



# January '19 Newsletter

Celebrating 62 Years of Birding  
1957-2019

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 14th 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

**Due to snow, our December meeting was cancelled. So, our Members' Sharing Night has been moved to our January 14th meeting.**

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 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.

### **Annual Raptor Count**

Plan to spend a few hours driving away the birding blues on Saturday, February 9, 2019. 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 an excuse to get together with your birding buddies and enjoy a winter outing!! The form and more details will be in the February newsletter.

### **Master Naturalist Class**

The Roanoke Valley Master Naturalist program is having an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 16th at 6PM at the Salem Library. Room in the class is limited, so submit your applications now for the 6 month course starting in February. They have updated their website with the 2019 basic course information at <http://www.rvmasternaturalists.org/join/>

## FIELD TRIPS REPORTS

December 12th – 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield - A small group of bird-watchers were treated to 32 species with highlights of a winter wren and a plethora of ring-necked ducks. Also seen were Coopers and red-shouldered hawks, kestrel, raven, and pied-billed grebe, gadwall, hooded merganser and a female kingfisher.



Winter Wren—Mary Lou Barritt



Kingfisher (F) - Annie Downing

## **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

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

### **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.

### **January 13th, SUNDAY at 2PM**

#### **Sewage Treatment Plant and Surrounds**

Meet co-leaders Kent Davis (355-6388) and Linda Cory (580-5214) at the Greenway parking lot on Bennington St next to the bridge over the Roanoke River. After a short scan of the Roanoke River, we will carpool over to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Entrance to the STP is by special permit and only on Sundays, and trip participants must all enter at the same time and stay together as a group. This site is one of the best spots for viewing shorebirds in the Roanoke Valley. The property includes impoundments, sludge ponds, mudflats, riparian habitat and woodlands. Besides shorebirds, we can expect to see resident hawks and possibly ravens and fish crows. The walking is mostly flat with a short steep trail. Sturdy waterproof boots are recommended as it could be muddy. If time permits, we will also look for birds at Mayflower Park and/or the end of Rutrough Road.

Directions: Thirteenth Street SE changes names to Bennington St at the bridge over the Roanoke River which is in front of the STP. Look for the Greenway parking lot next to Brownlee St.

### **January 26th, Saturday, 9am**

#### **Pond Hopping in Botetourt**

Meet our co-leaders, Tim and Alyce Quinn (312-6844), at the parking lot next to Bojangles at Botetourt Commons on Route 220 in Daleville. We will spend the morning visiting local ponds in search of waterfowl and other avian life. Carpooling is required due to the limited space at some pull-off areas. Bring your scope and dress warmly.

Directions: Exit at 150B on I81 and follow signs to 220N, keeping to the right of the traffic circle. Go 3/4 miles and take a left on Kingston Rd into the Botetourt Commons shopping center. Bojangles is next to the Wendy's in the parking lot.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS cont.

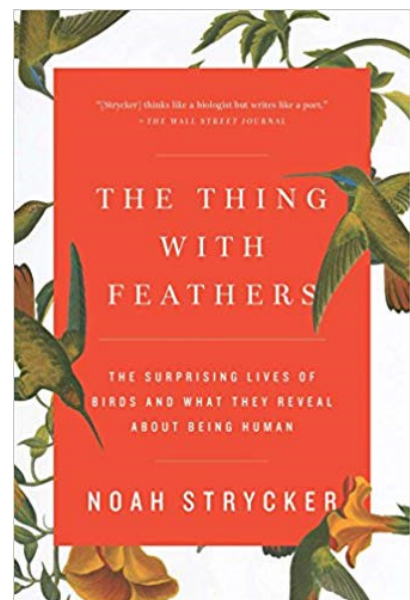
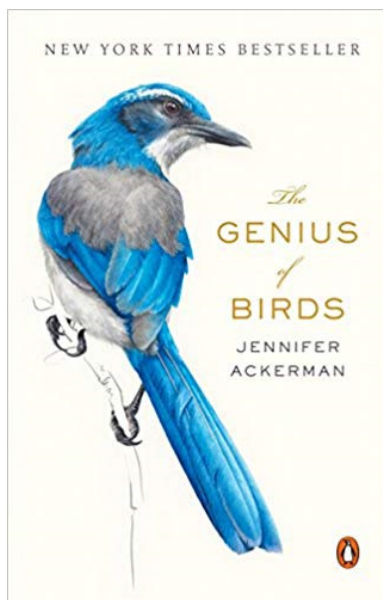
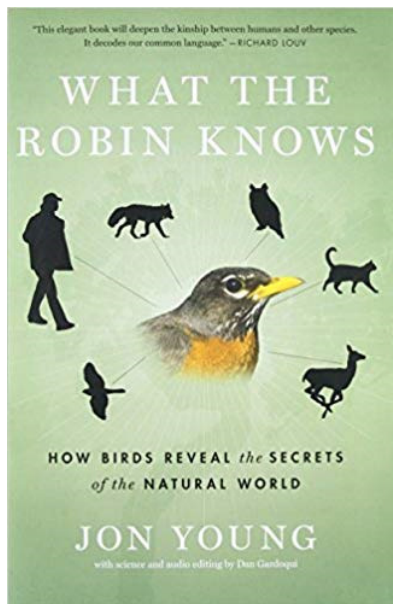
(For any additional information please contact Linda Cory at 540-580-5214 or RVBC2015@outlook.com)

**February 1-3, 2019**

### **VSO Field Trip Outer Banks**

Make plans to join us for the annual Virginia Society of Ornithology field trip to the Outer Banks. There are always great waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors, along with a wide assortment of land birds. The co-leaders include Bill Akers and Jerry Via. Register with Meredith Bell, trip co-ordinator at merandlee@gmail.com , 804-824-4958. There is a \$20 registration fee. The headquarters for the weekend is at the Comfort Inn, South Oceanfront in Nags Head. This is a wonderful trip and a long, long time tradition for the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Our club is a chapter of the VSO and there are always some RVBC members on this favorite trip. Details are on the VSO website: <http://www.virginiabirds.org/events/field-trip-announcements/20190201-outer-banks> .

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS





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>	