



November 2010 Newsletter

*Celebrating 53 Years
of Birding! 1957-2010*

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

OCTOBER MEETING

Bill Akers (who has joined our club. *Welcome Bill!*) presented a fabulous program on birding in Northern Peru.

RVBC Annual Seed Sale Fund Raiser, November 6, 2010

Please remember to pick up your seed.

(We will have extra seed for those who didn't pre-order.)

The sale will take place on November 6 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.

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; or Eunice Hudgins: uvaau@aol.com or phone: 389-4056.

2011 Annual Dues

It's time to renew your membership. (And if you have already done so, *thank you!*) Please complete the form on the back of the newsletter and send it and your check to Eleanor Dye

Need A Holiday Gift?

Go to www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com and order a subscription to *Birdwatcher's Digest* and the magazine will donate ten dollars to our club.

NEXT MEETING:

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

Down Under Wonders

Photographer/naturalist Teta Kain will give a presentation on her trip to Australia. Teta will take us on a pictorial travelog of the country down under. Teta has been photographing wildlife for more than 40 years, specializing in birds, butterflies, and many other aspects of the natural world.

Teta is active on the environmental scene in Virginia, having recently completed terms as president for both the VSO and the Middle Peninsula Environmental Group known as Friends of Dragon Run.

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

NOMINATIONS FOR 2011 RVBC BOARD

The Nominating Committee of Alyce Quinn, Robin Austin and Pam Wefel is offering the following slate of officers for 2011. At the November meeting we will ask for nominations from the floor and then a vote will be taken. Please attend and cast a vote.

President - Maureen Eiger (currently doing a bang-up job as our Publicity Chair)

Vice President/Programs - Bill Grant (long-time VP and still going strong)

Vice President/Membership - Eleanor Dye (has done a great job for several years)

Treasurer - Robin Austin (getting into the swing of things after having the job for the last couple of years)

Secretary - Candy Andrzejewski (new to the Board but ready, willing and able)

Directors at Large - Eunice Hudgins and Alyce Quinn (still hanging in there after many years of serving on the Board)

The following is a list of those members who have agreed to head up committees next year. The positions don't require a vote by the membership, but we appreciate their hard work all the same.

Field Trips - Beth Griffin (back by popular demand)

Publications - Carol Siler (what would we do without her)

Refreshments - Jane Ambrose-Cosby (still willing to serve after all these years, but see note below for important changes)*

Publicity - Maureen Eiger (we know she can keep up with both jobs)

**A note about refreshments:* Jane will arrange for volunteers to bring refreshments and make reminder phone calls to them a few days before they are to bring goodies. But it will now be up to that person to set out whatever is needed for that evening's refreshments. Supplies are kept at the church, but if you find that we are low on something, please let Jane know so that she can be sure we have it for the following meeting. At the end of the night, we hope everyone will consider staying behind to help tear down the refreshment table as well as the other tables that our president so kindly sets out for us.

FIELD TRIPS

CHAIRMAN

BOB MILLER 797-0462

SHARE THE COST OF GAS WHEN YOU CARPOOL

November 13, 8:00 AM, Fenwick Mines

Bill Hunley - leader (774-2397). Meet at the Orange Market in Hanging Rock. Bring a lunch and enjoy the beauty of Craig County for your mid-day dining experience (subject to the weather).

November 20, 9:00 AM, Smith Mountain State Park Visitors Center

We will meet with the Lynchburg Bird Club at Smith Mountain State Park Visitors Center at 9:00. Roanoke birders will meet at the Towers Shopping Center - near the Bank on the Brandon street side of the Center at 8:00 to carpool. Bring a lunch for a full day of birding.

FIELD NOTES

October 9: Sparrow Walk

Six birders led by Bill Hunley started off at Greenfield with the following: song sparrow, eastern bluebird, great blue heron, Canada goose, mallard, tree swallow, American robin, pied-billed grebe, European starling, palm warbler, eastern phoebe, cedar waxwing, yellow-rumped warbler, Carolina wren, common raven, blue jay, rock dove and northern mockingbird.

At Gala Wetlands we added the following: American goldfinch, song sparrow, savannah sparrow, wood duck, swamp sparrow, Canada goose, belted kingfisher, pileated woodpecker, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, American crow, turkey vulture, merlin and northern harrier.

The Big Sit! Sunday, October 10

We enjoyed a gorgeous day for the Big Sit this year. Lots of eating, visiting, and 30 bird species thrown in just for fun. The day's stand-out were red-breasted nuthatch, yellow-bellied sapsucker, golden-crowned kinglet and black-throated blue warbler, and we got great looks at all of them. Many thanks to everyone who helped us raise \$125 for the event. If you promised to donate but haven't, please send your money to Robin Austin as soon as possible.

