



# Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

**Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC)**

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

Vol. 74, No. 5

May-June 2026

**Thursday, May 14 Meeting**  
**6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program**  
Sandy Bottom Nature Park

TBD for Program and Speaker

**Brenda Tanner and Jeannie Atkins send a special "Thank You" to those who have brought snacks to our meetings and Sunday walks.**

If you cannot attend the May 14 meeting, but still plan to attend the picnic, please email [jeannie.and.harold@icloud.com](mailto:jeannie.and.harold@icloud.com) or text (757-287-3985) Jeannie Atkins. Please include (1) your name, (2) that you're a member of HRBC, and (3) the type of dish that you plan to bring, and (4) the number of people in your party. Remember to bring binoculars. We'll be right on the water with hopefully some good birding! Thank you.

**Saturday, June 6 Annual Picnic**  
**12:00PM Arrival 12:30 PM Lunch**  
Newport News Park  
**Not at Sandy Bottom!**

By Jeannie Atkins and Brenda Tanner

A new location for the HRBC picnic this year! We're going to be at Newport News Park, Shelter #4 on Saturday, June 6. A map is further below; just look for the yellow arrow. Please bring your favorite dish at 12:00 PM; lunch will begin at 12:30 PM.

We'll pass around a signup sheet at the May 14 meeting. Think about what you would like to bring and choose between a salad, vegetable, meat or dessert. We won't have electricity to keep a dish warm, so if you decide to bring hot food, please use an appropriate container. The club will provide tablecloths, plates, napkins, and beverages.





Northern Gannett at Huntington Beach State Park in South Carolina in February by Dianne Snyder

## HRBC Spring Bird Count Saturday, May 2, 2026

By James Abbott

The Hampton Roads Bird Club has been conducting a Spring Bird Count since 1995. Please join us in being part of this citizen science effort to support bird conservation (all observations are uploaded to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology via the eBird). It's great fun and a great way to be introduced to some of the best birding sites in our region, and you'll be building your bird identification skills as well.

### HRBC Outdoors

**Regular Bird Walks in Newport News Park** 7:00 AM on 1st and 3rd Sundays of all 12 months, but not for the 1st Sunday of March, when we gather the previous Saturday. 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 Bird Spring Bird Count**  
Saturday, May 2, 2026

Contact your sector leader for time  
Leader: James Abbott [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com)  
757-320-9191 (text or phone)

**Field Trip to western Virginia mountains**  
May 29-31, 2026

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

**Annual Picnic at Sandy Bottom**

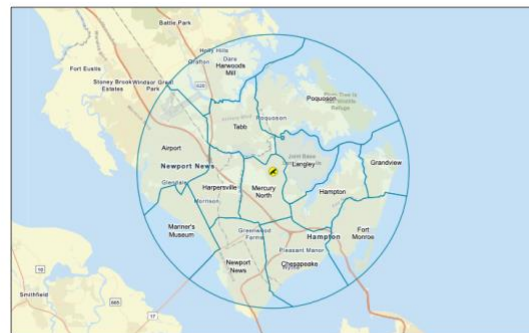
12:00 PM Saturday, June 6, 2026  
Inform Jeannie of what dish you'll bring.

Leaders:  
Jeannie Atkins  
[jeannie.and.harold@icloud.com](mailto:jeannie.and.harold@icloud.com) 757-287-3985

Brenda Tanner [brtanner@hotmail.com](mailto:brtanner@hotmail.com)  
757-867-8407

Participants count birds in the field or by feeder-watching. The field count is conducted within a 15 mile-radius circle divided into 13 sectors. The typical count spans most of the day, but some counts only go for a few hours; if you're not able to stay for the entire count, you're still welcome. Don't hesitate to join if you don't feel you're proficient enough at identifying birds - field counts are led by our more experienced birders. You can contribute by adding more eyes and ears to help detect the birds for identification (and counting).

If you are interested in participating, please email me at [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com) and let me know how you'd like to participate (in the field or by feeder-watching) and if you have a preferred sector to work in. I can put you in contact with the leader of that sector. Map of the sectors is provided.





Male Purple Finch in Gloucester during March by Dianne Snyder

## **Western Virginia Mountain Birding Weekend May 29-31, 2026**

By James Abbott

This year we will be holding our first Mountain Birding Weekend. We will be visiting three premier birding locations each with different target species. We will visit sites in Highland County, VA targeting rare breeders such as Golden Winged Warbler, Alder and Least Flycatchers, Black Billed Cuckoo and Magnolia Warbler. We will ride up to Briery Branch Gap and Reddish Knob which are the breeding locations of Veery, Blackburnian Warbler, Red Crossbill, and Mourning Warbler. Finally, we will drive down [Warbler Road](#) which is a series of gravel roads that drops from the Blue Ridge down to the James River and is legendary for Cerulean and Canada Warbler.

