



# March '19 Newsletter

Celebrating 62 Years of Birding  
1957-2019

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 11th 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.

**The Blue Ridge Parkway: Botanical Treasure and Avian Hideaway**

**Presented by Butch Kelly**

This program covers the natural communities along the parkway such as riparian areas, meadows, forests and other ecosystems. Butch will also talk about what birds are found there and how they use the habitat in order to survive.

Butch Kelly currently serves as Vice President and Historian for the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society and is a past Vice President for the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. He also leads field trips for both clubs and was active in securing our new meeting place. With a Bachelors degree in Biology from West Virginia University and a Masters in Science from Virginia Tech, Butch taught Sciences for Roanoke County and also served as Energy Manager Educator for the county. He was a Seasonal National Park Ranger for 13 seasons. His hobbies are many including, hiking, botanizing, birding, reading and traveling. He presently volunteers with the Nature Conservancy, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Virginia Native Plant Society and church. Butch is married to Betty Kelly with 4 children and 6 grandchildren whom he enjoys playing baseball, basketball and hiking with.



## **CLUB NEWS**

### **Bird Club Volunteer Opportunities: Please reply by March 10th**

Our club will have an information table/booth at two special events listed below. Volunteers usually stay for 2-3 hour shifts, but you can stay longer if you are able. Please contact the chairperson listed below each event with the times that you will be available. It will be a fun way to spend the day getting to know fellow birders and sharing club information with visitors. We will provide the hand-outs and display items. You can also take time to visit the zoo.

Event 1) Mill Mountain Zoo Spring Fling, Saturday, March 23rd, 11-4pm. This is the zoo's celebration to the beginning of Spring. There will be other booths there promoting gardening, wild flowers and other fun things to get you thinking about springtime! Contact Chairperson, Linda Cory RVBC2015@outlook.com

Event 2) Mill Mountain Zoo Party for the Planet, Saturday, April 27th, 11-4pm. This is the zoo's Earth Day celebration with family related activities surrounding our environment. Our club's mission statement includes conservation of habitat for wild bird species. We will have information to handout and an activity or two for our visitors. Contact Chairperson, Mary Harshfield mary.harsh803@gmail.com

### **Annual Raptor Count**

10 teams participated in the recent Raptor Count, the most teams in over 10 years! We had several first-time participants! 446 raptors were spotted. Judy & Jim Phillips were the big winners with their 3 Bald Eagles and one Northern Harrier. One of the Eagles appeared to be turning an egg while the other pair seemed to be nesting too! The Spanglers had 18 Red-tails, including one with a mouse! Thanks again for the great effort and mark your 2020 calendars for the second Saturday of February. Results are on page 5.

### **Save that Date:**

### **VSO Annual Meeting May 3-5, 2019**

You won't want to miss this VSO Annual Meeting from May 3-5, 2019. It will be at Mountain Lake Lodge in Pembroke, Virginia. This hotel was named 2018 Hotel of the Year by the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Association. For more information about the hotel see [www.mtnlakelodge.com](http://www.mtnlakelodge.com). Not only will you enjoy your stay and the meals at the hotel, but the birding will be fantastic. There will be plenty of interesting field trips to choose from so that you can look for some of those high-elevation species you don't see in other parts of Virginia. Would you like to see a Ruffed Grouse, Black-billed Cuckoo, Least Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, or Rose-breasted Grosbeak? Then plan to join us for the 2019 VSO Annual Meeting. Detailed information about making hotel reservations and registering will be in upcoming newsletters. Although, you may be a member of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, you can also join the Virginia Society of Ornithology by going to <http://www.virginiabirds.org/membership-and-donate>

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

### **MARCH 9th, SATURDAY, 7:30am - HIGHLAND AND BATH COUNTIES**

Meet co-leaders Kent Davis (355-6388) and Linda Cory (580-5214) at the parking lot next to Bojangles at Botetourt Commons on Route 220 in Daleville for this exciting day of birding in Highland and Bath Counties. The target bird is the golden eagle which has been seen on this trip in the past. We should also see bald eagles and a good variety of waterfowl. This is a full day event, so please bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. And bring your scope!

Carpooling is required due to the limited space at some pull-off areas.

NOTE: Please watch your email in case this trip gets cancelled or postponed due to weather. There's Roanoke weather and then there's Highland County weather. Directions: on I-81, take exit 150B and follow signs to 220N. Go 3/4 miles and take a left on Kingston Rd into the Botetourt Commons shopping center. We will meet in the Bojangles parking area.

### **MARCH 13th, WEDNESDAY, 8:30am – SECOND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD**

Join co-leaders Barry Whitt (309-4353) and Annie Downing (520-6027) for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search for waterfowl and songbirds. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 2 miles. We will also cover the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! For those that want to stay afterwards, we can lunch at Ballast Point Brewery overlooking the lake. This trip will be repeated on April 10th. Directions: Take Exit 150B on I-81 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.