SIGHTINGS

September 19: Ted and Judy Tomczak of Bassett reported their first ever rose-breasted grosbeak at their feeders.

October 21: Barry Kinzie reported seeing purple finch, pine siskin, and red-breasted nuthatch on the feeders at Woodpecker Ridge Nature Center.

October 23: Norris and Janie Ford saw a pair of Wilson's phalaropes at Rural Retreat lake

Late Dates Needed: Barry Kinzie needs some late dates for the Roanoke-Botetourt area. Has anyone seen an indigo bunting later than 15 October? Or a Louisiana waterthrush later than 5 September? If so, please email Barry at peckerridge@ntelos.net; with the place date, and observer name.

Bluebird Trail Stats

The results from our three bluebird trails are in, and they're very interesting. We fledged more bluebirds than we ever have at Botetourt Country Club since we took over the trail in 2000. The numbers on the Parkway were the highest in the last ten years. But we had fewer bluebirds fledge at Hanging Rock Golf Course than we've ever had since we first established the trail in 2000. Go figure.

To what do we owe the varied results? Who really knows? Certainly the weather conditions were the same at all three. Traditionally we've hosted a lot of tree swallows at Botetourt, but their numbers were down this year (maybe due to the super hot summer?), so that gave the bluebirds more opportunities to nest on that particular trail. There was a lot of construction going on along the Parkway, so why did the numbers go up there? We only had seven nestings of anything other than bluebirds on that trail this year, and no chickadees at all (very unusual for that trail), so maybe bluebirds didn't mind the commotion as much as other species did. But how do we explain the decreased numbers at Hanging Rock? Actually we were only down by a few compared to the last three years, but all those numbers were way down from most of the previous years. We haven't seen any glaring changes at the golf course that would account for the low numbers. Perhaps, like so many of us humans who knew him, the bluebirds were in mourning over the passing of Billy McBride, the long-time Golf Pro there who was instrumental in forming that trail and took such joy in hearing how well the bluebirds were doing every year.

Blue Ridge Parkway

Hanging Rock Golf Course

Botetourt Country Club

Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged	Species	Eggs	Fledged
Bluebird	223	177	Bluebird	122	105	Bluebird	172	150
House Wren	8	7	Carolina Chickadee	13	13	Carolina Chickadee	6	5
Tree Swallow	28	20	Tree Swallow	3	0	Tree Swallow	25	23
						Tufted Titmouse	11	10

In addition to this year's results for all species that used our boxes, we've included a historical record of the number of bluebirds fledged since 1997 (that's as far back as our records go). At that time we only had the Parkway trail, and most of the boxes were on fences. Because of that, we had a real problem with predation by black rat snakes. So when Tim and I agreed to take over the trail in 1999, the first thing we did was put all the boxes on poles and install predator guards. You'll see how dramatically the number of fledged bluebirds increased when we did that. If you have nest boxes at your house on fences, and if you have predation problems, you might want to consider using our set-up instead. The club makes and sells boxes, poles and predator guards, so give one of us a call if you need one.

Historical Data for Bluebirds

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
BRP	177	165	156	143	149	123	156	112	155	175	209	167	117	111
HR	105	113	109	109	155	140	132	111	142	157	137			
BCC	150	107	115	101	58	60	57	?	112	117	71			

BRP=Blue Ridge Parkway, HR=Hanging Rock Golf Course, BCC=Botetourt Country Club

We want to thank the dedicated bluebird trail monitors, without whom these trails could not exist: Ann Allen, Bob and Andy Biggs, Carl and Linda Boast, Eleanor Dye, Bill Grant, Deborah Ingram, Lily Johnston, Dick Hendrix, Alice Hylton, Butch and Betty Kelly, Ardy Kidd, Susan Kidd, Connie Marsh, Carole an Bill Massart, Bob and Sherri Miller, Rita and Jerry O'Brien, Laurie Spangler, Bill and Anne Tucker and Liz Williams. We also thank Eunice Hudgins and Andy Biggs for making reminder phone calls to all the monitors.

--from Alyce Quinn, for Tim Quinn, Elly Wefel and Pam Wefel, Bluebird Trail Co-Chairmen



ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB 2010 OFFICERS

President: Elly Wefel 977-0636
VP (Programs) Bill Grant 389-3294
VP (Membership): Eleanor Dye 890-1627
Treasurer: Robin Austin 929-9071
Secretary: Connie Marsh 334-7094
Field Trips: Bob Miller 797-0462
Directors at Large: Eunice Hudgins and Alyce Quinn
Publications: Carol Siler 725-1609
Website: www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

How did you hear about the club?

2011 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	\$	_____