



The newsletter of the Baltimore Bird Club

October-November 2000 -- Online Edition

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Deadline for next *CHIP NOTES*: October 25, 2000 (the next issue will be December 2000-January 2001). If possible, please email material to lanager@bcp.net.

Otherwise, mail to
Steve Sanford
8412 Downey Dale Drive
Randallstown MD 21133

Please help *CHIP NOTES* get out on time.

(410) 922-5103

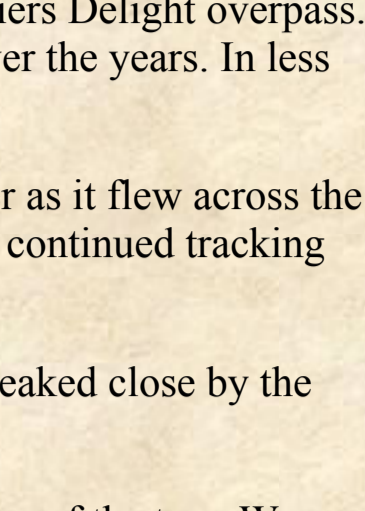
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The Summer Tanagers of Soldiers Delight

By Gail Frantz

According to the Field List of the Birds of Maryland (The Yellow Book) Summer Tanagers have not bred in Baltimore county since 1977.

Five years ago on an outing to Soldiers Delight, Keith Eric Costley's eight year old daughter Lauren saw the "red bird." She said that the bird did not look like other red birds that she'd seen with her dad, Keith, having missed seeing the bird, questioned her carefully. Lauren insisted that the mystery bird was not a Cardinal because it didn't have a crest nor did it have black wings like a Scarlet Tanager. She was positive it was a Summer Tanager. Even though Keith never did see the bird that day, he believed Lauren.



The next spring Keith meticulously searched Soldiers Delight and successfully located a singing male Summer Tanager. During the next four years he tracked the bird. Keith noticed that it seemed to favor a section of woods at the edge of one particular power line cut. Keith was convinced that the Tanager was breeding somewhere in that area of Soldiers Delight even though he'd never seen a female.

This past summer, I enthusiastically and gratefully accepted Keith's invitation to join him on a new annual search for both the Summer Tanager and the elusive nest site. We made arrangements to meet no later than 7:15 am on July 23 at the Soldiers Delight overpass. By the time I arrived, Keith was already scouting the area. He suggested hiking one of his trails which would take us directly to the section of woods at the power line cut where he had been seeing the male Summer Tanager dependably over the years. In less than fifteen minutes we were there.

A few moments after our arrival Keith brought my attention to the Tanager's *ki-ti-tuck* call. The bird drew closer but we could see nothing through the dense foliage. We waited. At last Keith spotted the impressive looking male Summer Tanager as it flew across the power line cut and disappeared into the woods on the other side. About that same time we briefly observed an unidentified bird flying nearby. Keith suspected it might be the female Tanager (later we discovered he was correct.) Meanwhile we continued tracking the male as he flew back and forth across the cut.

Finally the bird settled in one area of the woods on the side where we were standing. His occasional call note enabled us to locate him in a nearby tree. Keith whispered that he could see the bird was carrying an insect. Suddenly another bird streaked close by the Tanager. Hoping it might be the female, we were disappointed when a clearer view revealed a Red-eyed Vireo.

By now the Tanager's call was continuous. His movements were confined to a sixty foot high Red Oak tree. Fortunately the foliage was not so thick and we were able to follow his bright, red plumage easily as he hopped and flew about in the top of the tree. We could see the bird was still holding fast to the insect. Now we were more optimistic that there would be a nest at the conclusion of his performance. Sure enough, he suddenly flew down to the nest and a long last we were able see it high above us. The Tanager leaned into it, passed on the insect to one of the chicks, straightened up and flew away. We shared a voiceless cheer accompanied with enormous gins.

In order to get a closer look, Keith decided to return to the car and bring back his scope. In less than twenty minutes he returned, quickly set up the scope and located the nest. Now we had a closer view but the tiny birds inside the nest were still difficult to see.

