



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B

"April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go."

~Christopher Morley

April Meeting

Date: Monday, April 11th, 7:00 PM
Place: AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge
 Community College Education Center
Program: An Appreciation of Birdsongs
Speaker: Wil Hershberger



Join Wil as he walks us through the seasons as we listen to the songs of birds -- as they begin to sing in late winter into the spring and summer. From the common to the seldom seen, Wil brings the voices of birds into focus with images and sounds detailing what to listen for to help identify the singers by their songs. But there's more: The amount of information that birds communicate to one another is astounding. Wil breaks down these songs and helps us to see the wonder and magic of the voices of birds. With the bird migration and the sounds of spring just around the corner, you won't want to miss this presentation.

Wil has been an avid naturalist most of his life. Recording the sounds of nature and photography have become an extension of this passion. He has thousands of sound recordings archived at the Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds -- ranging from birds to bugs, and has taught Bird Identification classes for the Poto-

mac Valley Audubon Society for over 25 years. Wil's photography has been featured in a number of publications and calendars, including Bird Watcher's Digest, Nature Photographers Magazine, National Parks Magazine, and various books and CD's produced by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Wil and his wife, Donna, have taught nature photography classes for several years to exuberant reviews.

Wil has been president of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society and the Frederick chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Vice President of the Shenandoah Photographic Society and a moderator of the Flora and Macro Forum on the NatureScapes.net online photography community. He is a co-founder of the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers. He is a member of the American Ornithologists Union, the Society of Field Ornithologists, the North American Nature Photographers Association (NANPA), and the North American PhotoShop Professionals.



Coming Up...

May 21st - Montgomery Hall Park, Birding & Picnic

Field Trips

Tuesdays: April 5th, 19th

Where: The Yulee Larner 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, April 13th: 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 and breeding birds. We can also anticipate varied waterfowl, shorebirds and nesting Bluebirds and Tree Swallows.

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.

Thursday, 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.



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 & any thing 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

As a follow up on last months' musing of recent birding in the Southwest, we added 76 more species for a total of 144. Also, we added 26 more species unique to Arizona and New Mexico for a total of 57, included in the above total. As Allen says, "not bad for 20 or so hours in the field." For those of you interested in birding Arizona for the first time, 70-80 life birds are doable in 10-12 days. Of note, 13 sparrow species were seen: White-crowned, Song, Sage, House, Black-throated, Chipping, Vesper, Savannah, Black-chinned, Lincoln's, Brewer's, Lark and 100s of Lark Buntings. In addition, we saw an Elegant Trogon wintering over in Madera Canyon.



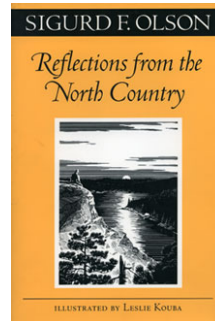
Don't forget—let's support our members who will be representing us at Staunton's Earth Day on Saturday and Sunday, April 16th and 17th, and Waynesboro's River Fest on Saturday, April 30th. Please get in touch with Catherine Kohus, ckohus@verizon.net, and or Darrell Schwalm, schwalmie2@aol.com, for Staunton's Earth Day and Linda Matkins, linda.matkins@dss.virginia.gov, for Waynesboro's River Fest.

Mark your calendar now: The last meeting of the year will be on Saturday, May 21st, at Montgomery Hall Park for "Breakfast and Birding."

-Walt Childs, President

Book Review

Reflections from the North Country
by Sigurd F. Olson



Sigurd F. Olson was a leader in the work to save our wilderness and national treasures. Fortunately he was also a nature writer of the highest caliber. Reading his work is like reading a combination of Emily Dickinson, Willa Cather, and John Muir in one writer. Olson recognizes the irreplaceable essentials of our being and writes stunningly about the source of it all, our earth. No time-waster, Olson immediately engages us with our environmental future by discussing in the first chapter, "Frontiers," man's four big decisions since the beginning of time. The third decision, moving into the Industrial Revolution, changed human life from interdependence with our natural surroundings to a separation from nature and a more rigid, time-centered life. After that upheaval of our collective creaturely internal balance, we are faced with the fourth decision which deals with questions such as: How do we plan to survive on this planet earth? Within our earthly habitat where is the balance between machines/technology and our need to retain nature's rhythm in our lives? In the ensuing chapters with names like "Solitude," "Harmony," and "Intangibles," Olson proceeds to show us what we lost in the Industrial Age and may not regain depending on how we make the fourth and possibly, final decision. In "Balance and Order," Olson writes, "A basic ecological truth which we still ignore is the interdependence and interaction of all living things, including man. This is the guiding principle underlying human destiny, and we know unless we chose wisely in the few decades ahead, the fragile and intricate web of life could become a web of death." As the monk on his deathbed in The Brothers Karamazov told his followers, "Love all the earth, every ray of God's light, every grain of sand or blade of grass, every living thing. If you love the earth enough, you will know the divine mystery."

