



The Thrasher

Richmond Audubon Society

The next *Thrasher* will be the January/February issue



Remember the Date:
Thursday, November 15,
Richmond Audubon's 2007
Auction & Pot Luck Dinner

****At a new larger location****

This is our *major* fundraiser
We need your support



Please join us for a little wine,
a great meal, a lot of fellowship and
the fun of bidding in both the
silent and live auctions.

Professional auctioneer Doug Sinclair always makes this
annual event very entertaining and for some bidders a
profitable evening.

You can also buy tickets to our raffle and you might even
win one of the door prizes!

So what can you do?

- * Sell raffle tickets for a Celestron VistaPix 8x32 binocular with a 3 mp digital camera. And, the person selling the winning ticket will win an Alpen 10x32 Monocular!
- * Dust off a favorite recipe and bring enough to share.



RAS provides the turkey, ham, and drinks so you
can add the side dishes and desserts.

NOTE: Wine will be available – you can
purchase a glass for \$5. Refills are free.

*Think of a friend or neighbor to bring along.

*And bring a little money to spend.

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NEW THIS YEAR you can make a request for services: Need your leaves raked? Your car washed? Your chandeliers cleaned? A week of dog sitting? Or the trees & shrubs pruned in your yard? This year, we'll include the option for you to "request a service" and list it in the auction with the price you'll donate to RAS if someone will "take the job". Members can sign up to work for you in return for your donation.

Items in the auction:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shade & sunny garden digs | Zeiss binoculars |
| James River Rafting trip | Gift baskets |
| Request for services (new this year) | Wine dinner for 8 |
| Photo workshop, Highland County | Books |
| Family pontoon boat trip on the James | Live bird program |
| Original Artwork | AND MUCH MUCH MORE |



Schedule for the evening:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Doors open | 5:30 p.m. |
| Silent Auction | 5:30 – 7:15 p.m. |
| Dinner | 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. |
| Raffle/prize drawing | 7:15 p.m. |
| Live Auction | 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. |

For more information:

contact Bob Coles at 883-7570, bob@bcoles.com or
Caroline Coe at 276-1397, cccoe@verizon.net

**All proceeds support RAS and its conservation
activities, including citizen science, education &
habitat restoration.**



Partial list of Donors:

- | |
|---------------------------------|
| Bird Watchers |
| Robert Caldwell, artist |
| Joan Cordle, Massage Therapist |
| David Crumpler, artist |
| Arthur Morris, artist |
| Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens |
| Nature's Images Photo Workshops |
| Wildbird Center |
| Zeiss Sports Optics |
| Fin & Feather, Ashland |
| Orvis |
| VCU Rice Center |
| Southern States |
| Wild Birds Unlimited |

**Auction Location: St. Michael's Episcopal Church,
8706 Quaker Lane, Bon Air, VA 23235**
From Chippenham Parkway, exit south on Jahnke Road.
Turn right onto Buford Road. At the Old Bon Air Hotel
(large white building on the left) turn left onto Rockaway
Road. The first street on the right is McCrea; the church
parking lot is on McCrea directly in front of the church. For
handicap parking: Turn right at the second road off
Rockaway into the church's lower parking lot and take the
elevator up.

President's Message, November - December, 2007

This was a summer of island adventures. First, there was the magical trip to three Hawaiian Islands. A few weeks later, there was the trip to Hog Island, Maine. During that trip I visited an island called Eastern Egg Rock, a wildlife adventure all its own.

Hog Island was the first Audubon camp ever created. (Teddy Roosevelt used it as a model for the National Parks System.) I spent a week in Leadership Training Camp there with 27 other chapter leaders from around the country, learning what worked in their organizations, sharing with them what was effective in ours. One day we cruised to Eastern Egg Rock island to see puffins.

There is something intrinsically cute about a puffin. I know this is politically incorrect, attributing human characteristics to animals, but I respond to puffins the way some people respond to clowns – they always make me smile. Though most had already left for their mysterious two-year voyage at sea, as we approached the island a welcome party of puffins zoomed over bow and stern of the Audubon V. Twenty-five years ago we would not have seen a single puffin. That was before Dr. Steve Kress successfully used decoys to attract breeding pairs to restore Atlantic Puffins to their former habitat. Puffins had been gone for over a hundred years when he began working to re-introduce them. Today other seabird restoration programs are underway around the world, leveraging the methods he used with Project Puffin.

