



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 34, No. 3

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

March 2010

### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

I'll use this month's corner to preach a bit, if that's allowed for a President of a Bird Club. If we support wild birds and their conservation, then we (the royal we) should be buying duck stamps, fishing licenses, and hunting licenses every year. I am not a hunter nor do I fish, but I've learned that the powers that be, particularly in Virginia, listen to those folks who put their money where their hobbies are.

Birders don't need a license to bird in state parks, wildlife management areas, national wildlife refuges, or other public lands. Sure, we pay small admission fees to some parks and refuges, but mostly we bird for free.

For too long we've been letting the hunters and the fishermen and women pay for the conservation and purchase of habitat for OUR birds. Each year they buy licenses and pay extra taxes on equipment and gear. As a result, those who hunt and fish have the ear of state and federal authorities when it comes to use of state and federal lands and their conservation purposes.

I'm not advocating a "birding license" (yet!), but I am encouraging birders to buy a Federal Duck Stamp as well as VA hunting and fishing licenses.

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service web site: ([www.fws.gov/duckstamps/Conservation/conservation.htm](http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/Conservation/conservation.htm)): "For every dollar you spend on Federal Duck Stamps, ninety-eight cents goes directly to purchase vital habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System."

Also, the current year's Federal Duck Stamp serves as an entrance pass for National Wildlife Refuges where admission is normally charged. Federal Duck Stamp dollars have purchased wetland habitat at the following National Wildlife Refuges in Virginia: Eastern Shore of VA NWR, Back Bay NWR, Chincoteague NWR, Fisherman Island NWR, Great Dismal Swamp NWR, Mackay NWR, and Rappahannock NWR.

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### March Meeting

Andrew McGann will be the speaker at the March Club meeting. Andrew is a Biology grad student at William and Mary and was one of the recipients of an Ornithology Research Grant from the Williamsburg Bird Club in 2009. The title of his presentation is *Rusty Blackbird Wintering Ecology in Williamsburg*.

Andrew graduated from Villanova University in 2007 with a B.S. in Biology and an environmental studies concentration. At Villanova, he studied Carolina Chickadee dominance behavior as well as songs of the critically endangered Cozumel Thrasher in Mexico. In 2008, he interned with the Northern Saw-whet Owl program at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art in Millersburg, PA. His field work experience includes three years with the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas project, Canada Warbler breeding biology in northeastern Vermont, and Northern Goshawk surveys in northern Idaho. He's originally from York, PA, and has been birding since age 10.

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

### March Field Trip

Our March 20th field trip will be to Beaverdam Park in Gloucester County. Leaders will be George and Rosemarie Harris, who live only 4 minutes from the park and bird there quite often.

Our group will depart from Colony Square Shopping Center at 7 am and plan to meet George and Rosemarie at 8 am at the main entrance to the park at the end of Roaring Springs Road.

Beaverdam Park surrounds 635-acre Beaverdam Lake. Winter birding yields a rich assortment of woodpeckers and waterfowl.

### Welcome to New Members—

Frank Bauer, Sharon Plocher and Jennifer Trevino

## Officers

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## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b>	<b>Open</b>
<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
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John Fennell	<i>maffjf07@netzero.net</i>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Open</b>

## 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.

## (President's Corner con't)

In Virginia, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is completely supported by the fees and licenses paid by hunters and fishermen and women. I bought my licenses on line yesterday. Unfortunately the web site did not ask whether I hunted or fished or birded. I think they assume I hunt and fish. Perhaps in the future we can get them to ask applicants what their hobbies are. Wildlife Watching, including birding, is a multi-million dollar industry in Virginia. We wildlife watchers need to make our presence known and be as vocal and consistent in our advocacy as those who hunt and fish.

The first step is to put your money where your binoculars are! Birders don't need a free ride. We should pay our own way and speak up with our dollars and our voices.

Another opportunity to stand up for birds is coming up on March 16 when you can attend an organizational meeting of the "Friends of Wildlife Management Areas" Pilot Program. The meeting is 7 to 9PM at the DGIF Department's Region 1 Office at 3801 John Tyler Memorial Highway, Charles City (located on Route 5, 0.9 miles east of the intersection of Route 106 and Route 5). "The mission of the 'Friends' Program is to network conservation caring individuals and organizations with the Department in improving wildlife habitat on our wildlife management areas. The Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area in Charles City County was chosen as a pilot project for a future statewide "Friends" Program, because the area presents numerous opportunities for volunteer projects."

