



# THE FLYER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WILLIAMSBURG BIRD CLUB

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

October 2007

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bob Long

Our Thirty Birdy Years celebration was an unqualified success. The Friday night meeting at the library brought together birding buddies and family from as far away as Florida to celebrate our thirtieth birthday. Saturday's family picnic brought out our future, the kids. Thanks to Ruth Beck and Hugh Beard the youngsters enjoyed bird-oriented games and put on a card show depicting the TBY theme. We were treated to a fantastic picnic assembled by Barb Streb and her crew.

The art show at WRL staged by Shirley Devan and her committee was a huge success and will continue until October 17. Friday's program starring Bill Williams, Tom McCary, Ruth Beck, Mitchell Byrd, and George Copping recapped the first thirty years of the Bird Club and was fabulous. Thanks to Cynthia and her crew the entire program went off without a hitch (except for the minor inconvenience of a power outage at WRL).

We can be proud of our bird club and its contributions to the Williamsburg community: sponsored bird walks, W&M scholarships, nature camp scholarship (in 2008), VDOT highway pickup, books for the library, and educational programs throughout the community. The 150 families in our club are advocates for conserving our natural resources and promoting healthy outdoor activities. Thank you all.

## MEETINGS OCTOBER 17 AND NOVEMBER 14

Join us Wednesday, October 17, 2007 for "Bird Photography 101." Club member Joe Piotrowski, will talk about basic bird photography and the process he goes through to turn a digital photo into a print. If you have seen the art exhibit at the Williamsburg Library, then you have probably seen several of Joe's remarkable photographs. You can also see some of his shots on the Bird Club web site:

[www.williamsburgbirdclub.org](http://www.williamsburgbirdclub.org). Click on "Photos by Members" in the left column. Joe also promised to give a brief slide show of some of his best bird shots.

Our November monthly meeting will be Wednesday, November 14 – the *second* Wednesday instead of the third Wednesday, which is the day before Thanksgiving. Be sure to mark your calendars!

The November 14 meeting will be our annual "Bird Club Book Club" session. The featured book is Scott Weidensaul's new book "Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding." This will be an opportunity to explore further the book and its author, who will appear at the Williamsburg Library October 9 (see another note about his presentation in this newsletter.) Vice President of Programs, Tom McCary, will present a brief review and then open the floor to discussion about the book. The book is available at the library and local book stores and is an easy, entertaining read. The history and characters are fascinating and his final message will inspire you.

Each meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Room 117 in Millington Hall at William and Mary. Parking is available in front of Phi Beta Kappa Hall on Jamestown Road.

## FIELD TRIP TO YORK RIVER STATE PARK

Bill Williams will lead our monthly field trip to York River State Park Saturday, October 20. The park will be full of migrating warblers in their confusing fall plumage. Bill is just the person to help us identify what we're seeing. We've made special arrangements with the park to open at 7:00 a.m. so we can find the early birds. Meet in the parking lot on the right just beyond the contact station. The honor parking fee for weekends is \$3.00 per car.

## **BIRD WALKS AT NEW QUARTER AND NEWPORT NEWS PARKS**

Oct 13 @ 8:00 a.m., Susan Powell will lead the walk at New Quarter Park. October 27 @ 7:00 a.m., Bill Williams will lead the walk at NQP. At Newport News Park, Jane Frigo leads a walk there every first and third Sunday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Meet at the parking lot at the Ranger Station.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Welcome to new members: Rick Bennett, Jeanne and Mike Millin, and Rosanne Reddin. Hope to see you at an October event!

## **THIRTY BIRDY THANKS**

By Cynthia Long, Historian

Thank you to the long list of WBC volunteers who made our Thirty Birdy Years celebration such a success. The list is so long it would take extra postage to name everybody. It was a remarkable team effort. Team leaders Shirley Devan, Barbara Streb, Bill Williams, Ruth Beck, Tom McCary and Hugh Beard gave us a fantastic program and delicious food. Did you ever see such a feeding station, and didn't you love the chirping birders around the feeder?

Special thanks go to our members who so generously contributed their treasured bird art to the remarkable show at the Williamsburg Library. It is a wonderful showcase for our club.

As historian, I pored over 30 years of minutes and Flyers. Often the comment appeared, "We need more participation, the officers are doing all the work!" (I believe it was Bill Sheehan who first observed that behavior.) Thank you to every member who said "Yes" when asked to help. I didn't keep a list of those who said "No" because there was no one to put on it.

