Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Next Meeting:
October 12, 7:00 pm
Roanoke Council of
Garden Clubs facility

Celebrating

69 Years of Birding

1957-2026

"Leave Only Footprints"

www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com | **RVBC Newsletter** | **October 2026**



Photographer
Garland Kitts

Drew's Bird of the Month

Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus*

A tiny hawk that appears in a blur of motion—and often disappears in a flurry of feathers. That's the Sharp-shinned Hawk, the smallest hawk in Canada and the United States and a daring, acrobatic flier. These raptors have distinctive proportions: long legs, short wings, and very long tails, which they use for navigating their deep-woods homes at top speed in pursuit of songbirds and mice. They're easiest to spot in fall on their southward migration, or occasionally at winter feeders.

(More on page 3.)

~The Cornell Lab

Next meeting:

Monday, October 12
7:00 PM
Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs
3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018

Featured program:

Conserving Natural Landscapes

The Work of Blue Ridge Land Conservancy

Kacie Amstutz, Assistant Director, Blue Ridge Land Conservancy

Kacie Amstutz will join us for the October Membership Meeting, highlighting the overall goals of the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy. Kacie will provide some insight into both their conservation success history as well as the challenges for the organization moving forward.



Blue Ridge Land Conservancy works to protect the natural landscapes, working farms, forests, and waterways that make our region such a special place to live. Currently, BRLC has protected over 37,000 acres of land. As Assistant Director, Kacie Amstutz will share how land conservation helps protect these places for both people and wildlife, with a particular focus on the connections between conservation easements and the birds and habitats we enjoy throughout the Roanoke Valley and surrounding region. Kacie has been with Blue Ridge Land Conservancy since 2022, previously serving as Stewardship Manager, where she worked closely with landowners to monitor and care for the organization's portfolio of protected properties. Her background in biology, GIS, and natural resource management, along with experience with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Virginia State Parks, has given her a career centered around exploring, understanding, and protecting the landscapes of western Virginia.

Kacie is also an avid birder, and she considers the many opportunities to get outside and observe birds one of the great perks of working in land conservation. From forests and mountain ridges to farms, streams, and wetlands, protected lands provide essential habitat for a remarkable variety of bird species. During her presentation, she'll offer a behind-the-scenes look at the work of a local land conservancy, including how conservation easements are created and stewarded, what makes a property especially valuable for conservation, and some of the ways protected lands benefit birds and other wildlife. She'll also share stories from her work with landowners and examples of local conservation projects that demonstrate why protecting habitat today matters for the wildlife we hope to enjoy for generations to come.

For birders looking for their next adventure, there will be an exciting opportunity next summer; Blue Ridge Land Conservancy is planning a birding and conservation trip to Ecuador in August 2027. Ecuador's incredible diversity of habitats, from the Andes to the cloud forests and coast, makes it one of the world's premier birding destinations. The trip will offer participants the chance to experience that biodiversity firsthand while learning more about conservation efforts in the country. Kacie will share more about this upcoming adventure during the presentation; along with the many ways that protecting habitat here at home contributes to a much larger story of conservation.

Snacks and treats to share during the meeting are always welcome!

Contact Us!

Roanoke Valley Bird Club

P.O. Box 20405
Roanoke, Virginia 24018
Nonprofit 501(c) (3)

Email: **rvbc2015@outlook.com**
www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com

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The RVBC Newsletter is published monthly **September through May** with the deadline for each issue on the **20th of the month** prior to that publication. Links should be copy/paste into your browser. **Photography is provided by membership with member names in bold type.** Photos and articles are gladly accepted for publication as room allows, and may be sent electronically in JPEG or word docx.

Thank you!
Carol Whiteside
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President's Musings

President Drew Daniels
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As I am writing this, it's in the mid to upper 80's, humid and sticky. I can't imagine going outside in the evening when I could be in my recliner reading or watching TV. We should be getting a respite next week so the temp and humidity will be much lower, and have a great chance of rain during the day, one to two inches says the weatherman. Now, suppose you go out on your deck, patio, or in the street in your neighborhood where it is mostly quiet and voila - you hear the call of an **Eastern Screech–Owl.**

Eastern Screech-Owl Photographer Drew Daniels ▼



If your neighborhood is too noisy with lots of vehicular traffic, then you could go up on the Parkway, where you can hear way down the hollows and across the ridges, as owl's calls travel a good distance in the cool evening air. It doesn't have to be the Parkway as any local park with open ground and woods will work. Yes, it's that time in Virginia to hear the **Eastern Screech-Owl** marking territory and calling for a mate. Their mating calls and territory marking usually starts in June and runs through September, but it's not too late.



