



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



CLUB MEETINGS - BY [SUE MULLER](#)

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Thursday, January 9, 2020 “Howard County Butterfly Conservation,” by Linda Hunt and Kevin Heffernan, and “Bee City USA,” by Julie Constantino. Linda and Kevin will summarize results from the 2019 Howard County Butterfly Survey. They will focus on implications for butterfly conservation efforts in conjunction with the Howard County Bee City USA initiative. Julie Constantino will present an overview of the Bee City USA pollinator conservation project in Howard County. Linda and Kevin are co-coordinators of the Howard County Bird Club butterfly group. Julie is Sustainability Project Manager, Howard County Office of Community Sustainability. The television screen prior to the meeting will feature 2019 county butterflies.

Thursday, February 13, 2020 “Birds and Other Natural Wonders of Mature Woodlands and Rivers of Howard County,” by Bonnie Ott. This is the second in Bonnie’s series of habitat birding presentations. Understanding where to find various species of birds is as important as knowing their field marks.

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>

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds



Hummingbirds are very aggressive when defending their spot at a flower or feeder. Anthony VanSchoor captured this great image of two in battle at his home in Columbia.

Chipping Sparrow Feeding Immature Brown-headed Cowbird



by Annette Allor

Great Blue Heron with Northern Snakehead



Clayton Koonce found this Great Blue Heron removing an invasive Northern Snakehead from a pond on Stanford Boulevard in Columbia.

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, 2020, Wednesday, 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 11, 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 18, 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 1, Saturday. See [page 4](#) for details.

LAKE ELKHORN

February 7, 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 15, Saturday, 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 22, 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 1, 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 8, 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 - Sarah Romero, Smyrna38@yahoo.com, 586-337-3860


CENTENNIAL PARK


March 15 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.

Leader - Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx99@yahoo.com.

 = Reservations required

 = Fee for this trip

 = Great for beginning birders

 = Wheelchair Accessible

AWARD PRESENTATION



On November 23, 2019, Jane Geuder was presented the Valued Service Award by Mary Lou Clark, President of the Howard County Bird Club. Jane was the Program Chairperson for the HCBC for 25 years. That would be 225 meetings for which Jane found a speaker to make a presentation to the Club. Not only did she coordinate the speaker's schedule with the schedule of the Club, she also, many times, presented the speaker with a homemade pie besides the usual honorarium. For her outstanding dedication and commitment, the Club is profoundly grateful.

Site Guide

Included with this issue is the site guide for Daniels, Patapsco Valley State Park. [Guides](#) to other birding spots are available on the club's website.

THE HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Megan Bolcar
Diane Eidelman & Ethan Baum
John Folmsbee
Sharon Forsyth
Tee Goh
Maureen Hayes
Susan Horowitz
Daniel & Gwen Morrison
Karen O'Steen
Patricia Pitts
Theresa & Joseph Thaler

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

The third Maryland/DC breeding bird atlas (BBA3) will begin January 1, 2020 and run through December 31, 2024. Sue Muller and Dave Ziolkowski are the co-coordinators. Evidence of breeding is required in all parts of the county for common as well as unexpected species. Volunteers are needed and welcome. It's a great learning experience and valuable contributions can be made by observing the birds in your own yard. To volunteer, contact Sue at smuller@howardcountymd.gov.

BLANDAIR BIRDS

Anthony VanSchoor found these beauties at Blandair Park.