### **MARCH 23rd, SATURDAY, 7pm - WOODCOCK WALK ON BENT MOUNTAIN**

Meet Robin Austin (293-9071) at the Bent Mountain Community Center for an evening walk of birding and Woodcock watching. We will visit the boardwalk at the community center (formerly Bent Mountain Elementary school) and then walk the surrounding area. The group will then carpool to a nearby area to observe the Woodcocks that start their courtship flight at sunset. Walking is level, but wear waterproof shoes as we will be walking on the grassy roadside. Directions: The Community Center is at 10148 Tinsley Lane, Bent Mountain VA 24059.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS cont.

### **MARCH 30th, SATURDAY, 9am – TINKER CREEK GREENWAY**

Meet Sid and Mary Lou Barritt (354-6004) for a productive bird walk along Tinker Creek and the Roanoke River. We should see lots of woodpeckers, songbirds, some waterfowl. Our target birds are the Winter Wren and the Brown Creeper. It is 3 miles of mostly even walking, but wear waterproof shoes. Directions: We will meet in the Fallon Park parking lot in SE Roanoke. Heading down Dale Ave away from downtown Roanoke, look for the park entrance on your left (just past 20th St SE). You will need to drive further and take a U-turn to come back to the Fallon Park entrance. Once you have entered the park, the parking lot will be on the right in a quarter mile. The address given is 2116 Dale Ave, Roanoke SE.

### **APRIL 6th, SATURDAY, 8am – LOCHER TRACT WETLANDS TRAIL**

Our leader, Bill Hunley (467-3477) will lead us on a special 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 an excellent variety of birds with our target birds including early migrant warblers, Wood Duck, Brown Creeper, Fox Sparrow and Hairy Woodpecker. Last year, Rusty Blackbirds were seen. There will be 2 miles of level walking, but wear sturdy, waterproof shoes. Locher Tract is near Natural Bridge Station in Rockbridge County. If time permits, we may visit the surrounding Arcadia area and nearby Solitude Swamp. Directions: We will meet at the Bojangles at Botetourt Commons in Daleville. To get there, exit at 150B on I-81 and follow signs to 220 North. Go about one mile and take a left onto Commons PKY (formerly Wesley Rd) and then a right on Kingston Rd into the Botetourt Commons shopping center and park near Bojangles.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

January 26 - Botetourt Pond Hopping - This trip turned up some gems with 31 species seen. Highlights were Mute Swan, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe and Coot. Also seen were Red-tailed and Sharp-shinned Hawk, Kestrel, Raven, and Belted Kingfisher.

February 17 - STP - Although it was a rainy, misty (and cold) day, the STP did not disappoint. 12 birds observed Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Black Duck and Blue-winged Teal. Mallards were also out in numbers (47) which was a sight. Other birds seen were Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks, Eastern Phoebe and Yellow-rumped Warbler.



Mute Swan by A. Downing

2019 RAPTOR COUNT TALLY

SPECIES	TEAM A	TEAM B	TEAM C	TEAM D	TEAM E	TEAM F	TEAM G	TEAM H	TEAM I	TEAM J	TOTAL SPECIES
TURKEY VULTURE (***)	25	27	5		11	31	6	17	47	66	235
BLACK VULTURE (***)	15	7	2	7		12	3	8	33	6	93
RED-TAILED HAWK	1	10				3	1	1	18	9	43
AMERICAN KESTREL		4				2			5	3	14
COMMON RAVEN		11	3						3	2	19
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (***)										2	2
COOPER'S HAWK								1			1
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK											
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	3	1				3			2	1	10
NORTHERN HARRIER		1									1
BALD EAGLE		3				1					4
GOLDEN EAGLE											
UNIDENTIFIED RAPTOR	1			15			5		1	2	24
TOTAL BIRDS	45	64	10	22	11	52	15	27	109	91	446
TOTAL POINTS	155	461	39	89	11	230	42	58	342	237	1664

\*\*\* RECEIVED 10 BONUS POINTS FOR PEAK COUNTS

- TEAM A - Alyce & Tim Quinn - Burnt Chimney area of Franklin county
- TEAM B - Jim & Judy Phillips - Giles, Craig & Allegheny counties
- TEAM C - Barry Whitt & Kent Davis - Roanoke to Lynchburg
- TEAM D - Steven & Voleta Meyer - Masons View Lane area of Roanoke
- TEAM E - Bill Modica - Kesler Mill Rd area of Salem
- TEAM F - Joyce Holt, Liz Williams & Millie Smith
- TEAM G - Daphne & Ron Jamison - Wirtz area of Franklin county
- TEAM H - Linda Cory, Tony Pepin & Pam Perez - SW Roanoke (Towers) to S Roanoke Library
- TEAM I - Laurie & Scott Spangler - Botetout county
- TEAM J - Bill & Anne Tucker - Franklin, Pittsylvania & Bedford counties (around Smith Mountain Lake)



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>	_____
Make check payable to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club c/o Eleanor Dye Box 74 Vinton, VA 24179	