



October '17 Newsletter

Celebrating 60 Years of Birding
1957-2017

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 9th at 7PM
Grandin Court Baptist Church
2660 Brambleton Ave. Roanoke, VA 24015

(Join fellow club members for dinner at 5:30PM at Brambleton Deli; 3655 Brambleton Ave.)

Blue Ridge Land Conservancy Birds

Presented by David Perry



Come learn about the various birds and wildlife found in our valley that find benefit of land set aside through the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. Our speaker, David Perry, will be sharing with us work being done in our area to sustain wild bird habitat. His organization also provides community outreach and has a team of experts in outdoor education, environmental studies and land conservancy tax incentives. The Roanoke Valley Bird Club is coordinating with his group for upcoming birding field trips.

Our speaker is the Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, a Roanoke-based non-profit that saves land and water in Virginia's Blue Ridge region. Prior to joining the land conservancy in 2006, he was superintendent of the recreation department in Salisbury, Maryland, and an executive with the Boy Scouts of America in Washington, North Carolina. David holds a BS in geography from James Madison University and an MS in Park and Resource Management from Slippery Rock University. A native of Blacksburg, he and his wife and two sons live in southwest Roanoke.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

October 7th, Saturday, 7:30AM, Birding at Beaver Pond

Meet Eunice Hudgins (389-4056) and Linda Cory (580-5214) 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 at the Barker's many feeders. This property includes a beaver pond, wetland area, open pastures as well as woodland trails. Last year we were treated to Rose-breasted Grosbeak and several butterfly species.

October 8th, Sunday, 7:30AM, The Big Sit! And Pot Luck Lunch

Join us the annual Big Sit! at Tim and Alyce Quinn's house (312-6844) in Burnt Chimney. This is a stationary bird watching adventure sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. Every team that observes the year's "Golden Bird" has a chance to win \$500. Every year, bird watchers from around the globe unite on this special day by participating in this free event, open to any person and club in any country! The Big Sit! is sponsored by Swarovski Optik. It works like this: You sit inside a 17-foot diameter circle and count all the bird species you see or hear within a 24-hour period. There are two circles at the Quinn's' house and we have fun comparing the birds we see from each one. Since the count goes on all day, you can come any time you want, but the earlier you come, the more birds you'll see. We'll have a potluck lunch around noon, so bring a dish to share. The address is 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184. From Rt. 220, take a left on Rt. 697 by the Dairy Queen/Bojangles (about 5 miles south of Boones Mill). When it ends, go left on Rt. 122. Go one mile and turn right onto 670 (Burnt Chimney Road). If you're coming from Rt. 116, when it ends at Rt. 122, make a right and then a quick left onto Rt. 670. When you are on Rt. 670, go another mile and turn right onto 868 (Kingston). Go about .8 miles and make a right onto Edgewood Farm Lane (at a bunch of mailboxes). Go half a mile down this gravel road. When the road makes a 90 degree left turn onto Turkey Run, you instead want to go straight. This is the beginning of their driveway, and there is a bluebird box here with the house number, 681, on it on the right of the driveway, and an old dilapidated trailer on the left. You can't see the house from here, but go a quarter mile down the driveway and you're there. If you get lost call Alyce's cell (312-6844).

October 11th, Wednesday, 8:00AM, 2nd Wednesday Bird Walk at Greenfield

Join co-leaders Barry Whitt (309-4353) and Kent Davis (355-6388) at 8:00 AM for a for an easy bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search of 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". Other walking at the property MAY be limited to construction including 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).

October 21st, Saturday, 9:00AM, Starkey Wetlands Boardwalk

Meet Linda Cory (540-580-5214) at the South County Library parking lot for a walk down to the wetlands area. This area has produced an occasional Rail or Woodcock. Other species to look for are Song, Swamp and Fox Sparrows. Wear sturdy water-proof shoes. The boardwalk is 1/2 mile of level walking, with some stairs to get there. The library is at 6303 Merriman Road. If time permits, we may drive to a nearby area at the club member's choice.

October 28th, Saturday, 8:00AM, 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.

Sightings & Field Trip Reports

Robin Austin and Bill James—Red-headed Woodpecker at Harvey's Knob

Robin Austin—Immature Rose Breasted Gross Beak and Northern Harrier

Bill James and David Brunstetter—12 Bald Eagles at Harvey's Knob

Linda Cory—Redstarts and a Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Worm-eating and Yellow-rumped Warbler in one afternoon in SW Roanoke County.

