



THE MEADOWLARK

The quarterly newsletter of the Augusta Bird Club



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NRCS Virginia Golden-winged Warbler Initiative: A Working Lands for Wildlife Program

photos and article by Moriah Owen, Coordinator, Golden-winged Warbler Program

How did you come to find yourself on your property? Was it handed down by a parent or family member? Did you stumble upon a great deal and take a chance? Were you searching, hunting for just the right spot to put down roots? Or did you relocate for love?



We might ask these same questions of the golden-winged warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*), a chickadee-sized migratory songbird that spends its summers nesting in the Appalachian Mountains and upper Midwest into Canada. This striking creature overwinters in Central and South America from Guatemala south to Colombia and Venezuela. In April, it begins its trek northward, flying across the Gulf in just one day!

Golden-winged warblers are about the size of a saltshaker, but only weigh about as much as two nickels. These insectivores highly prefer caterpillars. They mate, nest, and raise offspring in young forests between May and July. Sadly, they are one of the most rapidly declining songbird species in the nation, down to a third of the 1970s population. Research studies identify habitat loss as the main culprit.

Despite their bravado in migration, golden-winged warblers tend to stick to what they know: most return to the same nesting sites year after year, unwilling to risk a lack of mates in new areas. This means that even if new patches of young forest are created, the birds may not find them or choose to use them for breeding.

They also have a problem with hybridization. The very closely related blue-winged warbler occupies similar nesting sites as the golden-wings. When blue-winged warblers and golden-winged warblers mate, the “blue” genes tend to present more in the offspring. This gradual decline in the gene pool threatens the species at lower elevations where blue- and golden-winged warbler ranges overlap. Thankfully, blue-winged warblers won’t typically nest above 2,000 feet in elevation in Virginia, so the golden-wings are home free! Or are they?

These birds require early successional habitat; this looks like shrubby “overgrown” fields or “young” forest openings with flowering plants and grasses in and amongst scattered overstory trees. A mix of hawthorns, oaks, cherries, blackberry canes, goldenrod, milkweed, and asters occupy most nesting sites. As a ground-nesting species, golden-winged warblers desperately need cover. They often construct nests at the base of a goldenrod stem or blackberry cane so the female can subtly enter and exit the nest without drawing the attention of predators. Aerial imagery from the western portion of the state reveals little young forest and shrubland. Agricultural valleys and floodplains appear to best resemble early successional stages but often are cleared of shrubs or trees and exist below 2,000 feet (higher risk of hybridization). Most of our highest elevations are covered in mature timber with very few openings. While we often perceive dense forest continuing for hundreds of thousands of acres as “perfect” wildlife habitat, these areas are

(Cont’d on page 2)

Golden-winged Warblers (Continued from page 1)



Examples of early successional habitat for golden-winged warblers (L) old field; (R) young forest

food deserts for many species. They lack the structural variety and associated food resources that many forest-dwellers require. The dense canopies of mature trees soak up all the sunlight before it reaches the forest floor. The lack of fresh, nutritious growth and seed-bearing plants on the forest floor restricts food for turkeys, grouse, bear, deer, rabbits, and pollinators, not to mention the number of places for golden-winged warblers to hide a nest!

So, what can we do?

The answer is simple, yet challenging: create early successional habitat.

In many areas, this means responsibly cutting trees. Opening the forest canopy and bringing light to the forest floor will stimulate plant growth to provide the essential nesting cover for golden-winged warblers. The woody species that fill in these openings can vary greatly, and unwanted non-native species may have negative effects. They can outcompete native species and provide less-nutritious forage and fewer insects for wildlife. While these shrubs might offer the correct structure for golden-winged warbler nesting cover, the long-term reduction of native species degrades the ecosystem's functionality and quality.

Golden-winged warblers primarily eat caterpillars of moths and butterflies. Oak trees are some of the most prolific hosts of these caterpillars, with white oak alone observed to host 200 species. It is no coincidence that the golden-winged warbler's distribution nearly matches the oak-hickory forest footprint across the Appalachians. And in this case, bigger is better. A dominant, mature white oak over 20 inches in diameter acts as a "better-stocked refrigerator" of food compared to a smaller white oak with a diminished crown. The larger the spreading crown, the more branches and leaves to host caterpillars. Interestingly, part of the golden-winged warbler's mating ritual is for males to sing from the branches of mature trees scattered throughout their nesting habitat where females reside, so these oaks double as perches.

