



# April '18 Newsletter

Celebrating 61 Years of Birding  
1957-2018

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, April 9th at 7PM  
Grandin Court Baptist Church  
2660 Brambleton Ave. Roanoke, VA 24015

(Join fellow club members for dinner at 5:30PM at Brambleton Deli; 3655 Brambleton Ave.)

## SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK



Jeanette Lawler (aka Ranger Jet) will give an overview of the Virginia State Parks, specifically Smith Mountain Lake State Park, explaining our origins and our mission. The majority of the presentation will highlight some of our programs and projects at the park, including providing nesting sites for the ospreys, wood ducks, and purple martins. Other bird species which can be found around the environs of the park will also be discussed. Information on an upcoming field trip to the park (see details in this newsletter), including a birdwatching pontoon boat tour, will be given. Ranger Jet holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science - Wildlife Management from Ferrum College. She has over 20 years' experience working with such organizations as W.E. Skelton 4-H Educational Center, The Science Museum of Western Virginia, The Virginia Museum of Natural History, Mill Mountain Zoo, The Explore Park of Virginia, and Virginia Skyline Council of Girl Scouts. She has contracted with, developed and presented programs for the Franklin County Parks and Recreation Department, the Franklin County YMCA, and Bedford County, Botetourt County, Franklin County, and Roanoke County elementary schools. She has worked at both Seashore (First Landing) and Fairystone State Parks, and is currently at Smith Mountain Lake State Park, where she has worked as the Nature Interpreter since October 2013. She resides in Franklin County, has an avid interest in nature, and enjoys hiking and nature photography.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(For any additional information please contact Linda Cory at 540-580-5214 or RVBC2015@outlook.com)

### **APRIL 11th, WEDNESDAY, 8am - 2nd WED. BIRD WALK at GREENFIELD**

Join co-leaders: Barry Whitt (309-4353) and Kent Davis (355-6388) for a walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. Bring your spotting scopes! We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search for waterfowl and songbirds. The walk will be mostly flat walk of about 2 miles. We will also cover the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. For those that want to stay afterwards, we can lunch at Ballast Point Brewery overlooking the lake. This trip will be repeated on May 9th, but at 8AM.

Directions: Exit at 150B on I-81 and follow signs to 220 North. Go about four miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation).

### **APRIL 14th, SATURDAY, 8am - CLAYTOR NATURE STUDY CENTER**

Field trip leaders are Bob Epperson (871-34710) and Linda Cory (580-5214). This trip will be an opportunity to brush up on our warblers and other migratory birds. The Claytor Nature Study Center is managed for environmental conservation and restoration with a few areas still managed as farmland. The 470 acre site contains open fields, woodlands, riverside cliffs, wetlands, a wide variety of flora and fauna, and miles of trails. One mile of the Big Otter River traverses the property, which also includes two small lakes, a pond, and several streams. For this half day field trip, bring snacks and drinks, and wear waterproof shoes for comfortable walking. Restrooms will be available. This is a joint trip with the Lynchburg club. Directions: At 8am, the Roanoke group will meet at the Bonsack Krogers on Route 460 (3970 Gateway Blvd) and park near the Kroger gas pumps. We will then car-pool about 45 minutes to Claytor Nature Study Center at 1844 Woods Road, Bedford VA.

### **APRIL 21st, SATURDAY, 8am - BRUSH MOUNTAIN**

Meet Butch Kelly (808-5599) at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock where we will carpool to Brush Mountain. We will be walking along a gravel road at the crest of Brush Mountain for about 1-2 miles. Target birds are migrating warblers and neotropicals which include Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and a possibility for Cerulean Warblers. Brush Mountain is a mature hardwood forest with a vernal pool which attracts all varieties of birds. We will also visit the Audie Murphy Monument which honors this decorated WWII veteran. Wear walking shoes and bring water for this morning walk.

Directions: The Hanging Rock Orange Market is at 1823 Thompson Memorial Drive which is close to both Exits 140 and 141 off of I-81. It is also at the intersection of Rt 419 and 311.

**APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>, WEDNESDAY, 8:30am - SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK BOAT TRIP (RSVP REQUIRED 580-5214 or RVBC2015@outlook.com)**

Meet at 8:30am in the Tanglewood Mall parking lot to carpool to Smith Mountain Lake State Park (SMLSP). Park staff has arranged a special pontoon boat trip for our club to visit an osprey nesting site maintained by the park and the Friends of SMLSP. Osprey nestlings may be visible at the time of our visit and the nest is best viewed from the water. We will also be on the look-out for other waterfowl including Common Loons and a variety of ducks. We will also visit the visitor center where you can view the nest on the park's webcam. We will then do some mostly flat walking through wooded and grassy trails of the park. Other specialty birds include Brown-headed Nuthatches and Pine Warblers. The boat ride will leave the dock at 10am and the ride should last about an hour or maybe longer, depending on what we see.

