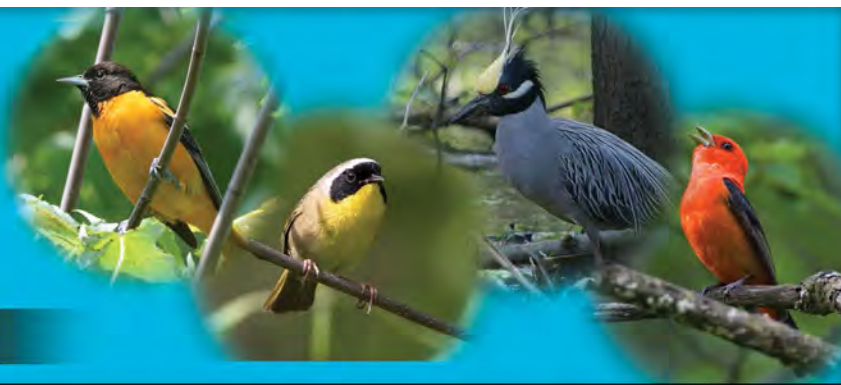


Chip Notes

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2016 No. 396
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Birds Mean Business!	1, 8
Welcome New Members	1
President's Corner.....	2, 9
Conservation Corner	
Forest Patches	2, 9
I Bird I Vote	3
Bird Bits	
Art For Social Change	4
Swift Night Out	5
Exploring South Carolina	5
Fairwood Forest	6, 7
Field Trip Reports	10, 11

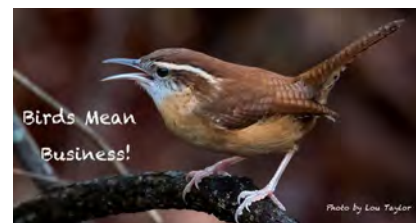


Birds Mean Business in Maryland!

by Joan Cwi and John Fleishman

Photo by Lou Taylor

Did you know that all Maryland residents who participate in birding could fill Oriole Park at Camden Yards 20 times and M&T Bank Stadium 13 times? Did you know that Maryland birders number half again the population of Baltimore City? And did you know that we spend a lot on our beloved activity, in terms of travel, equipment and feeding birds?



Carolina Wren

How do we know this? Every five years the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service conducts a *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*.¹ The latest one was conducted by telephone in 2010, the 12th in a series begun in 1955. The study was conducted nationwide, and in Maryland alone, 48,600 households were interviewed as part of this effort and asked about their birding (and other wildlife viewing) in the previous year. When the data were extrapolated, they showed that 934 thousand people participated in birding activities within the state of Maryland, consisting of 18 percent of the State's residents along with 150,000 non-residents who visit our state for the purpose of watching birds.

As defined in the survey, bird watching comprises both around-the-home and away-from-home observations. Among the 778 thousand in-state residents who reported observing wildlife around the home, 94 percent watched birds. In addition, 263 thousand Maryland residents watched birds away from home. (Most of this group also watched

Continued on page 8

WELCOME!

A warm Baltimore Bird Club welcome goes out to the following members who have joined us since the Spring 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

Janet Hartka	Baltimore	Elizabeth Oswald	Baltimore
John Newton	Baltimore	Heather Pierce	Baltimore
Tabitha Olsen	Baltimore	Theresa Worrell	Baltimore

From Other Cities

Cathy Czajkowski	Cockeysville	John & Barbara Macfarlane	Monkton
Anna & Ed Wilkinson	Dundalk	Barry Hershfield	Owings Mills



President's Corner

by Joan Cwi



2016-2017 BBC Board Members

At the March meeting of the BBC Board of Directors, a vote was held to select Board Members for 2016-2017 (beginning in September, 2016). Then in the April Lecture, BBC members unanimously voted to confirm the Board's nominees. See page 9 for the full list.



Joan passing bird to Peter!

So congratulations to our next Board, especially to Peter Lev's promotion from Vice President to President, Kevin Graff's promotion from BBC Director to Vice President and the addition of Nancy O'Hara and Jill Kessler as BBC Directors (replacing Ben Poscover and Kevin)!

