



# February '19 Newsletter

Celebrating 62 Years of Birding  
1957-2019

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 11th at 7PM

**Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Building  
3640 Colonial Avenue Roanoke, VA 24018**

Join fellow club members for dinner at 5:30pm at the Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Ave.

## Golden-Winged Warbler Creating New Habitat

Presented by Chris Peters

Ranger Chris Peters will be speaking about Golden-winged Warblers. Chris is the Golden-Winged Warbler Coordinator for VA partnered with NRCS. He will be sharing with us information about the biology of the Warbler, what habitats it frequents, and the restoration efforts of those habitats in Virginia.

Chris grew up in South Central PA, and currently lives in Harrisonburg VA. Chris attended Penn State and graduated with a degree in Forest Management in 2009. He has roughly 8 years of forestry experience, including working with private landowners in VA, NC, MD, PA, & CO. He is currently works out of the Verona NRCS office assisting landowners throughout the state of VA with Golden-Winged Warbler habitat restoration.



## **CLUB NEWS**

### **Weather**

One third of our members live in areas where ice and snow can be much worse than in the city. A club meeting will be cancelled if either Roanoke City OR Roanoke County schools are closed on that meeting date. We still might cancel a meeting if there is impending weather. In that case, we will endeavor to send out an alert email, so please look at your emails if you are in doubt.

Since the wintery weather has kept us from meeting and unfortunately we missed having our Members' Sharing Night. If any of you would still like to show your pictures or share stories, please email us at RVBC2015@outlook.com . We will schedule some time for you after our presenter gives his program.

### **Annual Raptor Count**

Spend a few hours driving away the winter blues on Saturday February 9, 2019. The annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding with your birding buddies!! 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 right!! 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 can be emailed to billt3256@gmail.com or mailed to 3256 Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta VA 24121. You'll find the tally sheet at the end of this newsletter.

### **Save that Date:**

#### **VSO Annual Meeting May 3-5, 2019**

You won't want to miss this VSO Annual Meeting from May 3-5, 2019. It will be at Mountain Lake Lodge in Pembroke, Virginia. This hotel was named 2018 Hotel of the Year by the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Association. For more information about the hotel see [www.mtnlakelodge.com](http://www.mtnlakelodge.com). Not only will you enjoy your stay and the meals at the hotel, but the birding will be fantastic. There will be plenty of interesting field trips to choose from so that you can look for some of those high-elevation species you don't see in other parts of Virginia. Would you like to see a Ruffed Grouse, Black-billed Cuckoo, Least Flycatcher, Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, or Rose-breasted Grosbeak? Then plan to join us for the 2019 VSO Annual Meeting. Detailed information about making hotel reservations and registering will be in upcoming newsletters. Although, you may be a member of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, you can also join the Virginia Society of Ornithology by going to <http://www.virginiabirds.org/membership-and-donate>

## **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

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

### **FEBRUARY 1st-3rd - VSO TRIP TO THE OUTER BANKS**

Make plans to join us for the annual Virginia Society of Ornithology field trip to the Outer Banks. There are always great waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors, along with a wide assortment of land birds. The co-leaders include Bill Akers and Jerry Via. Register with Meredith Bell, trip co-ordinator at merandlee@gmail.com , 804-824-4958. The headquarters for the weekend is at the Comfort Inn, South Oceanfront in Nags Head. This is a wonderful trip and a long, long time tradition for the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Our club is a chapter of the VSO and there are always some RVBC members on this favorite trip. Details are on the VSO website: <http://www.virginiabirds.org/events/upcoming-field-trips-index/> .

### **FEBRUARY 13th, WEDNESDAY, 8:30am – SECOND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD**

Join co-leaders Barry Whitt (309-4353) and Kent Davis (355-6388) 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 walk of about 2 miles. We will also cover the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! For those that want to stay afterwards, we can lunch at Ballast Point Brewery overlooking the lake. This trip will be repeated on March 13th. Directions: Exit at 150B on I-81 and follow signs to 220 North. Go about one mile and take a left on Commons PKY (formerly Wesley Rd) and then a right on Kingston Rd into the Botetourt Commons shopping center and park at Bojangles.

