



November '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, November 9th You'll receive a link in your inbox a few days before the meeting. Stay well and happy birding.

Web-footed Waterbirds By Bob Schamerhorn

As our seasons pass, the winter brings an amazing assortment of water birds into our lakes, rivers and wetlands. This multimedia program shows that diversity in all their splendor. Includes all of our wintering Ducks, Mergansers, Geese, Swans, as well as our resident waterfowl and more. Enjoy the beauty of this diverse group of birds and see what makes each species unique.

Bob Schamerhorn is a National Award Winning Nature Photographer, with nearly fifty years of experience. He is a fledgling of the Lynchburg Bird Club, were generous members of that organization, nurtured his passion for art and wildlife. In his youth, he was sponsored three years in a row to the Virginia Garden Club's Nature Camp. After high school, he studied art and design at Virginia Tech and has worked in art related fields ever since. After college, he resided in Bedford County, until moving to Richmond in 2008.

Around that same time, advancements in digital camera technologies rejuvenated his passion for bird photography. Shortly thereafter, his work began to appear in various publications, including Virginia Wildlife Magazine and Calendar covers. Bob's photography has recently received two National Awards, along with numerous other recognitions from juried art shows and photography contests. His fine art nature photography is regularly exhibited throughout the mid-Atlantic at art festivals, and shared through education programs at various clubs. Bob's hope is to educate and inspire the conservation of nature, by capturing and sharing its beauty. He considers himself, "An enthusiast, not an expert!"

More About the Speaker

Since we are not currently meeting face to face, the opportunity to see and support more of Bob's nature photography work is available at <http://www.iPhotoBirds.com> website. Everything from his very popular note card sets and award winning calendar, to the newly added species galleries of both birds and mammals. All images are available as limited edition fine art prints, signed and numbered by the artist, are archival quality, in convenient standard frame sizes, come with a certificate of authenticity, and are available in several mediums, including canvas and metal. What is your, or your loved one's, favorite critter? You'll be sure to find it at iPhotoBirds.com. FREE SHIPPING is being offered, now until Christmas Eve, 2020.



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



Blue Jay by Nathan Anderson



Meadowlark by Bob Crawford

BIRD CLUB CALENDAR UPDATE

The members have voted on their favorite photos for our annual calendar and it is "in the works". As soon as it is available, we will be sending out emails with a sneak peak and how to order them. The calendars will be available for sale on our website at the end of the month and the price is \$13.50. You will have the option to have them mailed or an opportunity to pick them up in the parking lot of our meeting place. There will be more information on that in the email that we send out soon.

BIRDING IN THE FALL

During our fall birding, it's imperative to remember hunting season. Don't make assumptions about birding on public lands or private property. Some Sunday hunting is allowed. In our area Archery season is already in, and Muzzleloader starts on October 1. Firearms Deer Season is November 14-28 on National Forest lands. Consider wearing **BLAZE ORANGE** or stay at home. Visit <https://dwr.virginia.gov/hunting/regulations/>

Project Feederwatch

Project Feederwatch begins Saturday November 14. It's coming right up! If you've never participated, this is the year to start, since we're spending so much time at home anyway. To participate in one of the most important citizen science projects contributing to avian research visit <https://feederwatch.org/join-or-renew/>



Field Trip Reports:

Oct. 3rd, Green Hill Park: Linda Cory and Sissy Logan led 11 members and friends for a walk on the greenway. The group observed 29 species including Scarlet Tanagers (3), Cape May Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3), American Redstart, Swainson's Thrush (3), and Indigo Bunting.

Oct. 14th, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield: It was a beautiful, sunny 70 degree day for the group of 11 birders led by Linda Cory. They saw 38 species, including Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, Swainson's Thrush (2), Eastern Meadowlark (4), Cape May Warbler (2), Palm Warbler (5), Yellow-rumped Warbler (13).

Oct. 17th, Roanoke Go Fest bird walk on Mill Mountain with leaders Linda Cory and Sissy Logan. Seven participants (members and people from the community) joined them for an enjoyable hour on a cold brisk day to observe 15 species. A highlight was getting good looks at Blue-headed Vireos. A big thanks goes out to Linda and Sissy for helping with community outreach.

Testimonial

I think our club has done an excellent job of dealing with the challenges of COVID. We have continued to have board meetings, we have had two excellent ZOOM meetings that were well attended, the calendar is in the works, the club led a walk for GoFest and our bird walks have continued. I'm giving the club a big pat on the back for coming through for everyone in a difficult time. These activities have certainly been a huge boost to my well being during COVID.

- Mary Lou



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. Mask wearing will be at the leader's discretion. 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.

November 7th, Saturday, 8:30 AM, Mason Creek Greenway

Join Annie Downing (540-520-6027) for a walk along Mason Creek. Meet at the trailhead parking lot on the right on Roanoke Boulevard just before you get to GE if you are traveling west. The trail heads north for one mile, following a scenic creek. Farther north it's a mix of open field and thick trees. The trail dead ends just short of the Lynchburg Turnpike. Total walking: 2 miles on paved greenway.

November 11th, 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 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.

November 15th, Sunday, 1 PM, Sewage Treatment Plant

Join co-leaders Kent Davis (540-355-6388) and Linda Cory (540-580-5124) for a walk at the Sewage Treatment Plant. Entrance to the STP is by special permit and trip participants must all enter at the same time and stay together with their leader. This site is one of the best spots for viewing shorebirds in the Roanoke Valley. The property includes impoundments, sludge ponds, mudflats, riparian habitat and woodlands. Besides shorebirds, we can expect to see resident hawks and possibly ravens and fish crows. The walking is mostly flat with a short steep trail. Sturdy waterproof boots are recommended as it often muddy. Directions: Meet at the greenway parking lot off of Bennington St next to the bridge over the Roanoke River. Thirteenth Street SE changes names to Bennington St at the bridge over the Roanoke River which is in front of the STP. After the group has gathered, we will walk or drive over to the STP, so please arrive a few minutes early.



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	