Next up is the big boy in the neighborhood, the **Great Horned Owl.** These owls start their mating calls in October running through December, which is a very easy call to identify, just a repetitive "hu-hu-hu-hu-hoo-hoo." The female answers back with a shorter duration call and a little higher pitch.

Great Horned Owl Photographer Garland Kitts ►



The next resident owl is the **American Barn Owl.** It would only be fitting for them to be searching and calling for a mate on Halloween, as their calls are not really calls at all, but shrieks, and I mean blood curdling shrieks. It will certainly get your attention! The **American Barn Owl** begins its mating calls from January through February culminating with nesting beginning in March; however, it could continue into June depending on food supply and finding a mate.

American Barn Owl Photographer Garland Kitts ►



The last of our big four resident owls is the one most easily found, the **Barred Owl.** They begin their mating calls in January through May with the easily identifiable hooting call, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you all?" It is a classic sound. Since they begin their calls in mid-winter, the air is cold, the sound carries much farther, and you are able to hear them from a greater distance away.

Barred Owl Photographer Drew Daniels ▲

We also have an opportunity to see and hear the small Northern Saw-whet Owl. Then you also have two winter migrants from up north that overwinter in Virginia - the Short-eared Owl and the Long-eared Owl. I have not had the pleasure of meeting or hearing any of these three owls and I'm looking forward to it! Check out Merlin for their calls.

Speaking of calls, I do not recommend using Merlin to call owls when they are looking for a mate or marking their territory. Your calling will totally disrupt them from their task at hand and rile them up thinking another owl is invading their territory. Let's be ethical! I hope this will get you outside and away from the TV this fall and winter. It's very enjoyable and great for kids and grandkids. Ah, the stories they will tell when they return to school!

A lifelong adventure!

Drew's Bird of the Month
Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus

"Status: Uncommon spring and fall transient and winter resident. They have declined somewhat in the past 35 years. Sharpies are widespread in the Roanoke Valley and can easily be seen at Harvey's Knob from mid-Sept. to mid-Oct. on days with brisk north or east winds."

~Barry Kinzie's *Birds and Birding of the Roanoke Valley*



Garland Kitts, Photographer

* Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers declined during the DDT pesticide years (mid-1940s to 1972), but re-bounded after DDT was banned.
* Sharp-shinned Hawks migrate south out of Canada in the fall and are observed at hawk watches in very large numbers. The hawks follow similar landscape features and often are concentrated in certain areas. More than 11,000 Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen on one October day at Cape May Point, New Jersey.
* Female Sharp-shinned Hawks are about a third bigger and heavier than males. This is a typical pattern for many hawks and owls, but otherwise rare in the bird world.
* The size difference between the sexes in Sharp-shinned Hawks influences the size of prey they can catch. Nestlings feed first on small prey caught mainly by their father, switching as they grow to the larger prey that their mother can bring. Before delivering prey to their mates or young, male Sharp-shinned Hawks typically remove and eat the head.
* Rather like a cat's claws, Sharp-shinned Hawks use their long toes and talons to impale and hold moving prey. They've even been known to reach into wire-mesh bird traps to grab prey with their toes.
* Sharp-shinned Hawks carry their prey to a stump or low branch to pluck it before eating. Swallowing feathers is not normal for them, as it is for owls.
* The oldest recorded Sharp-shinned Hawk was a male, and at least 12 years, 2 months old when he was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in Minnesota in 2009. *~The Cornell Lab*



Ed Kyle, Photographer



Calendar of Events

Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Dave Frye, Vice President Programs, Field Trip Chairman, 248-459-6783

American kestrel, Photographer **Garland Kitts**



Note: if inclement weather necessitates a cancellation, an e-mail notification will be sent. You may also call or text the leader. Please do not call any of the trip leaders after 8 pm the night before the field trip, in consideration of having to get up early the next day to lead the field trip. ***Field Trips begin at 8:00 am unless otherwise announced****. Morning field trips in December through March will begin at 9:00 am. Thank you!*

October 2026

Hawk Watching – Harveys Knob Overlook, milepost 95.3 on the Blue Ridge Parkway

From September through November, the Roanoke Valley Bird Club with the Lynchburg Bird Club collect data at Harveys Knob hawk watching and report it to the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMA). All are welcome to join our resident hawk watchers to see how it is done. Bring a lawn chair, binoculars, and a spirit of adventure for learning about the annual hawk migration. You are welcome to show up any day, arrive and leave when you like, and even though you may feel you might not be ready to ID each hawk as it passes, extra eyes are ALWAYS needed and appreciated!

