



AUGUSTA  
BIRD  
C L U B

“It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds.”

~ Aesop

### May Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

**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 go birding from about 8-10 and then return to the pavilion to socialize and enjoy the eats. 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 it is raining that morning, call Linda Matkins at 383-8229 after 7 AM to hear if we still plan on meeting.

### Chirps From the President

These are exciting days with binoculars hanging around our necks and eyes directed toward the tree tops that will soon be bursting forth with leaves. The Hummers are showing up, Cedar Waxwings are devouring the holly berries and the colorful warblers are beginning to appear. The Carolina Wrens are feeding their babies in my garage and the bird walk lists are getting longer and very appealing. Big Spring day will soon be here and maybe we will turn up some new species for our backyard or life list. Lots of walks are scheduled and you are encouraged to join in whether you are a novice or expert.

This is my last chirping as your President. I have enjoyed the privilege of serving in this capacity the past number of years. I especially appreciated your support and want to welcome Walt Childs as your new leader. Thanks also to Elizabeth Reed for serving as Secretary for much of this time. I appreciate that Ed Lawler was willing to serve as Treasurer this past year doing a superb job. Catherine Kohus will be taking on that task while Jessie Shaw will take over the job as Secretary. A bird song welcome to both.

And, lest I forget, a big thank you is to be extended to our field trip leaders. Their dedication to the art of bird watching has benefited us all. I invite each of you to join in the coming bird walks and see what new things you can learn about our feathered friends. Plan to get your bird seed from our club this fall and enjoy this Spring and the birds that hopefully will brighten our days.

-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 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 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup> : BIG SPRING DAY!**  
**Meeting Place & Time:** Your Choice!

**Coordinator:** Allen Larner 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 Larner at [larnersky@mind-spring.com](mailto:larnersky@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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**Saturday May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Nelson County

**Location:** Spruce Creek Park and the Adjacent Rockfish Valley Trail System

**Meeting Place:** Former Spruce Creek Gallery on Route 151 -- Near Wintergreen

**Meeting Time:** 7:30 A.M.

**Trip Leader:** Tim Hodge  
[tim@hodgeproductsinc.com](mailto: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, meadowlarks, sparrows, and warblers. Both Orioles are expected. No rugged terrain or hills to climb, but good walking shoes are advised.

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**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>:** Highland County

**Meeting Place & Time:** 7:30 AM; Downtown Monterey, intersection of US 250 and US 220.

Please be prompt as we will depart from here no later than 7:40. Allow 1 hour and 10 minutes driving time from Staunton to Monterey. Consider spending Saturday night in one of two hotels in Monterey at one of scenic B&Bs in the area. Lodging information is available on the Highland County Chamber of Commerce website <http://www.highlandcounty.org/lodge.htm>

**Coordinator:** John Spahr, [jspahr@yahoo.com](mailto: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 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. Last year's trip recorded over 100 species including 22 warblers. Bring snacks and lunch and be prepared to carpool. 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](mailto:jspahr@yahoo.com) or 887-2345

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## 15th Annual Purple Martin Field Day

**Date:** Saturday, June 27, 2009

**Time:** 9:30 AM till noon

The Fifteenth Annual Purple Martin Field Day will be held in Central Virginia, about 20 miles east of Charlottesville. In recent years, well over 100 Purple Martin enthusiasts (on average) attend each annual event, which is enjoyed by all.



Any person interested in establishing, restoring, or expanding a Purple Martin Colony is invited to learn about and see in operation the most up-to-date and effective techniques and technology available for successful Purple Martin stewardship and management.

**Topics to be covered include:**

- how to establish and increase a colony of Purple Martins;
- advantages and disadvantages of different types of martin housing;
- how to protect Martins from starlings, House Sparrows, owls, climbing snakes, raccoons, etc.;
- adding the recently-developed starling-resistant entrance holes to martin gourds and houses;



- how to grow and process purple martin nesting gourds;

The featured speaker, Mr. Lance D. Wood, is an expert on Purple Martin colonies who has published several articles on the subject. Field Day events will begin at 9:30 AM. and last about two hours, followed by an optional discussion on Bluebirds and Tree Swallows, and a short nesting box trail tour, including nesting boxes for Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Kestrels, Barn Owls, etc.

