



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC)

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org and on Facebook

Vol. 71, No. 5

May/June 2023

Thursday, May 11 Meeting
6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program
Sandy Bottom Nature Park

Election of Officers, Board
and Committee Leads

Presentation TBD

Sunday, June 11 End of Year Picnic
Noon Arrival 12:30 PM Meal

Parker Pavilion
of Sandy Bottom Nature Park

By Jane Frigo

This year our picnic will be on Sunday instead of Saturday because of scheduling problems. As we did last year, we will not be grilling, but will 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, tea and water. Last year this provided a good variety of food and a great opportunity to sample something different. I will keep a list to avoid having multiples of the same dish. There will be a sign-up sheet at the May 11 meeting or you can call, text or email me to let me know if you plan to attend and the number coming (spouse, family etc), and what you plan to bring. So, mark your calendar for noon on Sunday, June 11, Sandy Bottom Nature Park, Parker Pavilion; eat at 12:30 PM, gather before and after to socialize. Jane Frigo birderjane@gmail.com
home 757-873-0721, cell 757-776-7925



Mandarin Duck

By Dianne Snyder from Lynn Chandler's yard in Hampton on March 6, 2023

COVID and HRBC

The Hampton Roads Bird Club membership is encouraged to receive vaccinations and boosters related to COVID. The club suggests everyone use caution to safeguard against potential exposure to COVID by practicing distancing, wearing masks and other established protocols for avoiding pathogen exposure. All members are encouraged to wear masks when inside at meetings and limit unknown persons when carpooling. Most importantly any individuals feeling ill, with a fever, or any typical flu or cold-like symptoms should NOT attend meetings, field trips, or Sunday morning walks. It is up to all members to be mindful of the health of others by staying home when appropriate, and to employ their own precautions.

HRBC Outdoors

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 home 757-873-0721, cell 757-776-7925

HRBC Spring Bird Count

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Leader: Bill Boeh phrogdolph@gmail.com
757-951-7959

Field Trip to James River Pk. Richmond

6:30 AM Sunday, May 7, 2023

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

End of Year Picnic at Sandy Bottom

Noon on Sunday, June 11, 2023

Leader: Jane Frigo birderjane@gmail.com
home 757-873-0721, cell 757-776-7925

HRBC Spring Bird Count Saturday May 6, 2023

By Bill Boeh

The date for this year's Spring Bird Count (SBC) will be Saturday, May 6. The HRBC has been conducting the SBC 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 application). 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.

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 are still welcome to participate. And don't hesitate to join in because 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).

Since COVID is still with us, I must provide the Hampton Roads Bird Club's COVID guidelines for field activities (such as the SBC): the club suggests everyone use caution to safeguard against potential exposure to COVID by practicing distancing, wearing masks and other established protocols for avoiding pathogen exposure. All members are encouraged to limit unknown persons when carpooling. Most importantly any individuals feeling ill, with a fever, or any typical flu or cold-like symptoms should NOT participate in a field event.

If you are interested in participating, please email me on how you'd like to participate (in the field or by feeder-watching), and if you have a preferred sector to work in. See page 7 for the sector map.

NOTE: As you may have noticed, I'm using a new email address: phrogdolph@gmail.com. Please update your contact list accordingly.



La Buse (Leclerc)

Field Trip to James River Parks System in Richmond 6:30 AM Sunday May 7, 2023

By James Abbott

On Sunday May 7, we will have a field trip to the James River Parks System in Richmond. This will be our opportunity to observe many of our true migrant warblers and many other songbird migrants. Target species are Cape May, Magnolia, Bay-breasted and Blue-winged warblers. We will meet at 6:30 AM at the Reedy Creek Trail parking lot (4001 Riverside Dr, Richmond, VA 23225 (37.523503, -77.470556). This address will get you to the intersection of Riverside Dr. and Hillcrest Rd. See the red mark in the image on the next page. We will walk the trails along the James River. For anyone who wishes to bird more, I will next be going over to Maymont across the river to look around for any migrants, depending on how the day goes. There may also be chances to continue to other park areas depending on reports from other groups.



We meet at the **red mark**.

