

50 Years of the Bulletin!



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 50, No.2
October 2015

*"Water its living strength first shows,
When obstacles its course oppose."*

~ Goethe

October Meeting

Date: Monday, October 12th, 7:00 PM
Place: Covenant Presbyterian Church
2001 North Coalter St., Staunton

Program: Birding in Arizona

Speaker: Andrew Clem

Andrew will describe his trip to the deserts of southern Arizona in June 2014, as well as various birding locations on the way there and back. In addition to photos of the birds, other wildlife, and scenery, there will be a discussion of the various desert ecosystems in the southwestern United States, and the part they play in the amazing biodiversity of that region.



The pre-meeting dinner will be at Little Maria's, 1555 Commerce Rd (Rt 11), just north of Technology Drive on the east side of the highway. Dinner

will be at 5:30pm. Please email or phone Peter Nebel (nebelpk@yahoo.com or 540-942-0946) before noon on the day of the meeting if you are planning to be there.

Field Trips

Monday, October 5th: Licking Hole Creek, Crozet
Meeting Place & Time: Afton Mtn., Hawk Watch parking lot, 8:00 a.m.
Coordinator: Penny Warren penny@staunton.com

Join Penny for our fall trip to Licking Hole Creek where we will look for waterfowl, sparrows, hawks, etc. We will stop at the MudHouse for a nosh and then continue on to Old Trail and King Family Vineyards and check the ponds and surrounding habitat. Back to Afton Mountain by 12:30.

Wednesday, October 14th: McCormick's Mill
Meeting Place & Time: McDonald's Parking Lot at the Staunton Mall at 8:30AM or at the Mill at 9:00AM
Coordinator: Jo King kingbird10@yahoo.com or [540-430-0186](tel:540-430-0186)

Join Jo King on this fall walk around the Marl Creek Trail on McCormick's Farm where she hopes to find returning sparrows, waterfowl, kinglets and perhaps some bluebirds. Dress for the weather and bring a snack of your liking. Field trip should conclude by 11:30 AM.

When: Monday, October 19th, Natural Chimneys
Meeting Place and time: Big Lots, W. Beverley,
8:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Penny Warren,
penny@staunton.com

Join Penny on a half day birding trip to Natural Chimneys in search of any late migrants, wintering sparrows, kinglets, brown creeper, etc. Nearby areas will also be visited during the morning.



Saturday, December 19th: Augusta Bird Club's
Christmas Bird Count

More info will follow later as the time gets closer.
Contact Allen Larner at
birdergonewild@yahoo.com



THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

New Nest

My new 'nest away from nest' for the next couple of years will be New Mexico as my youngest son decided to attend St. John's College in Santa

Fe. Many thanks to him for choosing the *Land of Enchantment!*

All went well for the late August orientation and start up of the freshman year and once again I left my son with the classics, Homer, Aeschylus and Herodotus for starters as I took off in search of *Buteogallus anthracinus*, *Toxostoma crissale*, *Nucifraga columbiana*, etc.!!

It was an early start for the first day of birding as I headed with a bird guide to Santa Rosa to a private ranch, Spirit Haven, in search of the Common



Black-hawk and hopefully much more. A pre-dawn surprise were a few meteors greeting us and then followed by a spectacular sunrise as we raced down route 285. Along the way, we stopped at several small 'ephemeral pools' that had been formed due to much rain in New Mexico. A few highlights were Swainson's Hawk, Cinnamon Teal, Lark Buntings, Ruddy Ducks and Eared Grebes. We arrived at Spirit Haven and spent the better part of the morning birding. We never did see the Common Black-hawks but many great treats included Mississippi Kite, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Lazuli Bunting, a flyover of 100 or so Yellow-headed Blackbirds (life bird) and for this part of the world an un-



usual visit by a Carolina Wren!

On the trip back toward Santa Fe and again flying down the road, the guide noticed some prairie dog mounds so we doubled back to check for Burrowing Owls and sure enough, there were four owls! Back in the car, we headed for Galisteo Basin Preserve, a 13,000 acre expanse promoting a blend of thoughtful conservation and community development. Although it was not particularly 'birdy' when we were there, the 360 degree, panoramic views were breathtaking and what New Mexico is all about and it was so, so quiet! We did find Sage Thrashers but not the Crissal. Additional bonuses included one beautiful coyote and a huge bull snake in the middle of the road. Under the bird guide's watch and with a bit of encouragement, the snake safely crossed the road!



