



October 2012 Newsletter

*Celebrating 55 Years
of Birding! 1957-2012*

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Visit our club's website:
www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Laura Beltran gave a talk on her trip to Maine and shared slides of Atlantic puffins, and other shorebirds.



Osprey

NEXT MEETING:

**October 8, 7:00 p.m.
Grandin Court Baptist
Church**

Dr. Cooper-Bailey will give a talk on Wildlife and Raptor Conservation. Dr. Cooper-Bailey works as a small animal and exotic mobile veterinarian in the New River and Roanoke Valley. She is a general class falconer, instructor at VMRCVM (Virginia Tech Vet School) and in her spare time conducts raptor research and conservation efforts. Raptor exhibition animals will be present.

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

RVBC Seeds for a Song Fund Raiser November 10

The sale is open to the public, so please copy the 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.

The sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Northwest True Value Hardware near Hollins on Route 11. The store is a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College. 7650 Williamson Road • Roanoke, VA 24019 • (540) 362-2112

The order form will contain all the instructions for placing your order. Depending on your chosen mode of RVBC newsletter delivery, the form will arrive via e-mail or USPS. The form will also be available on the RVBC website.

If you would like to volunteer to help set up, keep track of orders, visit with the public, and load bags, please contact Alyce Quinn: twoquinns@yahoo.com or phone: 719-0109.

Please feel free to bring snacks and other goodies for our customers to enjoy.

If you have any "gently used" feeders you'd like to get rid of, please clean them up a bit and either bring them to the October meeting or to the Seeds for a Song sale. (If they need minor repairs, that's OK, just nothing that needs a major overhaul.) We'll put them out on a table and offer them for whatever folks want to pay for them.



Peggy Opengari Memorial

A member of the Williamsburg Bird Club took this photo of the Peggy Opengari Memorial in Huembo Peru. Members of the RVBC, VSO and quite a few birders in Virginia contributed to this effort.

2013 Annual Dues

It's time to renew your membership. Please complete the form on the back of the newsletter and send it and your check to Eleanor Dye.

FIELD TRIPS

CHAIRMAN LAURA BELTRAN 266-3773
SHARE THE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

Hawkwatching at Harvey's Knob All day beginning around 10 a.m.

Birders gather from the beginning of September until mid-November to count and watch for hawks and other raptors at the Harvey's Knob overlook at mile marker 95.6 off the Blue Ridge Parkway. People of all birding skills are welcome to stop by and enjoy the hawkwatching. You may stay all day or just briefly. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair and lunch.

The Big Sit! Saturday, October 13 (Raindate: Sunday, October 14, at the Quinn's)

For this 24-hour stationary bird watching adventure, birders sit inside a 17-foot diameter circle and count all the bird species seen or heard within a

24-hour period. Join us at Tim and Alyce Quinn's (719-0109) house in Burnt Chimney (arrive early to see the most birds). Two circles will be established to optimize sightings. A light breakfast will be available (bagels, fruit, juice, coffee, etc.) at 7 a.m. and we'll eat lunch around noon, so please bring a dish to share. You might want to bring a lawn chair. The count for the 24-hour period starts at one minute after midnight the morning of October 13, and ends at midnight that night. You may arrive anytime during that 24 hour period and stay as long as you want. If you plan to arrive before 7:00 a.m., please call Alyce or Tim so they can tell you where the circles are located (Tim and Alyce may not be out earlier than 7). *See map and directions on page 3.*

Monthly Mid-week Walk at the Cherry Blossom Trail, Botetourt County Wednesday, October 17, 8:30 a.m.

Join Laura Beltran (266-3773) at the Cherry Blossom Trail in Botetourt County each month to see how the bird life changes from month to month. Off of 220 in Botetourt County, take the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center (across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation). Park at the SECOND parking lot for the Cherry Blossom Trail on the right. The trip involves mostly flat walking for about 2 miles.

Fenwick Mines Wetlands, Craig County Saturday, October 20, 8:00 a.m.

Join Bill Hunley (774-2397) to search for fall migrants at Fenwick Mines. Thrushes, ravens, sapsuckers, and kinglets have been observed in the past. The trip involves two miles of easy walking. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Orange Market in Hanging Rock to carpool.

FIELD NOTES

Greenfield Lake/Cherry Blossom Trail in Botetourt County, September 12

We had 9 people for our walk at It was a beautiful sunny, cool morning compared to the heat the week before. Bird sightings included chimney swift, eastern bluebird, blue jay, tufted titmouse, belted kingfisher, ruby-throated hummingbird, cedar waxwing, warbling vireo, Carolina wren, northern raven, killdeer, European starling, American crow, mallard, pied-billed grebe, northern mockingbird, eastern towhee, Carolina chickadee, Canada

goose, northern cardinal, brown thrasher, gray catbird, American redstart, palm warbler, American kestrel, song sparrow, osprey, black and white warbler, red-eyed vireo, blue-headed vireo, great egret, great blue heron, eastern phoebe, blue-winged teal, Louisiana waterthrush, mourning dove, turkey vulture and rose-breasted grosbeak.

Harvey's Knob, October 16

Two of us braved the wind and cold and birding highlights included black and white warbler, Cape May warbler, black-throated green warbler, and Swainson's thrush.

Abbott Lake at the Peaks of Otter, October 22

Bill Hunley led eight birders around the lake. Birds sighted were pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, ruby-throated hummingbird, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, eastern phoebe, an empidonax flycatcher, chimney swift, American crow, blue jay, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, Carolina wren, gray catbird, cedar waxwing, red-eyed vireo, Philadelphia vireo, black-throated green warbler, black-and-white warbler, blackburnian warbler, American redstart, pine warbler, Tennessee warbler, common yellowthroat, and scarlet tanager.

SIGHTINGS

Sept. 23: At the cattail marsh at mile post 2.6 on the Lick Run Greenway Rupert Cutler saw a chestnut-sided warbler, a magnolia warbler, a black-throated green warbler, and male and female redstarts.

Sept. 28: R. Cutler, F. Cramer, W. Teets, K. Davis, M. Smith, and B. Kinzie saw a female yellow-headed blackbird at the Roanoke Sewage Treatment Plant. In September 1978, a yellow-headed blackbird was seen at the Roanoke STP by Woody Middleton, Mike Purdy and others at this same location.



*Yellow-headed blackbird at STP
Photo by Kent Davis*

Directions to The Big Sit! Alyce and Tim Quinn's House:

After turning on to Edgewood Farm Lane (at a row of mailboxes): Go half a mile down this gravel road. When the road makes a 90 degree left turn onto Turkey Run, continue straight. You will go to the right of a dilapidated trailer. This is the beginning of the Quinn's driveway, and there is a bluebird box there with their house number, 681, on it. Drive between the trailer and the bluebird box. You can't see the house from the entrance, but go a quarter mile down the drive and you're there. Call Alyce's cell at 312-6844 if you get lost.



