



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B

“Come gentle Spring; ethereal Mildness come!”

~ James Thomson

March Meeting

Date: Monday, March 14th, 7:00 PM
Place: AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge
 Community College Education Center
Program: South Florida & Sanibel Island
Speaker: Brenda Tekin

From Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge’s 7-mile Black Point Wildlife Drive on the east coast, across the northern boundary of the Everglades south of Lake Okeechobee through miles of sugar cane fields and oranges groves, to the famed Ding Darling bird sanctuary on the west coast, South Florida provides a wealth of bird watching opportunities during the winter months.



Brenda Tekin will share some highlights during her travels to these areas in search of South Florida’s feathered jewels including Carracara, Limpkin, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, and Snail Kite.

Coming Up...

Apr. 11th - The Cycle of Birdsongs
 May - Montgomery Hall Park, Birding & Picnic

Field Trips

Tuesdays: March 15th, 29th, April 5th, 19th
Where: The Yulee Lerner Birding Trail, Staunton, VA
Meeting Place/Time: Montgomery Hall Park (top right picnic pavilion), 8:00 AM.
Coordinator: Dan Perkuchin, at danjoperk@gmail.com
 or cell phone 540-421-3412

Join Dan Perkuchin on these Tuesday walks through the woods of Montgomery Hall Park. He will be looking for Warblers, Tanagers, Buntings, & whatever else he can find. Bring snacks & dress for the weather -- rain will cancel

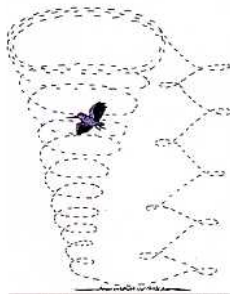
Wednesday, March 16th: McCormick's Mill
Meeting Place & Time: Staunton Mall Parking Lot behind McDonald's, 8:30 a.m. or meet at the Mill by 9:00 a.m.
Coordinator: Jo King

Join Jo for a leisurely walk around the Marl Creek Trail where she hopes to find many returning migrants, shorebirds, waterfowl and bluebirds that are likely to be there.
Dress for the weather and bring a snack of your liking. The trip will conclude by 11 a.m. Contact Jo at kingbird10@yahoo.com or 886-3022, or 430-0186 for more information.

Sunday, March 20th: Blue Ridge Parkway - Dance of the Woodcock

Meeting Place & Time: Half hour before sunset at the Humpback Rocks Parking lot just past the Visitors Center
Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larnersky@mindspring.com or 280-3423

Join Allen Lerner for this annual treat. The spectacular mating dance of the American Woodcock is one you will not soon forget. Also when it gets dark enough we will listen out for Owls. Be sure to check the forecast and dress for the weather that evening.



Thursday, March 24th & April 21st: Swoope & Augusta Wetlands
Meeting Place & Time: Meet at the Holiday Inn lower parking lot at 8am .
Coordinator: Allen Lerner
larnersky@mindspring.com

We will be looking for Waterfowl & Sparrows the early adventure and migrants on the later one. During both trips we will be sure to spy on the Bald Eagle's nest. Bring snacks & dress for the day.

Wednesday, March 30th: Springdale Water Gardens
Meeting Place & Time: Staunton Mall Parking Lot

behind McDonald's, 8:30 a.m. or meet at the Gardens by 9:00 a.m.
Coordinator: Jo King

Once again we have been invited to Springdale Water Gardens, Inc. by Co-owner, Tish Folsom. We will be investigating the small ponds area, as well as along the stream and woodlands surrounding the area. We will likely find many raptors and hopefully some returning warblers. Dress for the weather and come prepared to "hoof it" in the pasture and grass. Contact Jo at kingbird10@yahoo.com or 886-3022, or 430-0186 for more information.

Thursday, March 31st: Lake Moomaw
Meeting Place & Time: Holiday Inn lower parking lot, 8:00 AM
Coordinator: Allen Lerner at larnersky@mindspring.com

On this day long adventure into Bath county we will be looking for Loons, Waterfowl, Bald Eagles, early Tree Swallows, and more! Bring snacks and a lunch. Dress for the weather.



Sunday, May 1st: Big Spring Day rain or shine

This is where we will cover the entire County of Augusta. Pick your own time to start & stop to bird your favorite birding spot. Areas that need to be covered are:

- Montgomery Hall Park
- Bells Lane
- Betsy Bell
- North Mountain
- Augusta Wetlands
- Shenandoah Mountain
- Elkhorn Lake area

Blue Ridge Parkway & Big Levels area
Swoope areas

Contact Allen Lerner so that he can sign you up to an area so that there will be no overlapping watch areas.

larnersky@mindspring.com

Thursday, May 5th: Blue Ridge Parkway
Meeting Place & Time: Afton Inn parking lot at 8am

Coordinator: Allen Lerner
larnersky@mindspring.com

Join Allen Lerner for this half day adventure where we will be looking for Warblers, Flycatchers, Vireos, Tanagers & anything else that we can find. Dress for the weather & bring snacks.

