



The ATLA Choir at the 2011 Annual Conference in Chicago.

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ATLA Completes Purchase of Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI) from Catholic Library Association (CLA)

ATLA announced the successful conclusion of negotiations with CLA to acquire full ownership and all rights to CPLI effective September 1, 2011. CPLI provides indexing from 1981 forward of periodicals, essay collections, and church documents expressly addressing the practice and intellectual tradition of Roman Catholicism. CLA and ATLA have partnered to produce CPLI for more than 15 years.

ATLA also announced that CLA's CPLI General Editor, Debbie Winarski [insert photo], will join ATLA as Database Manager for Catholic Periodical and Literature Index. Ms. Winarski brings extensive experience as the General Editor to this position.

Brenda Bailey-Hainer, ATLA's Executive Director, commented, "I'm excited about the opportunity ATLA will have to explore ways to enhance this valuable research tool while maintaining excellent service for subscribing institutions and end users through EBSCO

From the President



Ends of Ascent

At least one presenter at the 2011 conference expressed the belief that the act of reading is the first rung in a ladder of spiritual works by which we may ascend to heaven (citing "The Ladder of Monks" by the twelfth-century Carthusian monk, Guigo II). I hope that conference speaker will not be too disappointed to learn that neither "ascent to heaven," nor any cognate of the word "read" is found in ATLA's mission statement or ends.

Reflecting on this and ATLA's many contributions to the practice of reading both printed and digital texts in our day, I re-read the topics of the 2011 conference sessions -- from support for preachers, to digitizing denominational materials, to reading contemporary religious literature, to developing library volunteers, and many others. I observed that most of the conference session titles did not use the phrases used in ATLA's mission statement and organizational ends (<http://www.atla.com/about/who/Pages/MissionStatement.aspx>). There were few mentions of "the study of religion, or "complements of librarians", or "primary source material," etc. I nevertheless hope that you will agree that the conference did advance our association's mission by specifically addressing the customs and characters of the educational institutions we serve. The more I attend our conferences, the more I understand that our conference conversations are a significant part of both "the moral" of the story of ATLA, and our "moral ownership" of ATLA. I'm very grateful to all those that contributed to the times and minds shared in Chicago this past June.

I'm honored to serve this year with the other members of the Board of Directors to address the opportunities and challenges before us, and to learn and support more of our members' innovative ideas and practices, even those that don't lead to heavenly ascent!

-- John B. Weaver



From the Executive Director

Crowding Together

When large numbers of people are congregated -- like the theological librarians at the recent ATLA conference -- I begin to ponder how the energy and knowledge of those individuals could be harnessed. Increasingly, libraries have been responding to that question by turning to crowdsourcing.

Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crowdsourcing>) defines crowdsourcing as "outsourcing tasks, traditionally performed by an employee or contractor, to an undefined, large group of people or community (a 'crowd'), through an open call." Libraries have been using crowdsourcing informally within the library community for decades. Consider the STUMPER listserv, which offers up difficult reference questions to be answered by anyone with the interest and tenacity to pursue them.

Using "civilians" for library tasks is a more recent phenomenon. In a 2010 D-Lib article (<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/march10/holley/03holley.html>), Rose Holley of the National Library of Australia suggested several uses for volunteers based on experience with the Australian Newspapers Digitisation Project's use of digital volunteers to correct text and add tags as well as other projects. The library at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, UK, conducted a pilot project (http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/freeabs_all.jsp?arnumber=5610593) using MTurk (<https://www.mturk.com/mturk/welcome>) for crowdsourcing non-Roman script translation tasks in library cataloging.

In many cases, volunteers are motivated enough to work for free because of their personal interests. At the ATLA Conference, Pat Graham and Robert Presutti from Pitts Theology Library gave a presentation that described how volunteers are digitizing and transcribing manuscript letters and sermons by the Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman and Henry Edward Cardinal Manning to make them more accessible to scholars.

