



# The Thrasher

## Richmond Audubon Society

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

### RAS Annual Auction "It's For The Birds" November 20, 2008

Auctioneer: Doug Sinclair

St Michael's Episcopal Church  
8706 Quaker Lane, Bon Air, VA 23235  
Registration at 5:30 p.m.  
Silent Auction 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Hors d'Ouvres starting at 6:00 p.m.  
Live Auction: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Lead Sponsor: Zeiss Sports Optics

Honorary Chairperson: Margaret O'Bryan

Auction tickets\* are \$15/person. Reserve by contacting Tom Robertson at [Trobert804@aol.com](mailto:Trobert804@aol.com) or purchase at the door. Ticket covers admission, catalog, food, bidder number, goody bag, and opportunities to win door prizes. (Wine is extra). Chefs Doug Sinclair, Margaret O'Bryan and Meredith Bass will offer a menu of elegant hors d' oeuvres starting at 6 p.m. for your enjoyment while bidding on silent auction items

Raffle Tickets: \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Can be reserved by contacting Jerry Uhlman at [flyways@verizon.net](mailto:flyways@verizon.net), or purchased at the auction.

Raffle Prize: Zeiss 85mm Scope, zoom eyepiece and tripod (A \$3,000 retail value) *donated by Zeiss Sports Optics*. Second place prize and prizes for the sellers of the winning tickets.

All tickets reserved between now and the meeting will be available at the will-call desk the night of the auction.

\*The tickets are a steal! Check out the menu at <http://www.richmondaudubon.org/auction.html>

Please join us for great food, a little wine, lots of fellowship and the fun and excitement of participating in the silent auction, live auction and the raffle. We have a wonderful selection of items in both auctions including our very popular one of a kind member-provided trips, outings, dinners and workshops. With the holidays right around the corner this is a great opportunity to do your holiday shopping and get some unique gifts at good prices and at the same time help Richmond Audubon.

See Page 4 for a list of Sponsors and Donors, and a partial list of Auction items.

This is our main fundraiser and we need your support. This year 75% of the funds raised will go to our RAS Kids Program. The remaining funds will be used to support our other local projects.

#### How to Help:

Buy an event ticket and attend

Invite others

Make a donation or become a sponsor, the deadline is October 31st.

Purchase raffle tickets and help sell tickets to others, it is a great deal.

See also:

[www.richmondaudubon.org/PDFs/AuctionBroch2008.pdf](http://www.richmondaudubon.org/PDFs/AuctionBroch2008.pdf)

Volunteer to help setup, cleanup, etc.

Auction Contacts:

Bob Coles ([bob@bcoles.com](mailto:bob@bcoles.com) or 804-883-7570)

Caroline Coe ([cccoe@verizon.net](mailto:cccoe@verizon.net) or 804-276-1397)

Donna Brodd ([drbrodd@aol.com](mailto:drbrodd@aol.com) or 804-262-7040)

Volunteer Coordinator: Linda Warfield

([lindawarfield@comcast.net](mailto:lindawarfield@comcast.net) or 804-743-1479)

#### In this issue:

President's Message: November/December, 2008	2
First Annual Pot-Luck Dinner, December 18, 2008	2
RAS Field Trips - Penny Reynolds	3
Send Congress a Strong Message on Global Warming - Glenda Booth	5
Current Auction Sponsors	4
Partial List of Current Auction Items	4
"Birds in Flight" by Carrol Henderson, Book Review by Al Warfield:	5
Rusty Blackbirds and TogetherGreen, Rapahannock NWR: The Warfields	5
"Bringing Nature Home", by Douglas Tallamy, Book Review By VG Calvert	6
RAS Officers & Committee Chairs; Important Notices	7
Advocacy Workshop, Nov. 15, 2008	7
VCN Legislative Workshop, Dec. 6, 2008	7
Important Notice for <u>New Members</u> - action required!	8
Audubon Membership Form	8

#### Directions to St. Michael's Episcopal Church

From Chippenham Parkway, exit south on Jahnke Road (away from the hospital). Turn right at 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.

