



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org

Vol. 60, No. 4

March / April 2012

March 8th Meeting—7:00 PM

"Birding South Dakota"



Vesper Sparrow

Brent Slaughter, amateur photographer & birder (as well as newsletter editor for the Hampton Roads Bird Club), will be our guest speaker in March.

The Black Hills & Badlands regions of South Dakota and Nebraska provide a variety of birding and other activities. With habitat ranging from short-grass prairie to pine forested mountains, there are opportunities to see many types of birds. And if it's a bad day for birding, there are caves and monuments and museums to explore. Enjoy a photographic exploration of a fascinating place.

Host/Hostess: Marilyn White

Meeting Location: St. Luke's Methodist Church

March Field Trips

March 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

MAR. 10 (Sat.), 8:00 AM – Malvern Hill Battlefield

March field trip will be at Malvern Hill Battlefield which is part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park, National Park Service. From Newport News/Hampton area take I-64 West to Rt. 199 towards Williamsburg. From 199 take Rt.-5, John Tyler Highway. From Rt. 5 turn right onto Rt. 156, Willis Church Road. Entrance to the park is on the left about 2 miles from Rt. 5. Look for the cannon. Meet in the Parking Lot around 8am.

April 12th, Meeting—7:00 PM

"Peruvian Endemics"



Coppery-naped Puffleg

Our April meeting features Bill Akers from Blacksburg, VA. Bill is well-known among Virginia birders because he's been leading field trips for VSO and other organizations around the state for decades. He's well respected for his knowledge of birds and his interest in helping others learn. Bill will be sharing his experiences from a trip that he and other birders from Virginia took to Peru in May, 2009. He is an excellent speaker, and you will not want to miss this program!

Host/Hostess: Hayes & Joyce Williams

Meeting Location: Tabb Library

April Field Trips

April 1 & 15, 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

APR. 7 (Sat.), 8:00 AM – Presquile NWR

The April field trip is planned for Presquile National Wildlife Refuge in Richmond. This will be limited to 14 people due to the boat ride in. A permit is required and we have not received it for certain yet. If this trip does not work out, we will visit Fort Monroe or Westover Plantation. More details will be given at the March meeting and posted to the HRBC website.

Meeting Location Changes

The March club meeting will be at St. Luke's Methodist Church located at 300 Ella Taylor Rd. From Hampton and Newport News, travel north on Rt. 17, past the Harwood Mill Reservoir on your left. At the Raceway Gas Station, turn right at the stoplight onto Ella Taylor Road. Go ¼ mile and turn right into the church parking lot.

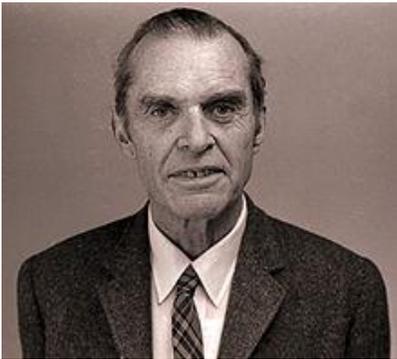
Please park at the rear of the church and enter through the back door. The meeting room will be straight ahead, room #19.

The April club meeting will be at the York County Public Library at Tabb, located at 100 Long Green Blvd., Yorktown, VA.

From I-64, take Victory Blvd east to Rt. 134 York-Hampton Highway (Magruder Blvd in Hampton) Turn right onto Rt. 134 and go approximately half a mile to Long Green Blvd
Turn right onto Long Green Blvd and then turn right into the library parking lot

We will begin at 6:30 pm with refreshments and then the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and last until 8:45 pm. We must be out of the library by 9:00 pm.

Did You Know?



Meet the real James Bond. Born Jan 4th, 1900 in Philadelphia and educated at Cambridge, he is the author of *Birds of the West Indies* (first published in 1936). When writer Ian Fleming, a keen bird

watcher himself, was looking for a name for his hero-spy, he found it on the cover of Mr. Bond's book. Fleming wanted a name that sounded "as ordinary as possible", and so he asked and received permission to use "James Bond" as the name for his character. We come full circle in 2002 when, in the 20th Bond film, *Die Another Day*, Bond is in Havana, Cuba and his cover story is that he is an ornithologist and he is shown looking through a copy of, none other than, *Birds of the West Indies*.

