



# Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

*Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC)*

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

Vol. 66, No. 5

May/June 2018

## May 10 Meeting

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

**"Colombia, A Key Country for Our  
Neo-Tropical Migrants."**

Presenter: Pete Peterman

Colombia has the most species of any country in the world, over 1900, and represents 18% of all bird species. The program will cover the migrants that were observed during a March trip to the country, the history and current situation of Bird Conservation in Colombia, and provide photographs of some of the Endemics, Near-Endemics, and other bird species of interest.

**Hosts:** Charm Peterman, Richard Hudgins, and Rochelle Colestock



Tennessee Warbler and Blue-naped Chlorophonia  
(photo by Pete Peterman)

**June 9 Annual Picnic**  
**Meal 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Early Bird Walk 8:00-10:00 AM**  
at Sandy Bottom Nature Park  
(Parker Pavilion)

By Jane Frigo

This year we are changing things up! We will be meeting at Sandy Bottom Nature Park instead of Newport News Park. We have reserved the Parker Pavilion which is located closest to the canoe launch. As in previous years, the club will provide paper products and hamburgers and hot dogs. Members are asked to bring something to share (appetizer, side dish, dessert or drinks/ice). Also, those coming will need to indicate the number and preference for hot dogs or hamburgers. Sign up at the May 10 meeting or call Jane Frigo (757-873-0721) by June 1, so we know how many to expect and what to buy. Lastly, anyone willing to help with planning, set up, cooking or clean up can sign up at the meeting or call Jane Frigo. Thanks ahead of time to everyone who has helped make the Hampton Roads Bird Club a success.



Le Sifilet, Ambassador of HRBC Hospitality, sincerely appreciates the consideration of those who've provided snacks for regular meetings.

## HRBC Outdoors May/June

### Regular bird walks to Newport News Park

First and third Sundays of every month 7:00 AM.

Meet in big parking lot behind Ranger Station.

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

### Audubon Spring Count (this page)

Saturday, May 5, 2018 in several Peninsula sectors.

William Boeh [dolphrog1@yahoo.com](mailto:dolphrog1@yahoo.com) (757) 766-2144

### Trip to Richmond's James River Park (page 3)

Saturday, 6:00 AM, May 12, 2018. Meet in NN Park

to carpool. Jason Strickland 757-739-6939.

### Annual Picnic & Walk at Sandy Bottom (page 1)

Saturday, June 9, 2018. Walk 8 AM, picnic 11 AM.

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

### Fourth Sunday Beginner's Walk at Lion's Bridge

Sunday, 7:00 AM, June 24, 2018.

James Abbott [jaa3469@alum.uncw.edu](mailto:jaa3469@alum.uncw.edu)

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## The President's Perch

By Shawn Dash

The club has pushed to take a more active role in the community and members have donated their time for education and outreach events. Such events are very important as they build the club's mission in the community, serve to educate others on issues we are interested in (such as protecting and observing birds), and perhaps like the last activity at the middle school inspire someone to join the "hobby." This area of the club is something I think we should work harder to participate in; we are all busy, but a few hours may honestly make a difference. As some members will know, I am teaching a Conservation Biology course this semester, where most of our time is spent worried about the future of the planet and in discussions on how to save species. E. O. Wilson's solution is the Half-earth (worth reading that book) proposal, wherein such times when humans are causing the 6th greatest extinction of species we need dramatic actions to set aside half the earth for biodiversity. Regardless of the political, social, scientific, religious, and other arguments for

or against, it is clear that we need something more. We have a platform where we interact with others and perhaps just chance encounters will build up a front in favor of conservation. We, as members of the Hampton Roads Bird Club, need to use our power, which we do a great job on with monthly meetings, field trips, weekend walks, and our few outreach events. Another area that we have pushed is that related to the second breeding bird atlas of Virginia. I am happy so many have become involved in an important study. I encourage you over the next two months to become active in searching for breeding bird behaviors and documenting those sightings via the Breeding Bird Atlas portal on eBird. Again, if you missed how to log your entries at our last club field trip, please note the information is available online and is just like eBird, but with the ability to select behaviors via a drop-down menu. Our time and efforts are deeply needed to help complete the data gathering for this project, and we have the ability to make a serious contribution to understanding Virginia Birds, but also what is occurring to birds in general in the world. There was a recent study published focused on primate conservation and in that paper, given the number of researchers, the total effort of time was equal to over 150 years. So, if just 24 members completed the two hours of sampling that is two days' worth of observations. May and June will be an active time for our birds and great months to be outside before the heat of summer rolls into the tidewater. I encourage you to keep being deeply engaged and giving of yourselves to the club and to our avian friends

