



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 34, No. 11

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

December 2011

President's Corner

By Shirley Devan



The Bird Club's financial year runs from January–December. That's why you're receiving an insert in December's newsletter asking you to renew your membership to the Bird Club for 2012.

At our November Board meeting, we reviewed 2011 income and expenses and learned that, for the second year in a row, we've received about \$300 less than we've spent. That's about 5% of our income.

We are **not** in a panic. In fact, the Board made a conscious decision **not** to increase dues or reduce the number of Ornithological Research Grants (3) or the number of Nature Camp Scholarships (2) for 2012. Nor will we reduce the number of newsletters (11) or donations to the Williamsburg Regional Library, the Center for Conservation Biology, Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory or the Williamsburg Land Conservancy. The Bird Club is committed to all of these and we have been for many years.

Instead we are trusting that our members will respond to a request to provide additional support for our scholarships and donations. On your renewal form, please consider an extra donation to the Club for the Ruth Beck & Bill Sheehan Ornithological Research Grants Fund and the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are an investment in the future and reflect our Club's optimism and commitment to education and research. If you are an "Individual" member, consider becoming a "Family" member or a "Patron." Encourage a birding friend to join the Club at the "Family" or "Patron" level.

Remember—we can't do anything without **you**. We greatly appreciate your support at whatever level you choose and look forward to your participation in our 2012 events. Thanks... and have a great holiday season.

The 2011 Christmas Bird Count

By Bill Williams

Please put a jingle-bell mark on your calendar for Sunday, December 18, 2011 to remind yourself that that day is the 35th annual Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count. We hope everyone will find some time during the day to be a part of this citizen science effort. The Christmas Bird Count was initiated in 1900 as a counterplay to a holiday season tradition of seeing how much game could be taken. Rather than removing wildlife, the Christmas bird counts seek to document the diversity and abundance of birdlife in a defined area. Each count encompasses a 15-mile diameter circle, in our case one that is centered at the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center. The goal for the day is to have as many observers as possible counting every bird of every species within 7.5 miles of the count center. The data are compiled and submitted to the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count website, where it becomes part of an international database of winter bird populations, not only in North America but Central and South America too. These data have rapidly become one of the standards by which wintering bird population trends and distributions are assessed over time.

Whether you can join us for an hour or so or the whole day on December 18th, your contribution will be exceedingly valuable. The success of the count is based on the numbers of species and how many birds can be found. This includes the common yard and feeder birds, even Rock Pigeons, European Starlings, and House Sparrows!! With that in mind we hope you will choose to join one of the field teams and/or participate from or near your home. All we ask is that you keep track of how much time that day you devote and, if applicable, how many miles you travel during your birding excursions that day. Feeder watchers, please tell the address of the location where you did your counting so it can be matched to its appropriate count section. This year we are asking folks to engage the youngsters in your life—children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, etc.

Officers

President	813-1322
Shirley Devan	sedevan52@cox.net
Vice-President (Programs)	871-3418
Joe Piotrowski	joepiotrowski@cox.net
Vice-President (<i>The Flyer</i>)	229-4346
Fred Blystone	fmb19481@verizon.net
Treasurer	221-6683
Ann Carpenter	gac17D@juno.com
Secretary	229-9764
Jennifer Boag	Jaboag@cox.net
Member-at-Large	Open
Member-at-Large	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	jnavia@gmail.com
Past President	259-9559
Bob Long	

Committee Chairpersons

Field Trips	221-8506
Geoff Giles	tylerandal2@aol.com
Records & Bird Counts	229-1124
Bill Williams	jwwil2@wm.edu
Library Liaison	565-6148
Lee Schuster	dljschuster@cox.net
Refreshments	565-0250
Barb Streb	gandbstreb@verizon.net
Membership/Webmaster	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	jnavia@gmail.com
Adopt-A-Highway	566-2615
John Fennell	mafjff07@netzero.net
Historian	Open

Summary of Bird Data

The latest version of Bill Williams' *Summary of Local Bird Data through 2009: Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Hog Island WMA, Surry County* can be downloaded from our website.

Wild Birds Unlimited

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

Each participant who is part of a field team is asked to make a \$5.00 contribution to the National Audubon Society to help defray its costs for coordinating and compiling the vast amount of information generated through this effort. Feeder watchers are exempt from this fee!!!!

