

THE FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSBURG BIRD CLUB

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Website: www.wmbgbirdclub.com

April 2004

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Alex Minarik

I think that I've become addicted to the Falcon Cam at the National Bank Building on Main St. in Richmond. After reading that the Peregrine Falcons had returned to last year's nest on the 17th floor of the building outside of the McGuire-Woods Law Firm, I checked out the web site, < www.mcguire-woods.com. > It was then that I became hooked. I feel drawn to sit for hours to watch the images from 3 cameras as they are updated once per minute. By March 22nd, the female was incubating four eggs, which I learned from the Center for Conservation Biology's website, is the most common clutch size. I also learned that both male and female falcon share incubation duties, but I have only seen the male once in the past two weeks and that was at the perch in Camera 2's view.

The incubation period runs 31-35 days, and then there will be 40-45 days of feeding before the young begin to fly. And I'll watch the whole drama unfold right **before my eyes!**

SHEEHAN DEDICATION MAY 6

On Thursday, May 6, 2004 at 7 P.M. the Bird Club will dedicate a memorial bench to Capt. William J. Sheehan. The event will take place at the Populations Studies Lab at the College of William and Mary, which is located on South Henry Street.

It would be hard to overstate Bill Sheehan's impact on the Williamsburg Bird Club, right from its inception. Bill was a charter member, its first secretary, and keeper of the records from day one. Those records permitted the Club to publish its Annotated List of Williamsburg Birds in 1997. But he was more than that. He was a generous mentor and teacher with a kind heart and lively spirit who welcomed beginners and experts into his home and kitchen for birdwatching. Bill Sheehan passed away on January 19, 2000. He was 83, a retired Captain in the U.S. Navy,

where he served for 33 years starting in 1941 and saw service in the Pacific theater during WW II. His last assignment was commanding officer of Cheatham Annex.

The editors of *The Flyer*, who wrote a wonderful article about him in March 2000, said, "He has been so much a part of birding in the Williamsburg area that it is difficult to picture just how that world will carry on without him."

Directions to the Populations Studies Lab: Turn into the parking lot at the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center sign on South Henry St. (this is opposite Mimosa Dr.) Immediately turn right and follow around the back of the parking lot for 0.1 mile. The bench will be located on the right, facing the woods.

FIELD TRIP TO DISMAL SWAMP

Tom Armour will lead the group to the Dismal Swamp Saturday, April 24. Meet at 6:00 a.m. (yes, 6:00 AM!) at the Colony Square Shopping Center parking lot on Jamestown Road (close to the Fresh Market) where we'll consolidate in carpools. Take bug spray, hats, a snack or lunch, and liquids as we probably will not return to Williamsburg until about 1:00 p.m.

This trip is one of the year's highlights. Tom reports that trails are open but that the area is still recovering from Hurricane Isabel. We should see quite a few warblers and migrating species.

BILL WILLIAMS NEXT SPEAKER

Plan to join us Wednesday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 117 at Millington Hall when local expert Bill Williams addresses the club about colonial and beach-nesting waterbirds including herons, egrets, ibis, gulls, terns, Black Skimmer, Wilson's and Piping Plover. The focus will be on what we have learned over the last 30 years about these species populations, and results of the 2003 comprehensive survey of this complex of birds. Bill is a founder of the Williamsburg Bird Club and the founder of the Coastal Virginia Wildlife

Observatory. He is a past president of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and has been the Director of the Virginia Barrier Islands Colonial Waterbirds Survey for the Virginia Coast Reserve of The Nature Conservancy since 1975. He has been the Director of the Kiptopeke Hawk Watch since 1977. Bill is a founding member and former President of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy and currently is on that organization's Board of Directors. Currently, Bill is Director of Education for the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary.

