



howard county
BIRD CLUB
50th ANNIVERSARY • 1972 - 2022

MEMBERS' MEMORIES

Bonnie Ott

I have very vivid memories of my first organized experience with the bird club. I attended an MOS convention with my best friend Dawn. We had been "birding" for a time on our own. I was so fortunate to have my first field trip with Chan Robbins. I will never forget when we got out of the cars and he started to name birds he was hearing. It was such a revelation! I hadn't realized that you could identify birds on sound alone! I remember meeting so many of the Howard County Bird Club folks on that weekend. After that experience I was all in! Not too many years later when I moved to Howard County, it didn't take me long to find the club. I would say the club and all the mentors who helped me altered the course of my life. My interest in nature and birds became my passion....and it keeps growing. It's all thanks to Jo and Bob and Jane, Marty, Helen and all the others who inspired and encouraged me. I'm hoping that I can continue to pass that knowledge and passion along.

One day in October, 2021, I was eating dinner on my patio and noticed my resident Great Blue Heron up on the grass. I realized he had caught a bullfrog. One of the resident foxes was watching him as intently as I was. The heron was able to kill the frog and get it into the water. The fox scared off the Heron but seemed uninterested in the dead frog.....except to mark it. The heron was able to return to eat its "prize". My dinner was forgotten as I watched the interaction. I moved a little closer to the pond after the heron got the frog into the water. I didn't want to risk him being frightened off and lose his meal after such effort. View the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZaEPDL-u4s>