



October '18 Newsletter

Celebrating 61 Years of Birding
1957-2018

NEXT MEETING

Monday, October 8th at 7PM
Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Building
3640 Colonial Avenue Roanoke, VA 24018

ALL ABOUT THE VIRGINIA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

by speaker Donna Haley
Environmental Educator

Many of us have heard of the Master Naturalist Program, but have questions. What is the program all about? What is involved to becoming one? What will I learn? What does a Master Naturalist do? At our October meeting, Donna Haley, President of the Roanoke Chapter of Virginia Master Naturalists, will explain the program to us. The program covers areas such as Biogeography, Geology and Soil Science, Entomology, Ornithology, Aquatic and Forest Ecology, Herpetology, Ichthyology and Dendrology.

Donna Haley began her service to Virginia Cooperative Extension in 1996 as a Master Gardener. In 2012, she took on the title of Master Naturalist as well. Donna, as an ethno-botanist, taught horticulture at Virginia Western Community College at Greenfield. She is a "Tank Team" member at the Ocean in the Mountains Aquarium at Center in the Square in Roanoke. She also enjoys volunteering for the Blue Ridge Mountains Council Boy Scouts of America and serves on their Council Conservation Committee. She is a long time geocacher, and a recent presenter at the Virginia Environmental Educators Conference. She is a 2015 Citizens for Clean and Green, City of Roanoke Green Academy graduate. Donna is an active member in Botetourt County, where she resides with her husband Dan, and two teenage sons, Kyle and Kevin.



CLUB NEWS

2019 CALENDAR

Our club calendar will be available for viewing at the October meeting. Pre-orders can then be made and can be paid for by check or cash at the meeting or online (after October 8th) at the website www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com. Pre-ordering is very important as it gives the printers an idea of how many to print. The price of the calendar will remain at \$12 each and they will also be available for sale at the November and December meetings and at our annual seed sale.

OLD FEEDERS?

Do you have any old feeders lying around that you no longer use? If you do, and they are in good shape and reasonably clean, in need of no more than minor repairs, we'd love to have them to sell at the Seed Sale. Let your trash become someone else's treasure! Please bring them to the September or October meeting and give them to Alyce Quinn. twoquinns@yahoo.com

SEEDS FOR A SONG SALE

Our club's main fundraiser, Seeds for a Song, is scheduled for Saturday, November 10, at the Northwest Hardware store in Hollins from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We sell fresh seed containing little or no waste at reasonable prices. The sale is open to the public, so tell your friends! It's best to pre-order but we will have a small supply of extra seed at the sale for those who forget. Hopefully this year you'll be able to order electronically through the club's website if you prefer not to have to mail your order form and check. Please consider buying even one small bag of seed to help support the club's worthwhile community projects. There are lots of things you can do to help make the sale a success. 1) Help the day of the sale--greeting people, loading bags, keeping up with orders, etc. 2) Make goodies for us to have available both for workers and customers. Please contact Alyce Quinn at twoquinns@yahoo.com, 540-719-0109, or 540-312-6844 if you can help in any way or need more information.



Prices and order forms are in the back of this newsletter.



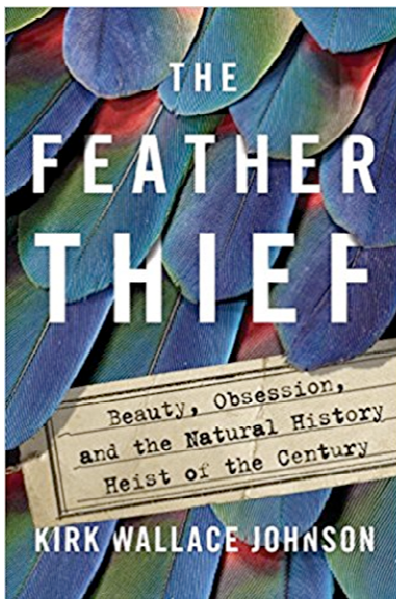
Bird Club at the GO FEST 2018 October 12, 13,14

The Roanoke Go Fest is FUN, it's FREE, it's SOON and RVBC will be there. For those who missed it last year, or the Sept newsletter, the Roanoke GO OUTDOORS Festival is a celebration of all the great outdoor activities here in the Roanoke Valley. Over 125 clubs, organizations, and vendors offering activities, exhibits, and merchandise over three days, October 12, 13, and 14 at Rivers Edge Sports Complex on Reserve Ave near Carillion (formerly the Victory Stadium). What's the Bird Club doing this year? Keeping it simple. We'll have an information booth with handouts about birding and offer the super-popular Name That Bird game which was a huge success last year.

We still need volunteers in all time slots to make this happen. We'll talk to attendees, explain what birding is about and share our handouts and expertise. Name that Bird attracted lots of adults, teens, college students, and kids and was fun and easy to do.

Thanks to all those who staffed our booth in previous years. Please volunteer again. And if you haven't before, even a couple of hours are welcome! You'll love walking around the festival after! We need coverage Friday afternoon for set-up, and Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday all day. There will be signup sheets at the October meetings or email Maxine Fraade at maxinefr@aol.com.

Let's spread the word that birding is a great activity for all ages. For more information about the festival see <http://www.roanokegofest.com/>



The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century

The Feather Thief reads like a riveting crime novel, albeit true, with an usual crime and even more unusual suspects.

Edwin Rist was training to become a professional flautist at London's Royal Academy of Music. In 2009, under the cover of darkness he broke into the British Natural History Museum at Tring. And he stole almost 300 priceless and irreplaceable bird skins, many collected by famous naturalist.

