



**Howard County Bird Club**  
**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting - Minutes**  
Thursday, April 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 Crocker (1<sup>st</sup> yr.) √  
Nancy McAllister (2<sup>nd</sup> yr.) #  
State Directors:\* Donna Carollo  
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:**

Tom Seivert √

**General Notes**

The meeting was held in a hybrid format with the in-person portion held at the home of John McKitterick. The total number in attendance was 15 (6 in person/ 9 Zoom). Attendance at the regular club meeting held April 11, 2024 was 74 (47 in person/ 27 Zoom). Kevin Heffernan gave a program entitled “The 2023 Howard County Butterfly Survey Results.”

At the regular club meeting the annual election of officers was held. The slate approved by acclamation was President – Gregg Petersen; Vice-President – Val Swan; Treasurer – Tim Thompson; Secretary – Chuck Stirrat; State Directors – Sherry Tomlinson, John McKitterick, Tom Seivert, & Guy DiRoma; Chapter Directors – Yi-Ying Lee (1<sup>st</sup> year). Lauren Crocker is serving her 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Chapter Director. Chuck will inform the MOS Secretary with the results of the election.

**Officer’s Reports**

**President’s Remarks** (Petersen): Gregg opened with his usual remarks of thanks for service, goal of 9 PM conclusion, and no politics please. He provided the following list of those receiving appreciation coins since our last meeting: Kelsey Wellons, Janice Winter (HC Conservancy), Mike Bowen (Belmont walk), Anne Cianni (Belmont walk), Kevin Heffernan, Brittany Parsons, Sue Earp, Bob Marietta (GreenFest), and Russell Hillsley (Schooley Mill). Gregg also reminded us that we probably will have to deal with limited parking at the club meeting on May 13 due to construction at RNC. We may need to arrange carpooling or staging from the Giant parking lot as the parking lot resurfacing has begun.

**Vice-President’s Remarks** (Swan): Val was traveling to Arizona but was able to join via Zoom. She remarked, in response to a comment by Gregg, that the agenda promised the meeting would be anything but boring.

**Review of Minutes/Secretary** (Stirrat): Chuck summarized the corrections to the draft he had received. Under General Notes added paragraph which retroactively reports attendance and program for the December 2023 meeting that was missed in the January minutes. In Programs corrected spelling of Mackiernan (lower case “k”). In Field Trips corrected spelling of Teresa (no “h”). In Conservation Councilperson Walsh is a “her” not “he.” Also add clause to Sec. Note so last sentence reads “*Presumably, we need to donate \$5K for cat adoption support or*

*potentially cat enclosures (catios) as a pilot program. (Gregg needs to make contact with the Howard County Community Cat advocates to explore this option).* In State Board report removed Sherry Tomlinson from list of attendees. Added following Sec. Note to Custom Imprint Update, “*Sec. Note: Women’s T-shirts have been added since the Board meeting.*” Added following Sec. Note to YMOS Backpack Competition, “*Sec. Note: Ultimately we had 13 entries compared to six last year.*” In MOTUS Tower the second sentence changed “he” to “Gregg” for clarification. In the paragraph Purple Martin House for SAWF added fact that the new design has “owl guards” as well as starling guards. In the paragraph on Meeting with WSSC staff added sentence, “Joe Hanfman is coordinating to include participants from the Montgomery Chapter in the meeting in late June.” and changed Action Items to show Joe has the action. The minutes were approved with these corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report/Treasurer** (Thompson): The attached March Treasurer’s Report was shared in advance of the meeting. Tim summarized the balances as shown in the report. He reported that completion of the tax returns has been delayed until after April 15. Once they are received the Board will be asked to review them and then approve their submittal.

Tim had shared the attached preliminary Proposed Budget for the club 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. Chuck pointed out a few items of interest in the preliminary. First remember it does not include major projects that are to be funded from bequest funds. The amount of donations is dramatically lower than in the past, possibly due to people knowing we have received the Ponce. Accordingly the proposed anticipated contributions is lowered to \$700. The actual investment income from Vanguard was \$10,700 (*\$10,900 by April 30*). We had proposed needing \$5000 from Vanguard to cover budgeted items, but in fact we received an unexpected final distribution of \$22K from the Ponce estate that was deposited in checking and not transferred to Vanguard so we in fact exceeded the approved \$5K from bequests to cover budget. The speaker honorarium shows all 8 meetings as even though when the speaker donates his honorarium, it is technically included in the habitat donations income. The hospitality actual reflects some misunderstanding of what has traditionally been reimbursed and the proposal anticipates a recalibration but higher than traditionally. The promotions recommendation reflects the fact we just restocked magnets and business cards. The postage expense is reduced from actual as the PO Box rental actual included 18 months rental and Tim has instituted an annual rental going forward. Showing the cost of HCC speakers under Habitat is inconsistent with having chosen to fund them as a “Chestem Speaker Series” so have deleted the second speaker in approved version. Chuck pointed out that we have been remiss in making some routine donations like Friskies. The Board authorized Tim to send a check to Friskies. In answer to a question from Sue we explained that Judy Holzman of “All Creatures Big & Small” has asked we don’t give her a donation, as she received a bequest that funds her efforts. As for other gifts to organizations, we agreed to reduce it to one entry as undesignated \$1000 but will not specify DOS Bird-athon or “Bee City” (check with Kevin). We agreed the “meadow” mowing at HCC can be deleted as it will be funded from bequest funds (Ponce). Chuck proposed all nest box costs including maintenance of existing ones should come from project funds, it was agreed to delete that line. Chuck reminded the Board that specific items in the approved budget can be paid out by the Treasurer without the board having to take action on them. Of course the board can take actions to authorize expenditures that are not included in the approved budget. After these changes it was moved, seconded, and approved as budget for next FY. The approved version is attached.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

**Records** (Jo Solem): Jo provided the attached report prior to the meeting. As expected at this time of the year there had been several birds of note found after the cutoff for that report. She mentioned the Glossy Ibis and Pectoral Sandpiper, plus increasing numbers of shorebirds at Waterford. She commented on the report of a Great Blue Heron carrying a stick along the Patapsco River and asked people to keep an eye out for a nest.

