RAS Meetings in March and April, 2008

Program for March 20: Note - The March meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Twin Hickory Library this time only. From I-295: Take Nuckols Rd North exit (51A)-turn right on Nuckols Rd & follow it for approx 1 mile. Turn left at light onto Twin Hickory Rd. Library is approx ¼ mile on the right. There will be no pre-meeting dinner. Penny S. Reynolds, Ph.D. from the VCU Department of Emergency Medicine, and also the current RAS Field Trips Chair, will present a very interesting and entertaining program entitled Birding in the Antarctic: Penguins (and more). During the program she will show pictures taken on her recent trip to Tierra del Fuego and the Antarctic Peninsula, and talk about penguins, and conservation concerns for the southern polar regions.

Program for April 17: The meeting will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church 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. This will be the Annual Meeting where we will hold election of officers and Board members. The program, Birds of Panama, will be presented by Mary Arginteanu, Larry Robinson, Grace Suttle, and Jerry Uhlman, who will tell us about their recent birding trip there. Dessert will be available after the meetings. The April pre-meeting dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. There is a nominal fee of $5.00. Call or e-mail me by the day before the meeting if you plan to be there for the dinner. 743-1479 / lindawarfield@comcast.net. Note: if you 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 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. You don't have to bring any food, but you are welcome to share one of your favorite dishes with our group. Keep all your receipts for any food you bring. Those who bring food are reimbursed for their expenses at the meeting if they provide receipts, and all who partake pay the $5.00 fee whether or not they bring food. (We don't try to make a profit on the dinners.) Call or e-mail by the Sunday before the Thursday meeting to let me know what you plan to provide. This allows time to coordinate the dinner. Bon Appetit!

Linda Warfield, Hospitality Chair
Sandy Wynne, Program Chair

In this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sycamore Wars: Saga of the Pileated Woodpeckers &amp; Flicker - Al Warfield</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review: How The Dead Dream</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee Report</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Knot Update - J. John Roberts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAS Field Trips - Penny Reynolds/Julie Kacmarck</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varina Lions Canoe-a-thon: May 25, 2008</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 Hopewell Christmas Bird Count Results - Arun Bose</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind Energy Update - John Roberts</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composting: Good for Us, Our Yards, Our Planet - Martha Steger</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAS Officers &amp; Committee Chairs; Important Notices</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the Kitchen Window - John Coe</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important Notice for New Members - action required!</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audubon Membership Form</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Early every morning I make coffee, and then go retrieve the newspaper to read while enjoying my morning java fix. During that trip to the paper box and back is when I tend to notice birds I wouldn’t otherwise see. In December 2007, I heard a Pileated Woodpecker very close by. On checking around I discovered that a male Pileated Woodpecker was chipping away at a hole about 40 feet up in a sycamore tree in our backyard. The next day I noted that the same bird was working on a smaller hole on the opposite side of the tree, about a foot higher. This went on for a week or two. Then one day in late afternoon I heard the bird calling in the backyard. I looked up at the tree and saw the big woodpecker go completely into the hole, while at the same instant a Northern Flicker fled out of the smaller hole. The flicker perched on a nearby branch, violently pumping his tail up and down and squawking loudly. A few days later the exact same thing happened again, and then it happened again a few days after that.

In mid-January I noticed that the Pileated male got up before the sun came up, flew to a tree about 100 feet northeast of his hole, and climbed to the top. After the sun came up he called a few times, then flew in a straight line to the northeast. The next day he flew to another tree just north of his hole and took off to the north in a straight line. He repeated this pattern each day, flying to trees in the direction he later went, and always in a direction counter-clockwise relative to the day before; i.e., NE, N, W, S, and then SE.

Then in early February he started perching at the very top of a large dead oak that provides a good view of the area. There he chipped and squawked until the sun came up each morning. In the afternoons he came back to the sycamore holes, chasing the flicker out on most days, and gently arranged some unknown thing inside the smaller hole. Finally, while the sun was still shining, he disappeared into the hole completely and didn’t come out until morning.

