

Chip Notes



BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017 No. 400

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Goodbye, old friends.....1, 8

Welcome New Members.....1

President's Corner
Moving Bird Collection.....2

Conservation Corner
Conservation Actions
(See Insert)2

My Big Year, *continued*3, 8, 9

Bird Bits 2017
BBC Summer Picnic.....4
Claire's Scholarship Award.....4
Audubon Plants for Birds
Database4
Gone Missing- Baltimore.....5

Birds and Buildings6, 7

**Catalytic Converter For
Bird Safety**.....7

Merritt Island.....10

Field Trip Reports11

BBC Info and Application12



Goodbye, old friends

Chan Robbins dies at age 98

It is with sadness we pay homage to the memory of Chan Robbins, who passed away on March 20. Revered as a father of modern ornithology and an inspiration to all birders, he dedicated his life to the study of avian life. He worked primarily as an ornithologist at Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD.

Among his many achievements, Chan documented the damage wrought by the pesticide DDT. His data were used by Rachel Carson in researching her 1962 manifesto, "Silent Spring." He was a champion of citizen science, founding the annual American Breeding Bird Survey in 1965 as well as publishing his "A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America" the same year. He was senior editor of the "Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia." And, of course, we all remember that early in his career he banded "Wisdom," the Laysan albatross who is still laying eggs in the Pacific Island of Midway 65 years later!

Jeff Hull wrote about Chan in the November-December 2014 edition of Audubon, saying "...Robbins belongs to the era of the great naturalists—the Audubons and Petersons and Grinnells—to a time when our nation's woods, fields, streams, and skies teemed with unexamined wildlife."

All who knew him spoke of him as a wonderful, unassuming, humble and sharing man, loved by those whose lives he touched. Chan, you will be missed by your fellow birders and the birding community. RIP



Continued on page 8

Be sure to check out
Part 2
of David Fleischmann's
My Big Year 2016,
starting on page 3.

He continues to entertain
and enlighten us about his
"Big Year"
adventures.

WELCOME!

A warm Baltimore Bird Club welcome goes out to the following members who have joined us since the Spring Chip Notes was published. Thanks for joining, We look forward to seeing you out there on our birding trips and at our meetings.

From Baltimore

Jerry Bloyer Jr Baltimore
Dennis F. Flanigan..... Baltimore
Marc Lipnick..... Baltimore
Minia Mantiega..... Baltimore

From Other Cities

Michelle P. Mucciariello.....Owings Mills
Nicole Mooney Sykesville
Jim & Wendy Hill Airville, PA

President's Corner by Peter Lev



Moving the Bird Collection

The Baltimore Bird Club owns a collection of more than three hundred mounted birds. Most of them have been exhibited for the last decade by the Cylburn Nature Museum, in the Carriage House behind the Cylburn Mansion. BBC had little responsibility for the collection; the Cylburn Arboretum Association (CAA), a private group, staffed the museum on Saturday and Sunday 12-3, and Baltimore City paid for heating and cooling. However, the Carriage House desperately needed repairs. In response, CAA launched an ambitious plan to renovate the building, with a larger museum space, second floor offices, restrooms, an elevator, etc. Before renovation could begin, the bird collection had to be moved into storage.

So, in my first few months as BBC President, my main job was to supervise the packing, moving and storage of a few hundred taxidermied birds. This was work, not fun, but I had great people helping me. Joan Cwi, Past President of BBC, was with me every step of the way. Nancy Alexander, head of non-book preservation at the Library of Congress, was a wonderful volunteer consultant. Dick Krejci, Kevin Graff, Lindsay Jacks, Sarah Luttrell and other BBC board members were extremely helpful.

The biggest problem was to find the right moving company. Nancy Alexander took one look at our collection and said we needed specialized art movers. She recommended Artex, a highly skilled company that moves Rembrandt and Matisse. However, Artex's estimate was a jaw-dropping \$30,000. We didn't need Rembrandt, we were moving humble mounted birds of the Mid-Atlantic region. A second estimate from a small local

mover (non-specialized) was a very low \$3,000, but this bidder did not understand the challenges of our project. Eventually Nancy recommended Bonsai Art Movers, a Baltimore-area company with a good reputation. We accepted Bonsai's bid of \$10,000, and they efficiently packed and moved the collection at the end of January, 2017. Meanwhile, Joan had convinced the Maryland Ornithological Society, BBC's parent organization, to pay \$5,000 toward the move, so our expenses were manageable.

