



# September Newsletter

Next meeting Monday  
Sept. 14th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Grandin Court Baptist Church  
2660 Brambleton Ave SW. Roanoke, VA 24015

Before the meeting please join fellow club members at 5:30 p.m.  
for dinner 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 submissions or suggestions to RVBC Newsletter Editor, Maureen Eiger at [rvbcnews@cox.net](mailto:rvbcnews@cox.net)

All phone numbers listed in the newsletter use area code 540 unless otherwise stated.

**Hyperlinks - You can click on the underlined link and it should take you there. Use them 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>

Visit and “like” the Roanoke Valley Bird Club’s Facebook page.

Celebrating 58 Years of  
Birding!  
1957-2015

## Viva Las Vegas Birding!

Presented by Bruce Grimes

This time, what happened in Las Vegas came back to Virginia. Find out where the local hotspots are and see some of the exciting species that call Las Vegas and the surrounding desert area home.



Bruce Grimes is sent for work trips to Las Vegas every 4 or 5 years and consents to the trip only if extra time is allotted for bird-finding excursions. Back from a trip this year with pictures of several additional species, he will show us where to find many of the desert specialties and water birds in Las Vegas, Henderson, and nearby Clark County, NV. Bruce is a member of the New River Valley Bird Club and has been chasing birds with a camera since the ‘90’s. He has since taken up butterflies and dragonflies also as subjects of pursuit.

This month’s meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by  
**ELEANOR DYE**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE RVBC 2016 CALENDAR PHOTO SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**You can also submit your photos at this meeting.  
See page 3 in this issue for more information.**

**A Bird Word** - Do you know what a **Crepuscular Bird** means? Hint, a Barred Owl is a crepuscular owl. Answer is on page 2.

## SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY, MEET AT 8 A.M. - MEADOWS, FENCE ROWS AND WOODS

Meet host and leader Betty Kelly (384-7429) at the Hanging Rock Orange Market for a 17 mile drive to the Kelly's home and farm. Parking is limited, so carpooling is recommended. The Orange Market is located at the intersection of Rt 311 and Rt 419 (1823 Thompson Memorial Drive) Salem, VA. The Kelly property is a combination of pasture land, hedge rows, a stream and woods. Butch Kelly has also planted native grasses to encourage quail as well as pollinator plants. Walking is easy to moderate, so make sure to wear sturdy shoes for this interesting walk.

## SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY, FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. HAWK WATCHING AT HARVEY'S KNOB

Each year, from early September to mid-November, the Roanoke Valley Bird Club participates in hawk watching at Harvey's Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway at mile marker 95.6. Bird Watchers of all skill levels are welcome to stop by to observe the migration. Some days at Harvey's Knob are more exciting than others, but we are hoping that Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> is spectacular. Although this is a field trip, you can arrive or leave whenever you would like. Bring a chair, snacks and warm clothing as needed. Check for sightings and follow the counts at <https://sites.google.com/site/bjame/home> or ask to join the group Harvey's Knob Hawkwatch on Facebook. To volunteer as a hawk watcher, call Bill and Katie James at 798-3030 or by email [bjame@gmail.com](mailto:bjame@gmail.com)



## OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY (RAIN DATE SUNDAY, OCT 11) STARTING AT 7:30 A.M. - THE BIG SIT!



Join us at Tim and Alyce Quinn's house (719-0109) in Burnt Chimney for this stationary bird watching adventure. The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest, sponsored by SWAROVSKI OPTIK, and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. Every team that observes this year's "Golden Bird" has a chance to win \$500. The Golden Bird is selected in a random drawing from the total list of all species seen in North America. All of the circles that list that bird are put into another drawing from which the winning circle is selected. The event has been referred to as a tailgate party for

birders. It works like this: You sit inside a 17-foot diameter circle and count all the bird species you see or hear within a 24-hour period. There are two circles at the Quinns' house and we have fun comparing the birds we see from each one. Since the count goes on all day, you can come any time you want, but the earlier you come, the more birds you'll see. We'll have a potluck lunch around noon, so bring a dish to share. The address is 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184. If you get lost call Alyce on her cell phone (312-6844). From Rt. 220, take a left on Rt. 697 by the Dairy Queen/Bojangles (about 5 miles south of Boones Mill). When it ends, go left on Rt. 122. Go one mile and turn right onto 670 (Burnt Chimney Road). If you're coming from Rt. 116, when it ends at Rt. 122, make a right and then a quick left onto Rt. 670. When you are on Rt. 670, go another mile and turn right onto 868 (Kingston). Go about .8 miles and make a right onto Edgewood Farm Lane (at a bunch of mailboxes). Go half a mile down this gravel road. When the road makes a 90 degree left turn onto Turkey Run, **you instead want to go straight**. This is the beginning of their driveway, and there is a bluebird box here with the house number, 681, on it on the right of the driveway, and an old dilapidated trailer on the left. You can't see the house from here, but go a quarter mile down the driveway and you're there.

## OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY, MEET AT 7:30 A.M. - BIRDING AT "THE BEAVER POND"

Meet Eunice Hudgins (389-4056), Kent Davis (344-8377) and Mike Smith (345-1081) at the Orange Market in Hanging Rock at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to "The Beaver Pond" in Craig County. This is a popular field trip thanks to our hosts, Betsy and George Barker. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a jacket and lunch. You can choose to walk the farm and surrounding woods or just sit on the porch and enjoy birds at their many feeders. The property includes a beaver pond and regular pond as well as open cow pastures and woods. The Orange Market is located at the intersection of Rt 311 and Rt 419 (1823 Thompson Memorial Drive) Salem, VA.

**A Bird Word – Crepuscular Birds** are birds that are active at twilight, dawn or dusk. Some examples include the Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift and American Woodcock.

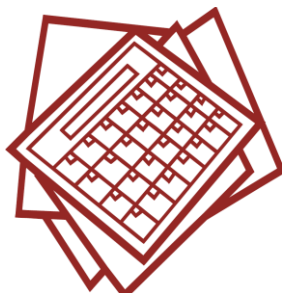
(Chimney Swift photo by Maureen Eiger)



## Upcoming Events and Club News

### RVBC 2016 CALENDAR PHOTO SUBMISSION - Deadline September, 14<sup>th</sup>

Members' photos or artwork requirements:



1. Submit an 8 1/2 " x 11" or 8" x 10 " landscape (horizontal) image.
2. Write a brief description labeled on the back indicating the subject, location, and month or season depicted.
3. On an accompanying sheet provide your name; phone number and email (please do not include any self-identifying information directly on the image(s) submitted).

4. Submit to Pam Ogden or Sissy Logan at the September meeting or by mail to:  
Pam Ogden 615 Academy Street, Salem, VA 24153

For inquiries: Sissy at 353-4500 or e-mail: [sissylogan@gmail.com](mailto:sissylogan@gmail.com)

Pam at 389-9471 or e-mail: [momog@aol.com](mailto:momog@aol.com)

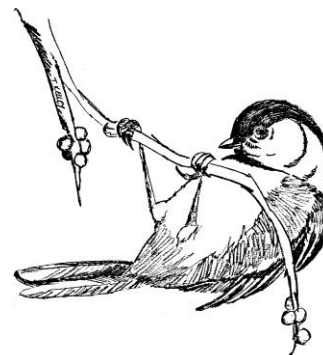
Photos will be returned at the October meeting or include a self-addressed stamped envelope

### MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE FOR 2016

Our 2015 membership year ends August 31, so please renew your membership for 2016. Please fill out the form on the last page to make sure your e-mail and other information is correct. You can save postage and give your dues and form to Eleanor or any RVBC Board Member at any upcoming RVBC meeting or event.

### Roanoke Valley Bird Club's Annual Seed Sale "SEEDS FOR A SONG"

Our club's main fundraiser, Seeds for a Song, is scheduled for November 7th at the Northwest True Value Hardware Store in Hollins. We sell fresh seed containing little or no waste at reasonable prices. The sale is open to the public, so tell your friends! Prices and order forms will be in next month's newsletter. Please consider buying even one small bag of seed to help support the club's worthwhile community projects. We can use all kinds of help at the sale, so if you can spare some time that morning, please contact Alyce Quinn at [twoquinns@yahoo.com](mailto:twoquinns@yahoo.com) or 719-0109 or Eunice Hudgins at [uvaau@aol.com](mailto:uvaau@aol.com) or 389-4056.



### September 11-13, 2015 VSO Fall Field Trip Chincoteague, VA

Every fall is different at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, so join us to discover the surprises that await us on this year's annual fall VSO trip, September 11-13. Last year we tallied 142 species, including a terrific combination of waterfowl, shorebirds and migrating songbirds. To help us plan for the weekend, please register in advance. Provide the names of participants in your party with your mobile number and email address so we can contact you if needed. Register with Meredith Bell, trip coordinator by email [merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com) or (804)824-4958.

