



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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August 2009

President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

When is a tanager not a tanager? When it's a cardinal! Who knew??

While most of us were otherwise occupied, the good folks at the American Ornithological Union (AOU) rearranged some of our birds for us over the past year.

The Fiftieth Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds (Chesser et al.) was published in the July 2009 issue of *The Auk*, the AOU journal. I ran across a summary of the changes on a blog written by David J. Ringer and posted July 11, 2009. Here's the link so you can read more if you're interested: <http://djringer.com/birding/2009/07/11/aou-50th-supplement-taxonomic-and-nomenclatural-changes/>

Remember a few years ago when the birds at the front of the field guides changed from loons to geese and ducks? The AOU is responsible for that and other taxonomic and name changes in the classification of birds of North and Central America, and most field guides follow the AOU checklist at the time of publication. (*continued on page 3*)

Annual Picnic—September 6

Our Annual Picnic will resume this year. Thankfully, Ruth Beck has recovered from her fall, and she and Sherwin will graciously open their Barhamsville home and yard to us Sunday, September 6. Time is 4:00 PM.

You should call Jean Rend at 220-9032 to let her know that you are coming, and discuss what side dish you might contribute to the feast. We hope to see you there.

Directions to the Beck's house: Take I-64 west toward Richmond to exit #227 (West Point/Toano). Turn right onto Route 30 North going toward West Point. Follow Route 30 about 2.5 miles to Barhamsville. The center of Barhamsville extends along the road for less than a mile. Look for the Post Office on your right. Then immediately look for a secondary paved road, Route 273 N, turn to the right. Follow it for 1.6 miles. As the forested area to your right suddenly gives way to open fields,

look for a road sign on the left that says Farmer's Drive and Polish Town Road (State Route 634). Directly opposite Route 634, there will be a gravel/dirt road on the right (there will be a sign for Leyland Tree Farm). Turn right on to the gravel/dirt road. Stay on this road for about 1/2 mile. This gravel lane goes the Beck's driveway. Go through an open red gate and continue to the parking area in front of the house. In case you have a problem, the Beck's phone number is 566-8234

August Field Trip to Craney Island

Our annual field trip to Craney Island will be on Saturday, August 15th.

The trip last year came up with 51 species, including a Marbled Godwit, 2 American Avocets, 5 Red-necked Phalaropes, 1 Black Tern and 1 White-rumped Sandpiper. As always, this is a field trip you do not want to miss.

In you want to go, please meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center (on Jamestown Road) at 7:30 am—carpooling is very important. Be sure to be prepared for mosquitoes and the sun—wear a hat, long sleeves, long 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. To observe the birds in the cells, we'll have to walk up to the impoundments and along the dike road so be prepared for some walking—but not long distances.

Ruth Beck, Bill Williams and Tom Armour will be the leaders for this field trip.

Late May, June and July Bird Sightings

Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Fred Blystone at 229-4346 or fm19481@verizon.net. If you encounter interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!

May 24: On their Camp Peary outing Joe & Grace Doyle have 43 species.

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Welcome New Members

Jim & Mary-Margaret Hutchins, Lynn Collins, Kimberly Momballou and Barbara Seelbach. Welcome back to Michael & Peggy Mason.

May 31: During Joe & Grace Doyle's visit to Camp Peary, 51 species are seen, including, what Grace feels certain was a Yellow-headed Blackbird.

June 3: Bill Williams reports to eBird 1 American Oystercatcher and 1 Ruddy Turnstone at Craney Island Disposal Area.

June 6: From Martha Briggs— "I observed an immature Red-tailed Hawk today at 5:30 in my backyard. It came right up on to the back deck!" Shirley Devan hears Whip-poor-wills calling at Morris Creek on the Chickahominy River.

June 6: Among the 66 species Bill Williams sees on his early Sunday morning walk on Greensprings Nature Trail, he is pleasantly surprised by 2 Cattle Egrets.

