



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B

“Bird-watching and recognition may seem like a gentle hobby but it is much more than that.”

~ Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

September Meeting

Date: Monday, September 8th, 7:00 PM
Place: AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge Community College Education Center
Program: Bluebird Basics – attracting and keeping bluebirds in your yard.

Speaker: Anne Little, President of The Virginia Bluebird Society



Anne Little will show you how to attract these beautiful birds to your yard; give hints on how to provide a safe habitat and will provide information of plantings that provide food that will sustain them. There will also be information on other native cavity nesting birds in Virginia and how you can help increase their

chances for survival. She will also speak about the Society's efforts to preserve and increase Virginia's bluebird population and give advice on how you can help.

Field Trips

Hello fellow birders. Once again we embark upon another season of field trips for your birding pleasure. If anyone out there has an ideal or a spe-

cial place they want to share please contact Jo King kingbird10@yahoo.com or Allen Lerner larnersky@mindspring.com.

Saturday, Sept. 6th: Rt. 610 & Blue Ridge Parkway
Meeting place / time: side parking lot at the Afton Inn at 8:00 AM

Coordinator: Allen at larneysky@mindspring.com or 886-1416

Join Allen Lerner on this adventure thru the wilds of the Blue Ridge Parkway & Rt. 610. This is a half day trip where our target birds will be Warblers, Vireos, Flycatchers and if everything is right we may even stumble on a rare bird or an early wintering migrant. Dress for the weather and bring a snack. Afterwards Allen will be stopping by the Hawk Watch to see what is coming through.

Sept. 12th-14th: A Swift Night Out

Meeting place / time: sidewalk on Fillmore Street between W. Frederick and Baldwin Streets at 7:30 PM

Coordinator: Jo King at kingbird10@yahoo.com or 886-3022 or 430-0186

Join Jo King and members of Augusta Bird Club in counting the number of individual Chimney Swifts as they enter the chimney at Stuart Hall School on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This is a fascinating continent-wide Chimney Swift roost monitoring project begun by Paul and Georgean Kyle of Austin, Texas. Results of our count will be sent to them and can be viewed on their web site:

www.chimneyswifts.org. Bring a chair for your comfort. Jo will provide further details at the meeting on September 8.

Wednesday, Sept. 17th: McCormick's Mill
Meeting place / time: McDonalds Parking lot at the Staunton Mall at 8:30 AM
Coordinator: Jo King at kingbird10@yahoo.com or 886-3022 or 430-0186

Join Jo King on this day when she will be looking for Warblers, Waterfowl, Flycatchers, and Sparrows who will be on their way south for the winter. On this walk you can see at least 30 plus species of birds. Who knows you may have an early winter arrival. Rain will cancel this walk. Dress for the day and bring snacks.

Saturday, September 20th: Nelson County – Spruce Creek Park and the Rockfish Valley Trails
Meeting Place: Spruce Creek Gallery on Route 151, Near Wintergreen.
Meeting Time: 7:30 A.M.
Trip Leader/Coordinator: Tim Hodge
tim@hodgeproductsinc.com (434) 361-0128

The Rockfish Valley hosts numerous species of birds and other wildlife, and there is no better place along the Rockfish River to experience these than the Rockfish Valley Trails and adjacent Spruce Creek Park. Our walk will be over easy flat terrain through fields, edge habitat and along the river. Expect to walk between one and two miles over the course of two to three hours. We should see over 50 species including kingfishers, bluebirds, Blue Grosbeaks, and lots of sparrows, possibly Lincoln's, Vesper, Savannah and Grasshopper. There are approximately 22 pairs of Meadowlarks nesting in the park; we should see many of them. Both Orioles are expected. Wear good walking shoes.

Saturday September 27th: Fort Lewis Lodge Area, Millboro, VA
Meeting place / time: Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 7:30 AM
Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larneysky@mind-spring.com or 886-1416

Join Allen on this full day trip to look for a variety of migrating hawks, sparrows, & warblers in this beautiful setting by the Cowpasture River in Bath

County. Don't forget to pack a lunch and dress for weather!

Planning Ahead

Crane Creek – Magee Marsh & the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Imagine seeing close to 30 species of warblers in breeding plumage in one afternoon! The Lumadues and the Childs are making plans to do just that with an ABC field trip to Crane Creek – Magee Marsh and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge on Lake Erie, Ohio for May 2009. We are also planning an optional trip to Grayling, MI to see the Kirtland's Warbler on breeding grounds. Crane Creek – Magee Marsh is one of the top birding spots in the United States. Thirty-seven of the thirty-eight warblers found east of the Mississippi have been reported here. The Childs and the Lumadues have previously birded Magee Marsh and highly recommend it. We hope to have Jo King, Allen Lerner and John Spahr along to lend their expertise.

We will meet and stay in Port Clinton, Ohio, a one day drive from Staunton. The best date for departure appears to be Sunday, May 17; we will stay three nights, through May 19 and leave for Grayling around noon on May 20. The formal part of the trip will end in Grayling, MI on Thursday, May 21 around noon or after we return from seeing the Kirtland's Warbler. All transportation and making reservations for accommodations will be the responsibility of participants. We will try to work with a motel in Port Clinton to reserve a block of rooms after the first of the year and will pass this information along. Mark your calendars; more information including a proposed itinerary, room arrangements and more will be posted on the ABC web site early in 2009. We will provide written material for those without access to the WWW.

