



# Howard County Bird Club

**A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society**

## *In Memoriam*

### **Rosamond Munro (1911 - 2005)**

Rosamond Munro, who died in March at the age of 94, was one of the county's most significant birders. She became a county resident in the late 1940s when she and her husband Colin moved to 11 acres on Reservoir Rd adjoining WSSC property. This piece of land enabled her to pursue her interest in birds, wild flowers, and anything else in the natural world that caught her eye.

For many years she was one of a mere handful of birders in this county. Although most of her birding was done on her property or in her neighborhood and she was unable to bird for the last decade, she still holds early records for a dozen species. Her sightings of Snowy Owl (on a post in her garden February or March 1947), Cattle Egret (May 18, 1961), and Summer Tanager (spring 1958) were first county records.

American Woodcock were regulars on her property, and Whip-poor-wills called from their unpaved lane on summer evenings. A Lincoln's Sparrow was photographed at one of her feeders (April 20, 1965) and Chuck-will's-widows visited the property on at least three occasions. From 1954 through 1957, a Loggerhead Shrike returned each fall to the same Red Cedar tree on Reservoir Road at the end of their lane.

Occasional field trips were made to her property, especially during the wild flower surveys, in the 1980s. She provided records for both of the previous county bird atlases. As a student of English as well as birds, she contributed to, as well as helped proof, *Birding Howard County, Maryland*. Thanks to almost daily rounds of her property for almost 40 years, we have a better idea of some of the specialties that once existed here. Sightings were passed to Chan Robbins long before there was a local bird group; as soon as the Howard County club was organized, she joined and remained a member until she entered an assisted living facility. One of Howard County's pioneer birders has passed from the scene, but her enthusiasm for the natural world and obvious delight in sharing her discoveries will inspire her friends and leave warm memories for years to come.

—Joanne Solem