



September '17 Newsletter

Celebrating 60 Years of Birding
1957-2017

NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 11th at 7PM
Grandin Court Baptist Church
2660 Brambleton Ave. Roanoke, VA 24015

(Join fellow club members for dinner at 5:30PM at Brambleton Deli; 3655 Brambleton Ave.)

Golden-Winged Warbler

Presented by Andrew Rosenberg

Andrew Rosenberg, Private Lands Biologist, will be discussing the efforts being made by the Natural Resource Conservation Service to promote habitat on the private landscape to help reverse the decline in the golden-winged population. In addition, the talk will also incorporate why golden-winged habitat is important to other species as well. Appalachian forests have widely suffered from “high grade” or “diameter limit” harvests that remove only the most valuable trees. NRCS forest conservation practices renew the health, economic and wildlife values of deciduous forests. With about 70 percent of the region under private ownership, management decisions of landowners are important to the golden-winged warbler and other song bird populations as well as many game species including turkey, deer and grouse.



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

(For any additional information please contact Linda Cory at 540-580-5214 or RVBC2015@outlook.com)

September 13th, Wednesday, 8AM, Second Wednesday Bird Walk at Greenfield

Join Bob Epperson (540-871-3471) for a bird walk on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. We will walk around Greenfield Lake in search for waterfowl and songbirds. The walk will be mostly flat walking for about 1 1/2 miles. Other walking at the property may include the grassy area overlooking the lake or the trail down to the lower pond. Bring your spotting scopes! As a new twist (and for those that are interested), lunch will be available at the new Ballast Point brewery at 11AM to the left of the lake. Meet at the second parking lot at Greenfield on the right across the road from the lake. Greenfield is located on Route 220 in Botetourt County. Directions: Take Exit 150B on I81 and then a right onto Route 11 for a quarter mile. Take a right onto Route 220N. Go 3.8 miles and take a left at the entrance to the Greenfield Education and Training Center, across from the entrance to Ashley Plantation. This trip will be repeated on October 11th.

September 15th-17th, VSO Trip to Chincoteague

As a chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, many of our members enjoy this annual trip which has gone on since the 1970's. It is a free event with the exception of your hotel and travel expenses. For more information, visit <http://www.virginiabirds.org/events/field-trip-announcements/2017-fall-field-trip-announcement> .

September 23rd , All day Saturday (rain date Sunday 9/24), Hawk Watching at Harvey's Knob

Each year, from September to November, our club and the Lynchburg club report data on the hawk migration at Harvey's Knob. Located on the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 95.6, all skill levels are welcome to bring a lawn chair, food and drink to learn about hawk migration and how to identify the various species. For this field trip, you can arrive and leave when you like, but volunteers can also sign up for time slots to help collect data. Even though you may not be ready to ID each hawk as it passes, extra eyes are ALWAYS needed. To volunteer or learn more call Bill and Katie James at 798-3030 and visit <https://sites.google.com/site/bijame/home>.

September 30th, Saturday, 8AM, Montvale Park

Join Bob Epperson (871-3471) and Kent Davis (355-6388) for a morning of exploring Montvale Park. Bedford County manages this 129 acre park, which contains extensive woodlands, natural fields, shrub and brush, and streams that provide habitats for a variety of birds, including migrating songbirds that are anticipated at this time of year. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes for walking about 1.5 miles of trails, portions of which may be wet depending on rainfall. We will meet at the park which is located at 1092 Marketplace Drive, Montvale, VA . No organized carpooling from Roanoke is planned. From the corner of Orange Ave and Williamson Rd, go east on route 460 for 16 miles. After passing the gas storage tanks, look for Quarterwood Rd, go another .4 miles and take a right at the park entrance. Continue south on the park road for .2 miles and we meet near the picnic shelters at 8:00 a.m. This field trip will be a joint outing with the Lynchburg Bird Club.

