



Goldfinch Gazette

The Newsletter of the Rockingham Bird Club

<https://rockinghambirdclub.com>

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Nov 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, November 4, 2021

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: VIRTUAL via ZOOM

PROGRAM: Twenty Years of Species Recovery – What to do with what we’ve learned with Dr. Chris Parish

The near extinction of North America’s largest flying land-bird and attempts to recover the California Condor is known to many. The trials and tribulations of endangered species management offer landscape-scale insights in an ever-changing arena of conservation. Should we succeed in recovering this species, it will stand as a testament of our abilities to observe, study, and respond accordingly to better manage preventable impacts to ecosystems and its species. Lead poisoning remains the single greatest threat to recovery and implications for other less studied species is equally important. Science alone does not make conservation. How we proceed has as much to do with success as the foundations of science we depend upon to detangle these complex issues. Dr. Chris Parish is the President/CEO of The Peregrine Fund. He did his undergraduate and doctoral work at Northern Arizona University. His

interest in wildlife started growing up in the San Joaquin Valley of California with hunting and fishing, then he went on to an athletic scholarship, obtaining a B.S. in Biology with emphasis on Fish and Wildlife Management. Chris and his wife Ellen, have two beautiful daughters, Emma and Anna who are now grown and entering their own careers, taking with them the love a passion of the outdoors and conservation. His work includes Director of Global Conservation for The Peregrine Fund with a primary focus on recovery programs for Aplomado Falcons, California Condors, and the establishment of the North American Non-Lead Partnership.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://bridgewatercollege.zoom.us/j/99013380571?pwd=RmdjZXVyZXVVa080d283eGFzU0Q3QT09>

Meeting ID: 990 1338 0571

Passcode: 057068

One tap mobile:

+19294362866,,99013380571#,,,,*057068# US (New York)

+13017158592,,99013380571#,,,,*057068# US (Washington DC)

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

Diane Holsinger and Sarah Sullivan found and photographed a **Sabine's Gull** and a **Black-legged Kittiwake** at the Broadway Wastewater Treatment Plant on Sept. 17. This marks only the second or third record of each in the county.

Matt Gingerich reported **Blackburnian Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Blue-headed Vireo**, and both **kinglets** at his place in Linville on Sept. 30.

Diane Holsinger reported a **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in her yard at Timberville on Oct. 2. Her first **White-throated Sparrow** returned on Oct. 5.

Mike Smith reported several good yard birds at his place near Elkton on Oct. 3, including **Wilson's Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo**, and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. The following day, Mike reported a **Bald Eagle** in Elkton. Mike had a yard **Magnolia Warbler** on Oct. 5, a **Cape May Warbler** on Oct. 8, **White-throated Sparrow** on Oct. 10, and an **Eastern Screech-Owl** on Oct. 16.

Mike observed around 100 **Chimney Swifts** entering the chimney at Elkton Elementary School on Oct. 5.

Bill Benish reported a late **Baltimore Oriole** at he and Robyn's new place in Verona on Oct. 8.

Taylor Rhodes reported a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** on Waystation Rd in Bridgewater on Oct. 9.

Diane Lepkowski reported that the first **White-crowned Sparrow** that returned to her yard on Oct. 10 was previously banded by Charles Ziegenfus as a hatch-year bird three winters ago, on Dec 12, 2018. Another banded, White-crowned Sparrow turned up on Oct. 17.

Matt Gingerich found an immature **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Broadway Wastewater Treatment Plant on Oct. 12. The bird remained until the following afternoon. This represents the first known county record of this species. (See photo below)

Diane Lepkowski got extended up-close looks and photographs of a **Great Horned Owl** at Lake Shenandoah on Oct. 16. Diane reported a **Tennessee Warbler** at the same location on Oct. 17, and a late **Scarlet Tanager** along with a **Lincoln's Sparrow**, and a **Blue-headed Vireo** on Oct. 18. Also at the Lake, a late **Blue-winged Teal** was still present as of this writing (Oct. 26)

Herb Myers reported singing **White-throated Sparrows** along Happy Valley Rd in Keezletown on Oct. 19.

