



# February 2012 Newsletter

*Celebrating 55 Years  
of Birding! 1957-2012*

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## Next Meeting:

February 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Grandin Court Baptist  
Church

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

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## RVBC Business Cards

We now have business cards available for members to give to anyone who may want to know more about the club.

The cards will be available for pickup at our meetings.

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## January Meeting

Randy Thrasher and his wife, Ann, from Lynchburg presented the program: *Calypso Birding in Trinidad and Tobago*.

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## Great Backyard Bird Count, Feb. 17-20

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. Patterns detected in GBBC data are used to alert scientists to particular species or questions that may require more detailed follow-up studies.

Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count. You can count for longer than that if you wish. Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. For more information and to print out a checklist go to the GBBC Website: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

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## Sign Up for Bluebird Monitoring by March 15

Come to the February or March meeting to sign up for bluebird monitoring on our bluebird trails. We have three—on the Blue Ridge Parkway, at Hanging Rock Golf Course, and at Botetourt Country Club. If you can't attend the meeting, call Alyce Quinn at 719-0109, or e-mail her at [twoquinns@yahoo.com](mailto:twoquinns@yahoo.com). Be prepared to let her know if there are any dates that you will not be available to monitor. Deadline to sign up is March 15.

If you've never monitored before, we can arrange for someone to go with you your first time. Sign up to monitor as many or as few times as you like. The trails are checked once a week, April through August, and it takes a couple of hours each time. It's great fun—just ask anyone who's done it! You'll get to look into the boxes and see babies at all stages of development. Try it—we bet you'll like it!

Bill Grant will present on the two winter hummingbirds that have made the Roanoke Valley their winter home. In addition to new photos of the birds, we'll view their capture and banding along with some interesting facts about them provided by the bander.

We'll watch videos of the hummers, and have a chance to hear from the hosts of one of the birds as well as comments from club member Sissy Logan who first announced the bird's locations.

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

## BOARD NOTES

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### Earlier Start Time for Club Meetings?

Would club members consider starting our monthly club meetings at 6:30? Please let Elly Wefel know your thoughts on an earlier meeting time. (pewefel@aol.com or 977-0636)

### VSO Speakers Directory

The VSO publishes a Speakers Directory that lists individuals who have presented well-received programs to bird clubs and similar groups. Please peruse the list and let Bill Grant know if there's a particular program that you would like to have Bill try to schedule for us.

The Directory can be accessed on the VSO website: [http://www.virginiabirds.net/VSO\\_PDFs/VSO\\_Spkrs-Drcty2011-12rev.pdf](http://www.virginiabirds.net/VSO_PDFs/VSO_Spkrs-Drcty2011-12rev.pdf).

## FIELD TRIPS

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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, Feb. 15, 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

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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, February Eagle Rock and Gala Wetlands, Feb. 18, 8:00 a.m.

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Join Bill Hunley (774-2397) on a trip to the Eagle Rock and Gala Wetlands area of Botetourt County to look for waterfowl and possibly eagles. Meet at Botetourt Commons Shopping Center (near the Bojangles) at 8 a.m. The trip will include a stop at the Gala Wetlands. We can expect waterfowl and possibly eagles.

### Duck Walk, Feb. 25th, 9:00 a.m.

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Leaders Tim and Alyce Quinn (719-0109) will lead us to local ponds in search of waterfowl. Limited walking. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet near the Bojangles at Botetourt Commons at 9:00 a.m.

## FIELD NOTES

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### Christmas Bird Count, Roanoke, Dec. 17

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62 species were sighted which was down from last year's total of 76. Also counts of individual birds were down—half the number sighted last year.

Highlights were a Baltimore oriole spotted by Connie Marsh and John and Eunice Hudgins; and two bald eagles sighted by Tim Quinn.

*Bill Hunley, Compiler*

### Cherry Blossom Trail near the Greenfield Education Center, Jan. 18

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Even though it was cold and blustery and the middle of the week, we had ten birders plus a photographer from the Roanoke Times (The Times did an article on the controversy of lifting the ban on Sunday hunting and wanted photos of other outdoor users).

We saw 33 species: pied-billed grebe, Canada goose, American black duck, gadwall, mallard, green-winged teal, ring-necked duck, bufflehead, hooded merganser, American coot, great blue heron, unidentified raptor, turkey vulture, black vulture, northern flicker, downy woodpecker, American crow, blue jay, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, northern mockingbird, eastern bluebird, American robin, yellow-rumped warbler, European starling, junco, northern cardinal, house finch, American goldfinch, eastern towhee, white-throated sparrow, field sparrow, and song sparrow.

### Backyard Birding, January 21

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Species sighted at Carol Whiteside's home were: northern cardinal, Carolina chickadee, American crow, mourning dove, house finch, American goldfinch, dark-eyed junco, white-breasted nuthatch, song sparrow, white-throated sparrow, tufted titmouse, downy woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, Carolina wren, yellow-bellied sapsucker, and eastern towhee.

