

50 Years of the Bulletin!



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 50, No.3
November 2015

"For all of time, the sky had been silent. There were sunshine and darkness and nothing more. Then voices began coming out of the air."

~ Anonymous

November Meeting

Date: Monday, November 9th, 7:00 PM
Place: Covenant Presbyterian Church
2001 North Coalter St., Staunton

Program: Chile & Argentina

Speaker: Ed Lawler

Patagonia is a sparsely populated area covering the southern halves of Chile and Argentina. The Chilean side is comprised primarily of the rugged Andes mountains and coastal fjords. This program will be about a trip that Ed and Nancy Lawler took to that area. It will include birdwatching in the Torres del Paine and Tierra del Fuego national parks, and pelagic birding in the fjords aboard the Via Australis.



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

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

Coordinator: Penny Warren, pen-ny@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.

When: Saturday, November 7: Chimney Hollow trail

Meeting Place & Time: Big Lots parking lot, W. Beverley St., Staunton, 8:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Andrew Clem agclem@comcast.net

We will be looking for the newly arriving winter birds such as Winter Wrens, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and Red-breasted Nuthatches, as well as possible late-lingering migrants on their way south. The woodland trail is fairly flat, but is often muddy and



crosses a stream, so wear hiking boots or old shoes. We may go over to nearby Braley's Pond afterwards, depending on the time. If so, that would mean returning around 1:00 rather than noon.

When: Tuesday, November 10th, Augusta Springs Wetlands

Meeting Place & Time: Big Lots, W. Beverley Street, 8:00 a.m.

Coordinator: Penny Warren, penny@staunton.com, [540.849.9245](tel:540.849.9245)

Join Penny for a half day of birding at the Augusta Springs Wetlands where we will look for winter residents such as kinglets, sparrows, Brown Creeper, Winter Wrens, etc. Time permitting we will drive through Swoope on our way home.

When: Wednesday, November 11: McCormick's Mill

Meeting Place & Time: McDonald's Parking Lot at the Staunton Mall at 8:30 AM or at the Mill at 9:00 AM.

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 at McCormick's Farm where wintering sparrows, waterfowl, kinglets and lots of Bluebirds are likely to be seen. Dress for the weather and bring a snack of your liking. Field trip should conclude by 11:30 AM.



When: Monday, November 16th, Montgomery Hall Park

Meeting Place & Time: Montgomery Hall Park, picnic shelter, 8:30 a.m.

Coordinator: Penny Warren, penny@staunton.com, [540.849.9245](tel:540.849.9245)

Join Penny for a morning of birding at Montgomery Hall Park in search of winter residents.

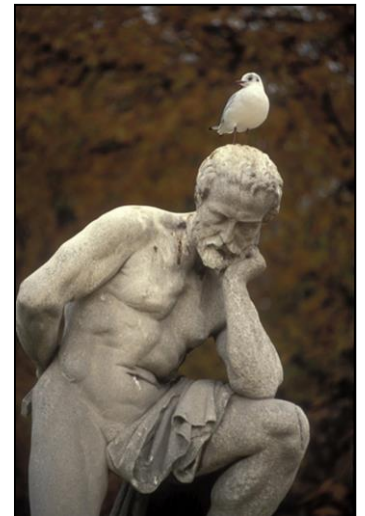
When: Saturday, December 19th: Augusta Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count

More info will follow later as the time gets closer. Contact Allen Lerner at birder-gonewild@yahoo.com

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH

Your Brain on Birds

I had received an email from a research assistant from the psychology department at Vanderbilt University seeking birders to participate in an online project examining how perception and memory for birds differs between beginners and experts. They want birders with all levels of experience and expertise to participate.



From their website of FAQs and what is required to participate, the answer is as follows....

What is required to participate in the experiments?

You need a computer with a broadband internet connection. The experiments on this website are designed to work on any modern computer (less than five years old) with an updated internet browser and Adobe Flash Player. More information about computer system requirements are listed below in the System Requirements section.

You also need a short block of free time for each experiment. Each experiment varies in duration with the shortest lasting 5 minutes and the longest

lasting about 30 minutes. Longer experiments are split into multiple sessions that can be completed separately. The duration of each experiment can be found with its description.

