



Bird Notes

Newsletter of the

Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC)

www.hamptonroadsbirdclub.org and on Facebook

Vol. 67, No. 4

March/April 2019

March 14 Meeting
6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program
at Sandy Bottom Nature Park

Rewards of Conservation
By Dave Youker

Conservation is just one of the many aspects of birding. And every HRBC member is involved in conservation in one form or the other. From backyard feeding to nest box monitoring, a great deal of satisfaction comes from being involved in the conservation effort. Dave Youker will describe several conservation projects in which he participates. The presentation will include some interesting data, and of course, some nice accompanying photos. So, come learn about conservation efforts happening around our local area.

Dave will also cover the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas 2 (VBBA2) efforts to date and preparations for the 4th year.

Hosted by Rochelle Colestock, Dave Youker, and Marilyn Adair



Black skimmers (by Dave Youker)

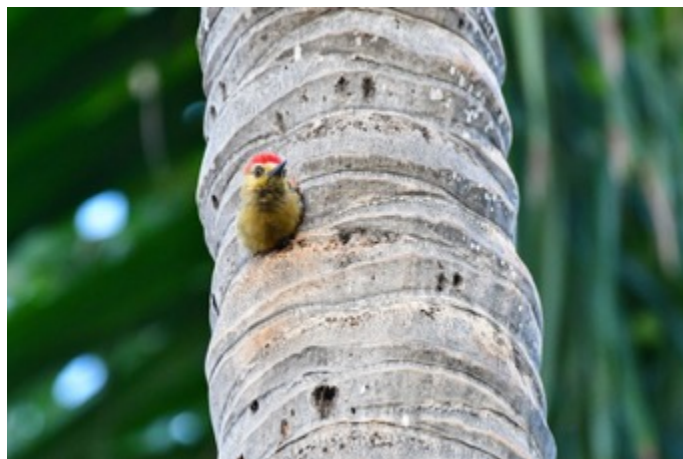
April 11 Meeting
6:30 PM Social 7:00 PM Program
at Sandy Bottom Nature Park

Movie Night – The Nest
By Pete Peterman

Birds need a safe and stable place to raise their chicks. Bird nests come in all shapes and sizes, crafted from an inexhaustible diversity of materials. Each one is a remarkable work of art, built with just a beak! PBS Nature aired the three-part series in 2015 on Animal Homes, and we will show the first part, The Nest. It begins with a museum collection of nests and branches out to scenes in the wild all over the world, where birds arrive at diverse nesting grounds to collect, compete for, reject, steal and begin to build with carefully selected materials.

[As Vice President of HRBC, Pete arranges the main presentations at our regular meetings.]

Hosted by Angie Herring, Dot Silsby, and Lori Palagyi.



Red Crowned Woodpecker, Barranquilla, Columbia
(by P. Peterman)



Purple Crowned Fairy Building a nest, Rio Clara, Columbia (by P. Peterman)

HRBC Outdoors Mar.-Apr.

***Sunday bird walk cancelled for March 3
because of the One City Marathon***

Regular bird walks in Newport News Park
First and third Sundays each month 7:00 AM.
Meet at big parking lot behind Ranger Station.
Leader: Jane Frigo
(757)-873-0721 or birderjane@gmail.com

Field Trip to Grandview (this page)
Saturday, 7:00 AM, March 9, 2019
Leader: Jason Strickland
(757) 739-6939 or jmstrickland228@gmail.com

HRBC Spring Bird Count (this page)
Saturday, time by sector, April 27, 2019
Leader: Bill Boeh
(757) 951-7959 or dolphrog1@yahoo.com

Field Trip to Grandview Saturday, 7:00 AM, March 9, 2019

By Jason Strickland

We will meet at the entrance of Grandview Nature Preserve on State Park Drive in Hampton at 7:00 AM on Saturday, March 9, 2019. There will be a few miles of hiking, most of that on sandy beach. Bring your windbreaker. I can be reached at (757) 739-6939 or jmstrickland228@gmail.com.

Newcomers to Hampton Roads should be sure to take advantage of Grandview. On one side, you have the shore of the Chesapeake Bay; the other has a dune, behind which is a great salt marsh. Visitors are surprised that, within the city of Hampton, there are miles of scenic, undeveloped beach.