10 **Field Trip to Montvale Park, Bedford County, Saturday, 8:00 am. Leader: Kirk Gardner (828-216-9170).** Join us for a bird walk at Montvale Park. On this trip we will be targeting Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and other late-season migrants such as Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, as well as other local residents. Our route will follow the Creekside Trail along South Fork Goose Creek, looping back via the Soggy Bottom Trail. We will cross the creek again before returning to the parking lot. Optionally, we may explore the wetland area between the trails, including a cattail wetland, to observe diverse habitats. With the wet areas involved, please wear muck boots, wellies, or other waterproof footwear suitable for crossing a stream.
Directions: 1092 Marketplace Drive, Montvale, VA 24122. Drive northeast on route 460 traveling approximately 16 miles just past the town of Montvale and turn right onto southbound Marketplace Drive. As you approach a circular drive, the parking area will be on the right. We will meet in the gravel parking lot on the east side of the park (37.3751197-79.7129808).

12 **Membership Meeting, Monday 7:00 pm.** Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs, 3640 Colonial Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018. Program: **Conserving Natural Landscapes, the Work of Blue Ridge Land Conservancy.** Speaker: **Kacie Amstutz, Assistant Director, Blue Ridge Land Conservancy.** (Details on page 2.)

14 **Second Wednesday Local Bird Walk, Oak Grove Park, Roanoke, VA 24018, 8:00 am. Leader: David Frye (248-459-6783).** Join us on a bird walk through a Roanoke local spot, Oak Grove Park. We will bird the immediate park area beside the parking lot and then head out on a trail that hugs a hillside and meanders through a hardwood forest area.
Directions: **5005 Grandin Road Extension, Roanoke, VA 24018** The group will gather at 8:00 am. at Oak Grove Park, southwest of Electric Road (route 419) off of Grandin Road Extension, behind Oak Grove Elementary School.

17 **Saturday Walk, Ellett Tract Property, 8:00 am. Leader: Sissy Logan (540-353-4500).** A visit to lovely private grounds stretching from Mud Lick Road to Brandon Avenue. Diverse habitats on this property promise excellent birding. **Directions:** Entrance to the property is on a private drive heading south off of Brandon Avenue near Peters Creek Road. Their driveway is the first turn west of the intersection with Peters Creek Road (Poplar HI Road SW). There is a Lee Highway Historical Marker near the driveway entrance. Continue to the top of the hill. Parking will be after passing by an out building on the right and the Ellett house on the left.

24 **Field Trip to Fenwick Mines, 8:00am. Leader: Bill Hunley (540-467-3477).** Bill Hunley will take us through one of our favorite areas for birding, Fenwick Mines. **Directions:** We'll meet in the car parking area at the Orange Market in Hanging Rock at 7:15 am. (junction of routes 419 and 311). The road runs alongside the abandoned mine area that is always productive, and the wooded site can provide diverse sets of birds, which includes a meandering creek with a boardwalk that reliably has Hermit Thrushes and Winter Wrens.

November 2026 A Quick Look Ahead

07 **Bent Mountain Center, Saturday 8:00 am. Leader: Robin Austin (540-676-0951).**

11 **Second Wednesday Bird Walk, Greenfield, Cherry Blossom Trail, 8:00 am. Leader: David Frye (248-459-6783).**

28 **Starkey Wetlands (perfect for new birders), Saturday, 8:00 am. Leader: David Frye (248-459-6783).**

September Highlights

September Meeting Notes

Monday, September 14, 2026



Linda Cory reported on behalf of **Secretary Karen Frye** that 63 members and guests were in attendance. Drew introduced the guest speaker, Ashley Lohr, President Lynchburg Bird Club, on the topic: "The Secret Life of Birds Bio-logging as a Tool for Avian Conservation." In this presentation, Ashley explored different methods used to track birds and learn how databases such as Movebank (movebank.org) make it possible to manage, share, and archive animal tracking data to help protect bird populations worldwide. She shared the history of researching bird migration starting with leg banding in 1900 through the current innovations of the placement of transmitters. Movebank has now archived over 11 billion data points from birds during migration.
Iris Daniels, Photographer.

