



# September '19 Newsletter

Celebrating 62 Years of Birding  
1957-2019

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 9th at 7PM

**Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Building  
3640 Colonial Avenue Roanoke, VA 24018**

Join fellow club members for dinner at 5:30pm at the Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Ave.

## Hawk Watching Basics and Virginia's Fall Flight: Along the Blue Ridge and Adjoining Piedmont

Presented by Dr. Gene Sattler

Hawk watching is a spectacle enjoyed by many birders, and Virginia offers diverse opportunities to enjoy and study it. We will review some of the basics of hawk migration dynamics and consider what two decades of counting in the Lynchburg area have taught us about the September hawk flight in Virginia's Inner Piedmont relative to the Blue Ridge. Gene Sattler received his M.S. in Biology at Ohio State University studying the reliability of hawk migration surveys, and his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Maryland studying hybridization between Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees at the Smithsonian Institution's Laboratory of Molecular Systematics. He has been a biology professor at Liberty University since 1996 where he teaches Zoology, Ornithology, Animal Behavior, and Vertebrate Natural History. Gene is President of the Lynchburg Bird Club, and with help from the club has been conducting fall hawk counts in the Lynchburg area since 1997 and banding migrating Northern Saw-whet Owls since 2002.



## **CLUB NEWS**

### **DUES ARE DUE**

The start of our club's year starts at our September meeting. There are three options to re-join:

1. By check or cash at the September meeting
2. By the US mail using the form in this newsletter
3. By the web at [www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com](http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com)

### **SEEKING SUBMISSIONS FOR THE 2020 CALENDAR**

Once again, our club is preparing a club calendar and this is your opportunity to submit your photos! Up to four photos per current club member can be accepted in an electronic format. The deadline for your photo submission is September 15th and can be handed in at the September meeting on a disc or thumbdrive or can be emailed to [frenchcreation@comcast.net](mailto:frenchcreation@comcast.net) by 9/15/19. Either way you submit your photos, please supply that your name, phone number, species of the bird, where the photo was taken and any other pertinent information.

The selection process is unbiased – **CLUB MEMBERS GET TO VOTE**. The photos will be posted on our website, [www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com](http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com) from September 21st to October 2nd. Instructions for voting will be on the website when it goes live. Single and Student memberships will have one chance to vote and Family memberships will have two. The top 12 photos will be put in the calendar and will be placed in the month and/or season that the photo best matches.

The price of the calendar will remain at \$12 each and a sample calendar will be at the October and November meetings for pre-orders. Pre-orders can also be done on the website. We will also have them for sale at our annual seed sale.

### **SEEDS FOR A SONG SALE**

Our club's annual fundraiser, Seeds for a Song, is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, at the Northwest Ace Hardware store in Hollins from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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 the October newsletter. It's best to pre-order but we will have a small supply of extra seed at the sale for those who forget. You can order electronically through the club's website using Paypal, or you can either hand your order and payment to Alyce at the October meeting or mail your order form and check to her. Please consider buying even one small bag of seed to help support the club's worthwhile community projects. There are lots of things you can do to help make the sale a success: 1) help the day of the sale--greeting people, loading bags, keeping up with orders, directing people to the correct area to get their seed, etc., 2) make goodies for workers and customers, 3) volunteer your expertise with Excel spreadsheets to help with a mailing to nonmembers in late September/early October (most of our orders come from nonmembers), 4) place an order, 5) spread the word! Please contact Alyce Quinn at [twoquinns@yahoo.com](mailto:twoquinns@yahoo.com), 540-719-0109, or 540-312-6844 if you can volunteer or need more information.

## Bird Club at the Roanoke Go Outdoors Festival GO FEST October 18-20, 2019

The Roanoke Go Fest is FUN, it's FREE and for the 4th time RVBC will be there! For those who missed this great event in previous years, the Roanoke Go Outdoors Festival is a celebration of all things out of doors in the Roanoke Valley. Over 125 clubs, organizations, and vendors offering activities, exhibits, and merchandise over three days: Friday, Saturday and Sunday October 18,19, 20 at Rivers Edge Sports Complex 210 Reserve Ave near Carillion (formerly the Victory Stadium).

What's the Bird Club doing in 2019? Keeping it simple. We'll have great handouts about birding at our tent and our ever-popular Name That Bird! game.

