



# Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

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

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

Vol. 67, No. 1

September/October 2018

**September 13 Meeting**  
**6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program**  
at Sandy Bottom Nature Park

## **Feeding the Birds** By Teta Kain

If you are trying to attract birds to your backyard, you won't want to miss Teta Kain's presentation "Feeding the Birds." Teta will discuss different types of feed to use and what birds are attracted to each. She'll show you different types of feeders and which ones work the best. She'll mention special tricks that not only help to attract a greater variety of birds year round but also how to help keep the birds safe from predators as they feed. Mixed in with all of this are some of Teta's funny and unusual moments she's experienced trying to photograph birds in their natural and unnatural habits.

Teta has been a wildlife photographer for over 40 years, and has traveled extensively, photographing everything from bugs to birds. Since she and her husband arrived in Virginia in 1978, Teta has been involved with many nature and environmental organizations. She was president of the Hampton Roads Bird Club in the late 1980s, and was compiler of the Newport News Christmas bird count in the early 1990s. Over a 27-year period she served on the board of the Virginia Society of Ornithology as president, secretary, chairman of the state bird records committee (VARCOM), and editor of the state's bird journal, *The Raven*. She received the Society's Myriam P. Moore award for outstanding service in 2008.

*Information/scheduling from Pete Peterman*

**Hosted By** Shawn Dash, Marilyn Adair, and Tom Charlock

**October 11 Meeting**  
**6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program**  
at Sandy Bottom Nature Park

## **What to Do If You Find an Injured/Orphaned Wild Bird** By Susan Morris

The program will give guidelines for what to do when one finds an injured, orphaned or otherwise in-need - of - human - intervention wild bird, from hatchlings to adults, with some brief suggestions on dealing with State and Federal authorities whose job it is to protect wild birds, torture rehabbers, and terrify good Samaritans.

Susan has been a wildlife rehabilitator for about 15 years, with a Federal license for rehabbing wild birds. She created and began the family mediation program in Portsmouth Juvenile Court, where she combined family mediation with rehabbing and retired some three years ago from her private business. Susan along with her husband Lee are members of HRBC.

*Information/scheduling from Pete Peterman.*

**Hosted By** Gwen Harris, Pete Peterman, Bill Boeh



La Perdix rouge (G.-L. Leclerc)

## HRBC Outdoors Sept./Oct.

### Regular bird walks to Newport News Park

First and third Sundays every month 7:00 AM.

Meet in big parking lot behind Ranger Station.

Ad hoc leader: Stuart Sweetman

[nnva4x4@aol.com](mailto:nnva4x4@aol.com) 757-660-6590

Convalescing leader: Jane Frigo

[birderjane@gmail.com](mailto:birderjane@gmail.com) 757-873-0721

### Field Trip to Craney Island (this page)

Wednesday, 10:30 AM, September 5, 2018

Andy Hawkins [andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com)

cell 757-870-9641

### Field Trip to Sandy Bottom (this page)

Saturday, 6:30 AM, September 15, 2018

Andy Hawkins [andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com)

cell 757-870-9641

### Field Trip to Eastern Shore (page 3)

Saturday, 6:30 AM, October 20, 2018

Andy Hawkins [andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com)

cell 757-870-9641

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## An Appreciation from Recovering Birder Jane

THANK YOU! I want to take a moment to thank the many members who have showed me such kindness and concern during my recent accident. I have been overwhelmed by the multitude of visits, calls, flowers, etc. I assure you I am healing and eagerly look forward to being mobile again. I would like to say a special "thank you" to Stuart Sweetman for taking over the Newport News Park Sunday walks. I have heard nothing but praise for his leadership. I feel blessed to be a part of this club. Sincerely, Jane Frigo.



Rubis-éméraude (G.-L. Leclerc)

## Field Trip to Craney Island Wednesday, 10:30 AM, Sept. 5, 2018

by Andy Hawkins

Jason Strickland has arranged a September 5 field trip to Craney Island in Portsmouth. Craney is a restricted area with very, very limited access, just across the M & M tunnel. We are limited to 25 members only and will need to carpool. If you are interested, please email me as soon as possible. The first 25 will be added to a list; then a waiting list will be started.

