



AUGUSTA  
**BIRD**  
C L U B

“When I see a bird that walks like a duck and swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, I call that bird a duck.”

~ Richard C. Cushing

### February Meeting

**Date:** Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
**Place:** AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge Community College Education Center  
**Program:** My Big Year of Birding  
**Speaker:** John Spahr

2010 was John's first year of retirement. Instead of relaxing at home, catching up on overdue chores, reading novels, playing golf or any of the other typical things newly retired people do, John chose to do something quite atypical. He joined fellow Virginia birder and friend Bob Ake in an epic pursuit of birds throughout North America in what birders call a "Big Year."



This is an informal competition to identify as many bird species as possible within the geo-

graphic confines of the continental US and Canada. For John and Bob this entailed multiple trips to birding hot spots in Florida, Texas, Arizona, California, Nevada, Michigan, Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta, New England and many places in between. John logged over 90,000 travel miles -- by plane, car, boat and on foot. Their route took them to some fabulous locations, afforded some memorable adventures, and resulted in an occasional mishap. Plus, they really got the birds. To find out how many and which ones were special don't miss this program. John's program will illustrate details of his quest, the places visited, the highs and the lows, as well as the birds encountered (and missed).

### Coming Up...

Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> - South Florida & Sanibel Island  
 Apr. 11<sup>th</sup> - The Cycle of Birdsongs  
 May - Montgomery Hall Park, Birding & Picnic

### Field Trips

**Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>:** Highland County  
**Meeting place / time:** Woodrow Wilson Parkway  
 Holiday Inn (exit 225 off I-81) lower parking lot,  
 8:00 AM  
**Coordinator:** Allen Lerner at [larnevsky@mind-spring.com](mailto:larnevsky@mind-spring.com) or 280-3423

Join Allen Lerner on this adventure to Highland County in the hopes of finding Golden Eagle, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-capped Chickadee, and

just maybe an Evening Grosbeak. Snow or rain will cancel. If you have any questions about this fantastic trip, do not hesitate to contact Allen!

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The VSO also coordinates some fantastic trips. Check [http://vabirds.net/f\\_trips.html](http://vabirds.net/f_trips.html) for details.

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## WINGBEATS

The Board of the Augusta Bird Club just completed its semiannual Board Meeting and we covered a number of subjects.

There is one item in particular that I would like to bring to your attention. In May I will have served as your President for two years and I have decided to step down at that time. This will provide an opportunity for any of you to accept a leadership role. Please give serious consideration to accepting this position. The Nominating Committee, hopefully Grant Simmons, will be looking for my replacement. Why not call or email him rather than have him seek you?! He can be reached at: [g\\_rantdws@comcast.net](mailto:g_rantdws@comcast.net) or 540-337-0471.

The Nominating Committee will present the names to the members in March and the voting by the members will be in April.

Thanks to you, the members, each of the officers, committee chairs and others for stepping up to the plate to accomplish our goals, which has made my job much easier and satisfying. A special nod of appreciation to all of you.

-Walt Childs, President

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>

The Backyard Bird Count is easy and free and anyone (experts & novices) can participate. You can count for 15 minutes a whole day or all four days! You can count at your feeder in the backyard, in a park, or anywhere else you choose. Help spread the word and



pass this on to family, friends, and neighbors!

For more information on how to participate, checklists, tips, why counting birds is so important, and to submit your counts go to:

[www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)



Last year participants in Virginia submitted 4,055 checklists with a total of 177 species observed. Virginia Beach beat everyone else with 401 checklists submitted. The Northern Cardinal was the most widely observed bird (found in most areas, but the most numerous bird recorded was the Common Grackle.

The Great Backyard Bird Count  
is a joint project of  
the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon

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## Native Trees Make Good Neighbors And Are Friends To Birds

The Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District is having their annual tree seedling sale to promote the planting of native trees in our community. Native trees are 1) Adapted to our soils and climate; 2) Require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides; 3) Attract and support birds and pollinators and 4) Offer surprising color, form and texture for your landscape. The tree seedling sale is a fund and awareness-raiser. All proceeds are used to support the Headwaters education programs which

are provided at no charge. Bareroot tree seedlings are \$2.25 each and rooted tubelings are \$4.00 each. Trees that are available are Sassafras, Serviceberry, Sourwood, Chokeberry, Dogwood, Redbud, River Birch, American Plum, Spicebush, Arrowwood Viburnum, Crabapple, Fringetree, N. Red Oak, White Oak, White Pine, and Sugar Maple. Orders must be received at the Verona office by March 11, 2011 and the pick up is at the Augusta County Government Center in Verona on March 19, 2011. To get information go to [www.headwatersswcd.org](http://www.headwatersswcd.org), call 248-6218 ext.3 or email [greenes@northriver.coop](mailto:greenes@northriver.coop).

Linda Matkins will also be bringing order forms to the February meeting.

### ABC Meeting Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7:00 p.m. on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the AMC Lifetime Building.

President Walt Childs opened the meeting with thanks to everyone in attendance for the evening's meeting. It was a smaller than usual turnout because of snow. Several guests were welcomed. A few brief highlights were noted for both the Augusta County CBC and Waynesboro CBC. The Augusta County had a total of 78 species with higher than average numbers for several species and a Black and White Warbler was included in this year's count. The unofficial count for Waynesboro is 88 breaking the record. Highlights were a good variety of raptors, Merlin, various waterfowl, Dickcissels, Black-capped Chickadees, etc.

Several club members were able to see the Allen's Hummingbird and the Mountain Bluebird both of which were seen south of the Richmond area.

Membership chair, Catherine Kohus, reported that the membership renewals have gone well with the mailings. Approximately half have been returned which is a better response than previous years.

A field trip to Highland County with Allen Lerner on February 12<sup>th</sup> was mentioned and also noted was the Rockingham County Bird Club's 'raptor watch' to be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Walt mentioned the local newspaper's article on John Spahr and noted that John will be the featured speaker at the February meeting.

Ed Lawler introduced club member, Peter Nebel, who provided a fascinating talk and slide presenta-

tion on Qatar with interesting details on life, economy, architecture and of course, birds of this Middle East country.

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Warren, Secretary

### Treasurer's Report submitted by Catherine Kohus 12/01/2010 – 1/02/2011

<b>REGULAR OPERATING FUND</b>		
BALANCE – 12/01/2010	\$5,752.40	
INCOME	\$5.36	
EXPENSES	\$301.42	
<b>BALANCE – 1/02/2010</b>		<b>\$5,456.34</b>
<b>EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND</b>		
BALANCE – 12/01/2010	\$19589.26	
INCOME	\$0.00	
EXPENSES	\$62.52	
<b>BALANCE - 1/02/2010</b>		<b>\$19,526.74</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 1/02/2011</b>		
		<b>\$24,983.08</b>

### Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?



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

Last Month: Northern Flicker Hybrid  
(*Colaptes auratus*)



**Welcome new 2011 Members !**

*Dr Sandra Catchings, Dr Henry Bradford & William*

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**Welcome returning 2010 Members !**

**Thank you**, to all of our renewed members. And a **special thank you** to all those who contributed!

Anyone who has not sent in their renewal forms yet, please send them in ASAP.

**Virginia Society of Ornithology Website**

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

**Augusta Bird Club Website**

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

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