



October 2009 Newsletter

*Celebrating 52 Years
of Birding! 1957-2009*

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Visit our website:
roanokevalleybirdclub.com

SEPT. MEETING

We watched the video *Dances with Hummingbirds*.

The State of the Birds 2009

This report, compiled by wildlife agencies and conservation groups, is a comprehensive analysis of the state of our nation's birds. The results are alarming—bird populations have seriously declined in the past 40 years. But the report isn't all bad news. Some species have responded well to conservation efforts and *wetland species populations have steadily increased. In addition, a variety of species, such as the California Condor, Henslow's Sparrow, Bufflehead, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Merlin have benefited from conservation programs.* However the report emphasizes that for many species *aggressive conservation measures must be implemented.* As you can see in the graph in the next column, Forest, Aridland, and Grassland bird populations have dramatically declined since 1968, with only wetland species showing increases—largely due to strong waterfowl conservation management.

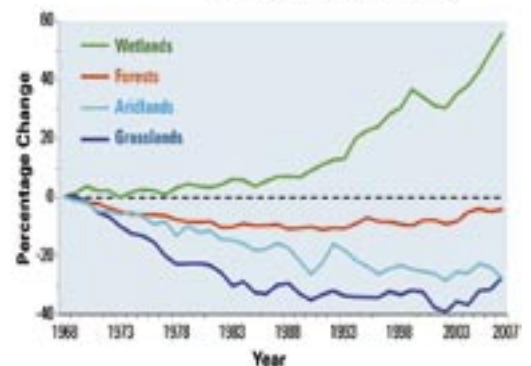
NEXT MEETING:

October 12, 7:00 p.m.
Grandin Court Baptist Church

2008 was the centennial year of the birth of Roger Tory Peterson. His story is a fascinating one. For the first half of our program we will view a *A Boy, A Book, A Legacy* and learn more about the man who helped make birding a national pastime. For the second half of our program, Bill Grant will update us on the *State of the Birds 2009*.

Please join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. before the meeting at the Brambleton Deli at 3655 Brambleton Road.

Bird Population Indicators



(see *What You Can Do to Help Birds* inside)

RVBC Annual Seed Sale Fund Raiser November 7

Please complete the enclosed order form and mail with your check, payable to Roanoke Valley Bird Club, to: Eunice Hudgins, 870 Stonegate Ct., Salem, VA 24153.

Orders must be received by Monday, October 12. (*Please do not send RVBC dues to Eunice. RVBC dues should be mailed to Robin Austin, Treasurer.*)

The Seed Sale will take place on November 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Northwest True Value Hardware Company near Hollins on Route 11. The store is a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College. 7650 Williamson Road • Roanoke, VA 24019 • (540) 362-2112

If you would like to volunteer to assist, please contact Alyce Quinn: twoquinns@yahoo.com or phone: 719-0109; or Eunice Hudgins: uvaau@aol.com or phone: 389-4056.

The order form is also available on the RVBC website home page.

Donate your old binoculars to conservation. If you have any old birding equipment just lying around, not being used, you can help our long-distance migrants and rare Latin American endemics by donating your old gear to biologists across the hemisphere through the Birders Exchange program or the Optics for Tropics program.

Reduce your carbon footprint. Do your part to help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels that cause global warming. Use an electric lawnmower; carpool, bicycle, or use public transport when possible; turn off lights when not in use; use low energy bulbs and Energy Star-rated



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appliances; call your power company and ask if you can buy your energy from renewable sources. Help organizations purchase conservation areas and forests that provide valuable habitat for birds, and helps lower atmospheric CO² levels.

Take action for birds and familiarize yourself with contemporary bird conservation issues. Knowing the issues will help you let your elected officials know which policy and programs can help bird conservation.

Participate in volunteer monitoring activities that help to document the status and trends of bird populations.

There are many opportunities in this area, depending on your level of interest, ability to commit time, and level of expertise in bird identification.

Join a bird conservation organization. As individuals, there is only so much we can do for birds. But as a part of an organization with the expertise, broad reach, and partnership capacity of organization, you can make

a difference for wild birds and their habitats locally, nationally, and internationally.