May ~ September Field Trip Reports

May 16, Mill Mountain Walk, Leaders: Sissy Logan and Linda Cory. A group of 16 birders enjoyed a beautiful spring day atop Mill Mountain. We observed 43 species including passerines: Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, Wood Thrush, and Scarlet Tanager. The highlights of the day were the warblers: Tennessee, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Pine, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Canada. The bird of the day was the Swainson's Thrush as 15 of them were making their ethereal call – a magical moment.



Linda Cory, Photographer, viewing the Swainson's Thrushes.

August 22, Butterfly Walk at Greenfield, Leader: Toni Pepin. Twelve enthusiasts gathered to participate in the first of two walks on the Cherry Blossom Trail at Greenfield. This walk was unique in that those participating were focused on numerous species of butterflies and, for the purpose of this outing, were not tallying the birds that were present. The group enjoyed being introduced to several new species of butterflies identified by the leader, **Toni Pepin**. Among the beautiful creatures observed were Eastern Tailed-Blue, Fiery Skipper, Sachem, Zebulon Skipper, and Spicebush Swallowtail.

September 19, Butterfly and Bird Walk at Greenfield, Leader: Toni Pepin.
Eight participants searched for butterflies and birds on a cool, overcast morning that became warm and sunny. While we only had five species of butterflies (due to the recent heat and drought), a steady stream of monarchs heading south was enjoyed by all, with 25 counted. We had better luck with birds, having observed 39 species. Highlights included Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue-winged Teal, and various flycatchers including Pewee, Phoebe, Least, and two less cooperative *Empidonax* species. Also viewed, a mixed flock including Redstarts plus Magnolia and Yellow-throated Warblers that signaled fall migrants are on their way.



Calendar Committee Hard at Work
Mary Lou Barritt, Sissy Logan, Betty Burke, Linda Cory, Mary Ellen Belcher, Robin Austin, Linda Barker, Nancy Stafford, and Drew Daniels **Photographer: Iris Daniels**

Roanoke Valley Bird Club
2027 Calendar

We are excited to offer the Roanoke Valley Bird Club 2027 Calendar featuring 24 amazing photos taken by and voted on by our own members. It is our 32nd year and is still offered for only $16. We accept cash, check, or credit card. Starting October 12, calendars may be ordered or purchased in three convenient ways:

1. **In person** at the RVBC meetings on October 12, November 9, and December 14. Other dates and locations will be announced later.

2. **Online** at http://roanokevalleybirdclub.com/ and click on "Buy a Calendar" link after October 12.

3. **Mail** with check and the completed form below to:
   RVBC, PO Box 20405, Roanoke VA 24018
   If you are ordering more than four calendars, please email us at RVBC2015@outlook.com to get a more accurate and lower shipping cost.



2027 cover photo
Great Crested Flycatcher

2027 Calendar Order Form

R.V.B.C., P.O. Box 20405, Roanoke, VA 24018



# of Calendars _____ X $16.00 if picking up = $_____

# of Calendars _____ X $19.50 if shipping = $ _____

If being mailed, send calendars to:

Name

Address

City State Zip Code

Telephone Email



2026 RVBC Bluebird Trails Summary

Carol Whiteside, Bluebird Trails Coordinator



*Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) are well known in the United States for their brilliant plumage, sweet song, and use of nestboxes. It is hard to imagine that this species nearly went extinct in the early 1900s because of a deadly combination of management practices that removed the dead tree snags that bluebirds depend upon for nesting, the introduction of exotic species that competed for nesting cavities, and the detrimental effects of pesticides. The recovery of populations across the eastern United States is an example of how everyday citizens can play a role in conservation. The major factor in the bluebird's recovery was the establishment of nestboxes by private landowners across their range.*

~ National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Everglades, Florida

Hanging Rock Golf Course **Karen Shelton, Chairman** 21 boxes			
Species	***Eggs***	***Fledged***	***Success***
E. Bluebird	150	118	79%
C. Chickadee	0	0	
Tree Swallow	13	12	92%
House Wren	0	0	
Total	163	130	80%
First BB egg: **March 22, 2026**			
Last BB fledging: **July 29, 2026**			



