



January 2013 Newsletter

*Celebrating 56 Years
of Birding! 1957-2013*

NEXT MEETING:

January 14, 7:00 p.m.
Grandin Court Baptist
Church

Kent Davis, the club's new president, will be speaking about birding on the internet.



*Please
join us for dinner before the
meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the
Brambleton Deli at 3655 Bram-
bleton Road.*

INSIDE:

A Big Thanks	2
VSO Annual Meeting	2
Field Trips	3
Field Notes.....	3
Birds of Paradise Exhibit	4
CBC: Where Does Data Go? .	4
The Great-horned Owl	5
Annual Raptor Count.....	5
Meet a Member.....	5

December Meeting

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club December meeting was an opportunity for members to share photos and videos of birding in the past year. Not only did members enjoy some memorable photos of birds, but enjoyed a holiday potluck as well. Thank you to those who participated.

Welcome Kent Davis, RVBC New President

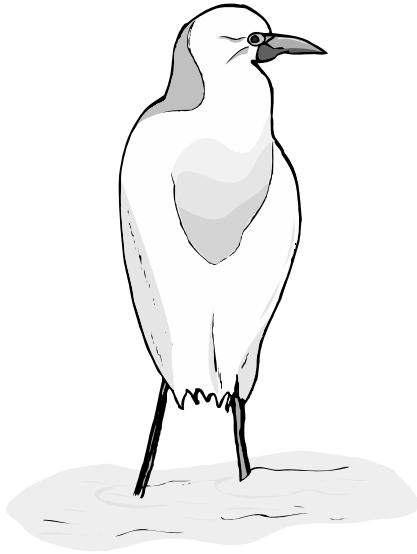
The Roanoke Valley Bird Club would like to welcome Kent Davis as our new president starting January, 2013. Kent answered a few

questions about his interest in birding so the bird club members could get to know him.

“I have been interested in birds since I was 8 or 9 years old. One of the first photographs I took was of two mourning doves on the power line coming to our house. I remember one time I was on the back porch when I was mocking a bird call. Unknown to me, my Mom was at the bathroom window listening to me. She started mocking me and I thought it was the bird calling back to me. She got a big kick out of it and I got mad because I thought it was the bird answering me.

I started birding seriously in 1989 and I joined the Roanoke Valley Bird Club in 1991. John and Eunice Hudgins took me under their wings (no pun intended). It wasn't long until I met Mike Smith, Jim Ayers, Barry Kinzie and Mike Purdy. I started birding with those guys and I have not been right sense. (*Welcome continued on page 2*)

(Welcome continued from page 1)



I have birded all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and some of the Caribbean as well as Central America. I am currently a member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the American Birding Association.

Why do I bird?

Because of their beauty and power of flight. Many years ago I was a nature/scenic photographer and while photographing herons and egrets etc. at Chincoteague, I noticed all the little birds around me and I wondered what they were. This was about the time I joined the RVBC. Like a lot of birders that I have talked to, I am an ex-hunter. I now hunt birds with binoculars and a checklist.

I am looking forward to serving as the President of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. I would like to thank the past President, Elly Wefel, for the outstanding job he has done. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as President and look forward to meeting each of you at our meetings and in the field.

As President of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club I hope to:

1. Encourage more membership participation.
2. Be accessible to all members, if you have a question please ask me face-to-face, call or email me.
3. The club is made up of all types of birders from beginning to lifetime birders. I encourage the beginners to ask questions and participate in bird walks. I encourage lifelong birders to try some different aspects of birding and help our new members with bird identification, etc.”

Kent Davis

A Big Thanks!

In fall of 2011, as a new member of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, I had just started to meet other members. At the annual bird seed sale, Elly Wefel was a friendly face that introduced himself and other members to me. From that point, he made sure to make me feel welcome and helped me understand my role in coordinating field trips. This past December was Elly's last month as the President of our bird club. Thank you to Elly for all his hard work for being the Roanoke Valley Bird Club president for the past few years.

