

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Next Meeting:
September 9, 7:00 pm
Grandin Court Baptist
Church

Celebrating
56 Years of Birding
1957-2013



www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

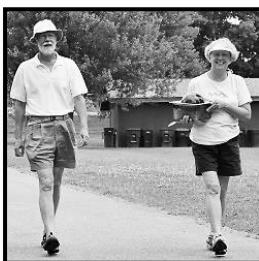
RVBC NEWSLETTER

September 2013

Hope you had an adventurous summer including RVBC feathered friends fun!



August 3, 2013 Robin and Allen Austin's Hummingbird Retreat (feeding a 1½ gallons of nectar daily)



August 11, 2013 RVBC Picnic (with BRWS) Waldron Park
Individual photos left-right:

Presidents: Kent Davis RVBC and Lou Greiner BRWS
Sid and Mary Lou Barritt arriving
Connie Marsh, Pam and Ely Wefel, Eunice Hudgins, Alyce Quinn
Liz and Sam Williams
Allen and Robin Austin
Kent Davis and Sandy Stinnett



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT KENT DAVIS

Dear Roanoke Valley Bird Club Members,

Have you seen any unusual birds in the Roanoke/Botetourt area this summer? If so, I'm requesting reports of any unusual bird sightings (uncommon-to-rare species, late/early migrants, unusually high number counts, rare for region/habitat/season etc.). With all reports, please include the observers' names, the date, and the location of the sighting. For rare or hard-to-identify species, please include details and/or photographs (any photographs submitted may be published, with credit given to the photographer).

This information will be a continued effort to maintain the integrity of **Barry Kinzie's** book, *Birds and Birding the Roanoke Valley*.

Please let me know as soon as possible if a rare bird is found.

Thanks and Good Birding,



kedjr@cox.net
540-344-8377



Next Meeting
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 7:00 PM
Grandin Court Baptist Church

Featured program

The Cultural, Geographical and Avian Diversity of Bolivia

Nell J. Fredericksen has been working as a professional artist and fine art jewelry designer for the past 25 years. Although mainly self-taught, she has completed numerous intensive workshops with many nationally-known metalsmiths.

"I have never lost the fascination and wonder that nature inspires in me and that is so strongly reflected in my work," she says. She has managed over the years to remain active in science, including working as a wildlife rehabilitator and as a wildlife biologist in Bolivia, South America.

Living and working in Bolivia was an amazing experience. She was there for six years, spending time in tropical forests that had been touched very little by humans, rich in color, scent, and sound, and immersed in a vibrant and varied culture. She carried out research that focused on many different wildlife groups and got to see so many unique animals up close and personal, instilling a wonder and awe of this natural system. This time also provided a "creative sabbatical" to focus on her jewelry. "My time there affected me deeply, not only in how I perceive life in general, but it has also strongly influenced my artwork."

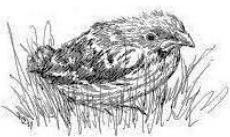
Refreshments to be provided by **Pam Wefel and Alyce Quinn**

Please join us for dinner before the meeting

Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Road, 5:30 pm

The program for the May Meeting featured **Butch Kelly** who presented "Gardening for Wildlife with Natives."

Welcome
New
Members!



Marcia Little and family of Roanoke

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Roanoke, Virginia



2012~2013 Executive Board

Officers

President

Kent Davis 344-8377

First Vice President, programs

Butch Kelly 384-7029

Second Vice President, memberships

Eleanor Dye 890-1627

Secretary

Candy Andrzejewski 365-2508

Treasurer

Robin Austin 929-9071

Directors-at-Large

Eunice Hudgins 389-4056

Alyce Quinn 719-0109

Standing Committee Chairmen

Bluebird Trail

Alyce Quinn 719-0109

Field Trips

Linda Cory 580-5214

Newsletter

Carol Whiteside 774-2143

Publicity

Maureen Eiger 342-4890

Website:

www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

CONTACT US!

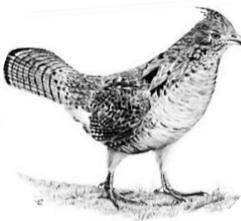
The RVBC Newsletter is published monthly from September through May with the deadline for each issue on the **17th of the month** prior to publication. Photos and articles are gladly accepted for publication as room allows and may be sent electronically, but if original photos are mailed please include a SASE for photo return.