June 7: The Doyle's record 43 species on the Camp Peary outing.

June 10: In another Craney Island eBird report, in addition to other sightings, Bill Williams reports 1 Northern Bobwhite and 3 Snowy Egrets.

June 12: Brian Taber spots a second summer **Franklin's Gull** following the Jamestown Ferry. After hearing about this sighting, Bill Williams heads for the ferry and is also able to spot the gull (*only the 4th recorded sighting of this species in the Williamsburg area*).



Photo by Fred Blystone



Photo by Seig Kopinitz

June 14: Shirley Devan, Seig & Alice Kopinitz and Dave Youker kayak out in Harwood Mills Reservoir and see the nesting Anhinga that Dave found the week before. (*This is the first confirmed Anhinga nesting in Virginia.*)

June 14: Bill Williams has 64 species on his walk at Greensprings Nature Trail. Included were a pair of Great Crested Flycatchers building a nest, a pair of Eastern Bluebirds with one fledged young, a Pine Warbler feeding a fledged young and a Yellow-breasted Chat that was carrying food. While on a bike ride on Jamestown Island, Shirley Devan finds 2 Brown-headed Nuthatches, an Eastern Kingbird and about a dozen Barn Swallows at Black's Point. Joe & Grace Doyle have 43 species while birding Camp Peary.

June 14 (or 15): Joe & Grace Doyle have a Water Pipit on their deck.

June 15: Fred Blystone rides the Jamestown Ferry and is also able to spot the Franklin's Gull.

June 16: Phyllis & David Lee report seeing 3 Least Terns in Powhattan Creek to the left of the entrance road to Jamestown Island.

June 17: In the same area as the Least Terns, Phyllis & David Lee report 2 American Avocets.

June 18: Brian Taber, Shirley Devan and Fred Blystone head for the Waynesboro area and see the **Roseate Spoonbill** that was first reported on June 15th (see article on page 4).

June 19: Bill Williams is able to see the Roseate Spoonbill before the puddles dry up and the bird moves on.

June 20: On his weekly walk at Greensprings Nature Trail, Bill Williams identifies 67 species. These included 2 female Wood Ducks with separate broods, a Great Horned Owl that sang repeatedly for at least an hour into early dawn, and a Common Yellowthroat carrying food.

June 22: Tom McCary sees a Wild Turkey fly across the road in Charles City County. Also see a Wild Turkey hen along the road near Powhattan Creek.

June 28: Bill Williams, Shirley Devan and Fred Blystone do a road trip to Craig County to see the **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** (see article on page 4).

June 28: Tom McCary sees a Wild Turkey hen with 3 young crossing the road near Powhatan Creek.

June 29: Among the 67 species on the Greensprings Nature Trail, Bill William sees an adult female Black-and-white Warbler, not a common bird this time of the year.

July 1: From eBird—Bill Williams sees 4 Black-necked Stilts and 1 Black Tern at Craney Island.

July 6: Bill Williams reports that Greensprings Nature Trail was very quiet and had few birds. He did have a Royal Tern fly-over at Mainland Farms. He ended up with 63 species for the day.

July 9: From eBird—While at Craney Island, Bill Williams sees 2 American Avocets.

July 12: Bill Williams reports his first White Ibis and Glossy Ibis of the year for Greensprings Nature Trail. He was also glad to see 4 Red-headed Woodpeckers. He had 62 species for the day.

July 19: Bill Williams has 63 species on his walk at Greensprings Nature Trail including 4 Least Terns in the mud at the beaver pond.

July 21: Shirley Devan was at NQP between noon and 3 pm watching the tide go out. She was hoping to find a Clapper Rail but had no luck. She was surprised to find an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

July 24: Shirley Devan reports that she saw a Great Egret, a Green Heron, some Canada Geese and some Mallards in the retention pond at the intersection of Rt. 199 and John Tyler Highway.