Libraries also could benefit from other crowdsourcing services that involve pay for service, such as TaskRabbit (<http://www.taskrabbit.com/>), recently covered in Wired magazine, which blends crowdsourcing, bidding, and gaming. Tasks that need to be accomplished--walking a dog, picking up a repaired watch, or assembling IKEA furniture--are posted on TaskRabbit. Users who need a task accomplished post the maximum they are willing to pay. People interested in performing the task post the minimum amount they would accept. In addition to being paid for their work, those who perform the tasks also have the opportunity to accumulate points that affect their ranking and sometimes result in additional perks. Imagine crowdsourcing reshelving books or shifting the collection, hiring someone focused only on that task for the exact time needed to complete it, thus releasing staff to focus on higher level activities.

How else might libraries use crowdsourcing effectively? Could an online bartering system be set up to support and bid on the exchange of resources using TaskRabbit's maximum offer, minimum bid concept? "I'll swap you two hours of cataloging Greek materials for four hours on the virtual reference desk."

In the meantime, I'm anxiously awaiting the arrival of TaskRabbit to Chicago. There's some overdue library materials that I keep meaning to return...

--Brenda Bailey-Hainer

Report of the Secretary of the Board

ATLA Annual Conference, 2011, Chicago, IL Minutes of the Business Meeting Thursday, June 17, 2011



The business meeting was convened by Board President Laura Wood at 1:00 p.m.

President Wood recognized the following Committees: Special Committee of the Association for Diversity; Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration; Professional Development Committee; Publications Committee; Annual Conference Committee and Education Committee.

Carrie Hackney presented the Secretary's report. Members of the Teller's Committee were James Estes, William Faupel (chair), and Jennifer Foucher. They received the election results via e-mail from Survey & Ballot Systems and verified that 271 valid ballots were received. The membership elected Beth Bidlack, Kelly

Campbell, Douglas Gragg, and André Paris to the Board of Directors for the 2011-2014 term of office. The Secretary's report was accepted.

President Wood recognized the outgoing Board members: Eileen Crawford, M. Patrick Graham, and Bill Hook. David Stewart and Blake Walter were also recognized for their time served on the Board. Gifts were presented to each outgoing Board member.

The new Board officers were introduced: John Weaver (President), Andrew Keck (Vice President), and Carrie Hackney (Secretary). ATLA's new Executive Director, Brenda Bailey-Hainer, was introduced. President Wood delivered her presidential address, "What Good Shall We Accomplish." President Wood passed the gavel to the incoming Board President, John Weaver.

The Business meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Board of Directors Meetings

The Board discussions included items and recommendations from the report of the Executive Director, the Board's practice of appointing liaisons to special and joint committees, and the revised draft of the Board's Policy Manual. A timetable was established for completion of the revision of the manual.

A committee was formed to identify the process for revising the ATLA By-Laws. The Executive Director will make a decision concerning the status of the Oral History Committee. Reports were received on the work of the following committees: Audit, Endowment, Nominating Committee for Board Members, Policy Governance Committee on the Board member orientation, Special Committee of the Association for International Collaboration, and the Special Committee of the Association for Diversity. The January Board meeting was set for January 12-14, 2012 at ATLA headquarters.

--Carrie M. Hackney, Secretary, ATLA Board of Directors

Welcome New Members

Individual Members

Martha Adkins, San Diego, CA
Russ Atmore, Sarasota, FL
Brenda Bailey-Hainer, Chicago, IL
Katherine Card, Champaign, IL
Ian R. Clark, Campbeltown, Argyll, United Kingdom

Odile DuPont, Paris, France
Rachel Leket-Mor, Tempe, AZ
Rev. Michael Peter Stear, Weymouth, United Kingdom
Randall Studstill, Watsonville, CA
Rev. Dianne Van Marter, Detroit, MI
Jenny Vitti, Decatur, GA