Young forest sites suitable for golden-winged warblers are tremendously productive for other wildlife species, such as cottontail rabbit, ruffed grouse, American woodcock, Baltimore oriole, yellow-breasted chat, chestnut-sided warbler, and a host of pollinator species. Considering these habitats in context raises yet another concern: What happens next? The nature of succession in the Appalachians is for young forests and fields to continue to grow up in trees, eventually reverting to mature, closed-canopy forest. By that time, a site is no longer appropriate for golden-winged warblers or providing diverse, abundant food for the myriads of other wildlife. Frequent disturbances across the landscape historically had accomplished this naturally through ice storms, hurricanes and blowdown, landslides, beaver activity, pest or disease outbreaks, and fires started by lightning or Native Americans. Another option is to maintain an existing shrubland through brush hogging or prescribed burning.

As conservation planners, we match the plan to the land, just as a doctor matches prescription to patient. Our tools include noncommercial thinning, invasive species treatment, tree and shrub planting, timber harvest, and much more. The NRCS Virginia Working Lands for Wildlife programs are designed to create and sustain wildlife habitat in the short and long term while still supporting responsible use of the land by its owners. If you own property in the Appalachian region of Virginia and are interested in creating additional wildlife habitat, we want to work with you! Our program provides financial and technical assistance on how to best manage your land to meet both your objectives and our program goals. For more information, please contact Moriah Owen (moriah.owen@usda.gov), to discuss the potential for creating more habitat on your land. Together, we can create healthier forests and ecosystems that keep golden-winged warbler habitat thriving in Virginia's mountains for generations to come!

Upcoming Monthly Programs

September 8 (7:00 pm)

Flight Risk: Bird Collisions with Glass—Lynne Parks

Lynne Parks is an award-winning environmental artist whose work arises from 12 years as former outreach coordinator for Lights Out Baltimore, a bird conservation organization that monitors bird collisions in downtown Baltimore and advocates for turning off nonessential outdoor lights.



Bird collisions are one of the leading causes of human-caused bird mortality.

The nature of migration and how it interacts with the hazards of light pollution and glass, best solutions and deterrents, and art advocacy in support of conservation will be discussed.

October 13 (7:00 pm)

Baby Bird Identification—Maureen Eiger

Maureen is the founder and director of Help Wild Birds, Roanoke's only nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation organization that exclusively rehabs migratory birds. She is the author of one of the new chapters and coauthor of another chapter in *Hand-Rearing Birds, Second Edition*, edited by Rebecca Duerr and



Laurie Gage. As a state- and federally-permitted bird rehabber, Maureen has been rehabbing various species of birds and presenting programs for 20 years. We know the field marks for adult birds, but how can you identify that “naked” bird in a nest, or identify a bird with just a few pin feathers? Maureen will describe a new set of field marks and show some more common bird species in a new way. A “what baby bird is that?” quiz will be held at the end of the program to test the group's skills.

November 10 (7:00 pm)

Flight of the Godwit: Tracking Epic Shorebird Migrations—Bruce Beehler



Bruce is an ornithologist, conservationist, and naturalist. He is currently a research associate in the Division of Birds at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and a scientific affiliate of the American Bird Conservancy. Bruce's talk will describe his 30,000+ miles traveling solo by car between 2019 and 2022 in search of Hudsonian Godwits (and Marbled and Bar-tailed Godwits) as well as 33 additional shorebird species in North America. In this illustrated presentation, Bruce will recount the highlights of his time in the field, from Nome and Point Barrow to Tuktoyaktuk, Moosonee, and Monomoy Island. He will also bring copies of his book titled *Flight of the Godwit* (to sell and sign), in which he documents his travels to uncover the secrets of 7 magnificent shorebirds (including the Hudsonian Godwit), the world's greatest nonstop travelers.



Summer Sightings

When it comes to birds in Virginia in the summer season, it's all about families—preparing nest sites, egg laying, and feeding. Here's a collection of some of our favorite photos from this summer's breeding season. Many thanks to all our talented photographers! Enjoy!



