

---

**Subject:** January 2017 News Letter

---

**From:** Roanoke Valley Bird Club (nathan.anderson77@live.com)

---

**To:** cesiler@yahoo.com;

---

**Date:** Tuesday, January 3, 2017 11:42 AM

---



# January '17 Newsletter

Celebrating 60 Years of Birding  
1957-2017

## Next Meeting

Monday, January 9th at 7PM  
Gradin Court Baptist Church  
2660 Brambleton Ave. Roanoke, VA 24015

(Join fellow club members for dinner at 5:30PM at Brambleton Deli; 3655 Brambleton Ave.)

## **JANUARY PROGRAM**

~

## **You Will Never Look At The Sky The Same Again**

**Presented by King & JoAnn Irvin**

Approximately 3 to 5 billion North American birds will migrate south in the fall. A large number of raptors will pass through Panama on their way to winter feeding and nesting grounds in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile.

Harvey's Knob Hawk Count participates in this fall raptor migration, counting just a few thousand birds each fall.

Just next to the southern locks of the Panama Canal on the Pacific Ocean side and next to beautiful Panama City, sits a small hill just 653 feet high, Cerro Ancon, one of the major hawk counting sights in Panama. Cerro Ancon has a commanding view of the Panamanian southern coast, the coastal mountain range to the West, the interior mountains to the north, and the city of Panama to the East. Like Harvey's Knob, Cerro Ancon takes part in the great raptor migration count, with single day counts as great as 2 million birds. The birds are almost exclusively Broad-winged Hawks, Turkey Vultures, Swainson's Hawks and Mississippi Kites with far fewer Ospreys, Swallow-tailed Kites and Peregrine Falcons. Black Vultures are not counted, however their numbers are at least as great as the Turkey Vultures. The occasional Northern Harrier, Merlin or Cooper's Hawk wanders by as well. Additional migrating birds such as storks, pelicans and other non-raptor species can be seen.

Blanketed by protected tropical rainforest, Panama is home to diverse wildlife including monkeys, sloths, parrots, toucans and hummingbirds abound around vast blooming forests.

During this presentation, from the vistas of Cerro Ancon, we will visit the 'River of Raptors'. Enjoy the many rainbow colors of some of Panama's most beautiful hummingbirds. In addition witness some spectacular images of other wonderful creatures of Panama.

Explore pictorially this river of raptors, 'You Will Never Look At The Sky The Same Again'.

Presented by King & JoAnn Irvin, naturalist photographers, Central and South American adventurers.



---

## Exciting Sightings

Cathy & George Clemo: Bufflehead at Windsor Lake

Carol & Barry Whitt: Tundra Swans, White Pelicans, Barred Owl at "Wings over Water:

Bob Miller: Red Breasted Nuthatch at his home

Patty Arrington: Brown Headed Nuthatch at her home

Sissy Logan: Bald Eagle at Green Hill

Carol Whiteside: Red Breasted Nuthatch at her home

George Blaner & Maxine Fraade: Red Breasted Nuthatch at their home

Bob & Betty Crawford: Wood Storks at Harris WLP

Kent Davis: Snow Goose at Greenfield; Great Egret at Murray's Pond

Emma and Chris Kotlowski: Golden Eagle at Paint Bank

Carol Croy: Female Rufous Hummingbird at her home



---

## Upcoming Field Trips

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

### **January 11th, Wednesday, 9AM Second Wednesday Bird Walk at Greenfield**

Join co-leaders Joanne Derryberry and Linda Cory (580-5214) at 9AM for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search for waterfowl and songbirds. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 1/2 miles. There are benches along the trail for "birding from the bench". Other walking at the property MAY be limited to construction including the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! Meet at the second parking lot at Greenfield on the right across the road from the lake. Greenfield is located on Route 220 in Botetourt County. Directions: Take Exit 150B on I81 and then a right onto Route 11 for a quarter mile. Take a right onto Route 220N. Go 3.8 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center, across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation. THIS TRIP WILL REPEAT ITSELF ON FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **January 21<sup>st</sup>, 9AM Ponds of Botetourt**

It's time to check out those ducks and waterfowl that are returning to our lakes and ponds! Barry Whitt (309-4353) and Kent Davis (355-6388) will lead us pond hopping. Please bring your scope if you have one and dress warmly. We will meet at the parking lot next to Bojangles at Botetourt Commons on Route 220 in Daleville. Due to construction, 150B may be closed, so follow detour signs or exit 150A and do a U-turn. We will carpool to various ponds in the area in search of winter waterfowl. We should return around 1PM. If the ponds are frozen, we may do other birding in the area.

