



The Thrasher

Richmond Audubon Society

RAS Meeting, Thursday February 16, 2006

The meeting will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The church is located at the intersection of Chippenham Parkway and Custis Road in South Richmond. The intersection is at a traffic light just east of the Huguenot Rd. exit.

Program: Are you interested in volunteering at a national wildlife refuge? Sandy and Bob Wynne will share their experiences as volunteers at Bosque del Apache near Socorro New Mexico. In addition to sharing the refuge with 40,000 Snow Geese and 15,000 Sandhill Cranes, they had a cactus garden with Gambel's Quail, a very nice apartment, and good Mexican

food. Their travels also included visits to other areas of New Mexico: Portal, Taos, Santa Fe, Canyon de Chelly; and the Grand Canyon. Bob and Sandy will describe their experiences and show a video. Don't miss this entertaining program.

The pre-meeting dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. for the nominal fee of \$5.00. Call or email me by Wednesday, February 15 if you plan to be there for the dinner. 743-1479 or lindawarfield@comcast.net

Dessert will be available after the meeting.

Note: Those who want to come but are unsure you can make it, get your

name on the list. Too much food is better than not enough! (If you can't make it, you will not be responsible for the cost.) Reservations will not be accepted after February 15.

You are welcome to share one of your favorite dishes with our group. It will help spread out the work required to prepare the pre-meeting dinners. (Bring receipts to the meeting so I can reimburse you for your expenses.) This month we still need two more entrees and two more salads. Call or email by Sunday, February 12, to let me know what you plan to provide. Bon Appetit!

Linda Warfield
Hospitality Chair

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

Nominating Committee: The RAS Board has appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee: Margaret O'Bryan (Chair), Caroline Coe, Nelda Snyder, and Al Warfield. RAS members may submit suggestions for officers and directors to the Committee. The recommendations of the Committee will be announced in the March/April Thrasher, and elections will take place at the Annual RAS Meeting in April.

Correction: In "*Another Successful Auction*" in the January Thrasher, Wild Bird Center was inadvertently left out of the list of businesses who contributed to the auction. We apologize for this omission. Please see their ad in this month's edition, and include this long-time RAS supporter among the businesses you patronize.

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Lee Park Bird Survey

RAS will be surveying birds seen in Lee park, Petersburg, during the period of one year starting in early 2006. This will start as soon as it is possible to schedule times to do the survey. Lee Park is a bird sanctuary that is on the interface between coastal plain and piedmont habitat, and as such contains numerous habitat types. There is the potential for quite a few species. Six RAS members have agreed to work on the survey, and a few more would be welcome to help. The data will be tabulated and made available to the Lee Park Committee. If you are interested, contact Al Warfield, the project leader for this project.
warfield101@comcast.net
804-743-1479

President's Message: February, 2006

The National Audubon Society, our parent organization, has addressed several important initiatives in the past year. The Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act was reauthorized for 2006 although funding was not significantly increased. NAS helped secure an additional \$16 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System. And, closer to home, supported by National Audubon's Public Policy Office in Washington, DC, Audubon North Carolina secured a legal victory to protect Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge against the U.S. Navy's decision to place a jet landing field in eastern North Carolina in the area where Tundra Swans winter by the thousands.

Although the causes of conservation won a major battle when the U.S. Senate removed authority to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve from the budget bill, the Bush administration has now opened 350,000 acres close to the ANWR to oil exploration. This area contains one of the significant breeding areas in Alaska. It is not, however, a wildlife preserve.

To quote NAS, "*endless letters, emails, phone calls, district meetings, letters to the editor – you did whatever was asked, whatever was needed. It was grassroots pressure that carried the day for the Arctic Refuge and all the wildlife that depend upon it. Thank you!*"

The challenge of fulfilling our mission statement continues to engage our Richmond Audubon Board of Directors. At our latest Board meeting in January the list of projects, both proposed and those underway, demonstrated our commitment to that mission. As this session of the Virginia General Assembly opens Richmond Audubon will stand with the Virginia Conservation Network to impress legislators with the imperatives of conservation actions for the future of the state.

The renovation of Lee Park in Petersburg provides an

opportunity for RAS to demonstrate its commitment to education and habitat conservation by agreeing to survey and document the birds of the park. See Page one for information on volunteering. The Great Backyard Bird Count is another opportunity for everyone to become a citizen-scientist and contribute to the body of information supporting efforts on behalf of all bird species. Web site is www.birdsource.org.