An interesting dilemma was what to do with the eagles. BBC owns two Bald Eagles, one immature and one adult. Taxidermied Bald Eagles are precious because the Bald Eagle is our national bird, and Bald Eagle feathers are used in Native American rituals. I didn't want BBC's eagles to sit in packing boxes, so I arranged a long-term loan to the new Lake Roland Nature Center. You can commune with our eagles at Lake Roland Tuesday-Sunday 9-5; I recommend a visit.

Conservation CORNER

Conservation Corner for this Summer edition of Chip Notes is the insert, titled *Conservation Actions for Desperate Times*. Carol Schreter, the author, shares with you her favorite resources for identifying problems and taking action on environmental issues. Please feel free to reproduce this article and share with friends.



My Big Year 2016, Part 2: The People, the Places, the Birds...

Story and photos by Hugh David Fleischmann

This is the second part of this two-part article by David (the name he goes by) Fleischmann, a BBC member. He continues to entertain and enlighten us about his "Big Year" adventures in 2016. Please read on here, to see if he achieves his self-imposed goals. For Part 1, check the Spring Chip Notes.

Next up is central California. This area was chosen after careful consideration of where I could still get a substantial number of new birds this late in the year.

And I knew I would need another pelagic trip to make my goal happen. Given the late date, the only options available were on the west coast.

A special shout out and thank you to Debi Love Shearwater and Shearwater Journeys for hosting and sponsoring this trip out of Monterey Bay. At the beginning the seas were a little rough but thankfully they settled down and I was able to maintain my stomach contents. I never felt sick at all, thanks to Dramamine (and no thanks to Bonine, for the last trip). The highlight of this oceanic journey would have to be the Flesh-footed Shearwater, an ABA Code 3 rarity. It was the first seen this year.

Once I was done with the oceanic pelagic portion of my California trip, it was time to explore the terra firma portion of central California.

My guide, Rich Fournier, proved to be more than skilled and knowledgeable,

when on the first day he was able to get me 10 new life/year birds— before 8 AM! It was an extremely fast-paced 90 minutes—turbo birding at it's finest. My favorite birds of this leg of the journey were the California Condor and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The



Greg Miller and David (on right)



Yellow-headed Blackbird

Condor is an ABA Code 6. They were almost extinct when they started a captive breeding program many years ago. I believe 300 Condors have been released into the wild since the program started.

As if this year wasn't going well enough, November and December brought some remarkable birds, all within 100 miles of my home. Starting with the Say's Phoebe, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Snow Bunting, Gray Kingbird (I missed this, but got in Florida), Northern Shrike, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Barrow's Goldeneye and a RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD, all in Maryland. Wow! Truly an amazing time to be a birder.

When my next trip to Texas was in the planning stage, it was supposed to be the last out-of-state trip of the year. Also, it was the trip that I was most looking forward to. I had always wanted to bird in Texas, specifically, The Lower Rio Grande Valley. You just hear so much about this birding Mecca, it is a must see on every birder's travel list. With six weeks left in 2016 and being just 32 birds away from my goal (or so I thought), I had my work cut out for me. Jeff Shenot and I spent the better part of a week in this part of Texas. We started birding in the airport parking lot. As a matter of fact, we started birding in the airport parking lot of every city I went to. No time to waste.

Texas is huge—just immense open expanses of barren land. If anything, the roads were worse and the road names were a total mess. For



Amazon Kingfisher

someone not from Texas, Jeff managed the roads and directions like a seasoned local. GPS was constantly confused for six days. The best bird of the trip would have to go to one of the rarest birds in North America—the Amazon Kingfisher, an ABA Code 5 rarity, and only the third time ever visiting the US. This was probably my "bird of the year". Certainly the rarest kingfisher and the one that I expended the most amount of time trying to get. After two full days waiting for this bird, we were finally successful. This is only place in North America where there are four Kingfisher species at the same time, visible on the same day. Super cool.

Continued on page 8



Birdbits.....

BBC Summer Picnic – NEW!

By popular demand, BBC will be holding a mid-year get-together. This year it will be held at Irvine Nature Center on June 4th, from 12-2 pm. We hope you will join us for this picnic event and to enjoy the birds at Irvine. Bring food to share (nothing that needs onsite cooking). You will be hearing more about this event and how to sign up in the days to come, but for now, just put this on your calendar!

Claire's Scholarship Award

I'm happy to announce that Claire Wayner won the 2017 Chesapeake Bay Trust Student of the Year Award. This award is accompanied by a \$5,000 scholarship to be used for education. It goes to a high school or college student who motivates and inspires other students by promoting awareness of natural resources and participating in efforts to improve the environment at school or in the community. Claire was given this award based on her multi-year work at "greening" Stony Run Park. She pulled together human resources from school, the local community, the BBC and Friends of Stony Run to undertake various projects.



