

Chip Notes

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB NEWSLETTER



FALL 2019 No. 409
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Help Us Celebrate!

The BBC and MOS are observing their 75th anniversary (since 1945) in 2020, and we will jointly be holding a special Covered Dish Dinner in February to celebrate. We are seeking photographs from our early days to display at this event. So look through those old albums, and if you have anything you are willing to share, let us know and we'll make arrangements for pickup! Contact Joan Cwi at jafisc@verizon.net or 410-467-5352.



BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB Report on 2019 Survey

Prepared by Joan Cwi

The Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) conducted a membership survey from April 14th to May 10th, 2019. The BBC goal is to better understand the composition of our membership and how they feel about BBC's programs to guide us in making decisions about our programs in the future. BBC surveyed members previously in 2013, 2004 and 1992.

BBC conducted this survey using Survey Monkey. Survey Monkey is a web-based survey instrument commercially available. Members with email access were sent an online invitation on April 14th, which was followed by an email reminder sent on May 2nd. Members not having email addresses or who asked to have their Chip Notes sent by US mail (29 total) were sent a hard copy version via first class mail on April 16th. They were required to return the survey using the enclosed stamped envelope. Reminders were also included in the May eNews.

The full survey report, as well as copies of the questionnaire, are available on the BBC website. The survey is 49 questions long. Questions include both multiple choice and open-ended answers. All information is confidential. No identifiers were kept during the data collection process. The questions fall into the following categories: BBC membership status, questions for non-members, membership information, BBC activities—overall performance, lectures, field trips, Chip Notes, eNews, Facebook, website, dues, and suggestions for improvements.

What were the major lessons learned?

Below is a brief summary of some of the more salient information that was learned from the survey. There is much more detail in the full summary report.

Continued on page 8

President's Corner by Peter Lev



Looking Forward, Looking Back

I'm writing this as a lame-duck President—my term expires September 1. Waiting in the wings is Baltimore Bird Club's new President Mark Linardi, one of my favorite Maryland birders. Please welcome Mark and help him keep BBC humming.

What a great hobby/pastime/avocation we all have found! As birders we're out in the natural world, surrounded by beauty, constantly learning and challenging ourselves. In Maryland we're in a land of ecological richness, a great place to be outdoors.

But all is not sweetness and light and warbler fallouts. Birders of a certain age (like me) can remember when migration was heavier, breeding birds more numerous. I remember seeing/hearing 99 species on May Count in only two locations, Cylburn and Lake Roland. Those days are sadly gone. Seed-eaters are doing fairly well, but insect-eating birds have declined along with their prey. What to do? "Have fun birding," as Wallace Kornack tells us on the mdbirding listserv. And try to do something to help birds and the natural world.

I don't think it's enough to just record, as a lister, the declines in bird populations. Find a way to help birds and ecosystems. Volunteer at your local nature park. Walk downtown with Lights Out Baltimore. Save a local patch of forest. Teach young people about birds and plants. Or find your own path.

Thanks to everyone who helped make my three years as BBC Prez meaningful and fun. Past President Joan Cwi smoothed out my learning curve. Kevin Graff, Debbie Terry and Nancy O'Hara did a whole lot on field trips. Dick Krejci balanced the books. Mary Shock wrote minutes. Carol Schreter took the lead on conservation. Debbie and Lou Taylor helped in all sorts of ways. Terry Ross handled membership and the website, and he introduced me to his Peregrine Falcon neighbors. Dozens of you—really, all the members—made BBC a vibrant, interesting organization. Thank you.

Conservation CORNER

In February 2019, I took a 5-day birding tour in Puerto Rico with Wildside Nature Tours based in Yardly, PA. Even after hurricane Maria, I saw 14 of the 16 endemic birds of Puerto Rico. I also realized that this tour company displayed an advanced form of Eco-tourism. That is why I invited the author to write this article. I asked: What does Eco-tourism mean to you?

- Carol Schreter

Conservation Tourism

By Kevin Loughlin,
President, Wildside Nature Tours
www.wildsidenaturetours.com

In September 2017, the news was rife with stories about the damage in the Caribbean caused by two powerful back-to-back hurricanes. Gabriel Lugo, Wildside Nature Tours' top Caribbean birding guide, who lives in Puerto Rico, was safe. His house withstood the storm with minimal damage, however, his neighborhood was cut off from communication, power and water. There was no connection with the world beyond the trees that had fallen across the roads leading out. For days, the Wildside family waited for any word from Gabriel.

