



AUGUSTA
BIRD
C L U B

"In order to see birds it is necessary to become part of the silence."

~ Robert Lynd

May Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 8th

Place: Montgomery Hall Park

Directions: From West Beverly Street, take Montgomery Avenue about 0.5 miles, cross the railroad track and then turn right at the second entrance to the park. Turn left and go to the top of the hill straight ahead to the picnic shelter.

Program: Birding, Food, & Fun

Our annual birding and brunch meeting will be held on May 8th starting at 8 AM at Montgomery Hall Park.

Please bring one of your favorite breakfast/brunch food items to share with the group. Ideas include fruit, coffee cake, bagels and cream cheese, ham biscuits or



whatever you desire to bring. The club will provide coffee, juice and paper products. We will go birding from about 8-10 and then return to the pavilion to socialize and enjoy the eats. Montgomery Hall Park is one of the best places to bird within the Staunton city limits. This time of year we can expect to find a number of summer resident species including warblers,

flycatchers, and tanagers as well as a few late migrants. If it is raining that morning, call Linda Matkins at 383-8229 after 7 AM to hear if we still plan on meeting.

Wing Beats

Adjectives

All of us have had sightings of birds we would like to share with others. But how to describe these encounters?

For the last six months or so, I have kept a list of adjectives writers/authors have used to describe these encounters which make the whole episode worth reading, savoring and perhaps even wanting to visit the place and countries mentioned.

My favorites: CRIPPLING views, KNEE-BUCKLING views, JAW DROPPING views, EYE-TO-EYE views, KILLER scope views, and WALK-AWAY scope views. Others include: CRACKING views, AWESOME studies, STUNNINGLY-MARKED, REAL STUNNER, POST-CARD views, NICE ENCOUNTERS, BREATH-TAKING and UNBELIEVABLE. While this list certainly reflects lots of thought and imagination, I am sure you can come up with some more on your own.

The very best birding to all for this spring and summer. See you on May 8th at Montgomery Hall Park for our breakfast meeting, the last until September 13, 2010.

Field Trips

Special note -- All trips are subject to be cancelled due to heavy fog, rain, snow, or ice. The trip leader will let you know or call the trip leader to find out because YOUR safety is our main concern .

Thursday, May 6th: Augusta Springs Wetland and Hite Hollow Road

Meeting Place & Time: Big Lots parking lot on West Beverley Street at 7:30 AM

Trip Leaders: Ed & Nance Lawler,
goshawk.abc@comcast.net

This field trip will begin with a morning bird walk on the wetlands trail, followed by a ride west over the mountain in search of higher elevation species. The return home will be preceded by an early-afternoon cruise through Marble Valley along the Calfpasture River. Bring lunch and water/drinks. Rain will cancel.



Saturday, May 15th: Pocosin Cabin, Shenandoah National Park

Meeting Place & Time: Meet in the Kohl's parking at 7:45am lot in Harrisonburg to car pool. You can also meet the group on Skyline Drive at the pull off just after the ranger station. Be aware that each vehicle must purchase a seven day pass for \$15 to enter the park so car pooling is essential!

Coordinator: contact Greg Moyers if you plan to attend, gwmoyers@msn.com or (540) 434-3029.

Join Greg Moyers on this easy hike to look for Blue-ridge specialties in a spectacular setting. One

of the main targets of this trip is the Canada Warbler. We've had some trips where the birds have literally zipped between the folks on the path as this is right in the middle of their nesting area. There are many other good summer residents at Pocosin including American Redstarts, Chestnut-sided and Cerulean Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Least and Acadian Flycatchers, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, and Red-eyed Vireos, Ovenbirds, Veerys, and Wood Thrushes. The cabin sits in a small clearing with a stream running along the path.



There will be a final stop at South River Picnic area on the way back south. This is a good place for birds plus there are many picnic tables and rest-rooms. Bring a lunch for this last stop. The trip should wrap up by 1:30 - 2:00 then return to the cars in Harrisonburg by 2:30-3:00.

Tuesday, May 18th: Natural Chimneys Regional Park and Reddish Knob

Meeting Place & Time: Woodrow Wilson Parkway Holiday Inn (ext 225 off I-81) lower parking lot, 7:30 AM

Trip Leaders: Ed & Nance Lawler,
goshawk.abc@comcast.net

This field trip will begin with a morning bird walk around the Natural Chimneys park grounds, followed by a drive to Reddish Knob in search of higher elevation species. Bring lunch and water/drinks. Rain will cancel.

Saturday, April 24th: BIG SPRING DAY!

Meeting Place & Time: Your Choice!

Coordinator: Allen Lerner at
larnersky@mindspring.com

All are welcome to bird their favorite birding area at their own pace on the Big Spring Day. You can team up with a birding friend or just go out on your own to your special birding place in Augusta County. You start whenever you wish and bird as long as you like. All you have to do is record what species you see and how many of each. On past Big Spring Days we have had up to 142 species of birds seen by all birding parties in one day. We have also had many peak counts & early dates from this annual event. If you do not have a special place you can choose from one of the areas listed below. Please let Allen know what areas you will cover to prevent crossovers. When you have finished for the day e-mail Allen (larnersky@mindspring.com) with you tallies. This event will take place rain or shine.

May 21st to 23rd: Eastern Shore - Chincoteague - Slaughter Beach, Delaware

Trip Leader: Allen Lerner at
larnersky@mindspring.com

Mark your calendars for Allen's annual 3 day trip to the Eastern Shore.