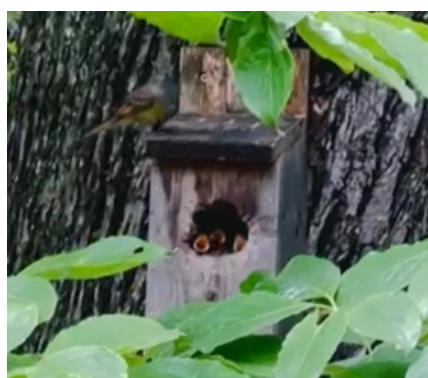
(L to R) female Eastern Towhee w/nest material; male Yellow Warbler w/chicks at nest site; nest of Chestnut-sided Warbler chicks taking a morning siesta (*three photos Vic Laubach*)



(L to R) Northern Mockingbird eggs (*Ann Cline*); Catbird eggs (*Rich Wood*); adult Red-eyed Vireo feeding young (*Al Wolf*)



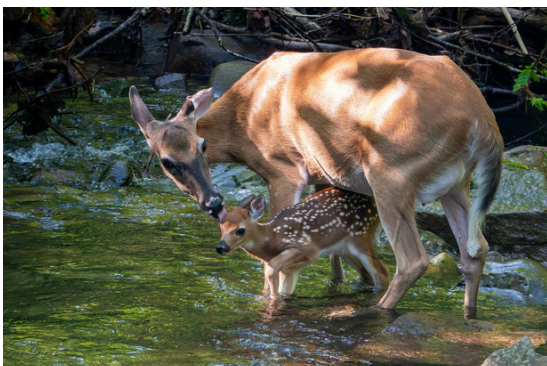
Adult Chipping Sparrow feeding fledgling (*Andrew Clem*)



Nest box full of Great-crested Flycatcher chicks w/adult on top (photo grabbed from a video clip (*video by Jan Jeffries Painter*))

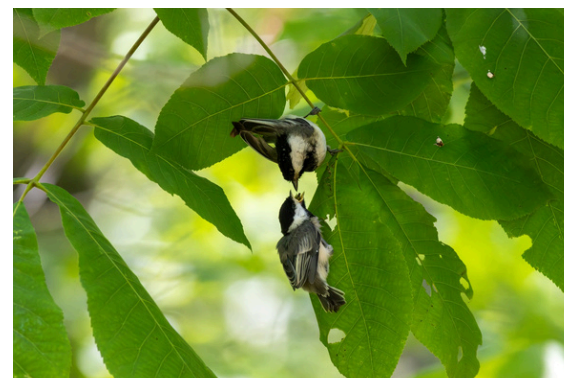


Willow Flycatcher family (*Vic Laubach*)



I had to include this excellent *capture* by *Vic Laubach*, of a mama deer licking her fawn, while cooling off in a stream on a hot summer day!

Black-capped Chickadee feeding young (*Scott Priebe*)



Summer Field Trip Reports

Fourteen members of the Augusta Bird Club (ABC) met on a beautiful morning, on June 4, to conduct a field trip to McCormick Farm in Raphine, VA. Thirty-eight species were recorded. A sighting of an immature Black-crowned Night Heron, along with a singing Orchard Oriole, a nesting Warbling Vireo in a Tulip Poplar tree, and a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers at the nesting hole carrying food for their young, was quite thrilling, along with the many Cedar Waxwings and Goldfinches.

—*Jo King*



Juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron
flying over McCormick Mill Farm
(*Nancy Sorrells*)



Three club members tallied 72 species total today on our trip to Highland County on Saturday, June 7. We started off with drizzling rain at the Confederate Breastworks. At Bramble Hill we started with light drizzling rain, but then the clouds broke and the sun started to peek through. Here, Andrew found a singing Golden-winged Warbler as well as a female Golden-winged/Blue-winged Warbler hybrid (see photo by Andrew, likely a Brewster's Warbler, gathering nest material) at the top of the trail behind the house. At Laurel Fork, we had Least Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher. We ended our day in Straight Fork, where we had Magnolia and Canada Warbler as well as two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

Other highlights included Bobolink, Bald Eagle, and Chestnut-sided Warbler. We had a total of 14 species of warblers, 3 species of thrush, 5 species of flycatcher, Black-billed Cuckoo, 4 species of woodpeckers with the most notable being Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. We didn't have time to cover Paddy's Knob, where the Mourning Warblers are found.

