



# November '19 Newsletter

Celebrating 62 Years of Birding  
1957-2019

## NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 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.

## Wild Turkey Ecology

Presented by Gary Norman: Certified Wildlife Biologist for the VADGIF

As one of our native birds in Virginia, our speaker will present information about studies done on the Wild Turkey. This includes aspects of wild turkey survival and reproduction rates, habitat use and other important factors. The Virginia DGIF is currently doing studies to determine these factors which our speaker will tell us about.

Gary Norman received a BS at WVU and Master's degree at Virginia Tech in Wildlife Resources. He worked for 6 years in a District position in WV with the DNR before taking a similar position in VA with Game and Inland Fisheries in 1987. Gary became the Upland Game Bird Project Leader, working on wild turkey and ruffed grouse, in 1989. During his career Gary has worked on three significant DGIF research projects; wild turkey hen hunting impacts and reproduction, ruffed grouse hunting impacts and ecology, and gobbler hunting impacts and ecology. Gary served as Leader of the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project, a 6-year multi-state study on grouse ecology. Gary has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific publications on wild turkey and ruffed grouse. He is currently working on a study on the American woodcock involving their migration and ecology.



## **CLUB NEWS**

### **SEEDS FOR A SONG SALE**

Remember our club's annual fundraiser. The event will take place Saturday, November 2, at the Northwest Ace Hardware store in Hollins from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you can help the day of the sale with set-up, talking to the public about birds and bird feeding, loading bags, helping people find their way around the sale, or providing goodies, let Alyce know at twoquinns@yahoo.com, 540-719-0109 or 540-312-6844. Also if you have extra bird feeders in good working order and clean, you can bring those to sell. If you've already order your seed, please stop by at your convenience during the noted times to pick up your seed. If you forgot to order seed, we'll have extra. Just stop by and get the season's supply of seed. Remember the sale is open to the public, so spread the word. **SEE YOU SATURDAY!**

### **ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB CALENDAR**

The members voted to select the photos for our club calendar and the result is a calendar that we can be proud of. A big thank you goes out to all of our members who cast their vote, to our Webmaster Carol Siler, compiler Linda Cory and Calendar Chairman, Jack French who did the layout work AND, of course, our talented photographers. The calendars will be available for sale at the November meeting! Please tell your friends and neighbors about it for gifts and personal use. The cost of each remains at \$12 each. The calendars will also be available at the seed sale on November 2nd and the November and December meetings.

### **SAVE THE DATE: CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

The dates for this year's counts and the coordinators are:  
December 14th – Roanoke - Bill Hunley 540-467-3477  
December 15th – Fincastle - Barry Kinzie 540-992-2743  
More information will be in the December newsletter.

### **IT'S TIME TO VOTE**

The Nominating Committee of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club, proposed the following list of candidates for election at our last meeting with the vote to take place at our November meeting. In order to vote and/or run for an office, you need be a member. This slate of officers will start January 1st.

President: Kent Davis

1st Vice President of Programs: Linda Cory

2nd Vice President of membership: Diane Malpass

Treasurer: Sissy Logan

Secretary: Betty Burke

Directors: Nathan Anderson, Patty Arrington, Robin Austin, Mary Lou Barritt, Annie Downing, Maxine Fraade, and Eunice Hudgins.

(Mary Harshfield is stepping down as a director to take over Field Trips.)

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

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

### **November 9th, Saturday, 9am - Pond Hopping in Botetourt**

Meet our co-leaders, Tim and Alyce Quinn (312-6844), at the parking lot next to Bojangles at Botetourt Commons on Route 220 in Daleville. We will spend the morning visiting local ponds in search of waterfowl and other avian life. Carpooling is required due to the limited space at some pull-off areas. Bring your scope. Directions: Exit at 150B on I-81 and follow signs to 220N, keeping to the right of the traffic circle. Go 3/4 miles and take a left onto Kingston Rd, then a right into the Botetourt Commons shopping center. Look to the right for Bojangles.

### **NOVEMBER 13th, 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! 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.

### **NOVEMBER 17th, SUNDAY - AFTERNOON AT CLAYTOR LAKE**

The New River Valley Bird Club has invited us to join them on their annual foray to Claytor Lake. We will search for loons, grebes, coots and other recently arrived waterfowl. We will also look for woodland species on trails around the lake. Dress warmly as it is exposed and often windy. Directions: The group is meeting at 12:30 PM for lunch at Sal's Jr Pizzeria near the Fairlawn Walmart (7401 Peppers Ferry Blvd, Fairlawn, VA). For those that want to carpool, meet Linda Cory (580-5214) at the Exit 140 Park and Ride parking lot in Salem at 11:45 AM. Or, you can meet the group at 2PM at the Claytor Lake State Park, Howe house, 6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive, Dublin, VA.

