



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B

*"The birds are moulting. If only man could moult also –
his mind once a year its errors, his heart once a year its useless passions."*

~ James Allen

November Meeting

Date: Monday, November 8th, 7:00 PM
Place: AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge
 Community College Education
 Center, Room 215-216
Program: Birds of Wintergreen
Speaker: Dr. Marshall Faintich

Dr. Marshall Faintich is the official photographer and the senior birding editor for the Rockfish Valley Trail, and the author of *A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Wintergreen*. Since December, 2006, he has taken more than 100,000 wildlife photos, and many of them have appeared in newspapers and other publications, on trail signs in Virginia and Maryland, in the Commonwealth of Virginia wildlife presentations, and on numerous web sites. He has written articles for *Wildbird* and *Birder's World* magazines. He teaches a short course in digital photography, and on November 12, 2010,



will be making a special presentation on "Bird Photography" at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Virginia.

His hour-long presentation will feature the birds seen in the Rockfish Valley and surrounding Blue Ridge and Ragged Mountains. His book was selected for the 2010 Virginia Festival of the Book, and copies may be purchased at the meeting, on-line, or at a number of book stores and specialty shops from Charlottesville to Staunton. Dr. Faintich would be happy to sign copies of his book after the presentation. Many of his photos and field trip reports can be viewed on his web site: www.symbolicmessengers.com

Note on December Program

Prior to the usual Christmas Social, we would like to have a short, open program on "Sharing Memories". Anyone that has pictures they'd like to show the group, a story they'd like to share, a poem they'd like to read, etc., is more than welcome to do so. That meeting will be on December 13. If you have any questions, please contact the Program Chairman (Ed Lawler) at goshawk.abc@comcast.net or 886-1457.

Field Trips

November 19th – 21st: Eastern Shore / Chincoteague

Coordinator: Dave Hogg

Join Dave Hogg and folks with the Monticello Bird Club for a weekend trip to the Eastern Shore and Chincoteague Island that will include a guided tour on the CBBT islands. 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 19. 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. 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. Please note there is a 7-day prior cancellation limit. Contact Dave Hogg for the CBBT registration form and additional information at dhogg@nrao.edu.

Saturday, December 18th: Christmas Bird Count, Augusta County

Coordinator: Allen Lerner

Allen Lerner will once gain be the Compiler for the Augusta County Christmas Bird Count. Make your plans early and sign up for an area now! The data collected by the CBC allows scientists to determine population numbers of resident birds before mortality increases in the depths of winter. This, in conjunction with Breeding Bird Surveys in the Spring help provide a complete picture of each species life cycle. Contact Allen at larnersky@mindspring.com or contact by cell phone: 540-280-3423 for more details.

WINGBEATS

Things Are Looking Up

The following are two birding highlights I have been privileged to witness.

While birding in Glacier National Park in Montana, we decided to visit the Canadian side of the same park, which is named Waterton. While there we took a break and went to the lodge for tea and scones. The lodge sits on a very high promontory hundreds of feet high and is subject to high winds and has very large windows for all to enjoy the long range views. Then suddenly a pair of very regal Golden Eagles appeared right in front of us, elevated by the updraft and they remained there seemingly motionless for a long time allowing us magnificent views. What a sight, one to be remembered!



Another time while visiting the south rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona, also in a lodge with large picture windows, I spotted a VERY large bird flying over and immediately knew it was a California Condor. We all got quick views. Later, we went to the rim itself and lo and behold another Condor showed up and flew right over us affording great views. By size alone there is no mistaking a Condor. There is continuing controversy as to whether or not the Condor can or should be counted as an American Birding Association (ABA) species. Currently it cannot be counted, however there have been voices calling for its inclusion as a countable species since they have been reproducing in the wild for 15 years or more. It is on

my personal list and I will never forget when and where.

I know all of you have had similar experiences and aren't they great?! Always remember to look up, your prize awaits.

-Walt Childs, President

Bird Seed Sale A Success

The Chickadees, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers and Goldfinches say thank you for your purchase of Sunflower and Niger seeds along with the Peanuts that they are now devouring. The White-throated Sparrows and Doves say thank you for the mixed seed that is providing their breakfast, lunch and dinner.



And I thank you for your purchasing even more seeds than last year for a total of \$ 9201. This was made possible with the assistance of Steve Grande and especially Julie Bui at Mary Baldwin Spencer Center who took the orders and entered them on the spreadsheet. A special thanks to Crista Cabe who set up the online ordering system with Google that made ordering so easy. Also she kept check on the whole process assuring accuracy and providing the totals. Finally there is Cathy Kohus who took care of the handling the finances and will give us a final report of our earnings. Linda Matkins deserves credit for making arrangements to use the pick up space and securing

volunteers for that day. Thanks also to all those who volunteered to load vehicles and deliver the seed. Rob Martin was the agent from Lizzie Mae that provided our seeds. So now because of your purchases you can keep those feeders full and the birds busy flitting back and forth competing for seeds.

