



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 36, No. 06

[www.williamsburgbirdclub.org](http://www.williamsburgbirdclub.org)

Summer 2013



### **President's Corner** **By Shirley Devan**

In the last President's Corner I mentioned that a "part two" was coming—spurred by the newspaper article in the April 22, 2013 issue of The Washington Post, "A ritual of survival: Mating

displays of prairie chickens, a tourist draw, may help save them and their habitat," by Juliet Eilperin, written in Burwell, Nebraska. A summary of the journalist's article is below.

Prairie chickens are having a tough time competing with corn and soybeans, not to mention wind energy and shale oil extraction in the Midwest. Landowners with cattle ranches in the tall-grass and short-grass prairies have trouble saying "no" to the dollars they could earn converting their acres to any one of several uses that would likely drive the prairie chickens to the endangered species list.

We're talking about Greater Prairie Chickens, Lesser Prairie Chickens, Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse, and the Gunnison Sage Grouse. Their habitat—prairies and grasslands—has disappeared at an alarming rate: 95% of the nation's tall-grass prairie and 60% of our short-grass prairie have been converted to farms, per the author.

One family who wanted to save their cattle ranch decided to start a hunting lodge in 2001 to provide additional income. That didn't work out so they started taking people on trips down the river that bordered their ranch. Then they realized that people wanted to visit their ranch to see the magnificent mating dances of the prairie chickens on their grassland. The rancher says, "Now they are our favorite clientele. They are interested in what's going on. And they are willing to pay, which is fabulous." Guess what? Other ranchers in the Midwest now offer birding tours on their grasslands, and prairie chicken festivals have sprung up from Nebraska to Texas. Google "prairie chicken festival" and see what turns up. Neither the environmentalists nor the ranchers want the prairie chickens listed as endangered or threatened. Strange bedfellows!

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Put your money where your binoculars are! Birders, their traveling companions, and families have the spending power to help save birds and their habitats. And it's just as important to let communities know

when you bird and spend money there—either individually or as a participant in a community birding event. Wear your birding hat and your binoculars to breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the local restaurant! "Oh, I forgot to take them off. We were over at the pond watching the birds." Let the local folks know you're there because of their birds and their wonderful bird watching spots.

Pick up any birding magazine and you'll see ads large and small for birding festivals all over the US. I suspect that you can find a festival just about every weekend of the year. Lots of communities realize that they have a wonderfully sustainable resource for their local businesses. Virginia hosts several birding festivals every year—the Eastern Shore Birding Festival, the Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival, Virginia Beach Winter Wildlife Festival, and the Purple Martin Festival plus the VSO Annual Meeting (which is really a birding festival!). Your participation in these events communicates a message to these communities: you care about birds and wildlife and you will spend money to see them. Now that gets their attention.

### **Next Meeting Will Be September 18th.**

### **Welcome to New Members —**

Chris Monahan and Jerry Uhlman

### **August Field Trip**

**By Geoff Giles**

Craney Island field trip on 24 August! Join us for one of the birding highlights of the year. Ruth Beck will lead us on a trip through one of our state's most exciting and



Photo by Shirley Devan

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## Updated Summary of Bird Data

The latest version of Bill Williams' *Summary of Local Bird Data through 2012: 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.

productive spots—Craney Island. This is where the dredge spoils from the local ship channels, rich in nutrients, are pumped onto an artificial island, making an unparalleled habitat which draws a vast range of species of birds to come and stay!

This area is normally closed to visitors and birders, but we will have a morning to explore and enjoy it. You name it—waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, songbirds, nightjars—almost anything can and does come to this magnet for migrants. Ruth is our favorite resident expert on Craney and our regional birds, so don't miss this one!

We will meet to carpool at Colony Square Shopping Center and plan to depart in a caravan at 7:30 AM. We will plan one comfort stop en route and plan to finish up around noon. Recommend you bring spotting scopes and binocs, bug spray, suntan lotion and light lunch and/or snacks with you. No need to sign up, just join us and enjoy the morning! For any further info needed please contact Geoff Giles at [tylerandal2@aol.com](mailto:tylerandal2@aol.com) or 757-645-8716. Hope to see you there!

