



AUGUSTA  
BIRD  
C L U B

“The bluebird carries the sky on his back.”

~ Henry David Thoreau

### September Meeting

**Date:** Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
**Place:** AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge Community College Education Center  
**Program:** Crane Creek – Magee Region of Northwest Ohio - A Photo Journal.

**Speaker:** Brenda Tekin, Nature Photographer



Located along the southwestern shoreline of Lake Erie, Magee marsh includes forested beach ridges and provides a critical feeding and resting habitat for

migrating songbirds as they rest and refuel before continuing on their journey.

Join us as Brenda Tekin presents a photo journal of images taken during the ABC's Spring 2009 trip to this unique spot where a morning stroll down a boardwalk can yield over 100 species.

### 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 special place they want to share please contact Jo

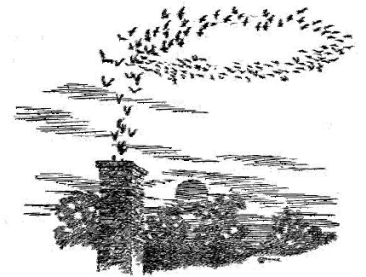
King [kingbird10@yahoo.com](mailto:kingbird10@yahoo.com) or Allen Lerner [larnersky@mindspring.com](mailto:larnersky@mindspring.com).

**Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>:** “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](mailto:kingbird10@yahoo.com) or 886-3022 or 430-0186

This is the ninth year, the Driftwood Wildlife Association will be hosting this spectacular event. Jo King and members of Augusta Bird Club will be counting these fascinating aerial acrobats as they begin to congregate in communal roosts on their journey to the Amazon Basin of South America. Our estimated count numbers will be submitted to Paul and Georgean Kyle of Austin, Texas. Be prepared for an exhilarating experience. Bring a chair for your comfort. For further details call Jo.



**Saturday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>:** Rt. 610 & Blue Ridge Parkway

**Meeting place / time:** side parking lot at the Afton Inn at 8:00 AM

**Coordinator:** Allen at [larnersky@mindspring.com](mailto:larnersky@mindspring.com) or 886-1416

Join Allen Lerner on this adventure through the wilds of the Blue Ridge Parkway & Rt. 610. The

group will be looking for Warblers, Sparrows, and Flycatchers on this is a half day trip. If The weather cooperates 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 the gap that day. Rain & fog will cancel.

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**Wednesday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>:** McCormick's Mill  
**Meeting place / time:** McDonalds Parking lot at the Staunton Mall at 8:30 AM  
**Coordinator:** Jo King at [kingbird10@yahoo.com](mailto:kingbird10@yahoo.com) or 886-3022 or 430-0186

Enjoy an early fall morning with Jo King to this beautiful place in the southern corner of Augusta County in hopes of finding many migrating and 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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**Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>:** Swoope & Augusta Wetlands  
**Meeting Place & Time:** Woodrow Wilson Parkway Holiday Inn (exit 225 off I-81) lower parking lot, 8:00 AM.  
**Coordinator:** Allen Lerner at [larnesky@ mind-spring.com](mailto:larnesky@mind-spring.com) or 886-1416

Join Allen in looking for late migrant warblers & hoping to find migrating sparrows, early waterfowl & maybe some late shorebirds. We will be checking out the open fields & some of the ponds in the area of Swoope & then heading for the Augusta Wetlands to look for any additional migrants. Bring snacks & dress for the weather. The trip will go come rain or shine.

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**Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>:** Lake Moomaw & Bath County  
**Meeting place / time:** Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 7:30 AM  
**Coordinator:** Allen Lerner at [larnesky@ mind-spring.com](mailto:larnesky@ mind-spring.com) or 886-1416

Join Allen Lerner on this annual fall adventure into Bath County where we will be looking for sparrows, kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, loons, grebes, ducks, eagles, etc. Dress for the weather & bring snacks. Heavy rain or ice & fog will cancel the trip.

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### 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.

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### WINGBEATS

In case you are wondering, "*What happend to my 'Chirps'?, and who is this new President?*" (I would), I will tell you.