Target birds on the include: Red Knot, loons, hawks, gulls, terns, & shorebirds, You may also see all of the heron species in addition to many migrating songbirds. For sheer diversity this trip cannot be beat!



Contact Allen for more details.

16th Annual Purple Martin Field Day

Date: Saturday, June 26th, 2010
Time: 10:00 AM till 1:00 PM

The 16th Annual Purple Martin Field Day will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2010, at the farm of Mrs. Merle Wood and Mr. Lance Wood in Louisa County, VA (Central Virginia, about 40 miles west of Richmond and about 20 miles east of Charlottesville). Anyone interested in establishing or expanding a Purple Martin colony is invited to see and

learn about the most current and effective techniques and equipment available for successful Purple Martin management. Purple Martin colony establishment can be difficult, and it is hard to maintain a healthy colony without using the procedures demonstrated at this Field Day. The Wood family has expanded their colony from four pairs of Purple Martins in 1992 to more than 120 nesting pairs!



Topics to be covered include:

- How to establish and increase a colony of Purple Martins;
- Advantages and disadvantages of different types of martin housing;
- How to protect Martins from starlings, House Sparrows, owls, climbing snakes, raccoons, etc.;
- Adding starling-resistant entrance holes to martin gourds and houses;
- How to grow and process purple martin nesting gourds;

More info for the Field Day can be found at:
www.purplemartinfieldday.org

Augusta Bird Club Meeting Minutes April 12th, 2010

The Augusta Bird Club met at 7:00 pm on April 12, 2010 at the AMC Lifetime Building/Blue Ridge Community College Education Center, Fishersville, Va. The meeting was commenced by President Walt Childs. Walt welcomed all members and guests.

Andrew Clem gave a report of his field trip on Saturday, April 10th to Chimney Hollow Trail and Braley's Pond in Augusta County. Target birds noted were Blue-headed Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-throated Warbler, and two Red-shouldered Hawks. Allen Lerner's Woodcock display on the Blue Ridge Parkway on the 8th of April

was cancelled due to heavy rain. Allen is re-scheduling the Woodcock dance for Thursday, April 15. Allen also detailed trips he is leading in April and May and June. "Big Spring Day" will take place on April 24. Anyone wanting to bird a special area are to e-mail Allen with their choice. May 21, 22 and 23 Eastern Shore-Chincoteague-Slaughter Beach Delaware. Contact Allen if anyone is interested in this excursion. All details can be found in the newsletter or by contacting Allen. June the 12th and 13th, Allen has been asked to lead field trips for the first annual Blue Ridge Parkway Festival. This event is being advertised in 38 publications and should bring many individuals interested in birds and nature. Meet at 8am at the Visitor's Center, Pioneer Village.



The annual June field trip to Highland County will coincide with the summer (first weekend in June) VSO field trip, June 4-6. John Spahr will not be able to lead this trip, however members wanting to go can contact Patti Rheum who is leading a group to a private farm.

Walt informed the club that May 8th is the last meeting of the year. Meet at 8 am at the first pavilion on the right, Montgomery Hall Park. Join in birding and good foodstuff. He also mentioned that the VSO Foray this year will be the Counties of Culpeper and Fauquier, June 12th thru June 20th.

Jo King announced that she will lead a field trip to McCormick's Mill on Thursday, April 22.

The "mystery bird" quiz was identified as a Black-headed Gull and Bonaparte's Gull.

Grant Simmons presented the slate of officers for the 2010-2011 year. The floor was opened for nominations, there being none, the proposed officers were voted unanimously. The new officers are:

Walt Childs, President, Ed Lawler, Vice President, Catherine Kohus, Treasurer, Penny Warren, Secretary, Editor: Paul Callo. Walt also recognized Andrew Clem for his development and managing of the Augusta Bird Club web site. Jo King was also thanked for assuming the duties of substituting secretary for the remainder of the year.

Treasurer, Catherine Kohus reported on the membership role. 94 members have renewed, 12 have not committed, but it is expected that two or three will join. Last year's membership consisted of 104 members. Catherine said that she was able to enlist the talents of Brenda Tekin, as speaker for the Mint Spring Ruritan Club meeting.

Vice President, Ed Lawler introduced the program speaker, Dr. Paul Callo, Mary Baldwin College. Paul skillfully illustrated the breeding behavior of the Blue-headed Vireo, the Red-eyed Vireo and Hooded Warbler. These birds' activities during the breeding season was most revealing and fascinating. His presentation was most well received by the membership.

-Respectfully submitted,
Josephine King, substituting secretary

Treasurer's Report
submitted by Catherine Kohus

3/01/2010 – 3/31/2010

REGULAR OPERATING FUND

BALANCE - 3/01/2010	\$ 4,941.58
INCOME	\$ 820.44
EXPENSES	\$ 132.45
BALANCE - 3/31/2010	\$ 5,629.57

EDUCATION/CONSERVATION FUND

BALANCE - 3/01/2010	\$ 7668.80
INCOME	\$ 195.00
EXPENSES	\$ 92.65
BALANCE - 3/31/2010	\$ 7,771.15

TOTAL BALANCE ALL FUNDS - 3/31/2010	\$ 13,400.72
--	---------------------

Bird Quiz!

Can you identify the bird below?



The answer will be revealed at the end of the year meeting. Happy guessing!

Last Month: Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)
and Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*)

Virginia Society of
Ornithology Website

virginiabirds.net

Augusta Bird Club Website

www.augustabirdclub.org