



# Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

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

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

Vol. 70, No. 3

January/February 2022

**Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022 Meeting**  
**7:00 PM using internet Zoom**  
(Shawn will email link to members)

## **Variability of Winter Birds in Virginia**

By James Abbott

Our field trip director will cover the whys and hows of irruptions and seasonal movements.

### **Notice of the February Meeting of the Club Will Be Coming Soon.**

President Shawn Dash will inform members by email of the link to the February meeting, which will also use internet Zoom. Also keep an eye on HRBC Facebook and our web page [www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org](http://www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org)

## **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.

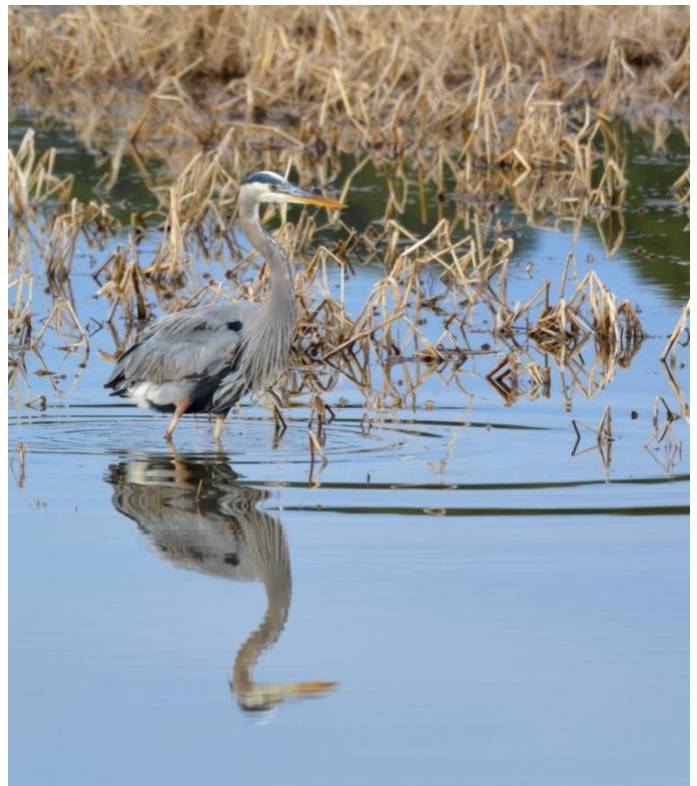
### **Regular Bird Walks in Newport News Park**

7:00 AM on 1st and 3rd Sundays all 12 months  
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

**Field Trip to Grandview** (see page 2)  
7:30 AM Saturday, January 22, 2022  
Leader: James Abbott [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com)  
757-320-9191 (text or phone)

**NN Park Winter Bird Count** (see page 2)  
7:00 AM Saturday, January 29, 2022  
Main leader: Jane Frigo [birderjane@gmail.com](mailto:birderjane@gmail.com)  
home 757-873-0721, cell 757-776-7925

**Field Trip to Back Bay/False Cape** (see page 2)  
8:30 AM Saturday, February 12, 2022  
Leader: James Abbott [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com)  
757-320-9191 (text or phone)



Great Blue Heron in Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland (by Shawn Dash)

## **Field Trip to Grandview Nature Preserve**

**7:30 AM Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022**

By James Abbott

The next Hampton Roads Bird Club outing will be on Saturday, January 22, 2022, to Grandview Beach in Hampton. We should expect to see a variety of birds especially our winter waterfowl and associate species. Species such as Snow Bunting and Snowy Owl have been observed here in the past.

We plan to meet at the entrance gate at 7:30 AM. There is street parking area on the right in front of the entrance. Participants should dress warmly as the wind off the bay will make it colder. You can walk as much of the beach as you want to. A scope is recommended if you have one. You can search Grandview Nature Preserve trail access in Google Maps or use these GPS coordinates to the parking:

37.079112, -76.277544

My email is [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com) and my cell number is 757-320-919. Please email me or leave me a message if you intend to join.

## **Newport News Park Winter Sector Bird Count**

**7:00AM Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022**

By Jane Frigo

The Hampton Roads Bird Club is going to continue the Newport News Park Winter Bird Count. This count is like the Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) where numbers of individual species are counted. Since Newport News Park does not fall into any CBC circles and the regular twice-monthly walks only tract species, not numbers of individuals, this activity can provide information about the health of populations. This year's count will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2022. The Saturday date is being chosen to encourage participation by those club members who are unable to attend the regular Sunday walks.

