



Goldfinch Gazette

The Newsletter of the Rockingham Bird Club

<https://rockinghambirdclub.com>

Volume XLVII

Number 1

Sept 2021

VIRTUAL CLUB MEETINGS, via ZOOM, WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE THE PLACE OF IN-PERSON CLUB MEETINGS, AT LEAST FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE.

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 1.** 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, 2021, 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, September 2, 2021

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: VIRTUAL via ZOOM

PROGRAM: Raptor Migration at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch with Vic Laubach

How do you define “raptor” and what is “migration?” Vic will take us up in the air and across the continent to learn more about these incredible species. Then he will take us into the history and data for a hawk watch with some specifics about Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch, our local spot for raptor migration at Afton just off I-64/Rt 250. We will learn more about each of our raptor species for identification, migration, and population status.

Vic is originally from central Pennsylvania with a B.Sci. in biology (Penn State University) and a Ph.D. in genetics (George Washington University). He is a life-long birder, a hawk-watcher for over 20 years, and is the Coordinator at Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch since 2016. Vic started with the University of Virginia in 1996 and he currently is a tenured professor conducting research on acute

lung injury and lung transplantation. He has lived in Waynesboro since 2002 and loves birding in the Valley all year long!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bridgewatercollege.zoom.us/j/96296715401?pwd=eENWUjIhYy92VS9jSU8vaDF5NHNUdz09>

Meeting ID: 962 9671 5401

Passcode: 858065

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,96296715401#,,,,*858065# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,96296715401#,,,,*858065# US (New York)

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Robyn Puffenbarger at rpuffenb@bridgewater.edu or 540-908-7335.

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*

**** Field trips have been postponed for the foreseeable future due to concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic.**

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Harold Jones reported a **Black Tern** at Silver Lake on May 29.

William Leigh reported a **Mourning Warbler** on FR 539 along the road toward Flagpole Knob on May 31. Mourning Warblers were reported along this stretch multiple times through mid-summer, with a juvenile being photographed at Flagpole Knob on July 4. Continue reading to see what other Rockingham rarities were found along this stretch this summer!

Matt Gingerich, Peter Norment, and Joe Glick reported two singing **Winter Wrens** along Dunkle Hollow Rd on May 31. They also found a pair of **Sharp-shinned Hawks** and were able to locate the nest near the top of a hemlock tree.

Diane Holsinger reported a **Scarlet Tanager**, **Baltimore Oriole**, and **Great Crested Flycatcher** at her place in Timberville on May 31 and added a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** and **Eastern Wood-Pewee** on June 16.

Dave Boltz and Bill Parkin reported two **Blue-winged Warblers** along FR 85 Flagpole Rd on June 1.

Several birders reported a **Kentucky Warbler** singing along Briery Branch Rd in a cut area just past Briery Branch Dam for several days in early June.

Herb Myers reported 12 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** at Starry Meadows near Singers Glen on June 5. Sharon and Jay Landis, the property owners, graciously hosted several walks at Starry Meadows this summer.

William Leigh, Dave Wendelken, and Huck Hutchens had a **Prairie Warbler** and a **Red-headed Woodpecker** along Briery Branch Rd just past the turnoff to Hone Quarry on June 14. They continued to FR 85 Flagpole Rd and, in addition to the **Mourning Warbler**, Dave picked up on a singing flycatcher, which turned out to be an **Alder Flycatcher**. This bird was reported frequently through early July.

Ken Ranck reported six **Great Blue Herons** circling over his place in Mt. Crawford on June 26.

Herb Myers reported a **Great Egret** at Lake Shenandoah on June 26.

Mike Smith passed along a report of two **Barn Owls** roosting under the eaves of a house in Elkton on June 30. Mike heard a **Whip-Poor-Will** at his home near Elkton, and **Cerulean Warbler**, **Willow Flycatcher**, and **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** in Shenandoah National Park on July 1. Mike reported a pair of **Great Egrets** at the Merck marsh on July 15.

Matt Gingerich had as many as eight **Cliff Swallows** working on nests at his property in Linville in mid-July. On July 16, Matt and his son watched a juvenile **White Ibis** fly over their place.