Shore birds are in the middle of their fall migration, and there is nowhere else in Virginia to observe them like the odd moonscape of Craney Island. The chance to see life birds is high. We will see shore birds in the thousands, along with waders and various songbirds. Some waterfowl may be around, but it is a bit early for ducks. Be warned, however, that Craney is loaded with mosquitoes. We'll drive to a few sites in the restricted area and hike little, but the short slopes providing access to the best views can be fairly steep.

We will meet at the Hampton Bass Pro, in the south eastern parking lot at 10:30 AM Wednesday and leave by 10:45 AM. If you are meeting us at Craney Island, you need to be at the gate by 11:15 AM. Parking at Craney is limited. My email is [andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com), cell is 757-870-9641, and Jason's is 757-739-6939.

The Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) and Williamsburg club are also going. If you are already signed up with them, please don't be greedy but let me know; and I will contact you if there is room with HRBC. Please email me for questions. Thanks again to Jason for lining up a special trip.

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## Field Trip to Sandy Bottom Saturday, 6:30 AM, Sept. 15, 2018

by Andy Hawkins

Our regular September outing will be to Sandy Bottom Nature Park in Hampton which is an overlooked jewel. September can be a great month for migrating songbirds, especially warblers, at Sandy Bottom. On Saturday, September 15 we will

meet at the parking lot near the restrooms at 6:30 AM. Then we'll head quickly to the southwestern corner of the trail, where the pine trees set up a great feeding area for warblers. Here we will have a great view of the wetlands and can pick up migrating shorebirds. After a couple hours we will travel to Messick Point to check out any shorebirds. My email is [andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com), cell is 757-870-9641, and Jason's is 757-739-6939.

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## **Field Trip to Eastern Shore Saturday, 6:30 AM, October 20, 2018**

By Andrew Hawkins

Saturday October 20, we will meet at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel (CBBT) South Parking lot at 6:30 AM, leaving shortly for the Eastern Shore and Northampton County. The Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, Kiptopeke, Magothy Bay Natural Area Preserve, and other sites will also be on the agenda. We probably will meet at Bass Pro at Hampton on the Peninsula early to carpool. More information will follow in club emails, but if you have any questions email Andy Hawkins at [andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcurtishawkins@gmail.com).

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## **Your Hospitality Committee Needs Your Favorite Snacks!**

By Dianne Snyder

The club has a social period just before each monthly meeting from 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM. This is a great time to snack, talk about the birds you have seen, and get to know some of our new members. The club provides table cloths, napkins, paper plates, and cups as well as ice, water, and lemonade. We (the Hospitality Committee, consisting of Jane Frigo and myself) need you to bring the snacks.

We need three people scheduled to bring snacks each month. It is helpful to talk with your fellow snack providers and decide what to bring, so we don't end up with three dishes of the same thing. A great idea is to provide something *salty* such as chips or pretzels, something *sweet* like cookies, and something *healthy* for those folks on restricted diets such as veggies/dip or cheese and crackers.

It's pretty easy: just pick up or fix your favorite snack and bring it in. The table will be already set up for you! For those whom are creative, you are welcome to jazz up the table with your own decorations. Just remember to bring any utensils needed such as serving spoons or plastic spoons and forks. **Also be sure to take any leftovers home.**

The board members will provide snacks for the September and October meetings. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September meeting for members to provide snacks for meetings from November through May.



Visiting former HRBC member Anthony Nixon with his sister and ever quiet Hobbs (by Dianne Sawyer)

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## **The Missing VEEP of 6/9/18 Annual Picnic at Sandy Bottom**

In the USA, there's hardly been a day since he assumed office, during which many Americans would have reported a conspicuous absence of the current President from the public view.



However, in the Hampton Roads Bird Club, we often find evidence of the vanishing of our world travelling *Vice* President, Pete Peterman. If you doubt the frequency of such a disappearing act by the HRBC VEEP, consider the following line up, which shows the officers and committee leaders installed at the June 9 Annual Picnic at Sandy Bottom: Pete ain't there. Did he get confused and show up instead in Newport News Park, where the Picnic has been held during previous years?



