



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 34, No. 2

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

February 2010

President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

ODD FEATHERS

HATS! We have new hats featuring our mascot, the Red-headed Woodpecker and the name of the Club. For a \$20 donation to the club, you can have one. We have three colors—cactus, khaki and dusk. I'll have them at the next bird club event (February 13 at New Quarter Park) as well as the February 17 meeting. When we sell out, we'll order more!!

Remember to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12–15. George and Val Copping have set up a "how-to" table and exhibit (with forms) at their Wild Birds Unlimited store near Ukrops. Be sure to check it out when you go into get seed and suet after the snowstorm.

Bird Club Calendar for 2011. The Bird Club will produce and sell a Bird Club calendar later this year featuring bird photos from Bird Club members. Mike Millin and Joe Piotrowski have volunteered to put this together! Be thinking about a photo or two you want to submit; look for submission guidelines in a future newsletter.

By the way, the Club still needs a Field Trip Coordinator and a Historian. If you can help out with either of these positions, contact me.

February Meeting

Mary A. Elfner will be the speaker at the February Club meeting. Mary is the Virginia Important Bird Areas (IBA) program coordinator. The IBA program is an international effort to identify, conserve, and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for bird populations. The Virginia IBA program, established in 2003, is administered by the National Audubon Society and the Virginia Audubon Council in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Society of Ornithology. Mary will provide an overview of the international IBA program and specific information and status of the VA IBA effort in a presentation filled with beautiful pictures of Virginia birds, and what is being done on-the-ground to conserve the Commonwealth's birdlife.

Plan to join us on February 17 at 7:30 p.m. in **Room 150**, Millington Hall, on the William and Mary campus. Mike and Jeanne Millin will be providing the refreshments.

February Field Trip

Our February 20 field trip will be to Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands.

This trip is limited to 15 participants because of the constraints imposed by the security at the CBBT. This trip is full.

Participants who have already signed up should meet Brian Taber and Shirley Devan at Colony Square Shopping Center by 6:45 am to form carpools to drive to the south plaza rest area next to the south toll booth. If anyone plans to meet us there, they should arrive by 7:45 am at the south plaza rest area.

Folks should dress for cold weather and bring water, snacks, spotting scopes, binoculars, field guides and cameras. I will provide hand warmers. Note that there are restroom facilities at the south toll plaza where we check in. After that, there are no restroom facilities until the end of our birding at 11 am when we return to the rest area.

The security guards will escort us to the islands and we'll park as they direct us. For this convoy it is best to have as few vehicles as possible. If necessary we can combine people into vehicles at the south toll plaza.

Participants should bring their driver's licenses or other photo IDs. Each car will have to pay \$12 toll at the south toll booth. No fee to return as long as we don't go through the north toll booth. In that case it's \$5.00 to return in a 24-hour period. Shirley Devan will be responsible for paying the \$150 fee to the security guards.

Any questions, contact Shirley Devan, 757-813-1322 or sedevan52@cox.net.

Welcome to New Members—

Gus Hall, Tory Gussman and Mona Overturf

Officers

President	813-1322
Shirley Devan	<i>sedevan52@cox.net</i>
Vice-President (Programs)	871-3418
Joe Piotrowski	<i>joepiotrowski@cox.net</i>
Vice-President (The Flyer)	229-4346
Fred Blystone	<i>fmb19481@verizon.net</i>
Treasurer	220-9032
Chuck Rend	<i>carjean39@msn.com</i>
Secretary	565-1753
Alice Kopinitz	<i>askop4@cox.net</i>
Member-at-Large	253-1543
Chuck Litterst	<i>clitterst@aol.com</i>
Member-at-Large	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>Jnavia@gmail.com</i>
Past President	259-9559
Bob Long	

Committee Chairpersons

Field Trips	Open
Records & Bird Counts	229-1124
Bill Williams	<i>jwwil2@wm.edu</i>
Library Liaison	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
Refreshments	565-0250
Barb Streb	<i>gandbstreb@verizon.net</i>
Membership/Webmaster	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
Adopt-A-Highway	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>mafjff07@netzero.net</i>
Historian	Open

Summary of Bird Data

The latest version of Bill Williams' *Summary of Local Bird Data through 2009: Williamsburg, James City County, York County, Hog Island WMA, Surry County* can be downloaded from our club's website.