Trust me, those who hunt and fish will be in attendance. Join me and show up with your binoculars around your neck and your bird hat on your head. See you there!

## February 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!

**Feb. 1:** Tom Armour reports seeing 3 American Pipits and 4 Savannah Sparrows near College Creek on the Colonial Parkway.

**Feb. 2:** From Shirley Devan: "After reading Tom's and Brian's reports from the Colonial Parkway, I headed down there around lunch time today. I parked at the Archer's Hope pullout headed to Jamestown. Lots of birds were feeding along the roadside as I drove down from Williamsburg. I walked from the pullout east along the road fronting the farm as far as the bike cut through to Treasure Island Road. Total time was 1 hour 45 minutes.

**Lots** of birds around. The highlights for me were the two Eastern Meadowlarks, one Wilson's Snipe, on the farm property and easily seen from the road. Also saw a Fox Sparrow scuffling around under the shrubbery near the bike path. Total of 32 species seen."

**Feb. 5:** Bill Williams reports a male Boat-tailed Grackle at Felgates Creek. The previous early date for this species was February 25. Also seen were 7 Dunlin.

**Feb. 6:** Lois Leeth emails that the snow brought many interesting birds to her feeder—Dark-eyed Juncos, Northern Cardinals, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, crows and a Brown Thrasher.

**Feb. 10:** Diana Dean in Kingsmill calls Shirley Devan and tells her the Painted Bunting is still coming to her feeder. Shirley has a Hairy Woodpecker visit her suet feeder.

**Feb. 10:** From Tom Armour— “among the great feeder birds this am was a beautiful male Purple Finch. Others included the Red-breasted Nuthatch that has been here since November, a Brown Thrasher, 2 Rufous-sided Towhees and a Hairy Woodpecker.”

**Feb. 12:** From Kathi Mestayer— “Today Mac was in the backyard at about 8 am and saw a Carolina Wren atop the brush pile, singing with gusto, her head back and beak open. A beam of sunlight was bathing the bird and brush pile and he noticed that whenever she sang he could see a thin coil of steam coming out of her beak. It looked like you could see the syllables in the air. Too bad he didn’t have a camera with him.”

**Feb. 12:** Lee Schuster has her first Pine Siskin of the season show up in her yard. Lois Leeth counts 97 Cedar Waxwings at the Monticello Market Place.

**Feb. 14:** Lois Leeth is being visited by Northern Cardinals, Carolina Chickadees, Blue Jays, White-throated Sparrows, Eastern Towhees, a Brown Thrasher and dozens and dozens of Cedar Waxwings.

**Feb. 15:** Tom Armour reports 6 Bufflehead, a Ringed-necked Duck and a Pied-billed Grebe on the pond at the Vineyards, a Great Egret at the marsh at Half-way Creek and an Eastern Meadowlark at the Williamsburg Airport.

morning—which included a walk to the Swamp Bridge. Tufted Titmice and Red-headed Woodpeckers gave great shows. A pair of Mute Swans were observed in what was decided to be “nest building activity.”

**Feb. 22:** Shirley Devan and Alex Minarik make the trip to Herndon to see the **Varied Thrush**.

**Feb. 23:** From Tom Armour— “This AM there were 44 Red-breasted Mergansers on the James at the Hawkwatch site (College Creek on the Colonial Parkway), farther down the Parkway in the marsh on the right there was a flock of 14 Green-winged Teal and in the parking area at Mill Creek there was a Red-headed Woodpecker, first one I’ve seen there in years.”

**Feb. 26:** From Lois Leeth (now living in Palm Coast, Florida)—I have seen 15 Northern Gannets and many pelicans. The beach here is not sandy, the water comes right up to the shore line, so the sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, etc. stay north of this area.

**Feb. 27:** Tom Armour reports 12 Bufflehead and 2 Pied-billed Grebes on the pond at the Vineyards.

**Feb. 28:** Shirley Devan walks the Colonial Parkway from College Creek to Gospel Spreading Farm. She reports there are two Bald Eagle nests within a mile stretch. Each had an adult sitting on eggs, she assumes.

