



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC)

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org and on Facebook

Vol. 73, No. 1

September-October 2024

Thursday, Sept. 12 Meeting
6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program
Sandy Bottom Nature Park

"Passage to India"

By Mark Sopko

Our VP will show photographs and videos of birds from his recent trip to the Indian subcontinent.

Thursday, Oct. 10 Meeting
6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program
Sandy Bottom Nature Park

TBD

HRBC Outdoors

Regular Bird Walks in Newport News Park

7:00 AM on 1st and 3rd Sundays of all 12 months, but **not** on Mar. 2, 2025 (marathon race).

Meet at big parking lot behind Ranger Station.

Leader: Jane Frigo birderjane@gmail.com

home 757-873-0721, cell 757-776-7925

Field Trip to Grandview Beach

7:00 AM Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)

Field Trip to Eastern Shore

7:30 AM Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)

Field Trip to Pleasure House Point, VA Beach

7:30 AM Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)

Field Trip to CBBT Island with Driving Escort

7:30 AM Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025

Sign up begins at Nov. 14 club meeting

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)



Descendants of hunter-gatherers enjoying a White-eyed Vireo in Newport News Park on the August 18 HRBC Sunday walk. Rachel McKellar, Toni Kapu, Sue Tominaga, leader Jane Frigo, and Elizabeth Wilkins are in front. Kate Shaller's visor is just behind Toni; Marc Nichols, Stuart Sweetman, and Beata Whitehead are further back.

Field Trip to Back Bay Tram, Virginia Beach

8:30 AM Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025

Sign up begins at Dec. 12 party and ends Feb. 4

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)

Field Trip to York River State Park

8:30 AM Saturday, Mar. 22, 2025

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)

Field Trip to Hog Island WMA, Surry County

7:00 AM Saturday, April 12, 2025

Need both prior sign up and ID on trip itself

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)

Field Trip to Great Dismal Swamp

6:30 AM Saturday, May 3, 2025

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)

Field Trip to Voice of America Gameland, NC

5:00 AM van departure, Saturday, May 17, 2025

Sign up begins at Apr. 10 meeting

Leader: James Abbott jaa3469@gmail.com

757-320-9191 (text or phone)

Details on September and October field trips follow.

For more on all field trips check the HRBC webpage for "Club Activities" at

<https://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org/field-trips>**Field Trip to Grandview Beach
7:00 AM Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024**

By James Abbott

The first HRBC field trip of 24/25 will be at one of our traditional birding hotspots, Grandview Beach (2 Adriatic Dr, Hampton, VA 23664). We will gather at the entrance at 7:00am. This is a walking heavy field trip and scopes are a good idea. I will have mine with me. Participants can walk as much of the beach as they feel comfortable. It is about 3 miles to the over wash area and back. It is 6 miles to walk to the end at Factory Point and back. Our visit this year is earlier and should have more songbird and shorebird migrants. Piping Plover have been regular this year towards the top of the beach. As always reach out to me at jaa3469@gmail.com or 757-320-9191. Include

name in voicemails or text so I can add you to my contacts.

**Field Trip to Eastern Shore
7:30 AM Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024**

By James Abbott

The HRBC Eastern Shore, Northampton County, field trip returns on October 26. We will gather at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Welcome Center (32383 Charles M. Lankford Jr. Memorial Hwy, Cape Charles, VA 23310) at 7:30 AM. This trip is an excellent opportunity to view migration and many species we do not typically get on the peninsula. We will enter the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR at the Butterfly Trail entrance. We will walk the wooded trails to the marsh overlook. The trip will continue by car to the town of Oyster and the Horse Island Trail; and then onto Ned Brinkley Preserve to the pond and marsh overlook. This will conclude official trip activities, but if any wish to continue I will be making other stops potentially as far as Chincoteague. Reach me at jaa3469@gmail.com or 757-320-9191. Include name in voicemails or text so I can add you to my contacts.

Fall Big Day of Birding: Oct. 26, 2024

By Dave Youker

It'll be our Fall Big Day of Birding. Hopefully, we'll have a mix of lingering fall migrants and some early arriving winter residents. As with other big days, you can bird anywhere in Virginia for as long or short as you'd like. And if you're a participant in the Eastern Shore field trip (also Oct. 26), your list is eagerly sought. At the end of your birding day, send me your list of birds...just the species list and not the total numbers of each species; or your eBird file. Contact me at youkerd@aol.com or 757-344-9385.