The count day will conclude with a 5:00 PM Compilation to be held at Carrot Tree Kitchens on Jamestown Road. This compilation arrangement is the fourth for our venerable count, a tradition we hope will encourage more participation. 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.

If you plan to participate in the count please contact Bill Williams at jwwil2@wm.edu or call 229-1124. Please let Bill know in advance if you also plan to be at the tally. This will help determine how much food needs to be prepared. Tally HO!!

New Year's Day Boardwalk Bird Show By Shirley Devan

Join me New Year's Day, (Sunday, January 1, 2012) at the Greensprings Trail Boardwalk for the Seventh Annual "New Year's Day Boardwalk Bird Show."

We'll meet on the "old" boardwalk over the old beaver pond from 1-3 PM (not the Virginia Capitol Trail boardwalk.) Park at the parking lot at the end of Eagle Way, beyond Jamestown High School. Come as you are; bring visiting family, friends and children; come early, stay late or just drop 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.

November 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!

November 1: Email from member Lois Leeth who now lives in Florida. "My favorite pond near the hospital hosted a large number of Roseate Spoonbills roosting in the small trees resembling pink Christmas trees; overhead 8 Glossy Ibis flying in formation: 11 Wood Storks huddled together near the water Downtown there were 12 Ruddy Turnstones on a walkway to boats waiting for peanuts. There was one American Kestrel on a power line. Not a bad birding day for me. Climate change is affecting the number of migrating birds."

November 2: Bill Williams reports 1 female Northern Shoveler and 1 Pectoral Sandpiper at Drummond's Field.

November 3: Dave Youker (HRBC) and Geoff Giles visited Cheatham Annex and observed a huge raft of over 400 Ruddy Ducks on the York River. Large numbers of American Robins and Yellow-rumped Warblers were also seen, along with good numbers of Cedar Waxwings, Mute Swans and White-throated Sparrows.

November 3: Shirley Devan reports a great day at Kiptopeke—a Virginia Rail in a mist net and a **large** Red-tailed Hawk brought up to the platform for a photo shoot.

November 4: Roger Gosden, visiting in West Virginia, reports seeing 5 Golden Eagles circling at a fairly low level.

November 6: Virginia & George Boyles, Marilyn & John Adair and Geoff Giles joined leader Jane Frigo at the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Combined efforts of the group yielded a total of 51 species. Highlights of the morning included a cooperative Hermit Thrush ground feeding at the Arboretum, a Field Sparrow bathing in a puddle at the Stable area, 3 Eastern Meadow Larks in the disc golf field between the Stable area and the Arboretum, a curious Winter Wren at the Swamp Bridge and a flyover of Tundra Swans. Ducks were limited but included Gadwall, American Black Duck, Mallard, and Ring-necked Duck. Pied-billed Grebe and Coots were also spotted.

November 10: Bill Williams reports that the group surveying Craney Island found a total of 69 species of birds, including 2,738 Northern Shovelers, 1 Brant, 7 Northern Harriers, 5 Red-tailed Hawks and 1 Peregrine Falcon.

November 14: Kathi Mestayer reports having lots of feeder activity during the week. Also reports a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in her front yard.

November 17: Shirley Devan sees a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near her feeders, wondering where the juncos are. At Drummond's Field, Bill Williams sees, 2 female Northern Shovelers, one Northern Harrier diving at a perched Red-tailed Hawk, 3 Wilson's Snipe and 16 Eastern Meadowlarks.

November 19: Tom Armour reports that he and Dave Anderton birded the York River via the Colonial Parkway to Yorktown. They saw 2000+ Ruddy Ducks, 3 Brown Pelicans, 3 Common Loons, 1 Canvasback, 3 Bufflehead, 8 Hooded Mergansers, 25 Dunlin, 1 adult Bald Eagle and 1 Osprey.

