



December 2012 Newsletter

*Celebrating 55 Years
of Birding! 1957-2012*

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

NOVEMBER MEETING

Dr. Todd Fredericksen of Ferrum College School of Science and Mathematics spoke about the impacts of logging on the biodiversity of birds in Virginia.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Are you a new club member or a new birder? Are you both and have no idea what a Christmas bird count is all about?

Since 1900, these counts have been done every year from December 14 through January 5 in hundreds of clubs all around the world. Data collected allows researchers, conservation biologists and interested individuals to study the long-term health about bird populations around the world.

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club does three counts and we need lots of eyes and ears. Count leaders will divide up the area and assign small groups of volunteers to drive around their territory, stopping frequently, to record all the birds they observe and can identify by sound. Yes, we really do count every bird. If you're new to this activity, we'll put you with an experienced birder. It's a great way to enjoy winter birds and add a new bird to your list.

Please volunteer to help with one or all three of the counts:

Roanoke – Saturday, December 15 – contact Bill Hunley (774-2397 or wjhunley@gmail.com) for an assigned territory.

Fincastle – Sunday, December 16 – contact Eunice Hudgins (389-4056 or uvaau@aol.com) or Barry Kinzie (992-2743 or peckerridge@ntelos.net). There will be homemade soup at noon at Barry's home followed by tallies of the Roanoke and Fincastle counts.

Peaks of Otter – Tuesday, December 18 – Meet at the Peaks of Otter Lodge for breakfast at 7:30 AM. Barry will set up teams depending on how many show up. If you cannot make breakfast, but will count, please contact Barry ahead of time. Groups will meet back at the Lodge at noon for a tally.

Audubon will not charge any fees to participate this year.

Holiday Party!

In addition to having a terrific program in December, we will also be having our annual food fest/holiday party. Remember to bring something delightfully good to share.

NEXT MEETING:

**December 10, 7:00 p.m.
Grandin Court Baptist
Church**

Members' Night

You're invited to bring slides, videos, photos of your best bird images. If you plan to participate, please call Laura Beltran (266-3773) and let her know what you plan to present and if you'll need special equipment.

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

November 12 Meeting

Officers: A motion was made and seconded to accept the nominees as officers in the RVBC. The motion was passed.

President: Kent E. Davis, Jr.
Vice-President (Programs): Richard (Butch Kelly)
Vice-President (Membership): Eleanor Dye
Treasurer: Robin Austin
Secretary: Candy Andrzejewski
Eunice Hudgins and Alyce Quinn will be Directors-at-Large.

Refreshments: Lin Haynes has agreed to be the Chairman of Refreshments. *Thank you Lin!*

New Members

Please welcome to the club: Laura Pole, Theresa Amos, Michael Sporer, Sandra Kosarski, Nancy Young, Mary Ann Maurelli, Marilyn Holzschuk, Virginia Hutson, John & Judy Loope, and Karen Skorupski.

2012 Seeds for a Song Fundraiser

This year's seed sale, held on a gorgeous day in early November, brought in just over \$9400, giving the club a profit of about \$1240. We use the proceeds from the sale for community projects, so if you have any good ideas about ways to use the money, please let either Eunice Hudgins or Alyce Quinn (chairmen of the sale) know. Some of the things we have done with the money in previous years include buying chairs for the hawkwatch platform at Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center, binoculars for the Girl Scouts, and field guides for school libraries, among other things.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who purchased seed—without you there would be no sale. We also thank Northwest Hardware for allowing us to hold the sale at their store. And we want to express our sincere thanks to everyone who helped out the day of the sale. Some people loaded seed, others brought goodies to share, others kept track of the money coming in for seed, calendars, used feeders and old binoculars, and everyone helped out by sharing their knowledge and love of birds. Those who helped out that day include: Andy Arrington, Robin Austin, Mary Lou and Sid Barritt, Michael Belcher, Laura Beltran, Cris Cowan, Maureen Eiger, Norris Ford, Lin Haynes, Eunice Hudgins, Jerry and Rita O'Brien, Tim and Alyce Quinn, Karen Skorupski, Nancy Verity, Pam Wefel, Carol Whiteside, and Liz Williams. If we forgot anyone, we sincerely apologize—we couldn't do it without you.

