



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org

Vol. 58, No. 5

May / June 2010

May 13th Meeting—7:00 PM "Photo Contest"

You won't want to miss this first-ever event for the Club – a PHOTO CONTEST! See details on page 2 for how you can participate.

We're pleased to have **Michael Poplawski**, Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism with the City of Newport News, as our speaker and head judge for the evening. Mike has been with the City for 36 years, advancing from campsite attendant to senior ranger to administrator and then to Director in 2004. Mike is an avid photographer himself, specializing in photos of the City's parks, wildlife and wildflowers, so he's well qualified to serve as head judge. His presentation will focus on the wonderful parks in the City's park system.

Host/Hostess: Janice Little, Tess Matteson, Mary Copeland

May Field Trips

**MAY 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)

MAY 15 (Sat.), 8:00 AM – York River State Park. We'll travel to YRSP for our May trip. This will be a great time to catch the migrating birds coming through the park. Normal state park entrance fees and passes apply. Bring lunch, snacks and beverages, if you want 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 1.5 miles and turn left on York River Road. Meet in the parking lot on the right at 8:00 AM. Sign up at the May meeting, or call Dave Youker (344-9385) to let him know you're coming.

June 12 Annual Club Picnic

Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 12, 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. This will serve as our June field trip.

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, with Mike Propst & Tom Claydon serving as chefs. Please bring a dish to share (vegetable, salad or dessert). We look forward to seeing you there!

June Field Trips

**JUNE 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

The picnic is our last official function until the fall. Members can get in touch with each other for informal excursions as they wish. Sunday walks in Newport News Park will continue through the summer: JUL. 4 & 18, AUG. 1 & 15

Backyard Habitat Information

Steve Living, who spoke at our April meeting about creating a backyard habitat for wildlife, promised to send details about the plants, trees and other information he shared. You can download the great resources (4 PDF files) NOW on the Home page of our Club website.

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

2010-11 Slate of Officers

At the April 8 meeting the Nominating Committee presented a slate of officers for 2010-2011. Since then, there has been a change because Marc Nichols will not be able to serve as VP. The slate we'll vote on at the May meeting is now:

President	Marilyn White
Vice President	Clark White
Secretary	Libby Carmines
Treasurer	Richard Hudgins
Board member (2010-2013)	Phyllis Roth

Mike Propst (2008-11) and John Dawson (2009-12) will continue as Board members.

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

Field Trip Leader	Dave Youker
Editor, Newsletter	Brent & Laura Slaughter
Editor, Website	Meredith Bell

May 13 - HRBC Photo Contest

We're running our first-ever Photo Contest for our May 13 meeting, and YOU can participate! You can submit **photos taken between May 2009 and May 2010**.

There are 4 categories of photos, and you may enter up to 3 photos in each category:

1. Birds (all feathered friends)
2. Flowers
3. Critters (bugs, butterflies, all types of animals, people, etc.)
4. Scenic Seasons (sunsets, beaches, mountains, trees, clouds, etc.)

Please fill out an index card at the meeting for each entered photo to be judged. State your name on back; on front list category, date (mo./yr.), and title (e.g., "Sunset on the James" or "Bluebird" at NN Park). We will have judges at the meeting, and prizes will be awarded for an overall grand prize, as well as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize for each of the 4 categories.

April Auction Results

A HUGE thanks to Phyllis Roth and her team for their work on the auction at our April meeting. The total revenue was **\$346**, and this will go towards our education fund.

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

North Hampton (Hampton) – Carolyn and John Witherspoon

Newport (Newport News) – Harry Carlson and Jane Frigo

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

Free Workshop on Phragmites

Phragmites is an invasive wetland plant that out-competes native wetland plant species, resulting in loss of habitat for many bird species. The National Audubon Society's Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is organizing a free workshop in Richmond in late July (date to be determined) to teach participants how to identify Phragmites in the field and report their findings using an online mapping tool. The results will be used to assist with eradicating Phragmites populations that are on the "leading edge" of the species invasion. Audubon chapters and local bird clubs are each invited to send a few representatives to this workshop. They can then share what they learn with the members of their own chapters and clubs. If you're interested in attending, contact Mary Copeland (757-851-7007 or benmarycop@cavtel.net).

Field Trip Reports

Dave Youker

Hog Island – 3/13/10

Members of the Hampton Roads Bird Club visited Hog Island WMA on March 13 and tallied 70 species. The forecast was for wind and rain, but it was a beautiful day with early clouds giving way to sunshine. The highlights of the day were a nice flyby of an American Bittern, five sparrows, three wrens, both kinglets, and good looks at some baby Bald Eagles.

Great Dismal Swamp – 4/10/10

For our April field trip to the Great Dismal Swamp, we explored Jericho, Lynn and Washington Ditches. With 21 Club members participating, we had lots of eyes and ears, and we tallied 53 species for the morning.

Most abundant warblers were Prothonotary, Common Yellowthroat and Prairie (all seen and heard) at Jericho Ditch. And most had good views of an Ovenbird and Hairy Woodpecker at Washington Ditch.

Newport News Walk – Sunday, 4/18/10 Meredith Bell

If you haven't been able to make the monthly Club field trips, join Jane Frigo on one of the Sunday walks in Newport News Park. This time of year is especially fun, as migrants come through and nesting birds entertain us with their songs. The walk on April 18 included:

- fantastic looks at the remarkable nest of a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher (see photo by Mike Lowry on home page of our website:
<http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org>)

- excellent rare views of a singing Black-throated Green Warbler and a Barred Owl

- 3 Bald Eagles (1 adult, 2 immature) in the air at the same time, with a crow chasing the adult
Everyone is welcome!

Upcoming Events

May 6-8. 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 demonstrations, guided bird walks along Jericho and Washington Ditches, narrated bus tours, and lots of family events. Get the details here:

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp>

June 4-6. VSO Field Trip to Highland County.

Highland County in western Virginia is a fantastic spot for early summer birding. Many species that nest at higher elevations are easily seen here, such as Golden-winged, Canada, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia and Black-throated Green Warblers. This is the first time VSO has scheduled a trip here, and already more than 12 HRBC members have registered to attend! Field trips are FRI PM, all day SAT, and SUN AM. If you plan to attend, please register in advance with VSO trip co-chair Meredith Bell: merandlee@cox.net or 804-642-2197. Get details at: <http://www.virginiabirds.net>

Member Spotlight – Doris Smith

Our featured member this month is **Doris Smith**, a charter member of the Hampton Roads Bird Club. Her enthusiasm for nature and birding is contagious! Doris and her husband Walter were instrumental in establishing the Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station. She was very active in our Club and held many positions over the years. Her favorite bird is the Black-throated Blue Warbler. The bird below was photographed at the Kiptopeke banding station on our Club's October 2008 field trip to the Eastern Shore.



Doris celebrates her 96th birthday on May 16 and will be recognized at our meeting on May 13. One more reason to join us at 7:00 pm that evening!

President	Mary Copeland	benmarycop@cavtel.net	(757) 851-7007
Vice President	Marc Nichols	ravensfan@hotmail.com	(757) 810-0231
Secretary	Libby Carmines	Carmy5@aol.com	(757) 591-9174
Treasurer	Richard Hudgins		(757) 596-9603
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
Board: (7/09-6/12)	John Dawson		(757) 874-2408
Field Trip Coordinator	Dave Youker	youkerd@aol.com	(757) 224-1188
Newsletter/Web Editor	Meredith Bell	merandlee@cox.net	(804) 824-4958

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 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 Village Shops at Kiln Creek.

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

