



# Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

**Hampton Roads Bird Club**

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

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Vol. 58, No. 1

September / October 2009

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## **September 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting—7:00 PM "Southeast Shore Birds"**

We're excited to have **John Coiner** as our September speaker. John is an accomplished, award-winning photographer who concentrates on landscape and nature subjects. He has spent countless hours photographing the flora and fauna of the Central Virginia region.

John's presentation will provide beautiful photographs of birds found along the Atlantic coast from Virginia to Florida, as well as the Everglades and Florida Gulf coast. While many of these birds may be common, John's collection also includes several rare species such as the Florida Whooping Crane and the Reddish Egret.

**Host/Hostess:** Joyce and Hayes Williams

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### **September Field Trips**

**September 6 & 20, 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

#### **Sept. 12 (SAT), 8:00 AM – Greensprings Trail**

For our first trip after summer break, we'll explore Greensprings Nature Trail behind Jamestown High School in Williamsburg. This trail encircles a beaver pond and has an extensive boardwalk and observation deck overlooking the water. Meet at 8:00 AM by the tennis courts behind the high school. Take I-64 West to exit 242 (Rt. 199 West) to Williamsburg. Turn left on to Rt. 5, and turn left at the light to the high school. This will be a walking trip, lasting until noon. Sign up at the September meeting, or call trip leader Dave Youker (344-9385) to let him know you're coming.

## **October 8th Meeting—7:00 PM "Presque Isle State Park – Erie, PA"**

Our own **Marc Nichols** will be the featured speaker at our October meeting. In addition to being Vice President for our Club, Marc is a Park Ranger for the City of Hampton and works at Sandy Bottom Nature Park.

Marc will share details of his trip last May to Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA. A 3200-acre sandy peninsula that arches into Lake Erie, this park is the only "seashore" in PA and is a favorite spot for migrating birds. You'll get a virtual tour of the birds and scenery through the photographs Marc will be sharing. Join us and bring a friend!

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

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### **October Field Trips**

**October 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

#### **Oct. 10 (SAT), 8:00 AM – Beaverdam Park**

For our October 10 field trip we'll explore Beaver Dam Park in Gloucester. The multi-use trail runs along Beaverdam reservoir and should give us our first good look at the Fall migrants to include some waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 AM in the Roaring Springs Rd parking lot. Take US-17 to Gloucester (\$2 toll for the Coleman Bridge). Turn right on US-17/VA-14, and turn left onto Roaring Springs Rd. Follow that road into the park. This will be a walking trip, lasting until noon. Sign up at the October meeting, or call field trip coordinator Dave Youker (344-9385) to let him know you're coming.

## The President's Perch

*Mary Copeland*

Little did I realize when I started birding 12 years ago how much fun it could be. After retiring from Ft Monroe, and sitting with grandchildren, I found birding to be a wonderful way to relax. Being out in the wide, open spaces and observing nature is good for the psyche.

Since we see birds in our yards, we are more apt to provide food, water, and shelter for them. Why? Because it's fun to watch the birds eat, bathe, and hatch young. Their antics can be quite amusing. Seeing a new species or two in spring or fall is exciting, and it's amazing how many species are added to yearly and life lists.

Please join our field trips to see more birds. We have wonderful programs and field trips lined up for the year. We have exhibits, silent auctions, our cookbook for sale, a holiday party, as well as a picnic. We have Audubon Christmas counts, and our Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) hosts four field trips during the year.

We have flourishing bluebird trails and talented members speaking at other organizations, and our own. We help school children learn about the birds as well. We hope to have **HRBC patches for sale in the fall** and for the first time, **a club photo contest**.

I have served the club for 3 years as secretary and 2 years as vice president. As of February 2009, I finished out Julie Breeden's term as president and am now happy to serve as your president for another year. So, come join us for a fun time at Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC). Because it is, "For the Birds."

### \*\*\*In Memory\*\*\*

Peggy Opengari, co-chair for VSO's Field Trips for many years and a dear friend of our Club, died July 15 from pancreatic cancer. We extend our sympathies to Peggy's husband Bill and her children. If interested, you can make a donation in her name to:  
The Nature Conservancy  
4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22203-1606

## HRBC Photo Contest!

We have many members in our bird club who take pictures. Most of us have cameras and love to take photos of the birds in our yard, our flowers, pets and grandchildren. We take photos on our club trips, on our vacations and travels to city parks. Sunsets and sunrises are lovely, as well as scenery of all our seasons. Let's have a fun time of picture taking but most of all, let's enjoy!