### Upcoming VSO Field Trip

The Virginia Society of Ornithology and the Bath-Highland Bird Club will host a summer field trip to Highland County on the weekend of June 4–6. Complete information can be found at: [http://viriniabirds.net/f\\_trips.html](http://viriniabirds.net/f_trips.html)

### HRBC Field Trip to Mathews County

By Mary Margaret Hutchins

Photos by Jim Hutchins

Saturday, February 13, three Williamsburg Bird Club members joined nine Hampton Roads Bird Club members in Mathews County for a cold yet enjoyable day of birding. Jim and Mary Margaret Hutchins and Lynn Collins met the HRBC members, led by Dave Youker, as the snow began to fall. Arrangements had been made to park at Dennis and Brenda Baker’s house for access to the private beach in Bavon. After a quick pit stop and cups of hot chocolate, the group bundled up for the trek to the beach where a Northern Gannet, Surf and Black Scoters, Common and Red-throated Loons were added to the day’s tally. When everyone was sufficiently chilled from the unabating wind and sleet, the group returned to the Baker’s where all were rewarded for braving the elements with hot beverages and fresh from the oven homemade chocolate chip cookies. Warm and satiated, the group drove to the platform at the New Point Comfort peninsula. A cove adjacent to the



**Feb. 15:** Brian Taber makes the trip to Herndon in Fairfax County to see the **Varied Thrush** that has been seen there since at least February 5. (Photo by Brian Taber.)

**Feb. 21:** Geoff Giles, Margaret Ware, Hong Trinh and Theu Le joined leader Jane Frigo and 14 other birders for the HRBC bird walk in Newport News Park. Temperatures were in the 50s, winds were calm and the sun was shining. The group was able to count 59 species for the

peninsula was refuge for a flock of Tundra Swans, a pair of American Wigeon, several Common Goldeneye, a Horned Grebe and loons. A couple of Bald Eagles flew overhead.

**Bavon Beach**



Boat-tailed Grackle thrilled the very cold birders, many of whom finally succumbed to the weather conditions with the species count at 52.



**Dunlin**

**Bavon Beach**



**Nature Conservancy Lighthouse Overlook**



Through the fog, the New Point Comfort Lighthouse was a reminder of times past. The lighthouse, commissioned during the presidency of Thomas Jefferson and once an important navigational beacon for ships on the Chesapeake Bay, now sits upon its own island several hundred yards off shore. Years of erosion of the Mathews County shoreline have separated the lighthouse from the mainland peninsula at Mobjack Bay.

**New Point Comfort Lighthouse**



Not yet defeated by the wind and precipitation, the group proceeded to Bethel Beach, where flocks of Dunlins and Sanderlings and an occasional Black-belly Plover worked the shore. The appearance of two American Pipits and a

Thanks so much to Dave Youker for organizing the trip and for including the three WBC members and thanks to the Bakers for their hospitality. Many birding trips occur under less than ideal weather conditions, but few include hot homemade cookies.

**VSO Annual Meeting April 23–25**

**By Shirley Devan**

Spring **will** arrive! Ignore the snow on your lawn—time to think about spring birding in VA Piedmont! We're less than 2 months away from the April 23-25 VSO Annual Meeting in Farmville, VA. Make your reservations now.

The south-central piedmont is one of the Commonwealth's least birded areas; consequently less is known about its birdlife than that of the more popular mountain and coastal areas. This has earned the location the dubious moniker of "Virginia's birding black hole," but the Margaret Watson Bird Club has been working hard to change that. Fabulous field trips throughout Prince Edward and its neighboring counties will reveal the area's birdlife secrets. Plan now to come and enjoy the birds of the "Heart of Virginia"!

Register by April 1. Download the registration form from the Margaret H. Watson Bird Club website: [www.farmvillebirders.net/](http://www.farmvillebirders.net/).

Hotel for conference headquarters is Hampton Inn, 300 Sunchase Blvd, Farmville. Special rate for VSO meeting participants is \$109.00 plus tax. Make your reservation by March 23 to get the special rate. Call (434) 392-8826 and ask for the VSO rate!

Banquet Speaker Saturday night: Ted Floyd, editor of the ABA's "Birding" magazine and author of 2008 "Smithsonian Field Guide to Birds of North America."