Directions: For those traveling from Roanoke, we will meet under the Tanglewood Mall sign in the parking lot. Although there is plenty of parking at our destination, we may want to carpool as there is a fee to park at the state park. For those that live closer to the park, we will meet at 9:30ish in the visitor center parking lot, 1235 Rd 888, Huddleston, VA 540-297-6066.

**MAY 6<sup>th</sup>, SUNDAY, 7:30am - LITTLE SPRING DAY AT FINCA ALOHA**

If you're not birded out from Big Spring Day, join Tim and Alyce Quinn (312-6844) starting at 7:30 AM at their house in Burnt Chimney for a morning of looking for spring migrants and resident birds. They have a variety of habitats including woodland trails, a pond, scrub and open fields, and their property list includes over 130 species. Wear sturdy shoes as the footing is rather uneven. If you don't want to hike, there's a big deck and lots of chairs where you can relax and do some stationary birding. If you'd like to stay for lunch, bring a dish to share. Keep an eye out for Eurasian Collared Doves as you pass the Burnt Chimney Elementary School on your way.

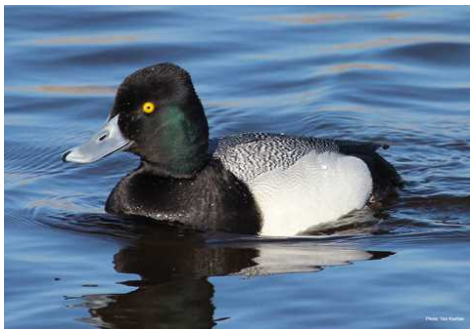
Directions: The Quinns' address is 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184. From Rt. 220, take a left on Rt. 697 by the Dairy Queen/Bojangles (about 5 miles south of Boones Mill). When it ends, go left on Rt. 122. Go one mile and turn right onto 670 (Burnt Chimney Road). If you're coming from Rt. 116, when it ends at Rt. 122, make a right and then a quick left onto Rt. 670. Whichever way you come, once you are on Rt. 670, go one mile and turn right onto 868 (Kingston). Go about .8 miles and make a right onto Edgewood Farm Lane (at a bunch of mailboxes). Go half a mile down this gravel road. When the road makes a 90 degree left turn onto Turkey Run, DON'T TURN. Instead you want to go straight. This is the beginning of their driveway, and there is a bluebird box here with their house number on it on the right of the driveway, and several old trailers on the left. You can't see the house from here, but go a quarter mile down the driveway and you're there.

For those that want to carpool from Roanoke, call Linda Cory at 580-5214

## SIGHTINGS

3-10 - Locher Tract - 15 birders enjoyed a balmy overcast day with an amazing sighting of 38 Wood Ducks, mostly males. We also got good looks at a Rusty Blackbird, 3 Fox Sparrows and 6 Wild Turkey and a Bald Eagle on the James River.

3-14 - 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield - Although it was cloudy, windy and below freezing, 39 species were seen including Gadwall, Greed-winged Teal, Bufflehead and Greater Scaup. They were also treated to Wilson's Snipe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-winged Blackbird and both White-crowned and Swamp Sparrows. And of course, a Belted Kingfisher.



## CLUB NEWS

Winter weather canceled our March meeting. The program on Magee Marsh was postponed to our May meeting.

### **VSO Annual meeting, May 18-20, 2018 in Harrisonburg, VA**

Start making plans to attend the 2018 Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting! This year's meeting and field trip locations will provide great opportunities to see unique high elevation breeding species AND help support the Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (VABBA2). Saturday field trips will focus on Rockingham and Highland county and Sunday field trips will go to local birding. Register early by visiting <http://www.virginiabirds.org/events/annual-meeting/> and book your hotel room early to be assured of the special conference rates at the Hotel Madison.

## Big Spring Day - Saturday, May 5, 2018

Our Big Spring Day bird count is scheduled around late April and early May to coincide with the annual peak of bird activity. Migrating birds are passing through on their way north. Local birds are in the midst of breeding which makes them more active, vocal and easier to observe in their bright spring plumages.