NESTING ACTIVITY AT DUTCH GAP/HENRICUS PARK

By Shirley Devan

Sunday, March 14, Alex Minarik and I traveled to Henricus Park and Dutch Gap in Chesterfield County near Hopewell to join the Richmond Audubon Society. Meeting them at 7:30 meant leaving Williamsburg at 6:30! We made it just in time to join about a dozen other birders to see about 50 species over the course of about three hours.

This park is right on the bluffs of the James River and features a boardwalk through a swamp, broad overlooks of the James and wooded trails.

Nesting birds was the theme of the day. A Barred Owl was nesting in a tree next to the boardwalk (parts of tail visible) and Red-shouldered Hawks were nesting in a tree above the path next to the parking lot. At one point we saw the male fly in with food for the nesting female. They didn't seem bothered by the visitors walking directly beneath the tree – many (but not us!) oblivious to the fact that a hawk was nesting about 30 feet above.

Another highlight was seeing dozens of Wood Ducks in the water and up in the trees. We got good looks through scopes at both males and females.

Birds seen or heard included Tree Swallows, Bluebirds, a singing Winter Wren (the song was weak but Alex heard it), Pied-billed Grebe, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Shoveler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Killdeer, Pileated Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Fish Crow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Swamp Sparrow.

This is a fine spot for finding migratory birds in April and May and the trip is only about an hour. Alex and I highly recommend it.

CONSERVATION CORNER

By Dan Cristol

The second Saturday in May is International Migratory Bird Day. This is a celebration of migratory birds and specific events in honor of birds are organized by local groups across the continent. It is particularly appropriate to do something in schools with birds around this date. The US Fish and Wildlife Service sponsors this event, and they have a catalog of items (stickers, books, games, knick-knacks, etc.) that one can order at cost to use in promoting migratory birds. Our club hasn't done anything in the recent past. Maybe we should? It could be a booth somewhere, a program that we develop to take into schools, or a publicity blitz in the local media. If anyone has ideas and wants to organize something, get in touch with me by email at dacris@wm.edu. I have no specific plans this year other than to take a lesson and some birds into the neighborhood school, but this is something we might want to turn into a big event for the club starting next year. Perhaps the club could sponsor development of a bird-related curriculum for James City/Williamsburg's elementary schools that fulfills the state's SOL's for one week in May every year. The website for IMBD is <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd/> Take a look and see what you think.

HAWK WATCH AT COLLEGE CREEK ON THE JAMES RIVER

By Brian Taber

The Hawk Watch, sponsored by Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory, has tallied almost 500 birds, during parts of 25 days, since beginning in mid-February. Tom Armour and I have been there most days and Bill Williams has assisted as well. Recent unsettled weather has caused a slowdown in the migration, after a better than average start. We look forward to a good April, when Broad-winged Hawks will return and there will be the possibility of Mississippi Kites, which have been seen during three of the past seven spring seasons there. Also passing the site this year have been lots of swallows, blackbirds, ducks, Canada Geese, Tundra Swans, American Pipits, American Goldfinches, gulls, Royal Terns, Forster's Terns and many other migrant species. April should also bring shorebirds and Great Egrets and hopefully a few surprises!

FIELD TRIP TO THE VINEYARDS

Saturday, March 27, Randy Coleman led nine club members around the Williamsburg Vineyards in

search of late winter birds and early spring migrants. Randy was kind enough to bring his spotting scope and the group got great looks at the Ring-necked Ducks on the lake and a Song Sparrow singing his little heart out. Weather was warm and the group found 34 species: Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-wing Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

YRSP BLUEBIRD TRAIL

By Shirley Devan

Starting March 20 with Tony and Chris Dion, club volunteers are back at York River State Park, peeking into 41 nest boxes and recording their observations. We'll check the boxes once a week until about mid-August when the final birds fledge. Hurricane Isabel transformed the park, and



A Bluebird box opened for inspection.

the impact on nesting birds is still to be seen. As of March 27 when Dorothy Whitfield and I checked the boxes, there were two complete Bluebird nests and one held an egg dutifully tended by the female.

