

Reaction to the Covid-19 Pandemic

Rigdon Currie

It took a couple of weeks for the impact of the pandemic to hit me. I had concluded that I could weather a disease like this. I felt that a vaccine would be forthcoming promptly, as it had every fall with a flu vaccine.

I finally woke up in early March when the reality of this potentially deadly epidemic hit me, particularly when I discovered that my age would affect my and my wife Trish's vulnerability so profoundly. When ordered to self-quarantine, we promptly did so. As family purchasing agent, I was pretty well prepared with most items. Neighbors, even unknown ones, came to our aid and brought us essential groceries.

We adapted quickly and began to enjoy our isolation. I jumped at an opportunity to edit my travel videos, some of which had been lying around for years. I hired a recent graduate from San Diego State University whose work was familiar to me. Together we published several video records of birding trips I had made around the world. It is questionable whether I will be able to take more of these trips but now, at least, I have records of almost all of the ones I have taken. These travel logs are available to the public and have had over 200,000 hits thus far on my YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4IVuogvAkBKQ8Q_GtOa.

We also edited several video programs of family events and trips and I posted these on my YouTube channel.

They are not public but can be seen by anyone I give the link to.

I missed my three YMCA Light Exercise ("dance") classes, and it was several weeks before I found out about a Zoom class being conducted by Sue Grant, one of my favorite Y leaders. That class has gone very well. I also arranged to do home physical therapy via Apple FaceTime sessions with my favorite therapist. As my therapist and I became more trusting, I have started to go in for hands-on sessions. Walking our dog Dudley every day has completed my exercise needs.

- I jumped at the opportunity to edit my travel and birdwatching videos.
- I spent more time communicating with new and old friends.
- I became more active with neighbors.

I spend more time communicating with new and old friends, mainly by email. This has been a particularly rewarding payoff

from the pandemic. The use of Zoom has also brought us closer to many with whom we would not have spent so much time, a real plus.

We have become more active with our neighbors. I organized a physically distanced get-together in our street every Saturday evening and it has become a regular and pleasant event for several of us. I now know several neighbors in a way that would not have happened without this cursed virus.

Last, I have limited my birding activities to chasing birds that I have not seen in California previously. Since my California list is over 500 species, these are few and far between but most rewarding.

The author. Rigdon Currie resides in Carlsbad, CA. Education: BIE, GA Tech, 1951; MBA Harvard, 1956; Aspen Institute of Humanities, several seminars; Military: Captain, USAF Reserve, Korean War; Career: pioneer in digital technology, real-time, internet; TRW, Xerox Corporation, independent venture capitalist and consultant; Volunteer: politics; church; conservation; community; disadvantaged.

This piece was sent to SDIS in September of 2020.

Reprinted from *COVID-19: getting through with wit and grit*, published by the San Diego Independent Scholars. (<https://sdscholars.org>) © Rigdon Currie.