I have recently taken on the part-time care of my mother, who suffers from dementia. Spending weekends with her in Roanoke, I am learning to handle this caregiver role reversal, a child taking care of the parent. She asks me "what day is this" several times within minutes or hours of the last asking. For some reason, she needs to keep remembering what day is this. I went to the islands knowing two larger truths – that: 1) habitat is shrinking, and: 2) we are losing species to the global warming effect. I came away from my island adventures with a deeper understanding that not only are these two things true, they are not mutually exclusive. On the plane I read an article in Audubon magazine. It said a recent report identified 10 common birds in serious decline.

I've read that the value of learning something is in retention and application. One man took a barren rock stuck out in the Atlantic and turned it into a thriving puffin colony. "What day is this?" Although restoration does not happen in a day, it begins with one. Hope lies partly with the work we do in Richmond Audubon Society – introducing RAS Kids to nature in a focused attempt to teach through experience, training and staffing expanding bird banding operations, organizing for activism and political conservation, leading field trips to some amazing areas, partnering with other like-minded groups to make a difference for at least one, if not all, of those declining species.

Summer this year was about going on island adventures, seeing new life birds, learning new things to remember and bring back. My mother continues asking repeatedly "What day is this?". I have come to embrace this continuous asking as a metaphor for the number of times Mother Nature asks us to take care of our planet today. We need "role reversal" on a grand scale here. Instead of depleting our natural resources, we must preserve them. Don't you want to be part of the restoration? Richmond Audubon Society is a great place to start.

Our Mother has issued a reprimand in the form of 10 common birds in serious decline! "What day is this?" The birds we love to watch need us to work for the conservation and protection of the places we live with them on this planet, our very own island in this great universe.

Happy Birding,

Pam Dummitt



Atlantic Puffin at
Eastern Egg Rock Island
Photo by Al Warfield

Field Trips: November-December 2007

Autumn/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/>

Every day through November 24, 2007 – Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch on Afton Mountain: For more information contact Brenda Tekin at Brenda@birdsofvirginia.com

Saturday, November 3, 2007 – Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield County: Join Betsy and Ben Saunders for a walk around one of our favorite local birding habitats to look for wintering birds and waterfowl. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Visitor's Center. Questions, call Betsy at 272-0605.

Sunday, November 4, 2007 at 2 a.m. daylight savings time ends and our clocks "fall back an hour."

Sunday, November 4, 2007 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Join Sue for an early walk in Bryan Park. There should be a nip in the air and migrating Canada Geese in the skies. Meet at 7:15 a.m. (sunrise this morning is 6:38 a.m.) at Shelter#1 – this trip is always a good way to start a month's birding! Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

November 6 - 11, 2007 – Wings Over Water Birding Festival, the Outer Banks of North Carolina: For more information go to <http://www.wingsoverwater.org>

Saturday, November 10, 2007 – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond: What a great opportunity to see some Richmond area birds and the gardens, as Tyler Turpin leads the last LGBG Audubon walk for 2007! 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 6th to sign up. At least 4 people must sign up or the trip will be cancelled.

Wednesday, November 14, 2007 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: The walk this month will be through Forest Hill Park. Meet John at 7 a.m. at the Crossroads Coffee Shop, 3600 Forest Hill Avenue – right across from the park. Call John at 276-1397 to let him know you're coming or if you have any questions.

Sunday, December 2, 2007 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Join Sue for an early walk in Bryan Park. Greet December and other Audubon birders on this popular field trip. Meet at 7:30 a.m. (sunrise this morning is 7:07 a.m.) at Shelter#1. Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

Friday through Sunday, December 7 - 9, 2007 – Virginia Society of Ornithology's Meeting in Virginia Beach: For more information check this website

<http://www.virginiabirds.net>

Sunday, December 9, 2007 – Piney Grove Preserve, Sussex

County: Join Bobby Clontz from the Nature Conservancy as we look for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and fox squirrel in this 2,600 acre old growth pine savannah. We usually have done this trip in the spring so a switch to late fall will be interesting! Details are still being firmed up so watch the list-serv for specifics or call Julie Kacmarcik at 530-3660. A guarantee - the trip will start before sunrise and you will have a great time.