July 26: Bill Williams emails— "Very tough birding this morning (on Greensprings Trail). Average trail visit nets 57 species. Last time the count was below average this year was in late March". Bill had 53 species on his walk.

July 28: Bill Williams, Shirley Devan, Alex Minarik and Dylan Reilly see (among other birds) 4 downy young Black-necked Stilts and a **Roseate Spoonbill** at Craney Island.

President's Corner (continued from page 1)

In the distant past, before DNA and genetic analysis and before huge powerful computers could analyze genetic strands from different species, ornithologists generally grouped birds together according to structure and evolutionary development. Similarly structured birds were lumped together. As a general rule, the larger birds were believed to have evolved first and are in the front of the field guide and the smaller birds evolved later and are near the back of the guide. There are some exceptions, of course – otherwise the hummingbirds would be at the back of the book. I have no idea why they are listed between the swifts and the trogons in the field guides.

With DNA and genetic analysis changing this field so rapidly, the scientists are busy rearranging the families, genera, and species of birds (and other animals!). They also decide when it's appropriate to change the English names of birds. Here are two examples of new names for birds in the Coastal Plain of Virginia and their reasoning:

"Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow becomes Nelson's Sparrow. The committee cites widespread dislike of "clunky" English names for this and the following species. Accordingly, the English name of *Ammodramus nelsoni* is shortened to Nelson's Sparrow.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow becomes Saltmarsh Sparrow. The committee cites widespread dislike of "clunky" English names for this and the preceding species. Accordingly, the English name of *Ammodramus caudacutus* is shortened to Saltmarsh Sparrow, despite minor concerns that certain other sparrows are saltmarsh specialists too."

When the field guides are next printed with the latest taxonomic changes, look for the tanagers (Scarlet, Summer,

and Western) to be printed with the Northern Cardinals, grosbeaks and buntings because the AOU believes they are genetically more closely related to the *Cardinalidae* “family” than the tanager “family”—*Thraupidae*. According to Mr. Ringer, “This change has been expected for several years.”

Another Virginia bird affected by the AOU changes is the Common Redpoll. Its Latin name changes to *Acanthis flammica* because the redpolls got their own genus – *Acanthis*.

Our little goldfinches and siskins also changed their Latin names. They were in the same genus as the redpolls—*Carduelis*. But since the redpolls got their own genus (*Acanthis*), the goldfinches and siskins demanded their own genus (that’s how I envisioned it happened!). Accordingly, the American Goldfinch is now the *Spinus tristis* and the Pine Siskin is now the *Spinus pinus*.

Per Mr. Ringer: “Proposals to split Savannah Sparrow and Ferruginous Pygmy Owl were defeated.”

For some this is TMI – too much information. Those of us who are curious about how and why the birds get rearranged and the field guides reprinted, our questions have answers. However, I do object to the “clunky” reasoning for the Saltmarsh Sparrow and Nelson’s Sparrow. In my humble opinion, some of these folks need to spend more time outdoors!

Watch Those Cornfields Every Minute!

By Shirley Devan

William and Mary’s own Andy McGann was the first to announce to Virginia birders that a Roseate Spoonbill had landed in a Virginia cornfield next to Waynesboro Nurseries. [Andy is also one of the recipients of the Club’s ornithology research grants this spring.] He sent an email from his cell phone to the Virginia Bird List Serve Monday, June 15 at 6:12 pm. That was all the birders needed to start polishing their binoculars and scopes and planning a road trip to Augusta County to see this rarity in a mud puddle in a cornfield. The length of the spoonbill’s visit most likely depended on how fast that mud puddle dried up. Virginia did not have a confirmed Roseate Spoonbill record (though one was reported at Back Bay on June 3, 1996, but has not been reviewed by the Virginia records committee) so this was a momentous event in Virginia ornithological history. A lot of birders would be on the road soon.