In the meantime, to benefit its longtime partner BirdsCaribbean, a US 501c3 committed to conservation, Wildside opened a GoFundMe account. In only two weeks, the effort reached over \$12,000! These funds, plus an additional \$10,000 from Wildside were used to help local conservation workers on various islands get back on their feet, and back to work conducting bird surveys, habitat restoration and other efforts needed to help displaced birds and wildlife.

It took seven months for Gabriel's neighborhood to get power. To address this need, Wildside purchased several generators, and UPS got them from the USA to Gabriel's neighborhood in just a few days. Hopefully they won't need to be used again, but they are available just in case.

Eco-tourism is a very general term. For most tour companies, the definition and “contribution” rarely goes beyond dollars paid for food and lodging. However, in order to continue to have places for groups to visit, and wildlife to see, we must all look beyond the confines of a two-week tour and the dollars we leave behind. Once visitors depart from a favorite destination, the wildlife and the people remain. They still need our help for conservation, education and continued protection of resources. With that in mind, I prefer a different, more accurate term for this ongoing support... “Conservation Tourism.”

Later in 2017, Wildside funded an expedition to Nagaland, the most remote state of northeast India.



Conservation efforts in Nagaland

I was joined by author Scott Weidensaul, artist Catherine Hamilton and friends Peter Trueblood and Bruce Evans. Having only recently been opened to outsiders (non-Indian citizens), we were the first ‘westerners’ to visit the region in recent

decades! With additional funding from our partner, Zeiss Optics, and our fellow travelers, we had come to witness the spectacle of a million migrating Amur Falcons, the largest single-species raptor migration in the world. Until recently, more than 100,000 of these tiny falcons were being killed each year. But now the hunters of Pangti Village, in the heart of Nagaland, have stopped this practice with the intent of becoming birding guides and conservation rangers. We wanted to learn more about their conservation efforts.

Our mission was to bring this wonderful story of change to everyone (Scott documented our adventure in an article entitled “A Galaxy of Falcons” in the summer 2018 issue of Cornell’s Living Bird Magazine), and to create a tour for others to witness this amazing event. We want to show the newly ordained guides that protecting the falcons can be a way to earn a living. In October 2018, Wildside took two tour participants on our first official Amur Falcon

Migration tour to Nagaland! You might say, “Only two participants? That can’t be worth while.” Financially, no, just two participants did not even come close to covering a portion of the costs to run the tour. However, Wildside was able to show the people of Pangti Village that we were serious in starting an ongoing tourism effort with them. A financial loss for us was still a win. That is Conservation Tourism.

We hope to have more people join us for future trips to Nagaland and are confident that it will happen. It does take time. But more importantly, it takes the desire to want to help and the willingness to persevere through the difficulties. However, for the wildlife it protects and the people it helps, I believe it is worth every effort. Other companies have started offering Amur Falcon migration tours, but they only visit a more accessible area (far from Nagaland) where a tiny fraction of the of falcons visit, just so they can be checked off their lists. None of their tourism dollars go where they are needed most, to the Amur Falcon conservation projects in Nagaland.

Not all efforts need to be big. “Think global, act local” is a phrase often heard for many humanitarian and conservation concepts and should be taken to heart. Every May, a number of tour companies converge upon the boardwalk at the famed Magee Marsh in northwest Ohio for another migration spectacle. During The Biggest Week in American Birding, warblers, thrushes and tanagers can be seen in large numbers and in close quarters. Thousands of people rush to the region spending their hard earned dollars to stay in hotels, eat their meals and maybe buy new optics. Tour companies volunteer time to help visitors locate and identify birds as they stage along the shores of Lake Erie on the difficult journey north.

The state of Ohio governs the land, while the Friends of Magee Marsh maintain the boardwalk. In recent years, the Friends raised funds to complete a boardwalk restoration project, asking for donations from the people visiting. Now complete, they erected a sign to thank everyone who donated and listed those who gave a significant contribution. As leader in Conservation Tourism, Wildside Nature Tours was the only tour company noted on the sign.

Conservation Tourism. What can you do to help after your tour is over? It’s an investment in the future of our planet.



Birdbits.....

Raptor and Raven Update

In the last newsletter we reported on the special sightings of nesting Bald Eagles at Masonville Cove, nesting Peregrine Falcons at the Roland Park Water Tower, and Northern Ravens in downtown Towson. Here's the latest:

Bald Eagles. Two eaglets fledged and Masonville Cove is now open to visitors during their regular hours.

