



The Thrasher

Richmond Audubon Society

September RAS Meeting A Special Event

The next RAS meeting will be on September 21 at St Luke and will start at 6:30 p.m. The program is a gala event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Non-game Program at the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). It will include several invited guests, a few speakers, and some awards. Our featured speaker will be none other than a founder and first president of RAS, Bill Slate, who is now the President and CEO of the American Arbitration Association. Bill is in great demand as a speaker, and is considered the foremost authority on arbitration and mediation in the world today.

Instead of the usual pre-meeting buffet, this will be a sit-down dinner catered by deFazio's. The entrée choices are Chicken Picatta or seasonal vegetables with brown rice. There will be no charge to RAS members, but you must make reservations before September 7th to RAS Secretary Donna Brodd: drbrodd@aol.com or call 262-7040. Reservations are required in advance for the caterer's head count. See the President's Message for other details. St. Luke church is located at the intersection of Chippenham Parkway and Custis Road in South Richmond, at a traffic light just east of the Huguenot Rd. exit.

Linda Warfield, Hospitality Chair

The October RAS meeting will be on October 19, and we will have the usual pre-meeting dinner at 5:30. Our speaker will be our own Lynda Richardson, an extraordinary professional nature photographer, who will relate her experiences while competing in the Pro-Tour Nature Photographers Contest. Her pictures are stunning and how she got them is even more so. More detail, and directions, etc., will be provided in the October Thrasher.

Sandy Wynne, Program Chair

Note: The next *Thrasher* you will receive will be the October issue. See the notices on Page 7

Ellen Wade Ackerman: in Memorium

After fighting cancer since May 2005, RAS President Ellen Ackerman passed away on July 10th, 2006. She will be greatly missed by all of us in RAS. Ellen was one of the best organized and detail-oriented people I have known. She had a definite idea of how RAS should operate, and was working to make it perform like it should. It was a real pleasure to serve as 1st Vice President for almost two years under her guidance, and to team with her on many RAS projects. Ellen always found both large and small details to fix so that our plans would lead to success.

In this situation the RAS Bylaws call for the 1st VP to act as President until a new President is elected, and with the RAS Board's approval I intend to do that. RAS will continue to function as always. However, all of us will greatly miss Ellen's personality, style, and attention to detail that was her trademark.

On Saturday, July 15th, a memorial service was held for Ellen at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens to celebrate her life. On Page 2 you can read some of the interesting things various speakers said about their acquaintance with Ellen at the service.

Al Warfield

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President's Message: August/September 2006

Well, here it is: August already! What are we going to do to make the right things happen now that Ellen Ackerman is no longer here to push us into action? The answer is, we are going to do all the things we had already planned to do. This is being written just before the RAS Board retreat on July 23rd, where we make our plans for the coming fiscal year. So what are our plans?

Number one is the gala Awards Dinner for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Non-Game Wildlife Program's 25th Anniversary. Caterer Joe deFazio used to run a restaurant in Innsbrook, and Linda & I went there several times. The food was excellent. Be sure to make your reservations in time. Members who cannot come to the dinner can arrive at 7:30 for the program. Number two is the October meeting with the world famous wildlife photographer Lynda Richardson. Since I have already seen some of the pictures she took as part of the Pro-Tour Nature Photographers Contest, I can attest to their quality and style. And you can't beat Lynda for telling a great story. You will be severely entertained! More details will follow in the October issue.

Number three is the Auction and Pot-luck Dinner in November. David Richmond is our new Auction Chair, and

he will need your help to make this the kind of successful fundraiser that the last several auctions have been. Start by deciding what you want to donate, and since we want this to be a good fundraiser we need that to be quality items. Also, approach someone who makes something that would be a good auction item about donating one to RAS for the auction. See the article on the Auction on Page 3, and Contact David. Plan to bring friends to the Auction who are prepared to buy items or trips. More details will appear in the next issue, but we need to get started now!

And don't forget that there are plenty of opportunities to join others on field trips, and to volunteer to help out at Presquile NWR. See the appropriate sections in this newsletter for those opportunities.