Greg Moyers reported 15 warbler species, including **Prairie**, **Cerulean**, **Blackburnian**, and **Canada**, as well as a family of **Ruffed Grouse**, at Switzer Dam on July 31.

William Leigh reported a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Switzer Dam on Aug. 1.

Mike Smith reported a **Great Egret** along Rt. 33 near Penn Laird on Aug. 6.

Black Terns have been frequently visiting the Broadway Wastewater Treatment plant in mid-August. Greg Moyers reported a pair on Aug. 11 and 4 or 5 on Aug. 13, while Cory Taylor reported an amazing 13 birds on Aug. 17! On Aug. 15, Matt Gingerich reported a **Caspian Tern** at the same location.

Diane Lepkowski reported a **Canada Warbler** and a **Yellow Warbler** at her home near Harrisonburg on Aug. 16.

Numerous shorebirds have been reported at Leonard's Pond since mid-August, including good numbers of **Solitary** and **Least Sandpipers**, **Spotted Sandpipers**, **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Semipalmated Sandpipers**, **Pectoral Sandpipers**, and **Semipalmated Plovers**.

Matt Gingerich reported a **Black-bellied Plover** at the Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction on Lumber Mill Rd on Aug. 16. On Aug. 18, Huck Hutchens reported at least 5 Black-bellied Plovers and 20 **Horned Larks** at Turner Sod Farm, near Elkton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RBC Audit Volunteers Needed

If you can pay your own bills and balance a checkbook, this opportunity is for you! Our Club Bylaws (Article III, Section 5) state “. . . The club account shall be presented for audit once each year.”

We need a couple of non-Board Members to review our Treasurer's records for 7/1/2020 thru 6/30/2021. Please contact Treasurer, Audrey Shenk (ajshenk@gmail.com) or President, Debbie Harrison (woodshar@aol.com) ASAP. This is a short-term commitment.

ROCKFISH GAP HAWK WATCH – OPEN HOUSE – SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch is one of over 200 hawk watch sites in North America monitored by the Hawk Migration Association of North America ([HMANA](http://www.hmana.org/)). The primary mission of the hawk watch is to collect raptor count and species data during fall migration in a repetitive and consistent fashion. We are unique in that our site is easily accessible, with no hiking or climbing necessary. Our hawk watch is conducted each fall on the grounds of the Inn at Afton (elevation 2,000 ft), just off highway 64 at exit 99 just east of Waynesboro, VA. One can literally drive up, park and hawk watch. Our hawk watch provides a 180-degree panoramic view north over Rockfish Gap, west over the Shenandoah Valley, and east over the Piedmont Region. Please join us on September 18, 2021, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM to learn more about the work we do. There will be live raptor presentations by the Wildlife Center of Virginia at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. More information at <http://www.rockfishgaphawkwatch.org/>



Blue Grosbeak

photo credit: Diane Lepkowski

2021 Seed Sale is HAPPENING NOW!

The seed sale is the club's only fundraiser outside of membership dues. The proceeds from the sale are used to contribute to several organizations whose missions are consistent with the club's. Thank you for all your support in past years. Please see the following pages for important dates and information.

ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE
ORDER DUE DATE: Friday, September 17, 2021
PICK-UP DAY: Saturday, November 13, 2021
9:00am-1:00pm

Welcome to all our members and long-time customers. Please read this announcement carefully to note the descriptions and prices of the bird seeds with the important dates for ordering and picking up the seed.

WHY BUY YOUR SEED FROM US?

Many bargain seed mixes contain milo and fillers that the birds won't eat. Our seed contains no low-quality fillers for your best economic value. All seed is this year's crop, guaranteed fresh from the Midwest. In addition to purchasing these quality offerings, you are supporting CONSERVATION when you buy from us. Your support enables the Bird Club, a non-profit, charitable organization, to provide educational materials to the local libraries and donate to various conservation programs. Please consider joining the Rockingham Bird Club to fully enjoy all our activities!

MORE SEED SOLD MEANS MORE BIRDS FED AND MORE EDUCATION BY RBC!

