



# May 2013 Newsletter

*Celebrating 56 Years  
of Birding! 1957-2013*

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## **April Meeting**

For the April 2013 meeting of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, Sid Barritt gave a talk on his and Mary Lou's trip to the Galapagos Islands and shared Mary Lou's wonderful photographs.

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## **A Crow's Story**



*Crow story from Michelle Buonocore, Roanoke Valley Bird Club member:*  
On Sunday morning, February 10, 2013 at about 9:00am, my collie, Joseph, found a crow in a ditch during our morning walk near our pond off Bandy Road. That morning was followed by a subfreezing night. The crow was lying on its side, dirty with debris and dirt. The bird looked very poorly. The only indication of life was its blinking eyes. The crow gave no fight when I attempted to pick him up. I collected it in my hands and immediately returned home. I wrapped him in a towel, placed him in a cat carrier, and drove to Maureen (Eiger)'s house to get help. During the car ride, I thought the crow would die at any time. *(continued on page 2)*

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## **NEXT MEETING:**

**May 13, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Grandin Court Baptist Church**

### **Gardening for Wildlife with Natives**

Butch Kelly will present "Gardening For Wildlife with Natives." Ever wonder how one can enhance their own backyard into a bird and butterfly mecca? Ever wonder how one could reduce mowing? Come to the bird club meeting on May 13 and learn how to do both.

Butch is a long time member of the bird club. He was a science teacher for 26 years and park ranger on the Blue Ridge Parkway for 13 seasons.

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

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(Continued from page 1)

*Crow story continues from Permitted Bird Rehabilitator and RVBC member, Maureen Eiger:* I received Crow from Michelle. Crow was in very bad shape, lying on his side in the box barely breathing. Crow got his paperwork (information from Michelle) filled out and triage began. Crow was kept warm and given warm fluids to rehydrate. He was able to drink and swallow when given fluids orally, which was a good sign. I gave Arnica to Crow for pain. Eventually Crow was able to stand and lean on the side of his box for support. Then, it was time to carefully check him out. While holding him, he latched onto my finger with his bill. He had many head and body puncture wounds (at least 8) and a nasty puncture near his eye. His eye area was swollen. Crow was in obvious pain, he bit my finger harder every time I found a new “bad” spot and would ease up on his bite hold when I moved my hand to a “good” spot. However, his body condition was good and his legs and wing reflexes were normal. I administered some stronger pain medications and antibiotics. I applied a compress and cleaned the eye area. I worked on cleaning most of the dirt off Crow’s body and legs and kept him warm. As soon as I felt he would survive, I called my Vet Sponsor, Dr. Stewart. (Avian and Exotic Pet Clinic) to ask if I could bring Crow to his office. He confirmed that it would be ok to give the



bird some nourishment (because the bird would be under anesthesia as we cleaned his wounds). After more fluids, Arnica, some watered down Recovery Formula and some gentle cleaning, he was looking a lot better and was more alert. Dr. Stewart and I spent about 3 hours cleaning all of Crow’s wounds and looked at his eye. We found a tapeworm that was crawling out of his feces. YUCK! One wound was in the pattern of a cat or small animal bite. Crow went home with me with some more antibiotics and eye drops. Crow was eating well, but his eye still looked bad. Ten days later, Crow had another vet check: the wounds had healed nicely but he could have permanent loss of vision. Then, Crow stopped eating as much. This worried me, so I called another rehabilitator, Nathou Attinger (Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary). Nathou has a permit to keep crows as education animals. She volunteered to get a permit to keep Crow with her crows if he was not releasable. We felt Crow may eat better if he had some other crows for company. Travel arrangements were made. And on February 21, David Vanover transferred Crow to Rockfish Wildlife Sanctuary. After a week of more medications, Nathou saw that Crow’s eye infection was not clearing up and the bird was still not eating very much. She brought Crow to The Wildlife Center of VA. Crow spent some time there being treated, test flown and then was sent back to Nathou. The WCVA Vets told Nathou that Crow could be released even though part of his vision in one eye was compromised.

*The conclusion of Crow’s Story from Michelle Buonocore:* On April 13, Michele Vanover and I picked up Crow at Rockfish and released him with Maureen to his original life at our farm. He flew with strength and determination!