Wild Birds Unlimited

Don't forget that the WBC 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.

Nature Camp Scholarships

By Shirley Devan

We have winners. They are Emily Simpers and Elena Sanders. Emily is in grade 7 at Providence Classical School. She won a scholarship last year. Elena Sanders is in the 9th grade at Jamestown High School.

Many thanks to the evaluation committee: Alex Minarik, Lee Schuster, Jeanette Navia and Mary Anne Fennell. Also thanks to Charles Rend who collected the submissions and distributed them around to the evaluators.

January 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!

Jan. 1: Twenty-five birders spent part of their New Year's Day birding with Shirley Devan on the boardwalk over the beaver pond on Greensprings Nature Trail. This was the Fifth Annual Greensprings Boardwalk Bird Show. Skies were overcast and the temperature was a chilly 45 degrees. A total of 21 species were seen by the group with the best bird a Red-headed Woodpecker. The Northern Pintail and Rusty Blackbirds were also good birds. Adrienne Frank and Gray Driscoll continued on the trail and ended up with a total of 37 species for the day. Among the additional species they saw were Pied-billed Grebes, Ring-necked Ducks, American Widgeons and Hooded Mergansers.

Jan. 1: Geoff Giles spends part of the day birding at Camp Peary. He sees 47 species including Golden-crowned Kinglet, Tunda Swan, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Meadowlark and Hairy Woodpecker. Also heard a Great-horned Owl.

Jan. 2: Another day of birding at Camp Peary results in Geoff Giles finding 39 species including Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks and Fox Sparrows.

Jan. 3: A third day of birding at Camp Peary has Geoff Giles finding 49 species including Snow Goose, Northern Harrier and six species of woodpeckers.

Jan. 6: Tom Armour reports seeing a Fox Sparrow at the end of Treasure Island Road and 2 Killdeer at the airport.

Jan. 10: Martha Briggs reports having four Eastern Bluebirds drinking from her heated birdbath.

Jan. 11: Tom Armour has a female Purple Finch at his feeder and also a Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Jan. 11: Alex Minarik and Shirley Devan go to Dutch Gap Conservation area. They are rewarded with 38 species, including Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails and an Osprey. At Shirley Plantation, Tom McCary sees a Pileated Woodpecker fly across the yard between the house and the river. He usually doesn't see them there except in the wooded areas. He also sees one adult and one juvenile White-crowned Sparrow in one of the hedges and later four juvenile of the same species on the ground nearby.

Jan. 15: The HRBC sponsored walk at Newport News Park was warmer than the one held on January 1, but spoiled by rain. In spite of the wet day, Jane Frigo and 5 other birders managed to get in two hours of birding before being defeated by the weather. The lake was still iced over with only a few spots of

free water. Birds and ducks were few in number but the group was able to identify 29 species.

Jan. 15: Inge Curtis and Ruth Beck saw the Painted Bunting that is still visiting the same residence in Kingsmill. Fred Blystone goes to Dutch Gap Conservation Area/Henricus Park. From the first observation platform he sees 21 species including American Wigeons, Gadwall, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintail, and an American Coot.

Jan. 16: From Dave Youker of the HRBC—“A group of 35 birders from the Hampton Roads and the Fredericksburg Bird Clubs spent a very pleasant January day on the CBBT islands and the southern end of the Eastern Shore. Island 2 was closed, so they spent the first part of the morning on islands 3 & 4 before continuing on to the Eastern Shore. At Kiptopeake a Peregrine Falcon put on an aerial display toying with a group of Rock Pigeons. The same playful nature didn't exist between a Bald Eagle and gull at Oyster, as the eagle snatched the gull out of the air. Total species count for the day was 78.

Jan. 19: Bill Williams reports a Fish Crow chatting away in his Settler's Mill neighborhood.

Jan. 21: On the James River, near College Creek, Tom Armour sees his first Osprey of the year. Also sees 35+ Red-breasted Mergansers and 5 Bald Eagles.

