



The Goldfinch

Newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club
A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society
www.howardbirds.website

Founded 1972



CLUB MEETINGS - BY MARY LOU CLARK

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Thursday, January 8, 2025 "The 2024 Howard County Butterfly Survey Results" by Kevin Heffernan. For the seventh year in a row, Kevin Heffernan will update us on the status of butterflies in Howard County.

Kevin is the co-chair of the Howard County, Maryland, Butterfly Survey. He is a past president of the Howard County Bird Club and is encouraging the planting of native pollinator gardens as part of the Howard Bee City Pollinator Committee, and the Habitat Creation and Enhancement and Pesticide Reduction Subcommittees.

Thursday, February 13, 2025 "Conservation Programs at the National Aquarium" by Hallie Carter. Hallie will discuss the mission of the Aquarium as a whole and the various habitat restoration projects and community activities they lead and develop.



Hallie is a Conservation Project Manager at the National Aquarium. Originally from southern California, she moved to Maryland to attend the University of Maryland Baltimore County, which she graduated from in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a minor in Sociology.

Club programs are presented in a hybrid format and include a brief business meeting, club announcements, and guest speaker presentation. Attendees may join either in person at the Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia MD 21044, or online using Zoom. The in-person hospitality session begins, and the Zoom portal opens, at 7:00 p.m, with the meeting beginning at 7:30 p.m. Click on the "Calendar" tab on the HCBC website's Home page at the top of the page for the most recent information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: CHIRPS TO THE FLOCK

BY GREGG PETERSEN

Happy New Year! With the start of 2025, it's a great time to look back on a few highlights of the last year and look forward to what the new year might bring. Last year, we added highly popular Merlin classes developed and given by Steve Luke and Lauren Crocker, supported our first Black Birders Week led by Kojo Baidoo and Teresa Spencer at Mount Pleasant, and our Young Birders group took flight with special thanks to Terri Berkheimer and Chen Chiu. Many more of us supported our quarterly bird counts and our participation numbers soared to records near or into the triple digits!

The new year brings new initiatives, to include our fledgling Wingspan gaming events for both adults and young birders organized by John Henri Rorabeck, Mary Lou Clark, and Terri Berkheimer. I encourage you to use this newsletter and our HCBC calendar to find when and where these events are happening, and other things to do with the club.

The new year is time for resolutions. One of the recommendations I made to you last year is still in the works: a trash clean up for the GE Retention Pond area. I hope to have a plan for our participation in that by the time you read this letter.

One of my personal resolutions is to get better at gull identification. I have local birder Fred Shaffer's book, but I also found out on my recent family trip to Japan, that there are more gulls beyond Fred's book that I need to learn about like the Vega Gull.

(Chirps continued on page 5)

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. Depending on the COVID situation at the time, there may be restrictions imposed. 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 Coordinator Joe Hanfman at auk1844@gmail.com. HCBC members receive priority on trips that are limited by number of participants. No pets. There is a listing of all previous field trips on the "Calendar" page titled [Previous Field Trips](#). The trips with links have results on a separate page.

Start Your Year List

January 1, 2025, Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. Half day.

Meet at Mt Pleasant, Howard County Conservancy. Easy walking on woodland trails. May plan to bird several different locations to find as many species as possible. The one day of the year when every bird is new! Facilities available.

Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net

B R Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

January 4, Saturday. All day trip. Plan to stop at Wawa in Easton for a rest stop. Bring lunch and drinks. Dress warmly. Entrance fee, Federal Senior Pass, Military I.D., or Duck Stamp required. Email the leader to reserve a spot and get details. Carpooling mandatory. Strict limit of 15 participants. Facilities at some spots.

Leader – Kurt Schwarz, krschwal@verizon.net

B Centennial Park

January 11, Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. *Meet at the boat ramp, accessed from the South entrance.* This trip will hopefully focus on waterfowl.

Leader – To be announced. Check the [calendar](#) on the HCBC website for updates.

