



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 46, No.9
May 2012

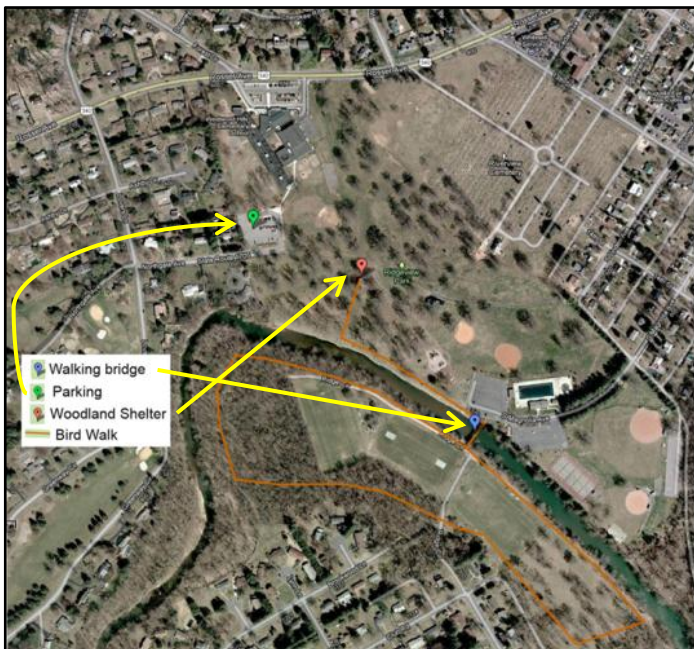
"As always on this boulevard, the faces were young, coming annually in an endless migration from every country, every continent, to alight here once in the long journey of their lives."

~ Brian Moore

May Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 5th, 8:00 AM
Place: Ridgeview Park, Waynesboro, VA
Program: Birding & Brunch

Our annual Spring Bird Walk and Brunch will be held at Ridgeview Park this year. The Bird walk will commence at 8:00 a.m. and brunch will follow. Please plan to bring an item to share with the group. The club will provide coffee, juice, plates, napkins, etc. The shelter we will use at Ridgeview Park is the "Woodland Shelter". It is indicated on the satellite image below (red marker).



You can park in the large parking lot next to the swimming pool, but it is recommended that

you park in the smaller lot at the end of Northgate Ave. (green marker), especially if you are carrying any items to the shelter. This parking lot is closer to the shelter. The most likely path we'll follow for the bird walk is indicated by the orange line. We hope to see everyone there!

Hats, Hats, Hats

Our club hat with an embossed Meadowlark should be ready soon and be available for purchase at the birding and brunch event on May 5th. Please bring your checkbook if you are interested in purchasing a hat. The cost is \$14.00.

Field Trips

Sunday, May 6th: Big Spring Day
Meeting Place & Time: Your choice!
Coordinator: Allen Lerner birder-gonewild@yahoo.com (P.S. I am still having trouble with spam blocker.)

Join in the fun at your own pace by taking an area to bird or if you have a favorite spot just let me know. Areas that are not covered will be covered by me. Areas that have not been taken are as follows:

Montgomery Hall Park
North Mountain

Elkhorn Lake & Shenandoah Mountain
Betsy Bell Park
South River Preserve

Saturday, June 2nd: Highland County
Meeting Place & Time: 7:30 am, Lower parking lot of the old Holiday Inn off Woodrow Wilson Parkway
Coordinator: Allen Lerner birder-gonewild@yahoo.com

Join Allen Lerner on this all day adventure to Highland County to look for summer high elevation birds such as Mourning Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Hermit Thrush, and Veery, to name a few. Who knows what we will find as last year we had close range looks at a Long-eared Owl! So come on & join in on the fun. This trip will go on rain or shine. Bring snacks & we will stop off at one of the local eateries for lunch or if you want bring your own.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

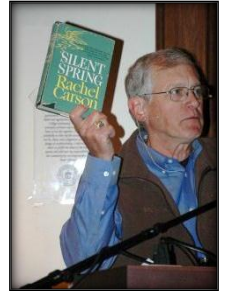
Club Accomplishments

As I was contemplating the last column before the summer break, I thought it might be an opportune time to reflect on all of the accomplishments of the club this past year. We have on-going monthly field trips, eight club presentations, the Kiptopeke Challenge, the Hawk Watch over the course of four months, on-



going bird counts with Big Spring Day coming up on May 6th and then the Breeding Bird Surveys and Rabbit Quail Run Surveys in June,

Chimney Swift counts a bit later in the summer and nest box monitoring already underway. The club helped with the funding of the water feature at Mary Baldwin College as they develop habitat on the campus for birds and butterflies and for all to enjoy (see separate article on the dedication service to be held in May). During the week-long celebration of Earth Day, the club hosted the reception after Ed Clark's presentation on "Will There Be a Silent Spring?"



Club members have given presentations on birds at several local garden clubs, Ace Hardware in Waynesboro, the Kiwanis Club and DAR. Members have volunteered many hours with a focus on youth outreach as seen with the Girl Scouts, activities during Earth Day and Riverfest, with a group of fifth graders at the White House Farm Foundation in Page County, McSwain fourth graders at Betsy Bell Wilderness Park and an upcoming program at the Frontier Culture Museum. Last, but certainly not least, the club is sponsoring four students with two full and two partial scholarships for Nature Camp this summer.

Additional, new items include new logo, new brochure, club hat with logo, car window decal with logo, newly revised Augusta County bird checklist, a Google map feature on the club website for birding hotspots in Augusta and surrounding counties and a female Rufous Hummingbird was banded in Augusta County, the first ever hummingbird to be banded locally.

What a year!! Thank you all for being members and for all of your efforts on many, many different levels and with many activities. It is a great club!!

