



Goldfinch Gazette
The Newsletter of the Rockingham Bird Club
<https://rockinghambirdclub.com>

Volume XLVI

Number 3

Nov 2020

**VIRTUAL CLUB MEETINGS, via ZOOM, WILL REPLACE
IN-PERSON CLUB MEETINGS, AT LEAST THROUGH
YEAR-END. SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS.**

SECRETARY NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!!

We need a volunteer to step into the role of Secretary for the club. Please contact Debbie Harrison at 540-856-3058 or woodshar@aol.com if you are willing to help the club in this capacity.

Vice President for Programs Needed

Robyn Puffenbarger completed her 2-year commitment as VP of Programs in June. However, she has graciously continued to provide programs through Zoom meetings for the remainder of 2020.

The club needs a volunteer to step forward and fill this role. Please consider giving your time to this important and necessary roll in our club. There may be some programs already scheduled for 2021.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

While we are being very careful and protecting ourselves from the ongoing threat due to the pandemic, our club needs to stay “in business” and membership dues are important. Please remember to keep your membership in good standing. **Renew before November 15th (this date has been extended.)** RBC membership year begins each September. Dues are payable annually in September and are not pro-rated. In keeping with RBC bylaws, members who have not paid dues by November 1, 2020 will be dropped from the Club roster and mailing lists.

DUES: Individual: \$20, Family: \$30, Student: \$10 Pay for your membership online at <https://rockinghambirdclub.com/join-or-renew/> using a credit card via PayPal or mail a check made out to “RBC” to: Audrey Shenk, RBC Treasurer, 949 Northfield Ct., Harrisonburg, VA 22802

VIRTUAL CLUB MEETING via ZOOM

DATE: Thursday, November 5, 2020

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: VIRTUAL via ZOOM

PROGRAM: *Birds of Southwest Florida* presented by Dr. Marshall Faintich

The Naples area, in Southwest Florida, offers an exceptional winter getaway for birding. Since 2008, Marshall has made four trips there, all in January, and totaling about 80 days, as he explored Naples and birding sites within a two-hour drive from Naples. His Florida bird list includes 142 species, and the presentation includes the most popular birding sites, as well as some lesser known but even better birding sites, and the birds seen there.

Please plan to join us virtually on Thursday, November 5th at 7 PM via ZOOM! Click on the link below and join the meeting using the Meeting ID and passcode listed. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Robyn Puffenbarger at rpuffenb@bridgewater.edu or 540-908-7335.

To join the meeting by Zoom on your computer, go to:

<https://bridgewatercollege.zoom.us/j/95580172976?pwd=bEUyUXBnbGcycVh3eWdubHE1STVMUT09>

Meeting ID: **955 8017 2976**

Passcode: **114174**

If you would like to join the meeting using your smart phone, tap on one of the mobile numbers listed below. You will have audio but no video unless you have the Zoom mobile app, in which case you will have audio and video.

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,95580172976#,,,,,0#,,114174# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,95580172976#,,,,,0#,,114174# US (New York)

Meeting ID: **955 8017 2976**

If you know how to Zoom and just want to pop in, please do! It will be nice to see faces again! If you have never used Zoom, take a few minutes to check out this information from Zoom:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>

FIELD TRIPS - *Diane Lepkowski*

**** Most field trips have been postponed for due to concerns regarding the pandemic.**

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Herb Myers reported a **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Tennessee Warbler**, and a possible, Orange-crowned **Warbler** at Hensley's Pond on the west side of Massanutten on Sept. 22. On Sept. 29, Herb reported 22 **American Golden-Plovers** on Lumber Mill Rd, and on Oct. 4, a probable **Vesper Sparrow** along Happy Valley Rd.

Greg Moyers, Diane Lepkowski, and William Leigh had a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Switzer Dam on Sept. 26.

Diane Holsinger's yard list in Timberville has included a number of good birds over the past month, including **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** on Sept. 29 and Oct. 5, **Willow Flycatcher**, **Wood Thrush**, and **Swainson's Thrush** on Oct. 2, **American Redstart**, **Blackpoll**, **Cape May**, and **Pine Warblers** on Oct. 5, **Pine Siskin** and **Purple Finch** on Oct. 11, **Red-breasted Nuthatch** on Oct. 13, **White-throated Sparrow** and **Eastern Towhee** on Oct. 16, and **Dark-eyed Junco** on Oct. 24.

Bob Eggleston reported an **American Golden-Plover**, along with **Northern Shoveler** and **Green-winged Teal** at the Oakwood Drive farm pond in Mt. Crawford on Oct. 1.

Matt Gingerich listened for the flight calls of thrushes at his place in Linville in the predawn hours of Oct. 2 and tallied an amazing 1,116 **Swainson's Thrushes**, 14 **Gray-cheeked Thrushes**, and a **Wood Thrush**.

Robyn Puffenbarger and Bill Benish reported a **Common Nighthawk** on Oct. 2 at their new place in Augusta Co. They also report frequent **Bald Eagle** sightings at their new place.

William Leigh found **Pine Siskins**, **Purple Finch**, and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** on FR 539 and photographed a **Barred Owl** on FR 85 near Flaggpole Knob on Oct. 6.

Greg Moyers reported a female **Surf Scoter** at the Broadway Wastewater Treatment Plant on Oct. 7. The bird continued to be reported through Oct. 16.

Bill and Martha Faw reported a juvenile **Cooper's Hawk** hanging around their feeder on the weekend of Oct. 10-11.

Ben Shank found a late **Eastern Whip-Poor-Will** on the forest road off Bear Trap Farm Rd just over the border in Augusta Co. on Oct. 12.

