



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 32, No. 10

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

November 2008

### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

Many thanks to all who responded to our membership survey. Just as I expected, lots of great ideas and feedback. We're already discussing how to implement some of the program and field trip ideas. We're planning a series of Bird ID workshops, so stay tuned for those. We will probably open them up to the public as an outreach and public service for the community. We're also considering at least one weekend field trip to a birding hot spot in Virginia. If the response is favorable, perhaps we'll try our hand at an out-of-state hot spot. Several of you replied that you like programs in which members describe their travel adventures with photos. So we'll be alert to members who are willing to share their experiences. By the way, if you want to share your travel adventures to a birding hot spot, let us know. Thanks again for your thoughtful and timely responses.

### November 19th Meeting

Club member Mike Millin will present a program on Costa Rica as a birding destination. The program will include images from the mangroves, marshes, rivers and dry forest of the Pacific coast, the mid-elevation rainforest of the Caribbean foothills and the cloud forests of Cerro de la Muerte.

Mike became interested in birding about five years ago while he and his wife were visiting their daughter in Malaysia. Since then destination trips have included Denali, Cape May's Fall birding weekend and Costa Rica. He and Jeanne moved to Williamsburg in 2007. Mike is also a member of the Colonial Nature Photography Club and he enjoys photographing what he sees as much as he enjoys birding and the outdoors.

Plan to join us on November 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 117, Millington Hall, on the William and Mary campus.

Refreshments will be provided by Mary Anne Fennell.

### November Field Trip

The field trip for November will be to the Colonial Parkway on Saturday, November 15. Please meet at 8 am with leader Alex Minarik at the Colony Square Shopping Center on Jamestown Road. Please remember it can be cold along the York and James Rivers—please dress accordingly.

### Two Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships

The Williamsburg Bird Club requests applications from Williamsburg, James City County, and York County students in grades 5 to 12 for the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships, two full tuition (\$700) scholarships for a two week summer camp program in 2009 at the Nature Camp in Vesuvius, Virginia ([www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net)).

A scholarship application is available on our website [www.williamsburgbirdclub.org](http://www.williamsburgbirdclub.org). The completed form should be submitted, per instructions on the form, along with a 300-word essay about the student's interest in nature and a letter of recommendation from the applicant's science teacher. The application form includes additional details about requirements and camp expectations. Essays will be evaluated for the best age-appropriate expression of interest in nature and anticipated benefit from attending the camp. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2009. The Williamsburg Bird Club will contact the students who earn the scholarships in early February 2009.

### Proposed Slate for 2009 Officers

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Alex Minarik, Jeanette Navia and David Lee has submitted the following slate for 2009 board members for the WBC.

President—Shirley Devan

Vice President-Programs—Joe Piotrowski

Vice President-Editor of The Flyer—Fred Blystone

Secretary—Mary Anne Fennell

Treasurer—Charles Rend

Member-at-Large—Chuck Litterst and Joanne Andrews

Voting will take place at the November 19th meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

## Officers

<b>President</b> Shirley Devan	220-6269 <i>sedevan52@cox.net</i>
<b>Vice-President (Programs)</b> Alex Minarik	220-3382 <i>mrminarik@yahoo.com</i>
<b>Vice-President (The Flyer)</b> Fred Blystone	229-4346 <i>fmb19481@verizon.net</i>
<b>Treasurer</b> Chuck Rend	220-9032 <i>carjean39@msn.com</i>
<b>Secretary</b> Mary Anne Fennell	566-2615 <i>mafjjf07@netzero.net</i>
<b>Member-at-Large</b> Sara Lewis	220-2042 <i>saraelewis@cox.net</i>
<b>Member-at-Large</b> Joanne Andrews	259-0867 <i>kaiviti37@hotmail.com</i>
<b>Past President</b> Bob Long	259-9559

