



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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August 2008

President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

The summer is racing by, and I personally am looking forward to cooler temperatures in a couple of months.

September 13 and the Kiptopeke Challenge will be here before you know it. This year several members of the Bird Club are forming TWO teams to scour the Eastern Shore to see which team can find the most species in the 24-hour period. Brian Taber and Paul Nasca (from Fredericksburg) will form the "Wild Birds of Williamsburg" team. Read more about Brian's team and the Challenge inside the newsletter. There will teams of birders from all over the state racing around the Eastern Shore that day!

I've rounded up a few Bird Club members to form the "Double X Birders" of Williamsburg. Alex Minarik, Lee Schuster, Susan Powell, and I (plus up to two more—we may have to rent a van!) will be poised at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel at sunrise September 13 to start our count.

The Kiptopeke Challenge is a fun, fund-raising event for the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. I urge you to support BOTH teams because ALL proceeds go to the research efforts of the CVWO!

Send one check payable to CVWO, to Brian Taber at 103 Exeter Court, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Then send another check, payable to CVWO, to me at 106 Winter East, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

It would be great if every member supported at least one of these teams. So pull out your checkbook right now before you forget! Any amount is appreciated and means so much to the research efforts.

As always, thank you for your support of all of our efforts. See you on the trail!

August Field Trip to Craney Island

By Shirley Devan

Our annual field trip to Craney Island will be on Saturday, August 16th.

The trip last year came up with 43 species, including a Merlin, Black-bellied Plover, American Avocet, Willet, Stilt Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Phalarope and Black Skimmer. This is a field trip that you do not want to miss.

In you want to go, please meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center (on Jamestown Road) at 7 am—carpooling is very important. Be sure to be prepared for mosquitoes and the sun—wear a hat, long sleeves, pants and use sun screen.



Bring water and snacks. If you have a spotting scope, please bring it. The administration building at Craney Island will be closed so we cannot use the restrooms there, but there will be a bathroom stop made before entering Craney Island and then again on the way out.

We will drive around the perimeter road. We cannot drive on the dike roads. To observe the birds in the cells, we'll have to walk up to the impoundments and along the dike roads so be prepared for some walking—but not long distances.

Dan Cristol will be the leader for this field trip.

Note from Camp Scholarship Winner

Our Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship winner, Joey Voboril, sent the Club a note of thanks—

Dear Bird Club of Williamsburg,

WOW. If there is one word that could perhaps come close enough to summing up my experience here, that would be the closest. Never have I had such a great time while learning in my whole life. Every single day here was filled with knowledge, and exciting activity, and more importantly, something I've never done. This camp has exceeded by expectations 100 times over. Whether it was the hikes, the fun programs, or just the awesome people, there was never a dull moment here. I've learned things I never imagined I'd learn—things like entomology, ornithology, mycology just to name a few were the furthest things from my mind.

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I certainly cannot stress enough how much I have learned here and how cool I think it all is. I really have only one source to thank, and that's you guys at the Bird Club. They always say to never judge a book by its cover, and if it were up to me I probably would have. But the Bird Club of Williamsburg gave me an opportunity to get around that and I didn't even realize it. All I can say is thank you. Thank you so much. You have not idea how much I appreciate this experience you guys have provided for me. I look forward to attending one of your meetings and telling you all about it.

Thanks again!

*Sincerely,
Joey Voboril*

Joey will be at our September Bird Club meeting to tell us a little bit about his experience and to participate in a photo opportunity with Bill Williams, for who his scholarship is named.

June/July Bird 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!

June 11: Alex Minarik and Shirley Devan observe a female Clapper Rail near the boardwalk over the marsh at Ragged Island WMA. The rail was searching for food and taking food to a clump of grass in the marsh. Eventually a very they had a brief glimpse of a fuzzy black ball of down near the grass clump. Other good birds were at least 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers, Seaside Sparrow (identified by sound), Boat-tailed Grackle and Barn Swallows.