One afternoon I decided to try to get pictures of all this, so I set up the camera and the 600 mm lens with 2X Extender at about 4:00 p.m. and waited. The flicker came, went to the smaller hole, and did some probing inside it with his bill, then flew off. The Pileated came and did the same thing, then went into the hole. I was unable to get a good pictures of this, but the altered shot here shows how the bird looked before emerging from the hole. On another day, Linda saw the Pileated throwing chips out of the smaller hole, so obviously the hole is bigger inside the tree, giving them room for turning and hopefully for nesting.

But today (Feb 19th) I finally got a real breakthrough. The male was on his usual perch at the top of the big oak in the front yard. Then I heard another Pileated calling loudly in the back yard. I looked at the tree, and a large bill was poking out of the smaller hole, while I could still see the male in front. After a minute or two the bird emerged from the hole and flew into another tree close by. Backlit by the early morning sunlight I could see her crest spread out and raised up, similar to a Red-breasted Merganser’s bad hair. She squawked loudly, and my day was made!

So we have a nesting pair in our backyard! I can’t wait to see the young. I wish I could have gotten actual pictures of all this, but you never know exactly when something really good will happen in front of your eyes. The one thing I don’t know is, what happened to the flicker? Maybe he finally gave up and left, but he sure tried for a long time. If I find out I’ll let you know. Meanwhile, I’m trying to figure out how to get shots of the young.

Al Warfield

New Novel Takes on Endangered Species and Extinction

The following book announcement was received from Kieran Suckling, Policy Director, Center for Biological Diversity. The novel is about endangered species and the extinction crisis. It was voted one of the 10 best novels of 2007 by National Book Critics Circle, received starred review by Publishers Weekly and was recently highlighted as one of the best books to read in 2008 by the Los Angeles Times.

How the Dead Dream, a new novel by Center for Biological Diversity staffer Lydia Millet, tells the story of an ambitious young real estate developer in L.A. who, after a personal crisis, becomes obsessed with rare and vanishing animals and starts breaking into zoos at night to be close to them. Millet, an award-winning novelist who also happens to be married to Center for Biological Diversity founder Kieran Suckling, has written one of the very first American novels to approach the emotional and aesthetic implications of the extinction tragedy. How the Dead Dream is notable for its thoughtful engagement with the social and personal effects of massive species loss: He soon learned to recognize the signs of an animal’s imminent disappearance. Some were tagged or collared or photographed, some monitored by bureaucrats. Sometimes a group or individual took up the cause of an animal or a
plant and could muster the rationale for a lawsuit, and often the courts favored the victim; but the victim remained a victim and for each victim whose passing was noted thousands more slid away in the dark.

As the story’s protagonist struggles by night with ideas of human aloneness and what it might mean to be a “last” animal, he’s building sprawling subdivisions by day, grappling with his suicidal mother whose husband has left her, to find himself working in a gay bar in Key West, and fending off attacks by his brutal and jealous business partner Fulton. How the Dead Dream is Millet’s sixth novel, and not the first to explore environmental issues. Her fifth, Oh Pure and Radiant Heart, dealt with the moral, cultural and philosophical legacy of nuclear weapons. They are available from publisher Counterpoint.

Red Knot Up-date

Will the Red Knot be the first bird species Virginia loses this century? Perhaps you saw the recent telling and rather sad “Nature” program on Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs, and the precipitous decline of both species. Red Knots migrate from Tierra del Fuego where they overwinter, to their breeding grounds in the middle Arctic of Canada. This incredible journey takes these Robin-sized birds to Delaware Bay, and to Virginia’s shores, where they desperately depend on the eggs of the Horseshoe Crab.

Red Knots have been in serious decline ever since the crabs started being taken in great numbers by humans to be used as bait to catch Conch and Eel which is then sold mostly to Asian markets. This bird species has further declined 90% in just the last five years, despite a moratorium on crab harvests in Delaware Bay.

Two years ago, RAS supported legislation in Virginia to enforce a moratorium on the taking of Horseshoe Crabs in Virginia. Several RAS members attended the Committee meeting where this proposal was voted down unanimously. This dysfunctional hearing failed largely due to unprepared scientific evidence regarding Red Knot presence in the Chesapeake Bay, and to the rancor from fishermen who prefer this good bait.