Finally, at the memorial service at Ginter Botanical Gardens, those who attended were given fortune cookies from Peking Restaurant, one of Ellen's favorite restaurants. The one I received said: "Your future is as boundless as the lofty heaven." If we interpret that as meaning RAS's future, we should be in good shape.

Al Warfield

Memorial Service for Ellen Ackerman

A service was held at Ginter Botanical Gardens to celebrate Ellen's life. Here are the statements of a few of the speakers, recorded by Sue Ridd.

"She loved beauty in many ways- in her garden, in her opera, in her birds. She was a fan of silver, not blue hair. And I am a better person for having known and loved her." "She's probably in heaven right now expressing her frustration with God," quipped another speaker. "Ellen was not a fan of organized religion, but she was spiritual." "When I went to visit France, I was doing well to have my head attached. When Ellen went somewhere, she had planned out her entire visit."

"She was passionate about the world around her. And when she laughed it was not the type of laugh held behind a hand but an out loud chuckle. She felt that it was important not to take yourself too seriously."

Another speaker revealed that she had not met Ellen until "late to middle age. We could count on each other to do what was expected. And we would laugh at something atrocious."

"I first met Ellen on a trip to Highland County, which is noted for its maple syrup and Golden Eagles. When she became the President of the Richmond Audubon Society, I was galvanized by her organizational abilities. Those organizational abilities were aligned with her personal philosophy and to

me, she was like the Golden Eagles."

"I will miss my friend, Ellen. I first met her when the Important Bird Areas project was just beginning. She was instrumental in 1993 in making it happen. We would meet at McDonalds. We managed to get the budget completed for the next phase over some French fries and catsup."

"She helped me break down and put back together a chain saw."

"Ellen loved to dance. I learned how to do the jitterbug when I was four years old. With Ellen, the only time I got to lead was in jitterbug dances."

"I was attracted to her brilliance. Someone said, 'Joy is sorrow unmasked.' But to me, Joy and Sorrow are inseparable."

From Margaret O'Bryan

I will really miss Ellen Ackerman. She was a friend that I liked the first time I met her and my affection for her grew through the years. Ellen was a true original, with a quick and ready wit, many and varied interests, an entertaining conversationalist on a wide variety of topics, and the most organized person I have ever known. (Plus she always laughed at my jokes,

I certainly treasure a person like that!) My heart goes out to her family, and her devoted life partner, Donna Brodd. Donna and Ellen were lucky to have each other, and I wish peace for Donna, and the recovery that comes with the passage of time. Ellen fought a hard battle, but even Ellen's strength couldn't overcome her illness. She lived her life the way she left it, fighting hard. She championed

causes she believed in, and she made a difference to those causes and to the people in her life. That is the most any of us can hope for, I guess, to try our best to leave the world better than we found it. I was proud to have known her.

Goodbye, my friend, goodbye.

Margaret

Auction Action!

Well the summer is flying by and I know that all of us are anxiously awaiting the return of cooler weather and along with that, the annual Auction.

This year's Auction and Pot Luck Dinner is on Thursday November 16th.

As most of you know, I am a rookie with the RAS and will be looking for all the help I can possibly get in learning the ropes. We will be looking for the tried and true auction items for both the live and silent segments. Trips and unusual outings seem to have been

very popular in the past. If we are going to be contacting any major companies for donations I suggest it be done soon as they run out of largesse by the end of the year in most cases. I have a few contacts made but as I am not well known in the birding and conservation circles locally I will defer to any and all suggestions.

The organizational meeting for this year's auction and dinner is scheduled for Thursday August 17th at St. Luke at 7:30 p.m. Please hold the date and time. We will be in need of the usual manpower to handle set up, storage of donated items, cashiering, auction

assistance (in both live and silent auction) food procurement, dinner set up, etc., etc.

I realize the importance of this fundraiser to RAS and look forward to helping it be a great success. I hope that no one feels shy in calling me with any concerns, suggestions or offers to volunteer. I will, of course be making some calls to find out who may be interested in helping out. Or, you can sign up now, avoid the rush!

