



Goldfinch Gazette

The Newsletter of the Rockingham Bird Club

<http://rockinghambirdclub.com>

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Oct 2016

OCTOBER MEETING

DATE: Thursday, October 6, 2016

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Detwiler Auditorium, Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, 1501 Virginia Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

PROGRAM: This month we welcome one of our own to the podium! Member Bill Faw will present "*Penguins of the Antarctic*" which will showcase his and Martha's cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula and the Falkland Islands – served with blue ice, humpback whale; Weddell, elephant, and leopard seals; Black-browed Albatross, Cape Petrel, Striated Caracara, Kelp Gull, Polar Skua, Antarctic Cormorant, and live photos of 6 species of penguins. Bill and Martha have also seen penguins in New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa. At the end, Bill will show pictures of all 18-22 species of penguins, by genus and location.

Before the meeting, we will host Bill and Martha for dinner at Traditions, 625 Mt Clinton Pike in Harrisonburg at 5:30 PM. Please contact Denise Hoodock at 703-216-5499 or dhooock@gmail.com if you'll join us for dinner.

Be a Field Trip Leader! You choose the location and schedule. We have been relying on the same SMALL core group of leaders who generously continuing to offer trips. If you would like more trips, trips to different locations (including out-of-area), trips that start late or start early, then please contact Diane Lepkowski about the trip(s) you'd like to help coordinate and lead. You do not need to be an experienced birder to be a trip leader!

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS - *Diane Lepkowski*

Lake Shenandoah, Saturday October 29, with Greg Moyers - We will meet in the parking lot at the lake at 8:30 AM. Remember that Lake Shenandoah is a fee access area (Access pass, or Virginia fishing or hunting license required; more information at Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website: www.dgif.virginia.gov) Please contact Greg at gwmoyers@msn.com or 434-3029 if you plan to attend.

Hillendale Park, Tuesday, October 18, with Tom Mizell – The birds of October are calling. Meet at 8:00 AM at the children's playground parking lot just across the road from the log cabin. The walk will continue past 10:21 AM which a little birdy tells us marks the passage of Summer to Fall. Hope to see you in September.

TRIP REPORTS

Shenandoah National Park – *Greg Moyers*: Nine members and guests of the RBC made the trip to Skyline Drive on Sept. 3. Our first stop was Hensley Hollow Overlook where we found a Hooded Warbler and a Black-throated Green Warbler foraging in the trees below. Our next stop was the Pocosin Cabin Trail. Soon after arriving, we began to hear chatter and soon found ourselves in the midst of a large mixed flock. The flock consisted of half a dozen or so Cape May Warblers as well as Worm-eating, Black-and-white, Hooded, American Redstart, Blackburnian, and Black-throated Blue Warblers as well as Red-eyed, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated Vireos. This flock was to be the highlight of the day. Only a few other birds, including Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Broad-winged Hawk, were seen at Pocosin. We made a quick stop at Baldface Mountain Overlook and found a Common Yellowthroat and another Cape May Warbler. Our final stop was South River Picnic Area, where we walked the loop from the South River Falls Trail, across the Appalachian Trail, and back up the fire road. This loop provided looks at exactly one bird – a soaring Turkey Vulture. We did hear a Hooded Warbler and a Hairy Woodpecker, but very little else. The trip concluded with a total of 30 species, including nine warblers.

September Hillandale Walks – *Tom Mizell*: Two Warbler shows in the Walnut Trees, two seasons, 14 members of the Rockingham Bird Club and 5 visitors are ingredients for an enjoyable morning in Hillandale Park on 22 September 2016. As I arrived at a full parking lot at 7:55 AM my initial question to the many early arrivals was “What have you seen?” Several responded “A Cooper's Hawk.” Furthermore, I was told that the “Coop” had been perched on one of the picnic tables just across the stream channel. It was being entertained by a couple of squirrels that appeared to be completely oblivious to any danger. Nice way to start the day! Other parking lot sightings included Blue Jays, American Robins, American Crow and Tufted Titmouse.

As more folks arrived, our wish list included Broad-wing Hawk, Philadelphia Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. For the second month in a row our “Minute for Safety” emphasized the hazards of walnuts and someone mentioned chiggers that had left lasting impressions in August.

