

Chip Notes



BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lynne Parks Award.....	1 & 5
President's Corner.....	2 & 9
Conservation Corner.....	2 & 9
Quarry Lake, Pt.2.....	3 & 4
Bird Bits.....	6 & 7
Oriole Day & Board Changes Coming.....	8
Field Trip Reports	10 & 11
BBC Application	12



**REMINDERS FOR
ANNUAL BBC MEM-
BERSHIP DUES ARE
IN THE MAIL!**

**PLEASE RETURN AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

\$25,000 Baker Artist Award Goes to BBC Member, Lynne Parks!

By Joan Cwi



You may not have heard about this award and you may not know Lynne, but you certainly are familiar with BBC's Lights Out Baltimore (LOB) project. And they all pulled together in 2013 at this magic moment. A little background...

The Baker Artist Awards were established by the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund to recognize and provide financial assistance to Baltimore artists and to engage regional, national and international audiences in supporting these artists' work. Artists working in any creative discipline are eligible if they live and work in Baltimore and the five surrounding counties. This year Lynne was one of three, \$25,000 Mary Sawyer Baker recipients, awarded from a pool of 700 candidates. In addition, nine \$1,000 Baker Artist Awards (b-grants) were also given to promising artists. Lynne was also a b-grant winner in 2011.

Lynne is a self-taught visual artist with a BA from Hollins University majoring in creative writing/theater/film studies. She is also an avid birder. She has been a member of the BBC's LOB team since its inception and she is a frequent contributor to BBC's Facebook page.

Lynne's 2013 Baker submission included photographs and assemblages of found objects—dead birds, decaying buildings, rusting bits of scrap, street graffiti and trash piles. Please take a look at Lynne's submitted work (website below). While reviewing her pieces, keep

(Continued on page 5)

President's Corner

by Joan Cwi



Fly Me to the Moon...The Inspiring Epics of Wisdom and Moonbird



2013 seems to be the year for remarkable, geriatric birds. In February we learned that Wisdom, a 62-year-old Laysan Albatross (pictured at left) hatched a

healthy chick in the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Imagine that, becoming a mother at age 62 for what is estimated as the 30th to 35th time!! Wisdom is the oldest known living wild bird. Chan Robbins banded her at the same location in 1956 when she was estimated to be five. Wisdom has probably flown an incredible 3 million miles—4 to 6 trips from the earth to the moon and back. Female Laysan Albatross's weigh about 4-8 pounds and are thought to be long-lived, although data regarding longevity is sparse. They range across the North Pacific with nesting sites in the Hawaiian Island and the islands of Midway and Laysan.

This May, on the other side of the world, Red Knot B95*, or Moonbird, was also seen again. Moonbird (pictured at right) was captured and banded in 1995, which makes him nearly 20 years old—living way longer than the 6-7 years Red Knots are thought to live. (Although sexes are similar in Red Knots, Moonbird is always referred to as a “he” for reasons unknown to me.) Like all Red Knots, he winters in Tierra del Fuego, leaving in February for his breeding grounds in the Canadian Arctic, nine to ten thousand miles away. During Moonbird’s lifetime, the Red Knot popula-



Conservation CORNER

Birds & Bees

by Dixie Mullineaux

I have been a bird watcher for about 20 years and a beekeeper for 7. Lately my attention has been on the lethal effects that pesticides have on all honeybees and other pollinators. While researching the subject, I became aware that birds, too, have had their own issues with these poisons.

In March of this year, The American Bird Conservancy, issued a new report, *The Impact of the Nation's Most Widely Used Insecticides on Birds*, which expressed serious warnings about EPA's failures to assess threats to birds and to the aquatic ecosystems many species depend upon.

In the past, publicity has focused on the effect of systemic pesticides like imidacloprid and clothianidid on pollinating insects like bees and butterflies, but the Conservancy's report alleges that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has simply ignored evidence of toxicity to birds and small mammals, creatures known to eat freshly planted seeds, even those coated in pesticide.

The report states: “Of particular concern to birds are those compounds that are used as seed treatments, primarily imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam and acetamiprid. ... Seeds are never fully covered with soil, making them easy to find by foraging birds.” A single kernel of corn treated with imidacloprid can kill small birds and sicken large ones.

