



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org

Vol. 59, No. 1

September / October 2010

September 9th Meeting—7:00 PM "Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers"

We welcome Mike Wilson as our first speaker this year. Mike is with the Conservation Biology group associated with the College of William and Mary and has special working knowledge of our little friends—the Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers so unique to our area in Piney Grove.

Host/Hostess: Marilyn White & Libby Carmines

September Field Trips

September 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

SEP. 18 (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 is a \$3 parking fee). This ½-day trip will involve some walking. Recent sightings include yellow-billed cuckoo, blue grosbeaks, and eastern meadowlarks, with potential for bobwhite quail. 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.

Sign up at the meeting or call Dave Youker for more information (344-9385).

October 14th, Meeting—7:00 PM "Birding Ecuador"



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. Teta is a compiler of records, a native of Maine, and resident of Gloucester with her retired AF husband, Reese. Come out for our Club meeting to see and hear about the wonders of birding in Ecuador! Teta is a great and entertaining speaker!

Host/Hostess: TBD

October Field Trips

October 3 & 17, 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. 16 (Sat.), 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, where members will car pool over to the Eastern Shore. The bridge toll is \$12 one way and \$5 if the return trip is within 24 hrs. Normal state park entrance fees and passes apply. The first stop will be Kiptopeke State Park. From there we'll caravan to explore other areas, including Magotha Rd., Seaside Dr., the landfill and Oyster. This is an all-day trip, so bring snacks and lunch. Highlights should be the songbird migration and the beginning of the waterfowl movement. Sign up at the Oct. meeting or call field trip coordinator Dave Youker (344-9385) to let him know you're coming.

The President's Perch

Marilyn White

A new season is ready to begin for our bird club and it promises to be a good one! Your board got together in July and everyone had good ideas for our upcoming year.

On September 9 we begin with our first meeting of the year and Mike Wilson will be our guest speaker, discussing the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker.

Phyllis Roth is making plans for some special get-togethers for birding and fellowship in - of all places - our own backyards. More on that later from Phyllis, but be thinking about your own habitats for sharing with our members.

In October, our speaker will be Teta Kain, who has delighted us on other occasions with her pictures and stories of her extensive travels. She has recently returned from Ecuador and will be sharing that trip with us.

You will be hearing more about plans for the year at our September meeting and I am honored to be serving as your president for this year and looking forward to getting to know all of you better. Please feel free to give me any suggestions for things you would like to see us do during the year or places you would like to go. Hopefully, we will be enjoying a good migration season coming soon to a field or tree near you.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on Thur., September 9 at Sandy Bottom Nature Park.

Bird Banding at Kiptopeke

Dr. Robert J. Reilly

Kiptopeke Banding Station, operated by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO), opened Wed. 8/18, for its 48th consecutive year. The station will be in operation 7-days-a-week, weather permitting, through 11/22. The station opens approx 30 minutes before sunrise and typically closes near midday or early afternoon. This year the bander-in-charge is Calvin Brennan, and Jennifer Wilcox is the passerine banding intern. Visitors are always welcome at the station, and we encourage you to make one or more visits to the station a part of your plans this fall.

Visit the CVWO website at www.cvwo.org for more information.

Dr. Robert J. Reilly
Kiptopeke Station Master and Vice President,
Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory
Professor in the Center for Environmental Studies,
Virginia Commonwealth University

Bluebird Trail Report

Harry Carlson

Another successful Bluebird Trail season at the Newport News City Park Golf Course is coming to a close. At the last count, 392 bluebirds have fledged. There are also 43 babies still on the nests. This year's production of bluebirds will be near the record of 449 in 2006. In addition, 34 chickadees have fledged. There has been no problem with raccoon or snake predators. However, as was the case last year, house wrens have tried to take over bluebird boxes by stuffing them with a collection of twigs and have occasionally destroyed bluebird eggs. The wrens are not now allowed to raise young in any of the boxes.

This year, Dot Silsby and Harry Carlson have been assisted in trail monitoring by Libby Carmines. Libby has agreed to continue the work when Dot & Harry retire, if another volunteer can be found. She needs someone to help in trail monitoring and hopefully the same person to work on building and repairing boxes and guards. The building and repair work is critical, and finding someone to do that work alone would be acceptable. Are there any volunteers?

Backyard Breakfast Birding Bunch

Phyllis Simonetta Roth

Everyone is invited to Phyllis Simonetta Roth's home, on September 18th for a relaxing morning shared with birding friends. We will gather between 7:30 am and 9:00 am, have a bite to eat, watch out the windows for visitors to feeders, birdbaths and bushes. My address is 143 Breezy Point Drive, Yorktown. At 9:00am we will begin scouting a few areas in York County. How many more birds will we add to our list? Where are the quail who were ever present years ago?

I would like try this backyard adventure several times this year. If you would like to share your yard contact Phyllis 898-7354, or sign up at the September meeting. See you there!

Dues are Due!

Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. If you haven't sent in your dues for 2010-11, 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.

HRBC in the Community

As a way to create visibility for HRBC and attract new members, we will exhibit at two events in the fall.

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

We are will exhibit for the 3rd year at the upcoming "Go Green - \$ave Green" event. This year it will be held at Brittingham Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Dr., NN) on Sat., Sept. 25, from 9:00 AM to 1:30 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

Newport News Fall Festival Oct. 2-3

The 37th Newport News Fall Festival of Folklife will be held on Oct. 2 and 3 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 Fall Field Trip

Chincoteague, VA, Sept. 10-12, 2010

Leaders: Bill Akers and Jerry Via

Every fall is different at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, so join us to discover the surprises that await us on this year's annual fall VSO trip (www.virginiabirds.net)! In 2009, we tallied 124 species, including a great combination of waterfowl, shorebirds and migrating songbirds.

The Refuge Inn on Beach Road in Chincoteague will be the host hotel (800-544-8469 or 757-336-5511). Room rates are \$103.50 (plus tax) per night for a single or a double room, minimum two night stay.

Friday night, an evening orientation and slide program will be presented by Jerry Via at 8:00 PM in the Conference room. Jerry and Bill Akers will also give a preview of birds in the area and a synopsis of the field trips for the week-end.

Get more information at:

http://www.virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html#chinc2010

Eastern Shore Birding Festival Oct 7–10

During the fall migration, millions of neotropical songbirds, along with eagles, hawks, and falcons, converge on the Eastern Shore peninsula. The wilds of Virginia's Eastern Shore will wow birders and nature lovers alike. Whether it's a hike on an untamed barrier island, or boat tour to the Shore's secret places, this festival celebrates one of nature's most amazing spectacles. Visitors can participate in a variety of fascinating guided boat and land tours suitable for adventurers of all ages.

The 18th annual Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival will be held Oct 7-10. Kicking-off in Onancock on Thursday October 7, with birding and wildlife festival headquarters in Cape Charles October 8 – 10. For more information contact Beth Davis, 757-581-1081, email: info@esvafestivals.org, or visit www.esvafestivals.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 (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 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.

Editor
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