



# THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 47, No.2  
October 2012

*"I have no desire to crow over anybody or to see anybody eating crow, figuratively or otherwise. We should all get together and make a country in which everybody can eat turkey whenever he pleases."*

~ Harry S. Truman

## NOVEMBER MEETING

**Date:** Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
**Place:** Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2001 North Coalter St., Staunton

**Program:** Water in the Landscape

**Speaker:** Tish & Keith Folsom

Water in the landscape is a great way to attract and keep birds at your home. There are many different ways to add water to the landscape. Waterfalls, ponds, fountains and bird baths. We'll talk about and show many of these during our presentation.



## Dinner Before the Meeting?

Please don't forget that there is always a pre-meeting dinner open to all members of the bird club

at 530 in Ma and Pa's Pizza, 2303 N Augusta St, in the ComCast Plaza, Staunton.

Please let me know by phone or email before noon the day of the meeting if you would like to attend the dinner.

Peter Nebel  
540-942-0946

[nebelpk@yahoo.com](mailto:nebelpk@yahoo.com)

## Field Trips

**Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>:** Stuarts Draft Area  
**Meeting Place & Time:** 8:00AM Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church parking lot, 30 Tinkling Spring Drive, Fishersville (Exit 91 North off of 64).

Join Penny Warren for a morning excursion throughout the Stuarts Draft area .. Rt. 608, Guthrie Rd, Lipscomb Rd., Heston Farms, Hall School Road, etc. and we will look for winter migrants and residents, e.g. Hawks (Rough-legged...maybe?!?!), Harriers, Pipits, Larks, Sparrows, etc.

**Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>:** McCormick's Mill  
**Meeting Place & Time:** 8:30AM, McDonald's Parking lot at the Staunton Mall  
**Coordinator:** Jo King, [kingbird10@yahoo.com](mailto:kingbird10@yahoo.com) or 540-430-0186

Join Jo King for this adventure to the southern corner of Augusta County. We hope to find many wintering birds such as White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, Kinglets, Brown Creeper, Waterfowl and maybe a surprise or two. Dress for the weather and bring a snack. Trip will conclude around 11 AM.

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**Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** : Riprap Trail, base of Shenandoah National Park

**Meeting Place & Time:** 8:00 am at the small shopping center along Route 340 across from BP in Crimora

**Coordinator:** Gabriel Mapel

Join Gabriel Mapel for a late fall walk along the Riprap Trail at the base of Shenandoah National Park. We will walk 1-2 miles along a flat, but in places somewhat rocky trail. We will be searching for woodland residents (woodpeckers, Sharp-shinned Hawks, etc.) as well as recently-arrived winter visitors (Pine Siskins, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and more).

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**Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** :Chimney Hollow

**Meeting Time & Place:** 8:30 AM, Big Lots parking lot on West Beverley Street, Staunton.

**Coordinator:** Andrew Clem, [agclem@comcast.net](mailto:agclem@comcast.net)

We will be hiking a mile or so, crossing small streams and muddy places, so hiking boots are recommended. We may go to Braley's Pond afterward.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

### *Blue Ridge Young Birders Club*

I am pleased to announce the inception of the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club!!!! Eve Gage of the Monticello club began discussions with Gabriel and others about a youth club and she became aware of my interest in youth outreach and Eve got the ball rolling. She contacted the Ohio Young Birders Club, started by the Kaufmanns, reviewed materials from that group, worked with Gabriel and



several other teens to establish an organizational meeting that was held on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. There were four young birders, Andrew Rapp, Max Nootbar, Warwick Dutrell and Gabriel and eight adults in attendance.

They choose the above name for the group (BRYBC), a Great Horned Owl as the logo and all four of them are going to create a drawing for review and selection as the official logo. They decided to have five formal meetings and five field trips during the year and a newsletter will be posted on Facebook. Officers were elected as follows: Gabriel, President, Warwick, Vice President/Programs Chair, Andrew, Secretary/Field Trips and Treasurer is to be determined. Discussions are underway as to how BRYBC will operate, independently or under the umbrella of the Monticello Bird Club but with the hopeful anticipation of involvement and support from the Augusta Bird Club.