For further information and questions regarding directions call Ron and Priscilla Kingston at (434) 293-5173 or email at [kingston@cstone.net](mailto:kingston@cstone.net).

More for the Field Day info can be found at <http://www.purplemartin.org/meetings>

### Membership Dues 2009

This year we are running considerably behind previous years in terms of total members. If you have not already paid your dues for 2009, please take a moment and send in your renewal today. We are in the process of reviewing the membership list and unfortunately will have to remove the names of those whose membership is not current.

If you wish to continue to receive the monthly "Bulletin"; keep abreast of the latest happenings and support the Club's educational and conservation efforts, please let us hear from you.

If you need information about dues or a renewal form, please contact Beth or Harry Lumadue, Membership co-chairs, at [betharri@comcast.net](mailto:betharri@comcast.net) or 885-7129.

### Seed Sale Returns

The seed sale will return in the Fall of 2009. The sale will be coordinated by our very own Grant Simmons. Please contact him if you would like to help with this very important fundraiser.

[grantdws@comcast.net](mailto:grantdws@comcast.net)

## Birds & Breakfast

The American Frontier Culture Foundation invites birders and naturalists to Birds & Breakfast at the Frontier Culture Museum on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at 8:00AM. We'll start with breakfast on the newly remodeled courtyard at the Visitor Center, followed by a walking tour of the museum's varied landscape of ponds, fields, wetlands and woods. Total distance will be one mile with easy walking on pavement and grass.

This event is free of charge and offers an opportunity for people with an interest in natural history to see the museum from a different point of view. Please RSVP by May 12th to Mark Gatewood at 540-332-7850 or:



[mark.gatewood@fcmv.virginia.gov](mailto:mark.gatewood@fcmv.virginia.gov)

### Augusta Bird Club Minutes April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The Augusta Bird Club met at Augusta Medical Center on April 13, 2009, at 7:00pm. The meeting was called to order by president Grant Simmons. Grant welcomed any new members and several visitors.

Members reported Pine Siskins and Purple Finches are still around in abundance. Cedar Waxwings and Brown Thrashers were also reported. Bluebirds and Carolina wrens were observed building nests and there were also several Bald Eagle sightings.

Jo reported 131 species have been identified at McCormick's Mill. She will lead a field trip there April 15, 2009.

Yulee encouraged all members to make their back yards an official wildlife habitat. Forms are available on-line from the National Wildlife Federation ([www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/certify.cfm](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/certify.cfm)) and the cost of registration is \$15.00.

The Tuesday and Thursday field trips are ongoing and also many other trips all listed in the bulletin.

The annual brunch picnic at Montgomery Hall Park is May 9. Come at 8:00 for birdwatching and about 10:00 am for the brunch.

The officers for the 2009-2010 year were elected as follows:

President-Walt Childs, Vice-president-John Spahr, Secretary-Jessie Shaw, Treasurer-Catherine Kohus and Editor-Paul Callo.

John Spahr introduced the speaker for the evening, Bob Ake. Bob gave a very interesting program on birding in China with many slides and lively commentary that was enjoyed by all.

The meeting adjourned around 9:00pm. This being my last official secretarial duty I graciously pass the responsibility on to Jessie Shaw.

-Respectfully submitted,  
Elizabeth Reed, secretary

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### **Treasurer's Report** submitted by Ed Lawler

3/01/2009 – 3/31/2009

#### **REGULAR OPERATING FUND**

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BALANCE - 2/28/2009	\$ 4,563.93	
INCOME	\$ 350.00	
EXPENSES	\$ 111.30	
<b>BALANCE - 3/31/2009</b>		<b>\$ 4,802.63</b>

#### **EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND**

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BALANCE - 2/28/2009	\$ 6,253.82	
INCOME	\$ 105.00	
EXPENSES	\$ 0.00	
<b>BALANCE - 3/31/2009</b>		<b>\$ 6,703.82</b>

<b>TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 3/31/2009</b>		<b>\$ 11,506.45</b>
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### **Welcome New Member**

Esther 'Chipper' Cullen  
Lyndhurst, VA  
Email: [cullenend@yahoo.com](mailto:cullenend@yahoo.com)

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### **Virginia Society of Ornithology Website**

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

### **Augusta Bird Club Website**

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