



The Thrasher

Richmond Audubon Society

The next *Thrasher* will be the November/December issue

RAS Meetings in September and October 2007

The meetings will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. 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.

Program for September 20: The program will be presented by our new Education Chair, Bob Schamerhorn (pronounced 'Skamer-horn'). Bob is a photographer who specializes in birds. His program is entitled: "Through The Camera's Lens". It is a slide show which features stunning bird photographs taken from the beaches to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, and each photograph will be accompanied by a short story about how the image was captured. Bob is originally from Lynchburg, where he learned about nature from friends who were members of the Lynchburg Bird Club. Later he started taking pictures and it all grew from there. Today he is a professional bird photographer based in Richmond. Please come see this fantastic show, and welcome Bob as a new member of the RAS Board.

Program for October 18: Aimee Weldon, the IBA Coordinator for NAS in Virginia, will talk about the latest developments in the Virginia IBA Program. IBA is short for "Important Bird Areas", which is an international program administered by National Audubon in the USA. Because of Aimee's work, the Virginia IBA program is one of the best in the country. She will talk about all the recent new IBAs

in Virginia, and some still under consideration. Aimee is a very dynamic, energetic, and entertaining speaker with lots of interesting stories and facts you will want to hear about. If you care about birds you will want to see this program.

Dessert will be available after the meetings.

The Pre-meeting dinner for each meeting 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. It will help spread out the work required. 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

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Annual Auction & Pot-Luck Dinner

Coming up in November

Please see the article on Page 4 for lots of details you will need.

Make a donation to sell at the auction.

Pick up raffle tickets at the September meeting.

Sell them to friends and neighbors.

Mark the date November 15 on your calendar.

Note the new location - see Page 4.

President's Message, September - October, 2007

Let's talk about lists. Everybody has at least one. Maybe it's a to-do list, grocery list, wish list, packing list, address list, Christmas card list, or a list of accomplishments. Birders make special lists, which are recordings of our bird sightings. All of you have a Life List, right? If you are new to birding, be aware that most birders keep a list of all the birds they see for the first time in their lives – when and where they saw it, and what the conditions were at the time of sighting – better known as a Life List. Life Lists can be maintained informally, by saving pieces of paper on which you scribbled the names of species you saw on a bird walk or field trip, for example.

Lists can also be used as territorial cross-reference points. I know a handful of birders who maintain Year Lists that start over again at the beginning of every year. These birders refer to lists from previous years to determine whether they are seeing a certain species earlier or later than in a given previous year, kind of how the TV weatherman reminds us that today's high and low temperatures are higher or lower than on this same day last year. I know an even smaller number of listers who track their annual bird sightings by county.

What is a bird list, if not a collection of bird species? Like other collections – I'm thinking of the kind you have to dust – bird lists have value, but how does one manage that assemblage so that it can be available when needed for reference? You could always enter it into a database. There are a number of ways to do that. On the Audubon At Home page of their web site, National Audubon refers to these collected lists as Citizen Science – birding information collected by volunteers at the community level. They offer several examples, including the Christmas Bird Count database containing over a century of data, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and eBird, a website for birders to save their sightings into an online database. Most of our RAS field trips are entered

into this one. They also offer links to information on programs run by partner organizations: Project Feeder Watch, Breeding Bird Surveys, and an activity RAS is heavily involved in – bird banding. To those examples I would also add competitive birding lists.

Competitive birding you say?

Don't be fooled by the seemingly benign activity of walking out into nature with a set of binoculars pointing upward and calling it birding. Some birders take their lists very seriously. In some circles, the number of birds on your Life List is akin in importance to your standing as a birder as your FICO score is to your credit rating. Yes, birding can be competitive. That Year List I mentioned earlier has an extreme application in New Jersey called the World Series of Birding!

Though not on a par with the World Series, RAS members engage in a little good-natured listing competition, all for a good cause. Birdathon is a competition modeled similarly, to include all the fun of a walkathon, with the serious intention of raising money for our designated projects. Teams of birders fan out across the state and count the numbers of species they see from sunup to sundown within a 24-hour period. All the lists from the teams are compiled and sent to the donors who pledged. This year, the tally totaled out at 188 species, counted by eight separate contributing teams! Quite some list. By the way, it's not too late to make a donation to the Birdathon if you haven't already.

Suppose I'm not a computer type, you say. That's OK. Lists can be collected in a special journal or notebook set aside especially for that purpose. I used to keep my Life List as notations in a field guide, with date, location and names of the participating viewers all written in the tiniest of print beside the identified species. That seemed like a reasonable approach until a fellow RAS member lost her well-annotated field guide when it plopped from her pants

pocket into the depths of an outdoor privy somewhere near the Virginia-West Virginia border, perhaps contributing much to posterity but rather less to the topic at hand – the maintenance of one's Life List.

