



April 2012 Newsletter

*Celebrating 55 Years
of Birding! 1957-2012*

**IMPORTANT: April Meeting will
take place the third Monday
in April.**

**April 16, 7:00 p.m.
Grandin Court Baptist Church**

*(The church will be closed the second
Monday in April.)*

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

March Meeting

Wild Bird Rehabilitator and RVBC member Maureen Eiger presented a program on case histories of rehabbed birds.

Bluebird Monitors

If you signed up to monitor please come to the April meeting to pick up your paperwork.

Remember to Sign Up for Big Spring Day, May 5

(see page 2 for details)



Chestnut-sided Warbler

Make a Bird Feeder

Come spread your arts-and-crafts wings by making a bird feeder at the April 16 meeting. Club members Maureen Eiger (artsy) and Alyce Quinn (craftsy) will help you make one (or more) of several style feeders. You'll have your choice of a hummingbird feeder, a seed feeder, or a fruit, or suet feeder.



Mason Jar feeder

All materials are kindly being provided by the club. If you don't need any new feeders yourself, consider making one as a gift, or donate it back to the club for us to sell at this year's Seed Sale!



Seed feeder



Fruit or suet

FIELD TRIPS

CHAIRMAN

Laura Beltran (266-3773)

SHARE THE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

Salisbury Furnace, Botetourt County

Saturday, April 7, 7:30 a.m. – noon

Join Bill Hunley (540-774-2397) for a trip to Salisbury Furnace in the Eagle Rock area, where we can expect to see waterfowl (especially wood ducks), some early migrating warblers, such as Yellow-throated, Louisiana Waterthrush and others, and possibly ospreys and eagles. This location is good for spring wildflowers as well. Meet near the Bojangles at Botetourt Commons off 220N just off exit 150B on Interstate 81 at 7:30 a.m. to carpool.

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

Wednesday, April 18, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 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 winter to spring. 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 a mile.

Saturday, April 21, Little Walk, 8:00 a.m.

Consider spending time this Earth Day weekend with Tim and Alyce Quinn at their house in Burnt Chimney for a sequel to their fall Big Sit. We should see a variety of species this time of year as we wander around their 13 acres.

The walking is easy to moderate (wear sturdy walking shoes for the rocky ground), but people are welcome to stay at the house and bird from the porch and yard if they prefer. The Quinns have fields, woods, a pond, and a power line cut for excellent birding across a variety of habitats. Birds we may see include blue grosbeak, indigo bunting, eastern kingbird, brown thrasher, great-crested flycatcher, red-winged blackbird, chipping 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. They have even seen cerulean and blue-winged warbler this time

of year. People carpooling from Roanoke should meet at 7:15 a.m. under the big sign at Tanglewood Mall. If you're going directly to the Quinns' and need directions, call Tim or Alyce at 719-0109. Afterward we can visit one of the restaurants around Smith Mountain Lake for lunch.

Wednesday, April 25, Mill Mountain

8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Meet leader Laura Beltran (540-266-3773) in front of the Discovery Center on Mill Mountain to see if we find any migrants on top of the mountain. There will be about 1 to 1.5 miles of moderate walking.

Sunday, April 29, Warbler Road

7:00 a.m.



Meet leaders Tim and Alyce Quinn (719-0109) at Botetourt Commons near the Bojangles (see April 7 trip for more directions). We will be leaving promptly at 7. We will bird a series of forest service roads from just beyond Arcadia all the way up to the Blue Ridge Parkway in search of warblers

and other neotropical migrants. We usually bird into the early afternoon so bring drinks, snacks, and a lunch. Dress in layers and be prepared to carpool as there are few places to pull over on this narrow road. This is always a favorite trip for many club members. Please note that this is a SUNDAY trip.

Big Spring Day, May 5,

Mark Your Calendars!

We are fortunate to live in this part of the country



because spring birding in the mountains of Virginia is awesome. From late April through mid-May colorful little birds migrate through here from the tropics heading to their northern breeding grounds. It's also the time to see our local birds show off their bright plumages while setting up territories and pairing up to breed. All of this activity makes birds

more active, vocal and much easier to observe.

