



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 33, No. 8

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

September 2009

### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

The Bird Club is consciously trying to increase its education efforts and respond to long-standing requests for bird identification classes. So—the Bird Club has partnered with two local organizations to present two bird identification workshops this fall—one for children 9–12 years old and another for adults.

**For The Kids:** Bird Club member and VA Master Naturalist Mike Millin will lead the “Bird Sleuth” program at New Quarter Park four Saturdays this fall: September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12 from 8 am–10 am. This coincides with the Club’s regular 2nd Saturday bird walks at NQP. Adults can participate in the Bird Walk while their kids join Bird Sleuth. *(continued on page 2)*

### Annual Picnic—September 6

Our Annual Picnic will resume this year. Thankfully, Ruth Beck has recovered from her fall, and she and Sherwin will graciously open their Barhamsville home and yard to us Sunday, September 6. Time is 4:00 PM.

You should call Jean Rend at 220-9032 to let her know that you are coming, and discuss what side dish you might contribute to the feast. We hope to see you there.

Directions to the Beck’s house: Take I-64 west toward Richmond to exit #227 (West Point/Toano). Turn right onto Route 30 North going toward West Point. Follow Route 30 about 2.5 miles to Barhamsville. The center of Barhamsville extends along the road for less than a mile. Look for the Post Office on your right. Then immediately look for a secondary paved road, Route 273 N, turn to the right. Follow it for 1.6 miles. As the forested area to your right suddenly gives way to open fields, look for a road sign on the left that says Farmer’s Drive and Polish Town Road (State Route 634). Directly opposite Route 634, there will be a gravel/dirt road on the right (there will be a sign for Leyland Tree Farm). Turn right on to the gravel/dirt road. Stay on this road for about 1/2 mile. This gravel lane goes the Beck’s driveway. Go through an open red gate and continue

to the parking area in front of the house. In case you have a problem, the Beck’s phone number is 566-8234

### September Meeting

Alex Wilke of the Nature Conservancy will be the speaker at the September meeting.

Plan to join us on September 16, 2009 at 7:30 PM in Room 117, Millington Hall, on the William and Mary campus. Refreshments will be provided by Jennifer Boag.

### September Field Trip to the Eastern Shore—9/12

Please note that this field trip is on the second Saturday of the month to avoid the crowds at the Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival which will be held the following weekend.

Please meet with Bill Williams by 7 AM at the Colony Square Shopping Center to form carpools to save on gas and tolls. The group will visit the hawkwatching platform, the hawk banding site, the songbird banding station and the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. Bill says the group should leave from the Eastern Shore sometime around noon to 1:00 p.m. It will be up to the will of the people and the birds all want to to see.

Bill recommends that you bring your cameras, since you will probably see some hawks and songbirds up close and personal.

### August 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!

**Aug 2:** Shirley Devan reports scoping out the sandbar and mudflats at Jamestown Island. She had at least 4 Least Terns, 17 Caspian Terns, 36 Laughing Gulls, 1 Ring-billed Gull, 16 Killdeer, at least one Common Tern, at least 4 Great Blue Herons and Osprey all over. Joe and Grace Doyle identify 30 species during their visit to Camp Peary.

**Aug 2:** Margaret Ware joined leader Jane Frigo and 4 other Hampton Roads Bird Club members for a warm, muggy

## Officers

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Bob Long	

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b>	229-2363
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<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b>	229-1124
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<b>Adopt-A-Highway</b>	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>maffjf07@netzero.net</i>
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Cynthia Long	

## A Big Thanks to George & Valerie Copping of Wild Birds Unlimited

The Williamsburg Bird Club received a donation of \$315 from WBU based on sales to WBC members from January through June of this year. Our 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.

walk in Newport News Park. Highlights included two Great Horned Owls behind the Japanese Tea House, a Scarlet Tanager in the Arboretum and a very cooperative Blue Grosbeak that serenaded the group at the Discovery Center. There was also a flyover of three Greater Yellowlegs and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. A total of 50 species were tallied during the morning.

**Aug 3:** Bill Williams has 54 species on his walk around Greensprings Nature Trail. There have been a 137 species reported to eBird from the trail so far this year. Bill has seen 209 species on the trail since he started birding the site on May 4, 1997.