Student Members

Jason Bernth, Saint Louis, MO
Mary Rachel Myers, Dallas, TX
Jeffrey Stephen Sabol, Los Angeles, CA
Troy Wellington Smith, Lutherville, MD
Katrina Beth Stokum, Milwaukee, WI
Roger G. Watts, Pinellas Park, FL
Steve Lynn Wright, Britton, MI

Institutional Members

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City Library, Oklahoma City, OK
Central Baptist Seminary, Virginia Beach, VA
Daylesford Abbey, Paoli, PA
Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ
Oakland City University/Chapman Seminary, Oakland City, IN

Affiliate Members

Biblical Archaeology Society, Washington, DC
Catholic Theological Institute Library, Yona, Guam
Georgia Christian University Library, Lilburn, GA
Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Taylors, SC
Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, MN
Midwest Library Service, Bridgeton, MO
Pacific Islands University, Mangilao, Guam
Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, WA

ATLA Completes Purchase of CPLI, cont. from p. 1

Publishing. The addition of Ms. Winarski to our staff will provide us with a strong foundation of knowledge about CPLI, editorial continuity and a smooth operational transition."

Malachy McCarthy, President of CLA, stated: "Our recent partnership with ATLA in co-producing CPLI, CLA's primary publication serving educational and religious communities, has been mutually beneficial. We are confident that CPLI will flourish under ATLA sponsorship and look forward to working with ATLA in promoting the use of such an invaluable religious index."

Are you or a colleague interested in volunteering to be a part of a newly-forming Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (CPLI) advisory board?

You will provide valuable feedback to ATLA on CPLI in the form of surveys, phone interviews, and other channels. E-mail sales@atla.com for further information.

Member News

ICC Grants Available

ATLA members are invited to apply for an international collaboration grant for 2012. Grants of up to \$2,000 are available to foster collaboration between ATLA institutions and institutions abroad. More information about the grants, reports from previous recipients, and the application form can be found at <http://www.atla.com/Members/programs/awards/Pages/International-Collaboration-Grant.aspx>. The deadline for applications is October 31, 2011.

Latest Theological Librarianship Now Online

Volume 4, Issue 1 of *Theological Librarianship*, An Online Journal of the American Theological Library Association is now available online at <http://www.theolib.org>. With two columns, four essays, a lengthy peer-reviewed article, three bibliographic essays, and eight critical reviews, you're sure to find some rewarding reading ahead. Enjoy!

August Issue of TCB Now Available

Theological Cataloging Bulletin, Volume 19, No. 4 has been uploaded to the Member Publications section of ATLA's Community website.

Schedule Change for Theological Librarianship Course

ATLA, in partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is pleased to once again offer a graduate-level course in theological librarianship. This course, available to members and non-members, will be offered online through the LEEP program of the University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) as LIS 590TL Theological Librarianship.

The course typically runs in the fall from late August to early December. However, the next offering will take place in the Spring of 2012 instead of in the fall of 2011, due to instructor Carisse Berryhill's upcoming sabbatical. More information is available at <http://www.atla.com/Members/development/Pages/UIUC.aspx>.



New Position for Laura Wood

Starting in September, Laura C. Wood will serve as the Director of the Tisch Library at Tufts University. She has served as the Librarian of the Andover-Harvard Theological Library

at Harvard Divinity School since 2004.



Amy Limpitlaw Moves to BU

Amy Limpitlaw joined the Boston University School of Theology Library staff as Library Director on July 1, 2011. Before coming to Boston, Amy

served as the Research & Electronic Services Librarian at Yale Divinity Library.

Luba Zakharov Accepts Library Faculty Position



Luba Zakharov has taken a library faculty position at Azusa Pacific University Libraries to begin September 1 and will be leaving her post as Reference & Serials Librarian at Duke on August 12. Luba says, "Given that my work at APU will

be primarily in Special Collections, I'm not sure whether I will be renewing my membership in ATLA. I am, however, interested in continuing to moderate the unconferecing blog (see *New Conferencing Blog* on page 10). I have enjoyed my membership in ATLA and hope to find a way to continue to be a part of the organization."