Specifically for birds, the threats range from killing them outright or causing decreased breeding success, physical malformations, or impaired ability to migrate or avoid predators. Birds that breed or winter in, or migrate through, agricultural areas--such as American Crows, Dickcissels, and Bobolinks--are at significant risk from direct contact with pesticides. Raptors such as Peregrine Falcons, eagles, owls, and hawks are at risk of accumulating high chemical concentrations in their bodies when they feed on poisoned prey. Ultimately, all birds in the U.S. are at risk of pesticide poi-

(Continued on page 9)

Quarry Lake—Reclamation, Development and Ecological Restoration

Part 2: Creating a Lake

This is the second part of a two-part series describing the development of the parkland areas of the Quarry Lake development. Part 1 was presented in the Summer 2013 Chip Notes. A brief recap: The quarry was filled and is now a 40 acre lake. In addition to creating a lake, the firm of Daft McCune Walker (DMW), Inc. was responsible for developing the non-residential/commercial land around the lake into an ecologically-friendly parkland. The DMW team was lead by Eric Hadaway, who discussed the restoration process on a BBC-sponsored walk on April 25th.

OK, so now you have a lake, or at least the beginnings of one. How does one develop parklands around the lake and what kind of parkland should they be? What are the major challenges? The soil consists primarily of rock dust and rock chips, and the budget is limited. The area in question consists of 18 acres of land, streams and ridge tops that needed development into a permanent, self-sustaining, green easement around the lake and accessible to the general public.

This is a big case of eco-restoration with the requirement that native plants be used. Some of the area already had forestation, but most did not. It was a slow process to find plants that would grow in the nutrient-poor soil, and there wasn't money in the budget to enhance this much ground. The final goal was to create ecotonal variation, that is, habitat where different plant communities come together to attract different types of birds and other species. First-succession plants were chosen. First succession plants are the first type of plants that would inhabit a barren area left to itself in this region. In terms of trees, black locusts, black cherry, sycamore and maple trees were planted because they are hardy first succession native trees. Several grasses were also chosen, including little blue stem, broomsedge, switchgrass, gamma grass and Indiangrass. Some of these plants were planted as seedlings, and special seed mixes were purchased to distribute as a cost-effective way to encourage more growth. These native trees and plants are augmented by formal gardens planted around benches provided near the retail areas.



Walk along the lakeside sidewalk and you are amazed by the variety of birds. Both the Orchard and Baltimore Orioles nest there and are frequently seen flying across the sidewalk—only a few feet about one's head. Other frequently seen passerines, many of them nesting, include kingbirds, gnatcatchers, cardinals, blackbirds, woodpeckers, doves, flycatchers, wrens, bluebirds, thrushes, mimics, sparrows, vireos, warblers, finches—the list goes on. And the best feature is that most of these birds can be seen looking down at them, or at least only 20' up. And the sky is frequently punctuated by perching or flyover vultures and raptors, in-

(Continued on page 4)

Quarry Lake (continued)

cluding Turkey and Black Vultures, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, and Red-tailed Hawks, and Merlins and American Kestrels. Any number of martins, swallows and swifts course over the lake and marshes catching insects. And, of course, what list would not be complete without ubiquitous pigeons and House Sparrows.

In addition to reforesting portions of the site, more than two-acres of wetland mitigation were constructed and over a half mile of stream channel was restored. Nontidal wetlands were created and enhanced in the western portion of the site by expanding and reconfiguring a former mine "wash pond" which historically had been used to filter wash water that was generated during the mineral extraction process. A small perennial stream flows into and through this area, and by creating a stone outfall for the stream, the water elevation in the wetland is controlled, thereby creating the marshy conditions throughout. This wetland has permanently flooded, deep and shallow water areas, seasonally saturated areas, and small areas of upland interspersed throughout which creates a variety of habitat types. Upstream of the bridge on the south side of the lake, another wetland mitigation area was created by excavating and removing historically placed overburden which had filled a former wetland system. This area derives its hydrology from springs, seeps, stream bank flooding, direct precipitation and storm runoff, and has variable topography similar to the former wash pond area. Both of these wetland areas were planted with native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that are adapted to extended wet conditions – species were selected based on the degree of inundation and saturation anticipated within the various areas of the mitigation site.



