



CHIP NOTES

FALL 2020 • NO. 413

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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! We look forward to seeing you out there on our birding trips and at our meetings.

Richard Devery – Baltimore
Alina Martin – Baltimore
Nico Sarbanes – Baltimore
Josh Sutherland – Baltimore
Arvinder Brar – Towson
Lew & Trish Evans – Towson

A Saga of the Roland Water Tower Peregrine Falcons

Text and photos by Terry Ross and Michael McCloskey

Most of you have probably heard about the Peregrine Falcon couple who have been nesting for the last four years in the Roland Water Tower, located on Roland Avenue just south of Cold Spring Lane in Baltimore City. Two of our intrepid birders, both of whom live close to the Tower, have been following the progress of the peregrine family. Here is the story, starting from the time the three peregrine chicks emerged from the nest in late May, taken from the Facebook postings of Terry Ross (Peregrine Docent) and Michael McCloskey (Photographer Extraordinaire). The peregrines' mating and nesting behavior was described in the Summer Chip Notes.

5/20 – Newly Fledged Peregrine Falcon (McCloskey)



This beautiful bird emerged this morning from the nest in the Roland Water Tower and ended up only a few feet off the ground on a small ledge of a building. After a while, and prodded by harassing Blue Jays, she (or maybe he) flew to a fence, and then to the roof of a tall building. While watching the fledgling, I enjoyed talking with Terry Ross, who knows everything about the peregrines and watches over them year-round.

5/22 – Three Juvenile Peregrine Falcons (Ross)

There are at least three juveniles peregrines this year, but before today only one had come out of the roof. I saw in this morning's rain TWO juvenile peregrines outside the roof. One was perched on the apartment building directly across Roland Avenue from the tower. The second was hopping on the ledge on the east side of the tower and wailing. He took off and flew out of sight. Both adults were perched out of the rain under the eave on the west side of the tower.

For the next six weeks or so the young will be dependent on their parents. In the early part of that period the adults will be providing the food, but they will also start showing the young how to hunt for themselves. One of the first food lessons is that the parents will no longer bring food to wherever the young one is. The juvenile that was out today spent most of the afternoon on the roof of a building across the street from the tower. She was begging her father for food and acting helpless, and doing the kind of hopping and flapping that she had done before she could fly, and that probably was rewarded before today. The father would not feed her on that building, and finally she flew back to the tower.

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President's Corner

By Mark Linardi

2020 continues to be a year of turbulence and uncertainty. The introduction of a pandemic into our lifetimes was a jolt to us all but just the beginning of our new Orwellian existence.

While our nation was on pause, resigned to a shelter-in-place existence, we found ourselves spending an inordinate amount of time in front of our screens. Then seemingly out of nowhere a second slow-burning pandemic was revealed to us.

Our screens were filled with a series of graphic, racist incidents against Black Americans. In the days and weeks that followed our nation was re-educated about the social injustice and systemic racism that still exists in our society today.

You might say; What do these crises have to do with Birding.... and the BBC?

“In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.”

—Albert Einstein

With the onset of COVID-19 the BBC was forced to cancel our in-person board meetings, lectures, picnic etc. I think it is safe to say we all prefer our meetings/social gatherings in-person. However, with personal contact off the table we were forced to explore new options. With the help of many board members (particularly Terry Ross and Nancy O’Hara) we were able to set up and hold several Zoom meetings. Along with MOS we have also investigated other options, including Google Meet.

All the findings and tests have not been finalized but all members will be notified about the events that will

be available through these medias. Exploring these different platforms has been greatly beneficial. It has given us the ability to reach new audiences and potential new members while also serving our current members, some of whom may have trouble attending our in-person meetings. We all hope and pray for the day when social distancing is a thing of the past, but it is good to know that we will have these tools available to us now and for future use.

On the issue of race and diversity. These are basic societal issues that bleed over into every facet of our lives, even birding and the BBC. We have always been an inclusive organization that welcomes all people with an interest in birds.

Having said that, you should know that when the BBC board reconvenes in September, discussions will begin on the steps necessary to re-examine the issues of diversity and inclusion. While the board was on Summer hiatus, we were contacted by BBC member Lynne Parks. Lynne said, “I’ve done nothing but think about the need to bring inclusivity programming to the BBC.” So moved by the current events, Lynne decided she wants to ensure that the organization has a mission geared towards accepting all, and widening our communities in order to be more inclusive. Lynne, Lindsay Jacks, Joan Cwi, and several other members have expressed an interest in supporting this effort. Under Lynne’s leadership, a committee focused on making the club more current and diverse will get underway.

