days and provided more than 20 birding tour options each day.

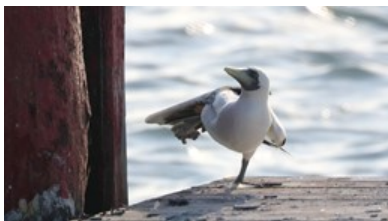
The tour options provided the opportunity to see birds in all types of habitats: woods, scrub, grass, beaches, freshwater and saline wetlands. There were tours to a National Wildlife Refuge, bird sanctuaries, state parks, and ranches such as the King Ranch, a family-owned business with land a bit bigger than the state of Rhode Island.



Joe Hanfman, Chuck Stirrat, and Jeff Culler can be seen here.
by Tex Wilkins

As could be expected from the name of the festival, there were several tours that took us to the Rio Grande River (aka Mexican border) and several more that brought us within a few miles of it. As a sign of the times, we were told to be on the lookout for and avoid, if at all possible, people crossing the river. Fortunately, the only sightings were of birds.

Most of the tours started at sunup and were over by 1 or 2 o'clock. The early conclusion allowed time for ad hoc birding in the afternoon. The bird club team took full advantage of all such opportunities. Joe Hanfman, our unofficial team leader, provided research that identified the locations where several rare birds had recently been identified. At one of those locations, Joe and several of the team spotted a Golden-crowned Warbler. This was particularly notable as it was Joe's 800th American Birding Association area (United States and Canada) species, quite an accomplishment. Some of the



Masked Booby

by Chuck Stirrat

other birds that were special finds were the Masked Booby, Varied Thrush, and Roadside Hawk. Although less rare, Harris's Hawk was also a treat to see since John and Meg Harris were part of the team.

The weather during the first part of the Festival was sunny, hot (low 90's), and humid. On day three there was a dramatic change. Around noon, while at a lake looking at Ringed, Belted, and Green Kingfishers along with a variety of ducks, the wind picked up, dark clouds appeared, and it started getting colder. The temperature dropped about 20 degrees and it started raining. None of this stopped the tour, but it did hurry it along a bit. The temperature never reached 60°F for the rest of the week.

There's an old proverb that *it's an ill wind that blows no good* and this wind turned out to be good for birders. The fast-moving cold front didn't make for good flying weather and many birds decided to land. Although we were seeing a lot of birds before the change in weather, there seemed to be more afterward. A day after the weather changed nearly 40 species were identified at a small (less than two acres) birding site located in the midst of a residential community: a South



Varied Thrush

by Joe Hanfman

Padre Island Valley Land Fund property. Included were many warbler species, a Blue Grosbeak, Indigo and Painted Buntings, Brown Pelican, White Ibis, Inca Doves and Eurasian Collared-Doves.

It's commonly thought that there is no competition in birding. However, there are evidently some exceptions. Toward the end of the festival there was the option to sign up for a *Big Day Tour*. The goal of this tour was to identify as many species as possible between 6:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A group of eight was assigned to a van along with two festival leaders. The vans could go wherever they wanted; each bird tallied had to be verified by one of the leaders. A number of team members signed up, but they were assigned to different vans. Several vans set out looking for as many species as possible with the festival providing a prize to the participants in the van with the longest list. At the end of the day, the winning van had compiled a list of 157 species. The bird club was well represented in the winning van, as it included Joe Hanfman and David Sandler.



Roadside Hawk

by Kevin Hefferan



Harris's Hawk

by Kevin Hefferan

The festival was well-organized. The tour leaders were informative and were key to making the festival a success. Over the course of the trip, the bird club team saw an amazing 237 species. The trip, however, wasn't just about birds. (Just kidding, the trip was all about birds.) During the evening many of the team would gather for dinner and talk about the day's adventures and the next day's plans.

It was a fun trip. And did I mention – we saw a lot of birds.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MID-WINTER COUNT

BY JOE HANFMAN

Join the Howard County Bird Club's Thirty-fourth Annual Mid-winter Count on Saturday, February 2, 2019. Joe Hanfman (410-772-8424) / auk1844@gmail.com is the count coordinator. You may volunteer to participate by signing up at a meeting or by contacting one of the area coordinators.

Area 1	Mark Wallace Wes Earp	301-725-6370 410-531-3197	abcxyz5@verizon.net the_earps@verizon.net
Area 2	Brian Moyer		Bmoyer36@yahoo.com
Area 3	Chuck Stirrat	443-462-8234	Stirrc1@gmail.com
Area 4	Mike McClure	410-531-2780	michael.mcclure@jhuapl.edu
Area 5	Kevin and Karen Heffernan	410-418-8731	kjheff122@gmail.com khdarcy4@aol.com
Area 6	John Harris	240-755-0183	Jaybee.harris@gmail.com
Area 7	Kurt Schwarz	410-461-1643	krschwal@verizon.net

Beginning birders are always welcome, as are individuals who wish to count only for part of the day. If you wish to count only at your feeder email Joe H. and request a feeder form.

The evening potluck tally will be at Jeff and Karen Culler's at 2672 Thornbrook Rd, Ellicott City, MD. Please contact the Cullers at 410-465-9006 or cullerfuls@hotmail.com by Wednesday, January 30th, to sign up for a vegetable, salad, or dessert, and to obtain directions. Dinner will be served at 6:45 p.m. If you cannot make the meal, you are welcome to drop in about 7:30 p.m. for the tally.

