



CHIP NOTES

No. 373

FALL 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| President's Corner | 2 |
| Conservation Corner | 2 |
| BBC Annual Report | 4 |
| "What's Up at Cylburn?" | 5 |
| Echoes of the Wye Oak | 6 |
| History of MOS/BBC/Cylburn | 7 |
| "Lights Out Baltimore!" | 9 |
| Spring Migration | 10 |
| Field Trip Reports | 12-11 |

CHIP NOTES

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**PUBLICITY: VACANT, PLEASE CALL
IF INTERESTED IN HELPING US!**



JOAN CWI

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron Bonanza

By Joan Cwi

There was a bonanza of breeding Yellow-crowned Night-Herons along the Jones Falls this spring. On May 27th four nests, located to the south and north of the Wyman Park Drive bridge crossing the water near Druid Hill Park, were first spotted. There were three nests south of the bridge about 20 feet below--one nest with five small chicks, one with five tiny fuzzball chicks, and one with one hatchling and eggs.

The north nest had only four or five eggs which had hatched by June 22nd. Parents were observed sitting on nests and hunting for food. By June 25th, some chicks had fledged. Unfortunately, between June 22nd-24th,

Continued on p 9

**It's That
Time Again!**

**DUES ARE DUE
See Page 9**



Welcome to a new year with the Baltimore Bird Club! We regret a recent gap in communication and expect that, with our new Chip Notes editorial staff, we will keep you well informed on

"It's going to be a rewarding and exciting year!"

— Karen Morley

club activities. We've elected new officers and many fresh ideas and high expectations have bloomed! I hope all of you are as excited as I am as we take on innovative projects while continuing to support our existing vital programs. We look forward to a dynamic working relationship with the Cylburn Arboretum Association and the City of Baltimore. We are updating our website and creating electronic mailing lists for bulletins and publications. It's going to be a rewarding and exciting year!

To gain perspective, see the article on p 7 - a History of the MOS, the Baltimore Bird Club and Cylburn Arboretum. It's an expansion of a presentation VP Joan Cwi, Joy Wheeler and I made to the new Director of Recreation and Parks for the City of Baltimore, Greg Baylor. He watches birds! We described the economic benefits of birding in the US and Maryland, its value to parks and urban revitalization, and told him of significant projects BBC has initiated in Baltimore City and County. In the article "What's Up At Cylburn" read about our enhanced collaboration with the Cylburn Arboretum Association and the City of Baltimore.

Conservation CORNER

BBC Conservation Committee Annual Report 2009-10

By Joan Cwi and Carol Schreter

The BBC Conservation Committee seeks to protect birds and bird habitat. Throughout the year we engage in advocacy, independently or jointly with the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS). Actions this year included:

Following Robert E. Lee Park Improvements.

Conservation members attended meetings of the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks regarding Robert E. Lee Park (Lake Roland). Baltimore County is leasing the park from Baltimore City and providing six million dollars to fix it up, which is expected to take 15+ months. Representing BBC, John Landers was appointed to a Robert E. Lee Park Advisory Board.

Opposing a Proposed Bike Trail through

Cromwell Valley Park. The Baltimore County Office of Planning is proposing to put a bike trail along the stream in Cromwell Valley Park (CVP) as part of their Western Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan. We sent an e-mail to members asking them to take action to protect the CVP stream (Minebank Run) from this proposed walking / biking trail.

Concerns about Pets in State Parks.

A letter was sent to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources stating the BBC concern about proposed changes to the Pets in State Parks Policy.

This letter was sent jointly with MOS. However, dogs will have access to many new locations based on new regulations which can be viewed at:

www.drn.state.md.us/publiclands

Continued on next page

Conservation CORNER

Continued from p 2

Opposing Wind Turbines on Turkey Hill. BBC sent a letter to vested parties opposing the construction of two large, utility-scale wind turbines on Turkey Hill, on the lower Susquehanna River in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. We also signed onto an Audubon Society letter. Individual members were encouraged to send their own letters. We object to the high potential for harming Tundra Swans that stage there during migration, as well as raptors utilizing this major flyway.

Interest in Chesapeake Bay Cleanup. Conservation members attended a meeting of the Environmental Protection Agency held at the Aquarium to discuss the proposed Federal strategy for cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay.