### Burke's Garden in Tazewell County January 28

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Highlights: Red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, redhead duck, and two bald eagles.

## SIGHTINGS

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*January:* Snow Geese were spotted at Layman's Pond and also at Plantation Golf Course.

*January:* A hermit thrush has been visiting Alyce and Tim Quinn's property in Burnt Chimney.

*Jan. 1:* Scott and Laura Spangler spotted an American woodcock at the Botetourt Co. Education and Training Center Greenfield park.

*Jan. 25:* Alyce Quinn sighted about 1000 common grackles flying over her home in Burnt Chimney.

## **Annual Raptor Count, Saturday, Feb. 11**

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Spend a few hours counting all the hawks you can find. Use the Raptor Count form (included in Jan. newsletter) to keep track of your sightings.

The completed tally sheet can be e-mailed to [billt3256@gmail.com](mailto:billt3256@gmail.com) or mailed to Anne Tucker, 3256

Lakewood Forest Rd. Moneta VA 24121. Contact Anne (540) 721-1573 if you have questions. Inclement weather date is Sunday, February 12.



## **Hunting on Sundays?**

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If you want to let your legislators to know your thoughts on allowing hunting on Sundays in Virginia please contact your local delegate and/or senator. For contact info, please visit the Virginia General Assembly website. You may also contact the Virginia General Assembly's Constituent Viewpoint Comment line toll-free at 1-800-889-0229 (698-1990 in Richmond).

## **Friends of Stadium Woods Petition to Protect Forest**

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Hidden behind Virginia Tech's Lane Stadium is a 15 acre tract of forest known as 'Stadium Woods'. This woodland is a rare fragment of old growth forest that supports white oaks over 300 hundred years old. Stadium Woods provides habitat that provides a vital ecological functions, and is a migration sanctuary for bird species.

The Friends of Stadium Woods have on online petition for interested folks to complete and sign. To learn more go to <https://sites.google.com/site/stadiumwoodsvt>

Donations are requested but not required. If you are a Virginia Tech alumnus it would be good to indicate that.

## **Upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Kiptopeke Songbird Station**

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In the fall of 1963, six volunteers founded a bird banding station at the old ferry dock at Kiptopeke on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. These founders recognized that the tip of the Eastern Shore was a natural funnel for migrating songbirds on their journey south. They saw the opportunity

for long-term study and the need to address conservation issues. Their vision continues today.

The Coast Virginia Wildlife Observatory took over responsibility for the station in 1997. Through donations and dedicated volunteers, bird banding research is conducted each fall and information is shared with researchers and other interested parties. About 90% of the birds captured there are born in the previous 3-6 months. One of the most difficult parts of the young birds' journey lies just ahead. These birds must fly across the 17-mile mouth of the Chesapeake Bay or return north to get back to the mainland. Birds need to have adequate fat stores and energy to make this journey. Quality habitat in this area is needed to provide food and shelter for the millions of migratory land birds. Many species of songbirds are in severe population decline.

The CVWO are asking for donations. Currently it costs about \$7,000 a year to run the station along with hundreds of volunteer hours. Donations will help ensure the continued operation of the station for the next 25 years.

They are producing a special commemorative booklet with history and photos of the station for wide distribution to visitors and others. Donors at the \$250, \$500 and \$1,000 levels will receive space in the booklet of 1/4 page, 1/2 page or a full page to write a personalized message with photos to recognize this special event. Donations are tax-deductible and \$500 or more includes Life Membership. These donors will also receive a free copy of the booklet. Those donating \$100 or more will be noted in the donor section of the booklet. Gifts of any amount are, of course, greatly appreciated. Donations must be received by March 1, 2012 to be included in the commemorative booklet.

For more information please visit [www.cvwo.org](http://www.cvwo.org).

## **Cart with Shelves Needed**

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The RVBC has a selection of donated books that need to find homes. In the past, we've put these books out on a table for you to peruse. There is no price on the books, you just pay the club what they are worth to you. This has been an on-going fund raiser and but it's a lot of work to put them out at every meeting. It would be very handy to display the books on a cart that could be rolled in and out of the storage area at the church.

We need your help. Look in your basement or garage, and see you if have something we could use. Ideally, it should be 25" wide (to fit through a doorway) x 36" long with two shelves. Of course, we want rollers on it, but if you have a cart that rollers can be attached, that would work.

Please contact Eunice Hudgins if you have a cart to donate or sell. 389-4056 or [uvaau@aol.com](mailto:uvaau@aol.com).

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	<b>\$12</b>	_____
Family	<b>\$20</b>	_____
Student	<b>\$7</b>	_____
Sustaining	<b>\$30</b>	_____
Adopt-a-Bluebird	<b>\$15</b>	_____
Additional Contribution	<b>\$</b>	_____
Total Submitted	<b>\$</b>	_____