



November 2012 Newsletter

*Celebrating 55 Years
of Birding! 1957-2012*

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

OCTOBER MEETING

Dr. Cooper-Bailey gave a talk on Wildlife and Raptor Conservation.



NEXT MEETING:

**November 12, 7:00 p.m.
Grandin Court Baptist
Church**

Dr. Todd Fredericksen of Ferrum College School of Science and Mathematics will talk about the impacts of logging on the biodiversity of birds in Virginia.

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

RVBC Seeds for a Song Fund Raiser November 10

The sale is open to the public. There will be a small supply of extra seed available (cash or check only) the day of the sale for those who didn't pre-order.

The sale is 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

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.

Please feel free to bring snacks and other goodies for our customers to enjoy.

If you have any "gently used" feeders you'd like to get rid of, please clean them up a bit and bring them to the Seeds for a Song sale. (If they need minor repairs, that's OK, just nothing that needs a major overhaul.) We'll put them out on a table and offer them for whatever folks want to pay for them.

RVBC Newsletter Editor Needed for 2013:

We still need a newsletter editor for 2013. It doesn't require any special software; Microsoft Word or similar will work just fine. Please contact Elly Wefel if you're interested: 977-0636.

2013 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.

SIGHTINGS

Week of Oct 8: Carol Whiteside sighted abundant pine siskins at her home in SW Roanoke Co. Also sighted purple finches and white-throated sparrows.

Oct. 18: Kent Davis and Mike Smith spotted Osprey, Bale Eagle, Winter Wren near Rutrough Road and Roanoke River.

Oct. 24: Rupert Cutler saw an adult bald eagle on Route 311 between New Castle and Paint Bank. Also saw red-breasted nuthatches near Johns Creek Trail.

Scotts Miracle-Gro to Pay 12.5 Million for Poisoning Birds and Selling Illegal Pesticides

Scotts Miracle-Gro Company sold wild bird feed that was illegally treated with an insecticide that's dangerously toxic to wildlife. Scotts pleaded guilty to distributing the

poisonous bird feed and deceiving regulators by falsifying pesticide registration documents.

As a result of the settlement, a "significant number" of potentially harmful pesticides will be removed from the market, according to the EPA. The company must now pay \$12.5 million in criminal and civil penalties that regulators say are the heftiest ever issued under federal pesticide law.

For more information go to: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/07/us-usa-miracleagro-penalties>

Zeiss Binoculars For Sale

Zeiss 10x40 B Binoculars ----- \$500.00

Excellent condition. Purchased in 1985. Just returned from Zeiss where optics were cleaned, the focus and seals lubricated, the focus and alignment reset, and the eyecups and bent mounts replaced. Neck strap, full lifetime warranty card and instruction booklet included. Contact Eunice Hudgins: 389-4056 or uvauu@aol.com

Bluebird Trail Stats

What a strange year it was on the bluebird trails! The Parkway trail started out strong but had a higher than average number of nestlings die, ending up with an average number of bluebirds fledged. Hanging Rock had a slightly higher than average number of bluebirds fledged, and Botetourt Swim and Golf Club had a banner year. Over the years, the Botetourt trail has switched over from fledging mostly tree swallows to mostly bluebirds.

Our first thought regarding the deaths on the Parkway was that the hot, dry summer might have reduced the number of insects available for food, but then why weren't all the trails affected? It was suggested that perhaps the fact that the Park Service stopped mowing the grass partway through the summer was to blame, since bluebirds prefer to hunt in short grass. That sounds like a plausible explanation. Have another idea? Let us know. Hopefully next year will be back to normal.

Below are the statistics for all the trails, including the average number of bluebirds fledged from each trail during the years for which we have records (Data below is from: BRP-16 years, Hanging Rock-13 years, Botetourt-9 years)

<i>Blue Ridge Parkway (average of 150)</i>			<i>Hanging Rock Golf Course (average of 126)</i>			<i>Botetourt Swim and Golf Club (average of 114)</i>		
Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged
Bluebird	259	144	Bluebird	169	147	Bluebird	220	177
Tree Swallow	20	15	Carolina Chickadee	7	7	Tree Swallow	12	12
Carolina Chickadee	6	2						
House Wren	6	5						
Carolina Wren	5	5						

We thank all the dedicated trail monitors for their hard work throughout the season. We had several new monitors this year, and we hope they enjoyed themselves and will continue to be part of our bluebird "family."

Our thanks to: Ann Allen, Andy and Patty Arrington, Bob and Andy Biggs, Carl Boast, Barbara Bricks, Cris Cowan, Eleanor Dye, Sally Evans, Bill Grant, Linda Harrison, Dick Hendrix, Alice Hylton, Deborah Ingram, Lily Johnston, Ardy Kidd, Elizabeth Knoebber, Susan Kidd, Anne Markham and her Girl Scouts, Connie Marsh, Carole and Bill Massart, Bob and Sherri Miller, Rita and Jerry O'Brien, Pat Popper, Laurie Spangler, Bill and Anne Tucker, Nancy Verity, Carol Whiteside and Liz Williams. We also thank Eunice Hudgins and Andy Biggs for making reminder phone calls to all the monitors.

--from Tim and Alyce Quinn, and Elly and Pam Wefel, Bluebird Trail Co-Chairmen