In Trust Features Articles By and About Members

For the current issue of *In Trust* (<http://intrust.org/magazine/>), ATLA member Jennifer Woodruff Tait contributed an article on *Library Resources for Online Learning*. Jennifer interviewed several ATLA members for her story, including Duane Harbin, Jennie Bartholomew, Charles Bellinger, and Melody Layton McMahon. In *Tending to Bricks and Mortar: Six Considerations for Schools Thinking About Library Renovations*, Heather Grennan Gary discusses the experiences of Fuller Theological Seminary, Concordia Theological Seminary, Candler School of Theology, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Regent College, Carey Theological College, Catholic Theological Union, and Princeton Theological Seminary, with some statistics provided by Barbara Kemmis, ATLA's Director of Member Services.

In Trust describes itself as a servant of the churches that "educates and assists boards and others entrusted with governing North America's theological schools for more faithful, informed, strategic, and productive leadership." Please note: this issue is available to the public until around September 1. After that, only people who are affiliated with an *In Trust* member organization can view full content by logging in.

We welcome your submission of news, photos, and other items of interest for the *ATLA Newsletter*. All submissions are due on the first business day of the month preceding publication. Contact Sara Corkery (scorkery@atla.com) with any questions or concerns or if you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the newsletter.

TLM--October 2011

theological
libraries
month

illumination
OCT 2011



Theological Libraries Month (TLM) is just around the corner and we strongly encourage you to participate in the celebration at <http://www.atla.com/MEMBERS/PROGRAMS/TLM/Pages/default.aspx>.

TLM in a Box

Launch your Theological Libraries Month activities with TLM in a Box. We've got logos, bookmarks, and posters.

Mini-Grants for TLM Advocacy Activities

Mini-grants of up to \$500 are available again this year. While the money can be used toward any worthy TLM project you propose, we encourage you to tell us how you will use the money to specifically reach out to faculty and administrators and promote the value of your library.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Conduct a reception at your library just for faculty. During the event you can distribute a handout you create using the Statement of Value messages and some statistics and testimonials, or design a PowerPoint presentation that shows how your library supports every department and is a key link to alumni.
- Invite faculty to recommend books for the library and be available for questions.
- Invite a well-known theologian or author to speak during your TLM celebration and schedule a VIP meeting with the speaker for faculty and administrators.

If you'd like to apply for a grant, visit <http://intrust.org/magazine/> for a link to the application form.

TLM Cartoon Contest

The Cartoon Caption Contest is returning again this year. Soon we will unveil two cartoons and invite you to submit your own caption ideas as well as those of your students and faculty. The deadline to submit captions will be Tuesday, November 1, 2011. Members will vote on the finalists at the end of November, and we'll announce the winners in December. The two winning caption writers will each receive \$100.

Coming Soon: Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow Program

Applications Open August 15



The time is nearly here for interested mid-career librarians to sign up for ATLA's new Creating the Leaders of Tomorrow Program. For details about the program, go to <http://www.atla.com/Members/development/Pages/Creating-Leaders-of-Tomorrow.aspx>.

Have You Heard?

Library Think Tank Blog

"In the Library with the Lead Pipe: The murder victim? Your library assumptions. Suspects? It could have been any of us."

Thus reads the intriguing title of this blog founded by a team of librarians working in "academic, public, and school libraries across the United States" who want to "explore new ideas and start conversations; to document our concerns and argue for solutions."

Visit <http://www.inthelibrarywiththeleadpipe.org/2011/collaborating-with-faculty-part-i-a-five-step-program/> to read the first essay in a two-part series on librarian collaboration with faculty.

Membership Renewal Season is Here!

