



October 2014 Newsletter

of the Rockbridge Bird Club, encouraging the enjoyment, knowledge, and conservation of birds in the Rockbridge Area.

Calendar

Program meetings are held at 7 pm in the Old Courthouse meeting room, in downtown Lexington. Informal gatherings are held at 5 pm in Munger Lodge at Boxerwood, on Ross Road. Field trips are half day unless otherwise noted and meeting place is the Lexington Food Lion parking lot.

2014

Saturday, Oct. 4th, 8 am-8 pm - Boxerwood Bioblitz *

Wednesday, Oct. 8th, 7 pm - Program: Teta Kain, "Feeding Wild Birds," * plus Annual Seed Sale kick-off*

Sunday, Oct 19th - Field trip: Blue Ridge Parkway. Meet for carpool at 8 am*

Saturday, Nov. 1st, 7:30 am - First-Saturday bird walk at Boxerwood *

Wednesday, Nov. 12th, 7 pm – Program: Justin Folks, "Quail Conservation and Habitat Restoration"; Annual Meeting

Saturday, Nov 15th - Field trip: Greenfields. Meet for carpool at 7:30 am

Fri.-Sun., Dec. 5-7th - VSO winter field trip to Virginia Beach/Chesapeake Bridge-Tunnel

December, date TBA - Christmas Bird Count

2015

Wednesday, Feb. 11th, 7 pm - Program: Katie Fallon, "Cerulean Warblers"

Wednesday, April 8th, 7 pm – Program: Sergio Harding, bird conservation biologist with the Virginia Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries

* See article below

\$\$\$\$ Renew Your Membership Now for 2015 ! \$\$\$

The year is fast coming to a close and the Club is accepting membership renewals for 2015. We hope you'll bring your dues of \$15 per household to the next meeting, on October 8th, or you may send it directly to our Treasurer, Betty Besal, at 120 Chavis Ave, Lexington, VA 24450.

--Adrienne Hall-Bodie, Membership Chair

*** PROGRAMS**

"Feeding Wild Birds" At the Club meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday, October 8, naturalist and photographer Teta Kain will give a talk on "Feeding Wild Birds." Those who heard Teta's talk in 2013 about the Great Dismal Swamp will remember her as a dynamic speaker, full of information and lots of fun. Teta notes that she'll highlight species commonly encountered at feeders and what to feed them, as well as how to help keep them safe from predators. And her talk will kick off the Seed Sale!

Second Annual Bird Seed Sale High-quality seeds for the birds at your feeder and support for Boxerwood Nature Center -- these are the benefits of our annual Bird Seed Sale, organized by Bonnie Bernstein. Seeds for sale are the favorites: Nyger thistle, black oil sunflower, and a choice of two mixes. To order seed, pick up an order form at the meeting or download one at www.boxerwood.org; mail in your order by Wednesday, October 29; and pick up the seeds at the Rockbridge Farmers Co-op on Saturday, November 22, 8 am to noon. The Co-op is co-sponsoring the sale with our Club this year, and in addition is donating 10% of gross receipts on items bought by Seed Sale customers in the Co-op Store on pick-up day.

*** Field Trips**

Blue Ridge Parkway Field Trip Sunday, October 19th Meet at 8 am at the Food Lion Plaza east of Lexington on Rt. 60 to go in search of migrating warblers, thrushes, and others. The Blue Ridge is a favorite birding territory of Dick Rowe, our Club Ornithologist, and he'll be leading. Big weather patterns influence migration, and Dick points out that you never know whether you'll see lots of migrants or few; but a Blue Ridge outing is always a joy!

Boxerwood BioBlitz on Saturday, October 4th A reminder: you can help Boxerwood with its first-ever BioBlitz, a survey of all living species in a designated area during a very concentrated period of time. Bird Club members will be leading teams of "citizen scientists" who will identify and count birds in one-hour intervals at the beginning and end of the day. To join a team, please contact Wendy Richards at 463-5214. For more information about the BioBlitz as a whole, see the Boxerwood website at www.boxerwood.org. (This event supplants the first-Saturday bird walk for October.)

First-Saturday Bird Walks at Boxerwood Kerry Kilday will resume on November 1st leading this series of walks. Meet at the Boxerwood parking area at 7:30 a.m. for a walk of about two hours in the gardens, whose varied habitats host a variety of birds. Questions? Feel free to call Kerry at (561) 389-9612.

October Bird Note: Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*)

Despite its name, the Palm Warbler is among the northernmost of warblers. It breeds in bogs and fens in the boreal forests of far northern Canada, and winters primarily in southeastern and Gulf Coast regions of the United States, passing through



Picture by Dick Rowe 1

our area during spring and fall migrations. In Rockbridge County, the best chance of seeing this and other migrating fall warblers is on Blue Ridge Parkway: don't miss the Parkway field trip on October 19!

The Palm Warbler feeds on the ground and in short shrubs and trees, primarily taking insects, but also some seeds and fruits during migration and in winter. It walks rather than hops. And it constantly wags its tail, showing off the yellow of its undertail coverts; both the wagging and yellow are a help in identifying this species.

During migration, the Palm Warbler is one of most frequently killed species in collisions with TV towers and other tall, lighted structures. Another threat to its numbers is the increasing levels of peat-harvesting in boreal forest bogs where it breeds. On the positive side, its preference for open areas on the wintering grounds makes the Palm

Warbler less endangered by forest-clearing than many other warblers. At present, its populations appear to be stable.

In case you miss seeing a Palm Warbler this fall, here's a warbler that Club Ornithologist Dick Rowe informs us occurs in most areas of the County, from October to mid-May:



Picture by Dick Rowe 2

That's a Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) in October plumage. This bird just might turn up in your back yard!

-- Note by Alexia Smith

Information for this Bird Note comes from <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna>; www.allaboutbirds.org, and Dick Rowe's Birds of Rockbridge, <http://www.vmi.edu/fswebs.aspx?tid=41325&id=4294972715&libID=4294972712>; Birds of North America,



For more information about the Club visit our website at www.rockbridgebirdclub.org

Contact the Club by email at rockbridgebirdclub@gmail.com or call Wendy Richards, 540-463-5214, or Laura Neale, 540-261-1909.

Join the Club by making out a check for \$15 per household to Rockbridge Bird Club and sending it, along with your address, email address, and phone number, to Betty Besal, 120 Chavis Avenue, Lexington, VA 24450. Thank you.

Club Officers

President, Wendy Richards

Secretary, Alexia Smith

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Membership Chair, Adrienne Bodie

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Treasurer, Betty Besal

Field Trip Chair, Kerry Kilday

Club Ornithologist, Dick Rowe

Newsletter edited by Alexia Smith & produced by Jan Smith. Please send feedback & news items to alexia@rockbridge.net