



# January Newsletter

Next meeting Monday  
Jan. 11th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Grandin Court Baptist Church  
2660 Brambleton Ave SW. Roanoke, VA 24015

Before the meeting please join fellow club members at 5:30 p.m.  
for dinner at the Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Ave.

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**Deadline for submissions to be included in the next RVBC newsletter** are due on the 20th of the month preceding the publication month. **Thank you!** Please send photos (in medium resolution or smaller) and submissions or suggestions to RVBC Newsletter Editor, Maureen Eiger at [rvbcnews@cox.net](mailto:rvbcnews@cox.net)

**Hyperlinks** have now been added. You can click on the underlined link and it should take you there. Use it for sending email or to get internet and website information. Visit our web page for past newsletters and current information at:  
<http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com>

**NEW! - Visit and "like" the Roanoke Valley Bird Club's Facebook page.**

Celebrating 59 Years of  
Birding!  
1957-2016



## The life of Audubon By Rupert Cutler

"Rupe" will present his talk (from the Taubman Museum of Art Gallery on October 16) that opened the museum's current show of the art of John James Audubon. It covers both the life of Audubon and Audubon's place in the pantheon of American natural resources conservationists beginning with William Bartram and ending with President Obama's signing the latest legislation to add acreage to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

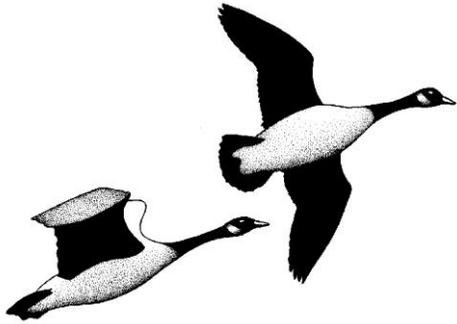
Rupert began birding in the 1940s as a member of the Audubon Youth of Detroit, the kids' auxiliary of the Detroit Audubon Society, and was a member of that Society's Bird Survey Committee for several years, being the first to find an active piping plover nest in the Detroit area. He was employed by the National Audubon Society in two capacities, as kitchen boy at the Audubon Camp of Maine in 1951 and as Senior Vice President for Programs in 1980-83. He has an undergraduate degree in wildlife management from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. degree in natural resources economics from Michigan State University. Rupert has been a university professor (MSU), a presidential appointee (assistant secretary of agriculture in the Carter Administration), an environmental association CEO (Defenders of Wildlife, Western Virginia Land Trust), and a member of Roanoke City Council (2002-10) and is a long time member of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by a RVBC member.

**Have you signed up for the VSO Annual Meeting? Details pg. 3**

**A Bird Word**-Do you know what a **SUBADULT** actually is? Hint: Sometimes known as a subbie, immature, or juvie bird. When is an eagle no longer a **SUBADULT**? Answer is on page 4.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY BIRD COUNT** – Place of YOUR choosing on Friday, January 1st from 12 AM to 11:59PM Start your 2015 out right by making a New Year's Day Bird List at the place of your choosing. This is not a group field trip and is not a competition. Also, this is not a national organized count and there is no fee. Some of our members for years have made it a personal tradition to start their year by listing the birds seen/heard on the first day of the year. Maybe this will be the start of a new tradition for you, too! Make a note of all bird species seen and/or heard beginning midnight of New Year's Eve (which would officially be January 1st) and ending 11:59PM of January 1st. You may bird anywhere you would like (even Florida). Email your resulting list with where you birded, the time of day and all participant names to: Linda Cory at [lcory50@juno.com](mailto:lcory50@juno.com) Highlights from your lists will go in the February newsletter. Good luck everyone and Happy New Year!



### **POND HOPPING - SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 AT 9:30 A.M.**

Meet leaders Tim and Alyce Quinn (719-0109) at Botetourt Commons (BoJangles) at 9:30 a.m. We will carpool to various ponds in the area in search of waterfowl. Expect easy walking and please bring a scope if you have one.

### **JANUARY 13<sup>th</sup> SECOND WEDNESDAY BIRD WALK AT GREENFIELD AKA CHERRY BLOSSOM TRAIL MEET AT 8:30 A.M -**

Meet leaders Barry Whitt and Carol Chappell at the second parking lot on the right across the road from the lake at 8:30 A.M. for a special 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 1 1/2 miles. There are benches along the trail for "birding from the bench" as well as more adventurous walking up to the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! Greenfield is located on Route 220 in Botetourt County. Directions: Take Exit 150B on I81 and then a right onto Route 11 for a quarter mile. Take a right onto Route 220N. Go 3.8 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation).