- Mary Wiersema Vermeulen

Olson, Sigurd 1998, *Reflections from the North Country*, Univ. Of Minnesota Press, ISBN-13: 978-0816629930

Nature Camp Scholarships

The Augusta Bird Club is proud to announce the following young people as the 2011 Nature Camp scholarship recipients:

Phoebe Shaw – full scholarship

Graham McDowell – full scholarship

Cady Van Assendelft – full scholarship

Zach Schneider – ½ scholarship

Alex Kearney – ½ scholarship

The full scholarships are \$700 and the half scholarships are \$350. The scholarship money comes from the proceeds of our annual bird seed sale. Thanks to all of you who supported the seed sale so that we are able to provide this great opportunity for learning.



ABC Meeting Minutes 14th March 2011

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7:00 p.m. on February 14th, 2011 at the AMC Lifetime Building. Walt welcomed everyone and guest, Pat Warden who has moved back from Virginia Beach after 20 years.

Gabriel went to Texas for four days and was able to see 161 species, of which 63 were lifers.

The previous week, he went to the Roanoke area to see the Western Tanager. He now has 450 life birds.

A Common Redpoll has been visiting the Lumadues. Tom noted that a Great Horned Owl is nesting on Wise Holler Road in Augusta County. Elaine mentioned that a juvenile Golden Eagle is in Stuarts Draft around the same area as the Rough Legged Hawk.

Andrew mentioned that he had visited the American Bird Conservancy in The Plains and noted what a great organization it is.

Walt and Nancy were in the southwest and saw approximately 150 species, 70 specialty birds and had a wonderful experience seeing 3,000-4,000 Sandhill Cranes. Walt and John are talking about organizing a trip to the southwest during the summer of 2012.

Lots of field trips are coming up and everyone was encouraged to check their newsletter for dates and locations.

It has been determined to hold the ABC May meeting, a bird walk and picnic at Montgomery Hill Park, on May 21st. The original date conflicts with the VSO meeting that will be held locally this year.

It was announced that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is seeking input from other groups as to how to better utilize state forests. The original use of the wildlife management areas in Virginia was to promote hunting but now they are including birding, fishing, outdoor recreation, etc. and would like input.

Walt thanked John again for last month's presentation attended by more than 65 people and noted he had great feedback on the program.

Big Spring Day will be held on May 1st with Allen coordinating the event.

Andrew asked about Facebook and if we should allow non-club member access. There were no objections.

Walt asked members if they had any conservation groups that they wanted to speak in favor of receiving financial support from the club.

The following groups were suggested for consideration:

American Bird Conservancy
Jill and Lance Morrow and the Kestrel, Barn Owl and Kingfisher studies that they do.
JMU Arboretum
Earth Day Committee
Riverfest
Wildsumaco
Hummingbird Monitoring Network
Cats Cradle

Linda asked for volunteers for Riverfest.

Grant provided an update on board nominations as follows:

- President – Penny Warren
- Vice President/Programs – Peter Nebel
- Treasurer – Catherine Kohus
- Secretary – A member is contemplating this nomination.

Ed introduced the evening's speaker, Brenda Tekin and her presentation "Sanibel and South Florida... Sun, Surf and Sand." Brenda engaged the members with tales from her recent winter trip to South Florida and with an array of her fabulous photos.

The board met after the club meeting and approved the following, one-time donations:

American Bird Conservancy – they already receive annual funding from the club and will continue to contribute annually.

- Morrow's - \$50
- JMU Arboretum - \$25
- Earth Day Committee - \$50
- Riverfest – Hold off until next year
- Wildsumaco - \$500
- Hummingbird Monitoring Network - \$250
- Cats Cradle - \$50

A few minutes were spent discussing the project at MBC. Andrew and Darrell will meet and work with MBC to determine the water feature, plantings and a diagram for a butterfly garden. The arbor and bench features will be postponed until later in the year.

Darrell is also coordinating with MBC on an Earth Day project of constructing and painting Bluebird boxes with the Girl Scouts and also to have a drumming circle that day.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Warren, Secretary

Nominating Committee Report

The following individuals are the Nominees for Bird Club Officers for the year 2011-2012

- President, Penny Warren
 - Vice President, Peter Nebel
 - Treasurer, Catherine Kohus
 - Secretary, Grant Simmons
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Treasurer's Report

submitted by Catherine Kohus
1/01/2010 – 1/31/2011

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 2/01/2010	\$ 6,692.76	
INCOME	\$ 5.18	
EXPENSES	\$ 2.29	
BALANCE – 2/28/2010		\$ 6,695.65
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 2/01/2010	\$20,331.74	
INCOME	\$805.00	
EXPENSES	\$135.76	
BALANCE - 2/28/2010		\$20,195.98
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 2/28/2011		\$26,891.63

Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?



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

Last Month: Eastern Phoebe
(*Sayornis phoebe*)

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website
virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club Website
www.augustabirdclub.org