



# December Newsletter

Next meeting Monday  
Dec. 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.

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**Deadline for submissions to be included in the next RVBC newsletter** are due on the 20th of the month proceeding the publication month. **Thank you!**

Please send photos (in medium resolution or smaller) and written submissions or suggestions to Maureen Eiger, RVBC Newsletter Editor 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



## MEMBER NIGHT

Show off your photos and share your stories of your birding adventures.

Contact Maureen (540) 342-4890 to secure your slot.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by our Roanoke Valley Bird Club Members  
So bring your favorite dish to share!



**A Bird Word** - Do you know what a **Pamprodactyl** foot is? Which species of bird has them? Hint: It helps with the specific way they can "perch" in the wild. Answer is on page 5.

## Upcoming Field Trips

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

### DECEMBER 3rd, SATURDAY 9AM - STARKEY WETLANDS

Join Linda Cory (580- 5214) at the South County Library on 6303 Merriman Road for a walk on the Starkey Wetlands Boardwalk. We will be scouting possible rails and a variety of sparrows. Wear sturdy shoes for walking from the parking lot to the boardwalk below. The boardwalk is a 1/2 mile of level walking although we will do some additional exploring at Starkey Park next door. If time permits, we could choose to also walk along Crystal Creek.

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS** are not a new idea or limited to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. The first count was done on Christmas Day 1900 by Frank Chapman, an ornithologist in New York, as an alternative to hunting birds. The count is a census of birds in the Western Hemisphere performed in a "count circle" with a diameter of 15 miles. The count period runs from December 14 to January 5. Observers count every bird seen or heard in assigned areas. All counts are forwarded to the National Audubon Society to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology.

The RVBC does three counts: **Roanoke – Saturday, December 17**

Contact Bill Hunley ([wjhunley@gmail.com](mailto:wjhunley@gmail.com)) / 774-2397 (H) / 467-3477 (C)

**Fincastle – Sunday, December 18**

Contact Eunice Hudgins ([uvaau@aol.com](mailto:uvaau@aol.com)) / 389-4056)

**Peaks of Otter – Tuesday, Dec 20**

Contact Kent Davis ([kedjr@cox.net](mailto:kedjr@cox.net)) / 344-8377)



Participate in as many counts as you wish. Contact the leaders above to be assigned a territory. If you are a new birder or have not done this before, you will be placed with experienced birders. There is very little walking on most of the territories – we ride the areas stopping often to look, listen and count the birds. It's a fun day. Get to know your fellow birders and maybe discover a new territory or a new bird. Following the Fincastle count, we meet at Woodpecker Ridge for a bowl of Barry's soup and a tally of birds seen on the Roanoke and Fincastle counts.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT** – Place of YOUR choosing on Friday, January 1st from 12 AM to 11:59PM Start your 2015 out right by making a New Year's Day Bird List at the place of your choosing. This is not a group field trip and is not a competition. Also, this is not a national organized count and there is no fee. Some of our members for years have made it a personal tradition to start their year by listing the birds seen/heard on the first day of the year. Maybe this will be the start of a new tradition for you, too! Make a note of all bird species seen and/or heard beginning midnight of New Year's Eve (which would officially be January 1st) and ending 11:59PM of January 1st. You may bird anywhere you would like (even Florida). Email your resulting list with where you birded, the time of day and all participant names to: Linda Cory at [lcory50@juno.com](mailto:lcory50@juno.com) Highlights from your lists will go in the February newsletter. Good luck everyone and Happy New Year!

### A HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS CARD BIRD COUNT!

As bird watchers, we all receive cards from family and friends with birds on them. You might even send out cards with our feathered friends on them, too. In the spirit of competition, count all of the birds that are on the cards that you receive during the 2016 holiday season. Bring your total number of birds counted on your received cards to the January 9th meeting. There will be a first and second place prize! You don't have to list species (how can we when card makers use artistic license), but just a total number. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, send your number total with a friend or email [RVBC2015@outlook.com](mailto:RVBC2015@outlook.com).



### JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>, WEDNESDAY at 8:30 A.M. - SECOND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD

Join co-leaders: Barry and Carol Whitt (309-4353) at 8:30 A.M. for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search for 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". Other walking at the property MAY be limited to construction including the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! Meet at the second parking lot at Greenfield on the right across the road from the lake. 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.

### ANNUAL RAPTOR COUNT - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11th, 2017

The annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding! No skill is required just a little time and effort. We count all the hawks that we can find. Just a reason to get together with your birding buddies and enjoy a winter outing!! The form and more details will be in the January newsletter.

## Events, Projects and Club News

It has been the tradition at the December meeting for every member to bring a special treat for all to enjoy. We want to thank you in advance for all the great food that we will share. We do need people to sign up to bring some light snacks for the Jan – May, 2017 meetings. Contact Bob and Nancy Luce at [lucenest@gmail.com](mailto:lucenest@gmail.com) to confirm a month. Thank YOU!



At the November RVBC meeting we elected our RVBC Officers and Directors for 2017. We would like to thank our previous Board Members for their service for the past year and for some board members their many, many years of service! Outgoing officers are; Vice President of Programs – Maureen Eiger, Secretary – Candy Andrzejewski and previous Treasurer – Barry Whitt. Directors: Bill Fabian and Edie Manuel also have served.