Birders reported the bird every day since the 15th so Brian Taber, Fred Blystone and I decided to head west for the afternoon spoonbill show on Thursday, June 18. Observers reported that the bird visited the cornfield early in the morning and then again mid-to-late afternoon.

We arrived at 2:45 and found about 10 birders on the edge of the cornfield but no spoonbill. We were confident the bird would be along soon. The temperature was pleasant and a gentle breeze kept the flying critters away. We chatted with the other birders, admired scopes, cameras with LOOONNNNGGG lenses and tripods, tallied the other birds in the area, played with a cute medium size multi-species dog hanging around, visited the nearby stream, and generally passed the time as we always do on a stakeout. About 4 pm a birder from Washington DC announced that he couldn’t wait any longer and he left to head home, disappointed in not seeing the bird.



Photo by Shirley Devan

By that time the stakeout crowd had grown to about 20 people from all over Virginia and the bird was definitely **late**. At 4:17 p.m. the Roseate Spoonbill flew in over the trees behind us and floated down preparing to land directly in front of **my** car! Just as the bird touched down, the cute little dog gave chase and the bird took off and headed around the corner. Where the #\$\$@\$\$%& did that dog come from? We all just looked at each other – trying to understand what had just happened. Yes, we had all “seen” the bird but we wanted it to land in the mud puddle for great scope views and photos. We’re a tough crowd!



Photo by Brian Taber

Pretty soon that little dog was tied up to somebody’s trailer hitch, and we began another wait. Would the spoonbill even come back after being scared off by the dog? Some

people left after being there for several hours already. Fred and Brian and I decided we could stay until at least 6 because we could still get home before the sun set about 8:30. Someone suggested the spoonbill might have fled around the corner to one of the ponds in the neighborhood next to the cornfield. So we drove down the road a bit looking for a big light pink bird in a pond. Not! Then I got a phone call at 5:17 pm from one of the folks back at the stakeout! The spoonbill was back! We zoomed back down the washboard road and found the bird in a different mud puddle, sweeping its spoon-shaped bill back and forth gobbling up aquatic invertebrates. The birders who persevered enjoyed great looks through the scopes. Photographers got great shots. Everyone left happy. The final observations of the Roseate Spoonbill were the next day, June 19. A spoonbill appeared in Delaware a few days later, looking remarkably like the Virginia visitor.



Photo by Shirley Devan

Keep an Eye on Your Hummingbird Feeder Too
By Shirley Devan



Photo by Bill Akers

A week after the spoonbill, another rarity—even more surprising and even more unusual—appeared west of Blacksburg. A Violet-crowned Hummingbird, perhaps the first east of Texas, was spotted June 25 at feeders at the Huffman House Bed and Breakfast in Craig County. In the bird books, the range for this little hummer is southern Arizona and Mexico! The first message was posted to the VSO List Serve Saturday afternoon, June 27. Bill Williams, Fred Blystone and I agreed that we needed to go the very next day—and **early**—to get there before the multitudes of birders descended on this rural Bed & Breakfast.

Who knew there was so much traffic at the Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center at 3 am? Were they all going to see the rare hummer? Mmm—probably not. We piled into Bill's car and “blasted” out to Blacksburg. We arrived at 7:30 a.m. to find five people already there. They had seen the Violet-crowned Hummingbird a couple of times since 6:30. The scopes were set up less than 100 feet from the front porch of a beautifully restored 1835 farmhouse. The hosts had hummingbird feeders at each end of the porch. The bird favored the feeder on the right so all scopes, binoculars, and eyes were trained on that corner. Sure enough, at 7:41 the little hummer appeared at his feeder. Life birds for most of us (not for Bill Williams, of course) and a Virginia bird for all. We stayed for about 45 minutes and observed the bird a couple of more times with about 15 minutes between visits. A few more birders arrived and were rewarded with good looks.



