



May '19 Newsletter

Celebrating 62 Years of Birding
1957-2019

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 13th 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.

Florida Winter Birding

Roanoke Valley Bird Club members Mary Harshfield, Betty Burke and Linda Cory will be sharing information on Florida birding hotspots. With non-stop flights now available by Allegiant Airlines, Florida is a quick 1.5 hours away. What better way to enjoy warm, inviting weather AND to enjoy some spectacular birds.

Mary, Betty and Linda will talk about their January 2019 birding trip to several locations around Florida. They will introduce the rest of their travel party, share their birding experiences and share amazing pictures taken by the group. If you've been considering a winter birding get-away, this is a talk you won't want to miss.



CLUB NEWS

Last call - Big Spring Day – Saturday, May 11th

The Big Spring Day bird count is always a great time to bird along the Blue Ridge Parkway. All birds are counted in a 15-mile radius of the Peaks of Otter. This event is co-hosted by the Lynchburg and Roanoke Valley Bird Clubs and all are welcome to participate. Contact Barry and Carol Whitt at 540-309-4353 or 540-632-6523 or email tthwb@gmail.com to be assigned to a territory and team. We will meet for a tally and picnic at noon, so pack your lunch and something to drink. Jim Elder, the Lynchburg Coordinator, will compile and distribute the final report by email. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow birders and discover new birding territories and maybe even see a new life bird.

VSO SUMMER FIELD TRIP TO NORTHERN NECK, June 7-9

As a chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, we enjoy their quarterly birding field trips. This one is centered in Warsaw, Virginia between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. To register, email merandlee@gmail.com or call 804-824-4958 by May 7th. Hotel reservations can also be made at The Quality Inn in Warsaw with a special VSO rate of \$119.49 plus tax, 804-333-1700. For details, visit: <https://www.viriniabirds.org/events/upcoming-field-trips-index/>

Save the Date - Annual RVBC Club Picnic, August 10th, 4-6PM

We will be joining the Blue Ridge Wildflower Club for a picnic on Saturday, August 10th from 4pm to 6pm. The picnic will be at our regular meeting place, the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs Building at 3640 Colonial Ave in Roanoke. Our club is providing fried chicken and the Wildflower Club is providing barbecue. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Water and soft drinks will also be provided or you can bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverage. A reminder email will be sent out closer to the time of the picnic. See you there!



Summer, Summer, Summer

There will be no newsletters or monthly meetings during the months of June, July, and August. We'll resume in September. Happy birding over the summer.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

MAY 8th, WED., 8AM – SECOND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD

Join co-leaders Barry Whitt (309-4353) and Annie Downing (520-6027) 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 walking for 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.

Directions: Take Exit 150B on I-81 and follow signs to Route 220N. Go about 4 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center, across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation. Park in the second lot on the right.

MAY 12th, SUNDAY, 7:30am - LITTLE SPRING DAY AT FINCA ALOHA

If you're not birded out from Big Spring Day, join Tim and Alyce Quinn (312-6844) starting at 7:30 AM at their house in Burnt Chimney for a morning of looking for spring migrants and resident birds. They have a variety of habitats including woodland trails, a pond, scrub and open fields, and their property list includes over 130 species. Wear sturdy shoes as the footing is rather uneven. If you don't want to hike, there's a big deck and lots of chairs where you can relax and do some stationary birding. If you'd like to stay for lunch, bring a dish to share. Keep an eye out for Eurasian Collared Doves as you pass the Burnt Chimney Elementary School on your way.

Directions: The Quinns' address is 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA. From Rt. 220, take a left on Rt. 697 by the Dairy Queen/Bojangles (about 5 miles south of Boones Mill). When it ends, go left on Rt. 122. Go one mile and turn right onto 670 (Burnt Chimney Road). If you're coming from Rt. 116, when it ends at Rt. 122, make a right and then a quick left onto Rt. 670. Whichever way you come, once you are on Rt. 670, go one mile and turn right onto 868 (Kingston). Go about .8 miles and make a right onto Edgewood Farm Lane (at a bunch of mailboxes). Go half a mile down this gravel road. When the road makes a 90 degree left turn onto Turkey Run, DON'T TURN. Instead you want to go straight. This is the beginning of their driveway, and there is a bluebird box here with their house number on it on the right of the driveway, and several old trailers on the left. You can't see the house from here, but go a quarter mile down the driveway and you're there. For those that want to carpool from Roanoke, call Linda Cory at 580-5214 by May 10th.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS cont.

MAY 25th, SATURDAY, 8AM - PARKS AND PARKING LOTS

This is a progressive birding field trip lead by Linda Cory (580-5214). We will be driving to several birding spots within a 7-mile radius with some walking at each location. Our adventure starts at our meeting place which is the parking lot behind Famous Toastery at Keagy Village. A printed itinerary will be handed out and carpooling is suggested. We hope to return around noon to have lunch at the Famous Toastery. Directions: The address for Keagy Village is 5010 Keagy Road which is across the street from the Metis Plaza (formerly known as the Allstate building, 1819 Electric Rd.). If it helps, Famous Toastery is at the far west end of Keagy Village and Dunkin' Donuts is at the far east end.