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b> Tom Armour	229-2363 <i>swiftyarmour@cox.net</i>
<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b> Bill Williams	229-1124 <i>juwil2@wm.edu</i>
<b>Library Liaison</b> Lee Schuster	565-6148 <i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
<b>Refreshments</b> Barb Streb	565-0250 <i>barbarastreb@starpower.net</i>
<b>Membership</b> Jeanette Navia	565-2597 <i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
<b>Adopt-A-Highway</b> John Fennell	566-2615 <i>mafjjf07@netzero.net</i>
<b>Historian</b> Cynthia Long	259-9559

## Wild Birds Unlimited

Don't forget that the Williamsburg Bird Club receives a 5% rebate on the pre-tax amount for everything our members spend at Wild Birds Unlimited in Monticello Marketplace. Of course, you do have to let them know that you are a member.

## October Bird Sightings

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!

**Oct 1:** Tom Armour reports 3 Wild Turkeys in the first field on the left on Treasure Island Road.

**Oct 5:** From the Greensprings Trail, Bill Williams reports "there was a nice predawn thrush flight which included 1 Veery, 15 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 31 Swainson's Thrushes (a new local high count), and 7 Wood Thrushes.

**Oct 5:** Tom Armour reports an American Kestrel on Treasure Island Road, Joe & Grace Doyle reported 27 species from their visit to Camp Peary, Highlight was a dozen Palm Warblers.

**Oct 11:** While at the airport off of Lake Powell Road, Tom Armour sees 2 American Kestrels and 3 Killdeer.

**Oct 12:** Bill Williams has a Nashville Warbler and a male Black-throated Blue Warbler on the Greensprings Trail.

**Oct 12:** Joe & Grace find 23 species during their visit to Camp Peary, including 5 Bald Eagles.

**Oct 18:** At Treasure Island Road, Tom Armour sees his FOS Yellow-rumped Warblers (4), also a Palm Warbler, a White-eyed Vireo and an American Kestrel.

**Oct 18:** Shirley Devan, Jeanette Navia & Margaret Ware visit Greensprings Trail. In addition to lots of American Robins and many "confusing fall warbler", they had a rather accommodating Palm Warbler on the railing of the boardwalk.

**Oct 18:** Joe & Grace Doyle, along with their son Jeff, birded the Country Road. They identified 19 species, including Northern Parula, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush and Blue-headed Vireo.

**Oct 19:** While birding the Greensprings Trail, Bill Williams had a Lincoln's Sparrow at Mainland Farm (a new local late date), 2 flyover Pine Siskins and one Bobolink.

**Oct 19:** Joe, Grace & Jeff Doyle visit NQP. Highlights were Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated Sparrows and a Hermit Thrush. They also went to the Kingsmill Marina and report that, in addition to Bald Eagles and hundreds of Tree Swallow, there were Ospreys still present.

**Oct 23:** An email from Brian Taber reports "A Long-eared Owl called for at least a minute right outside my window last night!" This is only the fifth record for our area and the first Long-eared Owl reported since January of 1980.

**October 26:** Shirley Devan reports: at 1 pm over the parking lot at Greensprings Trail, 3 Bald Eagles—two adults

and an immature. Plus a Sharp-shinned Hawk up in the sky even higher, spotted by Adrienne Frank. Also, at 4:15 as I was driving home along Centerville Road near DJ Montague School, another adult Bald Eagle overhead.

**Oct 26:** Joe & Grace Doyle find 28 species during their drive around Camp Peary. Highlights—Ruddy Ducks back on the York River, a Great Horned Owl around Beaverdam Pond, 2 Horned Grebes on Beaverdam Pond, Pied-billed Grebes, 3 Brown Pelicans on the York River, loads of Double-crested Cormorants, 12+ Eastern Meadowlarks, 2 Wild Turkeys crossing the road and quite a few Blue Jays.