June 12: Alex Minarik, Shirley Devan and Alice and Seig Kopnitz go to Craney Island. They see a total of 33 species, including Black-necked Stilt, Willet, Short-billed Dowitcher and **Common Nighthawk**.



Photo by Shirley Devan

June 15: Grace Doyle reports a Louisiana Waterthrush on her deck railing. Bill Williams, Alice & Seig Kopnitz & Shirley Devan visit Craney Island. The highlight was a Whimbrel that flew off before they could get their cameras up.

June 18: Bill Williams and Fred Blystone go to Greenville County looking for Mississippi Kites. Within several minutes of getting out of the car, at a location they had been reported at in years past, we had three of them circling overhead. We also went to Belly Ache swamp in Southampton County, hoping for an Anhinga, but with no luck.

June 18: Shirley Devan and seven birders from the WBC and the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalist Program visited Craney Island to survey and monitor birds. A total of 32 species were seen—the highlight being a lone female **Wilson's Phalarope**.



Photo by Shirley Devan

June 20: In an email to Shirley Devan, Cynthia Long reports hearing Northern Bobwhites calling from the direction of the habitat restoration site in New Quarter Park.

June 20: Received an email from Jeanne & Gil Frey today—This May the Florida Keys and West Coast of Florida were a bonanza of water birds. A few highlights for us were the great flocks of frigate birds, along with curlews, white ibis, wood ibis, Florida scrub jays, pelicans galore, ruddy turnstone and sandpipers beyond our ability to identify. Back home in June, we find more indigo buntigs, house finches that we did not see all winter, a blue-gray gnatcatcher, several pairs of prothonotary warblers from other neighbors as well as a very pesty pileated woodpecker who has cost us some extensive house repair. Bobwhites, mockingbirds, bluebirds, cardinals, killdeer, tree swallows, goldfinches, and many hungry hummingbirds. Also, a Carolina wren has built a nest with 5 eggs in our outdoor car vacuum, so looks like dirty cars for the next several weeks.

June 25: Bill Williams was with a group that spotted an unusual small gull at Grandview Beach that was initially thought to be a first summer Franklin's Gull. However, after careful scrutiny of photos that were taken it was decided that the bird was a first summer Sabine's Gull, a rare and typically pelagic species. If accepted by the Virginia Avian Records Committee, it would become the ninth Coastal Plain of Virginia record, and the first for the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay.

June 28: Tom McCary visits Smith's Fort Plantation in Surry County. Best birds were a male Northern Bobwhite and a male Blue Grosbeak.

June 30: Tom McCary has a Great-crested Flycatcher in the butternut tree in his yard.

July 3: Shirley Devan, Alex Minark, Susie Engle-Hill, and Alice and Seig Kopinitz visit Ragged Island WMA. Highlights were good looks at Seaside Sparrows and Clapper Rails (2 heard—1 seen by Alex, Alice and Seig). Tom McCary sees two Green Herons in the Crim Dell Pond on the W&M Campus. Nick Flanders of the HRBC reports a female Anhinga at Lake Maury in the Mariner's Museum Park. This could be the same bird that spent a lot of last summer in the same location. (Bird is seen again on July 18th)

July 5: Shirley Devan observes a Wood Thrush feeding a fledgling under a feeder in her yard.

July 8: Kathi Mestayer sees 2 Green Herons in the area between the old movie theater at Williamsburg Crossing and the Riverside Medical complex.

July 9: Shirley Devan watches a Carolina Wren chase an American Goldfinch away from her sunflower feeder.

July 12: For the first time at one of their feeders, Bart & Chandi Singer see a Indigo Bunting. Bill Williams is rewarded for his biking efforts (riding the current length of the biking trail all the way to the Chickahominy River) by a Northern Bobwhite who was cherrily welcoming visitors to Chickahominy Riverfront Park. Tom McCary sees a Scarlet Tanager and a Summer Tanager (both males) in the same tree near the Visitor Center at York River State Park.

