

# Gillespie Creek Journal

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## Falling From the Hay Wagon

By Laura Grace Weldon

I stand on square bales piled 10 feet high, pushing them to the edge for others to stack as July sun shoves between barn boards in hot dust-ridden stripes.

All of us weary, chaff stuck to sweat after a long day of haying  
In heat dry as the creek bed.

A Benadryl haze makes my limbs feel like pudding, so wobbly I'm sillier than usual as I wade to the edge, still chortling as I trip, tip-over, fall to the barn's dirt floor, landing hard between wagon and post, jeans somehow intact against a pitchfork's rusty tines.

I'm jolted into silence until I find I'm fine, me, the worrier

who never sees what's coming. My family leans over me, aghast while I lie in the dust laughing at all the good fortune we have sown.

Laura Grace Weldon was the 2019 Ohio Poet of the Year. She has written 4 books. Her background includes teaching nonviolence, writing collaborative poetry with nursing home residents and facilitating support groups for abuse survivors. She lives in Ohio on "Bit of Earth Farm."

I found this poem in **Stone Gathering, A Reader**, Volume III Issue 1, September 2021 which I was gifted with and later subscribed to.



**Sandhill Cranes On A South Chicago Area Walk 8/3/24**  
Photo by BWARD



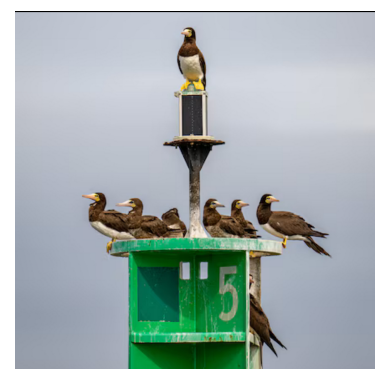
**Cedar Waxwing Family Bathing in Southern Minnesota Rain**  
Photo by MB  
9/29/24

Brown Boobies are tropical birds with cartoonish feet and white, penguin-like bellies. More than a dozen have settled into summer homes on buoys in the Chesapeake Bay around Baltimore. Read more from the website of "The Baltimore Banner" 9/30/24.

Today's Nature Notes were inspired by connections with followers from the East Coast through Mid-America and into the Southwest. What joy it is to share with all the treasures of the Natural World that are often unrecognized by our human mind, body and soul. Some inspire contentment beyond belief!



**Hooded Oriole at LKing's Sun City, Arizona Feeder 9/30/24**



**Rare Visit of Brown Boobies to Baltimore, MD 9/30/24**  
Alert by LAppel Warner