From: <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/home-page-documents/what-you-can-do-to-help-birds>

Rare Shorebird Found in Staunton

On September 6, Allen Larner, along with Ed and Nancy Lawler were looking for shorebirds in a pond on Bell's Lane. They noticed a strange bird along with several other shorebird species. After checking the book, *The Shorebirds of the World*, they decided that it was a sand-plover, but could not decide whether it was a Lesser or Greater Sand-plover. There is still some debate, but photographs and documentation of Greater Sand-plover will be submitted to Virginia Rarities Committee.

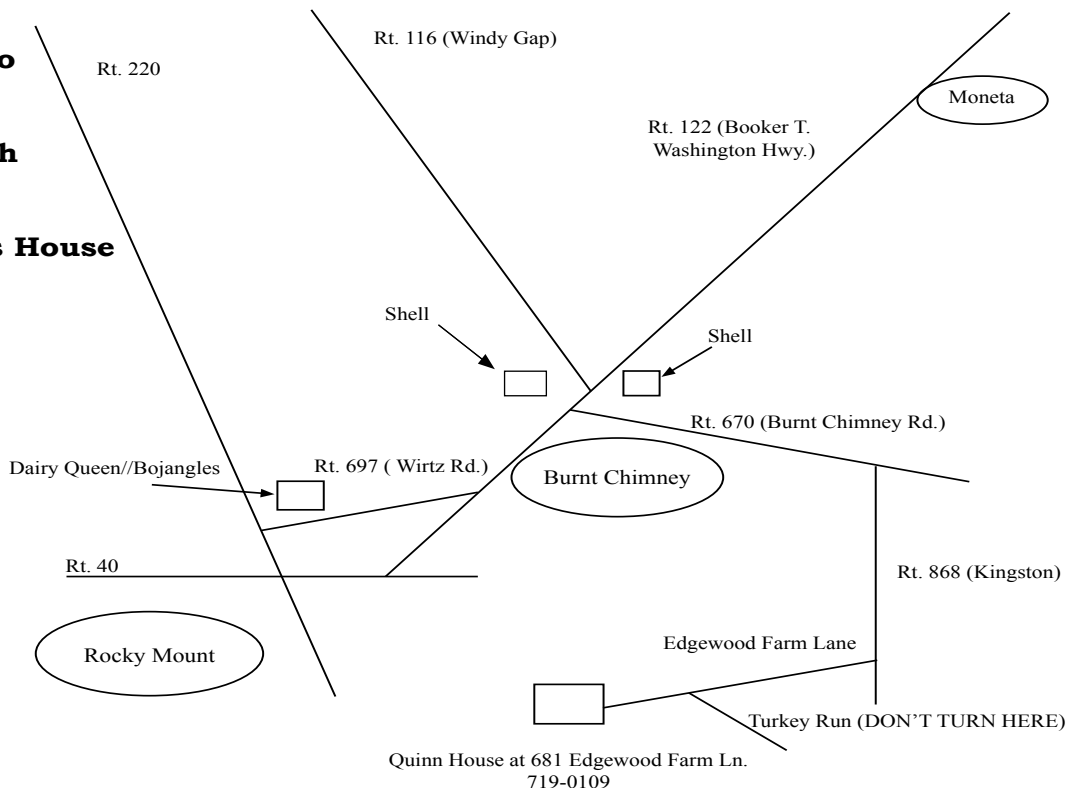
After the sighting was posted on ShenValBirds, birders from around the state rushed to the site. It stayed only three days. At least 200 people from Virginia and ten other states came to see the bird. Eric Hirschfield of Sweden, who studied the greater sand-plover for five years, examined our photographs, and assured us that it is a greater sand-plover, a species that had been seen only twice in the Western Hemisphere: California and Florida. It breeds in Turkey and central Asia, winters in Africa, Australia, and the Mediterranean area, and is a vagrant in Great Britain and France.

How do birds from so far away find their way to the Western Hemisphere (and Staunton, Virginia)?