This will also carry over nicely into our efforts to have more youth involvement and membership. BBC member Daisy Sudano, who works for Coppermine, was in the process of organizing bird walks and other

events at Clyburn mansion with kids from the ranks of Coppermine before the pandemic grinded most of this to a halt. We are all anxious to get these efforts restarted. It would be great if we could bring the city grounds of Clyburn back to life with young birders.

On a much less serious note, I am announcing that I will be stepping down as the BBC President on September 1. In addition to that, I will also be retiring from my job of 40 years with Northrop Grumman. I will be excited to get away from all computers and back to those things that make me most happy. Foremost among those is getting out and enjoying nature and birding.

As I depart, I would like to thank once again all of those who have been incredibly supportive in my short tenure. There are truly, many dedicated and talented people who have helped me along.

Finally, in closing, I would like to introduce our next President, Joe Corcoran. I have had the pleasure of traveling with Joe to some distant lands the last several years. He is an ardent and knowledgeable birder with an outgoing personality. I have enjoyed his discourse and banter equally on all our trips! BBC is lucky to have someone with his talent to lead us forward.

Be Safe, Be Well, Be Kind,
Mark

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intentions.”

—Oscar Wilde

Conservation Corner: Birding in the Time of Pandemic

By Leslie Starr

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way of life for almost everyone around the world. Birders had decisions to make when the quarantine began. It was generally agreed that outdoor activity with appropriate social distancing was relatively safe and in fact beneficial, and that birding was therefore permitted, but we were also told to stay at home. Indeed, many birders initially stayed close to home, feeling that this was in accord with minimizing any spread of contagion. Even a stop at a gas station or convenience store carries risk. This writer didn't get in a car to go birding for four weeks, and after that, stayed in the greater Baltimore area (except for the irresistible Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near BWI in mid-May). The late March closures of many parks and natural areas, including the Baltimore City reservoir properties, the Irvine Nature Center, and the entire town of North Beach, were another blow to any "birding as usual" plans. I think it's safe to say that most birders became much better acquainted with the birds in their yards and neighborhoods. However, there were still a few who were invested in getting a good 2020 list. Their long distance trips to the farthest ends of the state earned them the nickname of "essential birders."

For those who like quiet and had the luxury of not having to worry about work, the month or so of serious lockdown was a wonderful time. Traffic and industry noise were greatly diminished, to the point where it reportedly made some city dwellers nervous, but it also enabled them to be more aware of the natural sounds still going on. A May 22, 2020 NY Times article reports that an N.Y.U. project called SONYC has been monitoring

microphones placed around the city for the last three years. Twenty-nine of the quietest thirty days in these years were during the quarantine; the exception was Christmas 2018. There was a daily spike in sound levels at 7:00 pm every evening when people applauded health care workers! These and similar studies around the world found a significant drop in volume from traffic and industry from March into May, averaging about five decibels, around 67% acoustic energy loss. The unaccustomed quiet made it much easier to hear birdsong. Many Americans, with free time on their hands and the desire to get outside, found themselves with a new interest. Downloads of Merlin, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's free bird identification app, soared this spring, with 8500 over Easter weekend alone. Cornell's May 9 Global Big Day set records in the number of birds reported (2.1 million) and the number of participants (50,000). In a May 2, 2020 LA Times article, a Stanford law student decided to take up birding because birding is like "real life Pokemon Go."

Not only did sound pollution drop during the quarantine, air pollution did, too, not surprising since there was little motorized traffic or industry taking place. A University of Minnesota School of Public Health study analyzed air quality data for the continental United States between the dates of March 13 and April 21, 2020, specifically focusing on particulate matter, PM2.5, and nitrogen dioxide levels. Particulate matter is tiny particles of solid or liquid suspended in a gas, increased levels of which can be linked to health issues, particularly cardiac and respiratory problems. Nitrogen dioxide is produced from



Pandemic birders enjoying a phenomenal spring migration at Wyman Park.

high temperature combustion, and is a reddish-brown toxic gas with a sharp odor. The researchers found that particulate matter decreased during the lockdown from 5 - 11%, but noted that some industries which produce particulate matter were still functioning. The study also found that nitrogen dioxide levels decreased 25.5% compared to historical data, reflecting the drop in emissions from driving and electricity generation. Of course, lower levels of toxic gas are always a good thing, but a visible upside to the drop in nitrogen dioxide was an amazing change in how clear the air was. Before and after photos showing the clear days during the lockdown period were shown in many articles. [Click here to see the photos.](#)

