



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

May 2012



President's Corner By Shirley Devan

May is the perfect month to celebrate migratory birds and May 12 is International Migratory Bird Day. Federal protection of migratory birds is less than 100 years old. Until early in the 20th century, hunters depleted wild bird populations for food, feathers and sport. The first Christmas Bird Count to “count” birds rather than “shoot” birds was not until 1900. Not until 1918 was the International Migratory Bird Treaty enacted. Just to refresh our memory:

The International Migratory Treaty Act of 1918 “implemented the 1916 Convention between the U.S. and Great Britain (for Canada) for the protection of migratory birds. Later amendments implemented treaties between the U.S. and Mexico, the U.S. and Japan, and the U.S. and the Soviet Union (now Russia).”

The legal language is unambiguous. The statute provides “establishment of a Federal prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to ‘pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention . . . for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird.’ (16 U.S.C. 703)”

The law has been amended several times over the past 94 years such that now the fine for misdemeanor convictions under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act can be up to \$15,000 rather than \$5000.

So what can you do to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day? Consider participating in the Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival May 10–12, 2012. More info at www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp. All activities and events are free and open to the public. Bus tours, canoe birding, guided walks and workshops require reservations—space is limited. Call (757) 986-3705 to reserve your space!

Twenty other things you can do all year long. Check out this web site: www.birdday.org/birdday/themes/2012-twenty-years-of-imbd/20-ways-to-serve-birds. The list includes protecting birds from cats and dogs, cleaning your bird feeders, preventing bird collisions with your windows, keeping your distance from birds, and leaving fledglings where you find them.

Get outside and celebrate Virginia’s incredible diversity of migratory birds.

May Meeting

At the May meeting, the three recipients of the 2011 Ornithology Research Grants will make a short presentation of their research.

Megan Kobiela—*Does mercury contamination affect risk-taking behaviors in a small songbird? Tradeoffs between eating and being eaten*

Jenna R. Carlson—*The effect of mercury on molt and flight performance in European Starlings*

Kenton Buck—*An evolutionary approach to investigating mercury contamination in songbirds*

Plan to join us on May 16 at 7:30 PM in **Room 150, Millington Hall** on the W&M campus. Joanne and Alex Andrews will be providing the refreshments. **Don't forget to use your parking permit.**

Warbler Field Trip to Richmond on 6 May 2012 By Geoff Giles

This year we should be hitting prime time for the migratory spring warblers in their brightest plumage! On Sunday, 6 May at 7:00 AM, top Richmond birder Lewis Barnett will lead us through the James River Park, starting at the 42nd Street entrance. We had a super trip there with Lewis last year and by popular demand will do it again—only this year early enough to catch the best of the warbler migration!

To make sure we hit the bullseye on prime time, we will leave the Williamsburg area to caravan or carpool from the IHOP parking lot on Rochambeau Rd (near Walmart) at 6:00 AM. **Please note that this is Sunday morning, not Saturday!** If you prefer to meet us at the Richmond park entrance, we will begin our birding there at 7:00 AM.

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Updated Summary of Bird Data

The latest version of Bill Williams' *Summary of Local Bird Data through 2011: Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Hog Island WMA, Surry County* can be downloaded from our website.

Wild Birds Unlimited

Don't forget that the WBC receives a 5% rebate on the pre-tax amount our members spend at Wild Birds Unlimited in Monticello Marketplace. You do have to let them know that you are a member.

There were some great photos taken and some great memories last year. If you need further info, contact Geoff Giles at 757-645-8716 or tylerandal2@aol.com. Hope to see you there!!

April Sightings

Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Fred Blystone at 229-4346 or fmb19481@verizon.net. If you encounter interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!

April 1 Geoff Giles, Marilyn & John Adair and George & Virginia Boyles joined leader Jane Frigo for the HRBC walk at Newport News Park. Fifty-seven species were seen during the walk including a Yellow-throated Warbler, a Black-and-white Warbler and a Barred Owl family near the Swamp Bridge.

