



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

# MEMBERS' MEMORIES

## Lisa Colangelo

My husband and I moved to Howard County in 1994 as newlyweds. I knew no one in Howard County, but I knew that I loved birds and was intrigued to see that there was such a large and active bird club.

I started showing up by myself at the club meetings when they were held over at Longfellow Elementary and talking to anyone who would talk to me about birds! I remember in particular Jo and Bob Solem always greeting me and making me feel part of the group. Mike Kerwin would invite me along to the seasonal counts and I haven't missed many since. Kate Tufts and I have scoured western Howard County looking for rarities.

One year I was at the club seed sale, taking a look around while pushing a stroller with a one year-old and 4 year-old in tow. Jo Solem approached me and asked if I would be interested in helping out with the Breeding Bird Atlas. Why, I could even have my own block if I wanted! Little did I know! That became such fun—dropping one kid off at school, the other at preschool, grabbing my binoculars, and out the door to go birding! Attending the MOS conferences became a “must” every year; my husband knew he'd have the boys for the weekend by himself... Now those boys are 23 and 26 and I'm participating in yet another Breeding Bird Atlas.

With the help and encouragement of Sue Muller at Howard county Rec and parks, I established a large bluebird box trail at West Friendship Park and it's been in existence now for 18 years.