



April Newsletter

Next meeting Monday
April 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 for dinner
at 5:30 p.m. at the Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Ave.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Program – Barn Owls
A Bird Word
Field Trips
Club Events, Projects & News
Bird Sightings
Trending
VSO meeting information
Membership Renewal Form

Deadline for submissions to be included in the next RVBC newsletter **are due by the 20th of the month** preceding the publication month. **Thank you!**

Please send photos, medium resolution or smaller, written submissions or suggestions to RVBC Newsletter Editor, Maureen Eiger at 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>

Visit and “like” the Roanoke Valley Bird Club’s Facebook page.

**Celebrating
59 Years of Birding!
1957-2016**

LAST CALL ...

Click on this link and sign up by April 19th to register for the VSO Annual Meeting - <http://VSO-Annual-Meeting>

Barn Owl Nesting Productivity in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia

By Dr. Kerri Cooper-Bailey



Barn Owl populations have been considered somewhat stable at times and at other times have led researchers to be concerned. Dr. Cooper-Bailey conducted a study to determine not only their existing population numbers but, cyclical trends. We will also learn about the Barn Owl’s diet and identify individuals in the study area.

Dr. Cooper-Bailey works as a small animal and exotic mobile veterinarian in the New River and Roanoke Valley. She is a master class falconer, Category 3 State and federally permitted wildlife rehabilitator (she can rehabilitate eagles) is a guest instructor at VMRCVM (Virginia Tech Vet School) in exotic species and in her spare time conducts raptor research and conservation efforts.

**Live raptor education birds will also be present.
You are welcome to bring your camera to take photos**

This month’s meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by
Patty and Andy Arrington

A Bird Word- Did you know all birds are **oviparous**? But what does **oviparous** mean? Answer is on page 3.

LOCHER TRACT - SATURDAY, APRIL 2nd

Join Educator and Field Trip Leader Bill Hunley (774-2397) at 8AM at Bojangles at Botetourt Commons for an interesting field trip to Locher Tract, located in the Jefferson National Forest. This is a managed wildlife habitat that contains woods, open fields, a beaver pond and good views of the James River. We can expect a good variety of birds, including early migrants such as Pine Warbler, Wood Duck and Fox Sparrow. Locher Tract is near Natural Bridge Station in Rockbridge County. There will be 1-2 miles of level walking. Botetourt Commons is on Rt 220 North off of I81, Exit 150B.

BIRDING, WORKING AND EATING - SATURDAY, APRIL 9th

Join Barry Kinzie 540-309-4353 at Greenfield at 7:30AM for an hour of birding. Meet at the parking lot closest to the lake.



Around 9AM, the group will proceed to Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center for a clean-up morning. Bring work gloves and your favorite gardening tools. At 12 noon, Teresa Kinzie will serve a delicious Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad. Any level of help will be appreciated! Greenfield 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). Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center Directions: From I-81, take Exit #150B. Turn left on US 11 North and follow it 2.6 miles to Rt. 651/Stoney Battery Road in Troutville. Turn right and follow 0.9 miles to Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center (#941) on the left.

BIG SPRING DAY - SATURDAY, MAY 7th

Late April through mid-May in the mountains of Virginia is about as good as it gets for spring birding. Migrating birds are heading north from the tropics to northern breeding grounds. Birds that spend the entire year here are setting up territories and pairing up to breed which makes them more active, vocal and easier to observe in their bright spring plumages. Each spring at the height of this migration, the Roanoke Valley Bird Club teams up with the Lynchburg Bird Club to do a census of birds in our area – **Big Spring Day**. The count (yes, we count each and every bird), done **rain or shine**, is centered in an area around the Peaks of Otter and covers specific territories within a 7 ½ mile radius of the Peaks.

Small groups are assigned to each of the territories. Most of the areas require very little or no walking (driving the territory and stopping when you see activity or just walking short distances from your car to observe and listen). A couple of the territories require hiking for several hours. We will include at least one experienced birder with every team. This is a great opportunity for beginning birders – your eyes and ears can help locating birds while others can assist in the identification.

