



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC)

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org and on Facebook

Vol. 67, No. 3

January/February 2019

January 10 Meeting
6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program
at Sandy Bottom Nature Park

Citizen Science, Birding, and Virginia
By Jeff Wright

Climate change is having an impact on seasons, birds, and plants across Virginia. We all love to observe birds in our yards and neighborhoods. What can we do to help “Nature’s Pairing” of birds and habitats? The presentation explains how we can fine tune yards and neighborhoods with features and plantings to attract, enjoy, and help a wider variety of birds while sharing observations about birds and their habitat to help science and conservation within Virginia. Following the meeting, Jeff will stay to answer questions and assist with learning about Citizen Science opportunities and App programs used for Citizen Science. Jeff will also provide a link to a hand-out listing the programs and opportunities discussed in the presentation.

Jeff Wright is a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist and is the Past President of the Northern Neck of Virginia Master Naturalist Chapter. He is the VP of the Friends of Dragon Run where he also volunteers as a kayak guide. Formally on the Board of Directors of the Northern Neck Audubon Society, he is now a member of the Middle-Peninsula Birding Club, the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), the North American Blue Bird Society (NABS), and the Northern Virginia Audubon Society (NVAS).

Information/scheduling from Pete Peterman

Hosted by Tom Charlock. We’d like to have two other members to lend a hand. To help call Jane Frigo (757-873-0721 or birderjane@gmail.com)

February 14 Meeting
6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program
at Sandy Bottom Nature Park

Birding Alaska
By Pete Peterman

The program will provide photos of birds and mammals that Pete and Charm saw on their June 2018 trip. Birding locations included Anchorage, St Paul Island in the Pribilofs, Denali National Park, Nome, Seward in the Kenai Fjords National Park, and Barrow, the northernmost town in the US, 320 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Some of the shorebirds identified are also seen in Hampton Roads but not in their brilliant breeding colors. Many Alcids were seen with several species using the cliffs of the Pribilof Islands to have their young.

Pete is the Vice-President of the HRBC and is a member of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Virginia Bluebird Society. He has birded in several parts of North America as well as Hawaii, the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Columbia, Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, Lisbon, and the Mediterranean coast of Spain.

Hosted by Brian Magill, Elizabeth Wilkins/Jacques Van Montfrans, and Dianne Snyder.



Long-billed Dowitcher (by Pete Peterman)



Female Hooded Merganser, Lake Biggins, Dec. 11, 2018 (by Dianne Snyder)

Sylvan Heights Bird Park in Scotland Neck, North Carolina is an amazing place. It has one of the



Male Hooded Merganser, Lake Biggins, Dec. 11, 2018 (by Dianne Snyder)

HRBC Outdoors Jan.-Feb.

Regular bird walks in Newport News Park

First and third Sundays each month 7:00 AM. Meet at big parking lot behind Ranger Station.

Leader: Jane Frigo

757-873-0721 or birderjane@gmail.com

Field Trip to Sylvan Bird Park (this page)

Saturday, 9:00 AM, January 19, 2019

Leader: Andy Hawkins

andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com

Winter Bird Count in Newport News Park

(page 3)

Saturday, 7:00-10:00 AM, January 26, 2019

Leader: Jane Frigo

757-873-0721 or birderjane@gmail.com

Field Trip to Back Bay/False Cape (page 3)

Saturday, 7:00 AM, February 16, 2019

Leader: Andy Hawkins

andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com

largest collections of waterfowl and other birds in the world. They are generally kept in natural settings, rather than cages, and in January most should be in breeding plumage. We will meet at Huntington Park in the lot closest to the beach, on Saturday January 19 at 9:00 AM. We will leave at 9:15 AM and carpool to Scotland Neck, a 1 ½ hour to 1 ¾ hour drive over mostly pleasant countryside, and then have lunch at a local BBQ restaurant. We should arrive at the Park around noon and spend two to three hours. There will be an \$11.00 entrance fee, \$10.00 dollars for seniors.

I highly advise you to go to their website (shwpark.com). Sylvan Bird Park is not an opportunity to miss, for I know of no similar facility nearby. You will see birds from all over the world in natural settings; and have splendid photo opportunities. We will see many of our regular winter waterfowl visitors up close with great views. There will be a good bit of walking but for an additional fee, a guided tour in a golf cart can be arranged. Reservations for a cart tour need to be made in advance. If you are interested in the cart tour, let me know, and I will get you in contact with each other.

andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com

Field Trip to Sylvan Bird Park in North Carolina Saturday, 9:00 AM, Jan. 19, 2019

By Andy Hawkins

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From John Adair, HRBC Treasurer:
"Please submit your annual dues,
it's expected every September."



Golden-crowned Kinglet, Newport News Park,
Nov. 4, 2018 (by Dianne Snyder)

**Winter Bird Count
in Newport News Park
Saturday, 7:00-10:00 AM,
Jan. 26, 2019**

By Jane Frigo

If there is interest, the club will again sponsor a Winter Bird Count at Newport News Park on Saturday, January 26, 2019, from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Seeing how easy ebird is, I would like to have 5 groups submit their data by ebird. Contact me (757-873-0721 or birderjane@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating and if you are interested in being responsible for one of the 5 sectors. Details can be discussed during the January 10 meeting at Sandy Bottom.

The support of scientific birding is a central thrust of HRBC. In December and in May, we lead counts for each species over the entire lower Peninsula in some 13 designated, but still fairly large, sectors. Our two-Sunday-a-month bird walks over a portion of NN Park provide other useful records, but they are different: The Sunday walks simply list the species seen or heard and not the numbers of each. The fairly new 5-sector Winter Count cuts the HRBC “home base”, NN Park, into finer pieces *and* it numbers the birds. Objective analysis by way of such slicing and dicing can show the way to more effective sampling and better science.



Downy Woodpecker, Newport News Park,
Nov. 4, 2018 (by Dianne Snyder)

*“Thank You”, to the makers of our
Holiday Party:*

*Dianne, Charm, Jane, Susan..
+ Phyllis, Keith and Blake*

**Back Bay Tram Ride to
False Cape State Park
Saturday, 7:00 AM, Feb. 16, 2019**

By Andy Hawkins

We will meet at Bass Pro in Hampton at 7:00 AM and will leave at 7:15 AM heading for Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (BBNWR) in Virginia Beach. We will bird around the Visitors Center until 8:50 AM or so, and the tram will pull out at 9:00 AM. BBNWR has huge, controlled ponds to attract migrating birds, and we are mostly confined to the tram when traversing the Refuge. The tram is open so dress accordingly. As in years past, we are generally free to walk once we reach False Cape State Park. We’ll stop the tram along the way to view waterfowl, hike to the beach and return to the Visitors Center at 1:00 pm. There is an \$8.00 charge per person for the mandatory tram ride. This trip is a great way to see wintering waterfowl and other animals. *The trip is limited to 24, so a waiting list will be started if 24 is reached.* Sign up at the

meetings or contact Andy Hawkins
at andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com

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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, Virginia 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 Glendale Shopping Center in Newport News, or at Wild Birds on Kiln Creek Parkway in Yorktown. 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 6:30 PM.

Hampton Roads Bird Club – Membership Form

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check this box to receive newsletter via email/website instead of hard copy by mail.

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