Pollution levels are returning to normal as business resumes. But the few weeks of global lockdown proved that the environment responds quickly when fossil fuel use slows down, a lesson which may have implications for the future, depending on whether anyone decides to act on it. Other lessons from the pandemic could be: patience, appreciation for what one has, and the knowledge that one can get by with less - less driving, fewer food and shopping choices, less socializing, and for now, fewer birding adventures!

Bird Bits: Ravens, Rescued Robins, and Cartoons

Ravens at Ravens Stadium

Intrepid birder, Eddie Smith, was bicycling by the stadium in late June when he spotted a pair of intrepid ravens sitting on a metal column 25 feet above seat level on the southeast side of the stadium. He recognized them by shape and call. He posted his results on Maryland Birding (including photos) and he writes, "I got two 'Wows,' two 'Loves' and two 'Likes.' If I'd made an incorrect ID, I would have heard about it."

The next day, Smith returned to the site and photographed an apparent fledgling raven balanced on a construction walkway near the light towers. Then, outside the stadium, high up in a nook in a structural support column, he spied two adults, flitting in and out of the cranny as if tending a nest. Later, a Sun photographer spotted four ravens flying over the stadium and captured one on film.

To read the Sun report on this, [click here](#).



Lindsay Jacks' balcony sign!!

Three-fer

By Joan Cwi

On the evening of June 24th six members of the Baltimore Bird Club's conservation committee decided we had enough of zoom meetings and wanted to meet outdoors, practicing social distancing. I volunteered the grassy lawn behind my house. It was great to see everyone again, and for us to meet Libby Errickson, a new member.

We met in the grass swath behind my house, bringing yard chairs to seat ourselves. While meeting, my neighbor, Katie (from directly behind me), came by and I told her we were from the BBC. Katie came back shortly thereafter to report that perhaps we could help her. There was a baby bird in the grass in her front yard--too small to fly. After the meeting we managed to find two baby birds on the ground and a nest very high in a tree nearby. Despite a neighbor bringing out a ladder and Libby's climbing high on the ladder, we were not able to reach the nest. Libby volunteered to take the birds home and then to Phoenix Wildlife Center the next morning.

Here is her account of that evening with the birds. "Just wanted to give an update on the baby robins for those of you who went to see them after last night's meeting. They did great overnight, snuggled up in the shoebox with a towel and a heating pad. Per Lindsay's instructions, I fed them cut up pieces of blueberry, which they were very happy to eat. I dropped them off at Phoenix this morning and they are going to be just fine. It was a neat experience being a robin mom for the night. I miss them already. Thanks to everyone who helped



figure out the best course of action for them. It was wonderful meeting you all!"

The next day I contacted Katie, the woman who notified us, and read Libby's email to her. Katie was thrilled for the follow-up and we marveled at what a coincidence this all was. But she said, the parent robins were searching around pathetically for their chicks. Hopefully they will re-nest.

