



March Newsletter

Next meeting Monday
March 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Grandin Court Baptist Church
2660 Brambleton Ave SW. Roanoke, VA 24015

Before the meeting please join fellow club members for dinner
at 5:30 p.m. at the Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Ave.

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Deadline for submissions to be included in the next RVBC newsletter are due on the 20th of the month preceding the publication month. Please send photos (in medium resolution or smaller) and submissions or suggestions to RVBC Newsletter Editor, Maureen Eiger at rvbcnews@cox.net

Hyperlinks have now been added. You can click on the underlined link and it should take you there. Use it for sending email or to get internet and website information. Visit our web page for past newsletters and current information at:

<http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com>

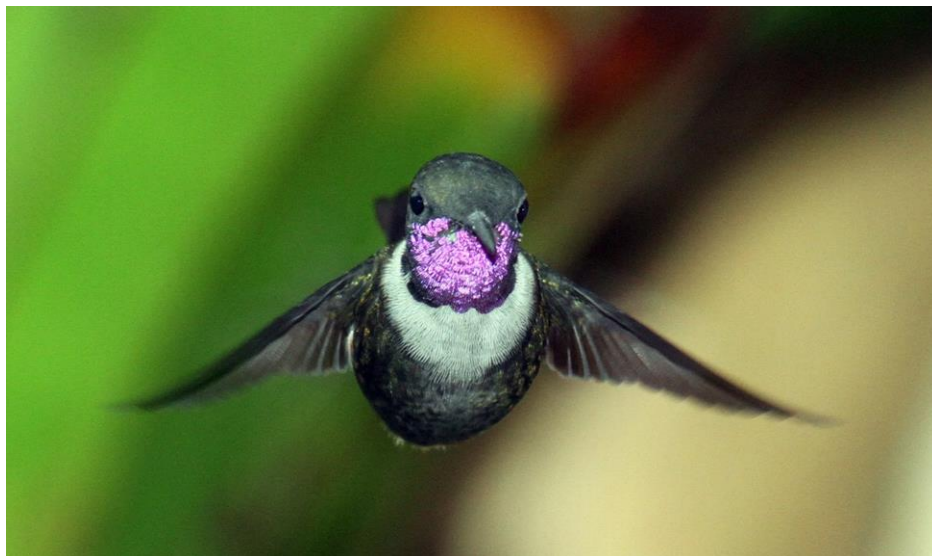
Visit and "like" the Roanoke Valley Bird Club's Facebook page.
www.facebook.com/RoanokeValleyBirdClub

Celebrating
59 Years of Birding!
1957-2016

Click on this link and sign up by April 19th to register for the VSO Annual Meeting -
<http://VSO-Annual-Meeting>

"HUMMINGBIRDS"

By JOHN SPAHR



In a few more weeks we should begin seeing Ruby-throated Hummingbirds as they return from their winter in Central America. Whether we see them at flowers or feeders we cannot help but be dazzled by their flight and fancy colors. Our "rubythroat" is only one of over 300 species of hummingbirds in the world, many of which are even more elaborately colored and adorned. This program will explore some of the incredible aspects of this unique family of birds, amply illustrated with images and a few videos.

John Spahr is a long time member of the Augusta Bird Club and has served as field trip leader and program chair for many years. John is also involved with the Virginia Society of Ornithology, having served as president, as a member of the Virginia Avian Records Committee, and currently as a regional reviewer for eBird. He has taught birding courses for his local bird club, for Master Naturalist programs, and for UVA's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

John enjoys birding the many varied habitats that Virginia provides. He has also had the good fortune to travel extensively abroad to see and learn even more about birds.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by
Linda Cory

A Bird Word-What is **torpor**? Hint- It has been observed in swallows, swifts, poorwills, and hummingbirds. Additionally, scientists think that most small birds living in cold regions, such as chickadees, can do it. Answer is on the next page.