B Cape Henlopen, Delaware

January 25, Saturday. Full day. *Meet at the [Broken Land Park and Ride Lot West](#) at 6:00 a.m. and plan to carpool.* All-day driving trip to the Delaware shore; stops to include Indian River Inlet, Cape Henlopen State Park, and Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge. Entry into Delaware State Parks is free from December through February. Target species include wintering seaducks, Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Short-eared Owl, and maybe even a shot at Snowy Owl! Participants may pack a lunch, but we will also make a quick stop at Wawa. Be prepared for light to moderate hiking, especially at Cape Henlopen. There are restroom facilities at Indian River (portable toilets), Cape Henlopen, Cape May Ferry Terminal, and of course at Wawa.

Leader – Russell Kovach, Russell.kovach@gmail.com

B W Mid-winter Count

February 1, Saturday. [See page 7](#) for details.

B W 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, allenrlewis@gmail.com

R A Search for Owls

February 8, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Learn how to find owls by habitat and signs. Our target species are Long-eared, saw-whet, and other owls. No facilities. Please email Gregg Petersen (email address below) by 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, Feb 5 to reserve a spot and get details.

Leaders – Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com; David Cummings, wcummings9@gmail.com

Birds and Beverages Feeder Watch, [Mt Pleasant, Howard County Conservancy](#)

February 15, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. *Meet at the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center.* Join Woody Merkle (HCC-MP) and Val Swan (Howard County Bird Club). Bring your hot chocolate and participate in Cornell's Great Backyard Bird Count by identifying and counting birds at the feeders from the warmth of the Gudelsky Environmental Education Center. Weather permitting, there will also be a short walk on the grounds. 25 person limit. Please email Val Swan by February 14 to register.

Leaders – Woody Merkle; Val Swan, valnjef-f55@gmail.com

B Woodcock Search

Late February or early March, exact date to be determined based on the weather. Let leader know of your interest.

Leader - Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com

B W Centennial Park

March 2, Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 2-3 hours. *West end parking lot.* Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake. Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible. Facilities available.

Leader – Russell Kovach, Russell.kovach@gmail.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE YOUR BIRDING REPUTATION?

Have you ever wondered why the “good” bird you put on an eBird list does not appear in the major lists or on the maps? The species wasn’t marked “rare,” so why wasn’t it accepted as the First Observed of the year?

The secret to having your sightings accepted is simple: verify any seldom-seen bird, any species noted out of normal timing, any species that is easily confused with another, or one that is easily misidentified. The necessary documentation can be any or all of the following: a few field marks, an extended description, one or more photos, or a recording.

Why bother when it’s not required? Although the eBird reviewers are extremely skilled and have experience throughout the state, they are aware that there may be major differences in sightings of certain species, sometimes within a short distance. Some of these differences are due to topography, weather patterns, the number of skilled birders covering an area, the type of land development, as well as unknown factors. When reviewers make decisions (often after consulting with skilled local birders), *they depend on what appears on the list and past records for that location*. If the bird’s name is all that’s on the list and the species or the date would be one of the few records for that location, if it is out of normal time periods, or if it is a species that could easily be misidentified, then the sighting is likely to be turned down. Phrases such as “unmistakable” or “ID by Merlin” are not really helpful. What may be *unmistakable* to you does not describe what you saw. Merlin, as magical as it is, makes mistakes. It can draw your attention to species you didn’t know were near, but please visually verify if the bird is out of habitat, the date is unusual, or all you hear is a chip note or a single song.

If eBird doesn’t flag the species as rare, what reference should you use? Become intimately acquainted with the *Howard County Annotated Bird Records* on the club’s website under Birding. It is an unparalleled reference that includes specific information from more than a half century of records. It provides both text and a graph for every Howard County species and is updated regularly!

If you have found a species that is seldom seen in the county or is at an odd time but you aren’t quite certain of the identification, **PLEASE DO NOT GUESS**. Tim asks that you send photos or copies of notes to him or Russ at the emails below **before adding the species or entering the list**. It is much easier to have birds identified before anything is entered, rather than to hope the misidentified bird will be removed later if it is not accepted.

Including adequate documentation of your special sightings on any list is the sign of a skilled and careful observer—it can only enhance your reputation. During the past year, many of you have increased notations on your lists. We thank you, as it makes our job much easier!