David Richmond
852-3246 (Cell)
rchmnd@hotmail.com

Global Warming: What it means to RAS

As global warming proceeds, more and more bird specie's migrations will be shifted out of sync with that of their breeding habitats, causing problems in obtaining food and avoiding predators. Optimal habitats for many species may not even exist any longer! Wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay region will be flooded as sea levels rise. For songbirds and other wildlife whose populations are already limited by other human-induced problems, global warming could be the last straw. Some leading biologists such as Edward

Wilson, Thomas Lovejoy, and Peter Raven say we could lose half of earth's species by the end of this century!

The National Audubon Society embraces the fight to reverse global warming. And throughout the year, you will be hearing a lot about it in *The Thrasher*, in our announcements at meetings, in an energy conservation pledge-contest that Greg Moser will head up, and there will be a special meeting just on Global Warming in February, with a National Audubon speaker.

What can YOU DO now? Replace those incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent ones. Drive less and com-

bine trips. Line dry your clothes. Purchase only Energy Star appliances. Winterize your homes and turn down that thermostat in winter. Avoid air travel if possible. Go to Americanforests.org and take the Carbon footprint test. Remember, only 30% of the power used to make electricity reaches your home, so a light or appliance unnecessarily on wastes a lot of energy! Energy experts tell us we could save at least 25% of our energy and not even feel it!! We use twice the energy per person than do citizens of western Europe!

John Roberts
RAS Conservation Chair

Highland County Wind Power Update

In the DEQ's recommendations to the State Corporation Commission, virtually all of our concerns about the Highland County wind turbine project have been addressed!

1. Final site plan,
2. Studies prior to construction on possible impacts on birds and bats and other wildlife,
3. Monitoring impacts on wildlife for three years after construction (if approved),
4. Assessment of cumu-

lative environmental impacts since 88 wind turbines already operate and more than 900 are planned for the region; and, 5. Analysis of the impact on Highland County viewshed [ed.: a made-up word but a descriptive one].

On just one ridge in Highland County, 19 turbines have been proposed, each being 400 feet tall. Wind turbines are highly subsidized by tax breaks and other incentives, but bat kills at a facility in West Virginia indicate that hundreds of thousands of these creatures could be killed

yearly if all 900 turbines are built. Entire species of bats could be wiped out. Bird species are also in danger, especially nighttime migrants and raptors, and mountain ridge nesters such as the Cerulean Warbler.

Here's what we can do now: Write to Governor Kaine and tell him that all DEQ's recommendations are needed if we are going to protect Virginia's wildlife.

Honorable Governor Tim Kaine, Governor's Mansion, The Capital, Richmond Va., 23219

John Roberts



Ralph White and Mary Arginteanu talk about birds to kids as part of a Woodville School field trip. Photo by Larry Robinson

Field Trips: August - September 2006

Sunday, August 6, 2006 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Enjoy a summer Sunday morning birding with Sue Ridd at Bryan Park. Meet at Shelter #1 one half-hour after sunrise (6:48 a.m.). Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

August 11 – November 19, 2006 – Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: Join Brenda Tekin and crew as they start their 30th year counting migrating hawks flying south along the Blue Ridge Mountains on the birds' annual trip south. For more information, visit them online at: http://home.ntelos.net/~btkin/rockfish_gap_hawk_watch

Mid-August through November 2006 – Kiptopeke State Park, Northampton County, Virginia: Join Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CWVO) staff and volunteers this fall at Kiptopeke. Witness the migration of songbirds and hawks along the coast on their annual journey south to their wintering grounds. Observe songbirds as they are measured, recorded, banded and released to continue their journey. Join the hawk counters on the platform and see the hawks that are banded nearby.

August through November, 2006 – Sea birding with Brian Patteson: Check out Brian's website and choose a date for a memorable pelagic trip out into the Atlantic that is almost certain to add new entries onto your Life List!! <http://www.seabirding.com/>

Sunday, September 3, 2006 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend by birding with Sue Ridd at Bryan Park. Meet at Shelter # 1 @ 7:12 a.m. (Note: The days are definitely getting shorter as we continue the swing into fall Sunrise is almost an hour later than at the summer solstice in June.) Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

Saturday, September 9, 2006 – Dutch Gap/Henricus Park, Chesterfield County: Join Betsy Saunders as she leads a bird walk to one of our favorite Chesterfield County Parks during fall migration. Meet at the Visitors Center at 7 a.m. Contact Betsy

at 272-0605 with any questions. Wednesday, September 13, 2006 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: Fall is upon us and there's a change in the birds as summer ends. Join John for a walk at Point of Rocks Park in Chesterfield County. The walk will meet at the park at 8 a.m. and proceed to the Ashton Creek boardwalk. Call John at 276-1397 for details.

