



AUGUSTA  
BIRD  
C L U B

“The bird thinks it a favor to give the fish a lift in the air”

~ Rabindranath Tagore

### April Meeting

**Date:** Monday, April 13th, 7:00 PM  
**Place:** AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge Community College Education Center

**Program:** Birding in China

**Speaker:** Bob Ake, Norfolk, VA



In May 2008 Bob Ake left Norfolk for a trip to Tibet. During the first week of the trip, the Chinese government closed Tibet to foreigners in response to the riots in Lhasa. The trip leader quickly rearranged the itinerary and the group traveled through Yunnan and Szechun instead. Over 500 species of birds were seen. The Giant Panda Sanctuary, one of the last locations visited by the group, was

the scene of a devastating earthquake a few days after the group left Woolong. Following the main trip, Bob visited the migrant trap, Happy Island, on the coast of China, where birders scour the bushes for migrants passing through. Bob will share with you his observations of the birds, birders, and natives encountered during his trip to China.

### Chirps From the President

After a number of cold days, warmth comes and the grass turns green. The sounds of lawn mowers will replace the sounds of scraping snow shovels (are we finally done with winter?). Daffodils are blooming again and now the white bloom of the Bradford Pear dots the landscape and Forsythia is putting forth its yellow bloom. Azaleas are in bloom too and the Cherries are not far behind. The sounds of birds announcing their territories are in full swing with the best of birding on its way from the south. Soon the colors of the springtime flowers will be overshadowed (at least for me)



with the black, white and yellows of the migrating spring warblers. Just as the leaves emerge on the trees those elusive warblers will be filling the tree-tops and even low lying shrubs, just hoping you will spot them and be enthralled with their beauty.

Check out the Newsletter to make sure you don't miss out on the field trips by our superb leaders to fully appreciate how glorious spring can be.

-Grant Simmons

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## 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 .

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**Tuesdays:** April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** The Yulee Larner Birding Trail

**Meeting place/time:** Montgomery Hall Park (top right pavilion), Staunton, VA, 8:00 AM

**Coordinators:** Ed & Nancy Lawler

[goshawk.abc@comcast.net](mailto:goshawk.abc@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

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**Thursdays:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, May 7<sup>th</sup>, & 14<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Augusta Springs Wetlands

**Meeting place/time:** Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 7:45 AM for carpooling

**Coordinators:** Ed & Nancy Lawler

[goshawk.abc@comcast.net](mailto:goshawk.abc@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

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**Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>:** Swoope & Augusta Wetlands

**Meeting Place & Time:** Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 8:00 AM

**Coordinator:** Allen Larner at [larneysky@ mind-spring.com](mailto:larneysky@mind-spring.com) or 886-1416

Travel the winding back roads of Swoope to search the grasslands for Red-headed Woodpeck-

ers and sparrows as well as the numerous ponds for waterfowl and shorebirds.

Bring snacks & dress for the weather.

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**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>:** McCormick's Mill

**Meeting Place & Time:** McDonald's parking lot at the Colonial Mall, in Staunton at 8:30 a.m.

Do something more fun than your taxes! Join Jo King for this adventure to the far southern corner of Augusta County in hopes of finding many returning migrants and summer resident birds. We will be looking for waterfowl, warblers and sparrows. Come along for the half day. Dress for the weather and bring a snack.

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**April 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, & 19<sup>th</sup>:** 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 Larner at [larneysky@ mind-spring.com](mailto:larneysky@mind-spring.com) or 886-1416

Join Allen Larner as he leads this annual trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia. Target birds on the include: waterfowl, loons, hawks of any kind, gulls, terns, shorebirds (e.g. Piping Plover), all heron species, Brown-headed Nuthatch, any migrating songbirds, plus many more.



Lodging for this two night trip can be found at Inns such as:

**The Blue Heron Inn** -- 1-800-615-6343

**The Refuge Inn** -- 1-888-257-0038

You can Google "Hotels in Chincoteague Va." to find other good lodging options in the area. On Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>, all who wish can join Allen as he

birds the Jamestown Wildlife Loop (a 5 mile driving loop of mixed wooded areas with brackish water swamps & sawgrass). Target birds for this part of the trip are Osprey, Bald Eagles, gulls, terns, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Yellow-throated Warblers plus many, many more birds.

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**Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>:** 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](mailto: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

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**Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> :** BIG SPRING DAY!

**Meeting Place & Time:** Your Choice!

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



All are welcome to bird their favorite birding area at their own pace on the Big Spring Day. You can team up with a birding friend or just go out on your own to your special birding place in Augusta County. You start whenever you wish and bird as long as you like. All you have to do is record what species you see and how many of each. On past

Big Spring Days we have had up to 142 species of birds seen by all birding parties in one day. We have also had many peak counts & early dates from this annual event . If you do not have a special place you can choose from one of the areas listed below. Please let Allen know what areas you will cover to prevent crossovers. When you have finished for the day e-mail Allen ([larnersky@mindspring.com](mailto:larnersky@mindspring.com)) with you tallies. This event will take place rain or shine.

