



# May Newsletter

Next meeting Monday  
May 11th, 2015 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.

Celebrating 58 Years  
of Birding!  
1957-2015

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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. Post your photos!

## BIRDING CALIFORNIA IN THE SPRING

By Sandra and Jim Elder



Sandra and Jim Elder, members of the Lynchburg Bird Club, went on a two-month trip to California in March and April of 2014. The show is computer generated with a lot of Ken Burns-type animation, great photos of birds, flowers, and scenery, great music and many bird calls they recorded. Jim and Sandra covered many of the famous birding locations like Salton Sea, Point Reyes, and the Monterey coast as well as John Muir's home, Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon Parks and much more.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by  
**Nancy and Bob Luce**

**REMINDER- BIG SPRING DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. Contact Eunice Hudgins (389-4056) and LITTLE SPRING DAY at FINCA ALOHA, SUNDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> at 7:30 a.m. Contact Tim and Alyce Quinn (719-0109)**

**A Bird Word**-Do you know what **Extralimital** means in reference to birds? Hint - Honeycreepers are not found in New York. Answer is on page 4.

## Field Trips

Field Trips Chairman, Linda Cory (540) 580- 5214

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Ferrum Birding** - Meet at the Tanglewood Mall sign at 8 AM to car pool or at 8:45 AM at Ferrum College. Professor Todd Fredericksen will lead us on a bird walk on the Ferrum College campus. Ferrum College has over 400 acres of forestland with hiking trails and two ponds. We will take a short (1 mile) hike along a forested trail and then do some more birding near a large pond on the main campus. For those interested, on the way back to Roanoke, we can do some more birding along a steeper trail at the Grassy Hill Nature Preserve. Roanokers who wish to carpool can meet Linda Cory (580-5214) at the Tanglewood Mall sign at 8:00 AM. We will then drive to meet our field guide at 8:45 AM at the parking lot next to the Blue Ridge Institute, located just past the main entrance to the college. Ferrum College is about 10 miles west of Rocky Mount on Route 40.

**May 30<sup>th</sup> – VSO Piney Grove Field Trip to view Red Cockaded Woodpeckers** - The Virginia Society of Ornithology and Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) are jointly offering a field trip to The Nature Conservancy's Piney Grove Preserve, site of nesting Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers. Mike Wilson from the CCB will be our leader. We are given access to this protected site through Mike's support and the cooperation of The Nature Conservancy. In recent years we have had good views of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, nestlings and nest sites. We will assemble at 5:15 AM on May 30 at the Virginia Diner in Wakefield and leave promptly at 5:20 AM in carpools to Piney Grove as a group. Because of the sensitive nature of this area, we are limited in the number of participants who can go in at one time (20 people). We will need to carpool as parking is limited on the site. REGISTER EARLY if you want to attend. Contact Lee Adams, VSO Field Trip Co-chair, to register. Email [leeloudenslageradams@gmail.com](mailto:leeloudenslageradams@gmail.com) with VSO Piney Grove Trip in the subject line.



**June 6<sup>th</sup> – Poor Mountain Birding** - Meet Ed Kinser (330-7023) at 9 AM. at the Bent Mountain Community Center. We will first bird on the walking trails behind the community center where a unique habitat will provide red-winged blackbirds and other interesting species like the willow flycatcher. We will then caravan to Poor Mountain to look for nesting songbirds, including a variety of warblers with the possibility of seeing or hearing grouse. Wear sturdy shoes for walking in some grassy or muddy areas. The Community Center is at 10148 Tinsley Lane, Bent Mountain VA 24059.

**Second Wednesday Walks at Greenfield AKA Cherry Blossom Trail – June 10<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>.** Meet leader Toni Pepin (571-246-2598) at 8:30 AM for a walk around Greenfield Lake in search of waterfowl and songbirds. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 1/2 miles with the option to continue on to the second pond. Meet at the second parking lot at Greenfield on the right across the road from the lake. Bring a scope if you can. 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).