Peregrine Falcons. By late May the young Water Tower peregrines were further advanced than the ones on the Transamerica building downtown. They were making brief flights around the tower and in the neighborhood. As of this publication, the four youngsters have dispersed, but the adults are still to be found at the tower. We will be checking to see if they migrate or stay around all year.

Northern Ravens. Audubon Magazine has reported that nesting ravens have been making a comeback in cities of the Northeast, and we were lucky enough to see that happen in downtown Towson this year. Four birds fledged, and the whole family has been seen flying around downtown Towson.



The four Water Tower fledglings by Terry Ross

Baltimore Bird Club's Summer Picnic

This year our Summer Picnic was held at the Lakeside Pavilion at Oregon Ridge on June 8th from 12:30-3:30 pm. It was an incredibly beautiful day, and as usual with our potluck dinners, the food was exceptional. Twenty-three members attended.



Our incoming President (Mark Linardi) flanked by two senior members (Paul Noel on left, Patsy Perlman on right).



Lame duck (his words, not mine) President (Peter Lev) with new Board Member (Daisy Sudano-Pelligini).

Black-crowned Night Heron Rescue

Our intrepid Lights Out Baltimore leader, Lindsay Jacks, had one of her more amazing downtown Baltimore bird rescues mid-June when she rescued an injured Black-crowned Night Heron in the Inner Harbor. She was standing on some rocks attempting to grab the heron when she fell into the harbor! Fortunately she only got wet from the chest down and two of her fellow wildlife heroes and two random kayakers helped her corral the heron. Sadly, the bird had to be euthanized shortly after taking it to Phoenix Wildlife Center. Its wing was broken at a place that was not repairable nor was it fit to live in captivity (like heron she rescued last year that will be sent to a zoo in Wisconsin). Regardless of the outcome, it was definitely worth it since the bird would have suffered.



Lindsay holding the rescued Black-crowned Night Heron

Habitat Walks Coming Soon!

BBC plans on sponsoring two “Habitat Walks” this coming year—one in the fall and a second in the spring. These will focus on local habitat conservation for birds, including observing the land, fauna and birds. The first is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th at 8:00-10:30 am, titled Habitat Walk: Lake Roland Serpentine. The southwest corner of Lake Roland park is a mix of pine forest and serpentine barrens. The barrens (meadows) are a globally rare ecosystem because specialized plants thrive in the rocky, metallic soil. Join Dwight Johnson (Native Plant Society) and Peter Lev to explore the plants and birds of this unusual site.

WELCOME!

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

Christina ScrogginsLutherville
 Anne RosenbergLutherville Timonium
 Steven SappersteinOwings Mills
 Trisha Andrews Westminster



An Ostentation of Peafowl

By Joan Cwi (Baltimore) and Ricki Weinberger (Pasadena, CA)

Photos by Alan Willson

There have been numerous entries recently in MDBirding and the BBC Facebook pages complaining about the number of House Sparrows and European Starlings mobbing backyard feeders. They complain about the numbers, the noise, the mess, and the bullish behavior of these non-native birds driving away their local favorites like titmice, chickadees and wrens. Well, buckle up my friends, as it could be far worse!

Joan's friend Ricki lives in Pasadena California a couple of miles from the Arcadia Arboretum, which is the breeding ground for a large flock of non-native Peafowl (Peacocks and Peahens), known collectively as an "Ostentation of Peafowl." They have been in residence for decades albeit technically "wild birds" who are free to come and go.

Ostentation may be the poetic name but infestation is more like it. There are easily twenty or so peafowl in the immediate neighborhood, the hens strolling lazily across the street in small subgroups causing drivers to honk, screech to a stop and even leave their cars to attempt to shoo them to the sidewalk. The term "like herding



Backyard peafowl

cats" isn't even descriptive enough to cover the recalcitrance of these stubborn avians to vacate the thoroughfare.

And for the last two years, an ostentation of

about 10-11 peafowl have been visiting Ricki's backyard feeders eating anything that is out there including mixed seed, sunflower seed, peanuts and even grapes (for possums at night) and cat chow (for stray cats). Ricki reports that despite their skinny necks, peacocks seem to be able to swallow EVERYTHING! Feed costs have been rising astronomically. And have you ever seen peacock poop??!! Rivals that of cats and smaller dogs, except it's also all over her roof and the slanted glass cover over the atrium. No further description necessary. And to make matters worse, they roost in the trees at night, cawing loudly in a voice that makes a starling sound like a nightingale. I dare you listen to the full two minutes of this tape of their calls (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxj-hWwm2Ww>)!!



