



THE FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSBURG BIRD CLUB

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Website: www.wmbgbirdclub.com

March 2007

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bob Long

Our bi-monthly outing at New Quarter Park last Saturday enticed 21 hardy birders to brave sub-freezing temperatures in search of our elusive feathered friends. We counted 35 species, including waterfowl as well as deer and a swimming river otter. A group of Virginia Master Naturalist trainees joined us to share our discoveries and birding equipment. George Copping, Wild Birds Unlimited, sold the club six field guides and binoculars at a discount and we donated them to New Quarter Park. Thank you, George. These were much appreciated and enjoyed by the naturalists.

Sunday we took the ferry to Surry and Chippokes State Park with our granddaughters. Our son and his wife had rented a restored plantation cabin for the weekend. Mike, an avid outdoors man and Nature Camp alumnus, observed Wild Turkeys, Eastern Meadowlarks, Killdeer, Carolina Wren, Robins, Bald Eagles, Eastern Bluebirds, Yellow-Rumped Warblers, Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker, Great Blue Herons, and Northern Mockingbirds. Hopefully, we'll be able to see evidence of breeding activity from these and other birds when the club participates in the VSO breeding foray the first week of June. Bill Williams will provide checklists and other criteria for this event. Stay tuned.

I'm really looking forward to our March meeting and hearing Bob Anderson's first-hand account of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Florida. Bob was a recipient of one of our WBC graduate student scholarships.

MARCH 21 PROGRAM – “THE LORD GOD BIRD”

William and Mary alumnus Bob Anderson will recount his encounters with the Ivory-billed Woodpecker during two weeks he spent in the Florida swamp December 23, 2006 – January 6, 2007. Yes, you read this correctly!

Bob's presentation, “Stumbling Across the Lord God Bird: Incredible Luck in the Choctawhatchee Basin” will describe his two weeks in the swamp, the protocols he followed as part of the Auburn University research team, and his close up and personal encounters with the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. He has video of the Choctawhatchee Basin and the environment where the woodpecker lives. No, he does not have video of the bird. No one on the Auburn team has photographed or videotaped the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. You can read about their efforts and techniques on their web site, which mentions Bob's name in the Christmas 2006 time frame:

http://www.auburn.edu/academic/science_math/cosam/departments/biology/faculty/webpages/hill/ivorybill/Updates.html.

Bob Anderson, a graduate of William and Mary and a recipient of one of the club's scholarships, studied under Dr. Mitchell Byrd and received his Master's degree in biology in 1988. He volunteered to help the Auburn University team of ornithologists search the Florida's Choctawhatchee Swamp for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Bob observed the “Lord God Bird” on two occasions. He will tell us about those encounters in March.

30 Birdy Years Celebration Weekend
Save the dates!! September 21 and 22!! Read more inside.

Bob has been a biologist (an Environmental Protection Specialist) for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command headquarters at Ft. Monroe since 1987. He works on conservation issues and environmental compliance at 18 Army installations around the country.

Join us Wednesday, March 21, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in **ANDREWS HALL ROOM 101** on William and Mary Campus. **ANDREWS HALL** is directly behind Phi Beta Kappa Hall on Jamestown Road.

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MARCH 17 FIELD TRIP

Vice President of Programming Tom McCary has arranged for us to visit Shirley Plantation in Charles City County Saturday March 17, 2007. This is the first time our club has sponsored a field trip to this location. This large plantation has been in the Carter family since the 18th century, is still a working farm, and provides a variety of bird habitats – most of which we'll encounter on our visit. This is primarily a walking field trip.

We will car pool to Shirley Plantation to arrive about 8:00 a.m. First we'll go to the visitor parking lot near the Great House and bird the grounds and formal gardens and the slope by the James River. From the Great House we will walk to the trail surrounding the Woodrow Wilson Bridge dredge project. This is a lengthy trail but is easy-to-moderate walking. We'll be on the lookout for field and woodland species as well as herons and ducks on the water. The walk will end near the new barns and we'll pick up our cars in the visitor parking lot.

