



# Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

**Hampton Roads Bird Club**

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

Vol. 61, No. 1

September / October 2012

## September 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting—7:00 PM "Winter Sparrows in Virginia"



David Spears will be our guest speaker this month. He will discuss the different species of sparrows and how their occurrence changes throughout the year. Drawing

upon Christmas Bird Count and eBird records, he will demonstrate that sparrowing becomes much more interesting in the fall and winter when species that breed in the far north come to spend the winter in Virginia. Also, he will provide pointers on sparrow identification.

**Host/Hostess:** HRBC Board Members

## September Field Trips

**September 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

**SEP. 23 (Sun.), 8:00 AM – Greensprings Trail**

Our first field trip of fall 2012 is planned for a **SUNDAY** (unusual for us), at Greensprings Interpretive Trail (3751 John Tyler Highway, Williamsburg, VA). The 3.4 mile Trail is mostly soft surfaced and well forested. It loops about a 34-acre beaver pond and includes a 1000-foot observation deck. Portions border on active farmland. Our carpool will

depart the parking lot behind the Ranger Station in Newport News Park at 7:20 AM and meet at 8 AM at the trailhead at the small parking lot to the east of the Jamestown High School athletic track.

**Directions:** Take I-64W, exit 242A onto VA-199 W toward Williamsburg & drive 5.9 miles. Turn left onto VA-5 W & drive 3.1 miles. Turn left at Eagle Way (just before Jamestown High School). Drive 0.3 miles to the SMALL parking lot east of the school track. If you wish to attend this event, please contact Tom Charlock by phone (757-599-3418) or email ([TomCharlock@gmail.com](mailto:TomCharlock@gmail.com)).

## October 11th, Meeting—7:00 PM "HRBC in Action"—Dave Youker

During the October meeting, you'll be updated on some of the conservation and outreach projects that our club has undertaken. You'll be surprised at the impact club members are having on our surrounding community. Short presentations on the Bluebird Trail, the Western Shore Marshes IBA, and the Feeder Project will reveal some interesting data regarding these projects.

**Host/Hostess:** tbd

## October Field Trips

**October 7 & 21, 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. 13 (Sat.), 7:00 AM – Eastern Shore**

The fall field trip will be to the Eastern Shore for one of the finest sites in the East for observing the fall migration. Pack a full lunch and be ready to spend most of the day at the Kiptopeke State Park trails, banding station, and hawk tower. After lunch we will make side excursions to the nearby Oyster landfill, Oyster inlet, and Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge. Mid-afternoon should find us back at the carpool point.

**Directions:** Take I-64 East to exit 282 to US-13 N toward Chesapeake Bay/Bridge-Tunnel. Meet for carpooling in the parking lot at the CBBT offices. The toll is \$12 one way (same-day return toll with a receipt is \$5). Cross the CBBT and once on the eastern shore, go about 5 miles and turn left onto County Rd 704 (Kiptopeke Dr). Purchase parking permit (\$4) at station on this road then turn left at Florida Ave. (go 0.1 mile). Park in lot and remember to display parking sticker on rear-view mirror.

If you wish to attend this event, please contact Tom Charlock by phone ([757-599-3418](tel:757-599-3418)) or email ([TomCharlock@gmail.com](mailto:TomCharlock@gmail.com)).

## The President's Perch

*Dave Youker*

The Sep-Oct newsletter brings with it the anticipation of our club's 2012-13 birding season. A new slate of officers has been installed, and they have been busy outlining some exciting field trips, speakers and projects for our members. I encourage each member to join one of our committees in order to maximize your birding experience and enjoyment. Just a small contribution by each member will bring huge benefits to the entire club.

This fall marks the end of the first year, since we adopted the Western Shore Marshes IBA. Look for a report on this first year data sometime in Dec. Remember, you can contribute to our support of this IBA any time you visit any area of the IBA. Simply record the species observed and forward your list to me at youkerd@aol.com. Additional information concerning our IBA can be found on our website.

Our first scheduled outreach event is the Go Green Expo on 22 Sep. We'll have our exhibit on display, and we'll have an opportunity to tell the community about our birding, conservation, and outreach activities. We'll also show them how much fun it is to be part of our club.

Mark your calendars for the first weekend in Oct. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Kiptopeke Songbird Station, and several early members of HRBC were also founding members of this conservation effort.

At the Sep meeting, our 2012-13 budget will be presented, and I'll ask for your vote of approval. Dues for this year are proposed to remain the same: \$15/individual and \$20/family.

I'm looking forward to a great year, and I hope you'll be an active participant in some facet of our club.