EVENING WOODCOCK WALK - SUNDAY, MARCH 6th

Meet with Linda Cory (580- 5214) at the South County Library on 6303 Merriman Road at 5:30PM for a walk around the "Starkey Wetlands Boardwalk". Wear sturdy shoes for walking from the parking lot to the boardwalk below. The boardwalk is a 1/2 mile of level walking. Towards dusk, we will return to the parking lot which overlooks the marsh area to look and listen for woodcocks.

BIRDING EXPLORE PARK - SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH

Meet Linda Cory (580-5214) and Kent Davis at the Visitor Center at Explore Park at 8 AM for a 3-4 mile hike in a variety of forested habitats and along the Roanoke River. Walking will be easy to moderate. Sturdy shoes and warm clothing, snacks and water are recommended. This walk is in conjunction with Roanoke County Parks and Recreation who now maintains the park. Directions: Explore Park is about 1/2 hour from downtown Roanoke located at Blue Ridge

Parkway Milepost 115 (56 Roanoke River Parkway Rd, Roanoke, VA). Turn at the sign at milepost 115 and continue on another 7 miles to the Visitor Center. Bird club members are invited to stay for additional hiking on their own. Maps are found at <http://www.explorepark.org/373/Maps-Trails>

MILL MOUNTAIN ZOO SPRING FLING ON SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH

The RVBC will have a booth at the Mill Mountain Zoo's Annual Spring Fling which takes place from 11 AM - 4 PM This is not an official birding field trip per se, but we would love to have you stop by and say hi. Regular zoo admission fee applies (It's free if you are helping at the booth) and you can walk around and visit the exhibits.

MIDWEEK BIRD WALK ON THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TRAIL - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD

Meet Barry Whitt at 8:30AM at Greenfield at the second parking lot on the right across from the lake for a special walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail AKA Greenfield. Please note that this walk will be on the fourth Wednesday and not the second as we have done in the past. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search for waterfowl and songbirds. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 1/2 miles. There are benches along the trail for "birding from the bench" as well as more adventurous walking above and below the lake. The walk may include the grassy area overlooking the lake depending on possible construction going on. Bring your spotting scopes! Directions: Take Exit 150B on I81 and then a right onto Route 11 for a quarter mile. Take a right onto Route 220N. Go 3.8 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation).



LOCHER TRACT - SATURDAY, APRIL 2ND

Join Educator and Field Trip Leader Bill Hunley (774-2397) at 8AM at Bojangles at Botetourt Commons for an interesting field trip to Locher Tract, located in the Jefferson National Forest. This is a managed wildlife habitat that contains woods, open fields, a beaver pond and good views of the James River. We can expect a good variety of birds, including early migrants such as Pine Warbler, Wood Duck and Fox Sparrow. Locher Tract is near Natural Bridge Station in Rockbridge County. There will be 1-2 miles of level walking. Botetourt Commons is on Rt 220 North off of I81, Exit 150B.



BIRDING, WORKING AND EATING - SATURDAY APRIL 9TH

Join Barry Kinzie 540-309-4353 at Greenfield at 7:30AM for an hour of birding. Meet at the parking lot closest to the lake. Around 9AM, the group will proceed to Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center for a clean-up morning. Bring work gloves and your favorite gardening tools. At 12 noon, Teresa Kinzie will serve a delicious Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad. Any level of help will be appreciated! Greenfield directions: Take Exit 150B on I81 and then a right onto Route 11 for a quarter mile. Take a right onto Route 220N. Go 3.8 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to

Ashley Plantation). Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center Directions: From I-81, take Exit #150B. Turn left on US 11 North and follow it 2.6 miles to Rt. 651/Stoney Battery Road in Troutville. Turn right and follow 0.9 miles to Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center (#941) on the left.

BIRD WORD ANSWER – Torpor is the name of the process which occurs when slowed body functions are used to conserve energy and heat. Birds that enter a state of torpor lower their body temperature and slow their heart rate, respiration and metabolic rate dramatically, effectively conserving energy because fewer calories are needed to maintain life. Metabolic rate can actually decrease up to 95 percent. This type of short term hibernation can help a bird survive cold temperatures, and this state is most frequently used on winter nights. Some birds will also enter a torpid state if food supplies are scarce.