The Richmond Audubon will be birding in a similar area on May 6 and 7. They are parking and using the area at 42nd Street up the road from us. As always, I can be reached at 757-320-9191 or jaa3469@gmail.com

We are invited to this public meeting:

Finding a Permanent Nesting Site for the Migrating Seabirds in Hampton Roads

7:00 PM Wed., May 17 at Sandy Bottom

Host: York River Group Sierra Club

Speakers include:

Rebecca Gwynn, Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

George Janek, US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District Regulatory Branch.

Organizer: **Tyla Matteson**
tmatteson1@mindspring.com,
(H) 804-275-6476

A temporary site has been set up at Fort Wool and on barges for the birds whose historic nesting site was eliminated with the expansion of the Hampton

Roads Bridge-Tunnel. This program will bring us up to date on plans that will allow the birds to be safe in this crucial part of the life cycle of their species. Most are classified as birds of greatest conservation needs and one, the Gull-billed Tern, is on the Virginia threatened species list. Others include Laughing Gulls, Snowy Egrets, American Oyster Catchers, Herring Gulls, and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Report of Field Trip to Hog Island (3/19/2023)

By James Abbott



Backs 100m from the shore of the James on the western portion of Hog Island

On March 19 the Hampton Roads Bird Club journeyed to the Hog Island Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Surry County, Virginia. It was cool and breezy, but there was lots of bird activity. The trip had 24 participants. We drove the main road through the WMA and walked some of the side roads. We observed 49 species with the highlights being great looks at American White Pelican, Tundra Swan, many Northern Shoveler, and two Northern Pintail. An early Pectoral Sandpiper along with some participant's lifer Horned Lark were additional exciting sightings.

The eBird link is <https://ebird.org/tripreport/108871> and it has the attendees, bird count, and 3 photos.

Report of Field Trip to Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (4/23/2023)

By James Abbott



Laura Mae and Lori Palagyi advise Jane Frigo on how to get her powerful green laser pointer back from James Abbott.

On Sunday April 23 we birded the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Our group of 12 started at the Washington Ditch Trail at 7:00 AM. The weather was sunny and cool with temperatures rising throughout the morning. The warbler activity was very high with lots of good looks at Ovenbird, Prothonotary, Northern Parula, and a great encounter with a Black-throated Green Warbler. The group encountered many first of season species such as Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Indigo Bunting, and Great Crested Flycatcher. Highlights along the Washington Ditch road included the close flyby of a Barred Owl and a closely perched Green Heron.

We continued the trip on the Jericho Ditch trail. We finally got good looks at several Swainson's

Warbler. We would also add Prairie Warbler to our list. A surprise species heard by a few trip participants and seen by trip leader James Abbott was a Sora in the Switch Cane wetland on the way into the Jericho Trail parking area. Outside of the birds there was an amazing concentration of high numbers of 4 species of butterfly on the ground in the parking lot after we wrapped up the trip.

The eBird report has the list of attendees, species and counts, and two photos of the Green Heron on Washington Ditch by Bill Boeh.

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/111069>



A high, but still comfortable viewing angle from the boardwalk at Washington Ditch.

Golf Course Bluebird Trail By Jane Frigo

I would like to make an appeal to the club to seriously consider helping with the golf course bluebird trail. This trail was established many years ago by club members Nan LaRue, Dot Silsby, Dot Mitchell, Harry Carlson and others, and has been maintained by the club. Andy Hawkins was the last

steward. With his recent move from the area no one has stepped forward to continue this tradition. With the increase of citizen science projects, many people are starting new trails. While very admirable, I think we need to think seriously about continuing to be responsible for trails once they are established. Money is in the club treasury to ensure funds are available to maintain this trail (poles, boxes, paint, etc.) Dot Silsby has let me know that she has the equipment we need in her basement. The Deer Run Golf Course has graciously allowed the club to use a golf cart to navigate the trail. Technically there are two bluebird trails, one on each of the courses. There are a total of over 100 boxes that need to be checked once a week from April through August. Please consider helping. birderjane@gmail.com

Photo Contest Winners

By Michael Meyer

March



Snow Bunting
Gold by Laura Mae

Laura: “This Snow Bunting was photographed at the Kiptopeke fishing pier February 11, 2023. It was first found 26 days earlier (January 16) by Judy Jones. Both times it was seen foraging there with a Song Sparrow. A couple days after this February sighting, more than a dozen Snow Buntings were seen on 69th and 85th Streets in Virginia Beach. Before that, the last report of this species in Kiptopeke appears to be November 2017 - March 2018.”



