

Chip Notes



BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016 No. 397
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I am the Eggman...

by John Dennehy

As though I were entering a time tunnel, each creaky step of the stairway took me deeper into the 19th century as I climbed up to the hot and dusty third floor of the old Cylburn mansion. An enormous mounted moose head greeted me as I entered the attic office of the Baltimore Bird Club. The office was packed with mounted birds and containers of rocks, shells and animal skulls. I continued through another door to a smaller room, minding my head as I walked over three stairs to enter an anteroom containing two metal cabinets and a smaller cabinet of drawers. I opened the display cabinet and very carefully slid out the top drawer. Before me were hundreds of delicate multicolored and speckled eggs tucked neatly into little open boxes packed with soft cotton. I wondered whose hands might have held these eggs more than one hundred years earlier. I was hooked.



Unidentified eggs in the Cylburn collection

The egg collecting frenzy in North America reached its zenith in the 1890's but fell into disrepute and ultimately became illegal after the passing of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Nevertheless, many of these eggs remain in private collections and museums. What I had "discovered" was the egg collection of John Sommer, a Baltimore ornithologist who documented bird life in the Hamilton and Govans areas of Baltimore City and parts of Baltimore County beginning in the late 1800's.

Sommer had methodically categorized each artifact of his nest, egg and skin collection. An example of a journal entry goes like this: Number 19. May 17, 1896. 4 eggs. *English Sparrow*. *Registers field near a small run. Baltimore County. Nest 20 feet 6 1/2 " up in a cherry tree. Hole 6" deep.*

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WELCOME!

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

From Baltimore

William Curtis Baltimore
 Janet Hartka Baltimore
 Matthew Lince Baltimore
 Kirk J. Meyer Baltimore

From Other Cities

Hugh David Fleishman.Owings Mills

President's Corner by Peter Lev



As of September 1, 2016 Joan Cwi will be stepping down as President of the Baltimore Bird Club and I will be taking over. This brings up two immediate thoughts.

First, it is hard to imagine a better BBC President

than Joan. Her management of our organization and its sometimes quirky members has been impeccable. Joan was in touch with all the far-flung committees of BBC, she participated in many outreach activities, and she chaired meetings with aplomb. Then there were the extra things she did, not part of a President's defined duties: she edited, and will continue to edit, *Chip Notes*; she wrote and analyzed a survey of BBC members; she coordinated and edited the online "Maryland Birding Guide" (still a work in progress, but you can have a look at <http://www.mdbirdingguide.com>). So, thank you, Joan. We hope you will continue to provide vision and counsel to the Baltimore Bird Club.

Second, readers might be curious about me. I've been a member of the BBC since the mid-1990s. I learned my birding skills from people like Shirley Geddes, Debbie Terry, Steve Sanford, Elliott Kirschbaum, Keith Costley, and Pete Webb—and I'm enormously grateful to each of them. Now it's time to give something back to the club. I really enjoy being out in the field and therefore I'm on the Field Trip committee and I lead occasional trips. I spent thirty-three years in academia, teaching film classes at Towson University, so I should be able to handle the meetings, the planning and everything else a President does. But I will need help from you. The BBC is an all-volunteer organization; it derives its strength from many people working together. After Joan's term of office the club is in very good shape. Let's build on that.



Photo by Sukon Kanchanaraksa
Peter at Savegre Mountain Lodge in Costa Rica

Conservation CORNER

We present two wonderful articles on the efforts, successes and failures by members in providing nesting bird houses. Please enjoy—they are both heartening to read!!

House Wren Takeover: The Tale of a Nesting Project in Urban Baltimore City

*When Hanging Nest Boxes, Be Wary of
These Drab Marauders*

By Claire Wayner

It all started with the surreptitious hooting of a Barred Owl, the sound emanating deep from the patch of mature forest that lined the foot of my dead end street in north Baltimore City. That hooting quickly escalated to a bit of cat-calling and then a fully fledged conversation between a newcomer and the resident. My uncle, an avid carpenter, suggested that we build a nesting box for the purported owl pair, and after that first box (which remained uninhabited by owls), I thought I'd try building boxes for some smaller (and less fussy) birds.