Since that hearing, U.S. Fish and Wildlife looked at the possible rapid listing of the Red Knot as an endangered species. For some unknown, shortsighted, and perhaps illegal reason, rapid listing was rejected. Many Red Knots stop on Virginia’s shores. The Nature Conservancy has recently conducted studies on the sea side of the Eastern Shore and discovered that in 2007, Virginia had more Red Knots than any state on the East Coast, about 7,000, a decline from 9,000 in the 1990’s. With this shift in population, can Virginia continue to ignore the connection between these two species?

Your Conservation Chair will be working and advocating on this issue. If we cannot save the Red Knot, is there any future for endangered species in Virginia?

John Roberts
Late Winter/Early Spring 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/](http://www.seabirding.com/). Trips around Memorial Day are already full or nearly full. There are still several openings on our trips from Oregon Inlet (depart near Manteo) May 24, 25, and 26. patteson1@embarqmail.com

**Sunday, March 2, 2008 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd:** Is the winter weather beginning to break? Join Sue for an early walk in Bryan Park and take a look for yourself! The trip meets at 7:15 a.m. at Shelter #1. Call Sue with any questions, at 270-5365.

**Saturday March 8, 2008 – Fisherman’s Island NWR.** Join one of the ESNWR naturalists as we enjoy a walk on this protected area along the Chesapeake Bay. The walk will take us through scrub forest out onto the beach and under the CBBT. Some shorebirds may be preparing to nest and early migrants will be arriving. This is always a popular trip. Space is limited — you must call to reserve a space with Julie Kacmarcik at 530-3660 (evenings). We will meet at the ESNWR visitor center on at the north end of the bridge at 8:30 a.m. Be prepared to walk in loose sand. Bring optics, water, snacks, and dress in layers. The walk usually lasts ‘till about noon. No facilities.

**Sunday March 9 – Daylight Saving’s Time –** Spring ahead 1 hour!

**Wednesday, March 12, 2008 – 2nd Wednesday Walk** with John Coe along the Flood Wall, City of Richmond. Call 276-1397 for details and to sign up.

**Saturday March 22 – Easter Saturday walk at Robious Landing Park** with Wendy Ealding. Meet at Robious Road in western Chesterfield, behind James River High School. Start time 8 a.m. Contact Wendy at wealding@aol.com

**Friday, March 28 – Back again this season WBW: "Wetlands before Work"** with Mary and Larry. Running every Friday March 28-May 16. Meet at the entrance to the Wetlands of James River Park off Landria Drive at 7 a.m. Questions? call Mary at 320-0138.

**Sunday, April 6 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd.** Spring is here — join Sue’s monthly walk to see what new arrivals have stopped over in Bryan Park. Meet at Shelter#1 at 7:15 a.m. Call Sue with any questions at 270-5365.

**Friday April 4 – WBW:** with Mary and Larry. Call 320-0138 for details.

**Wednesday April 9 – Birds and Wildflowers walk** with John Coe along the Appomattox River at Ferndale Park. Meet at the park or at Starbucks on the corner of Hull St. and Courthouse Rd. to carpool. Call John at 276-1397 for meeting times and details.

**Friday April 11 – WBW:** with Mary and Larry. Call 320-0138 for details.

**Friday April 18 – WBW:** with Mary and Larry. Call 320-0138 for details

**Sunday April 20 – Great Dismal Swamp with Darrell Peterson.** Join Darrell for our annual pilgrimage to the swamp in Suffolk. The target bird is the Swainson’s Warbler. A great trip to learn bird song and also observe butterflies. Meet at Bermuda Square Shopping Center (Routes 10 and 301 in Chester) near Shoney’s at 5:30 a.m. Bring insect repellent, water, snacks and be prepared for a gentle, long walk. No facilities. Call 276-9354 for details.

**Friday April 25 – WBW:** with Mary and Larry. Call 320-0138

**Saturday April 26 – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens (LGBG) with Tyler Turpin.** The walk will begin at 8 a.m.; cost is $6.00 for non LGBG members. The trip requires advanced registration — please contact Tyler to sign up at 317-9478.

**Saturday April 26 – Ashland Trolley Line with Linda and Bob Cole.** Meet at Luck Chevrolet at 7 a.m. on Route 1 in Ashland just north of Green Top Sporting Goods on the left as you head north. Call Bob and Linda 798-6618 for details.