Sunday, September 17, 2006 – Rockfish Gap Hawk Watch: - Join Sue Ridd on an adventure to Afton Mountain. Target birds are hawks - mostly Broadwings - as they migrate south. Meet at the North Gaskins Road parking area off I-64W at 8 a.m. to carpool. The trip will return at 5 p.m. For more information, call Sue at 270-5365.

Thursday, September 21, 2006: RAS Meeting (see first page)

Saturday, September 23, 2006 – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond: Join trip leader Bob Sass for a walk through the gardens. Which birds have left for the winter and which ones have returned? The walk will begin at 8 a.m. and costs \$6 per person for non-LGBG members. This trip requires advanced registration, so call Bob at 285-8177 with any questions and to sign up.

Sunday, October 1, 2006 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Plan on spending the start of the first day of October birding with Sue Ridd at Bryan Park. Meet at Shelter # 1 at 7:35 a.m. Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

Friday, October 6 – Sunday October 8, 2006 – 2nd Eastern Shore Birding Festival: This event continues to grow and attract more birders to Virginia's Eastern Shore for premiere birding with first class trips, leaders and activities. For more information: <http://www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding/>

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: John will be in Hawaii, so there's no planned 2nd Wednesday walk this

month. Head out for a walk to a new place and report back to John with a great location for a future walk. See the Wednesday Walkers on November 8 (October Thrasher).

Saturday, October 14, 2006 – Dutch Gap/Henricus Park, Chesterfield County: Join Betsy Saunders as she leads a bird walk to one of our favorite Chesterfield County Parks. Any ducks yet? Meet at the Visitors Center at 8 a.m. Contact Betsy at 272-0605 with any questions.

Sunday, October 15, 2006 – Fred Scott Memorial Birding Route: Every Sunday, Fred Scott would take the same route birding with John Dillard and others. Come along and learn where he went. Call Sue for more information at 270-5365.

Saturday & Sunday, October 28 – 29, 2006 – Fishermans Island and Kiptopeke Camporama: Come for the day or plan to spend the weekend. Julie Kacmarcik will organize this trip lead by the Naturalists at the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge (ESNWR). Saturday we will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the ESNWR. The number of participants is limited to reduce the impact on the refuge, so sign up early. Contact Julie at 530-3660 or email juliekazz@comcast.net. Saturday afternoon we will set up camp at Kiptopeke and prepare for an evening of star gazing and campfire tales.

Upcoming Events, check the October Thrasher for details:

Curles Neck Farm trip in October
A fall paddle to Merchant's Mill Pond
The Hopewell Christmas Bird Count,
Sunday, December 17, 2006

Note: all phone numbers in area code 804 unless indicated

*Julie Kacmarcik
Caroline Coe*



Presquile Budget Cut by Bush: Write your Congressperson

RAS is an official "Refugekeeper" for Presquile NWR! We had plans and worked so hard in last August's heat, building a ramp for increased public access to the refuge. The idea was to increase awareness, especially in children, of the importance of Presquile NWR, which was founded to protect Bald Eagles and other wildlife, and which is a state Important Bird Area (IBA).

The proposed federal budget cut means we stand to lose one out of two NWR employees and because of the already short staffing, this will mean that accessing Presquile on a more frequent basis will not be possible. But there is still time to write your congressman about this issue! Please write to the addresses below and tell them how hard we worked, and how the entire National Wildlife Refuge budget needs to be protected from cuts!

Presquile and other James River Wetlands are Virginia IBAs, so they are

critical habitat for birds and other wildlife. Public support for wildlife refuges is key to future support and existence of these crucial areas, and public nature appreciation is limited if access is very difficult.