There were 9 partial nests. So far no Chickadee nests, which is surprising. Last year at this time, there was only one complete nest and no eggs.

Volunteers include Chris and Tony Dion, Diana and Jack Nolan, Dorothy Geyer (and her mother), Dorothy Whitfield and Carol and David Goff.

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

The Virginia Audubon Council, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Society of Ornithology, sponsors the VA IBA Program. Program goals are to (1) use standardized, science-based criteria to identify sites most important in VA for supporting vulnerable bird species, (2) prioritize the need for conservation actions at these sites through a conservation planning process, and ultimately (3) implement conservation actions at these sites to assure the long-term sustainability of vulnerable bird populations they support.

The cooperation and participation of private landowners and public land managers is a key part in the VA IBA Program. Discretion should be used to respect the rights and authority of landowners and managers when nominating a site as an Important Bird Area, whether public or private. The IBA Program offers potential recognition and assistance for good land stewardship, and should be used to foster trust and cooperation with landowners and managers.

There is no minimum or maximum size for an IBA. Whenever possible, a site should be large enough to encompass most of the needs of the birds for which the site is important. The site should be distinguishable from the surrounding landscape in habitat, character, or ornithological importance. Boundaries commonly used to delimit IBA's include roads, watercourses and other geographic features, and administrative boundaries. An IBA should exist as a protected or potentially protected area, or an area that can be managed for conservation purposes.

As a general rule, a site will qualify as an Important Bird Area if it provides essential habitat for a naturally occurring population of one or more species of birds in the state (it will therefore generally exclude introduced species, feral populations, and areas that are predominantly human in origin, such as landfills) and it meets one or more of the established state-level criteria. The IBA designation is for sites that are truly important for birds, not necessarily for bird watching.

Nomination Forms and Instructions may be obtained by sending an e-mail to <coordinator-virginia-iba.org,> or visit the VA IBA web site at <www.virginia-iba.org> for more information. The IBA Coordinator may also be contacted at 804-370-3528 for assistance in any part of the nomination process for identifying IBA's in Virginia.

BROADCASTS OF WEB CAMERAS

Now that nesting season has begun in earnest, check out the many web cameras on the Internet. President Alex Minarik lists <www.mcguire-woods.com> as her favorite. There's a similar setup on the Kodak Building in Rochester, NY, where a Peregrine laid her first egg on April 1 – same day as last year. Go to: <<http://www.kodak.com/go/birdcam>> Another Peregrine Falcon web cam is in Pennsylvania at <<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/>> To see nesting Bald Eagles, go to: <<http://www.nu.com/eagles/>>

To see nesting four web cams on ONE site (currently: Barn Owls, Eastern Bluebirds, Osprey, and Chickadee), go to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology web cam at: <<http://birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse/nestboxcam/>> To see nesting Kestrels, go to: <<http://www.kestrrelbox.org/webcam.htm>>

Many sites have links to other web cams. It's a great way to learn about birds and get great close-up looks at stunning bird behavior.

LITTER PICK UP ON ROUTE 5



Marc Meiring led the club's effort Saturday, March 20, to clean up the length of Route 5 that the club is responsible for in the VDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program. Ten early birds met Marc at the McDonald's on Route 5, donned their blaze orange vests, and headed out at 7:30 with a load of orange trash bags to fill. Temperatures were in the thirties, but picking up litter is good exercise and the members were soon shedding layers.

THANKS TO ALL who participated, especially to Marc Meiring for bringing supplies and getting us organized on a cold Saturday morning. The early birds who did such a great job in a short time were: Brac Bracalente, Bob Rowe, Barbara Luck, Carolyn Lowe, John Fennel, Barbara Streb,

Shirley Devan, Mike and Alex Minarik, Marc Meiring.

HELP WANTED FOR CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Ruth Beck needs our help in the field. She requests volunteer help at three different field sites in the Hampton Roads area.