November 19: From Lewis Barnett of the Richmond Audubon Society. "We had a great day birding at Dutch Gap on Saturday. Betsy Saunders led half a dozen Richmond Audubon members and visitor Geoff Giles from the Williamsburg Bird Club on a crisp but clear morning with only light wind. Wintering ducks have begun to arrive in the marsh. We found Gadwall, American Wigeon, Black Duck, Northern Shoveler and Ring-necked Duck, along with the resident Mallards and a couple of Wood Ducks. There was a flock of American Coots and a pair of Pied-billed Grebes in the marsh as well. A small flock of Turkey Vultures, one immature and one adult Bald Eagle surveyed

the area from snags along the dike between the two wet areas. The marsh area was also active with Red-winged Blackbirds (no Rustys that we could spot), Bluebirds, Flickers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Song Sparrows. Down the trail behind the Visitor Center a distant Northern Harrier was observed courasing over the lagoon, and we also had a flyover by an Osprey. Most Osprey have gone south to their wintering grounds by now, but there have been one or two hanging around Dutch Gap for several years. Speculation is that the warm outflow from the Dominion Power plant keeps the fish population at levels that are attractive to the Osprey. We had an odd serenade, seeming like a begging call by a young bird, along the trail by what turned out to be a Hermit Thrush." A total of 49 species were reported for the walk.

November 28: Email from Jennifer Trevino: "Jennifer Trevino and her Baltimore Oriole (male) were reunited at Jennifer's backyard bird feeders) on Saturday, 11/26/2011. The return marks the one year anniversary of the Oriole's first appearance at the feeders) of 11/28/2010. This is very exciting for both Jennifer and the Baltimore Oriole." Kathi Mestayer has at least 20 Cedar Waxwings hanging out in her front yard, jumping into the birdbath 4-5 at a time.

Tabb Sector Christmas Count, 17 Dec. 2011 —HO, HO, HO!

By Geoff Giles

Christmas is a special time for us all, and one aspect dear to birders is the Christmas Bird Count. As you know, it marks the event in 1900 when birding got a big boost away from the counting of dead birds, shot to prove you had seen them, towards today's practice of seeing and appreciating birds without harming, destroying or even disturbing them. Williamsburg has a super count scheduled on Sunday, 18 December, and I hope that you, and every bird on your wish list, will be there!!!

How better to tune your skills and contribute to citizen science with our sister club, than to participate on Saturday, 17 December 2011, in the Hampton Roads Bird Club Christmas Count. I have been asked to lead the Tabb Sector count, in which I have participated the last two years. This is a great area with some super habitat, and I can't wait. I already have some good team members who will join me for that day's count, or whatever part of the day they are able to make. We will begin at 0700 hours and go until about 1600 hours with a break for lunch, but feel free to join us for as much or as little of our count as you can.

We will meet on Saturday, December 17th at 7:00AM in the Washington Square Shopping Center parking lot

between Firestone and Roses (this is on Rte 17 North in Grafton—let me know if you are not sure where this is). Please try to be prompt—we'll run through the procedures, route, safety, etc and will convoy out as quickly as possible. The bird count will go regardless of the weather (as the saying goes, “rain or shine”). A few years back, the weather was just about the worst it could be and we actually had a pretty good tally. Just dress accordingly.

There is a \$5 fee for all participants. This goes to the Audubon Society to keep this program going. You'll receive a copy of the annual report. Carpooling is important as there is limited parking/congestion at several of the stops. For those of you who participated in the past, the route will be similar but with a few adjustments.

We usually stop for lunch around 12:00-ish usually at McDonald's in Poquoson as it's easiest and is along the route. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. There are a few good places for spotting scopes so feel free to bring these also if you have one. Please phone me if you wish to join us or have questions. My cell phone is 757-645-8716. Hope to have you join us!!!

November 3, 2011: Kiptopeke State Park

Article and photographs by Shirley Devan

A day at Kiptopeke State Park in the fall can be magical. In my humble opinion such a day was Thursday, November 3. A last minute decision (based partly on the weather forecast) to venture across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel to visit the Songbird Banding Station and the Hawkwatch Platform rewarded Jennifer Trevino and me with a memorable, history-setting day for the Songbird Station. Those of us who were there will remember this day for many years.



Virginia Rail

Early morning net runs had produced the “usual suspects” at the Songbird Station—White-throated Sparrows, Hermit Thrush, Swamp Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, and Myrtle Warbler. Jennifer and I loved seeing these species up close and personal, but no one was prepared for the bird in the bag that Volunteer Terry Jenkins presented to Bander Calvin Brennan with the words, “This one is for you.”

Calvin peeked in the bag. A questioning look in his eyes turned into a smile. He slowly extracted a Virginia Rail from the white cloth bag and cradled it against his chest for a better grip.