Feral Cats Op-Ed in the Baltimore Sun. A joint BBC/MOS "Commentary" was published in the Baltimore Sun On May 21, 2010. Titled "The other side of trap-neuter-release," it explained the impact feral cats have on the bird population and the ineffectiveness of this program.

Be an ECO-ACTION MEMBER

The Baltimore Bird Club Conservation Committee seeks to get birders and others involved in protecting birds and bird habitat.

Do you wish to be notified directly, by e-mail, of critical regional conservation issues?

Register on-line with the Maryland League of Conservation Voters at www.mdclv.org

Register on-line with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation at www.cbf.org

Or join us as we look at issues and strategies. The BBC Conservation Committee meets monthly. For more information contact Carol Schreter at (410) 664-5151.

As of July 2010 we are:

CAROL SCHRETER
CHAIR

JOAN CWI
CO-CHAIR

JOAN HELLMAN

DIXIE MULLINEAUX

WENDY OLSSON

*"Birds have wings; they're free; they can fly where they want when they want.
They have the kind of mobility many people envy."*

— Roger Tory Peterson

ATTENTION: CYLBURN ARBORETUM TO CLOSE MONDAYS

Due to recent budget cuts, Cylburn Arboretum will be closed Mondays beginning September 13, 2010. The front gates will be closed but the Cylburn Avenue entrance will be open. All offices can remain open but the number of meetings or programs scheduled on Mondays will be limited.

Email Melissa.Grim@baltimorecity.gov for more information.

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB 2009 - 2010

ANNUAL REPORT

By Pete Webb

Boy, were we busy last year! We couldn't tell you what we did because we missed several issues of Chip Notes. Below we summarize BBC activities and events conducted from June 2009 through May 2010. Other activities, such as Conservation, Lights Out Baltimore! and our relationship to Cylburn are described elsewhere in this issue of Chip Notes.

Membership. As of May 2010, BBC has 191 memberships and 235 individual members.

Lectures. BBC offers bird-related lectures free to the general public, held the first Tuesday of the month from September through May. The lectures began this year with a talk on bird-window collisions, followed by a presentation on birding the low countries of Europe; on understanding species boundaries in the Orchard oriole complex; a session of sharing favorite birding stories, a Vaux Swift video, and a talk on shorebird identification, among other topics. Each January we hold a covered-dish dinner and lecture that is open to all members. At this meeting we introduced our MOS backpack award winner, Tim Schaefer, a ten-year old who won a Science fair with a project on birds and their seed preferences.

Field Trips. In the course of the year, BBC offered 75 scheduled field trips with several more were added later. Some were weekly events, such as the Lake Roland walks (this year held at Cromwell Valley Park while repair work is conducted at Lake Roland), Loch Raven, and Cylburn walks. Monthly walks were held year round at Fort McHenry. Our fall and spring Swift Watch evenings were highlighted in Tom Pelton's WYPR (public radio) "Environmental Focus" segment on September 10th. Frequent field trips were made to other local hot spots, as well as to the eastern shore or to other counties. We also sponsored two bird-banding demonstrations. Bird counts from

our trips were entered on Cornell's e-Bird internet site.

Counts. BBC members participated in the following bird counts: Baltimore Fall Count, Baltimore Harbor Christmas Bird Count, the Mid-Winter Count, and the May Count.

Producing Chip Notes. Our goal is to produce four newsletters a year, sent to members in August, November, February and May.

Hosting a Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) Board Meeting. BBC hosted the September 12th MOS board meeting, which was held in the Mansion at Cylburn Arboretum. At the same time we sponsored a bird walk on the Cylburn grounds.

Conservation. BBC has an active Conservation Committee that occasionally works in close collaboration with the MOS Conservation Committee. It also sponsors the Lights Out Baltimore! Program which successfully completed daily monitoring downtown for window strikes during the 10-week fall and spring migrations.

Engaging Youth. In response to the MOS interest in engaging youth in birding programs, BBC has begun greater outreach to youth. In April we participated in Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center's Festival designed to bring environmental education experience to City children. We hosted half-hour sessions on birds and the environment for six classes of 4th/5th graders. Other youth-centered activities included awarding a young person the MOS Backpack Award. We also identified several youth and teachers to recommend for the MOS scholarship program. And we established a new position for 2010-2011, Educational Director, to help in the development of youth-oriented programs.

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“WHAT’S UP AT CYLBURN?”

