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## Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Wild Buffalo Experience

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I was going to write about the BBC Conservation Committee, skillfully chaired by Carol Schreter, and the successful results of a lot of their (our) work. Go Ape will not be developing any part of Oregon Ridge Park. The MagLev project is on hold. The styrofoam and chlorpyrifos bans are in place in Maryland. Kudos to the contributions of our Conservation Committee in these and more accomplishments!

But as I started researching all of the various conservation endeavors, I realized that an article like that should come from someone on that committee with a better grasp of the particular situations than I do. I'll be pressing for such an article in a future newsletter detailing our successes.

Instead, in honor of the recent pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers that are giving a great show in Washington County MD, I'm going to tell of my experience of seeing these awesomely handsome birds (and truly one of my favorites) for the first time.

I was driving alone on an eighteen mile long gravel/dirt road in the National Tall Grass Prairie Preserve north of Tulsa Oklahoma. My destination was where the road ended at a small nature center where I had heard Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (STFL) hung out occasionally.

For the first couple of miles I would occasionally see a bison or two in the grasses adjacent the road. About six miles in, I noticed a group of about twelve buffalo in the middle of the road up ahead, all standing still or mulling around slowly and completely blocking my way forward. I drove to within about ten feet, then beeped and yelled all to no avail; they didn't move out of my way, and the grass on either side of the road was way too tall to drive around them.

I really did not want to turn back. I was itching for the birds. So I inched closer to the small herd with my rental car, a medium sedan, and to my surprise, when I was within a yard, they started to move forward in the direction I was headed. All together they moved. I was moving slowly – too slowly to get



Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds



American Bison are Huge

## Roland Water Tower Peregrine Falcons – Update

Article by: Terry Ross; Photos by: Mike McCloskey

In 2019 I wrote in Chip Notes about the Peregrine Falcons who had been nesting for several years at the rather dilapidated Roland Water Tower, and I wondered whether the tower could still be a home to peregrines after it was rehabilitated: "Since the repairs on the tower will not start until the end of this year at the earliest, the peregrines should be fine for this breeding season. As for the future, that's the question. The peregrines often roost on the outside of the tower, but they nest inside the roof, and sealing the roof is a high priority for the repairs. Could something be placed on or under the roof that could be a suitable nesting site? Even if some kind of hack box could be put on the tower, would the peregrines use it?"

The answers are "Yes" and "Yes." Repairs on the tower did not begin until 2020, but they were carefully scheduled to minimize the disruption to the peregrines; scaffolding began going up September of that year, well after the end of the breeding season. The female peregrine who had been the mother of at least five broods had died in July; by late summer the resident male was seen flying around and perching on the tower with another adult female. After October, the scaffolding and the workers on the tower made it temporarily unsuitable place for peregrines, but by June 2021 most of the work on the upper part of the tower was finished. One improvement was the addition of a peregrine nest box on the northeast face of the belvedere, the tower's top story. The box was built and installed by Craig Koppie of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Craig attaching a leg band

By September 2021 the scaffolding had come down, and the resident male was once again spending time on the tower. Sometimes a female peregrine would also be seen and heard. By January 2022 it seemed likely that the two were a courting pair. Mike McCloskey was able to photograph the bands of the female, and he soon learned that she had been banded in 2018, on the Brooklyn Tower of the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge where she had hatched, and we were able to show that she was the same female who had been with the resident male in the fall of 2020. We do not know whether the pair had nested somewhere else in 2021, while the tower was unavailable, but in 2022 they were making the tower their home, and in late May two female chicks were born.

On June 17, one of the chicks left the nest box and ended up on the ground, unhurt, but as it was still too young to fly, it needed to be returned to the box. Craig Koppie was called. Several of the chick's human



Craig dipping chick in warm water to make it heavy and discourage it from flying

neighbors kept watch until Craig arrived. He caught and examined the bird, banded it, and returned it to the box. The next day, the other chick left the box, but this one landed on Roland Avenue. A quick-thinking neighbor, Vicki Dodson, was on Roland at the time. She got out of the car, threw a t-shirt over the bird, and brought it into the park around the tower. The bird seemed all right, but clearly this was yet another job for Craig Koppie. He was out of town and would not be back until the next day, but the bird needed to be taken care of overnight. I spoke on the phone with Craig, who told me how to make a cat-carrier suitable for a peregrine. I drove to the tower with the cat carrier and a couple of towels. It was easy to find the bird, as there were neighbors and birders keeping watch. I dropped a towel over the bird, put it into the carrier and drove home.