If there is a question about the weather, we will try to make a decision the night before. Contact your area coordinator if you are unsure of the status of the count.



Site Guide

Included with this issue is the site guide for Lake Kittamaqundi. [Guides](#) to other birding spots are available on the club's website.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, at the home of the board member listed. If directions are required, please call the hosting board member.

January 24, 2019

Jo & Bob Solem
10617 Graeloch Road
Laurel, MD 20723
301-725-5037, odenata@msn.com

February 28, 2019

Mary Lou Clark
5153 Morningside Lane
Ellicott City MD 21043
410-465-4061, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com

Anyone is welcome to contribute articles or ideas which you think will be of interest to other birders. Copy may be sent to:

Howard Patterson
4209 Hermitage Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042-6235
howard21042@verizon.net

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the March/April 2019 issue is January 25, 2019.

Howard Patterson, *Editor*
Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*

ANNUAL POTLUCK

BY KATHIE LILLIE

Time to mark your calendars! The annual potluck dinner is approaching and once again will be at the Robinson Nature Center.

Annual Potluck Dinner: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Where: Robinson Nature Center

Time: 6-10 p.m.

Doors open 6:00 p.m. for room set-up

Snacks start at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner starts at 7:00 p.m.

All club members and their guests are invited to share in the fun, the food, and the program. There is no entrance fee charged by the RNC.

Those attending please bring a main dish, hors d'oeuvres, a salad, a vegetable or a dessert. (To assist those with food allergies, it is suggested that you include a list of ingredients along with your dish.) The bird club furnishes water and eating utensils. You may bring beer and wine. (You may want to mark your dishes and any accompanying serving implements with your name so we can make sure they return home with you!)

There will be an after-dinner "slide show," so bring your nature photos. Once again, please note that due to time limitations we limit images to no more than **15 photographs per person**. You can bring digital photos (or a PowerPoint presentation) on a CD or USB thumb drive, and the group will provide a laptop for projection of the photos.

Please let us know in advance you will be attending so we can arrange for enough chairs, beverages, etc. You may sign up at the January, February, March club meetings, or contact Kathie Lillie by Friday, March 29, 2019 at 301-807-3785 or klillie12@verizon.net.

Come 6:00-6:30 p.m. to help set up or stay a bit afterwards, 9:00-10:00 p.m., to help clean up. It doesn't take long and is much appreciated!

If you are a new member, or if you have not attended the potluck dinner before, we encourage you to come and get to know others who share your interests in birds, birding, nature, other creatures, and more.

So one and all, mark your calendars and come join the fun!

Directions: The Robinson Nature Center is located at 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044 (410-313-0400). Route 32 Exit 17 takes you to Cedar Lane. There is ample parking.

THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Alan Green

Kelsey Wellons

SEED SALE AND HABITAT DONATIONS

BY WARD EBERT

We had a larger number of purchasers and a larger amount of seed bought this year than in the recent past. A good harvest held prices down and word of the sale seems to be spreading. With net proceeds plus the generous contributions of many folks we have well over \$1,000 that will go to support our charitable efforts to develop, maintain, and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife. Take 30 seconds and go to our website under Club Info (<http://www.howardbirds.org/howard/seedsale.htm>) to see where this money has been spent in the past.

Thanks once again to Kevin Cassidy and the staff of the Wildlife Authority for managing the buying and delivery process. Big thanks go to Cindy Albright, Jeff Friedhoffer, and Bob Solem who do all the handling of the order forms and money.

Don't forget that discounts are offered to HCBC members at the Wildlife Authority and Mother Nature's year-round.

BIRDING BASICS CLASS PLANNED

The Howard County Bird Club and the Howard County Conservancy (HCC) are jointly sponsoring a Birding Basics class on Saturday, March 9, 2019, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with an optional field trip at a later date. The classroom portion will be held at Mount Pleasant.

Material will be geared to beginners or relatively new birders and will cover a variety of topics: equipment, ethics, how to identify birds, field guides, other resources, and helpful technology including eBird. Bird Club presenters will be John Harris, Kevin Heffernan, Allen Lewis, Woody Merkle, Jo Solem, and Chuck Stirrat.

The class is free; however, registration is required as class size is limited. Minimum age of 12; ages 12 to 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration will begin in February at the HCC website: <https://www.hccconservancy.org/>.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the club members who worked at Green-Fest, Robinson Nature Center Open House, and the University of Maryland Farm Open House. People who presented programs at schools and garden clubs about birds, butterflies, fungi, and other aspects of natural history also performed an invaluable service which was much appreciated.

And a special thank you also to everyone who led field trips, coordinated seasonal counts, and hosted tally rallies. The club would be unable to accomplish its primary purpose without your extra degree of commitment.



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

P.O. Box 1323

Columbia, MD 21044-1323



January/February 2019 - Inside This Issue

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New Member Welcome	Thank You!

RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL

Club members saw 237 species of birds at the 2018 Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, including those shown below.

We will probably never see any of these in Howard County! See the [article](#) on page 5 for more on their trip.



Common Pauraque *by Joe Hanfman*



Masked Booby *by Jeff Culler*



Black-crested Titmouse *by Kevin Heffernan*



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl *by Kevin Heffernan*



Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet *by Kevin Heffernan*



Ringed Kingfisher *by Kevin Heffernan*