



# Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

***Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC)***

[www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org](http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org) and on Facebook

Vol. 70, No. 5

May/June 2022

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

Zoom Session starts at 7:00 PM

Shawn will email program  
and internet link to members

**Saturday, June 4 End of Year Picnic**  
**Noon Arrival      12:30 PM Meal**  
at the Parker Pavilion  
of Sandy Bottom Nature Park

By Jane Frigo

It has been two years since the club has gotten together for a picnic. We are going to plan a gathering on Saturday, June 4, 2022. To simplify things, we will not be grilling, but will rather be doing a cover dish. Please choose between an appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert to serve at least 8 people. The club will provide paper products, ice and sweetened or unsweetened tea. This should provide a good variety of food and a great opportunity to sample something different. Please call me and say you

1. plan to attend,
2. indicate the number coming and
3. let me know what you plan to bring.

I will keep a list to avoid having multiples of the same dish. So, mark your calendars for noon on June 4, 2022, Sandy Bottom Parker Pavilion; eat at 12:30 PM, gather before and after to socialize. When you do call me, please inform if you are interested in helping with set up or clean up. We already have someone bringing a delicious Tuxedo cake! Jane Frigo home 757-873-0721, cell 757-776-7925, [birderjane@gmail.com](mailto:birderjane@gmail.com)



"We were all delighted to see a Hooded Warbler on the way back from the swamp bridge." By Dianne Snyder. Sunday walk on 4/17/2022 in NN Park.

## Videos of Previous HRBC Meetings and Presentations

Provided by Shawn Dash

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkDqOZ\\_RpFU&list=PLUrDUn\\_m7oPxG\\_huCXYaI1J-Gp-0e8rFZ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkDqOZ_RpFU&list=PLUrDUn_m7oPxG_huCXYaI1J-Gp-0e8rFZ)



## HRBC Outdoors

Because of Covid-19, all HRBC outdoor events require minimum social distancing of 6 feet. Groups larger than 8 will be divided; this requirement can cause “first-come/first-served” circumstances. Face covering is needed and must be worn if distancing cannot be maintained. Carpooling and sharing of equipment are not allowed. Failure to comply will result in immediate cancellation of the event.

### Regular Bird Walks in Newport News Park

7:00 AM on 1st and 3rd Sundays all 12 months, unless the city schedules a special mass event. Meet at big parking lot behind Ranger Station. Leader: Jane Frigo [birderjane@gmail.com](mailto:birderjane@gmail.com) home 757-873-0721, cell 757-776-7925

### HRBC Spring Big Day (see page 3)

May 7, 2022

Leader: Dave Youker [youkerd@aol.com](mailto:youkerd@aol.com) 757-344-9385

### Field Trip to Sandy Bottom (see page 3)

6:30 AM Sunday, May 15, 2022

Leader: James Abbott [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com) 757-320-9191 (text or phone)

### End of Year Picnic (see page 1)

Noon on Saturday, June 4, 2022

Leader: Jane Frigo [birderjane@gmail.com](mailto:birderjane@gmail.com) home 757-873-0721, cell 757-776-7925

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## President's Perch

### Help Needed

By Shawn Dash

The Hampton Roads Bird Club needs your help if you are not interested in a position in the leadership of the club. I need you to step up and take on a role to collect emails for votes prior to our May 12 meeting. It would be best if you were also a member who would attend the in-person meeting, but we can have two co-chairs of the elections committee where there needs only one member to attend. WE MUST HAVE AN ELECTIONS COMMITTEE (of members who are not already serving as elected

leaders) to help with this part of the decision process. My email is [drshawndash@gmail.com](mailto:drshawndash@gmail.com).