By Joan Cwi

The relationship between Baltimore City, Cylburn Arboretum Association (CAA) and BBC grew in several profound ways this year, changing the character of our relationship with them and involving more participation in Cylburn affairs. Some changes included the opening of the Carriage House Nature Museum under Cylburn auspices, the construction of two new buildings and an increase in BBC programs offered through Cylburn. Some of this expanded BBC involvement is described below.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). BBC is in the process of signing a MOU between the CAA, the City of Baltimore and ourselves that spells out the working relationship between the three groups, identifies ownership of the Collections, and names those responsible for staffing the Nature Museum.

New Buildings. This year Baltimore City built two new buildings on Cylburn grounds that BBC can use. The first is a large classroom next to the Greenhouse that BBC began using in January for lectures and monthly board meetings. The second is The Vollmer Visitor Center that opened May 1st, which has a room capable of seating 250 people with an attached kitchen that can be used for BBC’s January Covered-Dish Dinner or similar events.

Cornell e-Bird Trail Tracker Kiosk at Visitor Center. BBC has purchased a Cornell e-Bird Trail Tracker Kiosk to be installed in the new

Visitor Center this fall. The kiosk will be the first in Maryland. Cornell is configuring it for use at Cylburn based on specifications the BCC provided. It will be interactive, allowing visitors to input their bird sightings and these data will become part of Cornell’s e-Bird system. This is a major monetary investment for BBC and demonstrates our willingness to collaborate with Cylburn in providing a first-class environment for visitors and stimulate their interest in birding.

Purchase of Computer, Projector and Requisite Hardware and Software. BBC purchased a new laptop computer, projector, speakers and other requisite hardware and software for use by the club. We plan to inventory and catalog BBC and MOS paper and specimen collections stored at Cylburn by acquiring museum inventory software for this purpose. This equipment will also project visuals at BBC monthly lectures.

Carriage House Nature Museum. The BBC nature collection was installed in the Carriage House in a room renovated specifically for that purpose. This well-designed museum was opened to the public a couple of years ago. The Arboretum undertook this renovation with a donation from Bob Dwight. CAA provides docents during museum hours, but BBC retains ownership of the specimens, lending them to Cylburn on a permanent basis. BBC staff prepared an instruction book for docents, and helped train them. BBC also purchased a

Continued on p 6

Continued from p 5

display case for the outside of the Carriage House. We will fill it with bird pictures and information relevant to each season as well as information about BBC/MOS membership and field trips.

Increased Participation in Cylburn Events. As part of our collaboration, BBC has become involved in activities at Cylburn. As a result, BBC's meetings, lectures and field trips taking place at Cylburn will be included in Cylburn's calendar which is sent to all its members, increasing our visibility. We have updated our Cylburn bird list which will be available to visitors, along with our membership brochure. We continue to have BBC meetings, and lectures at Cylburn, and Sunday morning bird walks on the Cylburn grounds. On Mothers Day, May 9th, which was "Family and Nature Day" at Cylburn, BBC staffed the Nature Museum and a station to assist visitors with bird watching. On May 22nd and May 23rd the Federated Garden Clubs held a big flower show at Cylburn and a BBC member spoke at the show. We also held a three-day training session in beginning birding in June.



STOCK IMAGE

"Echoes of the Wye Oak"

by Paul E. Noell

While walking the perimeter trails of Cylburn Park in Baltimore City a short time ago, I was trying out my new version of the *Songfinder* (an electronic

device enabling one to hear birds by dividing their songs' frequencies down to the hearing level of one who has lost the ability to hear higher frequencies). I was very pleased with the way this shirtpocket unit performed; it seemed more sensitive and more truly directional than its predecessor.

So even 'tho the sky was increasingly dark to the northwest and the still air was palpably humid, I was enjoying my walk, (after being confined to the house with a bad case of shingles for several days past). After I'd completed half of the circuit the storm was virtually overhead, so I headed for the protection of the porch fronting the Cylburn Mansion. As I accessed the safe confines of the overhang, I couldn't help (for the umpteenth time) noting the majestic presence of the old walnut tree standing alone inside the circular driveway fronting the Mansion.

"For those of you who have also birded Cylburn Park and its environs, be prepared for a different look on the occasion of your next visit."