Our Education Committee members are working with Dutch Gap at Henricus to develop new bird and conservation oriented projects there. This group is also developing a new series of programs to be available for showing at local clubs and groups.

Windmill-generated power along the ridges of Highland County (and subsequently other areas) continues to command the attention of those who recognize the inherent dangers to birds, especially raptors, and bats, as well as the effect on the environment. We will continue to monitor this project.

The RAS website may soon be enhanced with a database and maps of bird sightings and distribution in the Richmond area. An educational aid for both local and visiting birders this would be developed with input from field trip sightings and other information from local birders.

Richmond Kids is the working title for a long-term project being developed in recognition of our obligation to train future voters in the importance of the natural world and to create a climate of conservation. The committee is currently developing the strategy for partnering with existing community groups to reach youngsters who historically have not been exposed to personal interaction with nature. Look for more information as the project grows.

Ellen Ackerman

Field Trips: February - March, 2006

Sunday, February 5, 2006 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Sunday morning walk at Bryan Park with Sue Ridd. *Sunrise is at 7:11 a.m.* Meet Sue ½ hour after sunrise at picnic shelter #1. Questions, call Sue at 270-5365. What birds are about and braving the cold?

Wednesday, February 8, 2006 – 2nd Wednesday walk with John Coe: This winter morning walk will be to Bryan Park in Richmond. We will be on the look-out for winter birds and visiting waterfowl and maybe a peek at the nesting Great-horned Owl! Call John at 276-1397 for details and to sign up.

Saturday, February 11, 2006 – George Washington Birthplace

National Monument, Westmoreland County (on the Potomac River): Join Tyler Turpin for this glorious winter field trip. A \$4.00 park admission fee per person or a national park pass will get us into some good spots on the cove near the house. The trip will cover the beach, picnic area, and visitor's center area, and then into the Town of Colonial Beach. Target birds include Redheaded Woodpeckers, Bald Eagles (4-pair nest on the site), spectacular views of Tundra Swan and any species of waterfowl found in Virginia is possible. Meet at the park at 9 a.m. in the Visitor's Center parking lot. Car poolers and people wanting to travel as a

group will depart the Hardees at Parham and Route 1 at 7 a.m. sharp. Call Tyler at 804-750-1878 for more information about the trip.

Friday - Sunday, February 10-12, 2006 – Outer Banks, North Carolina: VSO Trip to the Outer Banks. Check the website for details: www.virginiabirds.net/trips/Outerbanks2006.htm.

February 17 - 20, 2006 – Great Backyard Bird Count: It's the count of birds for the National Audubon Society! Go to www.birdsource.org and check out what you need to do. You can count in your own backyard or join

Continued on next page

us for any of the following field trips:
Friday, Feb. 17- Presquile NWR: Count birds for the USFWS! Dress warmly as we will travel by boat to the island. For more details, call Sue Ridd at 270-5365.

Saturday, Feb. 18 – James River NWR: Join Julie Kacmarcik and Caroline Coe as they count birds. Limit is 8 birders. For more information, call 530-3660.

Sunday, Feb. 19 – Forest Hill Park: Meet 8 a.m. at the Picnic Shelter parking lot to count birds. For more information, call Suzette Lyon at 231-6685.

Wednesdays, February 15 & 22, and March 1, 2006, 9a.m. to noon – The Wetlands, James River Park: Joe Shoman of NAS did the organizational plan for the Wetlands and it has proven to be a rich wildlife habitat. Let's eliminate the English ivy to allow the diversity of natural plants and animals to continue. Meet Ralph White at the end of Landria Drive. Some loppers are available. For more information, call the James River Park at 646-8911.

Saturday, February 25, 2006 – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens: Join Bob Sass for a winter bird walk in the gardens. Meet at the main entrance. A \$6 admission fee is payable at the end of the trip; LGBG members are free. Please sign up by calling Bob at 285-8177.

Saturday, February 25, 2006 – Bryan Park, Richmond: Meet Alice Boller at Picnic Shelter #1 at 1 p.m. to help pick up trash around the lakes. Wear gloves and bring a pole or an old clam net. For information, call Alice at 449-6257.