### September 18, 2015, The Blue Ridge Parkway is hosting a 24-hour biological inventory or "Bio-Blitz"

Beginning at 2:00 p.m. Friday, the event will be held in the Rock Castle Gorge, in southwest Virginia, and will continue through 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, 2015. During that time botanists, mycologists, ornithologists, biologists, and other specialists are invited to comb the woods, fields and streams looking for as many different plant and animal species as they can find. A special emphasis will be placed on threatened or endangered species, and important habitats. Parkway education staff is also planning a series of activities and programs open to local students and the public in conjunction with the Rock Castle Gorge Bio Blitz. Additional details about these programs can be found on the Parkway's website at [www.nps.gov/blri](http://www.nps.gov/blri). For information about participating in this event please call Bob Cherry at (828) 295-7591 or Lorrie Knies at 745-9680.

### October 8th - 11th, 2015, The 23rd Annual Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival

This is the perfect opportunity to experience the peak of fall bird migration and the wonders of wildlife in a pristine coastal environment that is based in Cape Charles, Virginia. Surrounded by the Chesapeake Bay to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula provides a natural "funnel" effect for migrating hawks, warblers and other songbirds in the fall. For more information go to <http://www.esbirdingfestival.com>

**Trending around the Internet:** The Audubon Mural Project is a collaboration between the National Audubon Society and the Gitler & \_\_\_\_\_ Gallery. It has created murals of climate-threatened birds throughout John James Audubon's old Manhattan neighborhood. Look at some of this cool looking street art and videos of their creation by clicking on - [www.audubon.org/news/the-audubon-mural-project](http://www.audubon.org/news/the-audubon-mural-project)

## Club Projects

## The VSO Annual Meeting hosted by the Roanoke Valley Bird Club

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club will host the Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting April 29-May 1, 2016. You do not have to be a VSO member, but there will be a fee to attend. Look for the registration form in an upcoming newsletter. The meeting will be based at the Sheraton Roanoke Hotel and Conference Center at 2801 Hershberger Rd. Here's what's in store for the weekend:

- Friday evening - happy hour followed by a brief VSO business meeting and then a presentation by the ever-popular Jerry Via and Bill Akers to familiarize you with what birds you can expect to see over the weekend
- Saturday morning - lots of field trips to choose from
- Saturday afternoon - academic papers session
- Saturday evening - happy hour followed by a banquet, with renowned author Pete Dunne as keynote speaker
- Sunday morning - more field trips
- Vendors and exhibitors will be on hand throughout the weekend
- You'll have a chance to win the opportunity to go birding with Pete Dunne

If you're not familiar with Pete Dunne, he is an experienced tour leader, well-known for his newspaper columns and articles in birding magazines. He was the longtime director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, is now New Jersey Audubon's Birding Ambassador, and was a founder of the World Series of Birding. He has written many books, some of which you may find on your bookshelf at home. Pete will be autographing his books, so bring your own or plan to buy some from Buteo Books during the event. If you have a particular book of Pete's that you'd like to purchase, call Buteo Books ahead of time (1-800-722-2460) and they will do their best to locate it for you.

If you or a club or community group you belong to would like to rent a vendor or exhibit table, contact Robin Austin at 929-5222. This is a great way for all you wildlife photographers, artists, wood carvers, etc. to sell your work, and for groups to let others know what they do and why.

If you have contacts in the community, please consider asking them to help sponsor the meeting with a monetary or in-kind donation. For more information about that, contact Nathan Anderson at [nathan.anderson77@live.com](mailto:nathan.anderson77@live.com) or 728-1645.

We could use your help now as plans go forward, as well as during the event, as we expect to host around 150 people at the meeting. If you can offer some time now or later, please contact Alyce Quinn, General Chairman, at [twoquinns@yahoo.com](mailto:twoquinns@yahoo.com) or 719-0109.

### DONATIONS NEEDED FOR VSO MEETING

It takes a village to...well you know...and it takes an entire bird club to make the VSO meeting a smashing success. Among other things, we hope to have terrific door prizes and a silent auction with high-end, BRAND NEW CONDITION items. We'll be soliciting area merchants for some of these but perhaps you have an item with a value of at least \$20+ that you have never used and would like to donate. We are especially seeking items with a bird, nature, or outdoor theme for the door prizes; the auction is open to anything.