Sunday, June 5th: Highland County
Meeting Place & Time: Holiday Inn lower parking lot at 7:30 am

Coordinator: Allen Lerner
larnersky@mindspring.com

Join Allen Lerner on this all day summer adventure to Highland County where we will be looking for nesting Warblers, Flycatchers, Vireos, & anything else that comes along. Dress for the weather (rain or shine) & bring snacks. We will be stopping off at one of the eating places for lunch or bring your own.

WINGBEATS

Just a note from the American Southwest

While en route to Arizona, a stop at Sandia Crest in New Mexico provided three life birds plus a subspecies of the Rosy-Finches. We had eye-to-eye views of the Brown-capped, Black, Gray-crowned and Hepburn's Rosy-Finches. We arrived just as the lodge opened at 9:30A and by 10A had succeeded in seeing all these species. There were several large flocks, each with 50 or more birds, fighting the ferocious winds as they tried to land on the feeding station. The feeding station was monopolized by the Abert's squirrels and the beautiful Steller's Jays. We stayed for several hours studying the birds from the inside observation area while sipping coffee and hot chocolate - the birds only 10

feet away. It doesn't get any better than this! Sandia Crest, at just under 11,000 feet, may be the only place where all three species of Rosy-Finches can be found at the same time (winter).



Also the sighting of a small group of Mountain Plovers added another life bird. I've been looking for this rascal for some time.

To date, 2/24/11, we have 76 species of which 26 or so are specific to Arizona and New Mexico.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER!! -

I would strongly recommend we support the Mary Baldwin Conservation Project by volunteering to help via a sign-up sheet at the upcoming meeting on March 14, or by visiting our web-site. This project is good for the Augusta Bird Club, Mary Baldwin College and the community of Staunton. Stay tuned to future bulletins for details of this project.

-Walt Childs, President

The Mehner Archives

Augusta Bird Club member Tom Trykowski is now the custodian of the Mehner archives: hundreds of color slides, several audio tapes and 8mm films. He is interested in sharing and discussing the items with other members of the club.

Tom Trykowski
P. O. Box 49
Greenville VA 24440
540-377-6701

ABC Meeting Minutes 14th February 2011

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7:00 p.m. on February 14th, 2011 at the AMC Lifetime Building.

Nancy Childs had a surprise for the club by having Valentine's Day door prizes for a few lucky people.

President Walt Childs opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and noted that we had a wonderful, in-depth presentation to look forward to this evening.

Wendy encouraged everyone to participate in the Allegheny County breeding birds event.

Mark announced there would be a butterfly count somewhere around the date of July 4th and passed around a sign up sheet for interested people. Mark indicated that he will probably do some initial training for those who expressed interest.

Walt announced that VSO is asking the 13 chapters to submit quarterly reports so that VSA can share this information with all of the chapters. Penny will submit the reports.



Walt informed the club that at the January Board meeting all of the contributions that the club makes to various organizations were reviewed. The Board decided to ask members to think of any organization (US or foreign) that they would like the club to support and to come to the March meeting ready to give a brief presentation in support of their choice.

The Board will meet after the meeting and decide which organization(s) to support.

Darrell passed around a sign up sheet for those interested in participating in helping with Mary Baldwin's efforts to establish a nature trail, bird observation station, a water feature, arbors, benches, etc.

Andrew informed the club he recently opened up the ABC website for various postings such as rare bird sightings.



Catherine gave an update on membership and stated that almost everyone has renewed. Approximately 15 have not. The deadline is March 1st.

Walt noted that Great Backyard Bird Count was coming up on Feb. 18th-21st. Also mentioned was the last meeting in May for the club conflicts with the VSO meeting and changing the club's date to the week before or the week after is under consideration.

Upcoming trips – Jo said there will be a trip to McCormick's mid-March.

Ed introduced John Spahr to talk about his Big Year. John gave a wonderful presentation that was thoughtful, informative and quite amusing at times. He provided background information as to what a Big Year is, how the geographic area is defined, the strategy and planning involved with participating. He and Bob Ake decided their goal was 650 birds and that was achieved by mid-year. The first bird

of the first day in January was a Song Sparrow and they went on to get 81 species that day and 226 by the end of January. John noted the fact of diminishing returns as you go through month by month in a Big Year. He gave monthly highlights, state highlights, rare highlights, vagrants, etc. with a selection of beautiful photographs. Some amusing notes were locking the keys in the car once, getting stuck once, several flat tires, several speeding tickets ... one for going too slow!