Bird Bits: Ravens, Rescued Robins, and Cartoons

Cartoons

Collective Nouns For Birds



A brood of chickens



A brood of hens



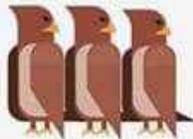
A cast of falcons



A colony of gulls



A colony of penguins



A colony of vultures



A company of parrots



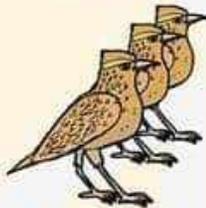
A convocation of eagles



A dole of doves



A dopping of geosanders



A flight of birds



A flight of cormorants



A host of sparrows



A mews of hawks



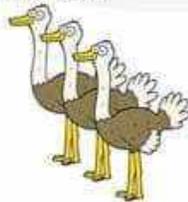
A murder of crows



A mustering of storks



A stand of flamingos



A pride of ostriches



A pod of pelicans



A parliament of owls

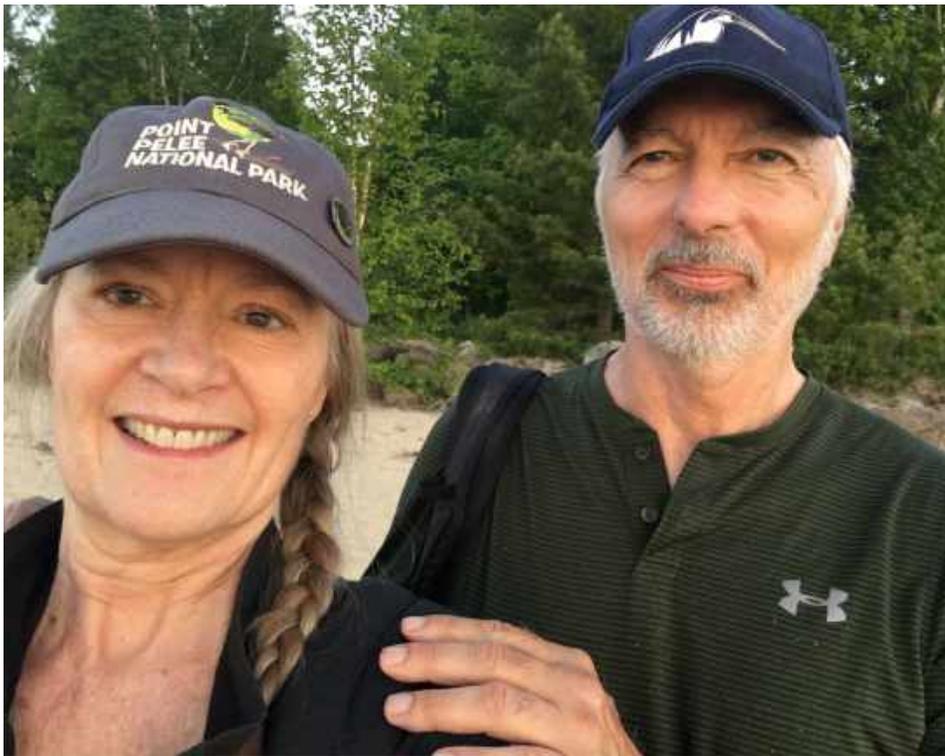
Why do seagulls fly over the sea?



Because if they flew over the bay, they'd be bagels 🥯 😄

Bird Humor (Bird Humor)

Meet the New Baltimore Bird Club President: About Joe Corcoran



Linda and Joe Corcoran

It looks like I'll be your new President starting officially in September, so here's a little about me:

Since I saw a Baltimore Oriole in binoculars for the first time around 1985, I've been a birder. I had lived in the city all my life until then, very close to Patterson Park, and had not seen such beauty before. The birds I was used to were dirty pigeons and sparrows, made gray by the industrial pollution we still had in Baltimore.

I very soon after moved out to Oella next to Banneker Park, was given a feeder as a present, and enjoyed Finches and Sparrows and Doves and Cardinals. All I had not seen before. I was hooked. I got a Peterson Guide and started identifying the birds and haven't stopped birding since.

My career as a Mechanical Engineer blossomed due to Birding. My job required travel around the

US, and at first I hated it, until I realized I could take my Binoculars and a Field Guide along and enjoy the birds in my off hours in different and strange places.

At the same time I became adept at solving machinery operating problems in the field, mostly specialty electric motors, high speed land based aircraft type gas turbines, and eventually wind turbines. And as we started shipping parts for these engines around the world, I went with them; installing, training, and troubleshooting, then publishing in trade journals about the solutions. I was volunteering to go places no one else wanted to go, like South Africa and Saudi Arabia. Of course, I was also volunteering to go birding in these different places; places where I could see life birds outside of my hotel window or on the hotel grounds.

I ended up going to China, Japan, Indonesia, India, all of Western

Europe, and parts of Eastern Europe, and Central and South America along with Africa and the Middle East. The frequent flyer miles got me airfare for even more international trips on vacation. I was able to find time to bird and even hire guides or bird with BirdPals in all of these places. The upper level managers liked me because "Joe takes on the tough jobs in the tough places". That's because I got to bird in the "tough" places, which made them and the jobs not really so "tough".

Birding was also great for my marriage. While away on a work/birding trip, my phone calls home were wonderful. "I miss you, Linda", "I can't wait to see you again, Joe", "When are you coming home, dad?". It's true that "absence makes the heart grow fonder". When I was back home, the story was a little different, of course. "Tonight is trash night, don't forget!!". "I need \$50 bucks, dad." Etc., etc. And after a week or two home, "You're being a real pain. Don't you have a trip to go on soon?". Overall, my marriage was better.