## Reported Sightings Since Last Newsletter

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

**April 30.** Dismal Swamp—Jericho Ditch (Report from Bob Ake). "The journey from home to the swamp was through fog. After arriving at the swamp, I pulled up to the gate and waited with the windows down until the gate opened at 6:35 AM. I then slowly drove the two miles along Jericho Ditch Lane to the parking lot, listening carefully as I went. At 7:00 AM I was joined by **Bill Williams, Brian Taber, Jerry Brow, Steve Grimes, Dave Youker, John and Marilyn Adair** for the walk south along Jericho Ditch. I chose to go south because Adam D'Onofrio and Tina Trice saw a Swainson's Warbler near the banding station over the weekend. It took a while to get to the banding station because we stopped to look down Lynn Ditch. In the distance was a shape that morphed as we watched into a black bear. Nearer to us was a giant snapping turtle crossing the dike road. And behind us was a curious White-tailed Deer. As we neared the banding station the Swainson's Warbler could be heard. With some patience and diligence we managed to spot the singing bird. That is Dave Youker spotted it and we all got on it. After drinking in the sight, we walked further south, beyond the dogleg. We turned around about 9:30 AM after covering about 1.5 miles. On the way back we ran into a birder and we told her about the Swainson's Warbler. She joined our group and when we arrived back at the banding station, the Swainson's was again singing, but not exactly from the same perch. Never fear. This time Brian Taber spotted the singing bird and we all got on it again including the new birder. It was a nice show. Thanks to Tina and Adam for the heads-up. We recorded 13 warbler species during a morning when it was clear not much migration was taking place."

**April 30.** George and Rosemarie Harris birded Beaverdam Park in Gloucester County. Their morning resulted in 52 species, including 3 Common Loons, 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 Wood Thrush, 4 Ovenbirds, 1 Louisiana Waterthrush, 6 Prothonotary Warblers, and 1 Black-throated

Blue Warbler. Hayes & Joyce Williams reports their FOS Wood Thrush (also in Gloucester County).

**May 1.** Bill Williams finds a Sora at Gospel Spreading Farm.

**May 4.** Bill Williams spots a Cattle Egret—also at Gospel Spreading Farm.

**May 5.** Kathi Mestayer reports that husband Mac saw several Red-headed Woodpeckers, 3 Great Crested Flycatchers, a Yellow-throated Warbler, 2 Orchard Orioles and the usual suspects while birding on Jamestown Island. Also Mary Anne and John Fennel report they have a Red-shouldered Hawk nest in their back yard. There are 2 fuzzy off-white chicks in the nest. The down side is the parents are determined to include the nesting bluebirds in their diet. Betty Fields and Virginia Boyles join leader Jane Frigo and a number of other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Temperatures were in the 50s and the stiff winds made warm coats and layered clothing necessary. A total of 78 species were identified.

**May 6.** Bill Williams has a good birding day. Among the birds he identified were a Semipalmated Plover and a Horned Lark at Drummond's Field/Mainland Farm and 1 Black-billed Cuckoo and 2 Grasshopper Sparrows at the Warhill Sports Complex.

**May 11.** While at New Quarter Park, Bill Williams sees a Nelson's Sparrow at Queens Creek.

**May 12.** Bill Williams finds 13 Solitary Sandpipers at Mainland Farm, a new local single site peak count.

**May 15.** Received this from Sara Lewis "I'm writing to report on a recent bird outing/sighting. On a trip to Chicago, I was able to join Chicago Audubon Society birders for a walk on Wooded Island at Jackson Park, near the Museum of Science and Industry, on Saturday morning, May 11. The group saw 75 species and the highlight of the day for them was seeing a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers. The highlights of the walk for me were seeing 4 male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks sitting on a branch together at one time, watching 2 Baltimore Orioles flit around over my head, getting a close look at a Black-crowned Night Heron, and seeing a half dozen or more warblers including especially the Yellow, Blackpoll, and Black and White. The park and bird habitat restoration site was very birdy indeed as the area attracts migratory birds who are looking for food after crossing Lake Michigan."

