



February 2013 Newsletter

*Celebrating 56 Years
of Birding! 1957-2013*

NEXT MEETING:

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

Avian Diseases - What's at your Feeder?

Ever wonder what diseases can affect your avian visitors to your yard and



garden? Come join us at our February meeting when Dr Paul Stewart, DVM will speak to us about what affects our bird feeders and its visitors. Dr Stewart is owner of the Avian and Exotic Pet Clinic here in Roanoke. He will touch on the diseases invading our yards as well as what to do to prevent future problems.

INSIDE:

Annual Raptor Count.....	2
Sightings	3
Save a Baby Bird	3
Field Trips	3
Field Notes.....	3
Welcome New Members.....	4
Free Clothing	4
Great Backyard Bird Count...4	
Photos Needed.....	4
In Memory of Miss Shields... 4	
Logo Embroidery.....	4
Birding Competition.....	5
Wilson Society Meeting.....	5
Meet a Member.....	5

January Meeting

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club January meeting was an opportunity for members to learn about the importance of listing their sightings on the internet through eBird (www.ebird.org). Listing both species observed and number of each species observed helps birders and scientists to know what birds are being observed in different areas.



President's Message

I would like to thank all of you who patiently listened to my first birding program about my passion using eBird and as a lister. I hope you too will start using eBird. Remember if you have any problems or questions about getting signed up or using eBird, just call me, I will be glad to help.

This year we have some very educational and fascinating programs. I hope you will bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy them.

The Board is always looking for new ideas or projects that interest our members. If you have any program ideas or topics you would like to hear/see please call Butch Kelly or myself.

I hope to see you at the Feb 11, 2013 meeting.

Kent Davis

Annual Raptor Count

Plan to spend a few hours driving away the winter blues on **Saturday, February 9, 2013**. The annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding with your birding buddies! The New River Valley Bird Club even participates in this event. No skill is required, just a little time and effort. Plan on a leisurely drive around your area, counting all the hawks you see. Points are

awarded for each hawk, although this is not a serious competition. The winner gets bragging rights! We compile the results from everyone's efforts and keep an eye on trends in hawk populations. In the unlikely event of inclement weather, an alternate date of Sunday, February 10 has been set. Contact Anne Tucker (540) 721-1573 if you have any questions. The tally sheet below can be e-mailed to billt3256@gmail.com or mailed to 3256 Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta VA 24121.

WINTER RAPTOR COUNT					
February 9, 2013					
Participants _____					
Date _____		Time started _____		Time completed _____	
Location _____					
<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	
TURKEY VULTURE	1*				
BLACK VUTURE	2*				
RED-TAILED HAWK	5				
AMERICAN KESTREL	10				
SCREECH OWL	10**				
RAVEN	10				
COOPER'S HAWK	20				
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	20				
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	50				
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK	30				
GREAT HORNED OWL	30				
BARRED OWL	35				
BARN OWL	50				
NORTHERN HARRIER	40				
SHORT-EARED OWL	75				
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK	75				
GOLDEN EAGLE	100				
BALD EAGLE	50				
PEREGRINE FALCON	75				
MERLIN	75				
GOSHAWK	100				
LONG-EARED OWL	125				
SAW-WHET OWL	125				
NORTHERN SHRIKE	150				
UNIDENTIFIED RAPTOR	5				
				POINT TOTAL	
* Maximum : 50 Points		However, keep your totals. There is a 10 point bonus on peak			
**Maximum 100 Points}		counts for these three species.			
RULES: Teams may bird any area within 100 mile radius of Woodpecker Ridge. Birds must be seen or heard by at least 50%(minimum of 2) of team members. Count period not to exceed twelve hours.					

Sightings

A Bald Eagle was seen cruising the Roanoke River between Roanoke Memorial Hospital and Victor Thomas Park.

Alyce Quinn noted that woodcocks were already calling at her home.

Great-horned Owls were heard calling in Blue Ridge.

People have been observing lots of American Robins.

A juvenile female Rufous Hummingbird was observed in Salem. Unfortunately, the bird is on private property in a gated community so visitors cannot go to observe the bird.

Rupert Cutler saw three Black Vultures at the junction of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Roanoke River on January 8.