July 22: Alex Minarik, Bill Williams, Alice & Seig Kopinitz and Shirley Devan visit Craney Island. Bill spots a **Reddish Egret** (only the 5th report of one in Virginia). They make phone calls to get the report out on the VA-Bird list serve. Later Brian Taber arrives and also observes the bird. Other good birds for the day are six American Avocets, 2 Wilson's Phalaropes and 3 Common Nighthawks.



Photo by Shirley Devan

July 24: Tom McCary sees an Eastern Kingbird and a Blue Grosbeak on the wire on the entrance road to Shirley Plantation. He also observes a Barn Swallow feeding young ones in a nest in the old barn near the Big House. Also, two adult Bald Eagles soaring over the James River.

July 25: While walking on the Lake Matoaka Trail on campus, Tom McCary sees a Wood Thrush foraging in the leaf litter.

2008 Kiptopeke Challenge

On September 13, 2008, Brian Taber and Paul Nasca will again participate in the Kiptopeke Challenge, the bird-athon sponsored by Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. The "Wild Birds Unlimited of Williamsburg" team, supported by pledges from George and Val Copping's store and generous members of the Williamsburg Bird Club, is the only team to have participated in the event for all 13 years! They will again scour the Eastern Shore all day. Last

year, they won the event, finding 106 species on a very hot day, in the middle of the of the very prolonged drought, which made bird finding difficult. Brian is President of CVWO and was honored with a Lifetime Membership to the Club as part of the “30 Birdy Years” celebration. Those wanting to support this worthwhile effort may send pledges to support the team, payable to CVWO, to Brian at 103 Exeter Court, Williamsburg, VA 23185. All of the proceeds of this event are used to further field research, educational presentations which are free to the public and conservation efforts, such as habitat restoration. For more information, see the website at www.cvwo.org.

Birding on the Blackwater

By Alex Minarik

The call came out in the Spring 2008 edition of the VSO newsletter-“birders who are good with paddles as well as Prothonotaries are especially needed.” Further details which arrived via the va-birds listserv in early April explained that the June 2008 VSO Bird Foray was to be the first ever canoe-based foray to survey birds along riparian corridors in select Coastal Plain and Piedmont Rivers. After reading the detailed instructions and volunteer requirements, I signed my husband and me up to do a ten mile canoe paddle along the Blackwater River in Southampton County.

In May we received aerial maps of our route marked with the 20 survey points along with the survey point coordinates to be used in a GPS unit. It was recommended that we make a trial run on the river beforehand, so on May 19 we headed down to the Blackwater to check it out with our son who was visiting from Montana. The tannin-colored, aptly named Blackwater River flows through a forest of bald cypress and water tupelos and is dotted with water lilies and occasional swamp roses. We found it to be teeming with all sorts of wildlife in addition to birds; dragonflies, cottonmouths, dozens of snapping turtles and red sliders, beavers, muskrats, raccoons, and deer. We delighted in observing a newborn fawn suckling its mother. I rode in the middle of the canoe just enjoying all the sights and sounds like Cleopatra on her barge as Mike and son Jeb paddled the route.

At 3:30 a.m. on June 2nd, the alarm clock went off. This was the day of the real survey and we had a 75 mile drive to be at the first survey point at sunrise. Mike was the official navigator and time keeper; I identified and tallied the birds at each of the 20 survey points. Instructions required that I record the birds according to when I first heard or saw them during a 6 minute count period and also where I first saw or heard them (river right, river left,

or flyover). The extra challenge for me was that we were paddling upstream which made river right on our left and vice versa! The extra challenge for Mike was that he had to paddle upstream 5 miles and complete the route before the 10 a.m. deadline.

We met both challenges and had a great time while helping to contribute to this scientific effort to document Virginia’s breeding birds away from the highways. I counted 282 adult and 4 young of 48 species of birds. Notable highlights were the 24 prothonotary warblers seen and heard, a bald eagle swooping down from a cypress, and a spectacular spring morning on the Blackwater River.

Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival

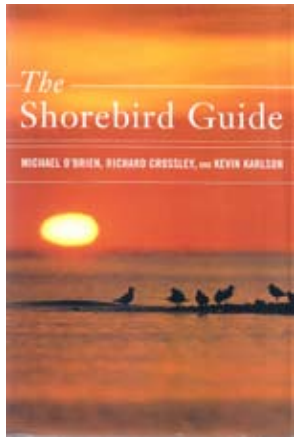
The Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival is changing dates! The 16th annual festival will be held in September the kickoff in Onancock (757-302-0388 or www.onancockbirding.com on the 18th and then the 19th—21st in Cape Charles. The festival continues to offer a variety of trips led by experts. Come see the natural spectacle of migration. Vast numbers of raptors and songbirds pour through the Eastern Shore on their way to southern wintering grounds. Colorful butterflies and dazzling dragonflies add to the natural wonder of the Eastern Shore. Save the date and don’t miss this one of a kind experience!. For more information, contact Eastern Shore of VA Chamber of Commerce at 757-787-2460 or www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding/.

VSO Chincoteague Field Trip

It’s time to make plans for the annual VSO field trip to Chincoteague. It will be held September 5–7. Headquarters will be at the Refuge Motor Inn, 378 Beach Road, Chincoteague (800-544-8469 or 757-336-5511). Room rate is \$100/night for single or double, with a two-night minimum stay. The VSO will be headquartered at the Conference Center at the far end of the Refuge Motor Inn. You can pick up a schedule of events at the check-in counter. On Friday night there will be a shorebird review, preview of birds in the area, and a synopsis of the upcoming field trips. On Saturday and Sunday there will be a variety of field trips to choose from. There will be a tally of the day’s species late Saturday afternoon. For more information, contact Peggy Opengari at 540-921-4340 or gramby@pemtel.net.

If you need information about Chincoteague, a good place to check is the Chincoteague Chamber of Commerce’s website www.chincoteaguechamber.com.

August 2008 WBC Book Review



By Jeanette Navia

The Shorebird Guide, by Michael O'Brien, Richard Crossley, and Kevin Karlson. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2006. 477 p. \$24.95. Library call number : 598.33 SHO, James City Library

I started birding a few years ago, and haven't had much opportunity to study shore birds. The most I've seen in one trip was

when Ruth Beck led club members on a tour of Craney Island. It was very difficult to distinguish one shore bird from another, despite Ruth's clear explanations. There were Spotted Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, and many other shorebirds and other birds.

To help birders distinguish between shorebirds, Michael O'Brien, Richard Crossley and Kevin Karlson have published The Shorebird Guide. The authors stress the "jizz" method of identification, incorporating the "General Impression of Size and Shape" of the bird into one's identification of the species. For shorebirds, they note, using this more holistic style of identification is essential, as it is usually more difficult to see shorebirds up-close than other birds. Even with a scope, the lighting sometimes is not ideal to see details of plumage.

There are hundreds of photos of shorebirds in this guide. For each species, there are a number of photos, starting with an "impression" photo, often taken from distant view, sometimes of a flock, in preferred habitat, showing a typical real-life impression of the species. Subsequent photos show the species throughout the life cycle, since shorebirds often change substantially between birth and adulthood. A flight photo is also included. For some birds, there are beautiful full-page portraits. Photos of each species are spread across several pages. There are comparisons among different subspecies. For instance, the Dunlin Subspecies Comparison page shows six photos, two each of subspecies *hudsonia*, *pacifica* and *arctica*.

After the 290+ pages of beautiful photos, in a section called Species Account, the status, taxonomy, behavior, migration, molt patterns, and vocalizations of each of the approximately ninety species is described. There are black silhouettes depicting relative sizes and structures of the domestic shorebirds inside the back cover.

The photos are on glossy pages, which makes this a hefty book. It is not something you would carry around in your vest while birding, but it has a wealth of information to help identify plovers, oystercatchers, stilts, avocets, sandpipers, godwits, snipes and other shorebirds that are likely to be seen in North America.