#### RAS First Annual Pot-Luck Dinner

December 18, 2008

See the article on Page 2

## President's Message: November / December 2008

It all began this summer. I visited a friend and former RAS member who has moved out of state. We birded for a couple of days, got some Lifers, had a great time. Then it was time to come home. She casually mentioned she was thinking about going to the Monterey Birding Festival in Watsonville, CA at the end of September. She asked me to join her. We both needed to supplement our Life Lists with West Coast species. I told her I would think about it. Next thing I knew, I called her. I was in.

My friend wanted to target sea birds on a pelagic field trip featured on the Festival's first day. I had one pelagic to my credit, a rough East Coast one. I applied a patch the night before, ate nothing but ginger snaps and drank nothing but Coke. Still, I was miserable. Not exactly sick mind you, but if anyone had asked me to choose whether I wanted to stay on that boat forever or progress on up to the pearly gates, I am pretty sure I would have chosen the latter. I got good birds, lot of Lifers, but they weren't fun Lifers. Shouldn't Lifer's be fun?

Back on solid ground, I weighed the money spent, the aggravation of getting up at the unholy hour required to make the boat's departure, clinging the whole day long to a box of ginger snaps and a can of Coke, not being sick but wishing I could be. The hours and minutes until we would again be on land seemed an eternity. I made up my mind. I'm just not the seafaring type. Going forward, I would never get sea birds from anywhere but land, and I would just have to be fine with that. I had done my Last Pelagic.

My friend is persuasive, her enthusiasm contagious. When it came time to sign up for the Festival's field trips, I caved on the pelagic and bought into the dream. (I also bought wrist bands with the little buttons in addition to the patch.) The trip leader's last name was Shearwater. This conjured up some pretty fantastic expectations for that trip. After all, who doesn't want several species of Shearwaters and a couple of Albatross, plus Rhino Auks?

That is how I came to be riding at the foremost point in the bow, dozens of miles off the coast of California with my friend, 50 other people (including Jon Dunne), and Debra Shearwater. What we were watching were not birds. We had come upon two large pods of hunting dolphin. Hundreds of them whipped up the water's surface, topping the deep blue Pacific with frothy white foam. They surrounded the boat, swimming alongside us displaying their finest acrobatics to the ecstatic passengers aboard the Ventura. Their energy was contagious. Ginger snaps and Coke never crossed my mind.

Suddenly, Debra Shearwater called from the tower-Humpback Whales! Seven of them raced around the perimeter of the dolphin-hunting field spouting and fishtailing. I was freezing in the bow as we sped uphill, wetted by the inevitable ocean spray. Still, I couldn't move from that spot. The sight of all that frenetic activity, so unexpected and unanticipated, transported me to another place and time. I felt as if I were flying over the dolphins toward the whales. Time did not exist – there was no past or future, just wildest nature doing what it does. Every time the bow lifted at the crest of a wave only to crash down toward the ocean floor the next moment I left my stomach somewhere back on the curl. No thrill ride in any amusement park could ever top this. I wanted never to leave.

Of course, we did leave, getting several more sea bird species on the return trip, great looks at them, too. But nothing topped the dolphin-hunting whale-watching experience. I have decided this should be my last pelagic – my Last Pelagic Reloaded. I don't ever want anything to replace the memory of that feeling, flying in the ocean amid dolphins and whales. Secretly, I am also anticipating the next call from my friend, tempting me to a new adventure. At the Festival's display hall, we looked at brochures for trips to Antarctica. Now *that* would be a sea adventure worth considering.

*Pam Dummitt*

## RAS First Annual Pot-Luck Dinner December 18, 2008

### It's time for fun!

Join us in celebration of the holiday season and our many RAS accomplishments as we recognize all our very active volunteers and members!

### Mark your calendar today

On Thursday, December 18 we will enjoy fellowship and a delicious meal at our first annual Pot-Luck Dinner at St. Michael's Episcopal Church at 5:30 p.m.

See Page 1 for directions to the church

This is not a pre-meeting dinner but you do need to bring a covered dish.

Please email or call RAS Hospitality Chair,  
Jan Robertson, if you plan to attend.

Also, please indicate the dish you plan to provide – entrée, side dish, salad, bread, or dessert. RAS will provide water, coffee, and soft drinks.

Note: We are also looking for volunteers to help setup. Please contact me if you can help.

