



Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Celebrating
66 Years of Birding
1957-2023

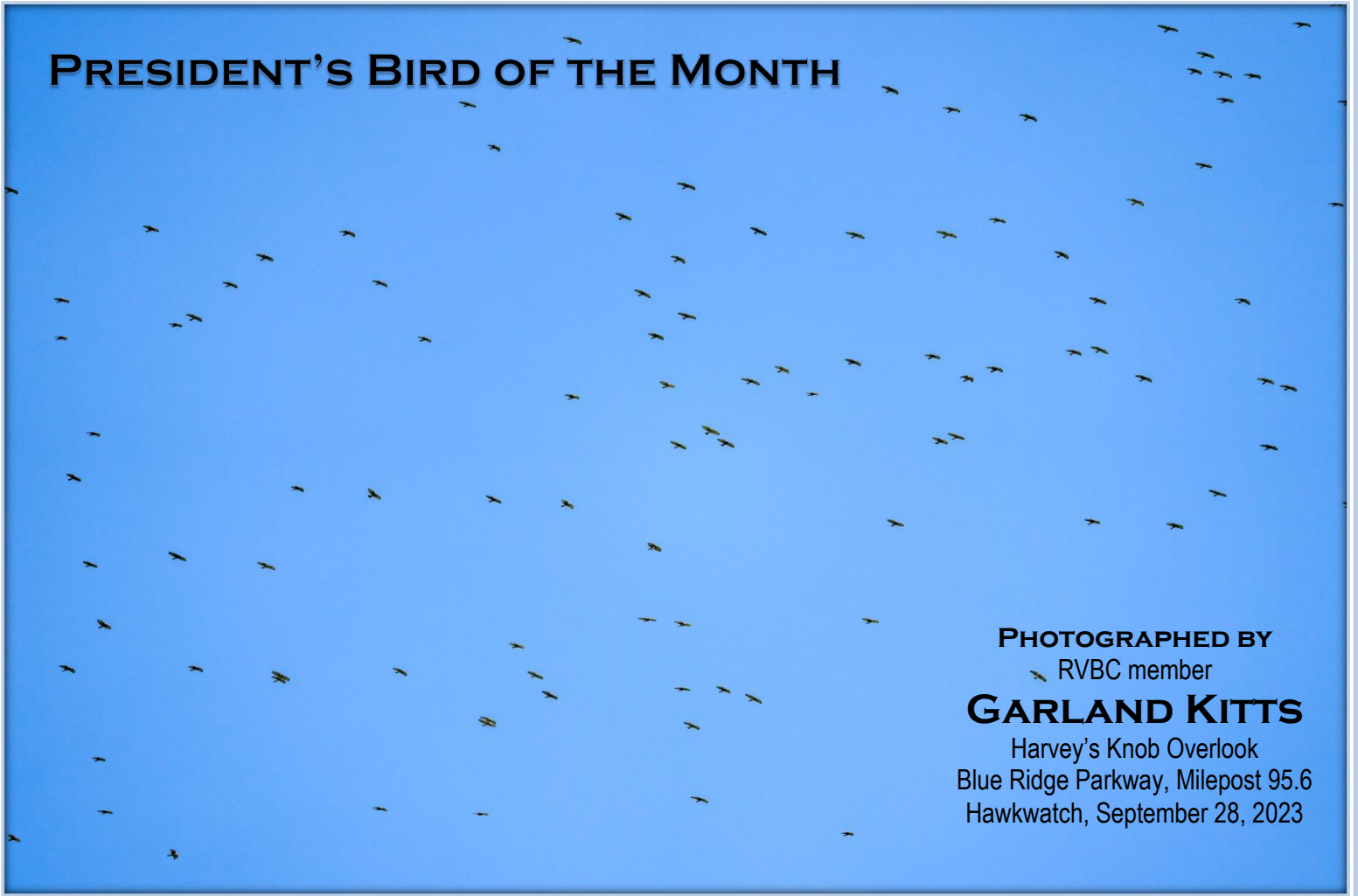
Next Meeting:
November 13, 7:00 pm
Roanoke Council of
Garden Clubs

www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

RVBC NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

PRESIDENT'S BIRD OF THE MONTH



PHOTOGRAPHED BY
RVBC member

GARLAND KITTS

Harvey's Knob Overlook
Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 95.6
Hawkwatch, September 28, 2023