Thank you!

Carol Whiteside

6487 Shingle Ridge Road • Roanoke, VA 24018

whitesidemules@yahoo.com 540.774.2143



Sightings



6/13

Robin Austin reported seeing **Ruffed Grouse** with young at their home on Bent Mountain adding, "I have seen more bear this summer than I have in my life time!"

7/7/13

The first confirmed sighting of a **Rufous-necked Wood Rail** in the United States has been recorded among the cattails at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Typically, the species is found along the coasts and in tropical forests in Central and South America, far from parched New Mexico. Jeffrey Gordon, president of the American Birding Association, said seeing the wood rail was like being dealt a royal flush. "Rails kind of have a reputation for being secretive and staying out of sight," he said. "To see a big, colorful rail and to see it walking around out in the open is just really special. Then, you can add the dimension that it is not only far, but hundreds if not thousands of miles from where you would typically see it." The phones have been ringing off the hook at Bosque del Apache since the bird, about the size of a small chicken, was first spotted on the morning of July 7. What's not yet clear is how exactly the bird got all the way to New Mexico, Marshall J. Iliff, project leader for e-Bird, says that the Rufous-necked Wood Rail isn't known to migrate or disperse very far. Though it's possible that it was kept as a captive bird and released, Iliff says that's unlikely. If it is indeed a wild bird, determining its point of origin will be difficult, as the species has little plumage variation across its range. Eventually, two official committees will make final judgments on where the bird most likely came from: the New Mexico Bird Records Committee and the American Birding Association Checklist Committee. (Picture left.)

8/4/13

Kent Davis and **Barry Kinsey** birded the Roanoke Sewage Ponds (STP) finding: 31 species which included: 5 Green Heron, 1 Western Sandpiper, 5 Least Sandpiper, 2 American Kestrel, 3 Blue Grosbeak.

8/6/13

Barry Kinsey and **John Pancake** (**Kent Davis** and **Mike Smith** on 8/10/13) "chased in a 14 hour death-march" to Chincoteague to see a **Bar-tailed Godwit**. This was only the third sighting in the state and it hasn't been seen in Virginia for 21 years. The Bar-tailed Godwit are found breeding in northern Alaska. (Picture left.)

8/14/13

Wes Teets spotted a female **Mourning Warbler** in Natural Bridge. (Male in right picture.)



Hawk Ridge
Duluth, MN
Migration is on!

8/21/13

Reports include:
267 Raptors
30,874 Com. Nighthawks
6,109 Cedar Waxwings
571 Red-Wing Blackbirds
283 Eastern Kingbirds
232 Cliff Swallows
138 Am. Goldfinches

**They're heading
our way
Look to the skys!**

Cornell Lab of
Ornithology
Announces
**Bird Migration
Forecasts**
In real-time
<http://birdcast.info/>



RVBC 2014 CALENDAR

Submissions deadline September 9



Members' photos or artwork requirements:

1. 8½" x 11" or 8"x10" landscape (horizontal) image.
2. Brief description labeled on the back indicating the subject, location, and month or season depicted.
3. On an accompanying sheet provide your name, phone and email (do not include self-identifying information on the image).
4. Submit to **Carol Whiteside** during the September meeting or mail to: 6487 Shingle Ridge Road, Roanoke, VA 24018.

For inquiries:

Call Carol at 774-2143 or Email: whitesidemules@yahoo.com
Photos will be returned at the next meetings or include a SASE

RVBC ANNUAL SEED SALE

Coming in early November
Northwest True Value Hardware
2303 Williamson Road (near Hollins University)

This is the Club's major annual fund raiser and we would greatly appreciate your support. Tell your friends, relatives, neighbors and spread the love of nature. You don't have to be a club member to purchase our bird seed. The proceeds help the club support community outreach efforts. You need not buy lots of seed but you will find the products are an excellent value. If you don't have room to store lots of seed, consider buying a small bag. The October newsletter will include the order form, which is also available on the website. If you would like to volunteer to help set up, keep track of orders, visit with the public, or load bags, please contact **Alyce Quinn: twoquinns@yahoo.com or phone 719-0109.**

Meet a Member

ED KINSER



I have been birding for about 60 years now and am pretty familiar with the birds of SW Virginia, having grown up on a farm in Tazewell County (just over the ridge from Burkes Garden), then living at Bent Mountain for the last 25 years. Majoring in biology, I couldn't wait to take ornithology, but had to wait until I was in graduate school. Ornithology wasn't offered there at JMU ("James Madison College" back in those days), but I received approval from my graduate committee to take a class at UVA's Mountain Lake Biological Station. I've never been quite the same—it was the best class I ever had. The instructor was Dr. David Johnson, a visiting professor from the University of Florida, with whom I'm still in touch.