Saturday, May 5th will be the 48th Big Spring Day bird count co-hosted by the Lynchburg and Roanoke Valley Bird Clubs. We will be out that day, rain or shine, to count birds in a 15-mile diameter circle centered on the Big Spring in the Peaks of Otter picnic area. Teams will count birds on their assigned routes all morning and meet at noon at the Peaks of Otter picnic area for the tally-up. Bring your picnic lunch and something to drink. After lunch, teams may go back and finish their territory, search for a reported rarity or just call it a day and head home. Jim Elder, the Lynchburg Coordinator, will compile and distribute the final report by email so please make sure he has your email address.

Please join us for a fun day of birding. It's an opportunity to meet new birders, discover new birding territories and, maybe, see a bird you have never seen before. We always hope to surpass the 143 species recorded in 1977!

To participate, contact Barry Whitt at 540-309-4353 or Carol Whitt at 540-632-6523 or you may email us at [540carolc@gmail.com](mailto:540carolc@gmail.com). We will assign everyone to their territories and provide all of the information you will need for the day. If you participated in a team last year, your party leader will contact you in April to establish a meeting time and place.

## Earth Day 2018

Roanoke's 29th annual Earth Day is April 21 from 9 AM - 2 PM this year. It's moved back to the heart of Grandin Village near the Co-op where we will fill the street with booths and activities. It should be a fun event with many local nature and outdoors organizations and vendors represented. The Bird Club will be there IF we can get some willing volunteers. We have all the materials, all we need are some birders willing to share their enthusiasm for a couple of hours. The entire event is only 5 hours long so let's make this happen! To help out call Maxine at 540-353-3060 or email at [maxinefr@aol.com](mailto:maxinefr@aol.com)





## BIRD FOR EVERY MONTH

For April's newsletter, I thought I'd deviate from the usual format. There's a saying in our club that no field trip is complete until we see (or hear) a Kingfisher. Being one of my favorite birds, I was surprised to see that, as an August baby, the Kingfisher is "my" bird. See which bird is "your" bird from the article below gotten from the APost website.

Linda Cory

### January - Owl

Despite your quiet nature, your eloquence in creative writing surprise others, especially your forms of expression which give others pause! You communicate on your own terms, but rest assured your thoughts are deep and meaningful.



### February - Parrot

Your friends and loved ones are constantly inspired by your unique character and sparkling zest for life. You don't want the spotlight, but you definitely turn heads!

### March - Robin

Robins are the birds of perseverance! You have the uncanny ability to ride out even the toughest storms. Your loved ones are in awe of your strength and conviction, whether they admit it or not.



### April - Canary

You love nothing more than to cheer people up or entertain everyone around you. If you see a funny meme, your comments will make it twice as funny in a heartbeat! Canaries are fun-loving!

### May - Nightingale

Like the sweet song of your chirping bird month bird, you brighten the day of every single person you encounter. Your always-positive, bright mood is contagious and generally envied by those around you.



### June - Dove

A royal bird. You are a natural leader, whether you realize it or not. You will take charge and bring order out of chaos. No to-do list is too much for you. You will call the troops to action!

### **July - Eagle**

As an Eagle birth month bird, you are supremely confident. Your listening skills are second to none. Total strangers will often find themselves telling their life story to you. You are also able to offer patient, heartfelt advice to lift spirits or nudge others in the right direction.



### **August - Kingfisher**

Kingfisher birth month babies are best known for being the friendliest people. You not only enjoy meeting new people, but somehow make new people enjoy meeting you. You are known to be generous, offering assistance to anyone in need.

### **September - Hawk**

You might face many challenges, but you consistently rise to the occasion. Your deeds do not go unnoticed, but you rarely toot your own horn. This strong blend of heroism and humility makes you much admired.



### **October - Swan**

This birth month bird is the fixer! You always have the answer. You love to help and can get a solution to any problem in record time. Everyone seeks you out for good advice. You also have great recipes!

### **November - Rooster**

You are the best friend anyone could have. Through thick or thin, you will be at your friends' sides and have their back. You will not only guide others on the right path, but will keep it from getting boring.



### **December - Raven**

An exciting bird of intrigue and mystery. You are a seeker and adventurer. Confident and curious, you are always looking for the next clue in a series of exciting jaunts. Not a party-goer, you are sure to experience something new at any gathering.



Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
c/o Eleanor Dye  
PO Box 74  
Vinton, VA 24179



**2018 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships expire August 31st.

Annual Dues	
Individual \$12	_____
Family \$20	_____
Student \$7	_____
Sustaining \$30	_____
Adopt a Bluebird \$15	_____
Additional Contribution	_____
Total Payment	_____
Make check payable to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club c/o Eleanor Dye Box 74 Vinton, VA 24179	