CHIP BIRD NOTES

The newsletter of the Baltimore Bird Club

August-September 2002 -- Online Edition

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- **Patsy Perlman** was thrilled in April when she spotted a gorgeous ***Red-headed Woodpecker*** on Slade Ave. The bird remained in the area for about one week.

Windsor Mills

- From **Elise Kreiss**, March 10: The **Hermit Thrush** first seen last weekend is still with us. Equally atypical for us is the **Rusty Blackbird** and the **Rock Dove** that took up most of one hanging feeder with its great bulk, dwarfing the **Mourning Doves**. In addition to the usual crew, we also had two **Song Sparrows** this weekend, and a **Fox Sparrow**. [Typical recent weekend turnout: **Mourning Doves, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, one American Crow, Chickadees, Titmice, two White-breasted Nuthatches, two Carolina Wrens, White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, Cardinals, House Finch, Goldfinch, House Sparrows.]** Today, also, a **Cowbird**. Makes you think about taking the feeders down. **April 4**: ... had **two male Purple Finches** at the feeder, yesterday! This was the closest I've seen any male PUFI. As with the last one at Point Lookout, all my previous "Could this be a Purple Finch?" were blown away by the reality of these two fine rose-colored birds. A male Cowbird has been courting in the same hanging feeder. After each of his extravagant bows, I always expect him to see him tumble down, beak first, into the seed! **April 22**: Elise was the first to report a **Ruby-throated hummer** in her yard! **May 21**: We have some **fledgling Carolina Wrens** in back of the office today. I got a close look at one - - it landed on my bare left forearm!

Reisterstown

- In April, **Doris Fields** of Old Hanover Road hung a Bluebird box on an oak tree outside her kitchen window. Almost immediately a pair of **Bluebirds** took up residence. Sometime around the 10th of April Doris noticed a male **Cowbird** attempting to enter the box. This behavior continued for over a week. Fortunately the entrance hole was too small and the Cowbird was unable to get inside the box. Doris reported that the pair of Bluebirds defiantly attacked the intruder every time he tried to commandeer the box.
- **Mary Jane and Robert Collison** of Piney Grove Rd were disappointed this spring when not one of their six hand crafted bluebird boxes were chosen for nesting. Instead the **Bluebirds** preferred a wren house shaped and painted like a red caboose. Naturally the opening was too small so Robert enlarged the hole. The Bluebirds took it over immediately, the female laid four eggs and as of May 11, was incubating them.

Sparrows Point

- March 19 report from **Roberta Ross**: **Ospreys** Back at Sparrows Point and flying around with branches in their beaks. Spring is here!

Randallstown

- On March 19 **Keith Costley** "found a ton" of **Savannah Sparrows** in Owings Mills, Soldier's Delight and in his own backyard!

Rosedale

- April 16 from **Tim Carney**: Wow, check this out. I have nesting **Mourning Doves and Red-bellied Woodpeckers** AND I saw a **Palm Warbler** and anywhere from **3-10 Hermit Thrushes** today AND I've had **Song Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows** visit my "oasis garden" water feature. On April 22, Tim chased an **Ovenbird** around the woods at his home for over an hour. He was thrilled to finally get a perfectly lighted look at the bird**.** A lifer!

Pretty Boy Area, Freeland

- From **Jeanne Bowman**, June 1: Six **Bluebirds** just fledged- flew the coop. **Tree Swallows** nesting in plastic gourd just over head - near porch. **Catbirds** eating oranges, that I cut in half, placing them on a headless nail in a tree branch, bluebirds like the bugs that the oranges attract. **Indigo Bunting** has taken over the last post on the thistle feeder tube and will not be budged by the **House Finch or Goldfinch**. Many **Cardinals** busy feeding their young. Pesky **House Wrens** fill every birdhouse with sticks, just never learned to share. Also a dozen or so **Cedar Waxwings** and several **Baltimore Orioles**. We wouldn't talk about the **Grackles** except they keep the **Crows** away. I love the sound of them all in the morning.

BEYOND

- ***Leakin Park*** March 9, **Elise Kreiss**: A walk in Leakin Park a few blocks away on Saturday morning yielded **three Sapsuckers**; about three more than I usually see; two of them together; a **Creeper**, and the first two **Phoebes** we've seen this year; one of them calling. Other birds: **Canada Geese** overhead, **Mallards**; a **Red-shouldered Hawk** shared the sky with an **Accipiter** and a **Turkey Vulture; Ring-billed Gulls; Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, Pileated Woodpeckers** and Flickers; **Crows, Chickadees, Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, Carolina Wrens, Robins, Mockingbirds, Starlings, a few very vocal Towhees**, one in particular having a variety of things to say and at length; numerous **White-throated Sparrows, two Savannah, two Song and one Fox Sparrow seen; Juncos, Cardinals, Grackles, House Finch, Goldfinch.**

Loch Raven

- Intriguing sighting from **Richard Krejci**: On Friday evening, March 26 at about 5:30pm at the Loch Raven Blvd. & Cromwell Bridge Road intersection I was sitting at the red light in my truck. I just happened to look up and noticed a large bird flying overhead in a southerly direction. It had an unusual shape and coloration for any of the birds that I am aware of in the area and I was hard pressed to identify it right away. However, on returning home, I looked in several of my birding books and , to me without hesitance, I identified it to be a young or possibly a female **Frigatebird**. The size & shape are unmistakable...I have, in fact, seen a number of Frigatebirds when I was vacationing in Belize several years ago. The more I think about it the more I am convinced that what I saw was in fact a Frigatebird. I have seen Great Blue Herons, Osprey & Bald Eagles on the fly in and around the area. It was none of these, but the relative size of the bird was in this range. The tail was primarily closed but slightly split at times. I sure hope that someone along the Maryland or eastern US coast reports a sighting of this magnificent bird sometime soon.

Let us hear about your Back Yard and Maryland Birding too!!!

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