Help Save a Baby Bird: Bring Items to February Meeting



Please bring a box of tissues or roll of paper towels to the February meeting. Supplies are very low (especially tissues). The baby birds that need help (and me too) will appreciate any donations. Maureen Eiger thanks you in advance.

FIELD TRIPS

Chairperson

Laura Beltran (266-3773)

SHARE THE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

Monthly Mid-week Walk at the Cherry Blossom Trail, Botetourt County, Wednesday, February 13, 8:30 a.m.

Join Laura Beltran (266-3773) each month to see how the bird life changes from month to month. Off of 220 in Botetourt County, take the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation). Park at the SECOND parking lot for the Cherry Blossom Trail on the right. The trip involves mostly flat walking for about 2 miles.

Pond Hopping, Saturday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.

Meet leaders Tim and Alyce Quinn (710-0109) at Botetourt Commons (BoJangles) at 9:30 a.m. We will carpool to various ponds in the area in search of waterfowl. Hardly any walking at all. Bring your scope if you have one.

Locher Tract and Natural Bridge Area, Rockbridge, County, Saturday, February 23, 9 a.m.

Join Bill Hunley (774-2397) to search for waterfowl and possibly Bald Eagles in Rockbridge County. We will meet at Botetourt Commons near the BoJangles (Daleville, Exit 150 off I-81) at 8 a.m. to Carpool.

FIELD NOTES

Backyard Birding at Carol Whiteside's, Roanoke, January 19

16 participants enjoyed great food and company at Carol Whiteside's home to watch birds at her feeders. Although the pond had frozen and we didn't see any waterfowl, we did observe about 16 species, including a Winter Wren and a Brown Creeper.

Welcome New Members

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club would like to welcome the following new members: Theresa Amos, Susan Anderson-Hodges, Debra Billings, Margaret Ann Brown, Audrey Clark, Dawn Gill, Marilyn G. Holzschuck, Virginia Hutson, Robin Jordan, Vicki Kavalaskia, Martha Pillow, Sandra Kosarski and family, John and Judy Loope, Mary Ann Maurelli, Laura Pole, Sam Reefe, Karen Skorupski, and Michael Sporer.

Free Clothing

I've been cleaning out closets and have lots of John's "gently used" birding clothes that I would like to pass along to anyone who would like them. There are hiking boots, tall rubber boots, a heavy jacket, lightweight jackets, shirts, khaki pants, sweaters, and sweat shirts. I have compiled a list with descriptions and sizes. If you are interested, **please** contact me (uvaau@aol.com or 389-4056) and I can send you a list. The shoes are size 10-10-1/2, the jackets, etc. are XXL and the pants are 44"-46" waist x 26-1/2" length. You are certainly welcome to call and come by to try them on. Eunice Hudgins

Great Backyard Bird Count, February 15 – 18, 2013

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event that engages birders of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are located. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. You may also count birds in different locations. Patterns detected in GBBC data are used to alert scientists to a particular species or questions that may require more detailed follow-up studies. For more information and to print out a checklist go to the GBBC Website <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>.

Photos Needed!

Butch Kelly, our Vice President (Programs), needs photos of birds to use for the club's outreach education efforts. Please contact Butch at butch2410@msn.com. Also, Laura Beltran would like to use your photos of birds for the newsletter. Please contact Laura at wook@earthling.net. Thank you!

In Memory of Miss Shields, January 22

Miss Shields of Roanoke passed away on January 22, 2013 from complications of pneumonia. She was born in McMechen, WV and also lived many years in Winchester before moving to Roanoke 27 years ago. She was predeceased by her parents, Chester and Emma Shields; her brother, Alston Shields; and her sister, Margaret Shields Jarrett. Virginia graduated from Roanoke College and then managed the laboratory of Winchester General Hospital for 30 years. She was an avid bird watcher and a long time member of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. Her generosity was legendary. Virginia distributed state quarters as they became available to scores of people around this valley. She will always be remembered for her kindness, independence, humor and keen intellect. At the time of her death, Virginia was a beloved resident of Friendship Retirement Community's independent living apartments. She was truly the friendliest of women and helped many friends and strangers. She is survived by her sister, Kathryn Weekly (Glen), of Atlanta, Ga. Also surviving are her nephews, Cecil Jarrett (Mary Jane), Shields Jarrett (Ginny), William Shields, and Duane Shields. Virginia is survived as well by her nieces, Judi Jarrett Tingler (Alan), Sharon Jarrett Thacker and Kim Weekly Holbrook (Carl). Virginia is also survived by a number of great-nieces and great-nephews. Donations may be made to Woodpecker Ridge c/o the Roanoke Valley Bird Club 10513 Bottom Creek Rd., Bent Mountain, VA 24059.



