

Volume 34, Issue 1

January/February  
2007



# The Thrasher

Richmond Audubon Society

## RAS Meetings in Jan. and Feb. 2007

The meetings will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. 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 for January 18: They're baaack! The 2007 Session of the General Assembly of Virginia convenes January 10, and Richmond Audubon Society members will have several superb opportunities to stay informed and participate in the legislative process. (See related article page 5.) At our January 18 meeting, Lisa Guthrie, Executive Director of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, will update us on key 2007 legislative conservation and environmental issues and initiatives, including air and water quality, cleaner energy, transportation and land use, and wetlands protection. The League, a statewide nonpartisan political action arm of Virginia's conservation community, works to preserve and enhance the quality of life of all Virginians by making conservation a top priority with Virginia's elected officials, political candidates, and voters. For more information on this important organization, please visit its Website at [www.valcv.org](http://www.valcv.org).

Program for February 15: There's no hotter topic than global warming. Join Connie Mahan, Director of Grassroots Outreach from the Audubon Policy office in Washington DC, to explore ways Audubon can make a significant contribution to efforts to curb greenhouse gases.

Let's get to work on this ultimate environmental threat. Greg Moser will also have forms to fill out by which you can pledge to reduce your carbon footprint.

Dessert will be available after the meetings.

The Pre-meeting dinner for each meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. There is a nominal fee of \$5.00. Call or email me by the day before the meeting if you plan to be there for the dinner. 743-1479 / [lindawarfield@comcast.net](mailto:lindawarfield@comcast.net).

Note for 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 must be made by the evening of the day before the meeting.

Entrée items for the pre-meeting dinners are provided by some of the attendees by pre-arrangement. We always need both vegetarian and meat entrees as well as salads and side dishes. If you would like to share one of your favorite recipes with our group, call or email me by the Sunday before the meeting. Keep your receipts so I can reimburse you at the meeting. Bon Appetit!

*Linda Warfield*, Hospitality Chair

## In this issue:

President's Message: - Al Warfield	2
RAS Nominating Committee	2
Preview of April RAS Meeting Program: Al Warfield	2
Birding on Iona, Scotland, and Northern Ireland: Bob Wynne	3
RAS Field Trips & Work Days: -Jan-Feb 2007	4
Legislative Committee Update: Nancy Ambler	5
Fisherman Is. NWR Field Trip Report: Margaret Ebbs	5
From the Kitchen Window: - John Coe	6
James River NWR Field Trip Report: Lewis Barnett	6
Auction Results: Linda Warfield	6
RAS Officers & Committee Chairs; Important Notices	7
Thrasher Ad Page	7
Membership Corner: Lori Rutledge	8
Audubon Membership Form	8

## Uptown Gallery Opening: "For the Birds"

Join Richmond Audubon friends and the artists of the Uptown Gallery on Friday, January 5th, 5 - 8 p.m. or Sunday, February 4th, 1 - 4 p.m. Uptown Gallery is located at 1305 West Main Street. Each of the Uptown Gallery artists has created interpretive work of "Birds in Art" for this show. Richmond Audubon will host the openings and display information on us and on what citizens can do to enjoy and preserve wildlife and habitat. For information, contact Mary Arginteanu, 320-0138 or [maryarg@aol.com](mailto:maryarg@aol.com). (Street parking should be easy; parking is also available in a lot on the corner of Main and Brunswick, accessible from Brunswick.)

The next *Thrasher* you will receive will be the March/April issue.

## President's Message, January/February 2007

It's the holiday season, and that brings about the chance to make a difference in many ways. First there's the CBC (Christmas Birdcount) which you will have already participated in by the time you receive this issue. But there is also Project FeederWatch and the GBBC (Great Backyard Birdcount). There are several opportunities to get involved with those activities. See the Field Trips section for more details. Look especially at the trips to Presquile and James River NWR. But you can also do them in your own backyard.

Being the President as well as the Thrasher Editor gives me a unique perspective from both points of view. I know about all the RAS programs, and I also know how much information we can actually present to you due to space limitations, so I won't take up much of it here. But RAS is into more areas than ever before. Two areas of particular interest in January and February are legislation and global warming. If you are really concerned about the way things are going in Virginia and the USA, then you need to come to these two meetings!