If time permits on the way out, we may pull over on the long exit road to bird the impoundments on the right to look for ducks and waterfowl. We may see Eastern Meadowlarks and Horned Larks in the fields. We will park on the road side and walk to the impoundments on a trail.

Thanks to the gracious Carter family, owners of Shirley Plantation, this walk around their property is free of charge. Note that we will not tour the Great House. The plantation owners remind birders, who may wish to bird at Shirley Plantation from time to time, that they should buy a ticket at the gift shop. The fields, farmland, and estate are private property and tickets are required to be on the Carter property.

Meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and we'll consolidate in car pools for a 7:15 a.m. departure for the 45 minute trip up Route 5. We will likely head back to Williamsburg at about 11:00 a.m.

APRIL FIELD TRIP

Mark your calendars and plan to join leader Alex Minarik on our April 21 field trip to the Dismal Swamp. We will leave from the Colony Square Shopping Center parking lot at 6:00 a.m.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES

Those members who have not yet renewed their club memberships are receiving another envelope in this March newsletter. Membership levels are: Patron - \$35; Family - \$25; Individual - \$15.00; Student - \$5.00. Make your check payable to Williamsburg Bird Club and return it using the enclosed envelope. To those who have already renewed, a BIG thank you!

If you do not renew in March, your name will be dropped from the newsletter mailing list and you will NOT receive the new publication in April, "Species List of the Birds of Williamsburg: Breeding, Abundance, and Occurrence Dates" compiled by Bill Williams and published for the first time since 1997. This is an updated list of the compilation previously kept by Bill Sheehan. Renew your membership to ensure you receive this valuable document.

NEW QTR. PARK BIRD WALKS

Join us for winter and spring birding at New Quarter Park in March. Our regular 2nd and 4th Saturday bird walks will be March 10 and March 24. Meet leader Hugh Beard at 8:00 a.m. March 10 in the parking lot near the park office. Bill Williams will be the leader March 24 – 7:00 a.m. at the park office.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new members: Susie and Bill Kay and Donald West. We look forward to seeing you all at an upcoming event.

FEBRUARY BIRD SIGHTINGS

(Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Shirley Devan at 220-6269 or sedevan2@cox.net (home email). If you see interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!)

February 8: Martha Briggs reports a Great Egret near the bridge crossing the pitch and tar swamp on Jamestown Island.

February 8: Tom Armour reports: "This AM at the Vineyards 20+ Bufflehead, 4 Mallards, 2 Double-crested Cormorants, and NO Ring-necked Ducks! On Treasure Island 1 Brown

Thrasher, first for me this year.”

February 12: Bill Williams reports a female Merlin at College Creek and a fly-by Horned Lark. February 15, there were 7 fly-by Horned Larks.

February 16: Martha Briggs reports from her yard: “Next to my house is a holly bush. Today at 3:00 p.m. it was loaded with big, bright red berries. A flock of about 20-25 American Robins descended on it and by 3:30 the bush was denuded of all but three or four berries. Most robins ate three berries and flew off with a berry in their beaks. After gobbling the berries, some of the birds took long drinks at the heated bird bath, and then the whole flock disappeared as quickly as they had come.”

February 17: Lois Leeth reports: “Three Red-tailed Hawks in my yard – one on the ground peering into the shrubs where my mockingbird was hiding. She made a mad dash for the far corner of the shrubs and missed an ominous claw reaching for her!! The other hawk was on top of a sort of grape arbor type of arrangement; the other on the ground peering in for sparrows seeking refuge from the cold. I could not tolerate the danger to my mockingbird so I chased them away. Next day they were sitting in a TALL tree staring at the area. I had 15 Robins in the grassy area behind the condo, one Red-bellied Wood-pecker and one Downy at the suet feeder with the usual Chickadees, Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Goldfinches, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Blue Jays, and Cardinals. Lovely bird feeding station near my bedroom window – I can lie in bed and BIRD watch!!!”