**Publicity/Outreach** (Wellons): Kelsey continues to post club activities in new locations and maintain the Facebook page. See Butterfly report below for details on article in Howard County Times. Councilperson Rigby has agreed to add our items to her newsletter. She plans to attend the Elkhorn Garden Butterfly walk next September and would like to set up a bird walk in her Council District 3 in the next few weeks.

**Programs** (Clark): Mary Lou has put together the program schedule for the 2024/2025 club year and Bob has entered all the programs in the website calendar. Mary Lou reported on plans for the “City Nature Challenge” biodiversity events from April 26-29. Kelsey stated she would post this on Facebook the next morning. Sue Muller had planned a training session on iNaturalist, which will be used for the challenge.

**Newsletter** (Bolcar): Megan mentioned she was able to squeeze in the Potluck Thanks article.

**Habitat** (Probst): Sue reported that the Purple Martin box installation approved previously has been installed at Sharp's Farm and is already being investigated by PUMAs. The PUMA committee formation began with Russ Ruffing as chair. Other members are being solicited. With Sue's endorsement and the completion of the prerequisite documentation a proposal to erect three boxes at the Alpha Ridge Landfill (ARL) moved forward. A Memorandum for Record noting the responsibilities between the club and ARL has been documented. Ralph Cullison has agreed to monitor the three boxes and Russ will supply any necessary maintenance. The Board was asked by email on April 22 to approve \$6600 for the three boxes to expedite erecting them in the hope they might be up early enough to be used this year. The proposal was approved unanimously in one day.

Sue reported she has completed selecting and printing the additional photos for the Photo display Chuck Sharp had proposed for Waterford Flats. Val will laminate them. Mary Lou also mentioned she could provide a flyer or poster for the display and Sue offered to help with design

**Butterflies** (Kevin Heffernan): Kevin's butterfly survey talk had been monitored by a writer for the Howard County Times and she interviewed Gregg and Kevin about the survey. She wrote the attached cover article with multiple pictures of butterflies. An electronic copy of the article was shared with the Board and a copy will be attached to the archival copy of the minutes.

**Field Trips** (Hanfman): Gregg reported the plans for the Black Birder Week field trip to be cosponsored by HCC at Mount Pleasant on June 1 are in place. Leaders will be Kojo Baidoo, Teresa Spencer, and Desmond Johnson (photographer) with Mary Lou and Val helping. Gregg anticipates a trip to be scheduled to the future Public Garden location on the Longwood estate in the near future (See New Business). Joe Hanfman is making arrangements for a meeting in late June between WSSC staff and the club, to introduce them to our activities on the WSSC property. He will invite Montgomery Chapter members as they also benefit from the reservoir access agreement.

**Conservation** (Todd): Robin added a postscript remark to the Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) campaign in the County Council that was ongoing when he was away in the Caribbean. He wanted to thank everyone who stepped in during his absence, with a special shout out to Kurt, Gregg, and Sue M. He is planning a Yellowthroat article and reminded us that this topic deserves eternal vigilance. Gregg has been attempting to make contact with the "cat community" to follow-up on our promise of providing funds for cat adoption or to explore prototyping "catios."

## Work Group Reports

**Webmaster/Membership** (Bob Solem): Bob reported he has continued to make the usual website updates. He reported that as of this meeting the club membership was 429 voting members. There have been 68 new members join since March 1. This includes 13 new junior members which we gave to all the participants in the Backpack essay contest, plus one new membership that came into Bob's email while the Board meeting was in progress. The large membership number will reset lower when those who have not renewed their membership are deleted on March 1.

**Potluck** (Tomlinson/Lane): Gregg announced that Sherry had asked to step down and Meghaan Lane had already volunteered to take over as Chairperson. Gregg was looking for a deputy and Cathy Hallam volunteered. They have confirmed a date for the potluck with RNC of March 22, 2025.

**Breeding Bird Atlas 3 / Safe Skies** (Muller): Sue was unavailable, so Gregg reported on Safe Skies status at RNC and HCC. Dot application is underway at Robinson Nature Center, but there is an issue with the resolution of some of the nature pictures that were to be turned into window "decals." Hopefully, enough pictures with sufficient resolution will be found. One high window was still awaiting completion at the Gudelsky Center, but Gregg was hopeful it was already done or would be very soon.

## State Board Director Reports

**State Board Meeting** (Petersen, Carollo, McKitterick, Sandler, Tomlinson, Todd, etc.): Gregg is leading the effort to provide new State Directors with an orientation by the end of May. He is relying on Dave Sandler and John McKitterick to serve as mentors to Tom Seivert and Guy DiRoma. Lauren is a mentor for Yi-Ying Lee as Chapter Director. Gregg mentioned that the MOS Board is concerned that the current MOS Board is too large to be effective and there was a discussion about capping the number of State Directors the larger chapters would have. John remarked that although there is a concern, the idea of capping the number is still just one idea that has been floated. John reported that MOS has a new liability insurance policy in place. It covers how we are to interact with youth and a formal process is being worked on. We will be required to comply with the process that will likely require background checks.

## **Old Business**

Custom Imprint Update – Gregg reported that Women’s embroidered V-neck shirts and sizes have been added to the website. We are still awaiting an embroidered patch for approval.

YMOS Committee Formation – This activity has been tabled for now. See the item Young Birder “Mixer” under New Business.

Detailed implementation of Board reorganization for the website – Gregg has this for action. He had prepared a draft of the latest Org Charts (attached). He is working on a description of the State Director position responsibilities that will be used as part of the new board member orientation.

MOTUS Tower – Gregg reported that a sub-committee of the Habitat Committee has been formed to explore the idea of pursuing erecting one or more towers in Howard County. The membership so far are Sue Probst, Mark Chandler, Tim Thompson, Chen Chiu, and Russ Ruffing. They have explored visiting a MOTUS site at Patuxent Research Center, but it is currently not operating. The committee was looking forward to a Zoom meeting in the following week. Others they plan to tap for insight include Dave Ziolkowski and Gregg Kerns (Jug Bay Sora research). The committee is proceeding slowly – “taking baby steps.”

Summary of Board Actions Taken between Regular Board Meetings (document as Old Business - if any)

- See discussion of PUMA boxes for Alpha Ridge Landfill under the Habitat report above.