October 7th, Saturday, 7:30AM, Birding at Beaver Pond

Meet Eunice Hudgins (389-4056) and Linda Cory (580-5214) at the Orange Market at Hanging Rock at 7:30AM to carpool to George and Betsy Barker's "Beaver Pond" in Craig County. Wear sturdy shoes, warm clothes and bring a packed lunch/drink. You can choose to walk around the farm and woods area or do some porch birding at the Barker's many feeders. This property includes a beaver pond, wetland area, open pastures as well as woodland trails. Last year we were treated to Rose-breasted Grosbeak and several butterfly species.

October 8th, Sunday, 7:30AM, The Big Sit! And Pot Luck Lunch

Join us the annual Big Sit! at Tim and Alyce Quinn's house (312-6844) in Burnt Chimney. This is a stationary bird watching adventure sponsored by Bird Watcher's Digest and founded by the New Haven (Connecticut) Bird Club. Every team that observes the year's "Golden Bird" has a chance to win \$500. Every year, bird watchers from around the globe unite on this special day by participating in this free event, open to any person and club in any country! The Big Sit! is sponsored by Swarovski Optik. It works like this: You sit inside a 17-foot diameter circle and count all the bird species you see or hear within a 24-hour period. There are two circles at the Quinn's' house and we have fun comparing the birds we see from each one. Since the count goes on all day, you can come any time you want, but the earlier you come, the more birds you'll see. We'll have a potluck lunch around noon, so bring a dish to share. The address is 681 Edgewood Farm Lane, Wirtz, VA 24184. From Rt. 220, take a left on Rt. 697 by the Dairy Queen/Bojangles (about 5 miles south of Boones Mill). When it ends, go left on Rt. 122. Go one mile and turn right onto 670 (Burnt Chimney Road). If you're coming from Rt. 116, when it ends at Rt. 122, make a right and then a quick left onto Rt. 670. When you are on Rt. 670, go another mile and turn right onto 868 (Kingston). Go about .8 miles and make a right onto Edgewood Farm Lane (at a bunch of mailboxes). Go half a mile down this gravel road. When the road makes a 90 degree left turn onto Turkey Run, you instead want to go straight. This is the beginning of their driveway, and there is a bluebird box here with the house number, 681, on it on the right of the driveway, and an old dilapidated trailer on the left. You can't see the house from here, but go a quarter mile down the driveway and you're there. If you get lost call Alyce's cell (312-6844).

Field Trip Reports

Big Spring Day

Big Spring Day Report, April 29, 2017 - 55 participants covered a 15 mile diameter centered on the Peaks of Otter picnic area. We were treated to a sunny, early morning of birding, although it reached 90 degrees later in the day after our "tally picnic". The bonuses were most of the warblers, including Cerulean and a record number of Ospreys and Bald Eagles. A Northern Bobwhite was also a bonus as their numbers are declining.



Field Trip Reports, cont.

May 7th – Warbler Road - As one of our most popular annual walks, we were not disappointed with 54 bird species seen including 15 species of warblers. Our target birds were seen: the Cerulean and Canada warblers and the Louisiana Waterthrush. In addition to the warblers, we were treated with Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Baltimore Oriole, Wood Thrush Fish Crow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-headed, Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos .

May 13th – Mill Mountain Birding - 15 club members met on a misty morning to look for migrating and new arrivals to Mill Mountain. 26 species were reported including good looks at both the Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. Thrushes were also seen including Bluebird, American Robin, Wood and Swainson's Thrush. 12 Warbler species included the beautiful Magnolia, Canada, Chestnut-sided and Pine Warbler and American Redstart. A Merlin and Raven completed this successful trip.

May 14th – Back Creek and Parkway - As a new trip for our club, Some good finds included Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white, Pine and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Baltimore Oriole and Acadian Flycatcher.

May 20th – Bland and Smyth County Birding – We had a beautiful day and amazing birds on this trip on National Forest property. Our best species were Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warblers flying around us, White-eyed Vireos and Green Heron. There was also a mystery albinistic bird which some of us scouted out the next week with no luck.

