



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B

"Nature does nothing uselessly"

~ Aristotle

May Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 3rd

Place: Montgomery Hall Park

Directions: From West Beverly Street, take Montgomery Avenue about 0.5 miles, cross the railroad track and then turn right at the second entrance to the park. Turn left and go to the top of the hill straight ahead to the picnic shelter.

Program: Birding, Food, & Fun

Our annual birding and brunch meeting will be held on May 3rd starting at 8 AM at Montgomery Hall Park. Please bring one of your favorite breakfast/brunch food items to share with the group. Ideas include fruit, coffee cake, bagels and cream cheese, ham biscuits or whatever you desire to bring. The club will provide coffee, juice and paper products. We will divide into groups and go birding for about two hours and then will return to the pavilion to socialize and enjoy the brunch. Montgomery Hall Park is one of the best places to bird within the Staunton city limits. This time of year we can expect to find a number of summer resident species including warblers, flycatchers, and tanagers as well as a few late migrants. If the weather looks iffy that morning, call Linda Matkins at 383-8229 after 7 AM to see if we will still meet.

Chirps From the President

Once again we end our monthly meetings for this year. We have had good programs, good attendance, good fellowship and good birding. I appreciate your support and your confidence in asking your officers to serve another year. I want to thank John Spahr for arranging such good speakers. Thanks also to Elizabeth Reed for taking the minutes of our meetings and sharing them in the Newsletter. YuLee (people are always asking me if I know the Bird Lady) is enjoying the victory of getting the new "Birds of Augusta County" to the publisher. We depend on her to keep records of what



was seen, when it was seen and where it was seen. If it wasn't for Allen Lerner sharing his findings of special birds at our meetings and on the internet we would have missed a number of sightings. If you haven't joined Jo King on one of her trips to McCormick's Mill there is still the opportunity to do so and observe her keen eye in spotting birds. Thanks also to Mary Vermeulen who snaps up photos to put in the scrapbook she keeps for the club. If you want to see what we looked like back then, ask her to show you the pictures. Jim Reed

doesn't say much but he keeps up to date on conservation issues. Perhaps the person who spends the most time for the club is the one who sends out notices that it is time to pay your dues. Not only does Lisa Hamilton pay our bills but she along with Linda Matkins puts in hours planning for the annual seed sale. We have gained several new members this year and it is the Lumadues, Beth and Harry, who see that they get the necessary information to be good members of our club. Indeed, we have one of the best clubs in the state as well as some of the best birders. Finally, I hope you can join us in our May get together at Montgomery Park and help us spot some of those elusive and colorful warblers. I invite you to join in some of the coming bird walks and I wish for you a good summer, adding birds to your life list with your binoculars and bird book at hand.

-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, 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.



Saturday, May 10th: Chimney Hollow
Meeting Place & Time: Big Lots parking lot on West Beverley Street, 7:30 A.M
Coordinator: Andrew Clem at agclem@comcast.net

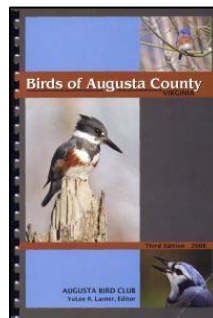
Near West Augusta on Route 250, Chimney Hollow is a moderately easy hike along a stream in a mixed hemlock forest. Hiking boots are suggested, as it is often muddy there. Time permitting, we may also hike around Braley's Pond, which is nearby. Bring snacks & water as appropriate!

Saturday, June 7th: Highland County
Meeting Place & Time: 8:00 AM; Downtown Monterey, intersection of US 250 and US 220.
Please be prompt as we will depart from here no later than 8:10. Allow 1 hour and 10 minutes driving time from Staunton to Monterey.
Coordinator: John Spahr, jspahr@yahoo.com or 887-2345

Join John in exploring parts of the most beautiful county in Virginia. We will visit valley sites where Bobolinks and Meadowlarks sing and the elusive Golden-winged Warblers are still breeding. We also plan to explore at least one high elevation (4000 ft) site for Canadian zone breeders like Blackburnian, Canada and Magnolia Warblers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wrens, Sapsuckers and more. Bring snacks and lunch. We will find a peaceful picnic site to eat our lunch while we enjoy the unspoiled scenery and listen to the singing birds. The trip will conclude mid afternoon.

Please let John know you are coming.
jspahr@yahoo.com or 887-2345

Birds of Augusta County 3rd Edition



Our goal is for every member of Augusta Bird Club to purchase a copy of the third edition of *Birds of Augusta County*. We bought a rather large number of books in order to sell them at a reasonable price. Books will be available before and after the April meeting, so please consider

buying your copy at that time. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$0.75 tax. If you pay by check, make it payable to "**Augusta Bird Club Book Account**". If you would prefer receiving your copy by mail, send your check for \$17.00 payable to "**Augusta Bird Club Book Account**" and mail to YuLee Lerner, 21 Woodlee Rd, Apt. 114, Staunton, VA 24401.

-YuLee Lerner
Records Committee Chair

Augusta Bird Club Minutes April 8th, 2008

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7:00pm on April 8, 2008 at Augusta Medical Center, Fishersville, Va. Jo King, acting for president Grant Simmons, called the meeting to order. She acknowledged new members and visitors present.

Allen Lerner explained the details of the upcoming field trip to the Eastern Shore and Jamestown which is April 17-19. Allen also asked members to sign up for their favorite spots to count birds on Big Spring Day, April 26, 2008.

Our last meeting of the season is May 3, 2008 at Montgomery Hall Park. It will be birding and brunch. The birding starts at 8:00am and brunch is around 10:00am so bring an item to share.

Birds of interest being seen now are Brown Thrasher, Towhee, Osprey, Snow Goose, Raven (babies), and Chipping Sparrow.

Yulee brought it to our attention that there may be upside down pages in the new Birds of Augusta County books. There were a few overruns so hopefully you can exchange your book if so. The books are selling well so Mary Vermeulen returned \$1,500.00 to the club which was from sales of the books.

Blue bird boxes are still available for \$10.00 each.

The 2008-2009 slate of officers were were voted on and elected. They are: president-Grant Simmons, Vice President- John Spahr, Treasurer-Ed Lawler, Secretary-Liz Reed, and Newsletter Editor-Paul Callo.

John Spahr then introduced the program for the evening, "Travels and Birding with Stauffer and Elinor Miller". They gave an interesting slide program on their travel both locally and outside the U.S.A.

-Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reed, secretary

Treasurer's Report submitted by Lisa Hamilton

3/01/2008 – 3/31/2008

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 3/1/2008	\$ 2,490.55	
INCOME	\$ 134.35	
EXPENSES	\$ 111.00	
BALANCE - 3/31/2008		\$ 2,513.90
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 3/1/2008	\$ 8,521.82	
INCOME	\$ 177.00	
EXPENSES	\$ -	
BALANCE - 3/31/2008		\$ 8,698.82
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 3/31/2008		\$ 11,212.72

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website

<http://virginiabirds.net>

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org

