



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B

"Did St. Francis preach to the birds? Whatever for?
If he really liked birds he would have done better to preach to the cats."

~ Rebecca West

March Meeting

Date: Monday, March 10th, 7:00 PM
Place: **First floor, Augusta Community Care Building, AMC** (located across the street – Sports Medicine Drive – from our usual meeting place, the Lifetime Building, see map)

Program: Land Below the Wind
Speaker: Peggy Spiegel Opengari



Borneo is the world's third largest island and is home to some fascinating endemic species of birds including the Bornean Bristlehead in its own endemic family. There are also a variety of mammals including the Orang-utan, king of the Bornean jungle, the bizarre Proboscis Mon-

key, Bearded Pigs, and much more. This past July Peggy spent three weeks in Borneo and a week in Peninsula Malaysia and will share her experiences with us. Her video presentation highlights the beauty of the country and provides entertaining displays of the behavior of birds and mammals. On the Malay Peninsula we will visit one of the famous British hill stations where the birds are not only beautiful but very cooperative when being photographed.

From there we will go down to Tamen Negara National Park for birding in a lowland rainforest.

Note: The April meeting date has been changed to Tuesday, April 8 from our usual 2nd Monday schedule because of conflicts with hospital / medical meetings. This meeting will be back in our usual location, rooms 215-216 in the Lifetime Education Building on the AMC campus

Chirps From the President

I am sure you are aware that we take pride in sponsoring our youth to attend Nature Camp each year, this year we are sponsoring four students with an anonymous donor sponsoring a fifth. The profits from our fall seed sale provides the funds for this project as well as contributions to various nature organizations. Lisa Hamilton has been the person who has contacted our seed supplier, set prices, tabulated the orders, received the payments and



totaled the profits. This is a time consuming task and Lisa has provided extraordinary service for the past ten years. Even though our total sales and profits have declined as so many other sources are selling bird seed, we still made a tidy profit of \$3000 this

year. We want to express our thanks to Lisa who is stepping down this year as our Bird Seed Sale agent. As the Board considered the direction we should take at a recent meeting we have two options; find someone to undertake the task that Lisa has been doing, or to drop seed sales as our fundraiser and raise fees to cover the loss. We would like to hear from you prior to this August when the Board will have to make a decision. If there is someone who would like to accept the job that Lisa has been doing, please let me know.

Thanks to all those who participated in the Big Weekend Bird Watch sponsored by Cornell Lab. I noticed we had quite a few participants from our area. Also I want to thank Andrew Clem for the new ABC web page. It looks and works wonderfully. If you haven't checked it out yet, it can be found at www.augustabirdclub.org Enjoy!

-Grant Simmons

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 .



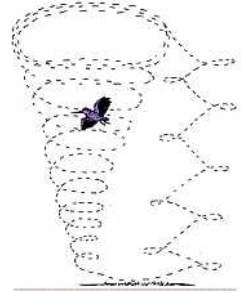
Saturday, March 15th: Lake Moomaw
Meeting Place & Time: Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 8:00 AM
Coordinator: Allen Lerner at [larnesky@ mind-spring.com](mailto:larnesky@mind-spring.com) or 886-1416

On this day long adventure into Bath county we will be looking for Loons, Waterfowl, Bald Eagles, early Tree Swallows, and more! Bring snacks and a lunch. Dress for the weather. Ice & snow will cancel the outing but the make up date will be Sunday, March 16th.

Thursday, March 27th: Dance of the Woodcock
Meeting Place & Time: Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center, 30 minutes before sunset (Note we will be in day light savings time).

Meet Allen Lerner at the Visitors Center and experience a rare treat. The spectacular mating dance of the American Woodcock is one you will not soon forget. Also when it gets dark enough we will listen out for Owls .

Be sure to check the forecast and dress for the weather that evening.



Friday, April 18th to Sunday, April 20th: Colonial Parkway & Jamestown Wildlife Loop, Eastern Shore weekend.