Wednesday, December 12, 2007 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: Stay home this morning and enjoy of hot cup of coffee looking out your kitchen window! See everyone in 2008!

Sunday, December 16, 2007 – Hopewell Christmas Bird Count: See the article below.

Sunday, January 6, 2008 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Join Sue for an early walk in Bryan Park. Greet the New Year and other Audubon birders on this popular field trip. Meet at 8 a.m. (sunrise this morning is 7:25 a.m.) at Shelter#1. Questions, call Sue at 270-5365.

Note: Any late breaking additions to the field trip list can be found on the RAS listserv or the RAS website.

*Penny Reynolds
Julie Kacmarcik*



Photo by Al Warfield

Hopewell Christmas Bird Count

Rain or Shine. Be a part of the 108th annual Christmas Bird Count as we participate in the oldest and largest Citizen Science event in the world. Arun Bose is coordinating the count for us. To sign up, contact Arun at arun.bose@verizon.net or (804) 233 6522.

Read more about the CBC and its long history at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>

Upcoming RAS Education Committee Retreat

Richmond Audubon Society (RAS) Members,

First off, thanks to everyone who attended the debut 2007 Education Committee meeting last month and for others who could not make it, but expressed an interest. A lot of direction for the upcoming term came from the open discussion forum. Topics such as, the updating of education presentations, both with current technologies and content, plus the addition of more information about RAS activities and the causes we actively support. This committee is currently seeking more members. Contact me for more information if you are interested. Any RAS member with a desire to serve can join. Come help us carry the message.

We now have a confirmed date for the Education Committee Retreat: November 16, 17 and 18, 2007, located at Gwynn's Island on the Chesapeake Bay. (no cost). At the retreat we will overview this committee's history, and from there, grow a plan of action for the immediate future. Between the presentations and discussions there will be bird walks, food and fellowship. Scheduled committee events will begin Saturday morning at 10:00 and end around 1:00 Sunday afternoon. If you consider yourself an Education Committee member or are interested in becoming part of this important branch of RAS please try to attend or let us know of your interest for future opportunities.

EVENTS: Committee Discussions, Presentations, Bird Walks, Fellowship.

(Detailed Agenda will follow.) SAT 10:00 a.m. - SUN 1:00 p.m.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Available are four rooms with queen sized beds, a folding couch and if additional space is needed, there is plenty of floor space for air mattresses and sleeping bags, while others can pitch tents in the yard. (Details of location/directions will follow.)

FOOD: Includes - Lunch Saturday, Dinner Saturday, Breakfast Sunday, Lunch Sunday.

The facility becomes available Friday evening if you wish to arrive early and help setup. Please RSVP as soon as possible by email or phone if you plan to attend. Space is limited. Also estimate your arrival/departure possibilities (facilities available Friday evening or Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon). Volunteers are needed to bring foods or to help with hospitality. Contact me to volunteer or if you have any other questions. Special thanks to Margaret O'Bryan for sharing her family's Chesapeake Cottage for this event.

Thanks for this opportunity,

Bob Schamerhorn

RAS Education Committee Chairperson

E-mail: bob@iphotobirds.com

Phone: 804-658-0871 <http://www.iphotobirds.com>

Make your garden a sanctuary for wildlife!

Let's help turn around the downward trend of species abundance!

Audubon and the National Wildlife Federation have teamed together in a program which certifies homeowners' yards and gardens as "wildlife friendly". With winter approaching, why not put on your thinking cap and make a garden plan for your wildlife? The NWF website will help you draw up a plan once you measure your homestead and set down to plan. Go to nationalwildlifefederation.org, click on "Outdoors", then on "Garden for Wildlife".

Check out the gardening section in your library under the subject "native plants, the VaDGIF website, and the Audubon at Home Program at the NAS website. Yes, it's all about going native! That's what attracts birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. You can select trees high in wildlife value, like hackberry, paw-paw, persimmon, serviceberry and witch-hazel. And bushes like elderberry, holly berry, spice bush, and inkberry. And don't forget the flowers! Planting in masses of salvia, zinnias and sunflowers attracts butterflies and hummers.