We grew anxious when forty minutes passed with neither sight nor sound of the adult bird. Then a soft *ki-ti-tuck* and the male, abruptly flew onto the nest with an insect. Our relief turned to a rush of excitement when a second bird streaked in towards the nest and settled on top. For the first time we were able to see clearly enough to confirm the female Summer Tanager.

We were delighted to observe the increased activity as the two parent birds chased each other about the treetops carrying various insects to their young. The pair always vocalized upon leaving or returning to the nest. We heard the *ki-ti-tuck* along with a quiet Bobwhite-like call that was part of a shortened rendition of the lyrical Tanager song. We remained throughout the morning and watched the birds for three more satisfying hours before leaving.

Two days later Keith returned to the nest in late afternoon. He appreciated the ray of sunlight that illuminated the nest. The light enabled him to see the three little chicks clearly. He observed that the chicks had almost no feathers. During Keith's one and a half-hours observation, the chicks were fed just two times and only by the male.

On Saturday, July 29, Carol and Jim McDaniel joined us at the site. Keith expressed amazement at how quickly the chicks had grown and changed in the five days since he had last seen them. In Keith's words: now the birds showed buffly colored breasts with brown streaks and dark heads. Their wings were a pale gray/brown with a hint of wing bars.

Both adult birds were occupied in feeding the three chicks approximately every fifteen minutes. The young birds begged loudly with bright, gaping, yellow mouths. They aggressively jostled and pushed each other about vying for the best position to grab food from their parent's beak. We all gasped as one of the chicks stood fearlessly on the edge of the forty-five foot high nest flapping its wings. We stayed for almost two hours enjoying the excitement until the frequency of the feeding times gradually lengthened to half an hour, then we left.

The next day the nest was empty with only the male in evidence. By the next weekend even the male was silent and nowhere to be seen. The woods seemed empty.

*The nest as described by Hal H. Harrison in "A Field Guide to Bird's Nests" is: "a flimsy, flat, cup of weed stems, bark, leaves, grasses, and spider silk lined with fine grasses. Only the female carries material and builds."

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- A Birder's Canon - The 10 Top Books Every Maryland Birder Needs

By Scott Crabtree

So, you've been birding for a few years, getting out on your own some, coming along on a number of Baltimore Bird Club trips. You see people bring a variety of books along on these trips, and they can point to field marks on birds that you've never heard of. And they can tell you about places to go that you had no idea even existed.

"No, Nashville warblers always have a white vent, in between the belly and undertail coverts."
"You have to remember that only Baird's and White-rump sandpipers have the wing-flag, and those with the buff wash on the breast are the Baird's."
"That probably wasn't a Tree sparrow - it's only Labor Day."

"You want to see a Red Crossbill? Go to the third white pine tree along the upper Liberty Dam Trail on December 16th. They'll be there!"
Your sister-in-law got you a forty-year old field guide at some yard sale, and you know you'd get to improve upon it and develop some sort of reference library if you're going to become a better birder. But which books? The catalogs and shelves at the local bookstore are full of them. Well, here's one birder's opinion on the top ten books you need today. My opinion is free, and is probably worth the price!

A top-of-the-line field guide. Yes, there are eastern field guides that will limit the number of birds you have to sort through that that troubling ID, but they can't compare in quality to the North American guides. Peterson's is getting pretty long in the tooth, and photo-based field guides such as the Stokes's effort, just suffer from too many problems to be recommendable: lighting, molt-stage, color separation/reproduction problems, "juicing up the photos" (Stokes does that) just to name a few. Today, the 3rd edition of the National Geographic field guide is the only solid recommendation. It's been heavily revised and updated, and it is certainly worth replacing your older editions with this new one, even though it's not without its problems. The new Nature Conservancy guide also has to be recommended. I now, in November, we'll see the *Sibley Guide to Birds* from National Audubon. At 544 pages, it's going to be a behemoth, but we finally might get up with a field guide that is of the same caliber that the Europeans enjoy. There is a lot of excitement about it in the community - we'll have to see. For now stick with the NGS.