**Coming in May: Birdathon! Stay tuned!**

**Save June 21st for our Annual RAS Picnic. Details in the May/June issue.**

Check the RAS listserv [va-richmond-general@freelists.org](mailto:va-richmond-general@freelists.org) or the RAS website for any late breaking additions or impromptu field trips: [http://www.cvco.org/science/audubon/ActivitiesMain.html](http://www.cvco.org/science/audubon/ActivitiesMain.html).

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Penny Reynolds
Julie Kacmarcik

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Blue Heron in flight at Bryan Park by Hal Tyler

This great water route for birding is a 12-mile journey on one of the most historic stretches of the James River from Deep Bottom Boat Landing in Varina down river to the loop around Turkey Island (Presquile Wildlife Refuge). The take-out spot is Shirley Plantation where a home cooked barbecue lunch is served on the banks of the river.

Contact Buz Snyder at 795-1446 for a brochure and/or registration questions. This is a fund raising event to support sight and hearing programs by the Lions Club. Check-in time at Deep Bottom is 7:45 a.m. with launch at 8:30 a.m. after a paddlers briefing. Cost per paddler is $35.00, which covers lunch, T-shirt, and transportation back up river. Kayakers welcome!

2007 Hopewell CBC Results

Despite challenging weather conditions, with rain at the beginning of the day and high winds toward the end, once again the Hopewell CBC [December 16, 2007] reached a new high count for species recorded on count day – 115. Two additional species were recorded during count week; Greater White-fronted Goose (2) and Lesser Black-backed Gull (1). A total of 53,421 individual birds were counted which is up from last year’s count of 33,843. Also two new species were added to the count – Willet and White-eyed Vireo. Both species were documented with written descriptions. The Willet was at the VCU Rice Center, and White-eyed Vireo at Westover Plantation; both in Charles City County. Willet is described in ‘Virginia’s Birdlife an Annotated Checklist’ as “.. rare west of the Chesapeake Bay and the salt marshes along the lower reaches of the Bay’s tributaries” There is a single prior winter record of Willet in King William County, 1/31/04. White-eyed Vireo is described in ‘Virginia’s Birdlife an Annotated Checklist’ as “rare to locally uncommon winter resident in Dismal Swamp, even rarer winter visitor elsewhere.”

Other highlights are as follows: Ross’s Goose (4), ties last year’s high count; Cackling Goose (6), new high count; Canvasback (11), second highest count (HC 14 in 1987); Bufflehead (174), new high count; Wild Turkey (57), new high count; Merlin (1) 5th for count; Great Black-backed Gull (227), new high count; Forster’s Tern (18); Red-headed Woodpecker (24), including 15 from VCU Rice Center; Hairy Woodpecker (16), (HC 19 in 1998); Northern Flicker (260), (HC 331 in 2001); Red-breasted Nuthatch (4); House Wren (4); Winter Wren (45), new high count; American Robin (3,610), second highest count (HC 4,949 in 2005); Gray Catbird (6); Brown Thrasher (10); Cedar Waxwing (1,946), second highest count (HC 3,808 in 2002); Orange-crowned Warbler (2), second highest count (HC 3 in 1955), recorded on 6 previous counts, the last being 2003; Yellow-rumped Warbler (214); Pine Warbler (2); Palm Warbler (10), new high count; Black-and-white Warbler (1), (HC 2 in 1978), recorded on 5 previous counts, the last being 1984; Common Yellowthroat (3); Chipping Sparrow (9); Field Sparrow (155), (only 11 last year); Savannah Sparrow (137); Fox Sparrow (6); Song Sparrow (405); Lincoln’s Sparrow (1), 3rd for count, the last being 2005; Swamp Sparrow (61); White-throated Sparrow (744); White-crowned Sparrow (22); Baltimore Oriole (1); Purple Finch (2); Pine Siskin (1); American Goldfinch (299); House Sparrow (5), the only birds counted were inside the Chester Lowe’s!

If you would like a full list let me know. Thanks all who participated.

