

## The newsletter of the Baltimore Bird Club

August/September 1997 - Online Edition

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Birding In Belize](#) by Bea Nicholls
- [Treasured Members](#) by Joy Wheeler
- [School Programs](#) by Patsy Perlman and Joy Wheeler
- [Dues Are Due](#) by Roberta Ross
- [Native Plant Seminar and Sale](#)
- [A Lonesome Vulture from Baltimore](#) by Cath R. Teese
- [Field Trip Reports \(part 1\)](#) compiled by Joseph M. Lewandowski
- [The Joy of Cylburn: Spring 1997](#) by Joseph M. Lewandowski
- [Field Trip Reports \(part 2\)](#) compiled by
- [Round of Director's Meetings](#) by Alan Bronberg, According to Secretary
- [Back Yard Birding](#) by Gail Frantz
  - [Baltimore City](#)
  - [Suburbia](#)
  - [The Country](#)
  - [Musical Birds](#)
  - [Help for Injured Birds](#)
  - [BBC's Backyard Birders in Action](#)

Deadline for next CHIP NOTES: August 25, 1997 (the next issue will be October/November 1997)  
Send material to:

Steve Sanford  
8412 Denroy Dale Drive  
Randallstown MD 21133

or e-mail to [manager@mail.bcbp.lib.md.us](mailto:manager@mail.bcbp.lib.md.us)  
Please help CHIP NOTES get out on time

### Birding In Belize

by Bea Nicholls

SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! What in the world? SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! Certainly not someone snapping their fingers - too good for that. SNAP! SNAP! SNAP! Then, deep in the shadows of the jungle bushes, caught in the ray of sunlight reflected from Rafa's little mirror, a brilliant yellow-bellied, black-capped, black-winged, and black-backed, 5-inch White-collared Manakin appeared, jumping into the air as it snapped its wings. Once again a whispered chorus of, "Amazing! Awesome! Unbelievable!" burst from our little group of ten birders. We used those words a lot during our 11 days in Belize.

As soon as we arrived at our hotel in Belize City on March 2, we began to see gulls, terns, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Pelicans, Neotropical Cormorants, Social Flycatchers, Tropical Kingbirds, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Belted Kingfishers, and even a Common Hummingbird on her nest. Later, at our "official" destination, Alton Ha, our very knowledgeable native guide, Roy, did an excellent job of filling us in on the history of this impressive Mayan site which was occupied from 1000 BC to 900 AD. However, I must admit that I was more interested in the White-bellied Emerald, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, White-collared Seedeater, Great-tailed Grackle, White-fronted Parrot, and Masked Tityra which we saw there.

The Masked Tityra is about the size of a Baltimore Oriole, but seemed larger with its whitish pale gray body, black wings, and black facemask enclosing a red eye patch. Although we saw the tityra several times throughout the trip, it never ceased to impress me.

Our next morning was spent at the Crocked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary where we birded the grounds, but spent most of our time touring the lagoons in small boats. Some of our prizes at Crocked Tree were Jabiru Stork, Wood Storks, an Aplomado Falcon, Laughing Falcon, Short-tailed Hawk, Snail Kites, Herons, egrets, terns, sandpipers, Limpkins, Anhingas, Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures, redstarts, Yellow-winged Tanager, Clay-colored Robin, Yucatan Woodpecker.

After lunch, I laid in a hammock and enjoyed the breeze. Then we saw howler monkeys and some of the same birds at the Community Baboon Sanctuary, before making our way back to our dinner and accommodations at the Radisson Fort George Hotel.

On our third day, we went to Hidden Valley Resort where we spent three nights. On the way I spotted two Bat Falcons on top of a snag. There was a lot of bird activity all around the resort grounds so we were birding every waking moment, observing, among others, Yellow-backed Orioles, Acorn Woodpeckers, and Hepatic Tanagers. After lunch I spotted a Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, which everyone in our group eventually saw. Later in the afternoon, we drove out to '1000 Foot Falls' and saw an Orange-breasted Falcon perched on the other side of the valley, an Azare-crowned Hummingbird, some White-collared Swifits, and some Vain's Swifits.