**Help Wanted at HRBC:
Leaders for Hospitality and Publicity**

We need leaders to chair committees for Hospitality and Publicity. Both positions are now vacant, as you can see from the list on the end page of this edition. The Hospitality chair arranges for club members to

volunteer and bring refreshments for the monthly meetings at Sandy Bottom; and organizes decorations for the December holiday party and June annual picnic. Because these tasks have proved burdensome due to inflated expectations (i.e., the provision of gourmet homemade snacks from multiple parties), the club EXCOMM has decided to opt for drastic simplification; treats in future should be plain and store bought. If you would care to serve in either the Hospitality or Publicity role, please sound off as this topic is raised in the Sept. 12 meeting.

From the HRBC Treasurer

By John Adair

September is membership renewal month, so bring your checkbook/\$ to Sandy Bottom along with a friend or neighbor interested in learning more about their backyard (and beyond) birds. A quick and easy way to renew or join is on the club web page at the link, HRBC-Membership (see PayPal/CC buttons at bottom).

<https://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org/membership>

Dues for this year remain at \$15 for individuals and \$20 for families. We look forward to seeing everyone at club meetings, catching up, continuing to learn and share our bird experiences, and enjoying the light refreshments. Hope to see you there! I can be reached at adairjj@gmail.com

Photo Contest Winners for the Summer of 2024

By Michael Meyer

Before we get to the medal winning pictures of our long summer, we've got the photo of a mystery bird from Lynn Chandler. Lynn and I guess it's a Mandarin Duck hybrid. You can fire off your call to the editor tomcharlock@gmail.com and we'll let you know the results in the next newsletter.



“What is it??!” by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: “This duck showed up on Saturday morning June 1 at 6:47 AM and stayed for several hours. To me he looks like a lot of Mandarin & Muscovy; who knows! He has not returned since that morning... All photos were taken in my back yard or across Salter's Creek in downtown Hampton where I live.”

Contest Medal Winners



Common Tern
Gold by Pete Peterman

Pete: “The Common Tern was photographed at Kiptopeke State Park on the morning of July 9. It was already hot and I could not find any birds to photograph walking the trails so I went down to the fishing area where the gulls and terns were sitting

and flying. After several attempts, I managed to photograph a Common Tern coming directly towards me. I used the Nikon Z50 with the 1.4 extender on a Nikon 100-400mm lens (560mm) at f 16 and 1/1000 of a second with an ISO of 400.”

around our meeting place had several birds with one of them being this Hairy Woodpecker. I used the Nikon Z50 with the 1.4 extender on a Nikon 100-400mm lens (560mm) at f 16 and 1/1000 of a second with an ISO of 7200.”



Juvenile Mallards
Silver by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: “You can't get any cuter than this! Looks like big brother is telling the others a bedtime story! LOL I have an old tree stump in the creek close to the raft and the ducklings love using it. Taken Friday, July 26 at 5:27 PM”



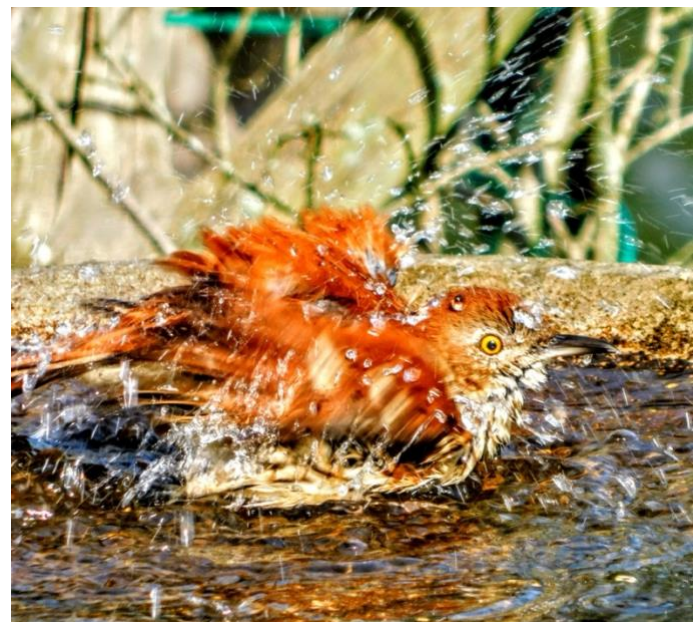
Painted Bunting by Don Brunk

Don: “Friends called to tell me they were seeing a Painted Bunting at their backyard feeder here in Newport News. I rushed over to their house and in a short time, the bunting made a reappearance. It was selecting the millet out of a seed mix. Shot with my Nikon CoolPix P950.”