In our procession toward the cabin we enjoyed the recent addition of a new gravel trail between the road and the pedestrian bridge. After crossing the bridge over the dry stream channel we found much activity both overhead as well as in the brush just adjacent to the cabin. The list grew as Mourning Dove, Northern Flicker, Northern Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Finch, Eastern Towhee, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Brown Thrasher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo were seen. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were heard along with some Fish Crows. By now this sizable entourage of birders were scattered under the walnut trees near the cabin and the first warbler show commenced. An American Redstart gave us our first warbler. Soon we were enjoying fleeting glimpses along with warbler neck exercises as Northern Parula, Cape May, Blackburnian and Chestnut-Sided Warblers teased us by their antics in the canopy. Just 42 minutes into our walk we had 26 species.

Somewhat reluctantly, but with the wonder of what awaited further along the trail, we left this special spot. As we headed north along the golf course boundary we found House Wren, heard a Killdeer, and gazed upon a pair of European Starlings atop a dead oak tree. A Red-eyed Vireo was at work on some type of caterpillar. Greg Moyers scaled up a downed tree trunk and from his lofty perch he found a

Magnolia Warbler along the fence line. Chimney Swifts flew overhead announcing 9 AM; one hour and 32 species.

It took us an hour and a half to reach the northernmost pedestrian bridge. About 100 yards before reaching the bridge many enjoyed a Bay-breasted Warbler; we heard a Pileated Woodpecker and an Ovenbird walked in the Northwest Corner. After we crossed the bridge we once more found ourselves leaning against trees and fellow bird watchers in order to get looks at the feeding and chases in the tree tops. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Blackpoll, and more Redstarts and Northern Parulas entertained us for several minutes. We were joined by Matt Gingerich and his sons Reuben and Micah. Reuben had his own binocs and his brother Micah, at 4 months, gave us smiles. After our extended stay for the second warbler show in a Walnut Grove, we headed toward the cabin again. We tallied 40 species for the summer portion of our walk, with American Goldfinch being the last summer addition.

By the time we reached the cabin again autumn arrived and the first Fall bird many of us saw (and heard) was Blue Jay. By now we were walking the southern loop of the figure 8 circuit. We added Mockingbird and Tree Swallow and by 10:40 AM our birders totaled 8. I got a phone call from Greg Moyers reporting a cameo appearance by Tom Pendleton in the parking lot as they viewed a Red-shouldered Hawk in the southern sky. Passing the cabin one last time we saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk high overhead sharing the field of view with a Red-tailed Hawk. As I reached my car, Team Gingerich shared that they had seen some Broad-wing Hawks streaming south as well. 46 Species for this day. Thanks to all the eyes, ears and birding enthusiasm as we enjoyed the changing of the Seasons. Maybe you can join us in October.

Anonymous Quote: "I was surprised! We saw a lot of warblers, many that we did not expect to see!"

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Huck Hutchens reported **Red Crossbills** at the usual spot on top of Shenandoah Mtn at the intersection of the Bother Knob and Reddish Knob Rds on Aug. 22.

William Leigh reported three **Semipalmated Plovers** and several **Pectoral Sandpipers** at the Oakwood Drive pond on Aug. 22.

Diane Holsinger reported an **Eastern Screech-Owl** calling at her place in Timberville on Aug. 23 & 24 and had a **Common Yellowthroat** and an **American Redstart** on Sept. 11.

Diane Lepkowski has had a number of good yard birds at her place outside of Harrisonburg including **Worm-eating, Black-and-white, Blackpoll, Nashville, Black-throated Green, Magnolia, and Cape May Warblers, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Common Ravens, and Veery.**

Greg Moyers and Diane Lepkowski found a **Blue-winged Warbler** and a **Canada Warbler**, among several other warblers, at Switzer Dam on Aug. 27. They also reported **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and a **Yellow-throated Vireo.**



Blackpoll Warblers

Photo: Diane Lepkowski

Shaphan Shank reported a **Whip-Poor-Will** calling on Aug. 27 at Union Springs, a personal late record. Debbie Harrison had a calling **Whip-Poor-Will** at her place just north of the Rockingham County border on Sept. 12.

