

# December 2019



Our last meeting held on November 6 was attended by 60+ people. It seemed we were short of chairs, so every lounge chair, sofa and bench was shifted into viewing positions for the overflow. Our own Jerry Via presented "10 Things You Might Not Know About Birds". Undoubtedly our club would appreciate a future follow up titled "10 More Things You Might Not Know About Birds". We welcomed three new members: Kenneth Crouch, Anna Marshall-Baker and Moe Baker.

## Birding in December

New opportunities abound this month for winter species in and around the New River Valley. If you're planning a southern trip or visiting friends on the coast, take your binoculars! Bring out more feeders and settle in for great viewing in your own yard. Participate in the Christmas Bird Count in Blacksburg, Giles County, or both!

## CBC Tip Courtesy of Pete Dunne:

A big problem faced by CBCers in cold regions relates to chilled binoculars fogging up when birders return to a warm car. The solution is simple: Don't warm the vehicle. Keeping your car cold also means you'll not dawdle in the vehicle when you reach your next stop. (There's no advantage to sitting in a cold car, unless it's raining.) Good luck!

## White Pelican Sale @ December Meeting

Once again we'll hold our *White Pelican Sale*, designed to raise \$\$\$ for worthy bird causes. Please check your homes and bookshelves for extras that you might contribute. Our suggested pricing will be as follows:

- Magazines - 50 cents
- VSO blue tote bag - 50 cents
- Older edition paperbacks - \$1
- Older edition hardbacks - \$2
- NRV Bird Club decals - \$2
- Newer paperbacks - \$3
- Newer hardbacks - \$4
- Special edition books - \$5

If you have extra binoculars, feeders, bird art or other bird/nature items, please mark a fair price for each item. We'll provide price stickers. Come prepared to buy or sell. SPECIAL NOTE: If your item doesn't sell, please be prepared to take it back home with you!

# Calendar

**Wednesday December 4 , 7:00 PM**

**Warm Hearth Village, Karr Activity Center, Blacksburg**

Pre-meeting dinner @ 5:30 PM - El Mariachi 3703 S Main St, Blacksburg  
Parking: From Warm Hearth Dr, turn left at New River House. Park and follow sidewalk to Karr Activity Center.

## **Members Share Photos and Stories:**

Members Night with a Flair! Bring your favorite up to 10 photos, digital or other, of birds, nature, or exotic places you have traveled to in the past year. And wear your NRV Bird Club shirt or any bird shirt, national or state park, nature-oriented shirt for a club group picture. Remember we are a family friendly group. :-)

## **Field Trips**

**Saturday December 14, all day**

**Blacksburg Christmas Bird Count**

Our area coordinators Bruce Grimes [bugpix@verizon.net](mailto:bugpix@verizon.net) and Pat Polentz [polentz@va.net](mailto:polentz@va.net) are busy preparing and organizing the 2019 count. If you want to participate in the Blacksburg count you will have a chance to sign up at the December meeting. Meet at Lefty's at 6 PM day of the count for dinner and the day's tally.

**Saturday December 28, all day**

**Giles County Christmas Bird Count**

Giles County coordinators Bill Opengari [bbjoEMU@gmail.com](mailto:bbjoEMU@gmail.com) and Debby Appelquist @ [deborah.appelquist@yahoo.com](mailto:deborah.appelquist@yahoo.com) will lead the count effort in Giles County.

**Project FeederWatch Continues visit <https://feederwatch.org>**

**Friday 31 January - Sunday 2 February 2020**

**VSO Outer Banks Field Trip - Nags Head, NC**

Have you signed up yet? If not, make your plans soon. Oceanfront hotel rooms go fast! Worried about the weather? Look into the hotel's cancellation policy. For details see [www.virginiabirds.org](http://www.virginiabirds.org).

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Mattamuskeet/>

<https://www.nps.gov/caha/index.htm>

## **NRV Bird Club Officers**

President - Jerry Via

Treasurer - Jana Ruble

Field Trips - Bill Akers & Bill Opengari

Publicity - Suzie Leslie & Beth Lancaster

Newsletter - Sally Pfeiffer & Lucinda Jennings

## **Membership Information**

To join our club or renew your membership, please visit:

<http://www.nrvbirdclub.org/membership>

## **Seen Around the NRV in December**



Immature RHWP (top) Adult RHWP (above)  
by Bruce Grimes, 17 Nov 19 @ Claytor Lake SP

# December's Poem

## A Winter Friend

Across the bleak and snowy land  
There came a note so filled with glee,  
I caught my breath, so rich it was,  
This simple song that came to me.

Behold the singer, smartly dressed  
In feathers black and white and green:  
So merrily his "dee-dee-dee"  
Comes on this cold, dark, winter day.

And now he perches on my hand,  
And quickly takes the crumbs of bread  
I offer him, and flits away,  
Alighting just above my head.

He sings his song of gratitude  
And frolics to the old elm tree:  
All the while filling the air  
With his sprite, sparkling "dee-dee-dee"

I stand along on a cold hill  
With the strong, north wind blowing free;  
But within a warmth fills my heart,  
For I know a black-capped chickadee.

By J. M. Kepler

from BIRDSONG  
a collection of poems  
by various poets  
Ideals Publishing Co. 1969