Since I retired in 2015, I've been able to catch up on the local birds, and it's been wonderful. Instead of just ticking off new life species, I've been really studying and getting to know our local ones, thanks to "trainers" like Pete Webb and Kevin Graff. My wife Linda and I just enjoyed a fabulous Spring 2020, going every other day to local hotspots and experiencing the migrants and locals.

A big part of that experience has been honing my skills at bird song and call identification. I've been training with cassette tapes like "Birding by Ear" earlier on, and CDs I play in the car now. A more recent skill is learning diagnostic

Sonograms, also called Spectrograms of the bird sounds. More, during this past Spring I took my camera on every trip and documented many sightings. Linda had gotten us a really good beginner camera a few years ago, and I finally learned how to use it. Awesome!

So, just recently, I've been developing skills that many of our young birders already have. I've had the pleasure to be with some of them on local youth trips - the ones that don't even need binos, just the camera, the ones that know most of the bird sounds and have the good ears to hear them. I'm hoping in my new position to recruit more of these young phenoms in to our special club. And I'm hoping that our club can be the place where a lot of diverse peoples of the Baltimore area can get to learn and enjoy the great pastime of birding.

Finally, I am about conservation and improving the environmental condition of our, in many cases, declining bird species.

So, let's have some fun, and let's get things done!

BBC Board of Directors • Fall 2020 – Summer 2021

Joe Corcoran
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Vice President

Dick Krejci
Treasurer

Linda Corcoran
Recording Secretary

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Nancy O'Hara
Board Member

Nico Sarbanes
Board Member

Joan Cwi
MOS Director

Mary Anne Fluke
MOS Director

Libby Errickson
MOS Director

The Travails of Running a Bird Club in the Pandemic

As you now know, it will be up to individual field trip leaders to say "go or no go" on the trips they lead, so be sure to contact them in advance to see if the trip is a "go" and if there are still spaces left (maximum of 10 birders). Now we also know that Cylburn facilities will not be available for the rest of the year (although the grounds are open), so we are planning on providing lectures online. More on this will follow.

Another issue came up in June when Mark Linardi decided not to run again for president—so who would? Plus we had a desire to try to get some younger faces on board. Peter Lev, Carol Schreter and Joan Cwi, all really concerned about our loss of leadership, made a self-

appointed nominating committee (with Mark's blessing). We spent weeks dredging up names for the three open positions—President, Board Director and MOS Director. We must have contacted 25 people to query them. In the end, we are quite pleased with the outcomes. Joe Corcoran is incredibly well suited for the President's job and his wife Linda Corcoran had already agreed to be the new Recording Secretary. We discovered Libby Errickson as MOS Director through the suggestion of several people, and finally persuaded Nico Sarbanes to be Board Director. Nico is back in town starting law school in the fall. And finally, John Dennehy agreed to be the Collections Chairperson, although with the Mansion closed

and the new museum not built, it is hard to say what he will be doing for awhile!!

The nominated Board positions have to be voted on by first, the Board members, then the overall membership. We used to do the latter at the April lecture, but there was none this year!! So Terry Ross designed an online voting ballot that worked quite well. The final results, approved at both levels are listed above.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL!!**

continued from page 1

5/23 – Peregrine Falcon Mom Feeding Fledgling (McCloskey)

The adult female peregrine brought a bird back to the high ledge where one of the fledglings was perched, and over about 20 minutes tore pieces off the prey, and fed them to the fledgling. I knew that fledglings are fed by the parents until they learn to hunt, but I didn't know that piece-by-piece feeding continued after fledging.

5/23 – Peregrine Falcon Fledgling in Flight (McCloskey)

Even though they just emerged from the nest a few days ago, the fledgling peregrines are becoming competent fliers. However, whereas the adults usually take off without warning (leaving me scrambling to raise my camera), the fledglings typically give me a few moments to prepare. They open their wings, adjust their footing, and apparently ponder whether it's a good idea to step off into space, before finally launching.

5/24 – Fledglings on Roof (McCloskey)

On Saturday morning, two of the three fledglings were on a roof when they saw Mom on her way with a bird. They turned to watch, and started in with loud 'feed me' cries. Mom landed on the roof, and one of the fledglings went down to take the bird. The other was left to wait for a later delivery.

