BIRDIES FOR CHARITY EARNINGS

The Dominion Energy Charity Classic by TowneBank is designed to give area charities an opportunity to generate contributions. We made $420.55 according to Birdies count, plus a separate check for $75 from an individual donor, which would put us at $495.55! This essentially met our fund-raising goal of $500. Thanks to everyone who donated and to Mary Elfner for heading up this fund-raiser.

NEW! - BRYAN PARK NATURE CENTER SIGNS!

Your donations at work—this is just one of the new signs pointing to Joseph Bryan Park’s Nature Center. This was made possible in conjunction with the City of Richmond, Friends of Bryan Park and the Richmond Audubon Society. Keep an eye out for up coming events and speakers as new life and interest is being pumped into the facility. The Riverine Master Naturalists have been installing a butterfly garden, making it a great place for a bird walk too.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS AT GREAT BIG GREEN HOUSE KIDS’ DAY SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

Please come and share your knowledge and enthusiasm about our local birds with kids and adults at this fun event. The kids enjoy bird-related educational activities such as bird coloring sheets and puzzle match-ups, and we answer questions and provide information about different kinds of home-made feeders, bird food options, and bird houses.

We need volunteers for two-hour shifts, from 10:00 AM til noon or noon to 2:00 PM. Pizza lunch is a bonus!

Please call or e-mail Jan Robertson at jrjanrobertson@gmail.com or call her at 804-339-3450.

RAS MEMBER’S MEETINGS

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 for actual dates, times and for additional information.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello birders!

As we come to the end of 2018, we are also approaching the end of the “Year of the Bird,” which is a collaboration between Audubon, National Geographic, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Life International to draw attention to the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act and to highlight the important ways birds impact our lives. The campaign also focuses on ways we impact the lives of birds and suggests ways we can minimize our impact. One such project is Audubon’s Lights Out campaign. The idea is to work with property owners and managers—particularly of big office buildings and skyscrapers—to turn off excess lighting during the months migrating birds are flying overhead. This helps birds find safe passage between their nesting and wintering grounds.

Here are ways you can contribute to the Lights Out solution (or ask your employer to do to contribute to the Lights Out solution):

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish pot and flood-lights
- Substitute strobe lighting wherever possible
- Reduce atrium lighting wherever possible
- Turn off interior lighting especially on higher stories
- Substitute task and area lighting for workers staying late or pull window coverings
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and all light directed upward
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible
- When converting to new lighting assess quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology

Even though the Year of the Bird may be coming to a close, I hope you’ll continue to follow Audubon initiatives like Lights Out as we move into the new year (https://www.audubon.org/yearofthebird). Happy birding!

Eileen R Geller - RAS President

FROM THE EDITORS

By November many of our fine feathered winter guests will take up residence in the Richmond area. Some species like White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco can be reliably seen in our backyards but other winter guests may be in our neighborhoods but require a little more coaxing to reveal themselves. The Yellow-rumped Warbler is our only winter guest warbler (the Pine Warbler is a resident bird). Both warbler species will come to a suet feeder especially if you stock it with home-made suet made with John Coe’s recipe (see page 4).

Suet attracts all our resident woodpeckers and the winter only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Hermit Thrush

We hope you will enjoy the company of these special birds for the next several months.

Bob Schamerhorn & Naseem Reza - Co-Editors
UPCOMING MEMBERS MEETING

RAS Meetings held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 7757 Chippenham Pkwy, Richmond, VA at 6:00 pm.

NOVEMBER 15 • PROGRAM: “POTLUCK AND PHOTO-SHARING”

We hope to see everyone for a fun night of delicious food and fellowship. We’ll gather at 6:00 pm with dinner starting at 6:30 pm, and a program promptly following. Please bring a dish to share. If you are interested in bringing turkey or ham for the group, please get in touch with Eileen Geller by email or phone (260) 348-4020 or president@richmondaudubon.org.

We need some volunteers to help with set-up before the meeting and clean-up after. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Eileen.

