



# Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

**Hampton Roads Bird Club**

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

Vol. 60, No. 5

May / June 2012

## May 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting—7:00 PM "American Parks"



John Coiner is our guest speaker for May. Coming to us from Lynchburg, John is an accomplished and award-winning photographer who concentrates on landscape and nature subjects. While John is well traveled, he has spent countless hours photographing the flora and fauna of the Central Virginia region.

This show provides photographic glimpses of 20+ parks spread across the United States. Included are national seashores, parks, monuments, and wilderness areas, as well as tribal parks and one state park.

**Host/Hostess:** Barbara & Richard Hudgins

**Meeting Location:** Sandy Bottom Nature Park

## May Field Trips

**May 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

**MAY 12 (Sat.), 8:00 AM – Spring Bird Count**

The Spring Bird Count will serve as our May field trip since it will be conducted on the 2nd Saturday of the month. We need volunteers to help with the count, and you do not need to be an experienced birder to participate! Contact Clark White (875-7649) to sign up and help with one of the 13 sectors in our area.

## June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Meeting Annual Club Picnic

Our annual picnic will be held on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 visitor center at 8:00 AM and explore different areas of the park. This will serve as our June field trip.

**11:30 AM–2:00 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, please bring a dish to share (vegetable, salad or dessert). We look forward to seeing you there!

## June Field Trips

**June 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

**JUNE 2 (Sat.), 8:00 AM – Sandy Bottom Nature Park**

Our June field trip will be in conjunction with our annual picnic at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. Meet at the visitor center and we'll proceed from there.





**From Nancy Gruttman-Tyler**

I came across this website and found it to be very interesting, especially since so many of these birds are in our area. I have sighted a nest at the King Street entrance to Langley AFB, and Ken Lipsy is monitoring a couple: one by the VA hospital and one by Hampton Roads Center Parkway near Sandy Bottom. Check out the map to see if there are any identified near you. —Nancy

OspreyWatch, a project run by the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary at <http://www.osprey-watch.org/>, is a global community of observers focused on breeding osprey. The observers are linked by an interest in osprey, concern for the health of aquatic environments, and data submitted to a repository through the OspreyWatch website. The mission of OspreyWatch is to collect information on a large enough spatial scale to be useful in addressing three of the most pressing issues facing aquatic ecosystems including global climate change, depletion of fish stocks, and environmental contaminants.

Ospreys are one of very few truly global sentinels for aquatic health. They feed almost exclusively on live fish throughout their entire life cycle. They are a top consumer within aquatic ecosystems and are very sensitive to both overfishing and environmental contaminants. Nearly all populations breed in the northern latitudes and winter in the southern latitudes, effectively linking the aquatic health of the hemispheres. Their breeding season in the north is highly seasonal making them an effective barometer of climate change.



## **Congratulations**

**To Nan Larue**

The John and Martha Dillard Service Award was presented to Nan Larue, whose skills at removing birds from nets, recording data, making public presentations and loyalty to the Kiptopeke Songbird Station are critical to its operation. Way to go Nan. We are proud of you for your dedication at the banding station and look forward to seeing you again in the fall. Thank you from all your friends in the Hampton Roads Bird Club.

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## **VSO News**

**Joint TOS/VSO 2012 Annual Meeting,  
Johnson City, TN, May 18–20, 2012.  
Hosted by the Bristol Bird Club.**

Throughout the weekend there will be birding field trips and the chance to enjoy the beautiful Southern Blue Ridge in high mountain woodland & wild cranberry bog environments as well as lake, river, and stream habitats. Hike and bird along the Appalachian Trail in a cloudland, that reaches peaks near 6,286 feet of elevation. Additionally, the meeting will have paper presentations and a poster session and speakers on both Friday and Saturday evening. The event will also afford opportunities to meet, socialize and bird with new friends from Virginia and Tennessee.

**For More Information:**

Visit the Bristol Bird Club (at [www.bristolbirdclub.org](http://www.bristolbirdclub.org)) or the website of [The Tennessee Ornithological Society](http://www.tennesseeornithology.org).