We will gather on Saturday, May 7th in your assigned territory with your team starting between 7:00 and 8:00 AM. At noon, all participants gather at Harvey's Knob for a picnic lunch and a tally of what has been seen. Bring your own food and drink. After lunch, teams may go back and finish their territory, search for a reported rarity or just call it a day and head home.

Please join us for a fun day of birding. It's an opportunity to meet new birders, discover new birding territories and, maybe, see a bird you have never seen before. To participate, contact Barry Whitt at 540-309-4353 or Carol Whitt at 540-632-6523 or you may email us at 540carolc@gmail.com. Let us know if you prefer to drive or hike. We will assign everyone to their territories and provide all of the information you will need for the day.



LITTLE SPRING DAY AT FINCA ALOHA - SUNDAY, MAY 8th

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 Wirtz, the following day 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. They frequently are the power lines along the road. The Quinns' address is 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184. 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. When you are on Rt. 670, go another 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, you instead want to go straight. This is the beginning of their driveway, and there is a bluebird box here with the house number, 681, on it on the right of the driveway, and an old dilapidated trailer on the left. You can't see the house from here, but go a quarter mile down the driveway and you're there.

Events, Projects and Club News



A SPECIAL THANK YOU - Eunice and John Hudgins took over coordinating the Roanoke Valley Bird Club's participation in Big Spring Day, 16 years ago from Barry Kinzie. Through their efforts, Eunice and John established defined territories, writing directions for the routes and organizing people so that we would have a bird census that could be corroborated each year. Eunice took over the task of organizing everyone all by herself after her husband John passed away. She has now passed the project on to Barry and Carol Whitt. So let's take a moment to say "thank you" to Eunice Hudgins for 16 years of hard work and dedication. She made Big Spring Day a special day that birders could look forward to.

Bluebird Nest Boxes for Sale

The RVBC builds and sells bluebird nest boxes, and money from the sales goes toward upkeep of our three bluebird trails. Boxes can be purchased alone or with predator guards and mounting poles. Prices are \$20/nest box and \$25/pole and predator guard. New this year, we are also offering sun shields for the boxes for \$10. The temperature inside a nest box can be 10 degrees higher than the outside air. Embryos and chicks cannot survive for long in temperatures over 107 degrees, so if your nest box will be in full sun a good part of the day, consider mounting a sun shield to the top of the box. Contact Alyce Quinn at twoquinns@yahoo.com or 540-719-0109, or Pam and Elly Wefel at pewefel@aol.com or 540-977-0636 to purchase, or for more information.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - Eileen Rowan and as new sustaining members; George and Katherine Clemo



YOU CAN HELP SAVE BABY BIRDS THIS YEAR

It is that time of year again, baby bird rehab season. Any supplies donated will be much appreciated. Last year over 100 birds were helped. It seems each year the need gets greater. All items are only used for rehabbing injured or orphaned wild birds. If you need a tax deductible receipt, one will be provided. Please bring any of the following items to the next RVBC meeting or contact local bird club rehabber, Maureen Eiger (540) 342-4890 to arrange a pick up or drop off. Thank you for your help!

BABY BIRD REHAB SUPPLY LIST

- Paper towels & tissues (baby birds poop!) and old but clean towels
- Cat or dog carriers, bird cages
- Sugar, Suet cakes, small bags of seed, Dove Mix (found only at Petco)
- Grocery store items; powdered egg whites, white sugar, peanut butter, jam or pure fruit jelly. Or a Gift Card for grocery items; fruit for birds and carrots, kale to gut load the meal worms.
- Cleaning supplies; bleach, sponges and tall kitchen bags (use 1 bag a day), unused spray bottles
- For the outdoor bird cages; tree bark (large strips), wooden dowels, fiberglass screen, shade cloth, logs, bags of landscape pebbles, ¼" hardware cloth. Lumber, untreated wood and screen/storm doors.
- Do you have fruit trees or berries on your property and would like to share with the rehab birds? Also if you find/have Gypsy Moth cocoons, cedar berries, please save them so they can be fed to the rehab birds.

Volunteers are needed to transport or help feed baby birds this summer!