Diane Holsinger reported a **Black-crowned Night-Heron** at Silver Lake on Aug. 29. Diane saw an **Osprey** at the same location on Sept. 7.

Greg Moyers reported three **Eurasian Collared-Doves** on Lumber Mill Rd on Aug. 30 and found 12 at the same location on Sept. 19. Diane Lepkowski found 19 birds at this location on Sept. 20. Greg also reported a **Great Egret** at Nazarene Wetland on Aug. 30.

Shaphan Shank reported over 225 **Common Nighthawks** at Union Springs on Aug. 31.

Diane Holsinger and Jonathan Todd reported **Bank Swallows** at Silver Lake over the last month.

Jonathan Todd reported numerous good finds at Hillandale Park in September including **Mourning, Canada, Blue-winged, Magnolia, Cape May, Tennessee, and Bay-breasted Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-headed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos.**

Herb Myers reported hundreds of **Chimney Swifts** in downtown Harrisonburg on Sept. 2.

Mike Smith found a **Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine and Hooded Warblers, and Scarlet Tanager** on the Massanutten Trail on Sept. 6. The following day, Mike kayaked the Shenandoah River from Elkton to Shenandoah and found **Red-shouldered Hawks, Spotted Sandpiper, Warbling Vireos, and 15 Wood Ducks,** among others.

Diane Holsinger reported a **Blue Grosbeak** on Mt. Clinton Pike on Sept. 7.

Greg Moyers totaled 19 warbler species on the weekend of Sept. 10-11 at Skyline Drive and Switzer Dam. Highlights included **Red-breasted Nuthatches** at both spots, **Mourning Warbler** at Pocosin Cabin, and **Wilson's Warbler** at Switzer Dam.

William Leigh found two **Baird's Sandpipers**, along with **Solitary** and **Least Sandpipers** at the pond on Western View Rd on Sept. 10.

Diane Holsinger flushed an **American Woodcock** at Wildwood Park and saw a **Bald Eagle** flying above the Rt. 42 bridge in Bridgewater on Sept. 12.

Greg Moyers and Dave Wendelken found a **Philadelphia Vireo**, a **Warbling Vireo**, and a **Nashville Warbler** at Hillandale Park on Sept. 13.

William Leigh found 16 **American Golden-Plovers** at the Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction on Lumber Mill Rd on Sept. 19. As many as 22 birds were reported in subsequent days. On the same date at Hillandale Park, William found a **Winter Wren**, **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, and 14 species of warblers, including **Cape May**, **Bay-breasted**, **Blackpoll**, **Canada**, and **Magnolia**.



Nashville Warbler

Photo: Diane Lepkowski

Andrew Clem saw several of the previously mentioned warblers and added **White-eyed Vireo** and **Swainson's Thrush** at Hillandale Park on Sept. 21.

Diane Holsinger had three **Purple Finches** at her place in Timberville on Sept. 22.

Matt Gingerich reported a **Dickcissel** at his place in Linville on Sept. 23.

The Bird Club Book Club: The B.C.B.C. will meet on Thursday, October 20, 2016, at the home of Elizabeth Ihle, for a shared dinner and discussion of the book *A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight To Extinction* by Joel Greenberg. If you would like to join the discussion, contact Maureen at famcleod@earthlink.net or 896-9541.

Birds of the 'Burg: Saturday, October 1 - Guided bird walks for children and their families. 8:30-10:30 AM at Hillandale Park - Meet at shelter #12 parking area. Walk the trails and learn about the surprising variety of birds right here in our city park. School-age children and their families are welcome. Bring binoculars if you have them. All children (under 18) must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Led by Kathy Byers of the Rockingham Bird Club; sponsored by Sierra Club Shenandoah Group. For more information, contact Kathy Byers (540) 820-6517 or Ralph Grove (540) 478-3677.

RBC needs YOU!

We still have no one as our VP-Programs. The November and December meeting programs are already scheduled, but we don't have anything/any one for the rest of the year! If you would be a *contact person* to arrange JUST ONE PROGRAM, please let me know as soon as possible.