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## Backyard Tidbits

*Phyllis Roth*



☛ Thrasher young have dark grey to brown eyes, adults have yellow-gold eyes

☛ Female white breasted nuthatch have a less glossy, bluish gray cap than the male

☛ Young downy and hairy woodpeckers may have an orange-red patch or red spots on the crown rather than the red nape patch on male adults

- ☛ Eastern wood peewee never flicks the tail like other emipeds, but rather gives a little "wing shiver" when settling down
- ☛ Mourning dove juveniles have heavily spotted wings and no black spot on neck
- ☛ Tufted titmouse will pull hairs from animals to line their nest
- ☛ Song sparrows may have 3 broods from Feb. to Aug. First nest is on the ground, hidden in weeds and grass, later nests are in deciduous bushes as foliage matures
- ☛ Eastern kingbird juveniles are brown grey with a dark breast, their favorite food seems to be bees.
- ☛ Ruby-crowned hummingbirds and Vireos bind their nests with spider webs.

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## 50 Years of Bird Banding at Kiptopeke From the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory

We want to let you know about a remarkable anniversary...we are celebrating 50 years of our songbird banding station in fall 2012! In the fall of 1963, six volunteers founded a bird banding station at the old ferry dock at Kiptopeke on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. These founders recognized that the tip of the Eastern Shore was a natural funnel for migrating songbirds on their journey south. They saw the opportunity for long-term study and the need to address conservation issues. Their vision continues today. Every year since 1963, the Kiptopeke Songbird Station has operated. It is the second longest running station in North America. Our organization, CVWO, took over responsibility for this station in 1997. Through donations and dedicated volunteers, bird banding research is conducted here each fall and via a computer database, information is shared with researchers and other interested parties. About 90% of the birds captured here each fall are born in the previous 3-6 months. One of the most difficult parts of the young birds' journey lies just ahead: these birds need to fly across the 17-mile mouth of the Chesapeake Bay or return north to get back to the mainland. Birds need to have adequate fat stores and energy to make this journey. Quality habitat in this area is needed to provide food and shelter for the tens of millions of migratory land birds that come here each year. Many species of songbirds are in severe population decline. The more information we have, the better we can protect the birds.

Visit the CVWO website at [www.cvwo.org](http://www.cvwo.org) for more information.

## Dues are Due!

Our membership year runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't sent in your dues for 2012-13, 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.

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## 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 2012 Sept. 22

We 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. 22, 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](http://www.nnmastergardeners.org)

### Newport News Fall Festival Oct. 6-7

The 39<sup>th</sup> Newport News Fall Festival of Folklife will be held on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## VSO Fall Field Trip

**Chincoteague, VA, Sept. 14-16, 2012**

**Leaders: Bill Akers and Jerry Via**

The VSO annual fall trip to Chincoteague will be held September 14-16. We always have a great combination of waterfowl, shorebirds and migrating songbirds, so plan to join us for a special weekend of birding! Please register in advance with the names of participants, telephone number and email address and send to Meredith Bell, trip coordinator, at [merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com).

The Refuge Inn on Beach Road in Chincoteague will be the host hotel (800-544-8469). Room rates are \$97.75 (plus tax) per night for a single or a double room, minimum two night stay. The deadline was August 14; the special rate may not be available. There will be an orientation and slide program on Friday evening by trip leaders Jerry Via and Bill Akers. On Saturday and Sunday, you can select from a variety of field trip experiences. The popular Wash Flats bus trip (\$12 fee) is already full for Sat PM and Sun AM, but let Meredith know if you'd like to be added to the waiting list when you register. Get more details about the trip at [www.vabirds.net](http://www.vabirds.net) or contact Meredith Bell, [merandlee@gmail.com](mailto:merandlee@gmail.com).

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### Eastern Shore Birding Festival Oct 5-7

This fall marks the 20th anniversary of the Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival. Our festival will once again highlight the amazing Autumn Migration along Virginia's Eastern Shore. To celebrate this milestone year we are pleased to welcome David Allen Sibley, renowned author and illustrator as our keynote speaker! Join us for trips and tours to the best wildlife viewing locations on the Shore. To add to the excitement the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory is gearing up to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station...you won't want to miss this year's festival. The HQ and exhibit hall will feature fun educational displays for the whole family as well as vendors with must have birding gear. Workshops with experts will help you hone your field skills. An exciting falconry display with Flight of the Raptor will give participants a close up look at the amazing abilities of these winged predators. Of course, a trip to the Eastern Shore isn't complete without sampling some of the local seafood and produce! The festival HQ is in Cape Charles and registration is open online at <http://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 September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. **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.

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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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