



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 48, No.8
April 2014

"Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?"

~ Frances Hodgson Burnett

MARCH MEETING

Date: Monday, April 14th, 7:00 PM

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

Program: Reinventing the Wildlife Center of Virginia

Speaker: Ed Clark

Come hear Ed Clark, President of the Wildlife Center of Virginia as he describes recent advances in available technology that have enabled the Wildlife Center to extend its reach worldwide. The Center's mission, "*teaching the world to care about, and care for, wildlife and the environment*" at one time seemed like an imaginary target; today it is reality. From bald eagles to black bears, people around the world are watching what happens at the Valley's own world-class wildlife hospital.



PRE-MEETING DINNER

If you would like to participate in the pre-meeting dinner on Monday, April 14th at 5:30 at Ma & Pa's Pizza, 2303 N. Augusta Street, please notify Ed Lawler, goshawk.abc@comcast.net, by noon on the day of the event.

ATTENTION BIRDS AND BIRDERS



On May 4th at 3:00pm, we will be having our annual May gathering. Instead of being at the park in Staunton or Waynesboro, this year we will be congregating at Natural Chimneys. We will bird for about two hours and then gather for food about 5:00pm. The club will provide grilled hot dogs, veggie burgers and drinks. We are asking everyone to bring a side dish or dessert. We are not sure of the exact location in the park but will provide you with specifics later. Feel free to bring your families. If the weather is questionable, call Linda Matkins at 540-383-8229.

FIELD TRIPS

Tuesday, April 8th: McCormick's Mill
Meeting Place & Time: 8:30 AM, at McDonald's Parking Lot at the Staunton Mall or 9 AM at the Mill.
Coordinator: Jo King
kingbird10@yahoo.com or 540-430-0186

Join Jo for an early spring walk to this southern corner of Augusta County. We hope to find returning spring migrants along with the year-round residents. Waterfowl and a shorebird or two will delight. Dress for the weather. The walk will conclude around 11 AM.

Wednesday, April 23rd: Natural Chimneys

Meeting Location & Time: Big Lots, West Beverly, 8:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Penny Warren, 540-849-9245



Join Penny for a morning trip to Natural Chimneys looking for any early migrants possibly coming through at this time. We will also stop by other areas to check ponds, etc., and specifically a stop to look for Red-headed Woodpeckers on Badger Road. An array of wildflowers should be blooming along our path at the Chimneys as well!!

Saturday, April 26th: Chimney Hollow Trail
Meeting Place & Time: 8:00 a.m., Big Lots, W. Beverley St.
Coordinator: Andrew Clem

We will hike for about a mile in each direction along the Chimney Hollow trail, which follows a mountain stream nestled in a forested ravine adjacent to Route 250 near the town of West Augusta. We expect to see Vireos, Waterthrushes, a variety of Woodpeckers, and perhaps both Nuthatch species, among others. The trail is fairly level but crosses the stream a few times, and is often muddy in certain places, so hiking boots are recommended. Time permitting, we may stop at the nearby Braley's Pond afterwards.

Tuesday, April 29th: Grand Caverns Regional Park in Grottoes
Meeting Place & Time: 8:00am at the Dollar General Shopping Center in Crimora or by 8:20 at the park in Grottoes.
Coordinator: Gabriel Mapel
birdmangabriel@yahoo.com

Join Gabriel on another return trip to Grand Caverns Park. I have found this is a decent spot for

a variety of migrating warblers, as well as potentially some late migrating winter birds, and a wide variety of resident species. We will plan to finish up by lunchtime.



Monday, May 5th: Riprap Trail (at base of Shenandoah National Park).

Meeting Place & Time: 7:30am at the Dollar General Shopping Center in Crimora.

Coordinator: Gabriel Mapel
birdmangabriel@yahoo.com

Join Gabriel on an annual spring bird walk to one of Gabriel's favorite spots, the Riprap Trail at the base of Shenandoah National Park. We should see a good array of migrating as well as summer resident warblers and other neotropical migrants.