CHECK OUT OUR 2021 BIRD SEED PRICES
\$300 ORDER EQUALS FREE MEMBERSHIP

- **BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER**: Research shows that this is the most preferred of all the seeds for wild birds, having a thin shell and high oil content for needed energy. If you only want one kind of seed, this is it. *SEE ORDER BLANK FOR A SPECIAL OFFER!*
- **SHELL-FREE MIX**: A "no-mess, no-hull" mix of white millet, sunflower chips, cracked corn, peanut hearts and canary seed. Works well in any type of feeder!
- **GOURMET WILD BIRD MIX**: This is a taster's choice blend of black oil sunflower seeds and chips, millet, nyjer and safflower. There is no milo in this ultra blend and TWO bag sizes to choose from! *SEE ORDER BLANK FOR A SPECIAL OFFER ON 40 lb BAGS OF THIS GOURMET MIX!*
- **LYRIC FRUIT & NUT**: A high energy mix of select fruits, shell-free nuts & seeds. Contains: cherries, cranberry, raisins, Valencia peanuts, almonds, pecans, cashews, sunflower kernels, pumpkin seeds, crimped corn. NO FILLER, NO WASTE! This can be your winter present to your birds.
- **CRACKED CORN**: Just what the name indicates, this seed is a favorite of waterfowl, doves and game birds. When the juncos and sparrows return to your yard in winter, this is a favorite food!
- **WHITE PROSO MILLET**: This is perfect seed for ground feeding birds - juncos, white-throated and song sparrows, towhees and doves. Broadcast the millet. Place in platform and/or ground feeders. Mix your own blends.
- **PEANUT SPLITS**: 4 LB BAGS. These peanut halves are high in energy and loved by woodpeckers, titmice, blue jays, and chickadees. Mix in with your favorite seed or serve alone! *SEE ORDER BLANK FOR A SPECIAL OFFER!*
- **SUNFLOWER CHIPS**: These are sunflower seeds with very high energy and NO HULLS! While it seems more expensive, you will save and be happy for less mess. The birds love it.
- **NYJER**: This is thistle seed and an absolute favorite of finch and other small songbirds. It is easy to use in thistle feeders and thistle socks, perfect for the finches, but discouraging to larger birds.
- **SAFFLOWER**: This seed is the 2nd most-favored seed of cardinals. The nuisance birds and squirrels do not like safflower. It blends well with other seeds.
- **HOMEMADE PEANUT BUTTER SUET CAKES**: Approximately 12 oz. - this gourmet suet cake fits square, wire feeders or will cut to fit your suet log feeder - loved by all birds. Refrigerate to store.
- **THISTLE SOCKS**: The 10" long nylon bag holds your nyjer seed. It is fun to watch the Goldfinches hang on this sock to feed.

TO ORDER SEED

1. Online ordering is now available at rockinghambirdclub.com!
2. For mail-in orders, fill out the order blank, **include your mailing address, telephone number** and email address.
3. Mail your order form **and check** to:
ROCKINGHAM BIRD CLUB
c/o Kathy Byers
521 Ridge Rd
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Make checks payable to: Rockingham Bird Club

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

4. Pick up your order on **Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9:00am-1:00pm at the Poultry Barn at Rockingham County Fairgrounds**, 4808 S Valley Pike, Harrisonburg, VA. Please follow the EVENT signs and stay in your car for curbside service! You will enter at Gate 5 and exit through Gate 4.
5. If you are not in town, please make arrangements to have someone pick up your order.
6. Contact Kathy (kkbyers77@gmail.com or 540-820-6517) for questions or assistance.

CDC and State guidelines regarding COVID-19 will be followed.

SEE ATTACHED ORDER FORM

If you order at least \$300 in seeds, your annual membership fee is waived.