Carol Whiteside—Red-Shouldered Hawks

Bob Miller—Pine Siskin

Sid Barritt—Golden-Winged Warbler



9/13 Second Wednesday Bird Walk at Greenfield – A misty morning turned into a beautiful fall day with a total of 52 species including Blue-winged Teal, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Semipalmated and Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Tennessee, Magnolia, Yellow, and Palm Warblers. The group was treated to several Swallow species including Northern Rough-winged, Tree, Bank, Barn, and Cliff! To top it off, a Philadelphia Vireo was spotted.

CLUB NEWS

BIRD OF THE MONTH - American Goldfinch

It's Fall: Hummingbirds are tanking up for their long journey South, Common Nighthawks are doing their fly-overs and warblers are passing through AND Goldfinches are doing their "fall call". Well known for their "potato chip" call, their calls include a pipping sound when they gather in the Spring and Fall. I've often thought of them calling out to each other singing "Marco Polo". American Goldfinches are found throughout the US and are the state bird of Washington, New Jersey and Iowa.

American Goldfinches are generally non-migratory; however, they do band together and move around to where the food is. Extremely low temperatures may move them temporarily further south. They are unusual in that they nest in the summer and not the spring like other species. Barry Kinzie's book *Birds of the Roanoke Valley* notes that an active nest was found in late August. They are seed eaters and prefer thistle, as well as the seeds from sunflowers, asters and cone flowers and milk weed seed.

Their winter molt leaves them looking like a different species, but come spring they have a new set of feathers – from mild to wild. The purpose of molting is to repair damaged feathers for optimum flying. Basically, their winter plumage is for camouflage and the spring/summer plumage is for attracting a mate. (See the picture of a male during molt.) Feathers are made of keratin, the same protein that makes up our hair and fingernails. Although ours gets replaced gradually, Goldfinches' feathers get replaced within two weeks giving them one of the more dramatic change-overs in the bird world.

Linda Cory



DID YOU KNOW?

Goldfinches can weave their nest so tightly that it will temporarily hold water and attach their nest to supporting twigs with spider web.

The genus name, *Caruelis*, is from the Latin word *carduus*, which means "thistle." Goldfinches are very dependent on thistles for food and even use thistledown to line their nests.

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Presidents 1962 – 2017

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary, Carole Massart did a bit of research on the club's past presidents. The Roanoke Bird Club was organized in 1957, however, available records date back only to 1962. Carol believes that Almon English was the first president. If any name or date is in error, please Carole



1962 – Mr. W.N. Hobbie	1983 – 1984 - Bill Akers
1963 – Gary Davis	1984 – 1986 - Peggy Spigle
1964 – David Ochsner	1987 – 1988 - Fred Cramer
1965 – 1966 – Ben Dulaney ?	1989 – 1990 – Mike Donahue
1967 - Marvin DeHart	1991 – 1992 - John Hudgins
1968 – 1969 – Carole Massart	1993 – 1995 – Mike Smith
1970 – Charles Ames	1996 – Roger Dalton
1971 – Jerry Via	1997 – 1999 – Linda Cory
1972 – 1974 – Bill Opengari	2000 – 2005 – Alyce Quinn
1975 – 1976 – Tom Krakauer	2006 – May 2007 – Bill Hunley
1977 - 1978 -- Woody Middleton	Sept 2007 – 2012 – Elly Wefel
1979 - 1980 – George Stubbs	2012 – present – Kent Davis
1981 - 1982 – Jim Ayers	

Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands (CBBT) Closing

It is sad to report that the #1 island of the CBBT is being closed to the public on October 1st in order for new construction to take place. For details on the construction, visit <http://www.cbbt.com/project-description/> . For years, birders have enjoyed the variety of sea birds and migrating song birds found on the four island-stops on the CBBT, Route 13 north of Virginia Beach. The Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel Commission that governs access to the islands had previously closed all of the islands except for island #1. For a while special permits were issued to bird the islands. Island #1 also offered a restaurant, gift shop and bathrooms. The loss of access to these bird oases for bird watchers as well as tourist will be great.



Let's Go—Go Fest '17 Volunteers!

The annual Roanoke Go Outside Festival - Roanoke's amazing celebration of everything outdoors - is just around the corner, October 13,14, and 15. Last year for the first time, the Bird Club had a booth and club volunteers shared our love of birding with some of the over 30,000 attendees over the three days! We are planning new activities for both adults and children (including making kid "binoculars – save your toilet and paper towel rolls!) and are offering two walks, one each for adults and kids. We need volunteers to take at least a 2 hours shift at our booth any of the days. We also need someone to lead the children's bird walk on the Greenway for 45 minutes. This is a fun experience and you will definitely want to check out the entire amazing festival while you are there. To volunteer, sign up at the September and October meeting or email Maxine Fraade at maxinefr@aol.com. For more information about the festival located at the Rivers Edge Sports Complex, go to <http://www.roanokegofest.com>. There's free parking available and for those who worked last year, we should be located near the parking lot this time!



