



October Newsletter

Next meeting Monday
OCT. 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Celebrating 57
Years of Birding!
1957-2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Ruffed Grouse" program
A Bird Word
Field Trips
Upcoming Events & News
Seed Sale Order Form
Bird Sightings
Bird Topic - Mississippi Kites
Club Projects & Outreach
Membership Renewal Form

**Deadline for submissions
to be included in the next
RVBC newsletter is before
Oct 20, 2014. Thank you!**

Please send photos (in medium
resolution or smaller) and
submissions or suggestions to:
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.**

"Ruffed Grouse in Appalachia" Presented by Dean Stauffer



Dean Stauffer is a Professor of Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech and Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. He earned his MS degree in Animal Ecology from Iowa State studying birds in riparian habitats and studied blue and ruffed grouse habitat ecology in Idaho for his PhD from the University of Idaho. He joined the faculty at VT in 1983 where he has taught classes in wildlife habitat ecology and did research on wildlife habitat relationships, mostly of birds, with graduate students. He was a co-coordinator for the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project, which studied ruffed grouse in the Appalachians for a six year period.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by
Sidney & Mary Lou Barritt

SEED SALE ORDER FORMS are in this issue. Please help the club raise money for RVBC projects by ordering some seed and buying the RVBC Calendar. Print page 5 (seed sale order form) & mail it in or give it to Eunice Hudgins at the October meeting.

A Bird Word-Do you know the meaning of **convergent evolution**? Here's a hint- Examples include swifts (family Apodidae) and swallows (family Hirundinidae) and having webbed feet has been developed by several groups of aquatic birds. So what does this mean? Answer on page 3.

Birding at Beaver Pond - Saturday October 4th 7:30AM

Meet Eunice Hudgins (389-4056), Mike Smith (345-1081) and Kent Davis (344-8377) at the Orange Market in Hanging Rock at 7:30AM to carpool to "The Beaver Pond" in Craig County. This is a popular field trip thanks to our hosts, the Barkers. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a jacket and lunch. You will have the opportunity to walk the farm and surrounding woods or just sit on the porch and enjoy their many feeders.

The Big Sit! - Saturday October 11th 8AM

Join us at Tim and Alyce Quinn's house (719-0109) in Burnt Chimney starting at 8AM. This is an international 24-hour stationary bird watching adventure, hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest, birders sit inside a 17-foot diameter circle and count all the bird species seen or heard from within the circle. The birds can be anywhere, you just have to be able to see or hear them while you're in the circle. Join Tim and Alyce Quinn at their house where they have two circles set up to optimize sighting possibilities. The count goes on for the 24-hour period starting one minute after midnight Saturday morning. You may arrive anytime during that 24-hour period and stay as long as you want. The Quinns will be out shortly after the sun rises, but you're welcome to come earlier to listen for owls. Heck, you can even camp out in their yard and listen all night! If you want to come before daybreak, please call the Quinns ahead of time so they can tell you where the circles are located. We'll have a potluck lunch, so bring a dish to share if you can; drinks will be provided. Bring sunscreen and binoculars. A species tally will be done at the end of the day. Meet at 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz VA. Directions- If you get lost call Alyce on her cell phone (312-6844) From Rt. 220; take a left on Rt. 697 by the Dairy Queen/Bojangles (about 5 miles south of Boones Mill). When it ends, go left on Rt. 122. Go one mile and turn right onto 670 (Burnt Chimney Road). Or from Rt. 116, when it ends at Rt. 122, make a right and then a quick left onto Rt. 670. Once you are on Rt. 670, go another mile and turn right onto 868 (Kingston). Go almost another mile (maybe .8) and make a right onto Edgewood Farm Lane (at a bunch of mailboxes). Go half a mile down this gravel road. When the road makes a 90 degree left turn onto Turkey Run, **you instead want to go straight.** You will go to the right of a very dilapidated trailer. This is the beginning of their driveway, and there is a bluebird box here with their house number, 681, on it. Stay between the rundown trailer and the bluebird box. You can't see the house from here, but go a quarter mile down the driveway and you're there!



