



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 32, No. 11

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

December 2009

President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

As I write this, Thanksgiving is only a few days removed and those December holidays are fast approaching. I urge you to treat yourself to some relief from the holiday stress by getting outside to look at a few birds! Mother Nature's tree ornaments are on display every day!

We'll have two Bird Walks at New Quarter Park—December 12 and 26. Plan to join us on the Audubon Christmas Bird Count Sunday December 20.

Then plan to celebrate the New Year at Greensprings Trail Friday, January 1, 2010 from 1–3. Join me New Year's Day for the Fifth Annual "New Year's Day Boardwalk Bird Show." We'll meet on the "old" boardwalk over the old beaver pond from 1–3 p.m. (not the "new" boardwalk on Virginia Capitol Trail.) www.jccegov.com/recreation/parks-trails/green-springs-trail.html

Come as you are; bring family, friends and children. Come early, stay late or just drop by. Last year we tallied bird species and dog species as they passed by.

Celebrate the New Year with a birding adventure close to home. Remember—every bird is a year bird on New Year's Day. Hope to see you there.

Happy Birdy Holidays!

2010 Officers

The following members were elected to the WBC board starting January 1, 2010.

President—Shirley Devan

Vice President-Programs—Joe Piotrowski

Vice President-Editor of The Flyer—Fred Blystone

Secretary—Alice Kopinitz

Treasurer—Charles Rend

Member-at-Large—Chuck Litterst and Jeanette Navia

The 2009 Christmas Bird Count

By Bill Williams

Please put a big you-can't-miss-it eye-ring around Sunday, December 20, 2009 to remind yourself that this is the day of the 33rd annual Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count. Whether you can join us for an hour or so or the whole day on December 20, your contribution will be exceedingly valuable.

If you plan to participate in the count, please contact Bill Williams at jwwil2@wm.edu or call 229-1124. If you have participated in the count previously and intend to join the same team for the 2009 count, **please** contact your team leader on your own. So far there are no changes in the team leadership personnel.

The count day will conclude with a 5:00 p.m. compilation to be held at Carrot Tree Kitchens on Jamestown Road. This compilation arrangement is the second for our venerable count, one we hope will encourage more participation. Such goodies as Brunswick Stew, mulled cider, and rolls will be warm and ready for consumption by count participants. Carrot Tree will close for business that day at 4:00 p.m. Therefore, count participants are asked to park behind the bakery so that there is no appearance the business is still open.

Please see last month's (November) issue of *The Flyer* for more information.

Proceeds from WALT "Bird ID" Class Benefit Nature Camp Scholarships

Bill Williams, instructor for the "Bird ID" class in October sponsored by WALT (Williamsburg Area Learning Tree), donated his honorarium to the Bird Club and to the Nature Camp Scholarship Fund named in his honor. Thank you, Bill! The participants raved about the class and Bill's great teaching and communications skills.

Welcome to New Member—

Erin Halleran

Officers

President	813-1322
Shirley Devan	<i>sedevan52@cox.net</i>
Vice-President (Programs)	564-4484
Joe Piotrowski	<i>joepiotrowski@cox.net</i>
Vice-President (The Flyer)	229-4346
Fred Blystone	<i>fmb19481@verizon.net</i>
Treasurer	220-9032
Chuck Rend	<i>carjean39@msn.com</i>
Secretary	566-2615
Mary Anne Fennell	<i>maffjf07@netzero.net</i>
Member-at-Large	253-1543
Chuck Litterst	<i>clitterst@aol.com</i>
Member-at-Large	259-0867
Joanne Andrews	<i>kaiiviti37@hotmail.com</i>
Past President	259-9559
Bob Long	

Committee Chairpersons

Field Trips	229-2363
Tom Armour	<i>swiftyarmour@cox.net</i>
Records & Bird Counts	229-1124
Bill Williams	<i>jwwil2@wm.edu</i>
Library Liaison	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
Refreshments	565-0250
Barb Streb	<i>gandbstreb@verizon.net</i>
Membership/Webmaster	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
Adopt-A-Highway	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>maffjf07@netzero.net</i>
Historian	259-9559
Cynthia Long	

Wild Birds Unlimited

Don't forget that the Williamsburg Bird Club receives a 5% rebate on the pre-tax amount for everything our members spend at Wild Birds Unlimited in Monticello Marketplace. Of course, you do have to let them know that you are a member.