5/29 – Peregrine Falcons: Flight Lesson (McCloskey)

Peregrine Dad was on top of the tower, with one of the fledglings (henceforth Junior) on a ledge below. Dad called to Junior, but when Junior flew up to meet him, Dad took off, leading Junior on a brief flight. Shortly thereafter, Dad brought Junior a bird to eat.

5/31 – Juvenile with Prey (McCloskey)

This young falcon fledged less than two weeks ago, and is unlikely to have caught the bird on its own. The prey may have been passed in the air by one of the parents in a training exercise, or possibly the juvenile already had the bird when it took off from the tower where it lives.

5/31 – Adult Peregrine Falcons (Ross)

The first picture is a composite I set up to help distinguish the adult Peregrine Falcons at the Roland Water Tower. The female, on the left, is substantially larger, which is helpful if you see both of them at the same time. The relationship of the bird to the tower's architecture can also be helpful. In these shots each peregrine is perched atop one of the pilasters that flank each of the eight sides of the tower. The female's tail descends noticeably lower than the male's. Their coloring is also different -- the male, on the right, is quite a bit lighter in the white areas below the bill and on the upper part of the breast. If you see an adult that appears to be wearing a bib that is almost pure white, then you are looking at the male. The male is also banded, as you can see in the second picture, but the bands are not always easy to see.

Peregrine Falcons in flight are faster than I can catch with a camera, but they have been making some complicated moves of late. Two of the youngsters will fly parallel to each other and then roll to the side with their talons almost touching, as if playing at fighting. This afternoon I saw Dad training one of the youngsters to catch food in mid-flight, a necessary skill for an aerial hunter. Dad flew in a comfortable circle around the tower carrying a nice piece of food. The youngster followed; Dad flew a bit higher and slower so that he was above the youngster and then dropped the food. The youngster reached out with its talons and missed, but by this time Dad was beneath his offspring and caught the food before it had fallen far. OK,



Peregrine Falcon Mom Feeding Fledgling



Juvenile with Prey



Adult Peregrine Falcons

let's try again.

6/7 – Peregrine Falcons Fumble Hand-Off (McCloskey)

One of the three juvenile peregrines--henceforth Junior--was perched on the peak of a roof, calling for food. (The juveniles can fly but not yet hunt for themselves.) Dad flew in with a bird and dropped it to Junior. However, Junior failed to secure the bird, and it tumbled over the edge of the roof and plummeted to the ground. In the photo it can be seen just below the peak of the roof. Neither falcon retrieved it, and Junior was left hungry, at least until Dad could bring another bird...

6/10 – Preening (Ross)

I see Peregrine Falcons every day at the Roland Water Tower, and I have seen some very interesting behavior, but much of what I see amounts to little more than their hanging out on the ledge, preening, napping, or picking at scraps. It would be easy to become jaded (ho-hum, another visit to the tower, another visit seeing peregrines doing nothing much to entertain me) and to live only for the flights and squabbles, but this tower and its environs are where the peregrines are living, and even when they're busy doing nothing they are still a delight.

6/10 – Napping (McCloskey)

In the past few days I've spent several hours watching Junior sit on apartment building roofs. I feel privileged to be able to see these magnificent creatures up close (but I still wish he had done something every now and then).

6/18 – Less Time Spent at Tower (Ross)

I go to the Roland Water Tower every day, usually several times a day, and I often see a single juvenile Peregrine Falcon, perched or preening or Groucho-walking along the ledge. The bird is healthy; it can fly; but shouldn't I be seeing less of it? Its two siblings spend much less time at the tower; presumably they are becoming less dependent on their parents -- but happy as I am to see a peregrine on my block, I might not mind seeing a bit less of this one. A little while after I took this photo the peregrine took off, and later its father came by.

7/1 – Sad News (Ross)

Sad news at the Roland Water Tower this afternoon -- the adult female Peregrine Falcon has died. She was seen on the grounds by one of my neighbors, who made the right call (to Lindsay Jacks of LOB fame) in case something could have been done for the bird, but it seemed that it was her time. My neighbor Jessica and Lindsay Jacks and I were there as the peregrine passed. We are sad at her death, but grateful for the many young falcons she brought into the world, for the adventures she brought into the neighborhood, and for the joy she brought into our lives.

7/3 Sequelae (Ross)

A juvenile Peregrine Falcon on the Roland Water Tower this afternoon: when I heard yesterday that there was a peregrine on the ground at the tower, this is the one I expected to see, and not its mother. For the first couple of weeks after they fledged, the three juveniles spent quite a bit of time on or near the tower, but I would have expected that by now they all would have been much more independent than this one seems to be.