More information on who they are can be found here <http://expertise.psy.vanderbilt.edu/aboutus>

Their Facebook page can be found here ... www.facebook.com/pages/This-is-Your-Brain-on-Birds/158030504237705?sk=info&tab=page_info

Where you register to participate is located here <http://expertise.psy.vanderbilt.edu/>

Take some time and browse through their website which offers background, goals, sponsors, etc. I hope many of you will consider participating!

Cheers to birders and their brains!

-Penny Warren, President

ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE A SUCCESS

Thanks to those who not only ordered bird seed but picked it up Saturday October 17th. Thanks also to those who helped load the vehicles that came through headed by Linda Matkins.

The result is that Chickadees, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers and Goldfinches are saying thank you for your purchase of Sunflower and Niger seeds along with the Peanuts that they are now devouring.

Special thanks goes to Crista Cabe who created the order blanks and set up the online ordering sys-



tem with Google that made ordering so easy. Gabriel Mapel received and tabulated the orders.

Special thanks to those campers who received scholarships and attended Nature Camp this past summer for assisting on pick-up day. Also there is Lisa Hamilton who took care of the handling the finances and will give us a final report of our earnings. Rob Martin was the agent from Lizzie Mae that provided our seeds.

We do have some extra's (Peanut splits, Nyjer seeds, Sunflower seeds, and Squirrel Buster feeders) that you can purchase by contacting Grant Simmons at 337-0471. So, now fill your feeders and watch the hungry birds flitting back and forth competing for seeds.

- Grant Simmons

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!

BLUE PENGUINS

the 90 Second Naturalist

Fairy penguins from Australia and New Zealand are the smallest penguins on Earth, weighing less than a kg. They are also known as little blue penguins.

And it ends up they have a special protein structure in their feathers that generates the blue color by reflecting light in a way that has never been seen in feathers before.

For the last 30 years only two ways of making a non-iridescent blue feather were known, both which depend on holes in a spongy-like matrix of a protein called beta-keratin. The pores in the matrix trap and reflect light in the blue color range.

However, in the blue penguin feathers, the beta-keratin is aligned into parallel fibers, like a row of hairs. The alignment and size of the fibers scatters the light and reflects those in the blue pigment

range. This is the first time this organizational structure has been seen to produce color in feathers.



Researchers examined how these filaments scattered light and X-rays to determine what the structures look like and figure out how they were producing the blue color. They saw that the structure was highly organized; it looked a lot different than the spongy, disordered keratin structures that have been observed to create colors in other feathers.

Hundreds of the fibers line up side by side in the cells that make up the feather's barbs — the silky fibers that branch off of the quill.

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WANTED: YOU!

Volunteers

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

October 12, 2015

The Augusta Bird Club meeting in the Covenant Presbyterian church was called to order by President Penny Warren at 7:00 pm. She then introduced friend and visitor Ann Pontius who has recently relocated in our area. It was reported that a Red Necked Phalarope has been seen in the area. Several persons reported Hummingbirds are still being observed. Allen Larner asked that we look for the Rufus Hummingbird after the 21st of October. Penny announced that the Nomination Committee is seeking those who would serve as club officers next year.

Grant Simmons reported on our annual Bird Seed Sale thanking members for their orders and reminding those who ordered seeds to pick up their seeds this Saturday before noon. Jo King announced she will be leading a field trip to McCormick's Mill this coming Wednesday meeting at 8:30 behind McDonalds to share rides.

Andrew is planning a bird walk at Chimney Hollows and Penny will lead a trip to Natural Chimneys Monday 19th meeting at Big Lots at 8:00 a.m.

Allen stated he would conduct a trip to Chincoteague sometime this winter. He also announced that the Augusta Christmas Bird Count on Saturday December 19th.

Peter Nebel introduced presenter Andrew Clem who shared his birding experience in Arizona last year.

Following his presentation the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by
Grant Simmons, Secretary

Bird Quiz!



Can you identify this bird?

The answer will be revealed next month.

Happy guessing!

Last Month:

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*)

Treasurer's Report

submitted by Lisa Hamilton
9/01/2015 – 9/30/2015

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 9/01/2015	\$5,947.46	
INCOME	\$0.91	
EXPENSES	\$52.56	
BALANCE – 9/30/2016		\$5,895.71
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 9/01/2015	\$15,989.91	
INCOME	\$0.00	
EXPENSES	\$75.00	
BALANCE - 9/30/2015		\$15,919.91
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 9/30/2015		\$21,815.62

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>
Highland County: <http://goo.gl/maps/tbp3f>