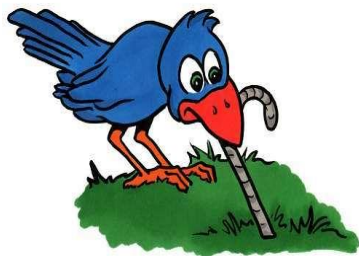
We hope RVBC members will give our new board members their input for projects and programs they would like to see supported in the upcoming year(s) as our club grows and keeps in step with our mission. Please feel free to contact them with your thoughts and ideas.

### NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2017

#### OFFICERS:

President - Kent Davis  
VP (Programs) - Toni Pepin  
VP (Membership) - Eleanor Dye  
Secretary - Linda Barker  
Treasurer - Sissy Logan

DIRECTORS: Nathan Anderson, Robin Austin, Mary Lou Barritt, Mary Ellen Belcher, Linda Cory, Maxine Fraade, Mary Harshfield and Eunice Hudgins



### “SEEDS FOR A SONG” – RVBC SEED SALE FUNDRAISER 2016 REPORT

What a beautiful day we had for this year's Seeds for a Song seed sale, the polar opposite of last year's rainy, chilly day. We sold \$6015 worth of seed, giving us a profit of \$785. The RVBC Board will decide soon what worthwhile community project to use the money for, so let them know if you have any ideas.

Thank you, everyone who purchased seed at the sale.

And a huge thank you to the following people who helped out with the sale, whether by baking goodies, loading seed, manning tables, or taking orders; if we left anyone out, we apologize: Nathan Anderson, Patty and Andy Arrington, Robin Austin, Mary Lou Barritt, Mary Ellen Belcher, Barbara Bricks, Kent Davis, Janie and Norris Ford, Elizabeth Knoebber, Sissy Logan, Al McPherson, Jerry and Rita O'Brien, Tim and Alyce Quinn, Judy Repass, Bob and Ellen Rummel, and Pam and Elly Wefel.

– submitted by Alyce Quinn, Seed Sale Chairperson.

### VSO SPONSORED FIELD TRIPS

**WINGS OVER WATER FESTIVAL IN THE OUTER BANKS**, December 9 - 11th. For more information about hotels and to register go to <http://www.wingsoverwater.org/>

**VSO FIELD TRIP OUTER BANKS, FEBRUARY 3-5 2017**. Join leaders: Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Lee Adams and Meredith and Lee Bell. Details are on the VSO website (<http://www.virginiabirds.org>). Hotel Reservations must be made by January 2, 2017 to get the special VSO rate.

**COMMUNITY CLOUD FOREST CONSERVATION TRIP** - Former VSO President Andrew Dolby has spent years building relationships with researchers and conservationists in Guatemala. One such partner is Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC <http://www.cloudforestconservation.org/>) an organization with a growing ecotourism business that also engages in sustainable agriculture training and environmental education programs with the area's children. Andrew is working with CCFC to recruit VSO members for a field trip to the area. The trip will take place from April 1-11 2017 with resident guide Rob Cahill, the son of John Cahill, Guatemala's leading bird expert. The price is \$1,960 for double occupancy and \$2,660 for single occupancy, which covers all in-country transportation, lodging, meals, guide services, and entrance fees. Airfare to and from Guatemala City, alcoholic beverages or personal incidentals are not included. The price is based on a minimum of eight travelers, but the trip will be capped at 10. Deposit due date is January 15, 2017 and final payment will be due February 25. Contact Andrew Dolby for more details ([adolby@umw.edu](mailto:adolby@umw.edu)).

## WILD BIRD REHAB FUND REPORT FOR 2016

It was a very busy year for injured and orphaned birds that needed to be rehabbed. By May 1<sup>st</sup> I had already received 99 birds and most of those were baby birds. As of Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 148 wild birds have been rehabbed. Current intakes (just this week) are 2 screech owls and a song sparrow. Comparing this number to last year when I received only 108 birds *for the entire year* you can imagine how much it drained my rehab budget, paying for their food, Vet care and medicine and repairing their cages. I am so grateful that bird club members donated needed items, gave financial support and the BOD allocated \$750.00 from the RVBC bank account towards their care. Without your help I could not have cared for so many birds. To give you an idea of the amount of food involved for rehabbing a bird – a baby songbird eats 100+ mealworms a day. Plus about ¼ cup of fruit, crickets, waxworms, seeds, etc. and depending on the species they also may be fed fish, mice and duck chow. Needless to say the \$750 was used up in a few months, so right now I am doing a t-shirt fundraiser that will close on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at <https://www.booster.com/buy-a-shirt-and-save-a-bird>. You can buy a shirt, make a donation to show your support or do both! Click on the link and see the shirts designed by fellow club member Carol Siler and me.

