



# Northern Neck Audubon News

*The Northern Neck of Virginia Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

P.O. Box 991, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482

[www.northernneckaudubon.org](http://www.northernneckaudubon.org)

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Red-bellied Woodpecker Photo by Paul Service

## Inside This Issue

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| In Memory of Henry Bashore .....   | 2 |
| Great Backyard Bird Count .....    | 2 |
| Keep NNAS Going Strong .....       | 3 |
| Virginia IBA Update .....          | 3 |
| Upcoming Events .....              | 4 |
| TogetherGreen .....                | 5 |
| Celebrate Urban Birds Grants ..... | 5 |

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**February 7 - 7:00 PM Meeting,**  
 Grace Episcopal Church, Kilmarnock.  
 Speaker: Cliff Fairweather, "Bringing  
 Native Plants & Wildlife into the  
 Managed Landscape"

**February 14 - Bird Walk**  
 Time 8:00 AM - Regent Point Marina.  
 (To carpool, meet at Grace Episcopal  
 Church, Kilmarnock, at 7:15 AM. Led  
 by Frank Schaff (804-463-0084)

**March 7 - 7:00 PM Meeting**  
 Grace Episcopal Church, Kilmarnock.  
 Speaker: Bob Schamerhorn, "Wet and  
 Wild II" How a Simple Water Feature  
 Can Attract More Birds to your Yard  
 and Keep Them Coming Back.

**March 14 - Bird Walk**  
 Time 7:45 AM - Hughlett Point  
 Led by Frank Schaff (804-463-0084)

## In Memory of Henry Bashore

Henry Ward Bashore of Kilmarnock died Thursday, December 16, 2010.

Henry Bashore was one of Northern Neck's Finest. He worked for many years helping to conserve some of our favorite places in the Northern Neck of Virginia. Henry was a driving force behind the creation of Hickory Hollow Nature Reserve, Bush Mill Stream and many more natural areas.

If you were ever fortunate enough to walk in the woods with Henry, you would see the joy and passion that he had for the beauty of nature. Henry would willingly share his knowledge of nature and his love of trees. One time I was lucky enough to be looking at a potential conservation easement with Henry. At the end of the day he said, "I want to show you something," and off we went in the car. Before long we pulled over, got out of the car and began to walk. Then we came upon a giant Tulip Popular tree. We stood quietly for a some time and then Henry shared that this tree might be the largest Tulip Popular in Virginia. He looked at this incredible tree with reverence and we went back to the car.

I only shared a few short times with Henry, but they were special because Henry was a special man.

Henry made our community a better place for all of us, and we will miss him.

by Paul Servis



Black Skimmers. Photo by Chandra Jennings, NJ, Great Backyard Bird Count, 2010 group photo winner. Courtesy of GBBC. Used with permission.

## Great Backyard Bird Count

This is a reminder to all Northern Neck Audubon Society members and friends. The 2011 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) begins Friday, February 18, and runs through Monday, February 21.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds." The GBBC web site will add updated GBBC materials for the next count as they become available.

Why participate? As the GBBC site states: "Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time....Scientists use the counts, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to give us an immense picture of our winter birds. Each year that these data are collected makes them more meaningful and allows scientists to investigate far-reaching questions."

Links to more information, including a printable tally sheet, may be found at the GBBC web site (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>).

The Great Backyard Bird Count is led by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada and sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited.

## Next Issue of the NNAS Newsletter

The next issue of the NNAS Newsletter will be published in March 2011. Please send articles, announcements and photos to [bbwilson@kaballero.com](mailto:bbwilson@kaballero.com) no later than March 5, 2011.

## Keep NNAS Going Strong!

As reported in the September/October NNAS newsletter, our chapter's president, Frank Jewell, has developed a debilitating neuromuscular disease, one which has worsened over the intervening months. Because of that situation, Frank will be stepping down as president of NNAS at the end of February. The NNAS board of directors is meeting soon to find a new president to take Frank's place through June. More about this will be announced at the chapter's February meeting and will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.

Many of you who are reading this simply attend monthly meetings to enjoy the interesting and educational programs NNAS hosts, and perhaps you are unaware that NNAS conducts and/or sponsors many other important projects that help preserve habitat for birds and other wildlife in the Northern Neck.

Our chapter depends on volunteers to fill officer positions, serve on committees, and facilitate program presentations, as well as to perform many other tasks, large and small. If we cannot recruit members to volunteer, that puts the chapter's very existence at risk.