The Peregrine Falcon chick spent a very quiet Saturday night at our place; she was in a cat-carrier in a completely dark closet. My wife



## Roland Water Tower Peregrine Falcons – Update, Cont'd



Terry with container where chick spent the night

Hope and I took a quick peek in the morning, and the chick looked alert. Craig Koppie called me to say when he would be at the Roland Water Tower, so I brought the chick

back. Craig took the chick out of our cat-carrier, checked it out (it seemed fine and feisty), and banded it, so both chicks have now been banded. Craig had a five-gallon water bucket that he held the bird in for a few minutes, explaining that if the bird was wet it would be less likely to jump out of the box the moment he returned it. He put the wet bird back into the cat-carrier and entered the tower. After a few minutes we saw a burst of feathers from the box — Craig had brought a dead pigeon as food for the chick, and the feathers were his way of letting us know he had reached the box. The chick's two parents began to protest loudly, flying around the tower and diving toward the box. Those of us on the ground kept watch to see whether either of the chicks exited the box

again, but neither of them did so. After a few more minutes Craig came out of the tower and told us how well it had gone; we were all thrilled and delighted.

A few weeks later, without further misadventures, the young peregrines fledged. They began to make flights from the tower, often with their parents. Before the summer is over they should be independent, and their visits to the tower will be less and less frequent. As for their parents, I expect them to continue to be regular visitors to the tower, and next year should bring with it another cycle of courtship and, we hope, another brood of peregrines: perhaps next year's youngsters will wait just a bit longer before venturing out into the world.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## Put your talents to work to help the BBC remain a vital organization!

Contact Mary Shock for information about the positions listed below.  
Email: [mmaryshock@aol.com](mailto:mmaryshock@aol.com); or text: 443-377-8112.

### ◆ Chip Notes Design and Layout.

We need a Chip Notes layout person immediately to replace our retiring designer.

### ◆ New Member Welcome Email.

We need someone to compose and send a welcome email to new members.

### ◆ Treasurer Back-up and Possible Eventual Treasurer.

In the next couple of years Dick Krejci will likely retire and we will need someone to take over this extremely important position.

### ◆ Diversity and Inclusion

**Outreach.** BBC Birders for Inclusivity, Representation and Diversity (BIRD) needs people to take a fresh look at recruiting and outreach in more diverse areas of Baltimore.

◆ **eNews.** We need a person right away to back-up and eventually assist or take over publication of the BBC monthly eNews and last-minute announcements.

◆ **Mandatory Auditors.** The BBC is required to do a financial audit once every four years.

### ◆ Printing and Distribution

**Logistics Manager.** We need someone to manage the printing and mailing of the Program Book and Chip Notes.

### ◆ Hart-Miller Island Trip

**Organization.** There's a good chance we'll need a person soon to help organize trips to Hart-Miller Island for the Maryland Ornithological Society and the BBC.

## Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Wild Buffalo Experience

*Continued from page 1*



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photo by Matt Felperin

to the nature place in time (I had to be back in Tulsa for some wedding function) - so I sped up a little. Then they sped up a little. Then I did, then they. Was I herding them?

But still they blocked my way and would not venture off road and on to prairie. So I kept pressing and was moving along with them ahead at about 10-15 miles an hour. Cool! That would work.

After about a half mile at this pace, I pushed them ahead over a small bridge around a bend. Once across I noticed a couple buffalo in the tall grass - tall as in sugar cane tall, so about eight to ten feet - and as we passed them they slowly moved on to the road behind me. Ok fine. I had left them behind.

Except NOT fine! Within a few seconds a massive bull was trotting along me within inches of the driver side door. I could have smacked him on the side of the head through the open window. Of course I noticed

those horns and quickly rolled up the window. And I mean it was massive! These males are up to six feet tall and weigh up to two thousand pounds (that's one ton, or about two thirds the weight of the car I was in!) This was a dangerous situation.