As it began to rain, we headed back to the resort. Because of the mountainous terrain, considerable braking was required and the bus began to lose air pressure. I heard our driver, Mario, say to our native guide, "I think we make it." (We had) and the rain was brief and we found some Rufous-capped Warblers before going in for showers and dinner.

Wednesday morning the drive to Caracol took about two hours because of the condition of the roads. (Belize has three kinds of roads: rough, rougher, and roughest.) An excellent native guide, Andres Novelo, explained the Mayan ruins in a most entertaining manner, and was knowledgeable about the birds too. In addition to guiding tourists, he works with the researchers at Caracol, helping them to find and identify the flora and fauna. Andres was quite excited when I loaned him my binoculars. He would love to have binoculars of his own. If you have extra binoculars to donate to an excellent guide who is full of fun and energy and would make good use of them, I have his address and would be happy to pass them on to him. I told him I would try to locate a pair for him.

It was Andres who found the Blue-crowned Motmot for us. Then, I was excited to discover a Wedge-billed Woodpecker and share it with the group. In addition, we saw a Collared Trogon, Plumbeous Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, and a White-crowned Parrot on her nest in a dead palm tree. Her head was sticking out of the hole for quite a while but, finally, we saw her come out and fly away.

The Ocellated Turkey at Caracol are so used to the visitors and scientists that they did not seem at all disturbed when we walked past them. Right before we left Caracol we saw a Band-backed Wren, which is quite rare in Belize. This was the first one that Rafa, our Caligo Ventures guide, had seen in his many trips to this city. He was probably more excited about it than we were!

Thursday morning two very small planes took to Galton Jug, wa-a-ay in the jungle. From there a van took us to Chan Chich - a comfortable and picturesque resort situated in a Mayan palm, surrounded by jungle. From the porch of my cabana I could see Red-tailed Tropicbirds, Blue-throated Kingbirds, Long-tailed Tanager, and Montezuma Oropendolas. The latter are beautiful large birds with chestnut backs and wings, yellow and black tail, and a bi-colored bill. Since they are colonial and they also build new nests each year, their tree is festooned with dozens of large, pendulous nests. Eventually the colony moves on to a new tree.

No birding trip is complete without at least one trip to a dump, and one of the prime birding locations in this area was the Chan Chich dump. There we saw a Royal Flycatcher who was kind enough to raise his crest for us, and a Rufous-tailed Jacamar among others. Other nearby locations included King Vulture, Laughing and Bat Falcon, Red-billed Parrot, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Tropic, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Amazon Kingfisher, Red-throated Tanager, Dot-winged Wren, etc.

While returning from an afternoon trip to Laguna Verde we spotted a large tapir in the middle of the road. The tapir, a mammal resembling a huge pig, with a heavy body, short legs, and a fleshy proboscis, is the national animal of Belize. None had been seen in this area for years. We had a good look before it immured off into the jungle. Our report created quite a stir in Chan Chich!

Saturday morning was made unforgettable when an immature Ornate Hawk-Eagle appeared just off the path we were taking through the jungle. He seemed to be stalking some Ocellated Turkeys, but we could not determine his success or lack thereof because he went deeper into the jungle. Ornate Hawk-Eagles are quite rare and sport a long spiky black crest. Since "orns" was an immature, it lacked the solid bright cinnamon cheeks and neck. Instead, it was streaked, with barred flanks. He was quite a beauty! Other delightful discoveries occur morning walk were a White-breasted Wood Wren, Two Spiky-tailed Trogons, a Black-faced Antshrike, and a Crested Guan.

After breakfast, our trip to Laguna Seaca and "the marsh" yielded two special prizes: a Sun Grebe posing on a log for us, and a Black-collared Hawk. We also saw a White-whiskered Puffbird, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Northern Jacana, Black-headed Trogon, and others. In the afternoon I began to knock on 08 posts of my catana and shacari - nutmeg-growing, parrots and Montezuma Oropendolas chating around.