April 3 Among the 49 species seen by George & Rosemarie Harris during a morning birding trip to Bethel Beach in Mathews County were a Peregrine Falcon and 5 American White Pelicans.

April 3 Bob Ake writes: "Today Larry Meade, Virginia and George Boyles, Marilyn Adair, Bob Mooney, Jim Marcum, Bob Anderson, Mike and Alex Minarik, and my granddaughter Kaitlyn Stempien and I enjoyed a beautiful morning walk along Washington Ditch (Great Dismal Swamp). Starting on our way at 7 AM with the temperature at 37F we were treated immediately to the hauntingly beautiful song of a Wood Thrush. Shortly thereafter we were able to compare that song with that of a Hermit Thrush. Very nice! Other new birds for the year for me included Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and American Redstart. We tallied ten warbler species during the walk. Wild Turkeys were gobbling up a storm, we saw one ahead on the road, but it was not a displaying gobbler. A Barred Owl flew in cooperatively to my hooting. Some Rusty Blackbirds were heard and seen among the blackbirds moving through and over the swamp."

April 4 From Bill Williams: "A flock of 24 American White Pelicans entertained 5 of us (myself, Tom Armour, Fred Blystone, Shirley Devan, and David Laughlin) for more than an hour this morning, 9:30-10:30+ AM bird time, at the College Creek Hawk Watch near Williamsburg. The flock repeatedly circled above then apparently landed on Hog Island Wildlife Management Area in Surry County before exiting single file to the northeast across the James River over Kingsmill in James City County. The previous local high count for this species was 8 from the same location on 22 April 2003." In addition there were 5 Merlin, 11 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4 American Kestrels, 3 Osprey, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 52 Turkey Vultures, 3 Northern Harriers, 1 Red-tailed Hawk and 1 Bald Eagle that passed the Hawk Watch on their way north.

April 7 Bill Williams reports: "This morning Fred Blystone, David and Janet Laughlin, Brian Taber and I watched 11 American White Pelicans circling over Hog Island, Surry from CVWO's College Creek Hawk Watch near Williamsburg. The flock was in sight from ~11:40-11:55 AM (DST). This is the second time in four days the species has been seen from this site. Whether or not this group of 11 was part of the flock of 24 observed on Wednesday is unknown." (The pelicans continued to be seen often during the month. Up to 33 or 34 were seen at one time).

April 8 From **Gary Carpenter**: “A small flock (8 or 9) of Cedar Waxwings were in our Colonial Heritage neighborhood.”

April 9 From Bob Ake: “This morning it was **Geoff Giles** and myself traveling south from the Jericho Ditch Lane parking lot at 7:00 AM with an initial temperature of 41F, blue sky, and no wind. No Swainson's Warbler was detected, so for those single-shooting on that bird, you need read no further. I did have three new yearbirds: Green Heron, Red-eyed Vireo, and Great Crested Flycatcher.” (Total of 45 species identified, including 1 Wood Thrush, 19 Prothonotary Warblers, 24 Common Yellowthroats and 18 Prairie Warblers). **Alice & Seig Kopinitz** report that the first hummingbird of the season arrived at their house.

April 10 From **Gary Carpenter**: “The Purple Martins are back at their ‘condos’ on the Colonial Heritage Golf course. Barn Swallows were also seen.” **Bill Williams** reports seeing two Cattle Egrets at Mainland Farm off Green Springs Road. There was also a Horned Lark singing overhead.

April 12 Fifty species were identified during a mornings' birding at the north entrance of Beaverdam Park by **George & Rosemarie Harris** and **Marilyn & John Adair**. Among the birds were 1 Green Heron, 6 White-eyed Vireos, 5 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 3 Ovenbirds, 1 Worm-eating Warbler, 1 Louisiana Waterthrush, 4 Common Yellowthroats and 3 Northern Parulas.

April 16 **Bettye Fields, John & Marilyn Adair** and **Virginia & George Boyles** joined Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC walk at Newport News Park. Fifty-eight species were seen, including new spring arrivals Great Crested Flycatcher, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Common Yellowthroat, Barn Swallow and Prothonotary Warbler. **Shirley Devan** reports hearing her first Wood Thrush of the year.

