



# March '21 Newsletter

Celebrating 64 Years of Birding

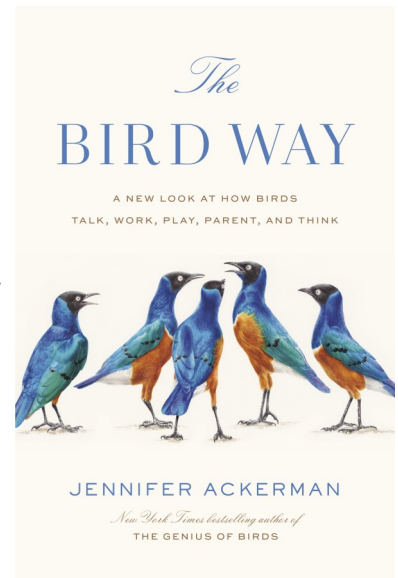
## NEXT MEETING

**Our meeting will NOT be in person, rather we'll meet using the technology of Zoom. Our meeting will be 7PM, Monday, March 8th. You'll receive a link in your inbox a few days before the meeting. (\*\*Please see note on pg. 2!\*\*)**

## **THE BIRD WAY: How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent and Think**

Join New York Times bestselling author Jennifer Ackerman for a multimedia presentation on her latest book about birds, *The Bird Way*. The talk explores a kaleidoscope of fascinating behaviors in the bird world through the lens of five daily activities—communication, work, play, love, and parenting. It tells stories about some of the extraordinary ways that birds do these things and the secret, sophisticated intelligence underlying their behaviors. The talk ranges from the tropical rainforests of eastern Australia and the remote woodlands of northern Japan, to the rolling hills of lower Austria and the islands of Alaska's Kachemak Bay, and includes audio, video, and spectacular photos by professional photographers and sound recording specialists.

A bird lover since childhood, Jennifer Ackerman has been writing about nature and science for three decades. Her most recent book, *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think*, is described by reviewers as "splendid and spellbinding," "exhilarating", "an enthralling study of the avian world." The book was selected as an Editor's Choice by the New York Times, a Best Science Book of 2020 by National Public Radio's Science Friday show, and a Nature Book of the Year by The London Sunday Times. Her previous book, *The Genius of Birds*, was a New York Times bestseller and has been published in 25 languages. Jennifer has contributed articles and essays to National Geographic, The New York Times Magazine, Scientific American, Natural History Magazine, and many other publications.



## CLUB NEWS

### Zoom Meeting with Jennifer Ackerman!! **\*\*Please Read!\*\***

For this month's talk we are being joined by seven other clubs throughout Virginia: New River Valley Bird Club, Richmond Audubon Society, Rockbridge Bird Club, Lynchburg Bird Club, Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society, Cape Henry Audubon Society, and Margaret Watson Bird Club. We're cost sharing the speaking fees and the additional technology cost. There will be room for 500 people, with each club originally having 60 "virtual seats." And I'll reallocate "seats" on March 1, reassigning "seats" from smaller clubs to the larger clubs. Our club will have approximately 75 or 80 "seats," so we're going to need a fairly accurate count of folks who will be attending. Please email me at [nathan.anderson77@live.com](mailto:nathan.anderson77@live.com) or call/text 540-728-1645 to let me know that you'll be attending. And do not share the zoom link with the public or on social media. On the evening of the talk, you'll be muted when you enter the room. Please remain muted through the talk. At the Q&A time at the end, the only way we'd like questions will be through the chat. This talk will not be recorded at the wishes of Ms. Ackerman.

### Meet a Member: Kirk Gardner

Welcome to Kirk Gardner who recently joined the RVCB and brings a solid birding background with him. Kirk just moved from Louisiana where he worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service for 3 years and is now with the US Forest Service.

Kirk was a member of the Louisiana Ornithological Society and participated in the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival which combines looking for and banding elusive yellow rails (and black rails if they're lucky), with observing the annual rice harvest which flushes them out of the wetlands. In the picture to the right, he is holding a Clapper Rail. He also worked extensively with red cockaded woodpeckers and participated in the Louisiana breeding bird survey.