I am asking for your continued help in keeping the history up to date. Please send clippings from newspapers and other historical records to me, or bring them to a meeting. Our energetic Publicity Chairman, Sara Lewis, keeps us in the news. Send them to me: Cynthia Long, Historian, 105 Bowstring Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Thank you!!

## **BIRDING EXPERT SCOTT WEIDENSAUL TO SPEAK AT LIBRARY THEATRE**

(Press release from Williamsburg Library)

The Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library are sponsoring a talk by naturalist and author Scott

Weidensaul as part of their annual meeting on Tuesday, October 9, at 7 p.m. in the Williamsburg Library Theatre, 515 Scotland Street. While admission is free, the general public will be admitted after 6:50 p.m. as space is available. A book signing and reception will follow the talk. For more information on the presentation contact the library's Program Services Division at (757) 259-4070 or visit [www.wrl.org/programs](http://www.wrl.org/programs)

Weidensaul's talk will be drawn from his new book "Of a Feather" (Harcourt, 368 pages), a whirlwind history that shows how ornithology and birding grew from eccentric hobbies into something so completely mainstream they're now (almost) cool.

From the moment Europeans arrived in North America, they were awestruck by a continent awash with birds - great flocks of wild pigeons and woodlands alive with brilliantly colored songbirds. Weidensaul traces the unpredictable history of bird study in America, from frontier ornithologists (one of whom barely escaped pursuing Apaches with a precious hawk egg hidden in his mouth) to society matrons who organized the first effective conservation movement; from luminaries like Alexander Wilson (a convicted blackmailer) and Audubon (an accomplished liar) to modern geniuses like Roger Tory Peterson.

Friends of Williamsburg Regional Library is an organization dedicated to making the libraries a better place for both staff and patrons. Run by a volunteer Executive Committee, the Friends promote interest in the libraries, sponsor cultural programs for the community and provide funds for library services and grants.

## **THIRTY BIRDY YEAR CELEBRATION – REFLECTIONS**

By Shirley Devan

During the day before the evening program at the Library, the phones and emails were eerily silent among the planners. Finally I called Cynthia Long to make sure all was under control. Of course it was and she and Bob were resting! She had talked earlier with Barb Streb who was "staging." At the last minute, we were all resting and staging – either literally or in our minds and visualizing the evening program and the Saturday picnic.

Writing this nearly two weeks after the wonderful weekend, I marvel at the smooth planning and camaraderie the group enjoyed for an entire year!! This had been Cynthia's brain child – I dare say Cynthia laid the egg, and the committee and club hatched it? Turned out to be a good egg!

Volunteers started arriving at the library at 6 pm to bring in all required to cover a 30 year anniversary. Ruth Beck's early idea to give away "Thirty Birdy Year" buttons came to fruition, and each person at the program received a button and a program from new members/volunteers Seig and Alice Kopinitz as they entered the auditorium.

Bill Williams and Ruth Beck designed a perfect program for Friday evening. Bob Long gave away a Bird Club hat to Bob Cross, a former scholarship recipient who had traveled the farthest – all the way from Tallahassee, Florida. Welcome home, Bob! Cynthia Long gave a gift bag (which I know contained at least a Bird Club hat and note cards) to Spike and Susie Knuth, who traveled from Richmond to be with us. Spike painted the startlingly beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker painting that we've been using as our Thirty Birdy Year logo. He also agreed to loan a few of his paintings for the Art Show. Thanks so much, Spike. Glad to have you back among us for the evening.

Mitchell Byrd looked back on Williamsburg in the 1970's and the abundance of birds in the area. Slowly, slowly, slowly we've watched the bird populations around our area dwindle. Now there are only "one-sies" and "two-sies" of some species where once there were dozens or hundreds. Think about the Northern Bobwhite. It's very scarce these days but abundant 30 years ago. Some species, like the Evening Grosbeak, is not seen for years. We have lost so much. What have we done to ourselves? Dr. Byrd implored us to "get off our collective checklists" and start doing something about the problem – preserve our remaining habitat and educate our young people about the wonders of our natural world. Hear, hear!

Ruth Beck told us how the club hatched and fledged. There had been an active birding group among the faculty and students at the College for several years before they finally convinced Ruth and Bill Williams to start the "Williamsburg Bird Club" in the fall of 1977. I read in an early account of Board minutes that the Board briefly discussed whether to affiliate with the Audubon Society. The resolution was to defer the decision "indefinitely." So we are still the Williamsburg Bird Club, and we get to keep all of our dues for our own purposes and projects.

