



March '20 Newsletter

Celebrating 63 Years of Birding
1957-2020

NEXT MEETING

Monday, March 9th 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.

American Woodcock Biology and Migration Study

Presented by Al Bourgeois

This month's talk is timely as the breeding season for the American Woodcock is getting underway. Our speaker, Al Bourgeois will be discussing his lifelong study of Woodcocks in the Maryland and Virginia area. His talk will include results from a three-year research project, the American Woodcock Migration Study, which the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is participating in with other Atlantic Coast states.

Al Bourgeois is a retired Virginia DGIF Biologist. He worked over 42 years in wildlife management including 30 years with the DGIF as the District Wildlife Biologist for the counties north of Staunton. He received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Maine and a Masters Degree from Michigan State University where his thesis work was on the American Woodcock. Al resides in Churchville with Deb, his spouse of 40 years.



CLUB NEWS

ANNUAL RAPTOR COUNT

Twenty birders making up 7 teams, participated in the recent Raptor Count! 431 raptors were spotted. The New River Valley Bird Club was the big winner, with great finds at Burkes Garden such as a Northern Harrier and several Bald and Golden Eagles. Judy & Jim Phillips did well even though they had to deal with road closures due to high water. Bird counts were down. The Tuckers had their worst tally since they started in 1992! Thanks again for the great effort and mark your 2021 calendars for the second Saturday in February

2020 RAPTOR COUNT TALLY

SPECIES	TEAM A	TEAM B	TEAM C	TEAM D	TEAM E	TEAM F	TEAM G	TOTAL SPECIES
TURKEY VULTURE (***)	15	32	4	7	10	22	65	155
BLACK VULTURE (***)	45	22		2	51	26	15	161
RED-TAILED HAWK	5	8	7		7	10	7	44
AMERICAN KESTREL		3	3	1		5		12
COMMON RAVEN	1	18	17		2	1		39
EASTERN SCREECH-OWL (***)								
COOPER'S HAWK		1						1
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK		1						1
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	1	1	1		4		1	8
NORTHERN HARRIER			1					1
BALD EAGLE		2	4		1			7
GOLDEN EAGLE			2					2
UNIDENTIFIED RAPTOR								
TOTAL BIRDS	67	88	39	10	75	64	88	431
TOTAL POINTS	130	496	709	21	295	184	155	1990
					***		***	

*** RECEIVED 10 BONUS POINTS FOR PEAK COUNTS

TEAM A - Robin & Allen Austin, Mary Ellen Belcher - Bent Mtn, Roanoke County, Montgomery County

TEAM B - Jim & Judy Phillips - Giles & Craig Counties

TEAM C - Bill Opengari, Jerry Via, Bill Akers, Phil Lehman, Sally & Doug Deiffer, Beth Lancaster - Burkes Garden

TEAM D - Annie Downing, Kent Davis - Roanoke STP

TEAM E - Linda Cory, Tony Pepin - SW Roanoke County & Bent Mountain

TEAM F - Laurie & Scott Spangler - Botetout county

TEAM G - Bill & Anne Tucker - Franklin, Pittsylvania & Bedford counties (around Smith Mountain Lake)

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Did you know that the Roanoke Valley Bird Club has the designation of 501(c)3? That means if you give a financial gift to the club, perhaps in honor or in memory of someone, we can provide you a receipt to reduce your tax liability. So keep that in mind as you look for organizations to support with your charitable giving.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

February 12th, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield

Eight club members joined leader Annie Downing to see 33 species. Highlights were Green-winged Teals, Bufflehead, Pied-billed Grebes, Ring-necked Ducks, Gadwalls, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Kingfisher, Eastern Bluebirds (16), Dark-eyed Juncos, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated Sparrows, and Eastern Towhees.

February 23rd - Sewage Treatment Plant Bird Walk

Thirteen club members were treated to a great morning of birdwatching with blue, blue skies. 33 species were spotted with highlights being Gadwall, Black Duck, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks and Kestrel, Downy, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Palm Warbler. Early migrants were spotted such as Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackle, Eastern Phoebe and Killdeer. Also present were White-throated Sparrows and Juncos and a Belted Kingfisher.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

For additional information or if you have suggestions for trips you would like to lead, contact Mary Harshfield at 540-309-8277 or RVBC2015@outlook.com

MARCH 11, 8 AM, 2ND WEDNESDAY WALK AT GREENFIELD

Join 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. Wear water-proof shoes for this 1.5 mile walk and bring your spotting scopes! 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.

MARCH 21st, SATURDAY, 6:30 p.m. - WOODCOCK WALK ON BENT MOUNTAIN

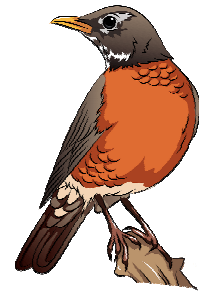
Meet Robin Austin (293-9071) at the Bent Mountain Community Center for an evening walk of birding and Woodcock watching. We will visit the boardwalk at the community center (formerly Bent Mountain Elementary school) and then walk the surrounding area. The group will then carpool to a nearby area to observe 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.

MARCH 28th, SATURDAY, 7:30AM – CRICKET HILL FARM BIRD WALK

Meet Kent Davis (355-6388) and Annie Downing (520-6027) at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock at 7:30AM to carpool to the home of Brian and Martha Murphy in SW Craig County. They have earned a Citizen Conservation award for transforming their farm land into a conservation area for native species. We will be looking for early migrants and nesters. Wear waterproof shoes for walking through wet grasses. Also bring a snack and water as our return time may stretch into early afternoon. Directions: The Hanging Rock Orange Market is at 1823 Thompson Memorial Drive, Roanoke (just off of the I-81 at either Exits 140 or 141).



Roanoke Valley Bird Club
c/o Diane Malpass
3703 Forest Rd. SW
Roanoke, VA 24015



2019—2020 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Memberships expire August 31st.

Annual Dues	
Individual \$12	_____
Family \$20	_____
Student \$7	_____
Sustaining \$30	_____
Adopt a Bluebird \$15	_____
Additional Contribution	_____
Total Payment	_____
Make check payable to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club c/o Diane Malpass 3703 Forest Rd. SW Roanoke, VA 24015	