Our central location will be the Staunton area where we will be staying and gathering to carpool etc. There are a couple different ways we can schedule this weekend. One site per day, Friday, Saturday, Sunday; or we can do Highland and Briery on Saturday and Warbler Road on Sunday. I am planning to be up there starting on Thursday evening but I am flexible with what works best for participants. If participation is high, we will break into multiple groups and rotate through sites as none of them are suitable for very large groups. The mornings will be

early and the days long but there will be plenty of birds to make up for it.

If you are interested in joining this trip please email me at [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com) and indicate which itinerary you prefer. This will help me with planning.

## **Face-to-face Meeting with Local VA House of Delegates on the Environment**

7:00 PM, May 20 at Sandy Bottom

HRBC's April 8 Zoom presentation on the plans for Fort Monroe by its new CEO, Scott Martin, was regarded by attendees as outstanding. Scott seeks to bring more of nature (vegetation, birds, and mammals) back to Fort Monroe. He reports back to Governor Spanberger in 6 months. The plan could use our political support. On May 20, the public is invited to meet with 6 local members of the Virginia House of Delegates; the meeting runs from 7:00-8:30 PM at Sandy Bottom in the usual hall used by HRBC. This is an opportunity to get our views to elected representatives. It will be a public meeting hosted by the York River Group of the Sierra Club.

Topic: Meet Your State Delegates  
Date and Time: Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in-person only  
Location: Sandy Bottom Nature Park, Nature Center Conference Room  
Program: Local VA State Delegates will speak about their priority legislation from the General Assembly Session 2026, which ended on March 14, to include environmental and environmental justice topics.  
Speakers Invited: Delegates Mark Downey HD 69, Shelly Simonds HD 70, Jessica Anderson HD 71, Marcia "Cia" Price HD 85, Virgil Thornton HD 86, and Jeion Ward HD 87. These state delegates represent areas of the lower Virginia Peninsula, including or parts of Hampton,

Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, and Counties of York, James City, New Kent, and Gloucester.

Hosted by: York River Group, Sierra Club  
Refreshments will be offered, including a cake to celebrate these elected officials who kindly serve the public.

Contact: Tyla Matteson, Chair, York River Group Sierra Club,  
[tmatteson1@mindspring.com](mailto:tmatteson1@mindspring.com) 804-275-6476

## Photo Contest Winners March-April

By Michael Meyer

### March



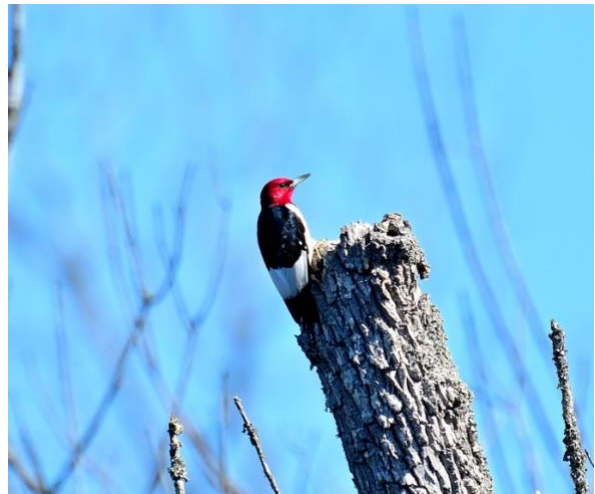
Cedar Waxwings  
Gold by William McKellar

William: "I was doing my usual backyard birding when I stumbled across a group of Cedar Waxwings. I decided to watch the group for possible photo opportunities. Just a few minutes later, I spotted two waxwings courting on a nearby branch. I quickly turned my camera and fired away; it was over as quickly as it started."



Fox Sparrow  
Silver by Bill Boeh

Bill: "Taken Saturday, February 28 during the club's Newport News Park walk at the Ranger Station. The bird appeared to be warming up in the morning sun, which illuminated him very nicely!"



Red Headed Woodpecker  
Bronze by Pete Peterman

Pete: "... taken at our first bird walk at NN Park, held on Feb 28 due to the First City Marathon."



Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Honorable Mention by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: "Yellow-rump warbler took a long rest on my deck after eating some peanut butter; otherwise I would never had gotten the shot! Picture taken on Saturday, January 24th at 12:02pm."



Pied-billed Grebe  
Silver by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: "Pied-billed Grebe was taking a rest all day long on my raft. Took me awhile to identify this bird; I have not had one on Salter's Creek since 2019. Picture taken on Tuesday, February 17th at 1:02pm."

## April



Wood Ducks  
Gold by Pete Peterman

Pete: "...taken at the NN Park on April 5 at our scheduled Bird Walk led by Jane."



Pileated Woodpecker  
Bronze by Pete Peterman

Pete: "...taken at the NN Park on April 5 at our scheduled Bird Walk led by Jane. The Pileated WP was jumping down to the branch."