One of the dominant males in the backyard

The continuous nocturnal (and diurnal) braying of these peafowl reminds residents of rival cats in heat howling for prospective mates. To

add to the cacophony, two enormous crows have lately been challenging the peacocks for dominance and the "caterwauling" is ear-splitting. The squirrels, jays, doves and smaller songbirds that used to find Ricki's back yard a peaceful domain all scatter for cover when the raucous quarrels break out, only daring to feed during intermittent and increasingly infrequent truces. Supposedly the calling will come to a stop when mating season is over, but with climate change and the lessening of any seasonal weather changes in Southern California, she's not sure when or even IF that season will cease.

Of course, Ricki was reminded that if she stopped putting out food, the peafowl would stop coming. But love is blind to bird lovers.

A few peafowl facts. Peacocks are a large sized bird with a length from bill to tail of 55 to 63 inches and to the end of a fully grown tail as much as 70 to 98 inches and weigh 8-13 pounds. Like other members of Galliformes, both male and female Peafowl have sharp, powerful metatarsal spurs also known as 'kicking thorns' which they use to defend themselves against predators. Their legs are strong and they have three strong toes facing forward and one facing backwards. Because their wing surface to bodyweight ratio is not large, most species of Peafowl are incapable of long flights.

The River and the Wall, a film by Ben Masters

Review by Mary Shock

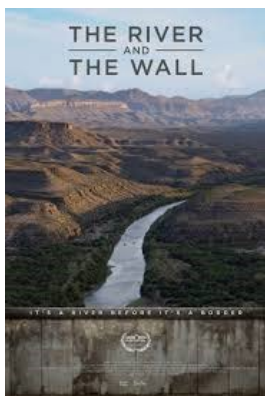
Twelve hundred miles along the Rio Grande, from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico, by mountain bike, mustang, and canoe, *The River and the Wall* follows a crew of five on a journey across the route of President Donald Trump's touted Wall. The shots of the landscape are breathtaking. But although there is an ornithologist on board, the information about the birds of the region is scant.

Director Ben Masters is joined on the trip by Filipe DeAndrade, the host of a National Geographic web

series. Austin Alvarado is the group's river guide. Jay Kleberh, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, serves as conservationist. Finally, Heather Macey, the ornithologist with a degree from Cornell University, rounds out the group and is the only woman on the trip.

Heather conducts wildlife surveys. We see her out in the early morning counting birds and other animals. The bird photographs are beautiful, but the film does not identify any birds, describe the location along the Rio Grande where the birds nest, or discuss migration. This is not a bird film.

Instead, *The River and the Wall* is a combination political-nature-adventure film. The politics is laid back. Beto O'Rourke, Democratic, and Will Hurd, Republican Representative from Texas, get along just fine. Both agree something needs to be done, but both doubt the Wall. Landowners along the river politely express concern about a wall blocking their access to the water and converting portions of their property to a no-man's land between the physical barrier and the river. Nobody yells in this movie or calls anyone names.



The adventure in *The River and the Wall* springs from the physical difficulties of crossing wild terrain. Rain and mud render the mountain bikes useless. The mustangs stumble over rocks. And, everyone's favorite, there is the challenge of navigating rapids. There are several near calamities here. Although filmed for suspense, the adventure scenes also establish the filmmaker's position that the

U.S. does not need a wall along the Rio Grande; there are canyons and mountains enough to form a barrier.

Finally, a moral dilemma arises when the group spies people attempting to cross the border at night. Filipe DeAndrade, from Brazil, and Austin Alvarado, from Guatemala, are both now citizens of the U.S., but they entered the county as children and undocumented immigrants. They want to prevent drug dealers from crossing, but not families seeking a better life. Should they notify the border patrol of what they have observed?

The River and the Wall is a documentary for those interested in learning about the land where the Wall will go up, if it goes up. It is not a film for learning about the birds of the region.

ICELAND- May 21-June 1, 2019

By Deb and Lou Taylor-BBC

Many people have asked us why would we go to Iceland, especially at the end of May. The answer is twofold: most of the roads are passable (although potholes abound), and the wave of tourists have not yet arrived. We were also hoping to add a few new life birds. Lucky for us, many younger athletic souls come to Iceland to climb glaciers and to go down into volcanoes, but generally not to go birding!