Nature Camp Scholarships

By Shirley Devan

The deadline for submitting applications for our Club's two Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships is January 15, 2010. If you have middle school or high school student in your household or family, please pass along the application. You can download the application from the Bird Club's web site at <http://williamsburgbirdclub.org>, or call me at 813-1322 and I'll mail a copy to you.

The two recipients will have a great two weeks at Nature Camp in Vesuvius, VA. Check out a camp photo tour and read some of the campers' testimonials at: <http://www.naturecamp.net/>.

Many thanks to all those in the Club who support the Nature Camp Scholarships with additional contributions.

November 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!

Nov. 1: Margaret Ware joined leader Jane Frigo and other members of the Hampton Roads Bird Club for the Sunday bird walk in Newport News Park. Despite light drizzle and then light rain, a total of 53 species were identified during the morning. A Bald Eagle with 2 leg bands was observed, and there were nearly 200 Double-crested Cormorants in the water and on the pipeline. Three cooperative Lesser Scaup enabled good looks and photographs.

Nov. 2: Tom McCary spots an immature or female Wilson's Warbler in the formal gardens at Shirley Plantation. The warbler allowed Tom to get within a couple feet of it, and Tom was able to watch it for four or five minutes.

Nov 7-10: Tom Armour emails— "on Nov. 7th, Jeanne and I found 6 Dark-eyed Juncos at Little Creek, the first this fall. On the 7th we had 3 Wood Ducks on College Creek at Williamsburg Landing, also the first of the fall. On the 9th we had 7 Wood Ducks and a Sharp-shinned Hawk at College Creek at the Landing and on the 10th we had a White-throated Sparrow in our yard, first of the fall."

Nov. 8: Dave Anderton sees his FOS Hooded Mergansers (6) while scoping out College Creek from Williamsburg Landing.

Nov. 9: Kathi Mestayer has a Senior (bird) moment—she reports "Okay, so I'm walking on Greensprings Trail on Sunday (the 7th) (Red-headed Woodpecker, juncos, bluebirds, cowbird, Red-winged Blackbirds) and I hear this odd and insistent and very clear bird call. I look around, asking myself what it is, and decide it must be a Carolina Wren. So, I stand there (like an idiot, read on) looking for it in my binocs and tweeting back at it. Today I realized it was my **cell phone**. I programmed it with a bird-call ringtone. So, there I was, with my own pocket calling to me, searching for the mystery bird."

Nov. 13: Bill Williams reports— "At about 9:15 am this morning there was at least one male Brewer's Blackbird among a mixed species flock that was feeding along Green Springs Road where the bike trail parking lot is. Most of the flock was European Starlings with Red-winged Blackbirds, Common

Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds scattered throughout. An Eastern Meadowlark was singing nearby. Across the road in the “pond” at the equestrian center were Canada Geese, Mallards, Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls.

Nov. 14: After the bird walk at New Quarter Park, Geoff Giles decided to spend more of his day outside in the drizzle and continued his birding at Camp Peary. He identified 32 species but saw a number of birds that he could not identify because of the weather. The highlight of the day were 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Nov. 15: After the recent Nor’easter, Jane Frigo led seven other birders on the HRBC walk at Newport News Park. All 7 woodpecker species were seen. There were at least 4 Bald Eagles flying around, as well as Tree Swallows that were busy gathering insects over the water. A total of 53 species were seen on the walk.