So, my five-year tenure as President and one-year as Vice President comes to an end on September 1st. In the Fall Chip Notes, Peter will be responsible for this column and I will let him introduce himself then. Believe me, he will do a great job and I am looking forward to passing leadership along to him.

As President, I followed Pete Webb (8 years, the longest ever!) and Karen Morley (1 year), from whom I learned a lot. Pete is a great birder, knows the best birding spots and has all the field trip and lecture organizing experience. He also demonstrated how presidents have to fill in when gaps open up in the organization (think periods as Treasurer and Chip Notes editor, among others). Karen, having also been MOS president for two years, showed me how BBC fits into the broader organization and about our relationship

Continued on page 9

Conservation CORNER

Light City Baltimore!

by Lynne Parks

Some of you know me as a volunteer for Lights Out Baltimore. As Outreach Coordinator, I've used art advocacy to raise awareness about the birds and buildings collision issue, which is killing as many as a billion birds annually in the United States.

When I heard that Baltimore was putting together a light festival (March 28-April 3), my first thought was, "it's going to kill birds." I pictured New York City's Tribute in Light, the September 11th memorial light sculpture, which consists of eighty-eight xenon spotlights creating two vertical columns beaming upward. Each year, it's documented that thousands of migratory birds get trapped in these beams. Audubon NYC now monitors the event and shuts off the lights at intervals to let the birds disperse. Now I was worried that we'd have our own light installation debacle.

I discussed my concerns with Lindsay Jacks, director of Lights Out Baltimore. She allayed some of my fears with the information that the festival would be happening during the beginning of spring migration and we wouldn't have many migrants at that time. Also, the festival would be turning off the lights by eleven p.m. That was good to hear since migratory songbirds typically move between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. However, I still had concerns. Something might be moving through during the festival, which would be occurring at the end of March and beginning of April. We've had American Woodcocks pass through at that time. I wanted things to be as safe as possible.

I admit, I thought, "here we go again," the city has another half-baked plan moving forward without consideration to conservation issues. Nonetheless, I contacted The Baltimore Office

Continued on page 9



**I BIRD.
I VOTE.**

Bird Conservation Summit
Saturday, April 9, 1 - 4 p.m.
Patuxent Research Refuge
Laurel, MD

On April 19th, about 70 members of the Maryland/DC birding community met at Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center for the first “I Bird. I Vote” bird conservation summit. It was supposed to be an all-day affair with a bird walk in the morning and the summit in the afternoon, but the bird walk got rained out! Nevertheless, the summit was a huge success, filling the conference room to capacity. BBC was well represented with 13 of our members participating, both as speakers and as audience.

The summit was sponsored by Audubon Maryland-DC as part of Audubon’s new IBA Champions initiative, which began last fall. It was designed to attract a diversity of people interested in bird conservation. Audubon is trying to empower birders and people who love birds to take action for birds, through advocacy, stewardship and monitoring.

Speakers from many organizations* provided brief overviews to help birders engage in conservation programs such as the State Wildlife Action Plans, local land use advocacy, the Maryland Bird Conservation Initiative, Lights Out! and more. Audubon’s intent is for this meeting to become an annual get-together that would ideally expand its scope and increase in size over time.

Although no formal next steps were generated, Audubon plans to compile information on the programs of the organizations that presented so that attendees, and anyone else, can get involved. This information will be posted on Audubon’s website some time in May.

*Audubon Maryland DC
Maryland DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service
D.C. Dept. of Energy & Environment
Maryland Ornithological Society
1,000 Friends of Maryland
City Wildlife/Lights Out DC
Lights Out Baltimore



Photo by Hugh Simmons



Birdbits.....

Art for Social Change

Our BBC artists have outdone themselves over the past three months holding two major exhibitions about birds and nature! If you are interested, there is still time to see both!