The next area is that of the bird family guide - an increasingly popular kind of guide. Academic Press has such a series, and there are the highly-regarded-though-oddly-named Helms Guides, as well as others. Broadly speaking, I recommend sticking with the books hoped for in the next two books. All the following family guides are available now in soft-copy.

You need a Warbler guide, and I can seriously recommend the Peterson Guide (although, surprisingly, *Warblers*) by Dunn and Garrett. While I've been a big fan of the Helms Guide to Warblers of North America because of its artwork (although not as extensive), the text of the Peterson guide is much better and its artwork is certainly excellent.

Rising and Beadle's guide to Sparrows is my next recommendation. This book is indispensable if you want to sort out the "little brown jobs." The artwork and text in the Helms Guide to sparrows is equally good, but it's not portable in the least.

OK, now I'm going to go against my aversion to photo-guides. When it comes to raptors, there is nothing better than Wheeler and Clark's *Photographic Guide to North American Raptors*. It covers the birds of prey (no owls) with photos of all ages, color-morphs, and does so for the flying and perched bird. On top of that, it has a whole section to help you sort out the tough ID. Dorn and Sibley's *Hawks in Flight* is superb, but is another sort of book altogether.

Well, so long as I'm going against my previously stated aversions, I might as well help you at it. When it comes to shorebirds, the best is in from the Helms Guides - *Shorebirds* by Hayman, Marchant, and Prater.

And, here's another retrenchment, this time because my recommendation is not by a North American. It's *Gulls* by Peter J. Grant. You may not be all that interested in Gulls (*gulls*, *Gene*), but they and shorebirds wander widely, and you just never know what your going to run into. Grant's Gulls is as good as it gets.

Now, there are plenty of other "family" guides, but if you're going to spend your hard-earned cash on just ten books, we'll limit this section to the above five. If you're not into gulls but would rather spend your time and money on corvids or icterids, there are some fine Helms Guides available to those areas. For the rest of the tough, specialized North American identification problems, let's add to the Canon the:

Peterson Guide to *Advanced Birding* by Kenn Kaufman. This is an invaluable little book that you ought to keep by your bedside table to pull out at the odd moment to absorb Kern's wisdom and knowledge of details. It addresses the really tough little problems in ID'ing North American birds - I've found it invaluable over the years.

Now we'll get to the last group of books - the regional guides. What do you expect where and when, and how do you find them. These books will tell you where to go, and will help form your search strategy and picture. That way, you won't do like I did in the past - call a dull yellow warbler, seen in October, a Yellow Warbler. Several people, more regionally knowledgeable than I, looked at me like I'd just dropped in from Mars. (I was from Texas, but that's pretty close!) These regional guides are:

The Field List of the Birds of Maryland otherwise known as the "Yellow Book."
You'll need the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. This monumental project is invaluable.

OK, now I'm going to fudge here. You need a bird-feeding guide. As a dedicated Baltimorean, you gotta have the Baltimore Guide put together by our Elliott Kirschbaum. If you want to range further afield in Maryland, the Claudia Wilds' Guide to birding locations in the DC region is very useful. I just recently learned that Marshall Hill will be publishing a Birder's Guide to Maryland. Maybe you'll have to have all three and call this article *The Birder's Dozen!*

Hope this helps. Have fun and happy birding!

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Trinidad & Tobago Trip Space Available

Dec. 7 through 16th. We have room for one more female participant. \$1,745 includes everything. Call Ben Nicholls 410-687-1461, or landerbee@aol.com.

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Birding in Southeast Asia

By Irma Weinstein

On a recent two-week trip to Southeast Asia I found a variety of birding opportunities. In Singapore, there is the Jurong Bird Park, with twenty hectares of aviaries and 600 species. In Hong Kong the Botanical Gardens also has aviaries with many colorful and exotic birds. (Caged birds don't count.)