Claire is the 3rd person from the right.

Audubon Plants for Birds Database

The Audubon Plants for Birds database (audubon.org/nativeplants) is the only tool of its kind, released last September—just in time for spring planting. Its goal is to inspire and enable the cultivation of a million native plants. It is easy to identify the right plants for your location. You just plug in your zip code, and up pops a comprehensive list of local native plants, and photos and descriptions of which birds they attract. Try it!

Gone Missing- Baltimore, the Snowy Owl

Baltimore, the Snowy Owl whose transmitter was paid for by BBC in 2015, has gone missing!! He is a four year old male and now almost completely white. As with all the Snowies being tracked, the transmitters do not work in the summer when they are in the northern Arctic because there are no transmitter receptors up there. But when they return farther south in the winter, the Project Snowstorm scientists are able to download the summer's collected data as well as to begin tracking them in real time. Baltimore came back onto the radar screen from his summer on December 25th. A lot of summer data (hopefully nesting data) was being transmitted when suddenly on January 1st, his radar went completely dark. No amount of electronic finessing could make the transmitter work. Fortunately, Baltimore was in the vicinity of Project Snowstorm friends Dan and Patricia Lafortune, who were able to track him visually over the winter from their home in southern Ontario.

Several arduous attempts were made to re-capture Baltimore by Tom McDonald of Rochester NY, who traveled 600-miles roundtrip several times to Ontario in this effort. But Baltimore has become increasingly clever at alluding capture efforts that had succeeded twice before! Now an experienced adult, he was shy and stayed hundreds of yards from the nearest road making it hard to get close enough in the deep snow to deploy traps and lures. Plus, the bountiful supply of meadow voles meant his belly was full and he didn't need us to eat.



So, alas, we assume Baltimore is now returning to northern Canada along with the other Snowies to breed (hopefully again). With luck he will return to the Lafortune's area next winter and could be captured, his old transmitter retrieved, and given a new and better transmitter. He is easy to identify because he still wears the old transmitter. And thank you to all the Project Snowstorm volunteers who are looking after Baltimore for us.

Birds and Buildings

By Lindsay Jacks

In the mountains of western Pennsylvania at Powdermill Nature Reserve, the first ever North American Birds and Buildings Symposium (NABB) was hosted by Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Lights Out Baltimore (LOB) was represented by three members, Aaron Heinsman, Lindsay Jacks, and Lynne Parks at the weekend symposium. We made presentations on our data collection, partner organizations, and successes of our organization. There were about 45 attendees at NABB, comprised of organizations, researchers, window film designers, window treatment companies, and artists working on solutions for businesses and homeowners. Over 20 organizations were in attendance including Fatal Light Awareness Program, Safe Wings Ottawa, American Bird Conservancy, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, Detroit Audubon, City Wildlife (Lights Out DC), and more.

The weekend symposium began Friday evening with the keynote speaker, Dr. Daniel Klem of Muhlenberg College. Dr. Klem is the first known researcher to realize the impact glass has on birds. Klem began his work in 1974 and tried for over a decade to have his research published, but all of his submissions were returned deemed as “unsuitable material,” and not considered important for publication. Birds being killed or injured by glass was unheard of and it took until 1989 to publish his first article on bird-window collisions. Klem’s work on collisions spans 43 years and his research was the first to estimate that each building and home across North America kills at least one bird per year. His estimation is what we use today concluding that 100 million to one billion birds die per year in North America from collisions.

The following morning at NABB, we had the pleasure to see the beautiful grounds of Powdermill Nature Reserve with a visit to the banding station and flight tunnel. The banding station is one the longest running US banding stations, beginning its 55th season. In 2001, the station banded its 500,000th bird. In addition to the banding station, Powdermill conducts collision research with its flight tunnel to determine which glass or window treatment is bird-safe. The birds are first mist-netted, then a bird is placed in the entrance of the dark tunnel where it flies down to the open-looking end of the tunnel. The “open” end has a piece of treated glass to be tested. A net is placed in front of the glass to keep the birds safe during testing. The tunnel, built in partnership with American Bird Conservancy, has tested



Entrance to flight tunnel—where bird is placed to fly down tunnel

thousands of birds since 2010. The results from the flight-testing help determine which glass or window treatment can be applied to prevent birds from colliding with glass.