A late afternoon hike down the road "the bridge" gave our group a Keel-billed Trogon, Yellow-winged Tanager, Yellow-throated Euphonia, Yellow-crowned Cinnam Becard, Piratic Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, Black-cowled Oriole, Melodious Blackbird, and Giant Cowbird.

When we finally headed back for showers and dinner, I heard a crashing in the trees and hung back to see what was coming. It was a small band of spider monkeys. They swung across the road and continued on into the jungle.

Sunday morning we went to Jaguar Red Lodge. It is lovely: nestled right on the Caribbean Sea. With the Maya Mountains in view behind it. After a pleasant lunch we drove to the Hopkins Marsh and then to the Sittce River where we walked by the river. In both locations we saw many birds: Pale-winged Trogon, Olive-throated Parrot, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Tropic, various woodpeckers and woodcreepers, Dusky Antbird, eight species of Flycatcher, Kingbird, Black-crowned Tityra (even prettier than the Masked Tityra, if possible), Clay-colored Robin, and a variety of northern warblers -- not to mention Blue-gray, Yellow-winged, Summer, and Red-throated Ant Tanagers; Green-backed Sparrow; Blue-black Grassquit; and Variable Seedeater.

My favorite of the day was the Red-legged Honeycreeper - a small iridescent bird with a face, belly, rump, and wing-bar of vivid violet-blue topped off by a light turquoise crown sparkling brilliantly in the sunshine. As you look closer, you begin to notice the pattern of jet-black backs, wings, and tail; a very small black mask; scarlet eyes; and you might see the violet wing-linings, if you aren't too dazzled by the rest. Eventually, but reluctantly, we returned to our lodge for dinner.

The next day, on the entry road to the Cockscorn Wildlife Sanctuary, we stopped to observe the Chestnut-headed Oropendola, which is only to be seen there, and another White-collared Manakin as well as Rose-throated and Cinnamon Becards, Piratic Flycatcher, White-collared Swifits, Double-toothed Kites, Common Black Hawk, Roadside Hawk, and Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher. Along the trails at Cockscorn were some species we saw only there: a Thick-billed Seed-Finch, Orange-billed Sparrow, Black-headed Saltator, Buff-breasted Tanager, Blue-black Tanager, a beautiful Scarlet-rumped Tanager (one of my favorites), Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Northern Bentbill, Common Tody-Flycatcher, and Violaceous Trogon, as well as more common species. Near the office/picnic area we spotted a Gray-fronted Dove, a Ruddy Ground Dove, White-bellied Emerald, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and a Sandwich Tern.

In the vicinity of the Jaguar Red Lodge, where we spent our last two evenings, there were Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Pelicans, Royal and Landbird Cormorants, and even a Hooded Oriole.

As we drove to Belize City on March 11 to catch our return flight to the U.S., we were stopped briefly at a police roadblock to make sure that our van had not been commandeered by seven prison escapees who were still on the run. Further down the road, a Plain Chachalaca flew into the side of our speeding van. "Chacacs are good to eat," exclaimed our excited driver as he pulled to the side of the road. But alas, a truck driver who was traveling in the opposite direction got there first and ran off with it.

This was a fabulous trip! Although I saw over 200 species of birds, I did not find the pace to be too tiring or hectic. There were many opportunities, if one desired, to stay put and rest or study a field guide. However, most of us didn't want to risk missing anything in this gorgeous country.

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

### Treasured Members

by Joy Wheeler

You may remember our 1994-1995 search for items to help us celebrate our early years for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ERANA LUBBERT was one person who responded with many items dating as far back as 1951 -- newspaper articles and photographs, slides of memorable field trips -- a precious collection. When she learned that we she requested that we return them, and we made sure that they were able to do that. We knew the value that Erana placed on these matters. She had, after all, carried them with her from her home of almost 50 years in Annesette to her retirement home, Edenwald, in Towson with much-reduced space to keep them.