Jan. 22: Bill Snyder contacted Tom Armour and reported that an Bald Eagle had just killed and was eating a Canada Goose on the creek behind his home.

Jan. 23: Tom McCary sees either a female or juvenile Baltimore Oriole in a hedge near the gift shop at Shirley Plantation. Fred Blystone goes looking for ducks at lakes in Hampton and York County. Finds Canvasbacks at Lynnhaven Lake and 28 Red-heads at the lake at Belmont of York apartments.



Photo by Bill Williams

Jan. 25–31: Bill Williams is again being visited by a **Western Tanager**. It has been seen everyday since Jan. 25. You are welcome to come by and look for it. You **must** either park in the driveway or completely on the street, not partially on the street and partially off. Contact information for Bill is listed on the page 2 of this newsletter.

Jan. 26: From Shirley Devan: “I cruised around a windy Jamestown Island today and observed two adult Bald Eagles on the nest across from the Visitor Center parking lot. Time was 1:00–1:15 PM. First there was one eagle on the side of the nest. Then the second one flew in. Shortly (about 15 seconds later) the first eagle flew off. The remaining eagle appeared to be eating something as she/he pulled on some food item from below.” At home, Shirley had a Brown Thrasher at her suet feeder.

Jan. 29: On a trip down the Colonial Parkway towards Yorktown, Tom Armour reports 1200+ Ruddy Ducks, 25 Bufflehead, 5 Horned Grebes, 6 Common Loons, 2 Bald Eagles, 24 Ringed-billed Gulls and 2 Double-crested Cormorants.

Jan. 30: Gale Treiber reports his Baltimore Oriole is still visiting his feeders.

Jan. 30–31: From Tom Armour: “The snow on the 30th really brought in the feeder birds. We had a total of 23 species on Saturday and Sunday. Notables were a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a female Purple Finch, two male Rufous-sided Towhees, a Brown Thrasher and a Hairy Woodpecker.”

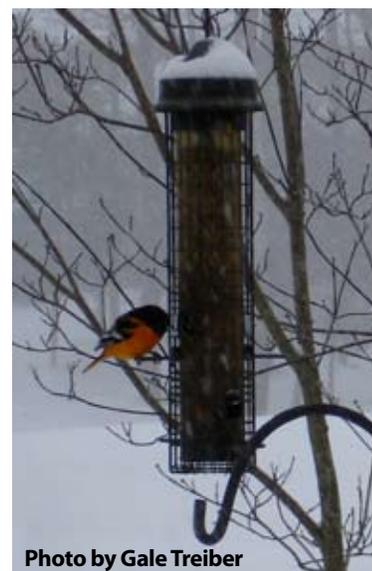


Photo by Gale Treiber

Jan. 31: From Tom & Linda Blair: “We were checking out Turkey Island Road in Henrico County looking for Snow Geese (none there yet) and saw an Rufous-sided Towhee on the edge of the road. Also a lot of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, along with juncos and the usual suspects. When we got home we had a Brown Thrasher at our suet. Our thrashers don't leave for the winter, but do stay hidden until the snow brings them out.”

Great Backyard Bird Count

By Fred Blystone

This year's count, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, will be held February 12–15. Anyone can take part by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes, or as long as they wish, on one or more days during this time period, and reporting their sightings online at www.birdsource.org. The data collected helps researchers understand bird population trends,

information that is critical for effective conservation. In 2009, participants submitted more than 94,000 checklists of which 3,954 were from Virginia (ranked 6th). The Williamsburg/James City County area was ranked 3rd in the state with 209 checklists. Lets see if we can move up the list this year.

Hillsborough River Trip

By Alex Minarik

In mid-January Mike and I visited my sister and brother-in-law near Tampa, Florida for a few days. One of the planned activities was a paddle on the Hillsborough River, which furnishes about 75% of Tampa's drinking water and runs 54 miles into Tampa Bay. Twenty miles of the tannin-colored river run through Wilderness Park, a county park which preserves over 16,000 acres of watershed in its natural state. We rented a canoe and kayak from a local outfitter named Canoe Escape (www.canoeescape.com). I was really impressed from the outset with this company, whose brochure stressed the following rules: No dogs (We love 'em, but so do gators), No Radios, No Styrofoam, No Firearms, No Glass. It appeared that we were in for a good, natural experience.