**May 16.** Brian Taber reports a Gray-cheeked Thrush in his yard. While birding in another part of the county, Bill Williams finds a Chuck-will's-widow.

**May 18.** At Drummond's Field Bill Williams sees a Semi-

palmated Plover and 2 Wilson's Snipe (this sets a new local late date for the snipe; the previous late day was May 11).

**May 19.** Bill Williams has a busy day. He finds a Gray-cheeked Thrush and a Black-crowned Night-heron at College Creek and another Gray-cheeked Thrush at the Powhatan Creek Trail. He also reports a Grasshopper Sparrow at the Warhill Sports Complex. Brian Taber sees an Anhinga at College Creek.

**May 19.** Marilyn & John Adair and Miles & Spencer Quirion joined leader Jane Frigo and other birders for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. Seventy-two species were identified in addition to 5 non-poisonous water snakes and 2 **huge** cottonmouths. Among the birding highlights were Wood Ducks with young, 3 late Ruddy Ducks and FOS Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush and Veery.

**May 20** Shirley Devan and Felice Bond find a Ruddy Duck at York River State Park. This sets a new local late date for spring; the previous late date was May 16.

**May 27.** While on the Colonial Parkway, Fred Blystone hears a Northern Bobwhite across from the Gospel Spreading Farm. Bill Williams spots 2 Cliff Swallows at Chickahominy Riverfront Park.

**May 28.** Arlene and Bill Williams had one Chuck-will's Widow along Cranston's Mill Pond Road and one Whip-poor-will at Menzel's Road just after dark.

**June 2.** On a day when the sky was clear with a light breeze and temperatures staying in the mid 70s, John Adair, Joyce Lowry, Virginia & George Boyles, and Barbara & Richard Hudgins joined leader Jane Frigo and other birds for the HRBC walk in Newport News Park. The group identified 58 species, including a Ruddy Duck, a Common Loon, and a Barred Owl. The group was also able to observe a Summer Tanager, a Great Crested Flycatcher and a Cedar Waxwing bringing nesting material to their nest sites.

**June 11.** Brian Taber sees two Cliff Swallows at Chickahominy Riverfront Park.

**June 19.** Audrey Root reports having a family of Pileated Woodpeckers that come to her suet feeders everyday. Audrey said "3 pileated woodpeckers that love suet and let us watch them—what more could you ask for!!"

**June 21.** Shirley Devan sees a Black-and-white Warbler at the Williamsburg Botanical Garden.

**June 25.** Brian Taber sees two Cliff Swallows at Chickahominy Riverfront Park.

**Editor:** Due to space limitation (in the printed version), sightings from July (as well as August) will be in the September newsletter.



## Adopt-a-Highway Report

On Saturday, May 4th, John Fennell, Chairperson of the Adopt-a-Highway Committee picked up 9 bags of trash on Croaker Road.

## Summary of Spring Bird Count

By Bill Williams

The faces that appeared through the Carrot Tree Kitchen doors for the May 5, 2013 Williamsburg Spring Bird Count's (SBC) 5:00 PM final tally warbled volumes about the day's frustrating birding conditions. Their wind-blown voices were soon layered by 'round-the-table chatter about the species that simply were not present or could not be detected. Indeed, the cool (cold) gusty, very damp northeast winds that pounded the area from well before daybreak right through the evening made everyone feel this day (the whole preceding week, really) belonged to another season. In the end, however, the collective effort of 50 participants brought home a final count total of 142 species, nine short of the 153 average for all counts dating back to our first spring big-day in 1978.

As much as we bemoaned not finding Spring Count regulars such as Red-breasted Merganser (one was seen the next day at College Creek!), Northern Harrier, Wilson's Snipe (also found 6 May!), and Eastern Screech-Owl, we were consoled by team encounters with several unexpected species including Little Blue Heron (one each for College Woods and Skimino), Hooded Merganser (one each for College Woods and Jolly Pond), 14 Sanderlings and 2 Western/Semipalmated Sandpipers for Kingsmill, an up close, in-the-road Horned Lark for Skimino, a Willow Flycatcher for Ford's Colony, a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Governor's Land (it stayed until mid-May), a Chestnut-sided Warbler for Jolly Pond, and lingering Pine Siskins for the College Woods, Jamestown, Jolly Pond, and Middle Plantation count sectors.