## **New Business**

Theme for 2024-2025 Bird Club: The Year of “Can!” – Gregg reminded us that he won’t be able to attend the May Board meeting, so he was announcing the theme he has chosen for the second year of his Presidency. He is choosing to call it The Year of “Can!” He stated he has always bristled when he hears the word “can’t.” He is asking everyone acting on behalf of the club to try and find a way to say “Can.” He believes the club will benefit if we all find a way to say “can” when approaching any proposal.

Howard County Bird Club table at The Green Team of Oakland Mills Interfaith Center– We have agreed to have an exhibit at this event on May 5. Gregg reported that he Guy DiRoma, Kurt Schwarz and Mary Lou Clark have volunteered to help with this event that runs from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm. The event is held outdoors so he is proposing to use plexiglass sheets on the table to hold things down. He also proposes to put up the canopy and weigh them down with sandbags.

County Public Garden Focus Group – Gregg announced that he has been selected to be a volunteer participant (in contrast to an expert) on this Focus Group formed by County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball. The group is charged with planning for a Public Garden to be located on the Longwood Estate property which the county is purchasing. It is 97 acres located on the west side of MD Rte 97 just north of the intersection with Burntwoods Road. The property includes a pond and Cattail Creek runs adjacent to the property. Ultimately the gardens will be planted with native plants and non-invasive non-natives. Gregg is looking to tap the gardening talents of our club members to help him with his participation in the Focus Group. He anticipates he will be able to arrange access for birding during the planning phase as well as it being a future location for birding in the county after it opens. The following links provide further background on the plans for the garden:

[Howard County Executive Calvin Ball Unveils Location of First-Ever Public Garden](#)  
[Executive Order for HoCo Public Garden Focus Group](#)

Young Birder Mixer requested by Chen Chiu – Gregg reported that Chen, Vitus Li’s mother, asked if the club could provide a venue for young people interested in birding and their parents to get together and get to know each other. He has sent an email announcing plans to try and set up a “mixer” in June. Gregg is looking for leaders for a mixer to be held at HCC SkyWatch for nominally two hours.

Howard County West Friendship Park Agricultural Focus Group – Gregg reported the formation of this focus group charged with formulating plans for the park with a focus on agriculture. Lisa Colangelo has expressed the intent to monitor the group’s planning activities. In a related item, Scott Munroe of Howard Rec and Parks has asked if the club has an opinion on trying to “move” the Grasshopper Sparrow field/habitat to the field west of the current location. Gregg also mentioned to Scott that the club might be interested in erecting more nest boxes (e.g., another Kestrel box or a PUMA box next to the pond. Someone referred to Dan Small as the “guru of grass” who might be a reference on the grasshopper field question.

Councilwoman Rigby bird walk coordination – As mentioned above she is looking to go on a bird walk in council district 3. Gregg is looking for someone to coordinate and lead this.

Songbird plate no cost raffle giveaway next meeting – Gregg reported that someone had donated a songbird decorated plate collection. His goal is to quickly find a way to not have the club retain them. He proposed a free raffle at a club meeting. It was proposed they might best be given to the MOS Convention silent auction. Mary Lou agreed to take them and check with Meg Harris about that option.

New HCBC “rack” cards – Mary Lou had picked up a colorful rack card for the Anne Arundel club that makes a great template for a new one for us. It could be used at tabling events, stores, etc. It was proposed we should include the club QR code as well. Mary Lou and Gregg took an action to develop a prototype “rack” card for the board review.

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

- YMOS Backpack competition – Brittany Parsons DONE
- Transfer excess funds in checking account to Vanguard money market fund – Tim OBE
- Explore additional news outlets for club announcements – Kelsey CONTINUING - REMOVE
- Provide Board members the member contact information after March 1 membership finalizes – Bob DONE
- Develop a club “youth” list – Gregg DONE
- Formulate plans to address limited parking – Gregg DONE
- Prepare the text for a NewsGram on the City Nature Challenge – Mary Lou DONE
- Provide Val with Black Birder Week field trip leader biographies for coin presentation– Gregg, Mary Lou
- Send Bob a request for membership list if you want a copy – Board Members DONE
- Solicit volunteers to research MOTUS as a club habitat project – Sue Probst DONE
- Ask Chuck Sharp about opening access on January 1 – Val FOLLOW UP NEARER JAN 1
- Contact Chuck Sharp and obtain his approval and choice of location for 2<sup>nd</sup> PUMA box. – Val DONE
- Coordinate preparation of a presentation for and schedule the meeting with WSSC staff - Joe

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

- Detailed implementation of the board reorganization for website - Gregg
- Provide Val with Black Birder Week field trip leader biographies for coin presentation– Gregg, Mary Lou
- Ask Chuck Sharp about opening access on January 1 – Val FOLLOW UP NEARER JAN 1
- Coordinate preparation of a presentation for and schedule the meeting with WSSC staff - Joe
- TNR Follow-up on pledge of \$5K for feral cat adoption or an alternative reached with cat community - Gregg
- New board member orientation due by end of May - Gregg
- Coordinate field trip with Councilwoman Rigby in District 3 – Gregg
- Send \$300 donation to Frisky’s – Tim
- New “rack” card design – Mary Lou, Gregg
- Follow-up with Meg Harris about the Songbird plate donation – Mary Lou

- Solicit help from club members with gardening expertise to help with Public Garden planning – Gregg

**Around the Room**

- Robin reported that his grandson had a Woodcock in his backyard in Alexandria
- John McKitterick urged us to watch for the upcoming MOS election by email and be sure to vote.
- John asked if there are restrictions on the bequests that require us to track their separate balances. Tim and Chuck stated that there are no formal restrictions, beyond the informal one expressed about the Mountjoy bequest to “use it for the club, vice habitat, etc.” We agreed this should be formally addressed at May board meeting, as we are just starting a new fiscal year and if we are to change this would be best time.