JUNE 1st, SATURDAY, 8AM - ROCK CASTLE GORGE, BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

Our host, Ranger Tom Davis, will meet us at the Rock Castle Gorge parking lot on the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 169 across from the Rocky Knob Visitor Center. We will explore hiking trails in the vicinity which are easy to moderate, so wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers. Bring food and drinks for a picnic around noon next to the visitor center. Our target bird is the Swainson's Warbler, but we will also be looking for neo-tropical migrants including Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings and various warblers. For those that want to carpool from Roanoke, call Linda Cory at 580-5214 by May 30th. Directions: The address for the Rocky Knob Visitor Center is 1670 Blue Ridge Parkway, Floyd VA which is about 1.25 hours from downtown Roanoke. We will be meeting across the street from the visitor center at the Rock Castle Gorge Overlook. See <https://npplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Rocky-Knob-Trails.jpg> .

AUGUST 3rd, SATURDAY, 8:30AM - ANNUAL SUMMER OPEN HOUSE AT THE AUSTIN'S ON BENT MOUNTAIN

Join Robin and Allen Austin (929- 5222) at 8:30 AM for a walk around their property. Wear sturdy shoes for easy to moderate walking. At noon, we will have lunch with the hummingbirds that come to their numerous feeders - an amazing sight. Bring a dish to share and ride with a friend if you can as parking is limited. Directions: From Cave Spring Corner (419/Electric Rd. and US 221/Bent Mountain Road), go south on US 221 for 10 miles to Bent Mountain. Turn right at Bent Mountain Bistro (Rt 612) and then left onto Tinsley Lane. In $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, turn right on Bottom Creek Rd and the Austin's are 1 mile on the left. The address is 10513 Bottom Creek Road, Bent Mountain, VA.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

March 30th - Tinker Creek Greenway at Fallon Park.

Twenty two club members were present for this 3 mile bird walk along Tinker Creek and the Roanoke River. Thirty four species were seen including Double-crested Cormorants, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Fish Crow, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Brown-headed Cowbird, Fish Crow, Pine Warbler and a Brown Thrasher. Also seen was a Cooper's Hawk and an Osprey.

April 6th - Locher Tract.

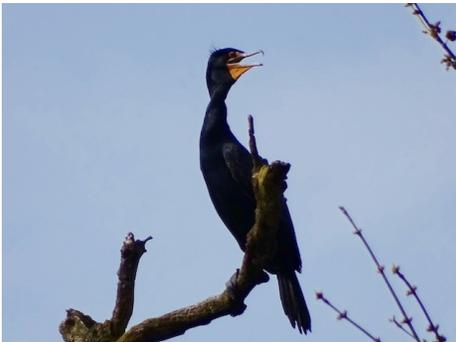
13 birders enjoyed 28 species including Double-crested Cormorants, 18 Wood Ducks, returning Tree Swallows, returning Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, a pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Swamp Sparrows, a Louisiana Waterthrush and a Palm Warbler.

April 10th - Second Wednesday Walk at Greenfield.

This walk produced 41 species with good looks at two Ospreys, one carrying a good sized fish. Other species were Common Raven, Pileated Woodpecker, Green Heron, Killdeer and Wood Duck. Also seen were 30 Tree Swallows, 6 Eastern Meadowlarks, Yellow-rumped Warblers, 22 Northern Cardinals and a Belted Kingfisher, of course.

April 20th - Whispering Pines and Plunkett Lake.

A dozen club members enjoyed a break in the weather. Of note at locations were hawks that were enjoying the return of sunshine and thermals: Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Broad-winged Hawks. At Whispering Pines, we saw Eastern Phoebe, both Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches, House and Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbirds, Chipping Sparrows, Eastern Towhees and Pine Warblers. At Plunkett Lake, we added Wood Duck, Chimney Swifts, Swallows (Northern Rough-winged, Barn and Tree), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Green Heron, House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Louisiana Waterthrush and a Belted Kingfisher.



Photos by
Annie
Downing



Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Project – We need your input.

Although you may not have signed up to be a reporter for this project, your observations are still needed. Examples would be seeing baby birds in the nest or fledglings on the ground. These are considered “incidental atlas observations” and are ALL welcomed. Here are the instructions on entering this valuable data. For further help, email RVBC2015@outlook.com.

- Go to the VA Atlas eBird portal at <https://ebird.org/content/atlasva/>
- Log in with your existing eBird account or create one if you are a first-time eBird user. If you are an existing eBird user, please do not create a new eBird account just for atlasing!
- Click “Submit Observations” at top.
- Enter and then select the block or county name in the field under “Find it on a Map”.
- Zoom in as far as possible and precisely plot the point of your observation, giving the location whatever name you wish. Click Continue.
- Enter the date of observation and select “Incidental” as the observation type, assuming you are reporting only the eagles and not a complete list of other birds seen on the same outing. Click Continue.
- Enter the number of birds seen (in this case, 2 Bald Eagles) and then click “Add Breeding Code or Details” to choose the correct breeding code (in this case, ON Confirmed – Occupied Nest). Add comments or links to photos in the Details field when available. Click Submit.
- Review your submission for accuracy and make edits as needed. Otherwise, that’s it!





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.

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