In her words: "You can help record all species of birds observed feeding in the area, their numbers, and habitat types. Also, we will visit colonies of nesting birds such as Least Terns, Black Skimmers, Common Terns and Laughing Gulls. We will search for Piping Plover, Black-necked Stilts, and Killdeer. Many other opportunities are available for a day or half-day of observing and monitoring. Please call at 757-221-2217 or email at rabeck@wm.edu. Here's a brief description of each site where volunteers can help:

Craney Island is a working dredge material management facility owned and operated by the Army Corp of Engineers in Portsmouth, VA. We survey and monitor Craney Island for migratory birds and breeding birds during the spring and summer each year. I need help with the comprehensive weekly survey, which consists of recording all birds observed on the island and any construction activities.

Grandview Nature Preserve is owned by the City of Hampton and operated through the Department of Parks and Recreation. The site overlooks the Chesapeake Bay. Least Terns and American Oystercatchers nest at the north end and the site is monitored regularly. I need help during the peak nesting season to monitor the birds and to volunteer to be an information resource person on weekends.

Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel South Island is a very unusual area for nesting Common Terns, Gull-billed Terns, Black Skimmers and three gull species (Great-backed Gull, Herring Gull and Laughing Gull.) I especially need help during the peak nesting season, late May, June and early July."

SPRING BIRD COUNT MAY 9

The Spring Bird Count will be Sunday, May 9th, according to Brian Taber, organizer for this annual club event. This will serve as the club's Field Trip for May. Actually there are 7 Field Trip opportunities to choose from on this day since leaders will be visiting numerous areas.

The procedure is just like the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, same areas, same leaders, but there's no fee. The groups count birds in a circular territory 15 miles in diameter. The center of our circle is the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor

Center. Contact one of the area leaders listed below to join this fun event and important count. You're sure to see some surprises and perhaps add a bird or two to your life list. Contact these volunteers to get the details about where and when to meet:

Tom Armour, **Camp Peary** (participation limited due to security issues)

Bill Williams, **Cheatham Annex**, (participation limited due to security issues)

College Woods, Ruth Beck, 566-8234

Hog Island, Brian Taber, 253-1181 (h) or 259-3123 (w)

Jamestown Island, Dot Silsby, 596-3252

Jolly Pond, Lee Schuster, 565-6148

Kingsmill, Paul McAllister, 229-1323

Middle Plantation, Hugh Beard, 221-0499

Skimino, Bettye Fields, 930-0177

BOOK SUGGESTIONS:

The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession, by Mark Obmascik, Simon & Schuster, 2004, 322 pages. Also available on five CDs or four cassettes.

From the ABA March 2004 newsletter: "For Sandy Komito, Al Levantin, and Greg Miller, 1998 would be a whirlwind winner-takes-all battle for a new North American birding record.

The Big Year follows the frenetic and often humorous pilgrimage of these three men from coast to coast and New Mexico to Nome. The author also provides a brief history of other possessed birders along with a smattering of information about birds and their behavior."

It's fair to call The Big Year an important book for birding. It has been something of a crossover hit, widely reviewed in newspapers, widely stocked by general interest book stores, and prompting extensive curiosity among the non-birding public. Among birders it has inspired reflection, amusement and even a little bit of controversy."

If you liked King Bird Highway by Kenn Kaufman (1997), you'll probably like this book. My copy is on the way from that on-line bookstore!

— Shirley Devan —

MARCH BIRD SIGHTINGS

(Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Shirley Devan at 220-6269 (evening phone) or sedevan52@cox.net (home email)).

March 1: Tom Armour reports: today at the airport, one Cooper's Hawk; at the Vineyards, one Red-shouldered Hawk; at the James River at College creek, one Osprey. He notes that on

Feb.28 he saw 85 Tundra Swans over the James River high in a big "V" north bound.