**Board Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025**

Need volunteers to host:

- September 26, 2024 – Sharp’s Dilly Dally Farm BnB – Gregg Petersen
  - Social prior to meeting and take 24-25 Board picture
- October 24, 2024 –
- December 5, 2024 – (Gregg will attend via zoom)
- January 23, 2025 –
- February 27, 2025 – (Gregg gone)
- March 27, 2025 –
- April 24, 2025 –
- May 22, 2025 –

**Board Meeting Schedule**

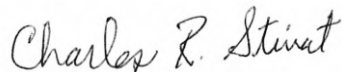
Board meetings are generally held 4th Thursday of month at 7:30 PM (hybrid)

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	- Gregg Petersen	
April 25, 2024	- John McKitterick	
May 23, 2024	- Mary Lou Clark	(Joint meeting with new and old members-Gregg absent)

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

- Agenda – April 25, 2024
- Treasurer Report – March 1 – 31, 2024
- Proposed Budget for May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025 (Preliminary shared in advance of meeting)
- Proposed Budget for May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025 (Approved)
- Records Committee Report April 25, 2024 (March 26 – April 22, 2024) – Joanne Solem
- Howard County Times Butterfly Survey article – April 18 (only attached to archive copy)
- Howard County Bird Club Organization Chart with Habitat Ver 3

Minutes submitted by:



Charles R. Stirrat  
Secretary, Howard County Bird Club

**Howard County Bird Club Board Agenda**  
**April 25, 2024**

Topic: HCBC Board Meeting - April 25 @ 7:30

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89845690972?pwd=VGpWY0VOSnYzZUlkSkx1TEVrdG95QT09>

**Agenda**

- **President's Remarks** –
  - Thanks for your continuing service!
  - 2 reminders: 9pm conclusion and no politics please.
  - **Appreciation Coins this month:** Kelsey Wellons, Janice Winter (HC Conservancy), Mike Bowen (Belmont), Anne Cianni (Belmont), Kevin Heffernan, Brittany Parsons, Sue Earp, Bob Marietta (Greenfest), and Russell Hillsley
  - Robinson Nature Center parking limited April 1<sup>st</sup>-May 29 due to construction
    - Recommend carpool or stage from Giant parking lot....Shuttle?
- **Vice President's Remarks** – (Val Swan traveling to Arizona)
- **Review of Minutes** - Chuck Stirrat (Minutes enclosed-2)
- **Treasurer's Report**-Tim Thompson (March report enclosed-3)
  - Proposed budget for 2024-2025
  - 2021/2022 Filing correction update – final draft
    - Tax completion delayed until after April 15, followed by board review (zoom) and submission.
- **Standing Committee Reports**
  - Records-Jo Solem (enclosed-4)
  - Publicity/Outreach-Kelsey Wellons
    - County rep & Community newsletters update.
    - Draft ½ sheet flyer for kiosks/community center bulletin boards.
  - Programs 2024/2025 Schedule-Mary Lou Clark
    - City Nature Challenge April 26-29
  - Newsletter-Megan Bolcar
  - Habitat-Sue Probst
    - Alpha Ridge PUMA buy approved.
    - Sharps Farm PUMA box installed with PUMAs inspecting it.
  - Butterflies-Kevin Heffernan
    - Howard County Times Butterfly Article (enclosed-5)
  - Field Trips –Joe Hanfman
    - Black Birder week trip for HCC Jun 1 is set-Kojo Baidoo, Teresa Spencer, & Desmond Johnson with Mary Lou and Val helping.
    - Possible Longwood Field Trip in next 60 days. 97 acres.
    - Late June WSSC HCBC/WSSC joint orientation
  - Conservation-Robin Todd



- **Work Group Reports**
  - Webmaster/Membership – Bob Solem
  - Potluck – New Chairperson is Meghaan Lane, looking for deputy. March 22, 2025
  - Safe Skies/BBA3-Petersen/Muller
    - Robinson Nature Center – now applying dots, issue with picture resolution.
    - HCC – one window to complete (may be done)
- **State Board Director Reports** – Carollo, McKitterick, Sandler, Tomlinson
  - New board member orientation needs to be done by end of May. **ACTION: Petersen**
  - MOS draft proposal: Cap the number of State Directors per chapter to 3 or 4. One SD for chapters up to 100 members, 2 for chapters up to 300 members, 3 for chapters up to 500 members.
- **Old Business**
  - Custom Imprint Update
    - Women’s embroidered V-neck shirts & sizes added! Still awaiting embroidered patch for approval.
  - YMOS Committee Formation-tabled for now. See “mixer” request in new business.
- **New Business**
  - Theme for 2024-2025 Bird Club: The Year of “Can!” - Petersen
  - Howard County Bird Club table at The Green Team of Oakland Mills Interfaith Center May 5 – Petersen, DiRoma, Schwarz, Clark 1230-1600
  - County Public Garden Focus Group – Petersen
    - Access road slightly north of Burntwoods Rd/Hwy 97 intersection
    - 97 acres Longwood property available for birding on request
      - Pond and Cattail Creek runs adjacent to the plot.
  - Young Birder Mixer requested by Chen Chiu – Petersen
    - Coordinating for leaders.
    - @2 hours at HCC Hawk Watch
  - [Howard County West Friendship Park Agricultural Focus Group](#) formed – Coangelo/Petersen
    - Dan Burton HoCo Parks and Rec request to “move” Grasshopper Sparrow field?
    - Mentioned possible Motus Tower and additional Kestrel Box (PUMA box next to pond?)
  - Councilwoman Rigby bird walk coordination – Petersen
    - Coordinating for leaders
  - Songbird plate no cost raffle giveaway next meeting – Petersen
  - New HCBC “rack” cards - Clark
- **Review of Prior Action Items**
  - Detailed implementation of board reorg for website – **ACTION:** Petersen –
    - Latest draft HCBC Org charts (**enclosed – 6**)
    - Working on State Director description and orientation.



