Joe Lively is a Virginia native and resides in a very rural area near Farmville. He is a retired chemist, served as a military officer, was an agricultural producer, owner of a real estate brokerage, a mortgage & securities business and was an educator.

Joe’s interest in photography was influenced by his travel experiences and one of the early Disney documentaries: THE LIVING DESERT. He saw the movie at age seven and recalls wondering, "How did they capture that?" Childhood adventures at photography began with a simple KODAK box camera and gradually evolved to the use of more sophisticated MINOLTA AND NIKON SLRs. Many of his early photography adventures took place in Arizona and Latin America, where he was introduced to the geometry of light. His father, a petroleum geophysicist, introduced him to fossilized dinosaur footprints and compared them to present day birds. Following his service career, he increasingly focused his lens on wildlife, especially birds.

Joe's special interests include high speed and nocturnal photography. He has published articles and/or photographs in Arizona Highways, Virginia Wildlife and Field and Stream. An author of several books, including Hummingbirds and Flowers they Love. Joe currently writes a simple, syndicated outdoor column for small county newspapers and is preparing manuscripts for three more books.

Major interests: Underwater archaeology, canyon hiking in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, photographing hummingbirds, mountain lions and the enigmatic pictographs created by ancient peoples indigenous to Arizona and Utah. Joe is an avid fisherman and owns a boat/outboard motor restoration business. Joe has 2 children. His son is an international attorney; his daughter an accountant and single parent. His daughter’s 3 wildcat sons know him simply as PawPaw.

See page 4 for Joe’s favorite photos

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President’s Message

Lewis Barnett

Favorite Spot

If you had to pick one favorite spot to go birding around Richmond, where would it be?

Tough question, right? There are lots of great spots for a morning of birding around the River City. It’d be a little easier if you could pick by season, but I’m going to stick with picking one. So, what brings me back to my favorite spot time after time? First, it needs to be within easy reach, so I don’t think twice about heading over when a spare hour pops up. Some place between home and work would be ideal, for example. Second, it should have a variety of habitat, so that it isn’t just one type of bird I can expect to find when I go. Third, it should be interesting all year ‘round, not just in one season.

My pick is the Wetlands Section of James River Park. I can get there from home in about seven minutes. It has deciduous riparian forest, a good stand of big pine trees over by the golf course, a nice meadow that has been managed to benefit birds over the years, a pond and associated marshy bits, as the name suggests, and the James River to top off the habitat smorgasbord. It gets a good variety of migrants in the spring and the fall, is one of the easiest places around town to find Barred and Great Horned Owls, providing you’re there at the right time of day, and has a good vantage point for scoping the river for winter ducks. I can get up a little early in April and May, spend an hour there, and still get to work on time. If there’s nothing else pressing going on in the evening, I can stop by for a little birding after work, at least during the parts of the year when the light holds out that long. I keep a pair of duck boots in the trunk of the car for the wet times.

eBird users have reported 172 species over the past five years at the Wetlands. Compare that to 170 reported at 42nd Street/Reedy Creek, and 180 at Dutch Gap Conservation Area, two other popular birding hot spots in our area. 42nd Street may be a hair more productive during spring migration, and you can’t beat Dutch Gap for wintering waterfowl. Still, for my every day favorite, I’ll take the Wetlands.

A day or two after the Thrasher comes out, I’ll post a comment on the RAS Facebook page, and ask everyone to share their favorites. Maybe you’ll change my mind!
November and December Programs

Caroline Coe, Program Chair
Ccoe@verizon.net  - 804-276-1397

Thursday, November 21, 2013

This is our annual RAS Pot Luck Dinner and “Show and Tell”. We ask each person who comes to bring a dish to share. RAS will provide a turkey and ham, the plates and utensils, and drinks. So pull out your favorite recipe or make that last minute stop by the store on your way to the meeting, and plan to join us for a 6 pm dinner. Please label your dishes with your name so we can return them, and information on what the dish contains.

Our program after the meal will be pictures and stories that we each share. Pick 3 to 5 of your best or most memorable pictures for the year, or a short video, and send them to Lewis Barnett, blbarnett3@gmail.com. Lewis will put them all together and we’ll let everyone tell their own story with the pictures! No pictures? but you have a story to share? Let us know and we’ll add your name to the agenda, too. The number of folks who have shared has grown each year; please “show and tell” your story & pictures.

December 2013

Remember that we do NOT have a December RAS Program. Consider participating in the Hopewell Christmas Bird Count on Sunday December 15th.

And, looking forward, mark your calendar for Thursday, January 16, 2014. RAS VP and Legislative Chair, Eileen Geller, is planning an evening where we focus on environmental issues before our legislators in this session of the Virginia General Assembly. More information will be available in the January/February Thrasher.

Please contact me with questions or suggestions.
Joe Lively’s Favorite Photos

Barred Owl

Rufous Hummingbird

Pileated Woodpecker

Screech Owl

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Continued from page 1
Our Winter Guests

Along with cooler temperatures and falling leaves, we will see the arrival of winter guest birds in our backyards in Central Virginia. These birds typically breed farther North but spend the winter months with us. Be on the look-out for these backyard birds shown below. Other winter birds (not pictured) include Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Hermit Thrush - The only Thrush likely to be seen in winter. Has white eye-ring and Rufous tail which it pumps frequently.

Dark-eyed Junco - Very common and typically seen on the ground and under feeders especially after a snowfall.

White-throated Sparrow - Abundant in our area and comes in two varieties, white-striped and tan-striped (shown on the left), regardless of gender.