Debbie and Lou at Rock Arch at Dyholaev

We would highly recommend renting a sturdy car, preferably 4-wheel drive, especially if you have plans to drive farther than the capital of Reykjavik and surrounding areas. Driving up north six hours, we saw mostly rocks,

grass, cows, horse and sheep. We did see Whimbrel, Redwing, Greylag, Common Eider and thousands of Arctic Tern—but very few houses and people. It's an extremely quiet country with little to no traffic and very clean, just the way we like it.

When we eventually started exploring by foot, we wore very sturdy hiking boots. This is really necessary because of the rockiness of the area. Also had hats, gloves, and scarves because it was quite windy, especially when trekking up mountains. Once geared up, while exploring and meandering, we found 30 new life birds, many not found in North America.

Continuing on our way up north, we decided to take a large ferry on a 1 1/2 hour to the Island of Flatey which is a very picturesque tiny island (1 mile radius.) In season there are two hotels and two restaurants open, with a few dozen people living there year-round. Boats, small houses, sheep and cows abound and it was very peaceful and serene. Common Ringed-Plover, Red-Necked Phalarope, Snow Bunting and hundreds of Arctic terns were flying around or perched. We spent six hours on the island (you should bring a picnic lunch) just meandering and then we got back on the ferry to continue our adventure towards Latrabjarg. The Latrabjarg area is known for seeing the infamous (keep reading to find out why) Puffins on the cliffs.

Continued on page 9

2019 Survey - Continued from page 1

- ◆ BBC is doing good work across all its activities. There were many comments like *“I think you are doing very well; keep doing what you are doing.”*
- ◆ Age, whether young or old, is a major factor in what members find important. Our membership is aging, and that requires some special consideration to address their needs.
- ◆ There are some dramatic differences between the ages of responders since 2013. Basically we seem to have lost most of our younger members, and the older members are aging! Be aware, this refers only to responders since we do not have this data on all members.
- ◆ But age is not highly significant in whether a member participates in activities—non-participation is only slightly higher with our most senior members than in younger members. It is clear the interest in bird-related topics is still there.
- ◆ Field trips, lectures, Lights Out Baltimore and conservation were ranked highest as our most important activities that we do well. Our youth birding program ranked very low.
- ◆ Electronic means of communication is becoming increasingly important. Since 2013 “several times a day” has gone up 8 percentage points while “never” has gone down 2 percentage points. This is good because it gives us both versatility and rapidity in communication in a cost-effective manner.
- ◆ With the advent of the digital age, BBC has been using online, as opposed to hardcopy mailout to most members (except those requesting hardcopy). In Question 16 (Q16) we offered members several options on how they might receive these materials in the future and the results favored electronic only Program Booklet twice yearly with monthly eNews updates (38%) followed by annual hardcopy Program Booklet with monthly eNews updates (28%). The other two options got less than 19%. Concern about ramifications of hard copy versus electronic delivery of the Program Booklet and Chip Notes given the strong feelings of our members across age groups showed that many members want to hold on to hold onto hard copy because they either do not have access to electronic means of access, or they just prefer hard copy.

There were a number of new questions asked this time about issues that have arisen in the Board meetings so we could better understand the feeling of our membership regarding these. See Q16 (how get BBC activities info), Q18-Q21 (lectures), Q23 (social events), Q25-Q30a and Q32-Q34 (field trips), and Q48 (dues) for the results of these new questions.

Comments, good and bad, have been shared with activity leaders to help guide them in developing their individual activities. We are already taking into consideration several suggestions made in scheduling for 2019-2020. These include scheduling a couple of our lectures on a weekend day and/or holding them at a location other than Cylburn. We have also scheduled two of our field trips as “Habitat Walks” for birders also interested in nature conservation. Fortunately, almost all responders thought that our dues were “just right.” Other suggestions are also being considered.

Response Rate.

In total we received 106 surveys by the shutdown date of May 10th. These broke down as follows:

- ◆ Ninety-four (94) members for a completion rate of 44%, a bit lower than the 2013 completion rate of 48%. Ten (10) of these were hardcopy and entered by the author, eighty-three (84) entered online.
- ◆ Twelve (12) non-members responded.
- ◆ Although a good response rate, in reviewing answers one has to keep in mind that we did not hear from half our members, who may or may not think the same way. In fact, there are a couple of indications that we heard more from older members based on comments made. An additional 3 hardcopy interviews came in after the deadline and are not included in the data reported here. They were all from members aged seventy-six (76) or older who were no longer very active in club activities due to reduced physical capacity, and none had internet service. As a result the only thing they could report much about was Chip Notes, which they loved as it kept them informed about what was going on at BBC!