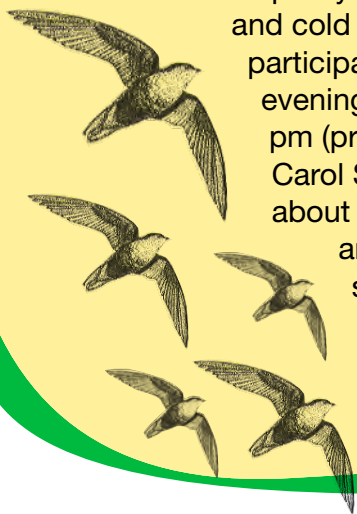
Rose Anderson held a one-person show at Irvine Nature Center from March 16th-May 9th called *Fairies of the Field*, consisting of photo illustrations that take an intimate look at the life of meadows. Rose uses digital effects to turn photographs into lively photo illustrations that show birds and butterflies from a childlike point of view--low to the ground, up close and personal with nature. Old paintings, old book covers, and unrestored Victorian frames lend a nostalgic field to the magical world of Maryland's real fairies. Rose is not only a talented artist, but she is also involved in the conservation of bird habitat, working with our local nature reserves to incorporate a bird/butterfly-friendly mowing schedule to help preserve these species.



Lynne Parks curated yet another show this year titled *When Worlds Collide*, a multi-media exhibition featuring works by BBC members Lynne, Chris Siron, Rose Anderson and several others. This exhibition, hosted at Top of the World (World Trade Center), runs from March 24th to June 12th. The artists' goals are to increase public consciousness of the plight of migrating songbirds and to encourage us to support all the birds here in "Bird Town." As you know, Lynne is one of our active coordinators of Lights Out Baltimore activities, and has curated several related art shows throughout the region over the past two years. Coincidentally, the Light City Baltimore event (described elsewhere in this newsletter) occurred while this show was up, bringing many more people to see the exhibit.

Swift Night Out

MAY 1 (Sun) 7:45-8:30 pm Swift Night Out. Our spring swift night out at the Bookbindery chimney in Hampden turned out to be a pretty good spectacle, despite the drizzling rain and cold weather. Three leaders and five other participants attended. As often happens in dark evenings, the swifts started entering prior to 7:10 pm (previous nights they began at 8:05 pm). Carol Schreter caught this first batch, counting about 300 between 7:10-7:21. The rest of us arrived during the lull, then another 320 swifts entered between 7:27-8:10. So the total count was about 620. A very good show for spring!



Exploring South Carolina

by Jim Highsaw and Linda Prentice
Photo by Lou Taylor

To follow-up on our 2014 trip to central South Carolina, in late January 2016 we spent four days birding in two State Parks on the coast (Huntington Beach and Myrtle Beach) and one State Park about 45 miles inland (Little Pedee). We saw lots of birds and had some good seafood dinners. We used a motel in Pawley's Island as a base.

Huntington Beach State Park, south of Myrtle Beach, is described as



one of the best birding places in South Carolina. After spending a day and a half there, we would certainly agree. Highlights of our visits included a flock of American White Pelicans, Common Loon, Osprey, five species of Ducks (with plenty of Hooded Mergansers), three Warbler species

(Black-and-White, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-rumped), and White-eyed Vireo. There were also good photo opportunities along the causeway and boardwalk trails.

We spent a half day at Myrtle Beach State Park, birding on the nature trail and around the nature center. Although the park does not have the variety of Huntington Beach, we did find Brown Thrasher and Carolina Wren, species not seen elsewhere on our trip.

On the first and last days we visited Little Pedee State Park near Dillon. On the first visit, it was cold and overcast and there was little bird activity; however, we did find a Sharp-shinned Hawk in the woods and a Kingfisher and Pied-billed Grebe on the lake. On nearby roads we saw Kestrels and Bluebirds. On the second visit, it was sunny and fairly warm and there was lots of bird activity. Highlights included Pine Warblers, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, both Kinglets and Red-tailed Hawk. We hope to return in 2017 to continue exploring coastal areas in the State.

Fairwood Forest: a Forest Patch Extraordinaire

*In the Spring Chip Notes Leslie Starr wrote about Baltimore Green Space's effort to preserve urban forest patches through community endeavors to save them. Since then, under the leadership of Nancy O'Hara, BBC is working to conduct a Forest Patch morning on **June 18th** at 9:00 am, in which we will visit 3-4 of these oases to tally the birds seen and introduce residents to their avian neighbors. See June eNews for more information. But also coincidentally, we discovered that one of these patches, Fairwood Forest, has special meaning to two of our members. See below.*

Fairwood Forest is a 3.4 acre lot located in the Glenham-Belford neighborhood between White Avenue and Walther Avenue in Baltimore City. From the Google photo, you can see just how thick the forest cover is. The lot has had multiple owners but has remained a forested patch since the original owners, the Gatch family, lived nearby in a beautiful farmhouse that is still in use today. But it is more than a patch due to its unique location. It is on a major hawk migration corridor that south-bound hawks take in fall migration.