As in previous years, there will be 5 sectors, each with a leader who is responsible for keeping the count on their ebird account and then sharing it with the HRBC ebird account. Bill Boeh, our club compiler, can then access the information from all 5 sectors. The sectors are:

Section 1: Campground

Section 2: West of Constitution Ave. (Ranger Station Lakeside)

Section 3: East of Constitution Ave. (Arboretum/Discovery Center)

Section 4: White Oak Trail (Swamp Bridge to Spawning Pawn)

Section 5: Golf Course/Bluebird Trail

Contact me by phone or email (home 757-873-0721, NEW CELL 757-776-7925, [birderjane@gmail.com](mailto:birderjane@gmail.com)) if you are interested. Indicate the section you would prefer and if you would be willing to keep the ebird list. Participants will meet at the large shelter by the Ranger Station at 7:00 AM to review assignments. The groups will return to the shelter by 10:00 AM to share the morning's sightings. I will provide coffee, donuts and bagels. This is an easy, fun activity that can be conducted safely under the COVID restrictions.

## **Field Trip on Back Bay Tram and False Cape State Park**

**8:30 AM Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022**

By James Abbott

On Saturday February 12, 2022, the HRBC Back Bay Tram Ride Returns! We have reserved the tram from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Arrive at the Back Bay Visitors Center at 8:30 AM. As in years past this trip has a fee of **\$8.00 CASH ONLY**. Please bring it with you to the visitor center. This trip also has a capacity limit of 24 participants.

We will leave Back Bay Visitors Center at 9:00 AM and ride to False Cape State Park. We will then have a short hike to the beach and ride back. Along the way we will have the opportunity to see many winter

waterfowl especially Tundra Swan along with loons, ibis, rails, and shorebirds. There are other short hikes around the Visitor Center to do before or after the trip as well as Little Island Pier to have a chance to see Gannet and Razorbill.

The tram is open and **WILL** be cold, so dress accordingly in layers and bring blankets. A snack and drinks are a good idea as well.

To sign up for this trip please send an email to [jaa3469@gmail.com](mailto:jaa3469@gmail.com) to be added to the list. If you can no longer make it for any reason, please let me know so I can update availability. I will send you a confirmation email and have emails sent out to the club with updated availability of seats.

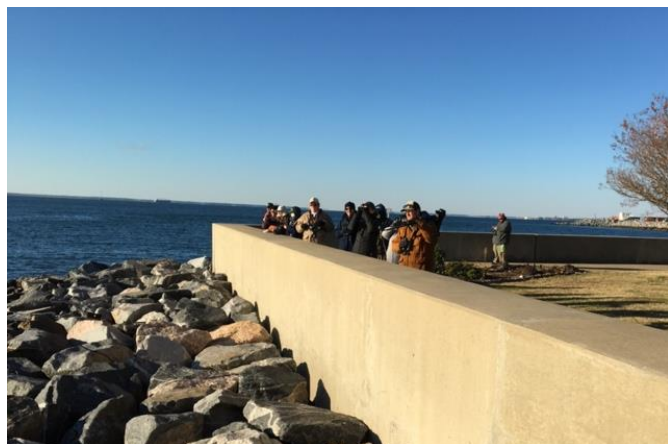
Species list (35) for Fort Monroe (11/27/2021)

Bufflehead	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Horned Grebe	Cooper's Hawk
Rock Pigeon	Bald Eagle
Mourning Dove	Belted Kingfisher
Ruddy Turnstone	American Crow
Sanderling	Fish Crow
Laughing Gull	Sedge Wren
Ring-billed Gull	Northern Mockingbird
Herring Gull	Eastern Bluebird
Great Black-backed Gull	American Goldfinch
Forster's Tern	White-throated Sparrow
Common Loon	Song Sparrow
Northern Gannet	Eastern Towhee
Double-crested Cormorant	Eastern Meadowlark
Brown Pelican	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Blue Heron	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Turkey Vulture	Northern Cardinal
Osprey	

**Report of Field Trip to Fort Monroe (11/27/2021)**

By James Abbott

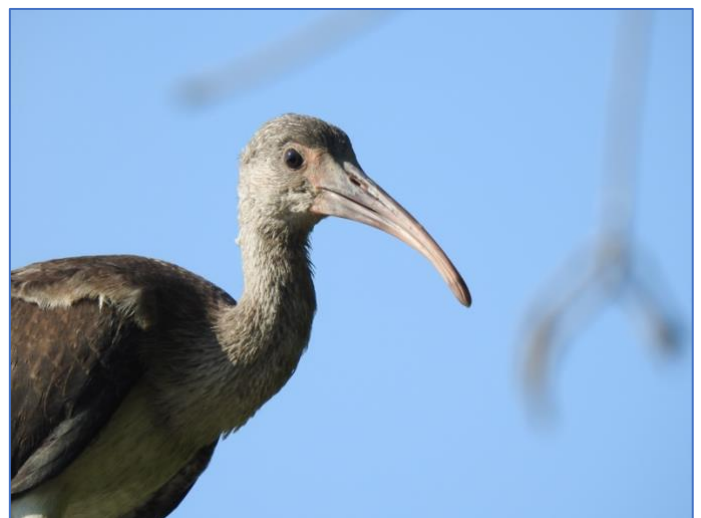
The Hampton Roads Bird Club had a field trip on November 27, 2021, to Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia. Weather was cold but clear. Our group met at the Phoebus Waterfront Park, drove to several locations on the fort and walked the bay wall. Winter bird activity was just picking up, and we observed Bufflehead and Horned Grebe alongside Brown Pelican. The first Northern Gannet have started to arrive along with Common Loon. Our best birds of the day were a Ruddy Turnstone in a flock of Sanderling on the rock jetty at Outlook Beach and a Sedge Wren in a grassy tangle at the very northern tip of the fort past the campground.