I figured, nay, hoped, he just wanted to catch up to the others ahead. I glanced in the rear view mirror. Holy bison! At least ten were racing to catch up with us and more were pouring out of the tall grasses. I slowed to let them pass around. They didn't slow down! Nor did they indicate that they would go around me. Before the rear lead ran into my bumper I sped back up. All that did was incite the bison in front of me to speed up, which prompted the ones behind to follow. The danger of the situation was increasing by the second!

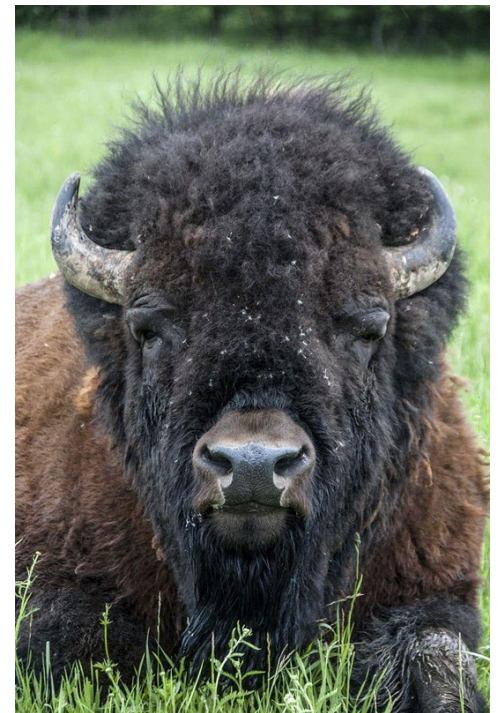
Soon I was surrounded by buffalo. There was the huge bull on the left and a mother and calf had taken

positions on the right side of my car, with another beside her, and lord knows how many behind. They were increasing their speed, little by little. 20mph. 22mph. 25mph!

OMG, this is nuts, I thought. Then it got worse!

Going up a small incline I noticed that more buffalo had joined in ahead of the original roadblockers. A lot more. And they had been, and were still, increasing speed! 30mph maybe? But I don't know for certain because all my attention was on those buffalo ahead—they had turned left off the road, cutting off my path forward! Their hooves trod over shorter grass, but the ground was rough and uneven. There's no way I could follow them off the road! I started to panic!! Oh my God, what do I do!? Which box did I check for rental insurance on this medium sedan?!

Unbelievably, the first thought that came to my head was "I'll just turn



Bull American Bison



Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Wild Buffalo Experience, Cont'd

on my turn signal and they'll let me merge". No No No! That's dumb! Think better you idiot, and make it fast!!!

There was no way I was going to move that humongous bull! So I opted to move slightly right on the smaller mother and calf. Contrary to wildlife safety guidelines (which I left in the dust miles back) I actually nudged her and she responded, letting me over just as it was time to go off the road into the prairie. More behind and to her right responded in kind. Yes! I quickly sped ahead into the clear as the rest of the herd veered off.

Whewwww! Wow was that was stressful! My heart was beating really hard. I proceeded up the incline to the crest of a hill, then got out of the car and looked back at the herd on the prairie and, using a skill developed in my years of birding, I counted them. There were over two hundred Bison in that herd; I had just

gotten out of a buffalo stampede!

As exciting as all that was, when I finally got to the nature center, I was exceptionally blessed with a magical show of about twenty breeding-plumage Scissor-tailed Flycatchers of both sexes displaying and carrying on. They were so beautiful, especially the males, with handsome gray-white and black plumage and spectacular bright salmon under wing patches, paired with their stunningly gorgeous long black and white tail plumes. Wow! The splendor of these Flycatchers was made even more so due to the trouble of getting through that herd of bison.

And, of course, I was late to the wedding rehearsal/dinner or whatever. My brother understood, though I'm not sure his fiancé believed my story at the time. She didn't know then how often I got into these types of situations birding.

WELCOME!

