



Celebrating 57
Years of Birding!
1957-2014

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Deadline for submissions to be included in the next RVBC newsletter is before Oct 20, 2014. Thank you!

Please send photos (in medium resolution or smaller) and submissions or suggestions to:
rvcnews@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.

November Newsletter

Next meeting Monday
NOV. 10th, 2014 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.

"Shore Birds"

Presented by John Coiner



John is an award-winning photographer focusing mostly on nature and landscape photography. He has published a CD titled "*Wildflowers of the Blue Ridge Mountains*" and gives presentations on *Shore Birds*, *National Parks*, *Blue Ridge Wildflowers*, and *Central Virginia Byways*. John graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master's degree in Nuclear Engineering. He and his wife moved to Lynchburg in 1972. The "Shore Birds" presentation is a fast paced slideshow of coastal and marsh birds found along the east coast and Florida. The show contains over 350 photos and short video clips. We hope you will enjoy it.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by
Butch & Betty Kelly

Don't forget to pick up or buy a bag of seed or the RVBC 2015 Calendar at the RVBC SEEDS FOR A SONG fundraiser, Sat. November 8th. Also please notice our new Roanoke Valley Bird Club logo. Thanks to RVBC member Connie Marsh for her wonderful design.

A Bird Word-Do you know the meaning of **adaptive radiation**? Here's a hint- They all share a common ancestry of component species: specifically a *recent* ancestry. Think about bird bills and island birds... Answer is on page 3.

Field Trips

Field Trips Chairman, Linda Cory (540) 580- 5214

Meadows, Fence Rows and Woods - Saturday, November 1st, 8AM

Meet Linda Cory (580-5214) at the Hanging Rock Orange market for a 17 mile drive to the home of Butch and Betty Kelly (384-7429). Parking is limited, so carpooling is recommended. The Kelly property is a combination of pasture land, hedge rows, a stream and woods. Butch has also planted native grasses to encourage quail as well as pollinator plants. Walking is easy to moderate, so make sure to wear sturdy shoes for this interesting walk.

Hawk Demonstration – Saturday, November 22nd at 2PM

At our September meeting, Corey Basham gave an informative talk about raptors and how to identify them. He also spoke about their diet, habitat and other interesting facts. He was not able to bring his display raptor, Eleanor, but Corey has offered to give an outdoor raptor demonstration on Saturday, November 22nd at 2PM at Greenfield. We will meet at the second parking lot at Greenfield. The entrance is on Route 220 going north from Daleville across from Ashley Plantation. PLEASE NOTE: Corey is also giving an indoor demonstration at the Science Museum of Western Virginia on **November 29th at 2PM**. The museum is located in Roanoke's Center in the Square at Market Square (Campbell and First Street). There is an entrance fee for the museum. www.smwv.org

The 2014 VSO Annual Virginia Beach Trip – December 5-7th

The VSO annual field trip to Virginia Beach will be held Friday, December 5th through Sunday, December 7th. Friday afternoon will be a driving trip through the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge, which will also be open on Saturday 12/6 and Sunday 12/7 for Open Roads Days. Other field trips include a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) on Saturday morning and a tram ride at Back Bay NWR and False Cape State Park on Sunday morning. Registration deadline for field trips is Nov. 15th. For more information go to: <http://www.virginiabirds.net/>

Christmas Bird Counts are conducted from December 14th to January 5th every year on and are held nationwide. The data collected by CBC participants over the past century has become one of only two large pools of information, informing ornithologists and conservation biologists how the birds of the Americas are faring over time. Participate in as many counts as you wish. There is a specific methodology to the CBC, so please make arrangements to participate in advance with the circle compiler. Each count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle, and is organized by the count compiler. Anyone can participate. If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. To participate, please contact the following compilers:



FINCASTLE (Sunday, December 14) - Eunice Hudgins - uvaau@aol.com or 389-4056

ROANOKE (Saturday, December 20) - Bill Hunley - wjhunley@gmail.com or 774-2397

PEAKS OF OTTER (Sunday, December 21) - Eunice Hudgins - uvaau@aol.com or 389-4056

A Bird Tip

In 2013, **50,900 acres** of pumpkins were harvested. -NASS, 2013

Let's use them wisely.

Reuse your pumpkin as a bird feeder!