As always, it was a hectic but fun day, and we hope you'll consider participating next year.

FIELD TRIPS

CHAIRMAN

LAURA BELTRAN 266-3773

SHARE THE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

Monthly Mid-week Walk at the Cherry Blossom Trail, Botetourt County Wednesday, December 12, 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.

FIELD NOTES

Monthly Mid-week Walk at the Cherry Blossom Trail, Botetourt County November 14

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.

Birding the Roanoke River Greenway and Sewage Treatment Plant November 17

Kent Davis and Linda Cory led 20 birders on a cool start to a nice sunny day. We had 30 species and the highlights of the Greenway were great blue heron, Cooper's hawk, yellow-bellied sapsucker, American kestrel, brown creeper, golden-crowned kinglet and red-winged blackbird.

At the Roanoke STP we had 15 birders and 33 species of birds. The highlights were great blue heron, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, red-tailed hawk, killdeer, ring-billed gull, yellow-bellied sapsucker, American kestrel, fox sparrow, white-throated sparrow, dark-eyed junco, rusty blackbird and purple finch.

SIGHTINGS

Reported at Nov. 12 meeting:

- Joe Riggins saw 3 osprey and 7-8 belted kingfishers at the Salem Greenway near Green Hill Park.
- Elly and Pam Wefel had 20-30 pine siskins, purple finches, and a red-breasted nuthatch at their feeders.
- Robin Austin spotted yellow-bellied sapsuckers and eastern meadowlarks at their home.
- Fred Cramer had a red-breasted nuthatch at his feeder.
- Lin Haynes was glad to see purple finches and blue-birds bathing in her birdbath. She also has a Cooper's hawk visiting her yard.
- Joyce Holt had all three species of nuthatches in her yard.
- Liz Williams saw 3 sandhill cranes and an adult golden eagle fly over near Harvey's Knob.

Mid Nov.: Laurie and Scott Spangler had a male evening grosbeak visiting their feeders.

Wild Bird Rehab Fund Report

By Maureen Eiger, Category IIA State and Federally Permitted, Avian Rehabber

A big **Thank You** to the RVBC Members who donated paper towels, tissues and misc. items. I could not have done it without your support!

From April 1 – August 31, 2012 the Wild Bird Rehab Fund's \$500 provided food and medicine for 64 birds comprising 17 different species. Most notable was a Virginia rail and a window hit, female hooded warbler.

Of the 64 birds during this period that were rehabbed, 43 were released back into the wild, 10 were euthanised due to severe injuries (usually from cat attacks) and 11 came in with known/unknown causes, and were given a chance to "try to make it" but sadly, died anyway.



Hummer with bandaged wing

This year, the biggest success story was my smallest bird, a ruby throated hummer weighing 3.2 grams. It came in with a broken wing, and after treatment and care it now can fly. The saddest story was a gunshot red tailed hawk that did not make it, and a naked baby (nestling)

white breasted nuthatch that should have been saved, but unfortunately was fed cow's milk before it got to me so it died—another good reason why it's important to call a bird rehabber for instructions when you've found a baby bird *and* before you feed it anything. It's always OK to put the



Hummer with healed wing!

orphaned/injured bird in a box to contain it.

Baby bird season is officially over; now it's "injured adult bird season." So far this year, I've resolved over 140 bird phone calls and rehabilitated 80+ birds. Who knows what unusual birds will come in to be treated and what the

end count this year will be. All I can say is that I am truly grateful for your help and continued support. Thanks again and good birding!

Notice: Possible Salmonella Outbreak

The USGS National Wildlife Center has received several reports of large die-offs of pine siskins, goldfinches and other passerines from western Virginia (Rockbridge County and south). Similar events have also been reported from other southeastern states including WV, NC, and TN. Necropsy findings of birds from other states indicate that these die-offs are due to Salmonellosis, and we suspect the outbreaks in Virginia are also due to Salmonella sp. infections. Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection that is commonly spread among passerines at bird feeders. More information can be found at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center.

