



October '20 Newsletter

Celebrating 63 Years of Birding
1957-2020

NEXT MEETING

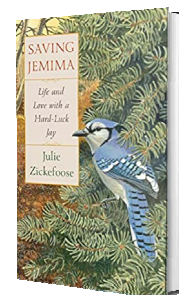
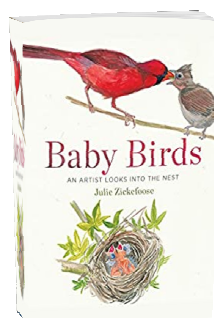
Our meeting will NOT be in person, rather we'll meet using the technology of Zoom. Our meeting will be 7PM, Monday, October 12th. You'll receive a link in your inbox a few days before the meeting. Stay well and happy birding.

A Day in the Life of Zick

Natural history writer and artist Julie Zickefoose heads out on a frigid May morning in the wicked spring of 2020 to feed some nestling bluebirds in the nest boxes she maintains. She decides to document her morning with a series of short iPhone videos. Bizarre things start to happen. Was it simply because it was all being documented, or is something weird and wonderful going on? You be the judge. Julie will be happy to meet and greet those attending, and take live questions afterward from her studio near Whipple, in the Appalachian foothills of Ohio.

BIO: Julie Zickefoose is author and illustrator of *Letters from Eden*, *The Bluebird Effect*, *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest*, and *Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard-luck Jay*, all from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Awakening readers to the astonishing things birds and animals think and do is her job. She writes and paints from Indigo Hill, an 80-acre sanctuary in Appalachian Ohio. For more: juliezickefoose.blogspot.com, IG: @juliezickefoose, TW: @harpyeye

Saving Jemima: Life and Love with a Hard-luck Jay	2019
Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest	2016
The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon Bonds With Common Birds	2012
Letters from Eden: A Year at Home, In the Woods	2006



Annual Dues

Annual club dues of \$12 for a single membership and \$20 for a family membership are due in September. Due to the unusual circumstances of COVID-19 the board has voted to make these optional for the 2020-2021 club year. If you wish to contribute annual dues please send your check to the address on the back of the newsletter. Also remember you can pay your dues conveniently and safely online at our website, www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com.

Club Calendar

As in years past, our club prints a calendar consisting of photos taken by bird club members. This year YOU get to vote on the photos that will be printed in the 2021 calendar. Your vote is needed and needs to be sent in by October 9th (details below). *** For members that submitted photos, please view the group of photos to make sure your photo(s) are included and that they are showing the correct information and clarity.

To view the photos go to <http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com/index.html> and click on the link entitled "RVBC Calendar Submission Photos". That link is found in the large box in the middle of the page, a few lines below "Celebrating 63 years of Birding". After clicking on that link a PowerPoint display will pop up. Contact RVBC2015@outlook.com if you have any problem viewing the pictures.

How to Vote: Each photo has a number on it in the lower right-hand corner of the photo. Choose your 12 favorite photos and write down the number found on each of those photos. Email those 12 numbers to RVBC2015@outlook.com. (There is no need to list the name of the bird in your emailed vote, just the number found on the photo you like.)

Single and Student members selections are counted one time and family memberships are counted twice. Your email will be matched to our membership list to assure fairness in voting. If you are a couple who have a family membership, you can each vote separately (12 each). All of the emailed numbers will be tallied to determine the photos that will be in our 2021 calendar. Have fun choosing your favorites!

Zoom! Success! Zoom!

Our first Zoom meeting was a great success with over 50 people joining us. If you were unable to join us last month or need some help working through the technology of Zoom, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of us. We'd be happy to walk you through any issues. We'll see you on Zoom!

Field Trip Reports:

Sept. 9th, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield: Seven club members joined leaders Barry Whitt and Annie Downing to see 35 species. Highlights were Great Egret, Green Herons, Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teals, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue Grosbeak (female), Indigo Buntings (juveniles), Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Killdeer, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cedar Waxwings

Sept. 20th, Sewage Treatment Plant, Roanoke: Leaders Kent Davis and Linda Cory were joined by 10 members on a sunny but cool morning for a productive time birding. We saw a total of 39 species. Highlights: a migrating “kettle” of Broad-winged Hawks (62) that passed right overhead, an Osprey, a Cooper’s Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawks (2), American Kestrel (5), Common Yellowthroats, American Redstart, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Buntings, a family of Red-bellied Woodpeckers and several shorebirds: Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeer, Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers.



Common Yellowthroat (Kent Davis)



Indigo Bunting (Kent Davis)

Mystery Bird Deaths Explained

The mysterious deaths of hundreds of thousands of birds in New Mexico last week prompted no shortage of interest in the national media. Certainly the potential causes of this phenomenon are many, from weather to insecticide use to the fires currently raging across much of the western third of North America. But researcher Jenna McCullough of the University of New Mexico has an explanation that takes into account unusual weather phenomena, explaining in a report published in the ABA's North American Birds: Field Ornithology column that cold temperatures and snow made finding flying insects, on which these birds depended, impossible to find. The 55–60°F temperature swing observed in New Mexico combined with hurricane force winds and with wet snow very likely caused hypothermia in some birds, especially juveniles. Furthermore, cold temperatures also affect the food supply for insectivores, as insects (which become dormant or dead) are then covered by snow. Certainly, they are not flying through the air, as swallows and pewees need. To learn more about this dramatic event, please see McCullough's article at the ABA website and continue to follow the ABA's Field Ornithology for quick dissemination of ornithological news.

Field Trips

Yes, we are re-starting our field trips! They will look different this year because of Covid-19. We want to make sure that our leaders and participants are safe. Our plan is to limit group sizes to five per leader and to have two or more leaders for each outing with staggered departure times. Participants will have to keep a respectful 6 feet distance from each other. In addition, you will need to RSVP by e-mail (rvbc2015@outlook.com) or phone field trip coordinator Mary Harshfield (540-309-8277) to reserve your spot. It will be up to the leader as to whether masks are required.

Field Trips:

October 3rd, Saturday, 8 AM, Green Hill Park

Join co-leaders Linda Cory (580-5214) and Sissy Logan (353-4500) for an easy walk at Green Hill Park in Salem, VA. We will be walking up to 2 miles along the Greenway path that goes along the Roanoke River. We will be looking for migrants leaving for southern climes, as well as possibly some early arriving ducks. Wear good walking shoes or boots that are waterproof in case we leave the path. Directions: From West Main Street, Salem, take at left at Diuguids Rd. In less than ½ mile, you will cross over the Roanoke River and take the next right onto Green Hill Park Rd. Park in the first parking lot on your right.

October 14th, 8 AM, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield

Join co-leaders Barry Whitt and Linda Cory in a walk around Greenfield Lake in search for migrants and waterfowl. 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. Please RSVP to rvbc2015@outlook.com or call Mary Harshfield at 540-309-8277 since numbers will be limited. 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.

October 17th, Saturday, 9–10 AM, Mill Mountain

This walk is being advertised through Roanoke Go Fest, <https://roanokegofest.com/>. Go Fest activities are limited this year but organizers are encouraging outdoor organizations to host small-scale outings throughout the region. Our event is a good way to let others know about the RVBC and hopefully introduce some new people to birding. Club members are welcome to join leaders Linda Cory and Sissy Logan. Please RSVP to rvbc2015@outlook.com or call Mary Harshfield at 540-309-8277 to register since numbers will be limited. Masks will be required on this walk since it is open to the public.



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



2020—2021 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	_____
<p>Make check payable to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club c/o Diane Malpass 3703 Forest Rd. SW Roanoke, VA 24015</p>	