



# October Newsletter

Next meeting Monday  
October 12th, 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.

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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.**

**Check for updates weekly!**

Celebrating 58 Years of  
Birding!  
1957-2015

## WOODPECKERS IN VIRGINIA

PRESENTED BY GENE SATTLER



A variety of habitats in Virginia are home to many species of woodpeckers. Gene will present information about each species of woodpecker that resides in Virginia and what makes each one unique. Members will be able to get an up close look at actual bird skins of these woodpeckers after the presentation.

Gene Sattler has been a professor of biology at Liberty University since 1996 where he teaches zoology, animal behavior, vertebrate natural history, and ornithology. He has been president of the Lynchburg Bird Club since 2000. He received his Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Toledo and his Master of Science from Ohio State University. His Ph.D. is from the University of Maryland where his dissertation examined hybridization between Black-capped and Carolina chickadees in Virginia and West Virginia

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

**Reminder** – Please order some birdseed. You can print page 4 of  
this issue for your seed sale order form and mail it in to the address  
on page 3 or submit your order to Eunice Hudgins at this meeting.

**A Bird Word**-Do you know what **Siblicide** is? Hint -Something that may  
happen to some nestling birds when times are tough. Answer on page 5.

### OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY (RAIN DATE SUNDAY, OCT 11) STARTING AT 7:30 A.M. - THE BIG SIT!

Join us at Tim and Alyce Quinn's house (719-0109) in Burnt Chimney for this stationary bird watching adventure. The Big Sit! is an annual, international, non-competitive birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest, sponsored by SWAROVSKI OPTIK, and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. Every team that observes this year's "Golden Bird" has a chance to win \$500. The Golden Bird is selected in a random drawing from the total list of all species seen in North America. All of the circles that list that bird are put into another drawing from which the winning circle is selected. The event has been referred to as a tailgate party for birders. It works like this: You sit inside a 17-foot diameter circle and count all the bird species you see or hear within a 24-hour period. There are two circles at the Quinns' house and we have fun comparing the birds we see from each one. Since the count goes on all day, you can come any time you want, but the earlier you come, the more birds you'll see. We'll have a potluck lunch around noon, so bring a dish to share. The address is 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184. If you get lost call Alyce on her cell phone (312-6844). 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.



### OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY, MEET AT 7:30 A.M. - BIRDING AT "THE BEAVER POND"

Meet Eunice Hudgins (389-4056), Kent Davis (344-8377) and Mike Smith (345-1081) at the Orange Market in Hanging Rock at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to "The Beaver Pond" in Craig County. This is a popular field trip thanks to our hosts, Betsy and George Barker. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a jacket and lunch. You can choose to walk the farm and surrounding woods or just sit on the porch and enjoy birds at their many feeders. The property includes a beaver pond and regular pond as well as open cow pastures and woods. The Orange Market is located at the intersection of Rt 311 and Rt 419 (1823 Thompson Memorial Drive) Salem, VA.



### OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY, (all day) HAWK WATCHING AT HARVEY'S KNOB - Saturday is the RVBC official field trip - but on-going hawk watching is every day from sunrise to sunset to mid-November!

Each year, from early September to mid-November, the Roanoke Valley Bird Club participates in hawk watching at Harvey's Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway at mile marker 95.6. Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome to stop by to observe the migration. Some days at Harvey's Knob are more exciting than others, but we are hoping that Saturday, October 24th is spectacular. Although this is a field trip, you can arrive or leave whenever you would like. Bring a chair, snacks and warm clothing as needed. Ask to join the group Harvey's Knob Hawkwatch

on Facebook. Check for sightings and follow the counts at <https://sites.google.com/site/bijame/home> or to volunteer as a hawk watcher, call Bill and Katie James at 798-3030 or by email [bijame@gmail.com](mailto:bijame@gmail.com)

### NOVEMBER 21<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY, 8 A.M. - BIRDING THE EXPLORE PARK TRAILS

Meet Kent Davis (344-8377) and Mike Smith (345-1081) at the Explore Park Visitor Center at 8 AM for a 3 miles hike. The park offers a variety of habitat with forest and the Roanoke River. The walk should conclude by 11:30AM. There is no longer a restaurant at Explore Park, so bring snacks and something to drink if you wish. Walking will be easy to moderate, so wear sturdy shoes and warm clothing. Directions: Explore Park is about 1/2 hour from downtown Roanoke located at Blue Ridge Parkway Milepost 115 (56 Roanoke River Parkway RD, Roanoke, VA.) Turn at the sign at milepost 115 and continue on another 7 miles to the Visitor Center. Bird club members are invited to stay for additional hiking on their own. Maps are found at <http://www.explorepark.org/373/Maps-Trails> ) NOTE: This trip will be cancelled if it snows.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nancy Reid, Josh Palmer, Joey & Emily McDougall, Carol B. Chappell, Betsy Kayser, Peter & Geraldine Sutherland, Bruce Grimes, Becky Hancock, Hugh Brown and Linda Steele, who adopted a bluebird. We appreciate your membership!