My wife, Joanie, and I met because we both raised canaries, a hobby with which we are still involved. We also enjoy photography, gardening, and taking care of our little farm on which we have small herds of miniature LaMancha goats and huacaya alpacas, along with a few chickens and other pets. Sometimes we do "day trip" birding, but most of the time just enjoy sitting by the windows, watching the feeders with our binoculars and cameras close at hand.



Who Gives the Hoot!



- Alix Parks, a Chattanooga-area wildlife rehabilitator, received a **Peregrine Falcon** from the Chattanooga Zoo that appeared to have flown into a window. The bird was banded, and when she contacted the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), they told her it was originally banded in Binghamton, New York on June 3, 1986, making the bird 27 years old! According to BBL records, the current longevity record for a Peregrine Falcon is 19 years, 6 months. Alix said the bird does not appear to be badly injured, and may be released as early as July 31, 2013.
- Many thanks to **Laura Beltran** for her countless volunteer hours with the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. We greatly appreciate her leadership as Field Trip Chairman and producing the newsletter. We wish Laura well as she and her family head to their new life adventures in Kalamazoo, Michigan - we will miss her!
- In July of this year the RVBC members were asked to donate to The American Bird Conservancy's (ABC's) Spring 2013 Challenge. Many of you did just that; we received donations totaling \$250. The club matched this amount and so we were able to send ABC a \$500 donation. But wait--it doesn't stop there. Because of an offer by author Jon Franzen and investment banker Bob Wilson of a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$100,000, your \$250 became \$1000. The funds collected in the Spring Challenge will be used to help preserve habitats for the more than five billion migratory birds that nest in North America. We thank you for your generosity!

2014 ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!

Please renew your membership using the form on the back and send with check to Eleanor Dye

Calendar of Events

Linda Cory, Field Trip Chairman, 580-5214



SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Harvey's Knob Hawkwatching Sept. 1 – November 15 , 10AM – 4PM**
Birders gather from the beginning of September until mid-November to count and watch for hawks and other raptors at the Harvey's Knob overlook located at mile marker 95.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Bald eagles, ospreys and other hawks can be seen. In past years, thousands of broad-winged hawks have been spotted in a single day. People of all birding skills are welcome to stop by and enjoy the hawkwatching. Come and stay all day or just briefly. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair and something to drink and/or eat. For more information contact **Bill James: 563-9248 or email BIJAMES@GMAIL.COM**
- 8 **Roanoke Greenway and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Field Trip Sunday, September 8, 8AM to 12 Noon**
Meet **Kent Davis** (344-8377) at the lower level of the Towers Shopping Center parking lot next to the Suntrust Bank. We will car pool to various spots on the Greenway trails along the Roanoke River. Most of the walking will be flat, but expect to walk 2-3 miles. Bring a chair if you would like to stay near each of the parking spots in lieu of walking. The STP has requested a head-count, so please **RSVP to Kent at 344-8377 or KEDJR@COX.NET by Sept. 4**.
- 9 **RVBC Meeting, 7:00 PM**, "The Cultural, Geographical and Avian Diversity of Bolivia" with Nell J. Fredericksen (see page 2.)
- 9 **RVBC 2014 Calendar submission deadline** (during the meeting). Members' photos or artwork requirements:
1. 8½" x 11" or 8"x10" landscape (horizontal) image.
2. Brief description labeled on the back indicating the subject, location, and month or season depicted.
3. On an accompanying sheet provide your name, phone and email (do not include self-identifying information on the image).
4. Submit to **Carol Whiteside** during the meeting or mail to 6487 Shingle Ridge Road, Roanoke, VA 24018.
For inquiries call Carol at 774-2143 or email whitesidemules@yahoo.com. Photos will be returned at the next meetings.
- 13-15 **VSO Trip to Chincoteague September 13-15**
The Virginia Society of Ornithology is hosting their annual field trip to Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. The trip always produces a wonderful combination of waterfowl, shorebirds and migrating songbirds. For further details visit http://www.virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html and/or contact Trip Coordinator, Meredith Bell at merandlee_AT_gmail.com or 804-824-4958. Headquarters for the field trip are at The Refuge Inn on Beach Road in Chincoteague (800-544-8469 or 757-336-5511 for reservations), ask for the VSO rate, room is limited so make your reservation soon.
- 14 **Fall Migrants at Peaks of Otter Field Trip, Saturday, Sept. 14, 8:00 AM**
Meet **Bill Hunley (774-2397)** in front of the Peaks of Otter Lodge (NOT the Visitor's Center). We will walk around Abbott Lake (about 1 level mile) looking for fall warblers and other migratory songbirds. After the walk, please join us to eat at the Peaks of Otter Lodge which is served from 11:30AM – 2:30PM. Note: Breakfast is served from 7:30AM - 10:30AM and the restaurant is closed from 10:30AM-11:30AM.
- 21 **Botetourt Birding Field Trip, Saturday, Sept 21, 7:30 AM**
Host Susan Kidd (966-0037) and Trip Leader Barry Kinzie. We will meet at the Botetourt Commons Bojangles at 7:30AM to carpool. First stop will be Woodpecker Ridge on Stoney Battery Road in Troutville. Next will be Greenfield on Rt 220 in Daleville. The field trip will end at the home of Susan Kidd in Fincastle. As Host, Susan will provide a light lunch while we enjoy the birds at her home. We will see a lot of habitats; therefore, spotting scopes and waterproof shoes are recommended.
- 22 **Breakfast with Barry at Harvey's Knob, Sunday Sept 22, 9:30 to10:30 AM**
Hawk watchers at Harvey's Knob will be treated to a breakfast of sausage and gravy biscuits by chef, **Barry Kinzie**. This is an annual event going back many, many years. Harvey's Knob is located at mile marker 95.6 on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