This is a nutshell, encapsulation of much work and effort put into the creation of the club. I find all of this very exciting and hope the Augusta Bird Club will as well! We will keep you posted as more progress is made on all levels.

In the interim, please check out the Ohio Young Birders Club and see what the possibilities can be with a club focused on youth and run by youth!  
<http://ohioyoungbirders.org/>

If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to share those with Gabriel or myself!

-Penny Warren, President

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## Owl Program..... Who's Out There?

In the continuing series of bird presentations that I have done with Ace Hardware in Waynesboro, I will do a program on owls in conjunction with the Wildlife Center who will bring one of their educational owls. The program will be held on Saturday, December 1st from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., Ace Hardware, 1000 W. Broad Street, Waynesboro ( across from the Purple Foot Restaurant). With the live, educational owl, it makes for a great educational opportunity for families. Please help spread the word! Thank you!

-Penny Warren



## Ft. Lewis Lodge

Keeping with tradition, members and friends of the Augusta Bird Club spent a spectacular birding weekend (October 12-14) at Fort Lewis Lodge, which borders the Cowpasture River in Bath County. It would be difficult to say enough about this fabulous lodge and all its amenities, outstanding in all aspects. Of course at the top of the list is the gourmet food, as well as the courteous and efficient owners and staff. For details go to: [www.fortlewislodge.com](http://www.fortlewislodge.com)



Members and friends included: Penny Warren; Walt/Nancy Childs; Starke/Jean Smith; Rolf/Esther Gebel; Ann Canterbury; Karen Fankhauser; Grant Simmons; Lisa Hamilton; Linda Matkins; Valerie Johnson and Sarah Ashworth.

Our group of 14, efficiently led by Penny and Lisa, tallied 59 species, even though this weekend was about two weekends later than previous years at the lodge. Highlights included close to a dozen sightings of Bald Eagles, ranging from immatures to full adults. Seen by a few, eight or so Red Crossbills, gleaning seeds from the cones of conifers adjacent to the parking area. A very obliging juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker flew toward us and perched on a fence post for all to see. A cruising Harrier provided great views coursing over



the meadows early Saturday morning. On Sunday morning, at the Warren Tract, the highlight was a Wilson's Snipe. We had a total of eight sparrows, five warblers and six woodpecker species.

Everyone had a fantastic time and plan on going again in 2013 in late September to garner the wealth of earlier migration.

- Walt Childs

## Addendum

As I had never been to Ft. Lewis Lodge, I add the following comments as an encouragement to others to join in next year.

I was only able to stay Friday night and leaving by late Saturday morning in order to be back in Staunton for obligations to a fundraising event.

However, I wanted to say what a delightful time we had beginning with driving out through the beautiful countryside offering pockets of fall colors popping out, fields of dried corn stalks, silky, milkweed fluff blowing about, rolling pastures and beautiful mountains all of which leading up to the gorgeous setting of the lodge. Friday's sunny, fall afternoon provided a few butterfly sightings of Monarch, Checkered Skipper, Orange Sulphur, Variegated Fritillary, Cabbage White and Red-spotted Purple.



We gathered as a group before dinner, some inside, some outside, and a few were prepared with cheese, crackers and other snacks to share and to tide everyone over until dinner. As Walt notes, the lodge is well known for its scrumptious meals and they did not disappoint.

A pavilion had been built since the last visit by the club and it is a very beautiful wooden structure with a huge, stone fireplace. After dinner, staff started what ended up being a roaring fire and a great back drop for more socializing. The evening sky was clear and it was a beautiful night for stargazing with the constellation Hydra on the horizon leading the way to wonderful views of the Milky

Way.... always a treat and a great way to end the evening!