Hawks aren't inclined to migrate over water. Instead, they follow the ridge where the east edge of the Piedmont Plateau meets the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The height differential creates thermal updrafts (caused by uneven heating of the earth), essential for their migration. It also allows them to still essentially follow the coastline but avoiding flying over the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River where it's wide, and other major tributaries characteristic of the Coastal Plain. *And*, this route takes them right over the hill where Fairwood Forest is located, making it an ideal hawk watching spot.

So how is this little spot of heaven important to BBC members? **Kevin Graff** spent his early childhood living near Fairwood Forest. As a beginning birder, he remembers in 1992 coming across a kettle of hawks over the ridge near his

home and decided to check out the nearby patch of woods that he describes as small but very birdy.

After he joined BBC in 1995, the late Anne Brooks asked him if he had any plans for hawk watching at the ridge. Over the years, he met with city councilmen, Recreation and Parks staff, and planning committees trying to persuade them to create a bird sanctuary with a hawk watch tower, but finally gave up after the City asked him to agree to let a playground be built on the wooded ridge. He left the area to live in the county in 2001. Kevin has recorded nearly 200 bird species at this site since 1992.

Another BBC member, **Daisy Sudano-Pellegrini**, still lives in the neighborhood. She is on the Board of the Friends of Fairwood Forest who help manage this park. For several years she has helped in the clean-up efforts to preserve the wooded area across from her house. Daisy takes credit for naming the patch "Fairwood Forest" a few years ago.

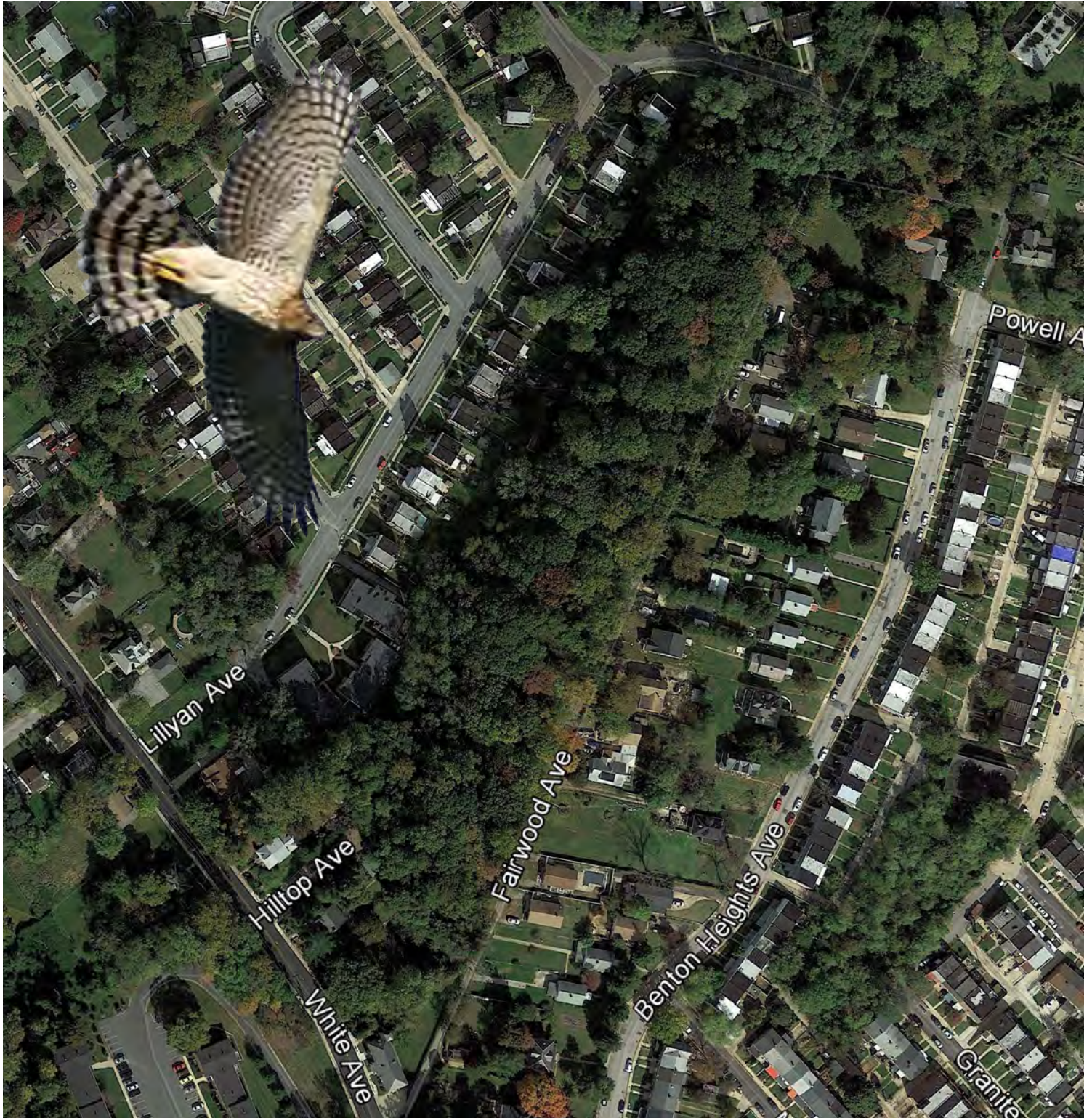
Over the years, in addition to the avian species seen there, Daisy has recorded many animal species that have made this forested patch their home including raccoon, opossum, red fox, and spotted salamanders. Daisy's favorite creature of the woods is the Coopers Hawk that for the last four years has come to nest across from Daisy's house. She continues in her efforts to preserve the wooded patch and would love to create an area for bird watching and a community garden. There are wonderful trails already within the patch that many people use to walk their dogs, ride their bikes and commute to school or work.