Here are the photo contest rules: A member may submit up to 2 photos each month taken in the last 60 days.

Name each file with the photographer and the bird's name (i.e., ShawnDash\_Osprey).

Submit to Michael Meyer ([michael.meyer@cnu.edu](mailto:michael.meyer@cnu.edu)) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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.

### **Record of HRBC Bird Walks in Newport News Park**

By Jane Frigo and Bill Boeh

This has links to eBird reports for 2026 events.

Date	Location	eBird Report Link
Feb 28	NN Park	<a href="https://ebird.org/tripreport/482398">https://ebird.org/tripreport/482398</a>
Mar 15	NN Park	<a href="https://ebird.org/tripreport/489089">https://ebird.org/tripreport/489089</a>
Apr 5	NN Park	<a href="https://ebird.org/tripreport/497734">https://ebird.org/tripreport/497734</a>
Apr 19	NN Park	<a href="https://ebird.org/tripreport/502749">https://ebird.org/tripreport/502749</a>

### **Science on the Fate of Large, Flightless Birds on Islands during the Quaternary**

We're familiar with sound reports in recent years describing a great reduction in the population of the numbers of birds in the USA during the past half century. But a peer review study led by Prof. Shai Meiri of Tel Aviv University documents the vanishing of about 10-20% of all avian species in the last 20,000-50,000 years.

Prof. Meiri: "We conducted a comprehensive review of scientific literature, and for the first time collected quantitative data on the numbers and traits of extinct species of birds worldwide. Those that became extinct in the last 300 years or so are relatively well known, while earlier species are known to science from remains found in archaeological and paleontological sites worldwide. Altogether we were able to list 469 avian species that became extinct over the last 50,000 years, but we believe that the real number is much higher."

Meiri of course points out the culprits. Us, our domestic animals, and our unwelcome hangers on like rats.

Thank you to Science Daily.

Amir Fromm, Shai Meiri, Jenny McGuire. Big, flightless, insular and dead: Characterising the extinct birds of the Quaternary. *Journal of Biogeography*, 2021; DOI: [10.1111/jbi.14206](https://doi.org/10.1111/jbi.14206)

President	Shawn Dash	<a href="mailto:drshawntdash@gmail.com">drshawntdash@gmail.com</a>	915-491-6227
Vice President	Mark Sopko	<a href="mailto:mgsopsopko@gmail.com">mgsopsopko@gmail.com</a>	804-815-2897
Secretary	William Boeh	<a href="mailto:phrogdolph@gmail.com">phrogdolph@gmail.com</a>	757-951-7959
Treasurer	John Adair	<a href="mailto:adairji@gmail.com">adairji@gmail.com</a>	757-224-8920
Board (7/22-6/28)	Michael Meyer	<a href="mailto:michael.meyer@cnu.edu">michael.meyer@cnu.edu</a>	757-303-4790
Board (7/23-6/26)	Pete Peterman.	<a href="mailto:rwpeterman@verizon.net">rwpeterman@verizon.net</a>	757-766-8658
Board (7/24-6/27)	Dianne Snyder.	<a href="mailto:dianne5657@cox.net">dianne5657@cox.net</a>	757-872-6747
Board (former Pres.)	Dave Youker	<a href="mailto:youkerd@aol.com">youkerd@aol.com</a>	757-344-9385
Field Trip Coordinator	James Abbott	<a href="mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com">jaa3469@gmail.com</a>	757-320-9191
Sunday Walk Leader	Jane Frigo	<a href="mailto:birderjane@gmail.com">birderjane@gmail.com</a>	757-776-7925
Web Editor	Wendy Maxey	<a href="mailto:emaxey@verizon.net">emaxey@verizon.net</a>	757-483-3003
Web Editor	Ellis Maxey	<a href="mailto:emaxey@verizon.net">emaxey@verizon.net</a>	757-483-3003
Hospitality	Brenda Tannner	<a href="mailto:brtanner@hotmail.com">brtanner@hotmail.com</a>	757-867-8407
Hospitality	Jeannie Atkins	<a href="mailto:jeannie.and.harold@icloud.com">jeannie.and.harold@icloud.com</a>	757-287-3985
Publicity	Vacant		
Newsletter Editor	Thomas Charlock	<a href="mailto:tomcharlock@gmail.com">tomcharlock@gmail.com</a>	757-746-9190
Membership	Gwen Harris	<a href="mailto:gwenkharris65@gmail.com">gwenkharris65@gmail.com</a>	757-898-8649

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, [adairji@gmail.com](mailto:adairji@gmail.com).
- 2) Drop off at: Wild Wings Nature Store, Glendale Shopping Center in Newport News.
- 3) 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.

---

*Editor (T. Charlock)*  
 Hampton Roads Bird Club  
 22 Executive Drive  
 Newport News, Virginia 23606-2225