



Roanoke Valley Bird Club



January 2023

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **in-person** with a Zoom option on Monday, January 9th 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!

The Bird Counter

Presented by Dixie Sommers



Dixie Sommers became a serious birder after moving back to the Washington area from Ohio in 2006, adding to her long interest in nature photography and travel. She is a regular e-Bird user and enjoys using photography to help learn the birds, and sharing her photos on www.ddpix.smugmug.com. In addition to favorite places in Virginia, her recent birding travels include New Zealand, Colombia, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. Dixie serves on the board of the of Virginia Society of Ornithology and is a member of the Northern Virginia Bird Club and the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. She lives in Alexandria and retired from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics after a long career of counting jobs and workers. Now she counts birds!



ANNUAL RAPTOR COUNT

Save the Date. February 11, 2023. Raptor Count !!
The form and more details will be in the February newsletter.

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)

Winter Labor of Love

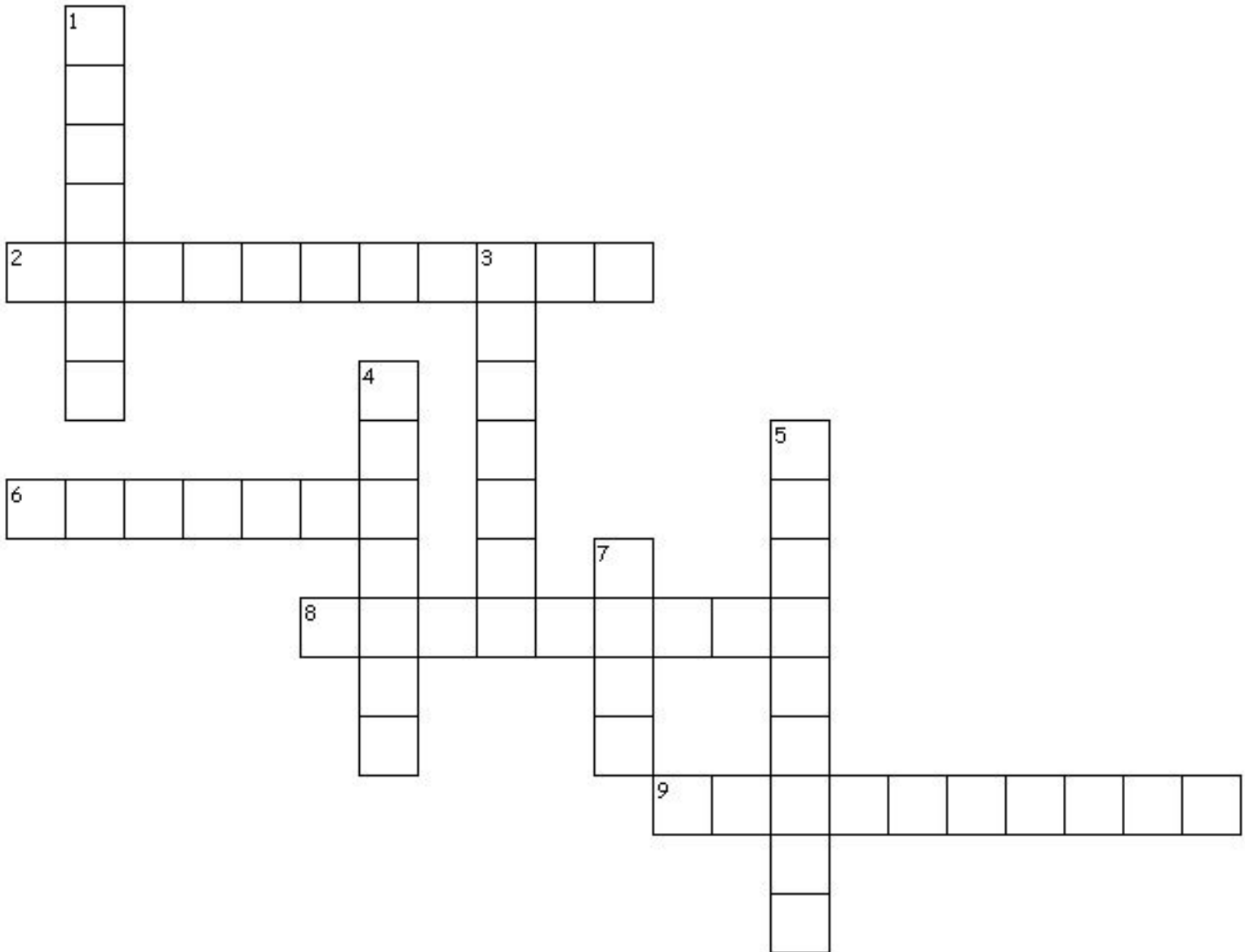
by Virginia Blanck Moore

There's someone waiting for me there
amid the ice and snow.
So reluctantly I don my boots,
and out the door I go.
Into the biting wind I plunge
and over crusted drifts
until I reach a sheltered spot,
and then my cold mouth lifts
into a smile, for there they wait,
a hungry, feathered band,
For me to sweep the feeder clean
and answer their demand.
And answer their demand I do,
as they seem to know I will,
I pour the brown seeds liberally-
no matter if some spill.
Then warm of heart though cold of foot,
I enjoy my breakfast fare
with the knowledge that my feathered friends
are eating well out there.



English Robin (Watercolor)
by Nathan Anderson

Bird Crossword Puzzle



Solve this puzzle to become a bird nerd!

Across

- 2. Birds with long legs that usually live in wetland habitats
- 6. A method of marking and numbering birds for research
- 8. The group name for “perching” birds or “songbirds”
- 9. Smaller, migratory birds that live in coastal habitats

Down

- 1. The part of a bird’s stomach that is designed to grind food
- 3. Birds of prey
- 4. To seasonally move from one place to another
- 5. Ducks, geese, and swans
- 7. The pouch in a bird’s throat used to store and carry food

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.

- New Year's Day Count (Sunday, January 1st)

Start the year 2023 right by making a New Year's Day Bird List at the place of your choosing. This is not a group field trip nor a competition, just a great way to start your birding year. If you haven't participated before, maybe this will be the start of a new tradition for you! Make a note of all bird species seen and/or heard between midnight of New Year's Eve and 11:59PM, January 1st. Email your resulting bird list with the location to RVBC2015@outlook.com. Highlights from your lists will go in the February newsletter.

- 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield (Wednesday, January 11th, 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.

- Botetourt Pond Hopping (Saturday, January 21st, 9am)

Meet our co-leaders, Tim and Alyce Quinn (540-537-1831, 540-312-6844) at Greenfield Lake, second parking lot. Directions are same as January 11th walk. 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. A possible bad weather day will be Sunday, January 22nd.

- 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/_gP3qH8C1LZtoPAfy9jtA

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

Field Trip Reports

December 14th , Greenfield by Dave Frye

A mostly cloudy day posed some lighting challenges for 6 attendees that Wednesday morning. “Silhouette Birding” was kind of the name of the game for a while as we got started. Ring-necked Ducks dominated the water scene and were among 9 species of waterfowl observed (including what turned out to be the highlight of the day – three scruffy looking Ruddy Ducks in the mix). Others commanding the group’s attention were a preponderance of White-throated Sparrows and one beautiful Brown Creeper spiraling around and down to the bottom of the tree that it was working on, showing off its snow white underbelly. 33 species were observed and the group looks forward to next month’s trip to Greenfield, hoping to find even more winter waterfowl. Please join us!



Red-tailed Hawk: Barland Kitts

- 7. Crow
- 5. Waterfowl
- 4. Migrate
- 3. Raptors
- 1. Gizzard
- Down
- 9. Shorebirds
- 8. Passerines
- 6. Banding
- 2. Wading birds
- Across



Roanoke Valley Bird Club
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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 _____