Hairy Woodpecker
Bronze by Pete Peterman

Pete: “The Hairy Woodpecker was photographed in Saltville, VA on a VSO Trip to Southwest Virginia on June 8. It was just after 8 AM and we were dividing into groups to walk the trails and the trees



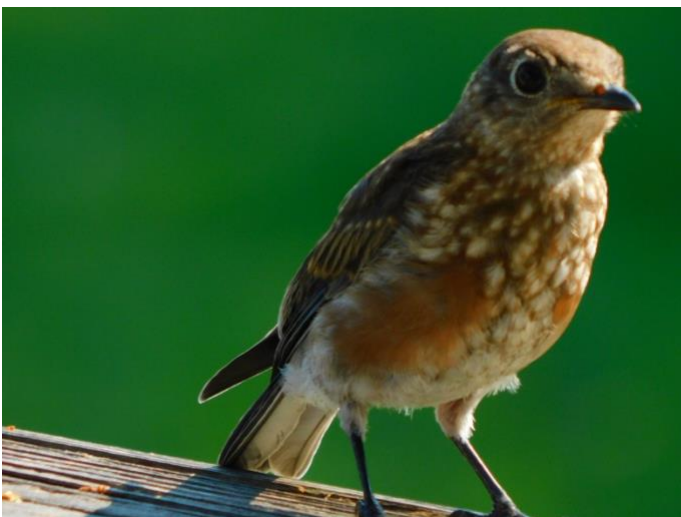
Brown Thrasher by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: "No bird bathes like a Brown Thrasher. They are so wonderful to watch! Taken on Friday, March 15 at 10:19 AM."



American Goldfinches by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: "I have had 6 to 8 all summer and they are eating the black thistle like crazy! Taken Tuesday, April 30 at 8:42 AM."



Immature Eastern Bluebird by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: "I have had more Bluebirds this year than ever in the 26 years I have lived here. I had a female nest in two wren jugs! There are 6 to 8 daily eating meal worms faster than I can fill up their feeder! Taken Monday at 9:29 AM."

In the Bush



Barred Owl by Pete Peterman

Pete: "The Barred Owl was photographed at NN Park on July 21. It was sitting just off the long bridge by the Spawning Pond and all the participants on the walk got great views. I shot several photos and obtained this one where the owl was looking directly at the camera. I used a Nikon Z50 with the 1.4 extender on a Nikon 100-400mm lens (560mm) at f 16 and 1/1000 of a second with an ISO of 45600 as the owl was in shade with most of the light coming from behind him."



Yellow-rumped Warbler by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: "This cutie was busy in my holly tree and I thought I would never get a good photo of him! Taken Friday, April 26 at 12:42 PM."



Gray Catbirds by Pete Peterman

Pete: “The Gray Catbirds were photographed on May 5 at NN Park. I thought they were having a conversation so I used f 16 on the Nikon Z50 with 1.4 extender on a Nikon 100-400mm lens (560mm) in order to get both in focus at 1/500 of a second with the ISO all the way up (51250) as it was in deep shade and early morning, just after 7 AM.”

On a Snag



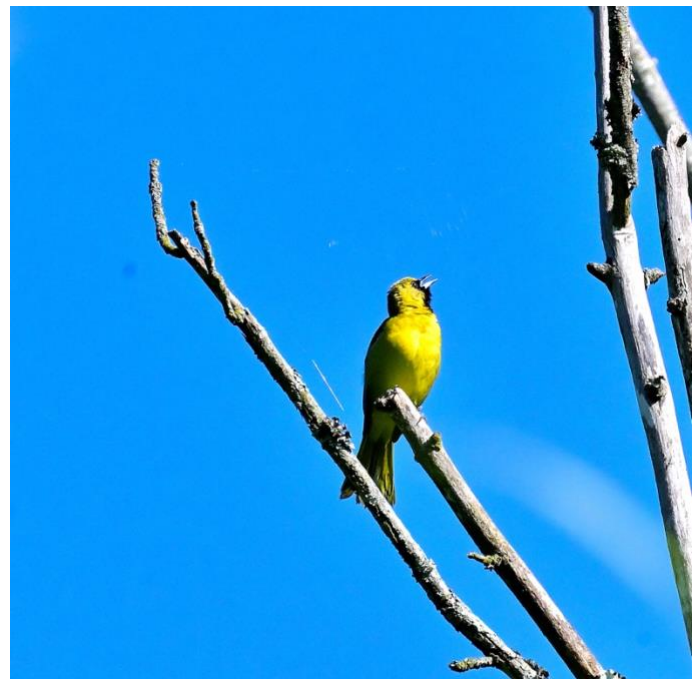
Broad-winged Hawk by Pete Peterman

Pete: “The Broad-winged Hawk was photographed at Alligator River NWR on May 31 around noon as I was traveling by car on the Wildlife Loop. I used the Nikon Z50 with the 1.4 extender on a Nikon 100-400mm lens (560mm) at f 16 and 1/1000 of a second with an ISO of 200.”



