



October 2010 Newsletter

*Celebrating 53 Years
of Birding! 1957-2010*

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Visit our club's website:
www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

SEPTEMBER MEETING

We watched the DVD *Hummingbirds: Marvels of Nature*, which featured all the hummers to be seen in the U.S.



Blue-tailed Emerald

NEXT MEETING:

**October 11, 7:00 p.m.
Grandin Court Baptist
Church**

Join us for *Birding in Northern Peru* presented by Bill Akers. The Marañon River Valley is an immense complex of canyons that have allowed isolated species to evolve into range-limited endemic species. The valley is home to an array of hummingbirds, woodpeckers, tanagers, parrots, and many other tropical species, along with spectacular scenery. Bill is a member of the New River Valley Bird Club.

*Please join us for dinner before the meeting
at 5:30 p.m. at the Brambleton Deli at 3655
Brambleton Road.*

RVBC Annual Seed Sale Fund Raiser November 6, 2010

Seed Sale orders must be received by Wednesday, October 20. The sale is open to the public, so please copy the form and distribute it to friends and neighbors. **Please feel free to distribute/post enclosed seed sale poster.** There will be a small supply of extra seed available the day of the sale for those unable to pre-order.

The sale will take place on November 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Northwest True Value Hardware near Hollins on Route 11. The store is a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College. 7650 Williamson Road • Roanoke, VA 24019 • (540) 362-2112

Seed Sale order form is enclosed. (The order form is also available on the RVBC website.) Please complete the form and mail with your check, payable to Roanoke Valley Bird Club, to: Alyce Quinn, 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184. Orders must be received by October 20. (Please do not send RVBC dues to Alyce. RVBC dues should be mailed to Eleanor Dye.)

If you would like to volunteer to help set up, keep track of orders, visit with the public, and load bags, please contact Alyce Quinn: twoquinns@yahoo.com or phone: 719-0109; or Eunice Hudgins: uvaau@aol.com or phone: 389-4056.

2011 Annual Dues

It's time to renew your membership. Please complete the form on the back of the newsletter and send it and your check to **Eleanor Dye**.

2011 RVBC Calendar

There were 60 photo submissions for the 2011 RVBC calendar. The selection committee (Eunice Hudgins, Pat Johnson & Sissy Logan) made their choices and the submitters have been notified. A sample calendar will be available at the Oct. RVBC meeting. All submissions will be returned at the meeting (or by other arrangements).

FIELD TRIPS

CHAIRMAN

BOB MILLER 797-0462

SHARE THE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

October 9, 8:00 AM, Sparrow Walk

Sparrow walk in the Daleville area. Meet at Botetourt Commons parking lot near Bojangles at 8:00. Leader - Bill Hunley. (774-2397)

The Big Sit! Sunday, October 10

Join us at Tim and Alyce Quinn's (719-0109) house in Burnt Chimney (*arrive early to see the most birds*) for this 24-hour stationary bird watching adventure. A light breakfast will be available (bagels, fruit, juice, coffee, etc.) at 7:00 and we'll eat lunch around noon. Feel free to bring a dish to share. You might want to bring a lawn chair. The count will go on for the 24-hour period starting at one minute after midnight the morning of October 10, and going till midnight that night, so come whenever you want, and stay as long as you want. If you plan to arrive before 7:00 a.m., though, please let them know so they can tell you where the circles are, 'cause the Quinns won't be out yet!

We will use the event as a club fund raiser. We'll collect pledges for each species the team tallies during the event. (Please call Eunice Hudgins at 389-4056 to make a pledge.)

FIELD NOTES

Sept. 18, 8:00 AM, Peaks of Otter

Highlights on this warm fall day: Cape May warbler, black-throated green warbler, scarlet tanager, belted kingfisher, rose-breasted grosbeak, scarlet tanager, red-eyed vireo, blue-headed vireo, and cedar waxwing.

Sept. 25, 8:00 AM, Walk in Wasena Park

Three birders enjoyed a walk through Wasena and Smith Park. The highlight was a gorgeous Baltimore oriole snacking in a sycamore. Other species sighted: tufted

titmouse, American goldfinch, blue jay, belted kingfisher, northern cardinal, downy woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, eastern phoebe, northern mockingbird, Carolina wren, great blue heron, mallard, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina chickadee, unidentified accipiter, song sparrow, American crow, and European starling.

SIGHTINGS

Sept. 5, Mill Mountain: Kent Davis and Mike Smith spotted a Philadelphia vireo.

Sept. 11: Barry Kinzie saw three soras on Greenfield Lake at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield.

Sept. 15: Barry Kinzie reported Nashville warbler and Philadelphia warbler sightings at Harvey's Knob.

Harvey's Knob Fall Hawkwatch Totals: On Sept. 19, 7,313 broad-winged hawks flew over the Knob. Bringing the 2010 fall total to 10,946 broad-winged hawks. Also, 89 osprey, 6 peregrine falcons, and 46 bald eagles have been sighted so far this season.