Lick Run Greenway - Sunday October 12th 8AM

Join Rupert Cutler (345-7653) to walk the Lick Run Greenway. Roanoke Greenway has miles of walk (and bicycle) ways which are great for birdwatching. This portion of the Greenway passes open areas, woods, a creek and a small wetland. The walk is two miles of mostly flat walking and one hill. Meet at the parking lot across from the Upper Washington Park swimming pool at 1610 Burrell St NW. From I-581, take the 4W exit and take the first right onto Burrell St and go about two blocks. Or from the intersection of Orange Avenue and Williamson Road, go west toward Salem on Orange Avenue and take a right onto Burrell.

Sparrow Walk - Saturday October 18th 8AM

Kent Davis (344-8377) and Mike Smith (345-1081) will lead us on a favorite RVBC walk looking for sparrows in Botetourt County. Our fearless leaders will meet us at the second parking lot at Greenfield. For those of you that wish to continue after walking the Greenfield trails, we will then go on to visit other Botetourt County hot spots for sparrows. From Roanoke on I-81, take exit 150B make a right and then make a right at the light onto 220N. Continue north and then make a left into the entrance of Greenfield, across from Ashley Plantation.

Birding in Rural Fincastle - Saturday, October 25th, 8AM

Meet guide Wes Teets (540-521-5379) at Botetourt Commons parking lot next to Bojangles at 8AM. From there, we will car pool to the home of Mike Purdy who lives on a property that was formerly a small family farm. The habitat now contains pastures, barns and bordering woods. Walking is moderate with one rather steep hill if you wish to view the higher pasture. Mike says you are welcome to bird from the porch with him and/or explore the property with Wes. After the walk, Mike will have a pot of Chicken Corn Chowder and bread ready. Please bring a dish to share if you wish. Parking at Mike's is limited, so carpooling is encouraged.

Meadows, Fence Rows and Woods - Saturday, November 1st, 8AM

Meet Linda Cory (580-5214) at the Hanging Rock Orange market for a 17 mile drive to the home of Butch and Betty Kelly (384-7429). Parking is limited, so carpooling is recommended. The Kelly property is a combination of pasture land, hedge rows, a stream and woods. Butch has also planted native grasses to encourage quail as well as pollinator plants. Walking is easy to moderate, so make sure to wear sturdy shoes for this interesting walk.

Upcoming Events and Club News

RVBC Seeds for a Song Fundraiser - November 8th from 10AM to 1PM. This is the Club's major annual fund raiser so come out and show your support. Proceeds help the club support community outreach efforts. In 2013 we sent a deserving youth to Nature Camp and helped purchase supplies for wild bird rehabilitation. The sale is open to the public, so tell your friends, relatives and neighbors. You'll be pleasantly surprised to find that the price of most of the seed has gone down this year. The price of millet is half of what it was last year! You need not buy a lot of seed, but if you feed birds at all, consider buying a small bag. The sale will take place at Northwest True Value Hardware near Hollins College at 7650 Williamson Road. The order form, included in this newsletter on the next page, contains all the instructions for placing your order. There will be a small amount of seed for sale on site, so even if you miss the deadline, come on out the day of the sale. If you have any "gently used" feeders you'd like to donate, please clean them up a bit and either bring them to the October meeting or to the sale. (If they need minor repairs, that's OK, just nothing that needs a major overhaul.) We'll put them out on a table and offer them for sale. This has been very popular in past years; people love a bargain! "Make an offer" bird books and magazines will be available too, so tell your friends!

Seed Sale Volunteers Needed! If you can volunteer on **Saturday, November 8th** to help set up, keep track of orders, visit with the public, load bags into cars, or bring refreshments, please contact Alyce Quinn at twoquinns@yahoo.com or (719-0109). If you have questions, you can either contact Alyce (see above) or Eunice Hudgins at uvaau@aol.com or (389-4056). If you would like to represent our club on TV to promote the Seed Sale, please contact Maureen Eiger (342-4890).