Although my neighborhood forest corridor is not more than forty feet wide, with a stream called Stony Run cutting through it like a thin blue ribbon, this urban jewel attracts a variety of breeders and migrants not often associated with cities, from Northern Waterthrush to Eastern Wood-Pewee. As I began to conduct research on what birds utilized nest boxes in the forest, I marveled at the lack of dead snags and became curious as to whether local populations of birds, from Carolina Chickadees to White-breasted Nuthatches, were affected because of this lack of nesting habitat.

The time was late February, which was just over a month away from when the nest boxes should be hung to ensure occupancy. Luckily, the Baltimore Bird Club Conservation Committee gladly agreed to grant me a modest amount of money to purchase some wood and supplies to mount the first set of boxes. For someone who had built only two nest boxes up to that point, I knew that it'd be an

Continued on page 6

Bird Walk Bash Bonanza!

By Terry Lang & Nancy O'Hara

The Baltimore Bird Club recently partnered with Baltimore Greenspace to sponsor a program of bird walks at four forest patches in Baltimore City* ranging in size from 2.5 to 22 acres. The walks took place on Saturday, June 18, from 9:00 to 11:00 and were designed to encourage involvement of the local community in their nearby forest areas. Each is described below.

St. Peter's Cemetery was established in 1851 and encompasses 22 acres of predominantly young forest and cleared cemetery plots. The grounds are cared for by Jonah House, a faith and resistance community founded in 1972. Baltimore Bird Club members Terry Lang and Nancy O'Hara led the bird walk, assisted by Baltimore Greenspace member Josh Denicoff. They were joined by a dozen people from the community and former BBC President Joan Cwi. Although most were inexperienced birders, there was one seasoned naturalist, Charles Davis, who said he would like to lead some future nature walks in the cemetery. He works for The Natural History Society of Maryland, an organization that sponsors a variety of nature walks. The event programming website is www.meetups.com/marylandnature. Among the 22 species observed over the morning were a Baltimore Oriole, a Red-eyed Vireo, and an Eastern Kingbird. An unusual sight was the three male domestic Guinea fowl, who are permanent residents and can often be spotted wandering together over the forest paths. The highlight of the walk for leader Terry Lang was the keen interest one first-time birder took in the event, perhaps a new convert!

The St. Peter's Cemetery might prove to be a good birding spot during spring migration, as a May 14 preparatory walk on the site discovered a male and female Scarlet Tanager, an Indigo Bunting, a Swanson's Thrush, and a Black-throated Blue warbler. Anyone interested in birding the site may contact Tucker Brown at 410-233-6238 or engage@jonahhouse.org.

Springfield Woods is a 2.5 acre forest with a spring-fed stream supporting salamanders and turtles as well as birds. The Historic Wilson Park Woods is named for Harry Wilson, who founded the Wilson

Park Community in 1917. It includes American Elm and Willow Oaks. Greenspace Volunteer Laura Templeton joined Baltimore Bird Club members Georgia and Dan McDonald to discover 16 species, among them a Red-tailed Hawk, a Turkey Vulture, and a Baltimore Oriole. Three species of woodpecker were also observed, a Downy, a Red-bellied, and a Northern Flicker. The flicker provided

Nesting Northern Flicker at Springfield Woods



Photo by: Dan McDonald

the highlight of the trip, as the nest was discovered nearby, with two young in it. Participants had a brief view of an adult feeding a young bird. Anyone

interested in birding this forest patch should contact the site manager, Butch Berry, at butchberry@hotmail.com. For information on birding Wilson Park contact Charles Brown at kayablk09@yahoo.com or Mabel Smith, msmith85822@verizon.net.

