



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org

Vol. 57, No. 5

May / June 2009

May 14th Meeting—7:00 PM "Silent Auction"

Join us for an evening of fun! Instead of having a guest speaker, for this meeting we'll have a SILENT AUCTION. This will be a major fundraiser for the Club for our Education Fund. The auction provides you with a great opportunity to clear out salable "treasures." Items can be bird-related or not: feeders, books, "yard art," etc. Plants or bulbs are welcome, too, since many people are planting their spring gardens now. Please help us make this a successful activity by bringing your checkbook and your neighbor.

Host/Hostess: Nan LaRue and Jim Hill

May Field Trips

MAY 3 & 17 (Sunday) ~ 7:00-9:00 AM
Regular bird walk in Newport News Park Meet at Ranger Station parking lot.
Trip Leader: Jane Frigo, 873-0721

MAY 16 (Sat.), 7:00 AM – James River Park
We'll travel to the Richmond area for our Club's May trip to James River Park (42nd Street entrance). We'll explore James River Park with the Richmond Audubon Society, and RAS member Arun Bose will be our guide. There are fantastic spring arrivals at this park! We'll meet in the 42nd Street parking lot at 7:00 AM. Bring lunch, snacks and beverages.

To carpool, meet at **5:30 AM** at **Newport News Park** in the Ranger parking lot. SEE PAGE 2 for directions to James River Park.

Sign up at the May meeting, or call Jane Frigo (873-0721) to let her know you're coming.

June 6 Annual Club Picnic

Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 6, at **Sandy Bottom Nature Park**. Mark your calendar to join us for a great time of birding and socializing!

8:00 –11:00 AM – For those who'd like to bird first, we'll meet at the Parker Pavilion at 8:00 AM and explore different areas of the park.

11:30 AM-1:30 PM – The picnic will be held at the Parker Pavilion – just beyond the Nature Center, across from the parking lot with the rest rooms. The Club will provide the meat and beverages. Please bring a dish to share (vegetable, salad or dessert). We look forward to seeing you there!

June Field Trips

JUNE 7 & 21 (Sunday) ~ 7:00-9:00 AM
Regular bird walk in Newport News Park
Meet at Ranger Station parking lot.
Trip Leader: Jane Frigo, 873-0721

The picnic is our last official function until the fall. Sunday walks in Newport News Park will continue through the summer: JUL. 5 & 19, AUG. 2 & 16

Field Trips: There are no scheduled field trips for June, July or August. Members can get in touch with each other for informal excursions as they wish.



Track Developments at the Eagle's Nest! Watch live camera action at the Eagle's Nest in Norfolk Botanical Garden, courtesy of Va. Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries:

<http://www.wvec.com/cams/eagle.html>

The President's Perch

At the April 9 meeting the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 2009-2010:

President	???
Vice President	Marc Nichols
Secretary	Libby Carmines
Treasurer	Richard Hudgins
Board member (2009-2012)	John Dawson

We still need someone for *PRESIDENT*. This is a key position for the Club, so the Committee is asking each member to consider your willingness to serve – or to recommend someone who may be willing. Please contact Cary Koronas at 851-6209 or yabirds@aol.com as soon as possible because we need to vote on a complete slate of officers at the May 14 meeting.

Tom Claydon (2007-10) and Mike Propst (2008-11) will continue as Board members.

Though not elected positions, the following roles have also been filled:

Field Trip Leader	Dave Youker
Editor, Newsletter and Website	Meredith Bell

Directions: May 16th Field Trip

Here are the directions to get to James River Park from I-64 traveling west.

Near Richmond, get in the center lane for the 5th Street exit. After leaving I-64, stay on 5th street to Canal Street. Turn right at the traffic light onto Canal, stay in the left lane, and go 2 blocks. Turn left onto 2nd Street. Follow 2nd Street. Just after War Memorial, the road curves to the right under the Lee Bridge. Take the immediate left, which is the on-ramp for the Lee Bridge, and cross the river. Take the first exit (Riverside Drive). Go just over 1-1/2 miles, passing the 22nd Street entrance, and the Reedy Creek entrance.

The next entrance is 42nd Street (on your right). Yellow gates may be closed across the entrance, but just park opposite, on the street. We'll meet Arun Bose in the parking lot at 7:00 am.

Recent HRBC Exhibit

Our Club participated as an exhibitor at the Bluebird Gap Farm Spring Children's Festival in Hampton. Many thanks to members Jane Frigo and Nancy Gruttman-Tyler for covering the booth from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. The event was well attended, and many people stopped by to check out the Carolina Wren nest and Bluebird box on display.

Thanks to Mary Copeland for preparing birdseed packets that were given to the children who stopped by. Coloring sheets of common yard birds (with magic markers provided) were also a "hot" attraction for the kids. Jane and Nancy spoke with several people interested in learning more about the Club and joining, so it was a very successful event!