## **The Big Sit!**

**Brian Taber, CVWO**

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory did the Big Sit for the 10th straight year on October 12, 2008 at the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch platform. The event, sponsored by the New Haven Bird Club and Bird Watcher's Digest, is conducted in almost every state and a few foreign countries, tallying birds from 100+ small circles on the same day. Despite great weather and 14 sharp-eyed helpers, we only managed 60 species, which is the lowest total, except for the first year when we did less than a full day because of a drenching tropical system. There were very few migrant songbirds around and no shorebirds.

In 2002 we found 63 species, the rest of the years have been 69+ with last year's 85 our highest. Our average, except for year one is 72. Thanks to all of our sitters: Harry Armistead, Andrew Odell, Chris and Betsy Foster, Henrik Wiemar, Bob Anderson, Jethro Runco, Shannon Ehlers, Steve Thornhill, Thuy Tran, Renee Hudgins, Sheila Scoville and Zach Millen.

## **Hello Kiptopeke Challenge Supporters and Virginia Birders;**

**By Paul Nasca, Kiptopeke Challenge Coordinator**

On September 13, 2008, the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) held its' 14th Annual Kiptopeke Challenge. The Kiptopeke Challenge is a fun and friendly team birding event and the primary fundraiser for the CVWO. Once again, the caliber of competitors, the warm weather, and the non-breeding plumage of most birds gave real meaning to the word "Challenge" in the event's title.

Five teams amicably slugged it out in the 24-hour category, scouring Virginia's Eastern Shore of Accomack and Northampton Counties, to identify the most birds. Placing first in the event was the Augusta Bald Eagles (Allen Lerner and Janice Frye) who tallied an impressive 125 species, with the highlights being the only Whip-poor-will,

Northern Gannet, Virginia Rail, Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe, Acadian Flycatcher, Sedge Wren and Black-billed Cuckoo (among others) found in the event! Placing second with 115 species was defending champions, team Wild Birds Unlimited, Williamsburg (Brian Taber and Paul Nasca) who located the first Blue-winged Warbler in the event's history. Close behind with 106 species was team Laughing Falcons (Bob Ake, David Clark, and Renee Hudgins) who found the only Piping Plover and Whimbrel in the Challenge. Double X Team - Williamsburg Bird Club (Shirley Devan, Alex Minarik, Susan Powell, and Lee Schuster) located the only American Pipit to bring their tally to 94 species. The Brown Headed Nut Cases - Virginia Beach Audubon (Terry Jenkins, Shelia Scoville, Aaron Decker, and Robert O'Dear) scored the only Yellow-throated Warbler in the event, and the first ever Blue-headed Vireo in the Challenge, to bring their total to a respectable 88 species.

Team Juvies (Margaret and Cameron Odell, with driver John Young) was unrivaled in the Youth Team category, yet they put up an impressive effort by identifying 100 species, including the Challenge's only Marbled Godwit and Swamp Sparrow.

Competing in the Special Venue category was team Wayward Loons (Glenn Koppel and Mary Alice Koeneke) who birded the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR, identifying 77 species including the only Broad-winged Hawk, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green and Hooded Warblers observed on the Shore. Also competing in this category, but outside the geographic awards area, was The Birding Tribe (Dan Cristol, Ryan Burge, and Andy McGann) who tallied 116 species, including Red-necked Phalarope and Upland Sandpiper in their search of Carney Island and vicinity.

In the Hawkwatch category was CVWO Platform Poachers (Bob Anderson, Aaron Bevill, and Jethro Runco) who observed some Challenge rarities like Worm-eating Warbler and House Wren to bring their total to 45 species. True to the name, Bear Mountain (Patti Reum, Norm Bell, and John Spahr) added some higher elevation specialties like Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, and Vesper Sparrow to their notable total of 32 species.

The presentation of team awards and the recognition of all participating teams will be made at the CVWO Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 8, 2008, from 3-6pm at the new Kiptopeke State Park Cabins. If you would like to attend the Annual Meeting, please contact CVWO President, Brian Taber at [taberzz@aol.com](mailto:taberzz@aol.com).