After the morning of flight-testing and banding birds, the rest of the day was filled with presentations by organizations, researchers and artists. LOB as well as City Wildlife and Safe Wings

Ottawa spoke on monitoring efforts in our cities. Annette Prince of Chicago Bird Collisions presented on several buildings they have successfully retrofitted to reduce bird collisions. The FBI building in Chicago that features an indoor water fountain and numerous plants, significantly reduced collisions by adding a net to the outside of the glass. The Michigan Plaza also successfully added CollidEscape window film to a problem window that no longer causes bird deaths. Michael Mesure of Fatal Light Awareness Program in Toronto introduced a new program they have created called BirdSafe. BirdSafe is a risk assessment on buildings designed by experts in the field including researchers, ornithologists and architects. This assessment involves an on-site consultant who focuses on areas of the building that pose the greatest risk of causing collisions. The assessment also includes recommendations to the business or homeowner on how to reduce these risks.

More presentations from Audubon NYC and Santa Clara Valley Audubon focused on legislation that has passed in their states to reduce light pollution by requiring light efficient fixtures and building standards for new development. After a full day of speakers, we spent the evening breaking into smaller working groups to focus on problems or topics to push our mission. On the final day of the weekend symposium, the NABB attendees created a working group that will continue to serve as a resource for one another, list products that reduce collisions, recent studies, and maintain a positive approach to building owners.

It was truly an inspiring weekend to meet with fellow colleagues who expressed the same mission- we are

all collaborators and not competitors. One message that spoke volumes to me as Director of LOB is that we should “celebrate and not shame” building owners whose properties may cause bird deaths. A positive approach will always produce more desirable results. While it was the first year for NABB, Carnegie Museum plans to host a symposium every year to continue our work of conserving birds.

The message of the weekend was summarized by the quote of a colleague, “Someday all these issues will be mainstream, I hope, and we won’t have to work so hard to save a few birds.” Until then, LOB and organizations across North America will continue to fight for our feathered friends.

A Catalytic Converter for Bird Safety

By Lynne Parks

As I’ve worked with Lights Out Baltimore (LOB), my engagement has broadened. At first, it was a matter of volunteering—monitoring and transporting (so important!). It became apparent to me that I could also use my art to advocate for the issue of birds and window collisions. I began taking portraits of the birds we found in the tradition of memorial photography, honoring lost individuals. After a few solo and group shows, I started curating shows addressing the issue. I moved into multimedia, playing with bird strike deterrence products sculpturally to offer solutions. Once I realized I was getting the message across, I knew it was time to find other practical applications. I drew birds and made CollidEscape cut-outs to apply to art gallery windows—setting an example. It was a matter of tackling the problem of making strike deterrence aesthetically pleasing.

Like our director, Lindsay Jacks, I’ve been giving quite a few talks and saying yes to every engagement that would let me advocate for birds. It was at an engagement at VisArts in Rockville that I was fortunate to have Jennie McNicoll, the new director of the National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent Research Center, attend and respond to my work. She came right up to me and said, “Birds are being killed by our reflective front windows. I want you to treat them. We have to fix this.”

The last year has been quite a learning experience for us. We went through a number of window film sales reps. It took four months for my husband Chris, an artist, and me to draw seven complicated designs. Jennie wanted the windows to reflect the wildlife our refuges

protect. We designed window motifs dedicated to birds, mammals, native plants, butterflies and moths, ocean life, reptiles and amphibians, and one big tree and leaf medley. You can identify every species. We then had to get the drawings scanned and made into vector files. By the time this article is published, the film will have been produced and applied.

The process has been a long one. As a temporary measure, Jennie had her interns paint the windows



Tempera painted window at Patuxent

with tempera using the all important 2”x4” rule--the horizontal and vertical spaces birds will not attempt to fly in between. Our designs also follow the bird-safe rule, but because northern cardinals still find a reflective self to attack, we’ve gone with a wallpaper approach using a perforated film in two colors.

Another favorite engagement of mine occurred after I was contacted by the Tridelphia Elementary School Lego League, the Anglerfish Overlords. These fourth graders were entering a special competition, Animal Friends. Thanks to one of the moms who has since started a Lights Out program in Columbia, the kids chose to address the window collision problem. They took me on as a mentor. They made a very snappy presentation and chose to treat eight windows at their school. (We’re still working on that.) They won first place in the regional competition and third in state. They were very enterprising and approached a developer, the Howard Hughes Corporation, about making new buildings in Columbia less susceptible to bird strikes. They gave a wonderful presentation including song.