The Hummingbirds of Compton Mountain

By Roger Mayhorn

There has been a lot of press locally about the apparent lack of hummingbirds. I think I have found out where they have been. This article is by Roger Mayhorn, President of the Buchanan County Bird Club in the western part of the state. Roger says it is not unusual to have 25 hummingbirds at his feeder at same time—Fred Blystone

A couple of days ago I was walking through the house, and I noticed something was different; something was not quite right, but what was it? At first I couldn't quite put my finger on it, then I realized what it was. The house seemed to be tilted ever so slightly to one side, not much mind you, but just enough to be noticeable, especially when walking.

To see if this was really true I picked up an apple from the fruit bowl on the dining room table and placed it on the table. Sure enough it began to roll ever so gently to one side. I still wasn't completely convinced so I went to the sink and ran a glass of water. I set it on the counter and just as I thought, the water was listing a little to one side of the glass. The angle of tilt was miniscule, but it was definitely there.

While I was pondering this phenomenon I happened to glance out of the kitchen window and Ah HA! There was the answer right in front of me. There must have been at least twenty-five hummers at the feeder hanging outside the window. They were all trying to feed at once, nearly sitting on each other's backs in their efforts to get at the sweet, if man made, nectar. The feeder was hanging from a hook that was attached to the top of the window frame, and therein was the root of the problem. There were so many hummers trying to get on the feeder that they were causing the house to list to one side, like a ship slowly taking on water.



Photo by Roger Mayhorn

Considering that our house is made of thick logs that was no small feat, but what would happen if more hummers came to that feeder? This could become a serious problem. Pipes could start leaking; windows could shatter. What should I do?

Of course the obvious course of action would be to take down the feeder, but being a man who doesn't like to upset the balance of nature, I pushed that temptation from my mind. These hummers needed the food to build up their strength and their body fat for that long flight they would make south in a couple of months. Besides, there were lots of juveniles in the bunch, and they needed to grow strong and produce strong flight feathers and flight muscles.

After thinking on the problem for a few minutes I came up with a solution. I quickly got some tools and another feeder. I went to the opposite side of the house from the feeder being used, and I attached a hook and hung a second feeder there; then I waited. After a few minutes a Ruby-throat came zipping by and paused at the new feeder. He looked it over, hovered for a moment, then gingerly placed his feet on the perch and began to drink. In another few seconds he was joined by a second, then a third. Soon there were almost as many hummers on this side of the house, as there were on the other side. This just might work.

I rushed back into the house, and it relieved my mind to find the house starting to tilt back, ever so slowly. In fact the movement was so slow it was almost imperceptible. My wife didn't seem to notice it all. For that matter she hadn't seemed to notice that the house had been leaning in the first place. Perhaps I was just more perceptive.

Within thirty minutes the house was level again and things returned to normal. I breathed a sigh of relief, feeling pretty proud of myself that I had solved the problem, and yet had kept nature in balance.

This was such an event I felt it needed to be documented, so I took photos of these fat little flying darts. They can be seen at http://www.pbase.com/mayhorn/hummers_7_08.

Field Ornithology on Hog Island, Maine **By Shirley Devan**

Finally, puffins! I waited almost two years to get back to Maine to finally check Atlantic Puffins off my life list.

I returned to Hog Island and the Maine Audubon Field Ornithology Camp that I last visited in September 2006. Susan Powell, fellow Bird Club member and Virginia Master Naturalist, accompanied me in mid-June for a week of dawn-to-dusk birding with 33 other "bird nerds" and

four instructors, including Scott Weidensaul, successful author, birder, and naturalist; Greg Budney, Curator of the Macauley Library of Sounds at Cornell's Lab of Ornithology; Dr. Sara Morris, ornithology and environmental science professor at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY; and Dr. Peter Vickery, grassland bird expert and the "main Maine" bird expert. All four instructors are veterans and favorites who return every summer for one or more nature camps.

Our week at Hog Island also included 13 teens participating in the Coastal Maine Bird Studies Camp plus their two instructors. So we had over 55 people camping on Hog Island – one of the largest groups they had ever hosted. The adults and the teens had separate activities and adventures during the day, but we all gathered in the "Bridge" for most meals and in the "Fish House" for evening programs and lectures.

