



# May 2012 Newsletter

*Celebrating 55 Years  
of Birding! 1957-2012*

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Visit our club's website:  
[www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com](http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com)

*Please note: The RVBC  
newsletter will not be  
published June-August. The  
next issue will be distributed  
to club members in early  
September.*

## April Meeting

Birdfeeder craft project: All who participated enjoyed making feeders out of glass jars. Thanks to Alyce Quinn and Maureen Eiger for their efforts in securing supplies and providing instruction.

### **RVBC Picnic: August 12th, Sunday, 4 pm Walrond Park**

Our annual RVBC picnic will be at the park shelter at Walrond Park. Please join us! Bring a dish to share. Picnic tables under the shelter are available as are nearby rest rooms. Walrond Park is located at 6824 Walrond Drive which is off of Plantation Road between I-81 and Williamson Road.

### **2013 RVBC Calendar Submissions**

We thank Carl Boast for doing a superb job in producing our RVBC Calendars for the past several years.

Carol Whiteside has graciously offered to coordinate the production of our 2013 RVBC Calendar.

#### **Submission Guidelines:**

Photos or artwork by members can be submitted any time through the September 10, RVBC meeting. The images should be 8" x 10" horizontal (landscape) format suitable for scanning and reproduction. Please put a brief description on a label on the back, indicating the subject, location and time of year (month or season) depicted. Do not include any self identifying information on the submission label, but do provide your name on an accompanying sheet as a committee will select the final images. Your submissions will be returned. Please submit entries to: Carol Whiteside, 6487 Shingle Ridge Road, Roanoke, VA 24018 and you may inquire by calling Carol 540.774.2143 or email: [whitesidemules@yahoo.com](mailto:whitesidemules@yahoo.com) The submission deadline is during the Sept. 10 meeting.

**May Meeting:  
May, 14, 7:00 p.m.**

**Grandin Court Baptist Church**

### **Antarctic Ice: The Ultimate Adventure**

Please join us for a presentation by Teta Kain who will recap her seventeen-day trip in autumn of 2002 plying the Antarctic seas searching for bird species found primarily near the Antarctic Circle.

*Please join us for dinner before the meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Brambleton Deli at 3655 Brambleton Road.*

**Your Vote is Requested:  
New Meeting Start Time:  
Would You Prefer 6:30? Or 7 pm?**

The RVBC Board has been considering trying an earlier starting time for the club meetings, the goal being to end earlier and so get us all home earlier. We've gotten mixed reviews from the few members we've heard from with no clear majority either way. So now we need to make a decision, and for that we need your help. How would you feel about a starting time of 6:30 rather than 7:00?

You can respond by phone to Eleanor Dye at 890-1627 or by e-mail to Elly Wefel at [pewefel@aol.com](mailto:pewefel@aol.com).

**The polls will close on May 12, so let us  
hear from you soon.**

# FIELD TRIPS

CHAIRMAN

LAURA BELTRAN (266-3773)

SHARE THE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

## Saturday, May 5, Big Spring Day

Big Spring Day is a cooperative event of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and the Lynchburg Bird Club and is held as scheduled regardless of the weather. Teams start out between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. and count all the birds they see in their assigned territories. Most areas require driving with little walking, but a couple of areas require hiking for a few hours. Beginning birders, this is the time to bird with experienced birders who can help with identifications. Your help is needed because with more eyes and ears more birds are likely to be counted. At noon, all participants gather at the Peaks of Otter Picnic Grounds for lunch and a tally of the birds seen. Bring your own food and drink. After lunch, groups go back and finish their territory, search for a bird reported by another participant, or just call it a day. We urge you to join us for a fun day of birding. Maybe you'll discover a new birding territory, meet new birders and see a new bird to add to your list. For this year's Big Spring Day on May 5, contact Eunice Hudgins at 540-389-4056 to sign up. Let us know if you prefer to drive or hike.

## Arcadia and Warbler Road

Wednesday, May 9, 7 a.m.