Photo by Mike Minarik

We were driven in an old school bus to the put-in location and began our 9 mile, 5 hour exploration. The wildlife viewing was the best we have ever experienced from a canoe. We literally saw thousands of birds. Although there were hundreds of Black and Turkey Vultures at the start of the trip, we soon left them behind and were floating past hundreds of White Ibises, Black-crowned Night Herons by the dozens, Barred Owls, Green, Little Blue and Tricolored Herons, Anhingas, Limpkins and Roseate Spoonbills. In addition we saw over forty alligators, loads of turtles and an otter. We could paddle within 25 feet of most of these species, affording us spectacular views with or without binoculars. We tallied thirty-eight trip birds, which included six warbler and

two vireo species. It was a truly awesome day, and I'd highly recommend it to anyone who finds himself in the area.



Limpkin

Photo by Mike Minarik

Seasonal Birding Opportunities at Back Bay Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park

The refuge, which has dike trails open to hikers and bikers in other seasons, is closed from Nov. 1 to April 1 to protect the birds. So a twice-a-month tram is the only way to get in to see tundra swans, snow geese and other waterfowl that fly in for the winter. Two open-air tram tours are offered, including one through the refuge and into False Cape State Park, where visitors may take an easy half-mile walk to see the cemetery and church steeple marking the former location of a small community called Wash Woods. More information at <http://hamptonroads.com/node/537682>.

Hog Island, Maine Ornithology Camps

From Mary Elfner, Virginia IBA Coordinator

Hello Virginia Birders! Please help support the Hog Island Ornithology Camps by checking out the website below and attending one of the exciting camps being offered this summer at Audubon's Hog Island in Maine. Dr. Steve Kress is pleased to share the exciting news that, after taking a year off for planning, Hog Island will reopen in 2010 with programs featuring birding and ornithology. Join dynamic instructors, including Pete Dunne, Kenn Kaufman, Stephen Kress, Sara Morris, and Scott Weidensaul. Check it out!

<http://www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCamps.html>

Red-shouldered Hawk Monitoring Project

The Center for Conservation Biology is looking for volunteers to search for active Red-shouldered Hawk nests. Breeding pairs begin vocalizing and repairing nests in January/February and lay eggs in early March. CCB staff

will band young at 2–5 weeks old using USFWS bands and field-readable red bands inscribed with unique alpha-numeric codes. The study area for the project is Richmond to Williamsburg, including both urban and rural areas. If you are interested in helping you should contact Libby Mojica at ekmojica@wm.edu or 757-221-1680.

A Summary of the 33rd Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count

By Bill Williams

The last and only time in its 33 year history the Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count experienced snow and ice conditions approaching similarity to those encountered 20 December 2009 was twenty years ago, 17 December 1989. There was 2–3 inches of snow covered by about an inch of ice.....everywhere...that day. The count's 20 participants tallied an impressive 114 species, including 2 American White Pelicans (the only 2 ever for our count), a Great Cormorant, and still standing all-time Williamsburg CBC high-counts for Northern Harriers (8), Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (46), Hairy Woodpeckers (17), Blue Jays (261), Marsh Wrens (5), Golden-crowned Kinglets (212), Hermit Thrushes (55), Northern Mockingbirds (120), Brown Thrashers (30), Eastern Towhees (137), White-crowned Sparrows (4), Dark-eyed Juncos (1075), Northern Cardinals (382), and House Finches (380). It was on that day that we recorded the first and only Ash-throated Flycatcher ever seen locally. Just think how the totals that year would have been if there had been 47 participants like we had this year!!!

Even though the Sunday circumstances this year were not quite as rude as those in 1989 you would never have guessed that based on the Friday evening forecasts of 4-6 inches of snow for Saturday; this as 2–3 inches of wet snow were accumulating outside. Bird counts across the Commonwealth were being cancelled and/or postponed as the central and western parts of Virginia were buried under a foot or more of the white stuff.