—*Allen Larner*

Three members of the ABC ventured to Cowbane Prairie Natural Area Preserve on Tuesday, July 8 (Ann Cline, Vic Laubach, and Rich Wood). It was a beautiful, warm morning as we strolled past fields of summer wildflowers, hedgerows, and wetlands that had lots of bird activity for mid-July. We were happy to tally 40 species. Some highlights included a rather noisy Yellow-breasted Chat that challenged a Great-crested Flycatcher, a young Red-tailed Hawk looking for breakfast, and summer songs from a Field Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, and Warbling Vireo. A Willow Flycatcher was busy catching insects, while a female Eastern Towhee carried grass for a late-season nest. Above the fields and trees several members of the swallow family (Purple Martin, Barn, and Tree) seemed to be starting to gather in preparation for migration. It was a fun morning!

—*Rich Wood*



A Yellow-breasted Chat scolds a Great-crested Flycatcher at Cowbane Preserve.
(*Vic Laubach*)

Summer Field Trip Reports

(Cont'd)

A most pleasant gathering of 7 birders conducted a field trip to McCormick Farm on August 13. Some 44 species were noted by sight and sound, from the flight of the Green and Great Blue Heron, to the rattling of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. We watched a baby Mocker being fed, and we identified 5 species of swallows (Barn, Tree, Cliff, Northern Rough-winged, and Bank). Birding is good for the soul!
—Jo King



Birds & Brews Continues over Summer

The popular Birds & Brews have continued over the summer months, with gatherings at Stable Craft Brewery in June, followed up with a visit to the Alpine Goat Brewery in Weyers Cave in July. These informal social events brings together good friends and ABC members in a fun, relaxed setting. Check the website and Facebook page for more upcoming get-togethers!



(L) The group at Stable Craft Brewery in June; (R) Enjoying the Alpine Goat Brewery in July



New Pollinator Garden at Augusta County Library

Thanks to ABC member Ann Cline, pollinators, and visitors to the Augusta County County Library in Fishersville, now have a new, native plant garden to enjoy! This past spring, Ann approached the library to see if they would be interested in partnering with ABC to host a new pollinator garden at their main Fishersville site. Library staff were excited about the opportunity and Ann got started, laying out the garden and planting plants. With the all the rain we've had (and some supportive watering by Ann), the plants are doing fantastic! The garden setting was enhanced even more when a bench built by the students at Valley Vo Tech. was recently added. Many thanks to Ann and for the support of the library staff, Keith Bell, and all.



(L) The new pollinator garden at the Augusta County Library.

(R) A Buckeye butterfly using the new garden.
(Ann Cline)



Fall Field Trips

For all field trips, dress appropriately for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring your water bottle.

Saturday, September 13—SR-610/Blue Ridge Parkway

Meeting Time & Place: 8:00 am, at the old Afton Inn parking lot (Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch)

Leader: Andrew Clem (agclem@comcast.net)

We'll hit the usual hot spots along the both of these roadways. One or two possible short strolls on trails if conditions are good. We will join the hawkwatch observers for a while after we're done. Rain date: Saturday, September 20.

Monday, September 15—Bells Lane

Meeting Time & Place: 8:00 am, kiosk at west end of Bells Lane

Leader: Penny Warren (onthewingnow17@gmail.com)

Join Penny for an early fall bird walk on Bells Lane. Our routine is to visit the private pond, and that alone sometimes occupies a lot of the morning. Time permitting we will also walk the lane, check the wooded areas, the marshy ponds, and the grasslands, head up to the top of the lane, check the beaver ponds, and see what September brings us! Rain cancels.

Fall Field Trip Series: Wednesday, September 17, October 15, November 12—McCormick Farm

Meeting Time & Place, All Walks: 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

Fall at McCormick Farm is a special time of the year! The trees show off their brilliant colors, and many birds stop over on their long journeys south. Each month can bring in new migrants, and you never know what will be seen! Join our dedicated leader, Jo King, as she explores the woodlots, fields, and ponds of this historic area. Rain cancels.

Saturday, September 27—Augusta Springs Wetlands

Meeting Time & Place: 8:30 am, in front of the Food Lion on N Coalter St in Staunton, and carpool from there.

