



# THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 47, No.6  
February 2013

*"February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March."*

*~ J. R. Stockton*

## FEBRUARY MEETING

**Date:** Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
**Place:** Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2001 North Coalter St., Staunton

**Program:** Pirates and Puffins

**Speaker:** Laura Beltran

A small island off the coast of Maine has been controversial since it was claimed by both the United States and Canada in the 1800's, triggering near battles at sea. Today, it harbors a thriving puffin colony.



Come learn the story of the island and the amazing bird life that has been studied by ecologists for nearly half a century.

Laura Beltran is the field trip coordinator and newsletter editor for the Roanoke Valley Bird Club. She has worked in environmental education for over 25 years for organizations like the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Girl Scouts and



others. Currently, she teaches for the Mill Mountain Discovery Center in Roanoke and for Nature Investigations, her own environmental education company. She led trips to the coast of Maine for 10 years and enjoys presenting her stories from the Maine coast.

## Field Trips

No club field trips are scheduled for February.

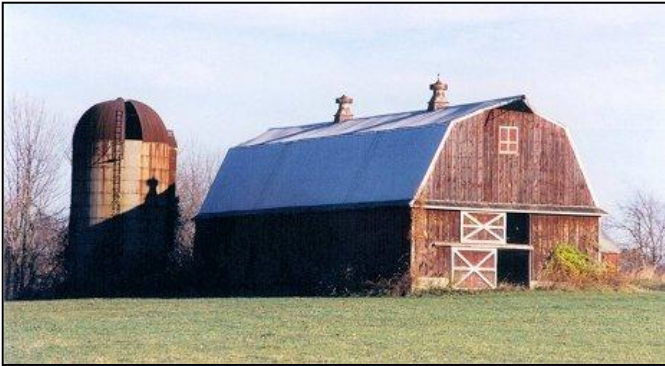
## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

### *Barn Owls*



Over the course of several years while driving through various parts of Augusta county, either for a day of birding or a more specific effort such as a Christmas Bird Count, I have often wondered if there are not more Barn Owls out there than we know. With the recent, serendipitous discovery of

Barn Owls, heretofore unknown in this Stuarts Draft location, it prompted me to give more consideration to organize a survey and see what we can find, what we can learn.



I contacted Lance and Jill Morrow who study and band Barn Owls. They were very enthusiastic about conducting a survey in Augusta County and offered to provide some basic information and training for locating Barn Owls, how to use Google Earth for tracking purposes, building nesting boxes if required, sharing printed information with farmers about the benefits of having owls, etc.

If anyone is interested in helping with this effort, please let me know. An actual search could include speaking with farmers, crawling into silos, building nesting boxes, installing nesting boxes and helping keep track of locations with Google Earth. Something for everyone to do!

-Penny Warren, President  
From a silo this month ...

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## Blue Ridge Young Birders Club

The BRYBC would like to extend a special thank you to the Augusta Bird Club for their support of the BRYBC. We would also like to acknowledge the Monticello Bird Club for their kind consent to allow the BRYBC to affiliate with them, thus granting the young birders nonprofit status under the MBC umbrella. We would like to thank Eve Gaige for serving as our adult coordinator. Eve, we would not be a club without you!



January has been an interesting month so far for the BRYBC. We have challenged ourselves as a club to find as many bird species as possible during the month and are collecting pledges to help raise funds for our organization. If you haven't already done so, and would like to pledge a few cents per species or make a donation to benefit our club, please contact Gabriel Mapel at

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

or call him at 540-363-5035. Credit Card donations are also accepted at our website

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

We appreciate any and all support offered and all funds will go towards the operation of the club, field trips, speakers and a scholarship fund. If you haven't already seen our website come for a visit and learn about the latest happenings in the club. The website will continue to grow as we add more information and updates so visit often and stay in touch with our news.

The BRYBC also gratefully accept the donation of any used binoculars, books and spotting scopes. We currently have one member who is in need of binoculars. He is an avid new birder and doesn't have the funds to purchase a pair of binoculars for himself. If you have a pair that you no longer need, we will make sure that they are put to great use.



The next meeting of the BRYBC is Saturday February 2nd at 9:30 am at the Ivy Creek Education Building. Young birders are invited to participate in the Monticello Bird Club's First Saturday Bird Walk beginning at 7:30 am before the start of the meeting. All youth between the ages of 12-18 are welcome to attend.

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### All About Bluebirds

In the club's continuing outreach presentations, Penny Warren will offer a program on Bluebirds, Saturday, February 23, 9:30 a.m. at Rocking R Ace Hardware, 1000 W Broad Street, Waynesboro. Tell your friends and neighbors and come one, come all!!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The club will be returning to Ft. Lewis Lodge September 27-29th (Friday arrival, Sunday departure).



The Lodge is holding these dates just for our club until February 11th at which time, any rooms not taken will be released to other groups or indi-

viduals. It was such an enjoyable weekend last year, please consider participating this year!!! If you are interested in going, please contact the Lodge directly and no later than February 11th. Phone number [540.925.2314](tel:540.925.2314) and/or email: [info@fortlewislodge.com](mailto:info@fortlewislodge.com)

### Upcoming Community Events

The club was contacted by the Staunton Public Library to see if we could offer any programs related to the March community event of One Book One Community with the book selection being A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson.

