



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 51, No.7
March 2017

*"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather
inside of 24 hours."*

~ Mark Twain

MARCH MEETING

Date: Monday, March 13th, 7:00 PM

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

Program: Baby Bird Identification

Speaker: Maureen Eiger

Maureen Eiger is a State and Federally Permitted Wild Bird Rehabilitator. She has raised hundreds of baby birds.

We know the field marks for adult birds but how do you identify the "naked" bird in the nest? Can you identify a bird with just a few pin feathers?

Come to the meeting to learn a new set of field marks and see photos of more common



bird species in a new way. This is a fun and interactive program where you even have a chance to earn treats and test your skills with the "What baby bird is that?" quiz at the end of the program.

Maureen has been active in the Roanoke Valley Bird Club and the VSO. She is a contributing writer to the North American Bluebird Society Journal and The Roanoke Star Newspaper.

If you would like to help in the effort of saving baby birds you can bring a roll of towels or box of tissues to the March meeting.



The '50 for 50' Door Prize for March is a \$50 gift certificate from Mill Street Grill. Yum!

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 5:15pm. Please contact Stanley Heatwole (540-886-7450 or sheatwole@usa.net) before noon the day of the meeting if you are planning to attend.



FIELD TRIPS

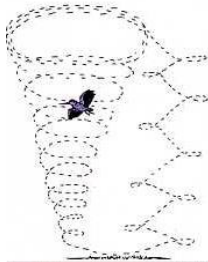
Thursday, March 9th : Dance of the Woodcocks - Shenandoah National Park

Meeting Time & Place: Half hour before sunset (about 5:50pm) on Skyline Drive at the Beagle Gap parking area (mile marker 99.5)

Coordinator: Allen Lerner (birdergonewild@yahoo.com)

This year join Allen Lerner at a different location for the "Dance of the Woodcocks". We will join up at Beagle Gap in Shenandoah National Park about half an hour before sunset to listen for the Woodcocks. Afterwards we will do a little Owling in hopes we find the Northern Saw-whet Owl that has been wintering there and calling out. A Barred Owl is another bird we hope to find.

Dress for the weather & if the weather is bad that night we will meet that Saturday the 11th as a rain date.



Saturday, March 11th : Birding Crozet

Meeting Time & Place: 8:30 am at the Crozet Artisan Depot (5791 Three Notch'd Rd, Crozet VA)

Coordinator: Evan Spears

A day of fun in beautiful Crozet! A bird walk with Evan Spears starts at 8:30 am and is followed by refreshments at 10:30. At 11:30am, Evan will present a talk and slide show called "The bird-scape through the eyes of a Park Ranger".

Come out for this special opportunity!



Friday, March 17th : Bells Lane

Meeting Time & Place: 8:00 am at the Bells Lane bird club kiosk

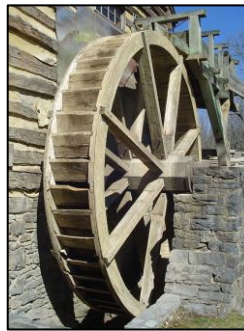
Coordinator: Penny Warren (penny@staunton.com)

Let's see what mid-March on Bell's Lane might give us for a morning walk. We'll check the fields, brushy, roadside habitat and ponds for lingering birds and possible spring arrivals. Rain will cancel the outing.

Wednesday, March 22nd : McCormick's Mill

Meeting Time & Place: 8:30 am in the parking lot behind McDonald's on Greenville Ave. or 9:00 am at the Mill

Coordinator: Jo King (kingbird10@yahoo.com or [540-430-0186](tel:540-430-0186))



Join Jo on this spring morning to visit this beautiful place in the southern corner of Augusta County in hopes of finding migrating and resident birds. We will be looking for Warblers, Waterfowl, Flycatchers and Sparrows. Come along for the half day. Bring a snack and dress for the weather.

Friday, March 31st : Ridgeview Park, Waynesboro, VA

Meeting Time & Place: 8:00 am Food Lion, N. Coalter Street, Staunton or 8:30am at Ridgeview Park at near the bridge.