A warm Baltimore Bird Club welcome goes out to the following members who have joined us since the Winter Chip Notes was published. A couple of you were members in past years and have rejoined. Thanks for joining! We look forward to seeing you out there on our birding trips, and at our lectures and other events.

Noah Bers.....Baltimore  
David Bocian .....Baltimore  
Humza Hemani .....Baltimore  
Lucy Mac Gabhann .....Baltimore  
Adam Yeager.....Baltimore  
Richard Klein .....Owings Mills  
Kenneth Garove .....Perry Hall  
Mary Roxanne Grelli.....Perry Hall  
Barry Dalrymple.....Reisterstown  
Rachel Lachow .....Reisterstown



Stampeding Bison

Due to our expanding board of directors due to our growing BBC membership (over 400 people), and due to some turnover from retiring members, we have some new people on the Baltimore Bird Club Board! Welcome to them, and thanks to the retiring members for their years of much appreciated service. Below are short bios and photos and duties of these new board members.



**Dave Votta**  
BBC Director

Dave Votta grew up in rural northwest New Jersey. His dad provided him with frequent opportunities to learn about and appreciate all aspects of nature, especially avian behavior and identification. He graduated from Salisbury University in 2008 with a degree in Environmental Planning and has been working in the Baltimore region for close to a decade as an environmental scientist primarily working on natural resource delineations, stream/wetland restoration projects, and rare/threatened/endangered species

surveys. Some of his favorite local birding hotspots are North Point State Park, Cromwell Park, and Loch Raven. He is really excited to be a part of the Baltimore Bird Club and creating local birding connections.



**Mirat Shah**  
BBC Director

Mirat grew up in Metuchen, New Jersey. Throughout her childhood, her parents furthered her curiosity for the natural world and appreciation for conservation through trips to state and national parks. Although she has always appreciated the outdoors, she is a relatively new birder. Three years ago, she picked up binoculars for the first time and became hooked after discovering the variety of birds hiding in plain sight all around her. Mirat has lived near Patterson Park in Baltimore City since 2015. Patterson Park is both her favorite place in the city and her favorite place to bird, and she can be found there most mornings and evenings. When she is not birding, she works to protect public health as an oncologist at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



**Charisma Burrows**  
MOS Director

Charisma is an eager new birder who joined the Baltimore Bird Club last year. She is originally from Washington and Idaho and moved to Baltimore in 2016 to attend Johns Hopkins University. Her passion for birdwatching stems from a childhood of camping, hiking, and farming with her parents. Being interested in birds has been a family affair in various ways for years. Her father is an environmental scientist who often pointed out the local birds whenever he saw one and her mother is an avid poultry lover and hobby farmer, who has raised hundreds of different chickens, ducks, and peafowl over the years. Charisma often attended state and local bird shows with her family and was the youngest member of the Idaho Bird Breeder's Association growing up. Charisma's interest in birds took a turn toward the wilder side when she enrolled in an ornithology class at her high school, where she participated in her first ever bird walk! Since graduating college, Charisma has rediscovered birdwatching and is known to attend bird walks all over the state of Maryland. Just recently, Charisma returned from her first international birdwatching trip to Scotland (or



maybe it was for a wedding, but who can say) where she added multiple new birds to her life list. When Charisma is not birdwatching, she can probably be found in the lab at her job as a Biological Scientist for the National Institutes of Health.

He works as a policy analyst for the Federal government at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. His favorite local birding area is Druid Hill Park. Kyle is also a passionate urbanist and enjoys bicycling around and exploring the city."



**Kyle Gardiner**  
MOS Director

Kyle is new to birding, although precursors to his obsession could be seen in his general interest in wildlife photography, enjoyment of the outdoors, and love of Pokemon as a kid. In 2018, he went on a safari with a guide who helped open his eyes to how interesting chasing birds could be, and in 2021 he followed that up with a trip to Paraguay led by an ornithologist. He left South America completely hooked on birds! Returning to Baltimore, he was amazed to find how spirited and generous the Baltimore birding community is. He's loved every moment of birding over the past year, from discovering the incredible diversity of winter ducks that can be found just at Druid Hill Park, to Tuesday walks at Lake Roland and Cromwell Valley during migration, to impulse trips to Maine to chase the Steller's Sea Eagle.