It was a marvelous day full of many beautiful birds, creatures and enchanting landscapes.

The following day, I returned to the Randall Davey Audubon Center for their volunteer-led Saturday morning bird walk. The Center offers 135 acres of beautiful, diverse landscapes, various ecosystems, plant zones from riverside riparian to piñon-juniper woodlands and all of this is surrounded by the Santa Fe National Forest and Santa Fe River watershed. The morning gave us a smattering of southwest birds including Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Juniper Titmouse, Canyon and Spotted Towhees, Lesser Goldfinch, Mountain Chickadee and Townsend's Solitaire (a lifer).



In the final moments of my time in Santa Fe, I went with the bird guide to the Sandia ski basin in

search of Clark's Nutcracker. We spent almost an hour walking around the woods approaching dusk searching for this one bird and just as we were heading to the car to leave not only one, but two of the nutcrackers flew overhead! We enjoyed watching them fly to and fro, landing for a bit and then taking off again. Another lifer for the list.

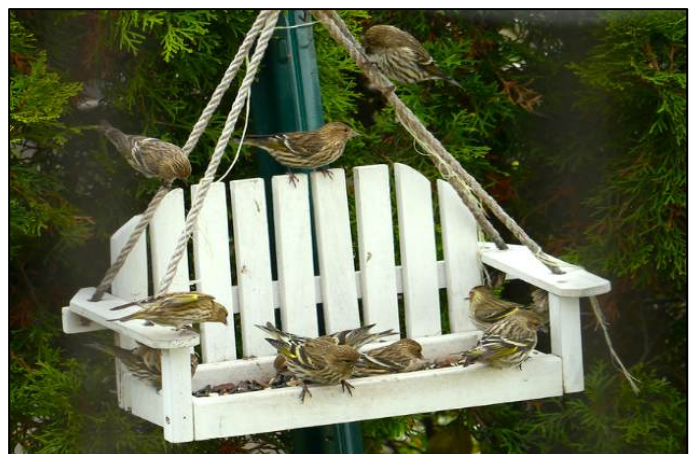


Thanksgiving will take me back to New Mexico and I hope to head south this time to Bosque del Apache for the wonders of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese.

-Penny Warren, President

FATTEN UP THOSE BIRDS!

Once again it is bird seed time for the Augusta Bird Club. This is a reminder to get your order in for those seeds that will attract birds to your feeders this winter. If you have not yet ordered your seed today is the time to do so. You can order and pay online and then all you have to do is to come to the Government center on October 17th before noon to pick up your seed. An order form is enclosed along with this Newsletter. If you have any questions call one of the numbers listed at the bottom of the order blank. If you have a squirrel problem we have ex-



cellent squirrel proof bird feeders that you can purchase. Also if you have never fed peanuts there is nothing that Tufted Titmice and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers like more.

We would also encourage you to share an order blank with any of your friends or neighbors who feed birds. If you have a neighbor who has not fed birds in the past loan them one of your feeders so that they too can watch Goldfinches, Downy Woodpeckers, Doves and maybe a Pine Siskin or Purple Finch competing for seeds.

Remember our proceeds provide scholarships for youth to attend Nature Camp and hopefully become future Birders. If you are available to help load or deliver seeds on pick-up day contact Linda Matkins.

Grant Simmons & Crista Cabe

BIRDNOTE®

The Anomalous Wilson's Phalarope

The dictionary defines "anomaly" as something difficult to classify – not what you'd expect, a departure from the rule. If any bird is an anomaly, it's the Wilson's Phalarope.

In a bird book, Wilson's Phalaropes are found among the sandpipers. They do have the long, slender sandpiper bill, but, rather than probing tide flats, they forage while swimming, alongside ducks. Spinning like tops, they pick rapidly at the water. Their spinning creates an upwelling, pulling food to the surface.

The breeding of Wilson's Phalaropes is even more unusual. Females are the brightly colored sex, opposite of most birds, and courtship roles are reversed: female phalaropes compete for males, sometimes mate with several and, once they lay eggs, leave all parental duties to the males. Wilson's Phalaropes nest in prairie wetlands in the northern half of the western United States, well into Canada, and more recently as far east as Massachusetts.

In common with most birds, however, Wilson's Phalaropes face conservation challenges, particularly when it comes to the protection of their winter habitat.

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

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Augusta CBC will be held on Saturday, December 19th. Tish Folsom has generously offered to host the tally dinner at her home at Springdale Water Gardens. Thank you Tish!!!! More details to follow as the date approaches.