Brown Creeper - Creeps up tree trunks feeding on insects and spiders. Sighting made difficult by brown plumage that blends in with tree trunk.
Field Trips
Ellison Orcutt

These are all the RAS trips that have been submitted as of the publication date. Check the RAS listserv (if you don't subscribe the archives are at www.freelists.org/archive/va-richmond-general/) or the RAS website for any late breaking news about field trips (www.richmondaudubon.org/ActivFieldTrip.html.)

November 3rd, Sunday
Bryan Park with Sue Ridd:
Start time: ½ hour after sunrise
Meeting location: Shelter 1, Joseph Bryan Park
Look for the park residents and our winter birds from farther North.
For more information, call Sue at 270-5365.

November 16th, Saturday
Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens with Tyler Turpin

See the birds of Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Meet in the rotunda of the visitor center at 8:00 am. Cost will be $6.00 for non Ginter members, finish around 9:30 - 9:45 am. Contact: Tyler Turpin at (804) 317-9478 or tylerturpin@earthlink.net to sign up. If 4 persons have not signed up for the November trip by 8:00 pm on Wednesday the week of the trip, the trip will be canceled.

November 17th, Sunday
Curles Neck with Richmond Audubon
Start time: 8:00 am.

One of our favorite birding locations, Curles Neck Farm in Henrico County, is excellent in any season and November is one of the best months. Curles Neck makes up part of the Lower James River Important Bird Area (IBA) which is recognized for its significance as a breeding site for Bald Eagles and Prothonotary Warblers among others. It is also home to a large winter population of Snow Geese. There is high turnout for this trip so we ask that you register beforehand. Please email Ellison Orcutt at mr.ellyo@gmail.com or call at (804) 339-6976 to register and for more information. A $5 contribution is requested for the trip. Meet at the Curles Neck Farm entrance off Route 5 at 7:30 am.

November 23rd, Saturday
Dutch Gap with Richmond Audubon

Meet the trip leader at 8:00 am at the entrance to Henricus Historical Park/Dutch Gap Conservation area. Winter will be on the doorstep and that should mean waterfowl! You never know what will turn up at Dutch Gap. For more information, contact Lewis Barnett at 804-920-4723 or blbarnett3@gmail.com.

December 1st, Sunday
Bryan Park with Sue Ridd:
Start time: ½ hour after sunrise
Meeting location: Shelter 1, Joseph Bryan Park
Join Sue Ridd for early morning birding in Bryan Park to see what birds are going to make Richmond their home for the winter.
For more information, call Sue at 270-5365.

December 7th, Saturday
Floodwall with Ellison Orcutt
Start time: 8:00 am
Meeting Location: Meet at the Floodwall parking lot on Hull St. between 1st and 2nd Street (Just south of the Mayo Bridge). Join Ellison to explore the James River in downtown Richmond from the Floodwall. This excellent trail along the top of the wall allows great views of birds and the city. In winter the rocks below the Floodwall are an excellent place to look for uncommon wintering gulls. In addition, the James is always a great spot to see waterfowl and perhaps one of our resident Bald Eagles.
For more information contact Ellison at mr.ellyo@gmail.com.

December 15th, Sunday
Hopewell Christmas Bird Count

Participate in one of the great success stories in citizen science. Around the country birders will be getting out to conduct winter counts of birds. These long running efforts allow scientists and the public to monitor the status of bird populations. The beginnings of what is now known as the Hopewell Christmas Bird Count, started in 1929. Since 1944 the count has run consecutively every year and 2013 will mark the 69th straight count! All skill levels are welcome. For more information contact Arun Bose at arun1bose@gmail.com or visit the Hopewell Christmas Bird Count link on the field trips page of Richmond Audubon.
From the Kitchen Window

John Coe

“Every human being looks to the birds. They suit the fancy of us all, they battle with the elements, they are torn by two opposing impulses, a love of home, and a passion for far places. Only with birds do we share so much emotion.” Donald Culross Peattie.

And so, the gathering wings of so many blackbirds catch the wind and stream through the tree tops – their chorus a symphony of fall. The leaves have shed their green, painting the landscape in many colors. The hummingbirds have left our yard but the feeder will stay up awhile in case a straggler passes by or maybe a Rufous Hummingbird who’s not so sure where he should be this winter.

The flowers and weeds are now bare stalks of seeds – I’ll leave them up a bit as the goldfinch still find them tasty. The red berries of the dogwood and holly are almost gone – a rush of robins fed through.

The birds of summer have turned to their instincts and grabbed the southern winds, and with lots of luck and faith in nature will find their winter home, and then return again next spring. We wish them well.

Soon our winter birds will return and find a place out the kitchen window....

The full moon in November occurs on the 17th and is called the Beaver Moon. Daylight Savings time ends on November 3rd, on the new moon. The December full moon occurs on the 17th and is called the Cold Moon.

From the Editor

This is our maiden issue of the print Thrasher featuring mostly color photos. Of course the online version has been in full color since its inception under Al Warfield.

Joe Lively is our featured RAS photographer. Joe’s style of photography is uniquely his and he blends it with his passion to hand feed wild birds. Joe ardently supports our mission and most likely travels the longest distance to attend regular RAS meetings.

Photo by Naseem Reza Rufous Hummingbird
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 ____________________________________________

Make check payable to National Audubon Society and write “C0ZX530Z” on the check. Send your check and application to:
Richmond Audubon Society,
P.O. Box 26648, Richmond, VA 23261
C0ZX530Z

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the Thrasher, Newsletter of the Richmond Audubon Society

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