OCTOBER

- 9 **Sparrow Walk Field Trip, Wednesday October 9, 8AM**
Meet **Barry Kinzie (992-2743)** at Greenfield in Botetourt County to look mainly for sparrows, but anything that flies (including butterflies). **Directions:** From exit 150A on I-81, travel north on 220 past the town of Daleville. 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. This is a chance to bird with an excellent birder and author of *Birds of the Roanoke Valley: An Annotated Checklist*.
- 11 **Timothy Spira** speaking at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke, by the Roanoke Group of the Sierra Club. Details in October.
- 12 **The Big Sit! Saturday, October 12 (rain date Sunday, Oct 13)**
Join us at **Tim and Alyce Quinn's (719-0109)** house in Burnt Chimney for this 24-hour stationary bird watching adventure. The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest*, sponsored by SWAROVSKI OPTIK, and founded by the New Haven (CT) Bird Club. Every team that observes this year's **"Golden Bird"** has a chance to win \$500. The event has been referred to as a tailgate party for birders. 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. Although the count starts at one minute after midnight the morning of October 12, the Quinn's suggest you arrive any time after 7:30AM. If you'd like to come earlier or even camp out the night before to catch some nocturnal birds, just let the Quinn's know so they can tell you where the two circles are, 'cause they probably won't be out yet! Bring sun screen, binoculars and, if you can, a dish to share for lunch. **Directions on next page.**

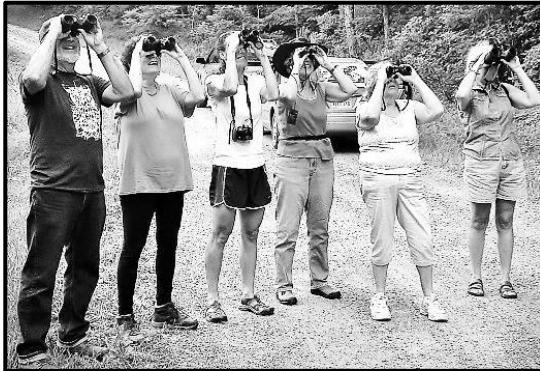
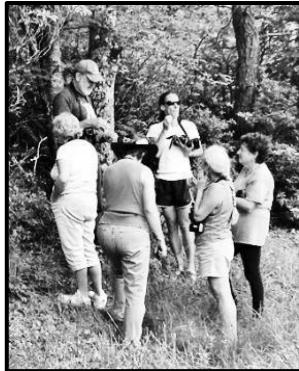
PDF