Just after Christmas, 1996 I received a note from her saying she was ready to give these items back to BBC. I'm happy to report that the folder with transparent pages for easy viewing is now at Cylburn with the other 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary archives we gathered. It was not until many weeks after Christmas that I was able to visit Erana to receive the folder. She'd been ill and spent almost two weeks at St. Joseph Hospital and a few days at the infirmary at Edenwald before she was able to receive me. She had been getting excellent care for pneumonia, and everything was being done to restore her flagging appetite. For a while she was foregoing her daily 45-minute walk around the drives and walkways of Edenwald. However, as I write this in June, she is out for her walks again and her appetite has returned. And, as is characteristic of Erana, she is enjoying her own special brand of independence again.

Perhaps you may have a chance to borrow through our archives, our slide collections, our books of birds from many countries around the world. You will become aware of how many of these things have been contributed by Erana. Two recent world travelers, Shirley Geddes to Europe and Patsy Perlman to New Zealand, have used these books to do some of our own pre-trip planning. And are all most grateful to Erana Lubbert for being a good steward of her own history and ours as well. She is indeed one of our treasured members.

**HERVEY BRACKBILL** is another name you may recognize if you've been with the BBC since its beginning in 1945. (Let's refer to him as HB; his impressive name has a Swiss-German origin and may have nothing to do with the bills of birds, HB believes, and should not be used to predict his long life in the subject.)

HB became aware of birds early in life in Lancaster, Pa. He pursued his already considerable interest by signing up early with the BBC, observing and banding birds close to his home in the Gwynns Falls area, and reporting his findings in *Maryland Birdlife*, *Maryland*, and many other birding and ornithological journals. As a professional journalist for the *Baltimore Sun*, HB wrote many feature articles about Maryland's birds for the general public. He, like Erana Lubbert, has enjoyed a nine-decade-plus life, and has collected many things of interest about the BBC and the birds in his life. Like Mrs. Lubbert he wants to return to the club some things which he feels would have meaning for us; his fairly complete series of *Maryland Birdlife*, for one.

In 1995 I called HB to personally reinforce the invitation to the MOS Conference in Baltimore over to find then that he was almost blind, quite deaf, and confined to a wheelchair for most of the day. Unfortunately, he was not able to accept. So, when I received a call from him this spring, I was glad to hear that he was still enjoying life and still appreciating the part birds played in his life.

When I arrived at his home on Poplar Drive near Gwynn Oak Park, as we had arranged, I was stunned by the condition of what had been many acres of mature woodland at the end of his street. Instead, there was a most nightmarish change from green woods to unrecognizable field trips -- a desolate collection. When she learned that we she requested that we return them, and we made sure that they were able to do that. We knew the value that Erana placed on these matters. She had, after all, carried them with her from her home of almost 50 years in Annesette to her retirement home, Edenwald, in Towson with much-reduced space to keep them.

In spite of his disabilities HB was a gracious host. We looked through a collection of old-style *Sunday Sun* "brown sections," all with feature articles with photographs of some of Maryland's more noteworthy birds, all with the *Maryland Birdlife* byline. (Oh the time I was wasting before I picked up binoculars for the first time in 1971!) He then invited me to go to his basement to collect the issues of *Maryland Birdlife*, which I had some trouble finding, as he shouted directions from his first-floor vantage point. But they were there, stacked among many other journals. My curiosity led me to leaf through a few of them, all with the familiar HB byline. I did find enough issues of *Maryland Birdlife* to fill my box and carry upstairs.

But my host was not ready to let me go. He had some good birding stories to tell and I was a receptive audience. One was about Alexander Skutch, who had sought him out on one of his infrequent visits to Baltimore. The two of them were walking through the Forest Park neighborhood where HB was living at the time. Our storyteller remembered how it felt to be corrected in his identification of a bird. It was a Brown Thrasher, Mr. Skutch insisted, instead of a Wood Thrush, as HB had called it. (Or was it the other way around? If the similarity of these two species weren't enough to confuse you, the passage of 50 years would be.)

I have the promise of another invitation for another round of stories. For me this is just another benefit -- and not the least -- of membership in the BBC and the MOS. If you'd like to go along next time, perhaps taking a tape recorder, I'll try to get you an invitation too. Hervey Brackbill is truly another one of our most treasured members.

