



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B

"I'm youth, I'm joy, I'm a little bird that has broken out of the egg."

~ James Matthew Barrie

March Meeting

Date: Monday, March 9th, 7:00 PM
Place: AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge Community College Education Center

Program: Migratory Birds and Wildlife Conservation in Peru

Speaker: Andrew Clem, Ph.D.



This presentation dramatizes the interconnectedness of bird wildlife within the Western Hemisphere by focusing on the situation in one country: Peru. It will first list some of the more familiar bird species which migrate from North America to western South America and back every year, making note of their various specific habitat requirements. It will then describe the most important wildlife sanctuaries in Peru, some of which are home to neotropical migrant birds during the North American winter. Finally, we will take an in-depth look at three special locations in Peru: the Pantanos de Villa wet-

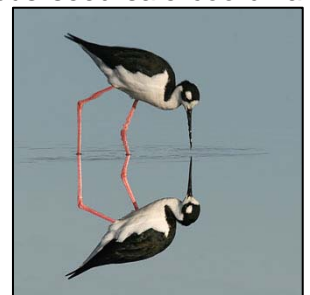


lands south of Lima, the Ventanilla wetlands north of Lima, and the Urubamba Valley in the Andean highlands, including the city of Cuzco and the world-famous archeological site known as Machu Picchu.



Chirps From the President

Our President is out tracking migrants in distant locations and will return to Chirp in time for next month's newsletter. I am sure he would like encourage our to examine this year's Conservation and Education Budget (at the end of this newsletter). In the past these activities, particularly our Nature Camp Scholarships, were supported in full by the Bird Club's Annual Seed Sale (which we did not have this year). Our previous seed sale coordinator retired from this duty after ten years of service. At our recent board meeting we recognized that if we do not have resumption of the seed sale we will not have funds to support Conservation and Education. Please take



some time this month while you are out birding and enjoying nature to consider how your experiences as a youth shaped your love of nature today, and help us avoid this outcome by offering your help in coordinating future seed sales.

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 14th: Lake Moomaw
Meeting Place & Time: Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 8:00 AM

Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larneysky@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.

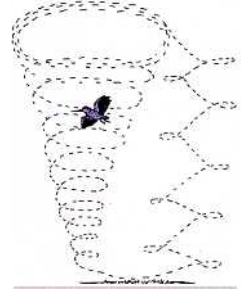
Wednesday, March 18th: McCormick's Mill
Meeting place / time: Staunton Mall Parking Lot behind McDonalds, 8:30 AM
Trip Leader: Jo King, at kingbird10@yahoo.com or 886-3022 or 430-0186

Join Jo King on this morning walk as she will be looking for early spring migrants who will be on their way up north for the summer. On this walk we hope to see 30 plus species of birds. Who knows maybe a new bird can be added to the checklist for McCormick's Mill. Rain will cancel this walk, Dress for the morning and bring a snack as you wish.

Thursday, March 26th: Dance of the Woodcock
Meeting Place & Time: Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center, 30 minutes before sunset

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.



Saturday, March 28th: Claytor Lake, VA
Meeting Place & Time: Woodrow Wilson Parkway Holiday Inn (exit 225 off I-81) lower parking lot, 6:30 AM. We will carpool from here for the 2.5 hr drive
Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larneysky@mind-spring.com or 886-1416

On this all day trip south of Blacksburg to Claytor Lake we'll be looking for any waterfowl such as Eared Grebes, Loons, and as many lingering ducks as we can find. We will also keep our eyes out for any early migrants. We will be searching in mixed forest & open areas in addition to the lake. Bring snacks & lunch.

Tuesdays: April 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, May 5th, & 12th
Where: The Yulee Lerner Birding Trail
Meeting place/time: Montgomery Hall Park (top right pavilion), Staunton, VA, 8:00 AM
Coordinators: Ed & Nancy Lawler
N2Birding@comcast.net

Join Ed & Nancy Lawler on these Tuesday walks through the woods of Montgomery Hall Park. They will be looking for Warblers, Tanagers, Buntings, & whatever else they can find. Bring snacks & dress for the weather -- rain will cancel

Thursdays: April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, May 7th, & 14th
Where: Augusta Springs Wetlands
Meeting place/time: Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 7:45 AM for carpooling
Coordinators: Ed & Nancy Lawler
N2Birding@comcast.net

Thursday mornings at Augusta Springs, what better place to monitor migration! Join Ed & Nancy on these regular outings and see Spring arrive first hand. Bring snacks & dress for the weather -- rain will cancel

Saturday, April 11th: Swoope & Augusta Wetlands
Meeting Place & Time: Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 8:00 AM

Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larneysky@mind-spring.com or 886-1416

April 11 Saturday -- half day

Swoope & Augusta Wetlands

Travel the winding back roads of Swoope to search the the grasslands for Red-headed Woodpeckers and Sparrows as well as the numerous ponds for waterfowl and shorebirds. Bring snacks & dress for the weather.

April 17th, 18th, & 19th: Eastern Shore & Chincoteague NWR weekend

Meeting Place & Time: Woodrow Wilson Parkway Holiday Inn (exit 225 off I-81) lower parking lot, 6:30 AM on the 17th. We will carpool from here.

Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larneysky@mind-spring.com or 886-1416



Saturday April 25th: Blandy Experimental Farms & State Arboretum

Meeting Place & Time: Woodrow Wilson Parkway Holiday Inn (exit 225 off I-81) lower parking lot, 6:30 AM. We will carpool from here for the 1.5 hr drive.

Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larneysky@mind-spring.com or 886-1416

Travel to the State's Arboretum for of all kinds of hardwood & conifer tree habitat. We will be looking for Warblers, Sparrows, & Tanagers of stripes and

colors to start with & whatever else we can find on this full day trip. Bring snacks & lunch -- dress for the weather

Saturday May 2nd is the BIG SPRING DAY!

Mark your calendar!

Details will be announced in a future newsletter.

Sunday May 10th: Blue Ridge Parkway & Rt. 610
Meeting Place & Time: Parking lot at the Inn at Afton at 8:00 AM

Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larneysky@mind-spring.com or 886-1416

We will look for migratory Warblers, Flycatchers, & Tanagers, and a host of other species in this mixed wooded drive along the Parkway & Rt. 610. Bring snacks & dress for the weather

Wildlife Center Open House

The Wildlife Center of Virginia is holding its Spring 2009 Open House on the following dates: March 1, March 15, March 29, April 5 and April 19. Programs are offered at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 p.m.



Tours are free of charge, but reservations are required. Please call 942-9453 or email wildlife@wildlifecenter.org to sign up for your behind-the-scenes tour. Directions to the center are available at www.wildlifecenter.org

ABC History on Website Coming Soon

Andrew Clem has asked me, as ABC historian, to write a brief history of the Augusta Bird Club for the website. Many of our new members do not know our history. It is the story of a very active bird group and the "study of birds in Augusta County" to use Dr. John Mehner's words. Grant Simmons and YuLee Lerner were two of the thirty charter members when it was founded by Dr. Mehner, biology professor at Mary Baldwin College, in 1966. Having a brief history of our bird club on the website is timely because we will soon have our forty-fifth anniversary in February of 2011.

As some of you know, three tubs of our history—minutes, newsletters, scrapbooks, pictures—have been given to the Augusta County Historical Society (ACHS). Dr. Katharine Brown, current president, was thrilled to get over forty years of documentation of an Augusta County group. As a result of a discussion of the history piece for the website, Nancy Sorrels, one of the editors of the Augusta Historical Bulletin published annually by the ACHS, invited me to write a longer article about ABC history for that bulletin. Therefore, you will find me poring over our archived information this summer on the third floor of the Smith Building in Staunton in a quest for detailed information and accuracy.

Watch for the brief history on our website. I hope to have it posted within the next month. The longer, more scholarly article in the *Augusta Historical Bulletin* will appear (if accepted) about February, 2010.

-Mary Vermeulen

Suet Recall Over Salmonella Concerns



The Scotts Company, producers of “Songbird Selections” bird food has launched a voluntary recall of five varieties of suet wild bird food products over concerns that they might contain peanut meal supplied by

the Peanut Corporation of America’s Blakely, GA plant. Peanut Corp.’s products have become the center of a federal probe into a salmonella outbreak that has involved illnesses and death throughout the country.

Scotts company states that salmonella, if in these products, can not only affect animals but can pose a risk to humans who handle products tainted with it. Customers are urged to throw the product away. Requests for replacements or refunds can be placed at 1-866-512-8876

For full details on the recall visit:
www.scottswildbirdfood.com/pdf/MorningSongRecall.pdf

Augusta Bird Club Minutes February 11th, 2008

The Augusta Bird club met at Augusta Medical Center on February 9, 2009 at 7:00pm. The meeting was called to order by vice-president John Spahr. John welcomed several visitors then asked what we were seeing? Allen reported 12 Canvasback and 16 Redheaded Ducks. Liz and Elaine had seen 3 Redheads on the DuPont Pond, a large number of Horned Larks near Stuart’s Draft and Wood Ducks on The South River. It was reported by Ed Lawler that a sock feeder was the best feeder to attract Pine Siskins and Goldfinches. The Painted Bunting is still here and also the Hummingbird in Lynchburg. The Northern Shrike was determined to be a Loggerhead Shrike. Future field trips to Magee Marsh, Northern Virginia, Chincoteague and Highland County were discussed. Details of the Magee Marsh trip can be viewed on www.augustabirdclub.org.

Don’t forget to participate in the Great Back Yard Bird Count on February 14-16, 2009. March’s program will be on birds of Peru and April’s program will be on birds of China.

John Spahr our speaker for the evening needed no introduction. John’s topic was Bird’s of Paradise and adventures in New Guinea. John had visited New Guinea in 2005 and again in 2008. The combined trips netted more than 500 species of birds but tonight’s program was more specific to Birds of Paradise. He gave a very informative program on the birds, natural history and culture of New Guinea illustrated with many colorful pictures. Thank you John for sharing your adventures in New Guinea with the bird club.

-Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Reed, secretary

Treasurer’s Report submitted by Ed Lawler

1/01/2009 – 1/31/2009

REGULAR OPERATING FUND	
BALANCE - 12/31/2008	\$ 4,223.41
INCOME	\$ 455.00
EXPENSES	\$ 364.48
BALANCE - 12/31/2008	\$ 4,313.93
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND	
BALANCE - 11/30/2008	\$ 6,063.82
INCOME	\$ 190.00
EXPENSES	\$ -
BALANCE - 12/31/2008	\$ 6,253.82
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 12/31/2008	\$ 10,567.75

Welcome New Members!

Dan & Merrie Jo Perkuchin
Fishersville, VA
perkbird@yahoo.com

Don B. Hall
Staunton, VA
donbhall@hotmail.com



Virginia Society of Ornithology Website

<http://virginiabirds.net>

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org

**2009 Conservation & Education Fund
Budget**

As approved by Board 2/24/2009

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