March 2: Alex Minarik reports: "Today I drove over to Sunken Gardens in Surry Co. to find the reported Eurasian Wigeon. I scanned the American Wigeon and Gadwalls for 30 minutes but could not find the Eurasian. I decided to go over to the York River and see the Redheads that were reported on the February field trip. They were still there with the Ruddy Ducks and some Lesser Scaup, and one lone Bufflehead. I also saw one Goldeneye, two Common Loons and 10 Horned Grebes on the York. Over at College Creek Landing Park, I had a single Green-winged Teal, some Mallards, Black Ducks and 3 Wood Ducks."

March 3: Tom Armour reports: "1st Fish Crow at the Williamsburg Landings today; at the Airport, two Eastern Meadowlarks (1st in weeks)."

March 3: Sam Skalak reported American Woodcocks at Hunts Farm near Norge.

March 4: Bill Snyder reports: He has friends on Ironbound Road who have been feeding a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks scraps of meat for so long that they will take it from their hands. In February for some strange reason the birds stopped coming to the house for 8 days but to the delight of all they have resumed almost daily feedings.

Bill Snyder also reported March 4 that he had a pair of Mute Swans majestically cruising Powhatan Creek in front of his place.

March 5: Bill Williams reports: one Red-throated Loon on the James at the Hawk Watch.

March 5: Tom Armour reports: a beautiful male Kestrel on the Treasure Island Rd.

March 5: Brian Taber: "Today was a good day at College Creek Hawk Watch, on the James River, near Williamsburg, sponsored by Coastal Va. Wildlife Observatory. Despite rather strong winds, Tom Armour, Bill Williams and I tallied 50 birds, 47 of which were Turkey Vultures, in an hour and a half. The largest flock was 12. On March 3rd, there were 12 Ospreys and the first American Kestrel, among the 27 total hawks and vultures.

Several Bonaparte's Gulls and a Forster's Tern were also seen today. Fish Crows, American Crows and blackbirds (and butterflies!) are crossing the river more regularly each day. On February 29th, 94 Tundra Swans passed the station. The season total for the Hawk Watch is 175, in 14 hours over 9 days, for a per hour average of 13."

March 7: Tom Armour reports: 1st spring Tree Swallow & a Red-headed Woodpecker at the James River Hawk Watch; 15 Tundra Swans over

Hog Island.

March 7: Alex Minarik reports: "Sunday, March 7th, Mike and I paddled up Morris Creek from the boat launch at the Chickahominy W.M.A. We saw 4 Bald Eagles, 2 Osprey, 2 Wood Ducks, 2 Canada Geese, 2 Double-crested Cormorants, 1 Great Blue Heron, 6 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 5 Wilson's Snipe, and heard 1 Phoebe and 2 Pine Warblers. We got very close to the snipes, which were at the edge of the water in the dead reeds, before they flushed. According to my records, I have not seen any snipe since 2001!"

March 7: Brian Taber reports: "Today was very good at College Creek Hawkwatch. Tom Armour, Bill Williams and I braved the ever-strengthening, cool southeast wind and were treated to a great show of birds crossing the river. Totals were 5 Black Vultures, 73 Turkey Vultures, 19 Ospreys, 2 immature Bald Eagles that were judged to be migrating, among the 15-20 that were around, 1 Northern Harrier, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 2 Red-tailed Hawks. Seven species is quite good for this early in the season. The total was 106. Other highlights included a Tree Swallow, 12 Tundra Swans and a Red-headed Woodpecker that stopped and sat briefly before heading northward again. From about 12:30 to 1:30, a spectacular flight of thousands of Ring-billed Gulls crossed the river flying very high."

March 11: Tom Armour reports: at the Airport, 2 Savannah Sparrows.

March 12: Brian Taber had the 1st Barn Swallow of the year at the James River Hawk Watch this morning – only one day off the earliest local record; a Barn Swallow also passed overhead.

March 13: Ruth Beck reports: Pine Warblers singing.

March 14: Brian Taber reports: The Hawk Watch is closing in on 400 birds, a good total for this early in the season.

