



Roanoke Valley Bird Club



February 2022

Next Meeting

Due to the continued presence of COVID-19 and its variants, we will continue to meet via Zoom. Our next meeting via Zoom will be Monday, February 14th at 7pm. Please be on the look out for the Zoom link in your email the weekend before. Stay well, and happy birding.

Cerulean Warblers and the Importance of Shade Grown Coffee to Neo-tropical Migrants

Katie Fallon, Presenter

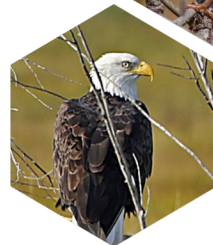
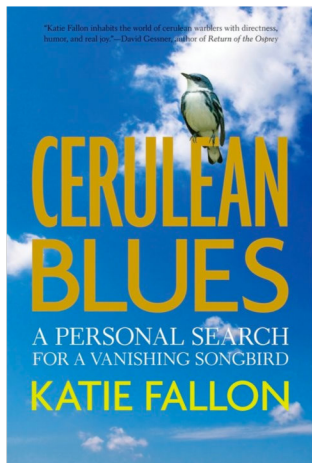


Katie Fallon is the author of the nonfiction books *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird* (2020, 2017) and *Cerulean Blues: A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird* (2011), as well as two books for children.

She has served as President of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society, and is Executive Director of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, a nonprofit organization based in Morgantown, WV, dedicated to conserving the region's wild birds through research, education, and rehabilitation.

Katie is passionate about animal training and behavior, and is a Certified Professional Bird Trainer (CPBT-KA).

She is also a columnist for *Bird Watcher's Digest* and has taught writing at West Virginia University, Virginia Tech, and elsewhere. Her first work was "bird." For more: www.katiefallon.com



Clockwise from top: Purple Gallinule (Garland Kitts); Barred Owl (Nathan Anderson); Painted Bunting (Mary Lou Barritt); Common Tern (Nathan Anderson); Bald Eagle (Bob Crawford); Sedge Wren (Kirk Gardner)

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.

- VSO Field Trip to the Outer Banks (February 4th-6th)

See Virginia Society of Ornithology website: www.virginiabirds.org for more information.

- 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield (Wednesday, February 9th, at 9am)

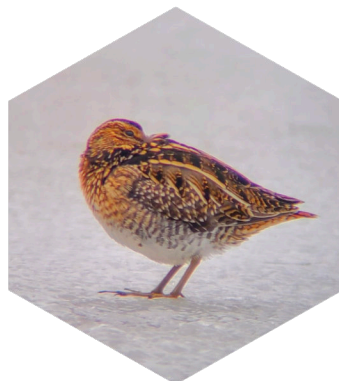
Join leader David Frye (248-459-6783) for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake and possibly to the pond beyond. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 mile each way. Bring your spotting scope if you have one. Directions: Take Exit 150B on 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.

- TBD (Saturday, February 19th)

Possible bird walk on a local greenway. Keep a look out for e-mail description during the week before.

- Pond Hopping (Saturday, February 26th, at 9am)

Join leaders Tim and Alyce Quinn (540-312-6844) for a morning visiting local ponds (Greenfield and Murray's) in search of waterfowl and other avian life. Please bring a scope if you have one. Dress warmly and meet at Greenfield. 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.



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

Field Trip Reports

Jan. 8th: Six intrepid birders met Tim and Alyce Quinn for a chilly hike around the Booker T. Washington National Monument. When the hike started it was sunny and about 22 degrees, so it was a great day to dress for the weather and walk around the Jack-O-Lantern Loop trail! We saw or heard 25 species of birds, with quick looks at a Brown Creeper and good looks at Cedar Waxwings and a Hermit Thrush.