Bob Eggleston reported 19 **American Golden-Plovers** and a male **Northern Harrier** plucking a **Rock Pigeon** on Lumber Mill Rd on Oct. 17.

Matt Gingerich had **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **American Pipit**, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Brown Creeper**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, **Purple Finches**, **Lincoln Sparrows**, and **Swamp Sparrows** at his place in Linville on Oct. 17.

Herb Myers had **Pine Siskins**, **Blue-headed Vireo**, and both **kinglets** at his place in Keezletown on Oct. 18.

Mike Smith had a **Cape May Warbler** and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at his place near Elkton on Oct. 22.

Evelyn and Mike Shank had their first-of-season **White-crowned Sparrows** at their feeder in Bridgewater on Oct. 22. Evelyn reports that they've also had **Purple Finches** and a **Pine Siskin**.

Karen, Everette, and Annie Shank have hosted a male **Rufous Hummingbird** at their place west of Bridgewater since Oct. 22 (photos below.) It was joined by a late **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**, possibly two, on Oct. 23. On Oct. 23, a **Tennessee Warbler** visited.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Bird Count - 121st Season

If we can hold our CBC in whatever constrained form, the coverage may be limited during this year of the pandemic. The CBC admins advised that if we choose to run our CBC, we cannot officially decide until November 15 at the earliest. This is to allow better understanding of the regional status of COVID. If we run, it must be socially distanced and compliant with local government rules.

If local regulations allow, the following will also apply for participants. Social distancing and/or masking are required at all times in the field. Carpooling may only occur within existing familiar or social “pod” groups. We would have no in-person compilation gathering. Activities must comply with all current state and municipal COVID-19 guidelines.

Our “VARC” CBC date under consideration is 12/19/2020, which is the first Saturday of the count period. For those interested whether afield or from your residence, if within the area of the count circle, please advise Bill Benish directly wcbenish@gmail.com or 540-908-7336.

Suet Cake Sale - Our Deepest Gratitude!

Our club members showed their true giving spirits in support of the Suet Sale last month. It began with the Shank family (Everette, Karen and Annie) offering to take orders for their world-famous suet cakes in exchange for donations to the club. Another generous Shank family (Joe and Ruth) donated the cornmeal for the suet cakes. Amazing Annie made over 150 suet cakes. Karen carefully took in the orders and arranged pickups. Our club members showed their support by purchasing the suet cakes and often making additional donations. In total this event will have brought in roughly \$400 to the club.

Thank you to all who participated. Rockingham County birds are going to be fat and happy this winter!

Shop and Support RBC

Do you like to shop on Amazon.com? Do you like to support your local bird club? Now you can do both at the same time! Just visit AmazonSmile and select the Rockingham Bird Club as your charity of choice. Remember to go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> to do your Amazon shopping. The Rockingham Bird Club will earn a percentage from the purchases you make. It is absolutely FREE to you and does not increase the cost of what you buy in any way.



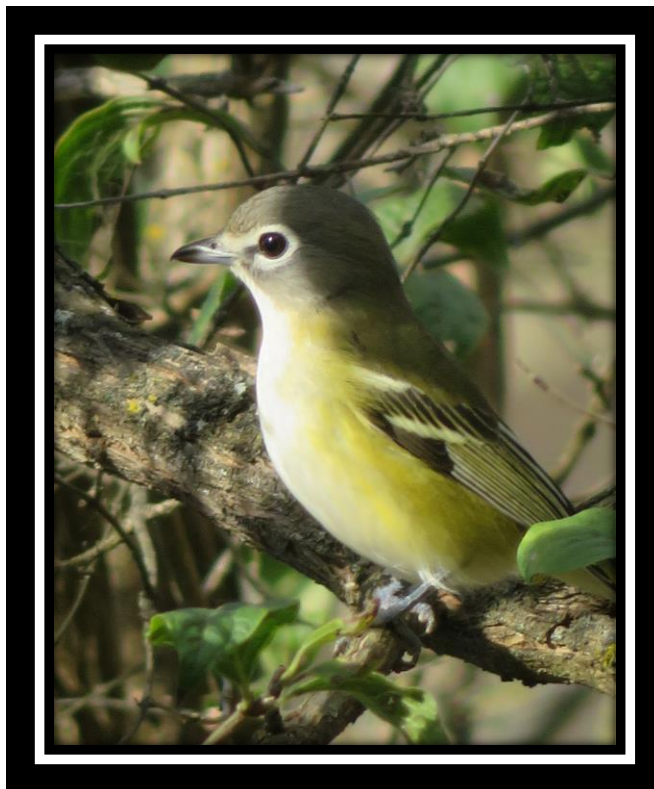
Rufous Hummingbird – Spring
Creek – Oct 2020

Photo credit: Diane Lepkowski



Rufous Hummingbird – Spring Creek – Oct 2020

Photo credit: Diane Lepkowski



Blue-headed Vireo – Slate Lick State Park – Oct 2020

Photo credit: Stephen White

Rockingham Bird Club
151 Deer Lick Lane
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PRESIDENT: Debbie Harrison
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Phone – 540-856-3058

VICE PRESIDENT: PROGRAMS – Robyn Puffenbarger

VICE PRESIDENT: FIELD TRIPS – Diane Lepkowski

SECRETARY: VACANT

TREASURER: Audrey Shenk

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Kathy Fovargue, Martha Faw

GOLDFINCH GAZETTE – Denise Hoodock

EMAIL: info@rockinghambirdclub.com



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On the Web: <https://rockinghambirdclub.com>