**Mary Shock**  
Vice President, Publications Logistics,  
Trip Reports and Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Shock has been a backyard bird-watcher and Baltimore City birder for most of her life. She followed her mother, another Mary Shock, into BBC membership. Mary became more involved in the organization after volunteering for Lights Out Baltimore, an organization that rescues window-strike victims during migration and collects the deceased bird for research. She walked the downtown route for about eight years. Mary has served as lecture chair, Recording Secretary, Director, and now Vice-President of BBC. She is a retired Administrative Law Judge for the State of Maryland. Last summer she worked at a lodge in Yellowstone National Park, always on the lookout for Golden Eagles (and bears). This summer Mary is staying close to home to help care for her new grandson.



**Neville Fernandes**  
BBC Director and Lecture Scheduling

Neville spent his early years growing up halfway across the World in Mumbai, India, where birding was what could be seen with his father from his fourth story balcony in a verdant neighborhood. From the motions of vultures riding thermals daily back and forth to their roosts to kites acrobatically navigating the urban terrain to migrant cuckoos calling out to their mates, there was a constant appreciation and realization of the shared environment around him. This fascination with the environment took a backseat as educational and professional goals took center stage. Those goals ushered him to the United States to pursue graduate education as an Architect and Urban Planner, eventually leading to a job in Baltimore which has been home since 2004. Laying roots in this new hometown took a while but soon this 'new' surrounding started to speak loudly enough to get him engaged once more in his childhood delights. It helped that Patterson Park Audubon was right around the corner and the monthly Patterson Park Birding tours arranged by the center became the spark that eventually led to engaging with the Baltimore Bird Club and its many activities. He considers himself a Birdaholic, a condition described by

the President in the summer edition of Chip Notes, and might be seen at the next BA (Birder's Anonymous) meeting near you. Neville can be most easily seen birding at Patterson Park which he considers his 'birding home'.



**Tobias Pessoa Gingerich**  
Field Trips Scheduling

Tobias Pessoa Gingerich began birding in the latter half of his college experience at Princeton. He's an active member of the Baltimore Bird Club, co-chairing the Trips Committee and co-leading monthly birding at Druid Hill Park in partnership with Audubon. The past couple of years he's especially enjoyed contributing to the third MD and DC Breeding Bird Atlas. A resident of the Reservoir Hill neighborhood, Druid Hill Park is his favorite and go-to spot. Toby also enjoys exploring other city parks and is occasionally drawn further afield for a change of scenery. When he's separated from his binoculars, it's usually to teach math to teenagers at Baltimore City College High School.



**Alison Moore**  
MOS Director and MOS Scholarships

Alison has been birding for the past five years or so, once years of raising four children while working and going to graduate school at night absorbed less of her time. Birding came naturally to someone who grew up hearing her mother name birds from the kitchen window and while out on camping vacations at the beach and sailing the Chesapeake Bay as a child (on "Albatross", a miniature skipjack named by her parents). Alison regrets she didn't pay much attention to her mother who didn't "bird" as it would be defined now but was passionate about plants, all wildlife, and especially birds. As an adult, once she had some time from a number of very hectic years, she slowed down her hiking pace, and found herself stopping her weekly runs to look at the birds. One of the first guided bird walks she went on was at Oregon Ridge. She laughs when she thinks of how exuberant she was at seeing some species for the first time. She recalls at the end of the walk, one of the attendees saying "...my you were certainly one of the most enthusiastic birders we have had." Usually birding alone, Alison began to appreciate the opportunities to bird with others and discover new locations through the BBC and MOS trips. Birding became a passion rivaling

gardening and other outdoor pursuits. "Birds delight me as do flowers and just about everything in nature. No matter what challenges present themselves in life, I find joy and a tremendous outlet for my curiosity in birding."