Red-headed Woodpecker by Pete Peterman

Pete: “The Red-headed Woodpecker was photographed at the Nags Head Wood Preserve, NC on May 29. The sun angle was not ideal but I could not maneuver as I was on a water inlet on the bay side where the dead tree was being excavated by the Woodpecker. I used the Nikon Z50 with the 1.4 extender on a Nikon 100-400mm lens (560mm) at f 16 and 1/1000 of a second with an ISO of 900.”



Orchard Oriole by Pete Peterman

Pete: “The Orchard Oriole (first summer male) was also photographed in Saltville, VA on that same

morning [of the June 8 VSO trip] further along the trail. I used the Nikon Z50 with the 1.4 extender on a Nikon 100-400mm lens (560mm) at f 16 and 1/1000 of a second with an ISO of 1400.”

On the Wing



Red-tailed Hawk by Pete Peterman

Pete: “The Red-tailed Hawk was photographed later that day (5 May) around noon in the open field by the arboretum at NN Park. I used the Nikon Z50 with the 1.4 extender on a Nikon 100-400mm lens (560mm) at 1/1000 of a second at f 16 and an ISO of 250.”

Here are the contest rules:

1. A member may submit up to 2 photos each month taken in the last 60 days.
2. Please name each file with the photographer and the bird’s name (i.e., ShawnDash_Osprey).
3. Submit to Michael Meyer (michael.meyer@cnu.edu) by the 10th of each month.
4. Winners will be contacted by the newsletter editor to provide either a short writeup or a brief phone interview from which a narrative may be composed.

Sunday Walks in Newport News Park

By Bill Boeh

Links to eBird reports for May through August 2024 events are at the top of the column on the right. Each

link takes you to the text summary of a HRBC “1st and 3rd” Sunday walk in Newport News Park; and to the associated eBird checklist(s). Checklists often have photos.

Date	Location	Report Link
May 5	NN Park	https://ebird.org/tripreport/224787
May 19	NN Park	https://ebird.org/tripreport/224788
June 2	NN Park	https://ebird.org/tripreport/243157
July 7	NN Park	https://ebird.org/tripreport/258542
July 21	NN Park	https://ebird.org/tripreport/262240
Aug. 4	NN Park	https://ebird.org/tripreport/264881
Aug. 18	NN Park	https://ebird.org/tripreport/267923

Youth and Age among Griffin Vultures

Youths frequently moving between sleeping sites in different locations? Becoming more “set in their ways” as adults? The older individuals spending the night in the same places but with weaker social relationships? That’s the Eurasian Griffon Vulture according to Holler Ober as reported in <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2024/08/240830163955.htm> . Marta Acacio, a postdoctoral researcher at Tel Aviv University, led a team in an exacting study of 142 vultures using a 15-year GPS-tracking dataset. It was published in our Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Acacio et al. found that older vultures had more “site fidelity” and “fixed movement routines”. Was it the case that those younger birds, the population of which behaved differently overall, simply expired before those having preferred “fidelity” and “fixed” characteristics? Probably not, as deduced by the researchers who could track individual birds for a dozen years. They also learned that “older vultures... display weaker social relationships compared to younger conspecifics” and are more likely to show aggression and dominance.

Griffon Vultures have weights and wingspans comparable to American White Pelicans, flocks of which have been spotted on some the annual field trips to Hog Island National Wildlife Refuge. Wikipedia informs that some birds elevate their metabolic rate while flying to 16 times their basal metabolic rate. That ratio for the Griffon Vulture is only 1.43; they’re efficient flyers.

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TO JOIN OR RENEW. If you would like to join the Hampton Roads Bird Club or renew your membership, there are several convenient ways to do so. Dues remain at \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for families. New members, and anyone whose information has changed, please complete the form below and send to John Adair, HRBC Treasurer. Submit your application and payment as follows:

- 1) Mail to: John Adair, 109 Nansemond Turn, Yorktown, VA 23693, adairjj@gmail.com.
- 2) Drop off at: Wild Wings Nature Store, Glendale Shopping Center in Newport News.
- 3) Drop off at: Wild Birds Unlimited, Kiln Creek Parkway in Yorktown.
- 4) Pay by PayPal or credit card at: <https://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org/membership>.

Hampton Roads Bird Club – Membership Form

New Member (F/I) _____ Renewal _____ Date: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: H: _____ C: _____ W: _____

Email(s): _____

Only check this box if you need the newsletter delivered via the postal system; HRBC is trying to save trees and reduce club expenses by using email.

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