February 22: Tom Armour reports: “This morning on Treasure Island Road I had an Eastern Phoebe, first one this year for me.”

February 23: Lois Leeth reports: I was lucky to be watching the feeders today. A Chestnut sided warbler was flitting all around the feeder--and was there off and on for about 30 minutes. Then, a Myrtle warbler appeared and stayed for a while, but on their way to somewhere else. MY Juncos have really made so much progress in their feeding habits!!! They have learned to sit on the little extended rod on the finch feeder and eat the niger seeds. And two Carolina Wrens have truly enjoyed the buffet with all the regulars.

February 26: Tom Armour reports: “at the James River Hawk watch with Bill Williams we had 1 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 8 Tundra Swans, 1 Northern Harrier, 1 Cooper’s Hawk, and numerous Red-breasted Mergansers. In the field with the standing water on Treasure Island Road I had 3 Common Snipe.”

February 26: Shirley Devan reports from an afternoon on Jamestown Island: “30 species including about 40 Lesser Scaup and 12 Ring-

necked Ducks in the creek across from the parking lot. I heard Great Horned Owls hooting beginning at 3:40 p.m. There were 8 Green-winged Teal and 8 Black Ducks on the Pitch and Tar Swamp. The Great Egret is still hanging around.”

February 26: Tom McCary reports a male and a female Baltimore Oriole have been in residence around the formal gardens at Shirley Plantation since February 2. He observed them February 7, 19, and 26. He also observed the White-crowned Sparrows on the same days in the same areas, as well as Eastern Meadowlarks and Eastern Phoebes around the fields. We’ve instructed Tom to make sure the orioles continue “in-residence” until at least March 17 when we visit on our Field Trip.

February 28: Brian Taber reports: “Tom Armour, Bill Williams and I enjoyed a second consecutive day of nice weather and so did the vultures and hawks. Today, February 28th, the northeast wind changed over to southeast, which is generally good for flights at the site and we ended up with 88 birds, the best February day in the 11 years of the count. There were 2 Black Vultures, 78 Turkey Vultures, 3 Ospreys, a Bald Eagle (we see lots of Bald Eagles every day over the river, but we only count the ones that seem to be obviously migrating), a Cooper's Hawk and 3 Red-tailed Hawks. The February monthly total of 199 is second only to the 204 in 1998. Last year there were 73 in February. We recorded 10 species of hawks and vultures in February, a very good start to the season. Many of you already know, but these data and data from many other hawk-watches across Canada, the U.S. and Mexico are entered into the Hawkwatch.org website for data storage and sharing.”

March 1: Tom Armour reports that his neighbors Martha and Hank Steers at Williamsburg Landing reported a male Orchard Oriole drinking at their bird bath on February 28 and March 1.

March 1: Eager to see the Baltimore Orioles at Shirley Plantation, Bill Williams, Fred Blystone, and Shirley Devan birded the plantation and enjoyed good looks at the two Baltimore Orioles and the White-crowned Sparrows. Bonus birds were the Common Mergansers in the James River just behind the Great House. We had 53 total species.

TEACHING AWARD TO CRISTOL

(Excerpted from The William & Mary News, February 15, 2007 article written by Erin Zagursky)

Dr. Dan Cristol, Marjorie S. Curtis Associate

Professor of Biology at William and Mary, was one of 12 in Virginia (and one of 2 at William and Mary) to receive the 2007 Outstanding Faculty Award, sponsored by the State Council of Higher Education and the Dominion Foundation. The award recognizes the finest among Virginia's faculty for their demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and public service. The other William and Mary faculty member to receive the award was Francie Cate-Arries, professor of modern languages and literature. Geoff Feiss, provost for the College, described the award recipients this way: "Francie Cate-Arries and Dan Cristol represent the best of the best. In addition to being exceptional scholars and classroom teachers of immense prowess and energy, they are also dedicated to engaging William and Mary students in their research and in engaging the communities at large." Congratulations to Dr. Dan. Of course the Bird Club already knew these wonderful things about Dan!