Despite the weather related downside we did tie or achieve new all-time high counts for 9 species. The 2 Little Blue Herons matched 2 discovered during the 7 May 1989 SBC. No one was surprised this year that we topped the SBC Bald Eagle high of 76 set on 11 May 2003. What is most notable about the new record 105 is that 61 of them were on Hog Island! We tied the SBC Cooper's Hawk high count of 5, reset the Red-shouldered Hawk peak count from 17 to 19, and the Bonaparte's Gull max from 62 to 71, each of these besting respective peak counts posted just last year during the April 29, 2012 SBC. The miserable day gave us so much to "weep" about that our final Great Crested Flycatcher count soared to 181 eclipsing the previous high of 158 from the May 1, 2011 count. Additional high counts were registered with 101 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, up from the 86 for our May 4, 1986

effort, 256 Tufted Titmouses exceeding the former high of 229 set last year, and 208 Carolina Wrens, twenty better than the 188 also tallied a year ago. Another grand find was a Red-tailed Hawk pair nesting in Ford's Colony.

Throughout the lengthy cool and blustery spring Coastal Plain birder buzz, before and after May 5, sang the blues about lack of passage migrants. Indigo Buntings, Catharus thrushes (Veery, Swainson's Thrush and Gray-cheeked Thrush), and many wood warblers for instance were either completely absent count day or recorded in very small numbers, clearly indicative of a sluggish migration. On the other hand our 6 Pine Siskins and lone Red-breasted Nuthatch reflected a late departure phenomenon across much of the southeast, also thought to be artifacts of the unseasonable weather.

So what's to be concluded from the 2013 Spring Bird Count? First, "we done good" under less than satisfying conditions during a less than normal spring. We had participation from folks who were helping us for the first time, fulfilling an educational goal on our part, and we continued to add to a data set that is now in its fifth decade. As club President Shirley Devan so aptly described in one of her recent messages in the Flyer, this is why we do these counts. As fraught with research protocol blemishes as it is, this long term one-day-each-year glimpse is still one of the best resources for looking at and accounting for what may or may not be happening to the true "canaries in the coal mine" we call Williamsburg. Many thanks to everyone!!

A huge round of accolades for Carrot Tree Kitchen. Make it a point to go buy there and thank the staff for all they do to make our bird counts conclude with such hearty delights!

## 2013 Williamsburg Bird Club Spring Bird Count Participant's List

Marilyn and John Adair, Tom Armour, Jack Baer, Hugh Beard, Kathy and Jim Bearden, Ruth Beck, George Boyles, Ann and Gary Carpenter, Ann Marie Castellani, Jim Corliss, Dan Cristol, Inge Curtis, Gary Driscole, Nick Flanders, Adrienne Frank, Ed Hagan, Greg Hancock, Cheryl Jacobson, Tom McCary, Shirley Devan, Sylvia and Ron Giese, Gretchen and Glenn Izett, Les Lawrence, Kathi and Mac Mestayer, Jeanne and Mike Millin, Alex and Mike Minarik, Rock Moeslein, Jeanette Navia, Carol O'Neil, Mona Overturf, Sandy Peterson, Sharon Plocher, Susan Powell, Lee Schuster, Dave Shantz, Brian Taber, Jennifer Trevino, Kathy Whitbeck, Arlene and Bill Williams, and Rick Zeber

## College Creek Hawkwatch 2013

By Brian Taber

This was the 17th consecutive season of the College Creek Hawkwatch, located on the James River, 3 miles southeast of Williamsburg, conducted by Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. It's the only late winter and spring hawkwatch annually run in Virginia. It was conducted from February 9th through May 31st. The hawkwatch completed 74 days (7th highest) and 156.75 hours (3rd highest). Stretches of poor flight weather accounted for the relatively low number of coverage days, but the hourly total was good. The total of 2352 birds was the highest by far...previous high was 1811 in 2011. The species total was 13.