Howard County eBird reviewer: Tim Carney, timcarney83@gmail.com ; **Howard County Records Committee:** Joanne Solem, Joe Hanfman, Russ Ruffing, russruffing@gmail.com (Annotated Records compiler).

SEEKING NEW EDITOR

The Howard County Bird Club is seeking a new editor for its newsletter, *The Goldfinch*, with an anticipated start during the publication of the September-October 2025 issue.

Volunteers should have basic computer skills, including familiarity with Microsoft Word or other word processing software. Experience with MS Publisher or another publishing software program is helpful, but not required. The current editor, Megan Bolcar, will provide hands-on training and a transition package with past files and details on preparation of the newsletter. There are five issues published each birding year, each issue covering two months; there is no issue for July-August. The job does not require that the editor write articles (sometimes a paragraph or an introduction).

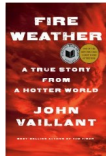
At one time in the past, there were co-editors for *The Goldfinch*, reducing the workload on a single individual, so consider that possibility also. For most of its history, the position has been filled by one person.

If you wish to volunteer, contact chapter president Gregg Petersen at sig29@aol.com. If you would like more information, or to spend a couple of hours observing the preparation of an issue of *The Goldfinch*, contact Megan at megbolcar@gmail.com.

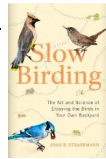
CLUB MEMBERS' BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

While there is plenty of rewarding birding in the winter months, sometimes the shorter (and colder) days lend themselves to more time spent indoors feeder-watching, and likely reading a good book, by the fireplace. In our November/December issue of *The Goldfinch*, readers were encouraged to submit some of their favorite nature- and birding-related books. A list of submissions was compiled and is featured here, for those that are always looking for their new favorite read. If you are interested in purchasing one of the books on this list, I encourage you to visit Queen Takes Book, a local independent book store that is located at 6955 Oakland Mills Road E, Columbia, MD 21045, (conveniently right next door to Wild Birds Unlimited Columbia). (*Except where noted, all descriptions and book jacket photos pulled in from www.bookshop.org.*)

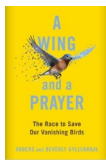
Fire Weather by John Vaillant. “A stunning account of a colossal wildfire and a panoramic exploration of the rapidly changing relationship between fire and humankind from the award-winning, best-selling author of *The Tiger* and *The Golden Spruce*.”



Slow Birding: The Art and Science of Enjoying Birds in Your Own Backyard by Joan E. Strassmann. “A one-of-a-kind guide to birding locally that encourages readers to slow down and notice the spectacular birds all around them.”



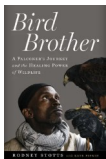
A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save Our Vanishing Birds by Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal. “A captivating drama from the frontlines of the race to save birds set against the devastating loss of one third of the avian population.”



Ever Green: Saving Big Forests to Save the Planet by John W. Reid and Thomas E. Lovejoy. “Five stunningly large forests remain on Earth... Reid and Lovejoy offer practical solutions to address the biggest challenges these forests face, from vastly expanding protected areas, to supporting Indigenous forest stewards, to planning smarter road networks.”



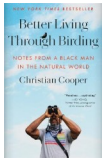
Bird Brother: A Falconer's Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife by Rodney Stotts with Kate Pipkin. “To escape the tough streets of Southeast Washington, D.C., in the late 1980s, young Rodney Stotts would ride the metro to the Smithsonian National Zoo. There, the Bald Eagles and other birds of prey captured his imagination for the first time. In *Bird Brother*, Rodney shares his unlikely journey to becoming a conservationist and one of America's few Black master falconers.”



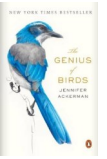
Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird by Katie Fallon. “Few animals have a worse reputation than the vulture. But is it deserved? With *Vulture*, Katie Fallon offers an irresistible argument to the contrary, tracing a year in the life of a typical North American Turkey Vulture.”



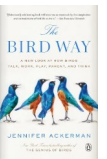
Better Living Through Birding: Notes from a Black Man in the Natural World by Christian Cooper. “Central Park birder Christian Cooper takes us beyond the viral video that shocked the nation and into a world of avian adventures, global excursions, and the unexpected lessons you can learn from a life spent looking up.”