THANKS WILD BIRDS UNLTD.

We recently received a donation from Wild Bird Unlimited in the amount of \$380.00. This was based on 5% of sales to WBC members during July-December 2006. Thanks and gratitude go to George and Val Copping and their great staff for their continuing support of the Club. Thanks also go to the club members who patronize WBU regularly for bird seed, gifts, nest boxes, bird baths, and optics!

NEW ELDERHOSTEL PROGRAM

The Elderhostel program at the College of William and Mary is sponsoring a new, exciting program this spring called "A Nature Lover's Guide to Exploring Williamsburg and the James River." Join local expert Bill Williams for lectures and birding excursions that will focus on birds native to Williamsburg and the Tidewater area. We'll also discuss wildlife conservation and the Chesapeake Bay, go on a fossil-hunting expedition, examine native flora (as well as fauna) of the region, and hike the trails through College Woods. A walking tour of Colonial Williamsburg and a dinner at a Colonial Williamsburg tavern are included as well! This 6-day, 5-night program will be April 29-May 4, 2007, and includes accommodations at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Williamsburg, all meals, and transportation for program activities. All-inclusive cost is \$677 per person at double occupancy.

If you're an active adult aged 55+ who enjoys birding and the outdoors, this program is for you! For more details, go to www.elderhostel.org and type in program number #14753 in the search box.

You can also call William and Mary Elderhostel at 757-221-3649 for more information.

11TH SEASON OF HAWK WATCH

By Brian Taber, CVWO

Tom Armour, Bill Williams and I were at the College Creek Hawkwatch today, February 10th, to start the 11th consecutive late winter/spring season. We usually operate daily from about 9:30 a.m. to about 1 p.m. throughout the season, depending on the weather. There doesn't ever appear to be much of a flight before or after that window.

At sunrise the temperature was only 18 F, but by the time we started at 10:00 it had risen to a balmy 29! There was a moderate breeze from the southwest and the wind chill kept us watching from our cars for the most part. But the sun was strong and created the mid-morning thermal updrafts that are so popular with the hawks and vultures at this site, as we could see birds circling over Hog Island.

After 2 hours, we had recorded 12 Turkey Vultures, a Northern Harrier and an American Kestrel (the Kestrel represented 10% of last year's pitiful total for that species) crossing the river. If they go much farther north they will certainly be surprised by the intense Arctic air mass and many feet of snow. We also watched as several Fish Crows came across, followed by a Great Egret. There were at least 10 Brown Pelicans on the river, along with Forster's Terns and Bonaparte's Gulls.

College Creek Hawkwatch is a program of Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory and is located on the James River, just east of Williamsburg.

A FAMILY LOSES A LOVED ONE

We join devoted and stalwart club members Tom and Jeanne Armour in mourning the death of their son, Thomas Phillips Armour, on February 11, 2007. Tommy, 58, was a career intelligence office at the CIA who later served as a program manager with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. Before joining the CIA, he was a combat pilot in Vietnam and flew worldwide airlift missions. The Club has sent a memorial contribution to Capital Hospice in Leesburg, VA.

BIRDING ELDERHOSTEL IN FL

By Gary and Ann Carpenter

In late January, Ann and I had the pleasure of

spending 5 days of fairly intense birding with an Elderhostel group in central Florida. Most of our time was spent in or around the Ocala National Forest and we were headquartered at the Deerhaven Conference Center near Paisley. A week later that area was devastated by a series of tornadoes that moved through the center of the state. Fortunately, the conference center and wonderful staff who served us were spared any harm.

