



Roanoke Valley Bird Club



December 2021

Next Meeting

Due to the continued presence of COVID-19 and its variants, we will continue to meet via Zoom. The board will reevaluate at the end of year to determine what is the best meeting options beginning in January. Our next meeting via Zoom will be Monday, December 13th at 7pm. Please be on the look out for the Zoom link in your email the weekend before. Stay well, and happy birding.

Member Sharing Night~ presented by Club Members

December is Members' Night! Make yourself a holiday beverage and snack and cozy up to the computer to share your favorite photos, videos or stories of your birding adventures. If you have a digital presentation there are two options: Either share your screen in Zoom, or send your presentation to Nathan and he can run it for you.

For questions, please feel free to email nathan.anderson77@live.com. He will even help you with a practice run. To sign up for your 5-minute time slot, email RVBC2015@outlook.com. Join us for a great evening of sharing our love of birds and wildlife!

Christmas Bird Counts

All eyes are needed! Please contact the bird count coordinators listed below to participate. This is a chance to get to know your fellow birders and maybe discover a new territory or see a new life bird.

This is a long-standing tradition in the USA since Christmas Day, 1900. The bird count information that we collect is forwarded to the National Audubon Society to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology. As part of Citizen Science, participating in bird counts is in line with our mission statement.

Roanoke Count, Saturday December 18th: Coordinator
Bill Hunley, 540-467-6477 or 540-774-2397,
wjhunley@gmail.com

Fincastle Count, Sunday December 19th: Coordinators
Barry Kinzie, 540-580-0059, peckerridge@lumos.net
Andrew Newcomb anewco15@gmail.com

After the Roanoke and Fincastle counts, please return your results to the Coordinators to be included in the tally.



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, December 8th 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 in search for migrants and incoming waterfowl. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 mile each way. We will also cover the grassy area overlooking the lake. Bring your spotting scope if you have one. David and his wife Karen have recently moved here from Michigan and have been a welcome addition to our field trips. 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.

Field Trip Reports

Nov. 6th, Fenwick Mines: Bill Hunley led a group of 17 birders on a cold (starting out at 25 degrees!) but sunny morning. Many birds were actively feeding on wild grapes and other vines and seeds. The count for the day was 25 species. Highlights included good sightings of a Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren (on the trail through the wetlands), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and flocks of Cedar Waxwings. Also observed were five other woodpeckers, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco, Eastern Phoebe, White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Common Raven. On the way home, many of us stopped and birded on the recently completed Catawba Greenway Trail. Bill has found that the lower section closest to the parking lot is a good habitat for grassland birds. Although we didn't see any unusual ones this day, we all enjoyed walking up the trail and finding some birds (19 species), including American Kestrel, White-breasted Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Some of us got a burst of energy from a persimmon tree with some ripe persimmons, when carefully chosen.

Nov. 10th, Greenfield: Dick Grubb led a group of 20 birders for a great morning of birding. They observed 38 species including the waterfowl: Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Ring-necked Duck and one lone Double-Crested Cormorant seen flying and on the water. Other species of note were 2 Great Blue Herons, 1 Rusty Blackbird, 1 each of Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, 1 Killdeer, 1 Belted Kingfisher, 20 Yellow-Rumped Warblers, and flocks of Cedar Waxwings.

Nov. 20th, Walrond Park: Ten hearty souls came out for a frosty morning walk led by Linda Cory and Bill Hunley. It was a good day for seeing and photographing birds (Dick Grubb posted several to e-bird). With many of the leaves down, we were able to get good looks at several of the total of 31 species. Highlights: 4 Rusty Blackbirds, 3 Pileated Woodpeckers (2 together on a tree), 7 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (one was observed eating a persimmon), Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Swamp Sparrow, a flock of Cedar Waxwings eating cedar tree berries, multiple colorful American Goldfinch and Yellow-rumped Warblers, 2 Cooper's Hawks (flying and stationary).

New Officers and Directors 2022

Below is the slate of the officers and directors for the upcoming year.

Officers

President: Kent Davis (who will be serving his 10th term)

VP Programs: Drew Daniels

VP Membership: Linda Cory

Secretary: Betty Burke

Treasurer: Carol Whitt

Directors

Nathan Anderson: Newsletter Editor & Zoom

Mary Harshfield: Field Trips

Robin Austin

Mary Lou Barritt

Annie Downing

Maxine Fraade

Sissy Logan

Eunice Hudgins, Emeritus

Club Calendar Sales Update

We had a sunny day for the first calendar pick-up event at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs on November 27th. The next date for pick-ups is Saturday, December 11th from 10-2pm. We will also have a booth to sell them on site at the Botetourt Farmers' Market at the Daleville Town Center on December 18 from 10am-2pm.

It's not too late to order yours! Visit www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com or you can use snail mail with the form below. They make great gifts and we will mail them to any destination in the US.

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Calendar Order Form

Mail to PO Box 20405, Roanoke VA 24018

of Calendars _____ X \$13.50 if picking up = _____

of Calendars _____ X \$16.00 if shipping = _____

Address to send calendars to: _____

OR I will pick up calendars on 12/11 _____

Note: If you are ordering more than 4 calendars, please email us to get a more accurate (and lower) shipping cost. RVBC2015@outlook.com

Meet a Member: Nancy Reid

Nancy Reid moved here from Newport, Oregon in 2015 and had not been in town two weeks when she met Board Member Mary Harshfield on a hike. Mary told her about the bird club and Nancy has been an enthusiastic participant ever since!

Her parents had bird feeders and birdbaths when she was growing up and when Nancy graduated from college her parents gave her a bird guide and binoculars. Although she was not too sure about that gift, over time she became more and more tuned into birding especially after she moved to Oregon to work as a nurse practitioner. The nearby Yaquina River was a popular birding spot where she saw many migratories and shore birds.

Among the many birds unfamiliar to us in Virginia, Nancy regularly spotted harlequin ducks and snowy owls wintering on the beach. But her favorite bird is the raven. She loves how they roll and play in the sky. In addition to birding Nancy is passionate about the outdoors and has been section hiking the Appalachian Trail with only 700 miles left to go!

Submitted by Maxine Fraade



Ruby-Throated Hummingbird (Bob Crawford); Bald Eagle (Garland Kitts); Eastern Wood-Pewee (Kirk Gardner)



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

2021-2022 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 _____