For more information, consult the draft final report online now available on the BBC website at <https://baltimorebirdclub.org/BBC2019DraftSurveySummary.pdf>. The final report will be posted soon. This report provides summaries of the frequencies of responses to

all answers. We also provide the answers to the open-ended questions. Commentary is provided interpreting the results. A few questions were asked in both this year's and the 2013 survey. When these data sets are comparable, the results of both are also presented.

ICELAND - Continued from page 7

The next day we managed through the potholes of Latrabjarg and then hiked quite a way to the top of the



Atlantic Puffin at Cliffs at Latrabiarg

cliffs. So where are these Puffins? None to be seen. We were so disappointed. Wouldn't you know that when we came back down the cliffs, there they were at the bottom not too far from the parking lot! (Of course the best birds are sometimes right at the parking lot.)

There were 3 Puffins! Yes, just 3. But, that was enough

to excite us. Greg (our son) and Lou each took about 1200 pictures each of the Puffins. They were nesting at this time so not many were visible plus it was mid-morning so some were out at sea eating. We also saw Common Redshank, Common Eider and thousands of Razorbills.

While driving south we saw black sand beaches and rocky shores at Londranger which were majestic to see and also very windy. Continuing south there were several famous waterfalls: Seljalandsfoss, Godafoss, and other smaller ones.

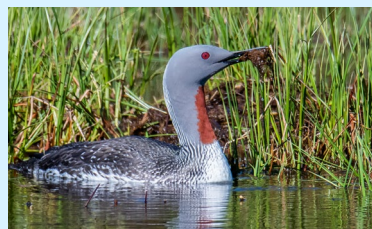
The area of Geysir did have real geysers that you could get very close to. They erupt every few minutes and blow off huge columns of hot steam—interesting and amazing to watch. Our hotel was across the street from these geysers. When we checked in we were greeted by Oystercatchers, Arctic Terns and Whimbrels. Not rare, but fun anyway to have right on the front lawn of the hotel.

Lake Myvatn generally has Whooper Swans with their yellow and black bills, Tufted Duck, Pintail and Long-Tailed Duck at this time of year, all of which we did see. Unfortunately it was so, so windy that it was difficult to stay outside for any length of time to see them. We really wanted to see the famous Sigurgeirs Bird Museum right near the Lake. They do have bird blinds that you can rent but we opted to see the fairly comprehensive displays of birds of Iceland for a small fee. It was interesting

although the exhibit was in a darkened room which made it difficult to see many of the details. The woman who was working that day gave us a few pointers about where to find Harlequin Ducks, which we did find.

Driving southwest, we reached Reykjavik, a big city with European charm, lots of museums, a seaport area, restaurants, churches and touristy shops. Although the city had lots to offer, we enjoyed watching the birds at the local pond.

Overall, Iceland was interesting to explore, even though we did not find the Gyrfalcon (Iceland's national bird,)



Red-throated Loon (in breeding plumage), with nesting material at Thingvellir National Park

and we did not go to the thermal pools. Although we did find many new life birds, we can't say that visiting Iceland is a birder's must do.

Helpful hints if you visit

- ◆ Bring an eye mask if you have trouble sleeping with a small amount of light. It gets "sort" of dark around 11-12 midnight and then light again sometime after 3am. Most hotels do have blackout shades. It is very easy to lose track of time because it's light most of the day.
- ◆ With most birding expeditions we generally don't expect too much culinary greatness, and Iceland is no exception. Although we did find a few interesting restaurants, be prepared to pay at least \$50 per person without alcohol or dessert. Most of the time, just be glad you have at least cod, burgers or pizza because that's what's on the menu the most. The food is very expensive but there are ways around it—Aldi type stores where you can buy bread and cheese for a picnic lunch. In general there aren't many veggies due to a short growing season and the need to import.
- ◆ Bring lots of snacks, because it can be hours where you see nothing but scenery. Also most gas stations are nothing more than pumps and credit card readers that need PIN numbers to operate. The issue with the new chipped American Credit cards is you cannot get PIN numbers for some. You need to purchase prepaid Gas Cards at a full-service station to use at any of the pumps.

