



# *Bird Notes*

Newsletter of the

***Hampton Roads Bird Club***

[www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org](http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org)

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## **September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting—7:00 PM "Butterflies Are Free to Fly & Migrate"**

**Teta Kain** has become a favorite annual speaker. She is a naturalist, loves the out-of-doors, all of nature and Dragon Run. She has been our Club president as well as president of VSO. We are proud she won the Myriam P. Moore Award at the Annual VSO meeting in May 2008. Teta is a compiler of records, a native of Maine, and resident of Gloucester with her retired AF husband, Reese. Come out for our first Club meeting for the new season, to see and hear about butterflies and their surroundings and maybe learn other bugs and insects, too! Teta is a great and entertaining speaker!

**Host/Hostess:** Jane Frigo

## **October 9th, Meeting—7:00 PM "Hoffler Creek"**

**Randi Strutton** is CEO of Hoffler Creek. She is a retired school teacher who has worked diligently for about 10 years to keep Hoffler Creek and surrounding area as a wildlife haven. Thankfully, it was saved and did not turn into another housing project. Our club has been there on field trips throughout the years. Ben Copeland and Clark White started the first bird check list and keep it updated. Over 200 species have been recorded. Randi will give us an overall review of the hard work and progress throughout the years. Thank you, Randi, for the great and remarkable contributions you and many, many others have made to save nature.

**Host/Hostess:** Mary Copeland, Dot Silsby

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### **September Field Trips**

**September 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

### **September 13, 8:00 AM – York River State Park**

This park has wonderful migrating birds in the fall! Normal state park entrance fees and passes apply. Bring snacks or lunch if you'd like to picnic before returning home. From I-64, take the Croaker Exit (231B) on to Route 607. Travel about one mile and turn right on Route 606 (Riverview Road). Go 1-1/2 mile and turn left on York River Road. Meet at the parking lot on the right at 8:00 AM. Trip leader is Jane Frigo Sign up at Sept. meeting or call Jane (873-0721) to let her know you're coming.

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### **October Field Trips**

**October 5 & 19, 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

### **October 11, Saturday, 7:00 AM – Eastern Shore**

We'll assemble in the parking lot of the south toll plaza of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel at 7:00 AM. The bridge toll is \$12 one way and \$5 if the return trip is within 24 hours. Normal state park entrance fees and passes apply. We'll proceed directly to the songbird banding station. After visiting it and the hawk watch station, we'll explore the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge, the landfill at Cheriton and other spots. This is an all-day trip, so bring snacks and lunch. Field trip leader is Ben Copeland. Sign up at Oct. meeting or call Jane Frigo (873-0721) to let her know to expect you.

## The President's Perch

*Julie Breeden*

Nearly one year ago I had my first HRBC experience on a field trip to Kiptopeke State Park. Everyone was so friendly. Dot, Jane, and Walter, I remember, were endless bearers of food and good cheer. Meredith with a friendly approach welcomed me and introduced herself as the President, and proud she was of the group and the experience at hand. Marc was there, with a quiet enthusiasm. The group was large, and I was becoming a part of it.

That day I rediscovered something that I had experienced long ago. I have only recently been able to put that "thing" into words that begin to convey the experience of which I speak. It is the energy I feel when out in nature exploring a new park with friends and spotting a bird out on a perch when the sun shines on its plumage just right to demonstrate its brilliance such that the beauty of the form is realized. If luck is present, the bird will sing so that then the musical accompaniment can be appreciated as well. Habitat, song, plumage, behavior, and all that those factors imply come together to present a greater understanding of the natural world around us and creates something special for those who take the time; for me there is a moment of stillness and awe, connection. It doesn't stop there, though, does it? Curiosity is present. More birds please, more moments. Those moments are even more powerful when shared with others.

Over the past year my experiences with the HRBC have been so fun and full of local adventure with such great people that I could not pass up the opportunity to give back to the Club. Here is to another great year of informative programs and exciting field trips as we continue to build relationships within the current membership and inspire new members to join the HRBC!

### **\*\*\*Fundraiser Cookbook\*\*\***

Email your favorite recipes to Mary Copeland ([benmarycop@cavtel.net](mailto:benmarycop@cavtel.net)) or bring to the Sept. meeting to help us raise funds for Club projects!