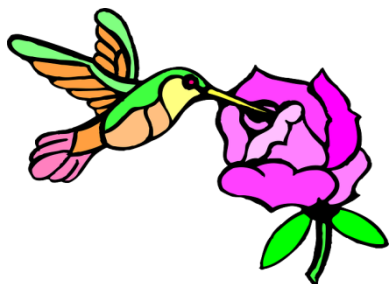
If you have an item, or are not sure, email me or give me a call and we can discuss it. Please email me at [maxinefr@aol.com](mailto:maxinefr@aol.com) or call 989-3961. Thanks, Maxine Fraade, Hospitality Chair.

**P.S.** I am also seeking helpers to create imaginative centerpieces for the banquet. *Please contact me!*



## Meet RVBC Member - Robin Austin

Submitted by Roving Reporter Maxine Fraade



Club treasurer Robin Austin is not only a longtime member of the RVBC, she is named after a bird and her first date with her husband, Allen, was a bird club meeting. It doesn't get much more birdy than that!

A life-long Roanoker, Robin grew up in the Green Valley area of town to parents with a deep connection to nature which she says, "they instilled in me."

She was born in late winter 6 weeks prematurely which decades ago was an iffy situation. When her dad finally got word early one morning that the doctors now considered her out of the woods, he drove straight to the hospital en route spying the first robin of spring. Then and there he decided that would be her name, Robin, as a favorable sign of a new life, a new spring!

Years later, and already living in her current home on Bent Mountain, Robin decided she needed to replace her birdfeeder. The one she liked was on the very top shelf of Lowe's, too high to reach. Who came to assist her? Allen - who proceeded to tell her about the bird club, gave her a ride to the next meeting ... and, "it never stopped," she says. Many bird club members attended the wedding and have since become close friends and an important part of both their lives.

Although she loves hiking and watching birds in their native habitat, Robin feels deeply fortunate to have a variety of birds she can see all year round right from that same home. It is a special place that never gets boring to her or to the RVBC members who have been privileged to share bird watching at her house or admire the ever-busy hummingbird feeders! Thanks again Robin!

## Sightings

Greenfield - July 8, 2015 (8:30-12) Field trip led by Toni Pepin with 16 other birders. Total 55 species. Highlights - many mallards, wood ducks and Canada geese, a great egret, solitary sandpiper, killdeer, willow flycatcher, blue-gray gnatcatcher, black-and-white warbler, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, yellow-billed cuckoo, wild turkey, warbling vireo and grasshopper sparrow.

Greenfield - August 12, 2015 (8:30-11) Field trip led by Toni Pepin with 11 other birders. Total 34 species. Highlights - many mallards, wood ducks and Canada geese, an immature black-crowned night heron, great blue heron, green heron, pied-billed grebe, osprey, broad-winged hawk, song sparrow and American goldfinch. A kettle of black vultures made it feel like fall is on the way.

## Bird Topic

The art of John James Audubon

### John James Audubon: Swift Birds of Passage (Oct. 16 – Feb. 14, 2016)

The Taubman Museum of Art will feature over 50 prints of birds native to (or migratory through) the Southeastern region of the United States. The compilation of works in this exclusive exhibition will both illuminate Audubon's legacy and enlighten us on his artistic and scientific endeavors that transcended its own time. Visit: [www.taubmanmuseum.org](http://www.taubmanmuseum.org).

On Friday, October 16, 2015, from 5:30-8 p.m. partake in the Exhibition Opening & Member Preview Party. Get a first look at the exhibition before it opens to the public. Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres and an art talk on John James Audubon by RVBC member Rupert Cutler.



### Other exhibition related programming:

Saturday October 17, 2015, 8 a.m. **Outdoor Bird Hike on the Greenway** in partnership with Blue Ridge Land Conservancy, FREE, *pre-registration required*  
Thursday, November 12, 2015, 5:30-9 p.m. **Birds of a Feather:** Come to the Museum for an indoor bird hike through the Audubon exhibition, gallery talks, art activities, and live music! FREE

Thursday November 12, 2015, 7:30 p.m. **Distinguished Speaker:** An art historian from Virginia Tech will give a talk in the Taubman Theater in the field of John James Audubon. (Speaker: TBA), FREE, *pre-registration requested*

**RVBC members receive a 10% discount on all museum membership levels! Use promo code: RVBC10** now through Oct. 16, [www.taubmanmuseum.org/join](http://www.taubmanmuseum.org/join).

John James Audubon (French, born in Haiti, 1785-1851), *Great Horned Owl*, 1841, Hand-colored lithograph, 7 x 10" (17.8 x 25.4 cm). Collection of the Taubman Museum of Art; Gift of M. Rupert and Gladys F. Cutler, 2002.142



The Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
C/o Eleanor Dye  
P.O. Box 74  
Vinton, Virginia 24179

## 2015 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