### **AUDUBON EXHIBIT WALK AT THE TAUBMAN MUSEUM – THURSDAY, JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 6:30 P.M.**

Join Linda Cory and Rupert Cutler in the lobby of the Taubman museum at 110 Salem Avenue, downtown Roanoke. This is a free event and you are welcome to visit the rest of the museum after we view the Audubon prints. The exhibit, John James Audubon: Swift Birds of Passage features over 50 prints of birds native to (or migratory through) the Southeastern region of the United States. The compilation of works in this exclusive exhibition will both illuminate Audubon's legacy and enlighten us on his artistic and scientific endeavors that transcended its own time. We will each be studying the exhibit at our own pace. The museum is open to the public and it may be difficult to stay together as a group. After viewing the exhibit, we can visit Nora's cafe on the first floor of the museum. They will be selling wraps, snacks, wine and beer with live music until 9:00 P.M. Audubon's artwork will be displayed until February 14th, 2016. Please see:

<http://www.taubmanmuseum.org/main/exhibitions/john-james-audubon-swift-birds-passage>



### **ANNUAL RAPTOR COUNT - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13<sup>th</sup>**

What a great way to spend Valentine's Day with your sweetie!! Plan to spend a few hours driving away the winter blues on Saturday, February 13, 2016. The annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding!! No skill required just a little time and effort. We count all the hawks that we can find. Just a reason to get together with your birding buddies and enjoy a winter outing!! The form and more details will be in the February RVBC Newsletter.

### **VSO WINTER FIELD TRIP, NORTH CAROLINA OUTER BANKS, FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>**

Make plans to join trip leaders Bill Akers, Jerry Via, Lee Adams and Meredith for the VSO's Winter field trip. We always have great waterfowl,

shorebirds and raptors, along with a wide assortment of land birds. Come prepared for variable weather, lots of birds and a great time! If you have any questions contact field trip coordinator, Meredith Bell at 804-824-4958

[merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com).

**TRENDING AROUND THE INTERNET- THE MESSENGER** is the artful story about the mass depletion of songbirds on multiple continents, and about those who are working to turn the tide. Tickets are needed to be presold to have this movie aired in our area. Click on - <https://tugg.com/events/80304> The Virginia Society of Ornithology recently adopted a set of principles for birding ethically. The VSO hopes these are guidelines that birders in Virginia will support and abide by. Please share copies of the principles with your birding friends. [Download VSO's Principles of Birding Ethics](#)

## Events, Projects and Club News

**SEED SALE REPORT:** Thanks to all of you who made this year's Seeds for a Song a success, either by purchasing seed or by working the sale--or both! Despite the rain (for the first time ever) that lasted all morning, we had a good turnout, managing to sell over \$7200 of seed, giving us a profit of around \$940.

A special thanks to all the people who helped with the sale in one way or another: Tim and Alyce Quinn, Eunice Hudgins, Mary Ellen Belcher, Robin Austin, Norris Ford, Bob and Ellen Rummel, Lourdes Page, Pam and Elly Wefel, Patty and Andy Arrington, Dick Hendrix, Sid and Mary Lou Barritt, Sissy Logan, Kent Davis, Liz Williams, Jerry and Rita O'Brien, Scott Spangler and Pat Johnson. If I missed anyone, I apologize.

And just to let you know, the folks who carried seed handled 9730 pounds of it! Let's do it again next year! – Alyce Quinn.

**B.O.D. NOTE:** The Board of Directors will be meeting to discuss how to distribute the proceeds of the Seed Sale to bird related scholarships/projects. You are welcome to give them your thoughts.



**NEW LOGO RVBC SHIRTS AVAILABLE** - If you didn't order a shirt with the new club logo on it, we have a few extras. T-shirts sell for \$12 and denim shirts for \$25. They will be available at the January meeting.

### **VSO ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORED BY THE ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB, APRIL 29 - MAY 1,**

Join the Roanoke Valley Bird Club for a fun weekend of birding our lovely mountains and valleys. Questions about the field trips can be answered by Linda Cory at 540-580-5214 or [cory50@juno.com](mailto:cory50@juno.com). Any other questions about the event can be directed to Alyce Quinn, General Chairman at 540-719-0109 or [twoquinns@yahoo.com](mailto:twoquinns@yahoo.com). **You must register for the weekend's events and the banquet by April 19** by [downloading the registration form](#), or visiting the [VSO Annual Meeting](#)

[Registration web page](#) to pay electronically, in order to attend.