Write your Congressperson! For Cantor, Davis, Forbes and Scott: The Honorable, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. For Warner and Allen, The Honorable, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510.

John Roberts

Trolley Line Field Trip, April 29, 2006

The "Trolley Line" is a Hanover County-owned site where a small section of the old trolley track that was used to transport folks from Hanover to Richmond early in the last century is preserved. Adjacent to the site the land is owned by RAS members Bob and Linda Cole. It is a wooded piece of land with a marsh and lake running through it. There are trails, an observation platform, bird feeders, and lots

of birds. Anyone can visit the Trolley Line site - the official Trolley Line walk is about a half a mile and is only the elevated portion - but for everything inside the posted signs you need to contact the Coles for permission. This is because of problems with trespassers in the past. And if you go you will want to contact the Coles (plmhp@comcast.net), because the birding and scenery is spectacular! For the best birding, go in April or May, naturally. On the field trip we saw 47 species, including 7 warbler species.

There were Blue-winged, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, and Black and White Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, and Northern Parula, as well as lots of other birds. And because of a high pressure front that moved in, this was not one of the best days either. Thanks to Bob and Linda Cole for leading the trip and being great hosts, and to Lewis Barnett for sending the list.

Al & Linda Warfield

Photos from RAS trips, Projects, etc.



Above Left: A juvenile Osprey flexes its wings during an RAS Auction sailing adventure on "Mr Wizard" with Faye Taylor-Hyder and Leo Moore.

Photo by Hal Tyler



Below Left: A Brown Thrasher caught in the act of providing for its young. Photo by Naseem Reza



Above Right: A student from Woodville School looks through binoculars during a field trip sponsored by RAS. Photo by Larry Robinson (See Page 3 for another image from the trip.)

Welcome to New Members of Richmond Audubon Society

ASHLAND Mrs. Robert Hopkins Lucie Reif	MANAKIN SABOT Margaret Franklin Ann E. Whitney	MOSELEY Kay Burnett	RICHMOND Mrs. Natkan Douthit Milton Drummond, Jr	RICHMOND Geoffrey Platt Col. Vincent Pross
BALTIMORE Edith M. Christensen	MECHANICSVILLE Ronald Brown Cheryl Brunel	OILVILLE Robert Plaza	Janine Dupal Barbara W. Eck	Barbara Ramos Molly F. Randolph
CHESTER Trudy Connock Larry Heiner	Terrance/Trina Gardner Wanda Sherman Barbara Smith	POWHATAN Mary Arnold Joan L. Cordle	Ann Ellington Priscilla S. Ford Marion/Al Goethals	Debbie Rhodes Judy Roberts Katy Rugg
Mr. William R. King Lenore Smith	George M. Williams Joanne W. Wyman	Miriam Hirsch Gerald P. McKendry Carolyn Wilerson	Benjamin Griffon Sharon Ho Dr. Elizabeth Hodges	Jane Rule Dante A. Santacroce Don Schell
CHESTERFIELD Cassidy Carolyn Singh	MIDLOTHIAN Joi Beck Stephanie Bowlin	PROVIDENCE FORGE James R. Lyle	Janice M. Horne Arden Howland Joseph Hrubik	William Shada Mary Smith Kathy Springston
COLONIAL HEIGHTS Thomas P. Cheeley Vickie Hopper	Mary B. Earle James Henricks William M. Jackson	QUINTON Virginia Burrows Jeff Ellett	Andy Jhaj Janice Frye Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Kanters	Wirt L. Stephenson Lisa Storms John Sundtrom
Dorothy W. Lunsford E G. Webb, Jr	Carla Lucas Patricia C. Padgett Hannah C. Revis	RICHMOND Barbara M. Bagby Pencye M. Bailey	Sherrie L. Kirby Nelson D. Lankford Alma B. Layne	Lisa Storms John Sundtrom Ina Swenck
CROZIER Joan I. Monticelli	Marta Rosbe A. C. Sachs H. E. Thompson	Barbara M. Bagby Pencye M. Bailey Michael Barry	Frances B. Mack Pernell R. Martin Nancy R. Martin	Michael Szymanczyk Jerry W. Temple Claire Terry
GLEN ALLEN Edward Hutcherson Peggy Jennings	Marta Rosbe A. C. Sachs H. E. Thompson	Anne B. Baskerville Rachel Bishop Donald/Beejay Brown	Pernell R. Martin Nancy R. Martin Lisa Mc Knight	Kim/Gregory Tucker Richard B. Vines David J. Vollrath
Barbara Ullrich Mary Louise Vasko	Elizabeth B. Ward Jean White Charles H. Wilson	Rachel Bishop Donald/Beejay Brown Ann Browning	Lisa Mc Knight Jennifer J. Mixson Steve Moore	Richard B. Vines David J. Vollrath Marion Walker
GOOCHLAND Jennifer Bloomer	Linda Wine MONTPELIER Tammy J. Barnes	Stephanie Carr Constance Childress Alice W. Coleman	Jennifer J. Mixson Steve Moore Sallie Nolte	Marion Walker Norvell Whitaker Marsden Williams
Joyce R. Butterworth Michelle Gates		Walter Dale Joseph A. Dart, III Helen Davis	Carol Ogburn Donna B. Owens Rose Ann Pacyna	Norvell Whitaker Marsden Williams ROCKVILLE
Steve Melton			Beverly B. Pettway	D. Dudley SANDSTON Juanita Whitehurst