A long term plan will help you get rid of invasive alien plants like English Ivy, Ailanthus, and oriental honeysuckle. And once your plan is complete, send it in with the downloadable forms to the NWF and for \$15, receive your certificate which you can proudly display. Perhaps more than wild critters will see it and your efforts will spread to others

of the human type!

It is simply amazing to see what animals your garden will invite. I have seen so many new insects in my high moist grass that is mulch-cut only 6-7 times a year. And remember that using no pesticides means more helpful bugs! I've had more chipmunks, rabbits, and butterfly species than ever before. And I just got started!

Over 70,000 gardens have been certified to date!

John M. Roberts, RAS Conservation Chair



Photo by Al Warfield

Purple Martin Roost in Richmond

For once, we have a real chance to do something right here in the City of Richmond, to help directly in a bird conservation effort! As reported by Rex Springston in the Richmond Times Dispatch recently, there is a stand of trees on 17th Street in Shockoe Bottom that has created quite a controversy. Jimmy Fitzgerald, who lives in Charles City County, and who has been studying Purple Martins since 1992, says that "Purple Martins are probably America's most popular bird, or as some would say the most wanted bird in the country". Jimmy has even studied Doppler radar images on the Internet with the help of Google Earth. That's how he found the roost in a stand of old Bradford Pear trees on 17th Street in Shockoe Bottom. Here is an excerpt from Jimmy's letter to Mr. Harry Black, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer:

"It took two years of looking at radar images and riding around the area before I finally found the site. When I finally ran the birds down and saw where they were, I was awestruck and lost for words. I just knew the birds had to be in trouble at this roost. However, as I started checking things out it didn't seem to be as bad as I thought it was. Then one Friday evening in August a group of us were standing there beside the street, watching the birds go to roost, when a well dressed gentleman walked up and started talking. One of his comments was that there is talk about cutting the trees down on 17th Street. This started a chain of events that led me to writing you this letter today." But before going further, here are more details about the Purple Martins and the roost in Richmond. Purple Martins are well known to eat large numbers of flying insects, and are considered desirable by most people. The trees on 17th Street have been used as a pre-migratory roost site by Purple Martins for at least the past three years. These birds come to sites such as the one on 17th Street after they fledge their chicks and they leave their nest site. Once a roost such as this one is established they will use it for many years to come. These roosts consist of tens of thousands of birds and they put on spectacular displays as they dive from two to three hundred yards in the air to the roost trees by the thousands, all at one time. It is a phenomenon that few people have had the opportunity to witness anywhere, because most of the roosts are in very inaccessible areas and are not easy to get to for the public to view. Such is the case of a roost on the Pamunkey River above West Point in a place known as Sweet Hall Marsh. These sites are used prior to the birds' starting their annual migration to South America. The roost in Richmond is active from mid July to early September. Note that the Richmond, Pamunkey, and Virginia Beach sites are the only ones identified in Virginia as far as we know. The roost on 17th Street is the only site in the state of Virginia that has been currently documented as being active and is easily viewed by the public.

The reasons for wanting to cut the trees down have been stated as: (1) the street is not well lit; a thief can

hide behind one of the trees. (2) limbs can fall on cars; (3) the manager of the Farmers Market complained about the smell; and (4) the possibility that the birds may spread diseases.



On September 7, 2007, Mike Wilson of the Center for Conservation Biology, College of William & Mary, sent this letter in E-mail to Mr. Black. Reading it provides solutions to most of the potential disadvantages to leaving the trees in place on 17th St. for the martins to continue using. For those issues not addressed in the letter, simple workarounds can be devised that do not include removing the trees if the birds are still using the site. Here is Mike's letter:

"Mr. Black,

I am a regular visitor to the Purple Martin roost at 17th street, a resident of Henrico County, and have previously been asked by the City of Richmond to provide a biological assessment of the roost. In my view, the roost poses no health problems and the scent can be removed if kept clean with water. This can be accomplished with regular cleaning, perhaps every 2 to 3 days, during the period when the birds are roosting.