Individual and Student members are invited to log in to www.atla.com today to instantly renew their memberships online. Simply click on the "Renewal" choice in the upper right corner of the website and pay with a VISA or MasterCard. You may also select "Bill Me" as a payment choice to receive an invoice by email. (Please remit payment to ATLA upon receipt of the email.) While visiting the new online community, be sure to take a moment to update your profile and explore the publications and groups available to you.

Institutional, International Institutional and Affiliate Member representatives will receive their institutional renewal invoices by August 1, 2011. If your member representative prefers to renew online with VISA or MasterCard, they may do so on the ATLA website.

Thank you in advance for your continued membership in ATLA.

2011 Annual Conference Summary



Congratulations to the Chicago Area Theological Library Association (CATLA) on the planning of "A Theological Block Party"-- the meeting was a huge success. As your theme promised, our members were entertained and enticed and enjoyed all aspects of Chicago, no matter which "block" of the city they encountered. You are to be commended for the ideas and events you provided to our conference attendees.

The 2011 ATLA Annual Conference held at the Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza Hotel was well planned and organized, creating an excellent conference experience for all members in attendance. Once again, I was delighted to be a part of this international gathering for the premiere ecumenical library association. Our conference attracted a diverse group of librarians who hailed from around the world. CATLA did a great job utilizing social media as an additional form of conference communication and once again our alternative to our banquet was well received. Volunteers at the Local Host Table ably filled in all of the blanks that surfaced at the conference, providing a wealth of information to us all as they led various hosted excursions for our members' enjoyment. ATLA's annual conference attracted 350 members, exhibitors, and guests--which held steady from last year's attendance.

For 2011, we had forty-one first time attendees, thirty-three new members, and six international members; thirty-nine members received travel grants. We experienced the attention to detail, the knowledge imparted, and the enthusiasm displayed by the highly regarded presenters, exhibitors, and staff that played a very important role in the execution of the annual conference. All of the interest groups, panels, papers, and roundtables were well attended. In fact some sessions were viewed as "mini plenaries" due to the high attendance by members. The highlights of the conference were our two plenary speakers, the fabulous opening reception with beautiful vistas of Chicago, a great jazz quintet and of course all of the culinary delights that make Chicago famous which was concluded by our day on Catholic Theological Union and JKM Library's campuses. And I would be remiss if I did not mention the inspirational and uplifting sermons provided by the ministers each morning during worship.

Videos of the plenary sessions and business meetings are available on the ATLAOne channel

at YouTube.com (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ATLAone?feature=mhum#p/p>). As usual, the many wonderful photos taken at the conference will be available to members via Shutterfly.com. Visit <http://atla2011annualconference.shutterfly.com/> to download and/or print your favorites from the 2011 event.

Photos from previous conferences are available at the links below. The case-sensitive password for these sites is atla.

2010 Annual Conference Photos: <http://atla2010conference.shutterfly.com/>

2009 Annual Conference Photos: <http://atla2009annualconference.shutterfly.com/>

2008 Annual Conference photos: <http://atla08conference.shutterfly.com/>

Photos from 2007 and 2006: <http://atlaconferencepast.shutterfly.com/>

Don't forget to submit your conference evaluation (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VHMCCK>). It is a great way to make your voice heard for next year's planning.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone that contributed to the overall success of our conference: the Annual Conference and Education Committee members, the board of directors, our speakers, presiders, regional, denominational, and interest group members, ATLA staff, and all the ATLA members who make me feel extremely proud to be a part of this great association. I am exceptionally fortunate, privileged, and blessed.

As I end this article, my attention has already turned to next year's conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The Annual Conference and Education Committees recently sent out an invitation to members and friends of the American Theological Library Association to submit proposals for pre-conference workshops, in-conference workshops, papers, panel presentations, interest group presentations, conversation groups, posters, or other special sessions (<http://www.atla.com/Members/conference/Pages/CallforSessionProposals.aspx>).