The Waynesboro CBC will be held either on Saturday, Jan. 2nd or Sunday, Jan. 3rd. Stay tuned for the selected date!

STILL WANTED

Volunteers for ABC Board and Committees

Do you wish you could do more to convey your love of nature to others? Have you ever wanted to help the club promote birding in the valley, but you don't know how? Consider serving on the ABC Board. It is made of members just like you! Many of the current board members and committee chairs have served for many years and would like to have new perspectives brought to the table. Birding in the valley can't move forward without you. The board encourages members to come forward to volunteer and bring their ideas for activities and the future direction of the club. It's a fun way to learn more and do more. If a board member hasn't approached you yet about volunteering they will soon. Don't be afraid to say, "yes!"

AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2015

President Penny Warren called the September meeting to order by welcoming members and guest Lou Ann Lynch and wishing Jo King a Happy Birthday. She then noted Field Trips that are on the agenda.

Penny stated that she would be at Riverheads High School to observe Chimney Swifts on Wednesday evening around 7:00 where she had observed hundreds of chimney swifts the week before.

Dan Perkuchin will lead a field trip to Augusta Springs Wetlands on Friday the 18th. Participants will meet at 8:00 a.m. at Big Lots parking lot.

Allen Lerner will lead a trip to Chincoteague September 18th to 20th.

Jo King will lead a field trip to McCormick's Mill on Wednesday September 30th.

Penny will lead a trip to Licking Hole on October 5th meeting at 8:00 a.m. at Afton.

Allen Lerner will lead a trip to Swoope and Augusta Wetlands on October 3rd meeting at Big Lots at 7:00 a.m.

Saw Whet banding will be occurring the later part of October.

Gabriel Mapel reported on the Hawk Watch which is underway with good coverage. Others who are regulars with the watch are Rose, Brenda and Vic. He reported that over 450 Broad wings were seen today along with a Golden Eagle, Harriers, a Peregrine Falcon and a Merlin.

He further reported that the Young Birders are having a good year with 30-35 members. They have monitored a Blue Bird trail that resulted in fledging 50 Tree Swallows and half that number of Blue Birds. Also they have erected a Chimney for roosting Swifts.

The Augusta County Christmas bird count led by Allen Lerner will be held Saturday September 19th with count dinner at the home of Trish Folsom. Crista Cabe announced she will notify Waynesboro counters later.

Crista Cabe reported on the Bird Seed Sale noting that it is our 26th year of conducting a sale with proceeds providing scholarships for youth to attend Nature Camp. She stated that Gabriel does the tally of orders, Lisa serves as Treasurer and Linda reserves the delivery space. She distributed order blanks and encouraged members to share information with friends and neighbors regarding the sale. She especially promoted the Squirrel Buster feeders noting that we will be offering a smaller one this year.

Penny stated that we are looking for officer replacements especially for President and Vice President. We now have a volunteer for News Letter Editor to replace Paul Callo.

President Warren announced the next dinner meeting prior to our club meeting will be at Little Maria's. Peter Nebel asked for suggestions for programs before introducing our speaker for the evening, Gabriel Mapel, who reported on his Audubon Camp on Hog Island last summer. Gabriel then presented pictures and commentary on his rewarding experience with other youth on Hog Island.

Submitted by
Grant Simmons, Secretary

Bird Quiz!



Can you identify this in-flight bird?

The answer will be revealed next month.

Happy guessing!

Last Month:

Blue-backed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia pareola*)

Treasurer's Report submitted by Lisa Hamilton 8/01/2015 – 8/31/2015

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 8/01/2015	\$4,952.46	
INCOME	\$994.99	
EXPENSES	\$0.00	
BALANCE – 8/31/2016		\$5,947.45
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 8/01/2015	\$16,064.91	
INCOME	\$0.00	
EXPENSES	\$75.49	
BALANCE - 8/31/2015		\$15,989.91
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 8/31/2015		\$21,937.36

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>



2015 Bird Seed Sale

Order Deadline: Thursday, October 8, 2015

Pick up: Saturday, October 17, 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon
Augusta County Government Center, Rt. 11 Verona VA

Name _____ Phone # _____
Street _____ Email _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PRICES INCLUDE VIRGINIA SALES TAX