Nov. 15: Geoff Giles spent the morning birding at Camp Peary—identified 40 species (did not count some species he identified by vocalization but didn’t see). Highlight was a Yellow Warbler. Saw a Sharp-shinned later in the day in Newport News.

Nov. 15: Brian Taber reports a very cooperative Snow Bunting at the Kiptopeke pier. (Bird was still there when the Hampton Roads Bird Club did their Eastern Shore field trip on Nov. 21.)

Nov. 16: Tom McCary sees an adult White-crowned Sparrow in the hedges near the kitchen at Shirley Plantation.

Nov. 18: While in the formal gardens at Shirley Plantation, Tom McCary sees 3 White-crowned Sparrows.

Nov. 19: Tom and Jeanne Armour see a pair of Ring-necked Ducks on the Vineyards Pond—first ones of the season.

Nov. 21: On an all day field trip to the Eastern Shore, the Hampton Roads Bird Club saw a total of 88 species of birds. Highlights included Common Eider, a Great Cormorant, a Snow Bunting, 3 species of Scoter and 2 Eurasian Collared-Doves.

Nov. 21: Email from Lois Leeth— “Juncos have appeared at the ground feeder and at the woodpecker feeder a Hairy Woodpecker and a Downy—plus my regulars, chickadees, cardinals, titmouse, Song Sparrow and House Sparrows.

Nov. 22: Geoff Giles and Shirley Devan bird around Camp Peary. Species count was 30. Highlights were American Kestrel, Brown Creeper, Great Horned Owl (heard, not seen), Pileated Woodpeckers, Eastern Bluebirds (many). Small rafts of Ruddy Ducks were on the river along with a handful of Bufflehead.

Nov. 24: Tom Armour reports that he and Jeanne had their FOS Red-breasted Nuthatch at their feeder.

Nov. 25: Brian Taber reports that a Western Tanager was seen near the Hawkwatch platform at Kiptopeke.

Nov. 30: Tom Armour reports the first Hermit Thrush of the year at his birdbath.

Nov. 30: Tom McCary sees 2 juvenile White-Crowned Sparrows at Shirley Plantation. One of them is singing. He also sees 2 adult Bald Eagles in a tree near the river.

A Big Thanks

The club would like to extend a big thanks to Refreshments Committee Chairperson Barb Streb and the following people who were kind enough to provide refreshments for the 2009 meetings: Lillian Woolfolk, Betty Peterson, Jennifer Boag, Lucile Kossodo, Jean Rend, Kathy Klausner, Beth Morgan and Mary Ann Fennell.

Field Trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands

The Williamsburg Bird Club’s February field trip (Feb 20) will be to the CBBT islands. The Leader will be Brian Taber. Participants are required to complete a security form in advance and pay \$10 per person to cover the cost of a security guard, who is required for each 15 people. **Very important—please let me know if you need a copy of the security form—Fred at 229-4346 or fmb19481@verizon.net**

Birding in the Outer Hebrides

By Mary Anne Fennell

In August John and I spent two weeks in Scotland. While the trip was not primarily a birding trip, we had the good fortune to be accompanied by two friends, sisters who were raised in Scotland and who are both very good birders. We started our trip in Edinburgh, taking in the world famous Edinburgh Festival, the largest Arts festival in the world, which goes on for the whole month of August and draws several million visitors. After a few days of the crowds and fun in Edinburgh, and of taking in all the requisite sights, such as Edinburgh Castle, Hollyrood Palace where Mary Queen of Scots stayed and the “Royal Mile”, we headed across the country to the Outer Hebrides, where one of our friends lives on the Isle of Lewis.