The only ways we as citizens can have any influence on legislative issues is to vote in the elections and to contact our legislators about what concerns us. On state issues, Lobby day is one time you can do that easily (see Nancy Ambler's article on legislative issues), but you can always call, write, email, or visit your congressperson to express your opinion.

I already wrote about global warming in a previous issue, but in February you will hear much more from Connie Mayhan of the NAS Washington DC office. Many people think this is not a real issue, but I have concluded that those are the folks who don't want to know and don't really examine the evidence the environmental scientists present. They will be in for a rude and possibly wet awakening, as will the rest of us if we don't change course very soon to a lower carbon output. Here are two carbon calculators you can use to figure out what your carbon footprint is now: <http://safeclimate.net/calculator/>; <http://goodcommonsense.net/15becane.html>.

But there are lots of other directions for RAS these days as well. One is the IBA. We have now adopted the James River IBA, and are the first NAS Chapter in Virginia to do so. That means a commitment on our part in the future. Make sure to keep up with the opportunities to participate in all the activities associated with this project. We are also planning several field trips as part of the VCU-Maymont Discovery Institute lecture series called "Birding along the James River - An Historical Perspective" as a tribute to the celebrations planned for Jamestown 2007. You will be hearing more about it in future issues. There are other events but that's all the space I have, so please stay in the loop and watch for opportunities to participate.

*Al Warfield*

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## RAS Nominating Committee

The RAS Nominating Committee has the responsibility of coming up with the proposed slate of officers and Board Members of RAS for the next fiscal year, which starts after the Annual Meeting in April, 2007. The Nominating Committee for this year consists of Margaret O'Bryan, Caroline Coe, and Lori Rutledge. The proposed slate will appear in the March/April Issue of the Thrasher.

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A Yellow-bellied Greenbul drinks from a faucet at Mkuze Nature Reserve in KwaZulu Natal in South Africa. A sneak preview of the program if you come to the April RAS meeting, April 26, 2007. Photos by Al Warfield

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## Birding on Iona and in Scotland and Northern Ireland: Summer 2007

The corncrake is a most interesting and elusive bird. While serving as a volunteer on the Isle of Iona with the Iona Community this past summer, I was able to hear corncrakes in fields all over the island but it was impossible to see one. They make a scratchy sound like a wrench on a rusty bolt. The corncrake is a member of the rail family, but unlike American rails, which are found in wetland habitat, the corncrakes on Iona were also found in dry fields. They have been making a comeback on the isles and in western Scotland with the help of farmers, bird watchers, RSPB (Royal Society for the Preservation of the Birds) and other groups. The farmers on Iona usually wait until the middle of August or later to cut their hay which gives most of the corncrakes time to finish their nesting and parenting and begin their long migration to Africa.

By the way I eventually did see a corncrake. I found one outside the Iona Community Center on a Monday night in August where a ceilidh (folk dance) was in full swing. [Ceilidh is pronounced "kay-lee".] He was inspired to sing along with the Scottish music playing inside. The growing darkness

may have also provided some security as this corncrake sat on a fence post singing his little heart out.

The only seabirds I witnessed nesting on Iona were fulmars. I saw about four pair nesting on the cliffs near the site of an old quarry. However a short three-mile boat trip to Staffa Isle allowed me to witness nesting fulmars and puffins. The puffins are easily seen and photographed on some of the bluffs on Staffa where you can also walk to Fingle's Cave where Felix Mendelssohn was inspired to write his "Overture to the Hebrides". The boat captain believes that the puffins like to land up close to humans because they know they will be safe from gulls, which often attack them to make them drop their food. Other birds seen on Iona and in its waters were gannets, kittiwakes, razorbill auks, guillemots, shags, cormorants, arctic terns, common terns, great black-backed gulls, manx shearwaters, grey plovers, grey herons, starlings, knots, curlews, shelducks, oystercatchers, great skuas, wheatears, goldfinches, mistle thrushes, greenfinches, jackdaws and hooded crows.

Birds that I saw in the Scottish Highlands and on Mull included meadow pipits, swallows, wood warblers, great spotted woodpeckers, bullfinches, siskins, linnets, chaffinches, bramblings, jays, treecreepers, osprey, raven, great crested grebes, blue tits, great tits, coal tits, wrens, buzzards, meadow pipits, magpies and black-headed gulls. In Northern Ireland I also saw redshanks, curlews, turnstones and bar-tailed godwits. Our last stop in September was a RSPB hide across from the Belfast harbor where we were served tea and biscuits while we watched the birds with our birding friends from Belfast.

