



Roanoke Valley Bird Club



February 2023

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **in-person** with a Zoom option on Monday, February 13th at 7pm at the Garden Club Building (3640 Colonial Ave, Cave Spring, VA 24018). We will continue to engage in best practices regarding Covid moving forward. We value everyone's safety and health. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please feel free. If you choose not to wear a mask, please respect those who do. Thank you!

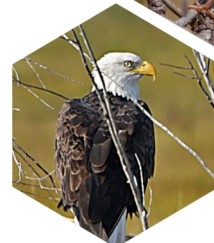
Owls

Presented by Beth Mendelsohn



Beth has been studying owls and other raptors in the west for nearly 10 years, and has been a field researcher at the Owl Institute since 2019. Prior to that, she earned her graduate degree from the University of Wyoming with an emphasis on Great Gray Owl genomics.

Beth's research has been focused primarily on North American owls in Montana, Alaska, and Wyoming. Current projects on Great Gray Owls, Short-eared Owls, Pygmy owls, and Northern Saw-whet Owls in Montana keep her the most busy. Beth enjoys sharing her passion for field biology, birds, and conservation through public speaking and outreach.



Clockwise from top: Purple Gallinule (Garland Kitts); Barred Owl (Nathan Anderson); Painted Bunting (Mary Lou Barritt); Common Tern (Nathan Anderson); Bald Eagle (Bob Crawford); Sedge Wren (Kirk Gardner)

Contributions and Support 2023

Each year our membership dues, contributions and fund raising projects allow the RVBC to support non-profit organizations that provide services to further our mission. This year the board has selected the following organizations:

- 1 · Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) - Through our organization membership dues we have supported the VSO in their efforts to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, stimulate interest in birding through events and field trips, and assist in the conservation of wildlife and other resources. In 2022-23, we have additionally made a three year commitment at \$500 each year to sponsor the Yellow-crowned Night Heron and support Virginia's Second Breeding Bird Atlas.
- 2 · Blue Ridge Land Conservancy - Our contribution of \$250 is used to protect local lands and natural resources important to the environment and to educate the next generation to become good stewards of the land in our region.
- 3 · American Bird Conservancy - Our contribution of \$150 is used in their work to prevent bird extinctions, conserve vital habitats, reduce key threats to birds and support bird conservationists.
- 4 · Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke - Our contribution of \$250 is in continued support of this local rehabilitation – veterinary center that specializes in songbirds, hawks, owls and small mammals and reptiles native to southwest Virginia.
- 5 · Foundation of the State Arboretum – Our contribution of \$50 will be used by the Blandy Experimental Farm public programs for nature-loving organizations and teaching youngsters about nature at summer camps. The program educates campers about their responsibility to the earth and natural environment.

Submitted by: Carol Whitt, Treasurer

City Plants Kent's Tree



ANNUAL RAPTOR COUNT

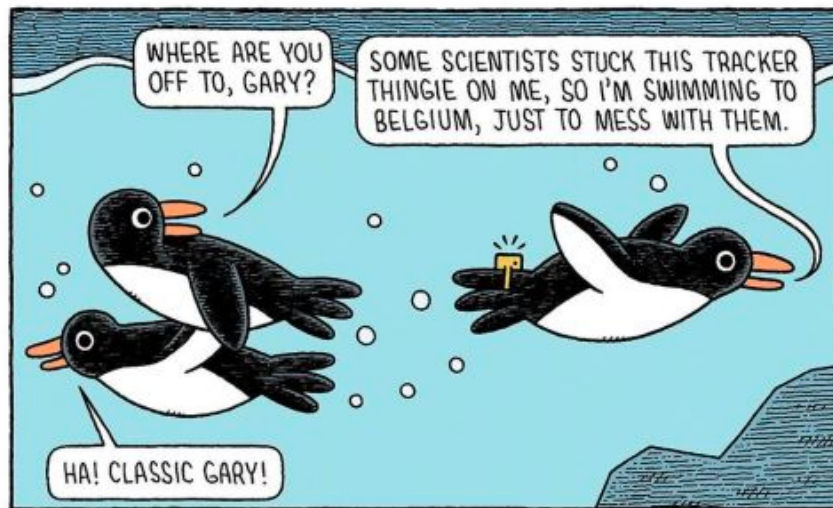
Spend a few hours driving away the winter blues on Saturday February 11, 2023. The annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding with your birding buddies!! No skill is required, just a little time and effort. Plan on a leisurely drive around your area, counting all the hawks you see. Points are awarded for each hawk, although this is not a serious competition. The winner gets bragging rights!! We compile the results from everyone's efforts and keep an eye on trends in hawk populations. In the unwanted event of inclement weather, an alternate date of Sunday February 12 has been set. Contact Anne Tucker (540) 721-1573 if you have any questions. The tally sheet can be emailed to billt3256@gmail.com or mailed to 3256 Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta VA 24121.