Events, Projects and Club News

OUTREACH

Maureen Eiger, VP of programs, answered questions about Chimney Swifts for the Media Club at Cloverdale Elementary School in Bedford. The children noticed the swifts nesting in a flue at the school and want to learn more about them.

MILL MOUNTAIN ZOO SPRING FLING - SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH

Help out at the RVBC Booth at Mill Mountain Zoo's Annual Spring Fling. Spend part of the day or the whole day meeting people and handing out birding information to the visitors. We will set up around 10 A.M and about 4:30 P.M we will tear down. The actual event is from 11 A.M - 4 P.M. if you want to just visit. Call Maureen Eiger at 540-342-4890 if you would like to volunteer. This should be a fun event!



THE 2016 RAPTOR COUNT TALLY WINNERS - JOYCE HOLT & LIZ WILLIAMS!

It was so cold and windy for the Raptor Count that not many raptors got counted! Thanks to the hardy participants. Most groups spotted Bald Eagles, with Joyce & Liz finding 4! They also had a female Northern Harrier! They are the big winners, and as such, win bragging rights!! The Spanglers had some interesting sightings with a Kestrel carrying a mouse and a Crow carrying a Bic lighter (surely it wasn't smoking!). Come join in the fun next year!

SPECIES	TEAM A	TEAM B	TEAM C	TEAM D	TOTAL	
					TEAM E	SPECIES
TURKEY VULTURE	21	1	21	5	42	90
BLACK VULTURE	17		4		118	139
RED-TAILED HAWK	3	4	2	3	3	15
AMERICAN KESTREL	4		3	1	1	9
COMMON RAVEN	4			4	1	9
COOPER'S HAWK	1			1		2
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK			1			1
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	1			1		2
NORTHERN HARRIER				1		1
BALD EAGLE		1	1	4	1	7
UNIDENTIFIED RAPTOR	2					2
TOTAL BIRDS	53	6	32	20	166	277
TOTAL POINTS	210	71	139	360	197	977

*** RECEIVED 20 BONUS POINTS FOR PEAK VULTURE COUNTS

TEAM A - Laurie & Scott Spangler - Botetourt, Bedford, Rockbridge, Craig & Roanoke Counties

TEAM B - Jim & Judy Phillips - Giles County, New River

TEAM C - Katie & Bill James - Roanoke & Botetourt Counties

TEAM D - Joyce Holt & Liz Williams - Salem, Maggie Valley to Fenwick Mines

TEAM E - Bill & Anne Tucker - Franklin, Pittsylvania and Bedford Counties, around SML

SIGHTINGS

BATH/HIGHLAND COUNTY WRAP-UP -Eight bird club members were treated to balmy weather for our February 20th Bath/Highland county trip. Trip leaders Rupert Cutler and Fred Cramer led us through the towns of Blue Grass and Monterey and the surrounding county roads. 42 species were seen including bald eagles, kestrels, Coopers and red-tail hawks ravens and a flock of turkeys. A variety of woodpeckers (but not the red-headed) and passerines, such as pine siskins and black-capped chickadees, were seen including our friend the kingfisher. Waterfowl included redhead, black, wigeon, mallard, gadwall, green-winged teal, bufflehead, hooded and common mergansers. Wes Teets and friend Abby joined us from Richmond and spotted a harrier, rough-legged hawk and golden eagle.

MEET RVBC MEMBER - Carole Massart

written by Roving Reporter, Maxine Fraade

Talking to Carole Massart is a fascinating glimpse into the early days of the bird club as well as many other local organizations. She is a 50+ year member of both the bird club and VSO, as well as a life member and past president of the bird club.

Carole first was introduced to birding by 4th grade teacher who took her classes on field trips around their neighborhood about 40 miles north of Pittsburg, PA, and got them memberships in the Audubon Society which periodically sent a print of a bird and bird coloring pages. What a great way to get kids interested in birds!

