



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 33, No. 10

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

November 2009

### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

You've probably noticed that your magazines are getting thinner and the newsletters you receive are less frequent. Most publications are undergoing transformations—from newspapers to magazines to books. Several pressures are driving the changes—the internet and online world, the recession, the drop in advertising, the changes in people's reading habits and amount of leisure time, plus many other little changes.

**Relax**—our Bird Club's newsletter is not going anywhere. We don't have advertisers so we're not missing them in the recession. Our newsletter is complemented by our web site. Fred Blystone, Vice President and newsletter editor, is wonderful at publishing an interesting, varied, colorful edition each month. Many thanks, Fred. And Jeanette Navia, our web mistress, keeps our web site up to date with upcoming field trips, bird walks, and meeting info plus bird lists and photos from recent events. Many thanks to Jeanette!

*(continued on page 2)*

### November Meeting

Teta Kain will be the speaker at the November meeting. Her program is titled Virginia's Christmas Bird Counts. Teta has served as regional Audubon Editor of the Virginia–Washington, DC counts for 18 years. She will give a historical overview of the counts from their beginnings in Virginia, telling stories about the people, birds and places that make this event so special to so many people.

Teta is an extremely entertaining speaker—the program will be heavily laced with little anecdotes about people and special happenings concerning the counts. She will end the program with a recap of what she knows about our local count.

Plan to join us on November 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in **Room 150**, Millington Hall, on the William and Mary campus. Mary Ann Fennell will be providing the refreshments.

### November Field Trip to York River State Park

Please meet with Hugh Beard by 7:30 a.m. at the Colony Square Shopping Center. If you want to meet at the park, the group should arrive there around 8 am. If you haven't been to this park before, you are in for a treat. There is a \$3.00 fee for parking at the park.

### Proposed Slate for 2010 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—Alice Kopinitz

Treasurer—Charles Rend

Member-at-Large—Chuck Litterst and Jeanette Navia

Voting will take place at the November 18th meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

### WBC Offers Two Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships. Deadline January 15, 2010

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 2010 at the Nature Camp in Vesuvius, Virginia.

The deadline for applications is January 15, 2010. The Williamsburg Bird Club will contact the students who earn the scholarships in early February 2010.

Complete information and application is available at our club website at [www.williamsburgbirdclub.org/](http://www.williamsburgbirdclub.org/).

### Welcome to New Members—

Tam Do, Ann Boehm, Lois Ullman and Thomas & Lynda Blair.

## Officers

<b>President</b>	813-1322
Shirley Devan	<i>sedevan52@cox.net</i>
<b>Vice-President (Programs)</b>	564-4484
Joe Piotrowski	<i>joepiotrowski@cox.net</i>
<b>Vice-President (The Flyer)</b>	229-4346
Fred Blystone	<i>fmb19481@verizon.net</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	220-9032
Chuck Rend	<i>carjean39@msn.com</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	566-2615
Mary Anne Fennell	<i>maffjf07@netzero.net</i>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	253-1543
Chuck Litterst	<i>clitterst@aol.com</i>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	259-0867
Joanne Andrews	<i>kaiiviti37@hotmail.com</i>
<b>Past President</b>	259-9559
Bob Long	

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b>	229-2363
Tom Armour	<i>swiftyarmour@cox.net</i>
<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b>	229-1124
Bill Williams	<i>jwwil2@wm.edu</i>
<b>Library Liaison</b>	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
<b>Refreshments</b>	565-0250
Barb Streb	<i>gandbstreb@verizon.net</i>
<b>Membership/Webmaster</b>	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
<b>Adopt-A-Highway</b>	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>maffjf07@netzero.net</i>
<b>Historian</b>	259-9559
Cynthia Long	

## 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.

*(President's Corner continued)*

My "corner" this month is dedicated to Fred and Jeanette and the great jobs they do on almost a daily basis to provide what we hope is a valuable service for our Club's members.