# SEEDS FOR A SONG

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser

In Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware

We are having a seed sale to benefit you, the community and your backyard birds. By placing an order with us, you will get quality seed containing little or no waste, harvested this year, at reasonable prices. Proceeds from the sale will be used for community projects. The sale is open to the public, so please copy this form and distribute it to friends and neighbors. There will be a small supply of extra seed available the day of the sale for those unable to pre-order. Refreshments will be served, bird feeders and bluebird boxes will be available for purchase, and experienced birders will be on hand to answer questions.

**Orders must be received by October 15 and picked up on Saturday, November 7, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., at:**

Northwest True Value Hardware (about a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College)  
7650 Williamson Road, Roanoke VA 24019  
(540)-362-2112

**If you are unable to pick up your seed on November 7, please make arrangements for someone else to pick it up for you.**

It's easy to order:

1. Complete the enclosed order form, being sure to include your name, phone number, and address along with your seed selections.
2. Calculate the total, which **already includes** Virginia sales tax.
3. Mail your completed form and check, payable to Roanoke Valley Bird Club, ***in time for it to be received by October 15***, to: Eunice Hudgins, 870 Stonegate Ct., Salem, VA 24153. (Please do not include membership dues with your seed sale order. Membership dues should be mailed to Eleanor Dye, VP of Membership.)

## Seed Descriptions

Wild birdseed mixes attract ground-feeding birds such as mourning doves, juncos and sparrows:

- Gourmet Mix*: contains millet, sunflower, safflower and thistle.
- Shell Free Mix*: a waste-free mix of millet, sunflower chips, cracked corn, canary seed and peanut hearts.

Sunflower seed is the best all-around food, favored by a wide variety of birds:

- Black Oil Sunflower*: smaller than the striped, with thinner shell, more kernel and higher oil content; preferred 2:1 over other seed by most feeder birds.
- Sunflower Chips*: the heart of the seed, virtually no hull, no mess, and more meat per pound.
- Striped Sunflower*: many common feeder birds, such as cardinals, jays, grosbeaks, titmice, chickadees, sparrows and finches, as well as squirrels, like this larger, thicker shelled seed.

Specialty seeds:

- Nyjer (Thistle)*: especially good for goldfinches and pine siskins, this seed is rich in nourishing oil.
- White Millet*: favored by ground feeding birds such as juncos, towhees, buntings and sparrows.
- Safflower*: squirrels don't care for it, but many birds such as cardinals, grosbeaks and juncos do.
- Peanuts*: a favorite of woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays.

# SEEDS FOR A SONG (ORDER FORM)

**Saturday November 7, 2015**

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser in Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email (we will only use it to let you know about next year's Seeds for a Song): \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not a club member, how did you learn about this sale? Please name source \_\_\_\_\_

Or check one: Friend \_\_\_\_\_ TV \_\_\_\_\_ Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_ Website/Internet \_\_\_\_\_ Store's Big Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Window Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Description	Quantity	Size	Price/Each (includes tax)	Total Price of Each
Gourmet Mix		40 lb.	22.90	
		20 lb.	12.25	
		4 lb.	4.20	
Shell Free Mix		25 lb.	17.70	
Black Oil Sunflower		50 lb.	26.80	
		25 lb.	13.20	
		10 lb.	7.15	
Sunflower Chips		50 lb.	72.65	
		25 lb.	38.15	
Striped Sunflower		50 lb.	41.25	
Nyjer (Thistle)		20 lb.	26.45	
		8 lb.	11.30	
Millet		50 lb.	19.45	
		25 lb.	11.35	
Peanuts in Shell		25 lb.	35.95	
Safflower		50 lb.	49.05	
		25 lb.	26.30	
High Energy Suet		1 Cake	1.20	
Ear Corn		7 lb.	9.90	
			<b>Total Price of Order</b>	<b>\$</b>

## Upcoming Events and Club News

### SEEDS FOR A SONG, OUR CLUB'S MAIN FUNDRAISER, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, AT THE NORTHWEST TRUE VALUE HARDWARE STORE IN HOLLINS.

