



# November Newsletter

Next meeting Monday  
November 9th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Before the meeting please join fellow club members at 5:30 p.m.  
for dinner 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. **Thank you!** Please send photos (in medium resolution or smaller) and submissions or suggestions to RVBC Newsletter Editor, Maureen Eiger at [rvbcnews@cox.net](mailto: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>

**NEW! - Visit and "like" the Roanoke Valley Bird Club's Facebook page.**  
Check for updates weekly!

Celebrating 58 Years of  
Birding!  
1957-2015

## Virginia Tech Shorebird Program

By Kayla Davis and Kelsi Hunt



Kayla worked for the Virginia Tech Shorebird Program on the Missouri River during the 2012 and 2013 breeding seasons, and back in Blacksburg, investigating piping plover post-fledging movements. In January 2014, Kayla began graduate school at Virginia Tech to study roseate tern staging at Cape Cod National Seashore. Her M.Sc. work focuses on parent-offspring relationships during the pre-migratory staging period and to what extent naturally-occurring and human-related disturbances affect these interactions and juvenile tern survival.

Kelsi received her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota where she worked as a research technician on the Great Lakes piping plover project. She joined the Virginia Tech Shorebird Program as a part of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response in 2010 and has continued with the Shorebird Program, working on the Missouri River during the breeding seasons of 2011–2014. She is currently a M.Sc. student in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech studying the effects of Missouri River flooding on piping plover prey, growth rates, and demography. After the completion of her master's degree, she hopes to continue a career in shorebird ecology and conservation.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by  
**Cathy Vaughan & Barry Whitt**

**PICK UP YOUR SEED** at the "SEEDS FOR A SONG" SALE – SAT, NOV 7<sup>TH</sup>  
**THE RVBC 2016 CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE MEETING**

**A Bird Word- PELLETS.** Do you know what bird pellets are? No we are not talking shot guns. Do you know how they are formed? Hint – They are not known as poop. Answer on page 5.



### **NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAY at 8:30 A.M. - RETURN OF THE SECOND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD AKA CHERRY BLOSSOM TRAIL**

Join co-leaders Norris and Janie Ford (797-1951) at 8:30 A.M. for a special Veterans Day 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 1 1/2 miles. There are benches along the trail for "birding from the bench" as well as more adventurous walking up to the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes!

Meet at the second parking lot at Greenfield on the right across the road from the lake. Greenfield is located on Route 220 in Botetourt County. 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).

### **NOVEMBER 21<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY at 8 A.M. - BIRDING THE EXPLORE PARK TRAILS**

Meet Kent Davis (344-8377) and Mike Smith (345-1081) at the Explore Park Visitor Center at 8 AM for a 3 miles hike. The park offers a variety of habitat with forest and the Roanoke River. The walk should conclude by 11:30AM. There is no longer a restaurant at Explore Park, so bring snacks and something to drink if you wish. Walking will be easy to moderate, so wear sturdy shoes and warm clothing. 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> ) NOTE: This trip will be cancelled if it snows.

### **NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTERNOON (starts at 12:30 P.M.) - LUNCH AND CLAYTOR LAKE BIRD WALK**

The New River Valley Bird Club has invited us to join them on their annual foray to Claytor Lake. The group is meeting at 12:30 P.M. for lunch at the Draper Mercantile, 3054 Greenbriar Rd., Draper, VA (off I81, mile post 94). [www.drapermerc.com](http://www.drapermerc.com) For those that want to carpool, we will meet at the I81, Exit 140 Park and Ride parking lot in Salem at 11:30 AM. After lunch, the bird walk will start around 2:00 P.M. at the Claytor Lake State Park, Howe house, 6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive, Dublin, VA. [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/claytor-lake.shtml#general\\_information](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/claytor-lake.shtml#general_information) For more information, call or text Linda Cory (580-5214)



**December Christmas Bird Counts are fun! Participate in the Peaks of Otter CBC on Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the Roanoke CBC on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and/or the Fincastle CBC on December 20<sup>th</sup>. How to sign up and more details will follow in the December RVBC newsletter.**

**VSO ANNUAL VIRGINIA BEACH TRIP - WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 5TH.** This walk is hosted by the Williamsburg Bird Club and the VSO. Detailed information can be found online at <http://www.williamsburgbirdclub.org/>

**Trending around the Internet:** For hawk lovers go to <https://www.hawkcount.org/sitesel.php> and find out where the all the national hawk watches are. There are bird counts there too!