### **CALL FOR PAPERS - VSO 2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

The Virginia Society of Ornithology invites scientific presentations for its 2016 Annual Meeting to be held April 29 – May 1<sup>st</sup> in Roanoke. This meeting is a joint event with the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. Oral presentations should be 15 minutes long, including time for questions. Static displays (such as posters) will also be accepted space permitting. Submissions will be reviewed by a selection committee and added to the program until the schedule or display space is full. Participants will be notified of their acceptance by March 21. Please submit the following information about your poster or presentation no later than March 14, 2016. Include:

- Type of presentation; oral or poster
- Presenting author's name and author's contact information: postal address, email address, phone number
- Institutional affiliation (if applicable) Names of co-authors (if applicable)
- Title of oral presentation or poster
- Brief abstract (250 word limit)
- Audio-visual needs (e.g. laptop and LCD projector, overhead projector, slide projector)

Send information (email preferred) to Carole Massart at [carolemassart@msn.com](mailto:carolemassart@msn.com) Phone: 540-890-4806 or by mail to Carole Massart 1777 Thomason Lane Goodview, VA 24095

**WILD BIRD REHAB FUND** – I took in over 100 orphaned or injured birds this year. It was a pretty busy year. I



appreciated all the help and support from the RVBC membership and did receive several birds found by RVBC members. I still have an Eastern Screech Owl, a Bluebird, a Junco a Mourning Dove and a Chipping Sparrow as of this newsletter. The Chipping Sparrow is non-releasable because it could not fly well enough to migrate south. I found it a home at the Columbus Zoo. It will "fly" there in a plane in early Jan.

If you would like to see some of the 2015 intakes, I made a short video. You can click on the link

<http://studio.stupeflix.com/v/q3qh8yhHmrl9/?autoplay=1>

I hope you will enjoy it. Toasts to everyone for helping wild birds get a second chance at living. Thank You! - Maureen Eiger



## Meet RVBC Member - Norris Ford

Submitted by Roving Reporter, Maxine Fraade



Norris Ford, along with his wife Janie, is a long time member of the bird club and for the upcoming Virginia Society of Ornithology meeting in April. Norris (and Janie) wears several hats. He's the budget-maker-money-person-send-your-registrations-into-give-information-to-Janie-to-keep-track-of-on-her-spreadsheet-and-also-Eunice (who's doing registrations) guy, and more.

Norris and Janie are a real team. They're passionate Carolina Shag dancers, which is the state dance of South Carolina and is a combination of NY jitterbug and bebop style. Like migratory birds, twice a year, spring and fall, you'll find Norris and Janie along with 12-15,000 others in ground zero, Myrtle Beach, for the shag dancing convention, "the best fun you've ever had with your clothes on," Norris says.

Norris was introduced to birding through Janie who worked for the late lamented Peggy Spiegel Opengari at For the Birds, the birder shop downtown Roanoke that is now closed. Janie as well as Norris went on several birding trips with Peggy to South and Central America, New Zealand and Australia before Peggy passed away in '08.

Norris and Janie have 2 adult children and several grandchildren whom they are hoping to interest in birding through the game, Bird Bingo. Since I have a new grandson I immediately looked this up

<https://www.audubon.org/news/gift-idea-bird-bingo> and it looks great, so thanks for the tip, Norris!

## SIGHTINGS

### From the RVBC Members attending the November meeting

- ✓ Robin Jordan rescued a White-winged Scoter from Peters Creek Road and released it at Carvins Cove.
- ✓ Patty Arrington was at Cape May and saw a Pheasant and a Harlequin Duck.
- ✓ Bob Luce saw a Pheasant crossing Rt. 122 in Franklin County.
- ✓ Don and Mary Jo Reed saw a Bald Eagle feasting on roadkill in Fincastle.
- ✓ Kent Davis saw five Red Crossbills and later seventeen Red Crossbills while he was in the Cranberry Glades area, as well as five Pine Siskins. While on the Highland Scenic Highway he spotted a Ruffed Grouse.
- ✓ Mary Lou Barritt had a Ruby-throated Hummingbird visiting her feeder until the Saturday after Thanksgiving.
- ✓ Maxine Fraade has a viburnum in her yard that is visited by a Yellow-bellied sapsucker. She has also seen a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at the viburnum.

### Field trips and unusual bird sightings

- ✓ **GREENFIELD--BOTETOURT CENTER DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2015** - RVBC field trip led by Barry Kinsie, 42 species. Highlights: American Black Duck, 24 Green-winged Teal, 27 Ring-necked Ducks, 3 Bufflehead, Common Raven, 3 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 21 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle), White-crowned Sparrow, 3 Eastern Meadowlark
- ✓ **ROANOKE RIVER GREENWAY-VIC THOMAS PARK TO STP DEC 19, 2015** RVBC CBC with leader Kent Davis, 38 species seen. Highlights: Wilson's Snipe, A. Kestrel, E. Phoebe and Brown Creeper.