- MOTUS Tower – Sub-committee formed.
  - Sue Probst, Mark Chandler, Tim Thompson, Chen Chiu, Russ Ruffing.
    - Patuxent Field trip to see Motus Tower Friday?
    - Motus Committee Zoom Tuesday?
- **Around the Room**
- **Upcoming Schedule**
  - 2024-mid 2025 Board Meetings – **NEED HOSTS**
    - May 23, 2024 –Mary Lou Clark
    - September 26, 2024 – Sharp’s Dilly Dally Farm BnB – Gregg Petersen
      - Prior social
      - 24-25 Board picture
    - October 24, 2024 –
    - December 5, 2024 – (Gregg via zoom)
    - January 23, 2025 –
    - February 27, 2025 – (Gregg gone)
    - March 27, 2025 –
    - April 24, 2025 -
    - May 22, 2025-

# Howard County Bird Club - Treasurer Report

Printed: 4/22/24 11:29 PM

Financial information for period

Starting:

1-Mar-2024

Ending: 31-Mar-2024

## Financial Account Balances

Account	Balance	Net Change	Comment	Date
PNC Bank	\$18,959.63	(\$2,241.65)	See sheet below	3/29
Vanguard	\$560,527.50	\$19,692.78	See Notes 3	3/31
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$579,487.13</b>	<b>\$17,451.13</b>		

## Virtual Fund Balances

### Operating Funds

Date (Latest Update)	Fund (Code)	Balance	Comment
1/31/24	Operations Fund (O)	\$15,773.99	Implied balance (Total Financial Accounts - Sum of 6 other virtual funds)
12/29/23	Habitat Fund (H)	\$7,896.92	no activity
3/31/24	Butterfly Fund (B)	\$437.63	no activity
1/31/24	Unrealized Vanguard Market Change (U)	\$108,702.00	virtual fund tracked in the right most columns of Vanguard tab

### Gift Funds

3/31/24	Mountjoy Fund (M)	\$2,744.54	no activity
10/24/23	Chestem Estate Fund (C)	\$13,735.98	no activity
3/31/24	Ponce Estate Fund (P)	\$430,196.07	no activity

## Income Activity

1-Mar-2024

to

31-Mar-2024

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY Income as of Prior Report</b>			<b>\$23,998.78</b>	<b>FYTD</b>
MOS	Chapter portion of dues	CK	\$450.00	O
<b>Income for this Period</b>			<b>\$450.00</b>	
<b>Total Income - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$24,448.78</b>	<b>FYTD</b>

## Expense Activity

1-Mar-2024

to

31-Mar-2024

Description	Purpose	Method	Amount	Code
<b>Total FY expenses as of prior report</b>			<b>\$6,145.68</b>	<b>FYTD</b>
Kelsey Wellons	Reimbursement for microphone and Zoom	CK	\$473.84	O/C
Brown & Associates	March/April issues of Goldfinch	CK	\$78.00	O
MOS	YMOS Birdathon	CK	\$300.00	O
Bonnie Ott	March speaker honorarium	CK	\$100.00	O
Mary Lou Clark	Material for display boards	CK	\$42.91	O
Val Swan	Binoculars, hard cases, and rolling backpacks	CK	\$1,079.98	P
Bob Solem	Website renewal	CK	\$704.83	O
Sue Probst	Butterfly table scarf	CK	\$150.00	B
<b>Expenses for this Period</b>			<b>\$2,929.56</b>	
<b>Total Expenses - Fiscal Year To Date</b>			<b>\$9,075.24</b>	<b>FYTD</b>
SEE note 1				
<b>Income over Expenses for Club Fiscal Year</b>		5/1/23 - 4/30/24	<b>\$15,373.54</b>	<b>FYTD</b>

**Additional Remarks/Comments:**

- 1. Club Fiscal Year is May 1 - Apr 30.
- 2. Net change of Vanguard account is net of \$19,692.71
  - o Dividend for VESGX \$893.99 reinvested
  - o Monthly dividend from VMFXX \$189.18
  - o Month **increase** in market value of VESGX (Global ESG Select Admiral Fund \$18,609.61
- 3. Vanguard Performance To Date
  - o Total Deposits since established \$ 440,000.00
  - o Total Account Balance as of 3/31/2024 \$ 560,527.50 (including unrealized market changes)

Note 2 & 3 is updated with Mar data

<b>Gift Funds Activity</b>	<b>1-Mar-2024</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>31-Mar-2024</b>
	<b><u>Month Activity</u></b>		<b><u>Current Balance</u></b>
<b>Mountjoy Fund Transactions</b>			
microphone for camera	\$324.00		\$2,744.54
<b>Chestem Fund Transactions</b>			
No activity			\$13,735.98
<b>Ponce Fund Transactions</b>			
Youth binoculars	\$1,080.00		\$430,196.07

Preliminary 4/23/2024

**Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal  
2024-2025**

	2023/24 Budget	Actual YTD 2023/24	Proposed 2024/25 Budget	
<b>Operating Income (Does not include investment funds)</b>				
Net Membership Dues	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,500.00	
Contributions to HCBC (roll-up)	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 700.00	
Habitat Preservation/Promote Conservation	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00	is this way down since have received bequests?
Butterfly Fund	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	
Undesignated Donation	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00	
Vanguard Funds to be Applied	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,700.00	\$ 5,000.00	Actually applied 22K from Ponce final pmt?
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 9,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,950.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,200.00</b>	Not all of income in actual is applied to budgeted items
<b>Operating Expenses (Club operations, Habitat Fund, &amp; Butterfly Fund)</b>				
<b>Club Events/Promotion/Outreach/Misc.</b>				
Meeting Programs (speakers)	\$ 700.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	April honorarium was transferred to Butterfly
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	\$ 200.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 300.00	
Education: Undesignated	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 100.00	
Promotion/Outreach	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00	magnets & business cards just restocked
Greenfest Support	\$ 70.00	\$ -	\$ 70.00	
Butterfly Fund	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -	
<b>Office Expenses</b>				
Newsletter/other printing	\$ 750.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 750.00	
Website/Email/Internet	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,044.00	\$ 1,100.00	
Postage/office	\$ 275.00	\$ 460.00	\$ 300.00	actual has 18 mos PO Box rental included
Bank fees / Tax Prep	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,343.75	\$ 700.00	
<b>Projects/Grants (from Habitat Fund)</b>				
Rehabilitators (e.g., Frisky's)	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	Haven't paid for several years?
Education/Co-sponsor Speakers (rollup):	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Howard County Conservancy Speakers	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	None this past year but assume one next
Undesignated	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	?
Donations to Other Organizations (rollup):	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
Undesignated	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	since we haven't been doing this I suggest halve amt
Delaware Bird-a-thon DOS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Bee City (formerly All Creatures)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Meadow Mowing (HCC)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Future costs from Ponce/remove row
YMOS	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	
Bird Boxes (Kestrel/Purple Martin) - maintenance	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00	should future maintenance be Ponce?
Undesignated Habitat Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 6,262.75</b>	<b>\$ 7,720.00</b>	Proposed increase due to Club in good standing & higher op costs
<b>Income over Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 7,687.25</b>	<b>\$ 480.00</b>	