**Jun 12-14 - VSO Summer Field Trip to the New River Valley** - The New River Valley Bird Club will host the VSO summer field trip, featuring some of the best birding areas in the New River Valley and Southern Appalachians. The varied topography and the river valley offer a wide variety of habitats and bird species. Field trips will be offered Friday afternoon, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning. Bill Akers and Jerry Via will be our trip leaders, and they have planned some terrific activities for us!

**TRIP REGISTRATION** - To help us plan for the weekend, please register in advance. Provide the names of participants in your party with a telephone number and email address so we can contact you if needed. Register with Meredith Bell, trip coordinator and if you have any questions, contact Meredith at (804) 824-4958 or [merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com).

**June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> - Summer trip to Cranberry Glades, WV** - Dr. Toni Pepin will lead this overnight field trip to Cranberry Glades in West Virginia. The Glades consists of four bogs with plant and animal life similar to the bogs or "muskegs" of the northern US. Our last trip to this area produced Red Crossbills. Other target birds are Veery, Alder and Least Flycatchers and a variety of warblers. We also may elect to visit other sites in Pocohantas County including Beartown State Park. Plans are to depart from Roanoke on Friday afternoon, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Details will follow regarding overnight accommodations. We will bird the bogs and surrounding areas on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup>, returning to Roanoke late in the afternoon. Travel time is approximately 2.5 hours each way. Please email or call ahead by May 30<sup>th</sup> to the Field Trip Chairman, Linda Cory [LCORY50@JUNO.COM](mailto:LCORY50@JUNO.COM), or call her at (580-5214)

**August 1 – Annual Summer Open House at the Austin's on Bent Mountain.** Join the 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, an amazing sight. Bring a dish to share. Their property is at 10513 Bottom Creek Road, Bent Mountain, VA 24059.

## Sightings

### MENTIONED BY RVBC MEMBERS ATTENDING THE APRIL MEETING

- ✓ Bud Swiger and Joan Ramsey saw over 1,000 Grackles in Texas.
- ✓ Joe Riggins saw a pair of Osprey on the river in Salem and a pair of Wood Ducks.
- ✓ Nathan Anderson saw an American Kestrel, a Green Heron and a Raven's nest with two young in it in Floyd.
- ✓ Alyce Quinn has White-eyed Vireo and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in her yard.
- ✓ John and Judy Loope have seen Bald Eagles in Craig County and at Explore Park.
- ✓ Liz Williams heard a Whip-poor-will in her yard.
- ✓ Don and Cathy Vaughan took a photo of a pair of Bald Eagles at Glen Walton.
- ✓ Ed Kinser saw a Blue-headed Vireo in their yard
- ✓ Joan Kinser has a Pine Warbler coming regularly to their suet feeder.
- ✓ Pat McMeeken and Tom Johnson saw a Bald Eagle in Shawsville and an Osprey in Wasena Park.

### NOTABLE FIELD TRIP SIGHTINGS

**Roanoke River Greenway-Smith Pk to Rke Mem Hospital - Mar 29, 2015 (8:12 AM - 8:42 AM) Field trip lead by Linda Cory and Kent Davis with 9 people** braving a cold early start and a visiting birder from England. Total 18 species. Highlights - Wood Duck, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Then on to the **Roanoke Sewage Ponds - (9:00 AM - 10:30 AM)** Total 31 species. Highlights- Wood Ducks, American Wigeons, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, American Coot, Wilson's Snipe and an American Kestrel. Continuing on to the **Roanoke River Trail at Explore Park, Roanoke, and (10:45 AM - 12:15 PM)** Total 17 species. Highlights - Blue-headed Vireo, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a Pine Warbler.

**Salisbury Furnace and Eagle Rock Area - Apr 11, 2015 (8:15 AM - 11:30 AM) Led by Bill Hunley. 14 people attended.** Best birds: Common Merganser, Broad-winged Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Common Raven, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Warbler

**Warbler Road - Apr 26, 2015 (9:00 AM - 12:15 PM) Field trip led by Tim & Alyce Quinn with 9 other birders. Total 48 species.** Highlights –Ovenbirds, Worm-eating Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warblers, Hooded Warbler, American Redstarts, Cerulean Warblers, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, 18 Pine Siskins, Blue-headed Vireos, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo and a Bald Eagle.