The protocol remained the same as in the previous 16 seasons: a daily watch was conducted, weather permitting, between about 9 AM and 1 PM, Eastern Standard Time. This has been shown to be the time period when hawks and vultures typically cross the river, apparently taking advantage of the air warming in the morning. Attempts to see birds crossing earlier and later in the day have not been met with success. Also, these mostly morning counts regularly tend to show these flights both beginning and ending, usually with a bell-shaped curve. All hawks and vultures crossing the river headed north were tallied.

The biggest days were 204 on March 9th, the largest day ever; 175 on March 5th, the 3rd largest day ever; 173 on May 10th, the 5th largest day ever; 138 on March 30th, the 8th largest day ever; and 99 on May 9th...the May dates were back-to-back and apparently the result of the "bottleneck" breaking up after poor flight weather. These 5 days accounted for 34% of the total. Last year there were no 100 bird days.

The two big stories of the season were the record Turkey Vulture flight and the birds per hour figure. For the past 10 seasons prior to 2012, the birds per hour average is 11...then 2012 was a very low 7.6 and now is followed by a remarkable 15 birds per hour for 2013.

Species accounts:

Black Vultures, at 102 were 2nd highest all-time; the Turkey Vulture total of 1729 greatly surpasses the previous high of 1189 and accounted for 74% of the total, higher than usual; Ospreys were 5th highest; Bald Eagles were 4th highest; Northern Harriers were only 9th highest ever, with 13 of the 33 coming on just 3 consecutive days; Sharp-shinned were a distant 10th...and only 2 fewer would have ranked 14th; Cooper's was 7th; Red-shoulders were only 12th; Broad-winged 4th; Red-tailed made a good showing to place 3rd all-time; American Kestrels ranked a poor tie for 11th; Merlins at 5 were near the recent average and there was one Peregrine...they are not annual. Mississippi Kite was not recorded, though they have been for the previous 6 years and were seen this spring in Chesapeake, New Kent, the Eastern Shore, central VA, northern VA and at Ft. Smallwood Hawkwatch near Baltimore.

Monthly totals: February at 216 was the 2nd best February; March at 1020 was the best March and the only 1,000+ month ever; April at 584 was 3rd best April and May at 532 was by far the best May...all pointing to a record season.

The 1,000th bird of the season, a milestone we track, was seen on March 27th...it was the second-earliest date for that.

Adult Bald Eagles were regularly seen overhead and over Kingsmill and Hog Island, presumably breeding birds, which again caused us to be very conservative...only 2 adults were recorded as migrating. A Bald Eagle nest was visible to the north of the site and Osprey nests were again built nearby on two old duck blind structures in the river...2 chicks were seen on the nearest nest on May 13th.

Another interesting way of looking at the data is to see on how many days a particular species was recorded. The numbers below show those days, out of a total of 74 days of coverage:

BV	18 days	RS	2 days	TV	65 days
BW	7 days	OS	39 days	RT	27 days
BE	36 days	AK	10 days	NH	18 days
M	5 days	SS	19 days	P	1 days
CH	11 days				

The non-raptor highlights included American Bittern...first-ever at the site on February 19th; Glaucous Gull on April 9th; a Northern Bobwhite on May 13th; Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Least Terns and Red-headed Woodpeckers on several dates each; and a flyover Anhinga, the first-ever at the site, on May 19th. We had hoped for returning finches, following the huge finch flight last fall on the coast, but only a single Pine Siskin was recorded on April 10th.

The 2013 daily totals were entered into the database at [Hawkcount.org](http://Hawkcount.org).

There were visitors on many days from a number of states, including Alaska and New Mexico and from Canada, England, Scotland, Romania and China. We handed out brochures and answered their questions. Posts were again made regularly to the VA List Serve and on the General Blog at the website of CVWO and on its Facebook page. Many thanks to dedicated regular volunteers Tom Armour, Bill Williams and Fred Blystone for coverage on most days.