Saturday and Sunday, February 25 - 26, 2006 – Highland County, Virginia: A great weekend trip to Virginia's "Little Switzerland". Join leaders Jerry Uhlman and Greg Moser as we look for Golden Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, Ruffed Grouse and maybe a shrike or Pine Siskin. Reservations for lodging can be made at the Highland Inn 888-466-4682 or The Montvallee Hotel 540-468-2500. Plan to meet Greg and Jerry Saturday

morning at 7 a.m. behind the Highland Inn. Bring water, snacks and plenty of warm clothes. Space is limited so call Jerry at 262-9546 or Greg at 358-3470 for information and to sign up.

Saturday, March 4, 2006 – Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield County: Meet Betsy Saunders at 7:30 a.m. for a favorite RAS bird walk into Dutch Gap. We'll be looking for winter birds, resident species, and birds on the move early for spring. And we're always on the look-out for the unusual sighting. Call Betsy at 272-0605 for more information.

Sunday, March 5, 2006 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Sunday morning walk at Bryan Park with Sue Ridd. *Sunrise is at 6:37 a.m.* Meet Sue ½ hour after sunrise at picnic shelter #1. Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

Wednesday, March 8, 2006 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: A new location for a 2nd Wednesday Walk, we will explore Robious Landing Park on the James River near James River High School in Chesterfield County. Call John at 276-1397 for details and to sign up.

Sunday, March 12, 2006 – Curles Neck Farm, Henrico County: An RAS favorite birding destination in any season. Meet at the entrance to the farm at 6:30 a.m. and we'll scan the fields, check the ponds, and look in the wetlands and forests for birds of all descriptions. Call John at 276-1397 for details and to sign up.

Friday, March 17, 2006 – Presquile NWR Volunteer Day: Presquile is RAS's adopted National Wildlife Refuge and we're always pleased to help. So join Cyrus Brame on the island and assist him in a number of activities. Bring a lunch and water. For more details, call Cyrus at 829-9020.

Sunday, March 19, 2006 – Harrison Lake Paddle, Charles City County: Sunset Paddle at Harrison Lake with Julie Kacmarcik-BYOB (bring your own boat) and meet at the put-in at 4 p.m. Wear PFD-bring water, snacks and dress for the weather. For

more info contact Julie at 530-3660.

Monday, March 20, 2006 – The first day of spring!! Rejoice and consider volunteering to lead a field trip. Call Julie at 530-3660 or Caroline at 276-1397.

Saturday, March 25, 2006 – Pocohantas State Park, Chesterfield County: Join Wendy Ealding for a walk and let's look for some early spring migrants. Meet Wendy in the park at the CCC Museum (Old Nature Center) at 7:15 a.m. Wendy has a great ear and will be able to home in on those new spring arrivals. For more info contact Wendy at wealding@aol.com.

Saturday, March 25, 2006 – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens: Join Faye Taylor-Hyder for a winter bird walk in the gardens. Meet at the main entrance. A \$6 admission fee is payable at the end of the trip; LGBG members are free. Please sign up by calling Faye at 745-5026.

Fridays starting March 31 through May 12, 2006 – The Wetlands before Work (WBW): Join Mary Aginteanu and Larry Robinson at the Wetlands entrance on Landria Drive at 7 a.m. Track spring arrivals before hitting the rock pile. For more information, contact Mary at 320-0138.

Looking ahead.....

Daylight savings time begins **Sunday**, April 2 – Spring forward an hour.
False Cape Weekend with Brian Townsend April 21-22
Great Dismal Swamp with Darrell Peterson April 30.

Please join us on a field trip or come out for a work day to some of our favorite places. And remember that field trips are subject to change occasionally. Check the RAS listserv and/or website, or call the trip leader before you head out the door.

Note: all phone numbers in area code 804 unless indicated.