At Chinquapin Run, Baltimore Bird Club members Ben Poscover and Marty Brazeau led the walk, with Greenspace assistants Gary Letteron and Hannah Farkas. Ten people from the neighborhood joined them to observe over 14 species, all commonly seen birds. One of the participants expressed interest in possibly adding some bluebird boxes to the area. Leader Ben Poscover said the area was "very birdy", that the group heard many birds that were not identified. He felt the group was very enthusiastic about the walk, among them several new to birding. His opinion was that the site had a lot of potential for birding during migrations and said he would like to go back. Marty Brazeau also felt there might be some future potential for the site as a birding area, but thought the trails were difficult to maneuver, with frequent obstacles. He also noted many invasive plants. The Chinquapin forest has a number of large trees, including a sycamore with a diameter of 56 inches. There is a protected milkweed zone and a recently planted orchard on the site. For information on Chinquapin, contact Sylvester Myers at mayo49@aol.com.



Birdbits.....

Secrets of the Snowy Owl



Remember Baltimore, the transmitter-bearing Snowy Owl bearing our name? (You may recall that BBC paid for that transmitter through the Martin Fund.) Well, in May of this year, Adam Cole of the NPR science desk produced a delightful and whimsical short film about his expedition to follow the movements of Baltimore as he moved north to his wintering grounds in Ontario. This is available for all to see at the website below. DON'T

MISS IT—IT 'S FUNNY, INFORMATIVE AND AWE INSPIRING. When my niece saw this piece, she wrote back to me "This is really amazing! Bird club—saving lives one at a time." (Of course, she doesn't know about our Lights Out Baltimore work!)

When Baltimore moves south in the spring, and back into transmission range, we will provide you with updates on his summer adventures.

Secrets of the Snowy Owl: <http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/posts/baltimore-on-npr/>

Worried about your Goth cardinal?

Bird Watcher's Digest Bird Wire has a question and answer section, and Kyle Carlsen, Assistant Editor, provided the following advice in their July 16th release. This is a question birders often get asked, so now you have the answer!

Question: I have two bald cardinals at my feeders. Why are they bald? Is it something I'm feeding?

Answer: Your cardinals are victims of avian feather mites that eat the feathers and cause the birds to go bald. The mites exist on the birds in the only place the birds cannot preen themselves—on the head. In one month or so you should have no bald cardinals because the birds will have molted in a new set of feathers. The mites are perfectly natural, not caused by diet, and relatively harmless, unless the bird is in an otherwise-weakened state.



Goth cardinal

BBC Will Host Quarterly MOS Meeting September 10th

The MOS holds quarterly meetings in which all Chapters are represented. These meetings are scheduled at chapter sites across the state so that chapters share the burden of hosting this event (about 40 people) and our representatives can get a feel for the geography and birding availability across seasons and sites.

BBC will host the next MOS meeting. The meeting will be held at the Cylburn Arboretum Classroom, starting at 10:00 am. We will also sponsor a bird walk starting at 8:15 am, and open the Nature Museum for those interested in seeing it starting at 9:00 am. All members are invited to participate!

The Mighty Merlins YMOS in the World Series of Birding

Our own Claire Wayner joined with four more teenagers from other MOS chapters in the New Jersey Audubon World Series of Birding—a wild, 24-hour competition that is part scientific expedition and part grueling endurance event. The aim is to be the team that counts the most bird species in a 24-hour period. Our team was one of seventy competing, and by midnight May 14, they had counted a whopping 190 species—winning their junior division and tying the top adult team!! Congratulations team!



Claire Wayner to the extreme right

Something New at our September Lecture Field Trip Planning!

At the first lecture of the year on September 6th, we invite all of you to come to provide feedback on our field trip planning effort. The first half of the lecture will be devoted to getting this feedback, followed by a shorter lecture given by Peter Lev on the Doñana marshes of Southern Spain. Which field trips and events mean the most to you? What do we need to do better? What else should we be doing? This is your chance to help us improve. Please come join us.

Conservation CORNER (House Wren) cont'd.

