

Summer

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THE MEADOWLARK

The quarterly newsletter of the Augusta Bird Club



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Reflecting Our Change

by Rich Wood

The Augusta Bird Club (ABC) dates back to 1966, when Dr. John Mehner, a professor at Mary Baldwin College (now Mary Baldwin University) established a group of dedicated birders in Augusta County. Two of the ABC charter members, YuLee Larner and Isabel Obenschain, were students in Dr. Mehner's first ornithology course. In the early days the club had no logo that represented us. Then, around 1996,



The original logo of ABC

a logo of a House Finch was designed to serve as the new "symbol" of the ABC. According to some of our long-standing members, the House Finch was chosen since the first known nesting of this species in Virginia was in Staunton, on the campus of Mary Baldwin College. However, after just a few years, many members began to question why the club would use a bird that was nonnative to Virginia as our logo. In addition, it simply looked old-fashioned! So, around 2001, a new logo was created to better represent birds found here in Augusta County—a silhouette of a warbler, most likely a Common Yellowthroat (we think). This black-and-white logo was used for 11 years.



The logo that was used from about 2001-2012

Finally, in 2012, another bird (created in full color) was chosen, voted on, and approved as the new, and current, logo of the ABC—the Eastern Meadowlark. This beautiful grassland species cheerfully sings out its musical song from fence posts, hay bales, wires, and trees that border the many farm fields and pastures of our county. It was chosen because of its beauty in sight and sound, and to bring attention to the need to conserve its critical grassland habitat. The Eastern Meadowlark is so special to us that we pledged a monetary donation to the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) to "Sponsor a Species" for the 2nd Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas. Our pledge will contribute to the interpretive narrative illustrated with photographs and documented with information gathered during the data collection. In addition, it will also help support the writing and publication of the Second Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas website.

We hope our Eastern Meadowlark logo will serve as a symbol of who we are as a bird club and the diversity of bird species found in this area, while providing a message of "conserving bird habitat," for many years to come!



The current logo

Spring Sightings

With spring migration coming to end, many of our members have been out and about for the past few months photographing a variety of returning resident birds, as well as a few northern breeders passing through our area. We hope you enjoy this collage of fantastic photos!



Yellow Warbler (L), Canada Warbler (R)
photos by Vic Laubach



Female American Redstart on nest
photo by Antonio Martinez



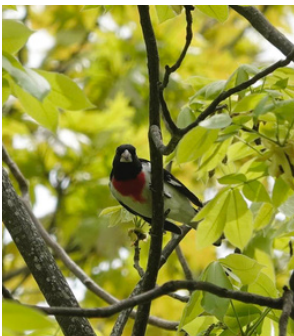
Gray Catbirds (photo by Warren Faught)



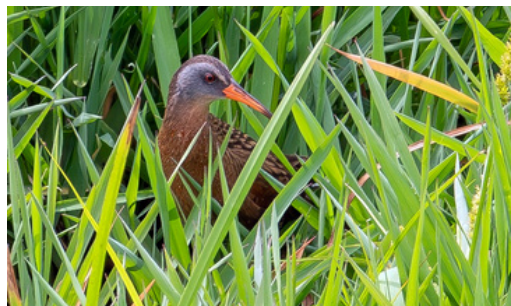
Killdeer chicks and egg—Can you find them?
photo by Tish Reeder Folsom



Bobolink (photo by Ann Cline)



Rose-breasted Grosbeak
photo by Anna Maria Allard



Virginia Rail (photo by Vic Laubach)



Solitary Sandpiper (photo by Bonnie Hughes)



Hooded Warbler
photo by Arrow Kilbourn



Bald Eagle & Common Raven (photo by Al Wolf)



Pileated Woodpecker (photo by Andrew Clem)



Veery (L), Greater Yellowlegs (R) (photos by Vic Laubach)



Northern Parula (photo by Lynne Parks)

Summer Field Trips

Wednesday, June 4—McCormick Farm

(rescheduled from May 21)

Meeting Time & Place: 9:00 am, Mill parking lot

McCormick Farm is located 0.5 mi east of I-81 (Raphine exit), just off SR-606.)

