



howard county  
**BIRD CLUB**  
50th ANNIVERSARY • 1972 - 2022

# MEMBERS' MEMORIES

## Robin Todd

I have so many fond memories of birding with the Howard County Bird Club that it is impossible to pick just one. Certainly among the top are Jay Sheppard's owl prowls. Tramping through the wet or snowy woods, bending under branches, peering up for the tiny form of a saw whet owl and looking for its lime and pellets struck me as the very essence of winter birding. Bird walks at Alpha Ridge landfill, led by Ralph Cullison, always turned up some good birds. Wes Earp's bird rambles at Waterford Farm and Bonnie Ott's sparrow walks were unfailingly productive. Kurt Schwarz's pilgrimages to the Delaware Shore for Red Knots and horseshoe crabs were high points on my spring migration calendar. The club's Mid winter, May, Fall, and Christmas counts are always fun, despite the early starts.

I learn something new on every club walk, and not just about birds. Thus it was Jo Solem who first introduced me to that bane of our woodlands, Japanese stiltgrass and June Tveekrem's odonate surveys expanded my appreciation of these aerial artists.

Lastly, the club has always been a friendly haven. Since the advent of covid-19 I have missed the monthly gatherings at Robinson Nature Center.