April 17 During a morning of birding on the Wahrani Nature Trail in New Kent County, **George & Rosemarie Harris** find 38 species of birds, including 11 warbler species, 5 Scarlet Tanagers and 13 Wood Thrushes. They then spend an hour at Dragon's Lair in Middlesex County and find 30 species, including their first of season Black-throated Blue Warbler.

April 20 At York River State Park, **Shirley Devan** observes her FOS Summer Tanager and is lucky enough to actually get an Ovenbird in her binoculars.

April 21 **Brian Taber** wrote: “Whew....finally...our 1,000th bird of the season, a Turkey Vulture, flew past College Creek Hawkwatch today. This is a milestone we track, to see how the season is progressing compared to other years. This is the latest date for the event in many years...the migration has been very slow...though the weather has been quite

cooperative...totals are low for all species except Merlin. We have recorded 11 species...no Broad-winged, Peregrines or kites yet. The 1,000th is usually in early-to-mid April and last year it was on the record early date of March 20th... and as a result, we recorded our highest season total of 1811. Thanks to today's observers Fred Blystone and George and Virginia Boyles. A nice bonus was again seeing 20+ American White Pelicans...and our first Least Tern of the season flew low right over our heads!”

April 23 From **Lois Leeth** in Florida: “Two Swallow-tailed kite!! made my day—and 3 Great White Egrets—4 cattle egrets—2 Snowy Egrets—3 Mockingbirds—1 Brown Thrasher—3 Wood Storks.” **Shirley Devan** braves the elements and walks the short loop at Jamestown Island. The highlights of her 28 species were 1 Indigo Bunting and 1 Eastern Kingbird.

April 26 Birding in the College Creek area, **Shirley Devan** finds 23 species, including FOS Orchard Orioles (2) and 1 Blue Grosbeak.

April 28 **Barry Trott** got a nice view of a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the feeder at his house in Toano. **Lois Ullman** reported she also had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in her yard.

Become an Osprey Watcher: Connect with a Global Community of Observers

From Shirley Devan

Cheryl Jacobson, local committee chair, and a group of fourteen Master Naturalists and Bird Club members and VA Master Naturalists are participating in the new Project Osprey Watch launched by The Center for Conservation Biology. It is a project created to engage a global community to collect data on breeding osprey. The mission of Project Osprey Watch is to bring citizen scientists together in order to collect information on a large enough spatial scale to be useful in addressing three of the most pressing issues facing aquatic ecosystems, including global climate change, depletion of fish stocks, and environmental contaminants. The Center for Conservation Biology is a research group shared by the College of William and Mary and the Virginia Commonwealth University.

The local group plans on meeting monthly to share information about osprey and the nests that they are watching. They will meet where they can use spotting scopes to observe one or more of the nests being monitored.

If you would like to join them, contact Cheryl Jacobson at jcheryljoy@aol.com or call her cell at 303-519-0989. The web site is www.osprey-watch.org.

Ospreys are one of very few truly global sentinels for aquatic health. They feed almost exclusively on live fish

throughout their entire life cycle. They are a top consumer within aquatic ecosystems and are very sensitive to both over fishing and environmental contaminants. Nearly all populations breed in the northern latitudes and winter in the southern latitudes, effectively linking the aquatic health of the hemispheres. Their breeding season in the north is highly seasonal making them an effective barometer of climate change.

Hacked Whimbrel Returns to Virginia Again

E-mailed to VA-bird mailing list on April 5 by Michael Wilson of the Center for Conservation Biology

Hope, a whimbrel carrying a satellite transmitter, has returned to the Eastern Shore of Virginia after spending the winter on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The bird has been tracked by a team of researchers through her migratory travels since she was captured on Box Tree Creek in Northampton County, Virginia on 19 May, 2009. Since that time she has traveled more than 44,100 miles (71,000 kilometers) back and forth 3 times between breeding grounds on the MacKenzie River in western Canada and Great Pond Important Bird Area on St. Croix. She likely left Great Pond on the evening of April 1st and arrived in Virginia on the morning of April 4th, covering the 1600 miles in approximately 60 hours.