### **FEBRUARY 17th, SUNDAY, 2pm – SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT**

Meet co-leaders Kent Davis (355-6388) and Linda Cory (580-5214) at the Greenway parking lot on Bennington St next to the bridge over the Roanoke River. After a short scan of the Roanoke River, we will walk over to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Entrance to the STP is by special permit and only on Sundays, and trip participants must all enter at the same time and stay together as a group. This site is one of the best spots for viewing shorebirds in the Roanoke Valley. The property includes impoundments, sludge ponds, mudflats, riparian habitat and woodlands. Besides shorebirds, we can expect to see resident hawks and possibly ravens and fish crows. The walking is mostly flat with a short steep trail. Sturdy waterproof boots are recommended as it often muddy. Directions: From downtown Roanoke at the intersection of Williamson Road and Elm St, go east on Elm (it changes names 3 times) about a mile and take a right on 13th St SE. As soon as you go over the bridge over the Roanoke River, the STP will be on your left. At that point, the street name changes to Bennington and the Greenway parking lot will be on your left. The street has a divider, so you will have to go a little further and do a U-turn to enter the lot. (If you are coming from Riverland Road, take the roundabout and exit onto Bennington. The parking lot will be on the right in about a mile.)

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS cont.

### **FEBRUARY 23RD, SATURDAY, 7:30am - HIGHLAND AND BATH COUNTIES**

Meet co-leaders Kent Davis (355-6388) and Linda Cory (580-5214) at the parking lot next to Bojangles at Botetourt Commons on Route 220 in Daleville for this exciting day of birding in Highland and Bath Counties. 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. This is a full day event, so please bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. And bring your scope! Carpooling is required due to the limited space at some pull-off areas.

NOTE: 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.

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. Bojangles is next to the Wendy's in the parking lot.

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

January 16th – Wednesday Walk at Greenfield – 13 birdwatchers enjoyed this walk with 33 total species. Highlights were 2 Winter Wrens, a Northern Shoveler, Gadwalls, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Pied-billed Grebes, a Hairy Woodpecker, a Raven, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets and a Belted Kingfisher.

### **NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD LISTS FOR 2019**

As announced in the December newsletter and at club meetings, we were all encouraged to start out our year by compiling our own New Year's Day list. This year we had 13 club members send in their New Year's bird list and all of the observations were from the Roanoke area. Their tallies reported 43 species including American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Bald Eagle, Kestrel, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk and Belted Kingfisher.

### **AUDUBON'S GEAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

The 22nd annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 15th, through Monday, February 18th. Details are available at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org). The Great Backyard Bird Count is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for a minimum of 15 minutes on at least one of the four days and report their sightings online at [birdcount.org](http://birdcount.org). Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about bird populations and how to protect them and the environment we share.

**WINTER RAPTOR COUNT**

February 9, 2019

Participants \_\_\_\_\_

Time Started \_\_\_\_\_ Time Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>NOTES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Turkey Vulture	*1			
Black Vulture	*2			
Red-tailed Hawk	5			
American Kestrel	10			
Common Raven	10			
Eastern Screech Owl	**10			
Cooper's Hawk	20			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	20			
Great Horned Owl	30			
Red-shouldered Hawk	30			
Barred Owl	35			
Northern Harrier	40			
Bald Eagle	50			
Barn Owl	50			
Loggerhead Shrike	50			
Merlin	75			
Peregrine Falcon	75			
Rough-legged Hawk	75			
Short-eared Owl	75			
Golden Eagle	100			
Northern Goshawk	100			
Long-eared Owl	125			
Northern Saw-whet Owl	125			
Northern Shrike	150			
Unidentified Raptor	5			

POINT  
TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

- \* Maximum of 50 Points
  - \*\* Maximum of 100 Points
- Be sure to keep your totals! There is a 10-point bonus for peak counts of these three species.

**RULES:** Teams must be at least 2 people. Teams may bird any area within a 100-mile radius of Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center. Birds must be seen or heard by at least 2 team members. Count period cannot exceed a total of 12 hours.

Completed forms can be emailed to [billt3256@gmail.com](mailto:billt3256@gmail.com) or mailed to Anne Tucker  
3256 Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta VA 24121. Call Anne at 540-721-1573 with any questions.



Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
c/o Eleanor Dye  
PO Box 74  
Vinton, VA 24179



**2018—2019 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships expire August 31st.

<b>Annual Dues</b>	
Individual \$12	_____
Family \$20	_____
Student \$7	_____
Sustaining \$30	_____
Adopt a Bluebird \$15	_____
Additional Contribution	_____
<b>Total Payment</b>	_____
Make check payable to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club c/o Eleanor Dye Box 74 Vinton, VA 24179	