BROAD-WINGED HAWK *Buteo platypterus*

One of the greatest spectacles of migration is a swirling flock of Broad-winged Hawks on their way to South America. Also known as "kettles," flocks can contain thousands of circling birds that evoke a vast cauldron being stirred with an invisible spoon. A small, stocky raptor with black-and-white bands on the tail, the Broad-winged Hawk is a bird of the forest interior and can be hard to see during the nesting season. They breed in large deciduous or mixed forests throughout the eastern United States and southern Canada, usually nesting near forest openings and bodies of water, and far from areas of human disturbance. Broad-winged Hawks eat mostly small mammals, amphibians, and insects. They watch for food from perches on tree limbs (often below the canopy and in the forest interior) as well as places such as utility poles near forest edges. When they spot prey, they swoop down to snatch it from the forest floor. Their call is a piercing, two-parted whistle.

~ The Cornell Lab

Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!



Glenn Stafford, Photographer, RVBC Member

Next Meeting:

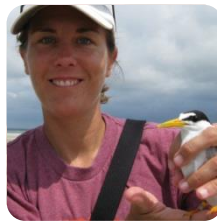
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 7:00 PM

Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018

Featured Program (in person):

“THE HAMPTON ROADS SEABIRD”

WITH SARAH KARPANTY



The Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel is a massive infrastructure construction development, but the involvement of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) has been instrumental in creation of new habitat for displaced seabird colonies. The HRBT complex is now the largest breeding seabird colony in the state. Learn about the efforts of the DWR, VDOT, and a wide array of partners creating this opportunity to maintain and expand colonies of seabirds at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. Our presenter, Sarah Karpanty, will be with us “live” for this presentation in November.



Sarah Karpanty is a Professor in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech. She developed her love of all things bird-related as a high school student birding in the Lake Erie marshes with the Toledo Naturalist's Association. Since those early days of learning warblers at Crane Creek, she has worked on a variety of conservation and ecology projects in Madagascar and along the U.S. and Atlantic Coasts. Much of her current research is focused on identifying what is behind the decline of some of our most imperiled seabirds, shorebirds and grassland birds and then working with managers to reverse the declines and recover species.

CONTACT US!



**ROANOKE VALLEY
BIRD CLUB**

**P.O. Box 20405
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA 24018**

Email: rvbc2015@outlook.com

www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

**2023
OFFICERS**

President

Drew Daniels

Vice President, programs

David Frye

Vice President, memberships

Mary Harshfield

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Betty Burke

Treasurer

Carol Whitt

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Bluebird Trails

Carol Whiteside

Field Trips

David Frye

Meeting Refreshments

Mary Lou Barritt

Newsletter Editor

Carol Whiteside

RVBC/BRWS Annual Picnic

Carol Whiteside

Website:

Carol Siler

The RVBC Newsletter is published monthly **September through May** with the deadline for each issue on the **20th of the month** prior to that publication. Photos and articles are gladly accepted for publication as room allows, and may be sent electronically,

Thank you!

**Carol Whiteside
Newsletter Editor**

540.774.2143

whitesidemules@yahoo.com

President's Musings

I love Fall - I love getting outside to walk in the crisp, cool air, listening to the birds calling, the clear blue sky, the sound of the leaves falling, all of the beautiful colors, and all the migrating birds coming through heading farther south. Mother Nature has allowed us an escape from the hot, humid days of summer, transitioning us, hopefully slowly, into the cold, blustery days of winter.

I love Fall - When we can still sit on the patio in the evening and have a glass of wine while the conversation goes from grandkids, travel, and inevitably moves to our health (all our aches and pains). It's a time when all the vermin are trying to aggressively break into our houses for warmth. As I slide the screen door open to get another swig of wine, I can't help but notice the 747-size black fly racing past me to get in. This will be a bone of contention while watching TV. The wire handled flyswatter is no match for the goliath. I think a baseball bat would be more appropriate. Of course, if I can't kill the fly before bed, there will be no peace in "Mudville" tonight!! I turn all the lights out except the bathroom, and wait his arrival. I hear him coming and quickly slide the door closed as he glides in. After trying all the tennis swings I can remember, I get a lucky backhand and he collides with the wall. A paper towel and some all-purpose cleaner and we can sleep peacefully tonight!! This certainly is not the end of the migration indoors! Seems every arachnid in SW County has arrived at our patio door. Although I have not seen them, I know there must be signs around the yard pointing to the hidden entry way into our house. I go around the house daily and vacuum every corner and by the next morning their kin have arrived to take up residence. I have a Carolina wren that goes through all the flowerpots on the patio every morning gleaning bugs from the plants. My plan is to open the patio door and let her come in to visit. If I leave her, she will settle in and gorge on the spiders that she will find in any room she stops in. After a couple of hours, I will open the door and she can leave when she wants. She will have to hop out as she will be too loaded down to fly!