Field Trip Reports

January 4th , Greenfield by Dave Frye

Chilly temperatures and poor light confronted five participants during the January edition of the Greenfield Lake monthly hike. The group made the best of it, although the birds were apparently hunkered down somewhere else. 30 species were observed, with good looks had of Green-winged Teals, Ring-necked Ducks, a Brown Creeper, a Belted Kingfisher, and a Hermit Thrush. The group concluded the trip hoping for a day when the waterfowl is so plentiful that they are difficult to count. Maybe during February's trip?

Cheers! Dave Frye



TOM GAULD for NEW SCIENTIST

WINTER RAPTOR COUNT

February 11, 2023

Participants _____

Time Started _____ Time Completed _____

Location _____

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Turkey Vulture	*1			
Black Vulture	*2			
Red-tailed Hawk	5			
American Kestrel	10			
Common Raven	10			
Eastern Screech Owl	**10			
Cooper's Hawk	20			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	20			
Great Horned Owl	30			
Red-shouldered Hawk	30			
Barred Owl	35			
Northern Harrier	40			
Bald Eagle	50			
Barn Owl	50			
Loggerhead Shrike	50			
Merlin	75			
Peregrine Falcon	75			
Rough-legged Hawk	75			
Short-eared Owl	75			
Golden Eagle	100			
Northern Goshawk	100			
Long-eared Owl	125			
Northern Saw-whet Owl	125			
Northern Shrike	150			
Unidentified Raptor	5			

POINT TOTAL _____

- * Maximum of 50 Points
- ** Maximum of 100 Points

Be sure to keep your totals! There is a 10-point bonus for peak counts of these three species.

RULES: Teams must be at least 2 people. Teams may bird any area within a 100-mile radius of Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center. Birds must be seen or heard by at least 2 team members. Count period cannot exceed a total of 12 hours.

Completed forms can be emailed to billt3256@gmail.com or mailed to Anne Tucker
 3256 Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta VA 24121. Call Anne at 540-721-1573 with any questions.

Field Trips

Note that if inclement weather necessitates a cancellation, an e-mail notification will be sent out. You can also call or text the leader Kirk Gardner at 760-935-3044 or kirk.gardner1980@gmail.com.

- Walrond Park (Saturday, February 4th, 9am)

Meet Kent Skaggs for easy walking along some maintain trails. Target species are winter visitors and ducks.

- 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield (Wednesday, February 8th, 9am)

Join leader David Frye (248-459-6783) 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, 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. 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.

- Read Mountain Greenway (Saturday, February 11th at 8am)

Meet Kirk Gardner and Kent Davis at Read Mountain Greenway. We'll meet at the Kroger off of Challenger Ave NE at 8am. I will park close to the gas pumps. We will then travel over to the Greenway and park there. This walk is mostly flat and will start off on a dirt road and then into the grassy field. Some of sort mud boot will be needed to keep your feet dry. Target species include: Savannah Sparrows, American Pipits, Wilson's Snipe, hawks, and other winter time birds.

- VSO Winter field trip at the Outer Banks of North Carolina (February 3-5)

The weekend's leaders include Bill Akers and Jerry Via, as well as VSO field trip co-chairs Lee Adams and Meredith Bell. We always have a great variety of birds no matter what the weather. A pre-trip zoom call is scheduled for January 30th. To register, visit

https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/_gP3qH8CILZtoPAfyy9jtA

The Comfort Inn South Oceanfront in Nags Head is again the trip headquarters. The special VSO room rate is \$79 for oceanfront and \$64 for bay-view (plus tax). Ocean front rooms are available on a first come, first served basis. Contact information for the hotel is: 8031 Old Oregon Inlet Road, Nags Head, NC 27959; Phone: 252-441-6315. Reservations must be made by January 2, 2023, to get the special VSO rate. Breakfast is included.

For more details, visit <https://www.virginiabirds.org/vso-events/obxtrip-2023> If The contact field trip coordinator is Meredith Bell at 804-824-4958 or merandlee@gmail.com



Roanoke Valley Bird Club
PO Box 20405
Roanoke, VA 24018
Editor: Nathan Anderson

2022-2023 Roanoke Valley Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make check payable: Roanoke Valley Bird Club PO Box
20405 Roanoke, VA 24018

Individual \$15 _____
Family \$25 _____
Student \$10 _____
Adopt a Bluebird \$15 _____
Additional Contribution _____
Total Payment _____