I love being a catalyst, especially when the people you reach in turn become catalysts. I think gratefully of all of the people whose work has informed mine. We’ll save birds yet.

Goodbye, old friends continued

Chan's memorial service was held April 15th. A Life Celebration is being planned by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, date to be announced.

Obituaries can be found at:

Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/chandler-robbins-friend-to-birds-and-birdwatchers-dies-at-98/2017/03/23/d7c331b0-0f44-11e7-9b0d-d27c98455440_story.html?utm_term=.f7b9325e21e0

National Audubon Society: <http://www.audubon.org/news/in-memory-chandler-s-robbins>

U.S. Geological Survey: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/chandler-robbins-inspired-generations-scientists-and-birders-1918-2017>

Jean R. Worthley dies at age 92

As written by her long-time friend, Paul Noell.

The MOS has lost an enthusiastic and supportive birder, with the passing of Jean R. Worthley on April 9. Her obituary appeared in the Baltimore Sun on April 17. Long-time Baltimore area residents will remember her as "Miss Jean" of "Hodgepodge Lodge", a children's TV nature program of earlier times.



I met her and husband Elmer when giving a slide presentation of Mushrooms of Maryland at their home on Bonita Avenue, just next door to the Maryland Public Television building (back of which was Hodgepodge Lodge!). In addition to her MOS and other affiliations, she and Elmer made a number of appearances at the annual North American Mycological Association's annual forays, where we would again trade pleasantries. Her support of Cylburn and BBC birding activities, among other interests, is well known.

I personally have lost a valued friend of my generation, a person of exceptional intelligence and wit, who celebrated Life in all it's forms, in loving fashion on this planet Earth.

Baltimore Sun: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/obituaries/bs-md-ob-jean-worthley-20170416-story.html>

My Big Year... continued

I was at 504 birds seen and was all happy and celebrating my victory. But...after sharing my great news with many friends and birders, I quickly learned that not all birds are treated equally. Not so quick, the American Birding Association (ABA) says. I have a few birds that are not accepted by the ABA because they have not been in the wild long enough. The Greater Flamingo from Texas and several Parrots and Parakeets from Texas and Florida are escapees from local zoos and have not established themselves as wild birds yet. They say it takes up to 30 years in the wild to achieve true wild status. These have been around 10 years and almost 24 years respectively. That being said, I will need 514 birds to be able to submit my list to the ABA with a squeaky clean list of 500 birds. I have to take off the 14 birds that they do not consider birds! What a shock that was. So I'm off to California, again, to attempt to get the final 12-15 birds needed to assure my place in the annals of ABA history. I was not looking forward to another west coast flight; they suck!

This trip to California had me starting off slightly south of my last trip. This time I started in Santa Barbara, the agricultural center of the world. I spent six days traversing the extremely diverse landscape of California, guided by one of my favorite guides of the year, Wes Fritz of www.californiatargetbirds.com. Not only does he know a ton about birds, but he is also an expert on the local geology and all things California. In my 1100 miles of driving, I went from the agricultural capital of the world to the most diverse geologically unique landscape I have ever seen. At one point we drove for 40 consecutive miles with nothing but Halo Nectarine trees as far as the eye could see. Then as we drove north and west into the San Andreas Fault area. For hundreds of miles there was nothing but evidence of volcanoes and glaciers, truly better than any science class.

I ended my California trip with 36 new species to add to my list. I ended the year at 542 species seen in 2016, of which 528 are ABA countable. The birders with whom I shared this feat are truly amazing. In addition, I am now currently in the top 30, (#28) in the United States, for number of species. The top