## FIELD TRIPS

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Chairperson

Laura Beltran (266-3773)

PLEASE SHARE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

### **Warbler Road, Botetourt County Sunday, May 5, 7 a.m. until after lunch**

Meet leaders Tim and Alyce Quinn (719-0109) at Botetourt Commons near the Bojangles in the Kroger shopping center in Daleville. We will be leaving promptly at 7. We will bird a series of forest service roads from just beyond Arcadia all the way up to the Blue Ridge Parkway in search of warblers and other neotropical migrants. We usually bird into the afternoon so bring drinks, snacks, and a lunch. Dress in layers and be prepared to carpool as there are few places to pull over on this narrow road. This is always a favorite trip for many club members. Please note that this is a SUNDAY trip.

### **Fairy Stone State Park, Saturday, May 11, 9:00 a.m.**

Tim Quinn (719-0109) will lead a walk at Fairy Stone State Park as a new location to go birding for our club. He will be camping at the state park on May 10 and 11 with Allen Austin, so if anyone is interested in camping or renting a cabin, please let him know. Otherwise, carpoolers can meet at Towers Mall (bank side) at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday morning. Tim will meet you at the Fairy Stone parking lot to the left of the entrance at 9 a.m. Note that there is a \$4/car parking fee. Bring lunch, snacks, and drinks, and if you have trouble finding the location, feel free to call Alyce Quinn's cell phone, 540-312-6844.

### **Claytor Nature Study Center, Bedford County, Sunday, May 12, 7:30 a.m.**

Join Laura Beltran (266-3773) as we explore the shrub swamps and forests along the Big Otter River for birds. We will meet at the Bonsack Kroger (near the Kroger gas pumps) at 7:30 a.m. to carpool.

### **Monthly Mid-week Walk at the Cherry Blossom Trail, Botetourt County, Wednesday, May 15, 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.



*Ovenbird by Bill Tucker*

### **Peaks of Otter and the Blue Ridge Parkway, Sunday, May 19, 7:30 a.m.**

Let's pool our skills to see what birds we can find at the Peaks of Otter and various lookouts along the Blue Ridge Parkway. This will include flat walking for about 1 mile around Abbott Lake, then driving and stopping along the parkway to observe the bird life. We will meet at the Bonsack Kroger (near the Kroger gas pumps) at 7:30 a.m. to carpool. Call Laura Beltran for any questions (266-3773).

### **Lick Run Greenway, Saturday, July 13, 7:00 a.m.**

Join Rupert Cutler (345-7653) to search for nesting birds along the Lick Run Greenway. The Greenway passes open areas, woods, a creek, and a small wetland, providing a variety of habitats for birds. You'll also learn about the history of the greenway along the walk. This involves about 2-3 miles of mostly flat walking. Meet at the parking lot across from the swimming pool in upper Washington Park.

# FIELD NOTES

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## **Bent Mountain and Poor Mountain, Roanoke, April 13**

Everyone enjoyed a fabulous picnic/potluck to celebrate the (very slow) arrival of spring. Spring migrants were observed at the home of the Austin's at Bent Mountain, behind the Elementary school, and along the summit of Poor Mountain.

## **Greenfield Lake, Daleville, April 17**

Sixteen people enjoyed the monthly outing along the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield Lake, observing last of the season ducks and spring migrants. Highlights included Lesser Scaup, Blue-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow Warbler.

## **Roanoke River Boat Launch at Explore Park, Roanoke, April 27**

Nine people took a walk along the Roanoke River on April 27 at the new boat launch for Explore Park. Highlights included Hooded Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrush, Osprey, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow.



*Scarlet Tanager by Bill Tucker*



*Common Yellowthroat by Bill Tucker*

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## **Information about Birds on Website**

Many of our members have hand-outs with information about citizen science opportunities, gardening for birds, where to find certain birds in our area, bird song recognition and more. In the past, these hand-outs have been available at bird club meetings. Due to space issues, we now have this information available to you on our website. Just go to [Roanokevalleybirdclub.com](http://Roanokevalleybirdclub.com) for this information.

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## **Upcoming Butterfly Counts**

Fourth of July Butterfly Counts are very much like the Christmas Bird Counts (conducted by our club in December). In the Roanoke Valley and adjacent areas, all butterfly species in certain areas are observed and counted. The areas used follow the Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). The butterfly count using the Fincastle CBC circle will be held this year on June 29, 2013 and the butterfly count using the [entire] Peaks of Otter CBC circle will be held this year on July 13, 2013. If you can tell a Viceroy from a Monarch and know what a Mourning Cloak is, you can be of help. We usually find about 30 - 40 species on these counts. A person or team covers a territory, counts and identifies the best they can, and then e-mails or mails the list to Barry Kinzie ([peckerridge@ntelos.net](mailto:peckerridge@ntelos.net) or Barry Kinzie, PO Box 446, Troutville, VA 24175). Contact Barry (992-2743) if you would like to count butterflies.