*Jan Robertson*  
[TRobert804@aol.com](mailto:TRobert804@aol.com)  
804-272-6674

## RAS Field Trips: November - December, 2008

Sunday November 2 - Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Come see what migrants are still around in November, as well as the resident birds. Meet at 7:15 a.m. For more information, call Sue at 270-5365.

Saturday, November 15 - Bird Walk at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens: Last walk of the year at LGBG: Cost is \$6.00 for non-LGBG members. Meet in the rotunda of the visitor center. You must sign up in advance; there must be at least 4 people signed up before Thursday evening or the trip will be cancelled. Contact Tyler Turpin at 317-9478 or email: [tylerturpin@earthlink.net](mailto:tylerturpin@earthlink.net). 8 a.m. until 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.

Saturday November 15 - Dutch Gap with Lewis Barnett: Contact [Lewis at lbarnett@richmond.edu](mailto:Lewis_at_lbarnett@richmond.edu) or [lbarnett@acm.org](mailto:lbarnett@acm.org) for time and meeting place.

Sunday December 7 - Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Come see Bryan Park from a different point of view. The resident birds and maybe some winter ducks will be around. Meet at 7:45 a.m. For more information, call Sue at 270-5365.

Sunday December 7 - Dutch Gap with Lewis Barnett: Contact Lewis at [lbarnett@richmond.edu](mailto:lbarnett@richmond.edu) or [lbarnett@acm.org](mailto:lbarnett@acm.org) for time and meeting place.

Sunday December 14, Rain or Shine: Hopewell Christmas Bird Count: Be a part of the 109<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count as we participate in the oldest and largest Citizen Science event in the world! The count is being coordinated by Arun Bose. To sign up, contact Arun at [arunbose@verizon.net](mailto:arunbose@verizon.net)

Future Bryan Park Field Trips with Sue Ridd: (always on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month): Jan. 4th: 7:30 a.m., Feb. 1st: 7:15 a.m. Come see Bryan Park from a different point of view each month. For more information call Sue at 270-5365.

And finally.....

Check the RAS listserv or website <http://www.richmondaudubon.org/ActvFieldTrip.html>

for any late breaking additions or impromptu field trips.

*Penny Reynolds*




---

## Tell the Virginia Climate Commission to Reduce Greenhouse Gases Send Congress a Strong Message on Global Warming

Virginia could be a leader in curbing greenhouse gases that are causing global warming and climate change. But Virginians must press for action.

Consider these facts: 1) Virginia's carbon dioxide emissions rose by 35 percent between 1990 and 2004, a rate nearly twice the national average.

2) Virginia's carbon dioxide emissions exceed those of some other countries. 3) With 112 miles of coastline, Virginia is at particular risk. The Chesapeake Bay could rise by two feet. The Hampton Roads area is the second most impacted region in the country.

A world body of over 2,000 scientists, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), concluded that the world needs to achieve an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050 to avoid the worst effects of global climate change. Governor Tim Kaine created a Commission on Climate Change and requested recommendations to achieve a 30% reduction in the projected volume of greenhouse gases emitted in

the state by 2025. In other words, under this goal, emissions will still increase until 2025, but it would be 30% less of an increase than if there were no plan at all.

Scientists tell us that an 80% reduction can prevent a global temperature rise of up to 11° F, lower the risk of higher sea levels, curb extreme weather events, stem increased disease, mitigate widespread species extinctions and habitat shifts and improve the quality of life. The Governor's Commission is preparing recommendations and will issue a report by December 15.

Next year, the U. S. Congress will grapple with climate change bills. The Virginia report will be seen by Virginia's Congressional delegation as a measure of Virginians' support for strong action. Let the Commission know that you want strong recommendations in their report.

You can e-mail the commissioners at [climatechange@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:climatechange@deq.virginia.gov). Ask them to adopt the scientifically-based

80% by 2050 reduction goal recommended by world scientists with an interim goal of a 25% reduction by 2020. Ask them to include strong renewable energy and energy efficiency requirements and incentives. A recent report says that Virginia can meet close to 20% of the state's energy needs through energy efficiency. (See

<http://www.aceee.org/press/e085pr.htm>) The Commission is a diverse group of "stakeholders," including industry representatives and state legislators. There are several Richmond-area members. Try to talk to them and urge strong recommendations. To learn more about the Commission, visit <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/info/climatechange.html>.