Johnson investigates and seeks to uncover the strange obsession that led Rist to swipe these feathers and the seedy undercover network of fly-tying. It's a fascinating book that touches on many interests including natural history and ornithology. I've even added visiting Tring to my bucket list.

- Nathan Anderson

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

October 10th, Wednesday, 8AM

Second Wednesday Bird Walk at Greenfield

Join Barry Whitt (309-4353) for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search for waterfowl and song-birds. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 mile. Other walking at the property may include the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! Some folks may want to visit Ballast Point brewery at 11AM for lunch after the walk. They have a veranda that overlooks the lake.

Directions: Take Exit 150B on I81 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 13th, 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 overlooking the Barker's many feeders. This property includes a beaver pond, 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 I-81 at either Exits 140 or 141).

October 27th, 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 have been spotted there in years past.

Directions: The Hanging Rock Orange Market is at 1823 Thompson Memorial Drive, Roanoke (just off of I-81 at either Exits 140 or 141).

November 3, Saturday, 8:00AM

Waid Park

Meet President Kent Davis (355-6388) at the park entrance for an easy to moderate walk through the park. The park covers 512 acres with a variety of habitat from woodland species to waterfowl. We will be exploring the nature trails and wetland areas surrounding the Pigg River. Wear sturdy, waterproof shoes for possible wet terrain. We should conclude before noon, but there are picnic table if you choose to bring a packed lunch.

Directions: From Roanoke at Tanglewood Mall, take 220 South and travel 18.5 miles and take the first Rocky Mount exit. Merge onto Business 220, AKA Main St. Go 2 miles and take a right onto 40 going west, AKA Franklin Street. You will zigzag through Rocky Mount, staying on Route 40 West, toward Ferrum. About 2 miles past “The Harvester Music Center”, take a right onto Six Mile Post Road at the “40 West Food Fare”. In 1.75 miles, take a left onto Waid Park Road. Continue straight passing a small parking lot on the left. Shortly after that, take a left into the huge parking lot and park at the top right of the lot where you will meet your leader, Kent Davis. The address is 701 Waid Park Road, Rocky Mount, VA.

FIELD TRIPS REPORTS

September 1st Night Hawk Watch on Bent Mountain - Night hawks are one of our most favorite migrators, but only one was seen on this field trip. On the same night, 65 were reported in town. Since then, they are still being seen on Bent Mountain, so it is worth a second look. Other species seen on the walk were eastern meadowlark, rose-breasted grosbeak, red-winged blackbird, common raven and chimney swifts.

September 12th Second Wednesday Walk at Greenfield - In spite of it being a misty day, our group spotted 37 species including wood duck, spotted sandpiper, yellow-billed cuckoo, kestrels, Acadian flycatcher, warbling vireo, brown thrasher and a kingfisher.



2018 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	171	145	E. Bluebird	138	93	E. Bluebird	131	106
Tree Swallow	42	26	Tree Swallow	27	13	Tree Swallow	15	6
C. Chickadee	6	6	House Wren	5	5			
House Wren	6	0						
First egg: April 6, 2018			First egg: April 10, 2018			First egg: April 17, 2018		
Last fledging: August 21, 2018			Last fledging: August 3, 2018			Last fledging: August 29, 2018		

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, despite the record breaking hot, humid, rainy season, our bluebirds fledged 344. 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 soon, it is very rewarding!

With a heart-felt THANK YOU to:

Allen & Robin Austin, Eunice Hudgins, Sissy Logan, Judy Repass, Kathy Arrington, Caryl Connolly, Lindsay Eades, Carolyn Hamlett, Deborah Ingram, Nancy Reid, Carol Whiteside, Alice Hylton, Ardy Kidd, Eleanor Dye, Dick Hendrix, Jenn Walker, Mary Harshfield, Olivia Hill, Cathy Logue, Debbie Logue, Rita & Jerry O'Brien, Sally Noble, Dan & Jen Whitcomb, Levi Whitcomb, Emma Whitcomb, Megan Robinson, Bill & Nancy Fabian, Laurel Riddle, Barbara Bricks, Elizabeth Knoebber, Carole & Bill Massart, Joe & Amy Dupuis, Toni Peppin, Bob Miller, Laurie & Scott Spangler



We're monitoring again, spring 2019, join us!

SEEDS FOR A SONG

November 10, 2018

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser

In Cooperation with Northwest True Value 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? 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 tax)	Total
Gourmet Mix		40 lb.	30.25	
		20 lb.	16.95	
Black Oil Sunflower		40 lb.	23.00	
		20 lb.	12.10	
Sunflower Chips		50 lb.	71.45	
		25 lb.	39.90	
Striped Sunflower		20 lb.	16.95	
Nyjer (Thistle)		50 lb.	78.70	
		20 lb.	36.30	
		8 lb.	15.75	
Millet		50 lb.	18.15	
		25 lb.	9.70	
Peanuts in Shell		25 lb.	36.30	
Peanut Splits and Wholes		25 lb.	20.55	
Safflower		50 lb.	44.80	
		25 lb.	23.00	
High Energy Suet		1 Cake	1.20	
Ear Corn		7 lb.	9.70	
			Total	\$

SEEDS FOR A SONG

Saturday, November 10, 2018

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, 2019 calendars with photos taken by club members will be on sale, bluebird houses and gently used bird feeders will also 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 10, 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 10, 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.)
4. **Exciting news: this year you can also order online at roanokevalleybirdclub.com using Paypal! Just be sure to order before October 15.**

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



2018—2019 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	