Financial Institution Accounts	Date	
PNC Bank	\$ 17,924	4/23/2024
Vanguard	\$ 560,528	3/31/2024
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$ 578,452</b>	<b>4/30/2024</b>

Yesterday 4/22 close was \$538,345.66

The Budget proposal only addresses Operating Funds (Operations, Habitat, Butterfly, and Gift funds (Mountjoy, Chestem, and Ponce) income and expenses are not addressed as any transactions from those will be handled on a case basis.

highlighted on original distribution      changed from distributed

Approved 4/25/2024 (actuals updated to 4/30) Howard County Bird Club Budget Proposal

2024-2023

	2023/24 Budget	Actual YTD 2023/24	Proposed 2024/25 Budget	
<b>Operating Income (Does not include investment funds)</b>				
Net Membership Dues	2,500.00	2,900.00	2,500.00	
Contributions to HCBC (roll-up)	2,100.00	350.00	700.00	
Habitat Preservation/Promote Conservation	1,800.00	150.00	300.00	is this decline due to received bequests?
Butterfly Fund	0.00	200.00	100.00	
Undesignated Donation	300.00		300.00	
Vanguard Funds to be Applied	5,000.00	10,900.00	5,000.00	Actually applied 22K from Ponce final pmt
<b>Total Income</b>	9,600.00	14,150.00	8,200.00	Not all of income in actual was applied to budgeted items
<b>Operating Expenses (Club operations, Habitat Fund, &amp; Butterfly Fund)</b>				
<b>Club Events/Promotion/Outreach/Misc.</b>				
Meeting Programs (speakers)	700	800	800	April honorarium transferred to Butterfly
Hospitality (e.g. potlucks)	200	750	300	
Education: Undesignated	0	25	100	
Promotion/Outreach	0	800	400	magnets & business cards just restocked
Greenfest Support	70	0	70	
Butterfly Fund	0	400	0	
<b>Office Expenses</b>				
Newsletter/other printing	750	340	750	
Website/Email/Internet	1,000	1,044	1200	
Postage/office	275	460	300	actual has 18 mos PO Box rental included
Bank fees / Tax Prep	50	1,344	700	future only one return vice two in the actual
<b>Projects/Grants (from Habitat Fund)</b>				
Rehabilitators (e.g., Frisky's)	300	0	300	Haven't paid for several years?
Education/Co-sponsor Speakers	600	0	250	None this year, past HCC talks used Chestem.
Donations to Other Organizations (rollup):	2,000	0	1000	since not been doing propose halve amt
Undesignated	0	0	1000	deleted DOS bird-a-thon and "Bee City"
YMOS	300	300	300	
Undesignated Habitat Expenses	1,000	0	1000	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		6,263	7,470	
<b>Income over Expenses</b>		7,887	730	Presumes will fund shortfall from Vanguard

Financial Institution Accounts	Date	
PNC Bank	\$17,924	4/23/2024
Vanguard	\$541,715	4/30/2024
<b>Current Total</b>	<b>\$559,640</b>	<b>4/30/2024</b>

The Budget proposal only addresses Operating Funds (Operations, Habitat, & Butterfly Gift funds (Mountjoy, Chestem, and Ponce) income and expenses are not addressed as any transactions from those will be handled on a case basis.

## Records Committee Report April 25, 2024 (March 26 – April 22, 2024) – Joanne Solem

Spring has sprung! As deciduous trees leaf out and insect populations explode, birds are on the move.

Despite wintering waterfowl species and numbers, the mid two weeks of April produced Blue-winged Teal in five locations, as well as Greater Scaup and Long-tailed Duck. Of special note was a hen Hooded Merganser with 11 downy ducklings on 4/16 at the stormwater pond at Cedar La/MD 32 (J/M Harris). Astonishingly, the same two observers had photographed a female with 12 ducklings at the same site on 4/23/22! Apparently, an experienced female has a favorite cavity (probably a sycamore) in the nearby Middle Patuxent River floodplain. That was the good news; unfortunately, by 4/19 there were only four/five ducklings remaining (JHr). The large clutch reflects this expected loss rate.

A migrant Eastern Whip-poor-will was one of the month's notable birds. It was heard the evening of 4/9 along the path to the Longfellow swimming pool in Wilde Lake.

Two fine rail species were tallied: a Virginia Rail was heard at Mt Pleasant in the Davis Branch area 4/8, and a Sora flushed from vegetation at the edge of a pond at Waterford 4/17. Shorebirds began to arrive, although neither species nor numbers were unusual. Waterford Flats is in good shape and is being carefully monitored, both to maintain optimum water levels and to record visiting waterbirds.

Bonaparte's Gulls and Caspian Terns wandered through in small numbers. Bonies continued their late March movement during the first third of April, mostly at Triadelphia Reservoir, with a modest high of 45 on 4/5. This reservoir also produced one or two Caspians on multiple days during the same period, with an occasional report from a central lake.

Common Loons and Double-crested Cormorants were migrating the first weeks of April. An American Bittern was a treat at Mt Pleasant's Davis Branch area on 4/8. A Great Blue Heron carrying a stick along the Patapsco between Marriottsville and the tunnel on 4/21 was exciting as breeding on that river was last verified 30 years ago.

It is satisfying to see nesting Ospreys returning to several cell towers. The season's first Broad-winged Hawk was spotted over Joey Dr on 4/8; small numbers were recorded aperiodically with a high of 14 on the Mt Pleasant field trip on 4/20.

Red-headed Woodpeckers continue to be noted in scattered locations. So far, only one bird has been observed excavating a potential cavity. A few falcons of all three species were reported, including several kestrel pairs.