Some suet feeds have been recalled because of the recent Salmonella outbreak related to peanuts. You can find out which ones at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website. Please be advised to check to see if any bird feed you are using is on the recall list, and please discontinue using any recalled feed. Also, be advised that you should safely dispose of any dead birds by placing the carcasses in a plastic bag and disposing of them in the garbage, or by burial in the ground. Direct contact with any carcasses should be avoided, and hand washing after handling is advisable.

For more information: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlifewatching/backyard.asp>

Zeiss Binoculars For Sale

Zeiss 10x40 B Binoculars ----- \$500.00

Excellent condition. Purchased in 1985. Just returned from Zeiss where optics were cleaned, the focus and seals lubricated, the focus and alignment reset, and the eyecups and bent mounts replaced. Neck strap, full lifetime warranty card and instruction booklet included. Contact Eunice Hudgins: 389-4056 or uvauu@aol.com

ROANOKE OR FINCASTLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PARTICIPANT CENSUS FORM

Date: _____ Areas Covered: _____

Time: _____ to _____

Temp: _____

Wind: _____

Observers: _____ in _____ Parties Total Party Hours: _____ (_____ on foot _____ by car)

Feeder Observers: _____ Total Party Miles: _____ (_____ on foot _____ by car)

100 Expected Species

- Common Loon
- Pied-billed Grebe
- Horned Grebe
- Great Blue Heron
- Canada Goose
- Wood Duck
- Green-winged Teal
- American Black Duck
- Mallard
- Northern Pintail
- Northern Shoveler
- Gadwall
- American Wigeon
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Lesser Scaup
- Bufflehead
- Hooded Merganser
- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser
- Ruddy Duck
- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Northern Harrier
- Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Cooper's Hawk
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Red-tailed Hawk
- American Kestrel
- Ruffed Grouse
- Wild Turkey
- Northern Bobwhite
- American Coot
- Killdeer
- Wilson's Snipe
- Ring-billed Gull
- Rock Pigeon
- Mourning Dove
- Barn Owl
- Eastern Screech-Owl
- Great Horned Owl
- Barred Owl
- Belted Kingfisher
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Downy Woodpecker
- Hairy Woodpecker
- Northern Flicker

- Pileated Woodpecker
- Eastern Phoebe
- Horned Lark
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Carolina Chickadee
- Tufted Titmouse
- Red-breasted Nuthatch
- White-breasted Nuthatch
- Brown Creeper
- Carolina Wren
- Winter Wren
- Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- Eastern Bluebird
- Hermit Thrush
- American Robin
- Northern Mockingbird
- Brown Thrasher
- American Pipit
- Cedar Waxwing
- Loggerhead Shrike
- European Starling
- Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Pine Warbler
- Northern Cardinal
- Rufous-sided Towhee
- American Tree Sparrow
- Chipping Sparrow
- Field Sparrow
- Savannah Sparrow
- Fox Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Swamp Sparrow
- White-throated Sparrow
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Rusty Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Purple Finch
- House Finch
- Pine Siskin
- American Goldfinch
- Evening Grosbeak
- House Sparrow

30 Unusual Species

- Snow Goose
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Egret
- Green Heron
- Yellow Crowned Night-Heron
- Tundra Swan
- Greater Scaup
- Long-tailed duck
- Common Goldeneye
- Bald Eagle
- Northern Goshawk
- Rough-legged Hawk
- Golden Eagle
- Merlin
- Peregrine Falcon
- American Woodcock
- Bonaparte's Gull
- American Herring Gull
- Short-eared Owl
- Fish Crow
- House Wren
- Gray Catbird
- Blue-headed Vireo
- Palm Warbler
- Common Yellowthroat
- Vesper Sparrow
- Baltimore Oriole
- Red Crossbill
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- Selasphorus Hummingbird

Other Species:

Precise, extensive details for these birds should be written on the back of this sheet :

Observers :