Logo Embroidery

Just a reminder that if you buy a piece of clothing at Embroidery by Chalaine in Vinton, you may get the Roanoke Valley Bird Club logo embroidered on the clothing for free. If you bring in your own piece of clothing, Embroidery by Chalaine will charge you just a minimum fee. Embroidery by Chalaine is located at 234 West Madison Avenue, Vinton, VA 24179 and the phone number is 540-342-4366.

Leaders Needed for Roanoke Valley Birding Competition, April 27

The Mill Mountain Discovery Center is having a birding competition for all ages on April 27, 2013. Christine Elder from Mill Mountain has asked for volunteer field trip leaders from the Bird Club to lead groups on bird walks to observe as many birds as possible. Leaders have a choice of any time between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. to lead a trip, any amount of time spent on the walk, and any location within a mapped area provided by Christine. Participants sign up in advance, with most being beginners. A tally will be held at 6 p.m. at the Mill Mountain Discovery Center located just below the Star. Christine has also requested for volunteer judges to make sure that the birds observed are accurate. If you are interested, please contact Laura Beltran (540-266-3773). Christine will speak briefly about the competition at the February 11 meeting if you have any questions.

Wilson Ornithological Society Annual Meeting in Williamsburg

The 125th annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society will be in Williamsburg, Virginia at the College of William & Mary from March 8—March 10. Of the professional ornithology meetings, this one is probably the friendliest and most welcoming meeting for birders. Field trips will include visiting Craney Island, Hog Island Wildlife Management Area, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel/Eastern Shore NWR, Chincoteague NWR, and Virginia's only Red-cockaded Woodpecker breeding colony. In addition, there will be high-profile plenary talks by Jed Burt and Peter and Rosemary Grant, as well as three simultaneous scientific sessions of cutting-edge research by scientists from Mexico to Manitoba. The cost is very reasonable (\$160), and we are very lucky to have it right here in our backyard. Birders who wish to attend only the plenary talks Friday and Saturday morning, the poster session/mixer Saturday night, and a field trip Sunday morning (while enjoying local birding and Colonial Williamsburg all day), can purchase a special "Birder's" ticket for \$50 plus the price of the field trip (which includes a box lunch). Please visit <http://www.cvent.com/events/125th-annual-meeting-of-the-wilson-ornithological-society/event-summary-5d289a66b396437cb50d65a6cd35c19e>.



Meet a Member: Connie Marsh

Each month, a member is randomly chosen for a brief "interview" for our newsletter so we may learn new things about our members. Connie Marsh answered a few questions over the phone for our February 2013 newsletter.

How long have you been in the bird club? "I moved to the Roanoke Valley in 1985, so I must have joined the bird club sometime in the late 1980's."

Why do you like birding? "I've always been fascinated with birds since I was a little kid. I really like all their colors, songs, and flight."

What other role do you have in the bird club (board membership, CBC tally, hawk counts, etc.)? "I was secretary for about 3 years, about 2 or 3 years ago. I do the Christmas Bird Count, the Hawk Count, Spring Big Day, and I have a Bluebird trail at Hanging Rock."

What other hobbies do you have? "I have Fancy Pigeons. I breed, buy, sell and enter them in pigeon shows, which are like dog and cat shows with judges, trophies, and prizes. I have about 150 pigeons and about 12 different breeds. Also, I am an artist, and paint with watercolors. I have done oils and acrylics and I like to paint birds."

If you work, what do you do? "Now I'm retired. I have had various jobs in the past. I have a degree in Industrial Design and a license for aircraft maintenance."

Where are you from? "I moved here from Buchanan County, Virginia."

Anything else you would like to add? "I enjoy the bird club very much and come to nearly every meeting."

