



January '21 Newsletter

Celebrating 64 Years of Birding

NEXT MEETING

Our meeting will NOT be in person, rather we'll meet using the technology of Zoom. Our meeting will be 7PM, Monday, January 11th. You'll receive a link in

Ten Things You May Not Know About Birds

By Dr. Jerry Via

This program highlights some of the anatomical and behavioral characteristics of birds which may be new to some of you. The more we watch and study birds the more we can appreciate their adaptations and their beauty. We are going to have a good time using the wonders of Zoom.

Many of us are familiar with Jerry Via as an educator, ornithologist, field trip guide and more. If you have been to any of the VSO (Virginia Society of Ornithology) birding weekends, you most likely attended one of his fun and interesting talks or birding field trips. You may also be familiar with the hummingbird feeding station at Mountain Lake Lodge that he and Bill Akers have been maintaining for the last 20 years. That's 500 pounds of sugar a year!

Although Jerry currently lives in Blacksburg, he is a native of Roanoke and still has close ties to the Roanoke Valley. In fact, he has served as President of the Roanoke Valley Bird club as he states "in the dark ages and many loges ago". Dr. Via is retired from teaching Biology and sometimes Ornithology from Virginia Tech. He currently serves as the President of the New River Valley Bird club and enjoy the interactions with members during virtual meetings and club field trips.



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.

Annual Raptor Count

Save the Date. February 13, 2021. Raptor Count !! The form and more details will be in the February newsletter.

Field Trip Reports:

Dec. 5th, Garst Mill Park: Six bird-watchers joined leaders Linda Cory and Sissy Logan on a cool, damp morning. They observed 26 species including 2 Great Blue Herons, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Cedar Wax-wing, Golden-crowned kinglet, and Raven.

Dec. 9th, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield: Leader Annie Downing and a small group of birders were treated to 32 species, with highlights including Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown Creeper, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Yellow-rumped Warblers and several waterfowl: Gadwall, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and Pied-billed Grebe.

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.

January 9th, 9 AM, Pond Hopping

Join leaders Alyce and Tim Quinn (540-312-6844) for a morning visiting local ponds (Greenfield and Murray's) in search of waterfowl and other avian life. Please bring a scope if you have one. This will be a masked/socially distant event. It will be the scope owner's choice whether or not to share their scope, but masks will be necessary. Dress warmly and meet at Greenfield.

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.

January 13th, 9:00 AM, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield

Join leaders Linda Cory (540-580-5214) and Kathy Clemo 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 a 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 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.

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	