Leader: Jo King (kingbird@yahoo.com); (540) 430-0186

As summer approaches, Jo will continue her McCormick Farm series, in search of late migrants, resident breeding birds, and maybe a surprise or two! Join us as we scan the fields, forests, and ponds for the farm's special feathered friends! This is a great walk if you're just starting out in birding. Don't have any binoculars? No problem! We now have a few pairs available you can borrow for the walk!

Comfortable walking shoes, and water are recommended.

Tuesday, July 8—A Summer Morning in Cowbane

Meeting Time & Place: 7:00 am, Food Lion parking lot in Stuarts Draft, 20 Windmill Sq, Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

Leader: Rich Wood (beagleboy831@comcast.net)

We'll be starting out early to beat the heat, as we take a leisurely walk in the Cowbane Prairie Natural Area Preserve. We hope to find some good post-breeding resident birds, as well as a few unusuals! You never know what may turn up at Cowbane! Don't have any binoculars? No problem! We now have a few pairs available you can borrow for the walk!

Comfortable walking shoes, water, and bug spray are recommended. Rain cancels.

Due to very limited parking at Cowbane, we will meet at the Food Lion, jam together, and carpool over to the preserve.

Spring Field Trip Reports

March

On a chilly **March 22**, 5 ABC members hiked an 11-acre property in Waynesboro. A total of 19 species were observed, including a Yellow-rumped Warbler and Brown Creeper. In addition to the avian activity, emerging spring flora captured everyone's attention. It was a delightful morning in nature!

—Marilyn Nash

April

With clear skies and cool temps on the morning of **April 16**, 15 members of the ABC dropped by McCormick Farm to see what early arrivals were around. The group found 36 species. Highlights included 4 raptors—Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Red-shouldered Hawk. We saw 4 species of sparrows, including House, Song, Swamp, and White-throated, and the pond had 2 Common Mergansers on it. It was a great morning of birding with good friends! Thank you!

— Jo King

The morning of Saturday, **April 19**, brought warm temps and blue skies as 32 members gathered at Natural Chimneys Park to search for birds and blooms and chat about the unique geology. The group managed to find 27 species, including singing Wood Thrush and Louisiana Waterthrush, Broad-winged Hawk, and Yellow-rumped and Black-and-white Warblers. We also identified 10 species of wildflowers. It was a great morning, with a great group of nature lovers!

— Rich Wood



Making our way toward the North River, during the Natural Chimneys Park field trip

—photo by Andrew Clem

Spring Field Trip Reports

(Cont'd)

May 10

The **Annual Spring Picnic and Bird Walk** at McCormick Farm was another great success! Over 30 members showed up for some good birds, good food, and good friends! The group found 43 species on the bird walk before brunch. Some of the highlights included Bald Eagle, Yellow-throated Vireo, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, and all 3 mimidae family (Catbird, Mockingbird, and Brown Thrasher).

Many thanks to everyone who attended, and for supplying all the delicious food!

May 15

A total of 13 members and guests of the ABC came out for a great day of birding along **Bells Lane**.

With so many eyes and ears, we managed to tally 54 species for the walk ... and I had a Great Blue Heron fly over as I was leaving. Some other highlights included: a lone Gadwall continues on the private pond, providing a mystery as to why he has been here for so long, as it does not appear to be injured. One Yellow-billed Cuckoo gave us a great fly-by sighting! There were also three Spotted Sandpipers that provided some aerial delights. Bill found a soaring Osprey for the morning. We had several Great-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos, and one Orchard Oriole. In the warbler category, we had a Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroats, American Redstarts and a Northern Parula. A Scarlet Tanager and some Indigo Buntings were spotted as well. In the baby bird realm, a Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen feeding young, as well as a Carolina Wren visiting a nesting site with food.

It was a great morning with a great group of birders and, as always, I thank all who attended.



Happy Birding—Penny Warren



Get Ready! The Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch begins its 2025 season on August 15!

Spring Field Trip Reports

(Cont'd)

May 24

A group of 5 club members joined me on an expedition to the **Reddish Knob–Bother Knob** area, located on the northern tip of Augusta County, bordering on Rockingham County and West Virginia. While we were gathering in the Food Lion parking lot at 7 a.m., we noticed a flock of 30 or more Cedar Waxwings feeding on the berries they love. It was very auspicious beginning to our trip!