Although I know there has been no final decision, there is a recurring rumor that the City would like to disperse these birds. Moreover, the removal or replacement of trees has been included in this rumor. It is impossible to predict exactly what will happen to the birds if dispersed by this method but there is the possibility that the martins would re-locate to the I-95 overpass. Similar events have happened with martin roosts in other cities including those that resulted in major traffic problems. It is also possible that they would choose to roost in trees in view from 17th and on Main Street; there were already a small flock (20 birds) of martins choosing to roost there. They could relocate to someone's backyard in Richmond and create problems to one or two homeowners. Lastly, they may completely leave the city. Replacing the Bradford pears with sapling maple trees will most likely disperse the birds. The pear trees provide very good cover to fit a large roost

of birds that is probably not possible with young trees of simple structure. Dispersing the roost in any fashion is best done when the birds are not there. Using whistles, fire-crackers, etc. to scare roosting birds is not only inhumane but could result in unnecessary mortality when birds are forced out at night.

Removing the trees during a season when the birds are not there would not likely threaten the survival of that specific roost. They will most likely find another place to roost as I pointed out in the second paragraph. However, there comes a time when somebody must take on the responsibility of harboring a roost on their property. Pre-migratory roosts are essential to the species pre-migratory periods and overall survival. Roosts are used for the combined purposes of proximity to local food resources (insects), safety, and information sharing. Young birds use these roosts to learn where they can acquire food, cues to when they should leave the area to migrate to South America, and to follow adults so they may learn the migration path. Purple Martin roosts are typically identified by sight or the appearance of a ringed formation on weather radar. There are currently 300 Purple Martin roosts identified or considered potential (not yet visited) using these methods. These roosts basically support the bulk of the species's entire global population during the pre-migratory period. If every property owner decided to disperse the birds we would eventually place these populations at high risk. One important point to clarify is that Purple Martins have almost completely made a shift from using natural habitats for nesting such as cliffs, and dead standing trees to artificial habitats for nesting such as martin houses directly erected by citizens to benefit martins. In other words, it is members of the general society that have been responsible for conserving populations of martins throughout their range. The number of Purple Martin houses around the area is staggering. I have even seen martin houses erected at a McDonalds restaurant. Many of these people are not bird watchers *per se*, but rather people who enjoy having the birds on their land. Based on evidence from other roosts studied across the county, the majority of martins roosting at 17th street are primarily composed of adults and young birds hatched the same year from an 80-100 mile radius around Richmond. Disrupting these birds is then in direct conflict of the many of the residents of Richmond, Henrico County, and surrounding area who have worked hard to conserve the populations by actively erecting and annually cleaning nest houses. The Purple Martin roost may appear as a nuisance by some, but there are a number of people who enjoy the roost, and many who see or stand to gain the economic benefits that would result by continual support and advertisement. I visit Shockoe bottom quite regularly to dine but have more frequently done so since this roost was identified. I imagine others have followed the same path and I would like to guess that many others would if they knew about the birds. As a comparison, a bat roost in Texas that was once considered a nuisance is now an economic engine to the local community. Please consid-

er the information I provided in making a decision to disperse or support the Purple Martins.

Thank You,

Mike Wilson
Center for Conservation Biology
College of William and Mary"

Here is one letter written by citizens of the Richmond area. There have been many more:

"My husband and I are deeply concerned about the future security of the Purple Martin roosting site in trees near the Farmers' Market on 17th Street in Shockoe Bottom. We feel that the city of Richmond would be robbing citizens of an irreplaceable natural resource as well as a spectacular natural phenomenon observed by hundreds of interested people who visited Shockoe Bottom recently to experience an incredible avian event.

On a hot evening in August, my husband and I invited friends to dine with us at a restaurant in Shockoe Bottom for the sole purpose of viewing a natural event we had heard about, but not yet experienced. At precisely 8:15 p.m., the sky blackened with hordes of tiny purple/black dive-bombers zooming at breakneck speeds to land in a few select trees on 17th Street. The air was filled with chirping symphonies of bird songs and chatter. We were awestruck. No verbal account could have prepared us for the actual experience - truly a once in a lifetime event.