Meeting place & time: To be arranged. Details will be in the April news letter.

Coordinator: Allen Lerner at [larnesky@ mind-spring.com](mailto:larnesky@mind-spring.com) or 886-1416

Saturday, April 28th: BIG SPRING DAY

Meeting Place & Time: Your Choice!

Coordinator: Allen Lerner at [larnesky@ mind-spring.com](mailto:larnesky@mind-spring.com)

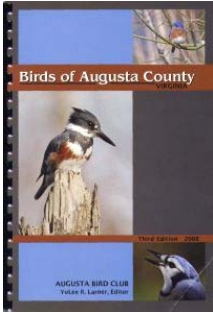
Want to do a little or a lot of birding this day? You start when you feel like it -- early morning or later in the day. It is up to you. All you have to do is pick your favorite birding spot, your route for the Christmas Bird Count, or select from the list below. At this time of year we have had over 120 species of birds in one day. Contact Allen Lerner to let him know what area you want to cover. This event will take place rain or shine. More info will follow in the April Newsletter

Saturday, May 3rd: The Yulee Lerner Birding Trail
Meeting place/time: Montgomery Hall Park (top right pavilion), Staunton, VA, 8:00 AM
Trip Leader: TBA, Contact Linda Matkins at linda.matkins@gmail.com for more information.

Come one and all to our last annual spring meeting in Montgomery Hall Park. First thing that morning we will have a field trip to look for Flycatchers, Warblers, and Tanagers to name a few. Bring a brunch item and after the walk we will do a tally and enjoy the good food and fellowship. More

info will be disclosed about this annual event at the April meeting. This event will occur come rain or shine.

Birds of Augusta County 3rd Edition



Copies of *Birds of Augusta County*, Third Edition, will be available at the March club meeting. Our goal is for every member of Augusta Bird Club to own this third edition so you will have the latest information about our 307 species of birds, birding locations, and history of the study of birds in Augusta County. Make your check for \$15.75 payable to Augusta Bird Club Book Account or pay with cash, and see Mary Vermeulen or me before or after the program to receive your book. If you would like to receive your copy by mail, make your check for \$17.00 payable to Augusta Bird Club Book Account and mail to me, YuLee Larner, at 21 Woodlee Rd. Apt. 114, Staunton, VA 24401.

-YuLee Larner
Records Committee Chair

Signing for Birds of Augusta County ~ April 12th ~

Stone Soup Books of Waynesboro is hosting a signing for *Birds of Augusta County* on Saturday, April 12th. The folks at Stone Soup, Betty Gatewood, YuLee, and I) are planning a whole day (from 11 – 3ish) of wonderful activities tentatively called “Birds and Botanicals.” YuLee will be giving short talks on “How to use *Birds of Augusta County*” and on bird migration between signing sessions. I will give a short talk on “The Music of Birds.” Betty Gatewood’s botanicals will be on the walls of Stone Soup Books for the whole month of April, and Betty will be leading some children’s activities per migration, feather art and science, and botanicals/flower parts and painting. The fabulous chefs at Stone Soup are thinking of soup, salads, and sandwiches to go along with the theme of the day. In addition, Stone Soup Books carries YuLee, YuLee Larner’s biography which we will also gladly

sign for those of you who do not yet have a copy. The specific activities are still in the planning stage so watch for further announcements but please tell your friends and circle April 12th on your calendar!

-Mary Vermeulen

Augusta Bird Club Board Meeting

The ABC held it's winter board meeting at the home of Grant Simmons on Feb.24, 2008 at 3:30pm. After the grand tour of Grant's "new" home we settled down to preparing the annual budget. After reviewing available funds it became apparent some contributions in the conservation and education budget should be cut or eliminated. This was reduced to about half of last years budget however the regular operating budget remains about the same. Lisa will have final figures in the treasurers' report.

We will not have the seed sale this year (2008) unless someone from the general membership wants to take on the operation. We do appreciate and thank Lisa for the many years she has chaired this project and also Linda her helper.

