



AUGUSTA BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Vol. 56, No.5
January 2022

"... and by January, on a clear, bright morning, we listen for the first territorial proclamations of the cardinals, titmice, and chickadees."

~ YuLee Larner, Dec. 17, 1989 "Random Ramblings" column

VIRTUAL JANUARY MEETING

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

Place: Online via Zoom (see link below)

Program: NONE (postponed until February)

Agenda items for the Zoom meeting in January will include Christmas Bird Count results, committee reports, officer nominations, a preview from Vic Laubach about his presentation next month on the Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, and any other items that are brought to the attention of President Jack Holt.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81674017222?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81674017222?pwd=a2k2ZFBNUVRM0lwS2Q0N0NjRTdSUT09)
[pwd=a2k2ZFBNUVRM0lwS2Q0N0NjRTdSUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81674017222?pwd=a2k2ZFBNUVRM0lwS2Q0N0NjRTdSUT09)

Meeting ID: 816 7401 7222 Passcode: 672645

UPCOMING FIELD TRIP

Wednesday, January 19th: McCormick's Mill Farm

Meeting place & time: At the Mill parking lot by 9:00 AM; no car pooling during the pandemic.

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

Join Jo King at this historic site at the southern edge of Augusta County. On this easy walk through open fields, mixed woods, and two ponds we may see waterfowl, wintering sparrows, woodpeckers, etc.

Dress for the weather. In case of rain or snow, the makeup date will be January 26.

NOTE: Field trips are subject to social distancing! Our usual winter trip to Highland County will not be held this year, once again, due to the coronavirus. Check our website (www.augustabirdclub.org) for updates on field trips that have been added, cancelled, or postponed.

MORE BIRDS FROM GEORGIA (THE REPUBLIC)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Eurasian Jay, Eurasian Blackbird, European Robin,
Syrian Woodpecker, Eurasian Green Woodpecker and
Hooded Crow, in various parts of the Republic of
Georgia in December.

Photos courtesy of Penny Warren.



This male Ruby-crowned Kinglet seemed eager to be counted for the CBC! (Near Bessie Weller Elementary School in Staunton, December 18.)

AUGUSTA COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Twenty members and friends of the Augusta Bird Club went out to conduct our annual Christmas Bird Count on December 18th, and we totaled 84 species of birds altogether. The highlight of the day was the high count of 6,780 American Robins. We put in 33 miles for owling, 490 miles by car, and 7.5 miles on foot, with 83 total hours in the field, 7 hours owling, and 11.5 hours of feeder watching. Below are the winter peak counts (new or matching):

- Common Merganser (64): winter peak count
- Common Loon (2): match winter peak count
- Red-shouldered Hawk (23): match winter count
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (35): winter peak count
- Carolina Wren (159): winter peak count
- American Robin (6,780): winter peak count
- Northern Mockingbird (315): winter peak count
- Yellow-rumped Warbler (326): winter peak count
- Song Sparrow (205): winter peak count

Other species of note: Bonaparte's Gull (1), Short-eared Owl (1), Merlin (2), Eastern Phoebe (2), Horned Lark (24), Brown Creeper (8), American Pipit (112), Cedar Waxwing (494), and Purple Finch (29). Thanks to all who participated!!!!

Allen Larner

NOTE: A report on the Waynesboro Christmas Bird Count (January 2) coordinated by Crista Cabe will be published in the February issue.

FIELD NOTES

FieldNotes105 — August–November 2021

The following are abridged highlights of fall records, peak counts, early or late dates, from August through November 2021. The full reports will be incorporated into the book *Birds of Augusta County*. (RGHW = Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch) NOTE: The previous Field Notes edition (#104, Summer 2021) was published in the October issue.

Mute Swan (1) – Aug 1-3, 2021, West Augusta: 3rd fall record

Ring-necked Duck (1) – Aug 1, 2021, Fishersville: new early date

Cattle Egret (1) – Nov 18, 2021, Fishersville: new late date

Swallow-tailed Kite (1) – Aug 16, 2021, Stuarts Draft : 2nd fall record; and (1) – Nov 4 2021, RGHW: 3rd fall record

Upland Sandpiper (1) – Sept 17, 2021, New Hope Area: 3rd fall record

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (1) – Sept 1, 2021, Stuarts Draft: 5th fall record

Wilson's Phalarope (1) – Aug 28-29, 2021, New Hope: 5th fall record; and (1) – Sept 2, 2021, Swoope: 6th fall record

Red-necked Phalarope (1) – Sept 2, 2021, Swoope: 5th fall record

Mourning Dove (351) - Sept 5, 2021, throughout Augusta County: new fall peak count

Rufous Hummingbird (1) – Aug 1 to Sept 12, 2021, Spottswood Rd (banded): new early fall date

Olive-sided Flycatcher (2) – Aug 26, 2021, Blue Ridge Parkway: matches fall peak count

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (1) – Aug 17, 2021, Estaline Valley Rd: new early fall date; and (1) – Oct 3, 2021, Augusta Springs Wetlands: new fall late date

Common Raven (41) – Oct 13, 2021, RGHW: new fall peak count

Barn Swallow (1) – Nov 3, 2021, Bell's Lane Staunton: new late date

Marsh Wren (1) – Nov 6, 2021, Verona: new fall late date

Wilson's Warbler (1) – Aug 28, 2021, Blue Ridge Parkway: matches fall early date

Grasshopper Sparrow (1) – Oct 29, 2021, Guthrie Rd: new fall late date

Lark Sparrow (1) – Sept 7, 2021, Barrenridge area: 4th fall record

Scarlet Tanager (79) – Sept 19, 2021, RGHW: new fall peak count

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (119) – Sept 19, 2021, RGHW new fall peak count

**Allen Larner
Records Chair
Augusta Bird Club**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER: JANUARY, 2022

While casting about for ideas for this month's letter, I took out some notebooks I have (which belong to the club) of founding club member YuLee Larner's "Random Ramblings" newspaper articles. YuLee wrote weekly articles for the Staunton News Leader from 1977 to 2012. What a treasure trove! One such article from February 2, 2003, "How birds survive in frigid weather," describes a more wintry setting than we have had thus far this season. It should make us ponder how climate change affects birds, and how it will be affecting birds in the future. Watch for more pearls as I dig deeper.

Cross your fingers and hope we can meet again in person in February. Meanwhile, please join us on Zoom, using the link on page 1. Let me wish each of you a very happy New Year. I wish you good health, good fortune, and good birding in the coming year.

- Jack

**Jack Holt,
President, Augusta Bird Club**

HELP WANTED

Editor, Augusta Bird Club Bulletin.
Will train. Desired qualifications: layout design, editing for grammar, etc., and an eye for detail. Interested persons should send an e-mail to the current editor, Andrew Clem, at:

agclem@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

submitted by Lisa Hamilton
11/01/2021 – 11/30/2021

OPERATING FUND		
BALANCE - 11/01/2021	\$ 7,596.04	
INCOME	\$ 1,371.42	
EXPENSES	\$ 97.05	
BALANCE -11/30/2021		\$ 8,870.41
EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND		
BALANCE - 11/01/2021	\$18,091.63	
INCOME	\$21,345.38	
EXPENSES	\$16,352.32	
BALANCE - 11/30/2021		\$23,084.69
TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 11/30/2021		\$31,955.10

BIRD QUIZ!

Can you identify this bird?
(Photo taken in Colombia by Lynne Parks.)



The answer will be revealed in next month's issue.

~
Last month: Crested Barbet.
We have a winner! Nancy Lawler

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Club website:
www.augustabirdclub.org

Virginia Society of Ornithology
www.virginiabirds.net