Take a photo of your creative bird feeder and enter it during the first week of **Project FeederWatch's BirdSpotter photo contest** Nov. 5-9 for your chance to win great prizes!

www.feederwatch.org/birdspotter

Upcoming Events, Projects and Club News

Seeds for a Song Fundraiser - November 8th from 10AM to 1PM. Northwest True Value Hardware near Hollins College at 7650 Williamson Road. This is the Club's major annual fund raiser so come out and show your support. Proceeds help the club support community projects and outreach.. The sale is open to the public, so tell your friends, relatives and neighbors. If you missed the pre-order date there will be a small amount of seed for sale on site so come on out the day of the sale and buy at least a small bag of seed or some suet cakes. "Make an offer birdfeeders" are for sale. This has been very popular in past years; people love a bargain! "Make an offer" bird books and magazines will be available too, so tell your friends!

Seed Sale Volunteers Still Needed! If you can volunteer on **Saturday, November 8th** to help set up, keep track of orders, visit with the public, load bags into cars, or bring refreshments, please contact Alyce Quinn at twoquinns@yahoo.com or (719-0109). If you have questions, you can either contact Alyce (see above) or Eunice Hudgins at uvaau@aol.com or (389-4056).



THE NEW RVBC 2015 CALENDAR CAN BE ORDERED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING OR BOUGHT AT THE SEED SALE

Great pictures by RVBC Club members! It's a wonderful gift for yourself or a bird loving friend(s). Calendar proceeds go to support the club's local projects so buy a 2015 Calendar for only \$12.00. A sample calendar will be available to view at the October meeting. For inquiries call Sissy at (353-4500) or e-mail: sissylogan@gmail.com

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW ROANOKE
VALLEY BIRD CLUB MEMBER...**

Mary Lou Blevins

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE'S SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2015

The Nominating Committee of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club comprised of Maureen Eiger, Eunice Hudgins and Robin Jordan, propose the following list of candidates for election at the November meeting. This Board will be operating under the new format and take office in January, 2015 as stated by the new RVBC Bylaws.

Officers:

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

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.

BIRD WORD ANSWER – adaptive radiation is a process in which organisms diversify rapidly into a multitude of new forms, particularly when a change in the environment makes new resources available, creates new challenges and opens environmental niches. An example would be the evolution of Hawaiian Honeycreepers or Darwin's Finches.

SIGHTINGS

✓ MENTIONED BY RVBC MEMBERS ATTENDING THE OCTOBER MEETING

- ✓ **Gloria Parry** saw a Black-and-white Warbler.
- ✓ **Kent Davis** saw a Black-and-white Warbler.
- ✓ **Carl Boast** reported that Karl Huebner of Forrest saw a Sora and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Greenfield.
- ✓ **Fred Cramer** saw 50 Wood Ducks on a pond off Route 220, and 1 Bald Eagle flying over the pond.
- ✓ **Fred Cramer** also saw a probable Merlin along the Wolf Creek Greenway.
- ✓ **Linda Cory** has four reports of a probable Rufous Hummingbirds in the area.

✓ FIELD TRIPS AND UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

BIG SIT REPORT Only half a dozen people participated in this year's Big Sit, on October 11 at Tim and Alyce Quinn's house, presumably because of the rainy weather forecast. The good news was we only got sprinkled on for a few minutes early in the day. The bad news was that birds were in short supply. We only had 16 species, possibly our worst count ever. But we still had a good time and enjoyed each other's' company and a nice lunch. Our best bird from the circles was a Yellow-breasted Chat, a new late date for our area. Outside the circles we had some good species; too--Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Here's the list from the circles: American Crow, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Chimney Swift, Eastern Bluebird, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, House Finch, Mourning Dove, Northern Cardinal, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

GREENFIELD SPARROW WALK--Botetourt Center, Botetourt, Oct 18, from 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM, 7 birders total Roanoke Valley Bird Club field trip lead by Kent Davis & Mike Smith total of 45 species. Highlights were Blue-winged Teal, Ring - necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Pied - billed Grebe, Belted Kingfisher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow.

Oct. 24, 2014 -9 Pine Siskins came down for a quick drink at my water fountain in the early afternoon and then around 4:30 pm I heard and saw about two dozen flying overhead. **Kent Davis**

FINCH FORECAST: This winter's theme is a "mixed bag" of finch movements. For example, some species such as Purple Finch will go south while White-winged Crossbills will likely stay in the boreal forest in widely separated areas where spruces are laden with cones. Red Crossbills will be scattered in the Northeast this winter because cone crops are generally poor. Common Redpolls should move into southern Canada and the northern states because birch seed crops are thin to average across the north. Very small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks should move south this winter into southern Ontario and the Northeast because tree seed crops are generally poor farther north. Pine Siskins that fail to find adequate cone crops will probably wander south where they will frequent bird feeders with nyger seeds in silo feeders. Siskins are often detected by their wheezy *cllee-ip* call, which is the best way to identify them in flight.

