



September 2019

Welcome to our newly formatted newsletter, designed to be digital friendly and easier to read. Current members will receive the newsletter through their email. Be sure to add the club address in your contacts to keep it out of the spam folder. If you'd like to contribute articles, photos, or other bird related content please contact our editors at nrvbirdclub@yahoo.com.

Bluebird Trail Report 2019

By Barb Glaser

The Club's Bluebird Trail on the VT/CRC property had 16 boxes this year. Best estimate: bluebirds fledged 25 young, tree swallows fledged 70 young. Houses used by bluebirds (9, 10, 12, 15, 16), tree swallows (2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15), used by both (9, 10, 12). Three boxes were not used, two with experimental clear roofs, and one where house sparrows were removed several times, and had a location issue.

Thanks to all the volunteer monitors for a job well done: Bill Opengari, Edie Schumacher, Chris Sokol, Suzie Leslie, Jo Brown, Henry Floyd, Doug & Sally Pfeiffer, Mary Rordam, Barb Glaser, Pat Polentz, Beth Lancaster, Ray & Ann Groves, Brenda Graff, Melanie Bussard, Barb Walker, Lucinda Jennings, Deborah Hamilton, Jana Ruble, Bruce Grimes, Mac & Judy McCord, Gloria Heath, Mary Jane Zody, and Liz Swinfen.

2019 VSO Annual Meeting @ Mountain Lake

The VSO annual meeting held in May at Mountain Lake Lodge was a big success. Many thanks to our members who volunteered to make this weekend possible. The summer VSO newsletter contains a full page article including photos of this event.

Special Note

As summer winds down our monthly meetings resume and we look forward to seeing old friends, familiar faces and greeting new folks interested in birding with us. Bring a guest, wear a name tag and be prepared to visit over scrumptious refreshments after the program.

Calendar

Wednesday September 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.

Part Two of Southwestern Texas Coast Birding, by Bruce Grimes

We continue to explore various birding sites at the lower end of the Texas Gulf Coast, moving from Corpus Christi to the Rockport area and into the Rio Grande Valley. The Texas coastline is one of the top areas to bird in the USA, and you will be ready to plan your own trip!

Bird of the Month: Diurnal Migrants

Field Trips

Saturday September 7, 8:00 AM

Deerfield Trail, 1200 Deerfield Dr, Blacksburg

<http://www.blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/82/78> From US 460 bypass take Toms Creek Rd exit, go west to intersection with Deerfield Dr. Meet at trailhead.

The NRV Bird Club sponsors a bird walk on the first Saturday of each month during peak spring and fall bird migration and breeding seasons. Bring binoculars if you have them. Wear sturdy shoes to cover 1 to 1½ miles on a paved trail during this 2-hour walk. In case of rain or for more information call Bill Akers @ 951-7692.

Saturday September 14, 7:30 AM

Glen Alton Day Use Area, Giles County

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gwj/recarea/?recid=73717>

Led by Bill Opengari and Bill Akers: Meet at the gravel parking area where Routes 460 and 700 (the road to Mtn Lake) intersect to carpool to Glen Alton. We'll spend 1 ½ to 2 hours birding the grounds and wet areas in search of fall migrants. This hike has uneven ground.

Next we'll continue on to Peters Mountain and hike the 1-mile trail up to Hanging Rock Lookout, where we can observe migrating hawks. An owl decoy may bring hawks in close, so bring your camera. From the tower the views look down on treetops where migrating passerines might be seen foraging. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Wear sturdy hiking shoes,. Note: It is usually cooler on top of the mountain so dress in layers. In case of rain check email for cancellation. Call Bill Akers for more information @ 951-7692.

Saturday September 21, mid-day

Rocky Knob Hawk Watch

Blue Ridge Parkway, Milepost 168

<https://www.nps.gov/blri/planyourvisit/rocky-knob-trails.htm>

Join others at your convenience in the field to the north of the pull out, follow the trail through the gate. This field trip is timed to catch the peak of the Broad-winged hawk migration, but many other migrants are observed during the day. Bring lunch, plenty of water, sunscreen, a hat, warm clothes (dress in layers) and a chair or blanket.

Saturday September 28, 8:00 AM
Brian and Martha Murphy's Farm
Route 42, Craig County

Meet at the gravel parking area at 7:30 AM where Routes 460 and 700 (the road to Mountain Lake) intersect to carpool to the Murphy's farm on Route 42. The land boasts a variety of habitats including 2 ponds and over 40 acres of native grassland. This hike has uneven ground. In case of rain check email for cancellation. Call Bill Akers for more information @ 951-7692.

Friday-Sunday September 20-22
VSO Chincoteague Field Trip
Chincoteague NWR, Virginia

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

Jerry Via and Bill Akers lead this annual birding field trip. The weekend includes a Friday evening review of shorebirds and other area birds and a synopsis of the field trips. Special trips include: Saturday AM boat excursion (with fee); Saturday PM or Sunday AM bus trip to Wash Flats (with fee). Please reserve your spots when you register. A wide variety of field trips include: birding & biking, migratory warbler walk, and motorcade to Assateague Beach for shorebird watching. There will be a tally of the day's species late in the afternoon. For hotel info and registration see the VSO Newsletter at www.virginiabirds.org

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

Annual Dues: September 2019 through August 2020
Individual: \$15 Family: \$20

Dues will be collected (cash or check only) at the September and October meetings by Jana Ruble. Please make sure **all** your info is current so we can keep accurate records. You may also mail a check to:

NRVBC/Jana Ruble PO Box 361 Blacksburg, VA 24063

NRV Bird Club Dues Payment & Information Form

Name/s _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Preferred Phone # _____ Home _____ Mobile _____

New Member? _____ Renewal? _____

Payment Method _____ Check _____ Cash

Amount Paid _____ \$15 _____ \$20

Mail to: NRVBC/Jana Ruble PO Box 361 Blacksburg, VA 24063

September's Poem

By Night

After midnight I heard a scream.
I was awake. It was no dream.
But whether it was bird of prey
Or prey of bird I could not say.
I never heard that sound by day.

from American Poetry: The Twentieth Century
by Robert Francis (1901-1987)

Seen Around the NRV in August



Allen's Hummingbird in Blacksburg on August 19 - Photos by Jerry Via