



May '21 Newsletter

Celebrating 64 Years of Birding
1957-2021

NEXT MEETING

Our meeting will NOT be in person, rather we'll meet using the technology of Zoom. Our meeting will be 7PM, Monday, May 10th. You'll receive a link in your inbox a few days before the meeting.

Identifying Shorebirds

Presented by Drew Haffenden

Our speaker, Andrew (Drew) Haffenden will speak on the identification of shorebirds. This is a timely topic as some of us may need a refresher on coastal birds as we plan our summer trips to the shore. He will talk about noting identification marks with the use of field guides and other tools. He will concentrate on how to look at these birds and what to concentrate on such as foraging methods and other notable behaviors. He will point out how to break the birds into easy to digest groups, rather than just as individuals. This talk will be suitable for both beginner birders and those with years of experience.

Drew will be Zooming from his home on Dauphin Island, near Mobile, Alabama. He has long had an interest in wildlife and nature and has now become an avid birder. He has worked as a wildlife researcher in his home country of Australia and for the last 35 years has been primarily involved with nature travel. Now living on Dauphin Island, Drew said; I was walking on the beach here one day in July 2012 and I noticed a Snowy Plover with colored leg bands and a few days later, also a banded Piping Plover. That began my interest in shorebirds which continues to this day, learning the different species and their behaviors the best way, through time in the field. I continue to monitor banded birds and have sent re-sightings to the respective banders from the Dakotas, Nebraska and Canada to Michigan, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana and right here in Alabama. Over the years this has led to 658 re-sight records of Piping Plovers and 640 re-sight records of Snowy Plovers, plus a sundry of other species ranging from sandpipers to terns. And, although my original Snowy Plover seems to have passed away in 2019, in March this year I re-sighted the second banded Piping I ever saw, first seen July 27, 2012, still returning to Dauphin Island to spend his non-breeding season. Covid-19 aside I continue my work in nature travel, the last few years especially to Cuba, where among other great birds and culture I of course seek out shorebirds, especially banded plovers.

For more insight see: <https://naturetravelspecialists.com/andrewbio.htm>

CLUB NEWS

Annual RVBC Club Picnic

Saturday, August 21st, 1:00-3:30PM

We will be joining the Blue Ridge Wildflower Club for an indoor/outdoor picnic on Saturday, August 21st from 1PM to 3:30PM. The picnic will be at our regular meeting place, the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Building at 3640 Colonial Ave in Roanoke. Our club is providing fried chicken and the Wildflower Club is providing barbecue. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share and your preferred non-alcoholic beverage.

Something new this year: You can eat inside or out. Tables will be set up outside if you prefer. To sit outside, please bring a camp chair. Face masks are suggested to use during setup time. Also, in light of keeping extra plastic out of the landfill, bring your favorite drinking cup and utensils. Compostable paper plates will be provided unless you would like to bring your own plates/bowls as well. A reminder email will be sent out closer to the time of the picnic. See you there!

Summer, Summer, Summer

There will be no newsletters or monthly meetings during the months of June, July, and August. We'll resume in September. Happy birding over the summer.

Correction

In last month's newsletter, our new member Mark Skelton's name was spelled incorrectly. And his picture was inadvertently left out. Our apologies.



Meet a Member: Nathan Anderson

You know the face from zooms, now meet the man! Nathan Anderson has been efficiently managing our zoom meetings since they began in fall 2020. Thank you so much, Nathan!

Nathan moved here in about 2012 to take up the position of pastor at a local church. He often created sermons connecting theology to bird themes, one example: how birds use their inner navigation to find their way back home paralleling the faith journey.

Around this time Nathan read about the RVBC in the Roanoke Times and joined the club. He is now a member of the club's Board and edits our monthly newsletter! Thanks again!

Nathan and his wife, Hannah, a writer, have 3 children ranging from age 16 to 11, Phoebe, Harry and Peter, all students at North Cross. And in November 2020, Nathan moved on to a new position managing events and fund raisers at the Taubman Museum. He reports that things are starting to look up and is hopeful that as restrictions ease popular events like the Museum's annual Sidewalk Art Show will happen this year.

—Maxine Fraade



Prothonotary Warbler by Mary Lou Barritt

Solitary Sandpiper by Bob Crawford



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. When birding with a group, please wear a mask and social distance.

May 8th, 7:00 a.m., Warbler Road Trip

Join leaders Alyce and Tim Quinn for one of our favorite trips to see warblers. The group will bird a series of forest service roads between the Blue Ridge Parkway and Arcadia in search of warblers and other Neotropical migrants. This trip usually lasts into the afternoon so bring drinks, snacks and a lunch. Dress in layers. Call or e-mail Alyce at 540-312-6844 or twoquinns@yahoo.com to reserve a space and get directions to the meeting place. Think about whether you are willing to carpool since there is limited space for pull-offs. Deadline to reserve is April 30th.

May 12th, 8:00 a.m., 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield

Leader TBD. We will 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 and 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.

May 16th, 6 p.m., the Greenway through Wasena and Smith Parks

Meet leaders Linda Cory (580-5214) and Toni Pepin in the parking area for Wasena Park (located near the bridge to Vic Thomas Park and the Wasena Park picnic Shelter). If the parking lot is full, there is plenty of parking in a lot on Winchester Avenue adjacent to Wasena Park. The walk will be about 2 miles on level ground. Wear sturdy shoes. Target birds are spring migrants, Baltimore Oriole, and Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

May 29th, 8 a.m., Hinchee Trail

Join leaders Kathy and George Clemo to bird the trail up towards Carvins Cove. The trail is two miles long but the group will turn around after walking about 1 ½ hours. The trail goes uphill and part of it is a gravel road. Meet at the Hanging Rock trailhead at 1918 Dutch Oven Road in Salem which is close to the Orange Market at the intersection of Routes 419 and 311. If the parking lot is full, you can park at the Orange Market and walk over the bridge to the trailhead.

Field Trip Reports

Field Trip Reports:

April 3rd, Locher Tract: 6 birders joined leader Bill Hunley on a sunny, cool day. They observed 23 species, including Wood Duck (23 of them, including 2 in a tree), Northern Flicker, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Northern Mockingbird, and Field Sparrow.

April 14th, Greenfield: 7 birders joined leaders Dick Grubb and Annie Downing to observe 55 species. Highlights of the day included Rusty Blackbird, Wilson's Snipe, Killdeer, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Osprey, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Field Sparrow. Annie also spotted 3 Double-crested Cormorants flying overhead.

April 17th, Walrond Park: 17 birders joined leaders Linda Cory and Sissy Logan on a sunny, cool morning. They observed 32 species, the most abundant being Blue jays, Tree Swallows, American Goldfinch, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Rusty Blackbirds. Other birds of interest: Cooper's Hawk, Northern Flicker (working at a hole on a large snag), Swamp Sparrow, Purple Finch, and Chimney Swift. It was great to see some first-time attendees.

April 24th, Craig Creek Boat Launch area, Gala Wetlands, and other sites

Kirk Gardner led a small group of four on a cool, cloudy day for a productive morning of birding. They observed 39 species at Craig Creek including Northern Parula, Pine Siskin, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, American Redstart, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. At the Gala Wetlands they observed 28 species; highlights were the Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler and Swamp Sparrow. On Hawthorne Hall Rd, they observed 27 species including Lesser Yellowlegs and 2 immature Bald Eagles. At a quick Greenfield stop, they saw 2 Wilson's Snipes



Roanoke Valley Bird Club
PO Box 20405
Roanoke, VA 24018



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 PO Box 20405 Roanoke, VA 24018	