



Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

In Memoriam

Elsa Ponce (1935—2020)

Elsa Ponce died unexpectedly on Saturday, July 11, 2020 of complications from cardiac surgery. She was a long-time resident of Columbia.

Elsa was born July 8, 1935 and raised near Cleveland, Ohio. Her B. A. in social science (Antioch College) and master's and course work toward a Ph.D in sociology (University of Pennsylvania) led to a career at the Social Security Administration, Woodlawn, Maryland.

Her social and cultural interests were varied. She became a yoga instructor. An avid and lifelong reader, she participated in book clubs and various discussion groups, enjoyed visiting museums and art galleries, and supported local drama and choral groups. A personal highlight was a trip to China in 2018 where she won individual and team gold medals for tai chi.

Elsa joined the Howard County Bird Club in 1982. In the twenty-three years she was a member, she attended meetings, participated in field trips, workshops, and potlucks, staffed club exhibits, and assisted with hospitality.

The Howard County Bird Club is grateful for Elsa's generous bequest.

— Joanne Solem