



December '20 Newsletter

Celebrating 63 Years of Birding
1957-2020

NEXT MEETING

Our meeting will NOT be in person, rather we'll meet using the technology of Zoom. Our meeting will be 7PM, Monday, December 14th. You'll receive a link in your inbox a few days before the meeting. Stay well and happy birding.

Members' Sharing Night

As a long-standing tradition, December is Members' Night. This is our night to share our favorite photos, videos or stories of your birding adventures. Due to Covid and meeting via Zoom, we'll simply pivot these presentations online. If you have a digital presentation there are two options, either be willing and able to share your screen in Zoom or get the presentation to Nathan and he can run it for you. If you'd like to share, be prepared to do so in Zoom. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email nathan.anderson77@live.com. And if you would like to do a practice run, please reach out as well. Also, please email either Nathan or Linda at RVBC2015@outlook.com to give us an idea of how many members would like to share during a 5-minute time slot. Since we usually have refreshments, grab a glass of wine or a cup of coffee and join us for a great evening of sharing our love of birds and wildlife.



CLUB CALENDAR READY FOR SALE

We are excited to offer the Roanoke Valley Bird Club 2021 Calendar for sale now! Thanks to the photographers who submitted a dazzling array of pictures for the members to vote on. And thanks to the members that participated and the committee members who worked hard to get it ready. Please share the information below with as many people as you would like with email, social media and word of mouth. All of the photos were taken by our members and depict mostly Roanoke birds.

The cost of the calendar is \$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 21651, Roanoke VA 24018 using the form below. The cutoff for sales is January 9th.

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 **an additional \$1.50** 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 December 12th from 10am-2pm. Masks will be a must – 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 !

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Calendar Order Form
PO Box 21651, Roanoke VA 24018

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

of Calendars _____ X \$15.00 if shipping = _____

Address to send calendars to:

OR

I will pick up my calendars on 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

2021 Calendars on Sale Now

25 Amazing Photos taken by club members

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

Board Appointments

Covid-19 has caused many disruptions with the way our club is meeting and holding activities. In light of this, the board has agreed to remain in place for another year. This mirrors what other clubs are doing during the pandemic. In the meantime, please email Kent Davis, President, at RVBC2015@outlook.com if you would consider serving on the board in the future when the club can meet in person again. As announced in previous meetings, the club is always looking for members that are interested in serving. Once meetings resume, we can have a quorum and a proper election. Thank you, Roanoke Valley Bird Club Board

Christmas Bird Count

All eyes are needed! For newer birders, you will be placed with experienced birders. It's a chance to get to know your fellow birders and maybe discover a new territory or a new bird. The first count was done on Christmas Day

1900 and is now done in all 50 states and other parts of the Western Hemisphere. The count is a census of birds performed in a "count circle" with a diameter of 15 miles between December 14 and January 5. That information is forwarded to the National Audubon Society to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology. As part of Citizen Science, participating in bird counts is in line with our mission statement. Please consider participating in this important activity by contacting the leaders listed below.

Roanoke - Saturday, December 19th

Contact Bill Hunley - wjhunley@gmail.com 540-774-2397 or 540-467-3477

Fincastle – Sunday, December 20th

Contact Barry Kinzie peckerridge@intelos.net 540-992-2743

NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT – Friday, January 1st

This is a tradition for our club, so we are putting this in our December newsletter to give you a heads up. Start the year 2021 out 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 the year out. 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 beginning midnight of New Year's Eve (which would officially be January 1st) and ending 11:59PM of January 1st. You may bird anywhere you would like (Florida?). Email your resulting bird list with the location to RVBC2015@outlook.com . Highlights from your lists will go in the February newsletter.

Field Trip Reports:

Nov. 7th, Mason Creek Greenway: Eight birders joined leader Annie Downing on a beautiful sunny morning. The birds were plentiful and 29 species were observed. These included Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins. To flush out the sparrows in the grassy field, Annie walked through the tall grass on the far side. Thanks, Annie! We may have seen a Savannah Sparrow, but didn't get a positive ID.

Nov. 11th, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield: cancelled due to heavy rain.

Nov. 15th, Sewage Treatment Plant: Eleven birders joined leaders Kent Davis and Linda Cory for an afternoon walk at the STP. Despite the windy weather, it was a productive day. The group count was 33 species, including a Peregrine Falcon, and great looks at a pair of Rusty Blackbirds and a Cooper's Hawk. A few people who took a different route back to their cars spotted two Greater Yellowlegs.



Annie flushing birds

Field Trips

You no longer have to RSVP for the field trips unless specified. If there is an unexpectedly large turnout, we can split into smaller groups. If you have any questions about field trips, call or text Mary Harshfield at 540-309-8277. If you would like to lead a trip, please let Mary know. Note that if inclement weather necessitates a cancellation, an e-mail notification will be sent out. You can also call or text Mary. When birding with a group, please wear a mask and social distance.

December 5th, 9 AM, Garst Mill Park

Join leaders Linda Cory (540-580-5214) and Sissy Logan for a walk at Garst Mill Park, 2599 Willowlawn Street, Roanoke. The walk will be about 1 ½ miles on flat ground. There will be some walking on grass so waterproof shoes if you have them in case it is wet. Meet at 9 AM in the parking lot.

December 9th, 8:30 AM, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield

Join Annie Downing (540-520-6027) in a walk around Greenfield Lake in search for migrants and 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 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.





Roanoke Valley Bird Club
 c/o Diane Malpass
 3703 Forest Rd. SW
 Roanoke, VA 24015



2020—2021 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Memberships expire August 31st.

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|---|-------|
| 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 Diane Malpass 3703 Forest Rd. SW Roanoke, VA 24015 | |