Blue Ridge Parkway **Carol Whiteside, Chairman** 33 boxes			
Species	***Eggs***	***Fledged***	***Success***
E. Bluebird	226	198	88%
C. Chickadee	7	7	100%
Tree Swallow	23	23	100%
House Wren	0	0	
Total	249	225	90%
First BB egg: **March 17, 2026**			
Last BB fledging: **August 16, 2026**			

In this vital conservation endeavor we offer many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who monitor our two trails weekly for five months to insure the success of our area Eastern Bluebirds. We greatly appreciate **Robin and Allen Austin;** the bluebird trails could not exist without Allen's expertise in construction of the nest box set-ups. This year, our **bluebirds produced 376 eggs and fledged 316 for a success rate of 84%,** for the two combined trails of 54 boxes. These annual statistics are reported to the Virginia Bluebird Society at the end of each annual season.

The Blue Ridge Parkway Bluebird Trail proved to be a manageable challenge with the motor road construction closure from MP 106 (Route 460) through MP 121.4 (Route 220), that included 27 bluebird boxes during the last three years. Chairman **Carol Whiteside** extends a grateful thank you to **Carl Richardson** who coordinated with weekly monitoring and weed whacking of the 33 boxes. Along with Carol, Carl is also a trusted Parkway registered volunteer that supports the Park maintenance crew with their duties. This 2026 season was the second consecutive banner bluebird year of record! Through 26 years of maintaining records, our Parkway bluebird trail has produced **6,340 eggs with 4,833 fledglings, for a 76% success rate**.



The Hanging Rock Golf Club Bluebird Trail prospered; Chairman **Karen Shelton** awards many thanks with appreciation to our Hanging Rock volunteers who monitored through the hot, dry summer! We forged through, in spite of (probable) bear and snake visits. I look forward to working with everyone again in the spring! Also, thanks to Carol, for helping me get started with chairing this trail. It continues to be a lot of fun!

If you would like more bluebird information or are interested in purchasing a bluebird box and set-up (especially as a great Christmas gift), please contact: Carol Whiteside, 540-774-2143.

Hummingbirds Are Migrating

Three things you must do in your yard right now

Kaycee Hill



Carol Whiteside, Photographer

As late summer transitions into autumn, North America's smallest birds begin preparing for one of the most grueling journeys in the animal kingdom. Before flying south to their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America, many hummingbirds must fuel up for non-stop flights that, for some species, include a harrowing five-hundred-mile stretch across open water. While natural environmental cues like decreasing daylight hours signal when it is time for them to depart, backyard bird feeders provide a crucial, high-energy pit stop along their migration highway.

The physics of migration

Understanding the extreme physical demands of migration highlights why suburban backyards matter so much in the fall. In the weeks leading up to departure, hummingbirds enter a state of extreme hyperphagia, eating constantly to gain twenty-five to forty percent of their body weight in fat store reserves. This rapid fat gain is essential because their tiny bodies burn energy at an astounding rate. During migration flight, a hummingbird's heart beats up to twelve hundred times per minute while its wings flap anywhere from fifteen to eighty times every second. Migration occurs in staggered waves, starting with adult males in late summer, followed by females, and finally young birds making the journey for the very first time well into fall.

How to help hummingbirds prepare for migration

1. Keep feeders clean and fresh

Supporting these passing travelers starts with proper feeder maintenance. Because migrating hummingbirds rely heavily on local yards to refuel quickly, keeping your nectar clean is essential. Late-summer heat can easily ferment sugar water or cause toxic black mold buildup, which deters hungry visitors and spreads deadly tongue infections. Scrub your feeders every few days with hot water and a bottle brush, avoiding harsh detergents, and refill them with fresh liquid to ensure passing migrants get safe, reliable nutrition.

2. Stick to the classic nectar formula

When mixing nectar at home, stick strictly to the classic recipe that mimics natural flower nectar. Combine four parts boiling water with one part pure white granulated sugar, stirring until completely dissolved. Let the mixture cool completely before filling your feeder. You must avoid using honey, brown sugar, artificial sweeteners, or red food dye, as these additives can cause fatal organ damage or infections.

3. The fall feeder myth: don't take them down too early

The biggest mistake well-meaning bird watchers make in the autumn is taking their feeders down too early out of fear that abundant food will trap the birds in cold weather. However, leading ornithologists at organizations like the National Audubon Society confirm that food availability does not stop a hummingbird from migrating. Their instinct to head south is governed entirely by internal biological clocks and shortening daylight hours. Leaving your feeders up through October, or until two full weeks pass without a single sighting, provides a life-saving energy source for northern stragglers and late-season migrants passing through your neighborhood.

Adjust your nectar recipe in cooler weather

While a homemade hummingbird nectar recipe typically calls for 1 part sugar to 4 parts water, adjusting it in cooler months can be even more beneficial. During the hot summer, hummingbirds are more at risk of becoming dehydrated, so a more diluted mixture works best. However, as temperatures cool, higher sugar concentrations make the water a bit more resistant to freezing, and hummingbirds can benefit from an energy boost to stay warm. During cool periods, adjust your ratio so that you're adding about 1 part sugar to 3 parts water.

How to Clean Your Bird Feeder



Cornell Lab ~ All About Birds

Cleaning your bird feeders regularly helps keep your backyard birds healthy



Cleaning Seed Feeders

Moldy or decomposing seeds and hulls that accumulate on feeder trays can make birds sick. Bird droppings and other contaminants may also spread infectious bird diseases. Clean your feeders about once every two weeks, more often during times of heavy use or wet weather or if there have been reports of salmonella in your area or you have seen sick birds in your yard.

To clean your feeder, take it apart and use a dishwasher on a hot setting or hand wash either with soap and boiling water or with a dilute bleach solution (no more than 1 part bleach to 9 parts water). Research suggests that soaking feeders in a dilute bleach solution for 10 minutes is a very effective step in addition to scrubbing away debris and old seeds. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry before refilling. Clean the ground below your feeders, too, to prevent a build-up of hulls, uneaten seeds, and other waste. Moldy or spoiled food is unhealthy both for birds and for your outside pets. Also, bird food scattered on the ground can attract unwanted rodents.



Maintaining Hummingbird Feeders



Change sugar water at least every 3 to 5 days to prevent mold and deadly fermentation, and more frequently during hot weather. Clean feeders at least once a week with hot water and a bottle brush. **Do not** use soap or a detergent. You can also clean hummingbird feeders by filling with a dilute bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water), but make sure to rinse them thoroughly and allow them to air dry before refilling. Do not put oil or other sticky substances around feeding ports to deter bees; you might contaminate the nectar.

Drew's Birding Tip of the Month: Binoculars



This is the first "Tip of the Month." I hope it will be helpful for beginners and as well as experienced birders.

Binoculars - Birders, this is the most important tool in your bird identification arsenal. Purchasing a pair of binoculars is an investment, considering all the years you will be using them. Purchase what you can afford, but don't buy the cheapest or the most expensive. You will want a pair of 8x42 mm with coated lenses to eliminate glare. When you go on bird walks, ask some of the members to try theirs to see how they feel in your hands. Are they easy to hold and not too heavy; can you pick-up the bird quickly; are they easy to keep steady on the bird? You could also try Sportsman's Warehouse as they have a good selection that you can put your hands on, and try to focus on the animals on the walls, just a suggestion. Don't be afraid to ask members questions at meetings or bird walks. Remember you aren't alone with this, we are here to help.

Good birding!

Reminder

Dues Are Due!

Memberships expired on August 31
(If you joined in January or later of this year, your dues are good through August 2027)
Individual $15, Family $25, Student No Charge

**Dues may be paid three convenient ways:*

1. **Mail** with check and completed form to:
   Roanoke Valley Bird Club
   P.O. Box 20405, Roanoke, VA 24018

2. **In person** at the October 12, meeting give to V.P. Memberships **Mary Harshfield**

3. **Online** www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com
   Upper right corner click
   "Become a member/renew"

***Always include payment with completed membership form found in this newsletter on page 10, or www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com**

Roanoke Valley Bird Club
P.O. Box 20405
Roanoke, VA 24018

Happy Halloween

Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Memberships expire on August 31, each year

2027
(Current Year)

Please print

Name(s) _____

_____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

*Email _____

*Required to receive newsletters and communications

Annual Dues are as follows:

- ☐ Individual $15
- ☐ Family $25
- ☐ Student under 18 - No Charge

Additional Contribution $_____

Adopt a Bluebird $_____

Total Payment $_____

Make check payable to:
Roanoke Valley Bird Club

Mail To:
Roanoke Valley Bird Club
P.O. Box 20405
Roanoke, VA 24018

www.roanokevalleybirdclub.com