## June Club Picnic

Twenty-eight people attended our annual picnic, held by popular demand at Sandy Bottom Nature Park on Saturday, June 21. We had 15 participants in the day's first event at 8:00 AM, a field trip led by park ranger Mark Nichols. We recorded more than 40 species, with highlights being Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings.



The picnic was set up at the Parker Pavilion, a covered shelter with lots of picnic tables. Thanks to chefs Tom Claydon and Mike Propst, who grilled lots of hamburgers and hot dogs. With all the talented cooks in the Club, we had quite a spread of side dishes and desserts!



Your 2008-09 Board members. Front row: Mary Copeland (VP), Julie Breeden (Pres), Meredith Bell (newsletter), Tom Claydon (Board). Back row: Nan LaRue (Treas), Gail Claydon (Sec), Mike Propst (Board), Jane Frigo and Nick Flanders (Field Trip Coordinators), Ben Copeland (Board).

## Dues are Due!

Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. If you haven't sent in your dues for 2008-09, now's the time!

**Individual membership: \$15**

**Family membership: \$20**

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

You can also drop off your dues at Wild Wings Nature Store in Hidenwood Shopping Center or at Wild Birds Unlimited in Kiln Creek Shopping Center.

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## Building a Rain Barrel

Several people have requested information on building their own rain barrel. Thanks to Jane Frigo for sharing these tips from the Horticultural Extravaganza.

**What is a rain barrel?** It is a vessel for collecting roof top runoff.

**How much water can be collected?** To calculate the water harvesting potential of a rain barrel, take: (Area of roof) X (0.5 efficiency factor) X (annual rainfall) = Potential gallons per year. For example: 1200 sq. ft. x 0.5 x 45" = 27,000 gallons

**Materials needed:** vessel, spigot, overflow elbow, support platform, screws, Teflon tape, screen

**Tools needed:** sabre saw or circular hole saw, 3/4" spade bit or fly cutter, drill motor, pliers

**Vessel preparation:** 1. Cut hole in lid for water entry. 2. Affix screen with screws. 3. Cut or drill overflow & spigot holes. 4. Apply Teflon tape to spigot & elbow threads. 5. Screw spigot and elbow into holes. Must be straight.

**Also consider:** Location, support system, mosquito control, change barrel color, downspout modification, alternate fittings for multiple vessels, homeowner association rules

**Vessel vendors:** H. B. Hunter Co. 664-2385 (Norfolk), G. I. Joe's 867-8406 (Tabb)

## Fall Eastern Shore Events

The Eastern Shore is the place to be in the fall!

### VSO Chincoteague Field Trip Sept. 5-7

The Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) ([www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net)) holds its fall event each year in Chincoteague, and there is no fee to attend. Headquarters for the event is The Refuge Motor Inn in Chincoteague (800-544-8469) with special rate of \$100 (plus tax) per night. State you are with the VSO when you call. Meals are on your own.

**Fri. Night** is a Shorebird review and preview of birds in the area, with field trips **Sat. and Sun.** For more information, contact Peggy Opengari at [gramby@pemt.net](mailto:gramby@pemt.net) or 540-921-4340.

### Eastern Shore Birding Festival Sept. 18-21

The 16th annual Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival has been moved to an earlier time this year, September 18-21 instead of the first part of October. HRBC members Bettye Fields, Jerri Howe and Nan LaRue will help lead different activities.

Field trips to a wide variety of places are held Fri. afternoon, Sat. and Sun. Registration fee is \$25/day or \$50/entire weekend. Visit <http://www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding/> for details and the online brochure, or call the Chamber (757-787-2460) for the printed brochure.

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### "Go Green - Save Green" Event

In an effort to reach potential Club members, we are creating a display for HRBC to exhibit at the upcoming "Go Green - Save Green" event at the Virginia Living Museum on Sept. 20, from 8:45 AM to 12:00 noon. The event is sponsored by Newport News Master Gardeners Association in conjunction with the VLM's Fall Native Plant Sale. The mission of the event is to inspire environmentally sound landscaping techniques and provide related educational opportunities. Admission is free and open to the public, but limited to 120 attendees. Get details and registration form at: [www.nnmastergardeners.org](http://www.nnmastergardeners.org)

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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 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. **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.

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### 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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