At the seawall near the Chamberlin. North island of HRBT in right background. James Abbott is closest and Shawn Dash is farthest.

**HRBC Photo Contest Winners November-December 2021**

Michael Meyer, our contest honcho, has announced the most recent medals list: Laura Mae gold, Pete Peterman silver and Lynn Chandler bronze for November; Pete garners gold and Laura silver in December.



White Ibis  
(by Laura Mae, 1st place November)

Laura Mae: "This White Ibis photo was taken in September at the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge. Several of us had just enjoyed an early morning walk on the Butterfly Trail, and we decided

to pop down to the marsh overlook. Moments after arriving, this young Ibis flew far... over the marsh and then turned around and flew right TO us! It then perched on a nearby branch while we took photos. I used a Canon P900. The close encounter was both odd and wonderful at the same time!”



Golden-crowned Kinglet  
(by Pete Peterman, 2nd place November)

Pete Peterman: “The Golden-crowned Kinglet was photographed at Cattus Island County Park in New Jersey on October 17. The park has a mixed forest with marsh land. There were several kinglets in the area but this one was happy to have its photo taken. I used a Nikon D500 with a 200-500mm lens, an exposure of 1/400 of a second with an ISO of 220.”



Black-crowned Night Heron  
(by Laura Mae, 2nd place December)

“This Black-crowned Night Heron photo was taken during our Club's Newport News Christmas Bird Count on December 18. Wendy and Ellis Maxey and I were walking in our Hampton sector when we stopped to talk with a homeowner. We told the homeowner about our Christmas Bird Count and asked if he had seen any birds we should count. He told us about mallards and some Great Blues. Then he mentioned a heron that was smaller than the Great Blues and walked us over to the tree where it was often seen. Sure enough, the heron (photographed here with a Canon P900) was there. We explained that this species generally migrates south during our winter, making this bird an important bird to count!”



Red-headed Woodpecker  
(by Pete Peterman, 1st place December)

“The Red-headed WP was photographed at NN Park on November 21. I again used a Nikon D500 with the 200-500mm lens, an exposure of 1/1000 of a second with an ISO of 640. He was very interested in that area of the tree, and I just had to move around to get a good shot.”

## Raptors Using Meteorology for Migration Over Ocean

Remember Katie Fallon's presentation to HRBC on the Turkey Vulture? The wily bird's habit of rocking while soaring is partly a search for updrafts to provide more economical flight. The updrafts can be quite small, as those generated by low level breeze striking a grove of trees.

New research by Elham Nourani and a score of others (many at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior and the University of Konstanz in Germany) present evidence that five other species of raptors instinctively use large scale updrafts, as well as tailing winds, during seasonal migrations over open ocean. "The birds maximized wind support when selecting their sea-crossing routes and selected greater uplift when suitable wind support was available." 40 years of global meteorological analyses based on equations of classical fluid mechanics and thermodynamics – plus great computer power and gobs of satellite and additional data – were employed. Regions of ocean updrafts were identified using an algorithm that accounted for the difference between the temperature of the sea and the air.

Science Daily has a good summary at <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/09/210907203917.htm>

Elham Nourani, Gil Bohrer, Paolo Becciu, Richard O. Bierregaard, Olivier Duriez, Jordi Figuerola, Laura Gangoso, Sinos Giokas, Hiroyoshi Higuchi, Christina Kassara, Olga Kulikova, Nicolas Lecomte, Flavio Monti, Ivan Pokrovsky, Andrea Sforzi, Jean-François Therrien, Nikos Tsiopelas, Wouter M. G. Vansteelant, Duarte S. Viana, Noriyuki M. Yamaguchi, Martin Wikelski, Kamran Safi. **The interplay of wind and uplift facilitates over-water flight in facultative soaring birds.** *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, 2021; 288 (1958): 20211603 DOI: [10.1098/rspb.2021.1603](https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2021.1603)



Spotted Sandpiper

(by Lynn Chandler, 3rd place November)

Lynn Chandler: "Spotted Sandpiper was walking my seawall. Photo taken with my Cool PIX B500 Nikon40x." Lynn lives along Salter's Creek, a western branch of the Hampton River near the city's downtown.

Thank you, photo contest participants. Those keen winning pieces help sharpen our birding skills by taking us through a light drill of remembered field marks. And your written remarks - while about equipment, landscape and species with which we cannot converse - bring us a nudge closer to the indoor chats that this challenging Covid period unfortunately rations by necessity.

A repeat of the rules of submission 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

President	Shawn Dash.	drshawntdash@gmail.com	915-491-6227
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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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