

50 Years of the Bulletin!



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 50, No.6
February 2016

"When snow falls, Nature listens."

~ Antoinette van Kleef

FEBRUARY MEETING

Date: Monday, February 8th, 7:00 PM

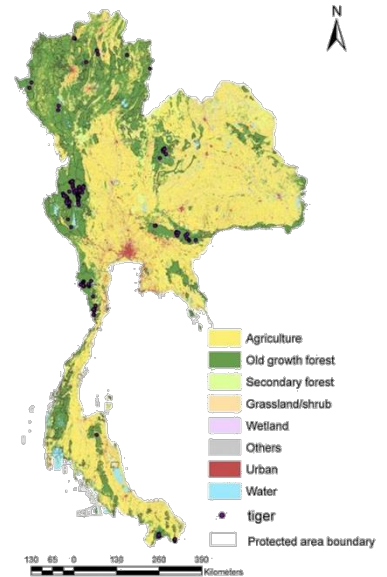
Place: Covenant Presbyterian Church
2001 North Coalter St., Staunton

Program: Birding Thailand
Speaker: Bill Leaning



Bill Leaning, a seasoned speaker who has been very well received by the Augusta Bird Club in the past, will return at our February meeting to talk about his experiences birding in Thailand. Southeast Asia has a very diverse bird fauna which we have not covered at our meetings in recent memory. New and different birds and landscapes promise a stimulating talk by Bill.

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 1pm on the day of the meeting if you are planning to be there.



FIELD TRIPS

There are no club sponsored field trips scheduled this month. Be sure to share your sightings for February!

PRESIDENT'S PERCH

#jonas, #snowmageddon2016, #snow

A lot of the white stuff came down over the past several days creating beautiful landscapes locally and sparking a lot of bird activity at the feeders. While stuck inside, it was fun to read everyone sharing their bird sightings and photos from near and far during the storm. I read several emails not-

ing Fox Sparrows and I often have one show up



during a snow storm but not this year. I had my usual downtown assortment of birds and as always it provided amusement and enjoyment. In spite of several, fresh suet cakes being available, my Red-bellied Woodpecker took to platform feeding. Maybe others have seen this in their backyards but that was a first for me. He looked a little awkward attempting to cling and to feed but he managed and kept it up throughout the day.

Penny Warren
President

2016 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

It's the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) time again, and ABC will sponsor an event in February as a community outreach and education initiative. The theme this year is "How Many Birds Will You Find?". . . which sounds like a takeoff on the Christmas Bird Count.

The event will be held on Wednesday, February 9, from 7-8 PM at the Staunton Public Library, 2th Floor. A PowerPoint presentation will be provided by Darrell Schwalm titled, "Introduction to Birding and the Great Backyard Bird Count."



The presentation will focus on the basics of bird watching in the Staunton

area, feeding birds in your backyard, and how to collect data on the birds seen to submit to a nationwide database for the "Great Backyard Bird Count."

The count is easy to do and great citizen science activity for adults and youth. ABC members who have not participated in the count in the past are invited to attend, and bring a neighbor! No registration is required.



If you cannot attend, details on how to participate are on the official website at www.birdcount.org. The "Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)," a worldwide, citizen, birding science project. The ABC contact is Darrell Schwalm, 885-0015, schwalmie2@aol.com.

BIRDS & BREWS, WINE & WINGS

Our first Birds and Brews was enjoyed by approximately 18 people and we had a great time. Let's do it again!!!!

Come and join fellow birders and chase away some of the winter doldrums with a craft beer or glass of wine from a bird friendly, sustainable vineyard, a nosh of excellent cheeses, etc.

Where: Yelping Dog, 9 E. Beverley Street

When: Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 6:00 p.m.

RSVP: by Monday, Feb. 22nd, penny@staunton.com

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

On behalf of the bird club, I want to thank Paul Callo for all of the years as editor of our club newsletter. I have read and seen many bird club newsletters and it is not a stretch when I say our newsletter is one of the most attractive and informative newsletters. It is no easy task doing this month in and month out for so many years. Paul's labor of love has been enjoyed near and far by many and again, we say thank you!!!!

We welcome Bill Funk as the new editor and look forward to working with him!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

EARTH DAY 2016
Saturday, April 16th
9 A.M. - noon
Sunspots Studios, downtown Staunton

DON'T FORGET

Great Backyard Bird Count
February 12-15, 2016.
Information can be found at Cornell's website and the club will offer a program at the Staunton Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Stay safe and stay warm!

Penny Warren
President



BIRD QUIZ!

Can you identify this bird?



The answer will be revealed next month.
Happy guessing!

~
Last Month:
Hamerkop
(*Scopus umbretta*)

Virginia Society of Ornithology
www.virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club
www.augustabirdclub.org