The other reason for my "corner" this month is to solicit feedback on both the newsletter and the website. We don't get much feedback from the membership. Not sure whether that's because you're pleased with the newsletter and web site or whether you're ignoring us! (Yikes – I hope not.)

As for our Bird Club newsletter and web site, I hope you'll feel free at any time to send us comments – good or constructive. Our contact info is on page 2. Right now I'm asking you specifically:

- What do you like best in the newsletter and the web site?
- Would you prefer us to focus on local birding (Williamsburg area)?
- Do you like the notes about members' travels around the US and the world?
- Do we provide enough info about upcoming Bird Club events – meetings, field trips, bird walks – before and after the events?
- Do you want to know about local events offered by like-minded organizations (nature/conservation groups)?

Feel free to call or write – email or postal mail (PO Box 1085, Williamsburg, VA 23187). In these changing times, we want to make sure we provide valuable, entertaining, and insightful publications and communications. Many thanks for your support and responses.

## October Bird Sightings

Report your backyard birds and local sightings to Fred Blystone at 229-4346 or *fmb19481@verizon.net*. If you encounter interesting birds on your vacation/travels, please share!

**Oct 4:** Geoff Giles joined leader Jane Frigo and nine other birders on the Hampton Road Bird Club walk at Newport News Park. Temperatures were in the 60' and the skies were calm and clear. Because of the Fall Folk festival, the walk took place on the campground side of the reservoir. Walking from the campsite office to the archery range and on to the power lines produced forty-one species. The most abundant species was American Robin, and six species of woodpeckers were also seen.

**Oct 6:** Kathi Mestayer has a Black-and-White Warbler in an camellia bush.

**Oct 9 & 10:** Lee Schuster has a hummingbird buzz her feeder. (Late report—on September 7 Lee had a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak).

**Oct 10:** Geoff Giles joins the Hampton Roads Bird Club on their field trip to Beaverdam Park in Gloucester County. Among the 48 species reported by leader Dave Youker were Grey-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Magnolia Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

**Oct 11:** Bill Williams reports "just after sunrise this morning there was an immature male Eurasian Wigeon near the Greensprings Trail boardwalk. It was in the company of what appeared to be a gray morph female Eurasian

Wigeon and 4–5 Green-winged Teal. Also near the boardwalk was one Marsh Wren, only my second record, a pair of Blue-winged Teal and a pair of Wood Ducks. This is the first local Eurasian Wigeon Fall record that I am aware of.”

**Oct 12:** While in Bath County, Chuck Rend sees an immature Chestnut-sided Warbler.

**Oct 19:** Tom and Jeanne Armour saw a Spotted Sandpiper with a Killdeer and 25 Canada Geese on the grass on the Jamestown Island causeway.

**Oct 21:** Lois Leeth emails “glad to have my birds back, finally—Brown Thrasher, Carolina Wren, chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, Song Sparrow, doves, cardinals and two Downys at the suet.

**Oct 25:** Bill Williams spots a Hermit Thrush at Mainland Farm. On a drive down the Colonial Parkway to Yorktown, Lois Leeth sees 5 Brown Pelicans and one Double-crested Cormorant.

**Oct 27:** Shirley Devan has a Hermit Thrush in her yard.

**Oct 29:** Cathy Millar emails she had the ghoulish spectacle of a Copper’s Hawk catching and slowly devouring a starling outside her bedroom window.

**Oct 30:** Tom Armour reports that at Greenspring he saw 20 Green-winged Teal, 17 Mallards and 1 Phoebe. He also had about a dozen Chimney Swifts flying overhead at Williamsburg Landing.

## **Birding the Oregon Coast**

**By Gary Carpenter**

**Photos by Ann Carpenter**

In mid September Ann and I undertook a three-week trip to the west coast that included visits to Yosemite National Park; southern California; the gorge of the Columbia River; areas around Bend, Oregon; Crater Lake, and, through the auspices of Elderhostel, a concentrated birding tour of the northern coast of Oregon run annually by the Audubon Society of Portland (ASP). The tour was not only an exciting birding experience, it was also extremely interesting and educational. . . just as Edlerhostel designs them.