Carol Siler was on my first Roanoke Valley Bird Club field trip on the Lick Run Greenway in the summer of 2011. Not only did we share our love of birding, but the joy of trying to identify wildflowers as well. Carol has been the newsletter editor for the Roanoke Valley Bird Club since September 2007, just one year after she joined the bird club. The December 2012 issue of the newsletter was her last issue. About birding, Carol says, “I enjoy identifying birds both visually and aurally--it's an adventure, whether I'm in my yard or in (the) Jefferson National Forest. I love bird song and listen to song CDs while commuting. I'm interested in most everything--from plants to insects to birds/animals, and particularly enjoy noting behaviors of even the most common birds in the chance that I'll see them as more than just a cardinal but a cardinal building a nest, showing off for a mate, or finding food for the kids.” Thank you to Carol for all her coordination efforts with the newsletter.

Submitted by Laura Beltran

Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting

The Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) is having their annual meeting on April 26-28, 2013 in Loudon County. In addition to wonderful events and an opportunity for great birding, Julie Zickefoose, author of *The Bluebird Effect* and other books, will be the banquet speaker. The registration deadline is April 15, however, if you register prior to March 26, a discount to lodging is applied. For more information, please visit the VSO website at www.virginiabirds.net.

FIELD TRIPS

Chairperson Laura Beltran (266-3773)

SHARE THE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

Field Trip Note: If you plan to go birding at Lake Moomaw and Highland County, please be aware that Lake Moomaw is closed except for the first campground and beach area. The road beyond that area is closed for the winter.

Monthly Mid-week Walk at the Cherry Blossom Trail, Botetourt County, Wednesday, January 16, 8:30 a.m.

Join Laura Beltran (266-3773) at the Cherry Blossom Trail in Botetourt County each month to see how the bird life changes from month to month. Off of 220 in Botetourt County, take the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation). Park at the SECOND parking lot for the Cherry Blossom Trail on the right. The trip involves mostly flat walking for about 2 miles.

Backyard Birding In Southwest Roanoke, Saturday, January 19, 9 a.m.

Join Carol Whiteside (774-2143) at her home in SW Roanoke County for a morning of backyard birding. Carol has over a dozen bird feeders near windows and glass doors for easy viewing in warm comfort, plus lots of bird habitat on her nine acres which includes woodlands, pastures, streams and a pond. Expect to see a variety of birds including bluebirds, towhees, siskins, woodpeckers, wrens and sparrows. If the pond is not frozen there will be waterfowl activity. We may even see turkeys. Light refreshments will be provided. If you would like to carpool by meeting at 8:45 AM at the lower level of Towers Mall (bank side), call Laura Beltran (266-3773) by Friday, January 18.

Booker T Washington National Monument, Saturday, January 26, 9 a.m.

Join leader Bill Hunley (774-2397) for an easy mile of walking in search of woodland birds, including all

three nuthatches (brown-headed, red-breasted, and white-breasted nuthatches). You may meet Bill at the Monument at 9:00 a.m. when the gate opens. However, if you wish to carpool from Roanoke by meeting at Tanglewood Mall under the Tanglewood Mall sign at 8 a.m., please call Laura Beltran (266-3773) by Friday, January 25.

FIELD NOTES

Cherry Blossom Trail, Botetourt County, December 12

On December 12, 2012, the RVBC had their monthly walk at Greenfield Lake in Botetourt County. This is a great time of year to see ducks, etc. on the lake. Highlights included blue-winged teal, canvasback, bufflehead, and hooded merganser. We also observed American kestrel, and winter wren.

Christmas Bird Counts, December 15, 16, and 18

The Roanoke Christmas Bird Count, December 15, 2012, compiled by Bill Hunley: With nearly all lists accounted for, the Roanoke CBC tallied a total of 68 species with 29 observers in nine parties. Unusual species included Bonaparte's gull, bald eagle, red crossbill, brown-headed nuthatch and fish crow. Many thanks to all who went into the winter woods and fields to count birds. Participants included Bill and Katie James, David and Joyce Holt, Tim and Alyce Quinn, Scott and Laurie Spangler, Bill and Anne Tucker, Rupert Cutler, Fred Cramer, Butch Kelly, Liz Williams, Mike Purdy, Wes Teets, Linda Barker, Barry Kinzie, Ed Burroughs, Mike Donahue, Lauren Strong, Joanne Derryberry, Caryl Conelly, Eunice Hudgins, Susan Kidd, Connie Marsh, Linda Harrison, Rachel Hunley, and Bill Hunley.

