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

Attendance [Presence indicated by check mark (✓)]

2015-2016 Club Officers:
President: Mary Lou Clark ✓
Vice-president: Mary Maxey ✓
Secretary: Chuck Stirrat ✓
Treasurer: Brian Moyer
Interim Treasurer: Cindy Albright
Chap. Directors: Allen Lewis (1st yr.)
David Sandler (2nd yr.) ✓
State Directors: Sarah Romero ✓
Vacant
Past President: John Harris

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

General Notes

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

The regular meeting held April 11 was the annual club business meeting to elect the officers for next year. The slate of officers had been presented by the nominating committee at the March meeting and distributed to the membership by email/mail. The slate presented was President – Mary Lou Clark, Vice-President – Mary Maxey, Secretary – Chuck Stirrat, Treasurer – Brian Moyer, State Directors – Sarah Romero, David Sandler, Clayton Koonce, and Chapter Director – Kelsey Wellons (1st Yr.). Allen Lewis (2nd Yr.) will be serving the second year of his two year term. John Harris announced the slate and it was moved that the slate be elected by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously. Following the meeting the club secretary sent contact information for the new officers to the MOS Secretary and MOS President for inclusion in the state MOS listing of officers for 2019-2020.

Officer’s Reports

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

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

President’s Remarks (Clark): None.

Vice-President’s Remarks (Maxey): None.
Chapter Committee Reports

Field Trips (Hanfman): No report.

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

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

Newsletter (Patterson): No report.

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

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

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

State Board Reports

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

Old Business

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

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

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

New Business

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

Around the Room -

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

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

New/Continuing Action Items

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

Board Meeting Schedule

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

September 27, 2018 - Mary Lou Clark
October 25, 2018 - David Sandler
November 15, 2018 - Allen Lewis (this is 3rd Thursday to avoid Thanksgiving)
December - NO MEETING
January 24, 2019 - Jo Solem
February 28, 2019 - Jo Solem
March 28, 2019 - Karen & Kevin Heffernan
April 25, 2019 - Kathie Lillie
May 23, 2019 - Mary Lou Clark (Joint meeting with new and old members)

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

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

Minutes submitted by:

[Signature]
Charles R. Stirrat
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club
Howard County Bird Club
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda

April 25, 2019

1. Additions?
2. Review of Minutes Chuck Stirrat
3. Treasurer's Report Brian Moyer
4. President’s Remarks Mary Lou Clark
5. Vice President's Remarks Mary Maxey

6. Chapter Committee Reports
   ● Field Trips Joe Hanfman
   ● Records Jo Solem
   ● Conservation Kurt Schwarz
   ● Newsletter Howard Patterson
   ● Webmaster Bob Solem
   ● Potluck Kathie Lillie
   ● Butterflies Kevin Heffernan

7. Old Business
   ● Creation of shorebird habitat in the county Mary Lou
   ● Breeding bird atlas Mary Lou

9. New Business
   ● Budget needs for butterfly pamphlet Kevin

10. Action Items Chuck

11. Around the room

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

**Income:**
- Net Membership Dues (HCBC share) 1,933 2,426 2,814 2,946 3,413 3,200
- Contributions to HCBC 2,145 4,626 3,128 2,343 * 12,429 3,500
- Total Operating Income 5,192 7,052 5,942 5,289 15,842 6,700
- (includes $8,840 Chesterm final distribution)

**Expense:**
- Meetings:
  - Programs 650 890 400 400 610 700
  - Hospitality (inc. Potluck) 50
- Publicity & Outreach
  - Newsletter & other printing 504 644 507 470 425 500
  - Website, Internet & email 203 330 300 120 152 500
  - Postage & Copies 258 287 230 223 230 250
  - Greenfest 35 35 35 35 35 70
- Grants (from Contributions & Investments)
  - All Creatures & Frisky’s 200 300 300 600 600 600
  - Education & other (YMOS) 244 254 200 250
- Total Operating Expense 2,094 2,740 1,772 1,848 2,252 2,920

### Year-end Net Worth

- 2018-19 $53,024 (inc. $8,840 Chesterm final distribution)
- 2017-18 $43,735
- 2016-17 $49,689 (inc. $27,000 Chesterm bequest)
- 2015-16 $28,018
- 2014-15 $24,788
- 2013-14 $22,538
- 2012-13 $20,519
- 2011-12 $19,659
- 2010-11 $18,218
- 2009-10 $18,762
April 7, 2019 Notes from meeting of Chuck Sharp, Wes Earp, John Harris, and Mary Lou Clark about building a shorebird habitat at Sharp’s Waterford Farm

Site:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The birds:

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

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

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

Other living things

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

Maintenance

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

Permits

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

Access

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

Timing

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

**OLD WATER SURFACE

DEPTH VARIES 24" TO 0"

VARIES

EXISTING GROUND DESIGN GRADE

6" PVC SCH40 WATER LEVEL CONTROL STRUCTURE

**NEW WATER SURFACE

**PULLED SECTION TO LOWER WATER LEVEL

VARIES

EXISTING DITCH

TYPICAL DIKE X-SECTION

NTS
## Owner
Waterford Farm

## Work
Shorebird Habitat

### ESTIMATE OF ELIGIBLE COST

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**Total Project Cost** $17,521.22

75%: 13140.92  
87.5%: 15331.07

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