We drove over a bridge to the Isle of Skye, considered by many to be the most beautiful of the islands, stopping at the beautiful Eilean O’Donan Castle that is sited out in a lake. From Skye we took a car ferry to the Outer Hebrides to begin our birding adventure. The Outer Hebrides consist

of numerous small islands with beautiful white shell sand beaches and hills covered in purple heather. The islands are exposed on the west to the winds and weather of the north Atlantic, and are a resting place for many migrating birds that spend the short summer in the far north. Two interesting notes about Scottish bird names. Many birds are similar to birds in the US but have different names, such as Divers, which are similar to our Loons. Other birds may be the only one in the country of a species, and thus have names with no modifiers, such as are found here. Two examples are the “Wren” and the “Cormorant”. Here on the beaches we found large flocks of Oystercatchers. We got excited when we first saw two of them walking on the beach and even happier when we saw eight. By the time we were seeing flocks of several hundred, our excitement was more muted. Some other shore birds seen were Turnstones, [no Ruddy to their name], Ringed and Golden Plover, Sandpiper, Dunlin, Cormorant, Grey Heron, and waterfowl such as Common Guillemot, Tufted Duck, Gannet, Little Grebe, Divers, Mute Swan, Skua, and numerous Gulls.

Northern Wheatear, Red Shank, Curlew, Pied Wagtail, Lapwing, Chaffinch, Green Finch, Red Grouse, and Dunnock.



Scotland is a magical country, and if you ever have a chance to visit, take it. The people are very welcoming and the scenery is lovely. Picture high rugged mountains with ruined castles looming in the distance, blue lochs and miles of purple heather. In two weeks of casual birding, we saw over 40 species of birds, many of them life birds for us.



After a week on the islands, we again took a car ferry and headed along the north coast to the highlands. Here the roads are mostly one lane [traffic travels both ways on this one lane!—yikes!] and we could drive for miles never seeing a house or town, only open moorland and sheep. These rolling fields were home to numerous upland birds, and we saw

Bald Head Island North Carolina Birding

By Joe Piotrowski

On October 27th and 28th 2009 my wife Anita and I had a wonderful experience on a short trip to Bald Head Island, NC. With all 4 of our kids off to College (yes that is not a typo), we took a week long trip to NC and SC. We left Monday, October 26th from, Williamsburg and it was a short 5 hour drive to the ferry terminal at South Port, NC. The ferries run to the island every hour on the hour except at noon. This time of year you just show up and get on the next ferry. The return ferry leaves on the half hour and runs until 10:30 PM. There are no cars on the island, so you need to drop your bags off at the departing area. The baggage handlers whisk them off to be loaded and there are no luggage tickets to be had. The bags are just there when

you get off. Tickets can easily be bought at the window for \$16.00 per person round trip. Parking is \$8.00 per day at the lot at the terminal (there are no other options that I could see). The terminal is very nice, having been expanded in 2009 and has a very nice waiting area on the second floor. The ferry ride is about 20 minutes. When you arrive, there is an area where you could rent a golf cart for the day, but we decided to try the only real other option, which was staying at The Marsh Harbor Inn (800-680-8322). This was a very clean and nice B&B with nice furnishings. The breakfast was really continental but nice, and the mid week rates were \$174.00 per night. In season this is quite a bit higher. If you mention you are staying at the Inn when you buy your ferry tickets, they have a shuttle waiting for you to drop you off at the Inn. You get use of a cart and use of the pool and gym facilities at the Bald Island Club as part of the benefits of staying at the Inn. The Island has a grocery store and several restaurants, but that is about all besides the million dollar houses. We ate at a small bar/steam bar called the Ebb and Flo. More formal dining can be had at the Club, though we did not try that. The island was bought by a Texas billionaire and given to his sons to develop, so all the houses are less than 6 years old, but are only on the bottom 20 percent of the island. Unless you have a boat you can't get to the rest. But enough about the details of traveling, what about the birding?