Jan. 12th: Wintery temperatures in the low 20s confronted 13 attendees in our January tour of the lakes and wilds of the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We were blessed with bright sunshine and excellent viewing light. The group was also greeted by lakes that were mostly skinned over with ice. Where there was open water, the geese and ducks were “chocker-blocked” into the spaces! Of the 45 species that we encountered, a quarter of them were waterfowl—and in healthy quantities. The group also had a chance to get an up-close experience at the adjacent construction zone (maybe a bit closer than we wished?) It was a morning where group members acknowledged missing some species that we thought we might have gotten—and almost immediately after raising those comments, we saw them! “Where are the sapsuckers?” “We thought we might get a hermit thrush…” It was almost like we “called our shot” on a few birds! Our list included some notables: Northern Pintail, Bufflehead, Northern Shoveler, Wilson’s Snipe, Northern Harrier, Pileated Woodpecker, Field Sparrow, and … wait for it … Canada Geese (YES!) We will visit this same area again on Wednesday, February 9th. Hope to see you there!

Jan. 22nd: Icy snow cover, bright sunshine and good camaraderie made the fifteen birders who turned out glad we did despite the chilly temperatures (in the mid teens at the start!). Leader Annie Downing led us on the Roanoke River Greenway from Vic Thomas Park through Wasena Park. Highlights included great views of two Red-tailed Hawks hanging out in trees between the parking lot and the bridge, a Brown Creeper who graciously stuck around for everyone to see, a Muscovy Duck down by the river’s edge, and a Great Blue Heron. Our total was 29 species.



Annual Raptor Count

Spend a few hours driving away the winter blues on Saturday February 12, 2022. The annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding with your birding buddies!! No skill is required, just a little time and effort. Plan on a leisurely drive around your area, counting all the hawks you see. Points are awarded for each hawk, although this is not a serious competition. The winner gets bragging rights!! We compile the results from everyone's efforts and keep an eye on trends in hawk populations. In the unwanted event of inclement weather, an alternate date of Sunday February 13 has been set. Contact Anne Tucker (540) 721-1573 if you have any questions. The tally sheet can be emailed to billt3256@gmail.com or mailed to 3256 Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta VA 24121.

Sad Goodbye to Bird Watcher's Digest

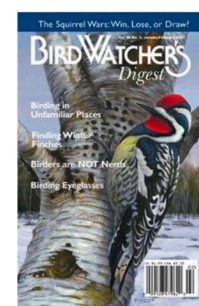
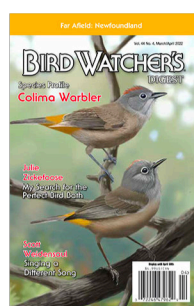
MARIETTA, Ohio (WTAP) -Bird Watcher's Digest, a Marietta-based magazine dedicated to entertaining and informing bird watchers across the globe has released their very last publication.

Wendy Clark, President and Publisher of the magazine, along with several other senior staff members say several factors played into the decision to cease operations. The magazine saw a loss in advertising revenue and had to issue refunds for bird tours due to the pandemic. Several founding members of the magazine, Bill, Elsa and Andy Thompson, all passed away in 2019 and 2020, making 2021 a very challenging year for the magazine's staff.

They were charming and talented and helped form what is now considered a global birding community. The Thompson family was at the forefront of that and we are so proud of that legacy...sad that we can't continue that now but hopefully it will continue on in some form," Clark said.

Maybe not this business but a different one. We have always been really proud to be part of a legacy that started right here in Marietta." Bird Watcher's Digest was founded by Bill and Elsa Thompson in 1978. Operations began at their house on Warren Street in Marietta before moving to Acme Street. As the first major bird magazine, it gained tens of thousands of print and online subscribers from all across the globe.

Six issues of the magazine were published every year, with content from full-time staff members and freelance writers and photographers. Each issue covered a variety of topics including bird feeding, birding hot spots, choosing birding gear, and improving bird-spotting and identification skills.



WINTER RAPTOR COUNT

February 12, 2022

Participants _____

Time Started _____ Time Completed _____

Location _____

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Turkey Vulture	*1			
Black Vulture	*2			
Red-tailed Hawk	5			
American Kestrel	10			
Common Raven	10			
Eastern Screech Owl	**10			
Cooper's Hawk	20			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	20			
Great Horned Owl	30			
Red-shouldered Hawk	30			
Barred Owl	35			
Northern Harrier	40			
Bald Eagle	50			
Barn Owl	50			
Loggerhead Shrike	50			
Merlin	75			
Peregrine Falcon	75			
Rough-legged Hawk	75			
Short-eared Owl	75			
Golden Eagle	100			
Northern Goshawk	100			
Long-eared Owl	125			
Northern Saw-whet Owl	125			
Northern Shrike	150			
Unidentified Raptor	5			

POINT TOTAL _____

* Maximum of 50 Points

** Maximum of 100 Points

Be sure to keep your totals! There is a 10-point bonus for peak counts of these three species.

