



AUGUSTA
BIRD
 C L U B



*Seven swans a swimming, Six Geese a laying, Five Gold Rings!, Four Calling Birds,
 Three French Hens, Two Turtle Doves, and a Partridge in a Pear Tree.*

I don't have 'Gold Rings' on my checklist!

December Holiday Meal

Date: Monday, December 13th, 6:30 PM
Place: AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge
 Community College Education
 Center, Room 215-216



This year we will be renewing an old tradition and celebrating with our birding friends the way the bird club did many years ago, with a sit down meal. The club will be providing the meat, rolls, drinks, plates and utensils. We are asking club members (invite your spouse if you want) to bring side dishes such as salads, macaroni and cheese, potato dishes, vegetables or desserts. We will be meeting at the same place, the AMC Lifetime Building at 6:30 instead of 7:00. We plan to eat at 6:45 so the hot food will still be hot with the program to follow. There will also be door prizes. If you have any questions, feel free to call Linda Matkins at 540-383-8229.

Sharing Memories

After the dinner, we will have a short "open" meeting. Anyone wishing to share a story, give a trip report or tell about a birding experience, read a poem, show some pictures, etc. will be welcome to do so at that time.

If you have any questions about the dinner, call Linda Matkins at 383-8229 or if you have questions about the program contact Ed Lawler at goshawk.abc@comcast.net or 886-1457.



Field Trips

Hello fellow birders. We are now approaching the Holiday season, and with it comes colder weather. No local field trips are planned for the month of December. 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. Please consider participating in a Christmas Bird Count if you can!

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.

Sunday, January 3rd: Christmas Bird Count, Waynesboro
Coordinator: Crista Cabe

ccabe@mbc.edu or 540-234-9155

WINGBEATS

Virginia Excitements

#1 - This is a follow-up about my suggestion last month to have a lifetime experience and participate in the banding of Northern Saw-whet Owls. Clair Mellinger, from the Rockingham Bird Club, is the primary facilitator in this project, which takes place just a mile from the West Virginia border, off route 259, northwest of Broadway.



So far at least eleven members from our club have visited, participating in the capture and banding of these owls. They all have exclaimed the "WOW" factor and have agreed it is one of the most exciting

and memorable things in which they have participated. These diminutive creatures stand just eight inches tall and weigh around 80-100 grams, with the female being the larger. The information gathered: sex (weight generally determines this); bill length; wing chord; molt (this helps determine whether it is a hatch year or after hatch year bird); and any fat (needed for migration), will help determine migration patterns and survival rates for these magnificent birds.

Many thanks to Clair for making this a wonderful experience.

#2 - One recent morning I was brought out of my slumber by our cat who was sleeping soundly on the bed. She had alerted to something just outside the window. When I focused on this object, just ten feet away, all I saw was a bare head and a beak looking at me. Sure enough, it was a wild turkey! After I got up to look around I found it was not alone. There were eight male turkeys all with beards apparently looking for breakfast.



I believe it was all "tomfoolery" by "peeping toms."

-Walt Childs, President



How the Christmas Bird Count Helps Protect Species and Their Habitat



Christmas Bird Count Circles in the Western Hemisphere

The data collected by observers over the past century allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

The long term perspective made possible by the Christmas Bird Count is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat - and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

In the 1980's CBC data documented the decline of wintering populations of the American Black Duck, after which conservation measures were put into effect to reduce hunting pressure on this species. More recently, in 2007, the data were instrumental in the development of two Audubon State of the Birds Reports - Common Birds in Decline, which revealed that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years, and WatchList 2007, which identified 178 rarer species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii that are imperiled. These two reports helped scientists and policy-makers to both identify threats to birds and habitat, and promote broad awareness of the need to address them.

-The Audubon Society

Augusta County Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 14th, 2008

Contact John Spahr for details and assignments.

jspahr@augustamed.com or 540-887-2345

Waynesboro Christmas Bird Count

Saturday January 3rd, 2009

Contact Crista Cabe for details and assignments.

ccabe@mbc.edu or 540-234-9155

Renewals are due January 1st 2011

This year, to make it easy to renew, you will be receiving your renewal form by mail with a return stamped envelope.

The regular renewals go to financing our operating expenses: the newsletter, speakers, and our annual picnic.

