



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 48, No.9
May 2014

*"When April steps aside for May, Like diamonds all the rain-drops glisten;
Fresh violets open every day: To some new bird each hour we listen."*

~ Lucy Larcom

MAY MEETING

Date: Sunday, May 4th, 3:00 PM

Place: Natural Chimneys Regional Park
94 Natural Chimneys Lane
Mount Solon, VA 22843

Program: Birding & Food

On May 4th at 3:00, 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 5:00. 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](tel:540-383-8229).



FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, May 1st: Blue Ridge Parkway
Meeting Place & Time: 7:30 am in the parking lot at the Inn at Afton
Coordinator: Allen Lerner
birdergonewild@yahoo.com

Join Allen Lerner for this half day of birding on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Warblers, Vireos, Tanagers, Flycatchers and many more are all moving though. You don't want to miss it. Dress for the weather rain or shine and bring snacks



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.

Wednesday, May 7th: Blue Ridge Parkway

Meeting Place & Time: 7:45 a.m. Afton Inn, Hawk Watch parking lot

Corodinator: Penny Warren



If you miss Allen's trip on May 1st and/or you want to try the parkway again and add some additional birds to your spring list, then come along with Penny for a morning trip. We will continue to look for migrating warblers, vireos, gnatcatchers and whatever else comes our way.

Monday, May 12th: Madison Run

Meeting Place & Time: 7:30 a.m., Food Lion, North Coalter Street

Coordinator: Penny Warren

Join Penny for a half day trip to Madison Run. This is a well maintained fire road, fairly flat, that follows a beautiful stream through open and wooded areas. It is usually a reliable spot for Louisiana Waterthrush and a variety of other migrating warblers. No bathroom facilities.



THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

"A Rare Sighting"

After our morning field trip to Natural Chimneys on April 23rd, some of our group stopped by Mt. Solon to check out the pond. As soon as we pulled into the small parking area, we could see an egret and as it turned out it was a Great Egret. All of us were pleased that he was there and what a great addition to our bird list for the day!

After watching him sit perfectly still for a bit, a Kingfisher flew by and it caused the egret to move and he turned with his left side toward us. We then noticed an orangish/reddish spot on his left side. Our thoughts turned to wondering if he had been shot or suffered from another sort of injury. One suggestion was some sort of banding



but most did not think so having never seen banding on a wing. The egret took off flying and he seemed to fly effortlessly and we were hopeful that he was not injured. However, all of us could see a symmetrical orangish/reddish circle on his wing.

The club member (Mark Gretch) who suggested the idea of a banding tag came home and did some research and learned that it was, indeed, a tagged bird from the Southern Ontario.

When I sent out the notice to ShenVal birds about this sighting, I cc'ed Chip Weseloh of the Canadian Wildlife Service, who is one of the leading authorities in the Great Lakes on colonial waterbirds and contaminants and in charge of this tagging program. Chip responded and said it sounded like one of their birds that had been tagged in the Lake Huron area.

The use of colored wing-tags was started in 2010. The birds are part of a study to track the expansion of Great Egret breeding colonies on the Great Lakes, to document their autumn and winter movements and to learn more about possible nest-site competition from Double-crested Cormorants. As of fall 2013, there were 53 reports on tagged egrets outside of Ontario in December or January, with nine from the Caribbean islands and the re-

mainder were found along the eastern seaboard of the U.S. from New Jersey to Florida.



Zig emailed me and said he had recently attended a program in Toronto and Chip was the speaker talking specifically about this tagging program. Chip explained that they fasten the tag on the patagium with a screw mechanism similar to what is put on a cow's ear.

I hope that someone will get another sighting of the egret and get a tag number to provide to Chip and thereby for us to learn more about this egret.

An interesting field trip!

Penny Warren, President

BirdNote®
Chickadees on a Cold Night



Every adult chickadee you see this spring survived the winter. Some, like the Black-capped Chickadees of Fairbanks, Alaska, endured nights as cold as 40 degrees below zero. How do they do that?

We called Dr. Susan Sharbaugh, a scientist at the Institute of Arctic Biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks:

"Well I've been studying chickadees and watching their behaviors thinking about their physiology

for about twenty years now. And one of the things that really intrigued me was where they spend the night. And I haven't been able to find that until recently ...when I was able to put radio transmitters on some birds and follow them where they roost at night. And what I found was that these birds, just as it's getting dark, wedge themselves into little tiny cavities in birch trees, and these cavities have an opening about the size of a quarter.... And after they get in there what we think happens is that they puff up their feathers to increase their insulation and then drop their body temperature 18 degrees and then shiver all night to generate heat.

And how they fuel that shivering all night, is that during the day – and in Alaska, in the winter time, it's a six hour day and an eighteen hour night – so in those six hours they need to find enough energy to sustain themselves during that day and for a fast of 18 hours... and they do this by putting on ten percent of their body mass and fat each day and they... and how they do that is that during the day, they forage around on the trees, looking underneath bark for overwintering insects and they also cache in the fall, so they have a known source of seeds and insects that they've put away in the fall, so that's what they burn overnight."

Susan knows their cavities are tight, because she's seen some at her feeder in the morning with bent tails.

Imagine enduring such cold. No wonder they're singing in spring!

Learn more about Susan's work on chickadee physiology at birdnote.org.

Written by Chris Peterson
Producer: John Kessler
Executive Producer: Chris Peterson



Raptorthon

May 3rd, 2014

Dear Augusta Bird Club members,

On May 3rd team "Fly Like An Eagle!" (Victor Laubach, Brenda Tekin, Gabriel Mapel and Penny Warren) will be participating in their 2nd annual RAPTORTHON! The purpose is to have fun and to raise money to support the Hawk Migration Association's (HMANA) and hawkwatchers' work for raptors and hawkwatching throughout the Americas. Half of the proceeds we raise go to HMANA and half stay with our local Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch. Please consider sponsoring our team by simply using the link below and click on team Fly Like An Eagle to submit an online donation.



<http://www.hmana.org/raptorthon/#Sponsor>

We'd really appreciate your help! We'll share the results of our Raptorthon to all sponsors!

- Victor Laubach

TREASURER'S REPORT

3/01/2014 – 3/31/2014

as submitted by Lisa S. Hamilton

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 3/01/2014	\$6,337.98	
INCOME	\$17.11	
EXPENSES	\$227.45	
BALANCE – 3/31/2014		\$6,167.64
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 3/01/2014	\$21,411.83	
INCOME	\$20.00	
EXPENSES	\$3195.00	
BALANCE - 3/31/2014		\$21,411.83
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 3/31/2014		\$27,789.81

BIRD QUIZ!

The Bird Quiz will be taking the summer off.
See you in September!

Last Month: Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

If you would like to "nominate" a photo for next season's Bird Quiz, please contact the editor, Paul Callo at pcallo@mbc.edu

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Katherine Morgan
Waynesboro, VA

Virginia Society of Ornithology Website
virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club Website
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>