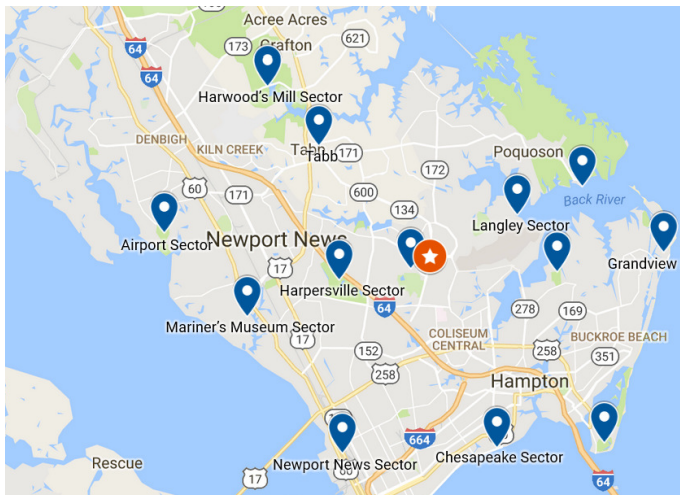
Brown creeper, NN Park (photo by Dianne Snyder)

HRBC Spring Bird Count Saturday, April 27, 2019

By Bill Boeh

The date for this year's Spring Bird Count (SBC) will be Saturday, April 27. Please contact me (dolphrog1@yahoo.com or 757-951-7959) if you would like to participate and have a preferred sector. The center points of the various sectors can be found on the map on the next page.

Newport News Circle Sector Map



Smew (*Mergellus albellus*), an old world duck photographed by Andy Hawkins

HRBC has been conducting the SBC since 1995. Please join us in being part of this citizen science effort to support bird conservation. It's real fun and a great way to help conserve the birds - and for new members, a fine introduction to some of the birding sites in our region.

The typical sector count spans most of the day, but some take only a few hours. Sector leaders set the start times. Don't hesitate to participate because you don't feel you're proficient enough at identifying birds - sector 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). It's a lot of fun, and you'll be building your identification skills as well.

If you can't participate in a field count, feeder-watching is another way you can support this effort. Please let me know if you are interested! For HRBC members, signup sheets and the sector maps will be available at the March 14 meeting.

stopped for lunch at a local Bar-B-Que establishment before touring the park.

It is hard to describe Sylvan Heights for there is no place like it anywhere I know. It is divided into continent areas with waterfowl from all over the world. You enter above an international pond area with two or three dozen different species of duck and flamingos. Hooded mergansers put on quite a show with their courting displays as did Ellis Maxey's favorite, the smew.



Stuart with Budgies and Ellis (photo by Andy)

Report of Field Trip to Sylvan Heights Bird Park on 01/19/2019

By Andy Hawkins

On Saturday, January 19, we left Huntington Park for Sylvan Heights Bird Park a little after 9:00 AM. It is a two-hour ride to Scotland Neck, NC, and we

Next, we went to the budgie or parakeet area, which was about to close for an hour to let the little fellows rest. Probably my highlight for the day. Here's a picture I took of Stuart and Ellis with the budgies. We then toured the continents and even though we could not count them as life birds officially, we saw many species that few of us will ever see in the wild. All in all, I believe we agreed it was a long day but a

quality outing. And in lieu of a species list from Sylvan Heights, here's the roster of those who had fun there:

Dave Youker and his daughter
 Pete and Charm Peterman
 Rock and Sue Moeslein
 Stuart Sweetman
 Phyllis Simonetta
 Gwen Harris
 Melany Libby
 Sue Tominaga
 Ellis and Wendy Maxey
 Andy Hawkins

As a postscript: Ever since we returned from this field trip, I have had a bright green budgie at my feeder at home. I am sure they sent out scouts looking for us, so beware. He still comes most every day.

Report of Field Trip: Back Bay Tram Ride to False Cape State Park On 02/16/2019

By Andy Hawkins



Tundra swans (photo by George Boyles)

On Saturday, Feb. 16, seventeen club members and guests braved the elements to take the Blue Goose Tram ride in Back Bay. Some of us stopped at the

Little Island Pier just before getting to Back Bay and were rewarded with the largest sighting of Razorbills I have ever encountered. Also, red-necked and horned grebes, gannets and common loons were seen. At Back Bay we had a good showing of tundra swans, ducks, ibis, and harriers with a few songbirds mixed in. The weather worsened as the morning progressed and we got back to the visitors station a little after noon. Not as many sightings as some years but still a worthwhile morning. Thanks to all who braved the lower temps and rain.



Virginia Boyles offers high five to a shutterbug in the tram Blue Goose (photo by George Boyles)

Canada Goose	Green-winged Teal
Tundra Swan	Blue-winged Teal
Northern Harrier	Ring-necked Duck
Gadwall	Bufflehead
Mallard	Ruddy Duck
American Black Duck	Red-tailed Hawk
Northern Pintail	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
American Coot	Carolina Wren
Killdeer	White-throated Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Northern Shoveler
Great Egret	Pied-billed Grebe
White Ibis	