In 2011 we found a Golden-winged Warbler on this trip so who knows what unusual bird we may stumble upon along at this unique trail.

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH *"Transitions"*

Like most, I am ready for spring!!! Although I am a lover of snow, it does seem at the moment that we have had a long winter.

When I leafed through YuLee's three-ring binders a year or so ago with all of her newspaper articles, she wrote several articles based on a book by a naturalist living in Staunton in the 1890's. I managed to track down a copy of this book just recently. It is called *The Natural History of Staunton, VA* by William A. Murrill. He mentions early on in the book about the winter of 1894-95. Murrill writes "The winter of 1894-95 was remarkably cold and

snowy. The lowest temperature recorded at Staunton was 18 degrees below zero. It began to snow on December 26th and land peeped out from beneath its white blanket on February 22. Not since 1857 had the ground been covered with snow continually for fifty-eight days!"...and we thought we had it bad?!?!



Although I will miss my Fox Sparrow (he was in my backyard off and on from March 3-22) doing his Bruno Mars' fancy, backward dance steps, I can wholeheartedly say, bring on the warblers of spring!!

Penny Warren, President



MIDDLE RIVER EXCURSION

April 27th, 2014

The Friends of the Middle River would like to invite any interested members of the Augusta Bird Club to an excursion down the Middle River. We have access to a number of kayaks and canoes, so no equipment or experience is necessary. There will be no fee. It is a great birding opportunity and we hope you will join us. For those not wishing to float down the river there is a nature trail available at the take out location.

This event will take place on Sunday, April 27th at 11:00.

Anyone interested please call or email Ann Cline at [540-746-1105](tel:540-746-1105) or anncline1443@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please consider volunteering at the April 13th or 14th events The Club needs your help!!

Saturday, April 12th

Earth Day, Sunspots Parking Lot, 9 a.m. – noon

Catherine Kohus is volunteering and will be working with children to make pine cone bird seed feeders.

Sunday, April 13th

Kites and Critters, Ford Farm, Bell's Lane, 1:00 - 5 p.m. Bring the family to an afternoon of special events featuring exhibits and hands-on activities relating to conservation and farm practices (and kite flying too!).

If you can help, please inform Penny.

Monday, April 14th

Bell's Lane Trash Clean-up

Bell's Lane, 9:00 a.m. (entrance closest to VDOT)

As part of our Club's Adopt-A-Spot of Bell's Lane, the city requests consideration of an organized clean up related to Earth Day events.

If one or two persons would consider helping, please contact Penny.

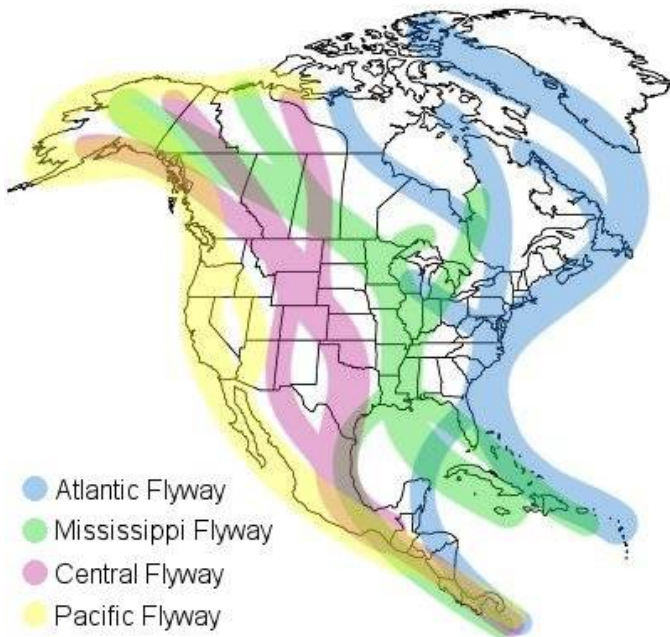


Thursday, April 17th

Wild Virginia Film Festival
Staunton Visualite Theatre

7 p.m. Featuring a series of short documentaries on environmental/conservation topics. Admission \$10. Go to www.wildvirginia.org for more information.