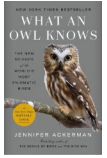
The Genius of Birds by Jennifer Ackerman. “Birds are astonishingly intelligent creatures. According to revolutionary new research, some birds rival primates and even humans in their remarkable intelligence. In *The Genius of Birds*, acclaimed author Jennifer Ackerman explores their newly discovered brilliance and how it came about.”



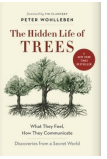
The Bird Way by Jennifer Ackerman. “From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Genius of Birds*, a radical investigation into the bird way of being, and the recent scientific research that is dramatically shifting our understanding of birds—how they live and how they think.”



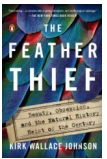
What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Bird by Jennifer Ackerman. “From the author of *The Genius of Birds* and *The Bird Way*, a brilliant scientific investigation into owls—the most elusive of birds—and why they exert such a hold on human imagination.”



The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from a Secret World by Peter Wohlleben. “One of the most beloved books of our time: an illuminating account of the forest, and the science that shows us how trees communicate, feel, and live in social networks. After reading this book, a walk in the woods will never be the same again.”



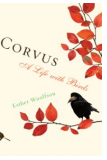
The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century by Kirk W. Johnson. “From the author of *The Fisherman and the Dragon*, a rollicking true-crime adventure and captivating journey into an underground world of fantastical fly-tiers and plume peddlers, for readers of *The Stranger in the Woods*, *The Lost City of Z*, and *The Orchid Thief*.”



The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan. “A gorgeous, witty account of birding, nature, and the beauty around us that hides in plain sight, written and illustrated by the best-selling author of *The Joy Luck Club* - with a forward by David Allen Sibley.”



Corvus: A Life with Birds by Esther Woolfson. “A satisfying read from a masterful stylist, this will appeal to any fan of nature writing or personal essays.” - *Publishers Weekly* (starred review). (*Book jacket photo from www.thriftbooks.com*)



(Continued on [page 8](#))

HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB MEMBER LOGS 700TH SPECIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Howard County Bird Club member Kurt Schwarz logged his 700th species in the USA on a trip to St. Paul Island, in the Pribilofs Islands, Alaska. It was a McKay's Bunting on October 5, 2024. As the group arrived at Webster House, local guide Luis Gles spotted the bunting, and Kurt saw it flush from the palates, noting the snowy white tail, upper tail coverts, and back.

The trip was to be in two-parts, first St. Paul, then Utqiagvik on the Arctic Ocean. But the approach of a former typhoon cancelled the flight off St. Paul, and Kurt and four others were unable to get off the island for another five days, in time to make their flights home. But the delay worked to his advantage; the storm brought in three more lifers: Common Sandpiper, Gray-tailed Tattler, and Fieldfare. These would have been missed if Kurt had been able to leave as scheduled. At the time the trip ended, his USA list stood at 699. But thanks to arm chair ticks—taxonomic changes by the American Ornithological Society's Checklist Committee—Kurt lost Hoary Redpoll, but gained Vega Gull and Scopoli's Shearwater. Eleven other species on St. Paul with the splits and lumps brought his total to 700.

The trip was a Field Guides trip led by Doug Gochfeld. The local guides provided by the local native corporation TDX, Luis Gles, Mariah Hryniewich, and Sulli Gibson, were superb.

Aside from the three life birds, Tropical Storm/Typhoon Jebi also provided exceptional looks at a Fork-tailed Storm Petrel, a species Kurt had seen off British Columbia on a cruise in 2019.

Two of Kurt's photos are featured below. Congratulations on an amazing feat, Kurt!



Fork-tailed Storm Petrel, October 5, 2024, Big Lake, St. Paul Island



Gray-tailed Tattler, species #698, October 4, 2024, St. Paul Island

MOS PIN DESIGN CONTEST WINNER

Howard County Bird Club member Laura Wolf won the annual pin design contest for the Maryland Ornithological Society's 2024 Convention with her design of the Harlequin Duck (right). MOS Convention attendees each received a pin with this beautiful design as a souvenir. Congratulations, Laura!