Here are just a few of David's stats from 2016

- ▶ 19 trips across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, in Maryland.
- ▶ 7 overnight stays in Ocean City, Maryland.
- ▶ Visited 11 states for 51 nights away from home; stayed in 25 different hotels.
- ▶ Birded with 11 of the best birding guides, from around the country, as well as many great local birders. Met another 50 people or more, of the most passionate, bird loving folks you can ever imagine. Many of these folks have feeders set up for the masses to enjoy. What I discovered, was that the majority of these people are women, 90%.
- ▶ Saw or heard 542 species of birds, in the lower 48 states. Saw 530 out of 542 and photographed about 490 of them. (Not done calculating, but about 90% documented.). And saw an additional 25 subspecies, which one day will add some birds to my life totals.
- ▶ 40,000 pictures taken to end up with about 800 useable worthy photos. Do you have any idea how long it takes to go through 40,000 pictures! Let's suffice it to say, it takes about the same time to go through them then it did to initially take them, phew.....
- ▶ 15 hummingbird species.
- ▶ 7 of a possible 7 grebe species.
- ▶ 26 raptor species to include vultures, hawks, eagles and falcons. Only missing about 4 hawks and 2 falcons that can be seen in the USA.
- ▶ 18 flycatcher and 6 kingbird species.
- ▶ 17 parrot and parakeet species. All seen in the wild. Only 5 are countable, by ABA standards.
- ▶ 17 gull species.
- ▶ 11 tern species.
- ▶ 8 of 9 possible thrasher species.
- ▶ 43 warbler species.
- ▶ 36 sparrow/towhee/junco species.
- ▶ 5 of the 5 lower 48's titmouse species.
- ▶ 10 jay species. Maryland has only the Blue Jay.
- ▶ 10 of 11 possible wren species, only missing the Sinaloa Wren.
- ▶ 8 dove/pigeon species.
- ▶ 5 cormorant species.
- ▶ 4 kingfisher species, in the same place, on the same day.
- ▶ 12 of the possible 19 North American owl species.
- ▶ 17 woodpecker/sapsucker/flicker species. A total of 16/4/2 respectively can be found. Of 22 possible, I saw 17. The Ivory-billed Woodpecker is #23 and the world is hoping that is refund after many years of possible extinction status.
- ▶ Note to self: 2018 possibility—OWL & WOODPECKER BIG YEAR!

four on the list have over 700 birds and the top 12 have over 600 birds. Not too shabby. What makes this year even crazier is that I have 307 birds for the year in the State. That number puts me in third place in the State of Maryland, behind two of the best birders, in the country: Joe Hanfman and Marcia Balestri. A truly humbling experience. I am not sure you can appreciate how difficult it is to achieve both of these goals in the same year.

Thank you to the people across the country who helped me to find the birds.

It is hard to put in words what this year meant to me, but I can tell you it was all about: the people, the places and of course the birds!

Merritt Island, Sixth Time Around

by Jim Highsaw and Linda Prentice

During February 6 - 10, 2017 we made our sixth visit to the Merritt Island NWR near Titusville, Florida. We also made a side trip to the Viera Wetlands and birded in some of the parks and wetland areas in Titusville. The birding was superb, photo opportunities were good and the weather was perfect.

We started things off with a late afternoon visit to Fox Lake Park where we found a pair of Sandhill Cranes and some White Ibis. On the first full day we spent the morning on the Wildlife Drive in the Refuge. In addition to all the herons, egrets, ibis, spoonbills and anhingas we found some Wilson's Snipe and White Pelicans, and numerous Coots, Moorhens and Pied-billed Grebes. After lunch we spent the afternoon in the wetlands at the Blue Heron Treatment Facility, where we found Purple Gallinule and Northern Harrier, birds not seen elsewhere on the trip.

On the second day we went to the Refuge Visitor Center early and saw a Painted Bunting (female) at the feeder, then walked on the boardwalk trail and found a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Blue-

gray Gnatcatcher. After doing the Wildlife Drive again, we had lunch and then went to Enchanted Forest Park. During the heat of the day there wasn't much bird activity, but we did find two Bald Eagles. Then a stop at the small Kennedy Park on the Indian River yielded Royal Tern, Brown Pelican, Laughing Gull and some Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers. On the third day we spent the morning at the Viera Wetlands, where highlights included Limpkins, Black-crowned Night Herons, Osprey and Bald Eagle. After lunch we went to Fox Lake Park again and found Pine Warblers and three woodpeckers - Pileated, Red-bellied and Downy.

We started the last day by finding a pair of Scrub Jays on the road to Playalinda Beach.

A little later we walked on part of the Scrub Trail and found more Scrub Jays, a Towhee, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a Black-throated Blue Warbler (female). A short walk on the Palm Hammock Trail produced a Blue-headed Vireo. Then we did one last trip around the Wildlife Drive and found Wood Storks and some feral hogs. On the way home, finding a Loggerhead Shrike near Savannah was a nice way to end the trip.



Spoonbill



FEB 5 - Loch Raven Point & Dams - Upper 30s, no wind, a beautiful winter Sunday morning at Loch Raven Point. We did not see the Red-necked Grebe but had great views of Redheads,



Pileated Woodpecker
Photo by Bill Hubick

a Horned Grebe and the usual ducks as well as a very close view of a Pileated Woodpecker.

