



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 46, No.8
April 2012

"In order to see birds it is necessary to become a part of the silence."

~ Robert Lynd

April Meeting

Date: Monday, April 9th, 7:00 PM
Place: Covenant Presbyterian Church
2001 North Coalter St., Staunton

Program: My 2011 Junior Big Year
Speaker: Gabriel Mapel

In 2011 12 year old Gabriel Mapel of New Hope traveled the country on a quest to see how many bird species he could see in the calendar year. On his trips to Texas, and Alaskan Wilderness, Arizona Deserts, and many more diverse places, he saw a total of well over 400 bird species in the calendar year! This is your chance to see the first young birder to ever complete a "Junior Big Year" speak about and give a slide presentation on his amazing adventure. He will also include not just photos of the birds but also some photos of the diverse habitats that he visited and wildlife that he saw. At age 10, Gabriel became a published author of "Oh No, Getrude The True Story of a Not-



So-Naughty Black Bear" and he will also speak briefly about that. Come hear Gabriel speak on April 9th about his amazing birds and adventure in 2011!

New Club Logo!!!

At recent club meetings, the notion of a new club logo was discussed partially prompted by the fact that a new brochure is being developed and it seemed like an opportune moment to consider a new bird logo. The general consensus was to have a bird that is a year-round resident in our area, and the Eastern Meadowlark was selected. It is very exciting to see the final version and to begin to include it in our printed materials!!!

May Birding and Brunch

If you haven't already, please mark your calendars for May 5th for the club's 'Birding and Brunch' at Ridgeview Park in Waynesboro at 8:00 a.m. We will have a birding walk starting at 8:00 a.m. followed by brunch. Please plan to bring a brunch item to share with the group. The club will provide coffee, juice, plates, napkins, etc. Thank you!

Dinner with the Speaker?

A pre-meeting dinner will be held at Ma & Pa's Pizza in the Comcast Plaza at 2303 N Augusta St. The dinner is open to all and starts at 5:30. Please email (nebelpk@yahoo.com) or call (540-942-0946) Peter Nebel before noon of the meeting day.

Field Trips

Saturday, April 7th: Chimney Hollow Trail, Route 250 in western Augusta County

Meeting Place & Time: 8:00 am, Big Lots parking lot, W. Beverley St., Staunton

Coordinator: Andrew Clem

This is a hike along a heavily wooded stream, fairly level but with three or four crossings each way and a few muddy spots. Round trip distance is about 1.5 miles. Make sure to wear boots or heavy shoes. We hope to see a mixture of late winter and early spring birds, including Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, both kinds of Kinglets, Blue-headed Vireos, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and maybe another warbler or two. Time and energy permitting, we may also go over to Braley Pond, about one mile away.

Wednesday, April 11th: McCormick's Mill

Meeting Place & Time: 8:30 am, McDonalds Parking Lot at the Staunton Mall or at the Millby 9:00am

Coordinator: Jo King at kingbird10@yahoo.com or 540-886-3022 or 540-430-0186

Join Jo King on this adventure to the southern most point in Augusta County. Here we will be looking for waterfowl, shorebirds, and returning migrants. Hopefully, we may find a warbler or two. Tree Swallows and bluebirds are now in the process of nesting. Should be interesting and expect to find at least 40 plus species. Dress for the weather and bring a snack. Trip will conclude by 11 AM. Bad weather will cancel.



Wednesday, April 25th: Natural Chimneys

Meeting Place & Time: 8:30 am, Meet at Holiday Inn parking lot, 8:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Penny Warren, 849-9245

Inspired by YuLee's recent article in the News Leader, let's get reacquainted with the Natural Chimneys area and see what a late April morning will bring!

Sunday, April 29th: Riprap Trail

Meeting Place & Time: 8:00 am, Crimora, VA, at the small shopping center along Hwy. 340 across from BP. Look for the parking lot that includes Dollar General and the small Crimora Post Office. From there we will carpool the 10-15 minutes along back roads to the Riprap trailhead at the base of the Blue Ridge (no fee required – the trailhead is not off Skyline Drive). Carpooling is strongly suggested as parking is very limited.