Each day held several "WOW" moments for me. I'll try to relate two special ones here.

After foggy weather Monday and the teens' trip to the puffin rock Tuesday, the adults' eagerly boarded the boat Wednesday morning for our trip to Eastern Egg Rock to see the Atlantic Puffins. We did not land on Eastern Egg Rock but the boat circled the small island several times at close range. We enjoyed good looks at the puffins as well as the three species of terns nesting on the island – Roseate Tern, Common Tern, and Arctic Tern. An unexpected Razorbill was sitting in the water with the puffins and that was as much of a thrill as the puffins (for some people!).

Then the boat continued down Muscongus Bay a bit and we landed on Harbor Island for lunch and the afternoon adventure. Lunch consisted of the sandwiches we had assembled ourselves after breakfast plus cookies and fresh fruit provided by the kitchen. We each had our own bottle of water that we could replenish from a large thermos. We all kept provisions to a minimum because all the adults, backpacks, food, and water had to be rowed over to the island by dory because there was no dock for the big boat. There were only two dories. Eric, the first mate, rowed one dory, and "Seabird Sue" Schubel rowed the other one. Each dory accommodated only 5-6 people so it took several trips and quite a bit of muscle power on the part of Eric and Sue to get 40 + people and gear over to the island (and back!).

The island is privately owned but the owners have granted a conservation easement, which is held by Hog Island and Maine Audubon. There were no public facilities (i.e., no restrooms), so the women went "over there" and the men went in the opposite direction.

After lunch on the rocks, two groups formed to hike around the island. The “hike” turned into “rock hopping” and I was relieved, after two hours, to take a shortcut through the middle of the island to return to our campsite near the boats. Luckily, no one twisted any ankles or knees while peering up at Ospreys and gulls flying overhead. We observed several crèches of Common Eiders along the shore – several females with their fledglings. They swim around in large groups (crèches) to defend against Great Black-backed Gulls and other predators. We also came upon a nest of a Great Black-backed Gull on the rocks with one egg.

In her introduction to the history of Harbor Island and its relationship to Hog Island and Maine Audubon, Sara Morris, one of our instructors, told us that a portion of the island is the “Duryea Morton National Audubon Sanctuary” named after one of the former directors of Hog Island Audubon Camp, who also happens to be a member of our Bird Club here in Williamsburg. I walked over to see the plaque, which has a wonderful anonymous quote: “By the heath of flowers thou callest us, from the city throng and care; back to the woods, the birds, the rocky shores that sing of thee.”

One of the other WOW moments of the week was the visit and lecture by Dr. Stephen Kress. Dr. Kress is National Audubon’s vice president for bird conservation and director of its Seabird Restoration Program. Dr. Kress was the Bird Life Instructor at Hog Island from 1969 – 1981 and directed the adult programs there from 1982 – 86. While he was at Hog Island, he decided to restore the Atlantic Puffins to their traditional nesting islands on the coast of Maine. What a daunting task! A soft-spoken but very forceful scientist, Dr. Kress began his experiment in 1973 despite naysayers who said it could not be done.

“The restoration of puffins to Eastern Egg Rock is based on the fact that young puffins usually return to breed on the same island where they hatched. Young puffins from Great Island, Newfoundland (where about 160,000 pairs nest) were transplanted to Eastern Egg Rock when they were about 10 - 14 days old. The young puffins were then reared in artificial sod burrows for about one month. Audubon biologists placed handfuls of vitamin-fortified fish in their burrows each day and, in effect, took the place of parent puffins. As the young puffins reached fledging age, they received leg bands so they could be recognized in the future. After spending their first 2-3 years at sea, it was hoped they would return to establish a new colony at Eastern Egg Rock rather than Great Island. Because this was the first time an attempt had been made to restore a puffin

colony, the outcome was unknown.” [From ProjectPuffin Website: <http://www.projectpuffin.org/what.html>]

Dr. Kress and his team’s efforts were rewarded in 1977 when the first puffin came back to Eastern Egg Rock – a bird they had banded in 1973. Success! The number of nesting pairs increased over the 30 years since those first puffins returned. In 2007 there were 90 nesting pairs. During the nesting season, blinds on the island are staffed with students, interns, volunteers, and scientists who observe and record the nesting behaviors of the puffins as well as the terns and gulls who nest there. In 1978, Dr. Kress and his team started tern restoration on Eastern Egg Rock. This year there are 130 pairs of Roseate Terns nesting there along with the puffins and other terns and gulls.