*Julie Kacmarcik
Caroline Coe*



Hopewell CBC Summary 2005/2006

This season's Hopewell Christmas Bird Count was held on December 18, 2005. The day began in the low 30's with rain showers, but warmed up to a balmy 45° with clearing skies and sunshine. We tallied 110 species (a new high species total) and 50,664 individual birds. Least Sandpiper and Dunlin were seen during count week but not included in the day total. Unusual species found included Ross's Goose (3) (3rd time recorded and high count), Cackling Goose (1) (2nd time recorded), Merlin (1) (3rd time recorded on the count), and Lincoln's Sparrow (1) (2nd ever recorded on the count). We also achieved new high counts for several species, including Snow Goose (6,000), Bufflehead (152), Horned Grebe (36), American Robin

(4949), American Pipit (495), Swamp Sparrow (102) and Rusty Blackbird (1054). Other species of note were Canvasback (3), Greater Scaup (1), Common Goldeneye (3), Great Egret (1), Forster's Tern (1), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2), Common Yellowthroat (2), Gray Catbird (14), Baltimore Oriole (6), and Purple Finch (7). Low counts for House Sparrow (19), and Wood Duck (1) were also recorded.

A total of 39 people took part on this count, and I would like to recognize their fine efforts. They were; Bob Ake, Bob Anderson, Jane Beavers, Allen Bryan, John Coe, Caroline Coe, Bob Coles, Russell Deane, Pam Dummitt, Wendy Ealding, Jon Ealding, Chris Foster, Katie Holzback, David Hughes, Mike Iwanik, Julie Kacmarcik, Bill Keith, Larry Lynch, Greg Moser, Leeanna Pletcher, Penny Reynolds, Sue Ridd, Ben Saunders, Betsy Saunders,

Buz and Nelda Snyder, Randy Suhl, Grace Suttle, Brian Townsend, Jerry Uhlman, Cindy Van Den Boom, Gary Van Den Boom, Cathy Viverette, Al Warfield, Linda Warfield, Gerry Weinberger, Audrey Whitlock, Townley Wolfe, and Anne Wright. Richmond Audubon Society also thanks the many land owners who allowed us to count on their properties. Thanks also go to Chris and Betsy Foster who were excellent hosts for the post count compilation at their home.

Arun Bose

Ed.: And RAS thanks Arun Bose for coordinating and taking part in the count this year. He also arranged for the preparation of sorely needed maps, and did a great job. Thanks!

James River Counters, January 7, 2006



The many folks who helped with the species count along the James in Richmond are shown here during the tally at the Arginteanu-Robinson residence at the Wetlands entrance.

Photo by Julie Kacmarcik

Highland County Wind Factory

The State Corporation Commission is taking comments on the proposed Wind Factory in Highland Co., Va. A \$60 million electricity generating facility is proposed on ridge tops of 4,300 feet in elevation. Turbines would be about 400 feet tall, and number about 30 initially, with more, perhaps many more to come.

Please write to Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P. O. Box 2118, Richmond Va 23218-2118 with your comments. Tell the SCC there is growing concern that wind turbines are seriously threatening bat species in the east, and that there should be a moratorium on all large turbine construction until such time that this serious problem is addressed at the state and federal levels by appropriate agencies.

Here are some points to mention:

1. View shed will be dramatically altered in Virginia's most pristine areas by ridge top wind turbines. Local residents must have input on allowing turbines within their viewing

area. Turbines will likely be 1000 times more visible than traditional power plants.

2. Wind power is currently subsidized greatly, and as such, must be done in an environmentally friendly manner. There are serious concerns about bulldozing ridge tops, which leads to habitat destruction and fragmentation. Ridges are nesting places for several birds including the endangered Cerulean Warbler. There are also serious concerns about bat mortality which have not been addressed.

3. A Full Environmental Impact Assessment must be done with a minimum 2 year study of bird and bat migration patterns.

4. Any permitting must be provisional, and dependent on future environmental degradation.

Comments will be accepted until March 13.

John Roberts

RAS Birdathon 2005 Summary

The 2005 RAS Birdathon was conducted in May 2005 by four teams of RAS members. We birded all across the Old Dominion with 24 hour forays to locate and identify birds. The Birdathon was supported by the donations of 58 individuals – members, friends, family and coworkers – who donated \$3419.50. We identified 170 species. We did this to highlight the great diversity of birds in Virginia, for the pure pleasure of being outdoors birding in May, and to support local Conservation Projects. Below are some further details:

The 4 Birdathon teams:

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly Ducklings
Upstart Redstarts
Rockin' Robins
Birds of a Feather

Where we birded:

Allegheny Highlands
Eastern Shore
Chincoteague
Blue Ridge Mountains
Piedmont

This year RAS supported:

James River Parks – money for signs on the Flood Wall depicting the James River as an entity describing the birds & animals in and around the river habitat. RAS has committed to work on a Wood Duck box project on Belle Isle this fall involving volunteer construction and installation of boxes.