What had been a laid back, “seen it all” group of volunteers and spectators turned into a high-energy pack of curious technogeek birders. Everyone rushed for their cameras: “Oh no, my camera battery is dead!” “My camera is back at the house.” “Here, use my camera.” Several reached for their cell phones to take photos and call nearby friends and relatives to alert them to a very rare visitor to the Songbird Station. By walkie-talkie, someone alerted the hawk platform and the folks in the hawk blinds about the new capture.

Meanwhile, Calvin was diving into “Pyle,” the bird bander’s bible to look for the band size the rail required as well as the markings to tell him if the bird was an adult or a juvenile (it was an adult). From the data posted on the kiosk next to the station we learned that the last time a Virginia Rail was captured was 2004, and before that 1998.

After banding the bird and taking its vital statistics (wing and tail length, weight, molt pattern, fat level, and skull ossification), Calvin was ready for the paparazzi to move in for the photo shoot. Many megabytes were burned up recording the rail’s exquisite feathers, unusual feet and small head.

I was surprised at the small size of the bird—about 9 ½” vs 14 ½ “ for a Clapper Rail. The Virginia Rail is a year round resident in the Eastern Shore marshes but rarely seen. What this bird was doing in the fields near the mist nets is anyone’s guess! I still cannot include it on my Virginia list because I did not see it in the wild! But I did bring back some great photos.

So...what to do for an encore? Jennifer and I decided to walk up to the Hawk Platform where Hawk Counter Kyle Wright was scanning the skies for raptors. Counts for recent days had fallen below 100 birds after several days in October when over 1000 raptors had been counted. November 3 was a slow day as well. While standing there, I caught out of the corner of my eye a large dark bird dive for one of the lures near the blinds. The bird did not come back up, and sure enough, word came over the walkie-talkie that they had trapped a Red-tailed Hawk. I asked Kyle if they would be willing to bring the bird to the platform if they had time. He relayed my request, and a few minutes later intern Jackie Catino arrived at the platform with a large red coffee can (actually two cans taped together) containing the Red-tailed Hawk. She oh-so-carefully extracted the large raptor from the container—ever mindful of the talons, the bird’s main weapons.



Red-tailed Hawk

The hawk was a hatch-year bird, meaning that it had hatched in 2011 and was making its first migratory flight. The tail was not yet red but the bird was as large as it would get. In fact this Red-tailed Hawk was the largest they had trapped this season. The bander believed it to be a female given its large size and weight. Jackie held the bird so we could take photos from all sides. The bird was calm for a few minutes and then it needed to be released. Up close with a large raptor is a humbling experience, as many bird club members who have visited the hawk platform over the years can attest. The experience never grows dull or routine. Each encounter is like the first time.

Few places in North America see the migratory bird concentration witnessed at Kiptopeke State Park in the fall, and it is the only coastal station between New Jersey and Georgia that exists to document that phenomenon. The Kiptopeke fall songbird migration dataset (continuous since 1963) is the second longest in the United States and longest for the eastern seaboard.

The data gathered at Kiptopeke helped to establish Kiptopeke State Park, the Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival, and of course, the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, which funds and manages the two stations there in the fall. The data have also been important in helping the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge and Kiptopeke State Park annex nearby lands to increase suitable habitat for migratory birds. It was a central part of the evidence used to successfully argue for the creation of the Lower Delmarva International Important Bird Area.

2012 is the 50th anniversary of the Songbird Banding Station at Kiptopeke. According to Brian Taber, CVWO President, “The 50th anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to further increase awareness of bird migration and the associated research and to honor those who have helped make the station a success. The goal is conservation of species and the 50th anniversary campaign is intended to earmark funds to protect the station into the future.” More details will be on the Observatory website in early 2012 at www.cvwo.org and people may also contact Brian at Taberzz@aol.com or 757-253-1181.

All who have visited the songbird station and hawk platform at Kiptopeke know how unique and critical these sites are to migration research and bird conservation. Consider making a donation to CVWO in honor of their 50th anniversary to help preserve the station for the future.

November 5 Bird Survey and Cleanup Day!

By Geoff Giles



Marsh Important Bird Areas (IBAs), recently formally “adopted” jointly by the Williamsburg and Hampton Roads Bird Clubs.