While Covid-19 did impact some activities of the club we maintained meetings, surveys, walks, and field trips. I am asking you to help keep this institution running. The leadership is a team; while we are now without a Vice President, a position that helps with finding speakers, the leadership aids me in those pursuits. While posting to social media Michael Myer (Publicity) has done an outstanding job and I supplement his efforts with my own postings or #hamptonroadsbird club on my various social networks. This statement is to underscore we have been a team, and if you were worried about the responsibility, we all do better when we work together. I am personally asking you to consider helping with the club, working with hospitality, or leadership, or maintaining the club as a board member. We just need some other hands to help us lift and march this wonderful organization forward. PLEASE consider a position as Vice President or Publicity- Michael would like to help the club as a board member (or honestly run for any office you are interested in, all holders of positions were willing to step aside). Jane is seeking aid with Hospitality as Dianne steps back. All of these are much-needed positions, and you will have my support if I am elected president frankly you will have my support if I am not elected president.

Please, this club was started in 1951 and is a fundamental component in the celebration of natural history in the area we need your involvement. You have always had a voice, had a place, and a set of binoculars waiting for you. I ask you to give a bit of your time to the club by seeking election to one of the needed positions.

**President** Shawn T. Dash

**Vice President** *position vacant*

**Treasurer** John Adair

**Secretary** William Boeh

**Board (7/20-6/23)** Walter Harris

**Board (7/21-6/24)** Katrina Dash

**Board (7/22-6/25)** *Michael Meyer applying*

**Field Trip Coordinator(s)** James Abbott

**Web Editor(s)** Wendy and Ellis Maxey

**Hospitality** Jane Frigo *co-chair sought*

**Newsletter** Tom Charlock

**Publicity** *position falling vacant*

**Membership** Gwen Harris

## Field Trip to Sandy Bottom - a Migrating Warbler Hotspot.

**6:30 AM Sunday, May 15, 2022**

By James Abbott

The May Field Trip will be on Sunday May 15 in our own home base of Sandy Bottom Nature Park in Hampton. Sandy Bottom is a great migrating warbler hotspot and many species have been observed there. We will meet at the Nature Center Parking Lot at 6:30 AM. Peak activity will be in the morning until about 10:00 AM. We will work hotspots within the park trying to see as many migrants as possible. As always you can contact me at [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com) or 757-320-9191.

As with our previous big days, *bird anywhere in Virginia* and record the total number of different species observed on that day. When you're finished birding for the day, send me your list of species (no need to include the number of individuals for each) and I'll consolidate into a big day list for the entire club. If you're a regular ebirder, simply share your ebird entry for May 7 in Virginia with me.

This is intended to be a fun birding event, so get out there and have some fun birding. Bird with other club members; or by yourself; while traveling around VA; or simply in your backyard. Bird for a few minutes, a few hours, or all day...every species matters. Last spring the club recorded 132 different species.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at [youkerd@aol.com](mailto:youkerd@aol.com) or 757-344-9385.



Jason Strickland with Marilyn and John Adair (photo by Dianne Snyder). All four participated in the Tabb sector of the HRBC Spring Count organized by Bill Boeh on April 16, 2022.

## HRBC Spring Big Day of Birding May 7, 2022

By Dave Youker

Mark your calendars with 7 May as the 2022 HRBC Spring Big Day of Birding. May is a great month for birding, as both our resident birds and those migrating through are in full breeding plumage.

## Report of Field Trip to Hog Island (4/23/2022)

By James Abbott

The Hampton Roads Bird Club April Field Trip was at Hog Island on Saturday (4/23/2022). Our group of seven birders met at 7:00 AM and headed through the gate into Hog Island. We tallied 62 species between 7:00 AM and noon. We had great views of Orchard Oriole, Prairie Warbler, and Great Crested Flycatcher. We also had exciting close views of White-eyed Vireo (WEVI) breeding behavior. We saw one WEVI nest under construction and one complete nest with a bird incubating eggs. Bald Eagle numbers were very high and active, and we flushed two Bobwhite Quail. Despite higher water levels, we did have some shorebirds including both Yellowlegs and Least Sandpiper. The best bird of the day was the pair of Black-necked Stilt towards the end of the main road.