I am from Washington and spent my early years, that is most weekends and summers, on Puget Sound on the Olympic Peninsula in a cabin my folks had purchased for \$500. We cut firewood and kindling for our wood burning stove, carried a 50 lb. block of ice on the bumper of our '36 Ford until we reached the cabin and stored it in the "icebox." Our only light was an old kerosene lamp, the soft purring of which I can still hear. Our family spent long hours fishing for trout in the glacial streams, salmon and flounder (locally called sand dabs) in Puget Sound, digging for clams and shucking oysters. I will forever remember the names of the nearby glacial streams: Hama Hama, Duckabush and Dosewallips.

After moving to Seattle from Bremerton, the entire family was involved with Cub Scouts and other outdoor activities such as camping and hiking in the Cascade Mountains along with numerous road trips.

A few years later our family moved to Maryland where my involvement with Boy Scouts continued as a Scout, Scout Leader and Assistant Scout Master for the next 30 years. This included many camping trips to: Shenandoah National Park (loved camping in the snow at Big Meadows), Goshen Scout Camp, Old Rag Mountain and hiking the A.T., also a month at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

Later I spent two years active duty (required at that time) in the U.S. Coast Guard, most of which was at sea in the North Atlantic and the Caribbean.



I was fortunate to see migrating warblers resting on the mossy backs of sea turtles in the Sargasso Sea as well as on board ship where they spent the night before resuming their ritual. In addition, tropicbirds

and other sea birds were well seen. If only I had been a lister!

If you have read this far, it is clear that I have a strong interest in the out of doors and all it has to offer. This interest in birds (listing and traveling) really developed in the last 15 years after 35 years with the U.S. Department of the Treasury in Washington, D.C., raising a family with my wife, Nancy, of 49 years, then retiring to Virginia and becoming a member of ABC.

There you have it. You know more about me, and during this next year I will do my best to get to know more about each of you.

-Walt Childs, President

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### The Bird Seed Sale Is Back!

We are planning for a bird seed sale this fall. Steve Grande and the students at MBC will be promoting the sale and receiving orders. Crista will also be involved in providing leadership.

We are hoping to have prices and order blanks ready by the middle of September with pickup as usual the last of October. We would encourage our members to plan on purchasing seed from the club to help fund scholarships to nature camp.

- Grant Simmons

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### Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch Begins!



The start of our 34<sup>th</sup> year of counting migrating raptors at Rockfish Gap was Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. We continue to actively seek volunteer counters to help us throughout the season which will run through Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. 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/](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

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### New Officers for 2009-2010

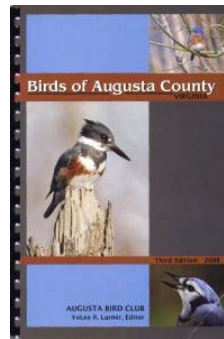
Elected at the April 13, 2009 meeting were:

President: Walt Childs  
Vice President: John Spahr  
Secretary: Jessie Shaw  
Treasurer: Catherine Kohus  
Editor: Paul Callo

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### Publications

#### The Birds of Augusta County 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.



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.



**Treasurer's Report**  
submitted by Catherine Kohus

7/31/2009 – 8/31/2009

<b>REGULAR OPERATING FUND</b>		
BALANCE - 7/31/2009	\$ 4,693.98	
INCOME	\$ 150.00	
EXPENSES	\$ -	
<b>BALANCE - 8/31/2009</b>		<b>\$ 4,843.98</b>
<b>EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND</b>		
BALANCE - 7/31/2009	\$ 5,323.82	
INCOME	\$ -	
EXPENSES	\$ -	
<b>BALANCE - 8/31/2009</b>		<b>\$ 5,323.82</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 8/31/2009</b>		<b>\$10,167.80</b>

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**Bird Quiz!**

Can you identify the bird below?



The answer will be revealed at the next bird club meeting. See you then!

**Send change of address to:**

Paul Callo  
467 Chinquapin Dr.,  
Lyndhurst, VA 22952  
Email: [pcallo@mbc.edu](mailto:pcallo@mbc.edu)

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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)