*Glenda C. Booth*

Virginia Outreach Coordinator  
National Audubon Society  
gbooth123@aol.com; 703-765-5233

## Current Auction Sponsors

We have sixteen sponsors who have contributed funds directly to the auction. Please join Richmond Audubon's leadership in thanking them for their support of our mission.

Bald Eagle (\$2000+): Zeiss Sports Optics

Peregrine Falcon (\$1000-1999): MGT Foundation

Great Blue heron (\$500-999): Anonymous; Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hood; Gardener & Robertson.

Red-headed Woodpecker (\$250-499): Robert Giles; Donna Brodd; Wild Birds Unlimited; Vulcan Materials Co.

Northern Cardinal (\$125-249): Sinclair & Associates; Select Financial Partners; Thompson & McMullan; Integra Realty Resources; Ben Greaner; Pam Dummitt; Ed & Joy Fuhr.

We also want to thank our 32-current business donors:

Appomattox River Co. Inc; Baxter Perkinson, Artist; Birdwatchers; Blue Ridge Mountain Sports; Boulevard Flower Gardens; Boychiks Deli; Brio Tuscan Grille; Cape Charles House; Capital Ale House; Eagle Optics; Franklin Covey; Garden Club of Virginia; Home Town Grill; Hondos; iPhotoBirds.com; James River Fishing School; James River Park; John Tobin, Photographer; Lane Workshops; Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Lynda Richardson Photography; National Audubon; Robert Caldwell, Artist; Science Museum of Virginia; Segway of Richmond; Southern States; Starbucks; Ukrop's; West Marine; Wild Birds Unlimited; Wildbird Center; Zeiss Sports Optics.

Last but not least we thank the Audubon members that have made donations of auction items and of their time.

To be successful we need to stay focused on selling event and raffle tickets to our family and friends; please plan to attend and bring your friends and neighbors on November 20th. The children in our RAS Kids programs, the leaders of tomorrow, are depending on your support to help Audubon expand its outreach in their communities.

---

## Start planning today. Here is a partial list of current auction items

Kayak, Old Town "Dirigo" Kayak w/paddle from Appomattox River Co

RAS Exclusive Items include:

-Wine Dinner up to 8 people by The Brooks'

-Family Pontoon Trip up to 8 people by The Coe's

-1-week at a Highland County farm (up to 6 people) by The O'Bryan's

-2-Warbler Canoe Trips with Bob Reilly (1-person each)

-Live Birds of Prey Demonstration at your event, Kim Harrell

-Birthday Party at James River Park (up to 34) with Ralph White

-Bread Baking Lesson w/Lunch, Joan Mazza

-July Week-end Mathews County Kayak outing up to 4-people, O'Bryan & Warfield

-Capt. Fuzzo Eagle Flight for 2-people from Linda and Bob Cole

-Plant walk with University of Richmond Botanist John Hayden for up to 5-people

-One Night at the Cape Charles House

-2-Segway tours 2 1/2 hours each

Workshops: Lane Photo Workshop Gift Certificate (1-person); Bird and Nature Photo Workshop by iphotoBirds (4-people).

Memberships: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden 1-Family Membership; Science Museum of Virginia, Edison Family Membership.

Art: Auction Logo Art by Kim Harrell; 2-Garden Baskets by Rita Shultz; Cardinal in Spring Blooms & Great Egret Watching; Framed Prints by iphotoBirds; Holiday Silk Centerpiece by Blvd Flower and Gardens; 2-Framed Bird Prints by Audrey Landers; Print "November Branches" by Robert L. Caldwell; Artist Proof Print "The Family"; 2-Small Matted Panoramic Prints by Lynda Richardson; Framed Original Watercolor by Baxter Perkinson; Hand made Silk Centerpiece by Nelda Snyder.

Birdy Items: Birding Gift Basket from National Audubon; 4-[iPhotoBirds.com](http://iPhotoBirds.com) bird calendars; Downy Woodpecker Box.

Books: The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey; "The Return of the Condor", Autographed 1st edition book.