## News from the Hampton Roads Bird Club

Because of the Newport News Fall Festival, the October 5 walk in NNP had to start from the campgrounds. This cut down on the number of diverse habitats that are normally visited on the Sunday walks. The 3 birders who joined leader, Jane Frigo, saw a total of 24 species. The most noteworthy was a pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, the first of the season. Also present were Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, American Redstart and Common Yellowthroat.

Williamsburg Bird Club members George Roundtree and Eleanor Young were among the seven birders who joined Jane Frigo on the October 19 walk in NNP. One Great Horned Owl was seen perching and then treated the group to a flight across the lake. Four Bald Eagles of various ages were seen during the morning. Six duck species were spotted, although numbers were low. There were a total of 57 species identified during the morning.

Walks are conducted the 1st and 3rd Sundays year round in the park by the HRBC. Meet at the parking lot to the left of the Ranger Station around 7 AM.

The October field trip was to the Eastern Shore on the 11th. There were 19 participants and they tallied 91 species. Kiptopeke State Park, the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, Seaside Road, Magotha Road, Oyster and Cape Charles were just some of the places visited.

The speaker for the November 13 meeting at Sandy Bottom Nature Park, 1255 Big Bethel Road in Hampton will be Jethro Runco, the head bander at the Kiptopeke State Park songbird banding station during fall migration for the past eight years. His program will be about his birding experiences this past summer in Idaho. The meeting starts at 7 PM.

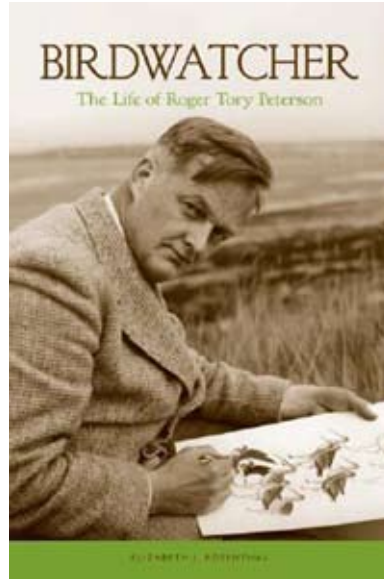
The November field trip will be on Saturday the 15th and the group will go to Chippokes Plantation State Park in Surry County. Meet in the parking lot in front of the Visitor's Center at Chippokes at 8 am. This should be a half day trip and it will be led by Nick Flanders and Jane Frigo. Contact Jane Frigo at [birderjane@gmail.com](mailto:birderjane@gmail.com) or call her at 873-0721 for details.

(Directions—take the Jamestown Ferry to Scotland Neck. Follow Route 31 to Route 10 and make a left. Turn left at Route 634 and continue to park entrance on the left.)

## November 2008 WBC Book Review

By Jeanette Navia

*Birdwatcher: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson*, by Elizabeth J. Rosenthal, The Lyons Press, 2008. 437 p. ISBN 9781599212944. Williamsburg Library call number: B PETERSON, R.



Can you imagine birding without your favorite field guide? Even if the guide you use most often is not a Peterson, most field guides today are directly influenced by Roger Tory Peterson's 1934 *A Field Guide to the Birds*, which Peterson conceptualized, wrote and illustrated when he was twenty-six years old. Until then, bird guides were written to help identify birds from their dead bodies

in hand. Peterson's guide was written to help identify live birds in the field. For the first time people of all skill levels could readily identify the birds they saw using his accurate illustrations and clear, succinct descriptions, with arrows pointing to specific field marks.

This year is the centennial of Peterson's birth. One of the publications about Peterson to come out is an extensive biography of Peterson by birder and journalist Elizabeth J. Rosenthal. Using articles, books, personal correspondence and other written material, and interviewing over a hundred people from around the world who knew or were influenced by Peterson, Rosenthal paints a fascinating picture of the man. Quotes from intimates of Peterson abound in this book.