Our leader was Steve Engel, the director of adult education for the ASP. He proved to be an excellent naturalist in general and a first class birder in particular. While we birded for four and a half days he also filled us in on the geology, the flora and the fauna of the northern Oregon coast. We stayed at the Twin Rocks Friends Camp near Rockaway Beach....approximately halfway between Tillamook and Seaside. The rocky, misty, cloudy and surf-pounded beaches of Oregon were exactly as we have always imagined them to be. Some of the places we birded included: Nehalem (where

we birded both its waste water ponds and the nearby State Park); Oswald West State Park, Tillamook Bay, Cape Meares (where Gray Whales and dolphins were also seen), Seaside Beach, Three Sisters, the old mill in and the jetty in Garibaldi, Whalen County Park, Sand Lake, the Clay Meyer Natural Area.



In the Clay Meyer Natural Area a bird was spotted and watched for up to 45 minutes that brought great excitement to the tour group and especially to our leader, Steve. It was a Northern Wheatear and it was an extremely rare sighting for that time and place. Steve quickly informed various birding circles in the Oregon area and the Wheatear was seen by many other birders at least through the next day. Coincidentally it was the second Wheatear that Ann and I have seen, the other being at Cape May, New Jersey. So we have seen one on both coasts and both were out of place when we saw them.



On the Oregon coast portion of this trip, “Life” birds for Ann and me included: White-tailed Kite, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Murre, Pacific Loon, Sooty Shearwater, and the Mew Gull. Besides the “usual suspects” other birds of interest were: Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Whimbrel, Peregrine Falcon, Black Oyster-catcher, Double-crested, Brandt’s and Pelagic Cormorants, Wood Duck, Marbled Godwit, Surfbird, Harlequin Duck, Red-necked Phalarope,

Merlin, Western Grebe, Black Scoter, White-winged Scoter, American Pipit, Semipalmated Plover, Band-tailed Pigeon, Winter Wren, and the Red-throated Loon. On the trip, other Life Birds for us were: White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Rufous Hummingbird (Yosemite); and Pygmy Nuthatch (near Sisters, Oregon).



Elderhostel, the Portland Audubon Society, and Steve Engel have combined to provide a really excellent birding experience, and the scenic beauty of the Oregon coast is breathtaking. We recommend it highly to fellow members of the Williamsburg Bird Club. It is well worth a trip out to the “left” coast.

**The October 17 Field Trip—A Dog Day at the Park**  
by Bill Williams                      Pictures by Joe Piotrowski

Okay, so it had been windy and raining for 2 days prior to the Bird Club’s October 17 field trip with more of the same forecast that day. And so it was drizzling and 48° when folks shuffled over to Colony Square at 7:30 a.m. What were they thinking? Well, they were thinking that maybe, just maybe, there would be enough of a morning break in the weather to get in at least some quality birding before the afternoon football games. Turns out they were right.

By the time everyone collected at the Newport News City Park Discovery Center parking lot there were 16 participants, including ever vigilant Kate Minarik. Kate is more than just a wonderful dog. She is also a caring member of the Minarik family, so caring she brought Mike, Alex and Jeb Minarik with her for the morning outing. She was hoping for some year birds for her list, and who knows, maybe a life bird. What a girl!

The first bird of the morning was a noisy Hairy Wood-

pecker that sounded off over the parking lot. Next up was a Northern Flicker poised on top of one of the electrical transmission poles above the weedy power line right-of-way. A miserable drizzle at that point made it hard to bird the low shrubs and grasses, so the group headed inland, as it were, along a trail that parallels the city reservoir shoreline.

From here we were able to scope out 9 Mute Swans, 4 of which were juveniles, 2 Blue-winged Teal, 3 Pied-billed Grebes, one brief Caspian Tern, a hovering Osprey, and some distant swallows that looked to be Tree Swallows.