— Paul E. Noell

As I waited for the torrential rains to abate, I ducked inside for about five minutes. When I emerged, I was stunned to observe that the noble tree had shattered about its base and virtually crumpled to the ground, almost reaching the steps of the Mansion with its broken branches covering good portions of the driveway. I had not heard a single sound beyond the roar of the storm while I lingered in the back of the building! One look and I was reminded of the former Wye Oak of Talbot County, whose presence I'd loved so much during the years I'd birded that area.

For those of you who have also birded Cylburn Park and its environs, be prepared for a different look on the occasion of your next visit. I imagine this shattered giant will join the rest of the city's fallen trees, just down the hill in another area familiar to those who regularly bird there - the "Stump Dump."

Even though I didn't hear it, I wonder - did the tree cry out as it fell?



History of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Baltimore Bird Club, and Cylburn Arboretum Association

by Karen Morley

JOAN CWI

In the late 1800s a group of scientists and amateurs revived the Maryland Academy of Sciences. In 1929, the Natural History Society of Maryland spun off from the Academy, which today runs the Maryland Science Center. In July 1944 the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) put out an "APPEAL TO BIRD LOVERS", wanting to form a bird-watching club.

On February 23, 1945 the first gathering was held at NHSM in Bolton Hill. Forty people attended - the Charter members. This group would eventually become the Baltimore Bird Club. Irving Hampe was the first President. The club, which called itself the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), had field trips (organized by the Hike Committee) with the first being led by Irving Hampe on March 11, 1945. These intrepid birders travelled by streetcar to the Lake Roland area, where they recorded 15 species. They also published a Bulletin, which by the second issue (May-June 1945) had been named MARYLAND BIRDLIFE. By June 1945 there were 97 members. The first Christmas Counts were in 1945 - 3 of them - all in Baltimore. By its second year, MOS started organizing chapters. The second President of MOS, Orville Crowder, went around the state giving talks to various groups that were already meeting and were interested in birds. Today MOS has 16 chapters around the state.

MOS originally met at the Pratt Library but in 1959 they moved to the Cylburn Arboretum, which had opened in 1954. Mr. Gerard Moudry, Chief City Horticulturalist at that time, graciously let MOS use the upstairs room at the mansion for offices and eventually the nature museum and other collections.

MOS was incorporated in 1956 as a non-profit organization to promote the study and enjoyment of birds. Today on a statewide level, MOS supports educational and research activities; provides scholarships to teachers and wildlife managers for ornithological and natural resource training, owns and operates wildlife sanctuaries on 2000 acres of land from the eastern shore to Garrett County, and is very active in Maryland conservation activities. Many well known ornithologists and birders have had their start in MOS and the Baltimore Bird Club. The MOS continues to use Cylburn as its official headquarters.

While MOS now functions as the statewide organization, MOS was originally also the name of the "local" chapter functioning as the Baltimore chapter of MOS ... basically the "mother" chapter of MOS. In 1983 the local chapter changed its name to the Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) to provide better recognition for the chapter serving Baltimore City and Baltimore County. This is sometimes confusing historically because up until the early 1980s MOS was the name of both the state and the local Baltimore organization. However, the activities that took place at Cylburn were the work of what is now known as BBC, while the MOS retained state-wide functions.

Continued on next page

Continued from p 7

In the early days BBC did a lot of work with the City and the forerunner of the Cylburn Arboretum Association (CAA) clearing property for trails in the park. They also helped provide nature education for city and county children. Working with the City Naturalist, BBC provided volunteers to meet these educational needs and funded the buses to bring children to the park. Our members also went into city schools to teach natural history. Martha Schaefer started this effort in 1959. When she moved in 1979, Patsy Perlman took on the job. Joy Wheeler started working with her in 1983. Patsy and Joy are still working on these activities at Cylburn today.

BBC started the Junior Nature Club in 1960. Unfortunately the club and camp disbanded in the 1980s. For many years BBC funded school activities at nature camps such as The Carrie Murray Nature Center. This led to part of the nature collection we have today. Children and adults brought items and specimens to the museum and some were collected during nature camps held around the state. Six antique bird dioramas, part of the Garrett Collection, are on permanent loan from the Evergreen Mansion Library. These specimens significantly contribute to educational programs at Cylburn. We continue to work in collaboration with the CAA on educational projects.

The specimens now in the Nature Museum are but a small part of the total collections held by BBC and MOS, and housed at Cylburn. We have many natural history objects, including mounted birds, 3 bird-egg collections, bird nests, mammal skulls, butterfly

"We are pleased to be able to use Cylburn as our headquarters and for field trips, lectures, meetings, and other birding activities offered free to the public."

