FESTIVE TIMES
Pot Luck Story Night
November 17th at 6 P.M.

We’re looking forward to our November member meeting, which is our annual RAS Potluck Dinner. Please mark your calendars. We hope to see everyone there for a fun night of delicious food and fellowship. Please bring a dish to share.

We need some volunteers to help with set-up before the meeting and clean-up after. If you are interested in helping out, please let us know! If you are interested in volunteering, bringing turkey or ham for the group, please email: president@richmondaudubon.org or phone Eileen at: (260) 348-4020.

Also, the members will provide the programming again as in years past by sharing photos and/or a story about a birding adventure from the past year. Pick out a few photographs and send them to: potluckphotos@richmondaudubon.org or if you don’t have photos but want to tell a story email: president@richmondaudubon.org!

This is such a fun meeting every year. It’s a chance to connect with RAS friends and catch up on how everyone spent their time in 2016! We hope to see everyone there!

AGAIN, WE MEET AT ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7757 CHIPPEMHAM PKWY, RICHMOND. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US AT 6:00 PM FOR GOOD FOOD, GREAT COMPANY, AND EVEN BETTER PICTURES AND STORIES.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

For most of you, I’m sure the Thrasher is a wonderful respite from the more traditional “media” these days. We’ve been inundated for over a year with politics and the presidential campaign. And it is everywhere we look—newspapers and magazine, Facebook, television. We just can’t seem to get away from it. Fortunately, our long national nightmare is about to come to an end, and then we won’t have to hear about politics for another four years, right?

Of course, we know that’s not the case. Politics, and the way they are covered by the media, are a reality of our modern world. It is tempting to want stay above the fray and avoid politics altogether. But, to protect birds and their habitats, to preserve access to public spaces for observation and research, and to secure funding for important conservation work, we need to remain a part of the political process and make sure our elected officials at all levels know where we stand on important issues.

We’ve talked in previous issues of the Thrasher about the Virginia Conservation Network and how to get involved in their great work (the easiest way to do that is to visit their website at www.vcnva.org and click “Get Involved”). The National Audubon Society also has great resources on its website: (www.audubon.org), from position statements on issues like renewable energy, agriculture, and the Migratory Bird Act, to pre-prepared emails on specific issues that go directly to your representatives in Congress. One of the easiest ways to be an advocate for birds on a national level is to click on the “Take Action” button at the top of the Audubon home page. With a few keystrokes, you can send a message to our federal lawmakers on current issues before Congress that affect birds and their habitat. It’s a way that we can change what we mean when we say “politics are for the birds!”

In other news, please mark your calendars for our year-end potluck dinner and meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2016. Arrive around 6 to chat, and our dinner will start at 6:30 with the program to follow. This is the program where you get to share some favorite photos or birding stories from the past year. To make a submission to the program, send an email to potluckphotos@richmondaudubon.org. If you are sending photos, please limit your submission to five photos. If you are willing to bring a ham or turkey, please let me know at president@richmondaudubon.org. This is one of my favorite programs of the year, and I hope to see you there. We can talk about anything but politics!

Good birds!
Eileen R Geller

RAS BOARD BRIEF - LOOKING AHEAD

The Conservation Committee distributed, “The Future of America’s Fish and Wildlife, Final Report and Recommendations March 2016, Blue Ribbon Panel.” Glenn Olson of the National Audubon Society presented the information at a Virginia Audubon Council (VAC) meeting. They also reported that the number one priority of VAC and the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO) is the Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas (VABBA2). • Friends of Byrd Park approved the proposed sign replacement for Swan Lake and the sign is now installed. • The Board discussed selling RAS T-shirts and agreed to order the T-shirts, which would be in time for those interested in purchasing T-shirts as a gift for Christmas. • Ellison continues to reach out to young birder organizations to coordinate efforts. He reported that the Blue Ridge Young Birders Club representatives, Gabriel and Mary Mapel, might join or be a part of Augusta Bird Club or remain a stand alone club. They have several field trips scheduled for November. • After additional negotiations and feedback from Board members the Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center was selected for the VSO Annual Meeting hosted by RAS to be held on May 5, 6 and 7, 2017. Please support the RAS service committee that best fits your talents!

