



October '19 Newsletter

Celebrating 62 Years of Birding
1957-2019

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 14th 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.

Birdwatching and Landscaping Appreciation in Cuba

Presented by Joe Scarpaci



Joe Scarpaci is Professor Emeritus at Virginia Tech (2009) and is currently Director of the Center for the Study of Cuban Culture and Economy in Blacksburg. He has held five Fulbright awards (Chile, Uruguay, Colombia), a European Union Madame Marie Curie Fellowship at Aarhus University in Denmark as well as having research support from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Social Science Research Council. At the University of Iowa he directed the Latin American Studies Program. Besides two decades on VA Tech's faculty, he has taught at Rutgers University, the Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, and West Liberty University (WV) where he chaired the Department of Marketing and Management.

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The upcoming January and February birdwatching trips will mark his 91st visit to Cuba, where he has introduced over 1,000 Americans to the island since 1990. The Birdwatching and Landscaping Appreciation trips in 2020 aim to gather birders, naturalists, yogis, and the curious for a serene look into Cuba's natural and cultural diversity.

Joe lives in Blacksburg with his wife Gilda Machín and their dog Coco. When not leading trips south, he teaches at 4 yoga studios in town, translates for Montgomery County Public Schools, tutors ESL, and serves as the Chair of the New River Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club. For more information, see www.cubancultureeconomy.org, Cuban Birdwatching Trips 2020, or contact info@cubancultureeconomy.org.

CLUB NEWS

DUES ARE DUE

The start of our club's year starts at our September meeting. If you haven't paid, please do so today. There are three options to re-join:

1. By check or cash at our monthly meeting
2. By the US mail using the form in this newsletter
3. By the web at www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

SEEDS FOR A SONG SALE

Enclosed in this newsletter you'll find an order form and instructions on how to place your order for our club's annual fundraiser. The event will take place Saturday, November 2, at the Northwest Ace Hardware store in Hollins from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Orders must be turned in to Alyce Quinn by October 15. Proceeds from the sale will be used for a worthwhile community project to be decided on by the club's board. In previous years those projects included supplying all Roanoke City and County schools with bird field guides, sending kids to Nature Camp, preserving bird habitats and helping wild bird rehabilitation efforts. If you can help the day of the sale with set-up, talking to the public about birds and bird feeding, loading bags, helping people find their way around the sale, or providing goodies, let Alyce know at twoquinn@yahoo.com, 540-719-0109 or 540-312-6844. Also if you have extra bird feeders in good working order and clean, you can bring those to sell. Remember the sale is open to the public, so spread the word.

ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB CALENDAR

As previously announced, the member voting polls for choosing the photos for our calendar closes midnight of October 2nd. So far, voting electronically has been a resounding success. Thank you to all that have voted. If you haven't yet here are the instructions on voting. Go to www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com and click on the link PHOTO SUBMISSIONS. Review the 42 pictures and pick your favorite 12. Write down the numbers of your favorite pictures and then email those numbers to RVBC2015@outlook.com. Samples of the calendar will be available at the October and November meetings for you to place your orders. Calendars are still only \$12.

GO FEST

This is to let you know that the Bird Club is withdrawing from participation in Go Fest this year. We hope and intend that it's only for 2019. The Go Fest site has moved to a new site in an adjacent field for this year due to construction on the regular location. This complicates the logistics so much that after much discussion among involved board members we decided we were best off just putting it off one year until they're back in their home field. Many members club members have volunteered at previous Go Fests, and some of you have already signed up for this year. We sincerely thank you for your volunteering and hope you will participate again in the future.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

OCTOBER 5th, SAT., 7:30AM Birding at Beaver Pond

Meet Eunice Hudgins (389-4056) and Barry and Carol Whitt (309-4353) at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock at 7:30AM to carpool to George and Betsy Barker's "Beaver Pond" in Craig County. Wear sturdy shoes, warm clothes and bring a packed lunch/drink. You can choose to walk around the farm and woods area or do some porch birding overlooking the Barker's many feeders. This property includes a pond with an active beaver lodge, wetland area, open pastures as well as woodland trails. In the past, we have been treated to Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a resident albino Red-Tailed Hawk, Snipe and several butterfly species.

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).

OCTOBER 9th, WED., 8AM – 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 migrants and incoming 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! This walk will be repeated on November 13th. 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 12th, SAT., 7:30AM , Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory in Union, WV

Meet co-leaders Betty Burke (540-597-3863) and Bob Crawford for a 1.5 hour drive to the Hanging Rock Raptor Center near the Virginia/West Virginia border. The drive time includes a quick pit-stop at the Hanging Bridge Restaurant & Shop in Paint Bank, VA on the way to the observatory. This is an all-day trip, so bring a packed lunch and water. Wear hiking boots for the one mile moderate to steep walk up to the observatory tower from the parking lot. Also, wear layered clothing as it will be cold and windy at 3,800 foot elevation. Carpooling is a must and there is a port-a-potty at our destination. The Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory is owned by the US Forest Department and is supported by a non-profit group that monitors the migration of raptors. The target bird is the Golden Eagle, but an array of other birds of prey will be seen. The observatory is located on a rocky ridge with a 360 degree view.