— Karen Morley

and turtle specimens, rocks and fossils, shells, and tree cones. In addition, there is the book and manuscript collection which includes 6 archival field journals, several rare books, and a sizeable bird and natural history library. MOS also maintains the journals of many national ornithological organizations, some of which are quite rare. BBC is undertaking a detailed computerized inventory of these collections and the botanical and herbarium collections of the CAA. These collections are a valuable education tool and a research and scientific asset.

The current Nature Museum in the Carriage House opened in 2005 after Robert Dwight read a story in the Baltimore Sun about the Birds of Maryland Museum at Cylburn. The museum had been closed in 2004 for lack of handicapped access to the upper



JOAN CWI

floors of the mansion. Mr. Dwight donated over \$36,000 to BBC for the relocation of the bird museum and the nature collection to a refurbished carriage house. BBC asked CAA to administer the fund, and CAA raised additional money for the renovation. The museum is used by the City Naturalist, CAA and BBC for educational programs for city school children and the general public.

A Task Force is looking at the possibility of additional renovations to the Carriage House resulting in expanded public access to the natural history collections for education and research, and climate-controlled storage for the archives. Mr. Robert Dwight, who provided over half of the funds to create the current nature museum, has offered an additional generous donation to be used to expand the exhibit space on the first floor.

We are pleased to be able to use Cylburn as our headquarters and for field trips, lectures, meetings, and other birding activities offered free to the public. The Vollmer Center will be a good addition to our outreach efforts with the eBird Trail Tracker that BBC will sponsor. The Carriage House Nature Museum is a "hidden treasure". We hope to sign an MOU with the Cylburn Arboretum Association and the City to clarify and delineate our role at Cylburn ... and our responsibilities. Our goal is to be seen as an important contributing partner at Cylburn which has been our home for so many years.

*Thanks to the article by Donald Messersmith on the origin and early history of MOS published in Maryland Birdlife, September 1995, for information on the early history of MOS.



Care about Birds? Lights Out Baltimore Call for Volunteers!

By the Lights Out Baltimore Committee

Have you ever seen an Ovenbird up close, saved the life of a White-throated Sparrow, or educated family, friends, or neighbors on the dangers windows pose to birds? *Lights Out Baltimore!* volunteers have found over 180 dead or injured birds this past year alone in downtown Baltimore and have recorded over 480 birds that have succumbed to injuries after colliding with glass since we started. Dead birds are given to the Smithsonian Institution for use in science, museum displays, or research, and injured birds are taken for rehabilitation.

Care to join us in monitoring? The ability to walk 3 miles is required (and a great way to jump start your day with exercise and birds) – volunteers have been rewarded with up close views of interesting species such as Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Whip-Poor-Will, and Sora, Clapper, and Virginia Rails. It is also very satisfying to know that we have helped birds make it to their breeding grounds to mate and raise young, and have provided valuable data and specimens to scientists studying this issue and other aspects of ornithology. Our work has also helped to educate the community of the significant threat that glass poses to migratory bird populations and helps get birds trapped in the City to a safer area.

WHERE DO YOUR DUES GO?

Normally, a little over half (\$20) goes to the Maryland Ornithological Society. Statewide, MOS supports educational and research activities; provides scholarships to teachers and wildlife managers for ornithological and natural resource training, owns and manages several wildlife

sanctuaries from the eastern shore to Garrett County, and is active in diverse Maryland conservation activities.

\$15 goes to BBC: about 40% for printing and mailing Chip Notes, 34% for printing and mailing the Program Booklet, 20% for expenses related to monthly lectures, and the remaining 6% for activities such as conservation and support of BBC nature collections. Most activities described here represent hundreds of hours of volunteer effort at no cost to BBC.

This is a lot of bang for the buck!! So please help us by paying your dues promptly when you get your notice in August.

Yellow-crowned Night-heron — *Continued from p 1*



JOAN CWI

the north nest disappeared, hopefully due to natural causes. Another nest is being built on the south side but looks a little flimsy! There are reports of at least two more active nests further south along the Jones Falls. It has been a special privilege to watch these herons, especially being able to see the nest activity from above rather than from below. We frequently encountered walkers, bikers and birders admiring the view.