Between the dams we saw Bald Eagles, a Great Blue Heron, Gadwall and a lone female Redhead that had us temporarily stumped. We all agreed it was a great morning to be

out looking at birds. 19 species. 4 participants. Leaders: Debbie Terry & Peter Lev.

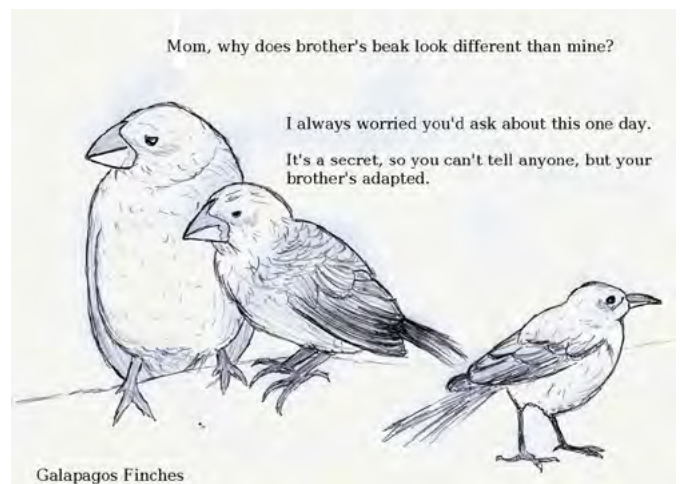
FEB 25/26 - Blackwater/Ocean City/Chincoteague

- A nice trip with lots of good water birds and shorebirds. Here are a few things seen: Long-tailed Ducks, Surf and Black Scoters, Snow Geese (2000 of them at Blackwater), Tundra Swan, Northern Gannet, Great Cormorant, Eurasian Wigeon, Brant, Black-headed Gull, Marbled Godwit, American Oystercatcher. The most unexpected sighting was a flock of Rusty Blackbirds in our motel parking lot on Sunday morning. The Eastern Shore can be spectacular for birding in February. 93 species. 17 participants. Leader: Peter Lev.

MAR 5 - Middle Creek - Trip moved to Sunday due to bad weather, but got much colder when we arrived at the refuge. We got to see over 7000 Snow Geese, 400 Canada Geese, and 2000 Tundra Swans. Several species of waterfowl including Gadwall, American Wigeon, Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck. A few Killdeer were calling. Best bird of the day was an adult Golden Eagle on perch near county line. 45 species. 3 participants. Leader: Kevin Graff

APR 4 - Lake Roland - The first walk of the 2017 spring migration. In a slight drizzle we found 42 species with two beautiful male Rusty Blackbirds and first of year Rough-winged Swallows. We shortened the walk as the rain got stronger. But by the time we made it back to the park and ride the sun was out. 42 species. 10 participants. Leader: Michael Bradley.

Red Run Stream Valley Trail - Since March 28th, a small group of BBC members led by Kevin Graff have been checking out Red Run Stream Valley Trail (limited parking) as an alternate Tuesday walk in the near future. 70 species have been recorded there, March 28th and the end of April. The best were: a flyover Common Raven on March 28th; Rusty Blackbird on Apr 11; six woodpecker species, five warbler species and every week we enjoyed seeing a lot of raptors, both local and migrants.



BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB
http://baltimorebirdclub.org

A Chapter of

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21209

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Joan Cwi, Editor
David Nelson, Design

Submit materials to
Joan Cwi – jafjsc@verizon.net

Moving or email change?
Send update to
Terry Ross at tross@ubalt.edu

**Deadlines for submitting articles
for upcoming issues:**

July 24, 2017



Baltimore Bird Club APPLICATION

*Membership year is September 1–August 31. New members only
joining after March 1 may pay half-year rate. A full year's dues received
after April 30 will be applied to the next membership year.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Benefits include membership in the BBC and Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), free field trips, quarterly BBC and MOS newsletters sent electronically, lectures and other events.

Check dues category and circle amount sent.

Category	1-YR	½ YR	Chapter Only+
Individual	\$35.00	\$17.00	\$15.00
Household	\$45.00	\$22.50	\$20.00
Sustaining	\$100.00		
Junior*	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$5.00

* Through 17: record age here ____

+Chapter Only membership is available to MOS members who are already members of another MOS chapter or who are MOS life members.

Mail completed application with check payable to:
Baltimore Bird Club, Attn: Membership Chairman,
4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209

Conservation Actions for Desperate Times

By Carol Schreter, Baltimore Bird Club (BBC), April 2017



For a nature lover, these are desperate times. The nation's Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, was the Exxon oil company CEO. He favors resource extraction over protection of the environment. President Trump's proposed budget would cut the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget by 31 percent.