With the help of the troop and students at my high school, Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, we constructed thirteen nest boxes, with entrance holes ranging in size from 1" to 1 1/2", designed for common species like House Wrens and Carolina



Boy Scouts from Troop 1000 pose with the boxes built that evening

Chickadees and the more unlikely nesters, White-breasted Nuthatches, Tree Swallows, and Eastern Bluebirds. Along Stony Run, there is a lack of

suitable meadow habitat for birds like bluebirds, but we thought we'd at least try. I mounted nine by mid-April with the help of Alice Nelson, a fellow birder and board member of Friends of Stony Run, the nonprofit that supports volunteer efforts at the stream. The remaining four were most recently constructed in July and are to be mounted in the coming weeks.

Monitoring was conducted periodically in June and July and revealed 100% occupancy of the nine hung nest boxes (including the ones with holes cut for Eastern Bluebirds) by the incredibly rare... House Wren. The nests, mainly woven out of sticks, were either too high or too deep in most cases to get even passable pictures, unless I wanted to dismantle the roof and sides. It was a surprising outcome for my first season of hanging nest boxes that one species could dominate the boxes. Conducting more research on House Wrens, I learned that they tend to build several nests in various locations before the female selects one nest to use. Returning back to the boxes, I noted the absence of any nesting evidence, like feathers, egg fragments, fecal sacs, or nestlings in five out of nine of the boxes. Perhaps what we had here were a few "test nests" that the female rejected scornfully. What an insult to my beautiful boxes!

What was more fascinating was the experiment I conducted on methods of hanging boxes. Three

of the boxes hung were put on segments of chain-link fence facing away from athletic fields or tennis courts. All of these were successfully occupied by House Wrens. Three of the boxes were hung on metal poles with stovepipe baffles. One of these was successfully occupied, one overgrown by vines, and the third unoccupied (perhaps from traffic on the nearby footpath). Three of the boxes were tree mounted, and only one successfully occupied, the remaining two colonized by swarms of ants or covered up by spider webs. It appears that, although all the boxes were outfitted with Noel predator guards (the wire cage around the opening that prevents most predation), the boxes hung on artificial structures -- and NOT natural structures, i.e. trees -- had higher rates of successful occupancy. Of course, this data only corresponds to House Wrens: other species, like Carolina Chickadees, might prefer more heavily-wooded environments with a tree mount.

Moving into the future, I would definitely like to expand the nest box project. Friends of Stony Run has included the project in its Strategic Plan for the stream, giving me long-term support for years to come to continue to build and monitor boxes. Although the boxes appeared to generate a monoculture of House Wrens in the beginning, I'd like to conduct some more research on placement of the boxes to attract a greater variety of species, like Eastern Bluebirds. I'd also like to investigate making nesting tubes made from donations of used PVC pipe scraps from construction companies -- these are low to no cost and have been proven successful with both Eastern Bluebirds and Carolina Chickadees. Although the diversity of birds was not high, it was still a wonderful opportunity to teach Boy Scouts and high school students about the importance of nest boxes in replacing dead trees. This coming fall, I am planning on creating an informative website and blog that collects information on building nest boxes and tips on placing them in urban environments in one location for Baltimore residents and people from around the world to use in setting up their own nest box trail. I'd like to thank the Baltimore Bird Club, particularly Carol Schreter (the chair of the Conservation Committee), and Friends of Stony Run, particularly Craig Huntley, president; Tom McGilloway, heading the Stony Run Strategic Plan effort; and Alice Nelson, who dedicated much of her time to hanging

the boxes with me. I'd also like to thank Boy Scout Troop 1000 for their dedication to finishing the boxes with me. This was truly a spectacular effort that both educated and inspired youth to conserve birds and habitat and provided invaluable nesting space for birds along Stony Run to continue to thrive.

PAYING IT FORWARD -- NATURES GIFT

By Hugh David Fleischmann

When my love for birds and birding took off in the spring of 2012, I never expected it to blossom into the amazing kinship we have developed. What started as two feeders and one nesting box has launched itself into a National Wildlife Federation Certified Habitat. And not just any habitat, an Advanced Certified Habitat. What that means is that just about every minute that is not spent eating, sleeping or working, is spent on tending to my outside world. It is a love of nature and birds, not for the faint of heart. I now have 300 native plants, 30 plus birdfeeders, with 5-6 varieties of different foods at any given time, and 20 nesting boxes of all sizes and shapes. In 2015, my first full year of bird landlordship, I had 7 successful families start their new lives in my oasis. Bluebirds, House Wrens, House Sparrows, Carolina Wrens and Chickadees all made use of my nesting boxes.