Hawk Demonstration – Saturday, November 22nd at 2PM

At our September meeting, Corey Basham gave an informative talk about raptors and how to identify them. He also spoke about their diet, habitat and other interesting facts. He was not able to bring his display raptor, Eleanor, but Corey has offered to give an outdoor raptor demonstration on Saturday, November 22nd at 2PM at Greenfield. We will meet at the second parking lot at Greenfield. The entrance is on Route 220 going north from Daleville across from Ashley Plantation. PLEASE NOTE: Corey is also giving an indoor demonstration at the Science Museum of Western Virginia on **November 29th at 2PM**. The museum is located in Roanoke's Center in the Square at Market Square (Campbell and First Street). There is an entrance fee for the museum. www.smwv.org



Photo by Maureen Eiger

The 2014 VSO Annual Virginia Beach Trip – December 5-7th

The VSO annual field trip to Virginia Beach will be held Friday, December 5th through Sunday, December 7th. Friday afternoon will be a driving trip through the Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge, which will also be open on Saturday 12/6 and Sunday 12/7 for Open Roads Days. Some may wish to explore Pleasure House Point on their own. Other field trips include a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) on Saturday morning and a tram ride at Back Bay NWR and False Cape State Park on Sunday morning. For additions to the schedule & updates, please check: <http://www.virginiabirds.net/>

THE NEW RVBC 2015 CALENDAR CAN BE ORDERED AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

Great pictures by RVBC Club members! It's a wonderful gift for yourself or a bird loving friend(s). Calendar proceeds go to support the club's local projects so buy a 2015 Calendar for only \$12.00. A sample calendar will be available to view at the October meeting. For inquiries call Sissy at (353-4500) or e-mail: sissylogan@gmail.com

New RVBC Bylaws have been accepted – At the September meeting Maureen Eiger made a motion to accept the bylaws as written; Joanne Derryberry seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a majority vote.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB MEMBERS...

Nathan Anderson, Heidi Baird, Mike & Eulinda Grome, Evelyn Krippendorf and Edie Manuel

BIRD WORD ANSWER – Convergent evolution: A situation where two unrelated bird species or groups have developed in the course of evolution a similar adaptation to their environment. In other words, they live in the same habitat and have independently evolved similar traits (body forms) as a result of having to adapt to similar environments or ecological niches.

SEEDS FOR A SONG

Saturday, November 8th, 2014

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser

In Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware, Hollins Store

We are having a seed sale to benefit both you and the community. By placing an order with us, you will get quality seed containing little or no waste, harvested this year, at reasonable prices. Proceeds from the sale will be used for community projects. The sale is open to the public, so please copy this form and distribute it to friends and neighbors. There will be a small supply of extra seed available the day of the sale for those unable to pre-order. Refreshments will be served, bird feeders and bluebird boxes will be available for purchase, and experienced birders will be on hand to answer questions.

Orders must be received by October 20th and picked up on Saturday, November 8th, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., at:

Northwest True Value Hardware (about a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College)
7650 Williamson Road, Roanoke VA 24019
(540)-362-2112

If you are unable to pick up your seed on November 8th, please make arrangements for someone else to pick it up for you.

It's easy to order:

1. Complete the enclosed order form, being sure to include your name, phone number, and address along with your seed selections.
2. Calculate the total, which **already includes** Virginia sales tax.
3. Mail your completed form and check, payable to Roanoke Valley Bird Club, **in time for it to be received by October 20th**, to: Eunice Hudgins, 870 Stonegate Ct., Salem, VA 24153. (Please do not include membership dues with your seed sale order. Membership dues should be mailed to Eleanor Dye, Membership Secretary.)

Seed Descriptions

Wild birdseed mixes attract ground-feeding birds such as mourning doves, juncos and sparrows:

- *Gourmet Mix*: contains millet, sunflower, safflower and thistle.
- *Shell Free Mix*: a waste-free mix of millet, sunflower chips, cracked corn, canary seed and peanut hearts.

Sunflower seed is the best all-around food, favored by a wide variety of birds:

- *Black Oil Sunflower*: smaller than the striped, with thinner shell, more kernel and higher oil content; preferred 2:1 over other seed by most feeder birds.
- *Sunflower Chips*: the heart of the seed, virtually no hull, no mess, and more meat per pound.
- *Striped Sunflower*: many common feeder birds, such as cardinals, jays, grosbeaks, titmice, chickadees, sparrows and finches, as well as squirrels, like this larger, thicker shelled seed.

Specialty seeds:

- *Nyjer (Thistle)*: especially good for goldfinches and pine siskins, this seed is rich in nourishing oil.
- *White Millet*: favored by ground feeding birds such as juncos, towhees, buntings and sparrows.
- *Safflower*: squirrels don't care for it, but many birds such as cardinals, grosbeaks and juncos do.
- *Peanuts*: a favorite of woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays.

SEEDS FOR A SONG ORDER FORM

November 8th, 2014

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser - In Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware, Hollins Store

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Email (we will only use it to let you know about next year's Seeds for a Song): _____

If you are not a club member, how did you learn about this sale? Please check one:

Friend _____ TV _____ Newspaper _____ Website/Internet _____ Store's Big Sign _____ Sign in Store Window _____

Description	Quantity	Size	Price/Each (includes tax)	Total
Gourmet Mix		40 lb.	21.70	
		20 lb.	11.25	
		4 lb.	2.70	
Shell Free Mix		25 lb.	16.70	
Black Oil Sunflower		50 lb.	21.95	
		25 lb.	12.30	
		10 lb.	5.65	
Sunflower Chips		50 lb.	65.55	
		25 lb.	34.40	
Striped Sunflower		50 lb.	40.00	
Nyjer (Thistle)		50 lb.	39.05	
		20 lb.	23.65	
		10 lb.	12.65	
Millet		50 lb.	17.30	
		25 lb.	9.45	
Peanuts in Shell		25 lb.	33.75	
Safflower		50 lb.	43.05	
		25 lb.	23.15	
High Energy Suet		1 Cake	1.20	
Ear Corn		6.5 lb.	8.50	
			Total	\$

SIGHTINGS

✓ FROM THE RVBC MEMBERS ATTENDING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

- ✓ Jill Overstreet saw a dozen Nighthawks fly over her house.
- ✓ Fred Cramer saw a Bald Eagle from his home.
- ✓ Maureen Eiger saw an Eastern Kingbird in her yard.
- ✓ Mary Lou Barritt had a Screech Owl in her yard.

✓ FIELD TRIPS AND UNUSUAL BIRD SIGHTINGS

- ✓ **9/19/14** -Linda Cory said "At the same time, I heard both a Screech Owl and a Barred Owl calling; one on the South side of the house and the other on the North. I've had both owls before, but never calling at the same time."
- ✓ **9/19/14** -Mike Purdy is having a flush of fall warblers and saw some Mississippi Kites fly over his house.

BIRD TOPIC Mississippi Kite identification by Steve Hicks

Steve Hicks is a raptor (only) rehabilitator since the late 1980s. His organization is called Bubba and Friends, Inc. Steve recovers, rehabilitates, and releases injured and orphaned birds of prey back into the wild. He has permits issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. These are some of the Mississippi Kites that were in his care this year. According to Steve, Mississippi Kites are extending their range and more of them are being seen in VA. Here are some photos and information to help you identify them and his narration about them while they were in rehab.

The Mkites are almost releasable. There is one slow child who seems to like being hand fed, but all the others are ready to go. These small raptors are very social and stay in groups so Jr. has to start feeding himself so they can all go together. Keep in mind their size, as they are bigger than doves but smaller than crows.



To the left is a picture of "Jr." a 1st year Mkite. Notice his very light chest coloration. Also notice between his eyes and beak the dark depressions, or pits. This serves Mkites the same as the mylar stripe serves falcons by cutting down on reflections. The picture to the right has a very mature male on the left and a second year Mkite on the right. The mature Kite has clear red eyes. Notice the drastic color change from the picture of Jr. to the mature kite in this picture. This has caused problems in folks properly identifying juvenile Mkites. Notice the Mkite on the far right; you can still see the pit in front of the eye. The mature Mkite is holding his wing at an odd angle because of a pellet rifle wound that broke the bone. These pictures are a great close up of "the new raptor in the neighborhood." I carried a camera in my pocket for 2 weeks trying to get some pictures. This was the only success. Mkites are so flighty they will scatter if you look at them wrong, so I must have been looking at them just right. Hope you enjoy these pictures. My goal is to get them out in the next 2-3 days while there are still big insects for them to eat. Via, Steve Hicks