**From Cornell Lab – Information about project feeder watch** and you can find bird summaries by State or Province online at <http://feederwatch.org/>

To listen to Wildlife photographer **Gerrit Vyn** and essayist **Scott Weidensaul** discuss some of the remarkable abilities of birds go to [http://wamu.org/programs/fresh\\_air/15/10/20](http://wamu.org/programs/fresh_air/15/10/20)

If you want to follow the **snowy owl migration** into the USA go to <http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/>

If you find a good web site or article to share, send a link to [rvbcnews@cox.net](mailto:rvbcnews@cox.net)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Darrin & Gwinn Firing**

## Events, Projects and Club News

### BLUEBIRD TRAIL STATS 2015

For the second year in a row, we fledged fewer birds than normal on our trails, averaging about 80% of our average on both the Parkway and at Hanging Rock, and only 49% of our average at Botetourt. We have to wonder if this will be ongoing and what the cause could be. Do you think maybe it's the changing weather patterns? More warm days, warmer nights, droughts, floods—they all seem to be more common lately. Here's how the numbers break down for 2015.

<i>Blue Ridge Parkway</i>			<i>Hanging Rock Golf Course</i>			<i>Botetourt Golf and Swim Club</i>		
Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged
Bluebird	136	115	Bluebird	117	94	Bluebird	68	52
Tree Swallow	75	49	Tree Swallow	18	10	Tree Swallow	32	26
Carolina Chickadee	18	18	Carolina Chickadee	15	9	Carolina Chickadee	33	27
Carolina Wren	10	5						

A big thank you goes out to all the hard-working trail monitors who make life easier for our cavity nesters: Ann Allen, Bob and Andy Biggs, Barbara Bricks, Caryl Connolly, Eleanor Dye, Lindsay Eades, Bill and Nancy Fabian, Gwinn Firing, Carolyn Hamlett, Linda Harrison, Dick Hendrix, Alice Hylton, Deborah Ingram, Ardy Kidd, Elizabeth Knoebber, Sissy Logan, Connie Marsh, Carole and Bill Massart, Bob and Sherri Miller, Rita and Jerry O'Brien, Judy Repass, Laurie and Scott Spangler, Bill and Anne Tucker, Jennifer Walker and Liz Williams. Thanks also to Eunice Hudgins for making reminder phone calls to all the monitors, to Kent Davis for helping with trail maintenance in the spring, to Dick Hendrix for making boxes for the trails and for the club to sell, and to Pam and Elly Wefel for help managing all the trails, particularly the one at Botetourt Golf and Swim Club. - Alyce Quinn, Bluebird Trail Chairman

### BABYBIRD REHAB FUND for 2015

Once again it was a very busy year for baby birds. From March 31<sup>st</sup> (the first nestling Mourning Dove) to Sept 6<sup>th</sup> when the last nestling Mourning Dove came in, the total number of rehabbed birds was 74. It actually would have been more than that but because I had the pleasure of working with very cooperative people, we were able to successfully renest over 15 nestling birds. I have to say I really appreciate that most people now have cell phone cameras and email. During this period I saw over 27 species of birds. To date I have rehabbed over 100 birds and all of the birds are local from our area.



Since our December meeting is Member's Night where we get to show off our bird photos. I will do a quick photo presentation of some of the birds that were rehabbed and released. RVBC members will be able to see all the birds they helped save this year. I hope you will enjoy it. I really could not have succeeded without your help with paper goods, supplies and financial support. So from the birds that now fly free (and me) a very big THANK YOU! - Maureen Eiger, State and Federally Permitted Bird Rehabber



### THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2016

The Nominating Committee of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club comprised of Eunice Hudgins, Maxine Fraade and Maureen Eiger, propose the following list of candidates for election at the November meeting.

#### Officers:

President – Kent Davis  
 VP (Programs) – Maureen Eiger  
 VP (Membership) – Eleanor Dye  
 Secretary – Candy Andrzejewski  
 Treasurer – Barry Whitt

#### Directors:

Linda Barker    Mary Lou Barritt    Mary Ellen Belcher    Linda Cory  
 Bill Fabian    Maxine Fraade    Eunice Hudgins    Edie Manuel

We hope you will attend this important meeting and vote. Nominations can also be taken from the floor.



## Meet RVBC Member - Nathan Anderson

Submitted by Roving Reporter Maxine Fraade



Nathan Anderson has only been a member of the RVBC since last year but he's jumped in with both feet taking on the challenging role of soliciting advertising and sponsorships for the upcoming VSO annual meeting in April 2016. (You know all about the meeting, right?)