Field Trip Reports

Compiled by Kevin Graff

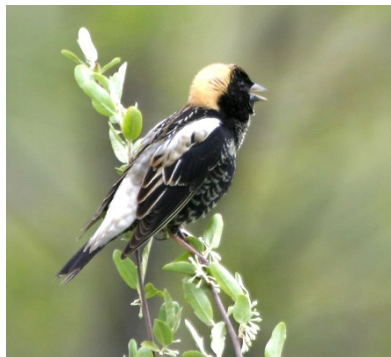
Bird Photos by Bill Hubick



APR 16-LAKE ROLAND—The Common Loons flying over were really nice. The two sandpipers on the mudflats (Spotted & Solitary) were the first of the year for most. Lovely group of Wood Ducks observed from the berm along the "back" marshy stream. Great view of a Pileated Woodpecker. Lots of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers all along the trail. A few of us got to see a very-difficult-to-spot White-eyed Vireo at the very end of the walk. 49 species. 17 participants. Leader: Mary Chetelat.

APR 21-CYLBURN—Good turnout for Eastern morning but the birding was very slow. Pair of gnatcatchers, lots of Goldfinches. Not much else to report. 22 species. 9 participants. Leader: Peter Lev.

APR 23-LAKE ROLAND—Just about perfect weather for this large group on a bird walk. Boardwalk provided excellent views of White-eyed Vireo. Groups of species appeared in pockets of activity with only a couple warbler species. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Blue Jays were most abundant. Five woodpecker species were observed—Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied, Pileated & Northern Flicker. Only disappointment was



Bobolink

lack of wood warblers. Everyone participated and enjoyed themselves. 52 species. 25 participants. Leader: Ron Davis.

APR 28-OREGON RIDGE/AGRICULTURAL CENTER—Lovely view of Scarlet Tanager to start the morning. Despite rainy conditions, we saw Baltimore Oriole, Warbling Vireo and five warbler species at Oregon Ridge. Best birds at Agricultural Center were Bobolink and Meadowlark. Narrative by Peter Lev. 47 species. 14 participants. Leader: Simon Best.

MAY 1-FT. MCHENRY—Five Bobolinks (along fence on cove side of fort)! Huge numbers of Gray Catbirds. And 15 Kingbirds—some in larger than usual flock. Lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers and a couple of Palm Warblers. Good view of 2 Common Loons. Lovely aerobatics and hovering by a Least Tern over the marsh. Two gorgeous (even on a grey day) Blue Grosbeaks. An exceptional day! 56 species. 6 participants. Leader: Mary Chetelat.

MAY 7-LAKE ROLAND—A big day for Baltimore Orioles—12 males, 2 females seen or heard. We had 3 shorebird species—Spotted, Solitary and Killdeer. Nine species of warblers but no big concentration in any one spot. 68 species. 20 participants. Leader: Peter Lev.

MAY 14-LAKE ROLAND—Close up looks by many of Bay-breasted Warbler. One of 12 warbler species including Parula, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, Redstart, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's. 69 species. 21 participants. Leader: John Landers.

MAY 18-BOMBAY HOOK—Enroute to Bombay Hook via Whitehall Neck Road, we came across a late Merlin on perch. Lots of Purple Martins greeted us at



Pair of Blue Grosbeaks

our arrival at the Visitor Center. Excellent views of Marsh Wrens and Willow Flycatcher at saltmarsh boardwalk trail. A few of us saw a Seaside Sparrow for a bit. Along the Auto Tour we saw/heard 65 species including a grunting King Rail, multiple heard-only Clapper Rails, good scope view of Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, one of two American Golden-Plover

(seen by a few), same for White-rumped Sandpiper quickly disappearing into hordes of Semipalmated Sandpipers estimated at 2250. One of 5000+ shorebirds in 14 species. Along the way, we came across a feeding flock of 10 American White Pelicans at Salt Marsh, across from Shearneck Pool. Both night-herons species at their annual roost site. Other stops including Big Stone Beach and Slaughter Beach, only a handful of Red Knots among a few thousands of Dunlin, Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpipers. Narrative by Kevin Graff. 85 species. 13 participants. Leader: Dale Murphy.

May Bird Count, Baltimore City and Baltimore County

The Baltimore Bird Club conducted the 2019 May Count this year on Saturday, May 11th. In total, 66 people in 48 parties visited 81 different sites. Another 20 participated in feeder watches. In total they spent 119 hours walking, 75 miles walking, and 90 miles driving. See results below. Many thanks to Kevin Graff for coordinating this effort and compiling the results!