George Copping from Wild Birds Unlimited talked briefly about the mutual support that the club and the store give each other. Remember to go to Wild Birds Unlimited to get your seed and new feeders plus your holiday gifts. BE SURE to identify yourself as a Bird Club member. The store donates a percentage of each member's purchase back to the club! George and his wife

Val are best friends to birds and birders and we are grateful for their support.

Then the mystery was revealed. Bill Williams had been reassuring the committee for a year that he would take care of the program and would prepare a special presentation. As always, we trusted Bill and we were not disappointed. With Tom McCary narrating, we enjoyed a sometimes whimsical, sometimes nostalgic, sometimes sad look back at the birders who have given so generously to the Bird Club over the past 30 years.

What a powerful presentation! In fact, it was so powerful, it caused a power outage at the library! Just as Bob Long began to present lifetime awards, the lights went out! Someone mentioned cake and punch in the Schell Room and Bob had hardly finished his presentations when there was a bee line for the food.

What we don't want to rush over is the fact that the club awarded lifetime memberships to Brian Taber, Tom Armour, and Bill Williams. Each received a framed certificate and heartfelt thanks for their contributions to the success of the club. The club also recognized the Williamsburg Library for their assistance in providing birding media for the public. Bob presented a print of Spike Knuth's Red-headed Woodpecker to Cela Schmidt who has worked with the club for several years on this project. The club also presented a framed print of Spike's Red-headed Woodpecker to the Biology Department at William and Mary in appreciation for hosting our meetings at Millington since 1977. Dan Cristol accepted it on behalf of the Biology Department.

Finally, lost in the rush to the feeding station, the club named one of the annual research scholarships to W&M graduate students for Founding Mother Ruth Beck, recently retired from the Biology Department and mentor to many ornithology graduate students over the years. The club honored Founding Father, Bill Williams, by naming our new Nature Camp Scholarship for him, recognizing his leadership in science education in the Williamsburg area for more than 30 years.

We will take a "do over" with these awards and announce them again at our October meeting.

We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful art gallery for our reception. Members mingled and chatted while strolling around among over 50 items of bird art loaned by club members and displayed in the library gallery. I was very fortunate to have so many members volunteer to loan their precious items. I give a hearty thanks to Carol Goff, Terry Johnston, Paul Marc Leger, and Ruth Beck who helped install the exhibit over a day and a half. The Library staff deserve a loud thanks as well for helping us make it work. The

exhibit has received great reviews from the community. Many thanks to all who made it come together.

At the reception, many people asked about Barb Streb's punch recipe and "where did she get that wonderful cake?" The cake came from Florimonte's Bakery at the Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center. If you've not found this bakery yet, it's at Williamsburg Crossing near the old movie theaters. Here is the punch recipe which makes 60 6-oz. servings, split between two punch bowls.

One 12 oz. can frozen lemonade concentrate  
One 12 oz. can frozen orange juice concentrate  
2 Cups Sugar  
1/4 cup lime juice  
8 cups water

Stir the above together till sugar dissolves, cover and chill for four hours.

Divide the above base mixture between TWO punch bowls over ice. Pour in one 46-ounce can chilled, unsweetened pineapple juice per punch bowl....or, two for the entire recipe making 60 6-ounce servings; one two-liter bottle of ginger ale, and one one-liter bottle of sparkling water into EACH punch bowl. Best to have the juice, ginger ale, and water chilled. Float strawberries, orange slices etc. in the bowls for garnish.

Many thanks to Barb Streb for her meticulous planning, her customized "Thirty Birdy Year" napkins and the additional fruit and cheese for snacks. Barb is such a good planner, we had exactly enough cake left over to give a share to the Library assistant who cleaned up after us (and who worked feverishly to resolve the power outage!).

Barb extends her thanks to Jean Rend and Carol Goff who helped set up, serve, and clean up. Arlene Williams and Jeanne Armour presided at the punch bowls; Arlene provided flowers; and Alex Minarik and Ruth Beck loaned punch bowls. Cynthia Long prepared posters with photos of many of our early birders and opened her seven binders of bird club history for all to review. Thank goodness Cynthia is our historian and so devoted to the cause. We would not have had so many early birders on hand if not for her research and contacts.

Did I mention that we had over 100 people at the library? That calls for a big WOW and thanks to all who made time in their schedules be there Friday night.

