



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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January 2014

*"The wave is breaking on the shore, the echo fading from the chime
Again the shadow moveth o'er, the dialplate of time."*

~ Whittier

JANUARY MEETING

Date: Monday, January 13th, 7:00 PM

Place: Covenant Presbyterian Church
2001 North Coalter St., Staunton

Program: eBird, Apps, Digi-scoping, and
Point-and-shoot Photography

Speaker: Vic Laubach & Brenda Tekin

This program will be a sort of potpourri of topics (all of which have been requested at one time or another by club members) and will be led by Vic Laubach, and Brenda Tekin. As the "leaders" do not profess to know all there is about a topic - they are practitioners with considerable practical experience - we are hoping the session will take on more of a workshop feel, with people adding their own knowledge or experience.



Vic will talk about what eBird can be used for, both in terms of what data can be entered and what can be retrieved in ways to enhance your birding. He will also present various apps which can be used as identification aids.

Brenda will talk

about her experience with digi-scoping and how to get the best results. She plans to bring in equipment for a hands on demonstration.



Questions and comments will be welcomed throughout the session.

HELP!!

Peter Nebel will be teaching a class on Monday nights this Spring and we need someone to coordinate the pre-club dinner reservations, bring the projector, unlock the church and set up the room for February, March and April. If you can help, please inform Penny Warren (penny@staunton.com).

Thank you!!

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 15th: Highland County
Meeting Place & Time: 7:30am Food Lion lower parking lot on N. Coalter St.

Coordinator: Allen Lerner
birdergonewild@yahoo.com



Join Allen Lerner on this adventure to look for wintering Golden Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks plus many more different species of birds. Who knows we may encounter a rare one! Bring snacks & dress for the weather. In case of rain or snow the trip will be cancelled. Contact Allen for more info.

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!

From a silo this month...

Penny Warren, President

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 14th-17th, 2014

Do you have a bird feeder in your yard? Do you have friends and neighbors who have feeders? Judging by our birdseed sales, many club members do. If you do, you have an opportunity to participate in a worldwide "citizen science project" – the **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)**. The GBBC is an annual event that will take place over a four-day period between Friday, February 14 and Monday, February 17, and it is open to participants of all ages and abilities.

Participation is fun and easy. **Firstly**, you create a GBBC account on the web at a worldwide bird data collection site. **Secondly**, you count birds for at least 15 minutes during one or more times during the count period.

Counting is easy because you make your best estimate and record the number of birds you see and recognize of each species. For example, you might count 5 Blue Jays, 6 Carolina Chickadees, and 1 Downy Woodpecker. If you see a bird you can't identify, you don't count it. **Finally**, you enter your list online at www.birdcount.org.



We would like ABC members to help promote the GBBC this year as a community educational and outreach initiative. The count can be a fun and educational family activity, and a way to get kids outside in nature. Educational materials

are available online including posters, and tips for spotting and identifying birds. Participants can provide several counts from the same location or different locations, and each family member can have their own account to record their individual counts. To encourage greater public participation, ABC will sponsor two public events. Please bring a friend with a backyard feeder and join the activities.

- **Saturday, February 8, "Introductory Bird Walk"**
at 9 AM at the Frontier Culture Museum parking lot.
- **Wednesday, February 12, "Introduction to Backyard Bird Feeding and Bird Identification"** at 7 PM at the Staunton Public Library meeting room.

This is perhaps the easiest international citizen science project in which people can participate. It is the 17th annual count, and it is expanding every year. In 2013 over 134,000 counts were reported on 34.5 million bird observations in 111 different countries from all seven continents. These data provided "the most detailed, four-day snapshot of global bird populations ever taken". A record 638 species of birds were recorded in the U.S. These data provide information on the location and size of bird populations from which patterns and changes in populations can be calculated.

For more details check out Cornell's website <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

- Darrell Schwalm

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to everyone for making the Bird Club holiday party a fun evening. The food was delicious and the company was, of course, great. A special thanks to Bill Roberson and Marietta Beverage for preparing the ham, turkey and iced tea.

- Linda Matkins

'My Messenger Hawk' Update

For those that read and/or heard my Red-tailed Hawk encounter, I wanted to let you know the great news that he recovered completely and the Wildlife Center gave me the honor of releasing the hawk. I took the hawk to the top of

Afton Mountain and said my thanks, prayers and goodbyes and set him free, back to the skies!

TREASURER'S REPORT

11/01/2013 – 11/30/2013

as submitted by Lisa S. Hamilton

| | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|
| REGULAR OPERATING FUND | | |
| BALANCE – 11/01/2013 | \$ 6,004.36 | |
| INCOME | \$ 372.38 | |
| EXPENSES | \$ 80.35 | |
| BALANCE – 11/30/2013 | | \$ 6,296.39 |
| EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND | | |
| BALANCE – 11/01/2013 | \$ 22,027.96 | |
| INCOME | \$ 653.00 | |
| EXPENSES | \$ 729.02 | |
| BALANCE - 11/30/2013 | | \$21,951.94 |
| TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 11/30/2013 | | \$28,248.33 |

BIRD QUIZ!

Can you identify this bird?



The answer will be revealed next month.

Happy guessing!

Last Month: Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*)

If you would like to "nominate" a photo for the newsletter, please contact the editor, Paul Callo at pcallo@mbc.edu

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org