But taking on a challenge is nothing new for Nathan. Growing up in Floyd where nature was always big part of his life (his dad's a state forester), Nathan's now a Senior Pastor at Brookhill Baptist Church, in the Mt. Pleasant area.

Last year Nathan decided to do a series of 6 sermons on the theme of birds as a means of connecting people to spiritual truths through common things. In the course of his research on birds he discovered our club! Bird sermons, you ask? Like the Bible comparing the value of human to that of a sparrow's (Matthew 10:31). Another sermon used hummingbirds as a role model for industrious effort. He's working on another series about animals right now.

Nathan has visited 4 of the 7 continents and has set himself the goal of seeing them all, done mission work in New Zealand, and last served as pastor for 4 years in Pennsylvania, but he says there is no place like Virginia. He adds, "There is something in Virginia boys that brings them back home".

## Bird Tip – A reminder to clean your feeders

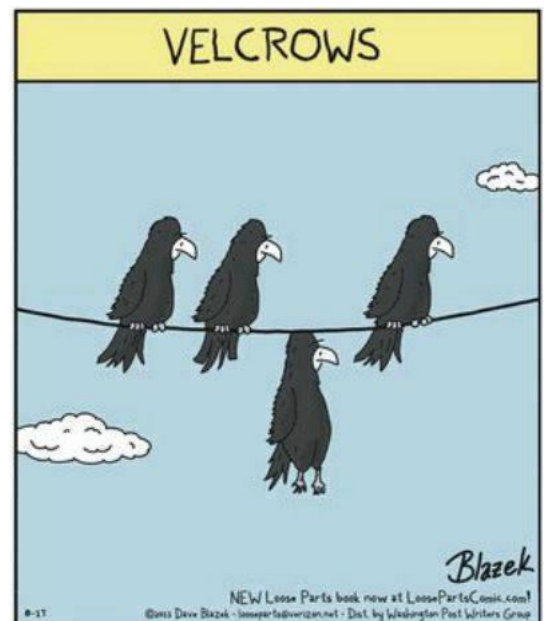
We hope that you have bought at least one bag of bird seed from the seed sale this year. If not, a limited supply of seed will be available on site. So come early and bring a friend! The sale is Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at NW True Value Hardware Store on Williamson Road near Hollins College. We will be available from 10 A.M. to 1P.M. – volunteers are still needed.

It is predicted to be a bad winter this year so help your feathered friends by setting up a bird feeding station. Feeding birds is good for them but only if your feeders are kept clean. Moldy or decomposing seeds and hulls that accumulate on feeder trays can make birds sick. Bird droppings and other contaminants may also spread infectious bird diseases. Clean your feeders about once every two weeks, more often during times of heavy use or wet weather or you have seen sick birds in your yard.

To clean your feeder, take it apart and use a dishwasher on a hot setting, hand wash either with soap and boiling water or the easiest way is to soak them in a dilute bleach solution (no more than 1 part bleach to 9 parts water). Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry before refilling. Do not forget to clean the ground below your feeders, too, to prevent a build-up of hulls, uneaten seeds, and other waste. Moldy or spoiled food is unhealthy both for birds and for your outside pets.



**A Bird Word- PELLETS** – An Owl's stomach has two parts: The first part is the glandular stomach or proventriculus, which produces enzymes, acids, and mucus that begin the process of digestion. The second part is the muscular stomach, called the Ventriculus, or gizzard. There are no digestive glands in the gizzard, and in birds of prey, it serves as a filter, holding back insoluble items such as bones, fur, teeth and feathers. Several hours after eating, the indigestible parts (fur, bones, teeth & feathers that are still in the gizzard) are compressed into a **pellet** the same shape as the gizzard. This **pellet** travels up from the gizzard back to the proventriculus. It will remain there for up to 10 hours before being regurgitated. Because the stored **pellet** partially blocks the Owl's digestive system, new prey cannot be swallowed until the pellet is ejected. Regurgitation often signifies that an Owl is ready to eat again. When the Owl eats more than one prey item within several hours, the various remains are consolidated into one **pellet**. Owl **pellets** differ from other birds of prey in that they contain a greater proportion of food residue. This is because an Owl's digestive juices are less acidic than in other birds of prey.





Roanoke Valley Bird Club

C/o Eleanor Dye  
P.O. Box 74  
Vinton, Virginia 24179

**NOTE: if you have not paid your dues by the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting you will be dropped as a member, per the RVBC bylaws. So please renew!**

## 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