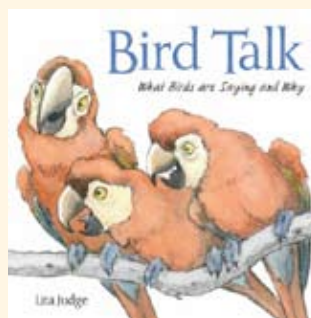
Hope has taught the research community a great deal about the migratory pathways and habits of whimbrels. She has made tremendous nonstop flights, moved great distances out over the open Atlantic, confronted storms while at sea, navigated with precision to stopover sites and shown high fidelity to her breeding site, her wintering site, and several staging areas. Hope is one of more than a dozen birds that have been tracked in a collaborative effort between The Center for Conservation Biology, The Nature Conservancy and other partners designed to discover migratory routes that connect breeding and winter areas and to identify en route migratory staging areas that are critical to the conservation of this declining species. Updated tracking maps may be viewed online at www.ccb-wm.org/programs/migration/Whimbrel/whimbrel.htm.



Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia

An Egg is Quiet, by Dianna Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long. Chronicle Books, 2006. ISBN 9780811844284. \$16.99. 36 p. Williamsburg Library call number 591.468 AST.



Bird Talk: What Birds Are Saying and Why, by Lita Judge. Roaring Brook Press, 2012. ISBN 9781596436466. \$17.99. 48 p. Williamsburg Library call number JE JUDGE.

Part of my job at the Williamsburg Regional Library is to catalog junior non-fiction

books. I linger over bird and nature books, and have wanted to share some with Bird Club members. Here are two of many that I've found both beautiful and interesting. They could be great gifts for children and grandchildren, or just fun for adults to page through.

My favorite is *An Egg is Quiet*, by Dianna Aston and illustrated by Sylvia Long. On the first page, there are illustrations of fifty-nine eggs, all different colors and shapes. Most of these are bird eggs, but there are also lobster, frog, dogfish shark and other eggs. They are drawn to size, and the common species name is written underneath each. There are more species from the Western states than Eastern, but many of our favorites are represented: Red-Winged Blackbird, Bluejay, American Robin, Prothonotary Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and others. As the book begins, there is a picture of a lone, yellow-and-black mottled Black-Necked Stilt egg. "An egg is quiet" is written beside it. Throughout the book, Aston presents facts about eggs geared to children. "Eggs come in different sizes. An ostrich egg can weigh as much as 8 pounds. It is so big and so round, it takes two hands to hold one egg. Hummingbird eggs are the size of a jelly bean. It would take about 2000 hummingbird eggs to equal the size of one ostrich egg." There are facts about gestation of embryos, and illustrations of textures, shapes and patterns of the shells. At the end of the book, the Black-Necked Stilt egg from the beginning of the book has been joined by a pair of adult stilt feet, and you can see that the shell is beginning to crack. "An egg is quiet. Then, suddenly..." You turn the page, and see baby Black-Necked Stilt chicks cheeping and peeping. "[A]n egg is noisy!" On the last page, there are illustrations of the birds and animals that correspond to the fifty-nine eggs on the first page.

Another fun picture book is Lita Judge's *Bird Talk*. Judge uses gorgeous, large colored drawings of birds—some familiar like American Goldfinches, some exotic like Scandinavian Fieldfares, some fun for kids like the Blue-Footed Booby—to illustrate how birds communicate with each other. "Pick me!" the Blue Bird of Paradise is saying when he flips upside down and swings frantically to and

fro. “Come fly!” a mother Wood Duck is saying when she summons “kuk, kuk,kuk” to get the chicks out of their tree. At the back of the book, there is a little more information about each of the twenty-eight species Judge illustrates, a short glossary and references. The author’s note about growing up the granddaughter of two ornithologists is also interesting, explaining how she became so interested in birds.