Coordinator: Gabriel Mapel, redtailbird-er@yahoo.com

Join Gabriel Mapel on a woodland walk along the Riprap Trail at the base of Shenandoah National Park. We will walk 1-2 miles along a flat, but in places rocky trail, with sections along a mountain stream. We will be searching for the Louisiana Waterthrushes that frequent the stream and many other migrating and breeding warblers and vireos, as well as resident woodland birds. We may cross the stream, depending on water levels and time requirements. Covered shoes recommended, bring snacks if you wish. We will likely finish up around lunch time.

The President's Perch

Spring Cleaning

Another opportunity arose to connect with a different Girl Scout troop and plans were made to meet late February to clean out and to prepare the Bluebird nest boxes on Bell's Lane for spring arrivals. As it turned out, the selected day was one of the beautiful, sunny and mild winter days that we had in February and that provided a perfect day to be outside with a group of children. The group did get to see several boxes that had been taken over with nests built by a mouse and the scouts were helpful in pulling out other miscellaneous material from the various boxes. Although it was not a particularly 'birdy' afternoon, one of the girls agreed to

jot down the names of the birds that we saw and heard. The highlight bird was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet but of course, he did not stay around long enough for everyone to get great looks. All in all, it was an enjoyable day and I was happy to hear several parents expressing interest in putting up nesting boxes on their property.



On to the month of March Darrell and I met to remove and relocate a handful of boxes. We removed those that had more activity by House Wrens than Bluebirds last summer. We put up several side by side nesting boxes based on the theory that a Bluebird will not allow another Bluebird to nest next to them and vice versa for Tree Swallows so hopefully the Bluebirds and Swallows will be on better terms and more importantly, that the Bluebirds will fare a bit better this year.

As I write this, I checked all of the boxes this morning and guess what, the only complete nest was that of a House Wren!!!! Hmmmm....we just may have a little bit more box relocation to do!

Stay tuned for the continuing saga of "The Desperate House Birds of Bell's Lane!"

-Penny Warren, President

EARTH DAY EXHIBIT **Saturday, April 14th**

The Augusta Bird Club will have an exhibit and activity at the Staunton Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 14 from 9 AM to Noon at the Sunspots parking lot next to the outdoor farm market in downtown Staunton. The exhibit will provide information about the club and club activities, and the activity will be for children to make pinecone bird feeders with peanut butter. Catherine Kohus will lead this club event, and we expect to have the new club logo and information pamphlet available. We anticipate a lot of visitors and activity at our table, and Catherine could use some helpers both with

answering questions about the bird club and with the pinecone activity. Please contact her if you can help – 337-3288, ckohus@verizon.net. Please stop by the table if you attend the event.

EARTH DAY PRESENTATION **Sunday, April 22**

Mary Baldwin College will host a presentation by Ed Clark, President of the Wildlife Center of Virginia, on Sunday April 22 at 3 p.m. in Francis Auditorium as part of the Staunton Earth Day celebrations. The presentation is titled "WILL THERE BE A SILENT SPRING?" and will honor the 50th Anniversary of the revolutionary environmental book A Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson. "Ed tells riveting stories as he educated us about the ways we can preserve birdlife and our Earth," notes Caroline Sheridan, the chair of Earth Day Staunton. "We also expect Ed to be accompanied by a very special feathered friend." Club members are encouraged to support the event.

In addition, the Club will host a reception following the presentation. Contributions from club members of homemade cookies, brownies, etc. for the reception would be most welcomed. Please contact Darrell Schwalm, 885-0015, schwalmie2@aol.com if you can help.

RIVERFEST 2012 **Saturday, April 28th**



Riverfest is a one day event which takes place every year in April with the purpose of promoting environmental conservation and watershed stewardship in

the Shenandoah River basin. This free event takes place at river side at Constitution Park in Waynesboro. Activities include reptile shows, Stream Safari, Fish n Fun Rodeo, canoe rides down the South River, kids arts and crafts, stream electro-fishing, Native American demonstrations and exhibits, Wildlife Center programs, Virginia Native plant sales and much more. The Augusta Bird Club always has an exhibit there too! This is a great family event which is not only fun but educational. Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors. For more information, go to www.riverfestwaynesboro.org.