SPECIES = 142 INDIVIDUALS = 7420

Canada Goose	214	Eastern Wood-Pewee	46	Black-and-white Warbler	52
Wood Duck	13	Acadian Flycatcher	15	Tennessee Warbler	2
Gadwall	1	Willow Flycatcher	1	Nashville Warbler	1
Mallard	188	Trail's Fly	1	Kentucky Warbler	2
Ring-necked Duck	1	Eastern Phoebe	11	Common Yellowthroat	103
Hooded Merganser	3	Great Crested Flycatcher	60	Hooded Warbler	3
Common Loon	1	Empid Sp	3	American Redstart	57
Double-crested Cormorant	25	Eastern Kingbird	65	Cape May Warbler	15
Great Blue Heron	32	White-eyed Vireo	18	Cerulean Warbler	1
Great Egret	12	Yellow-throated Vireo	9	Northern Parula	60
Green Heron	6	Blue-headed Vireo	3	Magnolia Warbler	15
Black-crowned Night Heron	3	Warbling Vireo	28	Bay-breasted Warbler	5
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	7	Red-eyed Vireo	143	Blackburnian Warbler	7
Black Vulture	52	Blue Jay	153	Yellow Warbler	38
Turkey Vulture	69	American Crow	99	Chestnut-sided Warbler	6
Osprey	40	Fish Crow	20	Blackpoll Warbler	31
Bald Eagle	15	Common Raven	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler	32
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Crow Sp	15	Pine Warbler	9
Cooper's Hawk	3	Horned Lark	2	Yellow-rumped Warbler	65
Red-shouldered Hawk	74	Purple Martin	2	Prairie Warbler	11
Broad-winged Hawk	2	N Rough-winged Swallow	82	Black-throated Green Warbler	14
Red-tailed Hawk	13	Tree Swallow	95	Canada Warbler	6
Buteo Sp	5	Barn Swallow	155	Wilson's Warbler	6
American Kestrel	3	Cliff Swallow	17	Warbler Sp	5
Peregrine Falcon	1	Swallow Sp	1	Yellow-breasted Chat	2
Killdeer	1	Carolina Chickadee	64	Eastern Towhee	28
Spotted Sandpiper	23	Tufted Titmouse	70	Chipping Sparrow	86
Solitary Sandpiper	19	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Field Sparrow	22
Least Sandpiper	6	White-breasted Nuthatch	30	Grasshopper Sparrow	1
Shorebird Sp	1	Carolina Wren	163	Song Sparrow	60
Ring-billed Gull	26	House Wren	55	Swamp Sparrow	8
Herring Gull	5	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	123	White-throated Sparrow	21
Great Black-backed Gull	8	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Summer Tanager	1
Least Tern	35	Eastern Bluebird	35	Scarlet Tanager	50
Common Tern	6	Veery	13	Tanager Sp	1
Rock Pigeon	150	Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	Northern Cardinal	338
Mourning Dove	188	Swainson's Thrush	18	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	10
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Hermit Thrush	2	Blue Grosbeak	3
Barred Owl	5	Wood Thrush	59	Indigo Bunting	50
Common Nighthawk	1	American Robin	494	Bobolink	19
Chimney Swift	208	Gray Catbird	263	Eastern Meadowlark	1
Belted Kingfisher	4	Brown Thrasher	8	Red-winged Blackbird	229
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	13	Northern Mockingbird	67	Common Grackle	162
Red-headed Woodpecker	2	European Starling	510	Brown-headed Cowbird	92
Red-bellied Woodpecker	89	Cedar Waxwing	350	Orchard Oriole	31
Downy Woodpecker	56	Ovenbird	49	Baltimore Oriole	47
Hairy Woodpecker	9	Worm-eating Warbler	2	Purple Finch	1
Northern Flicker	17	Louisiana Waterthrush	6	House Finch	113
Woodpecker Sp	1	Northern Waterthrush	12	Pine Siskin	20
Pileated Woodpecker	19	Blue-winged Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	147
				House Sparrow	209

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB
<http://baltimorebirdclub.org>

A Chapter of

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Submit materials to
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Moving or email change?
Send update to
Terry Ross at trosstva@gmail.com

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

Oct 24, 2019



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+
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35.00	\$17.50	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$45.00	\$22.50	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$100.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior*	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$5.00

* Through 17: record age here ____

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

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