- Grant Simmons

John Mehner Archive Project

The Mary Baldwin College Archivist, William Pollard, would like to announce that John's extensive collection of 35mm photographic slides of birds are available to anyone who wishes to add them to his or her own collection. These slides were left over after John's estate was settled and changed hands a few times before settling in the archivist's office. The college archive does not have the space to store these slides and will dispose of them, if there are no takers by November 30th. There are also several other items including old year books that may be of interest. All items are free but that requester must pay shipping cost .

If interested, please contact:

William C. Pollard
College Archivist
Mary Baldwin College
Staunton, VA 24401
540-887-7239
wpollard@mbc.edu

October Meeting Minutes

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7:00 pm on October 11, 2010, at the AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge Community College Education Center, Fishersville, Va. The meeting was called to order by President Walt Childs.

Walt welcomed members and guests. Marshall Faintich, our program speaker for the November meeting was welcomed as a guest. Linda Matkins and Crista Cabe, Bird Seed Sale Co- Chairpersons announced that orders for the sale of seeds this year has been extended from October 11, to Friday, October 15. The

order blank can be found on the web site: ABCSeedSale@gmail.com or https://sites:google.com/site/abcseedsale/.; phone at (540) 887-7181. Pick up date for the sale is October 23rd. at Augusta County Government Center, Rte. 11, Verona. The proceeds of the sale benefit scholarships to children at Nature Camp.

The Constitution and By Laws presented last month were voted on and accepted by the club. Walt as a member of the committee thanked the other committee members, Allen Larner, Grant Simmons, and Ed Lawler for their work.

Walt acknowledged the members of the Kiptopeke Challenge, Allen Larner, Nance and Ed Lawler and Janice Frye for their outstanding work in identifying the greatest number of bird species in a day. Their team, the Augusta Bald Eagles, captured first place with 125 species identified in 17 hours. Their trophy to keep for one year is a cast bronze American Woodcock.

Andrew Clem website designer for the ABC informed members that they can place a field trip and a rare bird alert announcement on the site. Allen Larner is the contact person for the rare bird alert.

Mary Vermeulen gave an update on the distribution of YuLee's book, "Birds of Augusta County" to local schools. Mary and her committee have received letters and emails thanking them for donating the book to the educational community. Mary, as well presented to Catherine Kohus a check for one hundred dollars from the sale of the book. To date 100 books have been given away and 10 to 15 schools yet to be contacted.

Walt commented on sighting 6 species of sparrows with Marshall Faintich on the Rockfish Valley Nature Trail. Allen Larner's field trip to Augusta Springs Wetlands and the Swoope area produced an immature Bald Eagle, Shrike, five species of warblers, and many Savannah Sparrows. Jo King and Marietta Beverage also birded the Wetlands the following Monday to record a Tennessee warbler and over 20 Ruby-crowned Kinglets.

Tish Folsom invited the bird club to a walk on her property at Springdale Water Gardens, Greenville, VA, on Thursday, October 21 at 9:00 am. She will lead the group to ponds, fields, streams and woodlands surrounding the

area. She noted to come prepared to "hoof it" in the pasture and grass.

Walt asked members to consider taking part in the banding of Saw-whet Owls with the Rockingham Bird Club in late October to early November. Contact him if you are interested.

Crista Cabe will be leading a walk on October 30, 8:00 am beginning at MBC's Cannon Hill which is the first location of the Meadow Project introduced by Bruce Dorries. This project entails removing eight acres of fescue on the MBC campus and plant native grasses. Crista will show other areas so designated on the campus.

The "mystery bird" in the September newsletter was revealed to be a Blackpoll warbler. Ed Lawler Program chair introduced the evening speaker, Dr. Richard Kiefer and his wife Sharon who presented a splendid visual experience of the birds of Australia. Their slides and commentary was very interesting and enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Josephine King, substituting secretary

Treasurer's Report
submitted by Catherine Kohus

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 9/01/2010	\$ 5,828.87	
INCOME	\$ 3.23	
EXPENSES	\$ 80.38	
BALANCE - 9/30/2010		\$5,751.63
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 9/01/2010	\$ 6,006.15	
INCOME	\$ 11,624.28	
EXPENSES	\$ 975.00	
BALANCE - 9/30/2010		\$ 16,655.43
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 9/30/2010		\$ 22,407.06

9/01/2010 - 9/30/2010

Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?

The answer will be revealed in next month's newsletter. Happy guessing!



Last Month: Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*)

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website

virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org