I love Fall - I truly love fall for all the food ideas it brings, fresh baked apple cake, pumpkin pie, newly picked crisp apples, squash casserole, squash soup, homemade vegetable soup, and baked turkey with cranberry relish.

I love Fall - Fall brings get-togethers with family and friends as we celebrate another year passing by. We are all a little older and wiser. We've met new friends during the year, and we can't have enough of those. I think fall is a time for reflection of who we are as people, a reflection into our psyche that makes us tick. We have a lot to be thankful for, ENJOY IT!!!

These are questions that birds and animals must recognize and act on quickly. It's all a matter of survival!

President Drew Daniels
ddaniels2627@cox.net
540.314.6069



Garland Kitts,
Photographer
Broad-winged Hawks



Field Trip Report

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023
Greenfield Lake and Environs
David Frye, Leader

The day started cold and a bit too early for some! But soon the group of 5 birders was off and finding improving weather conditions, as well as birds that were waking up and acting feisty. We bagged 36 species, with the highlights being a flock of nearly 50 Northern Rough-winged Swallows zooming around en masse, as well as a MOB of almost ninety American Crows. The crows were worrying 3 Red-shouldered Hawks with mobbing antics and harsh avian words shouted at them from close range. The hawks were eventually booted from their perches, but it didn't stop there. The crows followed them from perch to perch, keeping up their "trash-talking." Quite a bit of avian gang violence on display.



Calendar of Events

David Frye, Field Trip Chairman, 248-459-6783

Note: if inclement weather necessitates a cancellation, an e-mail notification will be sent out. You may also call or text the leader. Please do not call any of the trip leaders after 8 pm the night before the field trip, in consideration of having to get up early the next day to lead the field trip.

Thank you.



NOVEMBER 2023

- 1 **Harvey's Knob Hawkwatching August 15 – December 1, anytime from daylight through dark.**
Birders gather from mid-August through December to count and record data of the hawk migration at Harvey's Knob overlook, located at mile post 95.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Bald eagles, ospreys and many other raptors can be seen. Thousands of broad-winged hawks have been spotted in a single day, usually between September 15 and 26, as recorded in previous years. People of all birding skills are welcome to stop by and enjoy the hawkwatching; extra eyes are always needed. Come and stay all day or just briefly. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair, binoculars and something to drink and/or eat. For more information contact: **Bill James, 540-563-9248** or email bijames@gmail.com
- 4 **Tinker Creek Greenway, Saturday, 9:00 am. Leaders: Mary Lou and Sid Barritt. 540-354-6004.**
This has become a very popular birding hike along the Tinker Creek Greenway. Our leaders cannot make any guarantees, but Mary Lou is crossing her fingers that good weather will continue to prevail! **RVBC Calendars will be available for \$16 purchase.**
Directions: Meet in the Fallon Park parking lot at 9:00am, just off of Route 24. When you are headed toward Vinton on Rt. 24 (Elm Ave. extended), turn left just past the 13th street traffic light but before the railroad overpass.
- 8 **Second Wednesday Midweek Walk – Botetourt Center at Greenfield, 9:00 am, note winter time change.**
Leader: David Frye 248-459-6783. Join us for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake and possibly to the pond beyond. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 mile each way. Bring your spotting scope if you have one.
Directions: Take Exit 150B on I-81 and follow signs to Route 220N. Go about 4 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center, across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation. Park in the second lot on right.
- 11 **Locher Tract, Saturday, 8:00 am. Leader: Bill Hunley 540-467-3477.** There will be about one mile of easy walking. Expected birds will be eagles, waterfowl and an assortment of field and woodland species. Locher Tract has a good mix of habitats in a relatively small area.
Directions: Meet in the parking lot near the Daleville Bojangles.
- 13 **RVBC MEETING, Monday 7:00 pm.** Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs facility, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018.
Featured Program: "The Hampton Roads Seabird Project" with Sarah Karpanty. (Details on page 2.)
- 23 **Happy Thanksgiving!**