As a UVA grad student in biology Carole took a summer course in ornithology at U VA's Mountain Lake Biological Station, its residential and teaching field station, which reignited her passion for birds. Carole recalled that the final grade in one course consisted of going out into the woods with the teacher and a sheet of paper numbered 1 to 65 (no binoculars). The test: having to identify 65 birds by ear alone. Now Carole says, "I always have binoculars and a bird book with me."

Carole's a career educator, teaching high school biology and AP biology at William Fleming and was a founding board member in 1970 of the Science Museum of Western Virginia when it was located in the carriage house of the mansion where the Fine Arts Museum (as it was called) was then housed. She only stepped down as a board member from the Science Museum in 2015 and still volunteers there as well as teaches at the Governor's School.



Ask Carole about one of the RVBC's founding members' egg collection when that was still allowed. She's full of great stories!

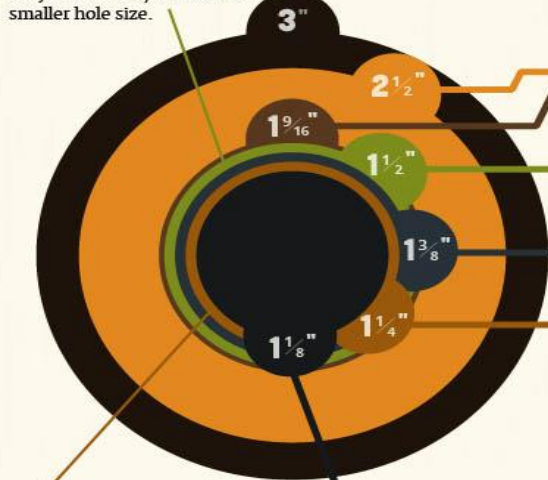
BIRD TIP – THE NEST BOX, what bird species do you want to attract?

IT HAS THE RIGHT ENTRANCE SIZE FOR THE RIGHT BIRD

By providing a properly-sized entrance hole, you can attract desirable species to your birdhouses while excluding predators and unwanted occupants. Below are the requirements for some common species that nest in boxes.

DON'T WANT TO GIVE A HOME TO EUROPEAN STARLINGS?

1 1/4" is the smallest hole size they can fit into, so select a smaller hole size.



DON'T WANT TO GIVE A HOME TO HOUSE SPARROWS?

1 1/4" is the smallest hole size they can fit into, so select a smaller hole size.

 Screech-Owls	 American Kestrel	 Northern Flicker	 Ash-throated Flycatcher
 Eastern & Western Bluebird	 Bewick's & Carolina Wren	 Tree Swallow	 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Prothonotary Warbler	 White-breasted Nuthatch	 Violet-green Swallow	 Mountain Bluebird
 Red-breasted Nuthatch	 Tufted Titmouse	 House Wren	 Chickadees

Birding the Mountains and Valleys of Roanoke Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting April 29 - May 1, 2016



Have you signed up yet for a glorious weekend of birding in the beautiful mountains and valleys of Roanoke? You do not have to be a member of the VSO or the RVBC to attend the Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting being hosted by the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. The deadline to register is April 19. We will start the weekend with several field trips Friday afternoon (preregistration required at RVBC2015@OUTLOOK.COM or 540-580-5214), followed by a social hour, a short business meeting and a program about birds of the area presented by Jerry Via. Saturday and Sunday mornings we will offer a plethora of field trips, which you will sign up for Friday afternoon and evening as you check in at the registration table. On Saturday, visit the paper session to learn about recent research in the field of ornithology, followed by a social hour and the weekend's highlight, a banquet featuring acclaimed author and speaker Pete Dunne. On Friday and Saturday, be

sure to visit the vendor and exhibit tables, and look for our silent auction with many wonderful bird and outdoors-oriented items, as well as some exciting gifts and discount coupons for restaurants. If you're suffering from "warbler neck" after all the great birding Saturday morning, try a relaxing massage; we suggest a donation of \$1/minute to the trained massage therapist.