6 Quinn Map.pdf

“Birds of the Blue Ridges”

Ed Kinser, Bent Mountain, Virginia

The Bent Mountain Community Center opened this spring, with several classes being offered to local citizens. Among the offerings was an ornithology class taught by RVBC member **Ed Kinser**. With emphasis on finding and identifying local species, the class covered basic ornithology topics of anatomy, feather structure, behavior, and ecology. There were six Thursday evening meetings/lessons followed by Saturday morning field trips. Five members of the RVBC were among the “students”, and included **Bill and Nancy Fabian**, **Emily Painter**, **Ellen Rummel**, and **Carol Whiteside**. The teacher and students must have had a good time, because the meetings and field trips often lasted well beyond the designated cut-off times. (This class may be offered again in the coming year, so contact Ed if you’d like to be notified. ejkinser@cox.net)



*Editor's Note: This was a spectacular class, offering interests on all levels for every birding skill and extending into the world of nature. I can't wait to take it again (and again) for the boundless opportunities of Ed's interesting presentations and ever changing seasons and habitats. I have had excellent teachers and classes throughout my life; however, nothing compares to the excitement and enjoyment of this class, many thanks to Ed. I highly recommend it for you, too! Photos courtesy of **Joanie Kinser**.*

SELECTING THE BEST SHRUBS FOR WILDLIFE

Bill Dunson, Englewood, Florida, and Galax, Virginia
wdunson@comcast.net

The fundamental basis of having a wildlife friendly yard is adherence to the doctrine of selecting mainly plants that maximize benefits to wildlife. So try to avoid impulse buying of pretty flowers at a local big box store and come home with a bunch of plants that have little or no relevance to the life histories of the animals you hope to attract. My favorite bad examples are roses up north and tropical hibiscus in southern Florida, which do not attract butterflies or birds.

The viburnums are a group of shrubs that are dynamite for wildlife. A wonderful native viburnum is arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) and we have planted many primarily for their small fruits which birds love; they also have white flowers which attract insects, and the dense foliage provides cover for roosting and nesting of birds. But they have a huge disadvantage in that deer will eat them, so you either have to protect the young plants with cages or suffer damage to many arrowwood plants.

Thus I have looked elsewhere for viburnums that are resistant to deer damage and have found the doublefile viburnum (*V. plicatum tomentosum* Mariesii). This is an exotic

but non-invasive species from China and Japan. It grows quickly into a large, dense shrub that produces clusters of white flowers in the spring, followed by red to black berries in the summer. The flower head consists of many small fertile flowers in the center surrounded by large in-fertile flowers that seem to function in attracting insects. The analogy to the floral structure of the more highly developed asters is striking. They resemble hydrangeas but are not related to them. Birds such as mockingbirds eat the berries and also nest in the dense foliage. This has been a miracle plant for us because the amount of time and money expended in avoiding deer damage is avoided. The Mariesii viburnum is successfully grown from southern Canada though northern Florida. In southern Florida there is a wonderful native shrub, the fire bush (*Hamelia patens*), which serves much the same purpose in the sub-tropical wildlife-friendly yard.

So if you want to attract more butterflies and birds to your yard, select shrubs that provide nectar, fruits, cover, and larval food. You will be richly rewarded by the increased numbers of wildlife that visit.

Bill Dunson, born in rural Georgia, skipped 12th grade and went directly to Yale. Bill subsequently received a PhD in Zoology from the University of Michigan, studying softshell turtles. Bill is Professor Emeritus of Pennsylvania State University thanks to a career spent entirely at that institution, teaching and doing research on the physiological ecology and ecotoxicology of reptiles, amphibians and fish. Always curious about nature, Bill has dedicated his life to learning and sharing his knowledge with others. He has served on many advisory boards.

<http://www.galaxgazette.com/blogs>
http://lemonbayconservancy.org/dunson_archives.htm

The Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Roanoke, Virginia

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

All memberships expire on August 31

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

How did you hear about the club? _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 7	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$12	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$20	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt-a-Bluebird	\$15	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution	\$ _____	
Total Submitted	\$ _____	

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Next Issue October
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September 17