### Contest Rules

The Contest will run from this past May 2009 and end with our May 2010 meeting. That way we have a year of past and present photos. This may include the club meeting in May 09 and the June 09 picnic, as well as photos taken during this past summer. We will continue through fall and into next year ending May 2010. The categories should cover any photos you have already taken.

There will be 4 categories of photos:

1. Birds (all feathered friends)
2. Flowers
3. Critters: (mammals & cold & clammy) will include bugs, butterflies, frogs, any animal, people, etc.
4. Scenic Seasons (sunsets, beaches, boats, water, mountains., trees, clouds, etc.)

You may enter up to 3 photos in each category.

We will have judges at the May 2010 meeting. Please fill out an index card at the meetings (or bring to place with each entered photo on table to be judged) at May meeting. State your name on back; on front list: category, date (mo./yr.), entitle photo, etc. ("Sunset on the James"); ("Bluebird" at NN Park); box turtle or whatever critter eating my garden tomato, etc.

Winners will receive prizes for an overall grand prize, as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize for each of the 4 categories and maybe honorable mention.

Hopefully, your photo will be used at a later date for our club calendar of 2011, available for sale. So let's have fun with this!

## Dues are Due!

Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. If you haven't sent in your dues for 2009-10, 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 (made out to "Hampton Roads Bird Club" to the September meeting, or mail to: Richard Hudgins, 803 Riverside Drive, Newport News, VA 23606-3629

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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## "Go Green - \$ave Green" Event Sept. 26

As a way to create visibility for HRBC and attract new members, we will exhibit for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year at the upcoming "Go Green - \$ave Green" event. If you'd like to help cover our exhibit with Jane Frigo and Mary Copeland, contact Mary at 851-7007.

This year it will be held at Brittingham Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Dr., NN) on Sept. 26, from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The event is sponsored by Newport News Master Gardeners Association. 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. Get details and registration form at: [www.nnmastergardeners.org](http://www.nnmastergardeners.org)

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## Newport News Fall Festival Oct. 3-4

The 36<sup>th</sup> Newport News Fall Festival of Folklife will be held on Oct. 3 and 4 from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM each day. It features more than 200 vendors, traditional crafts and trades, with attendance of 70,000.

## Fall Eastern Shore Events

Check out these annual events on the Eastern Shore for some great birding opportunities!

### VSO Chincoteague Field Trip Sept. 11-13

The Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) ([www.virginiabirds.net](http://www.virginiabirds.net)) has its fall event in Chincoteague. There is no fee to attend, and you do not have to be a member. Headquarters for the event is The Refuge Motor Inn in Chincoteague (800-544-8469) with special rate of \$103.50 (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.** Get more information at:

[http://www.virginiabirds.net/f\\_trips.html#Chincoteague](http://www.virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html#Chincoteague)

### Eastern Shore Birding Festival Sept. 17-20

The 17th annual Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival will be held Sept. 17-20. Field trips to a wide variety of places are held Fri., Sat. and Sun. Registration fee is \$30/day or \$60/entire weekend. Get details and the online brochure at:

<http://www.esvachamber.org/events/birding.asp>

Or call the Chamber (757-787-2460) for the printed brochure.

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## June Club Picnic - Report

Twenty-three people attended our annual picnic, held by popular demand at Sandy Bottom Nature Park on Saturday, June 6. Several members participated in the day's first event at 8:00 AM, a field trip led by park ranger Mark Nichols.

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.

Nan LaRue was recognized for her many years of service as the Club's Treasurer with great applause. We also gave her a potted flower and gold chain necklace with amethyst stone. We appreciate all you've done, Nan!

President	Mary Copeland	<a href="mailto:benmarycop@cavtel.net">benmarycop@cavtel.net</a>	(757) 851-7007
Vice President	Marc Nichols	<a href="mailto:ravensfan@hotmail.com">ravensfan@hotmail.com</a>	(757) 810-0231
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Treasurer	Richard Hudgins		(757) 596-9603
Board: (7/07-6/10)	Tom Claydon	<a href="mailto:tclaydon@cox.net">tclaydon@cox.net</a>	(757) 930-1038
Board: (7/08-6/11)	Mike Propst	<a href="mailto:M9538@cox.net">M9538@cox.net</a>	(757) 886-1150
Board: (7/09-6/12)	John Dawson		(757) 874-2408
Field Trip Coordinator	Dave Youker	<a href="mailto:youkerd@aol.com">youkerd@aol.com</a>	(757) 224-1188
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To join the Hampton Roads Bird Club, please fill out the form below and bring it along with your check (payable to Hampton Roads Bird Club) to the next meeting or mail to: **Richard Hudgins, 803 Riverside Drive, Newport News, VA 23606-3629.**

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.

### 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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