**Regarding registration:**

Janice Martin, Club Treasurer 423 573-1829,  
[janice\\_AT\\_bristolbirdclub.org](mailto:janice_AT_bristolbirdclub.org).  
[Johnson City Holiday Inn website](http://www.johnsoncityholidayinn.com)

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

## **VSO Foray 2012 Loudoun County, June 9— 17**

The upcoming 2012 foray will be held from June 9, 2012 to June 17, 2012 in Loudoun County, located in northern Virginia. The coming foray is being done to support the 2009 to 2013 Loudoun County Bird Atlas, organized by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. For more information on protocols or to see training materials, check the [Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy](http://www.loudounwildlifeconservancy.org) website. If interested in helping with the foray contact Elisa Enders at 757-879-1034 or [elisaenders\\_AT\\_hotmail.com](mailto:elisaenders_AT_hotmail.com).

## Important Bird Area Event

By Dave Youker

The next scheduled event for our Important Bird Area (IBA) is a survey/clean-up at Gosnold's Hope Park on 19 May beginning at 8 AM. This will be in conjunction with some volunteers through the Hampton Clean City Commission (HCCC). Details are as follows: Arrive at 8 AM and conduct a bird survey of the area until around 10:00. From 10:00 until around noon, perform litter removal. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions (hat, sunscreen) and bring water/snacks as desired. Trash bags and grabbers will be provided, but ensure you bring work gloves for handling the trash. Directions to the park: From Williamsburg, take I-64 East and exit onto Mercury Blvd toward the Coliseum. Take the King St exit and turn left toward Langley AFB. Turn right onto Little Back River Rd and continue to Gosnold's Hope Park which will be on your left. Go through the main entrance and continue to the boat launch on the right side of the road where we'll assemble before starting. Contact Dave Youker at 757-344-9385 to volunteer or for more information.

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## Upcoming Events

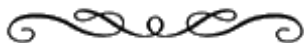
May 12<sup>th</sup>—Spring Bird Count  
Contact Clark White at [cwbirds@cox.net](mailto:cwbirds@cox.net) or 757-875-7649 if you would like to participate

May 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>—Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival  
See the brochure at this link (or call 757-986-3705):  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp/pdf/2012BFschedulepdf.pdf>

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## *In Memoriam*

Long-time HRBC member Eleanor Young has passed away. We extend our sympathies to the family of Eleanor Young, who passed away on April 8. Eleanor was an active member of our club for many years, and she will be missed.



Our condolences to the family of Joan Somervill of Newport News who passed away April 11. She was an avid bird watcher and a past president of our bird club. She is survived by her children Charles Somervill, Cynthia Modlin, Annette Taylor and a sister Virginia Bennett.

## Thank You

From Mary Copeland

Dear friends,

My family and I appreciate your kindnesses shown during our loss of Ben on Jan. 1, 2012. If we missed you in our responses, please accept our appreciation now. Ben would have been so delighted to know of your visits, calls and attendance at his memorial service; and that you cared enough to send donations in his memory. Thank you for being such great friends, Love, Mary Copeland, Charlotte, and Ben, Jr.

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## Field Trip Report

By Jane Frigo

On April 14, 2012, Dot Silsby, Harry Carlson, Elisa Enders, Tom Charlock, Dave Brown, Clark White, Jane Frigo, Virginia and George Boyles, and Marilyn and John Adair participated in the field trip to historic Ft. Monroe in Hampton. Off shore breezes made for a chilly start to the morning, but the great birds made it worth the chill. At the sea wall by the Chamberlain Hotel a male Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage swam just feet from the bank accompanied by a group of female Red-breasted Mergansers. While enjoying that rare sight, a group of four American Oystercatchers flew 'round about vocalizing the entire time. As the group continued along the seawall, several groups of Sanderlings were spotted along with the expected variety of gulls, pelicans and even a Royal Tern. On the inland side of the drive Killdeer were everywhere! A Lesser Yellowlegs was spotted and Clark White heard a King Rail. Another area enjoyed by all was the "moat" area. Barn Swallows, Rough-winged Swallows, Tree Swallows and Purple Martins kept everyone's eyes to the sky, yet cooperative birds spent quite a bit of time perched on railings and walls to give long looks. Birds were observed entering and leaving openings in the stone work of the moat. The group wondered if the openings would become nesting sites. In all 43 species were identified at Ft. Monroe. Clark and Dave stopped at Ridgeway Park on their way home and added Cooper's Hawk, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and Green Heron to their list.



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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 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.

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### 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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