Two events have been planned on behalf of the bird club. The first is a bird walk that will be held on Saturday, March 16th at 8:00 a.m. at the Frontier Culture Museum.

The other event will be held at the Staunton Library, entitled, 'On the Wing, Raptors in Flight' on Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m. - a program for



the entire family. Brenda Tekin, member of the Augusta Bird Club and co-coordinator of the annual Rock-fish Gap Hawk Watch will offer a power point presentation with her award-winning, beautiful photographs of the raptors seen at the Hawk Watch. Additionally, Raina Krasner of the Wildlife Center of Virginia will have one of the live, educational raptors from the Wildlife Center and will discuss many aspects of raptors. Also on display will be various raptor specimens from Mary Baldwin College's Department of Biology. This will be a great experience for children to view not only the educational raptor but other large bird species.

For a complete list of events planned throughout the month, please go to <http://sawcommunityread.org/>

## The Barn Owl

High in the chaffy, taffy colored haze of the hayloft,  
up under the starry nail-hole twinkle of the old tin  
roof,

There in a nest of straw  
and bailing twine I have  
hidden my valentine for  
you:

A white heart woven of  
snowy feathers in which  
wide eyes are welcome

Open to you as you  
climb the rickety ladder  
to my love.

Behind those eyes lies a  
boudoir of intimate  
darkness, darling, the  
silks of oblivion.

And set like a jewel dead center in the heart is a  
golden hook the size of a finger ring,

To hold you always, plumpest sweetheart mouse of  
mine.



by Ted Kooser,  
U.S. Poet Laureate 2004-2006

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## Great Backyard Bird Count February 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>

It will be time next month to count your birds in your  
backyard and report them to the GBCC. You will  
need to create an account with GBCC this year.  
Full details can be found at the following website:

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html>

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## AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MINUTES

January 14, 2013

Meeting at the Covenant Presbyterian Church,  
President Penny Warren called the meeting to order  
by introducing the guests who were present.  
She then asked members what they were seeing  
and numerous sightings were reported including:

Golden Eagles, Short Eared Owls (Swoope) Rusty  
Blackbirds (Days Inn) Evening Grosbeak (Mary  
Vermeulen) Golden Crowned Kinglets, Wilson 's  
Snipe and several Northern Harriers.

Allen reported on the Augusta Christmas Count  
stating there were a total of 75 species on count  
day and 3 Blue Headed Vireos in count week. Also  
a total of 15 Red Shouldered Hawks were counted  
along with 5 Bald Eagles. The Waynesboro count  
headed by Crista Cabe totaled 87 species, a new  
high with Barn Owls, a Long Eared Owl and a  
Great Horned Owl being recorded. Both counts  
spotted Red Breasted Nuthatches.

Gabriel Mapel reported on the Young Birders  
Club noting that several field trips are planned. He  
noted that they are seeking to count as many spe-  
cies as possible in January. He stated that a pair of  
binoculars was needed by one of the young birders.

Linda Matkins reported on a possible weekend  
at Fort Lewis Lodge for the club members Septem-  
ber 27-28. This has been a long time retreat for the  
Club started by YuLee Lerner that offers good bird-  
ing, great food and fellowship. Members have until  
February 11<sup>th</sup> to make their reservations.

Darryl Schwalm listed a number of coming  
community activities for Bird Club members to sup-  
port. Beginning with the At the One Book One  
Community event on March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Staunton  
Library where Brenda Tekin will present a Power  
Point Presentation regarding the Hawk Watch.

He proposed several bird walks: One for Satur-  
day March 15 in conjunction with the Frontier Cul-  
ture Museum, A second for the Blue Ridge Park-  
way in March for families.

We have been asked to participate in Earth  
Day/Week April 13-22. Darryl suggested we lead a  
Bird Walk and could conduct a wood craft event for  
youth.

River Fest occurs in Waynesboro April 27<sup>th</sup> and  
he suggested that in addition to an exhibit that we  
consider a hands on craft event.

He shared that he and Penny had met with  
Directors of the Frontier Culture Museum to pursue  
opportunities to work together on various events.

Peter Nebel introduced Ed Lawler who pre-  
sented slides of his and Nancy's trip to Northern  
Tanzania for two weeks in 2009. We viewed color-  
ful and unusual named birds along with one not so  
colorful. Included were close up views (one too  
close) of the African animals of the region. Those  
present appreciated the presentation clear down to  
the countdown at the end.

- Grant Simmons, Secretary

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

<b>REGULAR OPERATING FUND</b>		
BALANCE - 12/01/2012	\$ 6,284.13	
INCOME	\$ 374.11	
EXPENSES	\$ 13.50	
<b>BALANCE - 1/01/2013</b>		<b>\$ 6,644.74</b>
<b>EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND</b>		
BALANCE - 12/01/2012	\$ 17,862.19	
INCOME	\$ 115.00	
EXPENSES	\$ 408.00	
<b>BALANCE - 1/01/2013</b>		<b>\$ 17,569.19</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 1/01/2013</b>		
		<b>\$ 24,213.93</b>

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**Welcome New Member!**

Bill Roberson  
Swoope, VA

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**Bird Quiz!**

Can you identify the bird below?



The answer will be revealed next month.  
Happy guessing!

**Last Month: Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*)

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

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