

Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org

Vol. 56, No. 5 May/June 2008

May 8th Meeting-7:00 PM "Pesticides and Bluebirds"

Randy Burdge will speak at our meeting on May 8 about his research studying the impact of insecticides on Eastern Bluebirds on golf courses. Ryan is a graduate student in the Biology Department at the College of William and Mary. He's done extensive research on Bluebirds, including those in boxes maintained by our own Club members Dot Silsby, Harry Carlson, Nan LaRue and Jim Hill. Join us for what is sure to be a very informative evening, as Ryan has great pictures and material to share.

Host/Hostess: Cary Koronas, Janice Little

May Field Trips

MAY 4 & 18 (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 10 (Sat.), 7:30 AM – James River Park

We'll travel to the Richmond area for our Club's first-ever trip to James River Park (42nd Street entrance) and Dutch Gap Conservation Area/Henricus Park. We'll explore James River Park with the Richmond Audubon Society and RAS member Arun Bose as our guide, meeting in that parking lot at 7:30 AM. Later, we'll go to Henricus. Bring lunch, snacks and beverages.

To carpool, meet at 6:00 AM at the Patriot Square parking lot in York County (intersection of Rt. 17 and Ft. Eustis Blvd.). 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 21st Meeting Annual Club Picnic

Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 21, at **Sandy Bottom Nature Park**. Mark you calendar to join us for a fun 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, it's across from the parking lot with the rest rooms. The Club will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages. Please bring a dish to share (vegetable, salad or dessert). We look forward to seeing you there!

June Field Trips

JUNE 1 & 15 (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. 6 & 20, AUG. 3 & 17

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 Meredith Bell

As I end my two years as your President, I want to thank you for the experience. I am grateful for all the people I've met and worked with in the Club during this time. I especially want to thank the hard-working Board members who do so much for the Club behind the scenes. HRBC is in great hands with the incoming leadership, and next year you'll continue to see outstanding programs and field trips.

I encourage every member to become active by participating in these events and volunteering to help in different ways. You'll have the chance to get to know the other fantastic people who are part of this wonderful organization.

I wish you happy birding in this, my favorite time of year, as our summer residents arrive. And make a note now to pay your dues in July for the 2008-09 year.

Directions: May 10th Field Trip

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

As you approach Richmond, get in the center lane for the 5th Street exit. After leaving I-64, stay on 5th street until you reach Canal Street. (Sequence of cross streets is Jackson, Marshall, Broad, Grace, Franklin, Main, Cary, and then Canal.)

Turn right at the traffic light onto Canal. This is a one way street. Stay in the left lane, and go 2 blocks. Take the left turn onto 2nd Street.

Follow 2nd Street (you'll pass the VA War Memorial on the right). 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, which is Riverside Drive. Go just over 1-1/2 miles. You will pass the 22nd Street entrance, and the Reedy Creek entrance.

The next entrance is 42nd Street and is about 200 yards after 42nd Street. The entrance is on your right. Yellow gates will probably be closed across the entrance, but just park opposite, on the street. We'll meet Arun Bose in the parking lot.

Slate of Officers for 2008-09

At the April 10th meeting the Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of officers for 2008-2009:

President Julie Breeden
Vice President Mary Copeland
Secretary Gail Claydon
Treasurer Nan LaRue
Board Member Mike Propst

(2008-11)

The election will be held at the May 8th meeting, with installation of officers at the June 21st picnic. Ben Copeland (2006-09) and Tom Claydon (2007-10) will continue as Board members.

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

Field Trip Leaders: Jane Frigo and Nick Flanders Editor, Newsletter and Website: Meredith Bell

Many thanks to Mike Propst (chair), John Dawson and Barbara Hudgins for serving on this year's Nominating Committee.

Upcoming Events

May 9-11. 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=44501

May 16-18. VSO Annual Meeting and Mountain Lake Birding Festival. These two events will be held together this year. 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

Spring Refinery Count

The annual refinery spring count will be held on Saturday, **May 17**, 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

MAR. 15, 2008. Club members met at the Yorktown Visitors Center to begin our March field trip down the Colonial Parkway to Jamestown Island. Those participating were Lee and Meredith Bell, George and Rosemarie Harris, Jim and Judy North, Tom and Gail Claydon, Phyllis Roth, Angie Herring, Nick Flanders, Eleanor Young, Fred Blystone, Ben Copeland, Dot Silsby, Julie Breeden, Mike Propst, Walter Livant and Jane Frigo. We had good looks at ducks on the rivers—the best being a pair of Common Goldeneye, as well as six species of woodpeckers and a wonderful serenade by an Eastern Phoebe. Spring appeared to be in the air as several species were seen collecting nesting material. A total of **73 species** were identified.

APR. 12, 2008. For our April field trip, we visited two areas of the Great Dismal Swamp. We had a great turn-out with 25 participants and tallied **47 species** for the morning. Many thanks to Great Dismal Swamp expert **Don Schwab**, who led our trip along Jericho Ditch. **Harry Carlson** provided this photo of the group.



Before reaching the parking lot, we found Louisiana Waterthrush, White-Eyed Vireo, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat. On Jericho Ditch we had great looks at Prairie Warbler, Great-Crested Flycatcher, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher and Prothonotary Warbler. On the boardwalk at Washington Ditch we saw a Red-Eyed Vireo and heard two Hooded Warblers calling back and forth. Most of us also saw a Northern Parula singing. An Ovenbird and Prothonotary Warbler were both perched high in full view and sang loudly.

Newport News Park Reports Jane Frigo

APR. 6, 2008. Our walk on this Sunday began under drizzle and heavy cloud cover. Four hearty souls, Richard Hudgins, Tom Charlock, Fred Blystone and Jane Frigo, braved the 50-degree temperatures to see what spring migrants had arrived. FOS arrivals included Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Rough-winged Swallows. 43 species were recorded.



We start in the parking lot behind the Ranger's Station.

APR. 20, 2008. This Sunday walk took place in spite of the predicted rain. Eleven participants - Marc Nichols, Tom Charlock, Fred Blystone, Jim Harrison, Eleanor Young, Phyllis Roth, Mel Pettard, Libby Carmine, newcomer Margie, Raquel Rickard and Jane Frigo - dodged a few sprinkles to see a great list of 60 species of birds, a box turtle and two huge snapping turtles. New species for the year included Green Heron, Great-Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Gray Catbird, No. Parula, Prothonotary Warbler and Blue Grosbeak. Thanks to Fred Blystone for these photos.



Prothonotary Warblers are often visible now and sing a lot!

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, too.

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

President	Meredith Bell	merandlee@cox.net	(804) 642-2197
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: (7/05-6/08)	Jane Frigo	birderjane@gmail.com	(757) 873-0721
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
Field Trip Coordinator	Jane Frigo	birderjane@gmail.com	(757) 873-0721
Newsletter Editors	Alison/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 Hidenwood Shopping Center, Newport News, VA, or at Wild Birds Unlimited in the Village Shops at Kiln Creek, York County.

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.

Check out the latest news and photos for the Club at: www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org Hampton Roads Bird Club – Membership Form				
Name:		_		
Address:		_		
City, State, Zip:		-		
Phone:	Birthday (month-day):	-		
Email:				

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