In 2016, it has not gotten any worse. My favorite box -- #11-- is on its second brood of Eastern



Bluebirds. The first family successfully fledged 4 beautiful babies. They fledged June 11th. On June 12th, I emptied the box and not two days later a new bluebird family

started moving in and making renovations. Box # 11 is my favorite because it is the closest box to the house and can be viewed from my bedroom or living room window. It gives me a constant unobstructed window into the world of an extended bluebird family.

And new this year is the Purple Martin Condo. Perched 16 feet in the air, on the side of the house, it is anxiously awaiting its first residents. Doubtful that I will get Purple Martins, based on my locale, I did not have to wait long for one of my many



species to take notice. It is currently being homesteaded by two House Wren Families. Not a bad consolation prize! It is hard to lose with nature, isn't it? Especially if you respect and revere it as I do!

A mid June census of my nesting houses was certainly a fantastic journey into the future of our local breeders. My 20 houses and 1 condo did not disappoint again this year. The previously mentioned two bluebird families and two House Wren families have been joined by two Carolina Chickadee families, 1 House Sparrow, two Carolina Wrens and that is just what is in my man-made nesting boxes. In my immediate property, in many trees, I have families of Eastern Kingbird, Several House Finches,



Chipping Sparrows, Downy Woodpeckers and several other species. A day does not go by in mid June to July that there is not a baby fledgling bird, or several, desperately trying to navigate the

feeders, flying and landing very clumsily at best. But even the young ones catch on very quickly, and before long I have many new consumers at my feeders.

The avian world never ceases to amaze and bewilder. Just the other day I was watching my favorite box #11 when a fledgling Bluebird showed up with a grasshopper in its mouth. It was a six-week-old sibling from the last brood, sticking around, and helping mom and dad with the new brood. How neat is that? To anyone even considering adding feeders and nesting boxes to your yard, don't wait any longer. You do not need to go to my level to have much fun with birds and nature. Young kids can get involved in many aspects of feeding and attracting breeding species. Even having one feeder and one nesting box will make a difference to not only you and your children, but to the birds! They need our help so please have fun and get involved. You will not be disappointed and before long you will want more and more!

I Am The Eggman continued

Nest made of straw, feathers and coarse and fine grasses. This information then corresponds to four eggs labeled 19-1, 19-2, 19-3 and 19-4. The Baltimore Bird Club received his collection of more than 2000 eggs in 1971.

The BBC received smaller collections of eggs, skins and nests from other local ornithologists. But the mystery begins with the collection of

ornithologist Frank C. Kirkwood, an Irish immigrant to Baltimore in 1880 who wrote the frequently referenced *A List of the Birds of Maryland* in 1895. Kirkwood meticulously documented his collections in a series

of journals and notebooks, some of which can be found at Cylburn. Apparently he had amassed quite a large egg collection but it was reportedly left neglected somewhere in a barn!

Though most of Cylburn's eggs have been identified and attributed to the various collectors, some are still listed as unidentified. I believed these to be the remnants of Kirkwood's collection, but the numbers on the eggs didn't match the entries in any of his journals that we have at the mansion.