Photo by Shirley Devan

The host came out and brought a guest book and asked us each to sign it. The guests at the Bed & Breakfast were enjoying coffee on the porch. [What surprise to wake up at 7 am and look out your window to see a small group of people, 4 spotting scopes and a camera with a LOONNNNGG lens pointed at your weekend retreat.]



Photo by Fred Blystone

We advised the host at the B&B to be prepared for many visitors over the next few days. He understood what a jewel he had because he had alerted ornithologists at VA Tech on Thursday that he had a “different” hummer at his feeder. The VA Tech ornithologist, Jerry Via, along with Bill Akers, confirmed the species Saturday and called Bill Williams and Ruth Beck here in Williamsburg and also got the message out to the VSO List Serve.

The three of us headed home about 8:30 and detoured by Arcadia, VA, just off I-81 to look for the Warbling Vireos in their regular spot. Sure enough, they were warbling and we managed to avoid being run over by cars and trucks on this narrow back road.

We arrived back in Williamsburg about 3:15 pm—road weary but triumphant in seeing one of the rarest birds in Virginia in a **very** long time. The old saying about striking while the iron is hot is even truer with this little hummer. No one observed the Violet-crowned Hummingbird after the day we were there.

Carol and Ron Baker own the Huffman House Bed & Breakfast, a Certified Wildlife Habitat that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Check out their website and you’ll see two unusual rare birds (not the hummers) that greeted us when we arrived. www.thehuffmanhousebandb.com.

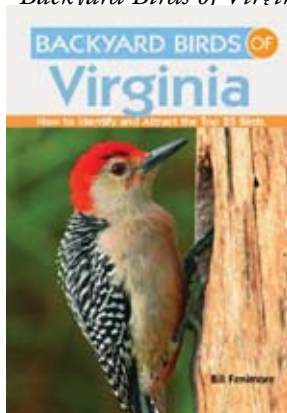
To see additional photos of the Roseate Spoonbill and the Violet-crowned Hummingbird, check the web site of photographer Brenda Tekin. Brenda spoke to our Bird Club a couple of years ago about photographing birds. Here are links to her web site and wonderful photos:

www.birdsofvirginia.com

Two Williamsburg Bird Club Book Reviews

By Jeanette Navia

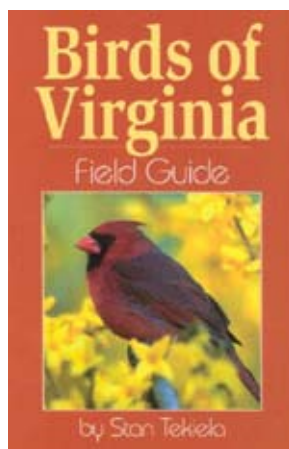
Backyard Birds of Virginia: How to Identify and Attract the Top 25 Birds, by Bill Fenimore. Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 2008.



ISBN: 9781423603566. \$9.99. pbk. 95 p. James City County Library call number 598.09755 FEN.

For folks just wanting to watch some birds from their windows or who are just beginning birders, a field guide to all the Eastern birds, with pictures of

hundreds of species, can be a little overwhelming. Bill Fenimore has written a series of Backyard Birds of for at least twelve different states. These contain very basic bird identification tips, a basic guide to bird feeding, lists of vegetation good for attracting birds, lists of food preferences, and, most importantly, photos and descriptions of twenty-five birds most often seen in the backyards in each of the states. Fenimore photos are full-page. Opposite each photo, he has a description of the bird, its behavior, song, habitat, nesting habits, range, size, and the best food to offer that particular species. The photos are pretty good, but as photos, they only show the birds from one angle. Where sexes differ, a small insert photo of the female is shown. The 25 species chosen for the Virginia book do seem to be the most commonly-seen backyard birds in Virginia. Birds are ordered by size, starting with the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and ending with the Northern Flicker.



Birds of Virginia Field Guide, by Stan Tekiela. Adventure Publications, Inc., 2002. ISBN: 9781885061362. \$14.95. pbk. 343 p. James City County Library call number 598.09755 TEK.

