



# September Newsletter

Next meeting (in the Chapel) Monday  
Sept. 12th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Grandin Court Baptist Church  
2660 Brambleton Ave SW. Roanoke, VA 24015

Before the meeting please join fellow club members for dinner  
at 5:30 p.m. at the Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Ave.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Program - Kestrel Nest Boxes  
A Bird Word  
Field Trips  
Trending  
Summer Bird Sightings  
Club Events, Projects & News  
"August" the wood duck (part 1)  
Membership Renewal Form

### Deadline for submissions to be included in the next

**RVBC newsletter** are due on  
the 20th of the month  
preceding the publication  
month. **Thank you!**

Please send photos (in  
medium resolution or smaller)  
and submissions or  
suggestions to RVBC  
Newsletter Editor, Maureen  
Eiger at [rvbcnews@cox.net](mailto:rvbcnews@cox.net)

**Hyperlinks** have now been  
added. You can click on the  
underlined link and it should  
take you there. Use it for  
sending email or to get internet  
and website information.  
Visit our web page for past  
newsletters and current  
information at:

<http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com>

**NEW! - Visit and "like" the  
Roanoke Valley Bird Club's  
Facebook page.**

Celebrating  
59 Years of Birding!  
1957-2016

## "American Kestrel Nesting Box Project ... If we build them, they will come!"



This program will be a presentation about the American Kestrel Nesting Box Project, by the Project Directors; Patti Reum of Highland County and Mary Ames of Albemarle County. The American Kestrel has shown population decreases because of loss of grassland habitat, loss of nesting cavities and use of insecticides and pesticides on agricultural fields. The Project's goal is to provide nesting boxes in suitable habitat where kestrels are found throughout Virginia. This presentation shows photos of the project and presents information on the habitat and biology of this fascinating and valuable species. We will also describe a monitoring program in Highland County that we started this year to keep track of the nesting success of kestrels using our boxes.

Patti has been a wildlife biologist and also taught math and science for 18 years. Now "retired", she spends much of her time working on the kestrel project and helping out with bird projects whenever she can. She is Vice President of the Bath-Highland Bird Club. Also a recently retired educator, Mary is a member of the MWBC. She loves spending time outside enjoying birds and nature in general, and has vowed to make her retirement an outside adventure as much as possible. Both Patti and Mary are members of the VSO.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by  
**"a mysterious person..."**

**Your dues are due. Please renew**

**A Bird Word** - Do you know what area of a bird's body you would call the **pileum** ? Answer is on page 3.

## Upcoming Field Trips

Field Trips Chair, Linda Cory (540) 580- 5214

### COMBO WORK DAY AND BIRDING AT WOODPECKER RIDGE - SAT. SEPT. 10<sup>TH</sup>

Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center is a special birding area for the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. We will have a volunteer work day there from 8am to 10am, then bird the nature center and/or nearby Greenfield Lake and Recreational Center. Meet Barry Kinzie (540-992-2743) at 8am at Woodpecker Ridge. With our wet summer, there are a lot of weeds and vines chocking off the nature center's trails. Please bring clippers, gloves and any other pruning equipment with you. We will do some clipping and pruning and then commence birding. Of course, volunteers are welcome to volunteer other times too. Any level of help will be appreciated!  
Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center Directions: From I-81, take Exit #150B. Turn left on US 11 North and follow it 2.6 miles to Rt. 651/Stoney Battery Road in Troutville. Turn right and follow 0.9 miles to Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center (#941) on the left.



### 2ND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD AKA "CHERRY BLOSSOM TRAIL" - WED. SEPT. 14<sup>TH</sup>

Meet leaders Barry and Carol Whitt at the second parking lot on the right across the road from the lake at 8:30am for a special walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search of waterfowl and songbirds. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 1/2 miles. There are benches along the trail for "birding from the bench" as well as more adventurous walking up to the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! Greenfield is located on Route 220 in Botetourt County. Directions: Take Exit 150B on I81 and then a right onto Route 11 for a quarter mile. Take a right onto Route 220N. Go 3.8 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation).

### HAWK WATCHING AT HARVEY'S KNOB - SAT. SEPT. 24TH (rain date Sunday, 9/25)



Each year, from early September to mid-November, the Roanoke Valley Bird Club participates in hawk watching at Harvey's Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway at mile marker 95.6. Bird Watchers of all skill levels are welcome to stop by to observe the migration. Some days at Harvey's Knob are more exciting than others, but we are hoping that Saturday, September 24th from 10am to 4pm will be spectacular! Although this is a field trip, you can arrive or leave whenever you would like. Bring a chair, snacks and warm clothing as needed. Check for sightings and follow the counts at <https://sites.google.com/site/bijame/home> or ask to join the group - Harvey's Knob Hawkwatch on Facebook. All skill levels are encouraged. You can volunteer to be a hawk watcher by calling Bill and Katie James at 798-3030 or by emailing [bijame@gmail.com](mailto:bijame@gmail.com)