Species list for (4/23/2022)

Canada Goose	American Crow
Mallard	Fish Crow
American Black Duck	Tree Swallow
Northern Bobwhite	Barn Swallow
Pied-billed Grebe	Carolina Chickadee
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Black-necked Stilt	Carolina Wren
Killdeer	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Least Sandpiper	Gray Catbird
Spotted Sandpiper	Brown Thrasher
Solitary Sandpiper	Northern Mockingbird
Lesser Yellowlegs	American Goldfinch
Greater Yellowlegs	Orchard Oriole
Laughing Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
Least Tern	Brown-headed Cowbird
Caspian Tern	Common Grackle
Royal Tern	Black-and-White Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Prothonotary Warbler
Great Blue Heron	Common Yellowthroat
Black Vulture	Pine Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Osprey	Prairie Warbler
Bald Eagle	Northern Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher	Indigo Bunting
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Eastern Towhee
Great Crested Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Eastern Kingbird	Savannah Sparrow
Eastern Phoebe	Song Sparrow
White-eyed Vireo	Swamp Sparrow
Blue Jay	White-throated Sparrow



Hooded Mergansers by Lynn Chandler  
(Tie 1st place for March)

From Lynn Chandler: “As always photos were taken with my Nikon Coolpix B500. The Hooded Mergansers were swimming right off my back deck on the South Branch of Salter's Creek in downtown Hampton.”

## HRBC Photo Contest Winners March and April 2022

Photo contest manager Michael Meyer reports “Many great images submitted for the March contest! Committee concluded that a four-way tie for gold was in order:

Lynn Chambers - Hooded Mergansers  
Rochelle Colestock - Whimbrel  
Laura Mae - Brown Thrasher  
Pete Peterman - Brown Creeper

“April photo contest winners:

Gold - Pete Peterman - White-breasted Nuthatch  
Silver - Lynn Chambers - Downy Woodpecker”



Whimbrel by Rochelle Colestock  
(Tie 1st place for March)

From Rochelle Colestock: “The picture was taken on 21(1/21/2022) at San Geronimo Creek-Estero Bluffs, California using a Nikon Coolpix 0900 camera. This was during an intensive birding trip in San Luis Obispo County on the central coast of California.”



Brown Thrasher by Laura Mae  
(Tie 1st place for March)



White-breasted Nuthatch by Pete Peterman  
(1st place for April)

From Laura Mae: “Uncharacteristically silent! This was one of two Brown Thrashers together in a bush at a lake's edge behind office buildings. I photographed them after work on (3/21/2022) in Chesapeake.” <https://ebird.org/checklist/S105326815>”

From Pete Peterman: “The White-breasted Nuthatch was taken at Newport News Park on (3/5/2022) on our regularly scheduled bird walk. The group was gathering at the Discovery Center picnic tables for our feast that Jane Frigo provides after our walk to the Swamp Bridge, and a group of birds consisting of Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-throated Sparrow and the White-breasted Nuthatch came begging for peanuts. I took this photo of the Nuthatch looking for a handout. I used the Nikon D500 using the 200-500 mm lens at the 320 position at 1/640 sec at f/5.6 with ISO 450.”



Brown Creeper by Pete Peterman  
(Tie 1st place for March)



Downy Woodpecker by Lynn Chandler  
(2nd place for April)

From Pete Peterman: “The Brown Creeper was taken on the White Oak Trail in Newport News Park on (2/20/2022) during our regularly scheduled bird walk. It was taken with a Nikon D500 using a 200-500 mm lens at the 500 mm position at 1/1000 sec af/5.6 with an ISO of 500.”

From Lynn Chandler: “The Downies just love my homemade, no-melt suet which is a recipe from a club member years ago (Joyce). The suet hangs inside a larger cage right outside my back deck door.”

## Rules for the HRBC photo contest:

1. Each member may submit up to 2 photos taken in the last 60 days each month.
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](mailto:michael.meyer@cnu.edu)) by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **Warming drives half of long-term change in European birds**

Concerned about a decline in the population of your favorite species of migrant warbler at Sandy Bottom? Is it mostly due to global warming (the airline CO<sub>2</sub> from your neighbor's last 30,000 km big year) or the delicious brew that you ground up this morning (the new coffee plantation decided to clear cut rather than grow shaded beneath a natural forest canopy)? Might be hard to answer now. But six Australian and European scientists have attempted to split the impacts of climate from "other" sources of change on bird characteristics. They've cut some ice.