Bright and early Saturday morning, September 22, Founding Father Bill Williams led the regular 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Bird Walk at New Quarter Park. No need to stop birding just because we're celebrating. Over a dozen joined us for a two-hour casual

stroll around the park where we spotted 43 species with the highlights being the Black-throated Green Warbler and the Yellow-crowned Night Heron near the Queens Lake marina.

Then many from the night before started arriving at New Quarter Park about 3 p.m. to start getting organized for the picnic. Alice and Seig Kopinitz, Ann and Gary Carpenter, and Jeanette Navia arrived early. But everyone pitched in as they arrived and things quickly fell into place.

From the beginning, the picnic had been planned to be a family time with CHILDREN. Hugh Beard, Ruth Beck, and Bill Williams designed and conducted a program for about 15 children who arrived with parents and grandparents. Several of the adults wanted to see the Yellow-crowned Night Heron spotted on the early morning bird walk, so Tom McCary and I led a group down to Queens Creek to check the marina. No sign of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron but our group enjoyed great close up looks at a pair of Mute Swans who treated us to a fly-by.

As people arrived, the tables designated for food overflowed. Two additional picnic tables had to be set aside to hold it all! The club provided fried chicken, rolls and beverages. For those who wanted to know, the fried chicken came from Farm Fresh! Again, Barb Streb's organizational talents sparkled. Did you know that she made all those cookies? I'm not sure how there could be any leftovers, but many people took up Barb's offer to take remaining food home with them. How could there be more food than when we arrived?? Barb even remembered to bring zip-lock bags for take home duty. Over 70 people enjoyed the food, the friendship, and the memories. So great to have so many members and their families in one place.

We nearly had a mishap, but "Sara N. Dipity" put in an appearance and saved the day. I always love it when she shows up. Cynthia and I had planned to orchestrate a "Thirty Birdy Years" card show – like at the old football games where people in the stands held up cards to spell words. We were breaking down the picnic when I discovered the printed cards in my bag. Oh noooooo – too late!! But Denise Long, Cynthia's daughter-in-law (also known as "Sara N. Dipity") came to the rescue. "Let's have the children do the card show!" she suggested. Great idea! So we rushed to the playground and Denise and Dan Cristol organized the children in three rows on the playground equipment. Many cameras snapped many pictures as dusk crept in. Not all the cards were in place in ever picture, but the message came through loud and clear. Will these children be at the 50 Birdy Years Picnic? Let's hope so.

Be sure to check the bird club web site:

<http://williamsburgbirdclub.org/> where you can see on the home page a photo of Ruth Beck and Bill Williams cutting the cake. You'll also see a photo of the "Thirty Birdy Years" card show by the children. Follow the link to see over 100 photos Jeanette Navia has made available. Most of the pictures were taken by my husband Steve and me. Thank goodness he is up and around and able to serve as the "official Thirty Birdy Year photographer." If you have photos you want to share, we would love to see them. Please send them to web master Jeanette Navia at: [jeanette@marfanlife.net](mailto:jeanette@marfanlife.net)

I think Barb Streb stated the obvious so well: The weekend "all came together to show just how much people care about the birds, the club, and their friends." Who was there who will forget it? The weekend will be in my memory bank for a long time. Thank you, everyone, for being there and making it memorable.

## **NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS**

Make sure your bookmarks include the Bird Club's new web site address: [www.williamsburgbirdclub.org](http://www.williamsburgbirdclub.org). Jeanette Navia has upgraded our web site and given it additional capability. You can see more photos and even register your own observations and comments. Thanks, Jeanette, for keeping it so fresh and new.

## **KIPTOPEKE FIELD TRIP**

Despite the fact that the weather was not really in favor of the birders, the group of 17 observed 53 species across four locations on the Eastern Shore Saturday, September 15. Club member and Master Naturalist Susan Powell was our leader. The car pools from Williamsburg arrived at 8:30 and folks headed directly to the songbird banding station. The winds kept the birds out of the nets and they only banded 7 birds all day. But our group got to see three of them – American Redstart, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and a Northern Waterthrush. Chief Songbird Bander Jethro Runco gave us all great looks at these three birds and many folks took pictures. Check the Bird Club's web site for some snapshots. The winds were so bad that they closed four nets at 10 am.

Just as things were quieting down at the Songbird station, the counts were increasing at the Hawkwatch Platform. By the time we arrived at the platform, they had trapped a Sharp-shinned Hawk and had brought it to the platform for Jeff Birek to display to the visitors. The bird is spectacular up close and again we were able to take close up photos before Jeff released it.