( Hawk photo taken by RVBC member Bill Fabian)

### BIRDING AT "BEAVER POND" - SAT. OCT. 1ST

Meet Eunice Hudgins (389-4056) and Linda Cory (580-5214) at the Orange Market in Hanging Rock at 7:30 am. to carpool to George and Betsy Barker's "Beaver Pond" in Craig County. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a jacket, a packed lunch and something to drink. You can choose to walk the farm and surrounding woods or just sit on the porch and enjoy birds at the Barker's many feeders. The property includes a beaver pond and regular pond as well as open cow pastures and woods. The Orange Market is located at the intersection of Rt 311 and Rt 419 (1823 Thompson Memorial Drive) Salem, VA.

**TRENDING AROUND THE INTERNET-** Here are some interesting internet links about birds, sent in by our members... To share your favorite web link of birding interest email it to [rvbcnew@cox.net](mailto:rvbcnew@cox.net)

Want to know more about West Nile disease and what/why birds are affected? Click on this link to <https://consumer.healthday.com/infectious-disease-information-21/west-nile-virus-news-790/robins-do-it-cardinals-don-t-713619.html>. Remember when women's hats with feathers were all the rage? Well maybe not, but click here to find out how birds became protected. [http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-two-women-ended-the-deadly-feather-trade-23187277/?utm\\_source=facebook.com&no-ist](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-two-women-ended-the-deadly-feather-trade-23187277/?utm_source=facebook.com&no-ist). Here are some tips on how to properly use your binoculars to find more birds at <http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/blog/2016/07/14/use-binoculars-find-birds/>

## SIGHTINGS – Summer Birding Highlights



Roanoke Valley Bird Club members enjoyed a fun summer of birding with out of town trips as well as local field trips to choose from. In June, Toni Pepin led the overnight trip to Cranberry Glades in West Virginia. Participants were treated to beautiful vistas as we drove along the Highland Scenic Highway, walked the boardwalk at the glades and then Beartown State Park, a magical place. We were treated to singing mourning warblers, ash-throated flycatchers, least and olive-sided flycatchers and several warblers including good looks at the mourning, but alas, no crossbills.

BUT, in July, Park Rangers, Carol and Steve Croy and Mike Donahue lead a trip to Mount Rogers where we DID see red crossbills. Other treats were the vesper and grasshopper sparrows as well as veery, alder flycatcher and several warblers.

Late spring and summer birding day trips for the club included Big and Little Spring day, Camp Roanoke and Spring Hollow Reservoir, Explore Park and the Annual Summer Open House at the Austins on Bent Mountain where we enjoyed their multitude of ruby-throated hummingbirds and a wonderful pot luck. Hope everyone enjoyed their summer and I look forward to hearing from members about possible future field trips. - Linda Cory, Field Trip Chair, 540-580-5214



**WELCOME NEW RVBC MEMBERS – Janet Reed, James Beard, King & Joann Irvin, Richard & Kinuko Jambor, Gary Oberlender, Carol Shields and Christine Stinson**

### **RVBC 2017 CALENDAR PHOTO SUBMISSION - Deadline September 12th, 2016. (RVBC meeting day)**

Did you take some great photos of birds this past summer? Enter your best photo(s) or even artwork and maybe it will be selected for printing in the RVBC Calendar!

Members' photos or artwork submission requirements:

1. Submit an 8 1/2 " x 11" or 8" x 10 " landscape (horizontal) high resolution printed photo or original artwork.
  2. Write a brief description (placed on the back of your submission) indicating the subject, location, the month or season depicted.
  3. On an accompanying sheet provide your name; phone number and email address. Please do not include any self-identifying information directly on what you submit. This assures that the judges will not know who the submitter is until after the judging is over.
  4. Deliver your best work to Pam Ogden or Sissy Logan at the September meeting or by mail to: Pam Ogden 615 Academy Street, Salem VA 24153
  5. Submissions will be returned at the October meeting or please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.
- For more information contact Sissy at 353-4500 or [sissylogan@gmail.com](mailto:sissylogan@gmail.com) or Pam at 389-9471 or [momog@aol.com](mailto:momog@aol.com)

**A Bird Word** – The **pileum** is the area on top of the head of a bird from the bill to the nape.

## Events, Projects and Club News



### 2016 VSO ANNUAL MEETING A HUGE SUCCESS

Every year a different bird club in Virginia hosts the Annual Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) meeting. The Roanoke Valley Bird Club was honored to be the host club in 2016. If you were one of the 209 people who attended the 2016 VSO Annual Meeting in Roanoke, we thank you for coming and hope you had fun. If you didn't make it to the meeting, you missed a great weekend. Don't let that happen next year! The Richmond Audubon Society is scheduled to host in 2017.

