



THE AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 54, No.6
February 2020

*"Cottleston, Cottleston, Cottleston Pie.
A fly can't bird, but a bird can fly."*

~ from Winnie-the-Pooh, by A. A. Milne

FEBRUARY MEETING

Date: Monday, February 10th, 7:00 PM

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

Program: Audubon Young Birders' Camp

Speaker: Max Nootbar

Pre-meeting dinner: 5:00 P.M. at Little Maria's, located on Route 11 (Commerce Road) between Staunton and Verona. If interested, please contact Stanley Heatwole (540-886-7450 or sheatwole@usa.net) before noon that day.

Max Nootbaar was the recipient of a scholarship from the Augusta Bird Club which helped him attend Cornell Lab's Young Bird Event in Ithaca, NY. This event is for young birders to explore possible careers in ornithology. He will relate his experiences at this event this past summer. Max is Vice President of the Blue Ridge Young Birder's Club. He competed for and won the award for Young Birder of the Year in 2019 from the American Birding Association.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, February 19th: McCormick's Mill Farm (rain date: February 26th)

Meeting place & time: Parking Lot at McDonald's on Greenville Ave. at 8:30, or at the Mill by 9:00 AM

Leader: Jo King, 540-430-0186, kingbird10@yahoo.com

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

On Saturday, January 11, four members of the Augusta Bird Club (Penny Warren, Doug Ruby, Andrew Clem, and trip leader Allen Larner) headed west to the mountain wilderness of Highland County. The skies were overcast, but hardly any rain fell. Three Golden Eagles were seen early on, and two more later, as well as two Bald Eagles. Around noon the group headed south, and soon after crossing into Bath County, several dozen ducks and geese were seen at a pond, most notably a pair of Greater White-fronted Geese. That species has rarely if ever been seen in Bath County. The final destination was Lake Moomaw, where a Common Loon, Horned Grebes, and several Red Bats were seen.

by Andrew Clem



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Hermit Thrush, Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, M & F Common Mergansers, Horned Grebes, and (center) Greater White-fronted Geese. (In Highland and Bath Counties, Jan. 11.)

On January 25, four members of the Augusta Bird Club (Nancy Lawler, Ann Cline, Tom Roberts, and Andrew Clem) went for a leisurely walk around the Mill Place trail in Verona. (Luckily, the temperatures were much milder than the trip there one year earlier!) It was fairly quiet, and the only birds of note were a distant hawk (Buteo), an American Kestrel, and a Great Blue Heron flying over. So, the group headed to Bell's Lane, where some Gadwalls, Redheads, and Hooded Mergansers were seen on a distant pond. Two Northern Harriers and some Eastern Meadowlarks were flying around the fields as well. Altogether, 32 species were counted for the day.

by Andrew Clem



Eastern Meadowlark, along Bell's Lane in mid-January. Photo courtesy of Ann Cline.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Don't forget: The time for the 2020 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is getting close. The counting period for this international, citizen science project will be February 14-17, and the theme is "How Many Birds Can You Find?" Last year, more than 200,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded. This huge database is managed by Cornell University, helping track changes in bird populations.

Participating is easy. You can go to www.birdcount.org for instructions, to register if you are new to the count, and for tally sheets and other helpful materials. Remember, you can take a walk around the block to count birds if you don't have bird

feeders in the back yard. You can do as many 15+ minute count submissions as you would like anytime over the four-day period.

by Darrell Schwalm



Bald Eagle (juvenile), north of Staunton, January 19.



Short-eared Owl, along Bell's Lane in mid-January.
Both photos above courtesy of Larry Litke.

**2020 IS HERE! PLEASE RENEW YOUR
AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP**
if you have not already done so.

A [membership form](#) is on the ABC website.



Northern Harrier (adult male).
Photo courtesy of Vic Laubach.

AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB MINUTES

January 13, 2020
Meeting at Covenant Presbyterian Church

The meeting was called to order by board member Andrew Clem at 7:05 pm.

Recent Sightings: Allen Lerner reported on the recent field trip to Bath and Highland Counties, where they found Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, White-fronted Geese, Pied-billed Grebes, a Common Loon, and Red Bats. There was also a Snow Goose at Bell's Lane. Purple Finches and Yellow-rumped Warblers are very sporadic this year.

Program: Dr. Kal Ivanov of the Museum of Natural History in Martinsville gave a fascinating talk on "Sustainable Habitat for Bees and Other Pollinators". We learned that plants are pollinated primarily in 4 ways – wind, water, some bats, and insects. There are estimated to be 200,000 pollinator species, primarily insects. Their critical contribution to our world cannot be measured. Signs of decline are everywhere. Dr. Ivanov encouraged us to get to know our pollinators, plant native species, and leave as much natural area as we can on our properties. An excellent resource for more information is The Pollinator Conservation Resource Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Nash, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

submitted by Lisa Hamilton
12/01/2019 – 12/31/2019

OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 12/01/2019	\$ 7,878.77	
INCOME	\$ 263.38	
EXPENSES	\$ 109.51	
BALANCE - 12/31/2019		\$ 8,032.64
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 12/01/2019	\$18,016.68	
INCOME	\$ 1,170.00	
EXPENSES	\$ 1,625.00	
BALANCE - 12/31/2019		\$17,561.68
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 12/31/2019		\$25,594.32

BIRD QUIZ!

Can you identify this bird?
(Photographed by Ann Cline in Panama last year.)



The answer will be revealed next month.
Happy guessing!

~
Last month: Paradise Tanager.

We have a winner: Nancy Lawler!

Virginia Society of Ornithology
www.virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club
www.augustabirdclub.org