Food and drink: 2-Bottles of Bird-related Wine & 4-Starbucks Gifts (1-lb of coffee and mug).

Gear: New Schwinn 26" Bicycle; Raven Scope & Vortex Tripod from Eagle Optics & Wild Birds Unlimited; Capt. Mike's Freshwater Fishing Tackle Kit; Mountainsmith Swift II Lumbar Pack & 500ml water bottle.

Gift Certificates: \$20 Boychiks Deli; \$25 Brio Tuscan Grille; 5-\$50 Southern States; \$25 Capital Ale House; \$50

Hondo's Chop House; 5-\$50 Wildbird Center; \$50 Home Town Grill; \$50 Positive Vibe Restaurant; 2-Tickets Garden Week Tour

Home: New Hand-knit Afgan 40"x48"

## Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly

by Carrol L. Henderson

Carrol Henderson grew up on a farm in central Iowa in the 1950s. Geese flew overhead as they migrated between Canada and the southern US. He marveled at their V-shaped formations and developed an intense curiosity about their cycles, their survival, their ability to fly, and about flight in general. Later he flew the planes he watched as a boy as an officer in the US Air Force. He then became a wildlife biologist, and an international birding tour leader on most of the world's continents. Although the book includes the fact that he has observed more than 2500 species, Carrol is not interested in listing birds but in studying their unique flight characteristics. Photographing birds has greatly enhanced his perceptions and understanding of bird life. He realized that his photos demonstrated many of the aerodynamic principles involving flight. In writing *Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly*, he drew on his background as a wildlife biologist and nature photographer.

As a bird photographer myself, I appreciate the quality of the photographs, realizing that it takes a lot of experience and ability. Technical knowledge of how to capture birds in flight is one aspect, but an extensive knowledge of bird behavior is also required to be successful, and that must be combined with considerable dexterity as well. What one does to capture falcons and eagles is very different from what is needed for hummingbirds or songbirds. Carrol has the knack for all these techniques. I wish he had explained a few of his techniques used in making these fantastic photographs. But I can't complain, as the book was not about photographic

technique. Maybe that will come later. The first chapter, "Gallery of Birds in Flight", contains a superb collection of photos of birds in flight from all over the world, with an interpretation of what each photo depicts in terms of the aerodynamics of flight. Then in Chapter 2, "Aerodynamic Principles", diagrams showing how birds attain lift, forward movement, and other aspects of flight are illustrated and interpreted in greater detail. The importance of angle of attack on numerous aspects of flight is explained. It's interesting how humans have to analyze those details, yet birds just do it naturally without having to think. Those aspects make me appreciate the fact that birds learn to fly in such a short time, and they do it so well. I'll think twice before using the term "bird brain".

In the next several chapters, the functions of the feathers, bones, wings and tails of birds are explained, and illustrated with photographs. The purpose of each type of feather is described, maintenance factors such as oiling, feather replacement, how the bones reinforce the wings, the importance of the changeability of wing shape during flight, and how the alula bone (or thumb) comes into play during various aspects of flight are described and illustrated. The huge diversity of wing types of different birds is an amazing subject, and is very well covered in the book. Similarly, the tails of birds have extremely diverse functions. For example, for a macaw, the tail helps the bird brake while landing. In hummingbirds the tail gives the bird extreme control of maneuverability. Forked tails allow the pursuit of prey using twisting, turning, and diving maneuvers, and allow birds such as terns maintain balance during "wind hovering". Similar explanations are given for streamer, stub, and wedge tails.

Humans have for centuries tried to

emulate the flight of birds, and Henderson puts it all together in the chapter on "Types of Flight". Flapping, gliding, soaring, use of updrafts, hovering, and the extreme complexity of hummingbird flight are explained and illustrated with more spectacular images. White pelican chicks develop from helpless creatures to magnificent flyers in three months! How the different species accomplish the feat of landing is explained with both practical and aerodynamic approaches in the final chapter, "The Art of Landing". Again, Henderson has included excellent photographs illustrating the technique each species has developed.

In the "Afterword" Henderson states that he is "still awed by the elemental beauty and magic of birds in flight that transcends the physical laws of nature". And in his career as a Wildlife Biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources he has also helped to reintroduce the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, eastern bluebird, and trumpeter swan to the state.