At the same time that the arrival of numbers of new 2024 species accelerated, many residents and new arrivals began nesting. This fifth and final year of the Maryland BBA 3 adds extra pressure as atlasers work to confirm declining county species and those with limited local habitats. Flycatchers, vireos, and some warbler species deserve special attention, especially in blocks lacking confirmations. Worm-eating, Prothonotary, Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Kentucky, Hooded, Cerulean (don't we wish), and Yellow-throated warblers would be excellent confirmations. It is known, however, that Yellow-throateds nest at Henryton and Marriottsville along the Patapsco. Confirming the species in blocks along the Patuxent or the Middle Patuxent (locations where they once nested and still are annually recorded in migration) would be even more valuable.

There was a slight uptick in Purple Finch and Pine Siskin reports, but still only a limited number.

On 4/15, Grasshopper Sparrows had not yet returned to Alpha Ridge Landfill, but by 4/18 there were 10, several of which were already singing on territory. One or two Vesper Sparrows were picked up at seven sites with those at Belmont, Howard Community College, and New Cut Landfill at seldom reported locations. Unlike the fall, Lincoln's Sparrows are recorded only sparingly in the spring. One was present at Mt Pleasant on 4/20.

The Baltimore Oriole that spent the winter in the Mt Hebron neighborhood for the fifth year was last seen on 4/15, the same date as in 2023 (J. Culler).

A partial solar eclipse was visible the mid-afternoon of 4/8. Although coverage was 90% in this county and there was a discernible dimming of light, changes in actions of birds and animals was not as dramatic as it would have been with totality. Ben Costello watched the celestial event from his yard in Ellicott City and compiled seven bird checklists during the ~2.5-hour event. From his notes, he will be summarizing the results for a Goldfinch article.

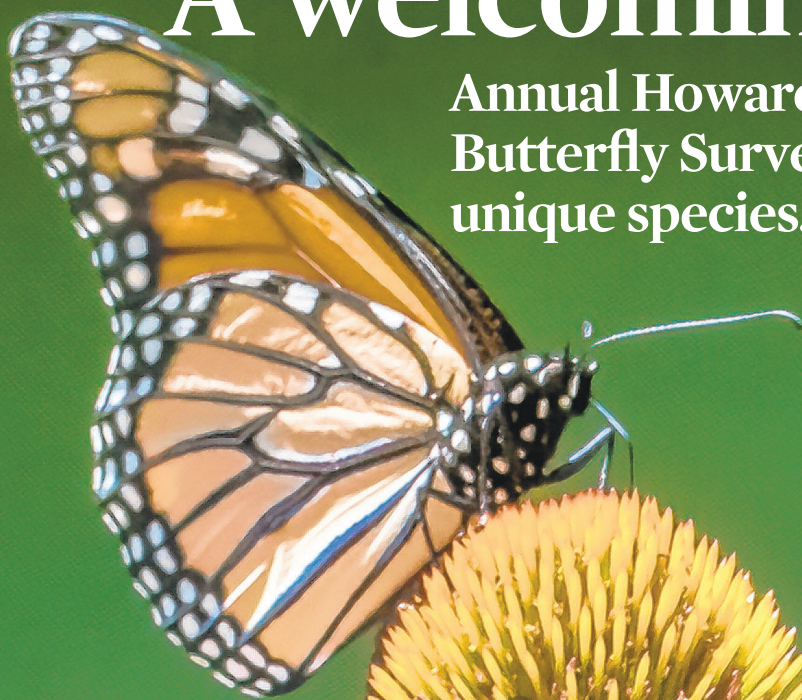


# Howard County Times

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024 | Vol. 183, No. 2  
howardcountytimes.com

## 'A welcoming environment'

Annual Howard County  
Butterfly Survey finds 70  
unique species. Pages 8-9



NEWSSTAND PRICE \$1.50

The monarch, seen here on cone flowers, is one of 70 species of butterfly found in Howard County. GREGG PETERSEN/COURTESY PHOTO



### Drive-Thru Medication & Sharps Disposal Event

Saturday, April 27 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bring medication, vitamins, needles, syringes, EpiPens, inhalers, vapes, & more! 100 FREE Medication Lockboxes!

Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot by CA Swim Center

5305 Village Center Drive, Columbia 21044

Message provided by HC DrugFree, Howard County Police and Howard County Health Department. Funding from MDH/BHA and SAMHSA.

HCDrugFree

hcdrugfree.org





## COVER STORY

# Howard's annual Butterfly Survey finds 70 unique species

By Allana Haynes

More than 100 volunteers throughout Howard County helped to conduct the annual Butterfly Survey last year and discovered 70 unique species in the county. The survey also found that monarch butterfly numbers had dropped from 928 in 2022 to 374 in 2023, the second-lowest number of monarchs recorded in the decade-long survey.

Kevin Heffernan, co-chair of the Howard County, Maryland, Butterfly Survey, shared the results during an April 11 meeting of the Howard County Bird Club. He said it is important to know the number of butterflies locally to determine if there is something that can be done to protect them.

"You can start to see if you're losing species and see if there's anything you can do about it," he said. "If it's climate change, there's not a whole lot, but if it's because there's only a couple of locations in the county where they're found, you can try to protect those locations."

The sixth annual meeting was held at the Robinson Nature Center in Columbia. During the meeting, Heffernan shared that last year had the highest number of observers and the third-highest number of surveys submitted since the surveys began a decade ago.

Though last year's species count was high, it was not the highest recorded. That honor belongs to the year 2016, when 75 species were observed.

There were 878 surveys submitted between Feb. 15 and Dec. 8, 2023, by 111 observers. Observers recorded a number of data points including, the date, location, temperature, time spent in the field and species.

The sagemaster was the most observed species, at 6,017; followed by the dun skipper, at 70; the mourning cloak, at 47; and the juniper hairstreak, at 36.

Heffernan said that people can protect the butterfly population by planting a native plant garden, reducing or eliminating insecticide use, reducing or eliminating mosquito spraying, turning out the lights at night and spreading the word.

Gregg Peterson, president of the Howard County Bird Club, said he hopes the survey will help to better protect butterflies in the county.

"Each butterfly has a preferred native plant, so the more that we can add pollinator plots and people using their backyards for growing these kinds of things, the more butterfly-friendly the county can be," he said. "The more native plants that you plant in your backyard, the more you build a more welcoming environment for some of our butterflies."



