



AUGUSTA  
BIRD  
C L U B

“With sonorous notes of every tone mix'd in confusion sweet,  
our forest rings.”

~ Carlos Wilcox

### May Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:00 AM

**Place:** Montgomery Hall Park

**Directions:** From West Beverly Street, take Montgomery Avenue about 0.5 miles, cross the railroad track and then turn right at the second entrance to the park. Turn left and go to the top of the hill straight ahead to the picnic shelter.

**Program:** Birding, Food, & Fun

Our annual birding and brunch meeting will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 AM at Montgomery Hall Park. Please bring one of your favorite breakfast/brunch food items to share with the group. Ideas include fruit, coffee cake, bagels and cream cheese, ham biscuits or whatever you desire to bring. The club will provide coffee, juice and paper products. We



will go birding from about 8-10 and then return to the pavilion to socialize and enjoy the eats. Montgomery Hall Park is one of the best places to bird within the Staunton city limits. This time of year we can expect to find a number of summer resident species including warblers, flycatchers, and tanagers as well as a few late migrants. If it is raining that morning, call Linda Matkins at 383-8229 after 7 AM to hear if we still plan on meeting.

### Field Trips

Special note -- All trips are subject to be cancelled due to heavy fog, rain, snow, or ice. The trip leader will let you know or call the trip leader to find out because YOUR safety is our main concern .

**Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>:** Highland County

**Meeting Place & Time:** Holiday Inn lower parking lot at 7:30 am

**Coordinator:** Allen Lerner  
[larnersky@mindspring.com](mailto: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, and anything else that comes along. Dress for the weather (rain or shine) and bring snacks. We will be stopping off at one of the local establishments for lunch or bring your own.

---

**Tuesday: May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Where:** Montgomery Hall Park, Yulee Lerner's Birding Trails, Staunton, VA

**Meeting**

**Place/Time:** Meet at 8:00 AM. Meeting place is the top right picnic pavilion (#1). Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> park entrance on Montgomery Ave. followed by an immediate left turn.

**Coordinator:** Dan Perkuchin, at [danjoperk@gmail.com](mailto:danjoperk@gmail.com) or cell phone [540-421-3412](tel:540-421-3412)



---

**WINGBEATS**

“Moving On”

The last two years have gone by very quickly and it is time for others to take on leadership roles. I want to specifically thank the Officers for their active support: Ed Lawler for ensuring sixteen or so superb programs, Catherine Kohus for keeping the books and Penny Warren/ Jesse Shaw for taking the minutes - others who have helped in this regard have been Liz Reed and Jo King. Of course, Paul Callo whose never ending support for publishing the monthly Bulletin is most noteworthy. Others who have made major contributions are: Andrew Clem, Jo King, Allen Lerner, Linda Matkins, Grant Simmons and Mary Vermeulen.. I apologize if I have missed anyone else - thank you!

Congratulations to all the new officers and those who have agreed to stay on. All were elected unanimously during the April meeting with an effective duty date of May 22, 2011. They are:

Penny Warren	President
Peter Nebel	Vice President
Catherine Kohus	Treasurer
Grant Simmons	Secretary
Paul Callo	Editor

I strongly believe the direction we are headed: more youth participation, more community involvement and an enhanced menu for birding opportunities, is the right one and the newly elected Officers will take us there.

See you Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Montgomery Hall Park, 8 AM for breakfast and birding.

Walt Childs, President

---

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Purple Martin Field Day**

- Saturday, June 25-  
Time: 10:00 AM

The Seventeenth Annual Purple Martin Field-Day <http://www.purplemartinfieldday.org/> & <http://www.purplemartinfieldday.org/links.html> will be held in Central Virginia, about 20 miles east of Charlottesville. Last year, well over 100 Purple Martin enthusiasts attend the annual event,



which was enjoyed by all.

Any person interested in establishing, restoring, or expanding a Purple Martin colony is invited to learn about and see in operation the most up-to-date and effective techniques and technology available for successful Purple Martin stewardship and management. Topics to be covered include:

- How to establish and increase a colony of Purple Martins
- Advantages and disadvantages of different types of martin housing

- How to protect martins from starlings, House Sparrows, owls, climbing snakes, raccoons, etc.
- Adding the recently-developed starling-resistant entrance holes to martin gourds and houses
- How to grow and process Purple Martin nesting gourds

The featured speaker, Mr. Lance D. Wood, is an expert on Purple Martin colonies who has published several articles on the subject. Field Day events will begin at 10:00 AM.

For further information and questions regarding directions call Ron and Priscilla Kingston at (434) 962-8232 or email at [kingston@cstone.net](mailto:kingston@cstone.net)

---

### MBC Birding Trail

On, April 17<sup>th</sup> the Augusta Bird Club and Mary Baldwin College worked together to develop the MBC Birding trail on the college campus. The turnout for the event was really great. We had 20 girl scouts and about a dozen leaders and parents, four bird club members, and several family members and educators.