Directions: We will meet at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock, 1823 Thompson Memorial Drive, Roanoke (just off of I-81 at either Exits 140 or 141). Yes, the Hanging Rock where we will start our trip is not the same Hanging Rock where the observatory is – just a coincidence.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS cont.

NOVEMBER 9th, Saturday, 9am - Pond Hopping in Botetourt

Meet our co-leaders, Tim and Alyce Quinn (312-6844), at the parking lot next to Bojangles at Botetourt Commons on Route 220 in Daleville. We will spend the morning visiting local ponds in search of waterfowl and other avian life. Carpooling is required due to the limited space at some pull-off areas. Bring your scope. Directions: Exit at 150B on I-81 and follow signs to 220N, keeping to the right of the traffic circle. Go 3/4 miles and take a left onto Kingston Rd, then a right into the Botetourt Commons shopping center. Look to the right for Bojangles.

OCTOBER 26th, SAT., 8AM - Fenwick Mines

Meet Educator Bill Hunley (467-3477) at the Orange Market in Hanging Rock at 8:00 a.m. to carpool to Fenwick Mines and surrounds. A favorite of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, this trip covers a wide range of habitats in a relatively small area. This includes open fields, a small pond, wetlands, a mountain stream and mixed pine and hardwood forests. The Fenwick Nature Trail is one mile of easy walking. We will look for a variety of birds and hope for Red Crossbills which been spotted there in years past. The Orange Market is located at the intersection of Rt 311 and Rt 419 (1823 Thompson Memorial Drive) Salem, VA.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

September 11th - Second Wednesday

Walk at Greenfield – 16 Birders enjoyed a great day walking around the lake, woods and grassy field and observed 40 species. Although waterfowl have not returned yet, wood ducks and mallards were seen. Also seen: Great Egret, Great Blue Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Solitary Sandpiper, Vireos (Yellow-throated, Blue-headed and Warbling), Belted Kingfisher, Raven, a plethora of Tree Swallows, a Nashville Warbler and two Northern Waterthrushes.



September 21st – Hawk watch at Harvey's Knob

Raptors seen at the annual club visit to "The Knob" yielded 161 hawks reported including 2 Osprey, 5 Bald Eagles, 5 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4 Kestrels, a Merlin and 137 Broad-winged Hawks. To volunteer and offer an extra set of eyes, call Bill and Katie James at 520-8400 and visit [https:// sites.google.com/site/bijame/home](https://sites.google.com/site/bijame/home) . Visit Harvey's Knob anytime at Milepost 95.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway near the Peaks of Otter.

2019 Bluebird Trails Summary

Submitted by Carol Whiteside

Blue Ridge Parkway Carol Whiteside, chairman 33 boxes			Hanging Rock Golf Course Sissy Logan and Judy Repass, chairmen 21 boxes			Botetourt Golf and Swim Club Bill Fabian, chairman 20 boxes		
Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged
E. Bluebird	139	91	E. Bluebird	118	97	E. Bluebird	133	115
Tree Swallow	49	33	Tree Swallow	37	13	Tree Swallow	41	34
C. Chickadee	18	17	C. Chickadee	12	12	C. Chickadee	12	12
House Wren	10	5	House Wren	7	0	House Wren	9	8
First egg: April 1, 2019			First egg: April 5, 2019			First egg: April 1, 2019		
Last fledging: August 7, 2019			Last fledging: August 3, 2019			Last fledging: August 20, 2019		

Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) are well known in the United States for their brilliant plumage, sweet song, and use of nestboxes. It is hard to imagine that this species nearly went extinct in the early 1900s because of a deadly combination of management practices that removed the dead tree snags that bluebirds depend upon for nesting, the introduction of exotic species that competed for nesting cavities, and the detrimental effects of pesticides. The recovery of populations across the eastern United States is an example of how everyday citizens can play a role in conservation. The major factor in the bluebird's recovery was the establishment of nestboxes by private landowners across their range.

- National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Everglades, Florida



We offer sincere appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who monitor these three bluebird trails weekly all season to insure the success of our area Eastern Bluebirds. This year, once again despite the record breaking hot, humid, rainy season, our bluebirds fledged 303. These annual statistics are reported to the Virginia Bluebird Society at the end of the season when we also celebrate with a pot-luck gathering at the Whiteside home. Most assuredly, the RVBC (and the birds!) gratefully thank the bluebird trail volunteer monitors for participating in this vital conservation endeavor. We gladly accept and train new monitors; please volunteer, it is very rewarding!