All in all, John traveled more than 90,000 miles by plane, car, boat and foot for a total of 704 birds. The last bird was a Snowy Owl!! There are less than a dozen people who have achieved this number of birds. Bob did a bit more traveling than John and ended up with 731 and that puts him in second place!

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Warren, Secretary

ABC Executive Board Meeting Minutes 23th January 2011

Members Present: Walt Childs, Ed Lawler, Allen Lerner, Josephine King, Penny Warren, Andrew Clem, Catherine Kohus, and Linda Matkins

VSO Connection – Andrew Dolby, Vice President of the parent organization, VSO, has requested a quarterly report as to what the chapter organizations have done in order to include in their publication. Penny was requested to do a summary and forward to Andrew when requested.



Meeting Place at Augusta Health - Ed reported that we are the only outside organization to use the facility and first priority goes to Augusta Health's needs for meeting space. This past year they could not let us know until end of December if we could hold meetings at Augusta Health in 2011. As it

turns out, the September meeting will have to be held in another building. Inquiries will be made as to using other locations such as the Wellness Building or Gypsy Hill Place.

Spring Nominating Committee - Grant has indicated that he will chair the committee. The club will need a new president and perhaps a Programs chair.

Program Presenters – It was decided unanimously to give a year membership to any club member if they have made two club presentations during any one year in addition to the dinner before the actual presentation.

Earth Day. – Earth Day will be celebrated on April 16. Catherine will have table with a display from Riverfest, Birds of Augusta County booklet, Augusta County bird checklists, and membership information.

Riverfest – Riverfest will be held on April 30. Linda will need help for the day. She will have a table set up with a display and membership information.

Budget - It was decided to delete the Monteverde Conservation League, NA Bluebird Society, Endangered Species Coalition and the Raptor Conservancy of VA as expense line items. It was decided to dedicate \$2,000 to new initiatives for one year including increasing contributions as follows:

- Nature Camp Scholarships - \$2100 to \$2800
- Wildlife Center of VA - \$100 to \$125
- The Nature Conservancy - \$250 to \$300
- HMANA - \$50 to \$75
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation - \$50 to \$100
- American Bird Conservancy - \$50 to \$100
- Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory - \$100 to \$200
- Virginia Bluebird Society - \$25 to \$50

It was also decided to invite club members at the February meeting for ideas for contributions to other organizations, national or international, and to be prepared to make a brief presentation at the March meeting supporting their idea. The Board will meet at the conclusion of the March meeting and decide what, if any, additional organization(s) to support.

It was mentioned about donating funds toward a water feature at MBC.

Nature Camp – The goal is to support three, full scholarships and two halves. Linda will contact

Paul as he has a name. Penny will forward the information to Raw Learning School as they may have children who could benefit from a scholarship.

Membership – We have 82 members who have paid their dues out of a total 103 members.

Conservation Committee - Darrell is taking over the Conservation Committee. It was recommended going to MBC and encouraging them to proceed with developing habitat for birds. He is looking for volunteers and has asked who else is on the committee. Andrew volunteered at last meeting. Andrew will contact Darrell and get the latest information and together consider writing a letter to MBC requesting an update as to the status of their native grass project and bird habitat.

Youth Outreach - Penny suggested the club needs to do more outreach to area youth. Suggestions that came about as a result of this discussion were: teach a class through Parks and Recreation and maybe even BRCC, bounce ideas off of Sandy Green (Linda will call her), do more at Riverfest, interview YuLee and ask her about everything she did. Penny and Linda will talk.

Membership Drive - Penny suggested the club consider looking at a membership drive to get new people to join with a focus on families and youth. Suggestions were to develop a brochure (Andrew will look into this) and among other places to have this at City Hall, Augusta Wetlands, etc., doing guided walks at the Wetlands, and contacting the Newsleader to promote John Spahr's presentation (Penny will follow up on this).

Other business –

Andrew brought up about the web site for more people to use it for posting for example, rare birds.

Linda mentioned about a tree seedling sale to be held in Verona at the Government Center. Orders are due by March 11 with a pick up date of March 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Warren, Secretary

Treasurer's Report
submitted by Catherine Kohus
1/01/2010 – 1/31/2011

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 1/01/2010	\$ 5,456.34	
INCOME	\$ 1,250.42	
EXPENSES	\$ 14.00	
BALANCE – 1/31/2010		\$ 6,692.76
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 1/01/2010	\$19,526.74	
INCOME	\$805.00	
EXPENSES	\$62.52	
BALANCE - 1/31/2010		\$20,331.74
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 1/31/2011		\$27,024.50

Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?



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

Last Month: Green Kingfisher
(*Chloroceryle americana*)

**Welcome Back
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

Augusta Bird Club Website
www.augustabirdclub.org