Ecotonal Variation



West End
Marsh today

Stream channels which had been historically diverted and channelized as part of the former mining operations were restored by excavating and re-shaping to re-create a natural, sinuous channel form. Boulders, logs, and tree root masses were strategically placed along the channel to create riffle-pool complexes and armor the banks against erosive forces. Trees and shrubs adapted to wet, flooding conditions were planted adjacent to the stream banks and along its flood terraces to provide shade for cooling the stream water. The trees, shrubs, and grasses within the stream valley transition from wet-tolerant, stream

bank growth, to frequently saturated floodplain species, to dryer species on the valley slopes creating yet further variation and diversity of habitats.

The marshy areas have attracted another set of birds. Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat abound, as does the Red-winged Blackbird. Swamp Sparrows and Marsh Wrens have been spotted, and recently even a Virginia Rail was seen foraging in the marsh at the west end of the lake!

In total, within a ten year period, this once barren landscape now attracts over 110 species of birds, many of them nesting around the lakeside. Quite an ecological accomplishment!

Lynne Parks continued

(Continued from page 1)

in mind the following self-commentary provided to the Baker committee and subsequently updated. It will help in appreciating her unique viewpoint on found objects, including LOB birds.

I am drawn to the discarded, forgotten, and obsolete which are by no means inert. I collect fragments, both objects and images, found in the marginal spaces of alleys and abandoned buildings, trash heaps, gutters, salvage yards, and flea market bins. I was fourteen when I was diagnosed with a rare disease and for thirty-two years, I have been managing five aggressive, incurable desmoid tumors and metastatic fibrosarcoma as well as 15 smaller lesions. There have been many harsh cancer treatments, operations, and grafts. My artwork reflects what I see in the mirror - reassembled disparate parts. In the areas surrounding aging, unkempt buildings I become enraptured by unexpected patterns in piles of detritus and the shimmering qualities of oxidation. I identify with broken, patched together things. I am a new kind of patchwork girl. In my work, I hope to achieve a reconstituted wholeness.



What has winning the Baker Award meant for Lynne? Of course the money to help pay for medical bills and purchasing photographic equipment matters. But most important has been recognition and exposure. The Baker Arts Award website gets over 250,000 views annually, which has resulted in opportunities for Lynne to participate in shows, collaborations, feedback, and camaraderie. She was interviewed by Aaron Henkin on WYPR's "The Signal" on May 10th. Oh, and did I mention that we were prescient in featuring her work at our 2013 Covered Dish Dinner last January?

Lynne will be sharing her increasing recognition with us. She will be featured in an exhibition at the Baltimore Art Museum from February through March 2014. Her work will be a combined study of LOB birds and the reflective surfaces (an ongoing theme in her work) they impact with many new photographs and supporting LOB forms and inventories. Based on Lynne's award and photos of LOB birds, a Washington Post journalist connected with Lynne and is now in the process of preparing an article on LOB for the *Washington Post Magazine*.

Congratulations and thank you Lynne--for your humor, artistry, valor in adversity, and sharing a common cause.

Websites:

About Baker Artist Awards: <http://www.bakerartistawards.org/curators/>

Lynne's Award pages: <http://www.bakerartistawards.org/nominations/view/Frappet/>



Birdbits.....



Painted Bunting

There has been a lot of excitement this July about the male Painted Bunting residing along the WB&A Trail in Lanham, MD. There is even speculation, not yet confirmed at the time this newsletter goes to press, that he may be hybridizing with a female Indigo Bunting. He is giving local birders a wonderful opportunity to observe this kaleidoscope of color as he vocalizes morning, noon and evening at the same spot along the trail. This little guy was photographed by Daniel W. Potter, who is sharing this great photo with us.



© Daniel W Potter



Covered Dish Dinner Raffle

Are you creative and persuasive? Maybe you can help organize a raffle for BBC's January Covered Dish Dinner! This could add some fun and entertainment to our event. We need someone to contact businesses and individuals to volunteer items and services that we can raffle off at the dinner. Although far off, we need to get started—and we need your help. Let me know if you are interested. Contact Joan Cwi at 410-467-5352 or jafjsc@verizon.net if you can help out.