**January 28th, 9AM**

**Creeks and Rivers of the Roanoke Valley and Surrounds**

Meet Kent Davis (355-6388) and Barry Whitt (309-4353) at the lower level Towers lot facing Brandon Avenue near the Dunkin Donuts (formerly Suntrust bank). We will walk part of the greenway along Roanoke River and tributaries and possibly Back Creek and Crystal Creek. We will conclude around noon.

**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 8AM**

**Highland County Trip**

Meet Fred Cramer (890-8026) and Rupert Cutler (345-7653) for this exciting day of birding in Highland County. The target bird is the golden eagle which has been seen on this trip in the past. We should also see bald eagles and a good variety of waterfowl. We will start by traveling north on 220, bird the Blue Grass area near Monterey and bird Lake Moomaw and surrounds. This is a full day event, so please bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. We will carpool (the fewer the cars, the better) from Bojangles at Botetourt Commons on 220N from I-81 at exit 150B. If exit 150B is closed, follow the detour signs or take 150A and do a U-turn. Please watch your email in case this trip gets cancelled or postponed due to weather. There's Roanoke weather and then there's Highland County weather.

**February 3-5 2017**

**VSO Field Trip Outer Banks**

Join leaders: Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Lee Adams and Meredith and Lee Bell. Details are on the VSO website <http://www.virginiabirds.org>. Hotel Reservations must be made by January 2, 2017 to get the special VSO rate. This is a wonderful trip and a long, long time tradition for the Virginia Society of Ornithology. As of last month, at least 6 RVBC members will be there.

**Field Trip Sightings**

The December 3<sup>rd</sup> Starkey Wetlands field trip reported 29 species including a Coopers hawk, yellow-bellied sapsucker, flicker, purple finches and a special treat – a fox sparrow.



---

## Club News

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT**

As a reminder, email your list of birds seen/heard on the first day of the 2017 to [RVBC2015@outlook.com](mailto:RVBC2015@outlook.com). Rules were in the December newsletter, but here are the criteria for compiling your list. Bird at the place of YOUR choosing anytime between midnight of December 31<sup>st</sup> and midnight of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Highlights of our New Year's lists will be announced at the January meeting and in the February newsletter. Let's keep up this fun tradition. Good luck everyone and Happy New Year!

### **A HOLIDAY/CHRISTMAS CARD BIRD COUNT!**

As bird watchers, we all receive cards from family and friends with birds on them. You might even send out cards with our feathered friends on them, too. In the spirit of competition, count all of the birds that are on the cards that you receive during the 2016 holiday season. Please remember to bring your total number of birds counted on your received cards to the January 9th meeting. There will be a first and second place prize! You don't have to list species (how can we when card makers use artistic license), but just a total number. If you are unable to attend the January meeting, send your number total with a friend or email [RVBC2015@outlook.com](mailto:RVBC2015@outlook.com).

### **ANNUAL RAPTOR COUNT**

Cure the winter birding blahs! Plan to spend a few hours driving away the birding blues on Saturday, February 11, 2017. The annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding!! No skill required, just a little time and effort. We count all the hawks that we can find. Just an excuse to get together with your birding buddies and enjoy a winter outing!! The form and more details will be in the February newsletter.

---

## Officers/Contacts

### **Officers**

President – Kent Davis  
344-8377 ~ kedjr@cox.net

VP (Membership) – Eleanor Dye  
890-1627 ~ bluebrd8593@verizon.net

VP (Programs) – Toni Pepin

Secretary - Linda Barker

Treasurer - Sissy Logan

### **Directors**

Nathan Anderson  
Mary Lou Barritt  
Mary Ellen Belcher  
Linda Cory  
Maxine Fraade  
Eunice Hudgins  
Mary Harshfield  
Robin Austin

### **Refreshments**

Nancy Luce  
721-6109 ~ lucenest@gmail.com

### **Newsletter**

If you have anything you'd like in the newsletter  
the deadline is the 20th of the month.

Please feel free to forward any information  
to nathan.anderson77@live.com.

Additionally if you have any questions,  
please feel free to contact me at 540-728-1645.

Regards, Nathan



*Copyright © 2017 Roanoke Valley Bird Club, All rights reserved.*

You are receiving this email because you signed up to receive our monthly newsletter.

**Our mailing address is:**

Roanoke Valley Bird Club

3330 Alcoa Rd.

Roanoke, VA 24014

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

*MailChimp*