**Aug 9:** From Greensprings Nature Trail Bill Williams reports—it was a hot one by mid-morning. The Solitary Sandpiper was the only true migrant. Others will follow quickly with a cool down and change in wind direction. A total of 60 species were recorded for the day. Joe & Grace Doyle have a great day at Camp Peary—45 species.

**Aug 16:** This morning's trip to Camp Peary rewarded Joe & Grace Doyle with 31 species. Leader Jane Frigo (joined by Margaret Ware, Eleanor Young and nine other HRBC members) said about the walk at Newport News Park—“This morning skies were clear but the air heavy with moisture from previous days heavy rains. The ‘dog days of summer’ seemed to have arrived and things were quiet. Forty-five species were identified. The highlight of the morning was a Great Horned Owl that put on quite a show sitting at length in the sun.”

**Aug 20:** Lois Leeth reports seeing a Black Tern from the Jamestown Ferry. Also, in her yard she had Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, a White-breasted Nuthatch and a Winter Wren. This summer she is blessed with 2 successful hatchings of Rufous-sided Towhees and 2 Brown Thrashers.

**Aug 23:** Today's tip to Camp Peary resulted in 32 species of birds for Joe & Grace Doyle. On his walk on the Greensprings Nature Trail, Bill Williams was surprised by a hatch-year Horned Lark. The previous early date for this species was 6 September. Other highlights of the 61 species were an adult Little Blue Heron, a Solitary Sandpiper and a Veery.

**Aug 25:** Lois Leeth reports seeing a Downy Woodpecker and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

**Aug 26:** Among the 60 species of birds that Bill Williams entered in eBird for Craney Island were 2 White Pelicans, 1 Red Knot, 1 Roseate Spoonbill, 47 American Avocets and hundred of sandpipers of various species.

**Aug 30:** Alex Minarik reports a Worm-eating Warbler on her backyard deck—only the second record of this bird in her yard in nine years of record keeping.

## President's Corner (continued from page 1)

Children age 9–12 will learn how to identify the most frequently observed birds by sounds, silhouettes, and behaviors. Each session will involve looking for birds, recording the species of birds seen, and recording bird observations online at eBird, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's largest citizen science program website. Bird Sleuth program participants will also have an opportunity to participate in the Williamsburg Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count, December 20. This program is free! Register for Bird Sleuth by calling York

County Parks and Recreation at 757-890-3500. Adults may participate too, but they must be accompanied by a 9 to 12 year old student.

**For the Adults:** Bill Williams, Education Director for the Center for Conservation Biology at William and Mary/Virginia Commonwealth University and a founding member of the Williamsburg Bird Club, will teach “Identifying Local Birds” for the Williamsburg Area Learning Tree (WALT).

Bill has designed this class to cover: bird identification based on bird topography; “General Impression Size and Shape;” and, where (habitat) and when birds are found (season, time of day). Common local birds will be emphasized. Additional topics will include using optics and field guides; keeping records; and birding resources.

The dates are Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Human Services Building on Olde Towne Road. The fee is \$50 per person plus \$15 materials fee. All funds received will be split equally between the Williamsburg Bird Club for a worthy cause and the Center for Conservation Biology Mitchell A. Byrd Fund.

WALT will release its fall class schedule September 12 in the VA Gazette and other outlets. Also, check their web site after September 12: <http://www.wuu.org/walt/index.html> You must register with WALT to participate in this class. Maximum class size is 24 so sign up early. Note: All registrations for WALT classes are by mail only. You can find a registration form on their web site.

Many thanks to our partners New Quarter Park, York County Parks and Recreation, Historic Rivers Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, and Williamsburg Area Learning Tree plus extra thanks go to Bird Club members Mike Millin and Bill Williams for their willingness to take on these education projects in our community. I hope you will support our efforts and participate in these programs.

## **My Nature Camp Experience**

**By Chandler Fox**

*Note from Shirley Devan: Chandler will not be able to attend September's Club meeting so she sent this essay.*

Before going to Nature Camp thought it would be about exploring nature, but from the moment I got there, I realized we were going to learn how to save nature. Camp was fun! But more so, it was a conservation experience. There were animals, of course. We had a water snake, a mouse, an ant farm, and fish – all were found at camp. Instead of just caring for the animals, we learned about their life and food cycles, and what we could do to help their future.