Last November Kevin and Daisy actually met at Fairwood Forest for the first time. Both were partnering with Green Space Baltimore for a bird walk that was attended by 17 people even though it was one of the coldest days of the month and not too many birds were eager to show themselves. In addition to holding more bird walks here, both have big plans for their little spot

of heaven. Kevin would still like to have a hawk watch tower built for spring and fall migration counts, and Daisy would like to do an invasive removal workshop since a good part of the

vegetation of the woods is made up of invasive plants like English Ivy, Japanese Honeysuckle and Kudzu. We'll let you know what happens.

Satellite View of Fairwood Forest



Source: Map-Google Earth, Coopers Hawk-Bill Hubick

Birds Mean Business continued

birds at home, so numbers overlap.) Maryland birders (combined in-state and out-of-state) averaged 95 days a year birding, for a total of 88.8 million days each year! This represents 116 days for around-the-home observers and 8.3 days for away-from-home observers.

As defined in the survey, bird watching expenditures include trip-related expenses (such as food, lodging, transportation and other incidentals) and equipment (including binoculars, scopes, photography equipment, bird food/feeders/boxes/baths, field guides, and camping equipment). Other expenditures include magazines, books, memberships, and plantings expressly for birds. Thus, expenditures associated with birding can ripple through the economy by increasing economic activity,

employment and household income, as well as generating tax revenue.

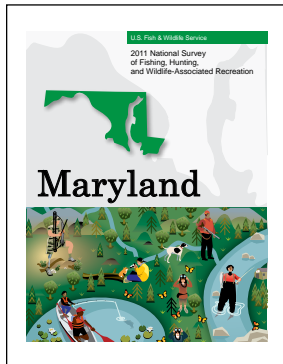
The Fish and Wildlife² report for the state of Maryland breaks down the economic information about wildlife watching, but it does not always distinguish

birding from the combined wildlife watching expenditures (that includes birds, land mammals, amphibians/reptiles, and insects/spiders). Data on expenditures by activity is provided only at the aggregate level of “wildlife watching.” To get a sense of expenditures at the “birding” level, we multiplied the aggregate by 69 percent, the percentage of all wildlife watchers who are birders. These in-state spending numbers are provided in the table below.