When you’re in the library next, don’t forget to check out the children’s section. Sometimes it’s easy and fun to learn basic facts while viewing gorgeous artwork in picture books.

Birding in Utah with a 13-year old

By Jeanne Millin

Photos by Mike Millin

Almost 3 years ago, Mike and I took our then visiting 10 year old grandson on one of the regular Saturday morning bird walks at New Quarter Park with Bill Williams. Bill took time to show Craig the birds through the scope and started his interest in birding. We have given Craig a good pair of binoculars and guided him to the Cornell web site so he could learn the sounds of the birds. When visiting his family in Maryland we looked at the local birds and took hikes in the area. Mike and I are certified by the Boy Scouts to give the Bird Study merit badge, and last year we worked with Craig as he completed the requirements. This March we were on our annual trek to Park City for skiing and as we no longer ski every day, we usually take a break and bird one of those days with a guide. We have traveled with Bill Fenimore, who runs a few tours in the area each year and who co-owns the Wild Bird Center in Layton with his son. Bill has worked with young people in the Salt Lake area and we were sure he would be a good guide for a young person with a growing interest in birding. We asked Craig if he wanted to go on a birding adventure one day instead of skiing. To our surprise, he readily agreed.



Loggerhead Shrike

Say's Phoebe



Bill picked up the three of us at 6am so we could drive into the mountains to see the early morning mating antics of the Sage Grouse. Craig was fascinated. We didn’t want to disturb the grouse so we didn’t leave the car; however, we did take a few pictures. We then headed over to Antelope Island in the Great Salt Lake and spent about four hours observing waterfowl, a barred owl who was sitting on some new chicks, passerines and raptors and the resident antelope and bison population. The day's count was 44 species, many of whom were life birds for Craig, though for Mike and me only the

Sage Grouse could be added to the life list. Mike and I are big believers that we must take our younger population “into the woods”. I recommend taking them birding.



Sage Grouse

A Birding Paradise

By Gary Carpenter

Editor's Note: This is the third and last part of the Carpenter's description of their trip to Costa Rica.

The next morning we were, once again, up before the sun and we were driven to the rather long entrance road into the La Selva Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS). We walked the road into the OTS as the sun rose and we sighted: Mealy Parrot; Orange-billed Sparrow; Buff-throated Saltator (yes, that is spelled correctly); Bright-rumped Attila; Chestnut colored Woodpecker; and a bird that literally took our breath away, the Green Honeycreeper. The Honeycreeper was high on a bare branch and its turquoise green feathering flashed in the morning sun. The walk continued on the OTS reserve after breakfast, and, while it seemed fairly unproductive for a little while, we stuck with it and were able to list the following: Crimson-collared Tanager; Purple-headed Fairy Hummingbird; Blue-chested Hummingbird; White-collared Mannikin; Great Curassow; a King Vulture; a Rufous Motmot and a Collared Trogon. We continued walking the OTS grounds after lunch and had fun spotting a Semi-plumbeous Hawk, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, and a Snowy Cotinga which Roger assured us was a rare and exciting find. On our way back to the Lodge in the evening we were thrilled to find, and watch while they fed, a small flock of Great Green Macaws.

Photo by Ann Carpenter



And then another move day. However, before we left La Selva Verde Lodge we took another early morning walk on the grounds and we were happy to spot a Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Slaty-tailed Trogon, and, a great find, six Keel-billed Toucans. Then came a long ride into and then out of San Jose as we headed to our last birding spot. This was the Savegre Mountain Lodge in the San Gerardo de Dota area of the Talamanca Mountain range. We left the heat and humidity of the rain forest and drove up into the coolness of the cloud forest. Enroute from Selva Verde the bus was once again stopped for a good look at a Bat Falcon.