Welcome New Members!

BBC is always happy to have new members join our club. It is good to see diversity and growth in our membership

Matthew Boersma of Newton Center MA

Marion Carroll of Baltimore

Emily Friedman of Owings Mills

Barry Hershfeld of Owings Mills

Hugh Hoffman of Parkville

Joann Roswell of Baltimore

Joseph Sonnefeld of Silver Spring

Beatrice Grabowski of Silver Spring

Michele Steinitz of Towson



Club News?

Have news the club should know about? Births, deaths, marriages, or any other notable events that belong in the newsletter? Please contact the Editor, Joan Cwi, at jafjsc@verizon.net

Oriole Day at Cromwell Valley Park

BBC hosted a display table at the May 18th Oriole Day at Cromwell Valley Park. The Club and Lights Out Baltimore exhibits were hosted by members Mike Stahl, Debbie Terry, Kevin Graff and Joan Cwi, as well as a mounted Baltimore Oriole and Red-tailed Hawk from our collection. Cromwell holds this event each spring to celebrate the return of the Orioles and provide nature-related activities for adults and children. Baltimore and Orchard Oriole nests and birds were seen in abundance.



Look For Change on the BBC Board in 2013-2014

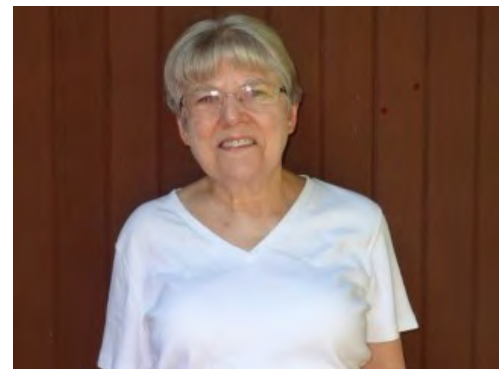
Adieu Recording Secretary Paula Schugam

After 7 years (70 meeting, 70 minutes written!), Paula is retiring as Recording Secretary of the BBC. She became a member of MOS and BBC in 1976. To further her knowledge of birds, she enrolled in classes taught by Janet Ganter and David Thorndill, and assisted banders Janet Ganter and Audrey Crush. She and her husband Marty join many of our field trips. The Board will miss her dependability, meticulous note-taking, and calm presence--often soothing ruffled feathers!

Paula will be replaced by **Mary Anne Fluke**, who has been active leading bird trips and helping out at our various functions.

Other new faces include **Ben Poscover**, who replaces Pete Webb* as a BBC Board Member and **Judy Harding**, who replaces Wendy Olsson as Scholarship Chairperson. Welcome all!

**Don't worry, Pete isn't leaving. He is still on the Board as Lecture and Field Trip Chairperson and MOS Director.*



President's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

tion has collapsed by nearly 80 percent. Yet somehow this gritty, four-ounce bird defied the odds and has flown the distance to the moon—and halfway back! This intrepid survivor was identified again this May at Mispillion Harbor near Slaughter Beach, Delaware, where he stopped to feast on Horseshoe Crab eggs. Moonbird is easily identified by his black band on the lower right leg and a sporty orange-colored flag on his upper left bearing the inscription B95.

Red Knots migrate in large flocks. They break their spring and fall migrations into non-stop segments of 1,500 miles or so, ending in stopover sites called staging areas. They are site-faithful, stopping at the same location year after year. The final and most critical rest stop is the Delaware Bay, where they arrive just as Horseshoe Crab eggs are laid. This incredibly nutritious source of food carries them over the last flight segment to the Arctic. The reduction in food available to the knots because of the heavy harvesting of horseshoe crabs is thought to be largely responsible for the sharp decline in their population.

Let's hope B95 has several more migrations to make!

B95 is the subject of the award-winning book by Phil Hoose titled **Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95. It is available online at Amazon.*

Bird Friendly Weed Killer Recipe #2

1 tbsp gin
1 tbsp cider vinegar
1 tsp dish detergent
1 quart water

Mix all ingredients in a large bowl and pour into a spray bottle.