There were field trips galore, great food, terrific speakers (Pete Dunne and Jerry Via), a well-attended papers session, lots of vendors and exhibitors, a silent auction with over 60 items sold, a book signing by Pete Dunne, and commemorative tote

bags for all participants. The RVBC has received some wonderful compliments about the meeting, with some people saying it was the best one they'd ever attended. Other than the meeting at Mountain Lake in 2008 which was done in conjunction with the Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Festival, we had the most participants anyone could remember. While we didn't have the best weather, attendees were real troopers. Even Saturday's drizzle and Sunday's periodic downpours didn't deter people from going on the field trips. You know birders are enjoying themselves when they want to carry on even when their raincoats are so soaked they're no longer waterproof!

There were many people involved in making the meeting as successful as it was. Let me take a moment to thank all of them, especially the hard-working Planning Committee of Nathan Anderson, Robin Austin, Mary Ellen Belcher, George Blonar, Linda Cory, Kent Davis, Maureen Eiger, Bill Fabian, Janie and Norris Ford, Maxine Fraade, Eunice Hudgins, Carole Massart, Carol Siler and myself. I never would have imagined the amount of time we all ended up putting into the planning of this event! Everyone worked tirelessly to make sure the meeting was one to remember.

The main reason people attend these events is to go on field trips, and we offered a ton of them, thanks to the Field Trip Planning Committee of Linda Cory, Kent Davis, Bill Hunley, Barry Kinzie and Mike Smith. Leaders of those trips are also due a huge thanks for donating their time: Bill Akers, Robin Austin, Laura Beltran, Rexanne Bruno, Rupert Cutler, Kent Davis, Joanne Derryberry, Mike Donahue, Jim Elder, Todd Fredericksen, Mary Harshfield, Dick Hendrix, Bill Hunley, Bill and Katie James, Butch and Betty Kelly, Clyde Kessler, Ed Kinser, Barry Kinzie, Toni Pepin, Tim and Alyce Quinn, Wes Teets, Anne Tucker, Jerry Via, Barry and Carol Whitt, Morgan Wilson, and Park personnel from Explore Park, Booker T. Washington National Monument, and Smith Mountain Lake State Park. And Mary Ellen Belcher, Sissy Logan and Elly and Pam Wefel did a great job ensuring that field trip sign-up ran smoothly.

And last but not least are those who volunteered their time, energy and talents in myriad other ways: Mary Lou Barritt, Linda Barker, Barbara Bricks, Caryl Connolly, Eleanor Dye, Mary Foster, James Fox, Tom and Pat McMeekin Johnson, Elizabeth Knoebber, Sissy Logan, Bob and Nancy Luce, Pam Ogden, Tim Quinn, Eileen Rowan, Bob and Ellen Rummel, Linda Steele, Sandy Stinnett, Elly and Pam Wefel and Carol Whiteside.

If I've left anyone out, I sincerely apologize. Thank you, everyone, for making the 2016 VSO Annual Meeting such a success! --Alyce Quinn, 2016 VSO Annual Meeting General Chairman



### THE RADICAL REELS FILM TOUR & EXPO SEPT. 11<sup>th</sup>

The Radical Reels Film Tour & Expo presented by National Geographic will be coming to the Jefferson Center in downtown Roanoke. From 4-5:30pm, outdoors organizations and businesses will be showcasing local outdoors opportunities and the Roanoke Valley Bird Club will be there with the Master Naturalists. Stop by the Expo and say "Hi!" and stay for the "most outrageous mountain sport films" from the 40th annual Banff (Canada) Mountain Film Festival. Films start at 6PM. Cost is \$5.

### ROANOKE GO FEST OCT. 14-16

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club will participate for the first time in the Roanoke Go Outside Festival October 14-16. This is a great opportunity for us to get the word out about birding and our club to outdoor enthusiasts in our region. The Go Fest presents three days of amazing outdoor activities and opportunities to experience the best of Roanoke's growing outdoors culture. Last year over 25,000 attendees came to the free event! Our club will have a booth offering information about birds and birding in our area, children's activities, birding items for sale, two bird workshops by Maureen Eiger and several local birding trips organized by Kent Davis and others.