Another guide for beginning Virginia birders is *Birds of Virginia Field Guide*, by Stan Tekiela, a wildlife photographer and nature writer who has written dozens of state field guides to birds,

trees, mammals, amphibians, and other subjects of nature. *Birds of Virginia* shows only 143 species. (By contrast, the field list of *Birds of Virginia* from the Virginia Society of Ornithology lists 331 species for which there are six

or more records in Virginia over the past fifty years.) The species are ordered by color, and then by size. This can be helpful to people who haven't yet mastered the art of distinguishing one family of bird from another; most bird guides are ordered in taxonomic order. As in the *Backyard Birds* book, the photos are good, but they are photos, so only one angle of each bird is seen. When plumage differs for females or immature birds but the overall color is the same, there is a small insert photo of the other's plumage. When overall color of plumage differs for the different sexes, there are two pages, one in each color section, and an insert with a small photo and page number directs the user to the other page. Information about each species includes basic identification and food preferences, as well as descriptions of what the eggs look like and notes about incubation, fledging and migration. Range maps are of Virginia and show the various areas of Virginia where each species may be located. Colors of the range maps indicate if the species is usually seen year-round, or during summer, migration or winter.

Pelagic Birding Off the North Carolina Coast **By Chuck Litterst**

The rain had abated and I was looking forward to pelagic birding on the Atlantic Ocean for the first time. It was late May and the temperatures were in the mid 70's and I was going out of Cape Hatteras, NC on the *Stormy Petrel II*. This 60-foot sport fishing boat was piloted by well known pelagic birder Brian Patteson and he had about 20 birders on board. The waters in the marina were smooth and still but once we got offshore the water was much rougher and it made simultaneously holding binos and maintaining balance a challenge. As we motored out of the harbor into the Atlantic we almost immediately saw several immature Northern Gannets, the only gannets we saw all day.

The most common seabird we saw, and our constant companion, during the day was Wilson's Storm-Petrel. These bluebird-sized black seabirds with prominent white rumps pattered on the water with their feet as they hovered over the swells, and we often saw flocks of 20–30 birds floating on the surface. Band-rumped and Leach's Storm-Petrels also were seen occasionally and provided an opportunity to study the subtle differences in size, white rump shape, and tail shape among these three similar small seabirds. These other two storm petrels also were not quite as gregarious as the Wilson's and stayed farther from the boat.

Much larger and in view virtually all day were Sooty Shearwaters. We saw nearly a hundred of these dark brown shearwaters with pale underwings. We also saw more than a dozen

Cory's Shearwaters, which would cruise past and then bank on their long 4 foot wings and soar along with us for several minutes. Manx, Audubon's and Greater Shearwaters also made appearances off and on throughout the day. I was mesmerized by these large solitary birds as they soared in graceful arcs and then skimmed over the surface of the water, seemingly inches above the breaking waves.

South Polar Skuas were commonly seen and immediately identifiable at a distance because their white wing patches made them look as if they had headlights on their wings as they approached the boat. Our guides were stunned by their numbers. We often saw 4-6 at a time and as many as 20 during the day, where sighting a single skua is considered a highlight at this time of year. We saw all three jaeger species, with Pomerine Jaeger the most common.

As we drifted in and out of the Gulf Stream, a constant procession of birds cruised past us—skuas, storm- petrels, jaegers, shearwaters, and an occasional gull. At one point in the day, someone looking off the back of the boat asked rhetorically "what's that?" and ten pairs of binoculars focused on the shearwater-like bird that was drifting our way. "Herald Petrel!" one of the guides hollered and immediately the entire boatload of birders was jammed around the stern trying to get a view of this rarest of rare Atlantic seabirds whose home is the southern hemisphere. It was obviously something different based on wing length and its more lazy flight pattern, but before most of us could clearly see the dark underwing and short tail, the bird veered away and disappeared over the horizon. Although we had only distant views of this mega-rarity, we had much closer views of the equally rare Fea's/Xeno's Petrel, which has a distinctive white body and black underwing. The bird cruised past the boat less than 50 meters away and then turned and soared past us in the other direction, so we all had outstanding views of a bird so rarely seen that its exact taxonomy and classification are still being debated.