In the coming weeks, you may be asked to help NNAS continue its work. If you are asked, please say yes. You do not need special expertise; you just need to be willing. Guidance and mentoring for any and all volunteer positions will be gratefully provided as needed.

## Rusty Blackbird Blitz

Take Part in the Rusty Blackbird Blitz on January 29 through February 13, 2011. The Rusty Blackbird population has been steeply declining, with estimates of an 85-99% drop over the past 40 years. Your help is needed to locate Rusty Blackbirds and create a map of their wintering "hot spots," which will help focus research, monitoring and conservation attention. Learn more at [http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/research/rusty\\_blackbird/blitz.cfm](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/research/rusty_blackbird/blitz.cfm).

## Virginia IBA Update

### Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program 2010 Update

During the past year, the Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program of the National Audubon Society was busy in forwarding our mission of engaging people for bird conservation in the Commonwealth's most critical habitats for breeding, migrating and wintering birds. The following are some exciting highlights of the past year's events and accomplishments:

- Helped to protect the 125-acre Blair's Wharf in the James River National Wildlife Refuge located within the Lower James River IBA
- Coordinated and conducted the first survey of the Central Piedmont IBA, focusing on the protected areas
- Expanded our Adopt-an-IBA Program to include eight bird conservation groups throughout Virginia
- Partnered with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation to train birders from five Audubon Chapters and the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory to identify and report Phragmites invasions throughout Virginia, using an online conservation tool called LandScope. The valuable information collected will help DCR staff to ground-truth their own data and identify new stands of Phragmites to eliminate, thus preserving natural marsh habitats
- Began a partnership with the Virginia Living Museum to conduct five TogetherGreen volunteer events, thus raising awareness for Audubon and bird habitat conservation
- Worked with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to monitor coveys of Northern

### Virginia IBA Update, continued

Bobwhite quail, a declining species of Global Conservation Concern

- With partners at Richmond Audubon Society and Virginia Commonwealth University we have initiated a project called Team Warbler, an international alliance between the research and school communities of Richmond and Panama City, that will engage academic communities at the college, elementary and middle school levels. Team Warbler focuses on the breeding and wintering habitat of the Prothonotary Warbler.

From the Powell and Stone Mountains IBA in the southwest to the Barrier Island Lagoon System IBA on the Eastern Shore, Virginia's 20 IBAs all face a large variety of threats and challenges. We would thus like to extend thanks to our donors, volunteers, adoption groups and to our public, private and non-profit partners in conservation for their help and support in furthering our mutual mission for bird conservation throughout the Commonwealth. We could not do it without you and thus ask for your continued support in 2011.

Thank you!

David A. Bryan, Outreach Coordinator  
Virginia IBA Program

### Backyard Conservation Booklet

Audubon has co-produced a 28-page color booklet showing how farm and ranch conservation practices can be adapted for use in any size backyard. The booklet has an extensive list of websites and other places to get additional conservation information and assistance. It is available at no charge through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at <http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov/search.aspx?keywords=lcp%22>.

### Upcoming Events

#### Bringing Native Plants & Wildlife into the Managed Landscape

Cliff Fairweather will be the speaker at the February 7 NNAS meeting at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock at 7:00 PM. Cliff is the staff Naturalist for the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, where he manages the "Audubon at Home" program, an initiative to provide guidance to homeowners, schools and others working to develop native habitat on their property. He has worked as a naturalist in Northern Virginia for over 14 years, focusing on natural history, environmental education and environmental issues in the urban environment. Mr. Fairweather holds a graduate certificate in Natural Resources from Virginia Tech where he is nearing the completion of his masters degree.

#### "Wet and Wild II" How a Simple Water Feature Can Attract More Birds to your Yard and Keep Them Coming Back

The March NNAS program speaker will be nature photographer Robert (Bob) Schamerhorn. The program will take place at Grace Episcopal Church in Kilmarnock at 7:00 PM.

A fascination and admiration of Natural History has been with Bob since before he can remember. From the spring-fed creeks in the woods behind his childhood stomping grounds, to the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains he explored as a youth, the wonder of nature was always captivating to him.

In 2002 Bob got his first digital camera and began to regularly photograph wildlife. The freedom to take so many pictures, without the time and financial burdens of film, reawakened his artistic vision through the camera's lens. After a year and a half with a point and shoot he made the leap to his first digital SLR and bought a decent lens or two. This professional level equipment brought quick results when combined with his knowledge (*continued on page 5*)

### Upcoming Events, continued

and love of birds. On numerous adventures since then, he has encountered many of God's amazing creatures in many beautiful places.