One of my favorite activities was hiking. Instead of just walking to “Table Rock”, a natural water slide for a swim, the counselors made a game by naming the “Great Leaf Race”. We collected leaves for our compost pile, to speed up the decaying meal scraps, which was moving very slowly! There were not a lot of scraps because the food was delicious. Everything was homemade, using local produce. Although the days started early and stayed late, we did have time to talk to friends, write a letter home, and grab a candy bar from the canteen. My two weeks at camp have changed my conservation efforts at home and for the future!

## **Nature Camp**

**By Emily Simperts**

I would like to thank the members of the Williamsburg Bird Club once again for awarding me a Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarship. You gave me an exciting opportunity to experience new things and learn a lot about nature.

I attended the August 2–15 session of Nature Camp. It was my first camp experience. Although I was a bit homesick at times, I made new friends, climbed mountains, and learned things about myself I had not known. It stretched me as a person and I am better for it!

My major at camp was ornithology. We went on bird hikes, looking and listening for birds, at different times of day and in many habitats. We saw dozens of birds, but my favorites were the Indigo Buntings and American Goldfinches. They are so small and bright! I'd never seen them before.

We studied bird types, habits, calls, and migration patterns. I never realized that birds use thermals to soar and glide. That's pretty amazing—flying isn't just flapping wings!

I also studied geology, astronomy, entomology, limnology, ecology, conservation, larvotany, botany, herpetology, and nature journaling. There was so much to learn!

When we were not in classes, we spent time hiking, swimming, exploring, rock painting and getting to know each other.

Thank you for an incredible, unforgettable two weeks!

## **The 15 August 2009 Craney Island Field Trip**

**By Bill Williams**

Ruth Beck's mid-August field trip to Craney Island Disposal Area in Portsmouth is perhaps one of the club's most eagerly anticipated outings every year. Craney Island is the Army Corp of Engineers dredge spoil disposal site for the entire Hampton Roads harbor. Throughout the year the facility's vast mudflats, ephemeral ponds, and weed-covered dikes attract significant numbers of waterfowl, herons, ibis,

egrets, gulls, terns, shorebirds, and many songbird species. To say that one never knows what “goody-birds” or megarrarity may be just around the next corner bears no shadow of overstatement. And Fall migration is far and away the best time to visit there. Witness the Terek Sandpiper found at Craney in August 2008 by some of our Hampton Roads Bird Club friends, only the second detection ever for that species in eastern United States!!

As the group assembled at Colony Square Shopping Center Saturday morning dark clouds burdened with humidity clung hauntingly over the east skyline. Areas of Norfolk and Portsmouth had received 7-12 inches of rain over the 3 previous days, the result of a frontal boundary stalled directly over Tidewater. Was Ruth’s parade about to be rained on? Caravanning down I-64 towards the Monitor–Merrimac it seemed it would. Rain fell steady and hard all the way to Portsmouth.

Now Ruth, Shirley Devan and Alex Minarik had “test-run” Craney the previous Monday, and had found lots of superb birds. Before they left the area they made all of them promise to hang in there through the club’s Saturday visit. As our leader key punched her way through the Craney Island security gate Saturday, everyone wondered if the birds had honored the agreement. Light rain was falling with a dark band of showers easing its way over the James River from Hampton.

The disposal site is divided into 3 massive dredge spoil cells. These are partitioned from each other by parallel east-west earthen (dredge) dike roads. A perimeter road encircles the entire spoil area. The western side of the perimeter parallels I-664, the eastern side borders the Elizabeth River, and the northern side connecting east to west follows the flow of the James River. The intersection of the dike roads with the perimeter roads allows excellent access for birding.

Ruth’s first stop became a west-side-story. Here the gang discovered an American Black Duck, a couple of Ospreys, a large collection of feeding Brown Pelicans, Snowy Egrets, a molting Black-bellied Plover, Eastern and Western forms of Willet (the latter may soon become a separate species), Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderlings, and scores of Barn Swallows with a Chimney Swift and a few Purple Martins among them. As if that weren’t enough Ron Giese spotted a young Cooper’s Hawk dashing about the vegetated dike road.

This stop was extended with a brief walk up the dike to the junction of the south cell/center cell dike road. Dave Wilcox scoped up a distant but nevertheless beautiful adult female Peregrine Falcon sitting in the center cell mudflat. Much to everyone’s delight 22 American Avocets

stood quietly nearby surrounded by more Lesser Yellowlegs. Not far away were a half-dozen Stilt Sandpipers and a couple of Short-billed Dowitchers. The Copper’s Hawk returned to pay a harassment call on a young Red-tailed Hawk perched atop a large cedar tree. From our elevated vantage both were at eye level or below!!



Photo taken earlier this summer by Shirley Devan

At the intersection of the center cell with the north cell avian diversity rose to exhilarating levels. Ruth, Shirley, and Alex had pinned down the location of a Roseate Spoonbill in the north cell during their Monday reconnoiter, so all scope-trained eyes were at full alert for anything that was pastel pink. Then, just as planned there it was, probably a half mile away foraging among a gathering of Great Egrets.

The Roseate Spoonbill is truly a mega-rarity for the Commonwealth. During the spring and summer of 2009 the species apparently had a very successful reproductive season followed by an unprecedented northward dispersal of fledglings from their Florida breeding sites. One had been near Waynesboro in June. Others had been seen in New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and North Carolina. One observer in South Carolina said he had never seen anything like it there.



Photo by Bill Williams

Birders being birders, the group drank in the distant visitor for as long as they could then moved on with their viewing to see what else might be around. However, the spoonbill changed that in a wing-beat. Well a few anyway.

It flew to us then landed about 100 meters away!!! We knew Ruth was pulling stings. With our steady footwork around some mud to gain the best views the bird accommodated so that binoculars and scopes were spoonbill full for many minutes. Duryea Morton did his very best to capture this exquisite bird on video. Overhead Barn Swallows flitted about before landing on a large mound of dredge. This presented a perfect circumstance to view them at rest and to tease out the Tree Swallows and Banks Swallows among them. In the knee-high weeds just off the dike was a flock of 100+ Brown-headed Cowbirds, and lo and behold slumming in their midst was a young male Yellow-headed Blackbird! With close scrutiny its yellow throat and yellow smudges above the eye helped nail the bird's identity. This observation is two weeks ahead of the species' previous Coastal Plain early date of 29 August and one day ahead of the earliest date for the state. One was seen in Manassas 16 August 1983.

The group left this site to traverse the north dike road where Gull-billed, Caspian, Royal, Forster's and Least Terns were added to the trip list along with more close examinations of the shorebird diversity.

But Ruth wasn't done yet. There was one more goal, that one in the east corner of the center cell. Here she had staked-out Black-necked Stilts, a pair of which had produced 4 young in late July. Although the young could not fully be confirmed there were 3 adults stilts present, one of which put on quite a display of displeasure with our encroachment. Nearby a White-rumped Sandpiper was located among several other peeps. As the entourage was about to exit the south cell, several observers discovered a wonderful Marbled Godwit at close range.

What a day. The species list posted to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's ebird website totaled 64 species. Adjusting for ebird's tallying our entry of peep sp. (unidentified shorebirds), and Western Willet as separate species, the actual species total was 62.

So folks, Ruth is back on her feet; slowly progressing and improving every day. The trip proved that the birds know that many times over!

### **Kiptopeke Challenge Needs Your Support** **By Shirley Devan**

September 26 and the Kiptopeke Challenge will be here before you know it. There will be teams of birders from all over the state racing around the Eastern Shore that day in the 15th Annual Kiptopeke Challenge.

Once again this year several members of the Williamsburg

Bird Club are forming **two** teams to scour the Eastern Shore to see which team can find the most species in the 24-hour period.

Brian Taber and Paul Nasca (from Fredericksburg) will form the "Wild Birds of Williamsburg" team supported by Val and George Copping at Wild Birds Unlimited here in Williamsburg. The "Wild Birds of Williamsburg" is the only team to participate in the event every year. They'll be dedicating their efforts this year to Peggy Opengari who passed away in July. She was a great friend and former member of the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory's Board of Directors.

For the only the second year, a group of birders I've rounded up will participate. Bill Williams, Alex Minarik, Lee Schuster, Susan Powell, and I will be the "Gulls Gone Wild" team. We'll be starting from Kiptopeke State Park and make our way up the shore to Chincoteague with stops at some "secret" places along the way.

The Kiptopeke Challenge is a fun, fund-raising event for the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. I urge you to support BOTH teams if you can because ALL proceeds of this event are used to further field research, educational presentations which are free to the public and conservation efforts, such as habitat restoration. The songbird banding station, the hawk watch, and Monarch Migration study at Kiptopeke State Park are funded by the CVWO. For more information, see the website at [www.cvwo.org](http://www.cvwo.org).

