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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Plata proclaimed Maryland's first Bird City

Purple Martin adopted as the Town's emblem bird

ANNAPOLIS, MD, February 12, 2020 – Bird City Maryland is excited to announce the Town of La Plata as Maryland's first official Bird City. The designation is a recognition of La Plata's success in enhancing the town's environment for birds and educating the public about the interactions between birds and people and about the contributions birds make to a healthy community. The Bird City Maryland designation was announced in December 2019.

La Plata Town Council passed Resolution 19-21 recognizing World Migratory Bird Day last October, which resolved that "all citizens in the Town of La Plata are urged to celebrate this observance and to support efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds and their habitats in our community and the world at large." Southern Maryland Audubon Society and Port Tobacco River Conservancy partnered with the Town on identifying what application criteria the Town had met. Some criteria were through actions of the Keep La Plata Beautiful program. Future assistance will also be supported by a third partner, the Conservancy for Charles County, and many members and local businesses from the community.

"The Town of La Plata is proud to be Maryland's very first Bird City. We have a vibrant, connected community that values our natural environment," said Mayor Jeannine James. Mayor James and the Town Council invite residents of La Plata to a reception celebrating its Bird City status from 6 - 7 pm on Monday, February 24, at La Plata Town Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street.

Bird City Maryland is a program of the *Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership* that helps build sustainable communities and connect people with nature. The goal of Bird City Maryland is to make communities healthier for birds and for people.

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