We had 31 species at Kiptopeke including Red-breasted Nuthatches visiting the seed feeders near the picnic area. After lunch, most of the group headed north to the Oyster Landfill, where we observed 27 species with a Pectoral Sandpiper, Forster's Terns, Black Terns and a Cattle Egret being the highlights.

Just a short drive away is the Oyster Shell Beach. The tide was up but we saw 11 species including a Royal Tern, Forster's Tern, Palm Warbler, and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Some of the group headed home, but most headed south to the Eastern Shore National Wildlife Refuge. The group found 12 species including a Green Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Western Sandpiper, Osprey, both Yellowlegs, and a Palm Warbler.

Many thanks to the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory for making us feel welcome and sharing their extensive experience with birds "in the hand" with us at the Songbird Banding station and the Hawkwatch Platform. Thanks to Jethro, Jeff, and Brian Taber, President of CVWO. Many thanks to Susan Powell for leading the trip and to the drivers for sharing their gas and roomy cars.

## **VSO FIELD TRIP TO VA BEACH DECEMBER 7 – 9**

The Cape Henry Audubon Society, with support from the Virginia Beach Audubon Society, the Hampton Roads Bird Club, and the Back Bay Bird Club, is pleased to host the VSO annual field trip to Virginia Beach, Friday, December 7 – Sunday, December 9, 2007. An outstanding weekend is planned, with a Friday afternoon field trip to the Whitehorse Tract for those who arrive early. Featured field trips include a visit to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands (CBBT) on Saturday and nearly a full day at Back Bay NCR/False Cape State Park on Sunday.

The Howard Johnson Hotel at 1601 Atlantic Avenue, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 is the host hotel. Oceanfront rooms with private balconies will be available at \$45 plus tax. Those planning to attend should make reservations at the hotel by November 6, 2007, specifying that they are with the VSO. The hotel phone number is 757 437-9100 or 1 800 258-5878.

Of particular interest will be the Saturday trip to the tunnel islands of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Complex. Participation on this trip is limited to the first 45 people who sign up since there is a requirement to pay a security guard to accompany each group of 15. The cost is \$10 per person. A security information form will be mailed to each person who registers for the trip. The completed form must be returned to the trip

coordinator no later than Monday, November 26, 2007.

Sunday's Trip to Back Bay NCR and False Cape State Park: This year the trip will be limited to the first 24 participants who register and there will be a charge of \$10 per person for the tram.

The VSO weekend is open to VSO members and non-members alike. There is no charge except for hotel rooms, the CBBT Islands tour, and the Back Bay Tram Ride, if you elect those options. For more info, visit the VSO web site: <http://www.virginiabirds.net>

## BIRDING OHIO

By Tom McCary

While visiting a friend in Akron, Ohio in early August, I decided to indulge in a little "casual" bird watching. I daresay it is axiomatic that once one takes up birding, one will indeed follow that pursuit wherever he may roam. Traveling and birding go hand in hand.

On the western edge of Akron is a property certain to make the bird watcher's blood course faster: the F. A. Seiberling Naturealm. The park is named for the founder of Goodyear Tire and Rubber, who gave over 400 acres in 1922 to set aside the Sand Run Metro Park, an adjacent property. From the seclusion of an observation area in the Visitors Center itself, I watched with delight a variety of avian and mammalian species as they sampled a cornucopia of special treats from a number of feeding stations. I would call this experience armchair birding at its finest. No perspiration, and plenty of birds.

Among the feathered guests was the Black-capped Chickadee, the species of chickadee found in northern Ohio. Although almost identical to our Carolina Chickadee, the Black-capped is slightly larger and has more conspicuous white in his wings. House finches and goldfinches were plentiful there, as were Blue Jays and Northern Cardinals. A pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visited their special feeder. A few species were represented by single individuals: White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, and Tufted Titmouse. While strolling the beautiful garden paths of the Naturealm, I also discovered a Gray Catbird and an American Robin.

On another occasion I had the opportunity to walk part of a nature trail in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This trail was not far from the charming little town of Peninsula. The day was somewhat sultry and the woods rather quiet, but a singing Eastern Wood-pewee made an appearance as did a Chipping Sparrow.

Certainly the country was alluring, but the city was where I was staying. So many birds have adapted to urban and suburban life. In the city of Akron alone I added the following species to my list: Mourning Dove, House Sparrow, European Starling, Mallard, Red-winged Blackbird, American Crow, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, and Turkey Vulture.