I know I will see some of you during the summer but to those that I will not see, have a great summer, near or far, beaches or mountains or rainforests, and great birding to everyone!

-Penny Warren, President

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD
BREAKS ALL RECORDS**



On October 9, 2011, two hummingbirds showed up at the home of Mary Ann Vessey, who lives on Stingy Hollow Road, not far from Middlebrook. One was

a Ruby-throated Hummingbird that stayed just a few days but the female Rufous Hummingbird stayed day after day, and finally it was clear that she might be here all winter. She was so much fun to watch that Mary Ann called her "Lucy." The bird was here to stay.

In order to find out for sure that it is a Rufous Hummingbird, the bird should be banded. We are fortunate in our area to have a licensed bander who lives in Laurel, Maryland. His name is Bruce Peterjohn, a wildlife biologist who is head of a 20-person team of the bird banding lab for the U.S. Geological Survey. He bands hummingbirds in the Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware areas on his own free time. Numerous photographs were sent to Mr. Peterjohn after which he came to band the bird. Mr. Peterjohn believes that this is a female Rufous, perhaps two years old.

She is molting, changing color slightly and now somewhat duller than she was initially. He also suspected that the bird may leave by mid-April and will likely return next year.

The photographs of the banding show how carefully he holds the bird in soft material. Peterjohn determined her age and sex and then applied the band on that tiny little leg. He suggested that they should keep the sugar water from freezing with heat lamps shining on the feeders.



Little "Lucy" stayed and stayed, and finally, as Peterjohn had predicted, she left on April 20, 2012. This is a remarkable record not only for Augusta County, but also possibly, the entire Mountains and Valleys Region.

She is now on her way and we all hope that next year she will find her way back to Mary Ann's feeder once more.

- YuLee Larner

APPALACHIAN ECOLOGY New course offered at PVCC

This June, Piedmont Virginia Community College will offer a hands-on study of the central Appalachians - the wildlife (especially birds!), geology, and forest types of the Virginia/West Virginia Highlands. The class will run June 12 thru 17, with evening lectures in Charlottesville, and a weekend stay centered in Highland County. Can be taken for 3 semester credits, or audited for no credit. Cost: tuition plus \$175 (covers meals, lodging and transportation Friday thru Sunday afternoon). Instructors: Dan Bieker, Tom Dierauf, and Amy Gilmer. Register at the college, or online at www.pvcc.edu. For details: 434-971-9618 or email: danbieker@gmail.com



MBC WATER FEATURE DEDICATION Tuesday, May 22nd, 9:30 a.m.

Come see the new water feature at Mary Baldwin College, funded through a gift from the Augusta Bird Club. A brief dedication ceremony will be followed by light refreshments. MBC's matching funds provided landscaping, extension of water and electricity lines, and still-to-come native plantings. Even without the plantings (which will be added soon) the bubbling water is already attracting birds, which have been observed bathing and drinking there. Song Sparrows nest nearby. In a prime location with mountain vistas, it improves the habitat for wildlife on the MBC campus and also adds beauty and visual interest for humans to enjoy. Thanks are due also to Tish Folsom and Springdale Water Gardens for making this possible. This event will take place on the Pannill Center Lawn at Mary Baldwin College. *Park in the Student Activities Center Parking*

Lot, at the very top of the Mary Baldwin hill. Please come!

Questions? Contact Crista Cabe at cca-be@mbc.edu or 540-255-4677.

**EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL
PURPLE MARTIN FIELD DAY
Saturday, June 23rd, 10:00 AM**

The Eighteenth Annual Purple Martin Field Day <http://www.purplemartinfieldday.org/> 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

AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MINUTES

April 9, 2012

President Penny Warren called the meeting of the Bird Club to order at 7:00 pm held at the Covenant Presbyterian Church. She then shared the new Club Brochure which was met with enthusiastic approval.

In the absence of Walt Childs, Nominations Chairman, Grant Simmons presented the slate of officers for the coming year.

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

The slate was approved with appreciation for their willingness to serve.

The President reported that a cap with a bird club logo will be available by May 5th. She also reported that a Bird Walk will take place at Natural Chimneys on April 25th, meeting at 8:00 AM.

Darryl Schwalm reported on conservation events asking for volunteers to help on the coming Earth Day events. He noted he has plans for activities for kids. He also reported that on the 22nd of April Ed Clark of the Wildlife Center will give a talk in the Francis Auditorium at Mary Baldwin. He is asking for help with refreshments. Another request was for help with manning a booth promoting the Bird Club at Riverfest on the 28th of April.

Penny shared a concern regarding Bells Lane as one of the property owners has put their land up for sale for development due to concerns about the uncertain tax rate.

Allen Lerner announced that Big Spring Day will be held on Sunday May 6th. He asked that persons willing to take part choose their area and let him know.

Penny shared that there is a birding show on television channel 226 on Monday mornings at 10:30. She also reminded members that our Birding and Brunch May meeting will be held in Ridgeview Park in Waynesboro on May 5th.

Peter Nebel then introduced our speaker of the night, our own 12 year old member, Gabriel Mapel, who did a Big Year of Birding in 2011. He shared with us his quest to identify over 400 species of birds traveling throughout the States during the year aided by his Dad and Mother. Gabriel ended up with an amazing total of 437 birds, a national record for other youth to shoot at. We all celebrated his accomplishments and as a result other youth are following his example and undertaking a Big Year.

- Grant Simmons, Secretary

Bird Quiz!

Last Month: Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*)

The bird quiz will be taking its annual summer vacation. If you would like to "nominate" a photo for Volume 47 of the newsletter, please contact the editor, Paul Callo at pcallo@mbc.edu

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>