Coordinator: Penny Warren (penny@staunton.com)

Join Penny for a half day field trip to Ridgeview Park, Waynesboro to check on any early arrivals, remaining wintering birds. Rain will cancel the outing.

CHIRPS FROM THE CHIEF

It may not feel like it at times - but this is winter. I wonder if the birds have been as confused as us humans? But, we can use this warm weather to think about making our yards more bird friendly. Now is a good time to consider adding some native plants to your yard to attract and sustain our local birds including endemic and migrant species. Here are just a

few of the tips that are provided courtesy of our friends at Audubon.

Plant wild grasses and blackberry to attract Sparrows including Song Sparrow and House Sparrow; and winter migrants, such as Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow will appreciate these plants when they return. These plants provide food, shelter and nesting material, as well as foraging grounds for seed and insect hunting.



Plant sunflower, elderberry, and serviceberry to attract Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, and Scarlet Tanager. Sunflowers attract many of our local birds and are generally easy to grow. The fruit of the elderberry and serviceberry provide food and their flowers attract pollinators and insects.

Plant composite flowers such as Black-eyed Su-



san, Canada Hawkweed, Chicory, Daisy (sunflowers, thistles, and asters), Mexican Sunflower, and Pink Yarrow to attract House Finch, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, and Pine Siskin. Daisies provide small seed favored by finches and the downy fibers in the plant are used for nesting material.

For the full article go to the Audubon website (www.audubon.org) and search for: "Grow These Native Plants So Your Backyard Birds Can Feast".

- Peter Van Acker, President

SAVE THESE DATES!

Wednesday, March 22nd

Our next Birds and Brews get together will be held at 6 pm at Seven Arrows Brewing, 2508 Jefferson Highway, Waynesboro, VA.

Saturday May 6th

Our spring breakfast and bird hike will be held at 197 Lofton Lake Lane, Raphine, VA. More information to follow.

PANAMA CANAL BIRDING TRIP by Ann Cline

On January 2nd my husband, Mike, myself and



another couple left for an 8 day trip to Panama, for the most part to see the Panama Canal. Since I was the only birder, I hired a guide to take me to the much acclaimed Pipeline Rd. in Gamboa. Ironically we saw little walking the road but were much more successful at several other stops the guide suggested. In all we had 77 species. Highlights were Rufescent Tiger Heron, Golden-collared Manakin, Crimson-backed, Flame-rumped, Blue-Grey, Palm and Golden-hooded Tanagers, Yellow-billed, Scarlet-rumped, and Yellow-rumped Caciques.

Later in the week we traveled to El Valle where I again hired a guide. It was another great day with much seen just walking the grounds of our hotel. Highlights there were Toucans, Araçaris, Woodcreepers, & Ani's to name a few.

A great experience!

EARTH DAY 2017
Saturday, April 22, 2017

10 am to 2 pm
Gypsy Hill Park Bandstand



2017 Festival Theme: "We're For the Birds!"

www.earthdaystaunton.org

WANTED

The club cannot function without dedicated volunteers with many aspects of the month to month operations. The club currently needs a secretary to record the monthly meetings and to attend two board meetings per year. Grant has served as secretary for the club faithfully for many years, and he would enjoy taking a break and passing this task on to someone else. PLEASE consider helping the club in this capacity.

Contact Penny, penny@staunton.com if you are interested and/or have questions.

AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MINUTES

February 13, 2017

Vice-President Stan Heatwole called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at the Covenant Presbyterian Church by introducing new members Bonnie Hues and Warren and Debbie Faught. Penny distributed a petition prepared by Nancy Sorrells regarding the proposed pipeline asking for a new study of the proposed routing.

It was announced that Earth Day is April 21st and the club in in need of volunteers.