See you in Scottsdale, June 27-30, 2012.

--Denise AM McFarlin, ATLA Meeting Specialist

New ATLAS® for ALUM Promotional Materials

We are pleased to announce that new *ATLAS for ALUM* promotional materials are now available on <http://www.atlasalum.com>, including logos and electronic ads that can be used and enhanced to accommodate your needs, as well as an instruction sheet explaining the different formats and how to add institution specific information.

Eileen Saner, Director of Library Services, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, wrote, "Thanks to ATLA for providing a new *ATLAS® for ALUM* logo in multiple formats for easy use in print and web-based publicity. The AMBS Library's reputation is enhanced when we have professionally prepared logos on the materials we distribute to our users. *ATLAS* is an essential resource for our alumni, especially the many who use *The Text This Week* for worship planning and sermon preparation."

Kate Skrebutenas, Reference Librarian, Princeton Theological Seminary, commented, "I prefer the bright look of the new logos. I especially like the use of the phrase 'Indispensable resources for thoughtful clergy.' I am putting the accent on thoughtful clergy. That is what so many of our former students have become and it is wonderful to be able to offer them remote access to the, yes, indispensable resources *ATLASerials®* provides. Thank you so much."

Take a look. Try them out. Spread the word about *ATLAS for ALUM* to alumni/ae and graduating students, librarians, development officers, faculty and administrators. *ATLAS for ALUM* is a valuable resource for clergy and laypeople alike, as well as an effective outreach tool to initiate, build and strengthen relationships between your institution and your constituents.

Access the new materials at the following URLs.

- <http://www.atlasalum.com/navigation/other-resources/promotional/atlas-for-alum-logo-vector-file/435/>
- <http://www.atlasalum.com/navigation/other-resources/promotional/atlas-for-alum-electronic-ad/177/>

Attention: Lilly grant recipients--watch for the *ATLAS for ALUM* Update in August, announcing a mini grant opportunity to help you promote *ATLAS for ALUM*.



ATLA Welcomes Six Titles to ATLASerials®

ATLA is pleased to welcome six titles that will be available in forthcoming releases of *ATLASerials* (*ATLAS®*), ATLA's online full-text collection of more than 180 major religion and theology journals:

- *Bulletin for the Study of Religion*, successor to *Council of Societies for the Study of Religion Bulletin*, by Equinox Publishing Ltd.
- *Concordia Theological Quarterly*, by Concordia Theological Seminary
- *Conrad Grebel Review*, by Conrad Grebel College
- *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*, by Floraglates Foundation, Inc.
- *Journal of Moravian History*, by Moravian Archives and the Moravian Historical Society
- *Missio Apostolica*, by Lutheran Society for Missiology

Gregg Taylor, ATLA's Database Manager for Acquisitions and Bibliographic Control, commented, "These six titles highlight the breadth of content available in *ATLAS*, including studies both historical and constructive, from the heart of a denominational tradition and from the academy. Scholars and pastors will find much to enlighten their researches in these new additions."

You can access the full press release here: <http://www.atla.com/about/pressroom/Pages/ATLAWelcomesSixTitlesToATLASerials%C2%AE%28ATLAS%C2%AE%29.aspx>

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Report of the 13th Excursion of the ATLA Birding Passion Group

June 2011 • Participants: Sandy Ayer, Lynn Berg, Carla Grafton, Hernán and Hilda Hammerly, Jennifer Ulrich



Monk Parakeet and nest - photo by Shanth (www.flickr.com)

"Something's agitating those starlings and robins," says our host, Vernon LaVia. "Just listen to them!" By way of explanation, a small bird of prey swoops down from a branch: "Sharp-shinned?" I wonder aloud. "No, Cooper's Hawk," says Vernon.