THANK YOU

Dear Members of the Augusta Bird Club,

Thank you so much for your interest in North Branch School. Your donations of birdhouse kits for our students to assemble and posts on which to locate them have generated much excitement among the students. I know that our science teachers especially appreciate that you placed the posts into the ground.

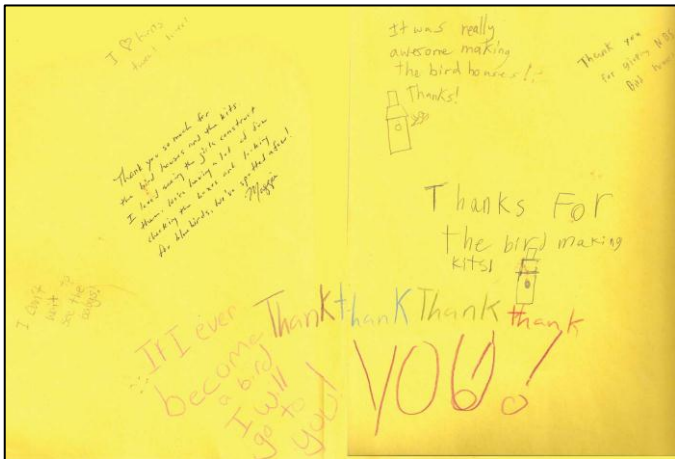


An elective class assembled and placed the houses on the posts. This group is researching bluebirds and anxiously checking for nests, eggs, and babies.

The student's shared some initial information about the houses at a Friday assembly and will share more in-depth information about bluebirds at another assembly.

Through your generosity, all 92 students at North Branch School are learning more about birds. THANK YOU!

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Sincerely,
Bonnie Holliday
Development Director

AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MINUTES

March 12, 2012

Meeting at Covenant Presbyterian President Penny Warren called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. She then called on Allen Lerner to report on the banding of a Rufus Hummingbird that has been in the area this winter. It was identified as a 2nd year bird by the professional bird bander, Peterjohn.

Penny reported on the seminar she and Jo King conducted at Ace Hardware with an attendance of 28 persons with one of those attendees present tonight. Mary Vermeulen introduced a new member, Pat Gubaski.

Jo announced the McCormick's Mill walk will be held on Wednesday with those interested asked to meet at 8:30 at MacDonald's. Allen invited interested birders to view the Woodcock display at the Frontier Center on the Parkway this Thursday meeting about 6:30.

Penny reminded members of a trip to Loudoun County on March 24th.

Walt presented nominations for Board Officers for the coming year.

President: Penny Warren, Vice President: Peter Nebel, Secretary: Grant Simmons, Treasurer: Catherine Kohus and Newsletter Editor: Paul Callo. They will be voted on at the April meeting and will take office following the May meeting.

President Warren presented two options for a new logo, Meadowlark and Prairie Warbler. The preference was the Meadowlark as it is a year round bird. She asked that persons continue to look over the proposals as the meeting continued.

Peter Nebel announced the Valley Conservation Council will meet at 7:00 p.m. March 27th at the Verona Board Room discussing the topic, "Conserve as You Grow."

He then introduced member, John Spahr who presented a program on Wild and Weird Birds of the World. John is an accomplished birder having birded throughout the world with over 3000 birds on his life list. He presented a most entertaining and informative program.

After the meeting members gathered to further discuss and make a decision regarding the Club Logo and brochure.

- Grant Simmons, Secretary

Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?

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



Last Month: Oilbird (*Steatornis caripensis*)

Treasurer's Report

submitted by Catherine Kohus
1/01/2012 – 2/29/2012

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 1/01/2012	\$ 6,406.62	
INCOME	\$ 1,148.20	
EXPENSES	\$ 1,238.49	
BALANCE – 2/29/2012		\$ 6,316.33
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 1/01/2012	\$18,062.52	
INCOME	\$816.00	
EXPENSES	\$562.14	
BALANCE - 2/29/2012		\$18,316.38
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 2/29/2012		\$24,632.71

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website
virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club Website
www.augustabirdclub.org

Birding Maps

Augusta County: <http://g.co/maps/49rjq>
Rockingham County: <http://g.co/maps/3xutb>
Albemarle County: <http://g.co/maps/7t6f4>