Club Projects & Outreach

BLUEBIRD TRAIL STATS

2014 was not a terrific year for our Eastern Bluebirds. We got off to a slow start, possibly because of the cool spring weather. Unfortunately it didn't improve much as the year went on. The success rate at Botetourt Golf and Swim Club was particularly dismal at only 39%. The Parkway trail had an 82% success rate, and Hanging Rock did the best of all of the trails, still only coming in at 85%. While this seems like a pretty good percentage for success, we still fledged far fewer birds than normal because the number of eggs laid was much lower than usual. It's customary for many of our boxes to have three nestings in a summer, but this year that only happened four times, and together those 12 nests only fledged 21 birds.

For comparison's sake, last year bluebird eggs laid numbered 182 for BRP, 159 for HR, and 169 for BGSC. The previous year we had 259, 169, and 220 respectively. The average number of bluebirds fledged are, respectively, 150, 126, and 114. So you can see that numbers were down across the board, but who knows why. Hopefully that trend won't continue.

Blue Ridge Parkway			Hanging Rock Golf Course			Botetourt Golf and Swim Club		
Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged
Bluebird	130	107	Bluebird	134	114	Bluebird	132	51
Tree Swallow	40	36				Tree Swallow	16	10
Carolina Chickadee	10	10				Carolina Chickadee	17	11
House Wren	19	16						

We had a couple of new monitors this year. We hope they enjoyed themselves and will continue to be part of our bluebird "family". A big thank you goes out to all the hard-working trail monitors who make life easier for our cavity nesters: Ann Allen, Bob and Andy Biggs, Carl Boast, Barbara Bricks, Eleanor Dye, Bill and Nancy Fabian, Linda Harrison, Dick Hendrix, Fran Hodges, Alice Hylton, Deborah Ingram, Ardy Kidd, Susan Kidd, Judy Kniskern, Elizabeth Knoebber, Sissy Logan, Connie Marsh, Bob and Sherri Miller, Rita and Jerry O'Brien, Toni Pepin, Judy Repass, Laurie and Scott Spangler, Bill and Anne Tucker, Nancy Verity, and Liz Williams. Thanks also go to Eunice Hudgins and Andy Biggs for making reminder phone calls to all the monitors, and last but not least to Pam and Elly Wefel for lots and lots of help with managing all the trails, particularly the one at Botetourt Golf and Swim Club. Submitted by Alyce Quinn, Bluebird Trail Chairman

2014 WILD BIRD REHAB FUND REPORT

Baby birds got a late start nesting this year. In March and April for some reason I did not get a lot of the usual nestling intakes which was very unusual indeed.

Then May 1st came and it felt like nonstop madness. The Wild Bird Rehab Fund's \$500 allotment provided food and medicine for 80 baby birds of 23 different species between May 1st and August 31st. I would like to say THANK YOU to the RVBC Members who donated paper towels, tissues and misc. items. They were very much appreciated. All of the paper towels and boxes of tissues were used. I could not have financially done it without your support!

This year I was able to renest even more birds. People are becoming more helpful and understanding that bird parents, if they are still around, will not abandon their baby birds. Thanks to people sending me cell phone photos of the bird(s) via the internet, people successfully renested the bird(s) or left it alone. It is time consuming (in between feedings) explaining



2014
Baby
Bluebirds
in rehab
Photo
Maureen
Eiger

how to renest a bird, but it was also very rewarding. Thus, all the birds I got in were received for a legitimate reason; dead parents, abandoned birds, caught by a cat or other animal, fell out of the nest and were injured, the nest was transported to another location, the bird parents could not be found, the nest was destroyed and so on. Still the end result was 58% of these 80 rehabbed birds were returned back to the wild. This return rate was higher than the 64 birds helped last year (2013) of which 52% were released.

Some very odd cases came in this year and had unusual results. I will report more about them in the next few newsletters. Also I wish to say thank you to all the RVBC members that cared enough to call me with a bird question or brought me a bird(s) that needed help.

Submitted by Maureen Eiger, State and Federally Permitted Avian Rehabilitator



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

TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES!

2015 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