PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We know many of you look forward to issues of The Thrasher every two months. For some of you, I’m sure it is the highlight of your inbox! We are able to share the projects, field trips, meetings, and programs we have planned, highlight some of our amazing photographers, and trade stories about our appreciation of the natural world. The Thrasher is truly one of the best things about Richmond Audubon Society.

We are able to communicate with most of you electronically—you get this in your email inbox or download it from our website. There are a few of you, however, who get The Thrasher through the U.S. Mail. While we know many of you are not able to access a computer or the internet, we’ve reached a point where having a paper version of The Thrasher is increasingly less feasible.

First, we are mindful of our position as a conservation organization and are continually looking for ways to cut down on our paper use.

More importantly, however, we are mindful of the volunteer hours and financial burden associated with producing a newsletter on paper. And it is because of those concerns that we’ve decided this issue will be the last paper issue of The Thrasher. This change will save our organization a major chuck of its annual budget, and it will free up our editors to be able to spend their time generating good content for our newsletter rather than working on the technical aspects associated with generating a printed publication. If you do not do so already, in the future, you will need to access The Thrasher through our website, www.richmondaudubon.org, or by signing up for our e-mail listserv (instructions available at our website).

As noted above, however, we are mindful that some of you have no means of accessing a computer or the internet. If you are one of those members, we have a plan to get a Thrasher to you through the U.S. Mail. We would ask that you do two things: 1) Send a letter to me at our mailing address (PO Box 26648, Richmond, VA 23261) asking for a printed copy to be mailed to you, including your address, and 2) Consider a donation to Richmond Audubon Society in the amount of $15 to cover the costs associated with printing and mailing The Thrasher to you.

We have been fortunate over the years to have many talented individuals serve as our Thrasher Editors, and we believe making this change will help us continue to attract enthusiastic individuals to serve as our editors. We appreciate your understanding and continued support!

Eileen R Geller - RAS President

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.
IN MEMORY OF…

ANN TYLER

Ann Tyler passed away on March 19, 2019. Ann along with her husband Hal were active RAS members who attended the monthly members’ meetings, participated in and provided generous support to the Annual RAS Birdathon fund raiser. Ann will be missed by her many birding friends.

Ann’s family members welcome contributions to Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in her memory.

ROBIN RUTH

Robin Ruth died in Denver on March 23rd, 2019. Robin was active with RAS from 1976 till she moved to Denver in 2016. She was active planting trees in local parks, and as RAS’ first webmaster. But her two passions were educating others about the habitat needs of butterflies and working with children. Along with RAS member Nanette Sweet, Robin was the brains, and often the brawn behind establishing the gardens and nature education programs at Swansboro Elementary School. It has been a number of years since Robin or Nanette were affiliated with Swansboro but the gardens and garden programs continue.

Robin’s four sisters and other family members welcome contributions to the Richmond Audubon Society in her memory.

FROM THE EDITORS

As I write in mid-April, our hummingbirds have come home from Mexico to breed and raise their young and the resident male American Goldfinches have once again turned golden. Until recently attracting goldfinches was a hit or miss affair for me but now they are regulars at the Nyjer Seed (aka niger seed or thistle seed) feeders and even fight over the food. I now buy seed in smaller quantities (no bigger than 5lb bags) and most importantly keep it dry by storing it in a zip lock bag. Using a sock type feeder about ½ full also helps.

Keep your eyes peeled for the migrant warblers, vireos, grosbeaks and others that will pause in our area before heading North to their breeding grounds. Most of these beauties will not come to feeders but if offered a bath, they will take you up on it. A birdbath with dripping water is most effective.

If you have ideas to improve the content of this publication, please share it with us at: thrasher@richmondaudubon.org.

Bob Schamerhorn & Naseem Reza - Co-Editors

American Goldfinch by Bob Schamerhorn
UPCOMING MEMBERS MEETING

MAY 16- PROGRAM – GREENLAND ADEVENTURE WITH LYNDA RICHARDSON

LOCATION: St. Luke Lutheran Church, 7757 Chippenham Pkwy, Richmond, VA at 7:00 pm, coffee at 6:30.

Award-winning nature photographer Lynda Richardson will be talking about her recent photo trip to Greenland. “I knew the snowy two mile walk from the Kulusuk airport to the village might be an indication of what lay ahead, especially since our guide met us with a rifle slung over his shoulder. But my “Adventure Buddy” Susanne Smith and I were excited, and nervous, about our latest, crazy adventure. The only two on the week long trip, besides our guide and two dogsled drivers, we mushed out over the frozen sea into a hauntingly beautiful land of black and white. Join me as I share this physically demanding and photographically challenging trip through images, stories, and maybe a little video.” - Lynda Richardson

NO MEETINGS IN JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST

GREAT BIG GREENHOUSE EVENT

Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful!!! Thanks to all for making the Master Naturalist/Audubon activities at Kids Day at the Great Big Greenhouse House a HUGE success!! You all did a fantastic job and the families really enjoyed it, and I believe that they learned a lot in a short time. We received so many thanks from the parents and grandparents for our important work and interesting activities. It was fun to see so many engaged children and adults and all the positive interactions with our great team. Doug Hensel, the Great Big Green House President was very pleased and happy to hear that we will return in 2020!

Thanks again to each and everyone of you!