*Bob Wynne*

[Ed.: Bird names in this article are those used in British field guides, where common names of birds are generally all lowercase, whereas under the ABA system, capital letters are used for the first word in each portion of the name. Many of these birds also have different names in AOU nomenclature. A good guide to British birds is found at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/birds/guide/>.]

Here the British bird names are listed first, then the ABA common and [*scientific names*] listed here in cases where not found in the USA or for clarification: corncrake: Corn Crake [*Crex crex*]; fulmar: Northern Fulmar; puffin: Atlantic Puffin; gannet: Northern Gannet; kittiwake: Black-legged Kittiwake; razorbill auk: Razorbill; guillemot: Black Guillemot; shag: European Shag [*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*]; cormorant: Great Cormorant; grey plover: Black-bellied Plover; grey heron: Gray Heron [*Ardea cinerea*], starling: European Starling; knot: Red Knot; curlew: Eurasian Curlew [*Numenius arquata*]; shelduck: Common Shelduck [*Tadorna tadorna*]; oystercatcher: Eurasian Oystercatcher [*Haematopus ostralegus*]; wheatear: Northern Wheatear [*Oenanthe oenanthe*]; goldfinch: European Goldfinch [*Carduelis carduelis*]; mistle thrush: Mistle Thrush [*Turdus viscivorus*]; greenfinch: Greenfinch [*Carduelis chloris*]; jackdaw: Jackdaw [*Corvus monedula*]; hooded crow: Hooded

Crow [*Corvus cornix*]; meadow pipit: Meadow Pipit [*Anthus pratensis*]; swallow: Barn Swallow; wood warbler: Wood Warbler [*phylloscopus sibilatrix*]; great spotted woodpecker: Great Spotted Woodpecker [*Dendrocopos major*]; bullfinch: Bullfinch [*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*]; siskin: Eurasian Siskin [*Carduelis spinus*]; linnet: Eurasian Linnet [*Carduelis cannabina*]; chaffinch: Chaffinch [*Fringilla coelebs*]; brambling: Brambling [*Fringilla montifringilla*]; jay: Eurasian Jay [*Garrulus glandarius*]; treecreeper: Eurasian Treecreeper [*Certhia familiaris*], or Short-toed Treecreeper [*Certhia brachydactyla*]; raven: Raven [*Corvus corax*]; great crested grebe: Great Crested Grebe [*Podiceps cristatus*]; blue tit: Blue Tit [*Parus caeruleus*]; great tit: Great Tit [*Parus major*]; coal tit: Coal Tit [*Parus ater*]; wren: Winter Wren; buzzard: Eurasian Buzzard [*Buteo buteo*]; turnstone: Ruddy Turnstone [*Arenaria interpres*].



Photo of Atlantic Puffin by  
Bob Wynne

## Field Trips & Work Days: January - February 2007

Winter Pelagics— 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 to your Life List!!

<http://www.seabirding.com/>

Sunday, January 7, 2007 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Plan on spending the start of the first Sunday in the new year birding with Sue Ridd at Bryan Park. Meet at Shelter #1 at 8 a.m. Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

Wednesday, January 10, 2007 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe, James River Park, Richmond: Meet John at the Pony Pasture parking lot at 9:30 a.m. for a winter's birdwalk. Call John at 276-1397 for additional information.

Saturday, January 13, 2007 – James River Parks, Richmond: Another New Year's resolution: join RAS for our annual James River Winter Bird Count. Call Julie Kacmarcik at 530-3660 for information and to sign up for a territory. The count compilation and potluck breakfast will start at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mary and Larry just outside the Wetlands section of the park.

Saturday, January 20, 2007 – Dutch Gap/Henricus Park, Chesterfield County: Join Betsy Saunders as she leads a bird walk to one of our favorite Chesterfield County Parks. How many ducks? Meet at the Visitors Center at 8 a.m. Contact Betsy at 272-0605 with any questions.

Saturday, January 27, 2007 – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond: Tyler Terpin will lead a bird walk in the gardens. The walk will begin at 8 a.m. and will cost \$6 per person for non-LGBG members. This trip requires advanced registration, so call Tyler at 270-6921 by the 25th to sign up. At least 4 people must sign up or trip will be cancelled.