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

### School Programs

by Patsy Perlman and Joy Wheeler

We would like to thank the following people who have graciously and faithfully volunteered their expertise with our Baltimore City and County school children throughout the past school year, 1996-97:

Candy Andreweski	Mike Baker
Jane Baldwin	Rally Bloomer
Bill Bejogland	Dan Clark
Dan	Riani Cooper
Anne Allen Dandy	Walter Dandy
Charles Davis	Graham Egerton
Phyllis Gortner	Linda Groat
Dot Gustafson	Jill Jones
Woody Kline	Davidia Waddon
Berrie Maddox	Gerry Moudry
Sue Pata	Ben Posocover
Alice Redfern	Bob Stanhope

William Steine

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

### Dues Are Due

by Roberta Ross

It's time to send in your yearly membership dues. Please send them in the dues envelope included with this *Chip Notes*. If you have any questions, or if the envelope was not included, please contact our Membership Secretary:

Roberta Ross  
4128 Rolland Avenue  
Baltimore MD 21211-2934

Dues are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a household.

New members who joined after April 30, 1997, and paid a full year's dues at that time, have already paid for the 1997-98 membership year and do not have to pay any further dues now.

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

### Native Plant Seminar and Sale

On Saturday, August 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., the Irvine Natural Science Center will sponsor its sixth Annual Native Plant Seminar for the amateur and professional gardener, landscape designer, forester, horticulturist, nurseryman, and anyone else who is concerned about the environment. Dick Lighty, Pat Christopher, and Jim Pfyler will speak about various aspects of gardening with native plants. More than a dozen of the region's best nurseries will also be selling native plants from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The fee for the seminar is \$50.00 per person, \$40.00 for full-time students and members of the Nature Center, but the plant sale is free and open to the public. Please call the Nature Center at (410) 484-2413 to receive a brochure on the seminar and/or additional information. The Irvine Nature Center is located on the campus of St. Timothy's School, 8400 Greenspring Avenue, Stevenson, MD. One mile north of the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) Exit 22.

Back to [Table of Contents](#)



### A Lonesome Vulture from Baltimore

Here I sit, all wet and weary,  
Pondering my lost safe haven;  
Thinking thoughts so sad and dreary,  
All because I'm not a Raven.

Sailing around in rainy weather,  
Watching the Oriole team its play,  
Mourning the lack of an orange feather,  
I'll be a Baccard till judgment day.

Cath R. Teese  
Baltimore, Maryland (no fixed address)

*Editor's note:* This remarkable literary gem was discovered by Tom and Doris Simpson after passing Camden Yards in the drizzling rain and sighting a lone vulture making his way out of town.

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

### Field Trip Reports (Part 1)

compiled by Joseph M. Lewandowski

Those of you who have followed the Field Trip Reports will notice that a new name has appeared under the title. In order to give Mark a break, I consented to help him out in getting out the information. My style may be different and bold, so strap on your proverbial bird wings as I give this column a try.

March 16 - A sunny day with a bitter cold wind led to the cancellation of the **Centennial Lake**, Columbia bird walk, but three birders showed up to see what the lake had to offer. Allen Hafner reported that 24 species were sighted, with such notables as a Lesser Scaup, some Coos, Bluebirds, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

March 25 - Twenty birders walked **Lake Roland** with Adelaide Rackemann and spotted 34 of our feathered friends. Among the birds I thought were interesting included: Pied-billed Grebe, American Widgeon, Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Bluebird.

March 30 - See [The Joy of Cylburn](#).

April 1 - It was windy, cold, and even snowy. Woodcocked 14 hardy participants, led by Jean Worthley, banded **Lake Roland** and saw 26 species.

April 6 - See [The Joy of Cylburn](#).

April 6 - A cool and cloudy day greeted three birders as they walked **Pine Run Park**. A Hermit Thrush and several Common Loons were the highlights that Burton Alexander reported. 42 species were seen that day with Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Fish Crow, and Brown Thrasher as other notable species seen.

April 8 - It was another clear and cool day for spring as twenty-one birders visited **Lake Roland**. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were singing, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Barn Swallow, and Rough-winged Swallow were seen, and two warbler species were spotted: a Yellow-rumped and a Palm Warbler. 37 species topped our bird count for this day as reported by Malinda Weiss.