First author Nina McLean used a mine of quality data: several decades of detailed citizen science records from the UK and the Netherlands, two countries with strong birding cultures. The team concentrated on 60 species and just three traits, egg laying date, offspring number and body condition. This involves the judicious interpretation of time series. By diagnosing partial derivatives of the three factors for each species with respect to year, the authors tried to parse the change of the traits with time due to "temperature pathway" versus "other pathway" (various not-separately quantified effects of agriculture, urbanization, predation, pollution, etc.).

For most reported species, the laying date moved earlier. But the Long-eared Owl is now generally laying eggs later; and by both the temperature pathway and the other pathway, the number of offspring for this species is increasing. And for the Common Redstart (unrelated to the American Redstart), the same two pathways also increased the offspring count over time.

"Across species, approximately half of the magnitude of changes in traits could be attributed to rising mean temperature, suggesting that increasing temperatures are likely the single most important contributor to temporal trends and emphasizes the impact that global warming is having on natural populations. There were also substantial nontemperature-related temporal trends (presumably due to other changes such as urbanization), which generally caused trait change in the same direction as warming."

The results appeared in an American journal. Holler if you want the pdf.

N. McLean, L. Kruuk, H. van der Jeugd, D. Leech, C. van Turnhout, and M. van de Pol, Warming temperatures drive at least half of the magnitude of long-term trait changes in European birds. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 119. (2022)

<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2105416119>

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## **Correction to** **2021 Christmas Bird Count Participants**

By Bill Boeh

In the March-April newsletter I provided Tom with the 2020 list instead of the 2021 list. Below is the correct list of 2021 participants by sector. Sorry to all for the error! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [dolphrog1@yahoo.com](mailto:dolphrog1@yahoo.com)

### **Airport**

**Harry Colestock**  
Rochelle Colestock  
Rex Holmlin\*

### **Chesapeake**

**Ellis Maxey**  
Wendy Maxey  
Laura Mae\*

### **Ft. Monroe**

**Bryan Barmore**  
Sharon Burton  
Melody Avery\*

### **Grandview**

**Nick Flanders**  
Cary Koronas  
Pete Peterman  
Stuart Sweetman  
Bill Williams

### **Hampton**

**Heidi Young\***  
**William Boeh**

### **Harpersville**

**Jane Frigo**  
Caroline Herath\*  
Marc Nichols  
Hannah Montalvo

### **Harwoods Mill**

**Meredith Bell**  
John Adair  
Marilyn Adair

### **Langley**

Mark Sopko  
Alicia Garcia

### **Mariner's Museum**

**Peggy Waterfield**  
Elisa Enders  
Angela Herring

### **Mercury North**

**Dave Youker**  
Tracy Tate

### **Newport News**

**Michael Meyer**  
Cindy Schulz

### **Poquoson**

**Betsy Garrett**  
Andrew Horton  
Holly Horton  
Wally Horton  
April Solitro  
Marjorie Schenck

### **Tabb**

**Andy Hawkins**  
Cory Davis\*

### **Feeder Watchers**

Barb Abraham  
Tom Charlock  
Shawn Dash  
Phyllis Simonetta

**Bold** denotes Sector leader/co-Leader

\* - New participant

President	Shawn Dash.	drshawntdash@gmail.com	915-491-6227
Secretary	William Boeh	dolphrog1@yahoo.com	757-951-7959
Treasurer	John Adair	adairjj@bunt.com	757-224-8920
Board: (7/19-6/22)	Barbara Abraham	araknophyl@cox.net	757-244-0767
Board: (7/20-6/23)	Walter Harris	walthh2@gmail.com	757-898-8649
Board: (7/21-6/24)	Katrina Dash	<a href="mailto:kmdash4@gmail.com">kmdash4@gmail.com</a>	915-471-1287
Field Trip Coordinator	James Abbott	<a href="mailto:jaa3469@alum.uncw.edu">jaa3469@alum.uncw.edu</a>	757-320-9191
Field Trip Coordinator	Marc Nichols	<a href="mailto:mnichols@hampton.gov">mnichols@hampton.gov</a>	757-825-4835
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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](mailto: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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