



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org

Vol. 62, No. 1

September / October 2013

September 12th Meeting—6:30 PM "Butterflies of Virginia"



Teta Kain has become a favorite 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. Come out for our first Club meeting of the new season, for an excellent foray into butterflies!

Host/Hostess: HRBC Board Members

October 10th, Meeting—6:30 PM "Audubon's Hog Island Camp in Maine and Project Puffin"

This month, Doug Rogers will speak on Project Puffin, now in its 40th year of re-establishing Puffin colonies in Maine. As well, he will talk about Audubon's Hog Island Camp, which offers a variety of programs for students and families. Such programs range from Seabird Biology and Conservation to Field Ornithology and The Joy of Birding



Host/Hostess: tbd

September Field Trips

September 1st & 15th, 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. 22nd (Sun.), 8:00 AM – Jamestown Island via the Colonial Parkway

Directions for those not carpooling:

From I64, take Exit 243A for 199W (Humelsine Parkway W) and go 3.3 miles.

Turn right at traffic light for route 132 (S. Henry St., a small road) and go 100 yards.

Make the first right (not well marked) onto the narrow approach for Colonial Parkway.

Turn right at stop sign onto Colonial Parkway (towards Jamestown) and go 1.9 miles.

As the James River comes into view on your left, park on your right at the small lot for College Creek. We'll meet there at 8:00 AM.

See the insert for additional details. If you wish to attend this event, please contact Tom Charlock by phone (757-599-3418) or email (TomCharlock@gmail.com).

October Field Trips

October 6th & 20th, 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. 27th (Sun.), 7:00 AM – Kiptopeke State Park and the Eastern Shore

Directions to car pool roundup:

Take I64 East and then use exit 282 to merge onto US-13 N/Northampton Blvd toward CBBT.

Before you cross the toll booth, turn to the right for a parking lot near an official building. Our car pool will meet there at 7:00 AM and depart a few minutes later. The toll is \$12 one way. Receipts should be saved and presented at the toll booth for the return trip (the same-day return toll with a receipt is \$5).

See the insert for additional details and directions to Kiptopeke State Park if you choose not to carpool.

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).

The President's Perch

Dave Youker

Here we are at the start of another birding season. Of course there is no start or end to birding, but a continuous opportunity to see resident and migrant birds in different plumage and varying habitat and weather conditions. Okay I'll admit that birding does slow a little during those scorching hot summer days. But with the cooler days of fall approaching, I'm excited about start of our 2013-14 year. We've got some nice field trips planned to some old, favorite spots and some new locations.

We've had a change in officers over the summer. Brent & Laura Slaughter have decided to move to southwest VA. Brent has already accepted a job and moved. Laura will leave once the house is sold. The Slaughters have been very active in our club, and they will be missed. Tom Charlock has agreed to take over the newsletter starting with the November-December issue. Phyllis Roth has agreed to serve the remaining time as Vice President once Laura leaves.

As a reminder, dues need to be paid between September and December to remain in good standing with the club.



The Next Step for Bird Banding at Kiptopeke

From the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory

Hello Friends of Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. For the first time in 50 years, the Kiptopeke Songbird Station will not run on a daily basis this fall. Following last fall's incident where a heavy migration resulted in some bird casualties, the Observatory has been discussing future directions. We assembled a team of 7 Master Banders led by Advisor Dr. Dan Cristol of the College of William and Mary, which included Advisor Dr. Bob Reilly of Virginia Commonwealth University and Advisor Dr.

Bryan Watts of the Center for Conservation Biology of the College of William and Mary/ Virginia Commonwealth University, both of whom have served as Master Bander for the Kiptopeke Station and also includes Ruth Beck, the Observatory's Vice-president and Songbird Team Leader, Bob Chapman, Kiptopeke hawk bander, Peter Doherty, First Landing State Park songbird bander and Dr. Eric Walters, Ornithologist at Old Dominion University. Together they have been discussing ideas and communicating with the Banding Laboratory. In Dan's report to the Board, he said"methodologies have changed and analytical techniques improved, so that stringent regulation of capture effort and clear research focus is now standard...." he recommends collaborating about research projects and says..."it is my conclusion from these discussions that a new type of operation can be started...and I recommend working with Dr. Eric Walters of Old Dominion University, who has a permit and research projects that would involve banding at Kiptopeke." We are collaborating with Dr. Walters and will post information on our website.