The members above joined RAS in 2006. Also, the following members transferred from other NAS Chapters to RAS: Living in Chesterfield: Geneva C. Pigott, and Mike/Sue Shirley; in Glen Allen: Ronald Prucha, Sr.; in Highland Springs: M. L. Dunkley; in Midlothian: Mr/Mrs Jim Struve; in Richmond: Mr/Mrs John Bankos, William M. Fogel (MD), Ann Novak, Dare/James Phipps, Brian Rayburn, William Scott Simms, and Elizabeth H. Stann. Welcome to all new members, and please come to a meeting or field trip. Make sure to let someone know you are new to the organization.

Lori Rutledge, Membership Chair

Zeiss Sports Optics invites the Richmond Audubon Society to our Chester facility the 1st Friday of every month from 2pm - 4pm! Come see the dynamic and award-winning VICTORY line along with our other spectacular birding optics.

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The Thrasher Ad Page

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ADDITIONAL GUIDES
For the
LEWIS GINTER BIRD WALKS
Please Contact Bob Sass
285-8177 / RCSA@juno.com

The Thrasher accepts ads that are related to our mission: *promotion of the enjoyment, understanding and preservation of birds, other wildlife, and habitat.*
To request an ad contact the editor at warfield101@comcast.net or 804-743-1479.

Officers and Board Members for 2006-7

Acting President	Al Warfield	warfield101@comcast.net	677-3758
1st Vice President			
2nd Vice President	Pam Dummitt	pamdummitt@yahoo.com	353-3571
Secretary	Donna Brodd	drbrodd@aol.com	262-7040
Treasurer/Finance	Sue Ridd	s.ridd@att.net	270-5365
Past President	Margaret O'Bryan	heron329@aol.com	746-5599
Development	Bob Wynne	sswynne@verizon.net	276-5520
Thrasher Editor	Al Warfield	warfield101@comcast.net	677-3758
Education	John Coe	johncaroline@juno.com	276-1397
Field Trips	Julie Kacmarcik Caroline Coe	juliekazz@comcast.net johncaroline@juno.com	530-3660 276-1397
Hospitality	Linda Warfield	lindawarfield@comcast.net	743-1479
Conservation/Legislation	Nancy Ambler John Roberts	call for email address	358-3437 329-0812
Membership	Lori Rutledge	lorirutledge8@aol.com	310-9014
Cyberspace	Robin Ruth	robin.ruth@att.net	231-5949
Programs	Sandy Wynne	sswynne@verizon.net	276-5520
Publicity	Greg Moser	vtsec11@juno.com	358-3470
Youth	Mary Arginteanu	maryarg@aol.com	320-0138
VA Audubon Council Rep	Lewis Barnett	lbarnett@richmond.edu	320-7898

Important Notices

To submit change of address or report problems, give your name, old address, new address, phone number, and state your problem or intent to our Membership Chair (see table at left).
To renew or discontinue your membership, please contact National Audubon Society. See your Audubon Magazine for contact information.