John and Eunice Hodgins (540-389-4056) will lead this trip starting at Arcadia and birding warbler hot spots nearby. As we start up Warbler Road, we will bird for two or three stops and then skip a couple of miles (by this time of year, all you get are duplicate birds) and then pick up the higher elevation birds. Meet at Botetourt Commons Bojangles at 7:00 a.m.. This trip will last into the early afternoon, so bring a lunch and something to drink. Please plan to carpool because there is very little room to pull off the road. Expect to see warblers, tanagers and other migrants.

## Lick Run Greenway

Saturday, May 12, 7:30 a.m.

Join Laura Beltran (706-220-0980) for a four-mile, easy, slow walk on the Lick Run Greenway from Addison Middle School to Valley View Mall and back. We will pass several habitats, including woods, creek bottom, marsh, and fields. We will end the trip no later than 10:30 a.m. We will meet at the Upper Washington Park swimming pool/picnic pavilion parking lot: parking lot is off Orange Avenue toward Lincoln Terrace School on

Burrell Street. Take first left after turning onto Burrell Street from Orange Avenue and the parking lot is on the left.

## Monthly Mid-week Walk at the Cherry Blossom Trail, Botetourt County

Wednesday, May 16, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Join Laura Beltran (706-220-0980) at the Cherry Blossom Trail in Botetourt County each month to see how the bird life changes from spring to summer. Off of 220 in Botetourt County, take the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation). We will meet at the SECOND parking lot for the Cherry Blossom Trail on the right. The trip involves mostly flat walking for about 2 miles.

## Warbler Road for Late Migrants

Saturday, May 19, 7 a.m. - early afternoon

Eunice Hodgins (540-389-4056) and Barry Kinzie will begin this trip at the top of Warbler Road (off the Parkway) and bird to the bottom. At this time of year, we may see Canada warbler, black-throated blue warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, veery, cerulean warbler and more in higher elevations. Meet at the Peaks of Otter Visitor Center at 7:00 a.m. This trip will last into the early afternoon, so bring a lunch and something to drink. We will carpool because of limited parking on this road. We'll bird up to the radar tower before heading down Warbler Road to Arcadia.

## What's that Peeping Sound?

On early morning bird walks, you may hear high peeping, cricks, glunks, and low rumbles and think they are unlike any bird that you know. That's because you're listening to the sounds of frogs. Virginia has 27 species of frogs, and about a dozen of these are found in the Roanoke area.

Some of these frogs you may hear on one of our field trips. The spring peeper is probably most familiar, with its repetitive, high peeping call which at a distance may sound like jingle bells. The northern cricket frog sounds like a person hitting two marbles together, again repeating the sound over and over. Additionally, you may hear a chirp from the tree tops, which is a gray treefrog. This may be very confusing, since it is more musical than the other frogs and therefore, a bit more bird-like. Unlike the treefrog, pickerel frogs have a non-musical call: it sounds like a low growl or rumble. The pitch may change, because sometimes they start calling above the water and

finish calling underwater. Virginia's two large frogs sing more in late spring. The green frog's call is like a loose banjo string or a "glunk" and the American bullfrog is a low "jar-rum" sound.

Listen for our resident amphibians next time you're on a bird walk near an aquatic habitat. Also, learning 27 different calls of amphibians is a lot easier than learning the hundreds of songs of Virginia's birds.

*Laura Beltran*

## FIELD NOTES

### Salisbury Furnace, Botetourt County

Saturday, April 7

Bill Hunley led a trip to Salisbury Furnace in the Eagle Rock area. Highlights: yellow-throated warbler, northern parula, and three Wilson's snipe and savannah sparrows at Greenfield pond.

### Cherry Blossom Trail Near the Greenfield Education Center, April 18

Laura Beltran led birders on the Cherry Blossom Trail monthly bird walk. It was a rainy day but the temperature was pleasant:

Highlights: Northern waterthrush, yellow warbler, Wilson's snipe, swamp sparrow, northern rough-winged swallow, bald eagle, warbling vireo, eastern meadowlark, and two wood ducks.