Empty Cardboard Paper Rolls Requested!

As a kids craft activity at the Roanoke Go Outside Festival October 13-15 the Bird Club will making "binoculars" out of empty cardboard toilet paper rolls. We can also use empty cardboard paper towel rolls. It's a three day event so we need LOTS! Please save your empty cardboard rolls and bring them to the September and October meetings. Any sturdy yarn you can donate would also be appreciated. Also stickers to decorate them. Any questions email Maxine Fraade at maxinefr@aol.com.

"Seeds for a Song" Seed Sale

Our club's main fundraiser, Seeds for a Song, is scheduled for November 4 at the Northwest Hardware store in Hollins. We sell fresh seed containing little or no waste at reasonable prices. The sale is open to the public, so tell your friends! Prices and order forms are in this newsletter. Please consider buying even one small bag of seed to help support the club's worthwhile community projects. We need lots of help at the sale, so if you can spare some time that morning--greeting people, loading bags, keeping up with orders, etc.--please contact Alyce Quinn at twoquinns@yahoo.com or 540-719-0109 or 540-312-6844.



SEEDS FOR A SONG

November 4, 2017

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser
In Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (to let you know about next year's Seeds for a Song): _____

If you are not a club member, how did you learn about this sale? Please check one of the options below:

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

Description	Quantity	Size	Price/Each (includes	Total
Gourmet Mix		40 lb.	29.05	
		20 lb.	15.50	
Black Oil Sunflower		40 lb.	23.00	
		20 lb.	12.10	
Sunflower Chips		50 lb.	69.00	
		25 lb.	36.25	
Striped Sunflower		40 lb.	33.90	
Nyjer (Thistle)		50 lb.	79.90	
		20 lb.	32.80	
		8 lb.	13.30	
Millet		50 lb.	16.15	
		25 lb.	9.40	
Peanuts in Shell		25 lb.	38.75	
Peanut Splits and Wholes		25 lb.	19.85	
Safflower		50 lb.	43.35	
		25 lb.	21.65	
High Energy Suet		1 Cake	1.20	
Ear Corn		7 lb.	10.10	
			Total	\$

SEEDS FOR A SONG

Saturday, November 4, 2017

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser

In Cooperation with Northwest True Value 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. Refreshments will be served, bird feeders and bluebird boxes will be available for purchase, and experienced birders will be on hand to answer questions.

Orders must be received by October 15 and picked up on Saturday, November 4, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., at:

Northwest True Value Hardware (about a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College)
7650 Williamson Road, Roanoke VA 24019
(540)-362-2112

If you are unable to pick up your seed on November 4, 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.)

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.

2017 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	167	153	E. Bluebird	169	119	E. Bluebird	128	100
Tree Swallow	48	47	Tree Swallow	21	15	Tree Swallow	41	26
C. Chickadee	8	5	C. Chickadee	9	9	House Wren	20	10
First egg: March 30, 2017			First egg: April 10, 2017			First egg: April 6, 2017		
Last fledging: August 20, 2017			Last fledging: August 30, 2017			Last fledging: September 6, 2017		



Carol Whiteside photo

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

It is with deep appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who monitor these three bluebird trails weekly all season to insure the success of our area Eastern Bluebirds who fledged 372 this year. Our annual statistics are reported to the Virginia Bluebird Society at the end of the season when we also celebrated with a pot-luck gathering at the Whiteside's. 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 if you would like to volunteer to join us!

With a heart-felt THANK YOU to:

Eunice Hudgins, Sissy Logan, Judy Repass, Ann & Ray Allen, Kathy Arrington, Patty & Andy Arrington, Caryl Connolly, Lindsay Eades, Carolyn Hamlett, Connie Marsh, Nancy Reid, Carol Whiteside, Alice Hylton, Ardy Kidd, Eleanor Dye, Bob & Sherri Miller, Dick Hendrix, Jenn Walker, Mary Harshfield, Megan Robinson, Deborah Ingram, Heidi Ketler, Rita & Jerry O'Brien, Sally Noble, Laurie & Scott Spangler, Elly & Pam Wefel, Bill & Nancy Fabian, Toni Pepin, Elizabeth Knoebber, Barbara Bricks, Carole & Bill Massart, Amy & Joe Dupuis.



From Botetourt, Bill Fabian reported bluebirds and chickadees laying eggs in the same nest at the same time, supported by his photo!

We're doing it again, spring 2018!



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

2017 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	