



April 2024 Newsletter
of the
Rockbridge Bird Club,
encouraging
the enjoyment, knowledge, &
conservation of birds in the Rockbridge Area

Calendar

Sat., Apr. 13, 8:00 a.m. — Second Saturday Birding at Boxerwood, with special session for families with children beginning at **9:00 a.m.** *

Mon., Apr. 15, 6:30 p.m. — Program: "Rehabbing Birds and Other Wildlife" by Allyson Lee of the Wildlife Care Alliance *

Sat., Apr. 27, 7:00 a.m. — Bird Walk in Brushy Hills Preserve led by Paul Cabe *

Sat., May 4, early — Half-day field trip to Apple Orchard Mountain led by Dick Rowe
* see article below

. . . proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything . . .
— from Sonnet 98 by William Shakespeare

Second Saturday Bird Walk at Boxerwood, Saturday 13 April

Early birders, let's meet at Boxerwood at 8:00 a.m. for an hour's walk. Then, families with children: please join us at 9:00 for a guided walk especially for you! We'll be exploring Boxerwood's varied habitats, listening and looking for breeding birds.

Remember to bring binoculars and wear sturdy footwear. Rain cancels. For more information or an iffy-weather update, contact Bonnie Bernstein (540-460-9147 or bonnie.bernstein@gmail.com).

**Monday 15 April meeting: 6:30 p.m.
in the Piovano Room at the downtown library**

Social time, followed by the program at 7:00:

Rehabbing Birds and Other Wildlife

Our speaker will be Allyson Lee, a licensed veterinarian technician with the Wildlife Care Alliance, a group of home-based wildlife rehabilitators located throughout southwest Virginia.

Explains Allyson, "The members of our Alliance care for native Virginia animals that are sick, injured or orphaned, always with the goal of returning them to the wild once they are healthy enough to survive. My talk will cover how we do it, how it's funded, and different ways people can help."

Allyson's areas of specialization are reptiles and adult songbirds. She also stabilizes raptors before sending them on to centers that have the space to care for them properly.

For her presentation to the Bird Club, Allyson will emphasize the rehabilitation of wild birds. Accompanying her will be two non-releasable "ambassador birds," a screech owl and a peregrine falcon.



Rehab in action!
This Barred Owl, a former patient of Allyson's, was examined under ultraviolet light, which helped to highlight its eye ulcer.
Photo courtesy of Allyson Lee.

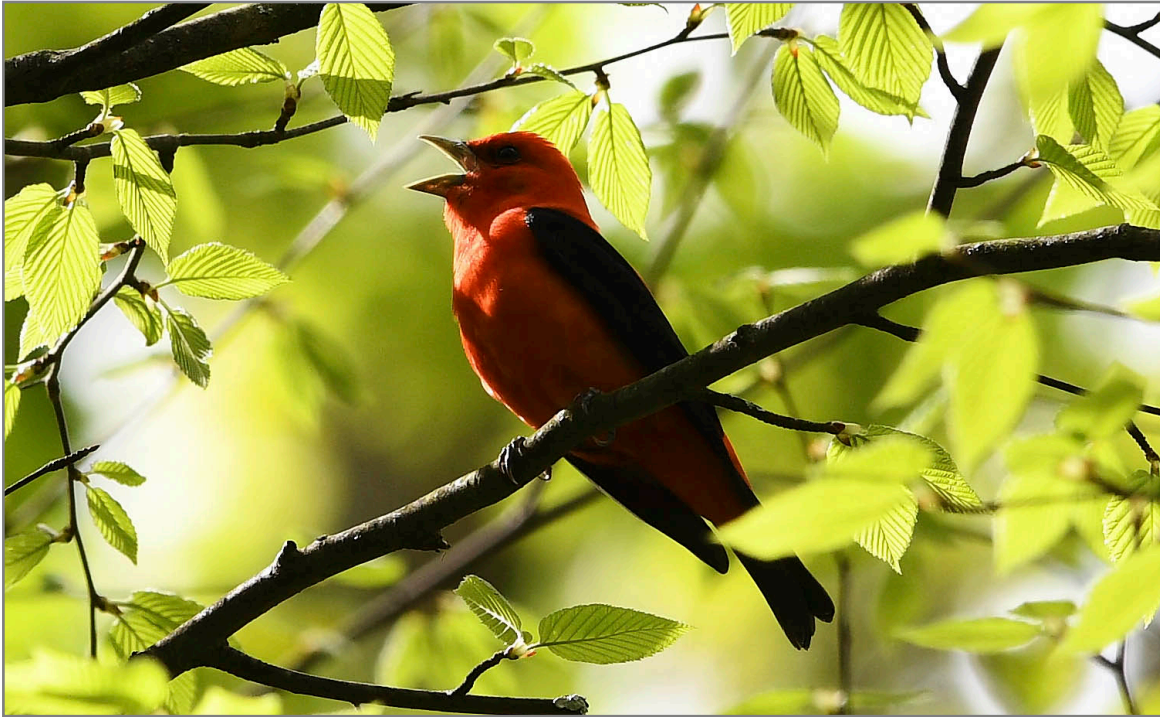
Birding in the Brushy Hills Preserve, Saturday 27 April at 7:00 a.m

With ornithologist Paul Cabe leading, we'll go in search of woodland residents, nesters, and passers-through along the Brushy Hills trails. Paul is a W&L Professor of Biology with interests in conservation genetics and, of course, birds.



Red-eyed Vireo. Photo by Dick Rowe

We'll meet at the main trailhead (1010 Union Run) at 7:00 a.m., for an outing of about two hours. Directions: from Lexington, drive to the end of Ross Road (2.3 miles from city limits) and turn right on Union Run Road. Continue 0.6 miles to the spring house on the right, with parking lot and kiosk across the road.



Scarlet Tanager, singing. Photo by Dick Rowe



JOIN THE CLUB by making out a check for \$15 or more per household to Rockbridge Bird Club and sending it, along with your address, email address, and phone number, to Jan Smith, 564 Big Hill Road, Lexington, VA 24450. Thank you.

For more information about the Club, visit our website at www.rockbridgebirdclub.org and find us on Facebook. Contact the Club by email at rockbridgebirdclub@gmail.com, or call Laura Neale, 540-261-1909.

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