For example, did you know that in Maryland birders spend \$75 thousand dollars annually on bird food, and \$20 thousand on bird feeders/baths/houses?

Fishing and hunting activities were also surveyed. It is interesting to compare statistics on birding with these other two activities. The number of birders is much higher than the combined fishing/hunting participants (934 thousand versus 426 thousand for anglers and 88 thousand for hunters). Birders spend more on their activities than hunters (\$264 million), but less than anglers (\$535 million).

In the end, what is at stake is not just a peculiar pastime made up of bird-nerds and nature nuts. Rather, what is at stake is a multi-million dollar industry supporting the hotel, transport, food and beverage industries; as well as the sale of cameras, binoculars, and lots and lots of birdseed. And don't forget the salaries of employees working in these industries, as well as state taxes associated with purchases and state and federal income taxes. And in addition to having a strong economic impact, birding helps preserve the natural ecology of our beautiful state, which is priceless. Every Maryland county has numerous premier birding sites, and thus all share in the bounty that birding brings.



1) *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis*. Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Report 2011-4, December 2013. Available at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/economicImpact/pdf/2011-BirdingReport--FINAL.pdf>

2) *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation: Maryland*. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Report FHW/11-MD(RV), Revised December 2013. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-md.pdf>

In-State Revenue from Birding in 2011	Maryland
Estimated trip-related expenditures by birders	\$72.1 million
Estimated equipment expenditures by birders	\$261.5 million
Total In-State Revenue	\$333.6 million

President's Corner cont'd

to Cylburn. Karen is very artistic, and the two of us tackled some of our visual materials, like the layouts for the BBC brochure, Chip Notes, and eNews.

BBC was always strong in its ability to hold field trips in a wide diversity of sites and provide interesting lectures. So with competent crews in those departments, I put my efforts elsewhere. In addition to the layouts, I see some of my other accomplishments as:

- bringing club members with divergent viewpoints to operate in better unison;
- tackling some tasks that were languishing, such as taking on the editorship of Chip Notes and beginning to organize the Mansion office and inventory our collections (still in progress);
- reinforcing BBC's relationship with MOS and re-establishing a strong working relationship with the City's Recreation and Parks department and with the Cylburn Arboretum Association;
- encouraging the establishment of Lights Out Baltimore (and indeed walking-the-walk for four years) as well as strongly supporting ongoing efforts of the Conservation Committee;
- giving lectures on various aspects of birding to bird and garden clubs and nearby nature centers;

increasing membership (by an additional 100 people) and attendance at our January Covered Dish Dinner (up from 65 to 100 people).

I attribute much of this change to more community outreach and the advantages of electronic communication. And despite all our activities, our dues have **not been raised!!**

September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017 BBC Board Members

President	Peter Lev
Vice President	Kevin Graff
Membership Secretary	Roberta Ross
Treasurer	Dick Krejci
Recording Secretary	Mary Anne Fluke
BBC Director	Debbie Terry
BBC Director	Nancy O'Hara
BBC Director	Jill Kessler
MOS Director	Joan Cwi
MOS Director	Mary Anee Fluke
MOS Director	Mark Linardi

Yada yada yada...enough of that. I'm not leaving BBC--I intend to remain a member of the Conservation Committee, remain as editor of Chip Notes, and stay on as a Director to the MOS. But it is time for some fresh ideas to come to our leadership and I welcome Peter Lev by soon presenting him with the bird! As you can see, he already has a firm grip on its tail!

Conservation CORNER cont'd.

of Promotion and the Arts expressing my dismay. To my surprise, I received a reply from Ryan Patterson inviting me to participate in the festival's sustainability task force. I attended three meetings and as the festival developed, I offered input into what might be potentially harmful to wildlife. I explained the collision issue in full. I stressed the use of colored lights, especially blue and green which are the safest for birds (a practice adopted by the National Aquarium). When they decided to incorporate

thirty light columns, I helped to persuade them to use moving spots that changed colors. They responded to all of Lights Out Baltimore's suggestions. Ryan was especially helpful.