And what would a trip to the Gulf Stream be without the Black-capped Petrel, probably the signature bird of these Gulf Stream pelagic trips. We saw a full dozen of them and most were close enough and stayed around long enough that everyone had satisfying and memorable views of the black cap on the snow white head and neck, and their white body and underwing.

All too soon we left the green waters of the Gulf Stream behind and headed back to shore. A trip to the Atlantic to see these remarkable birds should be on every birder's 'to do' list.

WBC June & July Walks & Field Trip



Nineteen people (Joanne Andrews, Mike, Jeanne & Michelle Cary, Lynn Collins, Shirley Devan, Dave & Dot Grebos, Mary-Margaret & Jim Hutchins, Paul Leger, Sara Lewis, Bob & Cynthia Long, Joanne Mathews, Jeanette Navia, Betty Peterson, Melissa Updegrove and Margaret Ware) joined leader Tom McCary for the June 13 walk at New Quarter Park. It was a very humid and “close” morning, but 30 species were ticked off before the group broke up.

Bill Williams led 17 birders (Joanne Andrews, Shirley Devan, Gary Driscole, Adrienne Frank, Paul Leger, Kim McHugh, Mike Lowry, Cathy Millar, Mike & Jeanne Millin, Jeanette Navia, Betty Peterson, Joe Piotrowski, Jane Randall, Rosanne Reddin, Maggie & Wattana Vibo and Margaret Ware) on the June 27 walk at New Quarter Park. There were 47 species tallied during the walk.



On a day that leader Tom McCary listed as perfect, 8 people (Bob Demer, John & Jan Lockwood, Cynthia Long, Joe Piotrowski, Mike Lowry, Margaret Ware and Dorothy Whitfield) joined him for the July 11 walk at New Quarter Park. There were 33 species seen during the walk and Tom’s note said the goldfinches put on quite a show. An immature Green Heron posed for the group on the edge of the marsh—close to the dock so everyone enjoyed great views. (No group picture taken)



Bill Williams led 23 other birders (Joanne Andrews, Cathy Bond, Lois & Howard Bridger, Heidi Fencik, Shirley Devan, Sharon Falconer, Geoff Giles, Paul Ledger, Chuck Litterst, Bob & Cynthia Long, Clyde Marsteller, Belinda Long, Cindy Long, Judy Long, Jeanne Millin, Mike Millin, Betty Peterson, George Rountree, Barbara Seelbach, Raquel Talbot and Margaret Ware) around New Quarter Park on July 25. One of the highlights was the Clapper Rail that slipped out of the marsh onto the mudflat just as the group were starting to leave the dock area. Joanne Andrews spotted the rail and everyone got good looks through scopes as the bird fed and preened. Other highlight was the American Kestrel spotted by Chuck

Litterst across the creek on the Camp Peary embankment. The kestrel was actively feeding—flying down from a perch and then landing again nearby. The species total for the day was 43. (Photos by Shirley Devan)

Bird ID from Recycle Bin Photos

By Joe Piotrowski

This is a new feature 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.



Here is the picture for August.

Last month's picture was of a Red-shouldered Hawk.



CALENDAR

Sunday, Aug 2	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, Aug 8	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Saturday, Aug 15	WBC Field Trip, Craney Island (see front page)
Sunday, Aug 16	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Par, 7 am, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, Aug 22	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Sunday, Sept 6	WBC Picnic, Ruth & Sherwin Beck's home, 4 PM, (see front page)
Sept 11–13	VSO Chincoteague Field Trip, www.virginiabirds.net
Sept 17–20	Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival, www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding