



Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

In Memoriam

Jane Geuder (1939-2021)



Many of you knew Jane in her role as the program chair for the Howard County Bird Club (HCBC), a role she cherished for more than 25 years. She had a habit of going to other club meetings to hear speakers to see if the program would be a good fit for our club. She was also known for baking a pie for the speakers. For me, it was quite an honor after 25 years to be asked to be the program chair and try to walk in Jane's shoes. She made the transition very easy for me with a lot of guidance, and she was always available for a phone call to answer questions. We all learned so much from the speakers that Jane set up for us, speakers she chose very carefully. We have truly lost one of our best this week.

--Sue Muller

During my time as president of HCBC, it was comforting to know that Jane was quietly working behind the scenes to ensure that our club programs were always relevant to our passion for birds and, perhaps as important, entertaining. Finding speakers that combine these features can be a challenge, but Jane always found a way to ensure that the programs hit the mark. Thank you, Jane, for all of your work throughout your tenure with the bird club. I'll miss your succinct and insightful introductions; I have benefited so much from the programs that you arranged for us. You will be missed.

--John Harris

Jane and her husband, Ralph, joined HCBC more than 40 years ago. Many of our members remember Jane as our program chair for 25+ years. The club's annual potluck was one of Jane's favorite events and she always made a tasty contribution. (After one unusually diverse spread, she approached the board with the suggestion that the club put together a small cookbook of favorite recipes.) Almost all Ralph's and Jane's travels involved raptors to some degree, and over the years, they visited most of the well-known hawk migration sites. A number of their vacations became subjects for club programs. When she was still teaching biology, their fall weekends at hawk sites were somewhat limited, but, after retirement, they began spending extensive time at Cape May during the fall. For many years, the bird club tried to find a good hawkwatch site in Howard County. A field trip each fall was planned and, in time, tested half a dozen locations. Ralph was often listed as the leader, but Jane usually assisted, adding her spotting and identification skills. They participated in seasonal counts (although liked winter the least) and contributed to both previous statewide atlases. They faithfully provided seasonal bird sightings from their home or, occasionally, from nearby Rockburn Branch Park.

Jane's long-term commitment to local birds and the natural world was a model for us all.

--Joanne Solem