The next morning, we awoke to freezing temps and our cars covered by a substantial layer of ice but that did not stop part of our group getting out there right after sunrise and we were treated to an early morning sighting of several immature Bald Eagles as well as other birds. We warmed up at breakfast and went back to the fields and Walt has provided a great summary and listing of birds!

Penny Warren

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### **Nature Camp** *'Where fingers are taught so see'*

As you may know, profits from the annual bird club seed sale go to underwriting scholarships (partial and full) for area youth, 5th-12th grades, to attend Nature Camp in Vesuvius. It is that time of year to be thinking of nominees for scholarships. Ann Cline has volunteered to head up the scholarship process this year. If you have any suggestions, please email your names to Ann [anncline1443@yahoo.com](mailto:anncline1443@yahoo.com). Thank you Ann and thank you club members for your suggestions and support!

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### **Save the Dates**

#### **Ft. Lewis Lodge**

Because everyone had such a great time at Ft. Lewis Lodge, we agreed to return next year: September 27-29, 2013. Save the date and inform Linda Matkins if you would like to reserve a room.

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#### **Christmas Bird Count**

Augusta Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 16th with a potluck tally dinner at Penny Warren's home. More details to follow from the club's coordinator, Allen Larnar.

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#### **Book Swap**

Do you have a book or two related to birds that you would like to swap? Please bring them to the December club holiday dinner program and we will have a table set up for a book exchange.

## **Skyline Drive Field Trip Report**

October 20, 2012

Our group of 5 bird club members assembled at the Inn At Afton Parking Lot at 8:00 am on Saturday October 20th, with 50 degree temperatures ready for a tripto the south portion of Skyline Drive and Shenandoah National Park. While assembling at the parking lot, located within view of the Skyline Drive entrance, we logged 8 species including a flyby flock of Red-winged Blackbirds.

At our first stop at the McCormick Gap Overlook, a few miles up the Skyline Drive, we had one of the highlights of the day, 2 flyby flocks of Pine Siskins totaling 30 birds. The siskins gave nice, close looks as they headed south. My dad Daniel Mapel had never seen a flock of siskins before and he really enjoyed them.

Moving up Skyline Drive we stopped to take a walk at Gasline Road but didn't find much of note other than a few large flocks of American Robins. Between the Sawmill Run and Sawmill Ridge Overlooks in the coniferous grove along Skyline Drive we found quite a birdy pocket. Andrew Clem picked up on the first of 4 Red-breasted Nuthatches as



well as Golden-crowned Kinglet and picked out a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by sound. A Northern Flicker flew in fast and low and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet popped into view for a 2-kinglet stop. A Pileated Woodpecker sounded off to complete the stop.

We enjoyed a drive up Skyline Drive, taking in the peak autumn color to the Wildcat Ridge Parking Area where we completed our northward tour and turned around and began southward again.

We finished the trip with a wonderful walk at Jarman Gap where we walked a short loop and found some of the best birds of the day. Andrew Clem mentioned that "this would be a good place



for a Hermit Thrush” when just 30 seconds later a Hermit Thrush flew in for good views to delight all. Good call, Andrew! We found more kinglets as we continued on to the walk and a warbler flew in next to one of the Golden-crowned Kinglets. We all noted field marks and Andrew and Penny got a good view of the undertail. We narrowed it down to a likely Blackpoll or Blackburnian but once we got back to the cars, reviewing Penny Warren’s warbler book we decided it to be Blackpoll. As we approached the car, near the small spring, we found another very birdy pocket where Andrew picked up on a few more new birds for the day. A pair of Blue-headed Vireos and a Swamp Sparrow were the last additions to the trip list.



We tallied 28 species on the gorgeous morning. Thanks to all that ventured out.

-Gabriel Mapel

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## **AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MINUTES**

October 8, 2012

President Penny Warren called the meeting to order by welcoming visitors.

Members shared that they are seeing Pine Siskins and Red Breasted Nuthatches at their feeders. Allen reported seeing a Philadelphia vireo and Walt stated they identified 71 species on a walk in Rockfish Valley. Golden Plovers and Tundra Swans were seen in Rockingham County.