During the drive up to the high mountain ridge, we stopped at the Briery Branch Reservoir and two higher-elevation scenic pullovers, where we had great views of Chestnut-sided Warblers, a Scarlet Tanager, a Common Yellowthroat, and (very briefly) a Black-and-white Warbler. At top location known informally as "Crossbill Corner," we saw Black-throated Blue Warbler, an American Redstart, a Brown Thrasher, and finally a dozen or so Red Crossbills. While we were there, we met with William Leigh, who gave us some good tips on what to look for.

Next, we drove up the rugged road about a half mile and then went hiking for about a mile and a half to the vicinity of Bother Knob, where the lush spruce and hemlock forests are just enchanting. While hiking we saw two Blackburnian Warblers, a Canada Warbler, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a Black-throated Green Warbler, along with a few Dark-eyed Juncos and Blue-headed Vireos. We heard several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Ovenbirds, and Veeries, but unfortunately never saw any. After returning to our cars, finally, we drove up to the summit of Reddish Knob (elev. 4,396 ft), where we had a fantastic closeup view of a Chestnut-sided Warbler. (We had heard or glimpsed quite a few of that species throughout the day.) The views of the Shenandoah Valley and West Virginia far below were simply awesome. Bill Benish was keeping close track of what we observed, and reports a total species count of 48 for the day, including 12 species of warblers.

It was a truly spectacular day, with ideal weather and fun companionship. Many thanks to Bill Benish, Dianne Byrer, Jeffrey Roberts, Larry Fisher, and Christine for coming along and adding to the fun.



— Andrew Clem



Birds & Brews Returns



After pausing for a few years, our in-person social gatherings are back! The first Birds and Brews was held in March at **Stable Craft Brewing**, near Waynesboro, and it was a smashing success! Everyone who attended said they enjoyed getting together in a relaxed setting and talk birds, birding and whatever else came up! For the April gathering, members met at **Pro Re Nata**, just outside of Staunton. Again, those who could make it said they had a great time with a few drinks and talking birds. The socialization continued on May 28, as (11) members enjoyed an evening together at **Seven Arrows Brewing** in Waynesboro. This was a location change from the Alpine Goat Brewery in Weyers Cave due to forecasted rain, where it was scheduled to be outside combined with a bird walk.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AS WE CONTINUE INTO THE SUMMER!

Alpine Goat Brewery-Weyers Cave (Wednesday, June 25)

Meet at 4:00 pm for a bird walk, or 5:00 pm for the social...or both!

July & August dates/locations TBD-watch the website for details



ABC members gather at Seven Arrows Brewing in Waynesboro

Did You Know?

Yellow-billed Cuckoos



Photo Credit: Mark Dertling, Point Blue Conservation Science

6 Most young cuckoos leave the nest on day 6. They can't fly yet, but climb through the canopy.

30 Most cuckoo pairs are monogamous, but about 30% of nests have unrelated helper males also feeding the young.

Fast Food

Caterpillars and katydids are what cuckoos like to eat most, but they'll catch tree frogs and grasshoppers to use as fast food for their young.

11 Yellow-billed cuckoos usually raise their own young, but have laid eggs in nests of at least 11 different kinds of birds.



4 On the cuckoo's feet, two toes point forward and two point backwards. Most other birds have three pointing forward and one back.



2 On day five or six, the nestling's feathers burst out of their sheaths and the cuckoo chicks become fully feathered in just two hours.

1/2 Feathers make up almost half of the Yellow-billed cuckoos body weight.

Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
www.fws.gov/sacramento
August 2013

Membership

We would like to welcome our new members, and very much appreciate your joining ABC.



- Diana Easley
- Marion Kanour
- Joel & Gloria Stauffer
- Patricia Watts

THANK YOU

2025 Raptorthon Summary

Our 2025 Raptorthon on May 9 was a big success! Our team had a really fun day that ended with 91 bird species including 5 raptor species! **This year's total was \$2,900-a new record for us! Many thanks to all our dedicated donors!** These funds will be used to support our Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch as well as Hawk Migration Association research grants!