Over the five days we birded at a reclamation area on the shores of Lake Apopka, Lake Trimble, Emerelda Isle, the Leonia Reserve, New Smyrna Beach Dunes and inlet, Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, a small portion of the St. Johns River, and somewhere in a pine-sand hill ecological area of the Ocala National Forest. This last place was and will remain a mystery to us casual birders because we were looking for one specific tree in which could be found the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We were driven out to the area in the darkness before dawn. We hiked over a dirt trail and then bushwacked overland guided only by flashlights shining on the red ribbons that a Forest Service naturalist had tied to shrubbery. Nine of us gathered around one specific pine tree among hundreds of thousands and we waited, almost breathlessly, for the sun to rise and for the bird to make its appearance. And we only had to wait about 10 minutes before the tree was washed in the sunlight of dawn and, sure enough, the little woodpecker emerged. He obliged us by staying in nearby trees for almost 20 minutes and we all got excellent views. On the way out, our leader very carefully removed all the red ribbons from the bushes that had guided us in. I suppose there may be some who could find the spot again, but it is certainly not a location available to casual birders.

Besides all the usual birds one would hope to see in central Florida in the winter, Ann and I were able to add four others to our Life List. These were Whooping Cranes (a pair in Lake Woodruff), a Sora, an Orange-crowned Warbler, and a Gull-billed Tern. Other interesting birds that we managed to see included Purple Gallinules, Limpkins, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, a number of Bald Eagles and an unusual abundance of Little Blue Herons. Also saw both the Reddish Egret and the Tri-colored Heron. Other sightings included Wild Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes, both Black and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, both Glossy and White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, the Eurasian Collared Dove, American Kestrel, both Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks and a number of Northern Harriers. All in all we spotted well over a hundred species in the five days of birding. Elderhostel provided a terrific birding experience there that we highly

recommend.

BIRDING GALVESTON ISLAND

By Mary Anne & John Fennell

John and I were in Texas City early in February and took advantage of a free day to bird the west end of Galveston Island as well as the Texas City Dike. The dike is a long narrow spit that stretches out into Galveston Bay for almost 5 miles and is a great place to see sea birds as well as shore birds. The west end of Galveston Island has not been highly developed yet, and is mostly cattle pastures, swampy low lands, and drainage canals. This weekend was the start of Mardi Gras, but we ducked the necklace throwing crowds by going birding on Monday.

Driving out the narrow spit of the dike, we saw hundreds of Brown Pelicans, as well as White Pelicans, American Oyster Catchers, Caspian Terns, Least Terns, Loons, Buffleheads, Long-billed Curlew, Scaup, Killdeer, and Red Breasted Mergansers. Many peeps were skittering along the sand.

Moving onto the low lying areas of Galveston Island, our most exciting finds were numerous flocks of Roseate Spoonbills and two flocks of Sandhill Cranes. We also saw flocks of Widgeons, Shovelers, and Coots, as well as Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, White Ibis, Great and Snowy Egrets, and Belted Kingfisher. This brief description doesn't include the gulls, sparrows, and blackbirds so numerous that I didn't even try to keep track. We tramped back to our host's home late Monday, tired but happy after a very satisfying day of Texas birding.

THIRTY BIRDY YEARS – 1986, 1987, 1988

By Cynthia Long

Bill Williams, WBC President – 1986 to 1988

1986 Officers: President, Bill Williams; VP Programs Bob Morris; VP Newsletter, Brian Taber; Secretary, Joy Archer; Treasurer, Fred Blystone; Members-at-Large Steve Reams and Carol Hall. Shirley Raynes managed the bird seed sale which resulted in the sale of 13,000 pounds of seed. Our 1985 Christmas count yielded 106 species. Bill Sheehan's *Analysis of Local Birds Data* was published in February and can be seen in our WBC annals.

Teta Kain presented an entertaining program in February. (She still continues to delight audiences today with accounts of her nature adventures). Bluebird chair Joe Doyle brought us up to date on the project. Since 1981, when the

committee was established, with 2 local trails fledging 30 bluebirds, we have grown to 19 trails with 230 boxes, fledging 623 bluebirds. The WBC spring count yielded 162 species; a ruff sighting was a record for us. WBC had 102 paid memberships in June, 1986. VSO recognized Bill Williams and Mitchell Byrd with special awards for conservation and leadership. WBC friend Teta Kain was also honored by VSO for her contributions.

Carolyn Lowe announced meetings of interest to our club concerning conservation issues in the Williamsburg area. There were also more details on local roads and developments, with WBC writing letters and talking to legislators about conservation of habitats. These records indicate a growing concern among WBC members for the larger habitat of Williamsburg and James City County.

Brian Taber wrote an interesting and entertaining Flyer, filled with observations on Virginia birds, plus reports from members who traveled to other habitats. Our own trips included Craney Island, Hog Island, Jamestown Island, Newport News Park, Kiptopeke State Park – where birders counted 2900 hawks in 9 hours, and a pelagic trip out of Virginia Beach. Mitchell Byrd's midwinter eagle survey counted 300 birds.

Bob Morris's programs included our graduate scholarship student Chuck Rosenburg, who reported on his barn owl study, graduate student Peter McLean who reported on his osprey study, and our own Ruth Beck who reported on great blue herons. Ty and Julie Hotchkiss described their travels to Newfoundland, and Tom and Jeanne Armour shared their beautiful slides from their trip to the Orient. Bill Akers reported on birds in Costa Rica. He worked closely with Ruth Beck on the least tern colony at Granby Beach. Bob Cross continued to lead the purple martin committee. The 1986 Christmas count yielded 102 species.

1987: Officers remained the same, except for the VP Program co-chaired by Barbara Moorman and Thom Blair and new Member-at-large Joanne Brown. 1987 was the tenth anniversary year of the Williamsburg Bird Club. Membership now stood at 94, from a beginning membership in 1977-78 of 70. The big event of the year was the VSO state meeting which WBC hosted in June. Brian Taber reported: "Everyone from planners to participants seemed to have high praise for this year's Virginia Society of Ornithology Annual Conference." Bill Williams was elected as the new President of the VSO at this meeting.

Cynthia Long did a repeat of her VSO program on Colonial Nesting Birds for the club. It featured our own Colonial Williams Bird in his tri-corn hat and laboratory apron, instructing his students, and our

Ruby-throated Humming Beck sipping nectar from a coral honeysuckle. Our joyful secretary bird posed, showing her curious zygodactyl feet, which made it much easier to hold a pen. We also saw jailbirds, migratory birds waiting at a bus stop in CW, and a mature tufted titmouse at the bird bath with her fledgling who still had her mouse ears. Charter member Ann Smith assisted with the program by fashioning clever beaks for our birds from recycled plastic bottles. She also was famous for her recycled plastic bottle bird feeders.

The Flyer editor Brian Taber announced that a computer typing service is now formatting the newsletter. "...a big round of applause should certainly go to Jeanne Armour who has faithfully and quickly typed up many a newsletter over the years." *Ed. Note: Fred Blystone sadly reported a few months later that Pat Merriman, our newsletter formatting and typing service, and her husband died in a house fire.*

1988: President, Bill Williams; VP Programs, Grace Doyle; VP, Newsletter, Shirley Raynes; Secretary, Joy Archer; Treasurer, Fred Blystone; At Large, Steve Reams and Martha Armstrong. Carolyn Lowe, Bill Williams and other WBC members continued to attend public meetings and speak on conservation issues in developing neighborhoods. They worked with the developers of Ford's Colony to preserve wildlife habitat and wrote a letter to the company regarding conservation issues.

Our 1988 programs and member reports took us to Mexico, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, the Galapagos Islands, Eastern Europe, and Arizona, and South Africa. Bob Cross received a WBC grant for the 2nd time. He also received the J. J. Murray award from VSO, and a \$2000 grant from the Northern Neck Audubon Society. His thesis study was the piping plover.