Presquile NWR & Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) – a joint project on Presquile NWR (a significant portion of the land area in the James River Wetlands IBA) to control invasive plant species in the old field habitat and provide additional habitat for riparian bird species. Our commitment will include at least one tree planting weekend this fall for volunteers. This project will partner RAS with the James River Association and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

We continue to make a difference for birds and habitats.

THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Margaret Ebbs and Caroline Coe, RAS Birdathon Co-Chairs

Hampton Field Trip: January 15, 2006

Six hardy and enthusiastic birders bundled up and enjoyed a chilly and blustery day at Grandview Beach in Hampton. A few hours on the beach (holding onto our wind-blown scopes) and a few more in local parks, which were frosted with a thin layer of snow, yielded 50 species of birds. Our thanks to Clark White, who knew just where to find them! Thanks to all who turned out and made it a great day! Highlights were Common and Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Gannet, Brown Pelican, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Gadwall, American Widgeon, Redhead (good, close look), Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye (lots), Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Adult Bald Eagle (last bird of the day, soaring right over our heads), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey (the bird), Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull, and many other usual suspects.

Margaret Ebbs

From The Kitchen Window – February, 2006

" The winter is half past, and in another 6 weeks the flowers will begin to appear on the earth; the time of the singing of the birds will have come."
Song of Solomon

A sharp wind ruffles the feathers of the male cardinal as he looks for a last bite before seeking shelter and sleep. The sun has set and is just a glow on the southwestern horizon. All the other birds have gone somewhere. I think about this "somewhere" sometimes. Where on a cold night like tonight, and only half-way through winter, do they all go? An hour ago there were 20, 30, or 40 birds busily feeding, preening, drinking, scratching, bickering, flying, hopping, or just perching about. Then night comes. It's cold, and they're gone.

In our yard, we have brush piles, some evergreens, a few low shrubs among the big hardwoods, and a few upturned boats for cover. I think it would be great to put on night goggles (if I had some) and see where all our daytime feathered friends are sleeping. Actually, I think it would be okay to just snuggle under our warm down comforter and imagine little bird beds.

The neat thing is no matter how wintry the night, come morning they are (best I can tell) back as usual outside the kitchen window. The cardinals and Carolina Wrens are always the first up, and then all the other birds know the sun is rising earlier and setting later. Even if February seems to last longer than March and April combined, they sense the fresh scent of spring.

So far this winter our visitors to the backyard have been: a lone Purple Finch, a very handsome immature Baltimore Oriole, 3 Pine Warblers, very few White-throated Sparrows, lots of juncos, a Winter Wren (for a day), a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, several Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Coopers Hawk, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers, and lots of grackles, robins and bluebirds passing through.

The regulars were there too: chickadee, titmouse, cardinal, White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy, Pileated, and Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Mourning Dove, House and Gold Finch, mockingbird, Song Sparrow, starling, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, and not to forget our crows and Blue Jays. They all wish the Groundhog a good day, and a forecast favoring a fast track to spring.

The full moon, called the Snow Moon, occurs at 9:44 p.m. on the 12th. And be sure to arise at dawn on the 24th to see the thin crescent moon and brilliant Venus together.

John Coe

The Thrasher Ad Page

The Thrasher accepts ads that are related to our mission: promotion of the enjoyment, understanding and preservation of birds, other wildlife, and habitat.

Zeiss Sports Optics invites the Richmond Audubon Society to our Chester facility! Come see the dynamic and award-winning VICTORY line along with our other spectacular birding optics.

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

Officers and Board Members for 2005-6

President	Ellen Ackerman	eackerma@aol.com	262-7040
1st Vice President	Al Warfield	warfield101@comcast.net	677-3758
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
Cyberspace	Robin Ruth	robin.ruth@att.net	231-5949
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	Margaret O'Bryan John Roberts	heron329@aol.com call for email address	746-5599 329-0812
Membership	Nelda Snyder	snyderfolks@earthlink.net	795-1446
Past President	Margaret O'Bryan	heron329@aol.com	746-5599
Programs*	Sandy Wynne	sswynne@verizon.net	276-5520
Publicity	Greg Moser	vtsec11@juno.com	358-3470
VA Audubon Council Rep	Ellen Ackerman	eackerma@aol.com	262-7040
Youth	Kevin Jones	kvnJns@aol.com	264-7157
At Large	Mary Arginteanu	maryarg@aol.com	320-0138
At Large	Kim Harrell	flyingfish1@erols.com	282-3419

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, Jul./Aug., Sept./Oct, Nov./Dec.

