



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B



“To me, the garden is a doorway to other worlds; one of them, of course, is the world of birds. The garden is their dinner table, bursting with bugs and worms and succulent berries.”

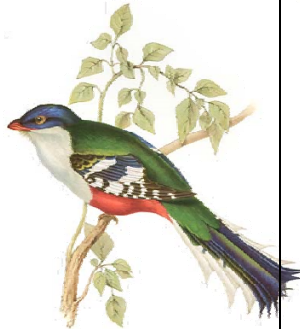
~ Anne Raver

November Meeting

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

Speaker: John Spahr

Cuba is our closest Caribbean neighbor, yet in many aspects it is far away for most Americans. Not only is it a fascinating island nation from a cultural and geographic standpoint, it also hosts a fabulous array of birds. These include many of our warblers and neotropical migrants who either winter here or use the island as an important transit point to other Caribbean destinations as well as to Central and South America. The island also hosts nearly 30 endemic birds, including the world's smallest, the Bee Hummingbird. Fossil records also show that the world's largest owl, a flightless bird almost 3 feet tall, once existed in Cuba. John has been to Cuba twice for birding exhibitions and saw about 175 species of all shapes and size. Join John as he shares his experiences.



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 or Allen Lerner larnersky@mindspring.com.

Wednesday, November 11th: McCormick's Mill
Meeting Place & Time: Staunton Mall Parking Lot behind McDonald's, 8:30 a.m. or meet at the Mill by 9:00 a.m.
Trip Leader: Jo King, at kingbird10@yahoo.com or 886-3022 or 430-0186

Join Jo King for a leisure walk around the Marl Creek Trail where she hopes to find many returning wintering birds. Sparrows, kinglets, chickadees, waterfowl and bluebirds are likely species to identify. Dress for the weather and bring a snack of your liking. The trip will conclude by 11 AM.

Saturday, Nov. 14th: Lake Moomaw & Bath County
Meeting place / time: Staunton Big Lots parking lot, 7:30 AM
Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larnersky@mindspring.com or 886-1416

Join Allen Lerner on this annual fall adventure into Bath County where we will be looking for spar-

rows, kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, loons, grebes, ducks, eagles, etc. Dress for the weather & bring snacks. Heavy rain or ice & fog will cancel the trip.

November 20th to 22nd: Eastern Shore, including CBBT and Chincoteague Island

Coordinator: Brenda Tekin at 434-962-4936 or brenda@birdsofvirginia.com

Join Brenda Tekin on what has become an annual tradition traveling to this favorite fall birding destination. The CBBT guided portion of the trip will be on Friday morning and is limited to 15 with **prior submission of a registration form for security clearance**. We will meet in the south end of the CBBT in the administration building parking lot by no later than 9:45 a.m. on Friday, November 20. The \$50/hr fee will be divided equally among the participants which usually averages a little under \$10 per person. Participants must also present a picture ID (e.g. driver's license) to the security officer. From the CBBT our next stop will be the Eastern Shore NWR. Lodging will be on Chincoteague Island and reservations can be made at the Island Motor Inn (757-336-3141). Mention you are with the Monticello or Augusta Bird Club to receive the group rate of \$92/night. Please note there is a 7-day prior cancellation limit. **Contact Brenda for the CBBT registration form** and additional information .

February 10-18, 2009: Costa Rica Birding Trip
Coordinator: Diane Holsinger
dhworkout@yahoo.com or 540-896-7132

Come see the beautiful birds of Costa Rica on this week-long field trip. To lodges like Punta Leona on the beach and Carara National Park for owling in the evening. We will also take a boat ride on the Rio Tarcoles with Mangrove Birding Tours.

Then it's on to Rincon Bridge for special birds like the Blue-tailed Goldenthrout and the Yellow-billed Cotinga. We will then travel to San Vito and stay two nights at the Las Cruces Field Station near



the Wilson Botanical Gardens

If you have never been to the tropics or Costa Rica, you won't be disappointed. If you are worried about finding or identifying birds, a bird guide will be with us throughout our trip.