I had heard that more of Kirkwood's journals were being housed at the Maryland Historical Society downtown. The possibility of verifying the provenance of these eggs seemed good. And, indeed, I found several boxes of his notations in journals, notebooks and on loose papers. Overwhelmed with lists, dates and numbers, I wasn't sure where to begin. I snapped a few photographs and took some notes and returned to the unidentified eggs at Cylburn. No matches. A second trip to the Historical Society didn't provide any more clues about the eggs, though I did have a breakthrough about where precisely they had been collected. The library's old maps listed landowners' names, so I could extrapolate from them the locations of Kirkwood and Sommer's

field note observations. "Abell's swamp near the York Road" in what was then Baltimore County became what is now the area between Suffolk and Chancery Roads in Guilford. I learned the stories of prominent 19th century Baltimore landowners and how they shaped the metropolitan area that we recognize today. I spent countless hours painstakingly entering Kirkwood's observations into eBird, including maps, journal snapshots and

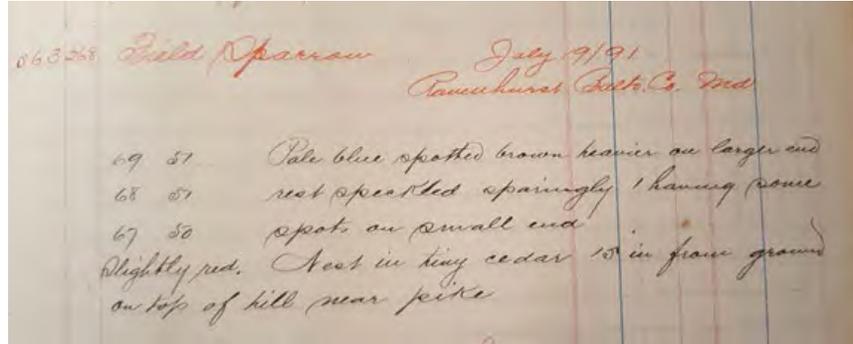
breeding codes with the entries. I considered this a noble task, but I was making no progress with the egg collection.

Then out of the blue, I received a promising email from Phil Davis, secretary for the

MD/DC Records Committee. Phil has done great work researching and documenting the lives of the ornithologists whose journals are part of the BBC historical collection. And he had received word that 90% of Kirkwood's eggs were in the possession of the Mount Aetna Nature Center near Hagerstown. My heart skipped a beat.

But arranging a meeting time with Floyd Murdoch, curator for the museum, proved challenging. Both of us do a great deal of traveling and finding a time when we were both available was difficult and took several months. Phil Davis and I were eventually able to visit Floyd at the museum to experience its extensive natural history collections. The museum is as impressive as it is beautiful with its rooms of mounted birds, mineral displays and large, taxidermy mammals. We saw a few drawers of Kirkwood's eggs and scanned some of his handwritten notations. The collection was not as grand as I had anticipated and was only loosely organized. I realized the time needed to digest and dissect all of this new information was going to take more than one field trip, so I am hoping to return soon to spend time piecing it together.

I don't really know if I have found Kirkwood's large egg collection, but the process of looking for it has been surprisingly rewarding.



A journal entry by Frank Kirkwood recording three collected Field Sparrow eggs on July 19, 1891 at Ravenhurst, home of the Hoen family at that time.

Roberta Braucher Ross, RIP

May 1, 1945 – June 29, 2016



It is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of our second membership secretary within the past year. Roberta, and her husband Terry Ross (who also created our website), developed the computerized database we have used for the past 15 years to track membership status—previously kept on index cards! This task then went to Catherine Bishop for eleven years until she became too ill to carry on the work. Roberta stepped back into this role again in 2014 without missing a beat!

Roberta was a culture vulture, with a love for literature, drama, art and music. A drama major, she acted in a number of plays, while she excelled in her career as a computer programmer. A great baseball fan, she sometimes vacationed in Cooperstown, New York, for the Glimmerglass Opera and the Baseball Hall of Fame. In retirement she became a pretty fair urban line dancer! And all this time she was an ardent fan of birding. In addition to being Membership Secretary, she also served as MOS Director, Corresponding Secretary and Chip Notes Editor.

Thanks you Roberta for all you have done for us these last two decades. We will miss you.