The Kiptopeke Hawkwatch will run from September 1st through November 30th; the Kiptopeke Hawk Banding Station will run from September 10 through November 30th; the Monarch butterfly tagging and census will run from September 10th to November 2nd; Baywatch, which is a new initiative to document waterbirds migrating down the Chesapeake Bay shoreline, will run from October 1 to November 30...some visitors and helpers will be allowed into the site, which is on a State Natural Area Preserve near Kiptopeke, currently closed to the public; and a new Educational Interpreter position is being planned to make presentations to visitors. Kiptopeke State Park is cutting small pines from the field west of Taylor Pond to maintain an essential scrub-shrub habitat and the hawkwatch platform will be undergoing a facelift after 20 years. Please check the Observatory's website and its Blog at www.cvwo.org for program updates.

Meeting Refreshments

At the Sept. meeting, the executive council will provide snack foods and drinks. We will circulate a sign-up sheet at that meeting for people to commit to covering the coming months, so that we can have treats as we greet our fellow birders before each monthly meeting. **People should contact Virginia Boyles (757) 867-8857 with questions or to sign up to bring snacks.**

Sept. 22nd Field Trip to Colonial Parkway and Jamestown Island

Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC)



Our first field trip for fall 2012 will begin at 8:00 AM on September 22 (Sunday) for points on the Colonial Parkway and Jamestown Island. We'll meet at the small lot for College Creek; it has sufficient elevation to provide an extended view of the wildlife in adjacent reeds and swamp brush to the west. Then we'll stroll across the road for the path eastward to catch low tide at Jamestown Beach (here narrow but fairly long and nicely screened from the sparse traffic). We'll drive a few miles for a stop on the left at Glebe Cut, where the vegetation along the James has switched to very tall trees; and survey the birds at Mill Creek opposite. Jamestown Island itself comes next. With the 15 mph speed limit on the one-way Island Drive, here is opportunity for the SAFE practice of a favorite sport of the Club: Auto rally birding, wherein, at the

appearance of a favored species, a whole string of vehicles stops dead and deploys scopes roadside. Each car will be issued one of the Club's UHF walkie-talkies for this purpose. When we leave Jamestown Island, we'll return to the Colonial Parkway and traverse the Peninsula for our sole York River destination, Indian Field Creek.

This trip will likely conclude by early afternoon. Bring a lunch or snack. There are picnic tables near the museum building on Jamestown Island; it has full toilet facilities (no need to pay admission charge to use them). The walks on this trip will be short and easy. Our carpool will depart the parking lot behind the Ranger Station in Newport News Park at 7:30 AM and proceed to College Creek / Jamestown Beach on the Colonial Parkway.



Directions for those not carpooling:

From I64, take Exit 243A for 199W (Humelsine Parkway W) and go 3.3 miles.

Turn right at traffic light for route 132 (S. Henry St., a small road) and go 100 yards.

Make the first right (not well marked) onto the narrow approach for Colonial Parkway.

Turn right at stop sign onto Colonial Parkway (towards Jamestown) and go 1.9 miles.

As the James River comes into view on your left, park on your right at the small lot for College Creek. We'll meet there at 8:00 AM.

If you wish to attend this event, please Tom Charlock by phone ([757-599-3418](tel:757-599-3418)), email (TomCharlock@gmail.com), or by using the sign-up sheet at the September 12 general meeting.

Oct. 27th Field Trip to Kiptopeke State Park and the Eastern Shore

Hampton Roads Bird Club – October Field Trip

The fall field trip to Kiptopeke State Park and the Eastern Shore will take place on Sunday, October 27, 2013. The main car pool roundup will be at 7:00 AM in the parking lot **just before the toll plaza at the South entrance to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (CBBT)**. Be ready to spend most of the day at Kiptopeke State Park and nearby locations on the Eastern Shore. This is one of the finest areas in the US for observing the fall migration. If the weather is good, the trip will likely have us birding until sundown. Bring a full lunch and snacks. Kiptopeke toilets have plumbing; the other sites mostly have portable toilets.



