



# THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 47, No.7  
March 2013

*"There was an old man with a beard, Who said: 'It is just as I feared!  
Two owls and a hen, Four larks and a wren  
Have all built their nests in my beard."*

~ Edward Lear

## MARCH MEETING

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

**Program:** Natural Chimneys  
**Speaker:** Edith Kretsch, Park Manager for  
Natural Chimneys State Park

Edith Kretsch has been the Manager of Natural Chimneys State park for just over a year and will talk about what she has done to improve the park for bird-watchers and nature-lovers in general. Among the improvements are better trails and protection of areas for wildflowers. The park is a resource we can all use, and her talk will help us do so.



Edie is a graduate from Texas A&M University with degrees in Entomology and Forestry. She loves working and recreating in the outdoors. Most of her career has been spent with Virginia's Division of State Parks as both a

manager and educator. Edie presently lives in Staunton with her husband Matt and their young son Cole. When not wrangling a toddler, they love to spend their free time kayaking, hiking, and fishing.

## Field Trips

**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>:** McCormick's Mill  
**Meeting Place & Time:** 8:30 am, M<sup>c</sup>Donalds Parking Lot at the Staunton Mall  
**Coordinator:** Jo King at [kingbird10@yahoo.com](mailto:kingbird10@yahoo.com)  
or 540-430-0186

Join Jo King on this early spring walk around the Marl Creek Trail where she hopes to see many returning spring migrants. Waterfowl, sparrows, chickadees, kinglets and bluebirds are likely to be identified. Dress for the weather and bring a snack of your likely. The trip will conclude around 11AM. Please note: This trip will be offered again on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.



---

**Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>:** Crozet

**Meeting Place & Time:** 8:00 am, Target parking lot in Waynesboro, just off exit 94. Meet in front of Target in the parking spots most distant from the entrance.

**Coordinator:** Vic Laubach, [laubach@virginia.edu](mailto:laubach@virginia.edu)  
434-249-2927

Join Vic Laubach and carpool over Afton Mtn into Albemarle County to visit several birding spots in Crozet good for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. We'll begin at Lickinghole Creek where a pair of Bald Eagles and Red-shouldered Hawks nest



and should find waterfowl, shorebirds, Winter Wren, Swamp Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbirds. We'll then head to Beaver Creek Reservoir where immature Tundra Swan (possibly Trumpeter), Common Goldeneye, Horned and Pied-billed Grebe, Scaup, Green-winged Teal etc. have recently been seen. Finally, we'll stop at King Family Vineyards to view their wetlands for waterfowl and shore birds. If we have time, we can also stop at the pond at Old Trail for more waterfowl and sparrows. There won't be a lot of walking required except for Lickinghole Creek, which is about a half-mile trail that can be wet. Wear good footwear and bring snacks. We'll aim to be back to Waynesboro by noon. Rain date is March 17<sup>th</sup>, same time/place.

---

**Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>:** Waynesboro Greenway

**Meeting Place & Time:** 8:00 AM Dominion Shelter at Constitution Park, Waynesboro

**Coordinator:** Andrew Clem

Please join Andrew Clem & Mary Katherine Froelich from Stone Soup Books for a joint nature hike from downtown Waynesboro along the Greenway which parallels the South River, as far as Wayne Avenue/Lyndhurst Road, and then back again. Total distance is about 2 miles.



We can expect to see some interesting duck species, Grebes, and maybe even some early swallows. Later on, we may also do a brief hike through the woods around Ridgeview Park, and pay a visit to Stone Soup Books afterwards. Participants will be rewarded with a free Harvest Hiker's Cookie. The outing is part of The Community Read, sponsored in part by Community Foundation of Central Blue Ridge in their One Book One Community program. The 2013 book is "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson, hence this event. More information can be found at <http://sawcommunityread.org/>

---

**Monday March 18<sup>th</sup>:** Natural Chimneys

**Meeting Place & Time:** 8:00am at the Big Lots Parking Area on W. Beverly St. in Staunton.

**Coordinator:** Gabriel Mapel, 540-363 5035 or [birdmangabriel@yahoo.com](mailto:birdmangabriel@yahoo.com)

Join Gabriel for an early spring walk at Natural Chimneys Regional Park in search of continuing over-wintering birds, early spring arrivals, as well as year-round residents. Some of the species we will be targeting will include Am. Tree Sparrow, Pine

Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and various woodpeckers, creepers, etc. Afterwards we can check out nearby Badger Road for Red-headed Woodpeckers and other birds.