If you would like to pay your dues, it can be added to your seed order. Categories are:

\$30 – Family membership

\$20 – Individual member

\$10 – Student

***Please call Kathy Byers @ 540-820-6517 for any problems on Pick-Up Day

ORDERS DUE: Fri Sept 17, 2021 PICK-UP DAY: Sat Nov 13, 2021 *9:00am-1:00pm*****
Poultry Barn at Rockingham Fairgrounds

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Weight	Description	Quantity	Unit Price/ includes tax	Row Total
25 lb.	Black Oil Sunflower		20.00	
	*SPECIAL: 3 Bags, 25 lb. Black Oil		56.00	
5 lb.	Shell-Free (no waste) Mix		4.00	
20 lb.	Gourmet Wild Bird Mix		19.00	
40 lb.	Gourmet Wild Bird Mix		36.00	
	*SPECIAL: 3 Bags, 40 lb. Gourmet Wild Bird		98.00	
20 lb.	Lyric Fruit & Nut		32.00	
25 lb.	Cracked Corn		12.00	
25 lb.	White Proso Millet		21.00	
4 lb.	Peanut Splits		5.00	
	*SPECIAL: 3 Bags, 4 lb. Peanut Splits		13.00	
25 lb.	Sunflower Chips (no waste)		45.00	
10 lb.	Nyjer (Thistle Seed)		21.00	
25 lb.	Safflower Seed		31.00	
	12" Nylon Thistle Sock		3.00	
12 oz.	Peanut Butter Suet Cake - HOMEMADE		2.50	
			ORDER TOTAL	\$
DUES-see previous page for categories & amounts				\$
Additional Donations to RBC-always appreciated				\$
			GRAND TOTAL	\$

_____ I would be interested in helping on Pick-Up Day

_____ I will pick up my order on Sat November 13, 2021

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

FACTS ABOUT ROCKINGHAM BIRD CLUB:

- Established in 1974
- Incorporated with non-profit status in 2002
- Current membership - over 200 bird lovers - families, singles, & couples!
- Children are our future and are ALWAYS welcome!
- We are increasing public awareness of conservation and are operating as a **non-profit organization**.
- Meetings are monthly, first Thursdays, 7 PM, September thru June.
- Interesting programs every month.
- Take a bird walk with us - we go to different places every month!

JOIN ROCKINGHAM BIRD CLUB FOR:

FUN - EDUCATION - CONSERVATION - NEW FRIENDS

FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR ORDERS OVER \$300

Rockingham Bird Club, Inc.

Bird Seed Sale Day

521 Ridge Rd

Harrisonburg, VA 22801

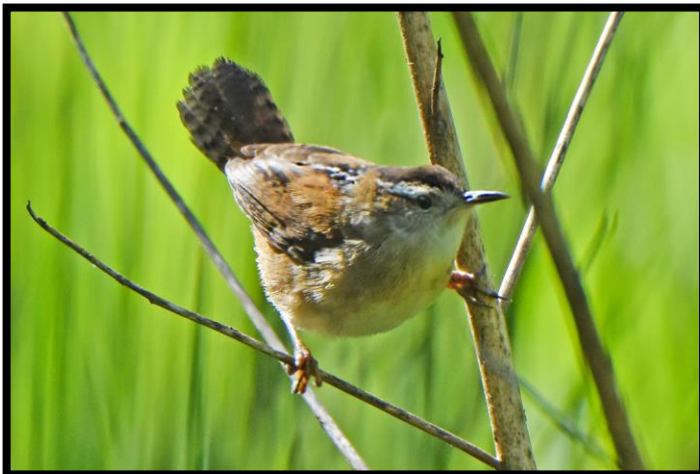


Green Heron – Lake Shenandoah – July 2021

Photo credit: Diane Lepkowski

Lesser Yellowlegs – Leonard's Pond – May 2021

Photo credit: Greg Moyers



Marsh Wren – Edith J. Carrier Arboretum
wetlands area – May 2021

Photo credit: David Wendelken

Rockingham Bird Club
151 Deer Lick Lane
Broadway, VA 22815



PRESIDENT: Debbie Harrison
151 Deer Lick Lane
Broadway, VA 22815
Phone – 540-856-3058

VICE PRESIDENT: PROGRAMS – Robyn Puffenbarger

VICE PRESIDENT: FIELD TRIPS – Diane Lepkowski

SECRETARY: Stephani Moore

TREASURER: Audrey Shenk

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Kathy Fovargue, Martha Faw

GOLDFINCH GAZETTE – Denise Hoodock

EMAIL: info@rockinghambirdclub.com

ON THE WEB: <https://rockinghambirdclub.com>