Not too far along Kate spotted, with Jeb’s help, the Bird Club’s iconic logo, a Red-headed Woodpecker! As the morning progressed we were almost never without one or more of these stunning birds very close by. They seemed to be following us!!

Near one of the wooden boardwalks a Winter Wren fussed for a few seconds, but played it coy so we were not able to see it. Overhead a Red-bellied Woodpecker sounded off and we found the morning’s first Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmouses.

Once the birding bunch made it out to the extended boardwalk over the marshes avian activity really escalated. Yellow-rumped Warblers were flitting about at every turn. Both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were active, and a most accommodating Red-shouldered Hawk gave us ample time to see its wing-tip windows and orangish breast and belly. Quiet Kate identified a small yellow/green warbler that came near the boardwalk in response to pishing as a Common Yellowthroat. There were several Swamp Sparrows heard and a couple of Turkey Vultures, and one Black Vulture drifted above the trees.



On our return stroll back to the cars the small swallow flock noted previously was relocated. It is hard enough to watch swallows as it is. Add in the cloudy, damp skies, and a northeast wind that had increased to 15–20 mph and even Kate decided it was just too uncomfortable. Nevertheless, we were able to tease out 3 swallow species including Tree Swallow, 2 Northern Rough-winged Swallows, and one Barn Swallow. For the latter 2 species this 17 October date was a week beyond their normal departure schedules of 10 October. Almost certainly the inclement weather had stalled their southbound flight plans. Joe Piotrowski had left the group early, but added a Field Sparrow to the list on his way back to his car.



The trip list submitted to eBird totaled 44 species. Kate was pleased even though she did not get any new birds and looks forward to more bird club adventures. You should too! Arf (with a grin)!

## **The 2009 Christmas Bird Count**

**By Bill Williams**

Please put a big you-can't-miss-it eye-ring around Sunday, December 20, 2009 to remind yourself that this is the day of the 33rd annual Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count. We hope everyone will find some time during that day to be a part of this very valuable endeavor. The Christmas Bird Count was initiated in 1900 as a counterplay to a former holiday tradition of seeing how much game could be taken during that season. Rather than removing wildlife, the bird count effort seeks to document the diversity and abundance

of birdlife in a defined area. Each count encompasses a 15-mile diameter circle, in our case one that is centered at the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center. The goal for the day is to have as many observers as possible counting every bird of every species within 7.5 miles of the count center. The data are compiled and submitted to the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count website, where it becomes part of an international database of winter bird populations, not only in North America but Central and South America too. These data have rapidly become one of the standards by which wintering bird population trends and distributions are assessed over time.

Whether you can join us for an hour or so or the whole day on December 20, your contribution will be exceedingly valuable. The success of the count is based on the numbers of species and how many individuals of each species can be recorded. This includes the common yard and feeder birds, even Rock Pigeons, European Starlings, and House Sparrows!! Count results often do not fully reflect the volume of these species and therefore the true picture of our local winter bird populations becomes skewed away from the neighborhoods. With that in mind we hope you will choose to join one of the field teams and/or participate from or near your home. All we ask is that you keep track of how much time that day you devote and, if applicable, how many miles you travel during your birding excursions that day.

Each participant will be asked to make a \$5.00 contribution to the National Audubon Society to help defray its costs for coordinating and compiling the vast amount of information generated through this effort.

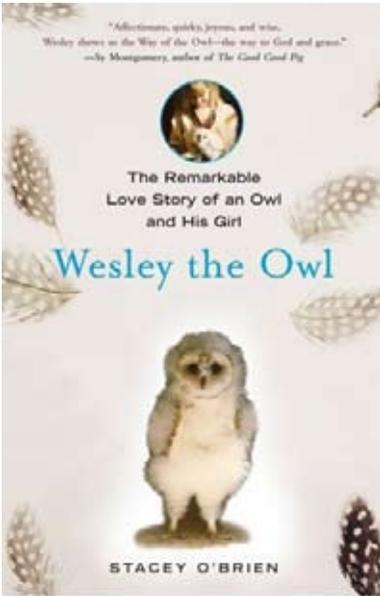
The count day will conclude with a 5:00 p.m. compilation to be held at Carrot Tree Kitchens on Jamestown Road. This compilation arrangement is the second for our venerable count, one we hope will encourage more participation. Such goodies as Brunswick Stew, mulled cider, and rolls will be warm and ready for consumption by count participants. Carrot Tree will close for business that day at 4:00 p.m. Therefore, count participants are asked to park behind the bakery so that there is no appearance the business is still open.