March 14: Joe and Grace Doyle report 37 species at Camp Peary, including Eastern Phoebe, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, and Lesser Scaup, Pine Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Rufous-sided Towhee and Chipping Sparrow.

March 15: Dorothy Whitfield had a Wood Duck in her back yard; Tom Armour reports a Lesser Black-backed Gull at the James River Hawk Watch.

March 16: Alex Minarik reports 4 Wood Ducks in her back yard. Phil Young also reports Wood Ducks and Cormorants on College Creek. Carol Goff reports mature Bald Eagle circling over main road at Ford's Colony.

March 17: Linda Scherer reports "There were at least 3 Great Egrets this evening at the roost on

Lake Pasbehegh in First Colony. These are the first I have seen this year, but this is the same roost that they have used for at least the past three years. During the summer there are sometimes as many as 60 birds getting settled in by nightfall. They are easily visible from the road (The Maine) just three houses east of John Rolfe."

March 18: Brian Taber reports: "Today at College Creek Hawk Watch, there was a lot of bird movement north across the James River. In addition to 9 Ospreys and 17 Turkey Vultures, there were 3 American Kestrels. There has been only 1 Kestrel before these this season. Hundreds of Tree Swallows were streaming across the river, the first good showing this season for that species and the gull movement was good as well, with several hundred. Lesser numbers of American Goldfinches, American Pipits and Fish Crows were noted. Two Rough-winged Swallows showed up, the first ones here this season."

March 18: Dorothy Whitfield reports two Red-shouldered Hawks in her yard as well as a Pileated Woodpecker "moving from stump to stump." Dorothy reports that the hurricane blew down the hawks' nest that had been in her back yard last year.

March 18: Ruth Beck reports Bluebirds nesting.

March 19: Tom Armour reports: a raft of 53 Lesser Scaup at the College Creek Hawk Watch on the James plus 1 Rough-winged Swallow (1st for me this year.)

March 19: Phil Young reports: today and several days before, 2 pairs Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Greater Yellowlegs and Wood Ducks on College Creek behind Port Anne.

March 19: Ruth Beck reports an Osprey over her lake.

March 20: Tom Armour reports: 4 Great Yellowlegs in a flooded field – 1st shorebirds this year.

March 20: Ruth Beck reports: "Three Yellow-throated Warblers singing around our home and yard and across the cove."

March 20: Chris & Tony Dion report three Osprey circling directly above the Visitor Center at York River State Park, calling back and forth to each other. The platform was erected two weeks ago, but got blown down in the storm earlier this week. The staff will try to erect another temporary platform soon. Smurfit-Stone from West Point is going to build a 300' pier at the YRSP boat launch area, and will also sink a permanent piling in the river for the osprey platform. But this won't happen for several months.

March 21: Joe and Grace Doyle report 37 species at Camp Peary. Particularly interesting was the

unusual Osprey behavior. For about 20 minutes they observed 8 Ospreys “just sitting in a mowed field where we often see Eastern Meadowlarks.” If anyone knows what this behavior is all about, please let them know. Also seen: Mute Swan, American Widgeon, Red-tailed Hawk and American Goldfinch.

March 22: Ruth Beck observed 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

March 23: Ruth Beck reports two Barred Owls calling.

March 24: Ruth Beck reports 2 Brown Thrashers.

March 24: Alex Minarik reports: “First, let me report that I saw my first-of-the-season Yellow-throated Warbler out at Jamestown Island on the loop road this morning. My Chickadees are bringing moss to the birdhouse out front. I'm still hoping for Bluebirds in the back.”

March 24: Tom Armour reports: a Royal Tern for the 1st time this year at the Hawk Watch on the James River.

March 25: Ruth Beck reports 2 Eastern Phoebes building on the Phoebe platform.

March 26: Dorothy Whitfield and Sylvia Shirley report hearing Turkeys in the Warhill Tract behind their houses.