Would you would like to know what it is like to rehab baby birds or just transport them to the proper habitat and release them? Transporters are needed from Botetourt, Bedford and Franklin and other nearby counties to/from Roanoke City. Often children/students call about a bird and they have no way to get the bird into rehab. If you can help with transporting an injured or orphaned baby bird (even occasionally) or if you would like to learn more about rehabbing them, please call Maureen Eiger at (342-4890) or e-mail meiger@cox.net to be placed on a transport list for releases or bird pickups.



A Bird Word Answer - Oviparous is what you call animals that produce eggs that mature and hatch after leaving the mother's body. Most newborn mammals, some reptiles and even some fish emerge swimming or generally flailing about, but baby birds and turtles are stuck cracking open eggshells

BUY A SHIRT / SAVE A BLUEBIRD



A mere 50 years ago, the Eastern Bluebird suffered a steep decline in population, enough so that scientists feared for its survival. This decline was due in part to severe weather, but also to human activities. Habitat loss, removal of dead trees, the introduction of invasive species, pesticide use, cars, hunting, and collection of eggs all contributed to this decline. Fortunately citizen scientists reversed the trend by introducing artificial housing in the form of nest boxes. Now there is a large network of bluebird trails around the country, monitored weekly from spring through late summer. The bluebird population has rebounded and stabilized.

With the purchase of this t-shirt (or two or three!), you can be a part of the effort to conserve bluebirds for many years to come. Proceeds will be donated to organizations that help support Eastern Bluebird habitat. Wouldn't it be a great gift for all the bird lovers in your life?

Buying a shirt is easy. Just go to <https://www.bonfirefunds.com/buy-a-shirt-save-a-bluebird> and follow the steps to place an order. Shirts are \$18 each, or \$20 for a ladies' slim fit. We need a minimum of 20 orders by the end of the campaign on April 11 for the shirts to be produced and sent out. If you're unable to order online, just contact Alyce Quinn at twoquinns@yahoo.com or 540-719-0109 and she can order one for you. Show your support--order your shirt(s) today!

SIGHTINGS

MENTIONED BY RVBC MEMBERS ATTENDING THE MARCH MEETING

- ✓ Bob Luce saw 10-12 ruddy ducks fly over Smith Mountain Lake.
- ✓ Barry Whitt saw about one dozen ruddy ducks on the James River.
- ✓ Ineka Salo saw cedar waxwings in her yard.
- ✓ Kent Davis reports that the yellow-crowned night herons at back at Smith Park.
- ✓ Fox Sparrows were seen by Toni Pepin in her backyard in Roanoke City, by Linda Cory in Roanoke County and Gwen Firing also had fox sparrows in her yard.

NOTABLE FIELD TRIP SIGHTINGS

WOODCOCK WALK TO STARKEY WETLANDS - MARCH 6TH

19 people turned out for the annual woodcock walk the Starkey Wetlands behind the South County Library on Merriman Road. Although it was a beautiful evening, only one woodcock made its presence. Instead, we heard a plethora of spring peepers and wood frogs. Members have reported four woodcocks at the same location the evening of March 13th.

EXPLORE PARK - MARCH 12TH

17 people attended a special Explore Park walk co-sponsored by Roanoke County Parks and Recreation. At least one guest joined our club at the March meeting. Although the morning started out misty, it turned into a beautiful day with 26 species seen. Highlights were wild turkey and some returning spring migrants such as the eastern meadowlark, brown-headed cowbird, tree swallow and pine warbler.

REPORT FROM THE MID-WEEK FIELD TRIP TO GREENFIELD - MARCH 23.

Sixteen birders joined trip leader Barry Whit on a two mile walk at Greenfield. 46 species were seen with the highlights being wood ducks, gadwalls, blue-winged teal, northern shoveler and ruddy ducks. The group was treated with good looks of an osprey. Also seen were many tree swallows as they were setting up nests in the boxes around the lake. Also seen were yellow-rumped warblers, brown thrashers, phoebes, white-crowned and white-throated sparrows, eastern meadowlarks and our friend the kingfisher.

