



Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

In Memoriam

Kathleen Klimkiewicz (1943 - 2008)

M. Kathy Klimkiewicz died unexpectedly November 6, 2008, at her Laurel home at the age of 65. Most of her career was spent at the Bird Banding Laboratory at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. She was a master bander who, for many years, mentored individuals meeting her high standards. Some, including Columbian David Holmes, went on to become master banders themselves. Kathy's generosity in helping young birders was well-known. In recent years, her health limited her birding activities, but she served as a ready source of information. Each fall she reminded the birding community that Purple Finches could not be sexed by color. Brown birds could be either females or first-year males.

In Howard County, she is remembered for her Purple Martin presentations which were based on her extensive banding of that species. She was the senior coordinator of the national prototype Montgomery/Howard Breeding Bird Atlas in the early 1970s. She also served on the editorial board for the first statewide Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980s. In this county, she helped with field work and mini-routes among her other contributions. Kathy put an individual stamp on every project with which she was connected and will be long remembered by friends and associates.

—Joanne Solem