The highlight of my trip to the Buckeye State, however, was another excursion into the country – deep into the lovely Amish country this time to the town of Walnut Creek, with lunch at the celebrated Der Dutchman. No one can top their slow-roasted turkey with mashed potatoes and creamed corn — great food and wonderful hospitality, indeed.

On the way down a small flock of Canada Geese flew across the rural road. But the best birds were found on the way home from lunch. In their glory, two Eastern Bluebirds were observed perched on wires outside Millersburg. Then a handsome Eastern Meadowlark flew across our path near Benton. Finally, one sparkling Indigo Bunting perched on a wire near Mt. Eaton. The birding was enhanced by our careful driving, as we returned the waves of the friendly Amish in their carts and buggies.

And so the Gateway State literally opened a new gate for me: another list to mind and keep. "Casual" birding in Ohio might yet take a serious turn.

## SEPTEMBER 2007 SIGHTINGS

*Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Shirley Devan at 220-6269 (evening phone) or [sedevan52@cox.net](mailto:sedevan52@cox.net) (home email). If you encounter interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!*

**September 3:** Tom McCary reports from Shirley Plantation that this was the last day he spotted Blue Grosbeaks this summer – two bright males on the wires.

**September 7:** Bill Williams and Mitchell Byrd visited Hog Island this morning and saw a large concentration of Caspian Terns in the northern impoundment, with birds constantly coming in off the James River. Number of species: 50. Highlights: 187 Great Blue Herons, 146 Great Egrets, 146 Lesser Yellowlegs, 385 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 178 Least Sandpipers, 518 Caspian Terns, 18 Bobolinks.

**September 8:** Brian Taber reports: "The Kiptopeke Hawkwatch finally, after 30 years, found a Swallow-tailed Kite today, Sept 8, thanks to Bob Anderson's sharp eyes. The bird was high in a cloudless sky on a hot day with very few other

raptors around. CVWO Hawk Counter Jeff Birek, just in from California, is off to a great start! The Kiptopeke Hawkwatch daily results will soon be up on the Hawkcount.org site.”

**September 9:** Tom Armour reports: “Jeanne and I birded Hog Island this morning and the number of shore birds there is amazing, probably numbering in the thousands. We also had 175+ Great Egrets. Both the Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits were in the first pool, and only a few yards apart! We also had 2 Red-necked Phalaropes in the same pool. We had a total of 13 species of shore birds. Other good birds were 2 Black terns and 6 Bobolinks. Good breeze again today so no bug problem.”

**September 18:** Tom McCary spots a Bald Eagle and an Osprey over the Big House at Shirley Plantation. Driving home later that day two Wild Turkeys flew up from the roadside at Sandy Point on Route 5 and disappeared into the woods.

**September 18:** Joe and Grace Doyle report either a female Sharp-shinned Hawk or a male Cooper's Hawk in their yard at Kingsmill. September 20, their son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Jane Doyle, accompanied Joe and Grace to York River State Park where they observed over 20 species including Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Chipping Sparrow, White-eyed Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Phoebe, American Redstart (male), Scarlet Tanager (female), Pine Warbler, and a Great Blue Heron in the marsh.

**September 20:** Tom Armour reports “a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at our feeder, 1st one since the 16th.”

**September 27:** Today Ruth Beck and Tom Armour birded Hog Island with good weather and very few bugs. Large numbers of Shore birds are still there. Ruth estimated 3000+, including 10 species. Two Marbled Godwits were still in the first pool. We had 85 Great Egrets, 40 Green-winged Teal, a Merlin, and an American Kestrel. Total species numbered 44.

**September 25 - 27:** Tom McCary reports “hundreds and hundreds of Tree Swallows over Shirley Plantation.”

**September 30:** Joe and Grace Doyle made their usual Sunday trek to bird Camp Peary and found about 30 species. Unusual observation this day was a Red-shouldered Hawk, which they heard. They were surprised to find all three nuthatches: White-breasted, Red-breasted, and Brown-headed. On their visit September 16, they spotted about a dozen Pine Warblers in one area. September 2 they found Wild Turkeys.

**October 2:** Bill Williams reports: This morning at the Green Springs Trail I had a singing Blue-headed Vireo, 2 Good-on-you Bill Sheehan Red-

breasted Nuthatches, 2 Bicknell's Thrushes by flight call before dawn, and a beautiful Sedge Wren at Mainland Farm. Warbler species included 2 Northern Parulas, 1 singing Pine Warbler, 3 “western” Palm Warblers, 1 Black-and-white Warbler, 1 American Redstart, and 3 Common Yellowthroats.