But we need YOU to make this happen. We need volunteers in all time slots to talk to attendees, explain what birding is about and share our enthusiasm and expertise. Name that Bird! attracted players of all ages and was fun for volunteers and participants.

Thanks to all those who staffed our booth in previous years. Please! Volunteer again! And if you haven't before, even a couple of hours are welcome! We need coverage Friday afternoon for set-up, and Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday all day and take down Sunday late afternoon. Parking is available at the Riverside Garage and there is some on the street.

We'll have signup sheets at the September and October meetings or email Maxine Fraade at maxinefr@aol.com to volunteer. Let's spread the word that birding is a great activity for all ages. For more information about the festival see <http://www.roanokegofest.com/>



## **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

(For any additional information please contact Linda Cory at 540-580-5214 or RVBC2015@outlook.com)

### **SEPTEMBER 11th, WED., 8AM – SECOND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD**

Join co-leaders Barry Whitt (309-4353) and Annie Downing (520-6027) 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 2 miles. We will also cover the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! For those that want to stay afterwards, we can lunch at Ballast Point Brewery overlooking the lake. This walk will be repeated on October 9th.

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.

### **SEPTEMBER 21st, SAT., 9-4PM - Hawkwatching on Harvey's Knob (Rain date Sunday, September 22nd)**

From September to November, our club and the Lynchburg club report data on the hawk migration at Harvey's Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Located at milepost 95.6, all are welcome to join our resident hawkwatchers to see how it is done. Bring a lawn chair, binoculars, and a spirit of adventure for learning about the annual hawk migration. For this field trip, you can arrive and leave when you like and even though you may not be ready to ID each hawk as it passes, extra eyes are ALWAYS needed. As an added incentive, club member Barry Kinzie has offered to serve "breakfast sausage gravy" starting at 9am until supplies last. At this event, you can also sign up for time slots to help collect data for the hawk migration season. To volunteer or learn more, call Bill and Katie James at 520-8400 and visit <https://sites.google.com/site/bijame/home> .

Directions: The hawk watch area is at Harvey's Knob at milepost 95.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway near the Peaks of Otter.

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS cont.

### **OCTOBER 5th, SAT., 7:30AM Birding at Beaver Pond**

Meet Eunice Hudgins (389-4056) and Barry and Carol Whitt (309-4353) at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock at 7:30AM to carpool to George and Betsy Barker's "Beaver Pond" in Craig County. Wear sturdy shoes, warm clothes and bring a packed lunch/drink. You can choose to walk around the farm and woods area or do some porch birding overlooking the Barker's many feeders. This property includes a pond with an active beaver lodge, wetland area, open pastures as well as woodland trails. In the past, we have been treated to Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a resident albino Red-Tailed Hawk, Snipe and several butterfly species.

Directions: The Hanging Rock Orange Market is at 1823 Thompson Memorial Drive, Roanoke (just off of the I-81 at either Exits 140 or 141).

### **OCTOBER 12th, SAT., 7:30AM , Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory in Union, WV**

Meet co-leaders Betty Burke (540-597-3863) and Bob Crawford for a 1.5 hour drive to the Hanging Rock Raptor Center near the Virginia/West Virginia border. The drive time includes a quick pit-stop at the Hanging Bridge Restaurant & Shop in Paint Bank, VA on the way to the observatory. This is an all-day trip, so bring a packed lunch and water. Wear hiking boots for the one mile moderate to steep walk up to the observatory tower from the parking lot. Also, wear layered clothing as it will be cold and windy at 3,800 foot elevation. Carpooling is a must and there is a port-a-potty at our destination. The Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory is owned by the US Forest Department and is supported by a non-profit group that monitors the migration of raptors. The target bird is the Golden Eagle, but an array of other birds of prey will be seen. The observatory is located on a rocky ridge with a 360 degree view.

Directions: We will meet at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock, 1823 Thompson Memorial Drive, Roanoke (just off of I-81 at either Exits 140 or 141). Yes, the Hanging Rock where we will start our trip is not the same Hanging Rock where the observatory is – just a coincidence.

### **September 20-22 VSO Chincoteague and Assateague NWR Trip**

Jerry Via and Bill Akers lead this annual birding field trip. The weekend includes a Friday evening presentation to review of shorebirds and go over all of the field trips. They include: birding & biking, migratory warbler walk, and motorcade to Assateague Beach for shorebird watching. In addition, for a fee, there are the traditional and worthwhile boat excursion and/or bus trips to Wash Flats. Please reserve your spots when you register. There will be a tally of the day's species late in the afternoon. For hotel info and registration see [www.virginiabirds.org/events/upcoming-field-trips-index](http://www.virginiabirds.org/events/upcoming-field-trips-index).

