

50 Years of the Bulletin!



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 50, No.4
December 2015

*"That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang."*

~ William Shakespeare

December Meeting

Date: Monday, December 14th, 6:30 PM
NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING TIME

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



Program: Holiday Cheer!

It is that time of the year again to gather with your bird club friends for good food and good fellowship. Please bring a favorite side dish, salad, fruit, bread or dessert to share with the group. The club will provide turkey (just because it's a bird club doesn't mean we can't eat it!), ham, iced tea and water. Plates, cups, utensils will also be available. Feel free to bring family and friends. If you have any questions, call Linda Matkins at [540-383-8229](tel:540-383-8229).

Field Trips

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

See below for more info.

Contact: Allen Lerner birdergonewild@yahoo.com

THE PRESIDENT'S PERCH *Breathtaking Bosque*

I had the great fortune during the Thanksgiving holiday to return to New Mexico and I made some time for birding. One spectacular spot was Bosque del Apache, 57,000 acres of wetlands preserve. There are four wildlife management areas in Valencia and Socorro counties and along with Bosque to the south; they feed half of the water birds which winter in the Middle Rio Grande Basin.





There were thousands of Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, Sandhill Cranes and a bounty of ducks, e.g. Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, Mergansers, a Western Grebe or two and other beautiful birds Say's Phoebe, Black Phoebe, Roadrunner, Peregrine Falcon, etc.

If the variety of birds was not enough, the landscape certainly added a dazzling backdrop to all that was being seen and heard. It was a beautiful day with the New Mexican blue skies dramatically enhancing the white and black of the Snow Geese in flight. Nature provided subtle changes in light throughout the day and the mountains, trees and grasses reflected this ever so delicately and beautifully. The other charming backdrop was the consistent and steady reverberating call of the cranes. There were times you could not see a crane but their calls were never too far away.



Another spectacular day in the Land of Enchantment!!

Happy Holidays to everyone!

-Penny Warren, President

WELCOME NEW EDITOR!

Beginning January 2016 the Bulletin of the Augusta Bird Club will have a new editor, Bill Funk.



Bill holds a JD and a Master's Degree in Environmental Policy from Vermont Law School, the country's top environmental law facility, and has developed a reputation for explicating complex legal, policy and scientific matters in illuminating and compelling prose. His relevant areas of journalistic expertise include endangered species and habitat preservation, wildlife crime, American history, public lands management, climate change, animal cruelty, wetlands mitigation, land use, environmental law, sustainability, wilderness issues, traditional cultures, hunting and fishing, rural living and Appalachian culture. He also enjoys spending as much of his free time as possible outdoors - hiking, canoeing, birding, camping, & fishing. As you can see he brings a lot to the job of Editor! Please take a moment and introduce yourself to Bill the next time you see him.

- Paul Callo
Newsletter Editor 2006 to 2015

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

The Augusta CBC will be held on Saturday, December 19th. More details to follow as the date approaches.

The Augusta CBC will be held on Saturday, Dec 19th (backup date Sunday the 20th in case of bad weather). Tish Folsom has generously offered to host the pot luck tally dinner at her home at Springdale Water Gardens (directions below). Thank you Tish!!!! If the backup date is used there will be no

tally dinner. Allen will have the maps at the December ABC meeting.

For more info contact Allen Lerner at birder-gonewild@yahoo.com or call 280-3423



Directions to Springdale Water Gardens

- 340 Old Quarry Rd, Greenville, VA
- From I-81/64 Take Exit 213-A for Route 11 South toward Greenville.
- Go 1.5 miles, into Greenville
- Turn right on Stover School Rd (Rte. 662). This is the 2nd right after the BB&T bank
- Go 2.3 miles (under the interstate) and turn left onto Old Quarry Lane (Rte. 673)
- Go 1.0 mile to the end of the road

If anyone would like to car pool Allen will be at the lower parking lot at Food Lion on North Coalter St. at 5:20 pm and will leave at 5:30 sharp. Don't forget to bring your favorite dish to share at the tally dinner; it's pot luck!

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

EARTH DAY 2016 Staunton Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 16th
9 A.M. – NOON

Sunspots Studios
Staunton, VA



AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2015
7:00 pm

The meeting convened at Covenant Presbyterian Church. President Penny Warren called the meeting to order and then introduced guest Jo Thompson.

She asked for bird sightings and Allen Lerner reported Crested Cormorants, buffleheads and Bonaparte's Gulls along with a Snow Goose. One member reported viewing a Golden Eagle flying over her yard.

Jo King announced a field trip to McCormick's Mill on Wednesday.

Penny shared about a walk to Montgomery Park on Monday the 15th meeting at 8:30 at the Picnic shelter at 8:30.

Brenda Walters stated it is time to pay dues for the coming year and she has sent out emails reminding members of that fact.

Grant Simmons reported on the annual Bird Seed Sale stating it was a success with \$2,170.22 in profits. He also shared there are extra seeds and bird feeders available for sale. Contact him if interested at 337-0471.

Linda Matkins announced our December meeting will be a Pot Luck dinner with the club providing the meat for December 14th at 6:30 pm.

Allen reminded members that the Augusta County Christmas Count will be held December 19th with the tally dinner at Springdale Gardens hosted by Tish Folsom.

Peter Nebel introduced Ed Lawler who shared pictures and comment on his birding trip to Chile and Argentina focusing on Patagonia. Introducing his pictures was his albino hummingbird trademark.

Following questions and remarks the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by
Grant Simmons, Secretary

Bird Quiz!



Can you identify this bird?

The answer will be revealed next month.

Happy guessing!

Last Month:

Green Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula aenea*)

Treasurer's Report

submitted by Lisa Hamilton
10/1/2015 – 10/31/2015

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 10/01/2015	\$5,895.71	
INCOME	\$455.97	
EXPENSES	\$133.73	
BALANCE – 10/31/2016		\$6,217.95
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 10/01/2015	\$15,919.91	
INCOME	\$13,487.08	
EXPENSES	\$11,240.86	
BALANCE - 10/31/2015		\$18,166.13
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 10/31/2015		\$24,384.08

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>

