



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org

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November / December 2008

November 13th Meeting—7:00 PM "Fall Migration & Summer in Idaho"

Jethro Runco is one of our favorite speakers! He's a licensed bird bander and has been the head bander at the Kiptopeke State Park songbird banding station during fall migration for the past eight years. The nets are open from mid-August through November, catching birds as they fly from their summer nesting grounds to winter retreats. This may be Jethro's last season as he hopes to work in Alaska next year, so we'd like everyone to attend and wish him well in his next adventure! He'll also tell us about his birding experiences this past summer in Idaho.

Host/Hostess: Hayes and Joyce Williams

December 11th, Meeting—6:00 PM "Christmas Dinner and Slide Show"

Join us at the early start time of **6:00 PM** at Sandy Bottom for the Club's annual Christmas party. This year we'll have a potluck dinner, with meats and beverages provided by the Club. **Bring your favorite appetizer, side dish or dessert recipe to share. NOTE: If you sent in a recipe to Mary Copeland for the Club recipe book fundraiser, bring that dish!** Contact Hilary Propst (886-1150) if you'd like to help with preparations for the event. Following the meal, we'll have a slide show of pictures taken by our club's talented photographers at field trips and other events. Contact Tom Claydon (930-1038) if you have photos you'd like to include.

November Field Trips

NOV. 2 & 16, 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

NOV. 15 (Sat.), 8:00 AM – Chippokes Plantation State Park
Chippokes is one of the oldest working farms in the US. Meet in the parking lot in front of the Visitor's Center at Chippokes at **8 AM** (there may be a \$1 parking fee). This ½-day trip will involve some walking. **Nick Flanders** and **Jane Frigo** are the leaders. From NN/Hampton: Take James River Bridge (Rt. 17 S.), then right on Rt. 258. Take Rt. 10 West (through Smithfield) approximately 15 miles. Turn right on Alliance Rd (Rt. 634). Park is 4 miles on left. From Williamsburg: Take Jamestown Rd to Jamestown and follow signs to ferry. Once the ferry lands, follow the road to Rt. 10 and turn left. Turn left at Rt. 634, park entrance on left. Call Jane Frigo for information (873-0721).

December Field Trips

DEC. 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

DEC. 20 (Sat.), 7:00 AM – Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count
Our field trip for December is the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. We're always looking for volunteers to help with the count. Whether you're experienced or a new birder, your eyes and ears are needed for this event!

The area is divided into 13 sectors, with an experienced leader for each. Most sectors count from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. There's a \$5 fee for each participant, and you'll receive a copy of the full report published by the National Audubon Society. Sign up at NOV. or DEC. meetings, or contact our new coordinator, **Clark White** (875-7649 or cwbirds@cox.net). Check out details on page 2.

The President's Perch

Julie Breeden

HRBC – On the Town

Park walks, birding field trips, newsletters, websites, and club meetings are consistent and relevant ways to reach the public. Another method of outreach is participating in educational events and festivals by way of exhibit. The HRBC has employed all of the above in recent months to engage the public in matters of the feather.

The HRBC exhibit has a professional appeal with a touch of charm endowing it with appeal to all age groups and skill levels. Members, Tom and Gail Claydon of Exhibit Marketing Solutions, are responsible for the creation of the display including the backboard, graphics, and table skirt. Officers and Board Members all contributed to the updated brochure. Member, Jim Hill of Wild Wings, allowed the club to use several types of bird feeders and bird seed as an educational element to the exhibit. Jane Frigo contributed her avian stuffed animals and bluebird nest to add a touch of whimsy for the children. Also created for the exhibit are “Look and Listen” books where patrons can flip through enlarged pictures of birds and play the corresponding song via iPod. Binoculars and field guides were on hand as tried and true components of the birding experience.

By incorporating various modalities of educational and informational materials, the HRBC was able to reach more than 150 members of the public through two recent local exhibiting events. In September we participated in the Go Green-Save Green event at the Virginia Living Museum. In October, stationed in the Heritage Area, we were involved in the NN Park Festival of Folklife. In addition to aforementioned individuals, these events wouldn't have been successful without the participation of members Ben and Mary Copeland, Mike and Hilary Propst, Meredith and Lee Bell, Cary Koronas, and Eileen O'Toole, all of whom were integral in the production.

HRBC – On the Town (cont'd.)