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### **April 28 – Warbler Road**

Tim and Alyce Quinn hosted this annual trip with 22 in attendance. 54 species were seen focusing on warblers: Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white, Hooded, Cerulean, Parula, Yellow-rumped, Prairie, Black-throated Green including great looks at a Canada Warbler and a record 33 Redstarts. Also seen were Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, all 5 types of vireos, Raven, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Wood Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, both Orioles, 15 Scarlet Tanagers, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeak and 6 Sandhill Cranes!

### **May 8 - 2nd Wednesday Walk at Greenfield**

This walk never ceases to amaze with a nice array of waterfowl in the Winter, migrants in the Spring and Fall and Summer Breeding residents like the Baltimore Oriole and Yellow Warbler. 51 species were observed with highlights being both Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, close looks at a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, both Rough-winged and Tree Swallows, Raven, both Warbling and Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Waterthrush, both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak.

### **May 11 – Big Spring Day**

Total bird species were down for this event due to rain, rain and more rain. The Lynchburg and Roanoke Bird Clubs combined efforts for the 49th Big Spring Day resulting in 115 species vs. 123 the year before. Noted was the absence of White-throated Sparrows, Ospreys, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Wood Ducks. But there was a noted 18 Yellow-billed Cuckoos (that's why they call them Rain Crows). There was excitement in finding a Chuck-Will's-widow and a Northern Bobwhite. Also seen was a Red-headed Woodpecker, a Blackpoll Warbler and a Black-billed Cuckoo, Spotted Sandpiper and Warblers (Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged and Yellow-rumped). The list also included Wild Turkeys, Ravens, 7 Barred Owls, 13 Whip-poor-wills, Acadian Flycatchers, Grasshopper Sparrows and 248 Red-eyed Vireos! The 50th Big Spring Day count will be on May 9 in 2020, so please consider joining us next year. Thanks to Barry and Carol Whitt for organizing our volunteer teams and to Jim Elder with the Lynchburg Club for compiling data.

### **May 12 - Little Spring Day at Finca Aloha**

Although it was a wet and drizzly day, 7 birders were treated to a Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Thrush and grassland Sparrows (Grasshopper, Field and Chipping). 32 species were scene in total.

### **May 28 – Parks and Parking Lots**

This was a fun scavenger hunt for 15 bird club members. Each destination had target birds and we found them all. We birded the field behind Keagy Village, Mettis Plaza parking lot, the following parks: Oak Grove, Garst Mill, Fishburn Park, Smith and Rotary Park in Salem. Target birds were Yellow-crowned Night Herons on the nest, Great-crested Flycatcher, Kingbirds, Scarlet Tanagers, House and Carolina Wrens on the nest, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles.

### **June 1 - Rocky Knob, Blue Ridge Parkway**

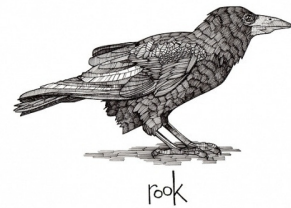
17 birders joined Park Range Tom Davis at Parkway hotspots around Rocky Knob. It was a beautiful day and although we missed our target bird, the Swainson's Warbler, several specialty birds were seen including Prairie Warbler, other Warblers (Hooded, Black and White, Parula), the trifecta of Vireos (Yellow-throated, Red-eyed and Blue-headed), Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Meadowlarks and a great display put on by Red-tailed and Broadwing Hawks.

### **August 1 – Hummingbirds at the Austins**

This annual event is always a great way to birdwatch and then eat lunch with many, many hummingbirds performing acrobatics around you. Besides the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, we saw Kingbirds, Common Yellowthroat, Cedar Waxwings, Tree and Barn Swallows and a Great Blue Heron.



Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
c/o Eleanor Dye  
PO Box 74  
Vinton, VA 24179



**2018—2019 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships expire August 31st.

<b>Annual Dues</b>	
Individual \$12	_____
Family \$20	_____
Student \$7	_____
Sustaining \$30	_____
Adopt a Bluebird \$15	_____
Additional Contribution	_____
Total Payment	_____
Make check payable to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club c/o Eleanor Dye Box 74 Vinton, VA 24179	