Editor's Note: Please submit articles by the 15th of the month before each issue.
Email: warfield101@comcast.net
Surface mail: Al Warfield, *The Thrasher* Editor, 4749 Southmoor Road, Richmond VA 23234.

The Thrasher will be printed 7 times in 2006: Jan, Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June/July, Aug/Sep, Oct, Nov/Dec.

Thanks to these Thrasher Volunteers:
Linda Warfield: Labels & proofreading
Patrick Hickey & Jean Adams: Mailing

The Thrasher is printed on recycled paper

Planters Wanted

**Presquile NWR Native Tree Planting For Wildlife:
Conservation In Action!**

**September 9, 11, 22, 23 & 30
October 3, 4, & 21**

Come join the Richmond Audubon Society along with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the National Audubon Society, the James River Association, and the staff at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge as we restore up to 30 acres of habitat for wildlife at Presquile NWR! Presquile NWR, a largely pristine island on the James River just north of the city of Hopewell, is part of a recently designated Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) in Virginia and provides important habitat for birds and other wildlife. The 1300 acre refuge contains large tracts of marsh and tupelo swamp that play an important role in maintaining water quality in the James in addition to providing wildlife habitat. The restoration effort will involve planting over 3500 native trees and shrubs to provide wildlife habitat, prevent stream bank erosion, and promote water quality. It's a big project with tremendous rewards and we need all the help we can get to make it a success!

If you are interested in participating in one or more of the above planting days, please visit the James River Association website at www.jamesriverassociation.org/watershed_plant.html and sign up online for your preferred date(s). Planting will begin on the island at 9 a.m. and end by 1 p.m. each day. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Not a tree planter but still want to participate in this effort? There is limited space for one or two administrative volunteers each day to help coordinate volunteer sign-in and other related duties. Please sign up online if you are interested in one of these spaces.

For specific questions about the event, please contact Leslie Middleton at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at lmiddleton@acb-online.org or (804) 775-0951.



From The Kitchen Window – August/September 2006

" I go to nature to be soothed and healed,
and to have my senses put in tune once more"

John Burroughs

Among the deep green canopy atop the Tulip Tree a single leaf pales, and laced with early morning dew, drops silently to the ground. The blue haze of the warm July dawn paints softness across the woodscape...and the grasses and leaves and petals and spider webs glisten with little water jewels. In a while, streams of sunlight find passages through the towering trees, and shaded understory, to the forest floor. Beads of water droplets sparkle in the sunlight, and the lone fallen leaf glows in the bath of light, reflecting the gold of the sun on a path that flows back through branches and leaves, to the sky and beyond.

The cardinals and wrens sing their morning songs as they always do, not knowing they lost a friend. Ms Ellen, our Richmond Audubon President and a friend of all our birds, passed away on July 10th. We will miss her.

The Full Moon for August will occur on the ninth, named the Sturgeon Moon. The Perseid Meteor Shower occurs on the 11th and 12th.

The full moon for September is the Harvest Moon, which will occur on the 7th. The autumnal equinox, the start of fall, occurs at 10:03 p.m. on the 22nd.

John Coe

Richmond Audubon Society
P.O. Box 26648
Richmond, VA 23261



Audubon

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Permit Number 603

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Chapter Membership Application

Yes, please enroll me (us) as a **new** member(s) of both National and Richmond Audubon Societies at the address below, **at the introductory rate**. Also included are subscriptions to the NAS magazine, **Audubon**, and the RAS newsletter, **The Thrasher**. (Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society**. And write "X53" on the check).

___ Individual/Family Member(s) \$20 enclosed

___ Student/Senior Member \$15 enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone ____/____

E-mail address: _____

Send your check and application to:
Richmond Audubon Society
c/o Membership Chair, Lori Rutledge
P.O. Box 26648
Richmond, VA 23261

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The Thrasher

the newsletter of the Richmond Audubon Society.

The Richmond Audubon society promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and preservation of birds, other wildlife, and habitat through education, advocacy, and fellowship.