



January Newsletter

Next meeting Monday
Jan. 12th, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Grandin Court Baptist Church
2660 Brambleton Ave SW. Roanoke, VA 24015

Before the meeting please join fellow club members at 5:30 p.m.
for dinner at the Brambleton Deli, 3655 Brambleton Ave.

Celebrating 58 Years
of Birding!
1957-2015

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**Deadline for submissions
to be included in the next
RVBC newsletter is before
Jan. 20, 2015. Thank you!**
Please send submissions or
suggestions to:
rvbcnews@cox.net

Hyperlinks have now been
added. You can click on the
underlined link and it should
take you there. Use it for
sending email or to get
internet and website
information.

Visit our web page for past
newsletters and current
information at:
<http://www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com>

**Visit and "like" the Roanoke
Valley Bird Club's Facebook
page. You are welcome to
post your sightings there!**

"FALL MIGRATION"

By Sid and Mary Lou Barritt



Long time Roanoke Valley Bird Club members, Sid and Mary Lou, will present a program of their wonderful photos of fall migration. It should be an enjoyable time for all.

This month's meeting refreshments will be graciously provided by
Robin Jordan & Martha Pillow

LAST CHANCE!

The RVBC 2015 Calendar is still available for sale at the meeting.

A BIRD WORD - Do you know what zygodactyl feet are? Hint - Zygodactyl feet are found on woodpeckers ([family](#) Picidae) as an aid to climbing and perching vertically on the trunks of trees. Answer is on page 3.

Field Trips

Field Trips Chairman, Linda Cory (540) 580- 5214

New Year's Day Bird Count – Place of YOUR choosing on Thursday, January 1st from 12 AM to 11:59PM

Start your 2015 out right by making a New Year's Day Bird List at the place of your choosing. This is not a group field trip and is not a competition. Also, this is not a national organized count and there is no fee. Some of our members for years have made it a personal tradition to start their year by listing the birds seen/heard on the first day of the year. Maybe this will be the start of a new tradition for you, too! Make a note of all bird species seen and/or heard beginning midnight of New Year's Eve (which would officially be January 1st) and ending 11:59PM of January 1st. You may bird anywhere you would like (even Florida). Email your resulting list with where you birded, the time of day and all participant names to: Linda Cory at LCORY50@JUNO.COM Highlights from your lists will go in the February newsletter. Good luck everyone and Happy New Year!



Highland County Trip – Saturday, January 17th at 7:30 AM at Botetourt Commons in Daleville (snow date January 24th) Meet Fred Cramer (540-890-8026) and Rupert Cutler (540-345-7653) for this exciting day of birding in Highland County (mostly). The target bird is the golden eagle which has been seen on this trip in the past. We should also see bald eagles and a good variety of waterfowl. We will start by traveling north on 220, bird the Blue Grass area near Monterey and bird Lake Moomaw and surrounds. This is a full day event, so please bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. We will carpool (the fewer the cars, the better) from Bojangles at Botetourt Commons (on 220N from I-81 exit 150B).

The Annual Raptor Count - Saturday, February 14th Plan to spend a few hours driving away the winter blues on Saturday. The Annual Raptor Count is a great excuse to get out of the house and do some winter birding. We count all the hawks that we can find. Just a reason to get together with your birding buddies and enjoy a winter outing! More details in the February newsletter. In the unlikely event of inclement weather, an alternate date of **Sunday, February 16th** has been set. Contact Anne Tucker (540-721-1573) if you have any questions.



STP and More - Sunday, February 22nd at 8:00 AM

Join Linda Cory at 8AM at the Lower Level Towers Parking lot next to Sun Trust Bank. We will caravan to the Roanoke Sewage Treatment Plant first. This walk is on Sunday because that is the only day that construction will not be taking place at the facility. Entrance to the STP is by special permit only and we must enter as a group. Please RSVP to Linda at (540-580-5214) before 9PM on 2/19/14 so we can give a head count to the STP office. After the STP, we will bird at the end of Rutrough Road on the Roanoke River. We may also bird Smith Park on Wiley Drive if time permits.