Another resource from Audubon: <http://web4.audubon.org/bird/>

Conservation CORNER

(Continued from page 2)

soning. Water contamination is another extremely serious problem with pesticides, the effect of which is to “sterilize” much of the invertebrate food chain, threatening insects, fish, amphibians and insectivorous birds.

It is not only agricultural application that is the problem. Homeowners apply an estimated 78 million pounds of insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides per year to their homes, lawns, and gardens, which include the same toxic chemicals that are used in agriculture.

According to the Audubon Society, about 7 million birds die a year from pesticide poisoning. As I wrote this article, Birdlife International reported that a recent study showed that one in eight bird species worldwide faces the threat of extinction, with unsustainable agriculture as one of the two main causes (climate change being the other).

What can you do to help this problem?

~Join Pesticide Action Network or Pollinator Defense Fund

~Buy organic food and support those who do not use pesticides

~Know what you are buying if you choose to buy any pesticide for home use

Below are some recipes for homemade herbicides. Both recipes will kill any vegetation they contact. Be careful to spray only the weeds you want to kill and not your lawn or flowers.

Bird Friendly Weed Killer Recipe #1

1 gallon distilled vinegar
1-cup household salt
1 tbsp dish detergent
Spray bottle

Mix all ingredients in large kettle and heat over medium heat until the salt is completely dissolved. It is not necessary to boil the solution. Set aside to cool. Once the vinegar solution has cooled, pour it into a spray bottle.



Compiled by Kevin Graff

May 4 - Rock Run Mill - An early spring trip with lots of the spring/summer birds back from the tropics. Some of them, diverted west by unusual weather patterns, particularly easterly winds, still on their way back east to their summer nesting territories. 3 adults and 2 immature Bald Eagles; Bonaparte's Gull flyby, uncommon away from Back River Plant or Ocean City, White-eyed, Warbling, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Brown Thrasher. Good looks at Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, season arrival Indigo Bunting, heard-only Scarlet Tanager, both Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, and the less-commonly seen Bronzed color morph of Common Grackle (we mostly see the purple gloss color phase). In the absence of the unusual easterly winds over the last couple of weeks, we would have seen even more warblers. We probably will next year. 71 species (11 were warblers). 10 participants. Leader: Pete Webb.

MAY 5 - North Point State Park - Misplaced trip form. 73 species. 7 participants. Leader: Rose Anderson.

May 5 - Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park - Lovely day for a walk today; but not a lot of species. Both orioles seen. 43 species. 6 participants. Leaders: Elise & Paul Kreiss.

MAY 7 - Lake Roland - Misplaced trip form. 59 species. 11 participants. Leader: Paul Noell.

MAY 14 - Lake Roland - Gorgeous day, lots of people and high hopes for migrants. But the views were disappointing. Many birds were heard only, seen by a few or so backlit they were unrecognizable without their song or chip notes. But the beautiful weather and great views of Indigo Bunting, Common Yellowthroat and Northern Parula still made for a nice walk. One lucky person even saw a Black-billed Cuckoo. 67 species. 30 participants. Leader: Joan Cwi.

May 18 - Milford Mill - Fly-by Yellow-crowned Night Heron, fly-by Osprey - probably a first for the walks in this park, pair of circling Red-tailed Hawks - we missed the resident Red-shoulder's, Ruby-throated Hummingbird building a nest within view of the footbridge, Eastern Wood-Pewee, the Acadian Flycatchers were in (missed them last week on May Count), late migrant Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, residents Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, resident Veery, 8 warblers: Ovenbird, Black-and-white, Common Yellowthroat, Redstart, Parula, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue and Canada (finally got to see this one), Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (heard only), a surprise male Indigo Bunting, in the middle of the woods. 40 species. 10 participants. Leader: Pete Webb.

May 19 - Glen Artney - No one showed up on this cloudy day. Best day ever for warblers with 11 species. Tree dripped with birds. Immature Double-crested Cormorant at Lost Lake. Both orioles scattered across the park. 54 species. 1 participant. Leader: Mary Anne Fluke.