Leader: Andrew Clem (agclem@comcast.net)

We'll walk around the lowland loop and possibly explore a bit of the upland trail as well. Optional stop or stops in Swoope on the way back, depending on time and interest. Rain date: Saturday, October 4.

Saturday, October 11—Madison Run Fire Road

Meeting Time & Place: 8:30 am, in front of the Food Lion on N Coalter St in Staunton, and carpool from there.

Leader: Andrew Clem (agclem@comcast.net)

We'll hike about a mile upstream and then back. No rain date.

Saturday, November 8—Chimney Hollow Trail

Meeting Time & Place: 8:30 am, in front of the Food Lion on N Coalter St in Staunton, and carpool from there.

Leader: Andrew Clem (agclem@comcast.net)

We'll hike about a mile upstream and then back. There are a few minor stream crossings, so wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes. No rain date.



Hawkwatch 2025



The Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch conducted its first season of fall raptor migration in 1976, which means that this year, 2025, marks our 50th year of counting! We're one of the longest-running hawkwatches in North America! Our hawkwatch is conducted on the grounds of the old Inn at Afton (elevation 2,000 ft), just off I-64 at exit 99. A small group of local volunteers covers the watch from August 15 through November 30, with peak raptor counts being the last two weeks of September.



We typically see 14 different raptor species migrating over Rockfish Gap each fall, with an average of 29,388 total raptors/season. Most of the count consists of an average of 25,250 Broad-winged Hawks, with second place being 1,825 Sharp-shinned Hawks. The past two seasons were record-breakers for Bald Eagles with 480 in 2023 and 496 in 2024! Historically, we rarely saw a single Mississippi Kite, but these kites have been growing in numbers in recent years with a record 13 flying over last year! Although most raptors fly high up (above naked-eye limit), many do come in close for awesome photo opportunities!

During peak migration we can easily get 50–100 visitors on the weekends who come to witness up to 10,000 hawks in a single day. We welcome visitors, and the hawkwatch is easily accessible with ample parking. If you come visit, be sure to bring your binoculars (and spotting scope if you have one), sunscreen, hat, a folding chair or blanket, food, and drink. A port-a-potty is available on site. Visit our website (www.rockfishgaphawkwatch.org) to learn more. Keep an eye on our online calendar (found on main menu of website) to see if a counter has signed up for the day you plan to visit (sometimes a counter isn't available). We hope to see you up there!

—Vic Laubach, Coordinator



A Cooper's Hawk flies past the hawkwatch.



2025 Seed Sale Coming Soon!

Pick-Up Day-Saturday, November 8



Get your seed bins ready—it's almost time for our annual bird seed sale! Stock up now to keep your feeders filled all winter long for the beautiful year-round residents and special seasonal visitors we all enjoy.

Ordering:

- The online store will open in early October.
- Email announcements will let you know when we are ready to take orders.
- Printed order forms will be available upon request.
- Order deadline: Friday, October 31**

Pick-Up Details:

- Location: Augusta Expo (same as last year)
- Date: Saturday, November 8
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

We're proud to offer **premium quality seed at competitive prices**—fresh new-crop seed only (no old stock!)—as well as **Squirrel Buster™ feeders below market cost**. Your birds will thank you!

Volunteers Needed:

We always need extra hands for:

- Loading orders into vehicles
- Staffing the check-in table
- Making deliveries

If you can help, please contact Linda Matkins at linda.matkins@gmail.com.

Why It Matters:

Every purchase supports our mission. Proceeds fund Nature Camp scholarships—more than any other organization provides—and also strengthen our conservation and education projects.

Spread the Word!

Advertising is expensive and often misses our audience, so personal recommendations are our best outreach. Please share this sale with friends, neighbors, and coworkers who feed birds. They'll get top-quality seed at great prices—and they'll be helping local conservation, too.

We can't wait to see you on November 8!

Crista Cabe
cristacabe@gmail.com

How Well Do You Know Your US Owls?



Take the Quiz!

From the National Audubon Society

Answers will be in the Winter issue.