Beth and Harry 540-885-7129
betharri@comcast.net
Nancy and Walt 434-361-1626
wncchilds@verizon.net

Special Note Regarding Field Trips

-- 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.

Chirps From the President

Welcome to the start of a new year of exciting and informative programs, thanks to John Spahr. I hope you have had a good summer and are ready for some late summer and fall birding. As we begin the year I want to welcome Ed Lawler as our new treasurer. He replaces Lisa Hamilton who has been our Treasurer for the last 10 years. Not only has she served as Treasurer she has also been the one who has arranged for our seed sales. Even though we are discontinuing the sales we owe Lisa a great deal of thanks for the work she has done. Lisa was the one who contacted our seed supplier, set prices, tabulated the orders, received the payments and totaled the profits. Thanks to those sales which have provided income of between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per year we have been able to send a number of our youth to Nature Camp.

Thanks Lisa.

Allan and Jo will be setting up Bird Walks this fall and I would encourage you if you have never joined us to do so this year. It is a good way to learn as well as to join in the good fellowship.

At our September meeting we will be voting on an increase in our dues to help in the short fall from our Seed Sales. There will be more information regarding the increase in this Newsletter.

I am looking forward to seeing you at AMC in September.

-Grant Simmons

Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch Begins!

The start of our 33rd year of counting migrating raptors at Rockfish Gap was Saturday, August 16. We continue to actively seek volunteer counters to help us throughout the season which will run through Sunday, November 16. A training video is available and volunteers are encouraged to work alongside the more experienced individuals.

The hawkwatch web site:

http://home.ntelos.net/~btkin/rockfish_gap_hawk_watch/

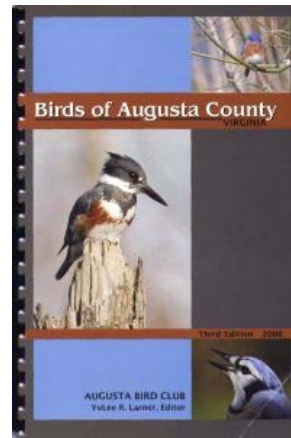
provides updated information, including the sign-up sheets for volunteer counters. It also includes a link to the approximately seven video cams which are strategically positioned that show current weather conditions. As a rule, heavy fog

usually shuts us down unless the fog is low with open sky overhead that birds might fly over.

I hope you will take time from your busy schedule to come and visit us this fall season at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch

-Brenda Tekin, Coordinator
brenda@birdsofvirginia.com
(434) 962-4936

Birds of Augusta County -Third Edition-



The recently published "Birds of Augusta County, Third Edition," edited by YuLee Lerner, will be available at all Augusta Bird Club meetings, or by contacting YuLee or Mary Vermeulen. To date we have sold 157 copies of the 500 that were published. Non-bird club members bought a good number of these books, and it is our goal that a copy would be on the bookshelves of every member of Augusta Bird Club. If you are just beginning the hobby of birding, this book will provide information to help you become acquainted with the 307 species of birds that have been documented in Augusta County. You will learn the status of each species; for example did you know that the Northern Bobwhite and Loggerhead Shrike are in serious decline and Tree Swallows are increasing? It tells you the time of year to expect the birds, and gives the peak counts, which represent the most birds seen in one day. Did you know that 1,507,797 European Starlings were reported on the 1987 Augusta County Christmas Bird Count? There is also breeding information, with the earliest, mid-season, and latest nesting information. If you are a long time birder, you will want the latest information and might enjoy the challenge of "breaking the book." You will find a chapter on the geology of Augusta County, the history of birding in Augusta County since the late 1800s, a list of birding locations, and much more. With a good birding field guide plus "Birds of Augusta County" you can learn much about the birds in our area.

The cost of the book is \$15.75, including tax and check should be made payable to "The Augusta Bird Club Book Account." If you prefer to

have your book mailed to you, send your check for \$17.00, payable as above, and mail to YuLee Larner, 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 114, Staunton, VA 24401. In order to offer the book at a reasonable price, it was necessary to buy 500 books. Now we hope that every member of the bird club will purchase a copy or two – maybe one to keep at home and one in your car – maybe buy one for a friend. The sooner we sell the books, the sooner we can reimburse the club for the funds it provided for the publication.

-YuLee Larner, Records Chair

Treasurer's Report
submitted by Ed Lawler

6/01/2008 – 6/30/2008

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 6/1/2008	\$ 3,792.54	
INCOME	\$ 500.25	
EXPENSES	\$ -	
BALANCE - 6/30/2008		\$ 4,292.79
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 6/1/2008	\$ 6,628.82	
INCOME	\$ -	
EXPENSES	\$ -	
BALANCE - 6/30/2008		\$ 6,628.82
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 6/30/2008		\$10,921.61



Send change of address to:

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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>