## **MASTER NATURALISTS BEGIN BASIC TRAINING IN SEPTEMBER**

The Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists is accepting applications for its annual six-month Basic Training session. The session starts September 3, 2013 and ends March 12, 2014. The group meets about twice a month on Tuesday evenings and participates in six Saturday classes/field trips over the six-month period.

People who are curious about nature, enjoy the outdoors and want to be part of natural resource management and conservation in Virginia are perfect candidates.

Topics include:

Biology of birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, insects

Native trees and plant biology

Geology of Virginia

Meteorology and climate

Winter Botany

Wetlands and Freshwater Ecology

Citizen Science, field methods & scientific naming



Enrollment is limited to 25 people. The fee is \$150.00, which includes all materials and instruction.

Completion of Basic Training is the first step to becoming a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist. An additional eight hours of Advanced Training plus 40 hours of Volunteer Service within a year will qualify the member for certification by the State Virginia Master Naturalist Program.

The statewide program began in 2006. The Historic Rivers Chapter was one of the first ten Chapters organized. Now there are more than 30 Chapters in Virginia. The program is sponsored by Virginia's Cooperative Extension, Department of Forestry, Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Department of Environmental Quality, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

The application for Basic Training can be downloaded from the Historic Rivers Chapter website: [www.historicrivers.org/](http://www.historicrivers.org/) or contact the Basic Training Committee at [hrctraining@cox.net](mailto:hrctraining@cox.net)

Additional information about the statewide program is at: [www.virginiamasternaturalist.org](http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org)  
Virginia Master Naturalist programs are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, marital, family, or veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.



## Summer Bird Walks & Field Trip

Complete lists of species seen on each walk are on the club website at [www.williamsburgbirdclub.org](http://www.williamsburgbirdclub.org).

### Bird Walk on May 11th at NQP



Left to right: Andy Hawkins, Cheryl Jacobson, Bill Williams, Joe Piotrowski, Patty Maloney, Shirley Devan, Geoff Giles, George Harris, Rosemarie Harris, Lionel Quirion, Miles Quirion, Jeanne Millin, Jan Lockwood.  
Not pictured: Mike Millin

Thirteen birders joined leader Bill Williams for walk at New Quarter Park. The morning was overcast with a few brief early showers. A total of 53 species were identified including 1 Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 3 Clapper Rails, 2 Yellow-throated Vireos, 1 Hooded Warbler, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, and 1 Nelson's Sparrow.

### Field Trip to Beaverdam Park—May 18th

George Harris led the May Field Trip to Beaverdam Park in Gloucester. This picture taken by John Adair shows the participants.





### **Bird Walk on May 25th at NQP**

On a February-like weather morning (45 degrees at the start of the walk), nine birders joined leader Bill Williams for the walk at New Quarter Park. There were 49 species identified during the morning, including 12 Osprey, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 5 Acadian Flycatchers, and 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird.



Seated, left to right: Shirley Devan, Sara Lewis, Joyce Lowry, Jennifer Trevino, Cheryl Jacobson, Joanne Andrews.  
Standing: Jan Lockwood, Bill Williams, Cathy Bond, Bringier McConnell

### **Bird Walk on June 22nd at NQP**

Thirteen fellow birders joined leader Bill Williams for the walk at New Quarter Park. In addition to helping identify the birds, Bill also shared his knowledge of dragonflies, raccoons, frogs and toads. A total of 46 species were identified during the morning, including 4 Great Egrets, 4 Great Crested Flycatchers, and 5 Summer Tanagers.



Seated (left to right): George Boyles, Sandy Robertson, Cathy Millar, Marilyn Adair, Cheryl Jacobson, John Adair.  
Standing: Jan Lockwood, Sara Lewis, Andy Hawkins, Geoff Giles, Jeanette Navia, Bill Williams, Virginia Boyles.  
Photo by Shirley Devan



### Bird Walk on July 13th at NQP



Left to right: Becky Rose, Sandy Robertson, Nelson Ensley, Geoff Giles, Joanne Andrews, Jan Lockwood, Cheryl Jacobson, Bruce Glendening, Andy Hawkins, Joyce Lowry. The young birder in front is Ned Rose

Photo by Shirley Devan

Leader Geoff Giles lead 11 other birders around New Quarter Park. The low tide exposed quite a bit of mud along Queens Creek and resulted in the group getting long looks at 2 Clapper Rails that were foraging and bathing along the shoreline. In addition to the two Clapper Rails, among the 35 species identified were 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons, 1 Red-tailed Hawk, and 1 Black-and-white Warbler.