Call or email Diane for price & more information.

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.

WINGBEATS

Why Less is More

I can vividly remember early on that for me birding was a collection of "ticks," the more the better, and it still is today to a lesser degree. Now, however, I realize that in those early years I was missing quality and did not fully appreciate everything the birds had to offer. Since then I have become more of a student rather than a collector.

As a result of maturity, either age or years of birding, makes one more aware of the nuances of bird behavior and, therefore, better able to identify birds on your own rather than relying on the expertise of others. When this happens it is a whole new world. Details, such as time, place, weather, and habitat have much more meaning. You zero in on the details of the bird and tend to remember them and you find yourself wanting to share "your gold" with others. You then become a true birder.

That's the way it is.....More or Less.

-Walt Childs, President



Bird Seed: It's Never Too Late!

The Bird Seed Sale has concluded. We thank you and the birds thank you! I personally want to thank all those who placed orders for seeds as well as those who volunteered on pick up day.

I do not have a full accounting yet but I am very pleased with the response that we received. Steve Grande and the students at MBC deserve much credit for their efforts. Without them we would not have been as successful. They did the promotions and received the payments tabulating the amounts ordered. Thanks go to Crista Cabe for initiating our contact with Steve and to Lisa Hamilton for putting us in touch with "Lizzie Mae" and Rob Martin our supplier. Lisa also provided me with valuable background information. If any one did not get their seed ordered the good news is it is not too late. We can order more seed at any time since "Lizzie Mae" (named after the Amish who sack the seeds) delivers to Charlottesville Wild Bird Center every week.

- Grant Simmons



ABC Meeting Minutes

The meeting convened at 7:05pm Oct. 12th.

Sightings:

- Brenda Tekin reports the hawk watch has seen 12,000+ broadwings at Afton Mt.

- Listserve sightings include migrating warblers, mostly at higher elevations.
- Walt Childs reports a Screech Owl on his deck.
- Alan Lerner saw 47 species, including a Bald Eagle, on a Saturday field trip.
- Crista Cabe reports Scarlet Tanagers, Connecticut Warbler and Kinglets.

Upcoming Field Trips:

- Chincoteague Nov.20-22: Get in touch with Brenda Tekin if you are interested in co-leading this trip. This is the Waterfowl Weekend, when the Wildlife Loop drive is open all day. Expect to see 30,000-40,000 snow geese! On Nov. 20th islands 2,3 and 4 in the Chesapeake Bay will be visited, with a guide.
- Jo King invited members to join one of her Wednesday trips to McCormick's Mill.

Alan reported that his team placed 3rd in the Kiptopeke Challenge. Team members included Ed and Nancy Lawler and Janice Frye. It was a windy day and not very conducive to birding. Proceeds from this endeavor benefit banding and other bird-related activities, and donations may be made to Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory.

The upcoming seed sale was discussed, and members were asked to help with soliciting sales from friends. Volunteers were asked to help on delivery day.

We finished up the evening with a lively program given by Teta Kain on a trip to Panama in May of last year. Teta is a birder with 35+ yrs experience and past president of the VSO. They stayed in two lodges which were ideally suited for their purpose. The first was located in the cloud forest on the slopes of an extinct volcano, and the second overlooked the Panama Canal. We were treated to panoramic vistas and well as exquisite photos of the many species of tropical birds they were able to observe. Another highlight was details of the ladies' adventures on a zipline ride through the forest!

Respectfully submitted,
Jessie Shaw, Secretary



Treasurer's Report
submitted by Catherine Kohus

9/30/2009 – 10/15/2009

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 9/30/2009	\$ 4,609.52	
INCOME		
EXPENSES	\$ 236.38	
BALANCE - 10/15/2009		\$ 4,373.14
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 9/30/2009	\$ 4,348.82	
INCOME		
EXPENSES		
BALANCE - 10/15/2009		\$ 4,348.82
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 10/15/2009		\$ 8,721.96

Send change of address to:

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

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website

virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org

Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?



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

Last Month: Clay Colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*)