If you missed our earlier exhibits, join us at the **Bluebird Gap Farm's Children's Fall Festival on November 8th from 10am to 3pm**. Call Julie Breeden (741-2196) if you'd like to participate! Not only is it a great way to inspire members of the community, but it's also a fantastic way to strengthen friendships within the membership of the Club. Additional information regarding Bluebird Gap Farm and the Children's Fall Festival can be found at: www.hampton.gov/bbgf.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The first “Christmas Bird Census” was held on December 25, 1900. The Hampton Roads Bird Club started doing the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in 1952. The 15-mile diameter of the “Newport News” area (Newport News, Hampton, Poquoson and a good part of York County), is divided into 13 sectors.

The count in each of the sectors is led by an experienced birder who is familiar with the area. There is a “tally” at the end of the day where the data collected is assembled. It is fascinating to hear the number of species found in each sector. We need volunteers for this year's count on **Saturday, DEC. 20**. The more eyes and ears we have, the better! Your participation is valuable in helping us get an accurate count for this important annual event.

Audubon requires a \$5.00 fee for all participants except those 18 and younger. This covers less than half the cost of recording and publishing the data. The remainder is covered by grants and other fund-raising efforts. You'll receive a copy of the full report, published by the National Audubon Society.

Clark White is assuming the responsibilities of coordinator/compiler for the Newport News Count this year. Contact him (875-7649 or cwbirds@cox.net), or sign up at the NOV. or DEC. meeting. The day usually runs from 7am-4:30pm, with the tally at 5pm.

MANY THANKS to **Hayes Williams**, who served in this role from 1994-2007. We appreciate all the hours you devoted to this project, Hayes!

Dues are Due!

If you haven't sent in your dues for 2008-09, now's the time! **If you do not pay by December 31, your name will be dropped from our mailing list.** Dues are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family.

Complete the form on the back of the newsletter and bring it with your check to the November meeting, or mail to: HRBC Treasurer, 19 Hertzler Road, Newport News, VA 23602-6125

Field Trip Reports

York River State Park – 9/13/08

Fifteen people participated in the field trip to York River State Park on September 13. With the help of our trip leader Jane Frigo, we recorded **55 species**. One surprise was that two of the most abundant species seen/heard were Pine Warbler and White-eyed Vireo, which were found in almost every area we explored.

Across from the entrance gate, we all had excellent looks at a Yellow-throated Warbler; several people also saw Black & White Warbler and American Redstart. Other highlights included all 6 species of local woodpeckers, 3 active Green Herons, and female Summer Tanager and Baltimore Oriole.

Eastern Shore – 10/11/08

We had 19 participants on our October field trip to the Eastern Shore. We tallied **91 species** and were excited about the diversity of birds we saw in the different locations. Thanks to Ben Copeland for serving as our trip leader.

Even though we had windy conditions at the Kiptopeke banding station, we saw several warbler species: Connecticut, Black-throated Blue, Ovenbird and American Redstart. We had a total of 12 warbler species for the day from all stops.

Raptors were abundant, with Sharp-shinned Hawks everywhere, and 40+ American Kestrels spotted on Rt. 600 alone!

January CBBT Field Trip

We plan to visit the islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel for our JAN. 10 field trip. You'll need to register in advance, completing a form and paying a \$10 fee to cover the cost of the guard that must accompany each group of 15. Jane Frigo will provide forms at the NOV. and DEC. meetings and will need your money by the DEC. 11 meeting.

Upcoming VSO Va. Beach Field Trip

The Cape Henry Audubon Society, with support from HRBC and other clubs, will host the annual VSO field trip to Virginia Beach, DEC. 5-7.

The event will kick off with a field trip Friday afternoon to the Whitehurst Tract, followed by a tour of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and a slide presentation of birds that might be seen. Featured trips include a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel on Saturday and Back Bay NWR/False Cape State Park on Sunday.

Headquarters is the Howard Johnson Hotel at 1601 Atlantic Avenue in Virginia Beach (phone: 757-437-9100). Oceanfront rooms with private balconies will be available at \$45 plus tax.

It is important to register for the field trips as participation is limited. Contact the coordinator, Clark White (875-7649 or cwbirds@cox.net), to provide your information.

Check the VSO website for complete details at www.virginiabirds.net.

Thanksgiving Window Watch Count

The Thanksgiving Window Watch Count will take place on November 27, 2008. Anyone can participate by watching for just one hour at any time on Thanksgiving Day. To participate, select a circular area 15 feet in diameter, preferably one which includes feeders, bird baths or habitat which attracts birds. Count the number of birds of each species that come into this area during the hour. Mail your results to: Thelma Dalmas, 1230 Viewmont Drive, Evington, VA 24550. For details, see the page 7 of the VSO fall newsletter at www.virginiabirds.net.

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Board: (7/08-6/11)	Mike Propst	M9538@cox.net	(757) 886-1150
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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.

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