Postscript: As of this writing (late July), all the juveniles, including Junior, have "flown the coop," so to speak. The father returns to the Tower and can still be seen in the early morning and late afternoon.



Peregrine Falcons Fumble Hand-Off



Juvenile Peregrine Falcon perched on the ledge



The adult female Peregrine Falcon passed away on July 1st

Field Trips

Coordinated and Lead by Kevin Graff

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all BBC field trips were cancelled. Kevin Graff generously held a few impromptu walks. Below are the results.

May 2, 2020 Lake Roland

Instead of doing regular Lake Roland walk, we headed to Sorrento Trail and to the north entrance of Lake Roland. 12 warblers species, including nice look at a Worm-eating Warbler.

6 participants. 63 species.

June 2, 2020 Prettyboy Dam's CCC Trail

The first of three Tuesday walks. 9 possible breeding warbler species, including a hard-to-find Blue-winged Warbler that sang for us and spent a lot of time avoiding photos.

8 participants. 45 species.



Blue-winged Warbler
Photo Credit: Bill Hubick

June 9, 2020 Prettyboy Dam's Georges Creek Trail

The second of three Tuesday walks. Birding very active. Broad-winged Hawk soaring, likely breeder; Chat singing; multiple Kentucky Warblers singing.

10 participants. 50 species.



Ovenbird
Photo Credit: Bill Hubick

June 16, 2020 Prettyboy Dam's Shamberger Peninsula Trail

The third of three Tuesday walks. One loon in deeper water. Hummingbirds putting on a nice show. Lots of Ovenbirds heard and seen; multiple each Worm-eating and Prairie Warblers heard and seen.

7 participants. 40 species.

June 23, 2020 Prettyboy Dam's Gunpowder Loop

Kevin extended the impromptu walks. Not as birdy as the last three walks. 38 species on Baltimore side and an additional 6 species on Carroll side. Louisiana Waterthrush and Hooded Warbler singing on Carroll side.

4 participants. 44 species.

June 30, 2020 Loch Raven Reservoir's Northampton Furnace Trail

Another extended impromptu walk. Odd sighting was a possible over-summering Gadwall; Yellow-billed Cuckoo posed for quick photos; Pewee's nest found with two youngsters; Northern Parula was the only warbler for the day.

6 participants. 49 species.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Photo Credit: Bill Hubick



Louisiana Waterthrush
Photo Credit: Bill Hubick

May Count 2020

The MOS May count was less successful than previous years. Most participants drove to nearby parks rather than walking as requested by MOS due to the Covid 19 pandemic. We moved our May Count from Saturday to Sunday due to very chilly weather. We saw 163 species total both days. Although we saw eight fewer species the first day, the total number of individual birds doubled the second day! See chart for comparison of daily results. A full accounting of May Count results, including species seen each day and names of observers, can be found on the BBC website at baltimorebirdclub.org.

BBC Results May Count 2020	Saturday 5/19 6:33am – 8:06pm	Sunday 5/20 6:05am – 7:16pm	Difference
# Observers	90	98	8
# Parties	79	96	17
Hours walking	136	192	56
Miles walking	116	160	44
Hours driving	1 hr 55 min	2 hr 15 min	20
Miles driving	105	125	20 min
# Species	144	152	8
# Individuals	5671	11275	5604
# Feeder watches	21	26	5
Total Species Both Days: 163			

Baltimore Bird Club

<http://baltimorebirdclub.org>

A Chapter of

Maryland Ornithological Society

4915 Greenspring Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21209

Chip Notes, newsletter of the Baltimore Bird Club,
is published quarterly. Current issue: Fall 2020

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Moving or email change?

Send update to

Terry Ross – trosstva@gmail.com

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

October 24, 2020



Baltimore Bird Club APPLICATION

The membership year is September 1-August 31. New members only joining after March 1 will be members for the upcoming year as well as the remainder of the year that they enroll.

The most convenient way to join is at the Maryland Ornithological Society website using this address: <https://mdbirds.org/join/chapters/baltimore-bird-club/#toggle-id-3> where you may pay your dues using PayPal.

OR, you may join by mail.

Make check payable to "MOS" and mail with completed application to:

Carol S Daugherty
MOS Treasurer
11925 Oden Court
Rockville, MD 20852