The World Wildlife Fund runs a marsh and wetland refuge at Mai Po, just across the border from China. We took a train from Hong Kong to the New Territories and a taxi to Mai Po. There are blinds and trails through the ponds and mangrove swamps. Birding there is best in fall and spring for migrating birds. However, we did see a Common Kingfisher, Black-browed Red Warblers, Spotted Doves, Baya Weavers, Chinese Pond Herons, Little Grebes, Great Egrets, Black-winged Stilts, Snowy Egrets, a Chinese Babbler, Red-winked Bulbul, Gray Heron, and a Little Swift. Our guide at Mai Po was a young man named Zeeman Ng. His e-mail address is zeeman@cacapacific.com.hk. He offers to guide birders in Hong Kong and other Southeast Asia locations.

In Bangkok and surrounding countryside we saw Cattle Egrets, Little Egrets, Asian Openbills, a White-breasted Waterhen, Red Turtle-Doves, House Swifts, Common Iora, Oriental Magpie-Robins, Asian Pied Starling, Common Mynas, White-vented Myiars, Eurasian Tree Sparrows, and Plian-backed Sparrows. The bird book used was *Photographic Guide to the Birds of Thailand*, compiled by Michael Webster and Chew Yen Fook, published by Asia Books.

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From the BBC President

In July more than 20 Board members and friends met and brainstormed about the strengths of the Baltimore Bird Club, goals for the committees, goals for the Board and goals for the club. We agreed we have a great club, our publications and our devoted active members are wonderful assets. With this process we were able to get some consensus on the wants of the club at large. Some of ideas are to expand our offerings to members and youth, to actively reach out to diverse potential new members, to inform the members about conservation issues in a timely manner and with options of actions one may want to take. Many want to revitalize the partnership with the school science programs. Many want to continue to publish bird lists for local areas. Please let any board member know if there are interests you would like to work on with us, and what information you may want from committees or board members.

We are looking for current and past teachers to consult on curriculum enhancements on birds to the standard science curriculum. New club members to participate on the hospitality committee, on the publicity committee and a helper for the president in revitalizing the Extension Service and Equipment Committee.

Helene Gardel

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BBC Fledgling

Mary Paul, the Baltimore Bird Club's Vice President from 1999, has announced that she and her husband Tim have another fledgling born on August 16, 2000. They have named this most welcome boy Dakota Dalton. Dakota was also a belated gift for Mary since he was born a day after her birthday.

While leaving St. Agnes hospital after Dakota's birth, Sierra, Dakota's two year old sister, was sitting next to her daddy in the car giving "Who-Who" sounds for no apparent reason. When Tim returned to the hospital the next day he understood how she got the idea to mimic the birds when he noticed artificial Great-horned Owls placed about the building. Sierra had apparently seen them the day before.

The Paul's pet Nanday Conure parrots also celebrated with their own brood. After laying infertile eggs for five years they finally hatched out three chicks less than a week before Dakota's birth.

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Membership Dues

Our 2000-2001 membership year began September 1, 2000. Thanks to all who paid their dues promptly. If you have not paid your dues, please forward them as promptly as possible to:

Roberta Ross
4128 Roland Ave
Baltimore MD 21211-2034

IF the expiration date on your mailing label is printed in red, we have not received your dues. Our regular dues, which include membership in the state organization, are \$20 for an individual or \$30 for a household. Members of another chapter or life members of MOS who joined after 6/11/90 pay the "chapter only" dues of \$10 for an individual or \$15 for household memberships.

Roberta Ross

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Costa Rica without a List

By Dixie Mullineux

When my husband and I travel, it is to experience nature as closely as possible and to see as much wildlife as we can, with birds at the top of the list. We are also always interested in the local cuisine, vegetation, and native indigenous people. Neither one of us keeps a life list. Even though we have both been birders for about 10 years, we are passionate about all of the natural world, especially birds, and feel like a bird makes our own personal internal "LIST" if we can bring it to mind and know it in our heart, without a list or book. We do not go in search of any specific bird or any quota, so, in this way, everything we encounter is a blessing.