Our day was long, 6:30am to 6:30pm. Although there was significant risk of rain, we only had a bit of rain in the first hour and then beautiful skies for the rest of the day! Our first major stop was Paddy Knob (elevation 4,478 ft), where we were greeted by multiple Least Flycatchers singing (2 were busy building nests!). Other birds here included Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Ruffed Grouse, Vireos (Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Red-eyed), Veery, Dark-eyed Junco, and lots of warblers (Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Black-and-white, Cerulean, N Parula, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Redstart, Blackburnian). At the knob we found our primary target of the day; a Mourning Warbler singing and moving about a lot. A small pond nearby had a bunch of Red-spotted Newts crawling and swimming about.

We then headed back north to Monterey and areas around Blue Grass for the afternoon. Other highlights in these areas included Killdeer, Sandpipers (Spotted, Solitary, Least), Lesser Yellowlegs, Warbling Vireo, Black-billed Cuckoo, 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers, Cliff Swallows gathering mud for nest building, lots of Bobolinks, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and 2 more warblers (Yellow and Yellow-rumped). Raptors included 5 American Kestrel, a female Northern Harrier, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 4 Red-tailed Hawks, and 5 Bald Eagles, including a nest with 2 adults and 2 chicks. Other highlights of the day included birthday cupcakes, a bleating lamb/whinnying screech-owl (still under debate), flowers, butterflies, trout, a big snapping turtle, and (to end our Raptorthon) a Ruffed Grouse that flew across the road right in front of us on our way home! Our team (Robyn, Bill, Rich, and me) thanks you all for your support! Here are few photos highlighting our day.

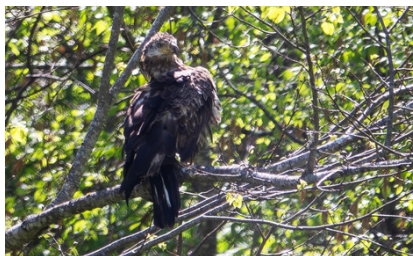
summary and photos by Vic Laubach

Photo IDs

Line 1 (L to R) The 2025 Raptorthon Team; Beautiful Highland Co; Robyn holding a Ruffed Grouse feather at Paddy Knob

Line 2 (L to R) Female Scarlet Tanager gathering nest material; Least Flycatcher building nest; Cliff Swallow gathering mud for nest

Line 3 (L to R) Lesser Yellowlegs; Juvenile Bald Eagle preening; singing male Chestnut-sided Warbler



Spring Events Wrap-Up

It was another busy spring event season, as club members represented the ABC at the **Earth Day Staunton** event and the annual Waynesboro **Riverfest**. Volunteers at both events spoke to dozens of visitors, as well as handed out club information and talked birds and birding! In addition, 6 volunteers took the time to pick up trash for the annual Bells Lane Earth Day Cleanup!

We would like to give a big shout out of THANKS to those who volunteered their time for all these events. For the Earth Day Staunton event, many thanks to Ramona Bearor, Marilyn Nash, and Sarah Foster! And a great big thank you for a long day at Riverfest to Bonnie Hughes, Sue Leonard, Diana Easley, Marilyn Lockhart, Martha Gibbons, Kristen & Bob Pingry, Antonio Martinez, Linda Matkins, and Marilyn Nash.



ABC members Diana Easley and Sue Leonard ready to greet visitors at Riverfest!

Earth Day Cleanup—Bells Lane (April 25)

Coordinated by Andrew Clem

The annual cleanup along Bells Lane had 6 club members participating. Many thanks to Antonio Martinez, Sue Elmore Leonard, Diana Easley, Linda Matkins, and Stan Heatwole, for keeping Bells Lane clean! You did great!



Check us out on the web

www.augustabirdclub.org



The Meadowlark
Editor: Rich Wood

The Birding Dog Days of Summer

reprinted from All About Birds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

In the dog days of summer, birds seem to disappear—the dawn chorus wanes and an odd silence takes hold in woodlands. Many birds look bedraggled, no longer sporting their bright breeding colors. A lot of birders hang up their binoculars until fall migration. (July and August are typically the two lowest months for eBird checklist submissions.)