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

The Thrasher is printed on recycled paper

Welcome to New Members of Richmond Audubon Society

-----NEW MEMBERS-----				TRANSFERS
BEAVERDAM	MONTPELIER	RICHMOND	RICHMOND	CHESTER
Linda Birtley	Nancy M. Stanley	Carolyn Dunaway	Betty Stainback	Kelly Ubbing
CHESTER	QUINTON	Patricia A. Dunlavey	Allan H. Stone	RICHMOND
Kathryn Griffin	Linda R. Pridgen	William Dwyer, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. T. R. Stone	Margeryann Longstreet
CHESTERFIELD	Dr. Vicki Tibbs, DDS	Marguerite R. Ellett	David Stone	Mary Porter
Donald King	RICHMOND	Ms. Aseeyah A. Karim	Arnold F. Strother	
COLONIAL HEIGHTS	Pamela Farnham Ansell	Lucas K. Kelly	Mrs. Raymond Sumner	
Molly Parker	Heather A. Barnett	Gerda Klaar	Mike Taylor	
GLEN ALLEN	Caroline Cauthorne	Frederic Lazzuri	Dr. Robert Trice	
John Kriz	Joan Christian	Karen LeCorno	William David Tucker	
T. Subramanian	Dr. & Mrs. C.H. Cockrell	Doris S. Lewis	Ann Ronkin Wassom	
MECHANICSVILLE	Teresa S. Coe	Sallie B. Neblety	M. G. Watkin	
Peggy Smith	John V. Cogbill, Jr	Dawn Payne	Eric T. Weiss	
MIDLOTHIAN	Sam Copredge	Mrs. Arthur T. Peach	John Wheatley	
Elizabeth Andrews	Darcy N. Davies	Isabel S. Rankin	Sam Witt	
Jeffrey H. Brill	N. DeMott	Lynn & Dick Rithemiller	Christina Woodson	
Frances Vickers	Sharon Decker	Robert Schwabik		
MINERAL	Donald A. Denton	Lloyd Shockley		
Joan Mazza	A. Dodson	Carole Sieburth		

The members above joined RAS or transferred to RAS during the fall of 2005. Welcome, and please come to a meeting or field trip. Make sure to let someone know you are new to the organization.

Nelda Snyder, Membership Chair



Lobby Day: The VA Conservation Network

Several RAS members and members of other Audubon clubs took part in the Virginia Conservation Network's Lobby Day activities on Monday, January 16, 2006. RAS members who attended were Margaret O'Bryan, Aimee Weldon, Greg Moser, John Coe, Sue Ridd, John Roberts, and Linda and Al Warfield. Other Auduboners attending were Manny Barrerra (VAC President), Glenda Booth and another member from Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. Legislative priorities of the VCN that were emphasized were: Air Quality, Transportation, Energy, Land Conservation, and Water Quality. Senators Ticer and Hanger spoke in the morning. After lunch we visited several Senators and Delegates or their aides. Among those visited personally were Speaker Howell, Senators Chichester (aide) and Whipple; Delegates Griffith (aide), Cox (aide), and Nixon. One bill we supported very emphatically was Del. Griffith's HB435, which calls for a moratorium on landings and importation of Horseshoe Crabs in Virginia to allow the rufa subspecies of the Red Knot to reach a population of 240,000 and return of the Horseshoe Crabs to 1990 levels. This was well received by all with whom we spoke. We also asked for support of the other extremely important conservation issues mentioned above. It was a very informative and exciting day, and gave some of us who are less experienced in these activities the confidence we needed to enable our continued personal support of environmental conservation measures. Everyone we spoke with was very receptive and appeared to sincerely appreciate our presence. Members who spoke with their Senator or Delegate followed up with thank-you letters. RAS is a chapter of VCN and supports its conservation positions.

Al Warfield

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



Audubon

Non-Profit Organization
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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, Nelda Snyder
9900 Arrahatteck Trail
Richmond, VA 23231-8339

x53
7xch



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.