April 13 - See [The Joy of Cylburn](#).

April 15 - All the birds must have been out doing their last minute tasks because Patsy Perlman reported that the birding was very slow, with the birds being low and far between at **Lake Roland**. The twenty-three birders saw 45 species on this sunny day with temperatures around 50 F. A pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, Green Heron, Winter Wren, and Double-crested Cormorant were the special birds of the day. Three species of warbler, Palm, Pine, and Yellow-rumped, helped round out the field.

April 20 - See [The Joy of Cylburn](#).

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

### The Joy of Cylburn: Spring 1997

by Joseph M. Lewandowski

March 23 - Spring is trying to come to Maryland, and the Baltimore Bird Club is helping it along with its first Spring Cylburn Self-guided Bird Walk. Eight birders came out on this chilly March morning and tallied sixteen species. Good looks at a twyned and Red-bellied Woodpecker topped the day, but the mere hint of birds in the area with their melodious songs made the day enjoyable.

March 30 - It's Easter Sunday and the sky is blue. Warm sunbines is everywhere. Daffodils are in bloom, painted turtles are basking on logs, and a muskrat swims languidly by. This is not some exotic location miles away. It is Cylburn. Four birders saw eighteen species of birds. A pair of Mallards and a male Wood Duck were tops for our list. But good views of White-throated Sparrows, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and Killdeer were also a part of this morning. Yes, we did see painted turtles and a muskrat; and no, we were not under the influence of any substance. We were just taking in the beauty of Cylburn: always there, always exciting, and always unpredictable.

April 6 - Six birders braved a cold, rainy morning to see what Cylburn had to offer on this third self-guided tour of the Arboretum. If one visits Cylburn regularly, one can see the dramatic changes that occur from week to week. The wildflowers were out in force with a cool air along the trails. The birds also seemed to enjoy the change. Eighteen species were seen. Towhees were singing, flickers and robins were foraging around the trees, and White-throated Sparrows and juncos were still searching around the bird feeders for something to eat. Cylburn was trying its best to bring spring to Baltimore.

April 13 - Cylburn was beautiful today, with the tulips beginning to bloom and wildflowers out in force. This was a picture perfect spring day, and fourteen birders came out to join the walk. Six of our birders came from the Anne Arundel County Chapter of MOS, and one from the Baltimore Chapter of the Cylburn Self-Guided tour. The day did not disappoint us. We saw twenty-seven species of birds, including our first warbler of the season on the Sunday walks, a Black-and-white Warbler. Rufous-sided Towhees sounded their calls, a kestrel showed off his hunting skills, and good looks were had of Blue Jays, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and a Hermit Thrush. Hawks flew overhead, and some unidentified birds in the high branches led one to believe that the warblers will be out in force next week. Cylburn has brought spring to Baltimore.

April 20: Tulips are out in force at Cylburn, and eleven birders see the brightly colored gardens with about thirty species of birds. The flickers were doing their usual antics and we had some good views of Gnatcatchers, Blue Jays, and White-throated Sparrows. By the trip was topped with some great close-ups of Chipping Sparrows, Rufous-sided Towhees, Solitary Vireo, and our first green-colored warbler of the season, a Palm Warbler. While the weather may not be making up its mind, the birds at Cylburn are trying their best to bring springtime to Baltimore.

Subsequent Cylburn Self-guided walks are described in Part 2 of the Field Trip Reports

Back to [Table of Contents](#)

### Field Trip Reports (Part 2)

compiled by Mark Pemburn

*Compiler's Note:* Like it to extend my special thanks to Joe Lewandowski for taking over of the editorial duties in this issue's reports. Joe and I will probably be sharing the task of preparing this record in future issues.

On a certain day in late spring for the last five years or so, I awake to discover a thick stack of paper on my desk, waiting for me to do something about it. The paper represents the accumulated experience of the past season's field trips and the "something" I must do is to make sense of them. My job is to bring these two-dimensional lists with their hand-written notes to life for those who were not there, or to tickle the recollection of those who were.