Unfortunately we will be losing our awesome coordinator this summer. Jan Robertson will be moving out of the area and will be missed. So we will need coordinator for this once a year event that takes place the third Saturday in January. Main task is getting things to the event (tables are furnished). You can brainstorm with others if you want to think of new presentations “all about birds” for the Richmond Audubon Society. We have material now but it is always fun to change it up every year. Most children attending are below 1st grade.

Contact Jan Robertson at jjjanrobertson@gmail.com or Diane Jadlowski at djadski@gmail.com if interested.

RAS MEMBERS IN MEDIA

Longtime Richmond Audubon Society members and supporters, Kim Harrell and Jerry Uhlman are in the news.

KIM HARRELL

Recently Kim did an interview on Boomtown Radio about birds and birdwatching and you will enjoy listening to it at: https://soundcloud.com/boomermag/kim-harrell-with-richmond-audubon-on-birds-and-birdwatching

JERRY UHLMAN

Jerry’s Flyways and Byways column can be seen at: https://www.boomermagazine.com/purple-martins-and-their-bryan-park-guardian/
BREEDING VS. NON-BREEDING

BREEDING: Cattle Egret by Sally Brown

NON-BREEDING: Cattle Egret by Bob Schamerhorn

BREEDING: Great Blue Heron by Julie Kacmarcik

NON-BREEDING: Great Blue Heron by Bob Schamerhorn

BREEDING: Palm Warbler by Patty Bell

NON-BREEDING: Palm Warbler by Naseem Reza
BREEDING VS. NON-BREEDING

BREEDING: Scarlet Tanager by Naseem Reza

NON-BREEDING: Scarlet Tanager by Naseem Reza

BREEDING: Great Egret by Al Warfield

NON-BREEDING: Great Egret by Bob Schamerhorn

BREEDING: Black-bellied Plover by Bob Schamerhorn

NON-BREEDING: Black-bellied Plover by Naseem Reza
RAS FIELD TRIPS

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/

MAY

May 4, 7:00 AM - Saturday - 42nd Street. Meet Wes Teets at the 42nd St entrance to the James River Park (park in front of the houses along Riverside Dr just west of 42nd St). We’ll walk from here to Reedy Creek looking for migrating songbirds and more. Contact Wes at wesrtx@gmail.com for more information.

May 5, 6:40 AM - Sunday - Bryan Park. Meet John Fones at Shelter #1 at about a half-hour after sunrise. Socialize with the group at Stir Crazy Cafe afterwards. Contact John at (804) 363-0199 or at johnefones@icloud.com for more information.

May 11, 7:00 AM - Saturday - 42nd St. Meet Arun Bose at the 42nd St parking lot. We will look for spring migrants. Hopefully there will be a good variety of warblers.

May 12, 7:00 AM - Sunday - 42nd St. Meet Paul Bedell at the 42nd St parking lot for another outing at Richmond’s premier spring birding hotspot.

May 18, 8:15 AM - Saturday - Dutch Gap. Meet Lewis Barnett in the Henricus Historical Park parking lot. Contact Lewis at blbarnett3@gmail.com or at (804) 920-4723 for more information.

May 25, 8:00 AM - Saturday - Highland County. Meet Wes Teets at the Confederate Breastworks Interpretive Site on US-250 at the border of Augusta and Highland Counties. We will bird several areas looking for regional specialties such as Golden-winged and Mourning Warblers. Contact Wes at wesrtx@gmail.com for more information.

JUNE

June 2, 6:20 AM - Sunday - Bryan Park. Meet John Fones at Shelter #1 at about a half-hour after sunrise. Socialize with the group at Stir Crazy Cafe afterwards. Contact John at (804) 363-0199 or at johnefones@icloud.com for more information.

June 29, 7:30 AM - Saturday - Adopt-a-Highway clean-up at Dutch Gap. Meet at 7:30 at the boat landing at the end of Coxendale Rd. Participants should bring sun/bug protection, water, and a snack. VDOT provides safety vests, trash bags, and gear for safely picking up trash. Contact Lewis Barnett at blbarnett3@gmail.com or 804-920-4723 for more information.
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
Development Chair  Jan Robertson & Kathy Warnkey
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Field Trips Chair  vacant
Hospitality Chair  Len Smock
IBA/VAC Representative  James Shelton
Legislation Chair  Mario and Gail Grasso
Membership Chair  Lewis Barnett
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Programs Chair  Diane Jadkowski
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Thrasher Co-Editors  Ellison Orcutt
Youth Chair  president@richmondaudubon.org
vicepresident1@richmondaudubon.org
vicepresident2@richmondaudubon.org
secretary@richmondaudubon.org
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development@richmondaudubon.org
education@richmondaudubon.org
fieldtrips@richmondaudubon.org
iba@richmondaudubon.org
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pastpresident@richmondaudubon.org
programs@richmondaudubon.org
publicity@richmondaudubon.org
thrasher@richmondaudubon.org
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

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.
THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
(See page 1)

IN MEMORY OF...
ANN TYLER AND ROBIN RUTH
(See page 2)

FROM THE EDITORS
(See page 2)

MAY PROGRAM & MEMBERS IN MEDIA
GREAT BIG GREENHOUSE EVENT
(See page 3)

BREEDING VS. NON-BREEDING
(See pages 4 and 5)

FIELD TRIPS
(See page 6)