We arrived at Savegre around 3:30 and had time for only a little birding around the immediate grounds before dinner that evening. But the Lodge keeps a number of feeders in operation just outside their dining room and in a short time we added Purple-throated

Photo by Roger Melendez Pereira



Resplendent Quetzal

Mountain Gem, Violet-ear Green, Magnificent, Volcano, and White-throated Mountain Gem Hummingbirds; a Yellow-thighed Finch, Yellow-bellied Siskin, Flame-colored Tanager, Acorn Woodpecker, Mountain Robin and our prize for the day, a beautiful turquoise capped Elegant Euphonia. This was the most modern of the Lodges in which we stayed and the evenings were cold enough that we needed a heater in our room.

Then came the last full day of birding in Costa Rica. But what a finish. We were driven about 20 minutes up a winding mountain road. Roger had gotten word from other guides in the area and, as the sun rose, he found the target bird for the trip. A Resplendent Quetzal was feeding high in a wild avocado tree. Some have said that the Resplendent Quetzal is the most beautiful bird in the Western Hemisphere. Certainly the ancient Aztecs and Mayas thought so and they considered the bird sacred. We will not argue. It is truly a resplendent bird. The male is brilliant green on his back with a scarlet breast, white under-tail, green spiky crest and long, and has long sinuous feathers trailing off its back. In fact it was these extremely long feathers that I

Photo by Roger Melendez Pereira



Slaty-tailed Trogon

Chesnut-mandibled Toucan



By Roger Melendez Pereira

first noticed, because they were swaying back and forth in time to some inner rhythm of the bird and out of sequence with the swaying branches of the tree. What a wonderful sight! He obliged us by staying around for ten to fifteen minutes before flying off deeper into the forest. On the way back to the Lodge we were further delighted to find a female Quetzal, and while nowhere as beautiful as the male, she was still exciting to see. Near her was another prized bird that we had hoped to spot...an Emerald Toucanet. And we hadn't even had breakfast yet!

That was soon remedied and after a good breakfast we walked down the trout stream that flows by the Lodge. What a profusion we saw that morning. . . Spangle-cheeked Tanager, Collared Redstart, Northern Barred-Woodcreeper, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, Slaty Flower-piercer, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Sulphur-winged Parakeets, Scintillant Hummingbird and, prize of prizes, another pair of Resplendent Quetzals. These were obviously a mated pair and our group watched them hollow out a nest for close to an hour.

Before leaving the next morning, still on the Savegre Lodge grounds, we saw Sooty-capped Tanagers, a Silver-throated Tanager drive back to San Jose. On the way we stopped on a mountain top that had a view all the way to the Pacific Ocean. There we saw a Volcano Junco. Then, one more; at our lunch stop we

spotted a Magenta-throated Woodstar Hummingbird.

We stayed overnight in San Jose. That evening we had our final tally of birds, a farewell dinner, and warm congratulations for our guide and bus driver. We want to emphasize that we have not begun to list all the birds we spotted on this trip. All the lists in this article could be headed "among others, we saw...". To give you some idea of the scale of birding in Costa Rica, here are some numbers. There are 892 birds listed on the official (2010) Costa Rican bird list. In ten days of intense birding our group of twelve saw 279 species. Ann and I saw 254 personally and 185 of them are new to our life list! For those interested, our field guide for this trip is *The Birds of Costa Rica* by Richard Garrigues and Robert Dean (available from Amazon).

Within it can be found all the species mentioned in this article. This was by no means a restful vacation and we do not suggest it for those wanting to lounge by the pool with a pina colada in one hand and a quick glance at an occasional bird. This was birding...long, hard and intense for ten straight days. But oh, so rewarding. We are fairly positive that we will never be able to achieve such birding numbers again...unless, of course we go back...and we have recently discovered that Road Scholar is adding a second birding tour of Costa Rica, to areas untouched by this one...and we might be hearing the call of the tropics once again.

White-throated Mountain Gems



By Ann Carpenter

WBC April Walks

Complete lists of species seen on each walk are on the club website at www.williamsburgbirdclub.org.