I get a lot of phone calls about birds. My goal is NOT to rehab healthy birds and I was able to successfully reneest over 25 nestling birds with the cooperation of their finders. Other calls are general questions like “ what to do when a woodpecker is banging on the gutter” or “what kind of seed to buy” or do I know what kind of bird is pecking at their window and why does it do that. I have to say I really appreciate that most people now have cell phone cameras and email. The last time I counted the number of phone calls received about birds (I keep a log) that number was over 300!

Since our December meeting is Member’s Night where we get to show off our bird photos. I will do a quick photo presentation of some of the birds that were rehabbed this year and released. I hope you will enjoy it. I really could not have succeeded without your help with paper goods, supplies and financial support.

So from the birds that now fly free (and me) a very big THANK YOU! – by Maureen Eiger, State and Federally Permitted Bird Rehabber. Remember if you find an injured or orphaned bird please call (540-342-4890) for help.

**Below is a preview of some of the rehab birds and some of the RVBC members that help send them on their way.**

Mary Lou Barritt saw Tennessee Warblers at the Starkey wet lands so we released this one there.



Sandy Terrell got to release this Ovenbird back at her home after it hit a window and needed some time to recover from head trauma.



Sissy Logan got to release a rehabbed young Pied-billed Grebe at Greenfield.



Kent Davis found a flock of 30+ waxwings and a single rehabbed waxwing joined a waxwing flock near the STP. Actually there were over 100 waxwings fly catching there. What a sight to see!

# SIGHTINGS

## CLUB MEMBER SIGHTINGS:

- ✓ Connie Marsh has a Winter Wren at her home in Wirtz.
- ✓ Pat McMeekin says the Juncos have returned to her home in Roanoke.
- ✓ Alyce Quinn reports a Brown Creeper at her home in Wirtz, and three Black Ducks on her pond. She also saw a Bobwhite, but it did not seem to be wild.
- ✓ Bill Fabian has a pond in Fincastle where a Great Blue Heron has been feasting on the pond fish.
- ✓ Dave Williams saw a Barred Owl swooping.
- ✓ Rita O'Brien has a Pileated Woodpecker on her property in Blue Ridge.
- ✓ Barry Whitt saw a Little Blue Heron at Sunset Beach, NC.
- ✓ Carol Whiteside says the Purple Finches have returned to her feeders.
- ✓ Kent was birding in Kentucky where he saw Red-breasted Nuthatches.
- ✓ Chris and Emma Kotlowski saw three Marsh Hawks

## RVBC FIELD TRIP SIGHTINGS:

**NOVEMBER 9th, SECOND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD** - field trip led by Kent Davis and Barry Kinzie. 40 species. Best birds- Wood Duck, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Golden-crowned Kinglet

**NOVEMBER 19th, WHISPERING PINES PARK** – It was a chilly start to a nice morning with 19 club members on this field trip led by Kent Davis and Linda Cory. Best birds were; Wilson Snipe, Hermit Thrush, Brown Headed Nuthatch, Red Breasted Nuthatch and Black Duck

**NOVEMBER 26th, GREENFIELD** Field trip lead by Kent Davis and Barry Whitt and 17 people, 36 species and the usual suspects. Highlights - Gadwall, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

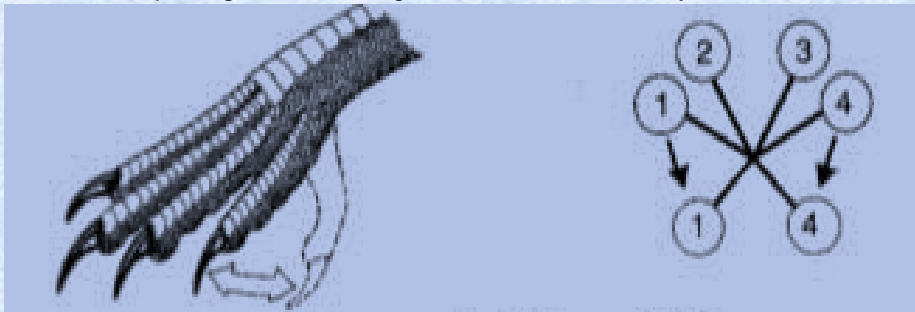
**TRENDING AROUND THE INTERNET**- Here are some interesting internet links about birds, sent in by our members. To share your favorite web link of birding interest email it to [rvbcnews@cox.net](mailto:rvbcnews@cox.net)

A warmer climate has allowed mosquitoes that carry avian malaria to invade honeycreeper habitats on the Hawaiian island of Kaua'i. Honeycreeper populations have decreased as much as 98 percent over the past 15 years. Unless ecologists intervene, the birds may vanish in 10 to 30 years. Read more here- <https://news.mongabay.com/beloved-hawaiian-honeycreeper-birds-are-at-risk>

Confused about some of your feeder birds or hawks? Get some tips on how to identify those tricky birds IDs at <http://feederwatch.org/learn/tricky-bird-ids/>

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**  
**Mary Jean & Jeff Sullivan**

**A BIRD WORD ANSWER** - A **Pamprodactyl** foot has all four toes in front, as seen in most swifts (Family Apodidae). The first and fourth digits pivot freely forward and backward. Swifts often rotate all four toes forward and use their tiny feet as hooks to help hang while roosting on the walls of chimneys, caves, or hollow trees.





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