I recommend *Birds in Flight* as a valuable source of information in the future. The book is easy to read, with photographs of high quality that illustrate the points covered very well. There are detailed and sometimes even mathematical explanations of aerodynamic principles of flight and how the birds apply them. The index is quite detailed as well, which makes this a good reference for bird anatomy with respect to aspects of flight. *Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly* was published by Voyageur Press in 2008, ISBN 978-0-7603-3392-1, and retails for \$25.

Book Review by  
*Al Warfield*

## Rusty Blackbirds and TogetherGreen, Rapahannock River NWR

On Saturday, Sept. 27, on the way to Rapahannock NWR where folks were working as part of the scheduled TogetherGreen workday on the Lower Rappahannock River IBA, we ran across a flock of approximately 100 Rusty Blackbirds. They were crossing the blacktop road, Rt 624 a few miles north of Rt 360. These birds, which are in decline, are reported to be fairly common in this area, but they also migrate in large flocks in the fall.

*Al & Linda Warfield*

## Book Review: Bringing Nature Home, by Douglas W. Tallamy

You and I breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide — a fairly simple example of our most basic symbiotic relationship with plants. We get the energy we need from two sources: 1) plants, the only living thing we'll ever see that can transform the sun into energy, and 2) animals, who themselves survive directly or indirectly on plants. We can eat almost anything that doesn't eat us first. It is not so easy for the lowly insect that unduly receives the least attention while working the hardest to keep the chain functioning. Nothing packs protein like insects, but insects require native plants. A great diversity of insects intersects with native fauna and larger wildlife up and down the food chain. This balancing act of interconnected biodiversity is a process that takes place in our backyards — or not. Douglas W. Tallamy, in his 2007 book, *Bringing Nature Home*, warns us it won't be that easy for wildlife to continue on if we don't pay more attention to the process of life taking place right in our own backyards. As he explains, this is because the land surrounding our homes is among the few places left where the option to save America's wildlife still exists. Head of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, Tallamy is well known for his research publications, but his latest book was written for the general public. It happened because he found himself tongue-tied when a congenial neighbor asked him why he didn't just mow his fields instead of

leaving them flourishing with all manner of wildflowers and other native fauna, obliterating the clean look of a well-mown, manicured field. Tallamy's neighbor had no idea how many ways there are to enjoy nature or the wonder of life. He immediately set to writing down why we need nature and what each of us has to learn about the great journey back to "Bringing Nature Home".

We read of many catastrophes our ignorance of nature has produced in the recent past. We have all heard of the Japanese Chestnut that was horticulture's answer to a stronger, more resilient chestnut tree. The Japanese Chestnut did do well in our environment, but so did the undetected fungus it brought with it, the chestnut blight that in fifty years annihilated our native chestnuts. Most of us know also how the Asian Tree of Heaven has taken over Virginia's mountains, or how kudzu envelopes our roadsides all over the southeast. We might even wonder why Japanese switch grass hungrily hugs wetlands and roadsides where we've 'cleaned out the rubbish growth' of natives comprising one of our most vital habitat areas for local wildlife. Foreign exotic plants are not sensitive to the checks and balances nature builds into native systems. Unmindful of the immense destruction being set in motion, Americans keep bringing in more and more exotics to create 'plastic perfect' gardens and lush lawns. The wishful assumption is that lovely southern favorites — tried and true immigrants from admired

English gardens — have long since become 'naturalized'. It would take thousands of years to establish evolving partnerships with our natives, and in the meantime every exotic we plant diminishes the hope of revitalizing wildlife. Tallamy's mountain of research, with more coming online as we speak, verifies a coming apocalypse he reveals in chapter after chapter. In *How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* he includes amazing color photographs, tables of data, satisfying lists of beautiful natives we can incorporate in our gardens, and illustrative examples of relationships millions of years of evolving wildlife and native fauna have brought together. The losses for now don't seem that imminent as we look admiringly at lovely butterflies drinking nectar from colorful, easy to grow imported Buddliea. Nor do we take seriously a 50% decline in native birds. Look at all the birds gathering at our feeders, "eating us out of house and home" (so says my husband). How many of us know butterflies MUST deposit their eggs on native plants that have a chemical symbiosis with their corresponding caterpillars? Do we even notice that parent birds seek out a shrinking population of insects to feed their young?