The sea birds are all over as you can see from this picture of my wife (a non birder) walking along the beach. I have included a few pictures that I took essentially over a few hours on one day only—did I mention my wife is a non-birder? This was not a hard core birding trip, but there are several great beaches and wildlife trails covered with Gulls, Gannets, Pelicans, Willets, Sand Pipers, Cormorants, Dolphins (no this is not a bird), Herons, Egrets, Red Tailed Hawks, Terns, Kingfishers, Grackles, Wrens, Sparrows, Cardinals, and Ducks. And, mind you, this was only casual birding. Did I mention my wife is not a birder? Apparently in the summer Painted Buntings are also seen quite commonly, but this place is a mad house in



the summer by the locals report. And given that the top 80 percent of the island is a lot of swamp that is inaccessible, I assume the mosquitoes are pretty horrific. Probably the most fun I had was just watching the Gannets diving over and over again, though I saw many Pelicans doing the same. I have included a combined series of pictures from one of these Gannets diving.

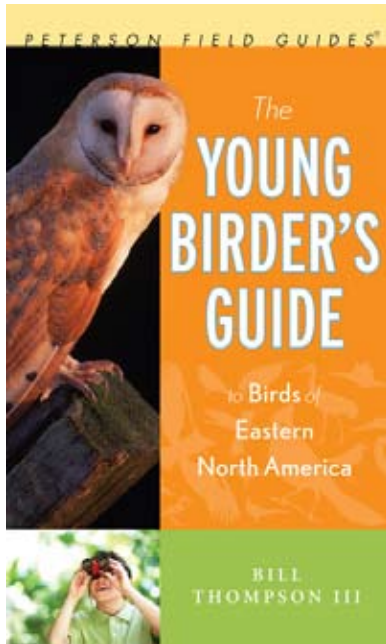
There is a turtle conservation effort based on the Island and a Conservancy Center with a small museum that is free. There are also Alligators on the island but only in the swampy areas

and in the water near the golf course, though I saw none (no turtles either). We left to spend a few days in Charleston (about 3 hours away) on October 28th. This is a great trip for a few days in the midweek at this time of year. Both birders and non-birders had a good time.



Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia



The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of Eastern North America, by Bill Thompson III. Houghton Mifflin Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780547119342. \$14.99. pbk. 256 p. James City County Library call number J 598.07234 THO.

Looking for a book that will introduce youngsters to birding? I think I've found the perfect book: Bill Thompson III's "The Young Birder's Guide...". Thompson,

the editor of Bird Watcher's Digest, consulted his daughter Phoebe's fifth-grade class for advice in writing this book. Thompson does not write down to children. His birding advice is respectful of their inexperience and stimulates enthusiasm for gaining more experience. The book is intended for kids eight years and older, but I think it's good for most beginning birders.

Many kids might ignore the introductory pages, but there is good advice in them. Chapters include What is Birding, Getting Started in Bird Watching, Identification Basics, Field Skills, Birding Manners, Birding by Habitat, Be Green: Ten Things You Can Do for Birds, How to Use This Guide, and Ten Tips for Beginning Bird Watchers.

I liked the pages on birding by habitat. Thompson includes a color drawing of 15 habitats, including beaver pond, pines and conifers, gravel road, sycamore tree, brushy old field, power lines, and then lists what birds can often be found in those habitats. Power lines: hawks, Eastern bluebirds, Indigo buntings, Eastern meadowlarks, Mourning doves, Eastern Kingbirds, blackbirds. Pines and conifers: owl nests, heron nests, raptor nests, Pine warblers, Chickadees, Nuthatches.

The bulk of the book is the field guide pages. On each of the 200 species pages, which are in taxonomical order, Thompson includes common and Latin names, length of bird, one or two photos, a paragraph on what to look for, a sentence or two on what to listen for, a "Remember" section on the bird's behavior or on a way to distinguish the

bird from similar species, a "Find it" section on the bird's habitat, a captioned line drawing of the species in a typical setting or exhibiting a typical behavior, a range map, and a checkbox and line for the observer to write the date he or she saw the bird.

