



Roanoke Valley Bird Club



November 2021

Next Meeting

Due to the continued presence of COVID-19 and its variants, we will continue to meet via Zoom. The board will reevaluate at the end of year to determine what is the best meeting options beginning in January. Our next meeting via Zoom will be Monday, November 8th at 7pm. Please be on the look out for the Zoom link in your email the weekend before. Stay well, and happy birding.

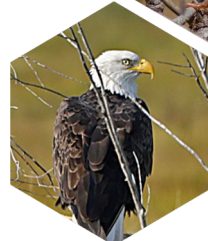


The New World Warblers ~ presented by Dr. Marshall Faintich

There are about 120 warbler species found in the western hemisphere, and more than 50 of these species can be found in North America. Our speaker, Dr. Marshall Faintich, has photographed 52 of the New World warbler species, including many in both spring and fall plumages, males and females, and some juveniles. The photos provide excellent insight for identification of these species. His talk will also explore hybrid warbler species.

Marshall is the author of A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Wintergreen having been the birding activity manager for Rockfish Valley Trail. His wildlife photos have appeared in newspapers, magazines, web sites, government reports and on wildlife and birding trail signs in Virginia and Maryland. His own web site www.faintich.net contains more than 9,000 of his best wildlife photos, and gets about 3 million hits per year from visitors in more than 80 countries.

He received his PhD in Astronomy from the University of Illinois and was a member of several NASA working groups. His profession by trade is cartography and as an avid birdwatcher is an accomplished photographer. He lives in Crozet which is near the Rockfish Gap hawk watch area.



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)

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 or Mary Harshfield at 540-309-8277.

- Fenwick Mine (Saturday, November 6th 8AM)

Meet leader Bill Hunley (540-467-3477) 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

- 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield (Wednesday, November 10th 8AM)

Join leader Dick Grubb (540-728-1029) 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 scope if you have one.

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 right.

- Walrond Park (Saturday, November 20th 8AM)

Join leaders Linda Cory (540-580-5214) and Bill Hunley for a walk around Walrond Park. The park has a variety of habitats including a pond, wetlands, and grassy and wooded areas. Walrond Park is located at 6824 Walrond Drive which is off of Plantation Road close to the I-81 Hollins exit (Exit 146). Drive to the end of Walrond Drive, take a right and the parking lot will be ahead on your left. We will walk between one and two miles on mostly even ground however waterproof shoes are recommended since we may leave the path.

Correction: In the October newsletter Mary Harshfield's name was spelled incorrectly. Sorry Mary.

Field Trip Reports

Oct. 3rd, Sewage Treatment Plant: Leaders Kent Davis and Linda Cory and 14 other birders observed 43 species on a sunny, fairly warm morning. Some of the highlights included American Pipit and the following warblers: Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Cape May, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, and Palm; Hawks: Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed; American Kestrel, Least Flycatcher, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plover.

Oct. 9th Green Hill Park: cancelled due to rainy weather

Oct. 13th, Greenfield: Seven birders joined leaders Sissy Logan and Mary Lou Barritt on a cool foggy morning that gradually cleared for good birding, observing a lot at close range. The group tallied 40 species including several warblers: Cape May, Northern Parula, Palm, Magnolia, and Yellow-rumped and the following waterfowl: Great Egret, Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, American Wigeon, and Green and Great Blue Herons.

Oct. 22nd and 23rd, Blue Hills Industrial Complex: Leader Kirk Gardner introduced us to a new place to bird—one with beautiful views overlooking the surrounding mountains. Friday's group of 15 birders identified 25 species; Saturday's group of 12 identified 32 species. Raptors included Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, and Red-tailed Hawk. Other highlights: Blue-headed Vireo, Eastern Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Chipping and Field Sparrows, Cedar Waxwing, and Common Raven. We look forward to returning to this place at different times of the year.

Nominations for Officers and Directors 2021-22

According to our by-laws, in October of every year, a nominating committee proposes a slate of officers and directors for club members to vote on at the November meeting. This is the slate put forward for 2021-22, terms to begin January 1, 2022. We will vote on this slate November 8.

Officers

President: Kent Davis (who will be serving his 10th term)

VP Programs: Drew Daniels

VP Membership: Linda Cory

Secretary: Betty Burke

Treasurer: Carol Whitt

Directors

Nathan Anderson: Newsletter Editor & Zoom

Mary Harshfield: Field Trips

Robin Austin

Mary Lou Barritt

Annie Downing

Maxine Fraade

Sissy Logan

Eunice Hudgins, Emeritus

Club Calendar Ready for Sale

We are excited to offer the Roanoke Valley Bird Club 2022 Calendar for sale now! Sample pictures will be posted on our website soon. The cost of the calendar is still \$13.50, and the best way to purchase your calendar(s) is online at www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com. As a secondary method you can send a check to Roanoke Valley Bird Club, PO Box 20405, Roanoke VA 24018 using the form below. The cutoff for sales is the first week of January.

This year presents a unique situation in that we are not having face-to-face meetings so the preferred method to receive your calendar(s) is by mail. Postage is \$2.50 per calendar. We are also offering an option to pick up your calendar(s) in the parking lot of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs building (3640 Colonial Ave., Roanoke) on November 27th and December 11th from 10am-2pm. Masks requested – thank you. We can take credit cards at the pickup location, but prefer cash or checks, or you can prepay online. Note: When ordering online, you will need to fill in a “shipping address” even if you plan to pick up your calendar(s). For questions, email RVBC2015@outlook.com.

We hope you are as proud of our calendar as we are! They make great gifts and will be beautiful hanging in your home or office !

Check out our website for a sneak peek of all the photos.

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Calendar Order Form

PO Box 20405, Roanoke VA 24018

of Calendars _____ X \$13.50 if picking up = _____

of Calendars _____ X \$16.00 if shipping = _____

Address to send calendars to:

OR

I will pick up my calendars on 11/21 ___ or 12/12 _____

Note: If you are ordering more than 4 calendars, please email us to get a more accurate (and lower) shipping cost. RVBC2015@outlook.com

ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB



2022 CALENDAR ON SALE NOW

**25 Amazing Photos taken by
Roanoke Valley Bird Club Members**

**\$13.50 each — To Order: Visit
ROANOKEVALLEYBIRDCLUB.COM
or email RVBC2015@outlook.com**

Preview of Roanoke Valley Bird Club 2022 Calendar Photos





**To Order: Visit www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com
or email RVBC2015@outlook.com**

Meet a Member: Jason Davis

Jason Davis has not been an official member of the Bird Club for very long, but he has been birding with his dad, Club President Kent Davis since he was 11 or 12!

These days he birds frequently in Highland Park and Wasena Park along the Roanoke River where his favorite bird is the belted kingfisher. For those who have never spotted it there he cautions, "You willll hear it before you see it."

Jason says he is a music guy and particularly enjoys birds for the sounds they make. For example, he says the grasshopper sparrow makes a unique sound. It is not a common bird and you have to go into the country and find a secluded spot 3-5 tall grass. He also mentioned the wood thrush as a bird whose song he appreciates as well as warblers.

Jason advises that birding is 50/50 by sight and ear, and the more you hear, the more you know what you hear, and the more enjoyment you have. When he goes birding with Kent, they begin the moment they open the car door and start calling off the sounds they are hearing. In fact, for Jason, when you bird by ear, "You start birding the moment you wake up."



Submitted by Maxine Fraade



Ruby-Throated Hummingbird (Bob Crawford); Bald Eagle (Garland Kitts); Eastern Wood-Pewee (Kirk Gardner)



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

2021-2022 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 _____