



"One swallow does not a summer make nor does one goose a Christmas"

~Anonymous

December Meeting

Date: Monday, December 8th, 7 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 sharing good food and fellowship. Please bring your favorite holiday goodie to share with everyone. Suggestions are cookies, fruit, cheese, vegetables and dip, nuts etc. The club will provide the punch.

Field Trips

Due to the holidays there are no regularly scheduled field trips at this time of the year. Please be sure to participate in one or both of the Christmas Bird Counts advertised in this newsletter!

Field trips will return in January!

Chirps from the President

As I write this Thanksgiving is coming in a few days. So now is a good time to thank all those who serve as officers and chairmen. We especially need to thank John Spahr for the programs he provides us. I also want to thank Ed Lawler for taking over the job as Treasurer. Elizabeth Reed does a great job as Secretary with Jim being Conservation chair. Allan and Jo deserve our thanks for arranging and leading field trips. The work that YuLee has done in keeping the records of the birds of Augusta County is a tremendously valuable resource for our club and the state. Thanks also to our historian, Mary Vermeulen and the Lumadues for serving as membership chairpersons. This Newsletter is the result of Paul Callo's efforts. Also Linda Matkins is the person arranging for our Christmas treats. Thanks go to Andrew Clem for maintaining our web page. Soon I will be appointing a Nominating Committee which will have the task of finding some new officers. I would appreciate suggestions for persons willing to serve in the above positions. It is time to spread the leadership to others, so think about it and share your suggestions.

Plan to sign up the Christmas bird counts at the December meeting and make John and Crista's job easier.

-Grant Simmons

It's Time to Renew Memberships

With the approach of the new year, it's time to renew our memberships in the Augusta Bird Club. Please take a few moments to fill out the form in-

cluded with this month's newsletter and return it to Ed Lawler at the address indicated. Regular Membership dues, and a corresponding portion of the Contributing and Sustaining Membership dues, go into an Operating Fund which supports our club's activities such as the newsletter, website, meeting programs and local birding literature.

The club also maintains a Conservation and Education Fund which is supported by other forms of income, part of which is the "donation" portion of the Contributing and Sustaining Memberships. Please see YuLee Larner's discussion of this fund below.

Conservation and Education Fund

Before the Club initiated the bird seed sale in 1988, we depended only on the Contributing and Sustaining memberships to fund scholarships to Nature Camp and contribute to other conservation organizations. In the past twenty years, we have been more generous in our support of these projects, using funds from the birdseed sale as well as money from the higher level of memberships. Remember that the amount of the Contributing and Sustaining Memberships, over and above the Regular Memberships, goes into the Conservation and Education Fund and is tax deductible in light of the club's 501c status. As we seek for ways to continue our Conservation and Education projects on the level of support achieved the past twenty years, with the seed sale having been discontinued, I encourage you to consider increasing your membership to a higher level as shown on the membership renewal application.

During the past year the Education and Conservation has supported the following:

Education

Four scholarships for future birders to attend Nature Camp (two full and two half).

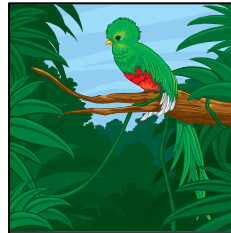
Conservation

Audubon Society (Christmas Bird Count)
Valley Conservation Council
Wildlife Center of Virginia
The Nature Conservancy
Virginia Society of Ornithology
Hawk Migration Association of North America
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Virginia Bluebird Society
American Bird Conservancy
Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory

VA Non-game and Endangered Wildlife Program
Important Bird Areas Program in Virginia

-YuLee Larner

Escape the Cold Weather & Build Your Life List!



For a birding trip you won't soon forget, don't hesitate to contact Diane Holsinger and escape the winter blahs. If you have never been, you can easily add 100 birds to your life list in one trip to Costa Rica! The expedition is scheduled for

February 10th to 18th 2009.

For details contact Diane - phone: 540-896-7132
or email: dhowrkout@yahoo.com

Birds of Augusta County, Third Edition

The third edition of "Birds of Augusta County" was published in January 2008.

Five hundred books were printed, so we could sell them at a reasonable price. To date, we have sold 161 copies. We would like for every Club member to have at least one copy or more – one to keep in your house, one in your car, and perhaps one in your office. Or do you have friends who would appreciate having a copy? Especially now that Christmas is right around the corner, it would make a nice present. The bottom line is this - we need to sell more books in order to recoup the money we paid for the publication. If you are interested, contact Mary Vermeulen or me. Books will be available at the December meeting. The price is \$15.75, including tax. If you wish to receive a copy by mail, add \$1.25 for postage, and send your check for \$17.00 made payable to Augusta Bird Club Book Account and mail to YuLee Larner, 21 Woodlee Rd. Apt. 114, Staunton, VA 24401.

