



# thrasher

Newsletter of The Richmond Audubon Society

*We promote the enjoyment, understanding, and preservation of birds, other wildlife, and habitat through education, advocacy, and fellowship.*

## RAS FIELD TRIPS

Check the [RAS Listserv](#) or the [RAS website](#) for information and any late breaking news about field trips.

### AUGUST

**Saturday August 19th**

**Dutch Gap with Lewis Barnett**

Meet Lewis at 8:00 AM at the entrance to Henricus Historical Park/Dutch Gap Conservation area. Explore this great birding destination to see what's breeding, fledged and what's starting to migrate. Early birders meet at 7:00 AM at the Dutch Gap Boat Landing parking lot. Sleepy-heads join us at 8:00 at the main Henricus/Dutch Gap entrance gate.

For more information, contact:

Lewis at [blbarnett@gmail.com](mailto:blbarnett@gmail.com)

**Sunday August 6th**

**Bryan Park with Adrienne Dery**

Start time: 6:45 am Meeting location: Shelter 1, Joseph Bryan Park. Join Jan for early morning birding in Bryan Park. This historic park in Richmond's Northside always has an abundance of birds. Fledgling and resident birds will be busy as they wrap up the breeding season.

For more information, contact:

Adrienne Dery at [ard1319@verizon.net](mailto:ard1319@verizon.net)



## OFF FOR THE SUMMER...

**WHEN:** RAS membership meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM (except June, July, August and December). Come early for coffee, cookies and conversation beforehand starting at 6:30 PM.

**WHERE:** Held at St. Luke Lutheran Church • 7757 Chippenham Pkwy., Richmond, VA at the corner of Custis Road and Chippenham Parkway unless noted.

**VISIT:** [www.RichmondAudubon.org](http://www.RichmondAudubon.org) for updates and additional information.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While packing up for a move recently, I came across a gift my grandmother had given me a while back that I had kind of forgotten about: her old collection of Arm and Hammer bird cards. If you have never heard of these, don't feel bad. I hadn't either until she gave me her collection, thinking I might appreciate them. And I really do. I've actually expanded the collection quite a bit since her initial gift, and I was glad to come across them recently so that I could take some time to appreciate them again.

These cards used to come along with a box of Arm and Hammer baking soda. There were a number of different cards in each series, and there were different series focusing on other wildlife or plants. The bird cards, called the "Useful Birds of America," include a colorful drawing on one side depicting the "useful" bird, with a description of the bird (and a brief advertisement for baking soda) on the back. I think it was the excitement of collecting a new card with each box of baking soda that drew my grandmother to the collection when she was a child. For me, it is the wonderful way the birds are described on the back of the cards. For example, the house wren is described as follows:

*"Few of our birds would be missed more than little Jenny Wren. This familiar and animated bit of feathered life possesses its full share of the energy characteristic of all Wrens. Its bubbling, irrepressible song endears it to all who hear it. It is an irascible little bird and scolds loudly when wandering cats, hawks, or boys threaten the safety of its family. The House Wren usually builds in a bird box or hole in a tree, but when necessary uses any available crevice and has been known to place its bulky nest of sticks in the pocket of a coat hanging in a shed. The eggs are six or eight all over with pinkish brown. Two broods are raised every season. Insects and spiders constitute the food of the house wren."*

The Yellow-Throat is referred to as "a tiny black-masked highwayman," but his virtues are extolled: "Like most of the Warbler family, it performs a great service to man in its consumption of harmful insects." It's the Orchard Oriole's singing voice that earns his highest praise: "This Oriole's song is unusually rich and varied, and places him in the first rank of our native songsters." The Red-Eyed Vireo, which is also called the "preacher-bird" for its song, "from branch to branch it flits, searching over and under the leaves for insects. What would our trees suffer without these guardians!"

The colorful descriptions really bring the birds to life. It makes sense that these cards were so popular at the time, and that so many of these cards still exist today. I understand why my grandmother held on to them all these years, and I'm grateful that she chose to share them with me. I also appreciate that each card ends with the following closing note: "For the good of all, do not destroy the birds." Good advice!