There is an additional feature that stands out when you flip through the book. Each page has a "Wow!" For purple martins, the Wow! Is "Hundreds of years ago Native Americans placed hollowed-out gourds on poles for the martins to use. The martins returned the favor by controlling flies and wasps around the village." For the Turkey Vulture: "One of the Turkey Vulture's defenses is to puke on an intruder. Trust me: You do not want to get vulture puke on your clothes – you cannot get the smell out!" For Hairy Woodpecker: "Some woodpeckers attack house siding. They may be able to hear wood-boring insects inside a tree trunk but mistake the hum of electricity in household wiring for insect activity."

All in all, this is a great book for a beginning birder, especially for kids ages eight and above. This and a nice pair of binoculars would make a great holiday gift.

Birdingpal

There was an email sent to the Va-bird list about a website called Birdingpal. It's a global website for traveling birders, helping you to find local contacts and information about birdwatching and it lists many local birdwatchers around the world willing to help a visitor bird in an area they are not familiar with. A local Pal does not get paid, but if he/she offers to take you out birding using his/her own vehicle, it would be courteous to pay for the fuel. A lunch and/or small gift would also be appropriate, something as simple as a souvenir of your country or a pin from your local birding club. In any country, but especially where birdwatching is not very organized and it is difficult to find Pal, the site lists local guides who are paid. Each guide is listed with a short resume and the cost of his services. In addition to looking up Birdpals by country, you can also search the US by state. The website is <http://www.birdingpal.org>.

VSO 2009 Foray Highlights

By Wendy Ealding

Aningas were reported from both Sussex and Southampton Counties. Mississippi Kites put in their now regular appearance in Greensville County, and Cooper's Hawk was reported from all three counties. There were several reports of a family of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers feeding a large fledgling at The Nature Conservancy property at Piney Grove in Sussex County. Probably the best bird was

the Loggerhead Shrike found in SW Greensville County, unusual for a species that increasingly is only being found wintering further north and west in the state. Horned Larks were reported from several locations in all three counties, and a single report of a Swainson's Warbler from Greensville County probably represents the most westerly report of the Coastal Plain population.

Thanks to The Nature Conservancy for providing access to Piney Grove Preserve, and to William Owen for providing permission to access the Raccoon Creek Longleaf Pine Restoration Site. You can access the complete foray report at www.viriniabirds.net

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) Cuba Bird Survey, March 18 -29, 2010.

CVWO is endorsing its second U.S. led and managed birding program to Cuba. Only a few vacancies remain for this exclusive trip coordinated by the Caribbean Conservation Trust (CCT), based in Connecticut. CCT, under license from the U.S. Treasury Department, has a 15-year history of managing bird surveys in Cuba. The trip will be co-led by John Spahr of CVWO and Dr. William Suarez, a bilingual Cuban ornithologist from the Cuban Museum of Natural History. Cuba hosts nearly 30 endemic species, including the world's smallest bird, as well as many of the same neotropical migrants that visit us in the warmer months, including over 30 warblers. As the Caribbean's largest and most ecologically diverse island nation, Cuba is a fascinating country to visit.

For more information and a detailed itinerary, contact John Spahr at jspahr@yahoo.com or 540-887-2345

Congratulations

Congratulations to Joe Piotrowski for having a photograph of the Western Tanager that visited Bill Williams' yard from 6 Jan–27 Feb of this year published in the latest issue of *North American Birds* covering the period December 2008 through February 2009.

Bill Williams, Fred Blystone and Shirley Devan had photographs published in latest issue of *Virginia Birds* (Volume 5, Number 4—covering March through May of 2009. Shirley's photo was of a Red-necked Phalarope, taken at Craney Island on May 20. Bill and Fred each had a picture of the White-winged Dove they saw in Lanexa on March 18.

VSO Winter Field Trip, February 2010

The VSO is heading to the Outer Banks of North Carolina for the February 5–7, 2010 field trip.

Headquarters will be the Comfort Inn at Kill Devil Hills. The special VSO room rate is \$62 for oceanfront and \$57 for street side, plus tax. Contact information for the hotel: 1601 S. Virginia Dare Trail, P.O. Box 308, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27949; Phone: 252-441-6333. Reservations must be made by January 16 to get the special VSO rate.