But there's no reason to stop birding. The birds are still there, they're just keeping a low profile, because they're replacing their feathers. Knowing what's going on in the post-breeding lives of birds can help you keep finding species late into the summer.

Silent Summer

Birds sing for two basic reasons: to attract a mate and to defend a territory. By July, many baby birds in North America have fledged, and even birds that have multiple nests per year have finished by early August. Some birds may continue singing for a while to help their young learn their local song dialect. But many birds, such as American Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds, stop holding territories and start to join flocks—and territorial singing just isn't compatible with flocking. One by one, each species drops out of the morning chorus.

Lying Low During Molt

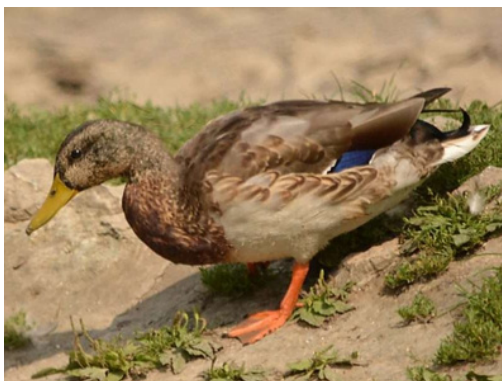
After breeding, the molting season kicks in, heralding major changes in both the appearance and behavior of birds. Molt is the systematic replacement of feathers. All birds do it, from hummingbirds to penguins. They have to molt in order to survive, because feathers wear out from physical abrasion and bleaching from the sun. Once a year (in the late summer for temperate species) birds grow an entirely new set of feathers through a complete molt. As birds grow new flight feathers, they are particularly vulnerable to predators. During wing molt, several of their flight feathers will be less than full length, producing gaps in their wings that render them less maneuverable and less powerful in flight. To avoid attracting the attention of predators, many birds—such as sparrows, warblers, and thrushes—lie low, calling infrequently and hiding in vegetation.

Drakes Go Incognito

Brightly colored male ducks have an extra trick to avoid being conspicuous to predators during molt. Waterfowl, including loons and grebes, lose all of their primary and secondary feathers at once, rendering them flightless for about a month. To help them hide when they can't fly, male ducks grow a special set of camouflaged feathers, called eclipse plumage. In July, you may notice all the Mallards in a local park look scruffy and mostly brown, like they're all females. Shortly after their wing feathers have regrown and they are able to fly again, drakes will regrow their brightly colored body feathers.

Molt photos below (L-R)

eclipse plumage of a male Mallard; Northern Cardinal; and a soaring Turkey Vulture shows missing wing feathers



The Birding Dog Days of Summer (Cont'd)

Molting Strategies

Groups of birds employ different strategies to fit molt into their annual schedule. Most of eastern North America's songbirds, including Chestnut-sided Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Indigo Bunting, begin replacing their flight and body feathers shortly after their young fledge. They tend to undergo this complete molt on or near their breeding grounds, migrating south after they have a new set of feathers.

Some songbirds in western North America, however, begin their migration and fly south a bit before molting. Western summers can be extremely dry and desolate. Many species—including Western Kingbird and Lazuli Bunting—head off on a partial migration to the Mexican Monsoon region (southeast Arizona, New Mexico, and northwest Mexico) to molt. The monsoon rains brings an abundance of insects on which to feed. After molting their flight feathers, these birds continue their migration farther south to their wintering grounds

How Many Molt Cycles Per Year?