Register electronically at the VSO website at www.virginiabirds.net or by mailing a check with the registration form found in this newsletter. On the registration form you can also purchase chances to bird with Pete Dunne on Saturday morning. The registration fee covers everything but the banquet (field trips, Friday's speaker, happy hours, scientific papers, visiting the vendor and exhibit tables, etc.) The only thing not covered by your registration fee is the banquet, where you will enjoy an outstanding meal and hear Pete's presentation entitled "Small-Headed Flycatcher." The fees are separate so you may register just for the banquet, or for the rest of the weekend's events without going to the banquet. But we encourage you to enjoy the entire event!

The Sheraton Roanoke will be our headquarters. April 8 is the deadline if you want to reserve a room at the special rate of \$99 plus tax. This rate will also be honored for three days prior to and after the meeting. Call 800-563-3535 or 540-563-9300 and identify yourself as part of the Virginia Society of Ornithology 2016 Annual Meeting, or reserve online at <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1510291635&key=1EEF0375>. You do **not** have to stay at the hotel in order to attend the event.

When you pick up your registration packet, you may sign up for a boxed lunch to take on your field trips Saturday and/or Sunday. Lunches will include sandwich, chips, cookie and beverage for \$13 each. Otherwise lunch is on your own. Field trip leaders may have suggestions for restaurants in the vicinity of your trip. The hotel also offers complimentary shuttle rides to Valley View Mall for its guests, where you will find a wide variety of places to eat. For breakfast at the hotel you may purchase a hot breakfast buffet or menu item at Pi Kitchen, or lighter fare at the Market, both opening at 6 a.m. This breakfast and the boxed lunches are available for everyone, not just guests of the hotel. Be sure you tell hotel personnel you are with the VSO when purchasing food or beverage so the RVBC will get credit for your purchase.

Field trips will each have a maximum number of participants and are on a first-come, first-served basis. All trips will start in the Sheraton parking lot. Although not likely, some of the field trips may change due to availability of the trip sites or other field conditions. Carpooling is recommended for all field trips, and sturdy/waterproof shoes are recommended for most. The available field trips were chosen to include a variety of habitat from the higher elevations such as Mill Mountain and the Blue Ridge Parkway to wetlands such as Solitude Swamp, the Roanoke River and Smith Mountain Lake as well as other favorites including the Roanoke Sewage Treatment Plant. Target birds include the cerulean warbler (and many other warblers), blue grosbeak, bald eagle, osprey, brown-headed nuthatch, red-headed woodpecker, ruffed grouse, yellow-crowned night heron and many more.



Limited exhibit and vendor space is still available, so if you're an artist or crafter with birdy or nature oriented pieces, contact Robin Austin at 540-929-5222 or rvbcrobin@yahoo.com before March 15 to reserve a table. Prices are \$10/individual, \$20/business, and nonprofits are free. Limited advertising space is available in the program that all participants will receive. Contact Carol Siler before March 30 at cesiler@yahoo.com or 540-725-1609. Rates are \$90/full page, \$60/half page, \$45/quarter page and \$25/business card size.

Questions? General information: Alyce Quinn, General Chair, twoquinns@yahoo.com or 540-719-0109. Field trips: Linda Cory, RVBC2015@outlook.com or 540-580-5214. Registration: Norris Ford, dnford@yahoo.com or 540-344-9991.

Field Trips

Friday

Greenfield Birds and Butterflies –

This site includes flat graveled pathways around Greenfield Lake, good for viewing waterfowl, grassy fields where a variety of hawks hunt and a marshy area below the dam. We will look for willow flycatcher, warbling vireo, Baltimore and orchard orioles and grasshopper sparrow. This walk will also concentrate on spotting butterflies in the warm (hopefully) afternoon sun. Walking will be mostly flat, but will also include a gradual uphill walk for those that wish to continue up to the grassy field above the lake. Benches are located on the flat path.