When thinking of a favorite bird, it is difficult. "I try to adopt a mindset that every time I go out birding, if I just see one new perspective of any bird, even a common bird such as a Robin, I will feel satisfaction. I do admit, though, that on a trip to see Costa Rica years ago I laid eyes on a Red-legged Honeycreeper and lost my mind! I thought I was going to hyperventilate from the excitement of seeing those colors"

The only time not spent outdoors is spent at a job with Baltimore City Public Schools. Alison is starting her 24th year at Highlandtown Elementary/Middle School where she supports teachers and students as part of the leadership team. "I feel lucky in that I am not in the classroom so I can touch/help more than 500 people a day between the students, teachers, parents, and staff." Alison works to bring passion for the outdoors inside the school. She heads all efforts to maintain certification as a Maryland Green School. She has a garden at the school and a Green Team of students whom she started educating about sustainability, wildlife and the importance of native plants. This year, she plans on leading a "Bird Club" for students. "I feel like I have the responsibility to share my passion with the students and even staff. As an educator, I feel so lucky to have been granted the MOS Hog Island Scholarship two years ago. Due to the pandemic, the camp was deferred until last summer. It was an incredible experience and I am so grateful for the members of the BBC who made that possible. I am glad that I can become more involved to help the BBC in any way."



**April 23, 2022**

## Howard County Conservancy

*Leader: Frank Morgan*

Participants: 7. Species: 53 species.

A beautiful spring day netted us fifty-three species despite a park busy with Earth Day events and another bird club walk. It was Prairie Warbler day, with seven individuals giving obliging views. Five other warbler species, six sparrow species, and concluded with a field of meadowlarks.

**April 30, 2022**

## Smith Island

*Leader: Nancy O'Hara*

Participants: 40, a joint trip between Baltimore Bird Club and Howard County Bird Club. Species: 100+.

Wow! On our first trip in over five years, we recorded over 100 species for the day. The day was sunny and beautiful without being too hot for walking. Before we even left the dock at Point Lookout, we had spotted over twenty species, including a pair of Red-head Woodpeckers.

While we missed a few favorites on the crossings like Northern Gannet due to being later in the season, we did see a Glaucous Gull, Brown Pelicans, both types of loons, Common and Red-throated, and many other species.



Checking out a Horseshoe Crab underneath

Once we arrived, we split into smaller groups, with Joe Corcoran leading one and Joe Hanfman leading another. A few regulars decided to explore the island on their own. For those of us that ordered the lunch, we were given a generous crabcake that was delicious along with sides and a piece of Smith Island cake for dessert.

After lunch, we started our journey on the island. We first headed toward the wooded area but before we reached it, we spotted Clapper rails walking on the edge of the marsh along with other herons and egrets. Once to the woods, we saw nine types of warblers, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, and many other species.

From there, we walked to the marshes where shorebirds, sparrows, herons, and swallows flew about. A lucky few saw a Saltmarsh Sparrow, and many Seaside Sparrows were on display. We saw five species of herons for the day, only missing out on the Black-Crowned Night Heron. It was a great day. Photos credit goes to Lisa Phillips.

**May 3, 2022**

## Lake Roland

*Leader: Peter Lev*

Participants: 22. Species: 74.

It was an overcast day, with temperatures 57 to 68 degrees, yet twenty-two birders turned out for the beginning of peak Spring migration. We were not disappointed. The group saw a total of seventy-four species, including thirteen warblers and five shorebirds. The most exciting find was a female Golden-winged Warbler. This warbler skulked in a low tree along with a Chestnut-sided Warbler—another bird with yellow crown and wing-bars — making the identification challenging. Kyle Gardiner's photos settled the issue

**May 8, 2022**

## Marshy Point

*Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers*

Participants: 5. Species: 58.

Mother's Day, temperature in the low/mid 40's with five birders in winterish coats and hats. A cold, windy, muddy walk. We have never had such a cold walk on Mother's Day in the 20+ years this walk has taken place.

The five bird watchers were rewarded with ten species of warblers and two thrushes. We had great looks at Ovenbirds and Black-throated Blues (multiple of each) and caught a warbler wave by the pond. A number of the birds identified were life birds for some members of the group. A Scarlet Tanager came in close to the group, and a mother Wood Duck flew out of the next box while another pair of Wood Ducks landed in the tree next to the bridge. A cold but productive day.