SPRING MIGRATION MARCH 1 – MAY 31

By Kevin Graff

To see more sightings, go to birdingonthe.net, click on List Archives Index, click on Maryland (Public Archives), to the upper right, add Kevin Graff (or one of the place names mentioned below) in search archives box, and you'll see my reports from Cromwell Valley Park, Hart-Miller Island, Milford Mill and so on for dates between March 1 – May 31.

Send in any and all sightings from your yard and in city/county between June 1 – August 31 as soon as you can to Kevin Graff at WhiteMarlin2001@yahoo.com. Not all your sightings will fit in the newsletter, but most records you send either in private email or from an MDOsprey posting will be saved as data recorded for future research. Thank you!

Tundra Swan: 47 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); Wood Duck: 2 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); American Wigeon: 2 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); Canvasback: 122 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); Ring-necked Duck: 3 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); Lesser Scaup: 138 MC on 3/17, 7 on 3/31 (KG,RR); Bufflehead: 31 MC on 3/17, 38 on 3/31 (KG,RR); Red-breasted Merganser: 20 MC on 3/31 (KG,RR); Ruddy Duck: 403 MC on 3/17, 240 on 3/31 (KG,RR); Common Loon: 25 CVP on 4/27 (KG,JLM+); Double-crested Cormorant: 7 MC on 3/17, 10 on 3/31 (KG,RR), 35 PP on 4/24 (DC,MH+); Great Blue Heron: 1 MC on 3/17 & 3/31 (KG,RR), 1 PP on 3/27 (DC,MH+); Yellow-crowned Night Heron: 12 DRP on 4/10 (KG), 15 JF from 4/27-5/31 (many obs); Osprey: 1 MC on 3/17 & 3/31 (KG,RR), 9 CVP on 4/16, 21 on 4/27 (JLM+); Bald Eagle: 1 CVP on 4/16 & 4/27 (JLM+); Northern Harrier: 1 CVP on 4/16, 3 on 4/27 (JLM+); Sharp-shinned Hawk: 13 CVP on 4/16, 19 on 4/19 (JLM+); Cooper's Hawk: 3 CVP on 4/27 (JLM+); Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL), 1 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); Broad-winged Hawk: 248 CVP on 4/16, 287 on 4/27 (JLM+); Red-tailed Hawk: 1 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL), 1 CVP on 4/16 (JLM+); American Kestrel: 1 CVP on 4/16, 2 on 4/27 (JLM+); Merlin: 2 CVP on 4/27 (JLM+); Peregrine Falcon: 1 MC on 3/31 (KG,RR); Sandhill Crane: 1 CVP on 4/27 (JLM+); Killdeer: 1 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL), 1 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); American Woodcock: 6 SD on 4/1 (DCS); Little Gull: 1-2 Back River area from 3/27-3/31 (many obs); Barred Owl: 1 MM on 5/1 (RD+); Common Nighthawk: 15 OPCY on 5/15 (DCS); Chimney Swift: 22 PP on 5/29 (DC,MH+); Belted Kingfisher: 1 MC on 3/17 & 3/31 (KG,RR); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1 MC on 3/31 (KG,RR); Downy Woodpecker: 4 MC on 3/17, 3 on 3/31 (KG,RR), 2 PP on 3/27, 1 each on 4/24 & 5/29 (DC,MH+); Hairy Woodpecker: 1 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL); Northern Flicker: 3 MC on 3/17, 1 on 3/31 (KG,RR), 12 PP on 3/27 (DC,MH+); Eastern Wood-Pewee: 1 PP on 5/29 (DC,MH+); Eastern Phoebe: 1 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR), 7 PP on 3/27 (DC,MH+); Great Crested Flycatcher: 6 PP on 5/29 (DC,MH+); Eastern Kingbird: 5 PP on 5/29 (DC,MH+); White-eyed Vireo: 1 MM on 5/1 (RD+); Blue-headed Vireo: 3 MM on 5/1 (RD+); Warbling Vireo: 1 PP on 5/29 (DC,MH+); Red-eyed Vireo: 3 MM on 5/1 (RD+), 10 MM on 5/12 (LS,JT); Horned Lark: 13 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL); N. Rough-winged Swallow: 1 PP on 4/24 (DC,MH+); Tree Swallow: 1 MC on 3/17, 2 on 3/31 (KG,RR), 2 PP on 4/24 (DC,MH+); Barn Swallow: 4 PP on 4/24 (DC,MH+); Brown Creeper: 1 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL); Eastern Bluebird: 2 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 MM on 5/1 (RD+); Veery: 2 MM on 5/21 (LS,JT); Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 Towson yard on 5/16 (TMcL); Hermit Thrush: 2 PP on 4/24 (DC,MH+); Wood Thrush: 1 MM on 5/1 (RD+); Brown Thrasher: 1 PP on 4/24 (DC,MH+); American Pipit: 1 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); Yellow Warbler: 1 PP on 4/24 (DC,MH+); Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 MM on 5/21 (LS,JT); Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR), 1 PP on 4/24 (DC,MH+), 5 MM on 5/1 (RD+); Black-throated Green Warbler: 2 MM on 5/21 (LS,JT); Palm Warbler: 1 CVP on 4/2 (JL) Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 MM on 5/21 (LS,JT); Blackpoll Warbler: 1 PP on 4/24, 2 on 5/29 (DC,MH+), 1 Towson yard on 4/28 (RD), 12 MM on 5/21 (LS,JT); Black-and-white Warbler: 2 MM on 5/1 (RD+); American Redstart: 2 MM on 5/1 (RD+), 8 MM on 5/21 (LS,JT); Northern Waterthrush: 1 MM On 5/21 (LS,JT); Common Yellowthroat: 1 PP on 5/29 (DC,MH+); Eastern Towhee: 1 PP on 3/27, 2 on 4/24 (DC,MH+); Am Tree Sparrow: 1 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); Field Sparrow: 1 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR); Fox Sparrow: 8 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR), 1 PP on 3/27 (DC,MH+); Swamp Sparrow: 8 PP on 3/27 (DC,MH+); White-throated Sparrow: 2 Towson yard from 3/1-4/22 (RD), 2 MC on 3/17, 1 on 3/31 (KG,RR), 1 MM on 5/1 (RD+); "Slate-colored" Junco: 7 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL), 7 MC on 3/17 (KG,RR), 6 PP on 3/27 (DC,MH+); Red-winged Blackbird: 280 MC on 3/17, 6 on 3/31 (KG,RR), 8 PP on 3/27, 20 on 4/24, 7 on 5/29 (DC,MH+); Orchard Oriole: 1 PP on 5/29 (DC,MH+); Baltimore Oriole: 1 PP on 5/29 (DC,MH+); Purple Finch: 4 TMRd on 3/6 (TMcL)