Adoption in this case entails responsibility for stewardship of these ecologically important areas, including monitoring of birds and wildlife which use these areas for living space, migration areas and nesting. It also entails occasional “greenie details” to collect and properly dispose of refuse which unfortunately accumulates over time from recreational visitors. Both purposes were accomplished with enthusiasm and enjoyment, under Dave’s leadership. The easy pace and enjoyable activity shared belied much preparation and hard work on Dave’s part. Dave’s pickup truck’s bed at day’s end attested to the energy of our cleanup crews, as it was brimfull of trash-filled bags destined for proper disposal, and separated for recycling where possible.

New Point Comfort Lighthouse



Highlights of the cleanup activity were George Boyles’ recovery of an unopened can of Budweiser, which may have originated from early settlers to the region. We don’t know if this prize remained unopened. Shirley Devan afforded another memorable moment by demonstrating the “total immersion” method of refuse removal—Kermit the Frog calls this one the “lillypad-too-far” method”. Shirley did get the intended piece of refuse (We get our can!) and was pulled back to dry land by other, less adventurous crew members. Throughout this activity principles of improving, while not disturbing, the rich habitat were observed. Clapper rails in the marsh at Bethel Beach gave us all a round of applause!



On the bird surveying score, we compiled a list of 58 species and 2 other taxa at the New Point Comfort area and an additional 28 species and 2 other taxa added at the Bethel Beach marsh and beach area. These were reported to eBird with numbers of the species observed, to contribute to the citizen science database which helps to assess the importance of these areas for the preservation of these species. This was a very impressive tally considering that much of the area, in spite of the beautiful weather, was swept by strong winds for much of that day.

A true highlight of the day was the gracious welcoming of the group to their beautiful home by New Point Comfort residents (and great friends of all of our nature-related programs!), Dennis and Brenda Baker. The chance to relax, refresh, eat our lunches and warm up with Dennis and to learn some of the history of the region added another most enjoyable dimension to an already delightful and memorable day.

One objective of the day was to introduce our members to these beautiful areas and to encourage them to return often in the years ahead to preserve and appreciate their natural beauty and ecological importance, while contributing our observations to the citizen science data so important for an appreciation of their significance. Thanks to one and all of the day's participants, but especially to Dave Youker, for this great start with our IBA activities!



WBC November Field Trip & Walks

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

12 November bird walk at New Quarter Park—Geoff Giles

Photos by Shirley Devan

It was clear but chilly with a brisk breeze down at the dock. We were rewarded with some good views of the first Northern Harrier of the season hunting over the marsh then perched on snags. Several majestic Bald Eagles were similarly out for breakfast patrol over the marsh and Queens Creek, as was a large Red-tailed Hawk. We were also treated to good views of adult and immature Red-headed Woodpeckers up in the canopy of tall trees as we mounted the trail, with four of our mascot birds in view and more likely in the vicinity. Good to see those around and active!! While a nip of the winter to come was in the air, dense foliage was still on the trees and denied us views of some birds we could detect only faintly by fleeting views and faint sounds in the canopy. The good news was that this foliage was in the most beautiful array of fall colors we could imagine and was highlighted by a magnificent postcard-blue sky overhead. We had a most congenial group including some new faces, and were also treated to great insights on birds and critters of our region by visiting DGIF expert Stephen Living. This was a great morning outdoors! A total of 26 species were identified during the walk.



Seated: Cynthia Long, Janet Curtis, Chris Curtis. Standing: Nelson Ensley, Geoff Giles, Bringier McConnell, Jane Randall, Rosemarie Mussler. Missing from picture are Joanne Andrews, Stephen Living, Bob Long, Christine Putnam and David Taylor.



Photo by Inge Curtis



20 November trip to Hog Island—Geoff Giles

A great day of birding any way you slice it! The weather smiled on our trip from start to finish, and we shared the companionship of 32 fellow birders. Even the ferry trip across the James was not without its moments as we were greeted by the customary swarms of gulls (including a rare lesser black-backed gull), terns and cormorants, plus a great blue heron. Arrival at the Scotland side was greeted by the sight of two adult bald eagles who casted imperious gazes at us from their commanding perch on a nearby channel marker as we approached the dock!

Due to the size of our group, once on the Hog Island Wildlife Reserve we decided to split into two groups, one group headed by Brian Taber and one headed by Bill Williams, to cover more of this productive and rich environment. By morning's end we had compiled a combined tally of 59 species and 2 taxa and some vivid and beautiful images, both photographic and visual, to take with us!