**Eileen R Geller - RAS President**



## RAS BOARD BRIEF

The RAS Board met the VCU's Rice Center for its annual planning and budgeting meeting in early July. Various committees discussed the many faceted collaborations and successes of that last year including: the website rebuild, membership welcome letter campaign, FeatherFest, field trips roster, Environmental Film Festival sponsorship, bird banding research, Great Big Greenhouse event, and most of all the hosting of Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Meeting! With great enthusiasm, the hopes and new plans for the coming fiscal year were discussed and debated. Some included continued support for our previous collaborative efforts as well as new service and conservation opportunities. Some topics included: a cats indoors publicity promotion, Lights out RVA involvement, Nature Camp Scholarships for youth, photography contest, fund-raising, park signage and more. We are in for a productive and active year. Please consider volunteering the committee that best fits your interests and talents. **We need your help to make a difference!**

## OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE RICHMOND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President	Eileen Geller	president@richmondaudubon.org
First Vice President	Ellison Orcutt	vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org
Second Vice President	Wes Teets	vicepresident2@richmondaudubon.org
Secretary	Lori Schamerhorn	secretary@richmondaudubon.org
Treasurer	Lewis Barnett	treasurer@richmondaudubon.org
Bird-a-Thon Chair	Lewis Barnett	treasurer@richmondaudubon.org
Conservation Chair	Mary Elfner	conservation@richmondaudubon.org
Cyberspace Chair	Ben Griffon	cyberspace@richmondaudubon.org
Development Chair	Jack Esworthy	development@richmondaudubon.org
Education Chair	Joyce Caldwell	education@richmondaudubon.org
Field Trips Chair	John Ditto	fieldtrips@richmondaudubon.org
Hospitality Chair	Vacant	
IBA/VAC Representative	Len Smock	iba@richmondaudubon.org
Legislation Chair	James Shelton	legislation@richmondaudubon.org
Membership Chair	Mario and Gail Grasso	membership@richmondaudubon.org
Past President	Lewis Barnett	pastpresident@richmondaudubon.org
Programs Chair	Abby Walter	programs@richmondaudubon.org
Publicity Chair	Diane Jadowski	publicity@richmondaudubon.org
Thrasher Editor	Bob Schamerhorn	thrasher@richmondaudubon.org
Youth Chair	Ellison Orcutt	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 Society, enrolls your membership in both (NAS and RAS by zip code). Renewals are processed through The National Audubon Society.

**AFFILIATES:** Chapter of the [Virginia Society of Ornithology](#) (VSO) and the [Virginia Conservation Network](#) (VCN).

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

**PHONE (Message Line):** 804-601-4917

**WEBSITE:** [www.RichmondAudubon.org](http://www.RichmondAudubon.org)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/RichmondAudubon/](http://www.facebook.com/RichmondAudubon/)

**MEET-UP GROUP:** [www.meetup.com/RAS-Meetup/](http://www.meetup.com/RAS-Meetup/)

**TWITTER:** [www.twitter.com/@RichmondAudubon](http://www.twitter.com/@RichmondAudubon)

**LISTSERV:** [www.freelists.org/list/va-richmond-general](http://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 (Jan-Feb, March-April, May-June, July-August, Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec) The newsletter is available for download (PDF) from the RAS website or by special request for a hard copy.

**RAS BOARD MEETINGS:** Second Thursdays of January, March, May, July (annual strategic planning session), September, and November. Board Meeting start times and locations vary, members are welcome to attend, contact the President or Secretary in advance.



Audubon



### AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, enroll me (us) as member(s) of both National Audubon and Richmond Audubon Societies at the address below, at the introductory rate of \$20.00.

**A subscription to the NAS "Audubon" magazine is included.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose a \$20.00 check payable to National Audubon Society for Individual/Family Membership and write "X53" as the memo.

**Send check and application to:  
Richmond Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 26648, Richmond, VA 23261  
X53**



# Audubon

Richmond Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 26648  
Richmond, VA 23261  
[www.RichmondAudubon.org](http://www.RichmondAudubon.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Richmond, VA  
Permit Number 3022

## THE thrasher



### **THIS ISSUE FEATURES:**

#### **SUMMER FIELD TRIPS**

(See page 1)

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

#### **RAS BOARD BRIEF**

(See page 2)

#### **RAS COMMITTEE INFORMATION**

(See page 3)