OBSERVERS: DC-David Curson, RD-Ron Davis, KG-Kevin Graff, MH-Mike Hudson, JL-John Landers, TMcL-Taylor McLean, JLM-Jim L Meyers, RR-Robert Ringler, DCS-David C Smith, LS-Leslie Starr, JT-Joe Turner

LOCATIONS: CVP-Cromwell Valley Park, DRP-Dead Run Park, MC-Masonville Cove, MM-Milford Mill, OPCY-Oriole Park at Camden Yards, PP-Patterson Park, SD-Soldier's Delight

Field Trip Reports

Compiled by Kevin Graff

Continued from p 12

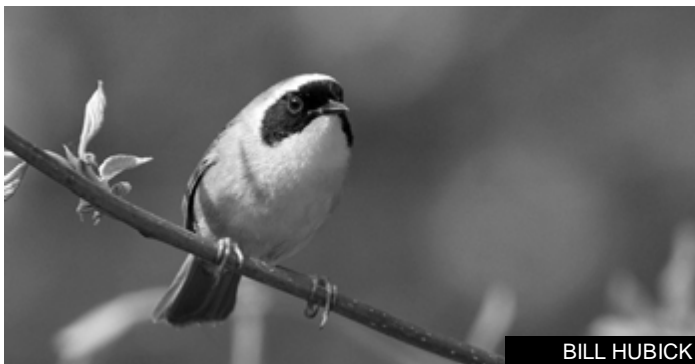
Warblers - 1 seen well; Red-headed Woodpecker, adult Bald Eagle, Osprey, Lesser Scaup and a flyby Laughing Gull.

Apr 27 - Cromwell Valley Park - No warblers, but hawks were the featured birds of the day. There were several kettles of Broadwings, several accipiters, a kestrel and Merlin plus 2 Common Loons flying over. Three species of sparrows were lined up in close proximity to each other: Chipping, Field and Swamp Sparrows. We had great views of both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, and to top it off a Blue Grosbeak on a tall stalk of grass right next to a beautiful bluebird! It was a good birding day.