Pond Hopping Saturday, February 28th at 9:30 AM Meet leaders Tim and Alyce Quinn (540-719-0109) at Botetourt Commons (Bojangles) at 9:30 am. We will carpool to various ponds in the area in search of winter waterfowl. It will be an easy day, with hardly any walking at all. Bring your scope if you have one.

BIRD TIP- MAKE A RESOLUTION TO START A BIRD LIST

If you delight in watching the birds in your yard, you might find that taking notes and keeping a list of the species you see enhances your enjoyment of birds. You can create your own birding challenge. You can compare each year's bird list to see if more or less species are visiting your yard. You might keep the dates first seen and compare them over the years to see what (if any) arrival date changes occur.

Also this is a good time to open (for free) an eBird account. Go to - <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> When birding with friends or some of our field trip leaders, you can share the field trip list with your account.

Events, Projects and Club News



SO WHY THE NEW ROANOKE VALLEY BIRD CLUB LOGO? Many people are asking “Why a Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron?” Well, Kent Davis, our RVBC President, thought it would be fitting to have a bird that is very special to our area. Yellow-Crowned Night-Herons actually roost and breed in Smith Park. It is a bird that is “not supposed to be here” but returns every year and is expanding its range locally. Some people have even seen them in Fralin Park. Because of its uniqueness to our area, the Board of Directors asked local artist and club member, Connie Mash, to incorporate it into a new club logo. The former logo, (a Northern Cardinal, designed by RVBC member Fred Cramer) will be retired and you will see the new logo appearing on new items and signs. We hope you will enjoy this fine updated look for the RVBC for the next 50+ years.

ABOVE and BEYOND- We would like to recognize the following members who helped feather the RVBC nest:

- **SUSTAINING MEMBERS:** Karl Huebner, Marilyn Holzschuh, Sid & Mary Lou Barritt, Susan Kidd, Alice Hylton, Happy Hawks and Jane Ambrose-Cosby.
- **ADOPTED A BLUEBIRD:** Sarah Nettemeyer, Audrey Clark, Susan Kidd, Linda Harrison and Bill Modica.
- **DONATIONS TO THE CLUB:** Susan Kidd, Evelyn Krippendorf, Dawn Gill, Barry Whitt, Betsy Davies and Joe Riggins.



A SURPRISE VISITOR AT THE DECEMBER MEETING...

It was show and tell for Member Night. People brought their photos to share and jokes were told. There was good food and fellowship.

As a special surprise for the membership, the RVBC board arranged to have Corey Basham bring Eleanor, his falconry hawk, for all to see. Cory answered questions and everyone got to have a very up close look at this beautiful hawk. Those with cell phones even took pictures. Eleanor did not even blink and seemed unabashed by all the attention.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - Mary Lou Blevins, Sharon Gilpin, Joan Ramsey, Bud Swiger, Donna Mateski De Sanchez and Guillermo Sanchez Pacheco

Young Birders – We are asking if one or more people will Chair or Co-Chair the youth birding segment of the RVBC. Since Laura left we have not found anyone to fill this position. It requires maybe one or two days a month in the spring, summer or fall. There are many people that can help you with this very important project, but we need someone to volunteer to be “in charge.” If you enjoy working with kids and teaching them to become the future birders of the Roanoke Valley (or maybe beyond) please contact Kent at kedjr@cox.net or Maureen at meiger@cox.net

A BIRD WORD ANSWER – Zygodactyl feet are two toes facing forwards and two backwards, instead of the more usual arrangement where three toes face forward and one toe faces backwards. In zygodactyl toes, the first and fourth toes are directed backward and the second and third toes are directed forward.