Our members will provide the programming as in years past by sharing photos and/or a story about a birding adventure from the past year. Pick out no more than 6 photographs and send them to potluckphotos@richmondaudubon.org. Or, if you don’t have photos but a story you’d like to share, let us know and we’ll add you to the agenda! This is such a fun meeting every year. It’s a chance to connect with our RAS colleagues and catch up on how we spent our time in 2018! We hope to see everyone there!

FROM THE KITCHEN WINDOW – BY JOHN COE

“Hope” is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops – at all.

And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm.

From: Hope is the Thing with Feathers by Emily Dickinson

The first light of morning glows with quiet beauty in its misty cloud of fog. The dark trunks, branches reaching out of the cloud, leaves lost in the mist, are where the birds rest. The birds are quiet this morning. The wrens and cardinals who sing to greet the day are silent.

I wish to believe that in this time of autumn beauty and nature’s magic of migration, and passage of life’s seasons…my birds sense the loss of 2 human friends in the last days of summer….Larry Robinson and Ann Miranian. They each knew the joy that the birds brought to them and in return they shared their passion and knowledge and friendship with all of us.

And as daytime shortens, the nights become chilly and leaves turn and fall – the birds of summer are gone, some will come back next year, some will not.

We miss you Larry and Ann.

Daylight saving time ends November 4th. The November full moon occurs on the 23rd, named the Beaver Moon or the Hunters Moon. The Leonid meteor showers peak on the nights of 17th and 18th.

The full moon in December brightens the sky on the 22nd, called the Cold Moon. The Geminid meteor showers can be seen on the nights of the 13th and 14th.
WINTER ARRIVALS
PHOTOS BY RAS MEMBERS

Winter Wren by Larry Tipton

Ruby-crowned Kinglet by Paul Bedell

NO MELT, ALL SEASON, PEANUT BUTTER, SUET RECIPE (BY JOHN COE)
Ingredients: 1 cup crunchy peanut butter • 2 cups (quick cook) oats • 2 cups cornmeal • 1 cup lard (no substitutions) • 1 cup white flour • 1/3 cup sugar
Melt the lard and peanut butter, and then stir in the remaining ingredients. Pour the mixture into square freezer containers about 1-1/2 inches thick. Allow it to cool, then cut it into squares and store them in the freezer.

Ring-necked Duck by Lori Schamerhorn

Dark-eyed Junco by Sally Brown
Golden-crowned Kinglet by Naseem Reza

Sharp-shinned Hawk by Doug Rogers

White-throated Sparrow by Pam Scrima

Northern Saw-whet Owl by Julie Kacmarcik

Red-breasted Nuthatch by Bob Schamerhorn
RAS FIELD TRIPS - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Check the RAS Listserv or the RAS website for information and any late breaking news about field trips or join our MEET-UP GROUP: www.meetup.com/RAS-Meetup/

NOVEMBER

November 3 at 8:00 AM - Saturday - Harrison Lake Fish Hatchery. Yes, there’s more to Harrison Lake Fish Hatchery than fish! Come bird with us at this 444-acre U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service facility. Meet at the hatchery at 8am. Len Smock will be leading the group around the wildlife trails in the morning, with the potential to bird the nearby VCU Rice Rivers Center afterwards.

November 3 at 8:00 AM - Saturday - Youth birding at Reedy Creek - Enjoy a morning of birding dedicated to solely young birders and other youth who are curious about birding. Join Ellison Orcutt at 8am to explore James River Park at Reedy Creek. All skill levels are encouraged and parents should plan to join their children or at least remain at the park. This walk is best suited for youth between late elementary school and high school. Please share with other youth and families that may be interested. Extra binoculars will be available to share. Participants will meet Ellison Orcutt at 8am at the Reedy Creek parking lot off of Riverside Dr. in Richmond. For more information, contact Ellison Orcutt at Vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org or (804) 339-6976.

November 16 at 8:00 AM - Friday - Curles Neck - One of our favorite birding locations, this place is excellent in any season. We should see waterfowl returning along with other winter visitors. There is a high demand for this trip so please register beforehand. Please email Ellison Orcutt at Vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org or call (804) 339-6976 to register and for further info. The trip will meet at the Curles Neck Farm entrance off of Route 5 at 8:00 a.m. We will condense vehicles for a mostly car based birding tour of the farm. The entrance, Curles Neck Rd., is three miles east from the New Market Rd (VA-5) exit off of I-295.