If you are so inclined, take a look at some of the databases available through the links on National Audubon's website. The information is fascinating. I now keep my Life List on a spreadsheet in my computer. As for **your** Life List, I suggest keeping a backup copy someplace safe, whatever method you choose to maintain it. And I strongly suggest that place not be your pants pocket!

Happy Bird Listing,

Pam Dummitt

Royal Terns in Flight
Photo by Al Warfield



Field Trips: September-October 2007

August 16 through November 24, 2007 – Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch on Afton Mountain: For more information contact Brenda Tekin at Brenda@birdsofvirginia.com.

Sunday, September 2, 2007 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Join Sue for an early walk in Bryan Park and see what fall migrants are passing through Richmond. Meet at 7 a.m., Shelter #1. Call Sue at 270-5365 for info.

Saturday, September 8, 2007 – Royal Vulcan Quarry, Goochland: Join Sue Dudley for our 3rd annual trip. You will be amazed at the creative ways the team at Vulcan has adapted the habitat to work with nature. Please call to sign up so they can prepare. Meet at 8 a.m. at the scale house. Vulcan Quarry is located approx. 3 miles north of Broad Street on Pouncey Tract Road. Let's join them in their 15th year as a Certified Wildlife Habitat, and hopefully identify some new species for their wildlife inventory. Call Julie Kacmarcik at 530-3660.

Wednesday, September 12, 2007 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: The trip this month will be to Lee Park in Petersburg, featuring an interesting history, birds, and native plants. RAS surveyed the park's birds in 2006-7. Meet at the Starbucks in Oxbridge Square, 10001 Hull St Rd at 7 a.m. to carpool, or at the park at 8 a.m. Call John at 276-1397 for information.

Saturday, September 15, 2007 – James River National Wildlife Refuge, Prince George County: Access the waters of Powell's Creek through the remote setting at James River National Wildlife Refuge. All participants must bring their own canoe or kayak and be experienced. Life vests required. Cyrus Brame will guide this trip from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and interpret the rich wildlife and diverse history of the area. Pre-registration is required; Boats limited to 10. Contact James River Association, 804-730-2898, www.jamesriverassociation.org.

Saturday, September 22, 2007 – Bird Banding Demonstrations, Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield County: Join master

bird bander Bob Reilly and apprentice banders for a close-up demonstration of bird banding. See how birds are captured, measured, banded, and released. Van transportation available to banding site. Trips scheduled from 8-10 a.m. Meet at Henricus/Dutch Gap Visitor Center. You must register at least one week before this FREE program. Call Mark Battista at 706-9690

Saturday, September 29, 2007 – Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, Richmond: Tyler Terpin will lead a bird walk in the fall gardens. See the gardens as they change with the seasons! The walk will begin at 8 a.m. and cost \$6 per person for non-LGBG members. Requires advanced registration; call Tyler at 270-6921 by the 21st to sign up. At least 4 people must sign up or the trip will be cancelled.

Friday through Sunday, October 5 - 7, 2007 – 15th Annual Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival, Cape Charles, VA: The Festival will be held at the Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Co. on Mason Avenue. Birding and wildlife trips will span the Eastern Shore of VA. The annual Birding and Wildlife Festival occurs during the fall migration of neotropical songbirds and raptors. Virginia's Eastern Shore creates a natural funnel focusing the migration of birds to the southernmost tip of the peninsula. It's an opportunity to witness incredible numbers of birds in preparation for their flight to the tropics. "Ned" Brinkley of Cape Charles, author of the recently published "National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Birds of North America", will be the keynote speaker. <http://www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding/>

Saturday, October 6, 2007 – Bird Banding Demonstration, Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield County: See details in September 22 listing. To register call Mark Battista at 706-9690.

Sunday, October 7, 2007 – Bryan Park with Sue Ridd: Join Sue for an early walk in Bryan Park and see what late fall migrants are passing through

Richmond. Meet at 7:30 a.m., at Shelter #1. Call 270-5365 for info.

Wednesday, October 10, 2007 – 2nd Wednesday Walk with John Coe: The trip this month will be to explore the Cypress Trail at Dutch Gap. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Call John at 276-1397 for information.

Saturday, October 20, 2007 – Dutch Gap Conservation Area, Chesterfield County: Join Betsy and Ben Saunders for a walk around one of our favorite local birding habitats. The site of one of RAS's two MAPS research stations, and the location for Bob Reilly's Prothonotary Warbler nest box monitoring work. This the perfect time for a walk to see what birds remain after the summer nesting season and fall migration. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Questions, call Betsy at 272-0605.