Meals are on your own, though there is a complimentary breakfast buffet included with your stay, beginning each morning at 6:30 am. Participants should bring lunch provisions for Saturday.

Back by popular demand is an optional Friday pelagic trip out of Hatteras and a Sunday visit to Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. All day Saturday will be spent visiting the impoundments of Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge and the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The generally milder climate and the proximity of the Gulf Stream make for an interesting combination of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, ocean birds and sometimes whales. Sunday morning, those who want will caravan to Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. The trip will depart from the hotel at 8 am, giving those wishing to continue straight home from the field trip time to check out of their rooms.

You need to be prepared for variable weather, lots of birds and a good time. If you have any question, contact Bill Akers at 540-951-7692 or bill.akers@comcast.net or Meredith Bell at 804-642-2197 or merandlee@cox.net. Additional information about the weekend can be found at www.viriniabirds.net/f_trips.html#OBX2010.



Great Egrets by Inge Curtis



Correction

In the November issue I had three photos of Indian Sarus Cranes that I said Hong Trinh took in Japan. The photos were actually taken in Lumbini, Nepal in 2008.



Photo of Brown Pelicans by Joe Piotrowski



Photos of a Northern Flicker, 2 Bald Eagles and American Avocets by Shirley Devan.



Photo of Peregrine Falcon by Inge Curtis

WBC November Walks & Field Trip

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

Tom McCary was joined by Margaret Ware, Geoff Giles, Bob & Cynthia Long and Shirley Devan for the November 14 walk at New Quarter Park.

Between 8 and 9 am birds were hard to find and the group hesitated to venture down to the floating dock when a gust of wind and a rain shower greeted them on the road down. So they ventured down their regular wooded trail to make their way to Shelter #2 where they sought cover from the spitting rain. There they observed several dozen American Robins flying from tree top to tree top. They finally arrived at the fire circle and marveled at the high water in the creek. They did observe a hawk fly across the trail but they could not agree on the species -- either a Cooper's Hawk or a Northern Harrier -- so it was not counted.

(A total of 18 species were identified during the walk)—No group picture taken.



Leader Lee Schuster led 11 other birders on the Nov 21 field trip to York River State Park. Thirty-one species were seen—the highlight being two adult Bald Eagles sitting in the sun at the top of a tree. On the York River they found two Ruddy Ducks, 5 Bufflehead, 3 Brown Pelicans and half dozen Double-crested Cormorants.

Left to Right: George Rountree, Margaret Ware, Lee Schuster, Joe Piotrowski, Betty Peterson, Jan Laughlin, Sharon Falconer, Jan Lockwood, Tom McCary and Hong Trinh.

Photo by Shirley Devan.

Four other hearty birders joined leader Bill Williams at New Quarter Park on for the November 28 walk. The temperature at 7 am was 36 degrees which didn't seem too cold until they arrived at the floating dock and the wind picked up. Then it felt **cold**. A total of 39 species were seen, including 1 Common Loon, 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Bald Eagles and 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Left to right: Shirley Devan, Catherine Millar, Jeanette Navia and Bill Williams.



Photo by Geoff Giles.

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.



Here is the photo for December

Last month's picture was of a Barn Swallow



CALENDAR

Saturday, Dec 12	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Hugh Beard, Leader
Saturday, Dec 19	HRBC Christmas Bird Count, Contact is Clark White, 875-7649
Sunday, Dec 20	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Sunday, Dec 20	WBC Christmas Bird Count, See Front Page
Saturday, Dec 26	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Saturday, Jan 16	WBC Field Trip, Dutch Gap and Henricus Park, see next month's <i>Flyer</i>
February 5-7	VSO Winter Trip to Outer Banks, see page 6
Saturday, Feb 20	WBC Field Trip, Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands, see page 3