As the count day developed, cloudy skies with biting, windy cold made birding less than enjoyable. Add in treacherous secondary and tertiary roads and you have the makings for a formidable day in the field. Nevertheless, our 9 teams, with the support of several feeder watchers, brought in a final tally list of 102 species. Among the records of note was a stunning male Painted Bunting that was initially discovered at a Kingsmill feeder 17 December and conveniently made itself available during the count day! This was a Williamsburg CBC first and the 10th local record for the species.

We also posted some interesting all-time Williamsburg CBC high-counts. Our 285 Turkey Vultures bested the 245 recorded 17 December 2000. Our lowest count for TVs was 4 on the first Williamsburg CBC 18 December 1977 when it rained all day! This year we set a new Bald Eagle record with 58 (34 adults, 24 immatures), exceeding 53 totaled 17 December 2000. To prove we have come a long way, baby, many of us remember how thrilled we were that **one** made the 1977 count list. Other new highs this count included 20 Red-shouldered Hawks, a modest improvement over the 17 noted on the 21 Dec 1997 CBC, and 43 Wilson's Snipe, 4 better than the 19 December 1982 count of 39. But the most stunning high count was an incredible 726 American Pipits, 450 of which were at or near Gospel Spreading Farm! Dan Cristol speculated these birds had been forced eastward from Central Virginia by the heavy snowfall there. Our previous high was 87 on that snow/ice 17 Dec 1989 CBC! Ummm??? Very interesting!

Additional goodies were a Baltimore Oriole at Mainland Farm, a Lesser Black-backed Gull reported by the Hog Island bunch, and Skimino's Common Yellowthroat! Great Horned Owl was put in the final report to Audubon as "count week", within 3 days pre- and/or post- the count date. At least 2 different Orange-crowned Warblers were just outside the "count week" window—one near Little Creek Reservoir 15 December and one at Dan Cristol's feeder 26–27 December!

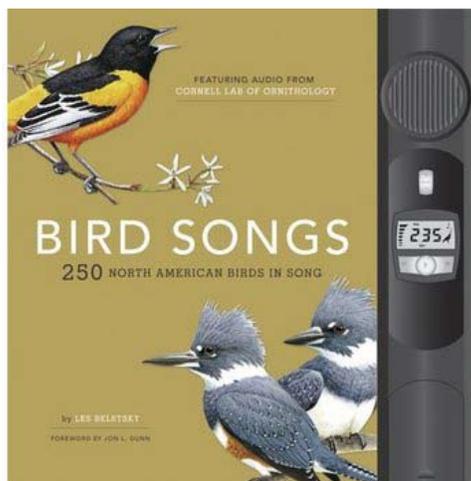
Every year we miss a few species. With this year's weather conditions this proved particularly true. We were unable to detect Northern Pintail, Redhead, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Eastern Screech Owl, Fish Crow, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Palm Warbler, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.

Many thanks to all of the hardy participants who weathered the weather!

And best of all a triumphant **hooray** to Carrot Tree Kitchens for a delightful tally-time festive feast!

Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia



Bird Songs: 250 North American Birds in Song, by Les Beletsky. Chronicle Books, 2006. ISBN: 9781932855418. \$50. 368 p. James City County Library call number 598.159 BEL.

On a beautiful spring day, I sat on the back

porch and opened *Bird Songs: 250 North American Birds in Song*. The library has a copy now, but this was one I'd bought for myself. I flipped to a page featuring one of my feeder birds, and found its corresponding song using the electronic device built into the side of the book. I wasn't thrilled with the recording. I played a few more songs of feeder birds, and then I heard one of the songs mimicked in the trees. I listened, played the device again and heard the song in the trees again. I don't remember which bird it was, but I was impressed! The bird sounded much better than the recording in the book, but unless it was a coincidence, the bird in the tree was replying to the song from the book. I stopped playing the songs outside; I didn't want to excite the birds by letting them think another bird was encroaching on their territory or advertising their availability as a mate. It wastes the bird's energy and may put it in a vulnerable position when it doesn't need to be.