Harvey's Knob Hawk Watch –

Harvey's Knob has been the primary hawk watching post for the Roanoke Valley and the Lynchburg Bird Clubs since 1977 when it was established by VSO lifetime member, Miriam Moore. This spot is ideally located along a ridge at 2,600 feet in elevation, overlooking spectacular valleys. Hawk watchers spend over 500 man hours every fall, recording over 10,000 migrant raptors. To see data, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/bijame/>. Although this will not be the peak season, you will most likely see some movement of the return migration. Very little walking is expected, so bring a folding chair to stay a while.



Mill Mountain and Smith Park –

At 1,750 feet, Mill Mountain catches plentiful migrating warblers such as yellow, palm, pine, black-throated green, northern parula and worm-eating. We will also expect various vireos and thrushes, yellow-billed cuckoo, rose-breasted grosbeak and scarlet tanager. The mile long hike is around the top of the mountain through a wooded area and the Mill Mountain Wildflower Garden. Smith Park, located at the base of Mill Mountain, includes level walking, but partly through grasses that may be wet. Our target bird will be the yellow-crowned night-heron that nests there. Because this species is seldom found outside the coastal plain but is found in several locations throughout the valley, the Roanoke Valley Bird Club recently adopted it for our logo.

Radford Arsenal –

FULL

Saturday



Arcadia and Solitude Swamp–

An all-time favorite birding spot, Arcadia sweeps along the James River to the James River Bridge overlook and the grassy fields below. Orchard and Baltimore orioles are frequently seen, along with various vireos, sparrows and northern rough-winged swallows. River birds can vary, and hawks, including an occasional osprey or bald eagle, have been recorded here. We will also be on the lookout for warblers, including the prairie. We will look for yellow-throated vireo on the way to the swamp, then continue on to look for warblers, vireos, brown thrasher and blue grosbeak. The swamp can produce a variety of ducks and sometimes prothonotary warbler. Walking will be around 1 mile and mostly level on gravel, but may be wet.

Bent Mountain and Poor Mountain –

Bent Mountain is a great habitat for a variety of birds such as bobolink, found in 2015. There is a high-elevation bog with a unique habitat for willow and sometimes alder flycatchers, red-winged blackbird, orchard and Baltimore orioles, Louisiana waterthrush and more. Expect 1-2 miles of level walking, and wear waterproof shoes. On Poor Mountain we will look for nesting songbirds, including a variety of warblers such as Kentucky, chestnut-sided, redstart, black-throated green and possibly Blackburnian. Ruffed grouse and turkey are sometimes present, as well as scarlet tanager, wood thrush and ovenbird.

Booker T. Washington National Monument and Smith Mountain Lake Community Park –

The National Monument is a historic 207-acre property endowed with hardwood forests, grassy fields and a large variety of birds, wildflowers and butterflies. Park personnel will take us on a one-mile, mostly flat walk in search of woodland birds including brown-headed nuthatch, blue grosbeak, Acadian flycatcher, grasshopper sparrow, Louisiana waterthrush, a variety of woodpeckers and turkey. At the community park we will walk the mile and a half loop trail on the wooded peninsula that stretches out into the lake. In 2015 we enjoyed a pair of nesting red-headed woodpeckers here, and brown-headed nuthatches are year-round residents. Shorebirds and waterfowl should also be seen, and possibly osprey, which nest at nearby Smith Mountain Lake State Park.



Claytor Nature Study Center –

Located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Claytor Nature Study Center encompasses freshwater streams, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, and rare plants and wildlife. This is a great place to see a variety of spring migrants. We'll try for purple martin and other swallows, blue-grey gnatcatcher, wood thrush, gray catbird, early warblers (Louisiana waterthrush, black-and-white, common yellowthroat, American redstart, northern parula, palm, yellow-rumped and prairie), indigo bunting, orchard oriole, and hopefully a raptor or two. We'll walk about two miles of trails, and if there has been recent rain in the area, the trails may be muddy.