**BIRD WORD ANSWER – SUBADULT** is a bird that has some adult characteristics but is not yet sexually mature. The term **subadult** usually refers to larger birds such as gulls and raptors that may take several years to reach full maturity and recognizable adult plumage.

A Bald Eagle will not get the characteristic white hood and tail until it is about five years old. Only when this transition happens is it considered an adult bird not a **subadult** bird.

Many times, **subadults** are referred to more specifically by their age, such as first year or second year birds, as determined by their coloration and markings.



## BIRD TOPIC - SAFER BIRD HOUSES

Many birders enjoy having birdhouses in their backyard in order to observe bird families as babies are hatched and raised. It can be devastating, however, when tragedy befalls those bird families, and hazards can come in many forms: predators, poor climate and illness can all take a toll on backyard bird populations. These dozen tips for safer birdhouses can help tip the odds in favor of birds' survival.



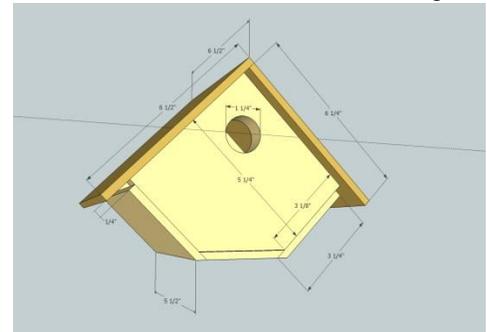
### Predator Protection

Backyard predators can include pets, stray cats, raccoons, squirrels and even other bird species that may kill or injure baby birds either as food or to take over the birdhouse for their own nesting site. To make a birdhouse safe from predators:

- Remove any perches from the house. Birds do not need them to access the house, and they only provide convenient handholds for predators.

- Train any outdoor pets to keep away from birdhouses. Behavioral conditioning with a water hose is an effective method that can also be used on squirrels and other wildlife with enough patience and perseverance.

- Be sure the birdhouse opening is the right size for the species you wish to attract. If the opening is too large, predators will have easy access to the nest and other bird species may take over.
- Position the birdhouse far enough away from brush so predators cannot stage an ambush, but close enough to plants so parent birds can easily scout the area. Five to eight feet of distance is sufficient for most birdhouses. Similarly, keep birdhouses away from popular feeding areas to prevent territorial conflicts between feeding birds and nesting parents.
- Choose natural colors so the birdhouse will blend into the surroundings. Browns and dark shades of green are the most suitable choices and will be the most attractive to birds. If possible, use only natural materials that lack ornamentation to keep birdhouses concealed.



### Climate Safety

A safe birdhouse is snug and comfortable for nesting birds. To keep a house safe from the weather, follow these tips.

- Choose a birdhouse design with ventilation holes in the upper part of the walls to circulate fresh air and prevent the house from getting too hot or suffocating. If the design does not include ventilation holes, drill unobtrusive holes in the corners or sides of the house.
- Position the birdhouse so its opening does not face into direct sunlight or prevailing winds. Full or partial shade will help keep the house cooler, and a more protected location will be safer.
- Angle the birdhouse so rain cannot easily run into the opening or through ventilation holes. Some birdhouse models include an angled face to ease water runoff, and a larger roof overhang can also help keep the interior of the birdhouse dry.
- Avoid birdhouses that are constructed of metal. Metal houses will become miniature ovens in summer heat, and reflective metals are highly visible to predators.

### Healthy Birdhouses

Birdhouses can become crowded as nestlings grow, giving diseases greater opportunities to spread to the young birds. A safe birdhouse is one that takes into account the health of the birds, following tips such as:

- Do not paint the interior surfaces of the birdhouse. Furthermore, use only environmentally safe paints, stains or varnishes on the outside structure and avoid any lead-based paints that can poison birds from fumes or ingestion.
- Choose a birdhouse design with the proper interior dimensions for the desired residents. Too small of a house may cause growing birds to smother, while too large of a house will not be attractive to nesting parents.
- Clean the birdhouse seasonally or whenever a family of birds vacates the premises. Remove all nesting debris and rinse the house with a sanitizing solution of one part bleach and nine parts water. Rinse the house again with clear water, and allow it to air dry thoroughly before storing it for the winter or repositioning it for new tenants.



Roanoke Valley Bird Club

C/o Eleanor Dye  
P.O. Box 74  
Vinton, Virginia 24179

## 2016 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Application Form

Please print

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Memberships expire on August 31 each year*

Annual Dues are as follows:

- Individual \$12
- Family \$20
- Student \$7
- Sustaining \$30
- Adopt a Bluebird \$15

Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to  
Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
Mail To: Roanoke Valley Bird Club  
C/o Eleanor Dye  
P.O. Box 74  
Vinton, VA 24179-0074