18 participants. 63 species. Leader: Ruth Culbertson.

May 1 - Soldier's Delight - Today's walk produced many first-of-the-year birds such as Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Gray Catbird, and Scarlet Tanager. We had nine species of warblers: Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Pine, Prairie, Palm (2 eastern and 1 western), American Redstart, Ovenbird, Hooded, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

16 participants. 54 species. Leader: Bob Ringler.



BILL HUBICK

May 11 - Cromwell Valley Park - A nice turnout of birders was rewarded by a fairly good selection of warblers, vireos, flycatchers and other notables. Seen were Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo and numerous Warbling Vireos.

Also seen: Brown Thrasher, Blue Grosbeak and both

orioles. Warblers were: Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Common Yellowthroat.

14 participants. 59 species. Leader: Paul Noell.

May 15 - Milford Mill - Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (both males), 15 warbler species including Canada and Black-throated Blue; good views of Acadian Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush and Veery.

14 participants. 58 species. Leader: Pete Webb.

May 16 - Owings Mills Mall Wetland - Highlights of the walk included a Black-billed Cuckoo that sat in a small willow below us at the settlement pond and a Common Raven that flew by at 7:20 before most birders arrived, then teased us several times during the walk.

9 participants. 71 species. Leader: Keith Costley.

May 18 - Cromwell Valley Park - Officially canceled due to rain, but three hardy birders braved the weather and saw American Redstart, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided and Canada Warblers.

May 22 - Patterson Park - Group of 7 birders found an Eastern Wood pewee, 6 Great Crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Warbling Vireo, Blackpoll Warbler and both orioles. Leader: David Curson.

May 22 - Delaware Bay coastline - As always, an enjoyable trip with many bird species not seen on our other scheduled trips. Some highlights included a Peregrine Falcon seen on the Bay Bridge on the way to Delaware, 2 Wild Turkeys seen off US 301 in Maryland; one on the way to, and one coming from Delaware; Black-crowned Night-herons in the trees at Bombay Hook, 2 American Oystercatchers at Mispillion Light, Red Knots at three sites, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, a first-year Glaucous Gull spotted by Kevin Graff at Mispillion Light, Black Skimmers at Fowler's Beach, Blue Grosbeaks, and a number of Seaside Sparrows perching, posing and singing at Bombay Hook.

10 participants, 94 species. Leader: Pete Webb.

May 25 - Cromwell Valley Park - 8 warbler species, a Gray-cheeked Thrush (identified after a spirited discussion among those who saw it), a Screech Owl (well-hidden even in plain sight!) peeking out of its hole, and a couple of new young (college-age) birders who were really sharp made this day so much fun! Not to mention a total of 61 species.

14 participants. Leader: Mary Chetalet.

Field Trip Reports

Compiled by Kevin Graff

Apr 6 - Cromwell Valley Park - Highlights: Palm Warbler (at the end of the walk, missed by some of group who went ahead); lively Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; male Eastern Towhee singing high in a tree. (Low light: numerous Brown-headed Cowbirds) Note: Rescue of many tadpoles, taken from drying puddle and transferred to stream, by Hannah Gaskin, John Landers and Mary Chetalet! 22 participants. 39 species. Leader: Mary Chetalet.

Apr 13 - Cromwell Valley Park - On this cold, damp morning little bird activity. Migrants were few and far between and the locals were hunkered down. Highlights included a lone Common Loon passing overhead and a male Belted Kingfisher. 20 people came out despite the penetrating dampness-probably expecting a lot more! 36 species. Leader: Joan Cwi.

Apr 20 - Cromwell Valley Park - Today's walk produced five first of the year (foy) birds: Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, House Wren and a 1st-year singing male Baltimore Oriole. A great group enjoyed the morning. 16 participants. 44 species. Leader: Debbie Terry.

Apr 24 - Huntley Meadows - A cool, cloudy day with light showers and slow birding, but highlights compensated. Rain kept us in our cars during picnic time, but let up afterwards, so we kept going. Our highlight birds: Huntley Meadows: American Bittern out in the open, Brown Thrasher and flocks of Rusty Blackbirds. Piscataway Park (Prince George's County, MD): 3 singing Prothonotary

— Continued on p 11

DEADLINES

DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR UPCOMING ISSUES:

- WINTER: October 8 for December-February
- SPRING: January 8 for March-May
- SUMMER: April 8 for June-August
- FALL: July 8 for September-November

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