If you plan to participate in the count please contact Bill Williams at [jwwil2@wm.edu](mailto:jwwil2@wm.edu) or call 229-1124. If you have participated in the count previously and intend to join the same team for the 2009 count PLEASE contact your team leader on your own. So far there are no changes in the team leadership personnel. Please let Bill know in advance if you also plan to be at the tally. This will help determine how much food needs to be prepared. Tally HO!!

## Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia

*Wesley the Owl: the Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl*, by Stacey O'Brien. Free Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781416551737. \$15. 240 p. James City County Library call number 598.97 OBR.



Last year, I saw a book on the new-book cart at the library with the cutest picture of a baby owl on the cover. The few grainy black and white photos inside were intriguing enough that I checked the book out. I loved it!

In 1985, Stacey O'Brien was a student researcher at an owl lab at CalTech when a four-day-old barn owl with a nerve-damaged wing was found. The scientists

knew his wing would never heal enough that he'd be able to survive in the wild, so they suggested that Stacey take him home. For the next nineteen years, Stacey cared for and loved Wesley, and Wesley, in turn, loved Stacey.

This isn't just a cute pet story. O'Brien includes interesting facts about owls, and shows the reader some of the difficult aspects of caring for wildlife. Owls eat rodents almost exclusively. Over the course of his lifetime, O'Brien fed Wesley approximately 28,000 mice. She bought live mice and developed carpal tunnel syndrome from her method of painlessly killing them (the details of which I won't go into here). At first, she cut up the mice for him. Later when she was trying to teach him to fly and catch prey, she'd feed him live mice. Fun times in the O'Brien bathroom!

Because of the real threat that animal rights activists posed if they ever found out about Wesley, O'Brien felt she had to keep him a secret from almost everyone—even friends and family members. Keeping such an important part of her life hidden led to several bizarre situations: for instance, when people came to her house and odd screechy noises were heard in the background, she couldn't explain them. Long scratches on Stacey's arms wouldn't be explained to her dates. At one point, she thought Wesley could function as a sort of litmus test for dates—the way men responded to this creature and his diet might indicate

how compatible a given man would be with her. If you have a pet and you want to go on vacation, you can board your dog or have a friend come in and feed a cat. It's not so easy with a barn owl, especially one you can only let a few close friends and your mother, who's not real keen on preparing meals of dead mice, know about. Finding a new apartment, moving to another state for a job—these challenges can be difficult for anyone, but if you have a secret barn owl to consider, it's much harder.

This book became a New York Times bestseller without much publicity. Word of mouth helped get this very interesting memoir into the hands of many readers. Give it a try—you'll probably like it!

## The Big Sit at Kiptopeke

By Brian Taber

Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory participated for the 11th straight year in the Big Sit on October 11, 2009 at the hawkwatch platform at Kiptopeke State Park. This year we also added a second circle...at our new Seaside Hawkwatch, 3 miles east of Kiptopeke.

The event, sponsored by the New Haven, Connecticut Bird Club, Bird Watcher's Digest magazine and Swarovski Optiks, is a bird survey taken on the same day by teams staying in circles of 17 feet in diameter all across the United States and even in parts of Canada and Europe. The idea is to see what birds are out there on one day.

Our team usually finds about 70 or so species, because we have a great view of forests, fields and Chesapeake Bay, but last year was only 60, so we were quite pleased to record 81 this year! Highlights included Black-crowned Night-Heron, Semi-palmated Plover, Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Winter Wren, Dickcissel and White-crowned Sparrow.