## Bird Foray for VA Society of Ornithology

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Each year the Virginia Society of Ornithology conducts a foray, the purpose of which is to have as many birders as possible make observations in a specific area during a week-long period to contribute to the understanding of the status of birds in that area. The 2013 foray will be conducted in Rockbridge County during the week of June 8-16. No previous forays have been held in Rockbridge and it may be a new area to some birders. The Virginia Society of Ornithology summer trip will be held in Highland County (approximately a 90 minute drive from Rockbridge) on June 7-9, so there is an opportunity to participate in both events.

The foray is open to birders of all levels of experience (the organizer will attempt to pair individuals who feel they are too inexperienced with more experienced birders). Participants will be assigned to an area and can spend any amount of time in the field that they want. The foray protocol is to record species observed and total numbers of birds observed for each species, noting behavior that indicates breeding, and documenting unexpected species. Checklists will be provided.

To sign up for the foray contact Elisa Enders at [elisaenders\\_AT\\_hotmail.com](mailto:elisaenders_AT_hotmail.com), or call her phone number 757-879-1034.



*Yellow-throated Warbler by Bill Tucker*

## Birds of the Blue Ridge Class

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This is a six-week class to be taught at the new Bent Mountain Community Center. The class will include six Thursday evening "lessons", and six Saturday morning local field trips. The class will cover basic ornithology with emphasis on identification of Blue Ridge bird species using size, color, silhouettes, vocalizations, behavior, and habitats.

Class starts Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30-8:30 p.m., with the first field trip on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Classes and field trips will be weekly, except for the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. The instructor is Ed Kinser from our bird club.

The fee is \$60 with all funds going toward Community Center expenses. To register, send a check for \$60 to: Bent Mtn. Center, P.O. Box 22, Bent Mt., VA 24059. Be sure to note "Bird Class" on the check. (Class size is limited to 20.) For more details, contact Ed Kinser at 540-330-7023.

## Sightings

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At Mill Mountain on April 8<sup>th</sup>, Kent Davis observed many birds, including Blue-headed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Pine Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and Fox Sparrow (Red). He saw a Snipe at Greenfield. Pam Wefel said the Brown Thrashers have returned to her yard. Rupert Cutler saw an American Bittern on the Lick Run Greenway on April 17. On April 27, Liz Cole in Rocky Mount had her first White-crowned Sparrow in her yard in 9 years. Alyce Quinn had 3 Ruddy Ducks on her pond. Robin Austin noted there were still Pine Siskins, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Fox Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows at her home on April 13. Robin also said the Rough-winged Swallows have returned to the All State grounds. Judy and John Loope of Craig County saw a Bald Eagle. Beth Griffin said Spotted Sandpipers had returned to Greenfield by April 13. On April 21, Laurie and Scott Spangler saw their first hummingbird of the year at their feeder in Blue Ridge. Laura Beltran saw a Great-crested Flycatcher at Carvin's Cove on April 29 and two Green Herons at Greenfield Lake on April 30.

## Maureen's Birding Almanac

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Spring is here! While hiking, bird watching or just shopping at a store, pick up trash that can harm your feathered friends. Pond, river and lake visitors; when you find fishing line caught in brush or trees, try to untangle it, bag it and dispose of it in a trash can so birds will not have bills, wings or limbs tangled or severed. Plastic loops that hold cans, discarded cans, and bottles can prove hazardous to birds and other critters. When you find those "bag birds" in trees or bushes take some time to dispose of them properly. Help make the world a less perilous place for wild-life.

Lawns and gardens can be another perilous place to be aware of. Pesticides and some lawn food will kill not only weeds and bugs but birds too. Remember all chemicals eventually get into our rivers and water supply, so please try organic methods first.

I hope you find a bird of your dreams this summer. If you have any questions/problems with adult/baby birds don't forget to call 540-342 4890.

Have a great summer. See you in the fall!

Maureen Eiger, Bird Rehabilitator  
Category IIA State and Federal Migratory Bird Permits

### Annual Bird Club Picnic

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Don't forget to join the Roanoke Valley Bird Club with the Blue Ridge Wildflower Society for the annual potluck at Walrond Park on Sunday, August 11, 1 p.m. BBQ and fried chicken will be provided, but please bring a side dish to share for about 30 people.

