



# Howard County Bird Club

A Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

## *In Memoriam*

### Emmalyn Holdridge (1937–2016)



Emy was active in many bird club activities since joining in 1987. She was an active field birder who participated in all regular seasonal counts (typically volunteered to co-chair the 2005 Midwinter Count when someone was needed) and helped for the five years of the second Maryland Breeding Bird Atlas. Emy was proud of her Howard County bird list of 277 species (fourth highest all-time). Her last new species was the lovely Little Gull at Centennial Park last April. She made many contributions to county bird records as reflected by the following examples for which she was the sole observer or with the initial group: Whimbrel (first county record), Least Tern (second), Long-billed Dowitcher (third), Sandhill Crane (fourth), American Avocet (fourth), and Surf Scoter (sixth and seventh). She also spotted a Common Gallinule at Centennial and an American Golden-Plover at Western Regional Park, both fine species. She frequented Brighton Dam in late summer and several times picked up the first Forster's Tern of the year.

Although birds were her primary focus, her interests were wide-ranging. Perhaps her childhood on a farm in northwestern Ohio helped stimulate her fascination with the natural world. Several years ago she helped conduct turtle surveys at Patuxent Refuge; at the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area in September of 2009, she spotted a group of small Cinnamon Polypores (*Coltricia perennis*) the only verified local record of this fungus; she was also acquainted with most of the spring wildflowers and eagerly anticipated their blooming season each year. Within the last few years, she acquired a digital camera and expanded her interests to caterpillars and butterflies (her Giant Swallowtail at Mount Pleasant in 2014 verified one of the few county sightings of this species). Her knowledge and curiosity made her a welcome addition to any field trip or hike.

Emy also served as MOS Treasurer from 2004 to 2010. She was an enthusiastic volunteer at the Patuxent Research Refuge, where she was named Volunteer of the Year for 2004.

As a memorial, the Howard County Bird Club established **Emy's Meadow**, a Pollinator Plot at Centennial Park.

— Joanne K. Solem