Saturday, February 3, 2007 – 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 804-270-6921 for more information about the trip and if snow is in the forecast. NOTE: Saturday, February 10 is the backup date if there is snow or ice on February 3.

Sunday, February 4, 2007 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Make is a habit to start the first Sunday of the month birding with Sue Ridd at Bryan Park. Meet at Shelter #1 at 7:41 a.m. Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

Friday - Sunday, February 9 - 11, 2007 – Outer Banks, North Carolina: Virginia Society of Ornithology winter trip. For more information go to [http://www.virginiabirds.net/trips/VSO\\_winter\\_trip\\_07.htm](http://www.virginiabirds.net/trips/VSO_winter_trip_07.htm)

Wednesday, February 14, 2007 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: Meet at 8 a.m. at Dutch Gap for a Valentine's Day birdwalk. Call John at 276-1397 for more information.

Friday - Monday, February 16 - 19, 2007 – Great Backyard Bird Count: The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Go to: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> for more information.

Last year we Central Virginia birders (Richmond) ranked #5 in the country

for submitting the most checklists, and Virginia ranked #8 in reporting the most birds. LET'S BEAT THAT RECORD. Count in your own back yard or join RAS as we count birds at Presquile NWR and the James River NWR.

Friday, Feb. 16 - 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. 17 -James River NWR: Join Julie Kacmarcik and Caroline Coe as they count birds. For more information, call Caroline at 276-1397.

Saturday - Sunday, March 3 - 4, 2007: Highland County, Virginia. A late winter wonderland, Highland County promises a good chance of finding Golden Eagles, Rough-legged Hawks, Pine Siskins and more. The field trips will start Saturday morning. The Highland Inn and the Mont Vallee are the two local spots to stay in Monterey. For details, meeting times and to register for this trip, contact Julie Kacmarcik at 530-3660.

Sunday, March 4, 2007 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Join Sue and start the first Sunday of the month birding at Bryan Park. Meet at Shelter #1 at 7:07 a.m. Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

Saturday, March 10, 2007 – James River National Wildlife Refuge, Prince George County: Come on out and participate in a Volunteer Work Day. Help demolish an old dilapidated house and prepare the site for a new kiosk and wildlife garden. Food, drinks, and nature tour will be provided. Contact Cyrus Brame, US Fish and Wildlife Service, at [cyrus\\_brame@fws.gov](mailto:cyrus_brame@fws.gov), or call 804-829-9020, to register.

Wednesday, March 14, 2007 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: John will be exploring and walking in Forest Hill Park, Richmond. The trip will start at 8 a.m. Call John at 276-1397 for details.

*Continued on Page 5*

Continued from Page 4.

Saturday, March 24, 2007 – Presquile National Wildlife Refuge Volunteer Work Day: Help install the items recently acquired from the USFWS/Audubon Friends Grant (awarded by the NFWF). Some of the tasks will include erecting interpretive/directional signs, removing fencing, refurbishing the Visitor Contact Station and working on the observation platform. Contact Cyrus

Brame, US Fish and Wildlife Service, at [cyrus\\_brame@fws.gov](mailto:cyrus_brame@fws.gov), or call 804-829-9020, to register.

Saturday, March 31, 2007 – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond: Tyler Terpin will lead a bird walk in the early spring gardens. The walk will begin at 8 a.m. and will cost \$6 per person for non-LGBG members. This trip requires advanced registration, so call Tyler at 270-6921 by the 29th to sign up. At least 4

people must sign up or trip will be cancelled.

Note: all phone numbers in area code 804 unless indicated

*Julie Kacmarcik  
Caroline Coe*



## Legislative Committee Update

As the saying goes, "The property of no one is safe while the Virginia General Assembly is in Session!" While January and February in Richmond may not be "the most wonderful time of the year," it is arguably the most important where issues dear to our hearts are concerned. Accordingly, it is critical that we as voters and concerned conservationists speak up, apprise our legislators of our views on key issues, and in so doing participate in our legislative process. In addition to attending our January 18 legislative update meeting (at which we will have sign-on letters to legislators addressing key legislative issues), Richmond Audubon Society members have several other coordinated opportunities for conservation advocacy.

The Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) will host its annual Legislative Action Day ("Lobby Day") Monday, January 15. Lobby Day will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Valentine Richmond

History Center located (just a few blocks from the state Capitol) at 1015 East Clay Street. After receiving an overview of key legislative concerns, participants will be asked to advocate with their legislators on behalf of conservation and environmental issues. VCN is a statewide coalition of more than 100 nonprofit organizations, including RAS. For more information, please visit the VCN's Website at [www.vcnva.org](http://www.vcnva.org).

In addition, RAS members are invited to join the Conservation E-Action Virginia! (CAV!) e-mail alert system. This legislative action initiative of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters offers arguably the fastest and most simple opportunity to ensure that your voice is heard by your legislators. It takes just a minute or two to sign up for membership with the system, and participation is free of charge. In return, you will receive about ten legislative alerts during the Session regarding the most urgent conservation issues and the option to respond as you wish by registering your opinion

by e-mail with your delegates and senators. As a former executive director of a state legislative agency, I know legislators read their e-mails, so don't assume that your opinion is not important! The 2007 Session is a "short" Session, so please stay informed and know that time is of the essence when addressing legislation. The e-mail alert system Website address is <http://capwiz.com/valcvef/state/main?state=VA>. Finally, the General Assembly has an excellent Website that includes information on Members, standing committees, bills and resolutions as introduced, amended, passed, and enacted, meetings, and daily floor minutes for each body (House and Senate). There's also a "Who's My Legislator?" link. Click on <http://legis.state.va.us> for the Assembly's home page and on <http://leg1.state.va.us> for its legislative information system.

Thank you for your interest, your concern, and – most importantly – your participation!

*Nancy Ambler*  
RAS Legislative Committee Chair

## Fisherman Island NWR Field Trip, October 28, 2006

Thirteen adventurous birders took a risk on the weather and were rewarded with a fairly warm, breezy and mostly sunny walk on Fisherman's Island Saturday morning. We were warmly welcomed by Yvonne the ranger at the Eastern Shore Wildlife Refuge, and capably and enthusiastically led by George and Jennie Budd. Our trip begin with about a dozen mature and immature Black-crowned Night Herons flying back and forth

across a small pond along with hundreds of acrobatic Tree Swallows. Many raptors passed overhead riding the strong wind currents. We discovered many treasures on the beach including sand dollars (one interesting specimen had green ink and a serial number). Scoters, skimmers, pelicans and the usual shore birds flew offshore. The Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant and the flickers were waiting for us in their usual tree. Our trip ended with great looks at a perching Merlin. For the even more adventurous, the trip continued to Willis Wharf, Oyster, and the Eastern Shore

Wildlife Refuge. Of course, dinner at Stingray's was delicious. The evening ended at the Kiptopeke campgrounds where we gathered to enjoy Halloween decorations, treats, and beverages while the night was filled with things that glow, the laughter of friends, a blustery wind, and the call of a great horned owl. Thanks to all who contributed to such a great weekend. See you next year.

*Margaret Ebbs*  
(for Julie Kacmarcik)

## From The Kitchen Window – January / February 2007

*Winters now—winters past...*

*Watch the world spin, oh so slowly; summer to winter, Dawn to Dusk.*

The morning fog – the glimpse of sky – the bright of day –  
the warmth of late afternoon – the cold glow at days end.

As we look out the window for nature's "signs" of this winter to come. we look at the window ledge and around the edge for the spider's "pantry". We seek out a Woollybear caterpillar and check the color of its coat. We watch the squirrel carrying leaves up the tree to its nest How big is its nest, and how bushy is the squirrel's fur? And how many acorns are under the big oak tree?

And we think of winters past. I think they are warmer, and not quite so long. And the snows are fewer, and not quite so deep. But the days are still short, and the nights are still long, but not as cold – or so it seems.

And the birds of winters past: The Evening Grosbeaks, and the Purple Finches, and the Pine Siskins. They used to come to our feeders when winter came – sometimes in great numbers - but now only rarely and usually alone.

So, I wonder what this winter and the New Year will bring. I would like lots of snow, and a Snow Bunting would be nice, too.

Happy New Year from all our birds to all your birds.