Dr. Kress’s presentation and slides were inspiring, and we felt privileged to hear from the esteemed scientist himself the almost miraculous story of the unlikely scientific experiment that worked. He has since successfully restored and re-established seabird colonies in several locations around the world, including on the Columbia River and in Japan.

By the way, I picked up four life birds while at Hog Island this year – the Atlantic Puffin, the Wilson’s Storm Petrel, Vesper Sparrow, and the Alder Flycatcher.



An Upscale Wren House

Sara Lewis sent me this photo from her yard of a House Wren coming out the front door. I won’t show you a photo of my wren accommodations!

June and July New Quarter Park Walks

Shirley Devan led eight other birders on the June 14th walk. At the boat dock on Queens Creek the group got good looks at the Osprey nestlings in the two nearest nests. Parents were soaring all around and one adult swept down on the construction site across the creek, picked up a stick and took it to the nest. While wandering back up the path, Rosanne Redding spotted what turned out to be an **Acadian Flycatcher** flying back and forth to a nest near the end of a limb of a beech tree. Shirley got her scope on the nest and the group was able to see one fuzzy headed nestling. A total of 26 species were identified during the walk.



Photo by Shirley Devan



Photo by Steve Devan

Participants in the June 14th walk

Back row: Gail Bono, Lillian Woolfolk, Margaret Ware, Rosanne Reddin. Front row: Don Woolfolk, Bob Long, Everett Bono, Shirley Devan. Missing from this picture is Joanne Andrews.

Hugh Beard was the leader for the June 28th walk. The highlight of the day was finding a Summer Tanager's nest with a female sitting on it. A total of 49 species was recorded. Pictured, left to right: George Rountree, Kimberly McHugh, Rosanne Reddin, Hugh Beard, Joe Piotrowski, Amanda Deverich. Not shown are Betty Peterson and Jeanette Navia (who took the picture).



Jill Bieri of Chesapeake Experience and WBC member Lee Schuster led the Kayaking/Birding trip on July 12th. Other participants were Jeanette Navia, Bill & Susie Kay, Mike & Jeanne Millin, Randy & Jandy Strickland, Deb & Pat Costello, Inge Curtis & Shirley Devan. A total of 29 species were identified during the paddle. This type of *field trip* was a first for the club but hopefully not the last.



Jeanette Navia

Photo by Shirley Devan



Photo by Shirley Devan



Lee Schuster

Photo by Shirley Devan



Bill Williams led 16 other birders on the July 26th walk in New Quarter Park. They had about 35 species for the day. Seated, left to right: Margaret Ware, Cynthia Long, Sara Lewis, Lillian Woolfolk, Linda Scherer. Back Row: Cathy Bond, Everett Bono, Gail Bono, Gary Hammer, Cathy Millar, Don Woolfolk, Jeanette Navia, Alice Kopinitz, Bill Williams, Seig Kopinitz (kneeling). Bob Long left before the picture was taken by Shirley Devan.

CALENDAR

Saturday, August 9	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 am, Susan Powell, Leader
Saturday, August 16	WBC Field Trip to Craney Island, 7am, Dan Cristol, Leader—see Front Page
Sunday, August 17	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 am
Saturday, August 23	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 am, Susan Powell, Leader
Thursday, August 28	Local Master Naturlist Program starts—contact Shirley Devan for information
September 5–7	VSO Field Trip to Chincoteague—see Page 4
Sunday, September 7	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 am
September 18–21	Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival—see Page 5