



"There are many things about birds that appeal to people. Perhaps above anything else is the challenge that identification offers the imaginative mind, the never ending quest of seeking something new."

~George J. Wallace

December Meeting

Date: Monday, December 10th, 7:00 PM
Place: AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge Community College Education Center

Program: Holiday Party!



It is that time of the year when we celebrate the holidays with our Bird Club friends by feasting on goodies following the program. Please bring a seasonal favorite to share with everyone. Suggestions are cookies, fruit, cheese, vegetables and dip, nuts etc.

The club will provide the punch.

Future Programs

January: *When Birds Collide*
 Carla Dove, Ph.D. Smithsonian Institution



Field Trips

Special note -- All trips are subject to be cancelled due to heavy fog, rain, snow, or ice. The trip leader will let you know or call the trip leader to find out because YOUR safety is our main concern .

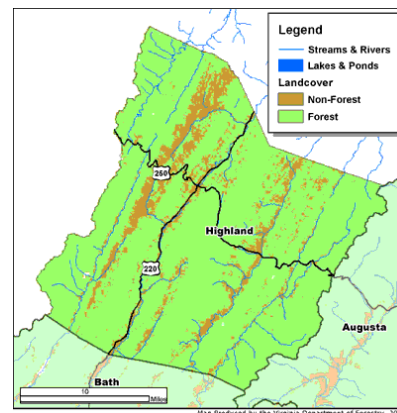
Saturday, Jan. 12th: Highland County
Meeting place / time: Woodrow Wilson Parkway Holiday Inn (exit 225 off I-81) lower parking lot, 7:00 AM sharp!
Coordinator: John Spahr at spahrart@cfw.com or 887-2345

Join John on this excellent trek through the elevated landscape of Highland County. Expected birds include winter finches (Evening Grosbeaks perhaps?), Golden Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Plan to car-pool. This is mostly a driving trip with multiple stops to view birds; the fewer vehicles the safer and easier it will be. If driving, have a full

tank of gas before the start. Bring warm clothes and morning snack. We will have a restaurant lunch in Monterey and return mid-afternoon.

In case of nasty weather, Sunday Jan. 13th will be the back up date.



Map Produced by the Virginia Department of Forestry, 2002



Chirps From the President

Ahead of this winter's weather we have already seen great numbers of irruptive species. These may be some of the very same birds that will greet us when we journey forth on the annual Christmas Bird Counts. As usual there will be two counts, one for Augusta County and one for Waynesboro. Each will cover a ten mile radius and in each we count the birds from dawn to dusk (unless you cover your assigned area sooner) with teams of two or more persons working together. Counting the birds at the same time each year gives us an indication of what is happening to the bird populations in our area. All over the country other teams are doing the same thing. John and Crista head up the counts and they will be looking for volunteers. Even if you do not think you are an expert birder, you can volunteer and be paired with an experienced birder. It is always interesting whether it is snowing all day as it has been on occasion or warm and sunny. It is a delight to get some birds that no one else gets or to discover one that is new to the winter count. Then at the end of the day we get to gather to share both results and food at one of the host's houses. So give your name to the organizers at our meeting and plan for a fun day.

-Grant Simmons

The 108th Christmas Bird Count

You are invited to join birders across the western hemisphere and participate in Audubon's long-running wintertime tradition, the annual Christ-

mas Bird Count (CBC). This year, over 2,000 individual counts are scheduled to take place throughout the Americas and beyond between the dates of December 14, 2007 to January 5, 2008.

"Each CBC volunteer observer is an important contributor, helping to shape the overall direction of bird conservation," says Geoff LeBaron, National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count Director. "Audubon and our partners at Bird Studies Canada, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Boreal Songbird Initiative rely on data from the CBC database to develop Audubon's 'State of the Birds' report and inform Audubon's WatchList, which is used to prioritize Audubon's bird conservation work, and is published currently in last season's CBC report of *American Birds*."



During last year's count, about 70 million birds were tallied by nearly 58,000 volunteers, that number of observers representing a record level of participation. Thanks in part to Bird Studies Canada, the Canadian partner for the CBC, there were 2,052 individual counts across the Americas, Caribbean, and in the Pacific Islands.

Another important milestone has been reached in the ongoing analysis of Christmas Bird Count data by Audubon scientists and other ornithologists. Audubon's 2007 WatchList has been released in the 107th Christmas Bird Count summary issue of *American Birds*. Trend information from the Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey are used, when available, to evaluate the status of species both in the breeding and non-breeding seasons. Birds found to be at risk are included on the WatchList. With the release of both Common Birds in Decline and the 2007 WatchList, CBC analysis will begin to focus now on how birds may be reacting to global climate change.

The CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by scientist and writer Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day in 1900, the small group posed an alternative to the "side hunt," a Christmas day activity in which teams competed to see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals. Instead, Chapman proposed that they

identify, count, and record all the birds they saw, founding what is now considered to be the world's most significant citizen-based conservation effort – and a more than century-old institution.

Since Chapman's retirement in 1934, new generations of observers have performed the modern-day count. Today, over 55,000 volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific Islands, count and record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area.

The 108th CBC is expected to be larger than ever, expanding its geographical coverage and accumulating information about the winter distributions of various birds. The CBC is vital in monitoring the status of resident and migratory birds across the Western Hemisphere, and the data, which are 100% volunteer generated, have become a crucial part of the U.S. Government's natural history monitoring database.

Please consider becoming part of this tradition by participating in one or both the following counts in our region

Augusta County Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 16th 2007

Contact Person / Compiler: John Spahr
jspahr@augustamed.com 887-2345.

The compilation pot-luck dinner will be at John and Nancy Spahr's house 234 W. Frederick St. Staunton.

Waynesboro Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, January 5th 2008

Contact Person / Compiler: Crista Cabe
ccabe@mbc.edu or 540-234-9155

Tally dinner: to be announced

Please contact Crista by December 20 at the latest

Bird Seed Sale - A Big Thanks!

Thank you to all who participated in and supported the annual Bird Club Seed Sale this past October. We would like to extend a special thanks to the following people that cheerfully donated muscle and enthusiasm on the day of the sale. This includes Ken Fischer, Beth and Harry Lumadue, Mike Reynard, Tracey Neff, Crista Cabe, Gary Lancaster, Emily Lancaster, Phoebe Shaw and Rebecca Shaw (our Nature Campers), Liz and Jim Reed for delivery, John Spahr for delivery, and Jessie Shaw and Cody Shaw for delivery. Thanks for giving of your time on a beautiful Saturday to help us successfully move the seed.

Once all the checks have cleared the bank, a deposit of \$3,050 will be made to the Education & Conservation Fund which will in turn be used to further the mission and goals of the club as stated in our Constitution and Bylaws i.e. *"Funds raised by this committee (Education & Conservation Fund) will be used to provide scholarships, develop programs and provide educational materials for study in the field of natural science, or will be donated to charitable organizations and agencies that are devoted to the protection of wildlife and the preservation of natural resources."*

All those that supported the sale by purchasing bird seed and/or helping out on sale day have very good reason to be proud of their efforts.

-Thank you,
Lisa Hamilton & Linda Matkins,
Bird Seed Sale Committee Co-chairs

Augusta Bird Club Minutes November 12th, 2007

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7pm on November 12, 2008 at Augusta Medical Center, Fishersville, Virginia. The meeting was called to order by president Grant Simmons. He welcomed new members and visitors. We had visitors from the Monticello and Rockingham Bird Clubs present. Many members reported seeing Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches at their feeders. Hermit Thrushes were also mentioned.

Beth and Harry Lumadue reported we have over 200 members on our mailing list now.

Phoebe Shaw, one of our nature campers, gave a brief report on her camping experiences. She was there 12 days and her favorite studies were reptiles, amphibians and ornithology.

Lisa Hamilton reported 17,000 pounds of bird seed was sold netting \$2500.00. This is less than previous years but still worth the effort. She thanked all involved in the sale.

Mary Vermeulen reported the Augusta County Historical Society is happy to have our Scrap Books and other bird publications. She has also made her property a Certified Wildlife Habitat. She showed her certification plaque and also one Yulee Lerner received in 1983. They both encouraged others to seek certification for their properties. Yulee also asked that we send all bird records through November so as to meet the deadline for the newest records book coming out in January.

Jo has a November 14 field trip to McCormick's Mill. There are now 125 species on the McCormick's Trail list.

The Christmas Bird counts are coming up in December and January. The Highland County field trip will be about mid-January. More information on times will be announced at the next meeting.

John Spahr introduced the speaker for the evening, Craig Tuffs. Craig is chief naturalist with the National Wildlife Federation. He gave an informative talk on the global warming effect on birds. It is interesting to know there are helpful solutions to the problem and we can all do our part in this effort.

-Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reed, secretary

Treasurer's Report

submitted by Lisa Hamilton

10/01/2007 – 10/31/2007

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 10/1/2007	\$ 7,190.25	
INCOME	\$ 74.39	
EXPENSES	\$ 159.01	
BALANCE - 10/31/2007		\$ 7,105.63
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 10/1/2007	\$ 5,828.14	
INCOME	\$ 189.00	
EXPENSES	\$ 4,750.00	
BALANCE - 10/31/2007		\$ 1,267.14
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 10/31/2007		\$ 8,372.77

New Members!

Wayne Shiflett
Grottoes, VA
wayneshif@aol.com

Penny Warren
Staunton, VA
penny@staunton.com

Send change of address to:

Paul Callo
467 Chinquapin Dr.,
Lyndhurst, VA 22952
Email: pcallo@mbc.edu

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website

<http://virginiabirds.net>

Augusta Bird Club Website

<http://academic.mbc.edu/barthur/abc/newsletter.html>