Order online by 10/8/15 at <https://sites.google.com/site/abcseedssale/>

Description	Quantity	Each	Total
Mix: Augusta Premium Wild Bird Food – 40 lb.		\$28.00	
Mix: Augusta Premium Wild Bird Food – 20 lb.		\$15.00	
Sunflower Hearts – <i>premium quality</i> – 20 lb.		\$34.00	
Sunflower Hearts – <i>premium quality</i> – 5 lb.		\$9.00	
Peanut Splits – 20 lb.		\$30.00	
Peanut Splits – 5 lb.		\$8.00	
Nyjer Seed – 20 lb.		\$28.00	
Nyjer Seed – 10 lb.		\$15.00	
Safflower Seed – 20 lb.		\$22.00	
Black Oil Sunflower Seed – <i>premium quality</i> – 50 lb.		\$34.00	
Black Oil Sunflower Seed – <i>premium quality</i> – 25 lb.		\$18.00	
Suet Cakes - Hi-Energy 12 oz (12 cakes)		\$16.00	
Suet Cakes - Peanut 12 oz (12 cakes)		\$21.00	
Suet Cakes – Fruit Berry & Nut 12 oz (12 cakes)		\$26.00	
Squirrel Buster™ Standard Feeder (holds .75 quarts)		\$29.00	
Squirrel Buster™ Classic Feeder (holds 1.4 quarts)		\$44.00	
Squirrel Buster™ Plus Feeder (holds 3 quarts)		\$65.00	
*DELIVERY up to 100 lbs. & each subsequent 100 lbs.		\$9.00	
Additional Donation			
Augusta Bird Club 2015-16 Membership (<i>through December 2016</i>) (\$15 individual/\$25 couple/\$30 family)			
Total Amount – Check or Cash (DO NOT send cash through the mail) (Credit Cards accepted online only, through PayPal)			

*Delivery available within Augusta County, or within about 25 miles of Augusta County Government Center. Please include directions and delivery instructions. Those not picking up their orders on sale day may be charged delivery fee.

Make checks payable to: AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB

Mail to: ABC Seed Sale c/o Gabriel Mapel, P.O. Box 18, New Hope, VA 24469

To order by phone call: 540 363-5035 (if no answer 540-337-0471) * For information e-mail: ABCSeedSale@gmail.com



Bring beautiful birds to your backyard!

Support the Augusta Bird Club's 26th

Bird Seed Sale

The proceeds from your purchase will send young people to Nature Camp and benefit other education and conservation projects in the Shenandoah Valley.

The Augusta Bird Club's annual bird seed sale uses a convenient pre-ordering system. Submit your completed order form with payment to be received by October 8, then come to the Augusta County Government Center between 8:30 a.m. and 12 noon on Saturday, October 17 to pick up your seed. Last minute orders: call Gabriel Mapel at 540-363-5035, or Grant Simmons at 540-337-0471 (home) or 540-448-5393 (cell).

Order securely online using PayPal: <https://sites.google.com/site/abcseedsale/>

- **The Augusta Premium Mix** was formulated specifically to attract resident and winter birds in this area. This is a choice blend of premium black oil sunflower, peanut splits, and white millet, with a bit of cracked corn, which Mourning Doves seem to appreciate. Improved mix with no red millet attracts cardinals, sparrows, chickadees, titmice, and even some woodpeckers.
- **Premium Sunflower Hearts** are a "no mess, no waste" alternative to in-the-shell sunflower seeds. Great for patio and porch feeders.
- **Peanut Splits** are a special treat for woodpeckers, chickadees, titmice, wrens, and nuthatches. No waste, no mess, so these are excellent for porch and patio feeders as well.
- **Nyjer** seed is great for attracting beautiful goldfinches.
- **Premium Black Oil Sunflower Seed**, which is of a higher grade than what is generally available in local stores, contains virtually no chaff, is great for attracting cardinals, chickadees, titmice, and winter visitors like Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches when they are in the area. This seed has a thinner shell, is meatier, and has higher oil content than the striped variety, so it's better for birds.
- **Safflower Seed** appeals especially to Northern Cardinals, and is said to be less attractive to squirrels.
- High quality **12-ounce Suet Cakes** from Pine Tree Farms come in packs of 6 and are favored by many birds including wrens, nuthatches, titmice, and a variety of woodpeckers. Real beef suet is enhanced with other nutritious ingredients.
- **Squirrel Buster™ Standard, Classic & Plus** are revolutionary squirrel-proof bird feeders which hold 0.75, 1.4, and 3 quarts seed, respectively. Excellent quality, and prices are significantly better than online vendors.

Order online at <https://sites.google.com/site/abcseedsale/>