Birds, plants and animals cannot speak for themselves. So we nature lovers must take action -- if we want to protect bird habitat. Where do I focus my actions? Where can **YOU** go for direction?

National Actions

For on-line petitions and letters, I pay special attention to one website. Brave employees of the **National Wildlife Refuge Association** send out weekly Action Alerts called "Take Action Tuesdays." Each Alert invites citizens to write some public official -- supporting or protesting something important to the refuge system.

I also want my money to go directly to the **National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges**, to acquire or protect land. At my age, I could buy a Senior Pass for entry, paying a one-time fee of just \$10, useful for the rest of my life. Instead, I pay the annual fee for the annual Duck Stamp, now \$25 a year.

My bigger cash donations go to two non-profit organizations. I figure the best way to protect land is to own it, or to take polluters to court. The **Nature Conservancy** protects land through ownership, or temporary ownership. The **Natural Resources Defense Council** does nothing but legal work, suing national or local actors through the court systems.

When do I put my body on the line, to be counted? I watch the efforts of **350.org** for direction about public gatherings for the environment. For instance, on April 29, 2017, I will join the Peoples Climate Mobilization, a (hopefully) massive crowd at the National Mall. Local gatherings across the nation -- in concert with national gatherings -- are also important these days.

State and Local Actions

State and local actions can counter a negative national scene. Call this "States Rights." Our elected representatives at the county and state level tend to recognize that Maryland's health and economy depend on a healthy Chesapeake Bay. Convey what you think is important, and thank your representatives for doing the right thing.

On-line, for state-wide environmental issues, I watch the **Maryland League of Conservation Voters** for direction. **Audubon Maryland-DC** was also very active on-line this year. Thanks in part to the "Don't Frack Maryland" campaign, the State Legislature voted in March to ban fracking in Maryland. Our Republican Governor even agreed to sign this bill. This is good news for breeding birds in the Western Maryland IBA's (Important Bird Areas).

"**Smart on Pesticides**" is another citizen campaign of import, still active. Maryland is in the leadership in controlling the use and sale of toxic herbicides (such as Round-Up, glyphosates) and pesticides containing neonicotinoids. Both MOS and the Baltimore Bird Club are members of the Smart on Pesticides Coalition and our MOS Conservation Chair Kurt Schwartz has testified in Annapolis on behalf of the "Pollinator" bills.

Protection of habitat in your county might mean watching the local courthouse for zoning issues, and local property developers. The BBC is now

watching with trepidation the proposed Village of Lake Roland, at 6241-47 Falls Rd. near Princeton Sport shop. See the concept plan at www.mfirealty.com/properties/the-village-of-bare-hills/

If the proposed Village of Lake Roland gets approved, we fear that Lake Roland's birds might fly into the glass windows of a 6 – 8 story highrise on the park's edge. We'd like our Lights Out Baltimore volunteers to tell the developer about the risk of bird collisions with glass, and to urge him to install bird-friendly glass at the outset.

Closer to home, plant native plants in your yard. The National Audubon Society has a new on-line database listing native plants for each locale, accessed by providing your zip code.

Want to do more -- during these desperate times? Join the BBC Conservation Committee. We are just 3 – 5 people who meet every 2 or 3 months at my house. This committee is a vehicle for pursuing a topic of personal interest, with support from others.

Now, here is an exercise for everyone. From a comfortable chair, in the comfort of your home. Imagine a desirable society. Yes ... Imagine a Desirable Society. Language -- what you want to see. Say it in words. Share your wishes with others. For me: I want to live in a society where Environmental Protection is the Norm. Ecuador was the first country to recognize the Rights of Nature in its Constitution. Think about that!

We invite you to reproduce and distribute this article.

Conservation Actions for Desperate Times: Resource List

National Wildlife Refuge Association provides Action Alerts
www.refugeassociation.org/action/#/

The Nature Conservancy has national and state-level offices
www.nature.org

Natural Resources Defense Council sues polluters
www.nrdc.org

Mass gatherings, national issues
www.350.org

Maryland League of Conservation Voters, state-level letters & petitions
www.mdlcv.org

Audubon Maryland-DC, Get Involved
www.md.audubon.org/get-involved

Smart on Pesticides Maryland
www.mdpestnet.org/take-action/smart-on-pesticides-maryland/

Lights Out Baltimore
www.lightsoutbaltimore.org

National Audubon Society, native plant database
www.audubon.org/native-plants

Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature
www.therightsofnature.org/ecuador-rights