1. What type of owl preys on the Great Gray Owl?

- a. Great-horned Owl
- b. Snowy Owl
- c. Barred Owl

2. Which species can sound off at up to 160 hoots per minute?

- a. Western Screech Owl
- b. Burrowing Owl
- c. Northern Saw-whet Owl

3. Which tiny owl only weighs about as much as 25 pennies?

- a. Northern Saw-whet Owl
- b. Flammulated Owl
- c. Northern Pygmy Owl

4. An Inuit legend describes which owl as getting its color from a raven's paintbrush ?

- a. Barn Owl
- b. Snowy Owl
- c. Flammulated Owl

5. What owl helps to spread false truffle spores by throwing up squirrel pellets?

- a. Great-horned Owl
- b. Great Gray Owl
- c. Northern Spotted Owl

6. Which owl reclaims old badger and prairie dog homes?

- a. Northern Saw-whet Owl
- b. Short-eared Owl
- c. Burrowing Owl

7. What owl species impales its prey on a long thorn (no, shrikes are not owls)?

- a. Northern Pygmy Owl
- b. Eastern Screech Owl
- c. Long-eared Owl

8. Which owl has resided on Hawaii for hundreds, maybe thousands of years?

- a. Barred Owl
- b. Short-eared Owl
- c. Barn Owl

Membership

We would like to welcome our new members, and very much appreciate you joining, and supporting ABC!



James Arnold
Mary Kate Claytor
Charles Faires
Tiffany Fisk
Helen Gieger
Terri Robinson
Cindy Lawrence
Anne Avery
Peggy Ruth Geren
Bobbi Jo Wright

THANK YOU!



Upcoming Reminders

Holiday Party & 2nd Annual Wildlife Center Donation Drive



Monday, December 8 (6:30 pm)

Join us as we celebrate the holidays with ABC friends with a potluck meal. Please bring your favorite side dish, salad, bread, or dessert to share with the group. ABC will provide meat and beverages.

Once again, we will be collecting donated items for the Wildlife Center of Virginia at our holiday party. Last year was a great success, and we hope to top our 2024 total with this year's donations! The Wildlife Center is located right here in Augusta County, and it treats thousands of birds and other wildlife every year. Here's a list of its most needed items:

FEEDING SUPPLIES

eggs, baby rice cereal, baby food (fruit & meat), canned dog food, dry dog food (high quality/high protein), dry cat food (high quality/high protein), *Exact* bird food (available on Amazon), 1 mL and 3 mL syringes (available on Amazon).

CLEANING SUPPLIES

antibacterial liquid soap, Dawn dishwashing liquid (blue), kitchen-size (or larger) trash bags, Scrub Daddy sponges, contractor bags

For questions about the holiday party, email Linda Matkins (linda.matkins@gmail.com).

For questions about the Wildlife Center Donation Drive, email Ramona Bearor (conservebirds@gmail.com).

Christmas Bird Counts

Augusta County CBC: Sunday, December 14, 2025

For more information, and to participate, contact Allen Larner (larnersky@mindspring.com).

Waynesboro CBC: Sunday, January 4, 2026

For more information and to participate, contact Crista Cabe (cristacabe@gmail.com).

The fifth edition of *Birds of Augusta County, Virginia* is now going to print and we are taking pre-orders.

The book is a permanent record of the 324 species seen in Augusta County to date, listed in taxonomic sequence. Each listing includes abundance and habitat information along with extreme dates, peak counts, and breeding status. The listings are current as of August 2025. This will be a great addition to your resource library!

The price is \$12 if pre-ordered and \$14 if purchased after publication. The books should be available for pickup in October. If you would like to reserve a copy of the book at the pre-order price of \$12, please email Ramona Bearor, treasurer@augustabirdclub.org. Include your name, phone number, and how many copies you would like.

When we have the books, you will receive an email with information on how to receive your book along with payment information.

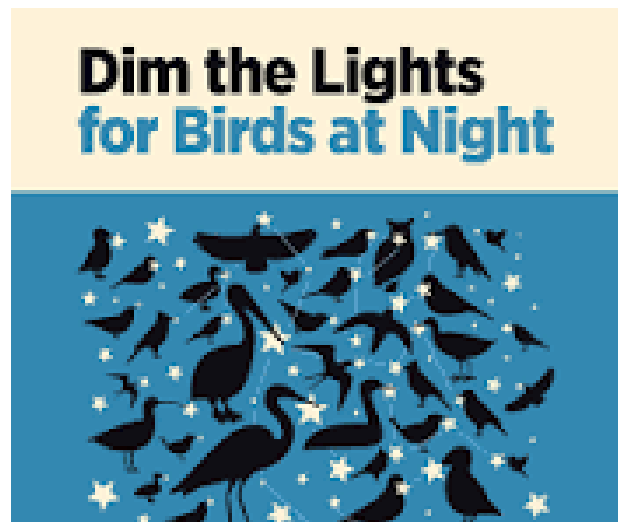
**Birds of
Augusta County,
Virginia**



Fifth Edition
Augusta Bird Club 2025

Herbert Allen Lerner III, Editor

**Migration Is Starting,
Please Remember.....**



"If I were a bird, I would fly about the Earth seeking the successive autumns."