The Fincastle Christmas Bird Count, December 16, 2012, compiled by Barry Kinzie: The Fincastle Christmas Bird Count had a good turnout of about thirty birders in a dozen or so groups. At noon we all met at Barry Kinzie's house at Woodpecker Ridge for some good hot stew that his wife, Teresa put together. (*see CBC page 4*)

(CBC from page 3) Several others brought "goodies" : Pam Wefel brought in an armful! Bill Hunley also called out the birds seen on the Roanoke count the previous day. At least 70 species were found on the Fincastle count. The big excitement was a total of four bald eagles seen by the Fords, Sissy Logan, Pam Ogden, and the Barritts. Greenfield, covered by Wes Teets, was good with a tree sparrow and a beautiful canvasback. A fox sparrow and a purple finch were seen by Tim and Alyce. There were no "off the wall" birds this year. A 'selasphorus' hummer called in by a Fincastle area resident might yet be identified .

The Peaks of Otter Christmas Bird Count, December 18, 2012, compiled by Barry Kinzie:

At the Peaks of Otter CBC the weather was good early but got very windy by noon. Eleven birders in four groups birding above 1500 feet elevation found thirty-eight species and almost 500 individual birds. A red-shouldered hawk, purple finches, red-breasted nuthatches, Eastern phoebes, and two screech owls were a few of the more interesting species found. Eunice Hudgins, Joyce Holt, Liz Williams, Laura Beltran, Lin Haynes, John Pancake, Norris Ford, Barry Kinzie, Pat Popper, Bill and Anne Tucker, were the participants.

Birds of Paradise Exhibit Worth Visiting

I had a chance over Thanksgiving weekend to visit a spectacular exhibit on the Birds of Paradise at the National Geographic Museum in Washington, D.C. The exhibit highlights 8 years of work of Tim Laman and Ed Scholes as they photographed and filmed all 39 species of Birds of Paradise in the New Guinea rainforest. The Birds of Paradise exhibit, produced in collaboration with The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, presents a "story of daring expeditions, groundbreaking research, extreme evolution, world culture with stunning imagery, compelling video, soundscapes, artifacts, and engaging educational activities for all ages". The exhibit is housed at the Museum at 1145 17th Street NW and will be open until May. Admission is less than \$10.00. Museum tickets and information about dates and times are available at ngmuseum.org. A parking garage is across the street.

Submitted by Carole Massart



The Christmas Bird Count: Where Does All That Data Go?

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club spent three days in three different areas locating, counting, and listening to as many birds as possible for the annual Christmas Bird Count. But where does all that data go?

Christmas Bird Counts began in 1900 as a protest by the National Audubon Society against holiday bird hunting. Today, the data is collected annually by the National Audubon Society from over 2000 bird counts in the Western Hemisphere, and is used by scientists to help understand long-term trends of bird life at this time of year. Counts are conducted between mid-December and January 5.

Because the data has been collected for so long, it portrays environmental changes, like habitat loss, and how that has affected bird populations. In the past 40 years, there has been a 40% decline in bird numbers. Because the CBC data portrays these numbers, scientists can work toward conservation action for protection of habitats that birds require.

Additionally, CBC data has been used in government publications to help in decision making of environmental policy. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) included the National Audubon Society's climate change studies from CBC data as one of its indicators of climate change in the EPA's [2012 report](#).

If you would like to see how else the CBC data has been used to help birds, visit the National Audubon Society website.

Sources:

<http://www.newser.com/article/da3b0pko0/audubons-annual-christmas-bird-counts-tell-scientists-how-birds-are-changing-with-climate.html>

<http://birds.audubon.org/how-christmas-bird-count-helps-birds>

The Great-Horned Owl

The first written description of the great-horned owl in the United States was in 1788, where it was first observed by Johann Gmelin in the Virginia colonies. Therefore, the scientific name became *Bubo virginianus*. Some of the more colorful common names include winged tiger, cat owl, or hoot owl.