### RVBC MEMBER'S FIELD PHOTOS and SIGHTINGS

We birded around Greenfield on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We ended up with 39 species. Highlights were - Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Coots and Pied-billed Grebes on the pond. We also saw 4 Great Egrets, Savannah Sparrows, a Barn Swallow and a Brown Thrasher. There were several Great Blue Herons that seemed to be paired up. Here are a couple of Bill's photos from Greenfield. – submitted by Anne Tucker



## Meet a RVBC Member

## Bill Fabian



### Bill Fabian – interviewed by "Roving Reporter" Maxine Fraade

Talk about a diverse background! RVBC Board Member Bill Fabian seems to have lived a dozen different lifetimes even before moving full-time to our area in 2011 where he became involved with the Master Naturalist group (he is now their President). Around the same time he joined the bird club and has been involved with both ever since.

At various times Bill has studied, trained, or worked in electrical engineering, veterinary science, computer science, Army aviation helicopter flight school, military programming, air traffic controlling, military intelligence and I am not sure I caught everything!

Bill served for 2 and 1/2 years in Vietnam in the 1970s and after trying several other paths returned to a career in military service with the Army for the next 22 years. He retired in 1993 but began another career working on integrating advanced technology into the military for the next 18 years before retiring for good.

Through it all Bill has always had a passion for ecology and nature. In fact, his first major in college was biology. For the final 5 years of his career, Bill commuted weekly from Northern Virginia to Botetourt County where he and his wife had purchased 17 acres of land. One compelling reason (aside from the fact that his wife had already moved here full-time!) was to take the training locally to become a Master Naturalist. For the past year and a half Bill has ably headed up that group. One of his major interests now is to look for ways to create partnerships with the bird club with which it shares many members and to create projects the groups can do together.

Our RVBC Roving Reporter Maxine Fraade will be interviewing a different member of the club each month. Enjoy!

## Bird Tip - Create a better habitat, provide nesting material and water this summer



Remember, water is a very important feature for birds in the summer, so please keep your bird baths clean. Also nesting material made up of fur, small twigs, feathers and dried grasses in piles or stuck in suet cages work well. (Check out the materials at the next club meeting.) Photos by Maureen Eiger



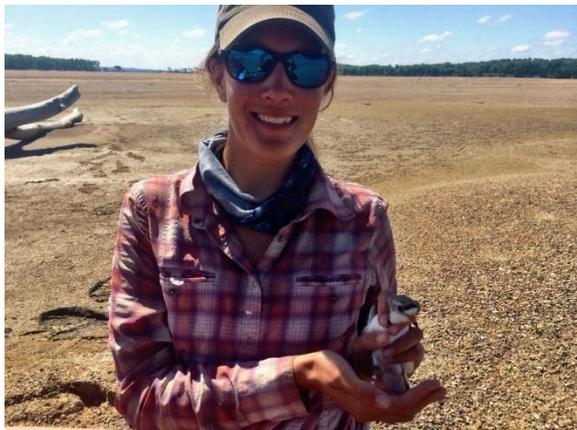
**Trending around the Internet:** Where ever you visit this summer, be prepared for wildlife emergencies. Animal Help Now is specific to a user's location and provides users with immediate results. Based on the time of day and your location, the application provides contact information for the closest, most appropriate helpers. The program is structured to address almost any emergency situation involving wildlife. It even provides assistance with nonemergency, human-wildlife conflicts, such as squirrels in the attic and skunks under the porch. Also you can find a Wildlife Rehabber fast. Bookmark [www.ahnow.org](http://www.ahnow.org) in your web browser and/or download the **free** iPhone or android app today. To download and for more information, visit [www.ahnow.org](http://www.ahnow.org). If you find a good web site or article to share, send a link to [rvbcnews@cox.net](mailto:rvbcnews@cox.net)

**BIRD WORD ANSWER – Extralimital** means it is not found within a given geographical area: an extralimital species of bird. For instance Japanese Waxwings are not found in Canada. So it is extralimital with respect to that country.