### Bird Walk on July 27th at NQP

A cool morning—a welcomed break from the recent heat wave—with “no bugs” made for an even more than usual enjoyable morning.. Bill Williams led 15 fellow birders around the parks and ended up with 36 species, including 1 Green Heron (a recently fledged young) 1 Bald Eagle, and 1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Among the birders was visitor Jesse Caron (from New Haven, CT), who returned for a NQP Bird Walk for the second year in a row.



Front row (Left to right): Sharon Plocher, Jennifer Trevino, Joanne Andrews, Joyce Lowry, Jan Lockwood. Back row (left to right): Jesse Caron, Geoff Giles, Sandy Robertson, Mike Lowry, Amanda Deverich, Bill Williams. Not pictured: Margaret Ware, David Taylor, Cheryl Jacobson, Margaret Ware, Shirley Devan. Photo by Jim Booth



**Photos from Members**



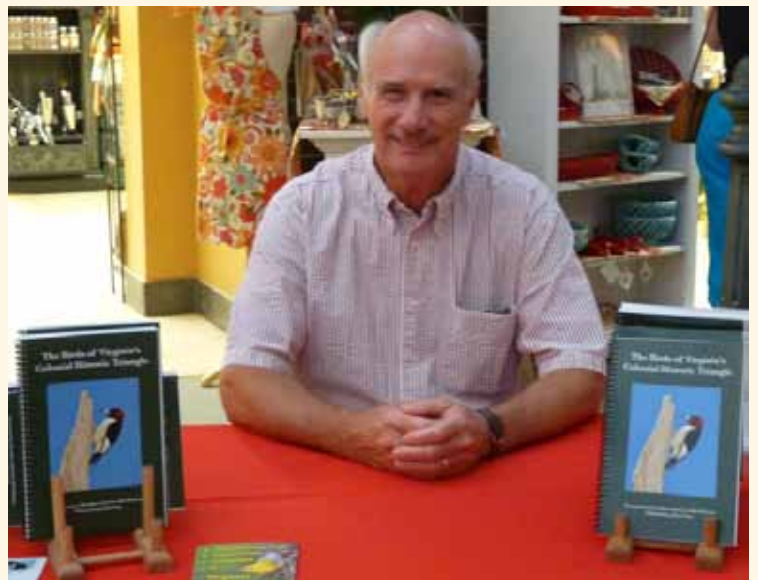
This photo of a Ruddy Turnstone was taken at Craney Island on May 9th by Virginia Boyles.



George Boyles photographed this Snowy Egret at Craney Island, also on May 9th.



Gary Carpenter sent in this picture of a Red-headed Woodpecker that frequents one of his feeders.



Shirley Devan took this photo of Bill Williams at the Local Authors Book Signing at Yankee Candle, June 15.





Beth Morgan photographed this Red-headed Woodpecker in her yard on June 19th.



This pair of Osprey was photographed by Shirley Devan during the June 22nd bird walk at New Quarter Park.



Sara Lewis also photographed the Osprey nest during the June 22nd bird walk.



While in CW, Fred Blystone took this photo of a Northern Cardinal , who was having more than just a bad hair day.



Jeanette Navia sent in this two photos she took at the club's picnic at the Beck's house.



Craig Hill photographed these Pileated Woodpeckers in the Mariner's Museum Park in Newport News.





## Bird ID 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.



Photo for the Summer Issue



May's photo was of a  
Brown Creeper.

## CALENDAR

Saturday, August 10	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 8 AM, Jim Corliss, Leader.
Sunday, August 18	HRBC Bird Walk at Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, August 24	WBC Bird Walk, NQP, 7 AM
Saturday, August 24	Field Trip to Craney Island. See Front Page