Set up begins between 8-9 A.M. We still need volunteers to help out at the sale, so if you can spare some time that morning please contact Alyce Quinn at 719-0109 or [twoquinn@yahoo.com](mailto:twoquinn@yahoo.com) or Eunice Hudgins at 389-4056 or email [uvaau@aol.com](mailto:uvaau@aol.com).

***We also need some gently used bird feeders for resale at the seed sale. So bring some to the October meeting.***

Remember, even buying one small bag of seed helps support the club's worthwhile community projects. Print out the order form and pass it along to your friend and neighbors. It will also be available to print from our website at <http://roanokevalleybirdclub.com>. A limited amount of seed will also be available the day of the sale, but preordering is best to assure you get what you need.

### NEW RVBC REFRESHMENTS CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Nancy Luce for stepping up! Nancy will be our new refreshments chairperson. If you would like to provide refreshments/snacks at one of the Club's meetings please contact Nancy, preferably by phone at 721-6109 or email her at [lucenest@gmail.com](mailto:lucenest@gmail.com)

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

For submissions to the newsletter please contact Maureen Eiger, Newsletter Editor at [rvbcnews@cox.net](mailto:rvbcnews@cox.net).

To receive field trip information/announcements or if you have a problem receiving your newsletter by email, please contact Linda Cory at [rvbc2015@outlook.com](mailto:rvbc2015@outlook.com) Please add [rvbc2015@outlook.com](mailto:rvbc2015@outlook.com) to your contacts list so your email will not bounce back.

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR RVBC 2016 CALENDAR!** A sneak peek will be available at the October meeting. To order yours, contact Sissy Logan (353-4500) or e-mail: [sissylogan@gmail.com](mailto:sissylogan@gmail.com) or Pam Ogden (389-9471) e-mail: [momog@aol.com](mailto:momog@aol.com)

### DONATIONS AND DOOR PRIZES ARE NEEDED FOR THE RVBC/VSO MEETING

Please contact Maxine Fraade, Hospitality Chair, by email at [maxinefr@aol.com](mailto:maxinefr@aol.com) or call 989-3961

### CLUB MEMBER SIGHTINGS

- ✓ Robin Austin had both a Screech Owl and a Barred Owl on her property.
- ✓ Alyce Quinn had a Whip-poor-will, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, and a Yellow-throated Vireo.
- ✓ Betsy Davies saw a Northern Waterthrush.
- ✓ Bob and Nancy Luce saw a Wild Turkey at their home.
- ✓ Dick Hendrix saw a Bald Eagle at Smith Mountain Lake.
- ✓ Barry Whitt said the only owl seen at the Owl Prowl at Booker T. Washington was an Eastern Screech Owl.
- ✓ Bob Miller had a Hooded Warbler in his yard.

## Meet RVBC Member - Michelle Buonocore

Submitted by Roving Reporter Maxine Fraade

After focusing on the RVBC Board for the last several interviews, our Roving Reporter thought it time to talk to a 'rank and file' member of our group. So meet Michelle Buonocore, a member for about 5 years who has an interesting way she joined the club.

Michelle had wondered about a bird sound she'd been hearing at night and emailed a description to the late, great Seth Williamson - bird columnist for the Roanoke Times. Seth immediately ID'ed it as a screech owl and they began a correspondence. Eventually Seth suggested she join the bird club.

Michelle moved to Roanoke in 1999 after reconnecting with college friend Paul Beers through her former college roommate who was also his sister-in-law. They have 25 acres in South County where they keep horses and have many bird residents including barred and screech owls, pileated woodpeckers, goldfinches, indigo buntings and American turkeys. While enjoying the wide variety of waterfowl that visit their 1/3 of an acre pond, they expend a good deal of effort defending their koi from the great blue herons!

Paul and Michelle are both committed sponsors of the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton where Paul is a Board member. They have been known to book a hotel in Staunton and take in 3 plays in one weekend! Michelle's current favorite production: A Midsummer's Night Dream, but says they are "all great!"



**A Bird Word Answer-** Nestling hawks, owls, and herons fight fiercely among themselves for food, and sometimes even kill their smallest sibling. This behavior, known as **SIBLICIDE**, and is often a result of poor breeding conditions.



**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2016?**

***If not this may be your last issue!***

The 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