RULES: Teams must be at least 2 people. Teams may bird any area within a 100-mile radius of Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center. Birds must be seen or heard by at least 2 team members. Count period cannot exceed a total of 12 hours.

Completed forms can be emailed to billt3256@gmail.com or mailed to Anne Tucker 3256 Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta VA 24121. Call Anne at 540-721-1573 with any questions.

Launching Birding Backpack Program - Your Input Needed!

Imagine if you could check out a backpack from a local library complete with all the materials you would need to enjoy your next birding adventure including binoculars and guides? That's the plan! And the club needs you, especially YOU, New Members, to help us develop these backpacks.

Birding backpacks are hardly a new idea. Birding clubs all over the country have partnered with local libraries for years to create all-in-one birding kits to help new birders get started in birding and encourage seasoned birders too! We also hope with this program to open the world of birding to groups that may not have been exposed to it before.

Some of you may have already taken advantage of the telescope astronomy backpacks in area libraries created by the Roanoke Astronomical Society. Our local library system is on board and ready to add birding backpacks to the non-traditional items available for check out. Now it's up to our club to create one relevant to our region.

We need club members to join the Birding Backpack Committee **STARTING NOW**. New club members and members new to birding especially welcomed! Please contact Maxine Fraade at maxinefr@aol.com for more information and get this program rolling.

Meet a Member: Drew Daniels

In 1959 Drew Daniels did a boy scout merit badge in bird study and still has the card to prove it! (See photo). Drew's never stopped being interested in birds, putting up bird feeders and building bluebird and screech owl boxes wherever he's lived. His current ambition in retirement is to photograph all 258 birds on his current life list; he's got almost all of them including a California condor!

Drew studied animal science at Virginia Tech and worked as the cattle manager at media mogul and philanthropist John Kluge's farm in Charlottesville for 4 years. After farming for himself full-time in Staunton, Drew landed in Roanoke where he and his wife Iris raised three children and Drew worked as service and parts manager at Dominion Dodge for 18 years.

While Drew enjoys local birding at Greenfield, his favorite spots are around Denver, Colorado where his youngest daughter lives. Denver is on the central migration flyway and Drew says birds are everywhere. Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Barr Lake and Washington Park in the heart of the city are Drew's prized locations, especially the park's lakes where you can get up very close to the birds.

Drew joined the bird club about 4 years ago thanks to the urgings of Mary Ellen Belcher and Carol Whiteside. And as of this January he is the newest board member of the RVBC serving as VP for Programs. Welcome aboard Drew!

Submitted by Maxine Fraade



Contributions and Support

Each year our membership dues, contributions and fund raising projects allow the RVBC to support non-profit organizations that provide services to further our mission. This year the board has selected the following organizations:

Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) - Through our organization membership dues we have supported the VSO in their efforts to encourage the systematic study of birds in Virginia, stimulate interest in birding through events and field trips, and assist in the conservation of wildlife and other resources.

Blue Ridge Land Conservancy - Contributions are used to protect local lands and natural resources important to the environment and to educate the next generation to become good stewards of the land in our region.

American Bird Conservancy - Contributions are used in their work to prevent bird extinctions, conserve vital habitats, reduce key threats to birds and support bird conservationists.

Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke - We continue support of this local rehabilitation - veterinary center that specializes in songbirds, hawks, owls and small mammals and reptiles native to southwest Virginia.

Nature Camp - Sponsorships allow youth in need of financial assistance to attend a two-week summer camp in the George Washington National Forest. The program educates campers about their responsibility to the earth and natural environment. And budding ornithologists learn to find and identify birds in their natural habitats.

Submitted by: Carol Whitt, Treasurer





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 _____