



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org

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September / October 2011

September 8th Meeting—7:00 PM "Bob's Big Year"



We welcome Bob Ake as our first speaker this year. During 2010 Bob traveled the U.S. chasing birds in an attempt to tally as many species in the ABA area as possible. Bob tells the tale of his year from the beginning, when a well-

considered itinerary was followed trying to keep costs under control, until the end when every rarity was chased. Bob finished the year with 731 species, ranking him second all-time among those completing an ABA Annual list. His illustrated talk, in addition to detailing his travels, describes the planning and the execution, gives a summary of the costs and miles traveled, and offers suggestions for anyone interested in trying an ABA Big Year. You can gain a taste of his Big Year by logging onto his blog <http://bobsbirds.blogspot.com/>.

Host/Hostess: Marilyn & Clark White

September Field Trips

September 4 & 18, Sunday ~ 7:00-9:00 AM

Regular bird walk in Newport News Park

Meet at the Ranger Station parking lot.

Trip Leader: Jane Frigo, 873-0721

SEP. 10 (Sat.), 8:00 AM – Sandy Bottom Nature Park

Sandy Bottom is a 456 acre environmental education and wildlife management facility in Hampton. It has several trails that we'll explore. It's located at 1255 Big Bethel Road (near the corner of Hampton Roads Center Parkway). Meet in the main parking lot at the Nature Center at 8:00 AM. This will be a half day field trip, so bring snacks and beverages.

Sign up at the meeting or call Marc Nichols (865-3438) for more information.

October 13th, Meeting—7:00 PM "Along Came a Spider"

Wildlife photographer Teta Kain became interested in spiders when she took up night photography on a river in Eastern Virginia. She was astounded to find that tiny brilliant lights gleaming on the river banks and on the water were reflections from spiders' eyes. The numbers and variety of these arachnids were almost unbelievable.

"Along came a Spider" explores the world of the spider; a close-up investigation of this greatly maligned, often feared creature that lives in such close proximity to man. Details of spiders' lives are caught by Teta's camera as she details their eating, mating, and predatory habits. As always, she laces her talk with folk lore, scientific facts, myths and mysteries of the spider and spices it up with a few funny stories of her encounters with spiders.

Host/Hostess: Mary & Ben Copeland

October Field Trips

October 2 & 16, Sunday ~ 7:00-9:00 AM

Regular bird walk in Newport News Park

Meet at the Ranger Station parking lot.

Trip Leader: Jane Frigo, 873-0721

OCT. 15 (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, such as 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 Marc Nichols (865-3438) to let him know you're coming.

The President's Perch

Marilyn White

The summer has passed, we have survived another hurricane, and the birds should be packing up and getting ready for their long journeys. Our hummingbirds are still coming frequently but will probably be leaving soon.

Clark and I have been gone much of the summer and have visited some interesting places. We loved our trip to Alaska and had the chance for a little birding there. Our most recent trip was down from Illinois through Missouri on our way home. That was new territory for both of us and we found a couple of wonderful nature centers along the way with some nice birds - a nice break from the driving and some places to recommend to you all if you are travelling in that direction.

You will be hearing some plans for our participation in the IBA western marshes program at our September meeting and Bob Ake will be our featured speaker – it should be a very entertaining evening.

Hope you all have had a pleasant summer and we look forward to seeing each other again in a couple of weeks. Plan to share your summer memories.

Craney Island Field Trip

Mary Copeland

VSO Members from Virginia enjoyed one of the two field trips to Craney Island Disposal Area in Portsmouth on August 20 & 21. Ruth Beck, Shirley Devan & Bill Williams were kind enough to lead the trips and the groups saw 68 and 61 species respectively. Approximately 23 VSO members on each day viewed the plentiful shorebirds. It was a delight to be at Craney Island with no big trucks passing the group to stir up dust. Highlights of the 4-hour morning were Glaucous Gull, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, and Black, Least, Caspian, Forster's & Royal Terns. Black Skimmers are always fun to see, and other treats were Wilson's Phalarope, Dowitcher, and Stilt, Pectoral, White-rumped, Least, Western, & Semipalmated Sandpipers. Also seen were Ruddy Turnstone, Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plover, the usual Red-tailed and Cooper's Hawks, a Tricolored Heron and a group of Snowy Egrets. For ducks, there were a few Northern Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, a Gadwall, Mallards, and American Black Duck. The usual Canada Goose, Double Crested Cormorants, Brown

Pelican, and Great Blue Heron and Great Egret. It was so nice to see Craney Island with grass and plenty of water for the migrating birds. Everyone in our group seemed delighted to be back at Craney for shorebird migration.