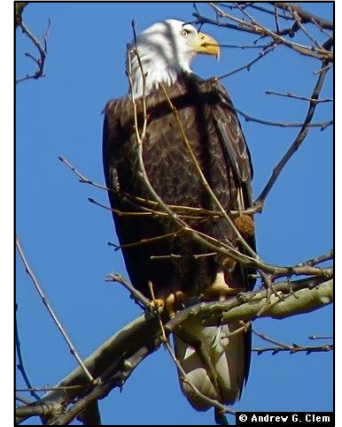
It was reported that Ravens have been seen nesting in Greenville.

Allen announced a Bird Walk with the Rockbridge bird club this Saturday meeting at the Food Lion at 8:00 a.m. and would like some support.

Ann Cline, Education chair reported that we have seven youth applying for scholarship help.

Grant reported that he still has Sunflower Hearts and Suet for sale.

Stan then introduced his brother Dr. Harold Heatwole, Professor at North Carolina State University. Dr. Heatwole previously lived in Australia, and he shared his knowledge regarding the various species of Penguins in the Antarctic region showing his videos of their numbers and behavior.



Respectfully submitted
Grant Simmons, Secretary

AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB
Executive Committee Minutes
February 26, 2017
2:00 P.M.

The ABC Executive committee met at the home of President Peter Van Acker with the following members present: Penny Warren, Brenda Walters, Jo King, Ann Cline, Allen Larner, Stan Heatwole, Darryl Schwalm, Lisa Hamilton, Peter Van Acker, and Grant Simmons.

Brenda, Membership chair reported that we have 145 members and 106 families. She reported that bird seed sales amounted to \$12,239 with 50 % of

those purchases from non-members. Also 21 persons paid dues along with their bird seed orders. It was suggested we contact those non-members to encourage club membership.

Lisa reported that of January 31st we have a balance of \$6,190.28 in the Operating Fund and \$19,119.81 in the Education and Conservation Fund. (Her report will appear in the bulletin next month.)

Our primary mission is supporting students to attend Nature Camp located at Vesuvius. This year we have 7 youth applying for scholarship help. It was decided to give a full YuLee Lerner scholarship of \$930 to one applicant and split the John Mehner scholarship between two applicants. The remainder of our scholarship help (\$1110) would be split among the remaining applicants. It was agreed to ask the recipients to share their experiences at a club meeting and if possible to help out with the bird seed distribution.

It was noted by the President that we need two more \$50 gift certificates to fulfill the 50th Anniversary commitment for a gift at our regular club meetings. John Spahr has obtained our next gift of a \$50 gift from Mill Street Grill. Stan will seek a gift for the April meeting.

Allen reported that he will be taking over from Dan Perkuchin in following up on the records of Augusta County Birds started by YuLee. Those up to date records can be viewed on the club web site.

Stan announced that he has purchased a adapter for our projector so that it will accommodate various sources.

Penny stated she will be conducting a field trip in March and Allen will be leading a trip to see woodcocks displaying.

It was noted that nominations for officers are due at the next meeting. Peter asked Penny as Nomination Chairman to present nominations by the April meeting to be voted on in June.

Penny stated she needs volunteers to help out on Earth Day especially since the subject this year is Birds.

Peter reported that he had been contacted by Crozet Artisan Depot for our support but he responded that we do not support businesses.

That was the conclusion of business and Peter adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Grant Simmons, Secretary

BIRD QUIZ!



Can you identify this bird?

The answer will be revealed next month.
Happy guessing!

~
Last Month: Cape Petrel (*Daption capense*)

TREASURER'S REPORT

submitted by Lisa Hamilton

1/01/2017 – 1/31/2017

REGULAR OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE – 1/01/2017	\$5,748.62	
INCOME	\$506.06	
EXPENSES	\$64.40	
BALANCE – 1/31/2017		\$6,190.28
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE – 1/01/2017	\$18,726.13	
INCOME	\$393.00	
EXPENSES	\$0.00	
BALANCE - 1/31/2017		\$19,119.81
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 1/31/2017		\$25,310.09

Virginia Society of Ornithology
www.virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club
www.augustabirdclub.org