### Little Walk, April 21



Tim and Alyce Quinn led a walk in the varied habitat around their home in Burnt Chimney. Sighted: blue grosbeak, indigo bunting, eastern kingbird, brown thrasher, great-crested flycatcher, red-winged blackbird, chipping sparrow, swamp sparrow, field sparrow, Louisiana waterthrush, northern parula, prairie warbler, black-and-white warbler, black-throated green warbler, hooded

warbler, common yellowthroat, ovenbird, yellow-breasted chat, American redstart, wood thrush, scarlet tanager, white-eyed vireo, red-eyed vireo, blue-headed vireo, and yellow-throated vireo.

### Mill Mountain, April 25

We had a beautiful morning on top of Mill Mountain, although it was a bit challenging to hear the birds since machinery was digging holes for trees, a utility truck and another truck drove to the parking lot, and the highway traffic below was loud! The highlights were hearing the hooded warbler and seeing pine warblers. Our list included: mourning dove, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, blue jay, American crow, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, American robin, wood thrush, red-eyed vireo, black-throated green warbler, pine warbler, hooded warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, brown-headed cowbird, scarlet tanager, northern cardinal, house finch, white-throated sparrow, dark-eyed junco, European starling, chipping sparrow, worm-eating warbler, and yellow-throated vireo. We also saw a raccoon peeping out from tree cavity.

### Warbler Road, April 29

It was a very pleasant day and the group, led by Tim and Alyce Quinn, saw lots of species. Highlights: Baltimore oriole, orchard oriole, yellow-billed cuckoo, cerulean warbler, scarlet tanager, great-crested flycatcher, rose-breasted grosbeak, prairie warbler, northern parula, black-throated blue warbler, black-throated green warbler, Canada warbler, worm-eating warbler, white-eyed vireo, yellow-throated vireo, Louisiana waterthrush, chestnut-sided warbler, yellow-throated vireo, blue-headed vireo, hooded warbler, black-and-white warbler, and ovenbird.

## SIGHTINGS

(The following were reported at the April meeting)

- Maureen Eiger has a Virginia rail in her care.
- Alyce Quinn saw a scarlet tanager on her property.
- Don and Sally Evans saw a northern goshawk in the Grandin area.

*April 15:* Scott Spangler saw a ruby-throated hummingbird and green heron on the river at the sewage treatment plant April 15th.

*April 27:* Robin Austin saw a sandhill crane flying near her home on Tinsley Road.

### Fred Cramer's Photographs and Paintings on Display at Vinton Municipal Building Beginning May 9

Fred Cramer's photographs and paintings will be on exhibit at the Vinton Municipal Building (311 South Pollard Street) beginning May 9 and will be on display for three months. Fred, a long-time RVBC member, is a photographer, painter and sculptor. The display features bird imagery and other subject matter.

## **Wild Bird Rehab Fund**

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We hope you read the e-mail sent you about the RVBC's support of our member, Maureen Eiger, a permitted Wildlife Care Alliance rehabber, who specializes in birds.

As we explained, rehabilitation is very expensive. She does receive some supplies and medicines from WCA, but there is a long list of items not on the WCA list. To help defray these out-of-pocket expenses, generous donations and supplies are needed and depended on.

As an ongoing local funding project for the club, your Board of Directors voted to reimburse Maureen for her out-of-pocket wild bird rehabilitation expenses up to \$500 per year.

The membership can participate in this project by donating much needed supplies, some of which are already in your pantry, garage, basement or back yard. Other items can be purchased.

If you prefer to make a tax-deductible donation, cash is acceptable or you can write a check. A check must be made payable to Wildlife Care Alliance and in the memo section of the check, you must write "For Birds." You can mail or give your WCA checks to Maureen. Mail checks to: Maureen Eiger, 2415 Mount Vernon Drive, Roanoke, Virginia 24015.

A donation box will be at all of our RVBC meetings. If your items are too large or heavy, let Maureen know (meiger@cox.net or 342-4890) and she will pick them up.