FROM THE EDITOR

If you are interested in contributing to a future issue, have an idea for an article, or would like to help on the committee, email: thrasher@richmondaudubon.org

Bob Schamerhorn - Editor
T-SHIRT FUND-RAISER REPEAT
Back by Popular Demand

We have gotten so many requests that we decided to run our popular T-shirt fund raiser again, just in time for the winter gift-giving season! Same beautiful design, unisex, ladies, long-sleeve and sweatshirt styles available. Visit https://www.bonfirefunds.com/richmond-audubon-society-2016 to order your shirts now! The web link should be live until December 1.
Wild Turkeys
RAS FIELD TRIPS
Check the RAS Listserv or the RAS website for information and any late breaking news about field trips.

November 5th, 8 A.M., Saturday
Curles Neck Farm with Ellison Orcutt
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: vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org or call (804) 339-6976 to register and for more information. A $5 donation is appreciated. Meet at the Curles Neck Farm entrance off Route 5 by 8 a.m. Curles Neck Rd. is on the right three miles east of the New Market Rd (VA-5) exit on I-295.

November 6th, Sunday
Bryan Park with Tyler Turpin
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 contact: Tyler at tylerturpin@earthlink.net.

November 19th, Saturday
Dutch Gap with Lewis Barnett
Meet Lewis 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! In addition to the birds, the park features gorgeous views of the James River and Henricus village. All ages and abilities are welcome. For more information, contact: Lewis at bilbarnett3@gmail.com.

December 4th, Sunday
Byrd Park with Ellison Orcutt
Start time: 8:00 am
Join Ellison to explore this Richmond City park. Thought of as more of a multiuse recreational park, Byrd Park also features some urban wildlife. In the winter waterfowl can be abundant on several of the park lakes. Meet Ellison at rotary adjacent to Swan Lake at 8:00 am. This is located between Westover Rd. and Swan Lake. For more information contact: Ellison at Mr.Ellyo@gmail.com.

December 10th, Saturday
City Point with Arun Bose
Join Arun at 8:00 A.M. for a morning of birding at historic City Point in Hopewell, VA. Made famous in the Civil War because of its strategic location overlooking the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers, the park now offers a walking history tour and the same great views of the rivers. Among birders, it has become known for attracting numerous winter rarities. This lot can be found at the confluence of Cedar Ln. and Pecan Ave.
Meet time 8:00 am at City Point. Again contact: Arun at arun1bose@gmail.com.

December 18th, 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 2014 will mark the 70th straight count! All skill levels are welcome. For more information contact: Arun Bose at arun1bose@gmail.com or visit www.richmondaudubon.org/HopewellCBC.html.
OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE RICHMOND AUDUBON SOCIETY

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RASkids@richmondaudubon.org

ABOUT THE RICHMOND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Richmond Audubon Society (RAS) is a chapter of The National Audubon Society (NAS), becoming a member of either one, enrolls you in membership to both (NAS and RAS by location). Renewals processed through The National Audubon Society.

AFFILIATES: RAS is also a chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Virginia Conservation Network.

MAILING ADDRESS: Richmond Audubon Society
P.O. Box 26648 • Richmond, VA 23261

PHONE: 804-601-4917 (Message Line)

WEBSITE: www.RichmondAudubon.org

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/RichmondAudubon/

MEET-UP GROUP: www.meetup.com/RAS-Meetup/

LISTSERV: www.freelists.org/list/va-richmond-general

NONPROFIT: RAS is a registered nonprofit 501 (C) (3) charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible.

NEWSLETTER: “The Thrasher” is issued bimonthly (January, March, May, July, September, November). Submissions due by the 10th of the month prior. The newsletter is available for download (PDF) from the RAS website or by special request for a hard copy.

RAS BOARD MEETINGS: Held on the second Thursday on alternate months starting in January (except June and August). In July, the Board has its annual strategic planning session. Board Meeting start times and locations vary, members are welcome to attend board meetings, but let the President or Secretary know beforehand.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Chapter Membership Application

Yes, please enroll me (us) as a new member(s) of both National Audubon 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

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City ____________________________ State________ ZIP _____________________
Phone ________________________________
E-mail ________________________________

Make check payable to National Audubon Society and write “X53”as the check memo. Send your check and application to: Richmond Audubon Society, P.O. Box 26648, Richmond, VA 23261

X53
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