Winter is the time of year to listen for these owls hooting and calling to each other, since January and February is mating season. Great-horned owls have many different types of calls, but generally they give low hoots in a pattern that sounds like “Who’s awake? Me too.” If the mates are close to one another, the hooting becomes softer, whereas if they are alone or further away, it becomes more emphatic.

Great-horned owls may live in areas where red-tailed hawks reside, both being major predators in the same area separating their niche by time of activity (nocturnal versus diurnal). However, great-horned owls will hunt other birds of prey, including other owl species and hawks as large as the red-shouldered.

Listen for great-horned owls this winter in upland habitat with a mix of woods, shrubby areas, and fields. They especially prefer woods with lots of evergreens during breeding.

Sources:

<http://www.owlpages.com/owls.php?genus=Bubo&species=virginianus>

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat/landowners/infosheets/owls-in-virginia.asp>

Save the Date: Annual Raptor Count

Plan to spend a few hours driving away the winter blues on Saturday, February 9, 2013. The annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding. No skill required, just a little time and effort. We count all the hawks that we can find. Just a reason to get together with your birding buddies and enjoy a winter outing. More details will be in the February newsletter.

Meet a Member: Lin Haynes

Each month, a member is randomly chosen for a brief “interview” for our newsletter so we may learn new things about our members. Lin Haynes answered a few questions for our January 2013 newsletter. In May 2013, she will be moving out west, so we are glad she will be part of our club for this spring.

How long have you been in the bird club? “Since 2009, I believe, but wasn’t active as I had my knees replaced one year apart. (I) only recently became more involved. (I) helped with the annual seed sale, started coming to meetings and (attended) bird walks.”

Why do you like birding? “I love being outdoors and find birds so fascinating to watch.”

What other role do you have in the bird club (board membership, etc)? “I am now the refreshment coordinator which is simply making sure there is beverage and grub at the meetings and I help set up chairs, etc.”

What other hobbies do you have? “I am in a women’s spiritual drumming group. I write poetry and journal. I sing in my church choir. I make art work with found objects and bits of nature. I enjoy organic gardening and am a member of a local herb society.”

If you work, what do you do? “I am a retired nurse. I was trained in the army over 30 years ago. My favorite nursing was holistic health and psych.”

Where are you from? “I was born in Chicago and lived in Illinois until I was 14. As a teen, I lived in Florida and California. As an adult, I have lived all over the states. I lived 15 years in New England as well as 10 years in Albuquerque, N.M.”

Anything else? “I enjoy paying all the blessings I have forward by volunteering at my church and in the community. I moved here 5 years ago and find this area so incredibly beautiful.”



<p>Roanoke Valley Bird Club 2013 Officers and Committee Chairs</p> <p>President: Kent Davis 344-8377 VP (Programs) Butch Kelly 384-7429 VP (Membership): Eleanor Dye 890-1627 Treasurer: Robin Austin 929-9071 Secretary: Candy Andrzejewski 365-2508 Directors at Large: Eunice Hudgins 389-4056 & Alyce Quinn 719-0109 Field Trips: Laura Beltran 266-3773 Publications: Laura Beltran 266-3773 Publicity: Maureen Eiger 342-4890 Bluebird Trail: Alyce Quinn 719-0109</p> <p>www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com</p>	<p>How did you hear about the club?</p>																					
<p>-2013 Membership Dues</p> <p>Name(s): Address: City: ST: Zip: Phone: Email: Mail To: Roanoke Valley Bird Club c/o Eleanor Dye P.O. Box 74 Vinton, VA 24179-0074</p>	<p>Annual Dues are as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Individual</td><td>\$12</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>Family</td><td>\$20</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>Student</td><td>\$7</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>Sustaining</td><td>\$30</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>Adopt-a-Bluebird</td><td>\$15</td><td>_____</td></tr></table> <p><i>All membership categories are renewed yearly.</i></p> <table><tr><td>Additional Contribution</td><td>\$</td><td>_____</td></tr><tr><td>Total Submitted</td><td>\$</td><td>_____</td></tr></table>	Individual	\$12	_____	Family	\$20	_____	Student	\$7	_____	Sustaining	\$30	_____	Adopt-a-Bluebird	\$15	_____	Additional Contribution	\$	_____	Total Submitted	\$	_____
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