-YuLee Larner

How the Christmas Bird Count Helps Protect Species and Their Habitat

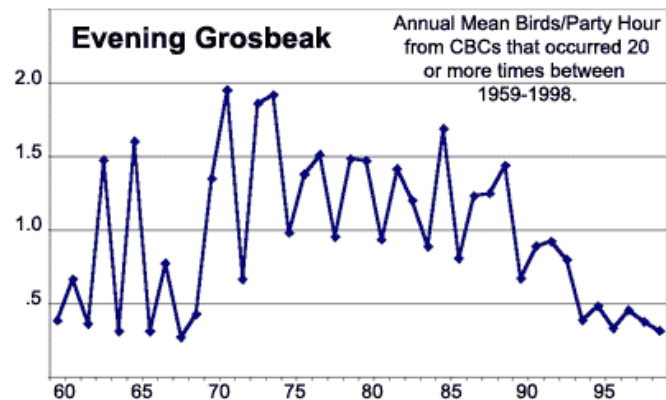
The data collected by observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.



Christmas Bird Count Circles in the Western Hemisphere

The long term perspective made possible by the Christmas Bird Count is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat - and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

In the 1980's CBC data documented the decline of wintering populations of the American Black Duck, after which conservation measures were put into effect to reduce hunting pressure on this species. More recently, in 2007, the data were instrumental in the development of two Audubon State of the Birds Reports - Common Birds in Decline, which revealed that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years, and WatchList 2007, which



identified 178 rarer species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii that are imperiled. These two reports helped scientists and policy-makers to both

identify threats to birds and habitat, and promote broad awareness of the need to address them.

-The Audubon Society

Augusta County Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 14th, 2008

Contact John Spahr for details and assignments.

jspahr@augustamed.com or 540-887-2345

Waynesboro Christmas Bird Count

Saturday January 3rd, 2009

Contact Crista Cabe for details and assignments.

ccabe@mbc.edu or 540-234-9155

**Augusta Bird Club Minutes
November 10, 2008**

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7:00pm on November 10, 2008 at Augusta Medical Center, Fishersville, Virginia. President Grant Simmons welcomed everyone especially guest and new members. He then asked what exciting birds we were seeing? Two people reported seeing great numbers of Goldfinches and the Cackling Goose is still around. Allen Lerner reported a Yellow-headed Blackbird and Sedge Wrens he saw on a recent trip to the Eastern Shore.

There will be a field trip to Lake Moomaw on Nov. 15, rain or shine. This is an all day trip so bring a lunch. On Nov. 21,22 & 23 there is a joint trip with the Monticello Club to Chincoteague.

Allen showed the trophy for first place earned for the Kiptopeke Challenge. His team took first place with 125 species. The second place winners came in with 114 species. This is a traveling trophy so will pass on to next year's first place winner in 2009. Congratulations Allen and team mate.

Ed Lawler reminded all that annual dues are due in December and the membership forms will be in the Dec. newsletter. Increased levels of dues are encouraged to help replenish the education and conservation funds.

Linda Matkins reminded everyone our next meeting will be the Christmas Social event. Bring your favorite treat and holiday cheer to share.

Since John Spahr is on a trip to Cuba helping with a bird survey there, Jim Reed introduced the speaker for the evening. Rick Reynolds a wildlife biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries spoke on "Bats of Virginia". He

gave a very interesting and informative program emphasizing the challenge bats face from disease and wind towers.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reed, Secretary

Treasurer's Report
submitted by Ed Lawler
10/01/2008 – 10/31/2008

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 9/31/2008	\$4,112.09	
INCOME	\$58.00	
EXPENSES	\$325.02	
BALANCE - 10/30/2008		\$3,845.07
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 9/31/2008	\$5,653.82	
INCOME	\$10.00	
EXPENSES		
BALANCE - 10/30/2008		\$5,663.82
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 10/30/2008		\$9,508.89

Welcome New Members!

Jill & Gabe Templeton
Lyle Ave, Staunton, VA

Catherine Kohus
Old Greenville Rd., Staunton, VA

Darrell Schwalm
Meadowbrook Rd., Staunton, VA

Send change of address to:

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

**Virginia Society of
Ornithology Website**

www.virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org



AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Regular

Individual @ \$15 _____
Couple @ \$25 _____ (2 people at the same address)
Family @ \$30 _____ (3 or more people at the same address)

Contributing

Individual @ \$25 _____
Couple @ \$35 _____ (2 people at the same address)
Family @ \$40 _____ (3 or more people at the same address)

Sustaining

Individual @ \$50 _____
Couple @ \$60 _____ (2 people at the same address)
Family @ \$75 _____ (3 or more people at the same address)

Any amount contributed over regular dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent allowed by law. The Augusta Bird Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please return this form with a check payable to Augusta Bird Club.

Mail to: *Augusta Bird Club*
Ed Lawler, Treasurer
205 Rose Hill Circle
Staunton, VA 24401

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Prefer to receive Bulletin by: USPS MAIL _____ E-MAIL _____

Date _____