We struck out on our own for a two week trip to Costa Rica, engineered by ourselves, the Lonely Planet Guide, the Internet, and just enough Spanish to keep us out of trouble. We made enough plans to not have to spend time looking for places to stay, and left enough space open to be spontaneous if something unexpected called. The plan was a great success.

Not wanting to stop in San Jose (we heard it was just a big dirty city), we arrived at the Tuxtla Lodge in Alajuela, a small town near the airport, for our first night. We were surprised the next morning by one of the most beautiful birds of the whole trip, a Blue-crowned Motmot. Great Kingfishers were everywhere (and everywhere else in Costa Rica!) Other treats were the Masked Tody, Brown Jay and Chestnut-headed Oropendola.

As with the rest of the trip, small unidentified birds and bird sounds were numerous!

La Catarata Lodge was next, an eco-tourist lodge near the famous waterfall by the same name. We were also close to Arenal Volcano, but couldn't see it because of cloudy weather. Some highlights from there were Laughing Falcon, Gray Hawk, Buff-rumped warbler, Black-throated Trogon, American Swallow-tailed Kite, and difficult to identify parrots.

Further north and west was the Buena Vista Lodge, very far off the beaten track, near another volcano, Rincon de la Vieja. Keel-billed Toucan, the showy and raucous White-throated Magnie-Jay, Black Guan, Crested Caracara, Turquoise-browed Motmot, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Melodious Blackbird (aptly named) and Common Parakeet were some memorable sightings. We also experienced a volcanic hot springs near Buena Vista...first a steam in a sauna heated by boiling volcanic water, then we were slathered from head to toe with warm volcanic mud, taken from a bubbling pit near by. After the mud dried, we showed, then soaked in warm springs. An unforgettable treat.

Heading back down south, we landed in Santa Elena, a little town in between the Santa Elena Preserve and the famous Monteverde Cloud Forest. We couldn't resist walking through the canopy on the Sky Walk, eye to eye with all that dwells there. Santa Elena was the classic rainforest...completely soaked and brimming with life. We couldn't help noticing that every square inch was covered with lush vegetation, even the benches! It was so cloudy, rainy and dark that we didn't see a lot of birds there, except many hummingbirds at the feeder bars. At Monteverde, we had an exceptional guide, Alex Villagas, who can recognize 1,000 bird calls, and can imitate almost every one himself. He immediately led us to a magnificent view of a Resplendent Quetzal, which we all goggled over for half an hour. Some other treats were Emerald Toucanet, Three-striped Warbler, Black-faced Saltator, Gray-breasted Wood Wren, Common Bush-Tanager, and Spangled-checked Tanager.

The bus made it's way down those undulating green folds of mountains, with a swallow-tailed Kite flying right next to us. It was difficult leaving Santa Elena, but we were looking forward to exploring a totally different landscape on the Caribbean.

Mira Flores Lodge, on the southeast coast, almost to Panama, was a birder's paradise. The first thing we noticed was it was about 75 birds that someone compiled from a stay there. When we woke up the next morning, we couldn't leave our room...all we had to do was look outside and the trees were full of birds...Toucans, Fiery-billed Anzac, Hoffman's Woodpecker, Yellow-billed and Spurred Cuckoos, Olive-backed and White-vented Euphonias, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, and many more. Howler monkeys and three-toed sloths were in the trees nearby. Sleeping in an open room (with mosquito netting) with bats, lizards, beetles, and various other noisy creatures was wonderful. We had only planned to stay there 2 nights, but extended it to 5. We also visited Indigenous Indians Preserves, and took a boat trip to see dolphins, where we also saw the Blue-footed Booby, and Magnificent Frigatebirds.

Again, it was so hard to say good-bye, but we left Costa Rica with ideas about where to go next time. With a little reading and research, our trip was easy and fun to plan.....and execute!