In case you want to help, but don't know who call . . . we have several sources for speakers. So, if you're willing to make a phone call (or email) and coordinate that one month's meeting, that would be TERRIFIC!

The *contact person* will schedule the speaker, see what is needed on meeting night (the Club has a laptop computer & projector, VMRC allows us use of their auditorium and microphones) and let me know the Program title, dinner arrangements, etc. Also, the *contact person* will meet the speaker on that meeting night and arrange for dinner (the Club pays) prior to the meeting, with other club members.

Thank you for your support! ~Debbie Harrison, President



The book Birds of Rockingham County, by Clair Mellinger, needs updating. Please contact him to help with this project: email: mellinac@emu.edu, or phone [540-433-1752](tel:540-433-1752).

From The Treasurer - Steve White: Just a brief note this month: Our 2016-2017 membership drive is in full swing. About one third of last year's members have renewed already; my thanks to you. For those who have not renewed, please take a minute at your earliest convenience and mail a check to me at 7738 Sparkling Springs Road, Singers Glen VA 22850. Make checks out to "RBC" (Rockingham Bird Club). Or see me at our next meeting on October 6th. Dues are at the same bargain level they have been for twelve years - \$15 for individual membership and \$20 for family membership. Thank you, and happy birding to all of you.

24th Annual Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival – October 6 – 9, 2016

Headquartered at Sunset Beach Resort, 32246 Lankford Hwy, Cape Charles, VA 23310

Festival Mailing Address: P.O. Box 193 Franktown, VA 23354 • (757) 710-9040

Full descriptions of all field trips and workshops may be found on the festival website:

www.esvabirdingfestival.com. Festival Welcome with Keynote Presentation, "The Miracle of Migration" by E.J. Williams Sunset Beach Resort Conference Room Friday, October 7, 5:30 – 7:00 pm Learn how a 100-year old treaty makes migration possible and what our birds will need in the next 100 years to survive and thrive. Emily Jo (E.J.) Williams is the Vice President of Migratory Birds and Habitats for the American Bird Conservancy.

ORDERS DUE: WED. OCTOBER 12, 2016

PICK UP DAY: SAT. NOVEMBER 12, 2016

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Weight	Description	Quantity	Unit Price/ includes tax	Row Total
25 lb.	Black Oil Sunflower		15.00	
	*SPECIAL: 3 Bags, 25 lb. Black Oil		40.00	
20 lb.	Shell-Free (no waste) Mix		19.00	
20 lb.	Gourmet Wild Bird Mix		14.00	
40 lb.	Gourmet Wild Bird Mix		25.00	
	*SPECIAL: 3 Bags, 40 lb. Gourmet Wild Bird		70.00	
20 lb.	Lyric Fruit & Nut		30.00	
25 lb.	Cracked Corn		12.00	
25 lb.	White Proso Millet		12.00	
4 lb.	Peanut Splits		5.00	
	*SPECIAL: 3 Bags, 4 lb. Peanut Splits		13.00	
25 lb.	Sunflower Chips (no waste)		38.00	
5 lb.	Nyjer (Thistle Seed)		11.00	
10 lb.	Nyjer (Thistle Seed)		20.00	
25 lb.	Safflower Seed		26.00	
	10" Audubon Nylon Thistle Sock		3.00	
12 oz.	Peanut Butter Suet Cake - HOMEMADE		2.50	
½ Price	Book: " <i>Birds of Rockingham County</i> "		5.00	
			ORDER TOTAL	\$
DUES-see previous page for categories & amounts				\$
Additional Donations to RBC-always appreciated				\$
			GRAND TOTAL	\$

_____ I will pick up my order on November 12th.

_____ I have made other arrangements for pick-up. Explain: _____

Rockingham Bird Club
151 Deerlick Lane
Broadway, VA 22815



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151 Deerlick Lane
Broadway, VA 22815
Phone - 540-856-3058

VICE PRESIDENT: PROGRAMS - VACANT

VICE PRESIDENT: FIELD TRIPS - Diane Lepkowski

SECRETARY: Donna Dobbs

TREASURER: Steve White - 540-833-6726

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Bill Benish

GOLDFINCH GAZETTE - Denise Hoodock

EMAIL: info@rockinghambirdclub.com