Rosenthal begins with Peterson's boyhood, when Roger, who spent much of his boyhood exploring the outdoors, first became obsessed with birds. When he was eleven, he had an encounter with a flicker that changed his life. He thought the flicker was dead and poked it. "[I]nstantly this inert thing jerked its head around, looked at me wildly, then took off in a flash of gold.... Ever since then, birds have seemed to me the most vivid expression of life." Peterson spent the rest of his life bringing the passion he found in birds and nature to other people.

Rosenthal explores Peterson's relations with friends and acquaintances, his three wives and two sons, and his many protégés. She writes about his travels covering all seven continents. Among many other places, Peterson visited Spain, Kenya, the Bolivian Andes, Patagonia, and the Galapagos. In Antarctica, he fell in love with the King penguins and even took on the nickname King Penguin. Peterson's conservation efforts, including his outspoken opposition to the practice of spraying DDT, are reviewed. Peterson was prolific in his painting, photography, film-making, lecturing and writing, and Rosenthal's book brings this inexhaustible birder to life.

Before reading this book, I knew that Roger Tory Peterson was connected to many field guides, but I had no idea of the breadth of his involvement with ecological issues. It is amazing to me that he was able to pack so much writing, painting, birding, touring, activism, study and teaching into one life. It was a long life, and a very inspiring one.

### **WBC October New Quarter Park Walks & Newport News Park Field Trip**

Ten people joined leader Tom McCary for the Oct 11th walk in New Quarter Park. Twenty-eight species were identified during the walk. The highlights were a Black-throated Blue Warbler and FOS sightings of 2 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and a Yellow-rumped Warbler—a new birding season has officially arrived.



**Photo by Shirley Devan**

Left to right: Margaret Ware, Tom McCary, Jennifer Burrows, Françoise Verland, Chuck Rend, Pat Barker, Betty Peterson, Sharon Falconer. Hugh Beard is in the back. Missing from picture is Katie Young

Leader Bill Williams was joined by 14 other birders (several from the Hampton Roads Bird Club) for the October 18 field trip to Newport News Park. They were Bill Kay, Lorena Walsh, Mike Millen, Jeanne Millen, Jeanette Navia, Sibyl Rose, Tom McCary, Shirley Devan, Margaret Ware, Julie Breeden, Jan Frigo, Nick Flanders, George Rountree and Eleanor Young. There were a total of 41 species of birds identified during the morning. (See article by Bill Williams on next page.)



**Photo by Shirley Devan**

Fifteen birders joined leader Bill Williams for the Oct 25th walk at NQP. Forty-two species were seen. The Yellow-rumps were back in force, 62 were counted and the group saw 6 species of woodpeckers.



**Photo by Shirley Devan**

Front row: Angier Brock, Susan Powell, Sara Lewis  
 Second Row (kneeling) Seig Kopinitz and Barbara Boyer  
 Third row: Alice Kopinitz, Adrienne Frank, George Rountree, Gary Driscoll  
 Back row: Beth Malmquist, Al Brassel, Hugh Beard, Bill Williams and Joe Piotrowski  
 Missing from picture: Marian & Rick Bennett

## **The October Newport News Park Field Trip**

**By Bill Williams**

Maybe it was the overcast skies with the threat of morning rain that got normally birdy Newport News Park off to a slow start for the club's 18 Oct field trip there. As we strolled slowly across the lake-crossing boardwalk we found an active hatch-year Little Blue Heron, quite a few bottoms-up Mallards, a fly-over Osprey, and a couple of patient Great Blue Herons. Intriguing was a female Blue-winged Teal that flew in with a pair of Mallards and proceeded to follow them wherever they paddled. Along the shore edge a Winter Wren flirted with being seen, but only gave us sound bites to go by. A young male Cooper's Hawk perched briefly at the end of the boardwalk then conveniently flew right past allowing a quick but effective study. Off in the distance the group found a Pied-billed Grebe then several not-so-far away feeding Double-crested Cormorants. By then we had been joined by Julie Breeden, Nick Flanders, and Jane Frigo from the Hampton Roads Bird Club.