Bob moved to Richmond, Virginia in 2006; this opened an opportunity for service and fellowship with the Richmond Audubon Society. He was quickly drawn into the position of Education Chairperson on their Board of Directors. After that term was complete, he signed up for another term in his current position as Cyberspace Chairperson. He gets out with his camera to enjoy the birds and the breeze at any opportunity that presents itself.

### Upcoming NNAS Bird Walks

#### February 14 - Bird Walk, Regent Point Marina

Time 8:00 AM. (To carpool, meet at Grace Episcopal Church, Kilmarnock, at 7:15 AM.)  
Led by Frank Schaff (804-463-0084)

#### March 14 - Bird Walk at Hughlett Point

Time 7:45 AM. (To carpool, meet at Grace Episcopal Church, Kilmarnock, at 7:15 AM.)  
Led by Frank Schaff (804-463-0084)

#### April 11 - Bird Walk Belle Isle State Park

Time 8:00 AM - (To carpool, meet at Grace Episcopal Church, Kilmarnock, at 7:15 AM.)  
Led by Frank Schaff (804-463-0084)

### TogetherGreen

The third *TogetherGreen*-supported *Pennies for the Planet* campaign is now underway. This year's campaign will benefit beach-nesting birds throughout Mississippi's Gulf Coast, monarch butterflies wintering in Arizona, and migrating birds along the Platte River in Nebraska. *Pennies for the Planet* change collected by kids from now through August 2011 will be divided equally among these three Audubon conservation projects that will protect migrating wildlife. Visit the *TogetherGreen* at <http://www.togethergreen.org/p4p/> for more information.

### Celebrate Urban Birds Grants

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Celebrate Urban Birds" project is now accepting applications for another round of mini-grants. Grants average \$100-\$500 and are used to fund neighborhood events that promote an appreciation for birds and nature.

Neighborhood events or projects feature activities involving birds, community service, art, greening, and science. Participants collect simple information about common birds and report to the Cornell Lab. Celebrate Urban Birds mini-grants could be used to support a bird-activity day at a local museum, after-school program, library, or community center, or fund art and gardening activities at a club, business, school, senior center, or neighborhood.

Celebrate Urban Birds is a free, year-round citizen science project in which participants watch birds in their neighborhoods and report what they see. This information helps scientists better understand how birds survive in cities and make use of green spaces, including parks and gardens.

For more information or to apply for a mini-grant, visit <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/>.

The deadline to apply for this year's Celebrate Urban Birds mini-grants is February 15, 2011.



#### INJURED BIRDS

Diana O' Conner - 804-313-2240

#### INJURED ANIMALS

Nancy Johnston - 804-435-3040

## Application for Membership in NNAS - Chapter Code X50, 7XCH

- Local Chapter Only Membership - \$15.00 annually, renewable in June; includes local newsletter and directory.
- National & Local Membership - \$20.00 introductory (\$35.00 after), is above, plus glossy National Audubon Magazine.  
 Make checks payable to "National Audubon Society".

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



### Northern Neck Audubon Society Resources

| Officers  | Committee Chairs   |  | Media  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| President<br>Secretary<br>Treasurer<br>Past Pres. | Frank Jewell<br>Jessica Servis<br>Paula Boundy<br>Peter Saam | Birdhouse Fred Witschey &<br>Ron Feldman<br>Conservation Rea Hinch<br>C. Easement Paul Servis<br>Edu. & Prog. Bonnie Wilson<br>Bird Walks Frank Schaff<br>Grant Review Ron Feldman | Gifts & Mem. Les Inskip<br>Hickory H'w Glyn Surdam<br>Membership Tom Teeples<br>Newsletter Bonnie Wilson<br><br>Publicity Margaret Gerdts<br>Hospitality Charlotte Schmidt | Website<br><a href="http://www.northernneckaudubon.org">www.northernneckaudubon.org</a><br>suggestions to:<br><a href="mailto:bbwilson@kaballero.com">bbwilson@kaballero.com</a><br><br>Directory - publ. every 18 mths<br><br>Newsletter - five issues annually<br>submit ideas, articles etc. to:<br><a href="mailto:bbwilson@kaballero.com">bbwilson@kaballero.com</a> |

**Or Current Resident**

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 Kilmarnock, VA 22482  
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Northern Neck of Virginia Chapter  
 Of the National Audubon Society  
 P.O. Box 991  
 Kilmarnock, VA 22482-0991