Although the recordings are from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the quality is less than expected. Some birds have many vocalizations, but only one short vocalization is included for each bird. The sounds aren't all songs; the sound for the Black Vulture is like a hiss, and that for Ruby-throated Hummingbird is its hum.

Each page featuring a bird has a number, and to hear the corresponding recording, you use buttons on the device to scroll up and down to find the number. Then you push another button and the song is played two or three times. There is a volume control button. There is no way to change the battery, so I don't know how long the library's copy will hold out. My own copy is still playing strong four years after I bought it, but I don't play it often.

Each of the beautiful colored pictures is by one of four different artists: John Sill, Diane Pierce, David Nurney or H. Douglas Pratt. The accompanying text describes the vocalizations, those included and those not included in the recordings. It also describes the bird's habitat and behavior.

The birds are arranged not in taxonomic or alphabetical order, but by four habitats: Seabirds, shorebirds and waterbirds; forest birds; woodland birds; and open-country birds. There is a page at the beginning of each habitat section describing the habitat, which birds populate these areas and a note or two about the vocalizations found in the habitat.

The book is large and somewhat bulky—not a field guide by any means. It's something to be enjoyed from time to time indoors, or if you want to check out a particular bird song and you don't have an iPhone app and can't easily get online to use Cornell's All About Birds at <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/> Check out the library's copy before you buy one for yourself or as a gift for a beginning birder.

Rusty Blackbird Winter Blitz Jan 30–Feb 15 From Sergio Harding

Please mark your calendars for the second Rusty Blackbird Winter Blitz, a citizen-science effort to document locations of this rapidly declining species across its wintering range. The Blitz will take place Jan 30–Feb 15, 2010. During this time volunteers will search for Rusty Blackbirds in likely habitats across Virginia and enter these observations into VA eBird. These observations are critical in identifying both local areas of concentration and areas that are not used, and in evaluating the stability of these locations over time.

This project of the Smithsonian's International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group is being brought to you here in Virginia by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. You can find more information on the Blitz and on the status, distribution and ecology of the Rusty Blackbird in Virginia at <http://www.vabci.org/rusty-blackbird.asp>. Feel free to contact me, the Blitz coordinator for VA, with any questions at sergio.harding@dgif.virginia.gov.

Bob's Excellent Adventure By Fred Blystone

The January 10, 2010 edition of *The Virginian-Pilot* had a three page article by Diane Tennant titled *Day 1: 82 Down. 568 to go*. The article is about Bob Ake of Norfolk

who is aiming to see 650 species of birds in 2010—what birders call a Big Year. The article gives you background on Bob, a retired chemistry professor from Old Dominion University. One thing that is mentioned is that he was chosen in 2006 by Cornell University to help look for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas and Florida.

The story in *The Virginian-Pilot* also tells you about January 1st, the first day of the Big Year when Bob and John Spahr from Staunton, who will accompany Bob on most of his Big Year travels, started the year off with 82 species.

Bob is keeping a blog, and there are posts every day in January except for the 29th. By the time Bob and John headed for Texas on January 8th, Bob's total for the year was 120 species. By the end of the day on January 11th (in Texas by now) the total was 174. The new sightings included Black-throated Hummingbirds, Mottled Ducks and Sprague's Pipits. By the evening of January 13th, Bob and John were in the Rio Grande Valley and Bob's year list was at 207, including a Rose-throated Becard, a Clay-colored Thrush and an Audubon's Warbler. Within two days the list had grown to 230 species, which included a Tropical Parula, 600 Green Parakeets, 65 Red-crowned Parrots, Tropical Kingbirds and a Lesser Goldfinch. By the posting on January 18th, the total was 246, including a pair of Hook-billed Kites.

By the end of the day on January 21, they were in St. Louis, and Bob's year total was 254. Earlier in the day, while in Arkansas, they had added Smith's Longspurs to the list. On the 22nd they added, among others, Eurasian Tree Sparrows, American Tree Sparrows and Lapland Longspurs. The total was now at 262. On the 23rd they added 4 species, including Greater Prairie Chickens.