8:00 AM by taking the serious birders on a walk about the grounds.



Susan Maples, Dianne Snyder, and Stephanie Thomas at Sandy Bottom

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### Report of Field Trip on 5/12/18 to Richmond's James River Park

We've been able to account for Gwen Harris (Membership), Dave Yourker (Board), Walt Harris (Board), Andy Hawkins (Field Trips), Bill Boeh (Secretary), Shawn Dash (President), Katrina Dash (Publicity, with *future* VEEP), Ellis Maxey (Web Editor), Jane Frigo (Hospitality), Tom Charlock (Newsletter Editor), Dianne Snyder (Hospitality), Brian Magill (Board), Wendy Maxey (Web Editor), Jason Strickland (Field Trips), and John Adair (Treasurer).

With some effort, a search of the deep state (aka the various Boards of York County) uncorked the location of Peterman. VEEP Pete was then birding in Alaska, but also lining up presenters for the club meetings for September through May of 2018-19, while remotely encouraging Dianne and Jane to wrangle an organizing committee for the 2018 Annual Picnic. All busy, the whole lot of 'em.

And the rest of us appreciated the results – a good time with good food on June 9. Jason had led off at

This excursion began with the formation at 6:00 AM of a convoy in Newport News Park. The Reedy Creek Trail parking lot on the south bank of the James in Richmond was nearly jammed on arrival. Temperature and dew point were initially in the high 60s, while cloudiness was variable with light winds from the west and south all morning. Jason Strickland led Jane Frigo, Harry and Rochelle Colestock, Phyllis Roth, Lisa Rose, Stuart Sweetman, Matt Betts, Dianne Snyder, Ellis Maxey, Joe and Mary Clarke, Tom Charlock and Don Brunk upstream on a warbler hunt

While few songbirds could be sighted in the dense vegetation, those with experienced ears were more pleased. Near the elevated pedestrian railroad crossover at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street parking lot, Stuart spotted a Swainson's Warbler, and Jane saw a Scarlet Tanager. Tulip poplars were in bloom, about which Blackpoll Warbler, Northern Parula, and Downy Woodpecker were seen.

By 10:00 AM, we were back at the cars for a refreshing light meal. It had warmed to 80 degrees. Over 50 species were then on the list. Heading toward Belle Isle on the Buttermilk Trail, Jason spotted a Magnolia Warbler among a cluster of berries. A light breeze provided some relief as we hiked on the wood-paved footbridge high over the wet boulders. There we saw Cliff Swallows (but fewer were nesting than last year), Osprey, Canada Geese and a few Great Blues at distance.



An escarpment along Reedy Creek Trail

Near midday at Belle Isle itself, the intermittent direct sun and a temperature in the high 80s proved a scorcher. The gang fragmented. Lisa pointed out a hawk in a large clump of low vegetation under the Lee Bridge; Stuart identified it as a juvenile Red Tailed. It was a good day overall for birding, but the birders had not yet acquired their sea legs for the summer heat.

Jason Strickland's eBird list  
James River Park  
Sat May 12, 2018 7:29 AM  
Duration 2 hour(s) 46 minutes

Canada Goose  
Mallard  
American Black Duck  
Mourning Dove  
Chimney Swift  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Great Blue Heron  
Cooper's Hawk  
Bald Eagle  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Eastern Phoebe  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Eastern Kingbird  
White-eyed Vireo  
Warbling Vireo  
Red-eyed Vireo  
Blue Jay  
Fish Crow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Cliff Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Eastern Bluebird  
Swainson's Thrush  
American Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Cedar Waxwing  
American Goldfinch  
White-throated Sparrow  
Orchard Oriole  
Baltimore Oriole  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
Common Grackle  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
American Redstart  
Northern Parula  
Magnolia Warbler  
Blackpoll Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Scarlet Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting



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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 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. **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.

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**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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