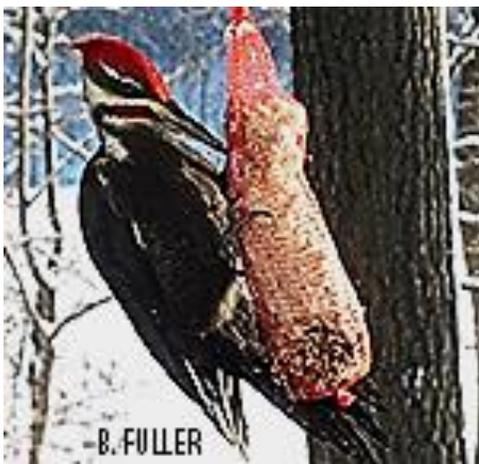
Sightings

✓ MENTIONED BY RVBC MEMBERS ATTENDING THE OCTOBER MEETING

- ✓ **Linda Cory** was happy to see a Brown Thrasher. Kent Davis, Barry Kinzie and Eunice Hudgins also saw a Brown Thrasher at Waid Park in Franklin County.
- ✓ **Barry Whitt** saw a Common Loon at the New River.
- ✓ **Robin Jordan** saw Cedar Waxwings and Golden-crowned Kinglets.
- ✓ **Bill Fabian** saw many, many birds in Tanzania and Kenya. Two of the most amazing birds were the Superb Starling and the Kori Bustard.
- ✓ **Liz Williams** saw a Fox Sparrow while visiting a friend. While in Michigan Liz saw a Cooper's Hawk catch and eat a mouse. She also saw Sandhill Cranes.
- ✓ **Carl Boast** noted that on our November 22 trip to Greenfield, **John Loope** saw two Sandhill Cranes flying over the park.
- ✓ **Mary Lou Barritt** saw Snow Geese at Ashley Plantation (across from Greenfield). She saw hundreds of ducks at Greenfield.
- ✓ **Pat McMeekin** saw Wild Turkeys in Fincastle.
- ✓ **Fred Cramer** saw about 200 Black Vultures at Greenfield.
- ✓ **Kent Davis and Barry Kinzie** saw six Ross's Geese at Ashley Plantation. They were identified by Wes Teets. This is a high count record occurrence tied with Chincoteague. Come very early in the morning to try to catch a look. **Kent Davis** also saw one Blue Goose and two Snow Geese.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FINCASTLE, VA - DECEMBER 14th, 2014

The temperature was about 37 degrees F. when the 33 participants started birding that Sunday morning. A couple of birders got going before daylight, but only one Screech Owl was found. As the morning got "rolling" birders realized that 10 –15 mph winds from the NW made both birds and birders more comfortable on the east or south sides of the hills! By noon most of the 13 parties of birders were ready for some hot "Woodpecker Stew" put together by Teresa at Woodpecker Ridge. Several thoughtful participants brought other goodies to add to the larder. After eating, warming up, bragging, or whining, we called out the list. Eunice Hudgins, Connie Marsh, and Susan Kidd had found a Red-headed Woodpecker. Mary Lou and Sid Barritt had seen a Palm Warbler and a Bald Eagle. Sissy Logan, Norris and Janie Ford hit the jackpot at the pond on Steven's Road, finding some Canvasbacks and Snow Goose. Wes Teets skipped lunch but covered Greenfield and turned up Savannah and Swamp Sparrows as well as a bunch of waterfowl ...You get the picture; seventy-five species of birds were found and over four thousand individual birds. This is not the year for Red-breasted Nuthatches. Killdeer and Snipe were also missed ...and nobody found any blackbirds. Organized by Eunice Hudgins and compiled by Barry Kinzie.



FOR THE BIRDS - RAISIN OAT CAKE

Ingredients:

- ½ cup fine wheat or multigrain breadcrumbs
- ½ cup rolled oats
- ½ cup whole milk
- 2 tablespoons molasses
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- ½ cup raisins
- 2 tablespoons flour

Directions:

Mix all ingredients together and blend well to form a thick batter. Add raisins dredged with flour. Grease a pie pan lightly. Pour mixture into pan and bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, approximately an hour. Cool and break into large pieces. Place in mesh bags and hang in shrubs.