A walk through the park's magnificent deciduous forest was particularly quiet, but eventually brought us some neat finds including a pair of Mute Swans, several Red-headed Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatch.

Once we made our way to the swamp boardwalk things began to change for the better. Red-winged Blackbirds and Blue Jays were vociferously active, as were 5 Wood Ducks. As soon as we saw the female Merlin zipping about we knew why. At one point she perched atop a dead tree giving everyone excellent spotting scope views. What became laughably curious were Blue Jays and Northern Flickers that sat just below this predator as if there was no threat to their existence anywhere around! While all of this was unfolding a Northern Harrier drifted over and a male Rusty Blackbird was seen near-by. Certainly most unexpected was a flock of 30+ Pine Siskins which Nick Flanders found. Other species well seen from the swamp boardwalk were Common Yellowthroat, a cooperative Swamp Sparrow, and a lively Ruby-crowned Kinglet. On our brisk walk back to our vehicles we were treated to an inspiring Bald Eagle. Other species included among the 41 submitted to eBird were Northern Parula, Black-and-white Warbler, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Thanks to all who joined the walk, one which demonstrated nicely that persistence pays!

## **Birding with Batteries: Talk Online at YouTube**

Caitlin Kight posted the program she presented to the bird club in October on YouTube and added links to the video

(in 4 parts) on her personal website. Caitlin's website is: <http://crkigh.people.wm.edu> and the video links can be found on the writing subpage (about halfway down, as part of the information about the article itself: <http://crkigh.people.wm.edu/writing.htm>.

## **December Walk & Talk at New Quarter Park**

York County Parks and Recreation will sponsor a Walk and Talk Saturday, December 6 from 10 am to noon at the Bobwhite Habitat Restoration site in New Quarter Park where members of the Williamsburg Bird Club, Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalist, and the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will show participants how to re-create their lawns as a healthy and attractive flower-and-seed-filled habitat to attract diverse species including birds and butterflies. More information is available at

<http://www.meetup.com/NewQuarterPark>.

## **Bobwhite Habitat Restoration Project**

**By Shirley Devan**

With five powerful groups, spearheaded by the tireless Cynthia Long, success was certain!

In the winter of 2008, at the urging of Cynthia and Bob Long, four organizations committed to managing a meadow at New Quarter Park to create favorable habitat for Bobwhite Quail, a species whose numbers are rapidly declining because of habitat loss.

The Williamsburg Bird Club, the John Clayton Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, and York County's New Quarter Park teamed up to help create habitat specifically for the Bobwhite Quail at New Quarter Park where they have been observed each of the last two years.

We spent several months researching the project, talking to experts, talking to each other, communicating between our organizations, and planning, planning, planning.

Cynthia tapped into Marc Puckett, VaDGIF Small Game Program Coordinator, who advised us to plant the "palatable seed they [Bobwhite] are likely to eat, as they evolved here long before non-native lespedezas were here. Remember also that the quail chicks need insects, thus legumes, flowers, tender grasses of many kinds that do not get too thick at ground level and hold insects and make up the warm season food portion of the quail diet."

Everyone we spoke to confirmed that warm season grasses and legumes are the key to Bobwhite Quail habitat.

When September arrived, Cynthia sprung into action. Milestone events came one right after the other, thanks to the coordination and assistance of Molly Nealer, Sara Lewis, and Joanne Chapman at York County Parks and Recreation.

September 12, Bob, Cynthia and I measured the meadow and decided that we would work on about half of the meadow this year and the rest next year. The meadow totaled about two acres.

October 7, York County staff plowed meadow. Eric “The Man” Wilson took charge of the tractor. Two other York County employees down on site were Kevin Lechler and Matt Greene. Kevin related to Cynthia and me that he had seen a Bobwhite with 7-8 little ones in the road near the meadow last year. That’s what we like to hear!