This time, I thought I'd let the records speak for themselves. I present you with the simple brush-strokes of the statistics, color-weighted with the comments of the field trip leaders:

April 22: **Lake Roland**. Weather: Cool at first, turning sunny and warmer later on. Leader: Dot Gustafson. Participants: 17. Species: 55. Highlights: "Tundra Swan. Excellent views of a Prothonotary Warbler and a Louisiana Waterthrush."

April 24: **Rock Run, Susquehanna State Park**. Weather: Fair but wet from a night of rain. Leader: Rodney Jones. Participants: 7. Species: 36. Highlights: "Several Yellow-throated Warblers."

April 26: **Gen Meadows Retirement Center**. Weather: Clear, warm day; bright blue sky. Leader: Steve Simon. Participants: 17. Species: 45.

April 27: **Jug Bay**. Weather: Sunny and mid 60s then light rain in afternoon. Leader: Steve Sanford. Participants: 6. Species: 66. Highlights: "Very well-seen Hooded, Yellow-throated and Parula Warblers. Nine Warbler species total. Reflecting the general lateness of migration, the hooded for Summer Tanagers and Prairie Warblers were not found. In contrast, some late winter species were present: Snipe, Pipit, White-crowned Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird and Hermit Thrush."

April 27: **Cylburn Self-Guided**. Weather: 60. Reported by Joe Lewandowski. Participants: 14. Species: 30. Highlights: "Common Loons, Cormorants, Black-throated Blue Warbler."

April 29: **Lake Roland**. Weather: From low 40s to mid 50s. Leader: Elliot Kirschbaum. Participants: 30. Species: 54. Highlights: Nesting Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. "Seven species of Warblers."

May 4: **Phoenix**. Weather: Clear. Leader: Graham Egerton. Participants: 35. Species: 62.

May 4: **Cylburn Self-Guided**. Reported by Joe Lewandowski. Participants: 6. Species: 44. Highlights: "Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Spotted Sandpiper, Swainson's Thrush, Common Nighthawk, many Warblers."

May 6: **Lake Roland**. Weather: Variable -- sunny, cloudy, showers, windy, clearing, cool. Mac Plant. Participants: 12. Species: 72. Highlights: "Fifteen Warbler species: a great day."

May 11: **Lake Roland/Southwest Area Park via Light Rail**. Weather: Sunny, clear and warm. Leader: Mark and Leanne Pemburn. Participants: 12. Species: 65. Highlights: "Amazing views of a Blackburnian and a Chestnut-sided Warblers feeding at a species diversity level (who ever gets to see the top of a Blackburnian's head?). For the future: get to know the Light Rail schedule; they don't start running until noon!"

May 11: **Cylburn Self-Guided**. Reported by Joe Lewandowski. Participants: 6. Species: 49. Highlights: "American Redstart, Prairie and Blue-winged Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Baltimore Oriole."

May 14: **Northampton Furnace Trail**. Leader: Joy Wheeler. Participants: 9. Species: 20. Highlights: "the sighting and hearing of about four Common Nighthawks. Jane White had found a dead Nighthawk during the day at Pratt St. and then saw the 'real live' bird flying over the trail. Truly a memorable day for her. The two Great Egrets were magnificent, especially after a whole year without them."

May 15: **Lake Roland**. Weather: Overcast and windy. Leader: Shirley Geddes. Participants: 30. Species: 74. Highlights: "White-throated Flycatcher. Barred Owl with young. Fourteen species of Warblers."

May 18: **Cylburn Self-Guided**. Reported by Joe Lewandowski. Participants: 11. Species: 38. Highlights: "Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Cape May and Wilson's Warblers."

May 20: **Lake Roland**. Weather: Light rain until mid-morning. Leader: Bob Wood. Participants: 22. Species: 59. Highlights: "American Redstart feeding young at the nest. Best bird: Bay-breasted Warbler."

May 25: **Delaware Bay**. Weather: Partly sunny. 70. Leader: Gene Scarpolla. Participants: 16. Species: 83. Highlights: Highlights: "A White-faced Ibis in breeding plumage seen among a flock of Gloss