Merlin
Silver by Laura Mae

Laura: “This Merlin was photographed in Parksley, VA on the Eastern Shore on February 2023. I spotted this Merlin on a utility line in a church parking lot. I pulled into the church lot and snapped a few photos from my car - to minimize disturbance.”

April



Red-headed Woodpecker
Gold by Bill Boeh

Bill: “I took the picture during the Sunday park walk on April 2. The snag was along the shoreline adjacent to the White Oak Trail between the spawning pond and the Swamp Bridge. I was using my trusty Canon SX50.”



Red-tailed Hawk
Silver by Pete Peterman

Pete: "The Red-tailed Hawk photo was taken on March 3rd at the Arboretum at NN Park during our bird walk led by Jane Frigo. I used a Nikon D 500 with a Nikon 200-500 mm lens set at 500 mm and a f/ 5.6 aperture at 1/1250 sec and an ISO of 100. The hawk circled several times until I was able to get this shot."

Rules for the HRBC photo contest remain as

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) by the 10th 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.

Help Needed to Monitor Osprey Breeding Success

By Bill Boeh

A recent study undertaken by the William & Mary Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) found that "the osprey population within the main stem of Chesapeake Bay has an alarming productivity rate of 0.47 young/active nest. This rate is below the rate during osprey population crashes during the DDT era. The potential localized depletion of menhaden from industrial fishing plays a major role in the reproductive performance of ospreys. They mostly eat fish and are inextricably linked to menhaden availability."

The CCB requests the public's help in continuing the monitoring of nests to compile more data regarding the potential link of depleted menhaden stocks and reduced Osprey reproductive performance via the OspreyWatch project. See an explanatory video here: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=KUhko2hGNQw&feature=share>

If you'd like to participate in this effort, go to the OspreyWatch website: <https://www.osprey-watch.org/>



Bufflehead
Bronze by Lynn Chandler

Lynn: "Picture taken on March 9th at 8:30am off my deck on Salter's Creek downtown Hampton. Using my Nikon 40x CoolpixB500. I have had as many as 6 Buffleheads at one time on the Creek and they just left a week ago."