## May 8, 2022 Druid Hill Park

Leader: Sam Tillman

Species: 58.

An unseasonably cold and windy morning turned out to be quite productive with some keen ears adding a few identifications by sound alone. We had a great start by the Zoo's Boat Lake with a Solitary sandpiper on a small, exposed mudflat. We then proceeded to the grove of tall trees just west of Druid Lake and spent a good deal of time watching warblers zip between them. Our prize was a Tennessee warbler, which was spotted earlier in the day, and finally found again with good photo documentation. There were fun aerial stunts as a Red-shouldered Hawk tried to keep a squirrel from a Red-tailed Hawk. Once out by Druid Lake we were treated to Common Ravens, a variety of swallows, and a Spotted Sandpiper feeding in a watery ditch. Rare eye-level looks at brilliant Scarlet Tanagers and abundant Indigo Buntings concluded the walk, with ten warbler species, and fifty-eight species overall.

## May 10, 2022 Lake Roland

Leader: Ron Davis

Participants: 17. Species: 74.

Clear, sunny day with ten-to-twelve mph winds. Birded the Kingfisher Trail, then across the light rail. Tracks onto the Yellow Trail. Observed sixteen species of warblers and seventy-four total species. Special species included Cape May, Blackburnian, and Wilson's Warblers. Other warblers spotted included Northern Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Prairie, Bay-breasted, Blank-and-White, and American Redstart.

## May 11, 2022 Cromwell Valley

Leader: John Landers

Participants: 12. Species: 44.

Both Orioles and many warblers seen.

## May 15, 2022 Susquehanna State Park

Leader: Joe Corcoran

This was an awesome trip on a cloudy day as we got some hard to get species singing and showing themselves like Cerulean, Kentucky and Prothonotary Warblers. 11 birders saw over 70 species while walking over 6 miles in 6 hours.

From Rachel Lachow post on Facebook: "Just loving these Baltimore Bird Club walks! So many eyes... Today's trip to the Susquehanna with Joe Corcoran had many warbler highlights including Kentucky, Prothonotary, Tennessee, Blackpoll, Bay Breasted, and Cerulean. Worm-eating Warbler heard but not seen."

Mike Strzelecki got some nice photos on a difficult photography day.



Male Brown-headed Cowbird performing feats of strength to impress the ladies



Kentucky Warbler



Prothonotary Warbler



**May 17, 2022**

## Lake Roland

Leader: Mark Linardi

Species: 65.

Many Warblers were seen.

**May 21, 2022**

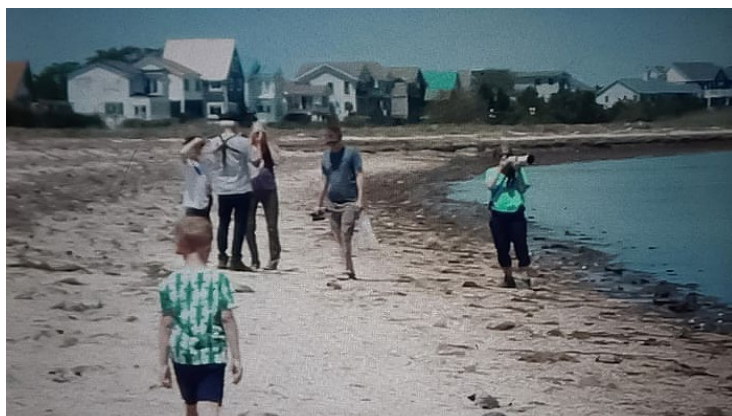
## DuPont Nature Center, Delaware Bay

Leader: Daisy Sudano, Youth Birding

"Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebirds"



Family participants at the Youth Event



Searching for crabs on the beach

A beautiful day playing with the Horseshoe Crabs and viewing the Shorebirds at the Du Pont Nature Center and along the Slaughter Beach coastline as part of the May Baltimore Bird Club Youth trip. We were able to see so many birds including the amazing Red Knot. We saw several species of Shorebirds and some cool sightings at the Marvel Salt Marsh Preserve like the Seaside Sparrow and young Osprey being fed.