Report of Winter Bird Count at Newport News Park on 01/26/2019

By Jane Frigo

Hampton Roads Bird Club (HRBC) conducted their Winter Count at Newport News Park on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Club participation was outstanding! Jason Strickland and Lisa Rose surveyed the Campground; Ellis and Wendy Maxey, Dave Brown, Rochelle Colestock, Phyllis Roth and Jane Frigo covered the west side of Constitution Avenue from Jefferson Avenue to the Spawning Pond; Shawn and Katrina Dash, Bill and Anne Boeh, Pete and Charm Peterman and Gwen and Walt Harris covered the east side of Constitution Avenue from Jefferson to the Spawning Pond; Dave Youker, Cindy Shulz, Dianne Snyder and Harry Colestock covered the White Oak Trail and Swamp Bridge to the Spawning Pond; and Andy Hawkins and C. L. covered the golf courses. This NN Park Winter Count used 5 sectors. The Audubon Christmas Count (see next article) and HRBC Spring Count (see page 2) described by Bill Boeh both cover the lower Peninsula with over a dozen sectors.



Andy Hawkins, Bill Boeh, Cindy Schultz, and Dave Youker (photo by Dianne Snyder)

The group met at the Ranger Station at 7:00 AM and returned to the Ranger Station at 10:00 AM. Several people wished they had more time to cover their sections. Some discussion was had concerning the best way to cover counting the ducks on the water, to avoid double counting and yet count the inlets, as each section was submitting information to ebird under the HRBC account. The group enjoyed

coffee, bagels and donuts during the lively discussion. The weather that morning was below freezing at the start but warmed up nicely with the sun.

2018 (2017) Audubon Christmas Bird Count Results for HRBC

By Bill Boeh

I'm providing a quick summary of HRBC participation in the 2018 Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the nation's longest running community science bird project. This information was presented at the February meeting, and it is reproduced here for those who couldn't attend. The data below cover both 2018 and 2017 (numbers in parentheses represent 2017 for comparison).

Total Species: 110 (114)

Total Birds: 14,639 (16,446)

Observers in Field: 40 (46)

At Feeders: 0 (4)

Number of Parties (daylight): 15 (13)

Comments: There was fog (sometimes dense fog) over water throughout the circle.

Weather was a considerable negative factor particularly for waterfowl, resulting in lower numbers of individuals.

2018 (2017) Christmas Bird Counts Party Hours and Distance:

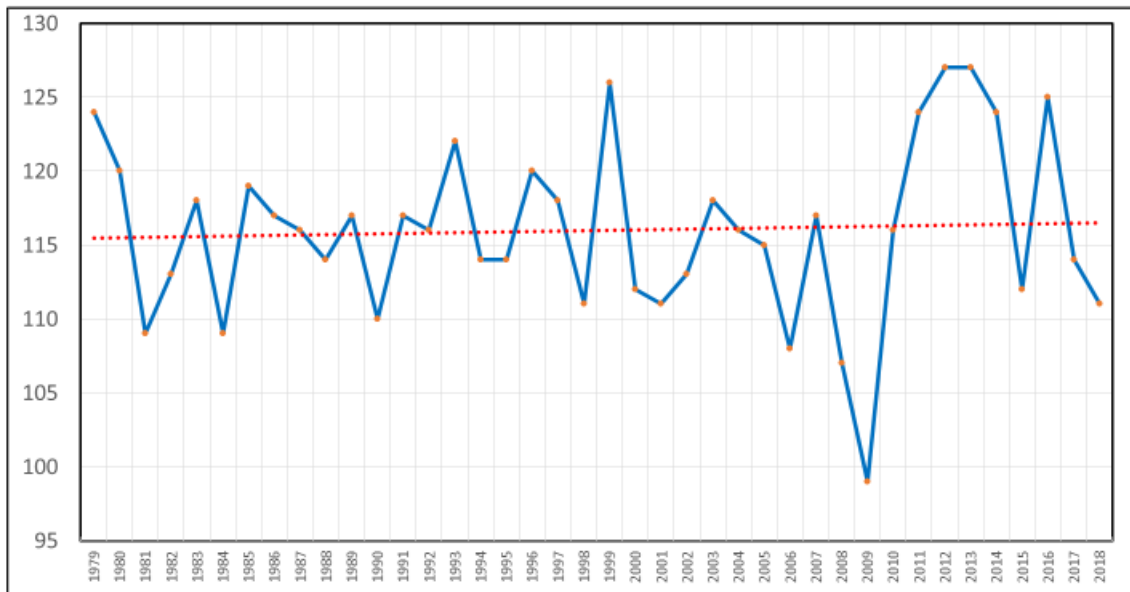
Means	Hours	Distance (Miles)
Foot	61.00 (57.6)	41.75 (34.6)
Car	45.25 (29.7)	254.5 (213.0)
At feeders	0 (17.5)	N/A
Owling	1.5 (0)	2.5 (0)
Totals	106.25 (87.3)	296.25 (247.6)