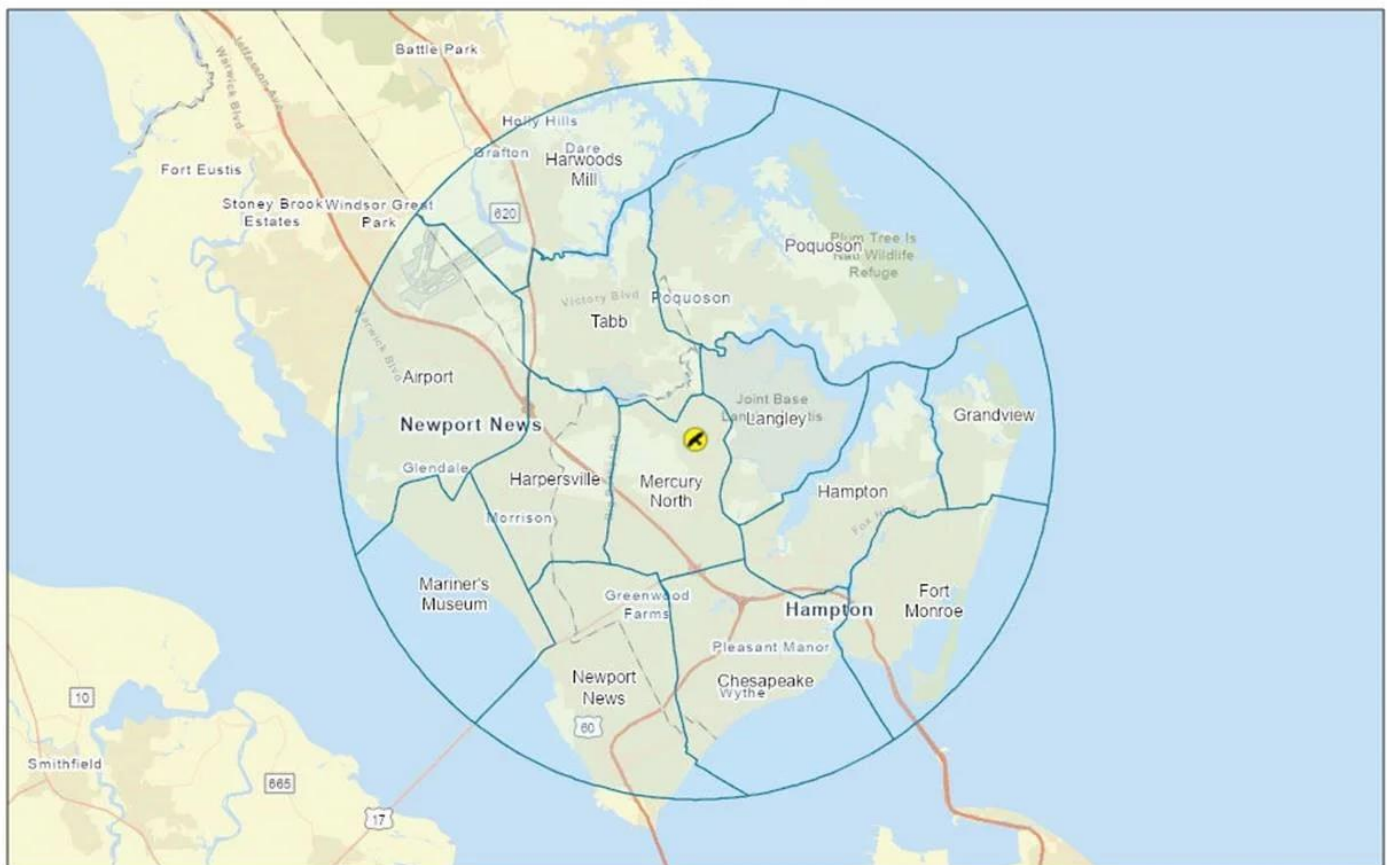
Internet Data for "1st and 3rd" Sunday Walks and Field Trips

By Bill Boeh (Bird Count Honcho)

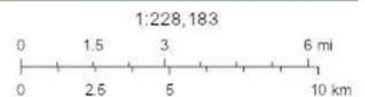
The results below are also posted at the club website www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org which has the same URL links to the eBird Trip Reports. Each link takes you to the text summary of a HRBC "1st and 3rd" Sunday walk in Newport News Park or field trip, the number of individuals seen for each species, and the associated eBird checklists. The URL checklists often include on-the-spot photos by the very participants (even though the photos are labeled as "Macaulay Library" – whose support is also greatly appreciated). Thanks are due to Jane Frigo (Sunday Walk Leader) and James Abbott (Field Trip Leader).

Date	Event	Participants	Species Observed	URL
March 4	Park walk	15	47	https://ebird.org/tripreport/112296
March 19	Hog Island	23	44	https://ebird.org/tripreport/108871
April 2	Park walk	12	62	https://ebird.org/tripreport/116365
April 16	Park walk	19	69	https://ebird.org/tripreport/116366
April 23	Dismal Swamp	12	44	https://ebird.org/tripreport/111069

HRBC Bird Count sector map for May 6, 2023 (referenced on page 2)



February 17, 2021



President	Shawn Dash	drshawntdash@gmail.com	915-491-6227
Vice President	Mark Sopko	mgsopko@gmail.com	804-815-2897
Secretary	William Boeh	phrogdolph@gmail.com	757-951-7959
Treasurer	John Adair	adairjj@bunt.com	757-224-8920
Board (7/20-6/23)	Walter Harris	walthh2@gmail.com	757-898-8649
Board (7/21-6/24)	Katrina Dash	kmdash4@gmail.com	915-471-1287
Board (7/22-6/25)	Michael Meyer	michael.meyer@cnu.edu	757-303-4790
Field Trip Coordinator	James Abbott	jaa3469@gmail.com	757-320-9191
Web Editor	Wendy Maxey	emaxey@verizon.net	757-483-3003
Web Editor	Ellis Maxey	emaxey@verizon.net	757-483-3003
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Membership	Gwen Harris	gwenharris65@gmail.com	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, 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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