I was also invited to participate in the festival and curate a small art exhibition in the Top of the World. Six artists address the collisions issue in the show that continues until June 12 (see Bird Bits, page 4).

Happier than I could ever have expected, journalist Marianne Amoss approached me and the resulting story, *Light City Goes bird-friendly*, was published in The Baltimore Sun (April 18, 2016). <http://lightcity.org>



Feb 6 - Piscataway Park - At Wharf Rd: Hermit Thrush, immature Red-headed Woodpecker, Bald Eagles, 12 waterfowl species - many in good views, Great Horned Owl seen by one. At Accokeek Creek area: Thousands of ducks in distance, pipits seen and heard. 49 species. 2 participants. Leader: Kevin Graff.

Mar 5 - Middle Creek - There were masses of Snow Geese and Tundra Swans. At one point we stopped by the roadside in Middle Creek to look over a huge flock of Snow Geese in a field near by, and an eagle flushed the flock causing them to fly en masse right over our heads, then wheel about to head for the reservoir. We also enjoyed the variety of waterfowl at a smaller pond in the

Middle Creek grounds, including Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. The stop at Ephrata was also nice, with two owlets looking at us and some other birds around, including a Sapsucker, which we hadn't picked up at Middle Creek. 44 species. 5 participants. Leader: Pete Webb.

Mar 27 - Paper Mill Flats & Ashland - The highlight of our trip was five Wild Turkeys seen as soon as we stepped out of our cars at "the flats." Beautiful Tree Swallows were skimming over the water with one Rough-winged. The Torrey Brown Trail - Ashland produced the regular

Ruby-crowned Kinglet



Photo by: Bill Hubick

year-round birds with the addition of a singing, fast moving Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Trip participants made the day very enjoyable. 38 species. 10 participants. leaders: Debbie Terry & Kevin Graff.



Lake Roland Dam

Apr 5 - Lake Roland - We had a cold (28 degrees) but great start to the Lake Roland Spring Migration Tuesday walks with 44(!) species. With an excellent group of birders we found a Pine and several Palm Warblers. Also we had two very cooperative Merlins in a tree along the Lake. 44 species. 12 participants. Leader: Mike Bradley.

Apr 12 - Lake Roland - Great views of Red-shouldered Hawk and a Bald Eagle. A Barred Owl was a good sighting but the weather (cloudy, poor light) did not make for good pictures. A good discussion of "Solitary Sandpiper vs. Lesser Yellowlegs". 45 species. 10 participants. Leader: Mary Chetelat.

Apr 19 - Lake Roland - This mid-April walk at Lake Roland was well attended with 26 participants. We walked along the boardwalk to the dam. There were several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Nothorn Parula seen along this stretch, as well as a four-foot Eastern Garter Snake! At the dam, we were able to get good looks at a perched Red-shouldered Hawk. Proceeding toward the dog park area there were

several female Hooded Mergansers at the lake. The Red-headed Woodpecker was seen by all on a low tree branch (and now confirmed as nesting there!) and a Broad-winged Hawk was seen overhead. Crossing the light rail tracks, we proceeded along the trail where we spotted a Barred Owl, several Palm Warblers and a Merlin. Returning via the boardwalk a Purple Finch was spotted by Carol Schreter. It was hard to spot at first but we were able to get a good look when the finch dropped into the small stream to bathe. 56 species. 26 participants. Leader: Mary Anne Fluke.

Red-headed Woodpecker



Photo by: Lou Taylor



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: Spring 2016

Joan Cwi, Editor
David Nelson, Design

Submit materials to
Joan Cwi - jafjsc@verizon.net

Moving or email change?
Send update to
Roberta Ross at robertabross@aol.com

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

July 24, 2016



Baltimore Bird Club APPLICATION

*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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

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+
Individual	\$35.00	\$17.00	\$15.00
Household	\$45.00	\$22.50	\$20.00
Sustaining	\$100.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Junior*	\$10.00		

* Through 17: record age here ____

+Chapter Only membership is available to MOS members who are already members of another MOS chapter or who are MOS life members.

Mail completed application with check payable to:
Baltimore Bird Club, Attn: Membership Chairman,
4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209