How often do birds molt? This varies by species, but almost all birds fall into one of the following three categories:

- **One complete molt per year:** examples include chickadees, flycatchers, hawks, hummingbirds, jays, owls, swallows, thrushes, vireos, and woodpeckers
- **One complete molt and one partial molt before the breeding season:** Birds in this group, such as buntings, tanagers, and warblers, molt all their feathers after nesting and assume their basic plumage. Then, before the next breeding season, they have a partial molt of their body feathers that gives the males their bright alternate (breeding) plumage. Though females don't typically molt into bright plumage, they do go through this same partial molt
- **Two complete molts per year:** Only a few species undergo two full molts per year. Most of these live in areas where the environment causes significant feather wear and tear. Marsh Wrens and Bobolinks, two species that move through abrasive vegetation, are examples. These birds have a complete molt into basic plumage and another complete molt into alternate plumage. While Marsh Wrens don't look very different from winter to summer, male Bobolinks change from brown and streaky basic to a bold, black and cream alternate plumage

Birding During Molt

Spotting molt in action is just a matter of taking a minute to look carefully at the feathers. Birds in heavy molt tend to be scruffy overall. Look for contrast between new and old feathers, and gaps in their wings where old feathers have been dropped and new ones haven't grown in yet, like a jack-o-lantern's gap-toothed smile.

With an appreciation of molting, you'll see that a motley looking bird in late summer is really another incredible stage of a bird's life cycle. And you'll appreciate how birds prepare for the long journeys of their fall migration.



Molting Blue Jay (l) and Molting Yellow-rumped Warbler (r)

Spring Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025 Minutes, Covenant Presbyterian Church

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Wood at 7:00 pm.

Program: The meeting began promptly at 7:00 pm with a virtual presentation from Dr. Benjamin Van Doren: "How AI and Acoustics are Transforming our Understanding of Bird Migration (including recordings from Rockfish Gap)." Dr. Van Doren gave his program by Zoom from his office in Illinois. The program was cosponsored by the Virginia Society of Ornithology and made available to all, both live and through their website.

Dr. Van Doren shared that 20% of the world's approximately 11,000 bird species migrate, including 70% of "our" US birds. Nocturnal migration is the most common, with an estimated 4 billion birds migrating at night. Dr. Van Doren has been studying migration, using tools such as thermal imagery, weather radar, and microphones placed strategically throughout the Appalachians. For 3 months he had a microphone on top of Afton Mountain. The research includes studying the significant ways light pollution affects migration and possible solutions. The BirdCast Migration Dashboard is a fascinating tool available to everyone that estimates the number of birds migrating each night at major migration periods during the year.

Board Nominations: All ABC board positions are for 1-year terms and will be voted on at the April monthly meeting. For the 2025–2026 year, the following were nominated: President—No nomination; Vice President—Vic Laubach, Secretary—Marilyn Nash, Treasurer—Mona Bearor.

Bylaws: The ABC Bylaws have been reviewed and revised. These revisions are on our website, and all members are encouraged to review them. The revisions will be voted on at the April monthly meeting.

Hospitality: Birds and Brews/Wings and Wine is being revived so members will have an opportunity to socialize more. The March event is on March 19, 5:30 pm at Stable Craft Brewing, 375 Madrid Rd, Waynesboro.

Recent Sightings: Phoebes, Woodcocks, Wood Ducks, Sandhill Cranes. The Sangers Lane heron rookery is getting active.

Upcoming Field Trips: McCormick Farm on 3/12, Nash property on 3/22, and Natural Chimneys on 4/19.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.—Marilyn Nash, Secretary

"How strange that nature does not knock, and yet does not intrude!"

- Emily Dickinson

Spring Meeting Minutes

(Cont'd)

April 14, 2025 Minutes, Covenant Presbyterian Church

The meeting was called to order by President Rich Wood at 7:00 pm.

Field Trips: March 22 at Nash property in Waynesboro. 5 birders found 19 species, with a highlight being a Brown Creeper.

Upcoming Field Trips: (1) Natural Chimneys with leader Rich Wood on April 19; (2) McCormick Farm on May 10 for the annual hike and potluck brunch; (3) Bells Lane with Penny Warren on May 15 (4) McCormick Farm with Jo King on May 21.

Upcoming Events: (1) 4/24—Birds and Brews at Pro Renata in Staunton; (2) 4/25—Bells Lane Clean up, Andrew Clem leading; (3) 4/26—Earth Day in Staunton, (4) 5/3—Riverfest in Waynesboro: volunteers needed.

Recent Sightings: Warblers are coming, Brown Thrasher, Kingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Grouse at Madison Run, Bobcat at Braley Pond!

eBird: Be responsible about listing on eBird and also believing what is reported there. There have been some recent unsubstantiated reportings that would be extremely unlikely for our area.