Spotlight on - Nan LaRue

Mary Copeland



With a Bluebird on her shoulder, Nan LaRue delights in anything outdoors with nature (even the mosquitoes at the Great Dismal Swamp). Nan has worked hard on bluebird trails, at the nets during bird migration at Kiptopeke, and as

Treasurer of Hampton Roads Bird Club for many years. She is a member of the Va. Bluebird Society. She has even been known to work at Wild Wings Nature Store in Hidenwood. Just ask Jim Hill about Nan's devotion to the store. Jim is another devoted bird club member as well as Nan's friend, Jerri Howe. Nan and Jim monitor a bluebird trail, of approximately 45 boxes, at Newport News City Park. Nan and her husband Clyde have a wonderful deck to view the birds they love to feed. We thank you Nan for your faithful years of serving our club, the Va. Bluebird Society, as well as your work in the Dismal Swamp with Don Schwab, and at Kiptopeke's passerine banding station. We are all looking forward to another year of visiting you there.

Bird Banding at Kiptopeke

Dr. Robert J. Reilly

Kiptopeke Banding Station, operated by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO), opened Wed. 8/15, for its 49th consecutive year. The station will be in operation 7-days-a-week, weather permitting, through mid-November. The station opens approx 30 minutes before sunrise and typically closes near midday or early afternoon. 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.

Dues are Due!

Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. If you haven't sent in your dues for 2011-12, 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.

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 Expo 2011 Sept. 24

We are will exhibit once again at the upcoming "Go Green Expo". This year it will be held at Brittingham Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Dr., NN) on Sat., Sept. 24, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 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. 1-2

The 38th Newport News Fall Festival of Folklife will be held on Oct. 1st and 2nd from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM each day at Newport News Park. Southeast Virginia's biggest traditional craft show features over 200 vendors, traditional crafts and trades, folk entertainment, food vendors (\$), and children's activities. \$10.00 per car parking fee.

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. 16-18, 2011

Leaders: Bill Akers and Jerry Via

The Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) (www.virginiabirds.net) has its fall event in Chincoteague. There is no fee to attend, and you do not have to be a member. Last year we tallied 148 species! Headquarters for the event is The Refuge Motor Inn in Chincoteague ([800-544-8469](tel:800-544-8469)) with special rate of \$97.75 (plus tax) per night. State you are with the VSO when you call. Meals are on your own. **Fri. Night** is a preview of birds in the area, with field trips **Sat. and Sun.**

Get more information at:

http://www.virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html#chinc2011
or contact Meredith Bell, merandlee@cox.net.

Eastern Shore Birding Festival Oct 7–9, 2011

Eastern Shore of Virginia Festivals, Inc. enthusiastically invites you to our 19th Annual Festival. On Friday evening, we are delighted to welcome back [Michael Male and Judy Fieth](#) as our keynote presenters. The wonderfully restored [Palace Theatre](#) and the attractive [Stage Door Gallery](#) provide a great setting for this festival opening, which begins with a 6 p.m. reception in the Gallery. Saturday also features our Passport Program for young folks and an array of interesting and informing exhibitions as well as vendors – all open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in our central location at the Fire House. Check out our web site (<http://www.esvafestivals.com>) for more program and registration details.

Once again, we are happy to be in picturesque [Cape Charles](#), where a leisurely walk on the beach will add to the wonderful wildlife watching opportunities offered in our formal program of events. Also, don't miss the chance to enjoy the fine food options awaiting you – or just to browse in the shops along the way.

Come on out to Cape Charles on Columbus Day weekend!

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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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