On the 24th they were back in Virginia. On the 31st, Bob headed for Florida and added a Masked Ducks and some other species. His total for the month was 272. I will probably never have a Big Year but I am thoroughly enjoying Bob's and am looking forward to his trips to Arizona and Alaska and destinations in between.

If you can, take the time to check out Bob's blog at www.bobsbirds.blogspot.com.

Pictures from CBC and Tally



Photo by Shirley Devan

Sara Lewis, Alex Minarik, Shirley Devan and Lee Schuster



Photo by Fred Blystone

Mike Powell, Susan Powel, Alice Kopinitz, Seig Kopinitz and Joe Piotrowski



Photo by Fred Blystone

Gus Hall, Ruth Beck and Inge Curtis

Photos from Members and Friends



Photo by Hong Trinh

Tree Trunk Icicles



Photo by Shirley Devan

Hermit Thrush



Photo by Hong Trinh

Great Egret



Photo by Gale Treiber

Sharp-shinned Hawk



Photo by Hong Trinh

Little Blue Heron



Photo by Hong Trinh

Red-headed Woodpecker

WBC January Walks & Field Trip

Complete list of species seen on each walk are on the club website www.williamsburgbirdclub.org



Tom McCary lead the bird walk at New Quarter Park on January 9th. In a note to Shirley Devan, Tom said “It was just plain gelid down by Queen’s Creek. Our intrepid group braved the wind and the cold for about 2 hours. In my opinion, the “bird of the day” was the Rusty Blackbird which perched at the very top of a tree to allow close views of his rusty plumage and eye. Quite a beauty!”

A total of 26 species were observed. In addition to the Rusty Blackbird, there were 5 Hooded Mergansers, 5 woodpecker species, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Hermit Thrush.

Left to right: Tom McCary, Betty Peterson, Geoff Giles, Mike Lowry (Missing from photo: Margaret Ware). Photo by Jeanette Navia.



Leader Shirley Devan led 11 other birders on the January 16th field trip to Dutch Gap Conservation Area. Fifty-two species were seen—including 6 Wood Ducks, 2 American Black Ducks, 24 Northern Shovelers, 2 Green-winged Teal and 10 Wilson’s Snipe.

Left to Right: Dick Kiefer, Tom McCary, Sara Lewis, Inge Custis, 2 birders from Monticello Bird Club and Geoff Giles. Missing from picture: Alice & Seig Kopinitz, Les Lawrence, Jan Lockwood, Betty Peterson & Joe Piotrowski

Photo by Shirley Devan.

Seven other birders joined leader Bill Williams at New Quarter Park for the January 23rd walk. The temperature ranged from 32–37 degrees but it was clear and calm and Bill said it was a beautiful day. A total of 34 species were seen. Betty Peterson spotted a Sharp-shinned Hawk, which was a life bird for her. Also seen were a Red-tailed Hawk, a Great Black-backed Gull and 9 Bufflehead.

Left to right: Bill Williams, Jeanette Navia, Joe Piotrowski and Betty Peterson. Missing from picture: Tory Gussman, Margaret Ware and Ted Sargent.

Photo by Shirley Devan



Bird ID from Recycle Bin Photos

By Joe Piotrowski

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



Here is the photo for February.



Last month's picture was of a Swamp Sparrow..

CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb 7	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM; Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, Feb 10	College Creek Hawkwatch begins (weather permitting); contact Brian Taber at taberzz@aol.com for more information.
Thursday, Feb 11	HRBC Monthly Meeting, Courtney Worrall, Speaker, "Keri the American Kestrel", 7 PM, Conference Room of the Sandy Bottom Nature Center
Saturday, Feb 13	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM; Susan Powell, Leader
Saturday, Feb 13	HRBC Field Trip to Mathews County, Contact Dave Youker at 224-1188 or youkerd@aol.com for more information
Wednesday, Feb 17	WBC Monthly Meeting, Mary Elfner, Speaker. See Front Page.
Saturday, Feb 20	WBC Field Trip to CBBT islands. See front page
Sunday, Feb 21	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM; Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, Feb 27	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM; Bill Williams, Leader