Send one check payable to CVWO, to Brian Taber at 103 Exeter Court, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Then send another check, payable to CVWO, to me at 106 Winter East, Williamsburg, VA 23188. After the competition, each team will send out a note with the results and an account of the day.

It would be great if every member supported at least one of these teams. So pull out your checkbook right now before you forget! Any amount is appreciated and means so much to the research efforts.

### **Birding with Batteries**

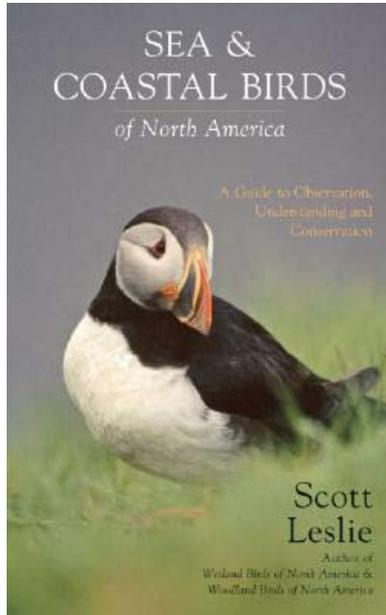
Caitlyn Kight has an article in the Sept/Oct issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest* titled "Birding with Batteries", which is the result of a survey she did last year. She also presented a program on this topic to our bird club last October.

At the end of the article she expresses thanks to the Williamsburg Bird Club.

## Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia

*Sea and Coastal Birds of North America: A Guide to Observation, Understanding and Conservation*, by Scott Leslie. Key Porter Books, 2008. 246 p. \$19.95. Library call number : 598.097 LES, Williamsburg Library.



When I think of gulls, I picture myself lying on a beach, hearing sounds of merriment from Laughing Gulls overhead. But sea birds live in extreme conditions, catching food in rough waters, withstanding cold temperatures and high winds, and increasingly seeing their breeding and feeding grounds being destroyed by human development and global warming. Shearwaters, petrels,

fulmars, albatrosses, and puffins live in some of the toughest conditions on the planet. Scott Leslie's book, *Sea and Coastal Birds of North America* emphasizes the beauty of and challenges to fifty of the more common species of sea birds living on the coasts of our continent.

In a couple chapters at the beginning of the book Leslie describes the lives of sea birds. "The defining characteristic of the true seabirds is their nomadic life at sea. They are as much creatures of the oceans as are whales and fish. Although largely species of the sky and surface of the sea, seabirds have the ability to exploit prey living on or just beneath the surface. ... By using highly efficient diving techniques... they penetrate deeply into the sea (up to 600 feet in the case of the common murre) to capture prey."

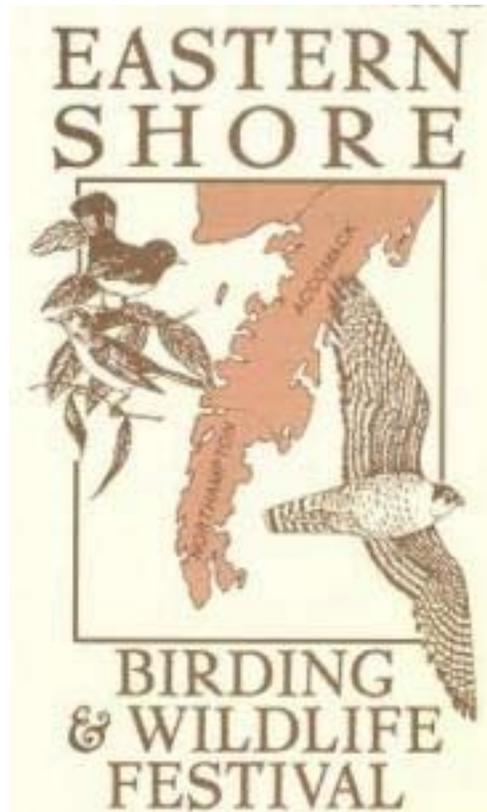
Leslie describes each of the included species with one or two photographs, a range map, and sections on appearance, habitat, behavior, calls, food, family life, migration, conservation concerns, and related species. For some species, conservation maps are included that show species status (i.e., critically imperiled, vulnerable, apparently secure, etc.). The quality of the photos is very good, though sometimes small, and sometimes the background makes it difficult to see details.

