



Roanoke Valley Bird Club



January 2022

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, January 10th at 7pm. Please be on the look out for the Zoom link in your email the weekend before. Stay well, and happy birding.

The Eastern Screech Owl in Virginia and Beyond”

Dr. John Spahr, Presenter



Dr. Spahr is a retired pathologist with a lifelong interest in birds and conservation. For the last seven years he has been doing field research on the Eastern Screech Owl in Highland County. He is currently in the process of examining most of the museum specimen collections of this species throughout the US.

The program will include some of his findings, such as habitat and elevation preferences, nest selection, and roosting strategies. Also what's with the two color morphs—red and gray? Why do we in Virginia have mostly “reds”, while Ontario and Michigan have mostly

“grays”? The program does include graphs and charts, which will mercifully few, and will be highlighted with lots of quality images. Dr. Spahr is also assisting Patti Reum in onitoring thirty American Kestrel nest boxes, also in Highland.

In 2010 Spahr did a “Big Year” and logged 704 species during the year. Read about it here:

<https://birding.typepad.com/aba/2013/01/open-mic-700-club.html>



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.

- Booker T. Washington National Monument (Saturday, January 8th, 9:15AM)

Tim Quinn (540-537-1831) will lead a walk on the Jack-O-Lantern loop trail. It's not strenuous but there are some hills and it will involve a couple of miles of walking. The National Monument opens at 9 AM. Tim will meet the group at 9:15 just outside of the Visitor's Center near where the bathrooms are. If you plan to go into the Visitor's Center or any of the buildings on site, masks are required regardless of vaccination status. Booker T. Washington National Monument is located at 12130 Booker T. Washington Hwy, Hardy, VA.

- Wednesday Walk at Greenfield (Wednesday, January 12th, 8AM)

Join leader David Frye (248-459-6783) for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake and possibly to the pond beyond. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 mile each way. 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.

- Catawba Greenway (Saturday, January 22nd, 8AM)

Kirk Gardner (828-216-9710) will lead a walk on the Catawba Greenway. The trip will involve about a mile of walking on a mostly gravel road as well as small portions of some grassy fields. An option after the walk at Catawba (if time and weather permit) will be to visit nearby Whispering Pines where we have seen some interesting birds in past years. Waterproof shoes are recommended. Directions: Take Rte. 311 towards Catawba 6.7 miles. Turn right onto Rte. 779 (Catawba Creek Road) and drive a half mile to the Catawba Sustainability Center. The group will meet in the parking lot.

Field Trip Reports

December 8th, 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield. Leader David Frye and 9 other birders had a great morning of birding despite the threat of rain. We observed 44 species. Highlights included a Laughing Gull (Bonaparte's Gull was considered but the Laughing Gull's thicker bill and black tail band was seen in flight), Hooded Merganser, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Swamp Sparrow, and Hermit Thrush.

Club Calendar Sales

Our 2022 club calendar has been well received, and we have sold 175, breaking previous years' records. To promote our club, June Price and Annie Downing organized a sale of calendars and Bluebird box setups at the December 18th Botetourt Farmers Market. The day was a success in spite of the rainy foggy and cool weather.

June and Annie were helped by Linda Cory and Jeanne Mann. We talked to a lot of people about our club, bird walks and birds. There is potential for a few new members as several people took membership applications.

We took in \$323.50 (in cash, checks and direct credit card payments thru the clubs pay pal account) with the sale of 4 Bluebird boxes and 19 calendars.

We expected to have to pay the vender space fee of \$15 but it was waived by the board for the Market as we are a non-profit organization. So that was a nice surprise but it would not be a guarantee in the future as they only can wave one organization per event.

Thank you, Annie!!

Meet a Member: Carol Whiteside

Born and raised in Roanoke across from Hollins University, Carol has been a member of the Bird Club since the early 1980's. She has served on the Board, worked on the club seed sale, bylaws and nominating committees, VSO meeting twice, calendar and newsletter.

As if that were not enough she has three other major passions: breeding rat terriers (she currently has six), her mules and donkeys (many of us have been lucky enough to meet them at her farm, Bray Ridge, adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway), and birds, wild and domestic.

For 15 years Carol raised Gouldian Finches, a tropical bird native to Northern Australia, currently raises chickens, and goes through a 1000 pounds a year of seed for the many feeders scattered around her property as well as a gallon of hummingbird nectar daily some weeks.

I could list Carol's other interests and activities; be assured they are many and varied. But above all, Carol is dedicated to protecting Eastern Bluebirds and other cavity nesters. Carol has 10 bluebird boxes on her farm, created the Club's bluebird brochure, made it easy to buy the Club's bluebird boxers, and chairs the Parkway bluebird trail with 33 boxes. Thanks Carol!

Submitted by Maxine Fraade



Annual Raptor Count

Save the Date. February 12, 2022. Raptor Count !! The form and more details will be in the February newsletter.



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 _____