

## Reflection from the LAAMB

In the middle of July, Lore and I went searching for black raspberries in Wiarton. We picked some last year at this one spot we found. Seeing the berries were not plentiful in Wiarton, we thought it was time to go to our old stomping grounds of Wingham. So we left early on our day off having a sunny drive through the side roads (Lore calls it farm country!!!).

Arriving at our old spot we were disappointed to discover that the park we usually pick the berries in had torn down all the black raspberry bushes. So we headed further into the bush where I had found another patch last year. They were there but not in the quantity like last year. So we drove to a third spot in Wingham. There were some berries but again not many.

At one point, I decided to check further into a densely populated bushy area. A few steps in and I got stung by one hornet and then another. I think I high tailed it out of that bushy area in Olympic record time! Lore, after hearing my hollering, said, "Oh that's too bad that you got stung not once but twice, let's get out of here!" I said "no, the initial sting will subside in a few minutes and I will be alright. I didn't want those hornet stings to ruin our whole day; after all, it was me that stepped on their house." So I said, "let's go look up on the trail where we went last year. Are we ever glad we did!"

Not because we found berries but because Lore spotted a mother Baltimore oriole and her little one. The mother was combing the leaves to find the little bird something to eat. Lore immediately headed back to the car to get her binoculars. As I kept watching the mother, I notice her with something green in her mouth. Lore came back with the binoculars and saw that the green thing was a huge caterpillar that she fed to the little bird. It was incredible to watch as this little bird swallowed this huge green worm. Lore and I laughed and then watched as the mother found more insects as she led her little one from branch to branch checking out the leaves. It was if we were watching a documentary on TV in HD. Ha! Lore was having so much fun, saying, "I can't believe we are seeing this!" We would watch this mother and her little one for some twenty minutes.

Well, the Baltimore oriole episode did come to an end as the mother and the little one eventually did fly away together.

So after that wonderful venture we decided to head for lunch at the local take out restaurant. We got in the car and drove towards town. A few minutes down the road and Lore yelled out with an excited hopeful voice, "Per, pull over and go back a bit, I think I saw more black raspberry bushes!!!" I went back and there were several bushes filled with berries. Before Lore could say anything, I immediately got out of the car to check out the bushes. I came back to the car, skipping like a little boy in a candy store, exclaiming, "those bushes are filled with berries as big as bowling balls!!! Lore laughed, as she hurried out of the car handing me two yogurt containers. I thought, how lucky, we found another black raspberry patch!!! Forty minutes later and four tall yogurt containers filled with berries, we headed for lunch!

I thought afterwards, out of the bad experience of being stung came the good experience of seeing the Baltimore Oriole and her little one as well as finding new berries. If some of the things we initially thought of as bad had not happened in our lives, there might never have been any good come into our life. Many people have lost their job, thinking it to be a tragedy, only to find another job-a better job. They were at least free to do what they always wanted to do and they went on to live fuller, and more satisfying lives. Don't get stuck in good or bad. Always be open to events as they unfold.

Pastor Perry

## More info about Baltimore Orioles

### Size & Shape

Smaller and more slender than an American Robin, Baltimore Orioles are medium-sized, sturdy-bodied songbirds with thick necks and long legs. Look for their long, thick-based, pointed bills, a hallmark of the blackbird family they belong to.

### Color Pattern

Adult males are flame-orange and black, with a solid-black head and one white bar on their black wings. Females and immature males are yellow-orange on the breast, grayish on the head and back, with two bold white wing bars.

### Behavior

Baltimore Orioles are more often heard than seen as they feed high in trees, searching leaves and small branches for insects, flowers, and fruit. You may also spot them lower down, plucking fruit from vines and bushes or sipping from hummingbird feeders. Watch for the male's slow, fluttering flights between tree tops and listen for their characteristic wink or chatter calls

### Habitat

Look for Baltimore Orioles high in leafy deciduous trees, but not in deep forests: they're found in open woodland, forest edge, orchards, and stands of trees along rivers, in parks, and in backyards.

### Baltimore Oriole

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Adult Female



Adult Male



Young One



Baby