Yulee Larner

Reprinted from the Staunton News Leader

**Directions to
The Big Sit!
October 11th
Alyce and
Tim Quinn's House
(719-0109)**



SEEDS FOR A SONG

November 7, 2009

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser In Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware

We are having a seed sale to benefit both you and the community. By placing an order with us, you will get quality seed containing little or no waste, harvested this year, at reasonable prices. Proceeds from the sale will be used for community projects. The sale is open to the public, so please copy this form and distribute it to friends and neighbors. There will be a small supply of extra seed available the day of the sale for those unable to pre-order. Refreshments will be served, and experienced bird watchers/feeders will be on hand the day of pick-up to answer any questions.

Orders must be received by Monday, October 12 and picked up on Saturday, November 7, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., at:

**Northwest True Value Hardware (in the Hollins area)
7650 Williamson Road, Roanoke VA 24019
(540)-362-2112**

The store is about a half mile south of the entrance to Hollins College.

If you are unable to pick up your seed on November 7, please make arrangements for someone else to pick it up for you.

It's easy to order:

1. Complete the enclosed order form, being sure to include your name, phone number, and address along with your seed selections.
2. Calculate the total, which **already includes** Virginia sales tax.
3. Mail your completed form and check, payable to Roanoke Valley Bird Club, ***in time for it to be received by October 12***, to: Eunice Hudgins, 870 Stonegate Ct., Salem, VA 24153. (Please do not include membership dues with your seed sale order. Membership dues should be mailed to Robin Austin, Treasurer.)

Seed Descriptions

Wild birdseed mixes attract ground-feeding birds such as mourning doves, juncos and sparrows:

- *Gourmet Mix*: contains millet, sunflower, safflower and thistle.
- *Shell Free Mix*: a waste-free mix of millet, sunflower chips, cracked corn, canary seed and peanut hearts.

Sunflower seed is the best all-around food, favored by a wide variety of birds:

- *Black Oil Sunflower*: smaller than the striped, with thinner shell, more kernel and higher oil content; preferred 2:1 over other seed by most feeder birds.
- *Sunflower Chips*: the heart of the seed, virtually no hull, no mess, and more meat per pound.
- *Striped Sunflower*: many common feeder birds, such as cardinals, jays, grosbeaks, titmice, chickadees, sparrows and finches, as well as squirrels, like this larger, thicker shelled seed.

Specialty seeds:

- *Nyjer (Thistle)*: especially good for goldfinches and pine siskins, this seed is rich in nourishing oil.
- *White Millet*: favored by ground feeding birds such as juncos, towhees, buntings and sparrows.
- *Safflower*: squirrels don't care for it, but many birds such as cardinals, grosbeaks and juncos do.
- *Peanuts*: a favorite of woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays.

SEEDS FOR A SONG

November 7, 2009

Roanoke Valley Bird Club Fund Raiser

In Cooperation with Northwest True Value Hardware

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

If you are not a club member, how did you learn about this sale?

Description	Quantity	Size	Price/Each (includes tax)	Total
Gourmet Mix		40 lb.	16.24	
		20 lb.	8.53	
		4 lb.	2.05	
*Shell Free Mix		25 lb.	14.53	
Black Oil Sunflower		50 lb.	18.20	
		25 lb.	9.42	
		10 lb.	5.29	
Sunflower Chips		50 lb.	57.30	
		25 lb.	30.23	
Striped Sunflower		50 lb.	32.34	
Nyjer (Thistle)		50 lb.	41.30	
		20 lb.	23.55	
		10 lb.	12.56	
Millet		50 lb.	14.91	
		25 lb.	8.25	
Peanuts in Shell		25 lb.	29.16	
Safflower		50 lb.	41.60	
		25 lb.	21.59	
		4 lb.	6.02	
High Energy Suet		Cake	1.21	
Ear Corn		6.5 lb.	5.98	
			Total	\$

*There may be a problem getting this seed on time because the supplier does not keep a lot on hand—it spoils quickly. If you order it, be aware that you may have to make a second trip to pick it up later.

