



Roanoke Valley Bird Club



September 2022

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **in-person** on Monday, September 12th at 7pm at the Garden Club Building (3640 Colonial Ave, Cave Spring, VA 24018). We will continue to engage in best practices regarding Covid moving forward. We value everyone's safety and health. If you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please feel free. If you choose not to wear a mask, please respect those who do. Thank you!

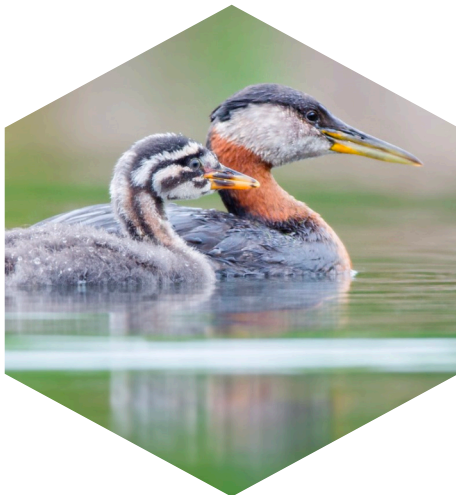
Alaska: An Epic Adventure

Bob Schamerhorn, Presenter



Come see and hear the stories from this dramatic landscape. Adventures from the trip of a lifetime, beginning in Anchorage and exploring a few local hot spots, then covers travels along the Seward Highway. Next to Lowell Point at sewers for a boat trip to the Holgate Glacier with views of Horned and Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemots, Stellar Sea Loins, Humpback Whales, Sea Otters and much more. Then, returning to Anchorage to see Red-necked Grebes and Moose before departing for Lake Clark National Park and Reserve on a Brown Bear photography expedition. Come witness this

adventure in the Alaskan wilderness. Presented with amazing photography from "the last frontier". A great program for all nature lovers, interests and ages.



Virginia Bluebird Society Conference

We'll be celebrating the 25th anniversary of our founding the weekend of November 11 and 12. Whether you are an experienced bluebird landlord or just beginning, we have breakout sessions both fun and informative planned with you in mind.

Presenters include VBS' own Anne Little on Bluebirding 101 and VBS Vice President Doug Rogers providing tips and tricks for the bird photographer. Jessica Ruthenberg, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resource's Watchable Wildlife Biologist will advise you on creating backyard habitat. Wildlife rehabilitator Maureen Eiger will be joining us and we have two North American Bluebird Society directors providing answers to all your questions.

And while you may not have heard of our Keynote Speaker Julie Zickefoose I promise you will be "wowed" by her. She is a prolific artist and writer. On her website you can see her artwork, listen to her past lectures, and read her blog. She will be selling copies of her books and prints at the conference. Welcome to JulieZickefoose.com

The conference takes place at Northern Virginia Community College in Woodbridge Virginia. Registration opens in early September on the VBS website. Contact ybs@virginiabluebirds.org for more information.



"It's a slippery slope from casual bird-watcher to that guy."

Club Calendar Ready for Sale Soon

Voting ended August 29th on photos for our 2023 calendar and production is underway. As usual, it will be spectacular! The plan is to have the calendar available for sale at the September 12th meeting. As a club fundraiser, we are always looking for places to sell our calendar and your suggestions are welcome at RVBC2015@outlook.com.

This year, the printer's price has increased causing the calendar to go up to \$16 each, still a bargain. As in the past we will offer pick-up dates at our meeting place and a mailing option will also be available. Be on the lookout for more information coming to your email with a sneak peak of the calendar and how to receive it!

Annual Dues

Dues for our club are due every September and can be paid in person at the September meeting. Other options are mailing a check to the address on the back of the newsletter or clicking roanokevalleybirdclub.com/Membership.html and completing the online form. \$15 covers for a single membership and \$25 for a family Student memberships are \$10. Membership benefits include receiving our monthly newsletter and having voting privileges; however, visitors are welcome to attend meetings and bird walks for free.



Turkey (Garland Kitts)

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.

- 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield (Wednesday, September 7th, 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.

- Hawk Watching at Harvey's Knob (Sunday, September 18th, 9 to 4 pm)

From September through November, our club and the Lynchburg club report data on the hawk migration at Harvey's Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Located at milepost 95.6, all are welcome to join our resident hawk watchers to see how it is done. Bring a lawn chair, binoculars, and a spirit of adventure for learning about the annual hawk migration. Although you are welcome to show up any day, Sept. 18th will be special day for meeting up with old and new friends from the two bird clubs. For this field trip, you can arrive and leave when you like and even though you may not be ready to ID each hawk as it passes, extra eyes are ALWAYS needed. As an added incentive, club member Barry Kinzie has offered to serve "breakfast sausage gravy" from about 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. or until supplies last.

Additional info: The best time to observe the broad-winged hawk migration from that overlook is from around Sept. 15th – Sept. 26th although there are many other raptors that you may spot at other times.

- Green Hill Park (Saturday, September 24th, 8 am)

Join Kent Skaggs (308-627-5414), new to our area and an experienced leader, for a walk in Green Hill Park in Salem. We will be looking for fall migrants while we walk up to 2 miles along the greenway near the Roanoke River. Wear good walking shoes or waterproof boots in case we leave the path.

Directions: From West Main Street, Salem, take at left at Diuguids Rd. In less than ½ mile, you will cross over the Roanoke River and take the next right onto Green Hill Park Rd. Park in the first parking lot on your right.

Our leader Kent Skaggs recently moved here from upstate New York. Before that Kent lived in Nebraska where he led birding tours for the Audubon Rowe Sanctuary. He currently works as a guide for Naturalist Journeys out of Portal, AZ. We are pleased to welcome Kent.

VSO trip

Sept. 9 – 11th Fall VSO Field Trip, Chincoteague, Virginia; for more information, see: <https://www.virginiabirds.org/field-trips-events>

October field trips (details to follow in October newsletter):

Oct. 1st: Roanoke Campground or Mill Mountain with Mary Lou Barritt and Sissy Logan

Oct. 8th: Bent Mountain area with Robin Austin

Oct. 12th: Greenfield 2nd Wednesday walk with David Frye

Fenwick Mines will either be on Oct. 29th or Nov. 5th with Bill Hunley

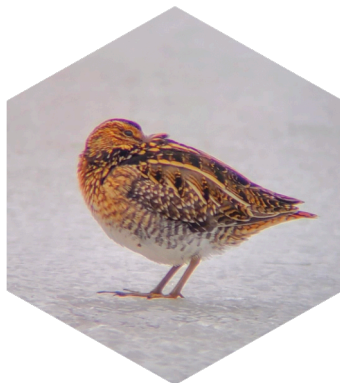
Field Trip Reports

August 6th, Birding at the Austins on Bent Mountain

Robin and a group of 8 birders observed at least 31 species on the Austins property and on a walk down Bottom Creek Road. Highlights included the usual abundant hummingbirds, Green Heron, Louisiana Waterthrush, Worm-eating Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Parula (juv.), Scarlet Tanager, and Indigo Bunting.

August 27th, Greenfield

Roanoke Valley Bird Club field trip led by Barry Whitt and Kent Davis saw 45 species. Their best birds were Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and a Blue Grosbeak.



Fox Sparrow (Garland Kitts); Wilson's Snipe (George Clemo); Red-shouldered Hawk (Mary Lou Barritt)

Library Birding Backpack Program Launches

We did it! Thirty-one birding backpacks got distributed by RVBC on July 15! Every library in Roanoke County, Roanoke City, Salem and Botetourt County now has at least one, and in most cases more than one, birding backpack available for loan. The program has gotten great publicity on WDBJ TV, Q99 radio, and in the Roanoke Times.

Our aim has always been to introduce birding to members of our community who have not been exposed to it, or have not had access to the tools to get started. These backpacks put high-quality binoculars, guides and information into their hands. Club members are also offering introductory talks at libraries to give budding birders the know-how and confidence to use them and get out on the trails!

Libraries and RVBC provided seed money if you've ever wondered where your club dues go. Individual members of the club also contributed funds and we sincerely thank you all! We definitely could not have done it without you. Club members generously contributed their time and expertise as well in various ways. It took a village to make this happen.

So, if you're out on the trails and see someone birding with one of our navy-blue library birding backpacks, stop and say hello and feel proud this RVBC project is growing birding in our community.

Maxine Fraade, Birding Backpack Committee Chair

Committee Members: Robin Austin, Mary Harshfield, Carol Whiteside

See news articles below:

<https://www.wdbj7.com/video/2022/07/25/bird-backpack-programs-with-roanoke-valley-bird-club-local-libraries/>

https://roanoke.com/lifestyles/recreation/club-nests-bird-info-in-school-backpacks/article_2d71a254-039b-11ed-a14e-27ab554fco5f.html





Roanoke Valley Bird Club
PO Box 20405
Roanoke, VA 24018
Editor: Nathan Anderson

2022-2023 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 _____