The boxwood garden behind the President's house on Cannon Hill protected the festivities from this spring's ever present winds. The pine cone bird feeder and the bird nesting box decoration was very popular, the music making had everyone marching around, and all the kids flew their kites on top of the hill and had a great time. For most of the girls, this was the first time they made a kite.

We plan to hold a similar event next year because this was so well received. I anticipate that the word will spread among the Girl Scout troops and we will have a lot more girls. So, maybe we can try again next year to get some volunteer helpers from the bird club. I'm sure you will enjoy the

event, and share our love of the birds with these young people.

Darrell Schwalm  
Augusta Bird Club




---

### Augusta Bird Club Minutes April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The Augusta Bird Club met in April 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the AMC Lifetime Fitness building. Walt welcomed new members Connie and Gerry from Maine.

Allen reported on the Violet Green Swallowtail that was seen in Crozet.

Dan reported on a Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo and both Kinglets in the last walk at Montgomery Hall park.

Peter reported seeing a Green Heron and both Teals.

Gabriel reported seeing a Bank Swallow, a record, on Bell's Lane as well as an Osprey and Chimney Swifts.

Mark has seen Palm Warblers on Indian Mountain Road. Mark asked for anyone interested in the butterfly counts to stay for a few minutes after the meeting.

Walt reminded everyone now is the time to put up hummer feeders.

Darrell gave an update and reminders on Earth Day and Riverfest events to fulfill our education and outreach efforts. A sign up sheet was circulated.

He also informed the club that all of the bird boxes on Bell's Lane had been removed and that he was restoring them and he and Penny are installing refurbished and new blue bird boxes.



There are seven or so upcoming field trips, McCormick's this coming Wednesday and Swoope on April 21, and it was recommended to check your newsletter.

Big Spring Day is May 1st and lots of volunteers will be needed to cover a lot of areas. Please let Allen know if you can help.

Allen reported that the Eagle's nest in Swoope definitely has babies.

Andrew brought brochures to share from the American Bird Conservancy which receives an annual donation from the club.

Andrew is developing a brochure to promote the club. One question was if officers should be listed in the brochure and it was decided not to include those names.

Grant presented the list of officer nominations as follows: Penny Warren, President; Peter Nebel, Vice President; Catherine Treasurer; Grant Simmons, Secretary; and Paul Callo, Editor. Grant will have to check with Paul after the meeting as he didn't know that the editor is an officer. Jo King made a motion to accept the nominations as presented and it was seconded by Allen Lerner.

Newly elected officers begin their term of service after the May meeting.

The May 21st meeting, bird walk and brunch was mentioned and everyone was asked to bring a dish to share.

A hand made quilt was displayed and it will be auctioned off at the VSO banquet. If you have the winning bid, the money will go to the conservation group of your choice. As of tonight's meeting, they have one bid for \$500.

Ed introduced the evening's speaker, Wil Her-shberger, a birder from age 10, and "The Sounds of the Season, A Celebration of Bird Songs.". The fascinating presentation covered a variety of birds, their songs along with spectacular photographs and a few video clips of birds. Wil also gave an in-depth look at the harmonics of a bird song, discussion of the syrinx and how it produces sound and then played a variety of songs at full speed and then at half or third speed. We were informed that what a bird hears is at 1/10th speed of the human ear which provides such incredible details. One amusing note was that a grad student had the assignment of documenting how many calls a Red-eyed Vireo made in one day ....35,000!!!! Amazing! All in all it was a very informative and captivating presentation.

A club member asked about loss of hearing and if Wil had any suggestions. He recommended looking at a website called "hearbirdsagain.com".

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Warren  
ABC Secretary

---

**Treasurer's Report**  
submitted by Catherine Kohus

3/01/2011 – 3/31/2011

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 3/01/2011	\$ 6,695.65	
INCOME	\$ 5.69	
EXPENSES	\$ 127.47	
<b>BALANCE - 3/31/2011</b>		<b>\$ 6,573.87</b>
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 3/01/2011	\$20,195.98	
INCOME	\$ -	
EXPENSES	\$ -	
<b>BALANCE - 3/31/2011</b>		<b>\$20,195.98</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 3/31/2011</b>		<b>\$26,769.85</b>

**Bird Quiz!**

Last Month:  
**Snow Goose** (*Chen caerulescens*)  
AND  
**Ross's Goose** (*Chen rossii*)

---

**Welcome New Member!**

Helen Metivier  
Waynesboro, VA

---

**Virginia Society of Ornithology Website**

<http://virginiabirds.net>

**Augusta Bird Club Website**

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