Penny congratulated Gabriel Mabel on being named eBird’s birder of the month.

Crista Cabe shared details about the annual Bird Seed Sale and distributed order forms. She reminded members that orders are due, October 21, 2012 with pick up being October 27. She urged bird

club members to support the sale with proceeds providing scholarships to Nature Camp.

Vic Laubach announced he is accepting dues for the coming year with the membership form in the Newsletter.

Vic and Brenda Tekin reported on Open House at the Hawk Watch. Several groups came to observe and learn. Also Reese Taylor, a falconer was present and shared about falconing. Special thanks was given to Rose Thomas who has been present most days to provide coverage at the watch.

Allen Lerner reported that the Augusta Bald Eagles (Allan and Ed and Nancy Lawler) participated in the Kiptopeake Challenge and after 16 hours in the field identified 110 species. However the winning team had a total of 121 species.

It was reported that Robert Plank died in August and had appreciated being a part of the birding community.

Penny encouraged members to refer to the Bulletin for walks and announced that there will be a walk on Skyline drive October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Penny also shared about the Youth Bird Club that is being formed with the Charlottesville club. She has worked with Eve Gage and the result is the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club with Gabriel as President. She noted that our outing to Fort Lewis is this coming weekend with 14 participants.

Peter Nebel reminded members that they are welcome to join in a dinner prior to our monthly meetings at Ma and Pa’s Pizza in Staunton. He introduced the speaker, Dr. Bill Leaning who presented a program on New Zealand, the Living Land. Bill shared terrific pictures and information regarding the birds of his native land.

- Grant Simmons, Secretary

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## **Welcome New Members!**

Cady Van Assendelft from Staunton

Marlene & Lowell Menger from Mount Sidney

Laura Brand from Waynesboro

Ralph & Esther Gebel of Waynesboro

Bob Pingry of Waynesboro

**Treasurer's Report**  
submitted by Catherine Kohus  
9/01/2012 – 9/30/2012

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<b>REGULAR OPERATING FUND</b>		
BALANCE – 9/01/2012	\$5,321.86	
INCOME	\$ 3.44	
EXPENSES	-	
<b>BALANCE – 9/30/2012</b>		<b>\$5,325.30</b>
<b>EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND</b>		
BALANCE – 9/01/2012	\$15,580.56	
INCOME	-	
EXPENSES	-	
<b>BALANCE - 9/30/2012</b>		<b>\$15,580.56</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 9/30/2012</b>		<b>\$20,905.86</b>

**Bird Quiz!**

Can you identify the bird below?



The answer will be revealed next month.  
Happy guessing!

**Last Month: Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*)**

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**Virginia Society of Ornithology Website**  
[virginiabirds.net](http://virginiabirds.net)

**Augusta Bird Club Website**  
[www.augustabirdclub.org](http://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>

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## 2013 Membership Renewal

Dear member,

Fall is here, and it's time to think about renewing your Augusta Bird Club membership for 2013. If you wish to renew, please mail me your dues and the completed form below before December if possible. Checks should be made out to Augusta Bird Club. Alternatively, you can give me your payment at one of the upcoming Club meetings. Note that any amount contributed over regular dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution (see website for further details). If you will not be renewing, please let me know. Contact me any time for questions.

Sincerely,  
Vic Laubach  
ABC Membership Chair  
Phone: 540-949-4497  
Email: laubach@virginia.edu

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<b>Augusta Bird Club 2013 dues form (please include with payment)</b>			
<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Amount enclosed:</b> \$_____		
<b>Address:</b> _____ _____ _____	<b>Mail to:</b> Victor Laubach ABC Membership 104 Lanchester Ct Waynesboro, VA 22980		
<b>Check box to indicate membership category:</b>			
	Individual	Couple	Family
Meadowlark (Regular)	\$15	\$25	\$30
Cardinal (Contributing)	\$25	\$35	\$40
Kingbird (Sustaining)	\$50	\$60	\$75