Since our May 14 meeting will be the last club meeting until September, Maureen has requested some special items needed for this "baby bird season." Check the list and please bring your donations to the May meeting. Be generous in your support of the club's effort to help Maureen save our birds.

If you have baby bird/bird questions or find an injured bird, give Maureen a call.

## **Wild Bird Rehab: Baby Bird Intervention, Yes Or No?**

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*By Maureen Eiger, Category IIA, State and Federally Permitted Wild Bird Rehabilitator*

I just got in a nest of five naked baby Carolinas wrens the other day and thought what a shame. The birds had nested in a dryer vent. When the homeowners found the nest they took the whole dryer vent and intact nest out of the wall and took it to an Emergency Animal Hospital. The Animal Hospital got in touch with Wildlife Care Alliance the next day and after arranging transport, I now have 5 (very cute) baby Carolina wrens to raise. Yes, I can raise them and set them free, but what should have happened is this- Since the

people were obviously willing to replace the vent to their dryer, they could have attached the old dryer vent and nest next to the new dryer vent they bought and installed. Then the wren parents could continue to feed their babies. So now unfortunately the wren parents will be missing their kids...

On a happier note, I got a call about a robin's nest that fell down (twice) from a gutter. The homeowner put the babies back in what was left of the nest, placed the nest on a table and called me wanting to know what to do. As we were talking, a robin showed up with a mouthful of worms and fed the babies in the nest that was on the table. We worked on a plan on how to make the nest safe and secure. We agreed, that if there were any "problems" she would call me back.

So that brings me to the question: When do you interfere with the nesting cycle of baby birds and their parents? As bird rehabbers we want bird parents to feed their babies, it's the natural cycle of life. After all "Mother knows best". We also try to re-nest baby birds so that the parents can continue to feed them and not interfere with their breeding and hormonal cycles. You can always call a bird rehabber for information on how to get a nest back in place or very close to the ideal location. We have seen parents that will feed babies in makeshift nests reattached to tree branches and cut tree cavity sections duct taped back to another tree. A bird parent's instinct to feed their young is very strong and usually they will not willingly abandon their babies.

But a bird's life is not perfect, and intervention is sometimes the best case for survival. So here are a few circumstances when you would absolutely need to take a bird to a State and Federally Permitted Bird Rehabber (or if in doubt, please make a call).

1. Bird is found in Cat / Dog or other animal's mouth- This is an ASAP call. The longer the time between the animal attack and the bird being treated, the shorter the chances of the bird surviving.
2. Cat bites/scratches are especially deadly to birds as is their saliva that can get in the bird's orifices and will eventually kill the bird. You may not see the wound because bird wounds heal almost immediately but the bacteria stays, so get the bird to a rehabber ASAP to be properly medicated. Please keep your cats indoors at least during baby bird season!
3. Nestling (baby) or fledgling birds with one or both parents confirmed dead.
4. Baby bird found on ground with NO or very little feathers. Can't find nest.
5. Baby bird found on ground with swelling / bruising or blood on body.
6. Baby birds that are cold in nest/bird box and heads don't pop up - No sign of parents for many hours.
7. Baby birds with mites. Mites will eventually kill the birds.

## 8. Child brings home baby bird in pocket.

Remember- when you find a bird, please do not feed it any food (worms, seeds, etc.) or give the bird water or any other liquid. Bird diets are specific to each species. It is easy to feed them the wrong thing or the wrong way. They can aspirate, get sick, not develop properly or die. An improper diet, even fed for a few days, can hinder a bird from being able to be returned to the wild.

Legally Permitted Wild Bird Rehabilitators have hundreds of hours of specialized training and attend classes to learn to take care of each species of bird. You cannot learn this on the Internet. If you have a burning desire to "take care of baby birds" volunteer with a rehabber. we can always use the help!