Bird Walk Bash Bonanza continued



Kevin Graff leading neighbors at Fairwood Forest

The Fairwood Forest site is 3.8 acres. It contains many older trees and is a good viewing spot for hawks in migration. BBC Vice President Kevin Graff led the walk with birder Daisy Sudano, along with Greenspace Program Manager Katie Lautar and volunteer Andy Cook. Leader Kevin Graff reported 28 species observed, including an immature Bald Eagle, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and two Cooper's Hawks, along with a Great-crested Flycatcher. One dragonfly species and four butterfly species were also seen, including two Orange Sulphurs. Daisy Sudano said 19 people attended the walk

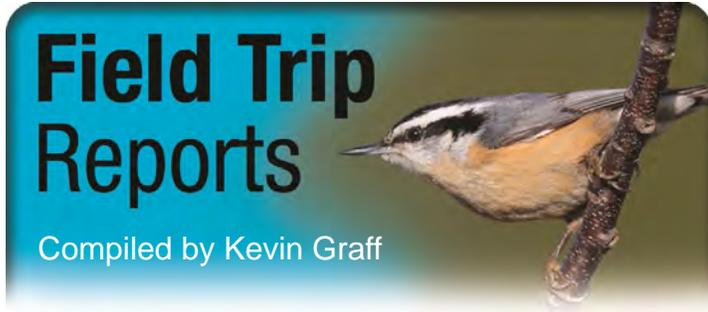
and advised that the trails were well-manicured and that there is convenient parking across the street from where the trail starts at 5921 Fairwood Ave. She said that raccoons, foxes, and opossums can also be seen in the area. The site manager for Fairwood is Micheal Karasik. Contact him for further information at mrmichaelkarasik@gmail.com.

Katie Lautar, Manager of Forest Patches, reported that 52 people signed in for the Bird Walk Bash. For more information about Baltimore Greenspace, contact Katie at 443-996-3811 or katherine@baltimoregreenspace.org.



American Robin at St. Peter's Cemetery

*The four sites were St. Peter's Cemetery Forest (Jonah House), 1326 Bentalou Ave., 21216; Springfield Woods Forest and Historic Wilson Park Woods, across from 4200 Saint Georges Ave., 21212; Chinquapin Run at Morgan State University, 4900 Hillen Rd., 21239; and Fairwood Forest, across from 5921 Fairwood Ave., 21206.



APR 23 - Smith Island - In addition to the experience of the boat ride, highlights included one Eared Grebe among a number of Horned Grebes in breeding plumage along the causeway at Point Lookout, along with a couple of Brown Thrashers on the wires there, one which sang briefly, a couple of flyby Red-throated Loons, along with Common Loons flying over the water during the boat ride, and a couple of lingering Northern Gannets - one adult, one subadult - a plethora of herons and egrets and Glossy Ibis on Smith Island, including Little Blue and Tricolored Herons, Seaside Sparrows singing and posing for telescope close-up views, Eastern Willets calling out on the bayside marshes, a pair of Peregrine Falcons on an old target ship out in the bay, and an assortment of additional birds seen on the island or at Point Lookout, either before or after the boat rides, including resident Brown-headed Nuthatches and Yellow-throated Warblers at Point Lookout, not far from the old remains of a Civil-War era prisoner-of-war facility. 78 species. 35 participants. Leaders: Joe Hanfman & Pete Webb.

APR 30 - Liberty Dam Trail - This trip features mainly summer resident birds on territory, but we did get a few migrants mixed in the collection. Highlights: Despite the gloomy, cloudy day, a nice collection of mostly resident warblers and other goodies. We got a brief glimpse at a Veery, an Osprey or two, a Spotted Sandpiper (they are resident here), some of the resident Yellow-throated Vireos as well one migrant Blue-headed Vireo and Red-eyed Vireos,. There were tons of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (resident), a couple

of migrant Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a looks at numerous warblers-- resident Worm-eating, two singing Blue-winged, Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, and heard-only resident Redstarts and Parulas. Several Swamp Sparrows seen in a large patch of skunk cabbage, and heard-only Scarlet Tanagers. This place is known for its summer resident Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Redstart, Northern Parula, and Black-and-white warblers, plus summer resident Spotted Sandpipers and Rough-winged Swallows (at the dam) and Scarlet Tanagers. 62 species including 16 warblers. 3 participants. Leader: Pete Webb.

