



# Roanoke Valley Bird Club



November 2022

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **in-person** with a Zoom option on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 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!

## The Magic of Cape May

Jeff Wright, Presenter



Cape May has a long history as a phenomenal birding destination. This presentation will focus on the birds and people that have flocked to this Crossroads of Migration – highlighting the abundance of the common and the celebration of the rare – and the efforts being taken to understand the who, when, and why.

Brett is the Director of New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory. He has been studying and enjoying birds and nature for over 40 years. His passion for birds and their conservation has led to his involvement in many research and educational projects, specializing in migration and distribution patterns. These endeavors have taken him from the mountains of

New Mexico to the beaches of New Jersey, including a stint (no pun intended) as the hawkwatch counter at Cape May in 1990. He looks forward to sharing the wonders of Cape May with you.



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)



*A reminder for the holidays ~*

## **Bluebird Boxes make wonderful gifts!**

\$25 Nest box

Additional:

\$78 Mounting Pole and Predator Guard

Includes easy installation directions and hardware

**\$87 with RVBC Membership** (\$16 discount)

For complete set-up that includes:

Box, pole, predator guard and hardware

**\*\*\*NEW\*\*\* Post Driver** available for installation

Free one week rental with returnable deposit

Contact: Carol Whiteside 540-774-2143

Attracts these federally protected cavity nesters:  
Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Carolina Chickadee  
House Wren, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren

Built to specifications recommended by:  
Virginia Bluebird Society [www.viriniabluebirds.org](http://www.viriniabluebirds.org)



## **Creating Great Birding Habitat: Free Webinar Series!!**

There's mounting research that what we plant in our own green spaces can make a huge difference to both insects and birds. Ohio State University has a Pollinator Habitat 101 series with some excellent speakers. Go to this link to register for upcoming webinars and watch recordings of the recent ones.

Pollinator Habitat 101 | An Introduction and Refresher

[u.osu.edu/pollinators101/](http://u.osu.edu/pollinators101/)

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The first one presented on October 14th featured Doug Tallamy, author of "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard". Tallamy reports an amazing diversity of birds observed on people's property after they added native plants. Subsequent topics include how to create and manage pollinator gardens.

### Club Calendars Ready for Sale

We are excited to offer the Roanoke Valley Bird Club 2023 Calendar. 25 Amazing Photos taken by our own members for only \$16. To see sample pictures, click here

<http://roanokevalleybirdclub.com/2023%20Sneak%20Peek.pdf>

The easiest way to buy one is in person at one of our meetings or on our pick up day at the club meeting location on November 19th from 10am-2pm. You can use cash, check or credit card. As our club fundraiser, we are always looking for places to sell them and your suggestions are welcome at [RVBC2015@outlook.com](mailto:RVBC2015@outlook.com).

Calendar can also be bought online at <http://roanokevalleybirdclub.com/> or by mailing in the order form below to PO Box 20405, Roanoke VA 24018.

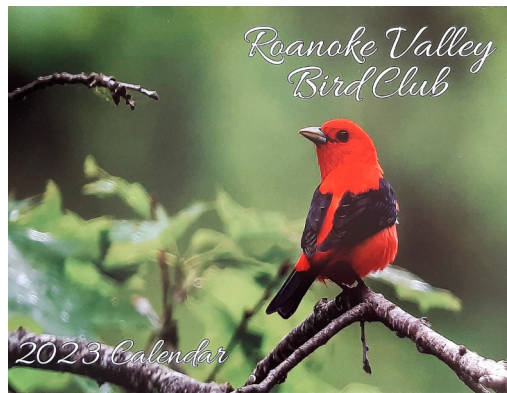
# of Calendars \_\_\_\_\_ X \$16.00 if picking up = \_\_\_\_\_

# of Calendars \_\_\_\_\_ X \$18.50 if shipping = \_\_\_\_\_

Address to send calendars to (enter address even if picking up):

\_\_\_\_\_

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



### Volunteer Opportunities

Roanoke Valley Bird Club members are busy going to community events to sell our calendar. If you can volunteer at our booth for any of the following events, please email [RVBC2015@outlook.com](mailto:RVBC2015@outlook.com) or [sissylogan@gmail.com](mailto:sissylogan@gmail.com). We would love to hear from club members with other locations and events to sell our beautiful calendars. Thank you!