*John Coe*

## James River NWR Field Trip, December 2, 2006



At the inaugural RAS field trip to James River NWR on Dec. 2, 2006, led by Julie Kacmarcik and Caroline Coe, 19 birders saw 34 species and were treated to great looks at Hermit Thrushes, Bald Eagles (including a nest just off the main trail) and Red Headed Woodpeckers. Picture by Julie Kacmarcik. Report by Lewis Barnett

## Auction Results

Thanks to everyone's participation, this year's auction raised about \$7500. Isn't it nice to have so much fun while raising funds for next year's budget?

Please patronize the following businesses who donated items: Zeiss Sport Optics, Wild Birds Unlimited, Custom Framing Made Simple, Wild Bird Center, Birdwatchers,

Joan Cordle Therapeutic Massage, Blue Ridge Mountain Sports, Circuit City, Best Buy, Greentop Sporting Goods, MC Designs, W. Baxter Perkinson DDS, Scurvy Dog's Tobacco Lounge, Orvis, and Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. And many thanks again to all the members who obtained or made donations. You're the greatest!

*Linda Warfield*

Hospitality Chair & Auction Co-chair

Officers / Committee Chairs and Co-chairs for 2006-7

Acting President	Al Warfield	warfield101@comcast.net	677-3758
1st Vice President	vacant		
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	catbird329@comcast.net	746-5599
Development	Bob Wynne	sswynne@verizon.net	276-5520
Thrasher Editor	Al Warfield	warfield101@comcast.net	677-3758
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Hospitality	Linda Warfield	lindawarfield@comcast.net	743-1479
Conservation	John Roberts	call for email address	329-6879
Legislation	Nancy Ambler	call for email address	358-3437
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	Robin Ruth Mary Arginteanu	robin.ruth@att.net maryarg@aol.com	231-5949 320-0138
VA Audubon Council Rep	Lewis Barnett	lbarnett@richmond.edu	320-7898

Important Notices

RAS meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month except June, July, August and December. Meetings are held at St. Luke Lutheran Church at Custis Rd. and Chippenham Parkway.

The Thrasher will be printed 7 times in 2007: Jan./Feb., Mar./Apr., May/Jun, Jul./Aug., Sept., Oct, Nov./Dec.

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.

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

The Thrasher is printed on recycled paper

The Thrasher Ad Page

**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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**NEW BIRDING BOOKS**  
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*Joining the Dawn Chorus.* Birding adventures from BirdWatcher's Digest, WildBird, Birder's World, National Geographic's Bird Watcher, ABA's Birding. 177 pp, \$18.

*A Birder's Guide to Virginia's Historic James River.* Exploring the best birding spots along the James, Chesapeake to Blue Ridge. 184 pp, \$18.

*Birding Virginia's Battlefield.* Birding along General Lee's retreat from northern Virginia to Appomattox. 25 pp, \$7.50.

*Charles Kuralt Trail: Birding 'On the Refuge Road'.* The trail in VA and NC links 12 refuges. 35 pp, \$8.50.

*Discovering Canada's Riviera.* Birding the northern shore of Lake Erie, featuring Pt. Pelee National Park, Canada's premier migratory hotspot. 27 pp, \$7.50.

**To order publications, send a check (including \$2 postage & handling) payable to Jerry Uhlman, 1428 Lorraine Ave., Richmond, VA 23227. Also available at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens Shop, 1800 Lakeside Ave., Richmond, VA 804-262-9887.**

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.



## Membership Corner

Welcome new members! We look forward to meeting you at one of our many upcoming meetings and field trips. Don't hesitate to introduce yourself as we are a friendly group of bird enthusiasts!

Member Benefit! As a member of the National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of the Richmond Audubon Society Chapter. This also applies to National Audubon Society members who transfer-in to the Richmond area and surrounding counties from other Audubon local chapters. Presently, no additional application forms and membership fees are required. Use the extra dollars saved to feed the birds or support one of our many conservation efforts.

Start the New Year by keeping your membership contact information and membership status current, ON-LINE! As a member of the National Audubon Society, you can access and update personal information and renew membership status through the National Audubon Society's website at: <https://websvr.audubon.org/forms/updated/login.html>. Updates and membership status changes are made available to local chapter officers through on-line reports.

Happy New Year!

*Lori Rutledge*  
Membership Chair

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



# Audubon

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### 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  
5306 Snowden La.  
Richmond, VA 23226-2038

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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.*