Kirk hails originally from Asheville N.C. and now lives in Roanoke City with his fiancée and two children.



—Maxine Fraade

## **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. When birding with a group, please wear a mask and social distance.

### **March 10th, 8:00 AM, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield**

Join leader Dick Grubb (728-1029) in a walk around Greenfield Lake in search for migrants and 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 a 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 the right.

### **March 20th, 6:30 p.m. Woodcock Walk on Bent Mountain**

Meet Robin Austin (293-9071) at the Bent Mountain Community Center for an evening walk of birding and Woodcock watching. We will visit the boardwalk at the community center (formerly Bent Mountain Elementary school) and then walk the surrounding area. The group will then carpool to a nearby area to observe the Woodcocks that start their courtship flight at sunset. Walking is level, but wear waterproof shoes as we will be walking on the grassy roadside. Directions: The Community Center is at 10148 Tinsley Lane, Bent Mountain VA 24059.

### **March 27th, 8:30 a.m., Tinker Creek Greenway**

Join leaders Mary Lou and Sid Barritt for a productive bird walk along the Tinker Creek Greenway. We should see lots of woodpeckers, songbirds, and some waterfowl. Our target birds are the Winter Wren and Brown Creeper. It is 3 miles of mostly even walking, but wear waterproof shoes. Directions: Meet in the Fallon Park parking lots in SE Roanoke. Heading down Dale Ave away from downtown Roanoke, look for the park entrance on your left (just past Fallon Park Elementary School). Once you have entered the park, the parking lot will be on the right in a quarter mile. The address given is 2116 Dale Ave SE, Roanoke.

## **APRIL 3rd, SAT., 8:00 AM ---- Locher Tract**

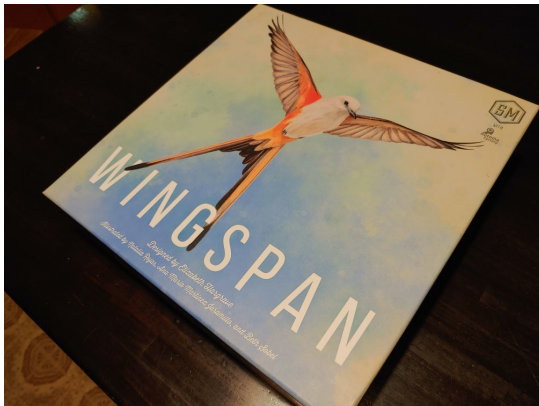
Meet Bill Hunley (467-3477) at Botetourt Commons for a morning field trip to Locher Tract, located in the Jefferson National Forest. This is a managed wildlife habitat that contains woods, open fields, a beaver pond and good views of the James River. We can expect a good variety of birds, including early migrant warblers, Wood Duck and Fox Sparrow. Locher Tract is near Natural Bridge Station in Rockbridge County. There will be 2 miles of level walking. If time permits we will also stop at Arcadia and nearby Solitude Swamp. Wear water proof shoes. Directions: On I-81, take exit 150B and follow signs to 220N. Go 3/4 miles and take a left on Kingston Rd into the Botetourt Commons shopping center. We will meet in the Bojangles parking area.

## **Field Trip Reports:**

Feb.10th, 2nd Wednesday walk at Greenfield: Six birders enjoyed a fruitful morning of birding before the threatened rain. They observed 30 species including Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Shoveler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Towhee and Golden-Crowned Kinglet.

## **Wingspan: The Board Game for Bird Lovers**

Our family loves board games, so much so, we usually purchase a new game at least once a year. Some of our favorites include Ticket to Ride and Seven Wonders. When Wingspan came out last year, it was an easy decision to get it. It is a fabulous game both from a gamer and a birder perspective. You grow your flock by playing bird cards on the different habitat zones of your board. They eat food and lay eggs. Each bird is worth certain points, and the winner has the most points on his/her board at the end. It is beautifully illustrated and scientifically accurate. It is for one to five players, and takes about an hour to play. We give it five out of five stars!





Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
PO Box 20405  
Roanoke, VA 24018



2020—2021 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships expire August 31st.

Annual Dues	
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 PO Box 20405 Roanoke, VA 24018	