



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

**Volume XLVI**

**Number 7**

**Mar 2021**

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**CLUB POSITIONS STILL NEED TO BE FILLED:**

**SECRETARY**

**VICE PRESIDENT for PROGRAMS**

Please contact Debbie Harrison at **540-856-3058** or [woodshar@aol.com](mailto:woodshar@aol.com) for more information and/or if you are willing to help the club in either of these roles.

**VIRTUAL CLUB MEETING via ZOOM**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 4, 2021

**TIME:** 7:00 PM

**PLACE:** VIRTUAL via ZOOM

**PROGRAM:** *Web-footed Waterbirds* presented by Bob Schamerhorn

As our seasons pass, the winter brings an amazing assortment of water birds into our lakes, rivers and wetlands. This program shows that diversity in all their splendor. Includes all of our wintering Ducks, Mergansers, Geese, Swans, as well as our resident waterfowl and more. Enjoy the beauty of this diverse group of birds and see what makes each species unique. Bob is a Virginia native, who has had a passion for both the outdoors and art since childhood. In his youth, participation with several nature and birding organizations nurtured his enthusiasm. After high school, he studied Art and Design at Virginia Tech and has worked in art related fields ever since. Photography is an extension of the skills he uses in his vocation as a graphic artist. Advances in digital technology enticed his reconnection with nature photography. Since then, he has been blessed with many opportunities to capture and share nature's beauty and to improve his photography skills technically.

Join us via Zoom:

<https://bridgewatercollege.zoom.us/j/91429503944?pwd=cmc1eW9BNFdxMTB0cDREM3F5c2tSZz09>

Meeting ID: **914 2950 3944**

Passcode: **226216**

One tap mobile

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## FIELD TRIPS - *Diane Lepkowski*

**\*\* Field trips have been postponed due to concerns regarding the pandemic.**

### BIRD SIGHTINGS

While riding an ATV on a remote section at the top of West Mountain on his property in Bergton on Jan. 14, Henry Hawkins happened upon three interesting birds in a pine. After getting his binoculars and field guide, Henry identified them as **Pine Grosbeaks!** As far as we know, this is the first report of this species in the county since 1962.

Following a heavy snow, Diane Lepkowski reported at least three **Lapland Longspurs** along S. Whitesel Church Rd on Feb. 1. Greg Moyers reported a **Lapland Longspur** on Cannery Woods Drive on the same date. Longspurs were also reported on Old Bridgewater Rd in Mt. Crawford.

**Palm Warblers** were reported at Silver Lake and on Raders Church Rd near Timberville during the first week of the month.

On the morning of Feb. 2, Diane Holsinger counted a total of 45 **Savannah Sparrows** in various locations, including 15 in one tree.

Kathy Fovargue reported a **Fox Sparrow** at her home in Harrisonburg on Feb. 3.

Clair Mellinger reported a pair of **Redheads** on a pond on Weavers Rd west of Harrisonburg on Feb. 11.

Mike Smith reported a flock of 11 **Wild Turkeys** along Rt. 340 south of Elkton on Feb. 11. On the same date, Mike had two **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Brown Creeper**, and 22 **Dark-eyed Juncos** at his feeder. Mike watched a **Cooper's Hawk** eating a **European Starling** under the feeder on Feb. 13. Mike had a **Purple Finch**, in addition to the above feeder birds on the same date.

William Leigh reported a **Horned Grebe**, two **Canvasbacks**, and around 50 **American Pipits** at Silver Lake on Feb. 12. Peter Norment reported a **Horned Grebe** and several **Canvasbacks** at Lake Shenandoah on the same date. Greg Moyers added a female **Redhead** at Lake Shenandoah on the same date.

Herb Myers had an **Eastern Phoebe** at his home in Keezletown on Feb. 13. On the same date, Herb reported a **Common Goldeneye**, **Ruddy Ducks**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Canvasback**, **Horned Grebe**, and the continuing **Tundra** and **Mute Swans** at Lake Shenandoah.

**Canvasbacks**, **Redheads**, **Ruddy Ducks**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Horned Grebes**, **Gadwalls**, **American Black Ducks**, and the **Tundra** and **Mute Swans** continue to be seen reliably at Lake Shenandoah as of this writing.

Diane Holsinger had a female **Evening Grosbeak** visit her feeder in Timberville on Feb. 18. As of this writing, Evening Grosbeaks have continued in good numbers at several Spring Creek area feeders.

Herb and Sarah Myers had a **Fox Sparrow** and **Purple Finches** at their feeder on Feb. 18.

Mike Smith found two **Bald Eagles**, **Common Mergansers**, **Scaup**, and **Redheads** at a pond on Honeysuckle Rd near Elkton on Feb. 19.

Herb Myers reported **Horned Larks**, **American Pipit**, and **Fox Sparrow** on Waterloo Mill Lane on Feb. 20.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## President's Message:

As you know, any Club needs leaders! We skipped elections last year due to COVID & the 2019-2020 Officers & Members-at-large agreed to stay on for another year, with the exception of our Secretary who physically moved away (no one has volunteered to be appointed to fill the position to serve out her term). The Executive Committee has always mentored the ones following them.

In the past words of a long-time member/former Officer: **The truth of the matter is that this club is amazingly easy to run because (1) There are no politics with everyone tries to help everyone else and (2) this club has no money worries. Few organizations can say that. However, this club is burning out its current officers. They can't serve forever. The rest of us just can't sit back and expect the club to function without each person's contribution. While it takes some (but not a lot) of specialized knowledge to organize field trips, other important posts—president, secretary, and program vice president—just need people with a modicum of organizational skills. None of these posts require past years of membership in the bird club.**

*The following is directly from our bylaws:*

### *ARTICLE VI (Annual Elections)*

Section 1. At the March club meeting, the Executive Committee will name a Nominating Committee of three members. The immediate past President will be the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. It will be the duty of the Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of one nominee for each office described in Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, plus two members – at – large. This committee shall present a report to the membership at the May meeting. Nominees will be selected from the roster of members in good standing.

Please help by volunteering to be on the Nominating Committee:

1. Debbie Harrison, chair
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Generally, members of the Nominating Committee do NOT run for office. ☺

Please indicate your willingness to serve as:

#### One-year terms:

President

VP – Programs

VP – Field trips

Secretary

Treasurer

#### Two-year terms (with 1 successive term allowed):

2 Members-at-Large

(Our current Members-at-Large are: Kathy Fovargue, thru June 2021 & eligible to serve again, and Martha Faw, thru June 2022, ending her 2<sup>nd</sup> term)



Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Silver Lake – Feb 2021

Photo credit: Diane Lepkowski



Gadwalls, Common Goldeneyes & Redheads on Silver Lake – Feb 2021  
Photo credit: Art Fovargue

Rockingham Bird Club  
151 Deer Lick Lane  
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**PRESIDENT:** Debbie Harrison  
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Broadway, VA 22815  
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](mailto:info@rockinghambirdclub.com)



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