## **Donation List: Wild Bird Rehab Fund**

Dog/cat crates – any size (large ones used for geese)  
Digital postal scale (that weighs in kilograms up to 1000 kgs)  
Hot Hands hand warmers (used for transport)  
Small kiddie swim pool (for ducks)  
Small hummingbird feeders (one-hole for sick/injured birds)  
Small bird feeders (for inside cages)  
Bird cage cups that hang from inside cage (plastic cup w/ wire hangers)  
Plastic 3-drawer containers w/wheels (for holding supplies)  
Wooden dowels – various diameter sizes and lengths  
Long wooden Q-tip sticks  
Fat (large size) plastic straws  
Small low dishes/bowls for food/water (with 1" or less sides)  
Paper towels  
Tall kitchen trash bags  
Tissues (such as Kleenex)  
Old cloth towels  
Soft cream cheese cups (minus the cheese) for baby bird nests  
Small plastic containers w/lids (for storage)  
Nylon mesh or soft screening  
Grape jelly/jam  
Raspberry jam  
Maple syrup (pure, not just flavored)  
White sugar (small size)  
Oat bran  
Wheat bran  
Suet  
Small quantities of the following seed: Black-oil sunflower, Safflower, Niger, Millet, Cracked corn  
Organic carrots/sweet potatoes (to feed mealworms)  
From your yard, please save the following:  
Acorns  
Poke berries (still on branches)  
Wild Cherries (still on branches)

Other berries that birds will eat (still on branches)

Sage plants/flowers (for hummingbirds)

Bark peeled from trees

Web worms

Queen Anne's lace

Bunches of tall grass that has gone to seed

Various size logs from cut trees (not too heavy)

## **North American Breeding Bird Survey Needs Birders**

Do you have a keen sense of hearing and eyesight, the ability to ID Virginia birds by both sight and sound, and access to reliable transportation? If so, then consider putting your birding skills toward bird conservation by participating in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). There are currently nine vacant routes in VA that need volunteers to commit to running them for at least two years (though preferably longer). Routes are run once annually, generally in June, and can be completed in one morning.

Route vacancies are currently found in the following counties: Alleghany, Carroll, Craig, Lee, Montgomery/ Roanoke, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Wythe. The BBS is the longest running breeding bird survey in the United States, having begun in 1966. Bird population trends generated by the BBS are actively used by biologists and conservationists to assess the status of bird populations and address conservation attention to species of concern.

By volunteering to run a BBS route, you are making a direct contribution to bird conservation in Virginia and beyond. You can find more information on the BBS at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/>. Select the 'Vacant Routes' link to view maps of vacant routes.

Please contact me if you desire more information or are interested in participating. The VA BBS depends entirely on volunteers for its continued success. Thanks to all of you who have participated or are currently participating in the BBS - your efforts are appreciated.

Sergio Harding

Nongame Bird Conservation Biologist

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

4010 West Broad Street

Richmond, VA 23230

(804)367-0143

fax (804)367-2427

[www.dgf.virginia.gov](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov)

[www.vabci.org](http://www.vabci.org)

Vinton, VA 24179-0074

P.O. Box 74



**ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB 2011 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

President: Elly Wefel 977-0636

VP (Programs) Bill Grant 389-3294

VP (Membership): Eleanor Dye 890-1627

Treasurer: Robin Austin 929-9071

Secretary: Candy Andrzejewski 365-2508

Directors at Large: Eunice Hudgins 389-4056 & Alyce Quinn 719-0109

Field Trips: Laura Beltran 266-3773

Publications: Carol Siler 725-1609

Publicity: Maureen Eiger 342-4890

Bluebird Trail: Alyce Quinn 719-0109

[www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com](http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com)

How did you hear about the club?

**2012 Membership Dues**

**Name(s):**

**Address:**

**City:**

**ST:**

**Zip:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Mail To: Roanoke Valley Bird Club**

**c/o Eleanor Dye**

**P.O. Box 74**

**Vinton, VA 24179-0074**

**Dues**

Individual                    \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

Family                      \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Student                     \$7 \_\_\_\_\_

Sustaining                \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Adopt-a-Bluebird      \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total Submitted      \$ \_\_\_\_\_