2011 Bluebird Trail Report

By Libby Carmines



The 38th year of the Bluebird Trail at the Newport News Park Golf Course was very successful. The 106 bluebird boxes fledged 487 bluebirds and 8 chickadees. Monitoring began April 12th at which time there were already 40 nests. During the last monitoring on August 12th, 8 bluebird babies remained on the nest.

This was my first year and I enjoyed my weekly visits immensely. Harry really moved away, but not before leaving the trail in tip top shape with plenty of replacement boxes and parts in my attic. Luckily, Dot was here to help out. After briefly misplacing the log book, Dot bailed me out with her knowledge of each box location and history—from memory!

It was a hot summer and I often chose the hot afternoon for monitoring so as to avoid the golf course traffic. I was always amazed that those tiny babies were surviving in that heat. I encountered one snake in a box, but I don't think it was a failure of Harry's guards, but rather must have dropped from above, out of a tree. Also of note, there were 6 nests that fledged 6 bluebirds each!

I will look forward to monitoring again in the Spring and welcome anyone interested to join me.

Upcoming Events

May 12th—Spring Bird Count
Contact Clark White at cwbirds@cox.net or 757-875-7649 if you would like to participate

Nominating Committee

Our committee members, Virginia Boyles, Phyllis Roth, & Stuart Sweetman, are searching diligently for new officers. Now is your chance to get more involved in the club. If you would like to serve as an officer in the club, please contact Phyllis Roth at 757-898-7354. Don't wait for them to call on you.

VSO News

The annual meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology will be held May 18 - 20 in Johnson City, TN as part of a joint meeting with the Tennessee Ornithological Society. For more information, visit the Bristol Bird Club website at www.bristolbirdclub.org or the Tennessee Ornithological Society at www.tnbirds.org. Regarding registration, please call or email: Janice Martin, Club Treasurer 423 573-1829, Janice@bristolbirdclub.org.

Upcoming VSO Field Trips (www.virginiabirds.net)
– Piney Grove Field Trip – June 2
– Front Royal, VA- June 15-17

Great Blue Heron Rookery Tours

Save the Dates! The Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program, REI, Richmond Audubon Society, and the City of Richmond's James River Park System are teaming up for our 2012 Great Blue Heron Rookery walks on March 3rd, March 17th, March 31st and April 7th, each from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the James River Park Pipeline Walk. We will also have hourly walks on Saturday, April 21st, in celebration of Earth Day and Fish Fest from 10 am to 3 PM.

Come join us as we enjoy this natural wonder in the midst of the City of Richmond! The Great Blue Herons will, throughout the spring, be courting, nest-building and breeding in preparation for egg-laying and raising their chicks. Every walk will bring its own set of sights and sounds for the whole family to enjoy, so please bring your scopes and binoculars and benefit from a morning outdoors!

The charge for each week's event will be \$5.00 per person for the benefit of Audubon and the James River Park System, to be paid upon meeting at 10:00 AM in the grassy area just west of 14th Street. Please carpool and park at the small lot closest to the Rookery, in Shockhoe Bottom, or in the lot on the east side of 14th Street just south of the floodwall. If you park in this latter location, please park head-in

and with a note on your dash stating you are at the Heron Rookery walk. Don't forget your binoculars! Also, visit the website solely dedicated to the Richmond Rookery: <http://varookery.audubon.org>. Please visit the site often for updated pictures, event information, and weekly videos highlighting the continual changes of the Rookery, as well as interviews with experts.

Walk in the Forest

As part of the free "Walk in the Forest" event sponsored by the VA Department of Forestry, there will be a guided Bird Walk at 7 am at the New Kent Forestry Center in Providence Forge, VA. NKFC gates will be open, and bird walks will start from a location which is a five minute drive from the main gate along a marked road.

New Kent Forestry Center is not usually open to the public, but visitors will be welcome all day March 17th for a variety of events, starting at 7 am. See the full schedule below. Plus, take home free trees!

Here's a link to the flyer describing the event:
http://www.dof.virginia.gov/info/resources/2012-03-17_WalkinForest.pdf

List of Events:

7:00 am Guided Birding Trip (led by WBC)
10:00 am Guided Nature Hike (also at 12 and 2 pm)
10:00 am Exhibits Open and Free Seedlings Available.
Choose from bald cypress, persimmon, shortleaf pine, eastern redbud, flowering dogwood, and American plum

Hiking trails open at 7 a.m. and maps will be provided.

Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the day. There is no cost to participate in this event!



Sanderling

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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 also be paid at Wild Wings Nature Store in the Hidenwood Shopping Center, Newport News, VA.

Meetings are held in the conference room 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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