Meet a RVBC Member

EUNICE C. HUDGINS



I joined the bird club in 1976 and have always tried to support the club by attending the monthly meetings, going on field trips and volunteering whenever possible.

I've served as Treasurer and a Director. I helped revise "How to Get There" (a guide to area birding spots) and have helped with the seed sale since 1999. At Barry Kinzie's request, I took over the organization of Big Spring Day in 2000 and the Fincastle Christmas Bird Count in 2004. My late husband, John, and I drove the count areas and wrote up instructions for birding each territory.

Birding is a big part of my life. I've been very fortunate to bird many areas of our country (including Hawaii and Alaska) and other parts of the world, such as Africa, Central America, and the Caribbean.

BIRDS & PLANTS - Native vs Invasive plants

Do you know the difference between native and non-native species of plants? Here is a list of the “real” native plants to attract birds to your yard. Please plant native species because they are more nutritious.



Natives

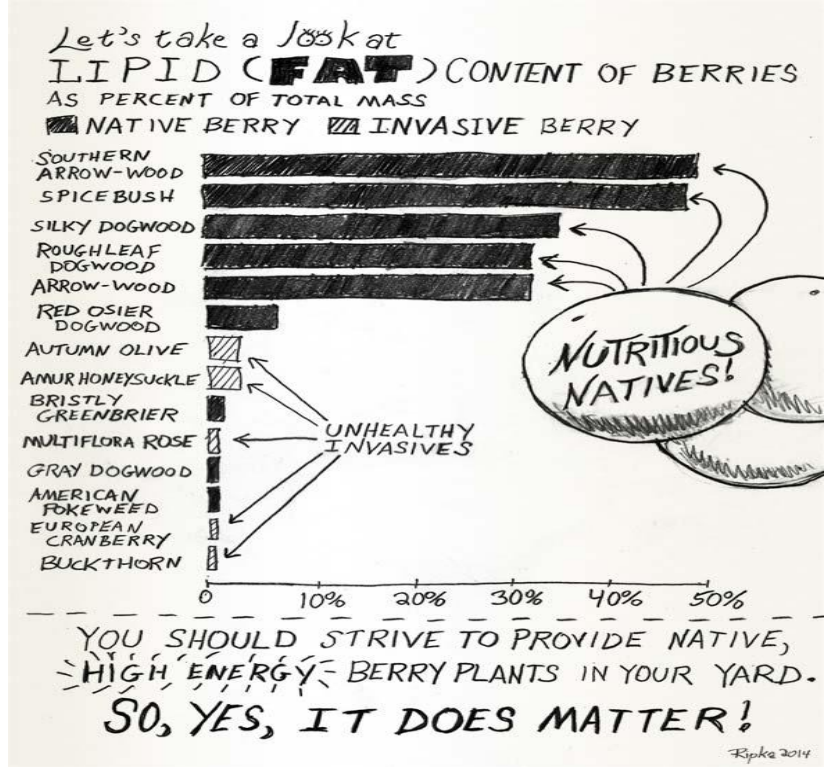
- Southern Arrow-wood : Viburnum denatum
- Spicebush : Lindera benzoin
- Silky Dogwood : Cornus amomum
- Roughleaf Dogwood : Cornus drummondii
- Arrow-wood : Viburnum recognitum
- Red Osier Dogwood : Cornus sericea
- Bristly Greenbrier : Smilax hispida
- Gray Dogwood : Cornus racemosa
- American Pokeweed : Phytolacca Americana

Invasives

- Autumn Olive : Eleagnus umbellata
- Amur Honeysuckle : Lonicera maackii
- Multiflora Rose : Rosa multiflora
- European Cranberry : Viburnum opulus
- Buckthorn : Rhamnus cathartica

Sources

- Whelan, CJ and MF Willson. 1994. Fruit choice in migrating North American birds: Field and aviary experiments. *Oikos* 71:137-151
- Smith, SB, SA DeSando, T Pagano. 2013. The value of native and invasive fruit-bearing shrubs for migrating songbirds. *Northeastern Naturalist* 20:171-184.
- Watson, DM and J Rawsthorne. 2013. Mistletoe specialist frugivores: latterday ‘Johnny Appleseeds’ or self-serving market gardeners? *Oecologia* 172:925-932.



mockingbird problem





The Roanoke Valley Bird Club

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

THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR DUES!

2015 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