May 27th – Mount Rogers and White Top - Our annual foray to White Top and Mount Rogers resulted in a fun time and 46 species. We were also treated to a tour of seeing a Hellbender at the ranger's station. Higher elevation birds were seen such as the juncos that nest there in the summer, Brown Creeper, Veery and Red Crossbills. Also seen were a variety of warblers, thrushes and vireos.

August 5th – Bent Mountain Birding - 16 club members enjoyed an early morning walk around the Bent Mountain wetlands where Yellow, Black-and-white and Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen. The highlight of this trip, of course, is the 50+ hummingbirds that zip around the Austin's patio as we enjoy a pot-luck lunch. This annual event is always a treat.



CLUB NEWS

BIRD OF THE MONTH - Red Tailed Hawk

Since hawk migration has now begun, I thought it would be timely to feature the Red-tailed Hawk. Although seen in the Roanoke Valley the year round, they do migrate. Their range is from Canada during breeding time to Central America during migration and seen here the year round. They are often seen perched along highways. Black-top roads radiate heat adding to thermal air currents. September to November is migration season and our club has an annual “open house” at Harvey’s Knob this year on Saturday, September 23rd with a rain date of the 24th(see Field Trips).

Red-tails are the most common hawk throughout North America. They are identified by their large size, belly-band and red tail. Juveniles are less obvious as their tail has horizontal bands, although size and the belly-band is a factor in identifying them. The adults vary from light to dark with the dark form found mainly in the west. Look for them perching along roadways and large tree limbs on the edge of fields. Red-tails can be located sometimes by listening for crows mobbing them.

Fun Facts: The call of the Red-tailed Hawk is often used for other soaring birds in movies, TV shows and ads. This lack of fact-checking or continuity in the film industry angers some avid birdwatchers. In one episode of Survivor, they filmed a vulture in its teetering flight accompanied by the sound of a Red-tail. I emailed CBS with no reply – of course.

Red-tails mate for life, although they take a vacation from each other during the winter. They have been recorded to reach 29 years of age. The males and females look alike, but the females are up to 25% larger. In spite of their size, the average weight is only 1.5 to 2.75 pounds. Red-tails have been known to kill large prey that is double their weight such as rabbits. When diving to capture their prey, they reach speeds of 120 mph. Like the Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawks have been observed stealing prey from other raptors.

To see the migration data recorded at Harvey’s Knob, visit <https://www.hawkcount.org/siteinfo.php?rsite=482>. There you will see the count for Red-tailed hawks as well as other raptors. The numbers vary from year to year with a 2016 count of 426 Red-tails, the highest year’s count being close to a thousand. This data was gathered by a group of dedicated hawk-watchers including Bill James who recommends the book “Red-tails in Love” found at your local library.
By: Linda Cory





Let's Go—Go Fest '17 Volunteers!

The annual Roanoke Go Outside Festival - Roanoke's amazing celebration of everything outdoors - is just around the corner, October 13,14, and 15. Last year for the first time, the Bird Club had a booth and club volunteers shared our love of birding with some of the over 30,000 attendees over the three days! We are planning new activities for both adults and children (including making kid "binoculars – save your toilet and paper towel rolls!) and are offering two walks, one each for adults and kids. We need volunteers to take at least a 2 hours shift at our booth any of the days. We also need someone to lead the children's bird walk on the Greenway for 45 minutes. This is a fun experience and you will definitely want to check out the entire amazing festival while you are there. To volunteer, sign up at the September and October meeting or email Maxine Fraade at maxinefr@aol.com. For more information about the festival located at the Rivers Edge Sports Complex, 210 Reserve Ave, go to <http://www.roanokegofest.com/> There's free parking available and for those who worked last year, we should be located near the parking lot this time!