---

## THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH *Thoughts of Blue*

Although the weather predictions are for some sleet and snow the next couple of evenings, I am thinking blue ... blue skies and bluebirds! I attended a wonderful and informative bluebird workshop last weekend at a beautiful, 200 hundred year old estate, Pharsalia, in Nelson County built at the foot of dePriest Mountain. It was final nudge that stirred thoughts of spring in most of us!



In the next few days, I will complete the tasks on my checklist for the nest boxes on Bell's Lane ... re-number all of the boxes as we moved some and added several, final cleaning of the boxes, add a layer of 'soap paint' to the ceilings to deter insects, hoping to add 'Noel guards' to each box, prepare my monitoring sheets and sharpen my pencils!! Ready to go!

As you know, some bluebirds remain here all winter but the real surge in numbers will start over the next couple of weeks and we will see the vying begin for the boxes. The female builds the nests of dried grasses, plant material and pine nee-



dles. Last year, one of the nests was constructed only of pine needles and it was lovely.

The male's job is to defend the territory while the building is taking place. The female will lay one egg per day with a typical clutch being 4-5 eggs, incubation is approximately two weeks and the hatchlings will remain with the parents for another 15-20 days before fledging. Given the amount of time required per clutch, typically they have two clutches but occasionally a third clutch will happen.

With eager anticipation of many bluebirds singing their sweet song of hope and happiness!

Happy Spring!

-Penny Warren, President

---

## BRIEF NOTES

Penny Warren will give a presentation on hummingbirds on Saturday, March 9th, 10-11: a.m. at Ace Rocking R' Hardware in Harrisonburg, 1030 S. High Street.

---

Looking for a local, birding adventure this spring? Check out the New River Birding and Nature Festival in and around nearby New River Gorge National River.

<http://www.birding-wv.com/>

---

**'On the Wing, Raptors in Flight'** on Saturday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m. at the Staunton Public Library - 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 present her beautiful award-winning photographs of the raptors seen at the Hawk Watch. Additionally, the Wildlife Center of Virginia will bring 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.

---

## AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MINUTES

February 11, 2013

Walt Childs, former President, opened the meeting at the Covenant Presbyterian Church at 7:00 in the absence of Penny Warren, President.

He announced that we need someone to serve as Treasurer as Catherine Kohus has resigned due to a demanding work load. He asked for a volunteer who would take on that task.

Vic Laubach, Membership Chair shared that we have 106 members and he is contacting several who have not renewed.

Several visitors were present and were welcomed and introduced.



It was reported that Short Eared Owls were observed on a bird walk to Swoope along with lots of Kestrels and a family of Harriers. They also observed the new Eagles nest in the area.

Walt announced that articles for the Newsletter are due by the 20<sup>th</sup>. He also informed those present that we still have some black caps with the club logo available for sale and that today is the deadline for reserving a room at Fort Lewis Lodge for the weekend of September 27<sup>th</sup>.

He also announced that the Great Backyard Bird Count conducted by the Cornell Lab is this weekend.

President Penny Warren will be conducting another presentation on Bluebirds at Ace Hardware in Waynesboro on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30. Walt stated that 40 to 50 people have attended her previous presentations.

The May meeting of the club will be held at Ridgeview Park in Waynesboro May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Andrew announced that he will post the By-Laws on the web site for all to view.

Peter Nebel then introduced the speaker, Laura Beltran who presented a program on her trips to an island off the coast of Maine that is home to Puffins and other sea birds. She shared the history of the island that is claimed by both the US and Canada and the family that has led trips to observe the abundant bird life on the island. At present she is the field trip coordinator and the newsletter editor of the Roanoke Valley Bird Club.

- Grant Simmons, Secretary

### Treasurer's Report submitted by Catherine Kohus

<b>REGULAR OPERATING FUND</b>		
BALANCE - 1/01/2013	\$ 6,644.74	
INCOME	\$ 332.81	
EXPENSES	\$ 112.09	
<b>BALANCE - 1/31/2013</b>		<b>\$ 6,865.46</b>
<b>EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND</b>		
BALANCE - 1/01/2013	\$ 17,569.19	
INCOME	\$ 110.00	
EXPENSES	\$ 0.00	
<b>BALANCE - 1/31/2013</b>		<b>\$ 17,679.19</b>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 1/31/2013</b>		<b>\$ 24,544.65</b>



## Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?



The answer will be revealed next month.  
Happy guessing!

**Last Month: Eastern Screech Owl** (*Megascops asio*)

---

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

---