Gray Hairstreak. KEVIN HEFFERNAN/COURTESY PHOTO



**COVER STORY**



The sachem butterfly was the most spotted species in the 2023 butterfly survey in Howard County. **GUY DIROMA/COURTESY PHOTO**

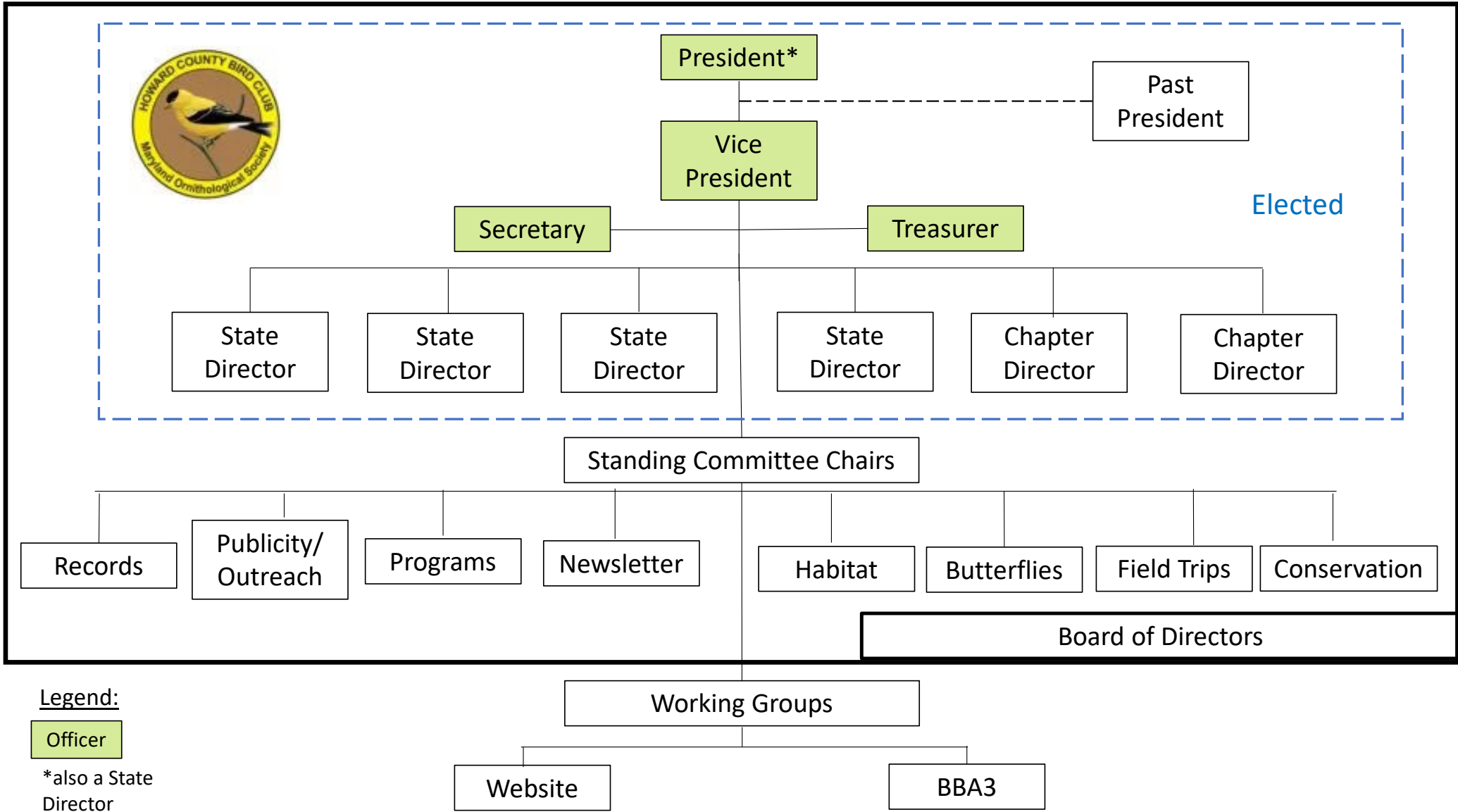


Spicebush Swallowtail. **BONNIE OTT/COURTESY PHOTO**



Summer Azure. **LINDA HUNT/COURTESY PHOTO**

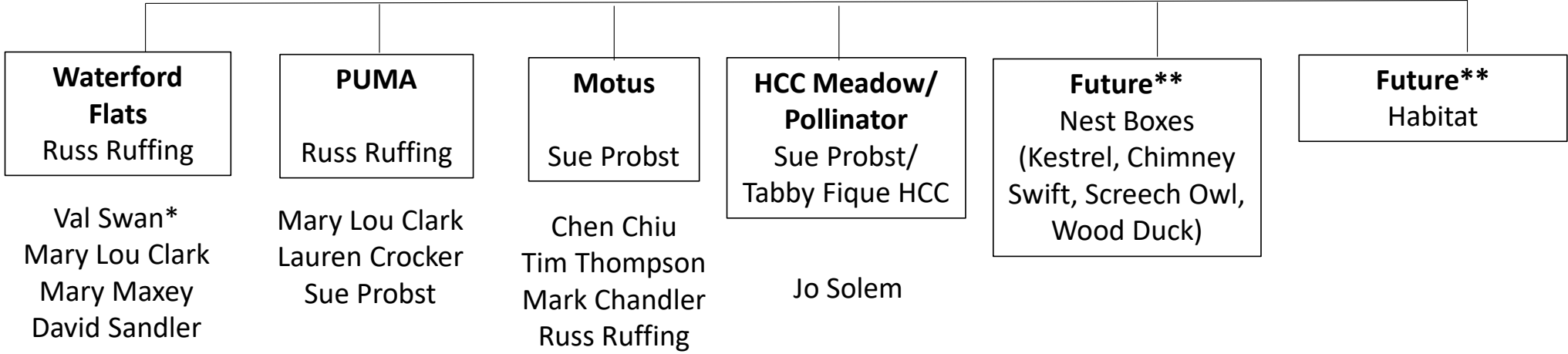






**Habitat  
Committee**  
Sue Probst

Sub-Committees



\*Liaison

\*\* To be prioritized/organized by Habitat Chair