A list of the participants in the HRBC component of the 2018 Audubon Christmas Bird Count follows. Without their generous donation of time and effort (not to mention gas!), the count would of course not be possible:

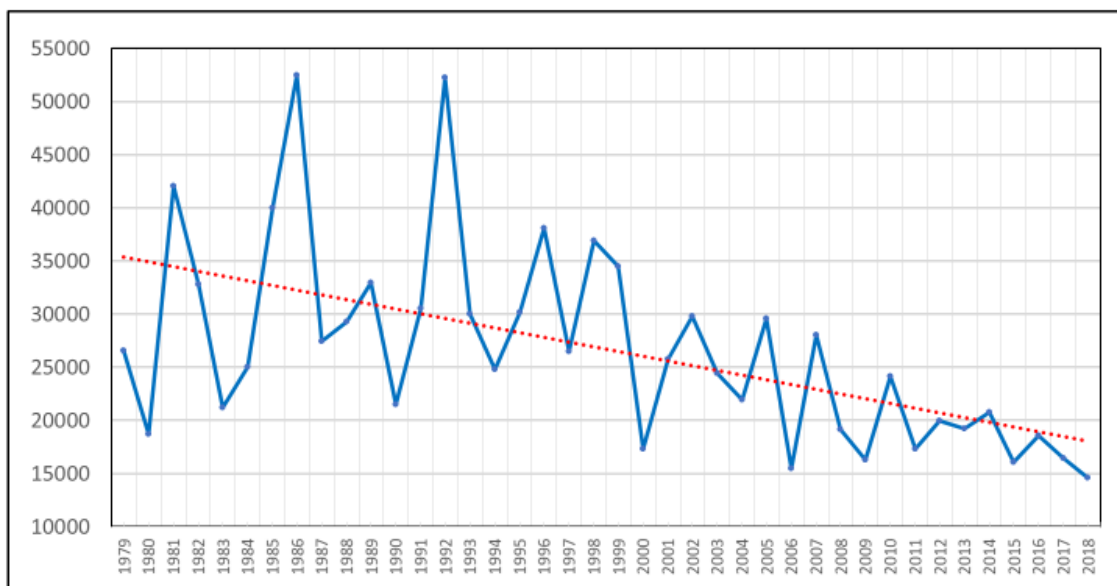
Gwen Harris	Marc Nichols	Angela Herring
Walt Harris	Cindy Schulz	Dorothy Silsby
C.L. Tanner	Dianne Snyder	Peggy Waterfield
William Boeh	Jacques van Montfrans	Tracy Tate
Stuart Sweetman	Elizabeth Wilkins	Dave Youker
Bryan Barmore	John Adair	Catherine Bond
Sharon Burton	Marilyn Adair	Terry Bond
David Singletary	Meredith Bell	Bettye Fields
Nick Flanders	Ned Rose	Betsy Garrett
Pete Peterman	Harry Colestock	Marjorie Schenck
Bill Williams	Rochelle Colestock	Andy Hawkins
Bill Blair	Alicia Garcia	Brian Magill
Nancy Gruttman-Tyler	Charlotte Boudreau	
Jane Frigo	Elisa Flanders	

Finally, below are some graphs that show the numbers of species observed and grand totals of the numbers of individual birds logged for each of the last 40 years of the count:

Number of Species by Year (1979-2018)



Number of Individuals by Year (1979-2018)



If you have any questions, feel free to email me at dolphrog1@yahoo.com.



Red-tailed hawk at Newport News Park (by John Adair)

Deadline for Membership Renewal by John Adair, Treasurer

If you haven't paid your dues for this year, NOW is the time! If you are not sure, you may be one of the 24 members who have not renewed, so please contact the treasurer. Dues remain \$15 (single), \$20 (family) and can be paid at Wild Wings Nature Store in Newport News, at Wild Birds Unlimited in Yorktown, or by mail to the treasurer. Club dues are payable in September each year and if you want to avoid forgetting next year, simply double your payment and your next due date will be tracked. Contact Information: HRBC Treasurer, 109 Nansemond Turn, Yorktown VA 23693, adairjj@bunt.com, 757-268-5446.

President	Shawn Dash	drshawntdash@gmail.com	(915)-471-1287
Vice President	Pete Peterman	rwpeterman@verizon.net	(757) 766-8658
Secretary	William Boeh	dolphrog1@yahoo.com	(757) 951-7959
Treasurer	John Adair	adairjj@bunt.com	(757) 224-8920
Board: (7/16-6/19)	Dave Youker	Youkerd@aol.com	(757) 344-9385
Board: (7/17-6/20)	Walter Harris	walterand gwenharris@cox.net	(757) 898-8649
Board: (7/18-6/21)	Brian Magill	b.e.magill157@netzero.com	(757) 810-2435
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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 1st to August 31st. **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.

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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