We are thankful for those trees in Shockoe Bottom and even more thankful for the mystical martin radar systems guiding thousands (millions?) of tiny natural insectivores to Shockoe bottom. No doubt the residents on Church Hill and merchants in Shockoe Bottom noticed fewer flying insect pests these past few years. And no doubt many merchants in Shockoe Bottom are wealthier because of the extra tourist trade during August.

We feel that the City of Richmond would be committing a grave disservice to merchants in Shockoe Bottom and to wildlife conservationists throughout the area if the trees housing our unique Purple Martin roosting site were removed or altered. We request that you do all that you can to save this site."

If you agree with Jimmy Fitzgerald, Mike Wilson and many others that cutting down the roost trees on 17th Street would be a mistake, please write or E-mail your feelings on the matter. The contact information is given below.

Mr. Harry Black
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
900 E Broad St.
Richmond, Va. 23219
telephone# 646 7978
E-mail: harry.black@richmondgov.com

Information from:

Jimmy Fitzgerald & Mike Wilson

compiled and organized by:

Al Warfield

Officers / Committee Chairs and Co-chairs for 2007-8

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Important Notices

The Thrasher is issued 6 times a year: Jan/Feb., Mar/Apr., May/June, Jul/Aug, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec.

Submit articles for The Thrasher no later than the 15th of the month before each issue.
E-mail: warfield101@comcast.net

RAS regular membership 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.

RAS Board Meetings are held on the second Thursday on alternate months starting in January. RAS members are welcome to attend, but please let a Board member know you are coming due to space considerations. Most meetings are at St. Luke.

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

The Thrasher is printed on recycled paper

From The Kitchen Window: November-December 2007

"The atmospheric conditions have been very unfavorable lately, said Owl."

A.A.Milne, From *Winnie-The-Pooh*

In the predawn darkness a loud "Whoooo" of the Barred Owl drifts through the sleeping neighborhood. Unlike the soft "whooh whooh" of the Great Horned Owl, the Barred Owl's call is anything but subtle, causing dogs to bark and our two cats to jump to the open window.

For lots of years our owls have lived and raised families around our back yard, sharing our little woods – and a few of our goldfish and frogs from our little pond. Our children grew up knowing their children, hearing the young chicks crying for food and then finding the two fluffed-up fledglings on their appropriate branch.

Sometimes a week or so may go by and the dark woods are still, only the sound of a barking dog or a car going by, or a trashcan falling over. And I wonder if the loss of the woodlots up the street, or the lights from the new gas station have driven the owls away.

Always, so far, they come back. This morning, as the pinks of dawn reflected on the window, the owl called "Who cooks for you – Who cooks for you" (Our owl must be a bit Yankee and doesn't say you 'all), and his mate, in the far distance, answered back.

And, as fall turns into winter, the owls and all the other birds out back wish for some rain, a frost or two, maybe even some snow. And, of course, they wish for their winter feathered friends.

In November, the Full Moon, called the "Frost Moon" or the "Beaver Moon", occurs on the 24th. Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on the 4th. Fall back an hour.

In December, the Full Moon, called the "Cold Moon" or the "Long Night Moon", occurs on the 23rd. The Geminid Meteor Shower happens on the 13th. Winter begins on the 22nd, and Mars is only 54.8 million miles away from earth and shines bright all month.



John Coe

Barred Owl Photo by Al Warfield



Do You Want to Continue Receiving The Thrasher in the Mail?

Contained here is information you need in order to continue receiving *The Thrasher* by US Mail.

After this issue you will not receive this newsletter in the mail unless you specifically request it.

If you have already given us your response, you have already been added to the list. *Please don't send another response.*

The deadline for your response to reach us is November 30, 2007. *If you miss that, send it anyway* and we'll do the best we can.

You can use any one of the following methods:

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

*What RAS activities you enjoy: Read *The Thrasher*, Field Trips, Meetings, Workdays, Auction, Projects, other (specify) (This information is optional for you but useful to us)

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.

Richmond Audubon Society
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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**. A subscription to the NAS magazine, **Audubon** is included.

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

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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	x53
c/o Membership Chair, Lori Rutledge	
5306 Snowden La.	
Richmond, VA 23226-2038	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.