## Club Events, Projects & News

**Robin Jordan and Mary Harshfield represented our club at the Mill Mountain March spring fling on March 21st.** They set up a booth and did a match the bird to the seed game and a bit of bird watching with families. They also distributed RVBC information and got a lot of interest both from children and parents about our club. - Reported By Maxine Fraade

**The RVBC Board of Directors donated RVBC money to create two Virginia Tech Ornithology Student Scholarships. Here is the thank you letters sent to us from them. Both recipients will present a program about their experiences and projects to the club in November.**



To the members of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club:

Thank you so much for awarding me the Peggy Spiegel Opengari Memorial Fellowship! I am currently a master's student at Virginia Tech in the Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation where my thesis is focused on examining the effects of flooding on piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*). Piping plovers are a small, adorable, North American shorebird species. They spend the summer nesting on beaches along the Atlantic Coast, Great Lakes, as well as on the major rivers and alkali lakes of the Great Plains. Plovers spend the rest of the year wintering along the Gulf and Southeast Atlantic coasts. Because people and plovers call the same beautiful beaches 'home', populations decreased from historical numbers until 1986, when they were listed as federally threatened on the Great Plains and Atlantic Coast, and as federally endangered on the Great Lakes.

Fast forward to 2012, when I was given the amazing opportunity to start a master's project with the Virginia Tech Shorebird Program involving piping plovers that nest on a small portion of the Missouri River between South Dakota and Nebraska. My research builds off of previous work done by former graduate students who investigated the relationship between habitat quantity and piping plover numbers. On the Missouri River, piping plovers like to nest on unvegetated sandbars with saturated or 'muddy' areas where they and their chicks can feed on insects. Historically, flooding of the river created new sandbar habitat and scoured vegetation off of existing sandbars. However, the current river management regime, including dams and channelization, means that the river floods less, and over time sandbars become vegetated and eventually erode away.

To understand what effect the flood and the newly created sandbars had on piping plovers, I worked on the Missouri River from 2012-2014. With the help of outstanding field crews, we monitored nests to figure out how many hatched and used color bands on both adults and chicks to see how many survived the season and over the years. Although I'm still in the process of analyzing the data, I do have some exciting results to share! After the flood, more nests hatched, more chicks survived to fledging, and more chicks survived from one year to the next than during any of the years prior. This success has led to the population of piping plovers nearly doubling each year. Because the flood created SO MUCH habitat, piping plovers are still able to successfully hatch nests and raise their chicks, even with the sandbars eroding and vegetating over time. These preliminary results indicate that the amount of habitat available to nesting piping plovers is an incredibly important factor in the population growth of this imperiled species. Ultimately, I hope that the knowledge gained from my research will help manager's better conserve habitat for piping plovers and other shorebird species in the future.

Again, thank you so much for awarding me the Peggy Spiegel Opengari Memorial Fellowship! It is an incredible honor and will aid in the completion of my graduate work at Virginia Tech.

Sincerely, Kelsi Hunt



Diane Borden

Dear Roanoke Valley Bird Club,

I am deeply grateful to have been selected to receive the 2015 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Scholarship. This award will be extremely helpful as I continue my Master's program in Fish and Wildlife Conservation at Virginia Tech.

I have recently completed my first year of graduate school, including my first field season at Cape Cod National Seashore where I study the federally endangered Roseate Tern during its pre-migrating staging period. I am investigating the effects of human activities on parent-offspring bonds and juvenile behavior and survival. I have just begun analyzing the data from the 2014 field season and am really excited to see the results! I hope my project will provide important and timely information to Cape Cod National Seashore staff to help them effectively balance park management for recreational purposes, as well as the recovery of an imperiled species.

Thank you again for providing the opportunity for me to receive the 2015 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Scholarship. I am truly grateful, as I love what I do and your support makes it possible for me to continue pursuing my passion.

Sincerely, Kayla Davis



The Roanoke Valley Bird Club

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

## 2015 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