MIGRATION MAPS



If you want to keep on top of who may be coming through as spring migration happens, take a look at the following websites:

Lots of birds noted here with projected migration dates for your area:
http://www.enature.com/birding/migration_home.asp

Hummingbird info:
<http://www.hummingbirds.net/map.html>

Cornell's BirdCast <http://birdcast.info/forecasts/>

BIG SPRING DAY
Sunday, April 27th, 2014

Join in the fun & adventure of a day of birding at your own pace . As everyone knows that during Big Spring Day we try to cover as much of Augusta County as possible . Areas that need to or try to get covered are as follows:

Augusta Springs Wetlands
Montgomery Hall Park
Frank's Mill
Elk Horn Lake
Elliot's Knob
Reddish Knob
Natural Chimney
Swoope
New Hope
North Mountain
Blue Ridge Parkway
Sherando Lake
Big Levels

or a little patch that you would like to do that you bird a lot .

Allen Larner
birdergonewild@yahoo.com

ABC MEETING MINUTES
March 10th, 2014

President Penny Warren called the meeting to order at the Covenant Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM by welcoming guests. She then asked if anyone had seen the Sand Hill Cranes that had showed up in the Harrisonburg area. Jo King reported flushing a Woodcock while walking in Gypsy Hill Park. Several persons noted they had Fox Sparrows and Towhees in their yards searching for seeds. Vic Laubach shared that he had seen Woodcocks at the Natural Chimneys Park.

Jo reminded members that she has a field trip scheduled for McCormick's farm this coming Wednesday. Other field trips scheduled were announced by Penny: Gabriel leading one to Grand Caverns Park March 21st and one to Natural Chimneys March 27th led by her.

Walt Childs the Nominating Committee Chairman presented the following as Officers for the coming year to be elected at the April meeting.

President: Penny Warren
Vice President: Peter Nebel
Secretary: Grant Simmons
Treasurer: Lisa Hamilton
Newsletter Editor: Paul Callo

Penny noted that we are in need of a Historian and thanked Mary Vermeulen for the excellent job she has done for a number of years. She also shared that Roger Robertson invites the Bird Club

to walk the Nature Trail he has created on his property or to Kayak on the river.

Members were reminded that Earth Day is April 12th of which we are a sponsor contributing \$150. It will be held at the Farmers Market from 9:00-12:00 AM. On the following day, April 13th, the VA Conservation Council will conduct a Kites and Critters Day from 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

It was reported that Allen Lerner has set Big Spring Day as Sunday April 27th.

Linda Matkins shared that Riverfest will be May 3rd in which we participate with a display regarding the Bird Club.

Penny requested that members submit articles of trips or items of interest for the Bulletin to Paul Callo. She ended the business by reminding the Club of the May meeting at Natural Chimneys May 4th at 3:00 PM.

Ed Lawler then introduced the speaker for the night, Doug Rogers, President of the Monticello Bird Club who shared pictures and information on his trip to Hog Island off the coast of Maine. His interest in visiting the Audubon camp was to view and learn about the Atlantic Puffin. His presentation was informative and he challenged others to visit the camp and view Puffins.

Respectfully submitted,
Grant Simmons, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

2/01/2014 – 2/28/2014

as submitted by Lisa S. Hamilton

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 2/01/2014	\$ 6,438.19	
INCOME	\$ 192.14	
EXPENSES	\$ 252.35	
BALANCE – 2/28/2014		\$ 6,377.98
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 2/01/2014	\$ 21,306.83	
INCOME	\$ 105.00	
EXPENSES	\$ 0.00	
BALANCE - 2/28/2014		\$21,411.83
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 2/28/2014		\$27,789.81

BIRD QUIZ!

Can you identify this bird?



The answer will be revealed next month.
Happy guessing!

Last Month: Red Knot
(*Calidris canutus*)

If you would like to “nominate” a photo for 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://q.co/maps/49riq>
Rockingham County: <http://q.co/maps/3xutb>
Albemarle County: <http://q.co/maps/7t6f4>