- November 19 from 10am to 2pm - Calendar Pick-up Day - parking lot of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs building 3640 Colonial Ave.
- December 3 from 9am to 2pm - Salem Farmers' Market - Main Street Salem
- December 17 - from 9am to 2pm - Daleville Farmers' Market - Rt 220, Daleville VA

## 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, November 9<sup>th</sup> 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 in search for migrants and incoming waterfowl. The walk will be mostly flat, about 2 miles. We will also cover the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes. 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.

- Sewage Treatment Plant (Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 am)

Join leaders Kent Davis (540-355-6388) and Linda Cory (540-580-5214) for a walk around the Sewage Treatment Plant. Entrance to the STP is by special permit and trip participants must all enter at the same time and stay together with their leader. This site is one of the best spots for viewing shorebirds in the Roanoke Valley. The property includes impoundments, sludge ponds, mudflats, riparian habitat and woodlands. Besides shorebirds, we can expect to see resident hawks and possibly ravens and fish crows. The walking is mostly flat with a short steep trail. Sturdy waterproof boots are recommended as it often muddy.

Directions: Meet at the Greenway parking lot off of Bennington St near the bridge over the Roanoke River; the entrance to the parking area is between the bridge and Brownlee Avenue. Note that Thirteenth Street SE changes names to Bennington St at the bridge over the Roanoke River. After the group has gathered, we will caravan or walk the short distance to the STP, so please arrive a few minutes early.

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

Dec. 14th: Greenfield 2nd Wednesday walk with David Frye

Another trip will probably be scheduled but no date is set yet.

## Field Trip Reports

### October 8th, Bent Mountain by Robin Austin

The weather was a beautiful crisp fall day for twelve birders to enjoy while observing a total of 42 species at two locations on Bent Mountain. We had 36 species around Bent Mountain Center. Some of the highlights were Nothorn Harrier, Yellow-bellied woodpecker, Ruby crowned kinglet, White-throated sparrow, Swamp sparrow, Common yellowthroat warbler, Palm warbler, Pine warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. At many times we had so many birds at once it was very hard to see them all.

## Field Trip Reports, cont

We then traveled to Coles Road just across 221 where we had 21 species. Here we enjoyed the best of the day. Seven Palm Warblers, six Yellow-rumped Warblers and one Wilson's Warbler who put on a great show for all of us to enjoy. Blue Jays were migrating, and we counted 94 while also watching all the other species. It was a real special day on the mountain.

### October 12th, Greenfield by Dave Frye

Dodgy light conditions and chilly weather confronted a small group of 6 birders at Greenfield Lake, but both situations quickly remedied themselves and another terrific morning was had chasing beautiful birds! Methodically working their way around the lake, into the woods, and skirting the meadows, the group was able to log 49 species. The listing of species really showed the diversity of bird life present in this hotspot (puddle ducks, diving ducks, grebes, herons, woodland birds, six species of woodpeckers, late warblers, and a few raptors). The highlights included Tennessee Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, an early arriving Ring-necked Duck, and 23 beautiful Wood Ducks.

### October 29th, Fenwick Mines

Bill Hunley led a group of 13 enthusiastic birders for a walk on a cool, cloudy morning. With patience and group effort we had some good sightings among the total count of 30 species. Highlights included Winter Wren, Golden and Ruby Crowned Kinglets, Purple Finch, Hermit Thrush, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Blue-headed Vireo. Cedar Waxwings were abundant as were White-throated Sparrows, Blue Jays, and American Goldfinch.

## 2023 Officers and Board

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of officers and Board of Directors to be elected at the November Meeting. There are several changes in leadership.

President - Drew Daniels

Vice President of Programming - David Frye

Vice President of Membership - Mary Harshfield

Secretary - Betty Burke

Treasury - Carol Whitt

Directors: Nathan Anderson, Robin Austin, Mary Lou Barritt, Linda Cory, Kent Davis, Maxine Fraade, Sissy Logan

Many Thanks To Kent Davis for his 10 years of service as President! Kent will remain on the Board as a director. Additional thanks to Annie Downing who will be stepping down as a director this year. We welcome David Frye to the Board as V.P. of Programming. Mary Harshfield is stepping down as Field Trip Coordinator to take over V.P. of Membership. Kirk Gardner will become Field Trip Coordinator. Additional thanks to the Nominations Committee for their work putting this slate together: Robin Austin, Betty Burke, Maxine Fraade



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

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### 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 _____