Grant: Rich Wood/ABC applied for and received a grant from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources which will enable the club to purchase a number of binoculars. These will be loaned to those wanting to participate in hikes and classes, etc., but might not have binoculars. Thank you, Rich!

Birds and Brews: The revival of a monthly Birds and Brews in March at Stable Craft Brewery was a big success with 19 people participating. The next one will be Thursday, April 24, at Pro Renata on Parkersburg Turnpike in Staunton. This is an opportunity to visit with new and old bird club friends. We will be trying to have a gathering once a month at different places around Waynesboro, Staunton, and Augusta County.

Education and Conservation: Ann Cline will be cochairing this committee with Lynne Parks. They are putting in a pollinator garden at the Staunton Library and are looking for donated plants. Contact them if you have some: Ann (anncline1443@yahoo.com) or Lynne (v.lynneparks@gmail.com).

Program: Birds of Greater Rockbridge County was presented by Dick Rowe. Dick discussed some of his favorite birding spots around Rockbridge County, including the Blueridge Parkway, Goshen Pass, McCormick's Farm, Glen Maury Park, Boxerwood, Lake Robertson, and Cameron Pond. Several sites have sadly gone into private hands that do not welcome birders, among them Willow Lake, an old ABC favorite haunt.

Elections: Yearly elections were held. (1) For vice president, Vic Laubach was nominated by Rich Wood and seconded by Marilyn Nash. He was elected unanimously. (2) For treasurer, Mona Bearor was nominated by Rich Wood and seconded by Ann Cline. She was elected unanimously. (3) For secretary, Marilyn Nash was nominated by Rich Wood and seconded by Mona Bearor. She was elected unanimously. There was no nomination for president.

Therefore the 2025–2026 ABC Board is as follows:

President: Vacant

Vice President: Vic Laubach

Secretary: Marilyn Nash

Treasurer: Mona Bearor

Bylaws: This year our bylaws were reviewed and tweaked to reflect current realities in job descriptions and committees. Allen Larner made a motion to accept the bylaw changes. Barbara Holt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Raptorthon: Vic Laubach reported that this is the 16th year our club has participated in the annual Raptorthon. He, Rich Wood, Robyn Puffenbarger, and Bill Benish will be this year's team. On May 9, they will scout Highland County counting all birds including raptors, trying to beat their 111 species from last year. This is a fundraising project with donations divided between the ABC and the HMA (Hawk Migration Association). Donations can be made online by going to the HMA website and clicking on the Rockfish Gap Hawkwatchers, or by contacting Vic (laubach@virginia.edu).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Submitted by Marilyn Nash, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

by Ramona Bearor, ABC Treasurer

Financial Report for month of April 2025			
R E V E N U E	Membership Dues Projects &		\$184. 50
	Programs Donations Birdseed/Feeder		\$14. 21
	Sales Nature Camp Donations Interest		\$0. 00
	Other—Specify		\$0. 00
			\$1. 79
			\$0. 00
	Total Revenue		\$200. 50
E X P E N S E S	Bird Seed/Feeder sale Nature Camp		\$12. 50
	Scholarships Donations—Outside		\$4, 500. 00
	Organizations Education and Outreach		\$0. 00
	Conservation Projects Programs Dues-		\$0. 00
	Outside Organizations Hospitality Other-		\$0. 00
	Specify Administration W ebsite Rockfish		\$100. 00
	Gap Hawkwatch		\$0. 00
			\$0. 00
			\$0. 00
			\$0. 00
			\$0. 00
	Total Expenses		\$4, 612. 50
	Beginning of month CHECKING balance	\$21,720.34	*
	End of month CHECKING balance	\$17,308.34	*
	Beginning of month CD balance	\$20, 000. 00	
	End of month CD balance	\$20, 000. 00	
	*includes \$173.97 restricted funds		
	4/1/2025	Month beginning balance	\$20, 000. 00
	4/22/2025	Interest earned	\$194. 30
	4/30/2025	Ending Balance	\$20, 194. 30