Arun Bose
Hopewell CBC Compiler

Wind Energy Update

Once again, the wind energy industry wants to avoid reasonable regulations to protect wildlife. (RTD 1/19/08) On their behalf, Senator Wagner, (R, VA Beach), has submitted a bill which would exclude wind factories with less than 50 megawatt capacity from any state regulations. For six years I have watched this fledgling Virginia industry at every avenue seek to avoid the issue of wildlife protection. Testifying on New Highland Wind before the SCC last fall, Merlin Tuttle, founder and president of Bat Conservation International, pleaded for reasonable protections for Virginia’s natural heritage, especially bats and birds. He has warned that without protections currently proposed wind turbines in the region could threaten us with many thousands of bat kills each year, eliminating whole species of this essential insect predator. Highland County is home to at least one endangered bat species.

The outcome of the hearing for Highland New Wind was modest, with a maximum of $100,000 per year for remediation. This 38 megawatt facility will garner an estimated $19 million in subsidies over 20 years. (At 5% interest this is $950,000 per year!)

We taxpayers have a right to demand that these developers be responsible, and especially that our subsidies to the wind industry not be used to the detriment of our wildlife. With this bill, the public would not even be entitled to know if these 400 foot tall turbines with 300 foot blades are killing bats and birds. Proposing this exclusion of wind energy from reasonable oversight once again shows that some wind barons are concerned not with being green, only with getting green, the greenback dollar.

John M. Roberts

Windfarm by Al Warfield
Composting: Good for Us, Our Yards, Our Planet

I knew I was scraping bottom on ideas for weight-loss when I noted in my reading, “Turning compost pile - 200 calories.” But, hey, if you need a reason other than converting biodegradable organic materials into usable, rich topsoil, burning a few calories is as good as any other.

As with other chores, however, we humans usually need more than one “carrot” to motivate us. In the case of composting, the benefits are the enrichment of our lawn’s soil; pollution-prevention (because we’re diverting materials from landfills that produce methane); erosion-prevention; and reducing the need for water, fertilizers and pesticides.

MULCHING & BEYOND

Composting isn’t a one-size-fits-all chore. Choices in composting enable us to be individualistic: we can choose to (1) mulch, (2) be a passive composter, or (3) be an active composter. As spring approaches, this is a good time to ponder mulching: If we’ve left grass clippings on our lawns (as opposed to sucking them up into a lawnmower’s clippings-collector), we’ve actually practiced a form of mulching. (It’s best, however, to leave them on the lawn when the grass isn’t overly wet.) Of course, if we’ve used our lawnmowers to shred leaves, that helps speed up decomposition, which is good for producing rich topsoil when we spread them on soil-exposed areas. At our house we’ve collected leaves in big piles in the past and moistened layers of the pile to help them decompose more quickly.

To go a step beyond mulching and become a passive composter, collect yard waste and grass clippings in a pile; we can either leave the pile open or place it in a bin. Then leave it to sit as the organic matter begins to rot: one-to-three years to become rich compost for use as topsoil. If we disturb it while it’s decomposing, we’ll experience the organic process firsthand in a strong stench. (See sidebar for materials appropriate for composting.)

ACTIVE COMPOSTING

For more active composting, we follow the same procedure as for passive except we accelerate the process through more active participation. We should have a bin, which helps heat the material to a higher level than the surrounding area, thus accelerating decomposition.

Inside the bin we’ll need a 50:50 combination of “greens” (vegetables and grass clippings) and “browns” (dry, carbon-rich wood chips and leaves). This is where the calorie-burning exercise comes in, as aeration - exposure to air - helps break up the compost material. Turning the bin to make sure the materials are evenly distributed and sufficiently aerated preserves the decomposition process. Be sure to collect a diverse mixture of materials, as the materials inside the bin determine how much aeration occurs: grass clippings tend to layer themselves, whereas wood chips allow for many breaks between surfaces. As with passive composting, we should make sure the pile has a moist layer because we need to provide a living environment for the microbes to do their work of decomposition - but the pile should neither be excessively wet nor very dry.

If we really want to add action to your backyard compost, get some earthworms - usually nightcrawlers - and this will begin vermicomposting, where the nightcrawlers feed on the organic waste converting it into humus-like material for rich topsoil. By taking a bit of extra time and trouble with our compost, we understand why retail compost prices can range from $30 to more than $100 a ton, depending on the grade of it.

PASS IT ALONG

If you want to demonstrate nature doing its work to children, scoop up a bit of the compost with the nightcrawlers in it, as kids enjoy watching the squiggly critters. We’ll be passing along good ecological education and a best-practice to the next generation.