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## Audubon Spring Count

Saturday, May 5, 2018

By Bill Boeh

We are getting down to (or beyond) the wire for some of the 13 sectors covering the lower Peninsula for this annual springtime ritual. The count has already been made for a few of them. It's one of our principal contributions to citizen science. If you'd like to participate, please contact me for referral to a sector leader. William Boeh [dolphrog1@yahoo.com](mailto:dolphrog1@yahoo.com) (757) 766-2144.

## Field Trip to Richmond's James River Park

**Saturday, 6:00 AM, May 12, 2018**

By Andy Hawkins

Jason Strickland will lead a trip to the James River Park in Richmond concentrating on warblers and spring migrants. We will meet and form car pools in Newport News Park, at the parking lot near the Ranger Station (same as Sunday morning bird walks). We'll gather at 6:00 AM and leave by 6:15 AM. Why so early? To catch the Richmond warblers at their best. Bring water, snacks and bug spray. If you wear shorts, be wary of the area's spring crop of poison ivy on narrow trails. There will be some moderate walking. This is usually a very productive and worthwhile excursion with scenic views of whitewater. Jason's number is 757-739-6939. Please contact him for any further information, as I will be away for much of the month.

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### Committee, Officer, and Board

By Virginia Boyles and Phyllis Roth

Greetings. We are the "mighty" nominating committee, charged by President Dash to encourage HRBC volunteers to serve as Officers and Members of the Board and Committees listed on the last page of this newsletter. The people on that page run much of the Official club, and you will *not* find our names among them. Why? Because the nominating committee should not consist of Officers or Members of the Board. We do it this way to prevent the latter group from becoming a self-perpetuating clan. (We do, however, concede to them the honor of capital letters in this article.)

Board Members stand for a three-year term. This season Andy Hawkins will rotate off the Board. He'll be replaced by Brian Magill, a relative newcomer to HRBC. This will be accomplished at the May 10 meeting, and the coming year's slate of Officers, etc. will be installed at the June picnic.

## Report of Field Trip on 4/21/18 to the Great Dismal Swamp NWR

By Stuart Sweetman



Prairie Warbler (by Dianne Snyder)

At the last HRBC meeting in Sandy Bottom, I announced an ad hoc April field trip to the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Suffolk, Va. An excursion to the swamp during spring migration is a favorite for many and a bit of a tradition for the club. The swamp is a unique place, full of special habitats for migrating species en route to their distant nesting grounds, as well as an opportunity to see resident species that call the swamp their home during the spring and summer months. The swamp has canals and many water-filled ditches, but also trails that offer great hiking and diverse scenery with all types bird and mammal life for everyone to enjoy.



Prothonotary Warbler (by Dianne Snyder)

We visited both Jericho and Washington Ditch on the Suffolk side of the refuge. The club participants were not disappointed with great views of fan favorite Prairie Warbler, which seemed to be in every tall tree, as well as the gorgeous Hooded Warbler. A singing Black-throated Green Warbler thrilled us all by revealing himself high up in a not-yet-leafed-out tree. Our group of 12 tallied 10 Warbler species. The total of 48 species for the day included Wild Turkey, a dozen of which were in a roadside field on the drive to the swamp. A quick stop by 4 from the group, to Loan Star Lakes city park in Suffolk, yielded a Royal Tern fishing the lake; and a happy Red-Tailed Hawk carrying a freshly caught mouse. The weather turned out great, and the birds were out making the trip enjoyable for all that attended. Lists of participants and bird species are given below.