For a detailed listing of sightings at Harvey's Knob and other hawkwatch sites in North America visit <http://sites.google.com/site/bijame/home>

If you're available to hawkwatch please contact Bill James: 563-9248.

The Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program in Cape Charles, Virginia

Support the 18th Annual Eastern Shore of Virginia Birding and Wildlife Festival starting on Thursday, October 7th and running through the 10th.

The Festival will feature fun birding field trips, boat tour excursions, bird and other wildlife-related programs, and exhibits from conservation agencies and organizations including our own.

The National Audubon Society is also pleased to announce that Dr. Greg Butcher, our Director of Bird Conservation, will be the Festival's keynote speaker on Friday evening. Dr. Butcher will focus on the State of Virginia's Birds. Additionally, Mary Elfner, Virginia's Important Bird Areas Coordinator, will be presenting a Landowner Conservation Award to Mr. Tommy O'Connor for his land conservation efforts in the Barrier Island Lagoon System IBA.

For more information and details regarding registration, please visit <http://www.esvafestivals.com/>. You may also follow the event on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/ESVafestivals>.

SEEDS FOR A SONG

November 6, 2010

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser In Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware

We are having a seed sale to benefit both you and the community. By placing an order with us, you will get quality seed containing little or no waste, harvested this year, at reasonable prices. Proceeds from the sale will be used for community projects. The sale is open to the public, so please copy this form and distribute it to friends and neighbors. There will be a small supply of extra seed available the day of the sale for those unable to pre-order. Refreshments will be served, and experienced bird watchers/feeders will be on hand the day of pick-up to answer any questions.

Orders must be picked up on Saturday, November 6, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., at:

**Northwest True Value Hardware (in the Hollins area)
7650 Williamson Road, Roanoke VA 24019
(540)-362-2112**

The store is about a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College.

If you are unable to pick up your seed on November 6, please make arrangements for someone else to pick it up for you.

It's easy to order:

1. Complete the enclosed order form, being sure to include your name, phone number, and address along with your seed selections.
2. Calculate the total, which **already includes** Virginia sales tax.
3. Mail your completed form and check, payable to Roanoke Valley Bird Club, ***in time for it to be received by October 20***, to: Alyce Quinn, 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184.. (Please do not include membership dues with your seed sale order. Membership dues should be mailed to Eleanor Dye.)

Seed Descriptions

Wild birdseed mixes attract ground-feeding birds such as mourning doves, juncos and sparrows:

- *Gourmet Mix*: contains millet, sunflower, safflower and thistle.
- *Shell Free Mix*: a waste-free mix of millet, sunflower chips, cracked corn, canary seed and peanut hearts.

Sunflower seed is the best all-around food, favored by a wide variety of birds:

- *Black Oil Sunflower*: smaller than the striped, with thinner shell, more kernel and higher oil content; preferred 2:1 over other seed by most feeder birds.
- *Sunflower Chips*: the heart of the seed, virtually no hull, no mess, and more meat per pound.
- *Striped Sunflower*: many common feeder birds, such as cardinals, jays, grosbeaks, titmice, chickadees, sparrows and finches, as well as squirrels, like this larger, thicker shelled seed.

Specialty seeds:

- *Nyjer (Thistle)*: especially good for goldfinches and pine siskins, this seed is rich in nourishing oil.
- *White Millet*: favored by ground feeding birds such as juncos, towhees, buntings and sparrows.
- *Safflower*: squirrels don't care for it, but many birds such as cardinals, grosbeaks and juncos do.
- *Peanuts*: a favorite of woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays.

SEEDS FOR A SONG

November 6, 2010 Note: Orders must be received by Wednesday, October 20.

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser

In Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

If you are not a club member, how did you learn about this sale?

Description	Quantity	Size	Price/Each (includes tax)	Total
Gourmet Mix		40 lb.	16.25	
		20 lb.	8.55	
		4 lb.	2.10	
*Shell Free Mix		25 lb.	14.55	
Black Oil Sunflower		50 lb.	21.55	
		25 lb.	11.15	
		10 lb.	5.85	
Sunflower Chips		50 lb.	54.35	
		25 lb.	28.70	
Striped Sunflower		50 lb.	32.35	
Nyjer (Thistle)		50 lb.	36.85	
		20 lb.	20.85	
		10 lb.	11.60	
Millet		50 lb.	14.95	
		25 lb.	8.25	
Peanuts in Shell		25 lb.	29.20	
Safflower		50 lb.	34.42	
		25 lb.	18.65	
		4 lb.	4.85	
High Energy Suet		Cake	1.25	
Ear Corn		6.5 lb.	6.00	
			Total	\$

*There may be a problem getting this seed on time because the supplier does not keep a lot on hand—it spoils quickly. If you order it, be aware that you may have to make a second trip to pick it up later.