—George Eliot

2025 Nature Camp



Since the late 1980s, the Augusta Bird Club (ABC) has offered both full and partial scholarships to Nature Camp, with more than \$50,000 provided in total support since 2005. Originally funded through the sale of bluebird boxes designed and built by ABC member John Kiser, our scholarships today are supported through both memorial donations as well as the Annual Birdseed & Feeder Sale held every fall.

Tucked away in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Rockbridge County, Nature Camp is a 2-week summer camp dedicated to experiential environmental education. Located in the George Washington National Forest near the small town of Vesuvius, Virginia, Nature Camp holds four 2-week youth sessions per summer, plus one 5-day session for adults. The camp uses its gorgeous, natural setting as a classroom to educate campers about their responsibility to the Earth and to the natural environment that sustains them. The vision of Nature Camp was born in the collective minds of the Conservation Committee of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs in 1941. It's now run by Nature Camp, Inc., with support from the Nature Camp Foundation (from the Nature Camp Foundation website).

The ABC is one of 17 organizations that provided scholarships to roughly 10% of this year's campers. This year 5 local youth benefited from our program, including 1 from Waynesboro High School (Libby), 2 from Shelburne Middle School in Staunton (Meredith and Eva), and 2 from Stuart Hall (Ingrid and Asher). According to the notes of appreciation that we recently received, our campers enjoyed day-long hikes to Torry Ridge, Mine Mountain, and December Ridge on McClung Mountain. Campers took classes in ornithology, mammalogy, entomology, and herpetology.

To quote one of our recipients, "This year, I took ornithology as my major class and it was very interesting. We learned so much about birds and nature as a whole. We did a really cool major project and made a big map of Nature Camp. We mapped all the places and species of birds we saw throughout the session. I had a great time at Nature Camp and I'm so excited to go back next year!"

2025-2026



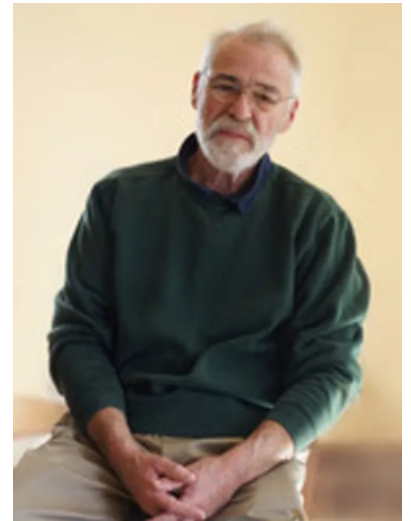
Project FeederWatch turns your love of feeding birds into scientific discoveries. **FeederWatch is a November–April survey of birds** that visit backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. You don't even need a feeder! All you need is an area from which you like to watch birds. Plus, the schedule is completely flexible: you can count every week or once all winter, for as much or as little time as you like.

For more information, and to join, go to: www.feederwatch.org.

In Memory Of

On May 17 we lost another cherished member of the ABC, Jim Hill. In 2022, after retirement, Jim and his wife Wendy moved to Virginia from Pennsylvania. Back in PA, he worked as an investigative reporter and editor for the *York Daily Record* for many years, work which earned him a National Headliner Award and multiple Keystone Press Awards. In 1981, he started Hill Woodworks, building it into a successful millwork company.

Jim was an avid birder and excellent photographer. He loved to share his passion with others, especially when it came to Bluebird conservation. He used his woodworking skills to build many bluebird boxes, as well as completely rebuilding the information kiosk on Bells Lane. He was a pleasure to have on each and every bird walk. We will miss him very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with Wendy and their family!



Check us out on the web

www.augustabirdclub.org



The Meadowlark
Editor: Rich Wood