My vote for “bird of the day” and most dramatic image was that of a female (larger than a male) Peregrine Falcon which Bill first spotted for us as she took a swipe at a Northern Harrier who was lazily patrolling a stretch of marsh that the peregrine clearly

claimed as her own. After the harrier got the message and moved on, the peregrine did a high cruise over the area (flushing the raft of mixed ducks we had already admired) and then came to roost on a bare limb. That afforded us ooohs and aaahs (and digiscoped photo ops) to our hearts' content. Next stop on the trail was nice views of another falcon, a beautiful American Kestrel, who rested from his own hunting activity on an osprey platform.

Along our trails, we were cheered by sights and sounds of occasional flocks of songbirds we do not always see up close. There were enough Yellow-rumped Warblers (Latin name *Butterus buttus*), of course, but there were even higher numbers of three great birds we don't see and hear nearly as often, namely Golden-crowned Kinglets, Brown-headed Nuthatches and Cedar Waxwings! Cool stuff! And there were ample opportunities for those, like



Kneeling in front: Erica Piotrowski, Roc Moeslein, Virginia Boyles, Jennifer Trevino.

Standing (left to right): Sharon Plocher, Ron Geise, Jennifer Boag, Sherry Brubaker, Hart Haynes, Joe Piotrowski, Bill Williams, Cathy Millar, Bill Kay, Joyce Lowry, Bill Lowry, Nancy Barnhart, Marilyn Adair, Judy Tucker, John Adair, Inge Curtis, George Boyles, Geoff Giles.

Photo by Shirley Devan



Photo by George Boyles

myself, working to hone skills on the Little Brown Jobs (aka LBJs, aka sparrows) which flitted in the marsh grasses and woodland edges, and numerous species of birds in flight. Great Blue Herons and Belted Kingfishers are always great for some memorable antics, as they go about their fishing business, and this trip was no exception.

Our thanks to Brian and Bill for leading our fearless band and to all our participants, who made this a great day out!

Editor—the eight birders who joined Brian Taber's groups were Adrienne Frank, Gary Driscole, George & Rosemarie Harris, Carlo & Harry O'Neil, Craig Hill and Gary Friedhaber. Brian reports that the highlight birds for them were Orange-crowned Warbler, Gadwall, Marsh Wren and the Peregrine Falcon.



Photo by Inge Curtis

The November 26 New Quarter Park Walk

Bill Williams led 24 other birders on what Bill called a “grand morning to be out and about in the natural world! The Red-headed Woodpeckers made a terrific showing and Clapper Rails made sure we knew the tide was coming in!”. Thirty-nine species were identified during the walk.



Seated: Lynn Geddy, Ruth Gordon, Sara Lewis, Betty Peterson, David Hall, Joanne Andrews, Cynthia Long, Bob Long.

Standing: George Boyles, Chris Conley, Hart Haynes, Geoff Giles, Rosemarie Mussler, Bert Geddy, Susan Nordholm, Bringier McConnell, Marilyn Adair, Jeanette Navia, Bill Williams, Nelson Ensley, Chris Brown, John Adair, Shirley Devan, Virginia Boyles. Missing from photo: Margaret Ware.

Photos from Members



Eastern Bluebird—taken In Newport News Park by Fred Blystone



This photo by George Boyles is of the same Great-blue Heron shown on the right.
(Editor—Do you think he looks so unhappy because he is out of cigarettes?)



George Boyles took this at the lake (pond) at the Belmont Apartments. He thought it was a particularly intimidating look.

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.



December's bird photo



November's bird was a Great Black-backed Gull

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 4	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, December 10	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Geoff Giles, Leader
Wednesday, December 14	Richmond Audubon Society Bird Walk at Dutch Gap Conservation Area. Meet in Dutch Gap parking lot at 8am. Contact Joe Coe at 804-276-1397 or johnwcow@verizon.net for more information.
Saturday, December 17	Hampton Roads Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count. See page 3 about helping Geoff Giles in the Tabb area.
Sunday, December 18	Williamsburg Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count. See front page for information
Saturday, December 24	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Sunday, January 1	New Year's Day Broadway Bird Show. See page 2 for information
January 27-29	Virginia Beach Winter Wildlife Festival. Information in January newsletter