In addition to the sections listed above, Leslie writes a few interesting lines about each bird. Of the Arctic Tern, he writes "One of the migratory champions of the bird world, the Arctic tern sees more hours of daylight than any other animal. Its global peregrinations take it from the long days of the northern summers in the Arctic where it breeds to the equally long days of the southern summers around Antarctica. With an annual round trip of some 25,000 miles and a life span of over 30 years, this little species may migrate 750,000 miles in a lifetime, not including day-to-day foraging flights."

Leslie's passion for these birds is evident in his descriptions of the birds and in his impassioned pleas throughout the book for conservation measures to be taken for these species.

The information included for each species is a little more detailed than what one would find in a field guide. This would be a good book for those wanting to familiarize themselves with sea and coastal birds, and to learn of the ecological threats to these species.

### ESVA Birding and Wildlife Festival—Sept 17–20



Bring your camera, your sketchbook, your easel, your carving knives. Observe, experience, and capture what artists in all media have, that has drawn so many of them to this magical place.

Enjoy the launch of the festival on the 17th in the quaint harbor town of Onancock, with its remarkable array of fine restaurants, art galleries, and stellar accommo-

dations. For details of this part of the Festival, go to [www.onancockbirding.com](http://www.onancockbirding.com). Live raptors, museum-quality wildlife art, kayaking.

Artists' galleries and studios in and around Onancock

reflect the powerful attraction that the water-, land-, and sky-scapes, the wildlife, and the waterman's craft have for artists in watercolor and oil, in bronze and in wood.

After that warm-up, head south toward Cape Charles and Kiptopeke for the main Festival birding, touring, and workshop events.

Noted nature photographer, editor, and writer Jim Clark will deliver the 17th Annual Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival's keynote address, "Between Ocean and Bay: A Natural Celebration of the Eastern Shore" Friday, Sept. 18, at Arts Enter Palace Theatre in Cape Charles.

Jim Clark is an award-winning, nationally renowned author, nature photographer and motivational speaker. A contributing editor for Outdoor Photographer Magazine, his work has appeared in magazines such as Nature's Best, Wildlife Refuge, Birders World, Photo Media, Wild Bird, and many more. Other clients include Nikon, Zeiss, National Wildlife Federation, and Nature Conservancy. He has written three books.

Mr. Clark will conduct on Saturday morning a workshop on techniques and tips for capturing outstanding images of nature—landscapes, flowers, and abstracts as well as wildlife—that exemplify a sense of place. Wineries near Nassawadox, set among the farms, woods, and wetlands of Northampton County, afford an opportunity to mix wildlife-watching and wine-tasting.

Go to Kiptopeke State Park's Hawk Observatory and while there visit its butterfly garden. Stop by the bird-banding station for a demonstration. Do a basic birding or a raptor identification workshop in Cape Charles, or an advanced hawk ID workshop at Kiptopeke.

Tour the Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve – a remarkable range of habitats in a small and beautiful setting.

The complete Festival brochure is at [www.esvachamber.org/events/birding.asp](http://www.esvachamber.org/events/birding.asp). Download a registration form and sign up for tours and workshops. Many fill quickly....but there's always much more to do.

## **Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory Fall Staff 2009**

**From CVWO Website**

For the first time in 8 years, Jethro Runco will not be the Songbird Bander at Kiptopeke. His amazing skills, dedication, teaching style and personality will be sorely missed. He also pioneered, for 2 seasons, at our spring songbird program at First Landing State Park in Virginia Beach. We wish him the best!

For 2009 the Observatory has its largest-ever fall staff at 7.

Ann Gilmore is the new Kiptopeke Lead Songbird Bander. She has done extensive bird work at the Institute for Bird Populations in Washington, at the US Geological Survey in Utah and Nevada and at the Alaska Bird Observatory.

Our intern is Sarah Bastarache, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Asheville, who has had exposure to bird research as a veterinary assistant and as an intern with a wildlife rehab hospital near Boston.

Peter Doherty, spring songbird bander at First Landing for the past 3 years and operator of the Brown-headed Nuthatch study there, will assist as a second full-time songbird bander at Kiptopeke during the peak season beginning about October 1st. He has conducted many bird studies throughout the hemisphere, is certified as a bander trainer by the North American Banding Council, and conducted a bander training course in spring 2009 at First Landing.