Prothonotary Warbler (by Dianne Snyder)

Participants: Stuart Sweetman, Dianne Snyder, Stephanie Thomas, Jane Frigo, Phyllis Simonette, Emmylou Kidder, Harry and Rochelle Colestock, Bill Boeh, Lori Palagyi, and Don and Laurie Brunk

Wild Turkey	White-eyed Vireo	Cedar Waxwing
Great Egret	Red-eyed Vireo	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black Vulture	Blue Jay	Black-throated Green Warbler
Turkey Vulture	American Crow	Pine Warbler
Red-shouldered Hawk	Purple Martin	Prairie Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Palm Warbler
Royal Tern	Barn Swallow	Prothonotary Warbler
Barred Owl	Tufted Titmouse	Ovenbird
Chimney Swift	White-breasted Nuthatch	Louisiana Waterthrush
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Carolina Wren	Common Yellowthroat
Belted Kingfisher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Hooded Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	White-throated Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	Northern Cardinal
Hairy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird
Pileated Woodpecker	Gray Catbird	Common Grackle
Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Mockingbird	American Goldfinch



## **2017 Audubon Christmas Bird Count Results**

By Bill Boeh

Well, I'm finally providing a report on the 2017 Christmas Bird Count. While it does seem late in coming, I had to wait until our data were reviewed and confirmed by the Audubon regional editor—which was done just this month. So here goes:

On Saturday, Dec 16, 2017, the Hampton Roads Bird Club conducted its 67<sup>th</sup> Audubon Christmas Bird Count. HRBC members (with the help of some non-members) served as “citizen-scientists” and collected data that are vital for bird conservation. Let me hereby recognize the efforts of the following participants, who logged over 17 hours feeder-watching, 213 volunteer hours in the field, 34 miles on foot, and 213 miles in cars:

William Boeh, Barb Abraham, John Adair, Marilyn Adair, Sam (F) Askin, Bryan Barmore, Meredith Bell\*, Charlotte Boudreau, Dave Brown\*, Sharon Burton\*, Harry Colestock, Rochelle Colestock, Mary Copeland, Nick Flanders, Elisa Flanders\*, Jane Frigo\*, Alicia Garcia, Angela Herring, Ken Lipshy, Bill McCallough, Hannah Montalvo, Victoria Mottwell, Marc Nichols, Pete Peterman, Ned Rose, Phyllis Roth, Dorothy Silsby, Dianne Snyder, April Solitro, Mark Sopko\*, Stuart Sweetman, Tracy Tate, Jacques vanMontfrans, Peggy Waterfield, Elizabeth Wilkins, Hayes Williams\*, Joyce Williams, Bill Williams, and Dave Youker\*.

\*Sector leader

According to Audubon, the data collected by folks like these over the past century has allowed Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys, such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years. This long-term perspective is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and it helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well. These data help substantiate the need to keep protections in place like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act—both of which are under consideration for weakening or outright repeal by Congress.

Efforts like these are ever more critical today with increasing threats to birds such as habitat loss and climate change. Results of the count by sector follow:

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Total Birds</b>	<b>Total species</b>
Airport	645	53
Chesapeake Ave.	464	37
Ft. Monroe	1324	52
Grandview	3578	82
Hampton	882	59
Harpersville	1258	58
Harwoods Mill	2530	62
Langley	1098	61
Mariner's Museum	1524	52
Mercury North	1376	58
Newport News	425	22
Poquoson	487	40
<b>Count Circle Totals</b>	<b>16441</b>	<b>114</b>

Impressive numbers, no doubt! However, for perspective, both the total birds and total species counts were a little lower than the 2007-2016 average of 19952 and 117.8, respectively. That said, the weather of our 2017 effort wasn't great, with an average temperature of about 38 degrees Fahrenheit and winds of 17 miles per hour.

Once again, let me express my gratitude for those who volunteered their time to this effort. And, please, when I come looking for volunteers this fall, please sign up to help conserve the birds!

For more information about the CBC visit the Audubon's CBC web page:

<http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>



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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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