Directions to car pool roundup:

Take I64 East

Use exit 282 to merge onto US-13 N/Northampton Blvd toward CBBT.

Before you cross the toll booth, turn to the right into a parking lot near an official building. Our car pool will meet there at 7:00 AM and depart a few minutes later. The toll is \$12 one way. Receipts should be saved and presented at the toll booth for the return trip (the same-day return toll with a receipt is \$5).



Directions from car pool roundup to Kiptopeke State Park:

Cross the mouth of Bay on US 13 North, first touching land at Fisherman's Island.

The DelMarVa Peninsula is just beyond Fisherman's Inlet. Once on the Peninsula itself, carefully watch for signs after driving about 4-5 miles.

Turn left onto Arlington Rd/County Rd 645. (go 0.2 mile).

Slight turn right onto Arlington Rd (go 0.1 mile).

Take 1st left onto County Rd 704/Kiptopeke Dr. (go 0.5 mile).

Purchase Kiptopeke parking permit (\$4) at station on this road

Turn left at Florida Ave. (go 0.1 mile)

Park in the lot – and remember to display parking sticker on rear-view mirror.

The morning will be spent at Kiptopeke State Park, starting with the banding station. Then we'll double back ¼ mile and walk to the pier for a view of the bay beach (low tide at 9:00 AM). A mile or so of hiking on solid paths comes next; this covers scrub brush, thicker forest, some open field, and ends at Taylor pond. Late morning should bring convection (and migrating raptors above), good appetites, and a welcome stop at the picnic tables by the pavilion; a few stalwarts are likely to take their G.O.R.P. with eyes skyward, while standing on the excellent hawk watch tower. After lunch we'll depart Kiptopeke and drive to Oyster inlet for ocean views, Magotha Road, the Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge, and finally CBBT Island 1.

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

Your Dues Support the HRBC!

Our membership year runs from September 1st through August 31st. If you haven't sent in your dues for 2013-14, 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: **John Adair, 109 Nansemond Turn, Yorktown, VA 23693.**

You can also drop off your dues at Wild Wings Nature Store in Hidenwood Shopping Center or at Wild Birds Unlimited in the Kiln Creek Shopping Center, both in Newport News.



Go Green Expo 2013 Sept. 21st

The Go Green Expo will be held at Brittingham Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Dr., NN) on Sat., Sept. 21st, 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. One of this year's speakers is Brent Heath of Brent & Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, VA. Admission is free and open to the public. Get details and registration form at: <http://www.nnmastergardeners.org/#!go-green-expo-2013/c896>

Newport News Fall Festival Oct. 5-6

Saturday, October 5 & Sunday, October 6;
10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. each day
40th Annual Newport News Fall Festival of Folklife
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.

VSO Fall Field Trip

Chincoteague, VA, Sept. 13-15, 2012

Leaders: Bill Akers and Jerry Via

The VSO annual fall trip to Chincoteague will be held September 13-15. 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.

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 or contact Meredith Bell, merandlee@gmail.com.

Eastern Shore Birding Festival Oct 11—13

Based in Cape Charles, Virginia, the Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival is the perfect opportunity to experience the wonders of wildlife—from the keynote presentation by Greg Miller whose own Big Year inspired the book and movie of the same name - to unparalleled guided tours, boat trips, nature hikes and much more.

It's an incredible chance to catch sightings of species you've never seen before. As one of the most important migration stop-overs on the East Coast, millions of songbirds and butterflies and thousands of raptors will converge here on their long journey south. With the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge and Kiptopeke State Park nearby, this is a migration celebration you'll always remember.

With the festival's easy accessibility, what's stopping you from celebrating this fabulous fall migration? Only 40 minutes from Norfolk and Virginia Beach, it's just a hop, skip or a jump to come for the day or for the weekend!

We hope to see you October 11 - 13, 2013!

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: **John Adair, 109 Nansemond Turn, Yorktown, VA 23693.**

Membership is from September 1st to August 31st. **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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