**May 22, 2022**

## Gunpowder State Park, Days Cove

Leader: Sam Tillman

Participants: 16. Species: 58.

A warm and sunny day on the water held many possibilities at Days Cove. With twenty-five species listed before we hit the water we knew it would be a good one. After hearing Marsh Wren from the boat launch, we beelined for a small cove which reliably has Marsh Wren all summer. After hearing multiple wrens singing, we found a nest under construction. Twenty minutes were spent watching a wren carrying thin reeds and carefully weaving them into their distinctive nests, nestled into larger upright reeds. Many cove regulars made appearances, swallows, herons, Osprey, and Bald Eagle were abundant. Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Virginia rail all vocalized, but went unseen. We were joined by Joe Davis, director of the property, who gave us a history of the property as well as information on the flora we encountered, such as Pickerel weed and Northern Blue Flag, a native iris. Overall, a lovely paddle in one of the best habitats in Baltimore County.

**May 24, 2022**

## Lake Roland

Leader: Devi Abbott

Participants: 11. Species: 41.

The last trip of BBC'S popular Tuesday spring migration series ended up being quite soggy. The skies didn't clear as The Weather Channel had predicted.

An intrepid reconnaissance birder Kyle Gardiner had scouted the Kingfisher Trail which runs next to the stream extending from the dam. The trail was mucky and there were no migrants. Compared to the six species we saw the week before this was disappointing. So the eleven birders started off instead on the sturdy boardwalk. From here we continued on to the dam then up through the park and down onto the Red Trail. We saw lots of couples either courting or competing and many worms and sticks hanging out of flying birds' mouths.

Even in steady rain we saw forty-one species including Yellow Warblers, Parulas and American Redstarts. Fellowship kept spirits high as it always does. We said

a sweet goodbye to this year's weekly walks and each other. We'll be back next year along with the passing passerines.

**May 29, 2022**

## Herring Run Park

*Leader: Kim Tomko*

Participants: 11. Species: 49.

Downy Woodpecker and Tree Swallow nests with young were observed. A Canada Warbler was another highlight.

**June 4, 2022**

## Oregon Ridge, Agricultural Center

*Leader: Libby Erickson*

June 11, 2022. Habitat Walk: Gwynn Falls, Leakin Park Pollinator Meadow. Leader: Carol Schreter. Participants: 10. Species: 44.

**June 12, 2022**

## Marshy Point

*Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers*

Participants: 4. Species: 39.

**June 17, 2022**

## Oregon Ridge Park

*Leader: Joe Corcoran*

Participants: 5. Species: 40.

In one of a series of Pop-Up birding walks to Oregon Ridge, 6 birders saw 40 species of breeding resident birds in the varied good habitats that the park offers. Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were highlights.

Note that Oregon Ridge Park is getting a LOT of attention lately as a bid to build a private for profit Ropes/Zip Line course was halted due to opposition of many community and environmental groups. However, there is a Master Plan for the park in development now, where there is some push to develop parts of the park. Our Conservation Committee is very much involved in the proceedings.

**July 10, 2022**

## Marshy Point Nature Center

*Leader: Brent Byers*

Participants: 18. Species: 31.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, photo by Bill Hubick

Highlights: Osprey (feeding young), Tufted Titmouse (carrying food), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (feeding young), Eastern Bluebird (nest building).

**July 17, 2022**

## Patterson Park

*Leader: Daisy Sudano, Youth Birding*

Species: 16.

The Lake had so much algae that the frogs could almost walk across the water, so we didn't expect many waterfowl. But as if on cue two Mallards flew over the trees and landed right beside us. We did see sixteen species of birds with the highlight being the three types of herons. We saw a Great-Blue Heron flying, a Green Heron perched and pruning, and a Black-crowned Night-Heron positioning itself to fish something out of the lake. We waited to hopefully get a glimpse but our arms were getting too tired looking through the binoculars.



Green Heron, photo by Bill Hubick



BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB  
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A Chapter of

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**Moving or email change?**  
Send update to  
**Terry Ross** at [trosstva@gmail.com](mailto:trosstva@gmail.com)

**Deadlines for submitting articles  
for upcoming issues:**  
  
**October 24, 2022**



## 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