November 17 at 8:15 AM - Saturday - Dutch Gap. Meet Lewis Barnett in the Henricus Historical Park parking lot. Contact Lewis at blbarnett3@gmail.com or by phone at 804-920-4723 for more information.

November 25 at 8:00 AM - Sunday - Byrd Park. Meet Paul Bedell at the southeast end of Shields Lake in the gravel parking lot. This is on Shields Lake Dr near the entrance to the Maymont Nature Center. We will check all the lakes for wintering waterfowl, and then go over to the carillon area to see if a Great Horned Owl may be found. Contact Paul at 804-690-1646 for more info.

DECEMBER

December 2 at 9:00 AM - Sunday - Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve - This Natural Area Preserve in Mathews County sits on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Barriers beaches, salt marshes and the open waters of the Chesapeake make it a great birding opportunity. Meet Ellison at Bethel Beach at 9am prepared for a beach hike. Make a day of it and explore some of the other hidden gems of the western Chesapeake. Bethel Beach is about 1.5 hours east of Richmond. Please contact Ellison at Vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org or (804) 339-6976 if you wish to RSVP or for more information.

December 8 at 8:15 AM - Saturday - Dutch Gap. Meet Lewis Barnett in the Henricus Historical Park parking lot. Contact Lewis at blbarnett3@gmail.com or by phone at 804-920-4723 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE:
RAS Annual James River Count and Brunch: January 19, 2019

SUCCESSFUL BIG SIT! 2018

The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive fixed location birding event hosted by Bird Watcher’s Digest. RAS’s second annual Big Sit! was held Saturday, October 13th from 6:50 AM and “sat’ until 6:50 PM at Chimborazo Park on the bluff overlooking Gillies Creek in eastern Richmond. Last year’s count of 44 different species was surpassed, thanks to a nice showing of migrant warblers, significantly raising the bar to set a new RAS Big Sit! total of 50 species. Come join us for year 3! Special thanks to Ellison Orcutt for organizing this event.
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

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/RichmondAudubon/

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

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/@RichmondAudubon

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: 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.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE RICHMOND AUDUBON SOCIETY

President: Eileen Geller
First Vice President: Ellison Orcutt
Second Vice President: Wes Teets
Secretary: Lori Schamerhorn
Treasurer: Lewis Barnett
Bird-a-Thon Chair: Mary Elfner
Conservation Chair: Lee Williams
Cyberspace Chair: Abby Walter
Education Chair: Jan Robertson & Kathy Warnkey
Field Trips Chair: Wes Teets
Hospitality Chair: vacant
IBA/VAC Representative: Len Smock
Legislation Chair: James Shelton
Membership Chair: Mario and Gail Grasso
Past President: Lewis Barnett
Programs Chair: Kim Harrell
Publicity Chair: Diane Jadowski
Thrasher Co-Editors: Naseem Reza & Bob Schamerhorn
Youth Chair: Ellison Orcutt

president@richmondaudubon.org
vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org
vicepresident2@richmondaudubon.org
secretary@richmondaudubon.org
treasurer@richmondaudubon.org
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cyberspace@richmondaudubon.org
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education@richmondaudubon.org
fieldtrips@richmondaudubon.org

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pastpresident@richmondaudubon.org
programs@richmondaudubon.org
publicity@richmondaudubon.org
thrasher@richmondaudubon.org
RASkids@richmondaudubon.org

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 ________________________________

Make check payable to: National Audubon Society for Individual/Family Membership write “X53” as the memo.

Send check and application to: Richmond Audubon Society P.O. Box 26648, Richmond, VA 23261 X53
WINTER ARRIVALS
PHOTOS BY RAS MEMBERS
(See pages 4 & 5)

THIS ISSUE FEATURES:
EARNINGS, SIGNS & VOLUNTEERS
(See page 1)
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
FROM THE EDITORS
(See page 2)
UPCOMING PROGRAM
FROM THE KITCHEN WINDOW
(See page 3)
WINTER ARRIVALS
(See pages 4 and 5)
FIELD TRIPS
THE BIG SIT!
(See page 6)