Not since Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* has one book captured such a frightening scenario. Get it and use it.

V. Glen-Calvert  
Cert. Master Naturalist



Volunteers replace tree tube covers at the Rapahannock River NWR on a TogetherGreen workday  
Photo by Al Warfield



Rapahannock River Bridge at Tapahannock  
Photo by Al Warfield

Officers / Committee Chairs and Co-chairs for 2008-9

President	Pam Dummitt	president@richmondaudubon.org	353-3571
1st VP	Lewis Barnett	vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org	320-7898
2nd VP	Caroline Coe	vicepresident2@richmondaudubon.org	276-1397
Secretary	Russell Deane	secretary@richmondaudubon.org	
Treasurer	Donna Brodd	treasurer@richmondaudubon.org	262-7040
Past President	Al Warfield		
Development	Anne Dunnburg	development@richmondaudubon.org	212-9524
Thrasher Editor	Al Warfield	thrasher@richmondaudubon.org	677-3758
Thrasher Co-editor	Naseem Reza	thrasher@richmondaudubon.org	272-1145
Education	Bob Schamerhorn	education@richmondaudubon.org	658-0871
Hospitality	Jan Robertson	hospitality@richmondaudubon.org	272-6674
Conservation	vacant		
Legislation	Margaret O'Bryan	legislation@richmondaudubon.org	746-5599
Field Trips	Penny Reynolds	fieldtrips@richmondaudubon.org	828-4911
Membership	Lori Rutledge	membership@richmondaudubon.org	310-9014
Cyberspace	Robin Ruth	cyberspace@richmondaudubon.org	231-5949
Programs	Sandy Wynne	programs@richmondaudubon.org	276-5520
Publicity	vacant		
Youth	Robin Ruth Mary Arginteanu	RASkids@richmondaudubon.org	231-5949 320-0138
IBA /VAC Rep	Lewis Barnett	IBA@richmondaudubon.org	320-7898

Important Notices

Richmond Audubon Society is a registered non-profit organization

For 2008 *The Thrasher* is issued in Jan/Feb., Mar/Apr., May/June, Jul/Aug, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec.

Submit articles no later than the 15th of the month before each issue.  
E-mail: thrasher@richmondaudubon.org

RAS membership meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month except June, July and Aug. Meetings held at St. Luke Lutheran Church at Custis Rd. and Chippenham Parkway unless notified.

RAS Board Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday on alternate months starting in Jan; RAS members welcome to attend, but contact a Board member to obtain location and time.

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

Richmond Audubon Society is also a chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Virginia Conservation Network.

*The Thrasher* is printed on recycled paper

**From The Kitchen Window:** John is on vacation. His column will resume in the January/February, 2009 issue

**Make Government Work for You; Learn the Basics of Advocacy**

How can conservationists influence government – local, state and federal?  
What do elected officials do and why do they do it?

Attend a free advocacy workshop and learn the basics and how to get results.  
Hear from an elected official and advocacy experts. November 15, 2008, 9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale, Virginia 22003

Some of the topics:

- Why It's Important to Be a Conservation Advocate
- What Will the 2009 General Assembly Do?
- How to Influence a Government Official
- What Level of Government Does What?
- How to Work with Government to Preserve More Habitat

Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia

[www.audubonva.org](http://www.audubonva.org)

**Questions about the upcoming General Assembly?**

Wondering what the state budget shortfall means for the environment? Worried about uranium mining or offshore drilling? Wondering what you can do to help promote clean energy and sustainable agriculture in Virginia? Come learn from the state's environmental experts. Meet other green Virginians, and "Make the Connection" at Virginia Conservation Network's annual Legislative Workshop: Sat., Dec. 6 at the Virginia State Capital in Richmond.

The workshop runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in House Room 3. \$10 admission includes a light breakfast and a copy of the 2009 Virginia Conservation Briefing Book.

Register online at [vcnva.org](http://vcnva.org) or by calling 804-644-0283.