Explore Park –

Hiking trails at the park are moderately hilly as you descend to the Roanoke River and then back up to the Taubman Visitor Center. Habitat includes forest, river, wetlands and open meadows. We should expect to see turkey, woodpeckers, herons, belted kingfisher, wood duck and a pair of bald eagles that have been sighted often. Many songbirds nest here, such as eastern wood-pewee, great-crested flycatcher, scarlet tanager and Louisiana waterthrush. We will spend a little time in the visitor center to learn about the history of the park, including Native American lore and a settlement that once existed on the site.



Falls Ridge Preserve –

This unspoiled area is owned and maintained by The Nature Conservancy. It has hiking trails, a waterfall, rare plants and interesting geologic features such as a fault line, sink hole and cave. Research shows that this area was settled by and was an important spot for Native Americans. Walking is easy to moderate and hiking boots are recommended. Birding can vary at this beautiful spot, with hawks, raven, indigo bunting, chestnut-sided warbler, redstart and eastern wood-pewee. This location is also a favorite for the local Blue Ridge Wildflower Society.

Fenwick Mines and Craig Creek –

This trip covers a wide range of habitats in a relatively small area. These include open fields, a small pond, wetlands, a mountain stream and mixed pine-hardwood forests. The Fenwick Nature Trail is one mile of easy walking. Expect to see and hear a variety of warblers and other woodland birds. Wild turkey and ruffed grouse are often found in the area. Red crossbill, woodcock and olive-sided flycatcher have been seen here. Also featured is a wide variety of wildflowers, interesting butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. Spring peepers are abundant as well as other chorusing amphibians.

Greenfield Recreational Area – see Friday



Johnson Farm and Peaks of Otter area –

We will hike the two-mile Johnson Farm Loop trail beginning at the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center (not the lodge). The trail traverses hilly habitat, but we will set a slow pace. Good walking shoes will be needed and part of the trail is through a grassy field which can be wet. A variety of migrants and other woodland species are possible on the trip. Target birds include cerulean, black-throated blue and Blackburnian warblers, scarlet tanager, Acadian flycatcher and rose-breasted grosbeak. Participants may then want to visit the Peaks of Otter Lodge.

Lick Run Greenway –

Located centrally in town with open areas, woods and wetlands near the Roanoke River, this four-mile round trip hike is mostly flat with one hill which we will take at a leisurely pace. The walk should produce a good cross section of birds found in the lower elevations of the valley, such as herons, hawks, yellow-billed cuckoo, vireos, a variety of warblers, and possible orioles.

Ponds of Botetourt County

“Have scope, will travel!” is the motto of this walk. The woods at Carvins Cove produce warblers such as pine and prairie, as well as several species of woodpeckers. The cove is a reliable spot for waterfowl, usually in the colder months, but springtime as well. Bald eagle and osprey occasion the cove. We will then proceed to three or four much smaller but reliable ponds in search of ducks and shorebirds.

Smith Mtn. Lake State Park (SMLSP) Boat Trip – (\$5 entrance fee per person collected at the park site)



This field trip is sponsored by park staff and the “Friends of SMLSP” who maintain a roosting spot for osprey. Nestlings may be visible at the time of our visit and a pontoon boat trip is offered to view the nest from the water. You can also view the nest via their webcam available in the visitor center. The pontoon boat ride is limited to 20 people and should last about an hour or longer depending on what we see. We will then do mostly flat walking through some wooded and grassy trails of the park. Other target birds include brown-headed nuthatch and pine warbler.

Warbler Road -

Aptly named, this 13-mile gravel road goes from the James River up to 2,700 feet in elevation at the Blue Ridge Parkway. Terrain covered is old-growth hardwood forests, hemlock-lined trout streams, open meadows, clearings and pine stands. Our target bird is the cerulean warbler, and many other sought-after warblers are present as well as a plethora of migrating songbirds. Walking is minimal and carpooling will be required due to limited pull-off space.