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Early Summer Birding in Utah

By Catherine Pinckard

Most birders would not think of the region near the northern border of Utah as a prime birding destination. We certainly did not. But when we saw an advertisement for a short birding tour based at a ranch in that area and reviewed the bird sightings list for last year's tour, we knew we should go there.

The tour was billed as the Desert Ranch Mountain Adventure, from June 23 to 28, 2000. (A second tour was from July 6 to 11.) The tour began and ended near the Salt Lake City airport. If you can resist stopping to look at birds en route (e.g. at a Prairie Falcon or a Golden Eagle), the ranch is about a two-hour drive north via interstate highways to Evanston, Wyoming, and then back into Utah for about twenty miles to the ranch.

Desert Ranch consists of nearly 250,000 acres and is the largest piece of privately-owned property in all of Utah. Its boundaries are within five counties and nearly all of the habitats of the region are found there. The bird list for Desert Ranch now numbers 254 species, over 170 species nest on the ranch.

The ranch is managed using holistic range management practices, and a healthy ecosystem is preserved. As a result the ranch abounds with wildlife. We saw herds of elk - many of the bucks having trophy-size racks, moose, mule deer, pronghorn, coyote, badger, prairie dogs, beaver, weasel, tree and ground squirrels, and a host of various species of small ground-dwelling mammals. And bats; I wish I could identify flying bats at night.

But it was the birds that we went to see, and we saw birds. During our five-night stay at the ranch, including a day trip off-ranch to the Mirror Lake Scenic Highway in the Wasatch National Forest adjacent to the High Uintas Wilderness Area, we saw 176 species. En route to the ranch on the first day we stopped at Antelope Island in the Great Salt Lake, where we had excellent looks at nearby Chukars. By the time we reached the ranch guest house we had seen 65 species. Each of the next four days more than one hundred species were seen.

A sampling of the birds first seen on the ranch includes: Western and Clark's Grebes, White-faced Ibis, Swainson's and Ferruginous Hawks (both nesting), Golden Eagles and Prairie Falcons (both nesting), Northern Sage Grouse (a recent split), Blue Grouse, Wilson's Phalaropes too numerous to count, Franklin's and California Gulls, three owl species - Great Horned, Burrowing, and Long-eared, Common Poorwill, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned (on nest), Callopee and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers, Hammond's, Dusky, Gray and Cordilleran (a split) Flycatchers, Plumbeous Vireo (another split), Mountain Chickadee, Rock, Canyon and Bewick's Wrens, American Dipper (feeding nestlings), sage Thrasher, Pine's, Townsend's and MacGillivray's Warblers, Western Tanager, Green-tailed and Spotted Towhees (another split), Brewer's and Fox Sparrows (the Fox very different from our eastern form), Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting, Black Rosy-Finch, Vireo Grosbeak, and both Red and White-winged Crossbills were seen adjacent to the Mirror Lake Scenic Highway.

Access to the Desert Ranch is tightly controlled. Guided chukar-and-release trout fishing and very limited guided hunting are allowed, both for a fee. Our guide, Mark Stackhouse of Westwings (801-487-9453) has the exclusive birding concession at Desert Ranch. His tours are reasonably priced and a good value. Mark is a fine leader and a pleasant field companion.

Send me a SASE (#4 X 9 1/2") for a free copy of the field checklist.

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From the Third Floor of Cylburn

By Joy Wheeler

This is the second installment in an occasional series by this title, the title being taken from a book purportedly to have been written by Bruce Cotton, resident of Cylburn from about 1910 to 1942. He was the second husband of Edith Johns Tyson Cotten. "First Lady" of Cylburn from the time of her 1888 marriage to Jesse Tyson, Cylburn's builder. Jesse Tyson died in 1906. Mrs. Tyson married Bruce Cotten in 1910.

A lot of my (hundred) time is spent on Cylburn's third floor. I should be writing about it more because what happens is so interesting. I must let you about July 28, 2000 because it was all about birds.