Trending around the Internet: BIRD CAMS are better than watching TV! In 2014, a pair of mated Bald Eagles chose the most idyllic of nest sites within the United States' National Capital (Washington, DC), nestled high in a Tulip Poplar tree amongst the Azalea Collection at the U.S. National Arboretum, which is operated by the United States Department of Agriculture. This is the first Bald Eagle pair to nest in this location since 1947. The two Eagles have been iconically named "Mr. President" and "The First Lady." You can view the most patriotic nest cam in the United States, 24 hours a day. If you wish to see this active Bald Eagle's nest, visit the webcam at the National Arboretum <http://eagles.org/dceaglecam/>

Or see the famous Decorah Eagles nest camera at <http://www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles>

If you want to view any kind of bird anywhere on the planet, go to <http://www.viewbirds.com/> and click on the species you are interested in watching. It has a list of bird cam links from all over the world.

Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting Update April 29 - May 1, 2016

VSO ANNUAL MEETING - BIRDING THE MOUNTAINS AND VALLEYS April 29-May 1, 2016

Registration Deadline April 19

What a glorious time to be a birder! Spring migration has begun and will be in full swing at the end of April, just in time for the VSO Annual Meeting being hosted by the RVBC. Have you registered to attend? Don't miss the April 19 deadline! You can find a registration form in last month's newsletter or at roanokevalleybirdclub.com. You can even register online using PayPal at virginiabirds.net. Come join the fun as we show attendees all the wonderful birds we have in this part of the state.



We're offering about two dozen field trips to an assortment of habitats. Choose your trips according to what you want to see! Some of the most sought-after birds we will likely encounter are wood duck, blue-winged teal, yellow-crowned night-heron, brown-headed nuthatch, yellow-throated vireo, warbling vireo, Acadian flycatcher, red-headed woodpecker, pine siskin, cerulean warbler, scarlet tanager, rose-breasted grosbeak, savannah sparrow and grasshopper sparrow. Rarer but still possible are ruffed grouse, bald eagle, black-billed cuckoo, rusty blackbird, blue grosbeak and bobolink. Sign up for field trips when you pick up your registration packet on Friday.

In the afternoons and evenings enjoy vendors, exhibitors, social hours, massages, a silent auction, and programs by the New River Valley's Jerry Via, and renowned author and retired director of the Cape May Bird Observatory, Pete Dunne. A schedule of events and details about everything that's happening throughout the weekend can be found in the last couple of RVBC newsletters and on our website.

Questions about field trips should be directed to Linda Cory at RVBC2015@outlook.com or 540-580-5214. Registration questions should go to Norris Ford at dnford@yahoo.com or 540-344-9991. Contact Alyce Quinn, General Chair at twoquinns@yahoo.com or 540-719-0109 with any other questions. (Photo by Bill Tucker)
Hope to see you there!

A NOTE ABOUT PETE DUNNE: Our guest speaker for the VSO Annual Meeting will be interviewed on Public Radio WVTF 89.1 FM with Tad O'Neil on April 7th or 11th at 10:30 AM. Confirmation date/link will be emailed and on our RVBC Facebook page.

VSO SILENT AUCTION

And now for something different at the upcoming VSO meeting - check out the **Silent Auction**.

But not just any silent auction - we've got some outstanding items of interest to birders and lovers of the outdoors. How would you like to bid on a pair of new Nikon ProStaff 10x25 Binoculars: sold online for \$139.99, price at our auction...???



Or a beautiful hand-woven basket donated by the Roanoke Natural Foods Co-op filled with picnic necessities: great wine, plates, natural snacks, and more worth over \$100.

We'll have a "Tilley" outdoors hat sold online for \$84, handmade birdhouses and feeders donated by Jeff Trollinger this year's VSO President, an 8 port hummingbird feeder donated by Nature's Emporium, a basket of useful items from Walkabout Outfitters valued at \$75, and a \$50 gift card from Orvis.

Have grandchildren? Bid on a family membership to the Science Museum of Western Virginia valued at \$120 - your winning bid of ??? gets it.

There will be fine handicrafts, collectable art, jewelry, books, and much much more.

You can't win it if you don't bid - so do come by and see what catches your eye.

For more information contact Maxine Fraade at maxinefr@aol.com





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
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Vinton, VA 24179-0074