We've just arrived at Chicago's Harold Washington Park. Here we hope to find our chief quarry, Monk Parakeet. The birds in question are descended from exotic escapees that have established a wild breeding population and are therefore "countable." We search in vain for their huge stick nests. A Northern Cardinal whistles but remains hidden. Ring-billed Gulls float by. Purple Martins and Chimney Swifts dart to and fro against the grey overcast.

Rain is threatening and it's so unseasonably cold that two of the original eight members of our group have decided not to join us. To make matters worse, somebody seems to have removed the parakeets' nests, so Vernon and his friends Todd and Terry drive us to our main destination, Wooded Island in Jackson Park. This is one of the best places to bird in Chicago. Three weeks ago, it was crawling with migrants--you might see 20 species of warbler in a single morning--but today only the breeding species remain.

Barn Swallows and gull-size Caspian Terns fly low over the lagoon. I'd seen the latter the night before on the Chicago River during the architectural tour, but I could hardly have

called out "Hey, look at that Caspian Tern!" in the midst of the tour guide's meditation on Mies van der Rohe's contributions to modernism.

Now Vernon's onto something: "Eastern Kingbird. Look, there's its nest just above the water!"

Another bird begins singing--nay, lecturing. I recognize it as a Warbling Vireo. It'll sing all day hidden in the foliage at the top of a tall tree. We might as well content ourselves with simply hearing it. Todd finds it, though. "There it is, that drab little bird out in the open on the middle tree at 3:00." I look at my watch. "A.M. or P.M.?" jokes Vernon. The bird hops onto a bare branch and most of us get to see it.

We head down an overgrown path. "TEACH-er! TEACH-er! TEACH-er!" calls an Ovenbird, but we'll never find it in all that tangle, so we keep moving and soon we emerge in a clearing. A Yellow Warbler flies up, gold against the green of the leaves. A mewling call announces the presence of a Gray Catbird. Normally something of a skulker, it poses obligingly for us on the top of a bush. Then, right overhead, a little yellow and black bird, an American Goldfinch, declares "sweet, sweet, sweet, I'm so sweet-oh."

"Black-crowned Night-Heron," calls Terry, the most subdued (but not the least passionate) of our three hosts. "See that branch low over the water, left side, on the far shore?"

"The Lithuanian word for that bird translates as 'night-fighter,'" says Todd, who still speaks the language at home. An avid sports fan, he's (thoughtfully) wearing a Team Canada hockey jersey for the occasion on the

assumption that our whole group is made up of Canadians. "I hear an oriole," he says, and one, two, three, four male Baltimore Orioles hop into view, radiant in black and orange. Maybe Todd is wearing the wrong team's jersey!

We round a corner and find ourselves in the parking lot of a playing field. There's a large nest of sticks on one of the floodlight poles, but no birds that we can see. "That nest looks like an apartment building," says Hernán. We wait around a bit, and then we hear them: shrieking avian whistles announcing the arrival of a Monk Parakeet. The bird clings to the side of the nest for a few seconds--long enough for each of us to get a good look.

It starts to pour rain. We take cover under some leafy trees. As we're looking out over the water of one of the lagoons, Todd directs our attention to a pair of Blue-winged Teal--"Look at the crescent behind the eye!"--in a flock of Canada Geese. After a few minutes the rain lets up, and a good thing, too, because I haven't brought a jacket; and even the layered look (two shirts on top of two undershirts) offers little protection against getting soaked to the skin.

"Well, look at that!" says Vernon, as we're making our way to the rose garden. "How often do you see an Eastern Wood-Pewee foraging so low?"

An Indigo Bunting pops into view. It would really dazzle on a sunny day, but even its subdued glory moves us, once we see it, which isn't easy, because it's obscured by the broad leaves of the tree it's hopping about in. But Vernon finds a good vantage point and leads us one by one through the brush so that we can get a clear view. Terry and Todd are equally solicitous and are also adept at making sure we see the birds they find.

"I'm surprised we haven't seen any woodpeckers yet," I say.