### **Stuarts Draft Area**

South River Preserve  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Quillen's Pond  
Dupont Pond  
Ridgeview Park

### **Churchville Area**

Shenandoah Mt.  
Elkhorn Lake

### **Swoope Area**

Smith's Pond  
Boy Scout Camp & surrounding National Forest

### **Middlebrook Area**

Great North Mountain  
Augusta Wetlands  
Hite Hollow Rd.

### **Frank's Mill Area**

### **Staunton Area**

Montgomery Hall Park  
Bells Lane

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**Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>:** 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](mailto: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

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## **CRANE CREEK - MAGEE MARSH, OHIO**

May 17 - 21, 2009

**Reminder:** Details of our planned trip to Crane Creek - Magee Marsh and to Grayling, MI are on the ABC website [www.augustabirdclub.org](http://www.augustabirdclub.org). Arrangements have been made at Ramada Inn in Grayling for a \$63 per night room rate. Just mention that you are with the Augusta Bird Club. If you would like further information please contact: Beth or Harry Lumadue at 540 885-7129 - [betharri@comcast.net](mailto:betharri@comcast.net) Nancy or Walt Childs at 434-361-1626 - [wncchilds@verizon.net](mailto:wncchilds@verizon.net).

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

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## State of the Birds

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and partners released the first-ever comprehensive [State of the Birds](#) report for the United States. From the arctic and aridlands to oceans and forests, the report summarizes the state of our nation's birds—an indicator of the health of the environment.

The report shows heartening evidence that conservation action in the past 40 years has reversed declines of many birds—but it also documents troubling declines in numerous habitats.

In a press conference announcing the report, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar called for a new ethic of conservation, saying, *"This report should be a call to action, but it is action that is within our reach."* He said the report scientifically documents the challenges that birds face—and shows the way to addressing the problems through cooperative conservation efforts.



John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, emphasized the need to apply what we have learned from conservation successes to places such as aridlands, grasslands, coastal areas, and Hawaii.

*"Hawaii is a borderline ecological disaster...the epicenter of extinctions and near extinctions,"* he said. *"It is of critical importance that the U.S. in its great scale attend to this source of huge pride that*

*is a part of our country and which now desperately needs additional investment before it's too late for yet a whole new series of birds and their habitats."*

Dr. Fitzpatrick also noted the key contributions of citizen-science participants.

*"Citizen science rocks,"* he said. *"The data that have gone into this report are by and large collected not by a few scientists in the conservation organizations and academic environments but by millions of individuals who have accepted the idea that nature is fun but who also accept the idea that with a few minutes of attention a year, you can actually put some numbers together. Now...we can begin to put together spectacularly massive databases that show in detail, scale, and fine-grained scope what the trends are."*

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## Augusta Bird Club Minutes March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The Augusta Bird Club met on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00pm at Augusta Medical Center in Fishersville, Virginia. The meeting was called to order by president Grant Simmons. Grant welcomed visitors and new members present and then asked what we were seeing. A large number of species were reported. Tree Swallows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Wild Turkey (new peak count), Redheads, Common Goldeneye, Canvasback, and Loggerhead Shrike were among the many. A Coopers Hawk and Ravens were observed carrying nesting material to undisclosed nesting areas.

Several people had been on field trips to Costa Rica. They all gave lively reports of seeing many birds and having very enjoyable trips. One member had also birded on Edisto Island, South Carolina.

The club has for sale Records Books at \$15.00 each and bluebird boxes for \$10.00 each.

Harry Lumadue presented the slate of officers nominated for the 2009-2010 year. They are: President-Walt Childs, Vice-president-John Spahr, Secretary- Jessie Shaw, Treasurer- Catherine Kohus and Editor-Paul Callo. The officers are to be voted on at the April meeting.

Jim Reed gave a brief report on a proposed road project that would possibly affect the wetland area around Coyner Springs Park in Waynesboro. This is in the proposal stage therefore more information is needed on the plans and their effects.

There are many field trips planned. The times and locations of trips are listed in the bulletin.

John Spahr introduced Andrew Clem, our speaker for the evening. Andrew is a member of the Augusta Bird Club whom most of us know. He gave an interesting program on migrating birds and wildlife conservation in Peru.

-Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Reed, secretary

### Treasurer's Report submitted by Ed Lawler

2/01/2009 – 2/28/2009

#### REGULAR OPERATING FUND

BALANCE - 1/31/2008	\$ 4,313.93
INCOME	\$ 250.00
EXPENSES	
<b>BALANCE - 2/28/2008</b>	<b>\$ 4,563.93</b>

#### EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND

BALANCE - 1/31/2008	\$ 6,253.82
INCOME	\$ 370.00
EXPENSES	\$ 25.00
<b>BALANCE - 2/28/2008</b>	<b>\$ 6,598.82</b>

**TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS -  
2/28/2008** **\$ 11,162.75**

### Welcome New Member

Tish Folsom  
(Contributing Member)  
Greenville, VA  
[folsoms@rica.net](mailto:folsoms@rica.net)

### Virginia Society of Ornithology Website

[virginiabirds.net](http://virginiabirds.net)

### Augusta Bird Club Website

[www.augustabirdclub.org](http://www.augustabirdclub.org)

### They're Back!