March 27: Alex Minarik reports: I had a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in my yard. It was my first-of-the-season; Tom Armour reports: “at the airport I had 23 Savannah Sparrows and 2 Eastern Meadowlarks.”

March 27: Joe and Grace Doyle report 42 species at Camp Peary, including a Red-headed Woodpecker. Also, Canvasbacks are still there at the end of March; Brown Thrasher, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat.

March 28: Alex Minarik reports: “We saw two Red-headed Woodpeckers this morning on a walk of the loop at Jamestown Island. Also saw several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Yellow-throated Warblers, Pine Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and both kinglets; Shirley Devan and Dorothy Whitfield saw Dark-Eyed Juncos, Tree Swallows and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at YRSP plus Bluebirds, Robins, Chickadees.”

March 28: Ruth Beck reports that an adult Bald Eagle landed about 10 feet from the window of our sun room. “It was very interested in something on the ground so we got very close for pictures.”

March 29: Tom Armour reports: 7 Greater Yellowlegs, 9 Common Snipe, 1 American Kestrel this afternoon at Treasure Island Rd.

March 30: Tom Armour reports: 1 Lesser Yellowlegs, 3 Common Snipe, 1 American

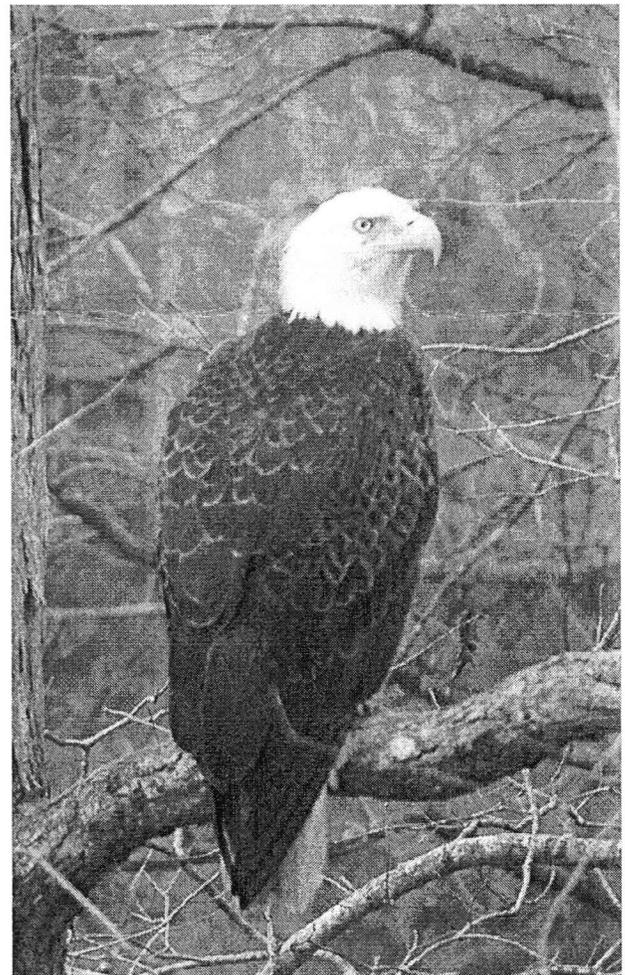
Kestrel at Treasure Island Rd.; 5 Ring-necked Ducks on the Vineyards Pond.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER ANYONE?

Is there anyone out there who would just as soon receive The Flyer via email? If so, please notify Phil Young at <philyoung@widomaker> and provide your address. We aim to please!

NEW MEMBERS

Here is a list of members who joined us in recent months: John & Mary Anne Fennel, Barbara Luck, Beth Morgan, Holly Lang, Winni Buchanon, Carina Young, David & Phyllis Lee, Rich Scherer and Eleanor Heider. Welcome to the Williamsburg Bird Club!



Ruth and Sherwin Beck's Surprise Visitor