All additional contributions as well as profits from our annual bird seed sale go to supporting conservation and education organizations.

2010 Conservation and Education Donations were made to:

Nature Camp (2 full & 2 partial scholarships)
Virginia Society of Ornithology
Valley Conservation Council
The Wildlife Center of Virginia
The Nature Conservancy
Hawk Migration Assoc. of No. America
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Virginia Bluebird Society
American Bird Conservancy
Costal Virginia Wildlife Observatory
VA Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Pgm
Important Bird Areas Program
Audubon Society (Christmas Bird Count)

2010 Bird Seed Sale Profit \$2,865.83

*Thank you, to all who purchased bird seed!
The profits will help us send children to
Nature Camp in 2011.*

November Meeting Minutes

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7:00 pm on November 8, 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 many new prospective members and guests. New members, Gabriel Mapel and his mother, Mary Mapel were welcomed to the club. Gabriel, age 10 presented to President Childs and the bird club a book he authored entitled, "Oh No Gertrude", The True Story of a Not-so-Naughty Black Bear" with photographer, Rodney Cammauf. This book can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Membership Chairs, Beth and Harry Lumadue passed out membership forms and club information to new members.

Grant Simmons Bird Seed Sale chairman reported that the sale resulted in a \$2,794.49 profit. Grant thanked all the volunteers who helped make this year's sale a great success. He noted that Crista Cabe who set up the on-line ordering system with Google, made the ordering and handling of money much easier. Catherine Kohus gave the final report and was thanked for taking care of the finances.

Allen Lerner Christmas Bird Count Compiler for Augusta County announced that the count will be Saturday, December 18. He handed out count area packets to members responsible for their chosen area. Compiler for the Waynesboro Count is Crista Cabe. She will have her count information at the December meeting.

Allen also gave an update on the planned Eastern Shore/Chincoteague trip scheduled November 19th-21st. He said to contact Brenda Tekin if interested in attending. Details of this trip can be found in the October newsletter.

Walt commented on the October 30th walk led by Bruce Dorries and Crista Cabe on the Mary Baldwin College/ Meadow Project introduced by Dr Dorries. The walk was well attended and information was shared on the progress of the project.

Elaine Carwile spoke of the difficulty of birding Quillen's Pond. It has come to light that cattle is now on the property and poachers and deer "spot-lighters" are causing an ugly situation. It is best to gain permission before you attempt to drive onto the property.

Walt mentioned that the Saw Whet Owl banding project is taking place near the West Virginia border in Rockingham County. Dan Perkuchin had room for six in his van for the night of November 8th and more details can be obtained from Walt.

Penny Warren is banding birds in El Salvador and Ed and Nace Lawler are birding Panama. The mystery bird in the November newsletter is still a "mystery". No one could identify the bird.

Emily Britt spoke of the work being done by Dr. Brad Bradford in incubating Bobwhite quail eggs. There was a newspaper article written about his efforts to re-populate the bird.

Walt said that the December 13 meeting will be the " Christmas Social". It will be a short open program on "Sharing Memories". Please bring a covered dish or one of your favorite foods.

Walt introduced the speaker, Dr. Marshall Faintich. Dr. Faintich presented his program, "A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Wintergreen" with such superior photos of birds along with his interesting humorous commentary. Marshall also had his book for purchase and signing.

Respectfully submitted,
Josephine King, substituting secretary

Treasurer's Report

submitted by Catherine Kohus
10/01/2010 – 10/31/2010

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 10/01/2010	\$ 5,751.63	
INCOME	\$ 104.95	
EXPENSES	\$ 125.34	
BALANCE – 10/31/2010		\$5,731.24
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 10/01/2010	\$ 16,655.43	
INCOME	\$ 8,873.77	
EXPENSES	\$ 6277.06	
BALANCE - 10/31/2010		\$ 19,252.14
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 10/31/2010		\$ 24,983.38

Welcome New Members for 2011

*Patricia Grabowski
Mark Gretch
Sam & Sandy Lyon
Gabriel, Daniel, & Mary Mapel
Jeanette & John Matchette
Lucille Staton*

Don't forget to say 'Hello' to them
at the next meeting!

Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?



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

Last Month: European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website

virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org