DECEMBER 2023

- 11 **RVBC MEETING, Monday 7:00 pm.** Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs facility, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018.
Members Sharing Night, photos and videos presented by club members. Please bring a holiday snack.
- 13 **Second Wednesday Midweek Walk – Botetourt Center at Greenfield, 9:00 am. Leader: David Frye 248-459-6783.**
Join us for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake and possibly to the pond beyond. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 mile each way. Bring your spotting scope if you have one.
Directions: Take Exit 150B on I-81 and follow signs to Route 220N. Go about 4 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center, across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation. Park in the second lot on right.
- 16 **Roanoke Christmas Bird Count, Coordinator Bill Hunley 540-467-3477.**
- 17 **Fincastle Christmas Bird Count, Coordinator Barry Kinzie 540-580-0059.**

Thank you, one and all, for the delicious refreshments shared after the meetings.
Please keep bringing the tasty treats, they're the best!

Roanoke Valley Bird Club

2024 Calendars

We are excited to offer the Roanoke Valley Bird Club 2024 Calendar with 25 amazing photos taken by and voted by our members, for only \$16. We accept cash, check or credit card. The "Calendar Sneak Peak" photos and order form are on our website. The calendars may be ordered or purchased in three convenient ways:

1. **In person** at the RVBC meetings on November 13 and December 11. There will be a "pick up day" at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs facility on November 18 and December 2, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
2. **Online** at www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com. To order without postage, click on the yellow "Add to Cart" button. If you want to have your calendar mailed, click on the down arrow in the box for more options.
3. **Mail** with check, the completed form below to: R.V.B.C., P.O. Box 20405, Roanoke, VA 24018.



If you are ordering more than 4 calendars, please email rvbc2015@outlook.com to get the more accurate (and lower) shipping cost.



2024 CALENDAR ORDER FORM

R.V.B.C., P.O. Box 20405, Roanoke, VA 24018



of Calendars _____ X \$16.00 if picking up = \$ _____

of Calendars _____ X \$18.50 if shipping = \$ _____

If being mailed, send calendars to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

THE EVERGREEN MEMORIAL PARK BIRD WALK

By Drew Daniels and Kent Davis

October 28, was an absolutely beautiful fall Saturday morning, when 40 birders of all skill levels gathered at The Evergreen Memorial Park for a bird walk, co-sponsored by the RVBC. The colors of the Sugar Maples in the early morning sun were captivating and an inspiration to any artist!

Many thanks to Don Wilson and his staff for hosting this event and making everyone feel welcome. We divided into three groups lead by **Kent Davis**, **Linda Cory** and **Annie Downing**. **Dick Grubb** was our official photographer for the event. We saw 29 species of birds; the best being Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Common Raven, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Thrasher and Yellow-rumped Warbler. It was very rewarding hearing the questions abounding from the gallery by everyone wanting to learn. The birds were very cooperative and attendees were able to put their binoculars on them quite easily. Don is planning another bird walk on February 17, and another one in May. These will be fun excursions, and we are really looking forward to them. Enjoy Dick's photos!



Red-tailed Hawk



European Starling



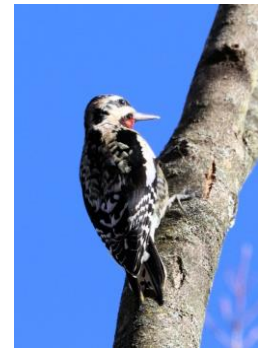
White-breasted Nuthatch



Eastern Phoebe



Eastern Bluebird



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker



American Goldfinch

DICK GRUBB
PHOTOGRAPHER
 RVBC Member



Northern Mockingbird



Roanoke Valley Bird Club
 P.O. Box 20405
 Roanoke, VA 24018



Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Memberships expire on August 31, each year

2023 - 2024

(Current Year)

Please print

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

*Email _____

*Required to receive newsletters and communications

Annual Dues are as follows:

- Individual \$15
- Family \$25
- Student under 18 - No Charge

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Adopt a Bluebird \$ _____

Total Payment \$ _____

Make check payable to:
Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Mail To:
 Roanoke Valley Bird Club
 P.O. Box 20405
 Roanoke, VA 24018

www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com