Leave Your Hummingbird Feeders Up Until Late October

This time of year, people begin to wonder how long they should leave their hummingbird feeders out for the birds that are now heading south. They wonder if by leaving the feeders up too long they might encourage the birds to stay here longer than they should. But the birds know when to go and it will be safe. You should

leave the feeders up at least until late October. The late migrants need food from feeders especially when the flowers dry up. Our Augusta County extreme date for ruby-throated hummingbird is October 21, 1996.

Area residents reported many hummingbirds coming to their feeders. I did not put up a hummingbird feeder, but I planted bee balm, which has bright red flowers. I don't know how many I might have missed, but I counted from one to six each month beginning

in June – the most in July. They came only one at a time, and went straight to the red flowers of the bee balm.

Then there was one on September 1, but there is only one blossom remaining on the bee balm. So when the flowers die, the feeders are crucial to the migrants.

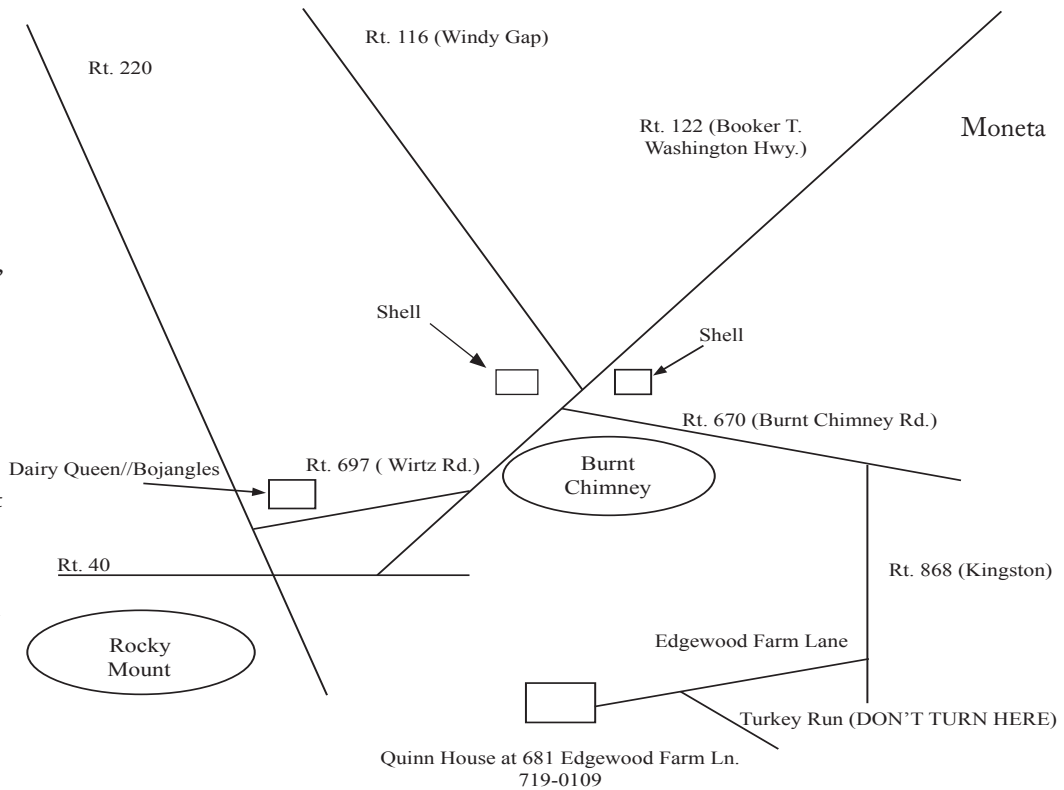
Yulee Larner

Reprinted from the Staunton News Leader



Directions to The Big Sit! Alyce and Tim Quinn's House:

After turning on to Edgewood Farm Lane (at a row of mailboxes): Go half a mile down this gravel road. When the road makes a 90 degree left turn onto Turkey Run, continue straight. You will go to the right of a dilapidated trailer. This is the beginning of the Quinn's driveway, and there is a bluebird box there with their house number, 681, on it. Drive between the trailer and the bluebird box. You can't see the house from the entrance, but go a quarter mile down the drive and you're there. Call Alyce's cell at 312-6844 if you get lost.





ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB 2010 OFFICERS

President: Elly Wefel 977-0636
VP (Programs) Bill Grant 389-3294
VP (Membership): Eleanor Dye 890-1627
Treasurer: Robin Austin 929-9071
Secretary: Connie Marsh 334-7094
Field Trips: Bob Miller 797-0462
Directors at Large: Eunice Hudgins and Alyce Quinn
Publications: Carol Siler 725-1609
Website: www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

How did you hear about the club?

2011 Membership Dues

Name(s):
Address:
City: ST: Zip:
Phone:
Email:
Mail To: Roanoke Valley Bird Club
c/o Eleanor Dye
P.O. Box 74
Vinton, VA 24179-0074

Dues

Individual	\$12	_____
Family	\$20	_____
Student	\$7	_____
Sustaining	\$30	_____
Adopt-a-Bluebird	\$15	_____
Additional Contribution	\$	_____
Total Submitted	\$	_____