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club teams up with the Lynchburg Bird Club to do a census of birds in a 7-1/2 mile radius circle of the Peaks of Otter. The count is held as scheduled regardless of the weather.

There will be ten RVBC teams covering a large part of this area. Each team will have a map and directions. Teams start out between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. and count all the birds seen in their assigned territory. Most areas are covered from your car with very little walking, but a couple of areas require hiking for several hours. Either way, you will not be birding alone.

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced birder, your eyes and ears are needed. It's a fun day with a chance to discover new birding areas and maybe add a new bird to your list.

At noon, all participants from both bird clubs meet at the Peaks of Otter Picnic Grounds for lunch and a tally of birds seen. Bring your own food and drink. After lunch, some groups go back and finish counting their territories, search for a bird reported by another team or just call it a day.

For this year's Big Spring Day on May 5, contact Eunice Hudgins at 389-4056 or uvaau@aol.com to sign up. Let her know if you prefer to drive or hike.

FIELD NOTES

Cherry Blossom Trail Near the Greenfield Education Center, Mar. 14

Laura Beltran led 15 people on the Cherry Blossom Trail monthly bird walk.

Sighted: pied-billed grebe, Canada goose, mallard, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, gadwall, redhead, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, hooded merganser, American coot, great blue heron, killdeer, Wilson's snipe, turkey vulture, mourning dove, northern flicker, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, eastern phoebe, tree swallow, American crow, blue jay, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, brown thrasher, northern mockingbird, eastern bluebird, American robin, cedar waxwing, yellow-rumped warbler, red-winged blackbird, brown-headed cowbird, eastern meadowlark, European startling, northern cardinal, eastern towhee, white-throated sparrow, song sparrow, and field sparrow. I also saw a sharp-shinned hawk just when I left, but by that point, most of the participants had left.

We also heard peepers and leopard frogs and saw a spring azure (butterfly). It was a really warm morning.

Bent/Poor Mountain, March 24

Five birders joined leader Robin Austin. Highlights: Good views of four Louisiana waterthrush frolicking in the water; yellow-rumped warbler, red-winged blackbirds, tree swallows, red-tailed hawk, and chipping, song, and field sparrows.

SIGHTINGS

March 25: Alyce Quinn reported a first of the season Louisiana waterthrush in Burnt Chimney. She also saw a brown thrasher on March 23.

(The following were reported at the March meeting)

Robin Austin reported recently sighting tree swallows, red-wing blackbirds, and a woodcock.

Mary Lou Barritt has spotted fox sparrows at her home.

Sid Barritt was visiting Daytona Beach when he saw an osprey flying with a large fish. An eagle, flying above, dive-bombed the osprey, causing the osprey to drop the fish. The eagle swooped down and caught the fish.

Elly and Pam Wefel saw a Florida panther at Merritt Island.

Red-tail Hawk Nest Live Cam at Cornell University

A nest camera high above a Cornell University athletic field is streaming crystal-clear views of a red-tailed hawk nest via the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website. The new camera stream puts viewers 80 feet off the ground and right beside the nest, where they can watch the hawks arrive, see them taking turns incubating the eggs, and compare notes on the two birds—the male has a more golden-tawny face and is slightly smaller than the female, who has been nicknamed "Big Red" for her alma mater.

The nest should be active for at least the next two months. The parents have raised young here for at least the last four years.

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=2422>

Bio Blitz "Mini" at Ivy Creek Park in Lynchburg

April 28, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Join local scientists and naturalists and see how many species live in Ivy Creek Park, 118 Clemmons Lake Place, Lynchburg, 24501.

Participants will assist in species identification of flora and fauna found in the park. The data will be logged into a national database.

The free event includes fun, food, and games. No pre-registration is required.

Sponsored by Nature Zone and Central Virginia Master Naturalists.

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

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	\$	_____