Saturday & Sunday, October 27 - 28, 2007 – Fishermans Island NWR and Kiptopeke Camporama: Come for the day or plan to spend the weekend. Julie Kacmarcik will organize this trip led by the Naturalists at the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge (ESNWR). Saturday we will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the ESNWR. The number of participants is limited to reduce the impact on the refuge, so sign up early. Contact Julie at 530-3660 or email juliekazz@comcast.net. Saturday afternoon we will set up camp at Kiptopeke State Park and prepare for an evening of star gazing and campfire tales.

Sunday, November 4, 2007, 2 a.m. Start Eastern Standard Time.

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 a.m. at Shelter #1. Call 270-5365.

November: Curles Neck Farms

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*



RAS Auction and Pot-luck Dinner

Save the Date! November 15, 2007 *NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION*****

Circle your calendar and plan for the RAS Annual Auction and Pot-Luck Dinner.

This event provides you with a double opportunity to participate in local Audubon activities and to have some fun!

1. A chance to meet old and new Audubon friends and share a meal. RAS provides the turkey, drinks, plates and utensils. You add the variety and spice to the occasion by bringing your favorite side dish or dessert to share. *This is different from our pre-meeting dinners: there is no charge for the dinner.* Ann Brooks is in charge of the kitchen so call her with any questions (323-9399).

2. The opportunity to participate in RAS's major fundraiser that supports our habitat, science and education activities and projects as well as supporting our basic operations.

We've changed the location for the event this year to St. Michaels Episcopal Church, 8706 Quaker Lane, Bon Air, Virginia, to give ourselves a bit more room to invite guests and spread out. This location allows us to offer wine with dinner again, but the main reason for the change is to seat more guests at dinner. Audubon's own Doug Sinclair, back by popular demand, will be calling the auction and leading us in live and silent auctions. Each will be full of delightful gifts and unique artwork, as well as great trips and outings. Last year's outings included a trip to Wisconsin in late summer, a weekend at the O'Bryan farm in Highland County, a Birds of Prey program with live birds, and a canoeing opportunity with Bob Reilly to monitor Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes. Great items last year included photographs, vintage wine, jewelry, beautiful gift baskets, Zeiss binoculars, and much more!

This year the **raffle** is back by popular demand, and with it another opportunity to get members, friends and co-workers involved in Audubon's efforts.

Funds raised at the auction support RAS. This money helps RAS educate children in underserved communities in Richmond and introduces them to nature. It supports our two MAPS bird-banding stations that are collecting scientific data to better understand area breeding birds. Our Christmas Bird Count (CBC) solicits area residents to count the wintering bird populations and add to the Audubon database that underlies reports like the *Common Birds in Decline* published by National Audubon Society this July. This year RAS will underwrite the cost to volunteers to participate in the CBC. RAS has adopted the Lower James River Important Bird Area and helps provide funding and volunteers for habitat restoration projects on Presquile NWR along with our partner organizations. RAS works to inform its members and encourages member participation in local, state and national legislative debates concerning global warming and energy policies. As you can see, "our plate is full", and with your help we can be even more effective in the projects we undertake.

So what can you do?

- 1. Help the Auction Committee** (Chairs Bob Coles and Caroline Coe, former Chair Linda Warfield) locate and obtain donations. Think *big*, think *creative*, think what will delight and inspire *spirited bidding!* Donation forms can be obtained at the September or October meeting or by contacting Donna Brodd at 262-7040 or DRBrodd@aol.com. Deadline for donations is Wednesday, October 31.
- 2. Sell raffle tickets.** Pick up tickets at the September meeting. Buy a book or 2 yourselves and then sell many to your acquaintances. The person selling the winning raffle ticket will win a prize, too! Complete information about the raffle will be presented at the September meeting.
- 3. Dust off a favorite recipe and think of a friend or neighbor to bring along** to share in the good times.
- 4. Save the date: Thursday, November 15, 2007 for the Richmond Audubon Auction & Pot-Luck Dinner.** The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for the silent auction, and dinner will start at 6:30. The gavel will sound to open the live auction around 7 and the final bid will be heard at about 8:30 p.m.
- 5. NOTE LOCATION CHANGE** to St. Michaels Episcopal Church, Bon Air, Virginia.
- 6. Check the RAS website** (www.richmondaudubon.org) for updates during September and October.

Contact the folks below to make donations, volunteer to help at the auction, or with any questions:

Bob Coles	883-7570	digitalnature@earthlink.net
Caroline Coe	276-1397	cccoe@verizon.net
Linda Warfield	743-1479	lindawarfield@comcast.net
Ann Brooks	323-9399	acdbrooks@comcast.net
Donna Brodd	262-7040	drbrodd@aol.com

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Donation drop off points:

Birdwatchers	4636 Commonwealth Center Pkwy	763-3890
Wild Bird Center	1360 Gaskins Rd	741-2473
Wild Birds Unlimited	9778 Midlothian Tnpk	323-0353
Wild Birds Unlimited	10921-A W. Broad St	934-9200

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 Kids Charity Family Life trip to James River Park, July 19, 2007

For the last five trips with the Charity Family Life (CFL) kids, CFL’s program director, Sarah January, has regularly sent us the youngsters’ brief comments. Reading these, makes me think the kids’ enthusiasm for these trips and their discoveries are evolving, growing. (But not necessarily their enthusiasm for doing the “required narrative.”)

The trip was a “twofer”: each of the two groups of thirteen kids had two, very different types of experience. Each had an inside activity where they had an opportunity to observe, and, if they wanted, to handle turtles and snakes (and incidentally get some questions to prompt critical thinking). AND all the kids had an “in the James River experience” where they floated, went on a water slide, and discovered frogs, snails and other critters. Along the way they learned (or re-learned) significant plants like Sick-A-More tree and Poison Ivy – “leaves of three, leave it be”.

Here’s a sample of what the kids say they enjoyed. I hope you enjoy reading them:

- * “Holding the snake because it felt smooth and scaly.”
- * “The water slide because it was fun.”
- * “When we got in the James river; and when we saw the corn snake ...and the northern black snake... the turtles... the rainbow snake.”
- * “The snakes and the turtles because snakes was scaly and the turtle was hard.”
- * “Going to the river, because I learn to float in the river. I also like holding the snake because I like scaly snakes and I comfortable holding a turtle.”
- * “The water slide, because it was fun.”
- * “I learned that Sycamore trees only grow by water.”
- * “In the James River we saw snails; we saw some Spicewood trees...”
- * “I like it best because I saw snakes and I had so much fun on the James River.”
- * “The snake, the turtles and the River was awesome. I like the snail.”
- * “What I learned was how you know the turtle was a boy or a girl.”

AND

- * “The most that I liked about the river, was when we was floating down the river. And I saw the Northern Blacksnake trying to bite Ms. Mary. But they let us touch the injured turtle.”

Mary Arginteanu



Northern Black Racer
Internet Photo



Box Turtle
Photo by Al Warfield

Dutch Gap MAPS Banding Station Results for 2007

It's hard to believe the first season of banding at the Dutch Gap MAPS station has ended. We opened with 12 nets on May 20 and ended the season August 5 after the addition of 4 more nets. One thing for sure, if you want to see a Prothonotary warbler, this is the place to go. This spectacular bird came in number one as our most netted bird. The overall statistics are as follows: Total birds netted: 178; Total species of birds netted: 20; Total banded: 97; Total unbanded: 1; Recaptures of previously banded birds: 80.

We are already looking forward to next year and hope to see you at one of our demo-days this fall (Sept. 22 and Oct. 6). [See Field Trips on P 3.] Thanks to our supporters at Richmond Audubon, Chesterfield Parks and Rec. and Smurfit-Stone in Hopewell. Great appreciation goes out to all our volunteers who beat the bush before sunrise, endure the elements and all the other critters, and bring such great snacks!!

We are so fortunate to have Dr. Bob Reilly as our mentor, leader, coach and friend. Without Bob's expertise and endless patience and guidance none of this would have been possible. It is especially fitting to have the Prothonotary Warbler top our list. Bob's passion for establishing PROW nest boxes and following through with his endless research is undoubtedly the reason this bird is so plentiful throughout the conservation area.

Thanks for a great season!

Julie Kacmarcik



Prothonotary Warblers at the banding station shown from side and back views.
Photographs by Julie Kacmarcik

Species	Band Code	#	Recaps
Prothonotary Warbler	PROW	48	44
Carolina Wren	CARW	47	23
Northern Cardinal	NOCA	43	10
Carolina Chickadee	CACH	6	
Indigo Bunting	INBU	5	1
Acadian Flycatcher	ACFL	4	1
Red-eyed Vireo	REVI	3	
Eastern Tufted Titmouse	ETTI	3	
American Redstart	AMRE	2	1
Yellow-throated Warbler	YTWA	2	
Common Yellowthroat	COYE	2	
Gray Catbird	GRCA	2	
Common Grackle	COGR	2	
Ovenbird	OVEN	2	
Blackpoll Warbler	BLPW	1	
Hooded Warbler	HOWA	1	
Swainson's Thrush	SWTH	1	
Brown-headed Cowbird	BHCO	1	
Downy Woodpecker	DOWO	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	HAWO	1	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	RTHU	1	
Totals	20	97	80
*netted and released unbanded			