A **Pectoral Sandpiper** with an injured leg has been at Leonard's Pond since at least Oct. 19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RBC Audit Volunteers Needed (3rd request)

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 one-time commitment.

Bird Seed Sale News

A BIG Thank You to everyone that ordered seed this year. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Remember that **Saturday, Nov 13, 9:00 am-1:00 pm is our Pick-up Day.**

We will have curbside service at the Poultry Barn at the Rockingham Fairgrounds. Follow the "Event" signs. You will enter at Gate 5 and exit through Gate 4. Information for helpers will be sent out around Nov 1. Please contact Kathy Byers if you are interested in helping that day.

kkbyers77@gmail.com. 540-820-6517

Christmas Bird Count

Christmas Bird Count season approaches! The tentative date for our count is currently **Friday December 17**, but this may change depending on the availability of leaders.

The CBC admins advise again this year that we should adhere to pandemic protocols. Social and family pods are the main groups which can safely ride in one car together. Last year, one sector

“group” used three cars and radios to share sightings and determine where to get out of the cars together. Those logistics add complication while also making it possible to safely bird as a “group”. Most leaders may not be able to make accommodations for multiple cars together, so the number of field participants will likely be small again this year.

Last year several families living within the count circle territory contributed by watching from their homes as Feeder Watchers. Please reach out to CBC Compiler Bill Benish, wcbenish@gmail.com or 540.908.7336 if you may be able to participate in the field or as a Feeder Watcher.

Nesting Success

In spring of 2020, the American Bird Conservancy used outreach through the media to assemble support to pressure Virginia's governor and other administrators to quickly provide a substitute for an island that had been used as Virginia's major seabird nesting area. The island was now being used to store materials for the ongoing Hampton Roads bridge/tunnel project.

Rockingham Bird Club was among those that responded quickly and by late spring of 2020 a substitute island had been cobbled together and was used for successful nesting by Royal and Common Terns as well as Laughing Gulls and Black Skimmers. Successful nesting continued to expand in spring of 2021 and included the less common Gull-billed Terns. Cheers all around that we helped!

-Anne Nielsen

Nature's Trivia – Hobe Sound Nature Center, Inc.

Did you know...

- Ospreys have small spine tipped projections or papillae on the bottom of their feet to hold onto prey. Their pattern is unique to each individual.
- Size determines which bird has the least or most feathers. In North America, ruby throated hummingbirds have about 1000 feathers and the trumpeter swan has over 25,000 feathers.
- A bird's syrinx or voice box is located at the end of their trachea near the lungs. Songs are developed there, allowing birds to grasp food with the beak and sing at the same time.
- Small birds such as buntings and wrens incubate eggs about 11 days, whereas the California Condor incubates for nearly 60 days. Size makes a difference!
- Great blue herons, American bitterns and barn owls are among the birds that have a special middle claw with a serrated edge that functions like a comb during preening. It is referred to as a pectinate claw or feather comb.
- Birds don't have lips and they walk on their toes.

Know you know!!



Lesser Black-backed Gull – Oct 2021 – Broadway Wastewater Treatment Plant, Rockingham

Photo credit: Matt Gingerich



Great Blue Heron swallowed the whole catfish – Oct 2021 – Lake Shenandoah

Photo credit: Diane Lepkowski



Great Horned Owl – Oct 2021 – Lake Shenandoah

Photo credit: Diane Lepkowski



First **White-crowned Sparrow** that returned to Diane Lepkowski's yard on Oct. 10 was previously banded by Charles Ziegenfus as a hatch-year bird three winters ago, on Dec 12, 2018.

Photo credit: Diane Lepkowski

Rockingham Bird Club
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PRESIDENT: Debbie Harrison
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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

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