A heart-felt THANK YOU to:

Allen & Robin Austin, Eunice Hudgins, Sissy Logan, Judy Repass, Kathy Arrington, Patty Arrington, Alan & Beth Boyce, Caryl Connolly, Lindsay Eades, Carolyn Hamlett, Justin Craig, Butch Kelly, Diane & Michael Malpass, Nancy Reid, Karen Shelton, Carol Whiteside, Alice Hylton, Ardy Kidd, Eleanor Dye, Mary Ellen Belcher, Drew & Iris Daniels, Dick Hendrix, Jenn Walker, Mary Harshfield, Olivia Hill, Cathy Logue, Debbie Logue, Al McPherson, Rita & Jerry O'Brien, Sally Noble, Kathy Sink, Joanne Spetzler, Dan & Jen Whitcomb, Emma Whitcomb, Levi Whitcomb, Bill & Nancy Fabian, Barbara Bricks, Mike Irvin, Elizabeth Knoebber, Carole & Bill Massart, Toni Peppin, Bob Miller, Laurie & Scott Spangler

We're monitoring again, spring 2020, please join us!



Carol Whiteside photos

SEEDS FOR A SONG

November 2, 2019

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser

In Cooperation with Northwest Ace Hardware

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Email (ONLY to inform you of future Seeds for a Song): _____

If you are not a club member, how did you learn about this sale? Check one: I am on your mailing list _____

Friend _____ TV _____ Newspaper _____ Website/Internet _____ Store's Big Sign _____ Sign in Store Window _____

Description	Quantity	Size	Price/Each (includes tax)	Total
Gourmet Mix		40 lb.	30.25	
		20 lb.	16.95	
Black Oil Sunflower		40 lb.	24.20	
		20 lb.	13.30	
Sunflower Chips		50 lb.	72.65	
		25 lb.	39.95	
Striped Sunflower		20 lb.	18.15	
Nyjer (Thistle)		20 lb.	39.95	
		8 lb.	16.95	
Millet		50 lb.	20.55	
		25 lb.	10.90	
Peanuts in Shell		25 lb.	39.95	
Peanut Splits and Wholes		25 lb.	21.80	
Safflower		25 lb.	24.20	
High Energy Suet		1 Cake	1.20	
Ear Corn		7 lb.	10.45	
			Total	\$

SEEDS FOR A SONG

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser

In Cooperation with Northwest Ace Hardware

We are having a seed sale to benefit you, the community and your backyard birds. By placing an order with us, you will get quality seed containing little or no waste, harvested this year, at reasonable prices. Proceeds from the sale will be used for community projects. The sale is open to the public, so please copy this form and distribute it to friends and neighbors. There will be a small supply of extra seed available the day of the sale for those unable to pre-order. You will also be able to purchase 2019 calendars featuring club members' photos, bluebird houses, gently used bird feeders and club merchandise. Refreshments will be served, and experienced birders will be on hand to answer questions.

Orders must be received by October 15 and picked up on Saturday, November 2, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., at:

Northwest Ace Hardware (about a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College)
7650 Williamson Road, Roanoke VA 24019
(540)-777-1230

If you are unable to pick up your seed on November 2, please make arrangements for someone else to pick it up for you.

It's easy to order:

1. Complete the enclosed order form, being sure to include your name, phone number, and address along with your seed selections.
2. Calculate the total, which **already includes** Virginia sales tax.
3. Mail your completed form and check, payable to Roanoke Valley Bird Club, **in time for it to be received by October 15**, to: Alyce Quinn, 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA, 24184. (Please **do not** include membership dues with your seed sale order.)
-OR-
4. Order online at roanokevalleybirdclub.com using Paypal. Just be sure to place your order before October 15.
-OR-
5. Bring your completed order form to the club meeting on October 14 and pay with a check, cash (correct change only), or credit card.

Seed Descriptions

Wild birdseed mixes attract ground-feeding birds such as mourning doves, juncos and sparrows:

- *Gourmet Mix*: contains millet, sunflower, safflower and thistle.

Sunflower seed is the best all-around food, favored by a wide variety of birds:

- *Black Oil Sunflower*: smaller than the striped, with thinner shell, more kernel and higher oil content; preferred 2:1 over other seed by most feeder birds.
- *Sunflower Chips*: the heart of the seed, virtually no hull, no mess, and more meat per pound.
- *Striped Sunflower*: many common feeder birds, such as cardinals, jays, grosbeaks, titmice, chickadees, sparrows and finches, as well as squirrels, like this larger, thicker shelled seed.

Specialty feed:

- *Nyjer (Thistle)*: especially good for goldfinches and pine siskins, this seed is rich in nourishing oil.
- *White Millet*: favored by ground feeding birds such as juncos, towhees, buntings and sparrows.
- *Safflower*: most squirrels don't care for it, but many birds such as cardinals, grosbeaks and juncos do.
- *Peanuts*: a favorite of woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays.
- *Corn*: keep the squirrels busy with corn on the cob to keep them away from your feeders.
- *Suet*: the high fat content helps birds stay warm in the winter.



Roanoke Valley Bird Club
c/o Eleanor Dye
PO Box 74
Vinton, VA 24179



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 Eleanor Dye Box 74 Vinton, VA 24179	