MAY 7 - Rock Run & Swan Harbor Farm - Highlights include fabulous looks at Cerulean and Yellow-throated Warblers at the bridge over

Virginia Rail



Photo by: Bill Hubick

Deer Creek, a nice view of a beautiful male Prothonotary Warbler, views of both male and female Baltimore and Orchard Orioles and a second-year male Orchard Oriole, a heard-only Black-billed Cuckoo, the American and Least Bitterns and Virginia Rail

at Swan Harbor Farm, and the sheer numbers of species seen or heard this day. 108 species including 20 warblers. 12 participants. Leader: Mary-Anne Fluke.

MAY 10 - Lake Roland - 14 warbler species; loons flying over; 3 Bald Eagles over the lake; Great looks at Canada, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue and other warblers. A Blackburnian was a nice find. 65 species. 15 participants. Leader: Mary Chetelat.

MAY 15 - Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park - Ten birders met on a cool Sunday morning at Winans Meadows in Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park.

Belted Kingfisher



Photo by: Bill Hubick

We enjoyed good views of Rough-winged Swallows, a park specialty, perched near parking lot and flying over Dead Run. Highlights included 10 warbler species and

good looks at both male and female Scarlet Tanagers. A Baltimore Oriole was heard, as well as a Kingfisher flying up Dead Run. A surprise appearance was made by a Bald Eagle. 51 species. 10 participants. Leaders Elise & Paul Kreiss.

MAY 24 - Lake Roland - Overcast but first Tuesday in May without rain in the forecast. The sun broke through and helped offset the muddy trail in the woods. Highlights included at least four White-eyed Vireos, numerous Red-eyed Vireos, two Warbling Vireos and a Yellow-throated Vireo. Everyone also got good looks at a Canada Warbler, a Wood Thrush and an Ovenbird also made the list along with Yellow Warbler and Redstart. Acadian Flycatcher seems to be everywhere and a Bald Eagle was also spotted. All in all, a very good day. 58 species. 16 participants. Leader: Ron Davis.

MAY 28 - Bombay Hook - We had a wonderful outing Saturday. The big two highlights were: a distant, hard-to-see Ruff with the white "ruff" around the neck and a reddish-brown head and super views of singing Marsh Wrens at two stops. We also had excellent views of Yellow Warblers at the boardwalk and parking next to it, Waxwings (boardwalk), the wonderful chattering Purple Martins, good view adult Orchard Oriole

and others singing at other stops, good look at a Horned Lark with "horns" up on the entrance drive, three Long-billed Dowitchers, two in breeding plumage ID'd by plumage and "hump", and a gray one with a HUGE long heavy bill, and a few Griseus/"Atlantic" Short-billed Dowitchers and one Henderson/"Prairie" Short-billed Dowitcher, Avocets, Black-necked Stilts doing "changing of the guard" at their nest, a very challenging game of "where's Waldo?" got both Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-herons (adults) at the usual spot, north end of Bear Swamp Pool at the curve heading inland, among the waters edge trees, Ruddy Turnstones at Dupont/Mispillion and distant views of tons more shorebirds, with some Red Knots and a few hard-to-pick-out Sanderlings mixed in like needles in a haystack, a nice group of Black-bellied Plovers with an assortment of plumage progression winter to summer at Shearneck Pool at Bombay Hook, bayside instead of in the impoundment. After touring Bombay Hook, we tried Port Mahon Road but the habitat was no longer suitable, just rocks at the waters edge; the tidal flats were

Yellow-crowned Night Heron



Photo by: Bill Hubick

gone and so were the shorebirds. We then went to the DuPont Nature Center overlooking the mouth of the Mispillion River where there used to be a lighthouse, and got very distant telescope looks at tons of shorebirds including some Red Knots. 75 species. 10 participants. Leader: Pete Webb.

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB
http://baltimorebirdclub.org

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Moving or email change?
Send update to
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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: _____

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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+
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* 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.

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