### **Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 - VSO Trip to Virginia Beach**

Field Trip Field trips begin Friday afternoon followed by an evening social. Saturday field trips include the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Chincoteague. Visit Back Bay NWR on Sunday. For info regarding hotel stays and required registration see the VSO Fall Newsletter at <http://www.virginiabirds.org/>

What makes this trip special is the VSO has been granted special permission to visit the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) Island 4 on Saturday (11/30). Participation is limited and some fees apply depending on if you are also an individual member of the VSO. The headquarter for the trip is at the Comfort Suites Beachfront, 2321 Atlantic Ave, VA Beach, VA. Reserve rooms by Nov 15 for the group rate of \$74 + tax, 757-491-2400. To register for the weekend email [leeloudenslageradams@gmail.com](mailto:leeloudenslageradams@gmail.com).

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

**October 5 - Beaver Pond Walk in Craig County** - Weather this year was windy and overcast but the birds were fantastic. 10 participants saw 35 species. The highlight was a 1st year male rose-breasted grosbeak. Other highlights included a warbler wave (Black-throated-green, Yellow-rumped, Palm, Black-and-White, Orange-crowned) that kept us very busy and so excited we forgot that it was cold and windy! Species also included Philadelphia and Blue-headed Vireo and a nice look at a Lincoln's sparrow and, of course, a Belted Kingfisher.

**October 9 - Second Wednesday Walk at Greenfield** - Although the day started out misty, 48 species were seen. Highlights were 81 Canada Geese as well as Wood Ducks, Gadwalls, Black Ducks and Pied-billed Grebe. Also seen were Solitary Sandpiper, Hairy Woodpecker, Sharp-shinned and Coopers Hawks, a Great Blue Heron and Belted Kingfisher. A Raven, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing were seen as well as a surprise Least Flycatcher.



**October 12 - Hanging Rock Hawk Observatory** - 9 club members had a rewarding trip to the observatory which included an invigorating walk to the viewing platform. Local volunteer and leader Rodney Davis explained how hawks were reported and how the data was tabulated. Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen along with Ravens. Smaller birds seen were Juncos and Red-bellied and Hairy Woodpeckers.

**October 26 - Fenwick Mines Bird Walk** - A rainy day for a small group produced 21 species including Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a plethora of Cedar Waxwings and Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers. Fall arrivals included Dark-eyed Junco, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet and White-throated Sparrow.

Project Feeder Watch  
sponsored by Cornell  
University begins  
November 10.  
Check out  
<http://www.feederwatch.org/>  
for more details.

## BIRD OF THE MONTH - Wild Turkey

One of our celebrated seasonal birds is the turkey (unfortunately for them). Although turkey hunting season varies in Virginia, the turkey that most families cook for Thanksgiving and Christmas is the “domestic turkey”. So, what is the difference between the Wild Turkey and the domestic Tom turkey that we find in grocery stores? They are indeed both the same genus and species - *Meleagris gallopavo*, but they vary greatly. History books show that as early as 25 AD, Native Americans in Mexico and Central America bred them from a subspecies of the North American Wild Turkey. Spanish explorers took some of those white domesticated turkeys back to Europe around 1519 where they spread rapidly. One hundred years later the English colonists brought them to Virginia and Massachusetts and were surprised to see the much darker native wild turkeys.



After years of turkey farming, the two varieties are greatly different. The domesticated turkey is heavier, has shorter legs, is more docile, rarely flies and usually has white feathers. The Wild Turkey is slimmer with longer legs that help them run 25 MPH and stronger wings allowing them to fly a mile at a time up to 60 MPH. And of course, they are magnificently more beautiful. One of my favorite Wild Turkey memories is when I was with girlfriends sitting outside, eating, drinking and talking away. Being the only birder in the group, I was keeping an eye on a rafter of turkeys inching closer and closer. As we were cackling away, the turkeys were doing the same. When I brought everyone’s attention to them, we stopped talking and they stopped gobbling, but soon we resumed and the turkeys did too coming within a yard of us. Birds of a feather!  
Linda Cory

From Bird Watcher’s Digest, here are some trivia questions: Answers on pg. 3.

1 - Where are you least likely to find a Wild Turkey?

- A. Alaska
- B. Hawaii
- C. Florida
- D. New Mexico

2 - What is the typical wingspan of a Wild Turkey?

- A. 2 feet
- B. 4 feet
- C. 6 feet
- D. 8 feet

3 - What backyard foods can you put out to attract Wild Turkeys?

- A. Thistle seed and millet
- B. Peanuts and suet
- C. Sunflower seed and cracked corn
- D. None of the above

4 - There is only one other species in the genus *Meleagris*?

- A. Ruffed Grouse
- B. Ring-necked Pheasant
- C. Chachalaca
- D. Ocellated Turkey

5 - What are young turkeys called?

- A. Poults
- B. Jakes
- C. Jennies
- D. All of the above



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



2019—2020 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	