Nursing Home Feeder Project

Did you know...One of HRBC's community service projects is maintaining "absolute" bird feeders at five area convalescent and rehabilitation centers under the Virginia Health Care System. Thanks to **Jane Frigo** for coordinating the volunteers who maintain the feeders:

James River (Newport News) – Karrin Frankie and Mary Kozlowicz

York (York County) – Lee and Meredith Bell

Walter Reed (Gloucester) – George and Rosemarie Harris (current)

North Hampton (Hampton) – Carolyn and John Witherspoon

Newport (Newport News) – Harry Carlson and Jane Frigo

As compensation for this service, HRBC receives \$300 annually.

Spring Refinery Count

The annual refinery spring count will be held on Saturday, **May 30**, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. If you'd like to participate, please call Grady Wood at 898-9618. Lunch will be provided, followed by a tally. Meet at the refinery administration building on Goodwin Neck Road by 7:45 AM to get your assignment. All are welcome!

Field Trip Reports

Jane Frigo and Nick Flanders

Hog Island – 3/21/09

Fifteen members visited Hog Island for our March field trip with 57 species tallied for the day. Sunny skies and cool temps made for great birding conditions. Except for a very large raft of Scaup seen on the James River, there was not a large number of waterfowl.

We spotted a BALD EAGLE on a nest and were excited to see it feeding one chick. Osprey are back in good numbers. Pine Warblers were heard singing everywhere, and we got good looks at several of them. Also had great looks at both Kinglets and Brown-headed Nuthatches. A cooperative American Kestrel let us get nice views through the scope.

Great Dismal Swamp – 4/18/09

For our April field trip to the Great Dismal Swamp, we had 12 Club members participate (pictured below). We explored Railroad Ditch in the AM and Jericho Ditch in the PM.



We tallied 69 species for the day, including 15 warbler species. Most abundant warblers were Prothonotary, Common Yellowthroat and Prairie (all seen and heard). We also heard many Ovenbirds, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Hooded warblers.

Other highlights included 4 vireo species (White-eye, Red-eyed, Yellow-throated and Blue-headed), Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue Grosbeak, Rusty Blackbirds and Northern Bobwhite.

Upcoming Events

May 7-9. Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival. This event is FREE and open to the public. You can attend any or all days. Activities include bird banding demonstration featuring our own Jerri Howe and Nan LaRue, guided bird walks along Jericho and Washington Ditches, narrated bus tours, and lots of family events. www.virginia.org/site/description.asp?attrID=4450
[1](#)

May 29-31. Mountain Lake Birding Festival. The mountains of SW Virginia have many bird species rarely (if ever) found in our area. You can choose from a wide variety of field trips and workshops. Details (including lodging options) at: www.mountainlakebirding.com

5 Tips to Bird ID

Just in time for spring migration, *Bird Watcher's Digest* editor Bill Thompson III shares these tips:

1. Spend time in the field when spring migration is at its peak so you can find lots of birds.
2. When you can't be with the birds, "hit the books" – i.e., study your field guides.
3. Chase down unfamiliar birds when you've caught a glimpse to try and study them.
4. Make notes to help your memory.
5. Quiz yourself – leave the field guide home or in the car so you can test your ID skills.

VSO Listserve

Many Club members stay up-to-date on bird sightings throughout Virginia, including our own area, by subscribing to the VA-Bird listserve, hosted by the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO). It's FREE and you can post bird sightings of your own, too.

To sign up, go to www.virginiabirds.net, and click on **Listserve** on the left. On the next page, click the top link **VA-Bird** and sign up.

President	Mary Copeland	benmarycop@cavtel.net	(757) 851-7007
Vice President	Mary Copeland	benmarycop@cavtel.net	(757) 851-7007
Secretary	Gail Claydon	gclaydon@cox.net	(757) 930-1038
Treasurer	Nan LaRue	nan.larue@cox.net	(757) 877-9415
Board: (7/06-6/09)	Ben Copeland	benmarycop@cavtel.net	(757) 851-7007
Board: (7/07-6/10)	Tom Claydon	tclaydon@cox.net	(757) 930-1038
Board: (7/08-6/11)	Mike Propst	M9538@cox.net	(757) 886-1150
Field Trip Coordinators	Jane Frigo	birderjane@gmail.com	(757) 873-0721
	Nick Flanders	flicknanders@hotmail.com	(757) 599-5415
Newsletter/Web Editor	Meredith Bell	merandlee@cox.net	(804) 642-2197

To join the Hampton Roads Bird Club, please fill out the form below and bring it along with your check to the next meeting or mail to: **HRBC Treasurer – 19 Hertzler Road, Newport News, VA 23602-6125.**

Membership is from July 1st to June 30th. **Dues are \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families.** NOTE: Membership dues can be paid at Wild Wings Nature Store in the Hidenwood Shopping Center, Newport News, VA, or at Wild Birds Unlimited in the Kiln Creek Shopping Center.

Meetings are held at the Sandy Bottom Nature Park, 1255 Big Bethel Road, Hampton, VA, on the second Thursday of the month, September through May, at 7:00 PM.

Hampton Roads Bird Club – Membership Form

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Birthday (month-day): _____

Email: _____

Check this box to receive newsletter via email/website instead of hard copy by mail.

Editor
Hampton Roads Bird Club
8270 Little England Road
Hayes, VA 23072