May 19 - Quarry Lake - It was a slow day with nothing unusual. But participants loved it be-

(Continued on page 11)

Field Trip Reports (continued)

cause we got tremendous eye-level views of numerous Orchard and Baltimore Orioles (both sexes), Eastern Kingbirds, Green Herons, Belted Kingfishers, Yellow Warblers, and catbirds and mockingbirds galore, Many were lifebirds for these folks. Some had never seen an oriole before. It's not often one leads a walk where the participants are palpably excited by what they are seeing. 17 participants. Leader: Joan Hellman.

MAY 21 - Lake Roland – On this next to last spring walk it was cloudy, humid and warm turning into sunshine around 11am. Winds recently from the south caused local migrants to move farther north wherever their flyway takes them into Canada, even Alaska. As Paul Noell said, "the present bird migration seems to be winding down." We did walk into a few foraging groups of birds in the taller trees; but no more than maybe 3 species of warblers in each. The park rangers showed us an active Pileated Woodpecker nest in a dead tree, as well as a nest box with Tree Swallow and bluebird families. Several hummingbird spottings tell of an increased presence as they are moving north or setting up summer residence here. A few Carp made themselves noticeable splashing in the shallow tributary--one jumped in my binoculars' field of view! 64 species. 17 participants. Leader: Chris Davidson.

May 25 - Bombay Hook - Partly Cloudy, 60's - 70's, very windy. Over-summering Tundra Swan surprise, Little Blue Heron, hide-and-seek ("where's Waldo?"), Black- and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Glossier-than-usual Ibis, Black-bellied Plover, Black-necked Stilts on nest, Avocets, Turnstones, a Long-billed Dowitcher, Black Skimmer, Willow Flycatcher, Purple Martins at gourd colony, Ruby-throated Hummingbird at visitor center feeder, Marsh Wrens and Seaside Sparrows on the boardwalk trail, Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. 74 species. 4 participants. Leader: Pete Webb.

MAY 28 - Lake Roland - This was the last trip for the year at RELP, and it was cold (for May, 62 degrees) and rainy. Despite the weather 17 people showed up, 10 adults and 7 kids! Nothing spectacular, but good looks were had at several first year male Orchard Orioles and a perched Red-shouldered Hawk. One Black-crowned Night-Heron was perched near the dam. We also saw evidence of this-year Downy and Pileated Woodpecker nesting cavities (also reported May 21). No leader was designated, so no formal trip list was made. 45 species. 17 participants. Coordinator: Joan Cwi.

JUN 8 - Northern Baltimore County - Soaring Broad-winged Hawk at George's Creek, exact same spot where one/it was seen 2 weeks ago - rare MD breeder?, Red-tailed Hawk in telescope view on tree, Willow Flycatcher, Phoebe and other birds at Ensor Road, Indigo Bunting on woodland trail posing for view off Tracey Store Rd, Cliff Swallows, Canada Geese with fuzzy youngsters, and a flyby Bald Eagle at Prettyboy Dam, Hooded Warbler at Tracey Store Road trail, Horned Lark at Ruhl Road E, various calls and songs of woodland birds. 65 species. 9 participants. Leaders: Kevin Graff & Pete Webb.

JUN 15 - Carroll County Field Birds - Red-headed Woodpeckers at 3 places, young Horned Larks in Jasontown Road field, Bluebird family on Reifsnider Road, heard-only Bobolink, Dickcissel, and Worm-eating Warbler. Good looks (back toward us) at Meadowlarks, glimpses of both Orchard and Baltimore Orioles flying by, beautiful scenery including views of the Blue Ridge mountains. 51 species. 3 participants. Leader: Pete Webb.

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

http://baltimorebirdclub.org

A Chapter of

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Karen Morley, Design

Submit materials to
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Moving or email change?

Send correction to
Catherine Bishop at jcbishop1@verizon.net
Or... 6111 Bellona Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212

Deadlines for submitting articles

for upcoming issues:

FALL: OCTOBER 24, 2013



**Baltimore Bird Club
APPLICATION**

*Membership year is September 1-August 31. Individuals/households
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: _____

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How do you want your newsletters delivered? Electronically _____

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Check dues category and circle amount sent.

Category	1-YR	½ YR	Chapter Only+
___ Individual	\$35.00	\$17.50	\$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