Barn Swallows (flurinate nastica) have been living at Cylburn from the building of the first barn, no doubt. Each summer of the Tyson's and the Cotton's residence, Cylburn's spacious lawns would have been perfect places for swallows to have collected insects rising in the warmth of days. We know swallows now nest under the eaves of the greenhouses and have probably done so since their 1960's construction. During many early spring days we often see them swoop under and out of the mansion's porch and into the vestibule if the wind is open. So more than just birdwatchers are familiar with these dark blue, pink-floored, fork-tailed birds.

On this day in July I walked into our third floor museum workroom and had my attention drawn immediately by birds soaring and swooping outside the large west window. Right out there on the jagged roof ledge were two chipping, fluttering, fluffy-feathered young barn swallows, dark heads moving busily back and forth keeping two flying adults in sight. Yellow gnatcatchers and downy bellies affirmed their youth; a few short, weak flights out and back to the ledge affirmed their inexperience. Adults flew by, not stopping with the hope for insect, probably because of my image in the window. Stepping to the side of the window I came closer to the scene, catching a glimpse of an adult appearing a wide open beak, putting some thing in and flying off... Could these small birds have flown all the way up here from a nest in the greenhouse, resting on an electric wire or garden fence on their way? Even with binoculars we had not located a Barn Swallow's nesting way nest of dried mud anywhere under the eaves of the mansion.

Soon after that first night of these two baby swallows, one small swallow which had shown the stronger wing flapping, flew off and did not return. The second, seemingly weaker bird was still up there on the roof when we left our "job" at 3 o'clock. The adults remained faithful to their last young one, continuing to deposit the hoped-for food in the waiting beak. The next time we came to Cylburn the window ledge was empty. We like to think that the *From the Third Floor of Cylburn* includes both those young, fully independent Barn Swallows.

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Editor's Plea

Here are some requests concerning your submissions to *Chip Notes* that would aid in the timely processing and delivery of *Chip Notes*.

MOST OF ALL, PLEASE BE ON TIME!

Pluses, please try to get your material in by the deadline, which is in each issue. The deadlines are: June 25 for the August issue, August 25 for the October issue, December 25 for the February issue, and February 25 for the April issue. This may seem very far in advance, but I usually type material up as soon as I get it, if it's not already in electronic text. Due to the curse of having a full-time job, it takes me about 10 days from the time I have ALL the material assembled until I finish pounding it into the newsletter's mold (Microsoft *Publisher*) and deliver it to the printer. Then it's about another whole week from the printer to Terry and Roberta Ross who prepare and deliver the mailing to the post office almost instantaneously (Hoorary!), but up two weeks before they are all delivered to your door.

Electronic text is preferable to paper text unless you need to type it from paper. You can e-mail it to me at lanager@bcp.net as an attached file or just as text within the e-mail message itself. I can take MS Word files up to the Office 97 version, and most electronic word-processing files. I usually use 11-point Times New Roman font.

Paper text, if you can't send electronic text, the next best is neatly typed text. I can often put that in a scanner which does a pretty good job of converting it directly to electronic text, especially if there are no extraneous marks or handwritten corrections, and if the paper is not too thin.

Other media, if the above options are not practical, the following be used in descending order of preference: hand-written text, long-hand text, stone tablets (expensive to mail!), skywriting, and smoke signals.

Capitalization of bird names:

Many birding publications follow an *official* convention for capitalizing of bird names. I have chosen to follow this convention in *Chip Notes* because it makes the name stand out and it honors the objects of our devotion. ***If you would follow these "rules" in your submissions it would save a lot of time.*** The "rules" run something like this:

- All **non-hyphenated** parts of a bird's name are capitalized.
- The **hyphenated** parts **that are a type of bird** are also capitalized.
- The **hyphenated** parts **that are NOT themselves a type of bird**, such as "bellied" or "tailed," are **not** capitalized.

A good illustration of all these principles is "Yellow-crowned Night-Heron." When in doubt, check a current field guide such as the National Geographic guide. A web reference listing, including its own version of the "rules" is: [http://](http://www.audubon.org/birds/bird.html)