On October 15 a critical meeting took place at NQP with Joanne Chapman, York County Parks and Recreation, and Brian Noyes and Jim Wallace of Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District, the 5th critical organization to join our team. Also in attendance were representatives from the sponsoring organizations: Susan Powell of Virginia Master Naturalists, Helen Hamilton from VA Native Plant Society, Shirley Devan and Cynthia and Bob Long of Williamsburg Bird Club, and Sara Lewis and Molly Nealer from New Quarter Park. Brian Noyes and Jim Wallace, based on their experience in planting for Bobwhite Quail on the Peninsula, provided excellent advice about what to plant in our area and how they would go about it. They volunteered their services and the group graciously accepted their offer! They even provided the seed.

The afternoon of October 23 Brian Noyes and Jim Wallace, the Soil & Water Conservation team, arrived at the Park with their equipment. Cynthia was on site and reported that it took about 3 hours to mechanically spread the seed, which included Partridge Pea, Black-eyed Susan *Rudbeckia hirta*, and *Coreopsis tinctoria*. “All went well and we all left happy,” per Cynthia.

But the planting was not done! Cynthia and other members of the Virginia Native Plant Society had seeds they had been saving for this project. Cynthia and I organized a workday for Saturday, October 25 – two days after the mechanical planting. We put the word out for volunteers to help broadcast the 35 species of native plant seeds and potted plants Cynthia had saved.

Bob and Cynthia began to divide the meadow into plots for the volunteers to sign up for. They even labeled each of the 11 plots with a sign!

When the 20 volunteers arrived Saturday morning, Cynthia took charge and passed out pre-packaged seed packets, one for each plot. She instructed us on how to mix the seeds with the sand and then spread them by hand. She also provided many native plants and grasses already in pots. Volunteers only had to dig holes and put them in the ground.

Jan Newton, a volunteer from the VA Native Plant Society, also brought bags of seeds from native plants. Volunteers spread those around the 11 plots as well.

One participant observed that she was a bit down because of the recent economic news and the war and the election wrangling, but she felt uplifted by the bobwhite habitat restoration project because she felt she could chip in and make a worthwhile contribution to a good cause.

Cynthia summed up the morning: “Yes, it was a great morning. I was so happy to see those sweet people coming down the hill, and how fast everybody got the whole meadow planted. The crowning blessing was the gentle rain, which followed our big morning. We are destined to succeed! I will be watching it closely, and continue to augment the plantings. I think we have tapped into a great group of people who are working together.”

Next summer the meadow will be beautiful and home to Bobwhite Quail (we hope) plus providing food and cover for numerous other bird and insect species. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked over the past year to realize this project.



**Photo by Shirley Devan**

Susan Powell and Alice Kopinitz work on Bobwhite habitat.

## CALENDAR

Saturday, Nov 8	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 am, Tom McCary, Leader
Saturday Nov 8	Owl Prowl, New Quarter Park, 7–9 pm. Pre-registration required (call 890-3500). Limited to 25 participants.
Thursday, Nov 13	HRBC Monthly Meeting, Jethro Runco, Speaker—See page 4
Saturday, Nov 15	HRBC Field Trip, Chippokes Plantation, See Page 4
Saturday, Nov 15	WBC Field Trip, Colonial Parkway, Alex Minarik, Leader—See Page 1
Saturday, Nov 15	Dutch Gap Conservation Area with Lewis Barnett of the Richmond Audubon Society—contact Lewis at <a href="mailto:lbarnett@richmond.edu">lbarnett@richmond.edu</a> for further information
Sunday, Nov 16	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 am, Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, Nov 19	WBC Monthly Meeting, Mike Millin, Speaker—See Page 1
Saturday, Nov 22	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 am, Bill Williams, Leader.
Saturday, Dec 6	Walk and Talk, New Quarter Park, Bobwhite Habitat, 10 am to noon—See Page 6



**Collared Aracari**

**Photo by Mike Millin**

*Mike Millin will present a program on  
Costa Rica as a birding destination—  
November 19th*