Trending around the Internet: *How your morning cup of joe can help save the birds you see this spring, click on this link - <http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/featured-stories/the-true-cost-of-coffee/>*
For local research about birds and windows click on <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2014/11/111714-cnre-birdwindowcollisions.html> Enjoy! If you find a good web article to share, send a link to rvbcnews@cox.net

Bird Topic – Winter birds' myths and facts (from Birds & Blooms)

Winter Birds Myth: Birds will freeze to death when temperatures drop far below zero.

Winter Birds Fact: Birds are well equipped to survive the coldest of temperatures. They store fat during the short days of winter to keep themselves warm during the long nights. During those freezing nights, they fluff their feathers to trap heat and slow their metabolism to conserve energy. They also look for good places to roost, whether it's a birdhouse, natural tree cavity, grass thicket, evergreen or shrub.



Winter Birds Myth: American robins always fly south for winter.

Winter Birds Fact: If there is sufficient food on their breeding grounds, American robins, bluebirds, and a host of finches and owls remain in the area where they spent the summer. As these birds often eat insects, they will instead forage among tree bark for overwintering bugs rather than on the frozen ground, where you're more likely to see them in spring and summer.

Winter Birds Myth: You should take birdhouses down in winter because birds don't use them and other creatures will move in.

Winter Birds Fact: On the contrary! A birdhouse makes a great roosting house in winter. Eastern bluebirds will pile into houses to spend cold nights. One photographer once even snapped a picture of 13 male bluebirds in a single house!

Winter Birds Myth: If you leave town during winter, the birds that rely on the food from your feeders will die.

Winter Birds Fact: Research has proven this one wrong. Scientists have shown that chickadees, for example, will eat only 25% of their daily winter food from feeders. They find the other 75% in the wild. In addition, with so many people feeding them nowadays, birds in your yard will simply fly to a nearby neighbor to get their food until you return home.

Winter Birds Myth: Birds' feet will stick to metal bird feeders and suet cages.

Winter Birds Fact: Most suet cages have a laminated covering, so you don't have to worry about birds' feet sticking to it. But in general, their feet can endure cold weather. Birds have a protective scale-like covering on their feet, and special veins and arteries that keep their feet warm.

Winter Birds Myth: Birds always migrate in flocks.

Winter Birds Fact: Though many birds migrate in flocks-Common Nighthawks, American Robins, swallows and European Starlings, for example-other species migrate alone. The most amazing example of this is a juvenile hummingbird that has never migrated before, yet knows when to fly, where to fly, how far to fly and when to stop. And it does this all alone.

Winter Birds Myth: Migration means north in the spring and south in the winter.

Winter Birds Fact: Some bird species migrate to higher elevations in the spring and down to lower elevations in the winter. Examples include rosy finches and ptarmigans in the West.

Winter Birds Myth: Peanut butter will get stuck in birds' throats, and they will choke.

Winter Birds Fact: Peanut butter is a very nourishing food for birds, especially in winter when the production of fat is important to their survival. The myth that it will stick in their throats simply isn't true.



Winter Birds Myth: American goldfinches are bright yellow year-round.

Winter Birds Fact: As fall approaches, American goldfinches lose their bright-yellow plumages, replacing them with feathers that are a dull, brownish-green. Many people don't recognize these birds in winter, even though duller-colored birds are still at the feeders. They assume that their "wild canaries" have migrated south for winter.

Winter Birds Myth: If you have warm water in a birdbath when the temperature is below freezing, birds will bathe in it and freeze to death from wet feathers.

Winter Birds Fact: Birds will drink from a heated birdbath, but if the temperature is well below freezing, they will not bathe in it and get

their feathers wet. If you're still worried, offer warm water to drink, but make it too deep or inaccessible for the birds to bathe in.



The Roanoke Valley Bird Club
C/o Eleanor Dye
P.O. Box 74
Vinton, Virginia 24179

2015 Roanoke Valley Bird Club Membership Application Form

Please print

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Memberships expire on August 31 each year

Annual Dues are as follows:

- Individual \$12
- Family \$20
- Student \$7
- Sustaining \$30
- Adopt a Bluebird \$15

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Total Submitted _____

Make check payable to
Roanoke Valley Bird Club
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C/o Eleanor Dye
P.O. Box 74
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