The Seaside Hawkwatch recorded 49 species, including Clapper Rail, Whimbrel, Marsh Wren, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron and White Ibis.

If you want to see how the other circles did, the results are posted on the Bird Watcher's Digest website.

## Weekend Birding in Virginia Beach, Dec 4-6

Register **early** for this popular birding weekend in VA Beach. The annual VSO field trip to VA Beach and environs features a Saturday morning trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands. Three of the four islands are closed to the public, so this is a great opportunity to visit a birdy spot that's not open to the public on a regular basis.

Field trip coordinator, Clark White, has made arrangements for us to visit all four islands and has reserved enough security guards that 45 people can attend this trip. Way to go, Clark!

As with all VSO field trips, they are open to the public—VSO members and non-members—newbies and bird nerds alike. No fees except those for the CBBT islands trip and hotel/food. Cheap in the winter!

Visit the VSO Web site for hotel/logistics info:

[http://www.viriniabirds.net/f\\_trips.html](http://www.viriniabirds.net/f_trips.html)

### **Greater or Lesser Sandplover?**

*Editor: As one of about half a dozen Williamsburg Bird Club members who made the drive to the Staunton area in September to see the Sandplover, I was wondering how the Virginia Avian Records Committee (VARCOM) was going to decide whether it was a Greater or Lesser Sandplover. Bob Ake, chairman of the committee, wrote the following for our newsletter.*



(Photo by Allen Bryan)

### **How does VARCOM intend to respond to the submission of the Sandplover sighting?**

The recent discovery by Allen Lerner of a sandplover in Augusta County, Virginia, a bird subsequently seen by many observers, has generated much excitement around the state. A submission to VARCOM (Virginia Avian Records Committee) has been submitted because of its rarity. If accepted after review, it will become the first sighting of any sandplover in the state. Since many people saw the bird, many of whom wrote responses to Va-Bird listserve, the submission will contain a variety of parts including written notes, written responses, photographs, videos, written opinions and more. After the submission is received by the secretary, Amy Gilmer, she will collect and organize all the parts and convert them into an electronic format suitable for distribution to the members of the committee. Because the members of the committee have relatively little live experience with any sandplovers, outside experts from around the world who do have a lot of experience with these species will be consulted, and their

opinions will be included in the packet. Once each committee member receives the material, each one will review the information contained in the packet and vote whether to accept the record and to which species the record belongs. The deliberations may take several rounds of the committee. A quick answer is not likely, but VARCOM will do its best.

### **Talk at Colonial Harbor**

Jane Frigo of the Hampton Roads Bird Club and Shirley Devan of the Williamsburg Bird Club presented a program on “Backyard Birds” to about a dozen residents of Colonial Harbor Tuesday, October 13, 2009. Here is a photo taken on our walk around the facility after the presentation. The presentation included demonstrations of bird calls and sounds as well as a look at field guides and information on what birds need to thrive in the backyard. Shirley presented the residents with a copy of the new book “National Geographic–Birding Essentials” for their library.



## WBC October Walks & Field Trip (Photos by Shirley Devan)

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



Expected rain drops were a no show during the Oct 10 bird walk at New Quarter Park, so Shirley Devan, Sara Lewis, Ken Thompson, Lois Ullman and Rick & Marian Bennett enjoyed low tide down at Queen's Creek during the morning. Windy conditions suppressed the small woodland birds, but they did observe 3 Red-headed Woodpeckers and 4 Pileated Woodpeckers.

They waited for almost an hour for the Clapper Rails to make an appearance on the mud flats down at Queen's Creek, but the rails waited them out. They did hear at least 3 call from the marsh. The group had good looks through the scope of Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Belted Kingfisher, Osprey and Laughing Gulls.

Bob and Cynthia Long biked into the park at the end of the walk and invited the group over to their house to see their blooming wildflower garden. Four of the 21 species seen during the walk were at the Long's house.