### No Newsletters for Summer

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We do not publish the Roanoke Valley Bird Club newsletter through the months of June – August. Look for your September issue at the end of August. Have a wonderful summer.

### Welcome New Members

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The Roanoke Valley Bird Club would like to welcome the following new members: John Foulkes, Diane Hackenburg, Jeanine and Lea Callaway.



### Wild Bird Rehabilitation Needs

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- Tissues, Tissues, did I say tissues?
- Sugar
- Grape jam
- Plastic boxes with lids
- Small bird feeders
- Window screen
- Very small fine seed (finch birdseed that has very small thistle seeds in it)
- Black oil seed (can stick some in a plastic bag)
- Mourning Dove food (found at Petco)
- Small logs with holes. (Natural or drilled holes)
- When you have ripe apples/pears or extra fruit in your garden please share
- Gypsy moth or any other hatched bagworms. Paper bag them and call 342-4890 for pick up
- Need a tax write off? Donate money to Wildlife Care Alliance and keep the receipt for a tax write off.
- Wildlife Care Alliance now has a Kroger Card that can be reloaded and Kroger will send a portion of their funds to Wildlife Care Alliance. See me or call me (342-4890) for details.
- Paper towels
- Maple syrup
- Peanut butter
- Suet cakes

Thank you.  
Maureen Eiger

### New Bluebird Trail at Smith Mountain Lake State Park

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Smith Mountain Lake State Park has recently re-vamped its bluebird trail, and we are trying to help find monitors for the trail. Local Master Naturalists and Friends of Smith Mountain Lake State Park will be involved, but since many of our members live out that way, we thought maybe some of you might want to get involved too. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Alyce Quinn at 540-719-0109 or at twoquinns@yahoo.com.

## Breeding Bird Survey Volunteers Needed

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Do you have a keen sense of eyesight and hearing (including the ability to hear high-pitched species), the ability to identify Virginia birds by both sight and sound, and access to reliable transportation? If so, then consider putting your birding skills toward bird conservation by participating in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). There are currently 12 vacant routes in Virginia that need volunteers to commit to running them for at least two years (though preferably longer). Routes are run once annually, generally in June, and can be completed in one morning.

Routes are currently available in the following counties: Alleghany, Charles City, Craig, Dickenson/Wise, Lee, Madison/Culpeper/Rappahannock, New Kent, Rockbridge/Botetourt, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Wythe.

The BBS is the longest running breeding bird survey in the United States, having begun in 1966. Bird population trends generated by the BBS are actively used by biologists and conservationists to assess the status of bird populations and address conservation attention to species of concern. By volunteering to run a BBS route, you are making a direct contribution to bird conservation in Virginia and beyond.

You can find more information on the BBS at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>. Select the 'Vacant Routes' link to view maps of vacant routes.



## Meet a Member: Eunice Hudgins

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Each month, a member is randomly chosen for a brief "interview" for our newsletter so we may learn new things about our members. Eunice Hudgins answered our questions for the May issue.

*How long have you been in the Roanoke Valley bird club?*

I joined the bird club in 1976.

*Why do you like birding?*

Birds are such interesting and beautiful little creatures. A great aunt introduced me to an Oriole building its nest when I was about 7 years old. Birding never gets old to me and I love to see birds I've never seen before. Although it's rare for me to see a new bird around here, I've been very fortunate to do a lot of traveling with my husband, John, who passed away last year. Seeing birds I've never seen before in Africa, Central America, Hawaii, Alaska and other parts of the United States has been a real thrill for me. My life list is 1,584 and my ABA list is 602.

*What other role do you have in the bird club (board membership, CBC tally, hawk counts, etc.)?*

In addition to being on the Board, I'm coordinator for Big Spring Day and the Fincastle Christmas Bird Count. I was club treasurer for a number of years. I help with the annual seed sale, Bluebird monitoring, hawk watch at Harvey's Knob, and have lead a few field trips.

*What other hobbies do you have?*

I don't have any real hobbies, but I try to keep two family genealogies current.

*If you work, what do you do?*

I'm a retired secretary.

*Where are you from?*

I was born and lived in Richmond, Virginia and also lived in Auburn and Birmingham, Alabama and Atlanta, Georgia.

*Anything else you would like to add?*

I have two children, two step-children, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