Orange-crowned Warbler on November 8, 2019



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on September 8, 2019

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MID-WINTER COUNT

BY JOE HANFMAN

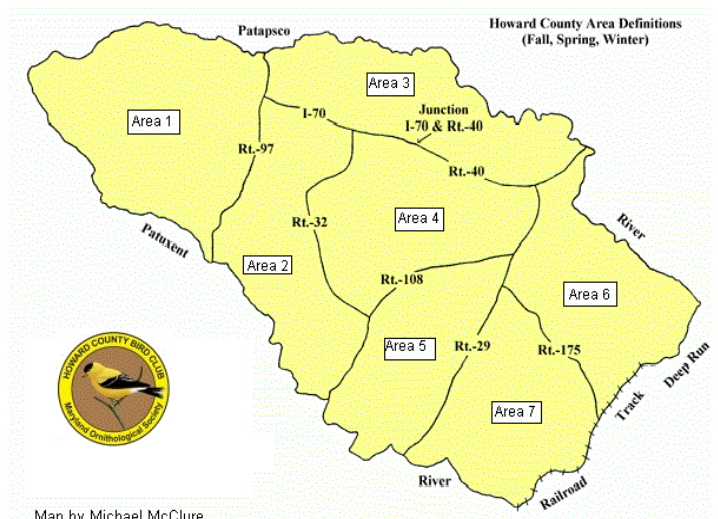
Join the Howard County Bird Club's Thirty-fifth Annual Mid-winter Count on Saturday, February 1, 2020. Joe Hanfman (410-772-8424) / auk1844@gmail.com is the count coordinator. You may volunteer to participate by signing up at a meeting or by contacting one of the area coordinators.

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	Stirre1@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	843-592-4051	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.



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 23, 2020

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

February 27, 2020

Kevin Heffernan
9775 Diversified Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-418-8731

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

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

ANNUAL POTLUCK

BY KATHIE LILLIE

It is time to mark next year's calendar for our annual potluck dinner, scheduled once again at the Robinson Nature Center for March 28, 2020, the last Saturday in March.

Annual Potluck Dinner: Saturday, March 28, 2020

Where: Robinson Nature Center, Columbia, MD

Time: 6-10 PM (Doors open 6:00 PM for room set-up; Snacks start at 6:30 PM; Dinner starts at 7:00 PM)

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. You may bring wine and beer to share. Be sure 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 27, 2020 at 301-807-3785 or klillie12@verizon.net. Come 6:00-6:30 PM to help set up or stay a bit afterwards, 9:00-10:00 PM, 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, butterflies, nature, creepy crawlies, 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.

RESULTS OF ANNUAL SEED SALE

BY WARD EBERT

Participation in the Annual Seed Sale grew again this fall and orders are up about 50% over the number several years ago. We sold 8,000 pounds of seed this year, sunflower seed in both black oil and chip forms accounting for 5,000 pounds of that total. Every product listed found multiple buyers.

Thanks once more to Kevin Cassidy and the staff of the Wildlife Authority for managing the buying and delivery process. Big thanks go to Brian Moyer, Jeff Friedhoffer, and Bob Solem who do all the handling of the order forms and money. Proceeds of \$1,000 go to fund our habitat projects, and that does not count the additional donations from members.

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

2019 ODONATE UPDATE

BY JOANNE SOLEM

The only significant 2019 addition to the Howard County odonate records was a Sphagnum Sprite (*Nehalennia gracilis*). It was observed at the edge of the lower pond at West Friendship Park, June 1, 2019 (Bonnie Ott). This was both a new location and a new early date for the species.

Sprites are tiny damselflies, barely 1 inch long that drift in and out of wetland vegetation, appearing and disappearing in the blink of an eye. This species had only been recorded previously in two highly acidic situations in the eastern part of the county. One was last recorded at Wesley Lane (a site that was undergoing subtle changes) on June 14, 1999 (J/R Solem), while two were spotted at Dr. Patel Drive, June 18, 2016, during an annual county dragonfly count (J.Solem/Lisa Shannon).

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the club members who worked at Green-Fest, Robinson Nature Center Open House, and Clarksville Commons. 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.



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Columbia, MD 21044-1323



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GALAPAGOS

Kristin Trouton recently toured the Galapagos Islands with her family. A few of her photographs are shown below.



Blue-footed family Booby on San Cristobal



Dark-billed Cuckoo on Floreana



Large Ground Finch on San Cristobal



Lava Gull on San Cristobal



Striated Heron on Española



Waved Albatross on Española