Calvin Brennan, of Nova Scotia, will be one of our hawk-watchers. He conducted the Kiptopeke hawkwatch in 2000-2001 and was also the Observatory's spring songbird bander at the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge in 2000-2002. Calvin has been the hawkwatcher at Lake Erie Metropark in Michigan for 7 seasons and has done spring work at Whitefish Point, Michigan, Sandy Hook, New Jersey and along Delaware Bay.

Zak Poulton is the other hawkwatcher, with bird field experience at Blue Ridge Wildlife Institute in North Carolina, the Audubon Society in North Carolina and the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission.

Bob Chapman will be the hawk bander. Among many bird-related activities, he has worked at the San Diego Zoo's Avian Propagation Center, built and operated the Decorah Hawk Trapping Station and worked as a bird guide in southeastern Arizona.

Georgia Karns is the Monarch program staff person, who will conduct regular surveys and tag Monarchs. She holds degrees in biology from Virginia Commonwealth University and University of Arkansas and received her Masters degree in environmental science from Indiana University. She also has experience teaching and conducting research in ecology and entomology.

The songbird station opened August 18th, the hawk programs will open on September 1st and the Monarch program will begin September 15th. For Blogs and other information, visit [www.cvwo.org](http://www.cvwo.org).

## WBC August Walks & Field Trip

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



Twelve people (Cathy Bond, Susie-Engle Hill, Shirley Devan, Sharon Falconer, Paul Leger, Sara Lewis, John & Jan Lockwood, Jeanette Navia, Barbara Seelbach, Dorothy Whitfield and Margaret Ware) joined leader Bill Williams for the August 8 walk at New Quarter Park. Although several of the birders suffered from steamy glasses in the humidity, total of 42 species were tallied for the morning. Photo by Shirley Devan.



There were 19 participants (Tom Armour, Ruth Beck, Mitchell Byrd, Ann Carpenter, Gary Carpenter, Lynn Collins, Gary Driscole, Adrienne Frank, Ron Giese, Stan Hoegerman, Jim Hutchins, Mary Margaret Hutchins, Jan Lockwood, Tom McCary, Duryea Morton, Linda Scherer, Christine Wilcox, Dave Wilcox and Bill Williams) on the August 15 field trip to Craney Island. There were lots of fun birds and interested folks with great optics for all to see! The spoonbill put on quite a show. Photo by Ruth Beck. **See article by Bill Williams on page 3.**



In an email that Shirley Devan sent out after the walk on August 22, she wrote “we dodged the rain drops and observed some very fine birds this morning at New Quarter Park. We had excellent looks at a mature Bald Eagle perched in the branches of a white oak tree”. The walk, led by Bill Williams, saw a total of 30 species during the morning. In addition to the Bald Eagle, another highlight was 2 hatch-year Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Photo by Molly Nealer. (Margaret Ware left early.)

Left to right: back row: Jan and John Lockwood, Curtis Kloman, Jeanette Navia, Geoff Giles, Bill Williams, Hang Trinh  
Front row: Shirley Devan, Sara Lewis, Joanne Andrews, Tam Do, Theu Le.

**Members' Photo Gallery**



**Photos by Shirley Devan, Brian Taber and Bill Williams**



## Bird ID from Recycle Bin Photos

By Joe Piotrowski

This is a new feature on the website and in the electronic version of *The Flyer*. The answer to this month's "puzzle" will be given in the next electronic newsletter, as well as on the website.



Here is the picture for September



Last month's picture was of a Great Blue Heron in molt.

## CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept 6	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Sunday, Sept 6	WBC Annual Picnic, see front page
Thursday, Sept 10	HRBC, Monthly Meeting, John Coiner, "Southeast Shore Birds", 7 PM, Sandy Bay Nature Center
Saturday, Sept 12	WBC, Eastern Shore Field Trip, Bill Williams Leader, see front page.
Saturday, Sept 12	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Susan Powell, Leader
Saturday, Sept 12	HRBC Field Trip, Greenspring Nature Trail, 8 AM
Sept 11–13	VSO Chincoteague Field Trip, <a href="http://www.virginiabirds.net">www.virginiabirds.net</a>
Wednesday, Sept 16	WBC Monthly Meeting, Alex Wilkie of The Nature Conservancy, speaker
Sept 17–20	Eastern Shore Birding & Wildlife Festival, <a href="http://www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding">www.esvachamber.org/festivals/birding</a> , see page 6.
Sunday, Sept 20	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Parks, 7 AM, Jane Frigo Leader
Saturday, Sept 26	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Tom McCary, Leader