"Yes, we should at least have a Red-bellied, a Downey, or a Flicker," says Vernon.

No, the next bird isn't a woodpecker, it's . . . "It's singing a partial song. Isn't that strange? Why, it's an immature American Redstart that hasn't learned its full song yet," says Vernon, pointing to the dead tree in which the bird is roosting. "Wait, I'm hearing gnatcatchers," he says a few minutes later. Indeed, there's a whole family of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers foraging in a nearby tree, along with a couple of Cedar Waxwings, which the Hammerlys find particularly enthralling. But the big hit turns out to be the multicolored male Wood Duck that we come across minutes later as it swims slowly across the lagoon.

"Here's your woodpecker, a Yellow-shafted Flicker," calls Todd, but it flies out of sight.

"See that fly fisherman over there?" says Vernon, "I think some of those swallows flying around him might be cliffs. I think I see a buff rump."

"On the fisherman?" asks Todd.

"I've got an oriole nest over here!" The voice is Karla's. Soon we see the bird itself emerge from a hanging ball of woven grass.

Speaking of nests, "I just love swallow nests," Vernon declares, "and I think there are some under this bridge." We descend the bank for a look. "Look at that one, he exclaims, "the bird's built three nests on top of one another. It looks like a top hat!" The ancient rusty steel bridge is looking pretty shaky; a relic, perhaps, of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, for which both Wooded Island and the lagoons surrounding it were created (cf. *The Devil in the White City: Murder,*

Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America by Erik Larson).

"We're at 39 species, can we make it to 40?" I ask.

"Do we have House Sparrow?" asks Vern.

"Not yet."

"Well, there it is."

Our numbers happily rounded, we drive back to the hotel.

Here's our list of species for the morning:

European Starling
Ring-billed Gull
Chimney Swift
American Robin
Yellow Warbler
Purple Martin
Cooper's Hawk
Northern Cardinal
Eastern Kingbird
Barn Swallow
Common Grackle
Warbling Vireo
Caspian Tern
Red-winged Blackbird
Baltimore Oriole
American Goldfinch
Ovenbird
Red-eyed Vireo
Indigo Bunting
Gray Catbird
Canada Goose
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Mallard
Common Yellowthroat
Great Blue Heron
Brown-headed Cowbird
Monk Parakeet
Blue-winged Teal
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Wood Duck
House Wren
American Crow
Song Sparrow
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
American Redstart
Cedar Waxwing
Rock Pigeon
Cliff Swallow
Northern Flicker
House Sparrow

--Sandy Ayer

New Conferencing Blog

Contribute to the Discussion

At the ATLA conference in Chicago, my colleagues and I presented a panel session called, "Where Any Two are Gathered: The Idea of Conferencing in Theological Librarianship." During the discussion the idea of creating an open space where librarians could pose ideas about different ways to do conferences came up. So we created a blog with the same title as the conference session to see what kinds of ideas would be generated. Take a look at <http://unconferencing.blogspot.com/> and join the discussion, if you're so inclined. We look forward to seeing how the conversation we've started helps shape the 2012 ATLA conference in Scottsdale.

--Luba Zakharov



ATLA Calendar

August

5-8 Catholic Bible Association Conference, Worcester, MA - Margot Lyon attending

September

- 1 Submissions for October ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 5 ATLA Office closed for Labor Day holiday
- 3-7 40th General Assembly of BETH in Amsterdam - Brenda Bailey-Hainer attending
- 30 Deadline for session proposals for ATLA 2012 Annual Conference in Arizona

October

- 1 Submissions for November ATLA Newsletter due on first business day of this month
- 24-25 Publications Committee meets at ATLA Office
- 25-26 Theological Librarianship Editorial Board meets at ATLA Office
- 31 Professional Development Committee meets at ATLA Office
- 31 Deadline for submitting International Collaboration Committee grant applications