(Chirps continued from page 1)

Locally, if your resolutions include learning more about birds in different spots in the county, I recommend you continue to take advantage of our field trips and select different areas of the county for our Mid-Winter, May, and Fall Counts.

Whatever resolutions you may decide on for the new year with regard to the bird club and butterfly committee, I wish you luck and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and field trips.

Best regards,

Gregg Petersen

ANNUAL POTLUCK 2025

BY MEGHAAN LANE AND KIM GROSS

The 2025 Howard County Bird Club's annual potluck dinner is fast approaching and will be here before we know it! Whether you are new to birding, or have been birding for years, you won't want to miss this wonderful event. The Howard County Bird Club kindly invites all club members and their guests to share in the fun, food, and the evening's program.

Annual Potluck Dinner: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Where: Robinson Nature Center (there is no entrance fee charged by the RNC for this event)

Time: 6-10 p.m.

Doors open: 6:00 p.m. for room setup

Snacks and socializing: start at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: starts at 7:00 p.m.

Please bring a main dish, hors d'oeuvres, a salad, a vegetable dish, or a dessert. (To assist those with food allergies, it is suggested that you include a card with the list of ingredients to display with your dish.) The bird club furnishes water and eating utensils. (You may want to mark your dishes and any accompanying serving implements with your name so we can make sure they return with you!) You can bring beer and wine (bring an opener if your bottle(s) require one).

Members will have the opportunity to participate in the after dinner slide show. Please note that due to time limitations we limit images to no more than **15 photos per person**. Please contact Meghaan Lane (meghaanlane@gmail.com) for details on submitting photos for the slide show.

Please let us know in advance that you will be attending so we can arrange for enough seating, beverages, etc. You may sign up at the January, February, and March club meetings, or contact Meghaan Lane by Friday, March 21, 2025 at 410-829-6192 or meghaanlane@gmail.com or via <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/NZUW7114>.

If you'd like to help with setup or cleanup, we would love to have your help. It does not take long, and is greatly appreciated. For setup, please arrive at 6:00 p.m. Cleanup will be after the program, at 9:00 p.m.

We are also looking for volunteers willing to drive members who may need assistance with transportation. Please contact meghaanlane@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

This event is a highlight for so many of us birders, and especially for our new members. 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, bird photography, nature, other creatures, and more.

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

Directions: The Robinson Nature Center is located at 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044. Route 32 exit 17 takes you to Cedar Lane. There is ample parking available. The RNC's phone number is 410-313-0400.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mark Brockway

Lauren Carey

Timothy Forrester

Kristine Kuhlman

Elizabeth, Avery, Alexis, & Brian McNiff

Zhanlin, Rachel, & Luke Ni

Heather & Alex Polonsky

Frank & Polly Stevens

Aaron Waechter

Chensheng Zhao

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

Megan Bolcar

12136 Gray Star Way

Columbia, MD 21044

howardbirdclub@mdbirds.org

The Goldfinch, newsletter of the Howard County Bird Club, is published five times per year. Copy deadline for the March/April 2025 issue is January 25, 2025.

Megan Bolcar, *Editor*

Joanne Solem, *Proofreader*

ANNUAL MID-WINTER COUNT

BY JOE HANFMAN

Join the Howard County Bird Club's Fortieth Annual Mid-winter Count on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Joe Hanfman (auk1844@gmail.com) is the count coordinator. You may volunteer to participate by contacting one of the area coordinators listed below:

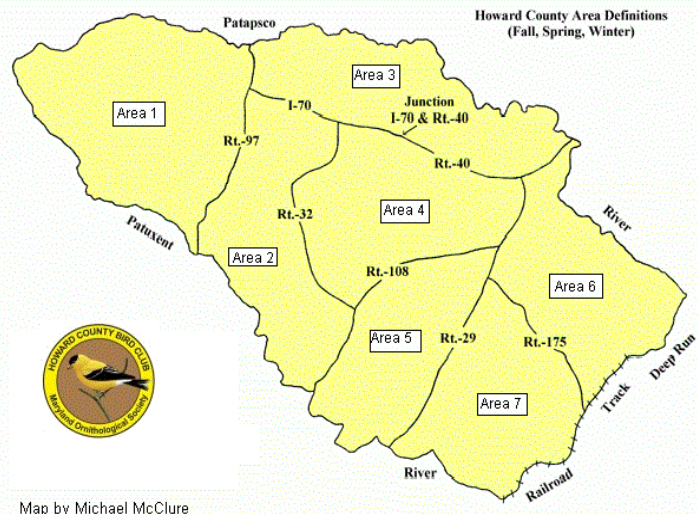
Area 1	Wes Earp	wesandsue@gmail.com
Area 2	Russ Kovach	Russell.kovach@gmail.com
Area 3	Chuck Stirrat	Stirrcl1@gmail.com
Area 4	Mike McClure	mcclumd2@hotmail.com
Area 5	Tom Seivert	tomseivert@verizon.net
Area 6	Dianne Aguilera	Dianne.aguilera@gmail.com
Area 7	Kurt Schwarz	krschwal@verizon.net

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 John and Meg Harris's home 6400 Ripe Apple Ln, Columbia. Please contact the Harrises at mctharris@gmail.com by Tuesday, January 28th, 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.

Park anywhere on the street, avoiding blocking fire hydrants and other driveways.

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.



Map by Michael McClure

APPRECIATION

As we enter a new calendar year, we would like to thank all the volunteers who support the Howard County Bird Club. The club members in leadership positions; those who lead field trips; assist with Young Birders programs; host club activities; contribute to the Breeding Bird Atlas, seasonal bird counts, and butterfly surveys; provide technical support; those who, in a variety of ways, provide connections with other organizations and enthusiastically recruit new members; and the many birders who are out all year in all types of weather documenting county bird life (and many other contributions) deserve our thanks for making HCBC membership such a rewarding experience.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The January 23 and February 27 board meetings will be held in a hybrid format. All members are welcome to attend in person or virtually.

If you have input, questions, or would like to attend, please email Gregg Petersen at sig29@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2024-25, go to the HCBC website: <https://www.howardbirds.website/> and click on "Join Us" at the top of the home page.



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

P.O. Box 1323

Columbia, MD 21044-1323

January/February 2025 - Inside this Issue

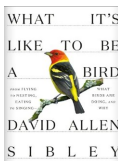
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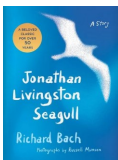
The Birds that Audubon Missed by Kenn Kaufman. “Renowned naturalist Kenn Kaufman examines the scientific discoveries of John James Audubon and his artistic and ornithological peers in this fascinating ‘blend of history, science, art, biography, and memoir’ (*Booklist*, starred review) that is a ‘bird lovers’ delight’ (*Kirkus Reviews*).”



What it is Like to Be a Bird by David Allen Sibley. “The bird book for birders and nonbirders alike that will excite and inspire by providing a new and deeper understanding of what common, mostly backyard, birds are doing—and why: ‘Can birds smell?’; ‘Is this the same cardinal that was at my feeder last year?’; ‘Do robins ‘hear’ worms?’”



Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach. “People who make their own rules when they know they’re right... people who get a special pleasure out of doing something well (even if only for themselves)...people who know there’s more to this whole *living* thing than meets the eye: they’ll be with Jonathan Seagull all the way. Others may simply escape into a delightful adventure about freedom and flight. Either way it’s an uncommon treat.”



Red-Tails in Love by Marie Winn. “Marie Winn is our guide into a secret world, a true wilderness in the heart of a city. The scene is New York’s Central Park, but the rich natural history that emerges here—the loons, raccoons, woodpeckers, owls, and hundreds of visiting songbirds— will appeal to wildlife lovers everywhere. At its heart is the saga of the Fifth Avenue hawks, which begins as a love story and develops into a full-fledged mystery.”



Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness by Lyanda Lynn Haupt. “*Crow Planet* richly weaves Haupt’s own “crow stories” as well as scientific and scholarly research and the history and mythology of crows, culminating in a book that is sure to make readers see the world around them in a very different way.”



Many thanks to all the club members who submitted book recommendations!