Bird Walk on April 14 at NQP



Front row: Rita Grove, Sara Lewis, Joyce Lowry, Cheryl Jacobson, Joanne Andrews, Cynthia Long, Shirley Devan. Back row: Jim Booth, Art Heezen, Sherry Brubaker, Pierce Grove, Sharon Plocher, Hugh Beard, Bill Bay

Not pictured: Jan Lockwood, Mike and Jeanne Millin, Geoff Giles, Bob Long

Hugh Beard entered 37 species into eBird for the April 14th walk at New Quarter Park. These included 2 Wood Duck, 3 Chimney Swift, 1 White-eyed Vireo and 6 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (also 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher nest was found). There was a total of 19 participants on the walk.

Field Trip scheduled April 22 to the Great Dismal Swamp

Cancelled due to inclement weather

Bird Walk on April 28 at NQP

Nine birders joined leader Bill Williams for the walk at New Quarter Park. A total of 60 species were tallied by the group, including 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2 Black-throated Green Warblers, 1 Acadian Flycatcher and 1 Kentucky Warbler.



Seated, left to right: David Taylor, Joanne Andrews, Joyce Lowry, Nora Manzek, Joe Manzek (visitors from Pennsylvania). Standing: Bill Williams, George Rountree, Geoff Giles, Gary Friedhaber

Photo by Shirley Devan

IBA Survey and Clean-up

By Dave Youker

The next scheduled event for our Important Bird Area (IBA) is a survey/clean-up at Gosnold's Hope Park on 19 May beginning at 8 AM. This will be in conjunction with some volunteers through the Hampton Clean City Commission (HCCC). Details are as follows: Arrive at 8 AM and conduct a bird survey of the area until around 10:00. From 10:00 until around noon, perform litter removal. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather conditions (hat, sunscreen) and bring water/snacks as desired. Trash bags and grabbers will be provided, but ensure you bring work gloves for handling the trash. Directions to the park: From Williamsburg, take I-64 East and exit onto Mercury Blvd toward the Coliseum. Take the King St exit and turn left toward Langley AFB. Turn right onto Little Back River Rd and continue to Gosnold's Hope Park which will be on your left. Go through the main entrance and continue to the boat launch on the right side of the road where we'll assemble before starting.

Photos from Members



Jeanette Navia took this photo Saturday, April 21, at Freedom Park while Shirley Devan was doing a presentation for the Williamsburg Botanical Garden about bluebirds.



Shirley Devan photographed this young Barred Owl on Bush Neck Farm Road during the Spring Bird Count on April 29th.



This photo of American Oystercatchers was taken on the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel by Shirley Devan on April 5.



George Boyles took this picture of a Snowy Egret in Poquoson on April 13.



This Barn Swallow was photographed by Fred Blystone on Jamestown Island on April 12.



On April 28th, Barry Trott photographed this Rose-breasted Grosbeak in his yard in Toano.



Fred Blystone photographed this Belted-kingfisher on April 12 on the bridge over Powhatan Creek on the Colonial Parkway.



Carol O'Neil was lucky enough to have a pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches nest in one of her bird boxes.



Red-necked Grebe—photographed by George Boyles on April 8 at Fort Monroe.



Bill Williams photographed these American White Pelican from the College Creek Hawkwatch on April 17.

Bird ID from Recycle Bin Photos

By Joe Piotrowski

This feature is only on the website and in the electronic version of *The Flyer*. The answer to this month's "puzzle" will be given in the next electronic newsletter, as well as on the website.



May's photo



April's photo was of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 6	WBC Field Trip to James River Park in Richmond. See front page.
Sunday, May 6	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
May 10–12	Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival. For complete event schedule visit www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp and follow links to Birding Festival.
Saturday, May 12	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM
Saturday, May 12	HRBC Spring Bird Count. Contact Clark White at cwbirds@cox.net or 757-875-7649 if you would like to participate.
Wednesday, May 16	WBC Monthly Meeting. See front page for information.
May 18–20	VSO Joint Meeting with Tennessee Ornithological Society, www.vabirds.net for info
Saturday, May 19	IBA Survey and Cleanup. See page 9.
Sunday, May 20	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, May 26	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
June 15–17	VSO Summer Field Trip to Front Royal; www.vabirds.net for info