Seeds for a Song Seed Sale

Our club's main fundraiser, Seeds for a Song, is scheduled for November 4 at the Northwest Hardware store in Hollins. We sell fresh seed containing little or no waste at reasonable prices. The sale is open to the public, so tell your friends! Prices and order forms will be in the October newsletter. Please consider buying even one small bag of seed to help support the club's worthwhile community projects. We need lots of help at the sale, so if you can spare some time that morning--greeting people, loading bags, keeping up with orders, etc.--please contact Alyce Quinn at twoquinns@yahoo.com or 540-719-0109 or 540-312-6844.



Summertime Outreach

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club offers opportunities to be involved in the community. Past and future events include GoFest, Earth Day, Spring Fling at the Zoo and our annual seed and calendar sales. We also monitor bird populations by performing annual Christmas bird counts, Big Spring Day and bluebird monitoring. If you have an event you would like the club to be involved in, email RVBC2015@outlook.com.

This summer, Mary Harshfield and Lourdes Page lead a bird walk at Greenfield for 20 home-schooled children and their parents. It was well-received and we enjoyed seeing Baltimore Orioles weaving their nests. Lourdes, Mary and Linda Cory gave presentations at Booker T Washington Memorial to children attending EcoCamp. Linda and Kent Davis lead bird walks at FloydFest as well as a Friends of the BlueRidge Parkway gathering at Roanoke Mountain Campground. As in years past, many volunteers helped with the Bluebird monitoring over the summer.

To get involved, keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities in the newsletter, website and posted emails. It's a great way to get to know your fellow birders and see what we are doing in the community.



**RVBC 2017 Calendar –
Time to submit your photos!
Deadline September 11, 2017, RVBC meeting day**

Did you take some great photos of birds this year? Please submit your best photo(s) or even artwork and maybe it will be selected for printing in the RVBC calendar!

Submission requirements:

- à Submit an 8 ½" x 11" or 8" x 10" landscape (horizontal) high resolution printed photograph or original artwork.
- à Write a brief description (placed on the back of your submission) indicating the subject, location, and the month or season depicted.
- à On an accompanying sheet provide your name, phone number and email address. Please do not include any self-identifying information directly on what you submit. This assures un-biased selection!

Deliver your best work to Pam Ogden or Lourdes Page at the September meeting, or by mail to Pam Ogden 615 Academy St., Salem, VA 24153; Submissions will be returned at the October meeting, or please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

For more information contact
Pam at 389-9471, momog@aol.com or
Lourdes at 529-6870, yuyipage@gmail.com

Harvey's Knob Hawk Watch

We need volunteers! We intend to count every day with visibility from September 1 to the end of November. We have optional days from August 15th until September 1st - we get a lot of Bald Eagles and Ospreys during the last half of August and if the weather is favorable, someone will go up. Anyone who wants to learn to spot and identify hawks is welcome anytime during the period. Anyone interested can E-mail Bill James at bijame@gmail.com. Or just come up to Harvey's Knob at milepost 95.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.



Empty Cardboard Paper Rolls Requested!

As a kids craft activity at the Roanoke Go Outside Festival October 13-15 the Bird Club will making "binoculars" out of empty cardboard toilet paper rolls. We can also use empty cardboard paper towel rolls. It's a three day event so we need LOTS! Please save your empty cardboard rolls and bring them to the September and October meetings. Any sturdy yarn you can donate would also be appreciated. Also stickers to decorate them. Any questions email Maxine Fraade at maxinefr@aol.com.



Roanoke Valley Bird Club
c/o Eleanor Dye
PO Box 74
Vinton, VA 24179

2017 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Memberships expire August 31st.

Annual Dues	
Individual \$12	_____
Family \$20	_____
Student \$7	_____
Sustaining \$30	_____
Adopt a Bluebird \$15	_____
Additional Contribution	_____
Total Payment	_____
Make check payable to the Roanoke Valley Bird Club c/o Eleanor Dye Box 74 Vinton, VA 24179	