Brian Taber reported a Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Charles City County, a new record for the state. Other birders from our club also had a chance to see the bird. Black-shouldered Kite and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher were also state records.

President Bill Williams led us through three years of birds and birding friendships with his usual expertise and charm. All this was in addition to his day job as a star biology teacher at Lafayette High School, where he continued to teach and inspire countless students. One of his former students told me that Bill had even taught him to swim, probably to help him identify those waterfowl.

Please contact Cynthia Long, Historian, 259-9559, cynthialongw@aol.com, if you have addresses or information for other early birders. I'm looking for Carolyn Lowe, who recently flew

south, Bob Morris, and can somebody update me on Barbara Moorman?

Editor's Note: During 2007 we will be looking back at the people, birds, and club activities over the past 30 years of the Club. Many of the names will be familiar to you and some will bring back memories for some of our veteran members. Those of you, who are new to the club or to the area, please bear with us while we reminisce. When you read these accounts, you're sure to smile and we're certain you'll appreciate the efforts of those who have come before and contributed so much to our club.

SAVE THESE DATES – SEPTEMBER 21 and 22, 2007

Save the weekend of September 21 – 22, 2007 for two days of celebration of Thirty Birdy Years.

Friday evening, September 21, the actual date of the first meeting of the Bird Club in 1977, will feature a birthday party and program in the auditorium at the Williamsburg Regional Library on Scotland Street, featuring special guests, awards, art show, and birthday cake!

Then Saturday, September 22, the Club will host a picnic at New Quarter Park from 4 – 7 pm. We'll have activities for the whole family – including children. Bill Williams, Hugh Beard, and their committee are planning the learning activities for the afternoon. This event will be this year's "Nature Camp." The picnic will be FREE!

CAPS, POSTERS, PATCHES, AND NOTE CARDS

By Shirley Devan

Thirty Birdy Year caps, posters, and note cards are on order and will be available for a donation at the March 21 meeting (and perhaps by the March 17 field trip). We will also have a new batch of our traditional Bird Club patches. We have a few remaining Red-headed Woodpecker pins. Caps and posters (16 x 20 of the Spike

Knuth painting) can be had for a \$20.00 donation each. Six note cards (with the image of the Spike Knuth painting) with envelopes for \$10, and pins

and patches can be had for a \$5.00 donation each.

The Board considered purchasing shirts but the expense was exorbitant because of the quantity we would have needed to buy and the complex, expensive procedure of "digitizing" the lovely Spike Knuth painting to go on the back of the shirt. We recommend a poster!

30 BIRDY YEARS ART EXHIBIT AT LIBRARY

By Shirley Devan

To coincide with our 30 Birdy Years celebration and birthday party at the Williamsburg Regional Library September 21, the Club will sponsor an art exhibit for the club and the community at the library from September 11 – October 18, 2007. We encourage club members to submit artwork of birds in their native environment.

"Inclusivity" will be the rule in selection. We hope to display at least one item from each person who submits items. Keep in mind that items can be paintings, photographs, sculpture, woodwork, needlework, drawings, etc. Exhibitors may place items "for sale" and should indicate such.

Here are the guidelines: Only Club members may submit items. If you want to join the club, visit the web site, www.wmbgbirdclub.com, and follow the instructions on the "Become a Member" page. Items should be ready to hang, i.e. mounted and framed with glass and equipped with hanging hardware. If you have particularly rare, fragile, or antique items to share and are worried about security, please call Shirley Devan at 220-6269 or 813-1322. We are working with Patrick Golden at the Library to arrange the exhibit and ensure the security of all items. Start thinking about what you want to submit and call or email me with your ideas – sedevan52@cox.net. The more the merrier and the better our show will be for the community. The deadline for submitting items will be one month in advance – August 10. Stay tuned for more details.