Sunday

Arcadia and Solitude – See Saturday

Falls Ridge Preserve – See Saturday

Ferrum Birding –

The Ferrum College campus has over 400 acres of forestland with hiking trails, fields and two ponds. One to two miles of hiking is mostly easy with a couple of short hills and includes a forested trail, open field and a walk around the pond on the main campus. Species likely to be seen in the forested area are Acadian flycatcher, ovenbird, eastern wood-peewee and other woodland birds. Also seen on the Ferrum campus are orchard and Baltimore orioles, brown thrasher and northern rough-winged swallow. For those interested, on the way back to Roanoke we can do some more birding along a steeper trail at the Grassy Hill Nature Preserve.



Finca Aloha –

This is a walking trip around Tim and Alyce Quinn's property and the surrounding woods and gravel roads. With a wide variety of habitats in the area, including woodlands, a pond, a creek, scrub and open fields, a typical spring day can yield more than 50 species. A few of the birds we will likely encounter include red-shouldered hawk, great crested flycatcher, white-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, field and grasshopper sparrows, scarlet tanager, orchard and Baltimore orioles and a variety of warblers such as ovenbird, Louisiana waterthrush, common yellowthroat, prairie, and yellow-breasted chat. Walking is level to hilly and sturdy shoes and long pants are recommended. If you prefer, you can do some stationary birding from the deck.

Greenfield Recreational Area – See Friday

Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Roanoke River Trail -

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. We can expect to find migrant shorebirds such as least, semi-palmated, spotted, solitary and pectoral sandpipers, Wilson's snipe and both yellowlegs. Songbirds such as white-eyed vireo, a variety of swallows, and blue grosbeak may also be found. Kestrel and red-tailed hawk can be seen along with occasional fish crow and raven. The walking is mostly flat with moderate elevation change. Study waterproof boots are recommended as it could be muddy.

Warbler Road – See Saturday

Photos graciously provided by Mary Lou Barritt, Alyce Quinn, Bill Tucker and Elly Wefel.

Tentative Schedule of Events

Friday, April 29

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Pre-registered field trips depart

1:00 – 9:00 p.m. Registration and field trip sign-up

3:00 – 9:00 p.m. Exhibits, vendors, and silent auction

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Social hour with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Business meeting and "Birds of the Roanoke Valley" presented by Jerry Via

Saturday, April 30

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Field trips

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Massages by Traveling Therapy

1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Registration, field trip sign-up and silent auction

1:00 – 7:00 p.m. Exhibits and vendors

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Scientific papers

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Social hour with light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Banquet and "Large-headed Flycatcher" program by Pete Dunne

Sunday, May 1

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Field trips



VSO Annual Meeting April 29-May 1, 2016 Registration Form



Please print names as they should appear on nametags

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Name 3: _____

Name 4: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Primary phone: _____ Alternate phone: _____

Registration Fee: \$40 x _____ (# attending) = \$ _____

Banquet: \$36 x _____ (# attending) = \$ _____

Please indicate number for entrée choice: Pork: # _____ Chicken: # _____ Vegetarian: # _____

Win a chance to bird with Pete Dunne Saturday morning! Purchase as many tickets as you want. Couples who both want to bird with him should purchase couples tickets. Winners will be notified prior to the meeting.

Singles ticket: \$10 x _____ (# raffle tickets) = \$ _____

Couples ticket: \$20 x _____ (# raffle tickets) = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed (registration, banquet, and Pete Dunne raffle tickets) \$ _____

Make check payable to: Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Mail completed form and check to:

VSO 2016 Annual Meeting
Norris Ford
3322 Kingsbury Circle
Roanoke, VA 24014

For Annual Meeting inquiries, contact Alyce Quinn at twoquinns@yahoo.com or 540-719-0109.



Roanoke Valley Bird Club
C/o Eleanor Dye
P.O. Box 74
Vinton, Virginia 24179

2016 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Application Form

Please print

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Memberships expire on August 31 each year

Annual Dues are as follows:

- Individual \$12
- Family \$20
- Student \$7
- Sustaining \$30
- Adopt a Bluebird \$15

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Total Submitted _____

Make check payable to
Roanoke Valley Bird Club
Mail To: Roanoke Valley Bird Club
C/o Eleanor Dye
P.O. Box 74
Vinton, VA 24179-0074