We need people to staff our booth for an hour or two, a morning, an afternoon or whatever time you can spare on Friday evening, Saturday or Sunday and especially to assist with set up on Friday afternoon and take down Sunday evening. The festival is at the River Edge Sports Complex on Reserve Ave on the Greenway. Can you sign up to take a turn at the booth sometime during the weekend? Help for any amount of time is appreciated! This is a terrific event and you will have a great time walking around before and after your shift, we promise! To sign up email Maxine Fraade at [maxinefr@aol.com](mailto:maxinefr@aol.com) or look for the sign up sheets at the RVBC meeting Sept 12. For more information about the festival go to [www.roanokegofest.com](http://www.roanokegofest.com)

### SEEDS FOR A SONG SEED SALE – ANNUAL FUNDRAISER ON SATURDAY, NOV. 5<sup>TH</sup>.

We will need lots of help at the sale, so if you can spare some time that morning--greeting people, loading bags, keeping up with orders, etc. please contact Alyce Quinn by email at [twoquinn@yahoo.com](mailto:twoquinn@yahoo.com) or 540-719-0109 or 540-312-6844.

## “August” the Wood Duck (part 1) - by Maureen Eiger, State & Federally permitted bird rehabber



It takes a village sometimes to save and rehab birds....

On June 18<sup>th</sup> two people were kayaking on the Roanoke River and saw something weird looking along the shore. They paddled over to see what it was and found a young duckling tangled in fishing line, just dangling, trapped in some branches. It also had a small fish hook in its bill which they gently removed. They called me and we decided that the bird should be brought to me for rehab since it was injured. I flushed the wound and other than being dehydrated a bit, the bird was in pretty good shape. Where the parent birds were no one knew. So this duck was destined to stay in rehab for a while. It was way too young to not have any parental guidance.

Wood ducks are social but secretive birds. In rehab they spook very easily and can sometimes die of “fright” so one must be careful about approaching the bird for feeding and cleaning its cage. The “setup” for making a single bird comfortable involves mirrors. Lots of mirrors! That way they have a “friend” or in this duck’s case 3 mirrors so several “friends” to be with. It spent

most of its time eating and talking to its friend in the mirror.

A typical wood duck diet for one day is lots of chopped up greens such as kale, red romaine or a spring mix, duck chow, a ¼ cup of meal worms, and some small live crickets. They like to bath and are pretty messy so the bath water and drinking water needed to be changed twice a day. This little wood duck was with me for 7 weeks enjoying the easy life and talking to its “friends” in the mirror. A lot of food and maintenance for one little bird but that is what bird rehab involves, besides it was enjoyable watching at a distance the duckling talk to its friend(s) as it grew up. How cute is that?



So the weeks pass, and the wood duck starts to grow feathers. It is looking more like a young wood duck. I now am confident it will survive. It was now time to start figuring out a game plan as to where this duck should be released. I did not want it to go back to the Roanoke River as no one knew where the parents went, plus there is so much fishing line, water pollution and people. Not the best place. Most ducks do not need to go back to where they were found since ducks do get accepted by a new family of their own

kind, unlike some other birds. What it needed was a proper habitat and a place where it could meet other wood ducks. I asked several of our bird club members “Where do you see wood ducks” and got several possible locations. The best release place seemed to be at Carol Whiteside’s home. She has a pond with young wood ducks seen occasionally. I decided it would be released there (even though Carol did not see them all the time because they are so secretive) it was good habitat and the woodies were usually seen there when it rained. We kept in touch, waiting for release day.

The best time/place to release a baby wood duck is just before it can fly and there are active wood ducks foraging. That way it stays put in the new area and cannot get spooked to fly off into the unknown. About the same time that the bird developed its short little wings, Carol called to say a mother wood duck and its family had arrived. They were on her pond, right now! I quickly packed up the bird and it was released at her pond early that day. As we were watching it waddle into the water we decided it needed a name. Her dog was named July for its birth month. It was August and so the wood duck was named August. August was the month it gained its second chance at life and true freedom, very fitting we thought. At first the mother wood duck was a little leery about this new intruder but seemed the longer we watched the more accepted August was. If there was a real problem Carol would let me know. I was sad to leave that day but knew August was in the right place.

Here is the first of Carol’s email updates....

8/6/2016 Hi Maureen,

So glad you were able to release August today. Mom will let August get within ten feet of her crew now. They had a good time swimming all over the pond this evening. August seems very relaxed and already at home. I can't wait to see them in the morning. There were no more arrivals this evening, I was disappointed, but we didn't get any showers so I'm hoping to see more ducks in the next few days. Enjoy the pics, you can easily spot August being darker. - Carol



Did August make friends? More photos and “August, the wood duck part 2” will be in the next newsletter, stay tuned!



**Your dues are due. Please renew!**

Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
c/o Eleanor Dye  
P.O. Box 74  
Vinton, Virginia 24179

## 2017 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Application Form

Please print

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Memberships expire on August 31 each year*

Annual Dues are as follows:

- Individual \$12
- Family \$20
- Student \$7
- Sustaining \$30
- Adopt a Bluebird \$15

Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to  
Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
Mail To: Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
C/o Eleanor Dye  
P.O. Box 74  
Vinton, VA 24179-0074