Yulee will have a book signing at Stone Soup Cafe and Book Store on April 12,2008. So far 107 Records Books have been sold; 500 were printed.

Field trips are scheduled for April 18-20 to the Eastern Shore and Big Spring Day is April 26. VSO is May 16-18 at Mountain Lake. There was some discussion about including Jamestown Island with the Eastern Shore trips but no final decision made.

Beth and Harry Lamadue and Allen Larner are the nominating committee for next years' officers. We need new blood so try to get others interested in serving.

The May meeting will be May 3,2008 at Montgomery Hall Park.

There being no more business the meeting was adjourned around 5:30 pm.

-Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reed, secretary

Augusta Bird Club Minutes February 11th, 2008

The Augusta Bird Club met in the Augusta Medical Center Lifetime Education Building on February 11, 2008 at 7 p.m. President Grant Simmons welcomed new members and guests. Grant asked members about bird sightings. Robins,

Bluebirds, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Brown Thrasher were reported. The Lumadues gave an interesting account of a Raven's nest being built on a billboard near their home .

Pete and Betty Colby sold several of their Bluebird houses and Corbin Dixon introduced a bluebird house he designed to the club. YuLee Lerner, editor of "Birds of Augusta County" 3rd Edition (2008) introduced the book and had it for sale at \$15.75. The handsome cover was designed by Mary Vermeulen and her daughter, Susan Lancaster. YuLee had handouts of a quiz on the book. She will have the answers to the twenty questions at the March meeting. She also had information on the Great Back Yard Bird Count, a project of the Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to be held February 15-18, 2008. YuLee will have a column on the count in the Staunton newspaper this Wednesday.

Grant Simmons recognized Brenda Tekin for her good works to the club as coordinator of the Hawk Watch on Afton Mountain. Field trips were discussed with details to be found in the newsletter. Andrew Clem web page editor of the new ABC website announced that the site is ready and thanked Peter Van Acker for his contributions to the development of locations and directions to birding hotspots in the area.

John Spahr reported on future programs. Peggy Opengari will be the speaker at the March meeting, "Birding Borneo". The April meeting will be held in the Lifetime Education building but the date will be Tuesday, April 8.

John then introduced the speaker of the evening Bob Schamerhorn. Bob is a professional photographer whose avian slide show was splendid.

-Respectfully submitted,
Josephine King, substituting secretary

Welcome New Members!

Ruth Huntley
Staunton, VA
rhaphuntley@aol.com

Rae L. Kasdan
Waynesboro, VA
raekasdan@yahoo.com

2008 Conservation & Education Fund Budget

As approved by Board 2/24/2007

Nature Camp – Scholarships	\$ 700.00
Audubon Society - CBC	\$ 250.00
Valley Conservation Council	\$ 50.00
Wildlife Center of Virginia	\$ 100.00
The Nature Conservancy	\$ 250.00
VSO - Dues	\$ 25.00
HMANA - Dues	\$ 50.00
Chesapeake Bay Foundation - Dues	\$ 50.00
Virginia Bluebird Society - Dues	\$ 25.00
American Bird Conservancy - Dues	\$ 50.00
Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory	\$ 100.00
Virginia Non-game Fund	\$ 100.00
J. Mehner Nature Camp Scholarship	\$ 700.00
Jean Brodwater N. C. Scholarship	\$ 700.00
Important Bird Areas	\$ 200.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 400.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,750.00

Treasurer's Report submitted by Lisa Hamilton

1/01/2008 – 1/31/2008

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 1/1/2008	\$ 6,846.31	
INCOME	\$ 944.33	
EXPENSES	\$ 5,257.35	
BALANCE - 1/31/2008		\$ 2,533.29
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 1/1/2008	\$ 1,379.39	
INCOME	\$ 7,115.43	
EXPENSES	\$ -	
BALANCE - 1/31/2008		\$ 8,494.82
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 1/31/2008		\$ 11,028.11

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website

<http://virginiabirds.net>

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org