



# December '18 Newsletter

Celebrating 61 Years of Birding  
1957-2018

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, December 10th at 7PM

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

Join fellow club members for dinner at 5:30pm at the Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Ave.

## Members' Sharing Night

As a long-standing tradition, December is Members Night. This is our night to share our favorite photos, videos or stories of your birding adventures. We will have the club computer and projector set up for you to bring your thumb drive, CD or other media. Paper photos, sculptures or work of art are also welcome. Please email [RVBC2015@outlook.com](mailto:RVBC2015@outlook.com) to give us an idea of how many members would like to share during a 5-minute time slot. This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by our Roanoke Valley Bird Club Members, so bring your favorite dish to share!



## **CLUB NEWS**

### **Weather Policy**

One third of our members live in areas where ice and snow can be much worse than in the city. A club meeting will be cancelled if either Roanoke City OR Roanoke County schools are closed on that meeting date. We still might cancel a meeting if there is impending weather. In that case, we will endeavor to send out an alert email, so please look at your emails if you are in doubt.

### **2019 Club Calendar**

We have sold 80 of our beautiful calendars and have 20 left. They will be available at the December meeting for \$12 each. If you are unable to come to that meeting, please email [rvbc2015@outlook.com](mailto:rvbc2015@outlook.com) to make arrangements. You can also visit [www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com](http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com) to order one (or more). A big thank you goes to Jack French as committee chair and the committee members Eunice Hudgins, Sissy Logan and Pat Johnson. A big thank you also goes out to the photographers and all those that participated in making this year's calendar fundraiser a success!

### **Seed Sale**

This year's Seed Sale went very well thanks to all the terrific volunteers we had. It was a beautiful day, even if it started out a bit cold. We sold almost \$6300 worth of seed and brought in a profit of just over \$800. Thank you to everyone who purchased seed and those who helped with the sale: Nathan Anderson (and his kids), Allen and Robin Austin, Sid and Mary Lou Barritt, Mary Ellen Belcher, Linda Cory, Kent Davis, Dick and Donna Grubb, Dick Hendrix, Olivia Hill, Ellen and Roger Holtman, Eunice Hudgins, Daphne and Ron Jamison, Sissy Logan, Al and Deb McPherson, Rita and Jerry O'Brien, Tim and Alyce Quinn, Judy Repass, Kathy Sink, Stacey Webb, and Pam and Elly Wefel. It's always a fun day, so consider volunteering next year.

### **Where's Kent?**

If any of you were wondering where Kent Davis, our President, was at our November meeting, he was on a quest. Kent had birded 132 of the 133 jurisdictions in the Commonwealth of Virginia and had one more to visit - Franklin City. This small town is halfway between Emporia and Chesapeake. So, Kent is now in the 133 Club! He is one of only 7 birdwatchers in the state to have accomplished this. To get this distinction, you need to have entered bird lists in eBird in all 133 jurisdictions which he has successfully done. Please congratulate Kent when you see him!

For those wanting to learn more about using eBird, visit [YouTube.com](http://YouTube.com) and search with keywords "eBird Tutorial". Once registered with your own eBird account (provided by Cornell University), you can then use eBird to find out about birding Hot Spots anywhere you plan to travel. You will also be able to download the eBird app for easily entering your bird sightings. By using eBird, our data can help track bird species population trends.

## **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

These counts are not a new idea or limited to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. The first count was done on Christmas Day 1900 as an alternative to hunting birds. The count is a census of birds in the Western Hemisphere performed in a “count circle” with a diameter of 15 miles between December 14 and January 5. Observers count every bird seen or heard in assigned areas. All counts are forwarded to the National Audubon Society to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology. The Roanoke Valley Bird Club will be doing three counts:



Roanoke - Saturday, December 15

Contact Bill Hunley - [wjhunley@gmail.com](mailto:wjhunley@gmail.com) / 774-2397 (H) / 467-3477 (C)

Fincastle – Sunday, December 16

Contact Eunice Hudgins – [uvaau@aol.com](mailto:uvaau@aol.com) / 389-4056

Peaks of Otter – Tuesday, December 18

Contact Kent Davis - [kedjr@cox.net](mailto:kedjr@cox.net) / 344-8377

Participate in as many counts as you like. If you are a new birder or have not done these counts before, you will be placed with experienced birders. It's a chance to get to know your fellow birders and maybe discover a new territory or a new bird. There is very little walking on most of the territories – we drive the areas stopping often to look, listen and count the birds. It's a fun day.

Following the Fincastle count, we will meet at Barry Kinzie's house at Woodpecker Ridge for a bowl of Barry's "Woodpecker Stew" and a tally of birds seen on the Roanoke and Fincastle counts.

After the Peaks of Otter count, we will gather at the North Star Restaurant in Buchanan for lunch and a tally.

**PLEASE JOIN US – WE NEED YOUR HELP**

## **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

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

**December 1-2**

### **VSO Annual Field Trip to Virginia Beach**

As a Chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, we are invited to attend this field trip. They have been granted special permission to visit the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) Island 4 on Saturday (12/1). Participation is limited and some fees apply depending on if you are also an individual member of the VSO. The headquarter for the trip is at the Comfort Suites Beachfront, 2321 Atlantic Ave, VA Beach, VA. Reserve rooms by Nov 16 for the group rate of \$74 + tax, 757-491-2400. To register for the weekend email leeloudenslageradams@gmail.com. For details visit <http://www.virginiabirds.org/events/upcoming-field-trips-index/>

**December 12, Wednesday, 8:30AM**

### **2nd Wednesday Bird Walk at Greenfield**

Join Barry Whitt (309-4353) for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search for waterfowl and songbirds. Wear water-proof shoes for this 1.5 mile walk and bring your spotting scopes! Weather permitting, this walk will be repeated on January 9, 2019.

Directions: Take Exit 150B on I81 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 the right.

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT**

#### **Place of YOUR choosing on Tuesday, January 1st**

This has gotten to be a tradition for our club, so we are putting this in our December newsletter to give you a heads up. Start your 2019 out right by making a New Year's Day Bird List at the place of your choosing. This is not a group field trip nor is it a competition, just a great way to start the year out. If you haven't participated before, maybe this will be the start of a new tradition for you! Make a note of all bird species seen and/or heard beginning midnight of New

Year's Eve (which would officially be January 1st) and ending 11:59PM of January 1st. You may bird anywhere you would like (Costa Rica?). Email your resulting bird list with the location to RVBC2015@outlook.com . Highlights from your lists will go in the February newsletter.



Sanderling by Nathan Anderson

## FIELD TRIPS REPORTS

October 27 - Fenwick Mines - 6 birders braved the weather to walk the trails and boardwalk. 21 species were spotted including Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Common Raven, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and 3 Hermit Thrushes.

November 3 - Waid Park - Being a first time visit for our club, we had 21 birds for this walk. With beautiful weather, 35 species were see including Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks, Belted Kingfisher, Brown Creepers, a Winter Wren, both Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Purple Finches and a single Pine Warbler.

(I will email photo by Kathy Clemo from this walk if you want to use either)

November 14 – 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield - 14 club members enjoyed a productive walk around the lake and vicinity to spot an amazing 46 species. Highlights were a White-winged Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Savannah Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper and a Kingfisher.



Cold birders at Waid Park by Kathy Clemo



White-winged Scoter by Annie Downing



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



**2018—2019 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships expire August 31st.

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