We humans are slowly becoming more ecologically aware and active: according to the Environmental Protection Agency, an estimated 56.9 percent of yard trimmings were recovered for composting or grasscycled in 2000, the latest year for which statistics were available. This is a great increase from the 12 percent in 1990. In the Richmond metro area we can take that percentage to new heights if more of us adopt good composting practices. As an added bonus, we’ll burn a minimum of a few hundred calories in the process, not to mention the psychological benefit of feeling good about it all.

Martha W. Steger

(from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality:
What is compost-able? Fruits and vegetables; grass clippings, shrub and tree waste, coffee grounds, paper, leaves, tea bags, cornhusks
What are the “no-no” materials? Meat, bones, human and animal feces, diseased plants, chemically treated wood products
For more information, go to:
http://www.deq.virginia.gov/waste/compost.html
http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/composting/benefits.htm)
From The Kitchen Window: March - April, 2008

“I’m on the outside tonight, looking in. The light from the window marks a path across the deck. A bat circles overhead, and down by the stream a trio of spring peepers peep. It’s early February and things don’t seem quite right here. A small insect, probably a midge of some sort, flies against the window. In a single day a change will happen. Frost will lace the left over leaves on the beech tree. Little insects that woke too soon will wilt. The early open daffodils will droop. The frogs will be quiet. But tonight it’s warm – feels like spring, and any minute now I expect to hear our Barred Owl pair call each other. When morning comes I expect to hear the softer songs of springtime from our cardinals & titmice and chickadees. It is just past Valentine’s Day. The Full Moon in March, known as the Sap Moon or Worm Moon, occurs at 5:47 p.m. on the 29th. Daylight savings time begins on the 9th at 2 a.m. The Vernal equinox occurs at 1:48 a.m. on the 20th – the beginning of spring! The Full Moon in April, named the Egg Moon or the Pink Moon, occurs at 8:12 p.m. on the 28th. The Lyrid meteor shower peaks on the 21st, and Jupiter and Venus highlight April’s pre-dawn hours.”

Francis Bourdillon
Important notice for NEW members of RAS - Action Required!

NEW MEMBERS who joined through National Audubon and not via a direct application to RAS: If this is your first issue of The Thrasher, you need to send a response by one of the methods below in order to keep it coming to your mailbox.

1. E-mail to Warfield101@comcast.net. Indicate “Thrasher” in the Subject line (See Information to Include).
2. Written response to: RAS, PO Box 26648, Richmond, VA 23261 (See Information to Include).
3. Call the RAS phone number (804) 257-0813 and leave a message with your information (see below).

Information to Include:
*Your name (From your Thrasher label)
*Your address (with zip)
*Phone # and e-mail addresses so we can contact you
*The 10-digit account number or other code at the top of your mailing label located on the newsletter that is currently sent to you (e.g., 0000000001, NLO, COMP, COA, or WOL)
*Whether you want to receive the Thrasher by mail or only read it online

We want you to get your Thrasher in the mail if you want to receive it. Please respond, even if you intend to read it online. We need to know which of our many NAS members are really interested in RAS. We also want to reduce our costs, but not at the expense of your enjoyment.

New members coming to RAS through National Audubon will get at least one issue of The Thrasher so they will have a chance to see it before making their decision. If you come through RAS directly we will send The Thrasher automatically if you requested that on your application.

If you are not a new member: if you got this issue you don’t need to send a response. You will continue to receive The Thrasher unless you send a response indicating otherwise, or your subscription lapses. Please stay abreast of your expiration date and keep your membership current. This is shown on your Audubon Magazine label.

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

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. A subscription to the NAS magazine, Audubon is included.

_____ Individual/Family Member(s) $20 enclosed
_____ Student/ Senior Member $15 enclosed

Name_________________________________________
Address________________________________________
City___________________________________________
State______ ZIP______________________________
Phone_____/ ________________________________
E-mail address:____________________________________
I want The Thrasher mailed to me: Yes / No
Make check payable to National Audubon Society and write “X53” on the check).

Send your check and application to:
Richmond Audubon Society
C/O Membership Chair, Lori Rutledge
5306 Snowden Ln
Richmond, VA 23226-2038

Audubon

The Thrasher

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