Fifteen people plus Kate joined Bill Williams for the October 17 field trip to Newport News Park. The sun came out but the conditions were fairly windy. A total of 44 species were tallied during the walk. (See article by **Bill Williams starting on page 3.**)



Left to right: Margaret Ware, Mike Minarik, Marian Bennett, Jeb Minarik, Alex Minarik, Rick Bennett, Hong Trinh, Inge Curtis, Theu Le, Tom McCary, Shirley Devan, Bill Williams, David Lee and Geoff Giles. Not pictured: Joe Piotrowski.

Joanne Andrews, Liza Arelino, Beth Fugate, Geoff Giles, Tori Gussman, David Hazzard, Betty Peterson, Kathy Suslik, Joe Piotrowski, and Margaret Ware joined Bill Williams for the October 24th walk in New Quarter Park. The wind was relentless which really hindered finding birds of any kind. They were treated to a nice raptor show of an Osprey, a Bald Eagle, a Northern Harrier and a Red-tailed Hawk. A total of 30 species were seen.

(There was no group picture taken.)

Editor: In the August newsletter I put a picture of a group of us who went to see the Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Craig County. In the October issue there was another picture of some of us who went to see the Sandplover that was outside of Staunton. Considering the rarity of both species, I was surprised by the low number of people who were there to see the birds. In October an Eastern Crowned Warbler made it's first appearance in England. Here is a picture of some of the people who showed up to see it. (I think they take their rare birds seriously there.)



Photos taken in Japan by Hong Trinh



## Bird ID from Recycle Bin Photos

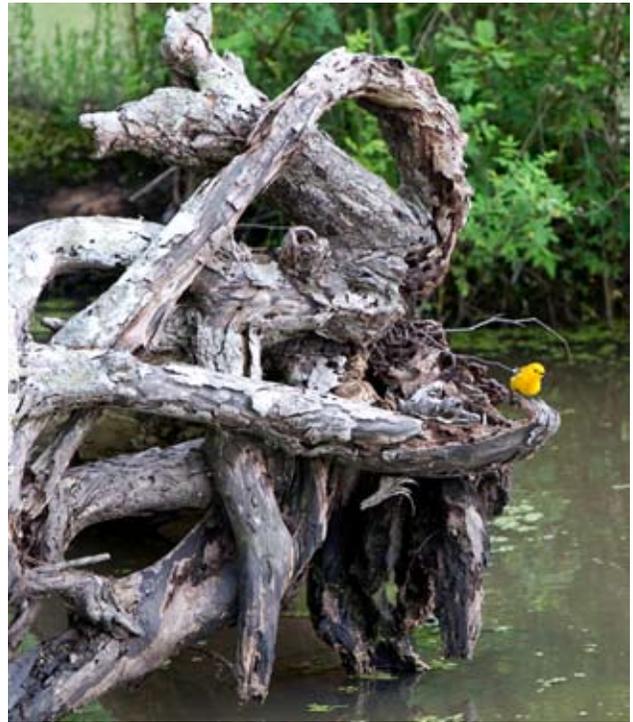
By Joe Piotrowski

This feature is only 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 November

Last month's picture was of a  
Prothonotary Warbler



## CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov 12	HRBC Monthly Meeting, Jethro Runco, Speaker, "Adventures in Alaska", 7 pm, Conference Room of the Sandy Bottom Nature Center
Saturday, Nov 14	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 am, Tom McCary, Leader
Saturday, Nov 14	HRBC Field Trip to the Eastern Shore, Call Dave Youker (344-9385) for info
Sunday, Nov 15	HRBC Field Trip, Newport News Park, 7 am, Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, Nov 18	WBC Monthly Meeting, Teta Kain, Speaker (See Front Page)
Saturday, Nov 21	WBC Field Trip, York River State Park, Hugh Beard, Leader (See Front Page)
Saturday, Nov 28	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 am, Bill Williams, Leader
December 4-6	Weekend Birding in Virginia Beach, See Page 6