



The Tuneful Warbler

A Dunwoody Village Wildlife Refuge Committee Publication, Autumn 2021

BIRD WATCH

Have a Good Flight!

Most birds who summer at Dunwoody are on their way to winter homes. With us still are some of the late flyers and the species who winter over in the Northeast.

Birds need fat to provide energy for their long trips. Their speeds range from 15 to 55 miles per hour, depending on the species, prevailing winds and air temperature. They fly 15 to 600 miles a night.

Don't neglect to fill your bird feeders. Bird who are migrating need a good meal, too.

The Winter Flocks Return

Some birds, on the other hand, fly south to winter over here in Newtown Square. Keep the feeders full; they need a good meal after their long flights.

Since the beginning of fall, Scott Tuttle has observed returning Juncos, Nuthatches and White-throated Sparrows.

News from Down Under

The winner of New Zealand's 2021 Bird of the Year competi-

tion is the Pekapeka-tou-roa, a long-tailed bat which has been named an endangered species.



More Species Lost

The US Fish and Wildlife Service officially declared the Ivory-billed Woodpecker extinct, as well as the Bachman's Warbler and 21 other species. Today 9,567 bird species are alive world-wide. Fossilized remains, however, show that at one time there were more than 150,000 different bird species on this planet.



Maureen said the conference she attended in Tucson, Arizona was excellent, but she yearned to go exploring. She jumped at the chance to ride through the desert on a horse named Romeo.

INTERVIEW: Maureen Casey, Dunwoody's New CEO

When Maureen Casey visited Dunwoody Village before her interview in April, her first impression was the beauty of our campus. Soon after she came on board as CEO, she asked for a complete tour of the grounds. Bill Hohlfeld pulled up in one of the motorized garden carts and off they went to check out Dunwoody's 83 acres.

"Dunwoody Village has so much visual interest," says Maureen. "Not only the gardens and the trees, but also the open spaces and the deer, rabbits and other animals that share our grounds. I'm grateful that my office overlooks one of the courtyards. I feel like I'm part of the community when I hear people chatting and working in their gardens or walking their dogs."

Our surroundings also have a large effect on our physical and mental health. Every resident looks out on lawns or gardens. The grounds are part of our shared experience. The paths are popular with walkers--residents and employees alike. Nature is a fundamental part of Dunwoody and the "One Dunwoody" experience.

"Being able to go outdoors has been particularly important during the pandemic and the isolation we've endured for these 19 months," Maureen adds, "We certainly are more aware of the outdoors since COVID arrived. Dunwoody is fortunate to have the space to add areas for people to socialize. Some of the changes--the outdoor exercise classes and social circles, new benches and gazebos, and the areas for family visits--are definitely keepers."

In her private life Maureen is a nature lover. She's a gardener and a walker who values the circle of life. Now that she's enjoyed Spring, Summer and Fall at Dunwoody, she's looking forward to closing the circle and seeing the campus in the snow for the first time.

Dunwoody's Trees: Old, Rare and Beautiful

Dunwoody has as many trees as an arboretum. Ancient Trees. Rare Trees. Beautiful Trees. Trees old enough to make history.

Most residents pass every day without stopping to glance at them. Mary Creek didn't. She saw them with an artist's eye and was inspired by the variety of their leaves. She collected leaves of 50 trees growing in the area around the Octagonal Schoolhouse and set out to make a collection of gel prints from them. The prints are hanging on the "Lincoln Dining Room" hall in the Community Building.

Once the prints went up, so did interest in the trees. The Wildlife Committee led a fascinating walk through the grounds, pointing out 34 species of the trees and leaves that had Mary so inspired. The walk started at the historic Schoolhouse, continued to the edge of Penrose and circled the Dog Park.

"We have always enjoyed and appreciated the beautiful trees that surround us—but now we see them as individuals," said one walker."

"Two sycamore trees are at least 100 years old! ...planted for certain when the Dunwoody's Farm was operational!" exclaimed another."

If you walk along Dunwoody's East property boundary, look for the 200 -year-old red oak. It's one of the tallest tree on the property. "Definitely too big to get you arms around," said a resident. "Now if only it could tell stories of what life here was like in 1800."



The Single Oak has an unusual acorn. When the fruit is ripe, the basket-like attachment falls off.



One of Dunwoody's towering oak trees grows inside the dog park.

The Wildlife Refuge Committee Had a Busy Year, Despite the Pandemic

The Wildlife Refuge Committee rarely slowed down during the pandemic. After much discussion and help from the Grounds Department, the first residents' garden opened on July 1. Despite the late start and hot weather, residents harvested a good crop. The Zullinger's honeydew melons took the grand prize, and tomatoes grew abundantly.

The committee hopes to add more beds next season. With more space and more gardeners, we hope to have large enough crops to offer what the gardeners can't eat to residents, unlike this year when the garden was restricted to working gardeners only. If you are interested in sharing a bed, contact Dee Owen, dorie.owen@gmail.com. We'll add you to the list for next year.



Planting Day, June 31.



Come August, the plants were flowering and crops started coming in. Most beds were still producing tomatoes and peppers at Halloween.

Blue Birds or Bluebirds? There Is a Difference

By Joan Watroba

There are many birds which are Blue, including the three species of Bluebirds: Eastern, Western, and Mountain. However, when writing about this specific species—Bluebirds—it is important to display Bluebird as one word, not two. Some people think that we are talking about Blue Jays when we mention Bluebirds. In addition to Bluebirds, here are some other beautiful songbirds which are blue:



Adult Tree Swallow, Male

The color blue that we see on a bird is created by the way light waves interact with the feathers and their arrangement of protein molecules, called keratin. In other words, blue is a structural color. Different keratin structures reflect light in subtly different ways to produce different shades of what our eyes perceive as the color blue.



Blue Grosbeak, Breeding Male



Eastern Bluebirds, feeding on forsythia.



Indigo Bunting, Breeding Male



Blue Jay, Adult



Purple Martin, Adult Male

The Humble Hornworm Doesn't Live Long at Dunwoody

Pity the poor hornworm. Its life is only two to four weeks long. The lucky ones grow into moths. Others become food for the birds and insects. Jorie Nailor documented the life of one such visitor to her garden.



An innocent hornworm made a home on a cherry tomato and began to feed on it. Soon, however, parasitic wasps inserted their eggs into the hornworm, slowly killing him. Little did he know the real danger was posed by a male Cardinal that landed on the tomato plant. The Cardinal quickly spied him and went in for the kill.



Cristel Pilson and Leila Peck at dinner in Cedars East.

Plants Brighten Care Center Dining Rooms

Residents in the Care Center were delighted when the dining rooms reopened, but they missed having plants on the tables. Recreation manager Carolyn Treadway and wildlife committee member Judy Edinger put in an order that week. Leila Peck volunteered to water the plants. "Many of the residents were gardeners, and the plants bring a touch of nature into the Care Center," added Carolyn.."

In Case You Missed It...

News from the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Confederation.

- American bumblebee numbers have declined by 90 percent. Bumblebees have disappeared from entirely from Idaho, Maine, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wyoming.
- Monarch butterflies have been spotted in the UK. Scientists suspect wind patterns helped them along.
- For the first time, astronomers detected a planet outside the Milky Way galaxy.

The Tuneful Warbler is published quarterly by and for Dunwoody Village residents.

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