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

President	Pam Dummitt	pam.dummitt@capitalone.com	353-3571
1st Vice President	Al Warfield	warfield101@comcast.net	677-3758
2nd Vice President	Caroline Coe	cccocoe@verizon.net	276-1397
Secretary	Russell Deane	rtdeane@verizon.net	768-5956
Treasurer/Finance	Donna Brodd	drbrodd@aol.com	262-7040
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Hospitality	Linda Warfield	lindawarfield@comcast.net	743-1479
Conservation	John Roberts	call for email address	329-6879
Legislation	Margaret O'Bryan Ann Brooks	catbird329@comcast.net acdbrooks@comcast.net	746-5599 323-9399
Membership	Lori Rutledge	lorirutledge8@aol.com	310-9014
Cyberspace	Robin Ruth	robin.ruth@verizon.net	231-5949
Programs	Sandy Wynne	sswynne@Comcast.net	276-5520
Publicity	Greg Moser	vtsec11@juno.com	358-3470
Youth	Robin Ruth Mary Arginteanu	robin.ruth@att.net maryarg@aol.com	231-5949 320-0138
IBA Chair/VAC Rep	Lewis Barnett	lbarnett@richmond.edu	320-7898

Important Notices

RAS 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.

The Thrasher will be printed 6 times in 2007: Jan/Feb., Mar/Apr., May/June, Jul/Aug., Sept/Oct., Nov/Dec.

Editor's Note: Submit articles no later than the 15th of the month before each issue.
E-mail: warfield101@comcast.net
Surface mail: Al Warfield, The Thrasher Editor, 4749 Southmoor Road, Richmond VA 23234.

Board Meetings: 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.

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 – September-October 2007

“ Man must understand his universe in order to understand his destiny”

Neil Armstrong

Summertime from the window – times they are a changing. The blue haze of dawn forecasts the coming day as the first sign of life appears as a shadowy silhouette. A lone cardinal comes to the yard. A Carolina Wren sings to greet the light of day, and a single crow can be heard in the distance.....The birds this day will forage early for food and water and then rest midday among the leaves of the trees. Then around evening time they will look for bugs and seeds, feeding 'til last light.

These hot days of summer – we used to call them dog days – are pretty tough on our birds, especially the young and some of the older ones who are looking tattered and worn. And, as I look out the Window and listen to the sounds, I don't see a “ silent spring” in my days here. But, I sense change – I see change. Still, the wonder of our chickadees and the speckled bluebird fledglings splashing away in the water bath, that's still here. The hummingbirds are as numerous as ever, and feeding on the Cardinal Flowers and Pineapple Sage. The really whiney Red-shouldered Hawk kid comes and sits on the clothesline pole or the bird feeder hoping for something edible to drop in his lap.

The Owl family is still around – hoping I guess, for frogs to come back to the pond – but they are gone. Still, a few chipmunks are around despite the cats that wander through our yard or the rather impressively large black rat snake that patrols the underbrush. The cardinals, Carolina Wrens, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and woodpeckers

have all experienced a very successful breeding season raising lots of happy young birds.

But things are not as they used to be. I used to look out this window at night, just 20 years ago, and watch in wonder at the 100's of lightening bugs in the trees and flying through the night sky. This summer just two, or maybe three blinks for a couple nights, and then none. The trill of the toads and the croak of the frog were as much a summer sound as the ice cream truck is now. Silence this summer, and I can't blame it on the owls. The other evening we heard one cicada singing, and only one katydid, and no tree crickets. No swifts in the chimney and a lone bat in the southern sky. Many of our usual nesting migrants were absent this summer - no tanagers or vireos or warblers – I worry.

Fall migration is happening. Even as I write, the blackbirds are gathering. The fields are alive with foraging robins and gulls. The crows and Blue Jays are having family reunions. The flyways will soon be alive with songbirds going south. I hope some will stop by our yard to rest and refuel.

The Full Harvest Moon occurs in September on the 26th at 3:45 p.m. The Autumnal equinox occurs at 3:51 a.m. on the 23rd. The Full Hunters Moon occurs in October on the 25th at 10:52 p.m. Watch the Orionid meteors starting on the October 20th.

In November remember our annual dinner and fund raising auction, and bring a friend. Proceeds are for the birds.

John Coe