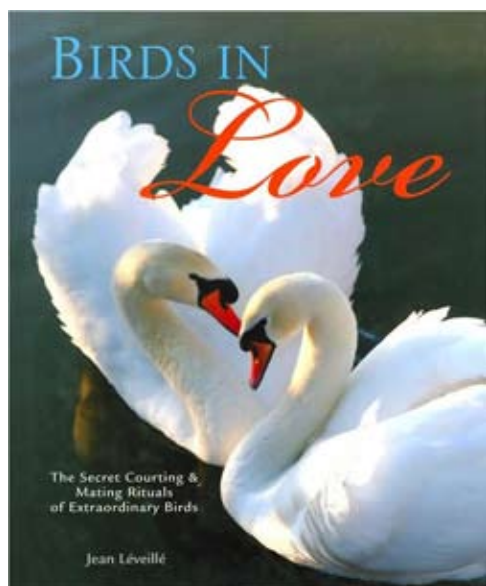
Field trips Saturday and Sunday include:

Bear Creek Lake State Park, Cumberland State Forest  
Briery Creek and Sandy Creek Reservoirs  
Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area (Sunday only)  
Kerr Reservoir (Sunday only)  
High Bridge Trail State Park & Smith Farm  
Holliday Lake State Park  
Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest  
Red Hill Plantation and Patrick Henry National Memorial  
Staunton River Battlefield State Park  
Twin Lakes State Park  
Wilck's Lake  
Owl and Nightjar Hunt —Friday and Saturday night

Check the VSO's web site for additional details. [www.virginia-birds.net/VSO\\_PDFs/VSO\\_Nwsltr\\_WI0910.pdf](http://www.virginia-birds.net/VSO_PDFs/VSO_Nwsltr_WI0910.pdf).

## Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia



*Birds in Love: The Secret Courting & Mating Rituals of Extraordinary Birds*, by Jean Lèveillé. Voyageur Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780760328071. \$20. 160 p. James City County Library call number 598.156 LEV.

Some of the photos in this book are fantastic! An up-close portrait of a double-crested cormorant with his beautiful turquoise eyes is breath-taking. A sweet picture

of two white terns, one grooming the other with his jet black beak, would make anyone smile. An action shot of a male mallard getting ready to land shows his brilliant red, green and purple feathers.

The jacket of *Birds In Love* claims it's "the first natural history of the hidden love life of the feathered world, a tale too torrid to be told – until now!" The reader has to take this – and a few other things – with a grain of salt. There are some factual errors. I was startled when I read "New [raven] couples ... will stay together for life – an unusual feat when you consider their lifespan: some individuals live well into their sixties and beyond, even reaching the centenary mark, according to the latest data." I had to consult my Sibley's and then Cornell's online All About Birds database. Those sources said the oldest raven on record lived a little over seventeen years. If there is newer data, Lèveillé does not give his sources. Another error I spotted is his claim that mourning doves are the only species of dove still living in the wild.

Lèveillé looks at 33 species and describes his understanding of their "love life." Lèveillé goes overboard with anthropomorphism. He does this with a chuckle, I hope, but I would find the text more interesting without the romantic flourishes. "...[A] single male [mourning dove] tirelessly repeated a brooding lament that only a companion could dissipate. With throat feathers all puffed up, he voiced his sad refrain. In the distance, a gentler voice responded. As the pretty female approached, the male immediately sprang from his perch and noisily flapped his wings. I could imagine his heart thumping with hope. He affected a number of spiraling dives in the air, gaining altitude before each descent. Won over, the gracious beauty approached, seized the beak of her would-be suitor, and used provocative movements to show him she was interested....What followed were wing flaps of approval and tender nudges ending in a mutual grooming session, with the ever-so-subtle touches that sealed the engagement."

Keeping in mind that there are factual errors, and despite the maudlin tone, the book can be enjoyed as a starting place to learn more, possibly, about the fascinating courtship displays and mating rituals of birds. Familiar species include the northern cardinal, eastern bluebird, mallards, red-winged blackbird, ospreys and cedar waxwings. More exotic birds described include the great bowerbirds (who build – and decorate – incredible structures to attract mates), African jacanas, purple-throated caribs and purple swamphens. All 33 species were fascinating to read about. I only wish I could trust the information that was written.

## Bird Walk at Shirley Plantation

Tom McCary and Randy Carter are leading a bird walk at Shirley Plantation on Saturday, March 13 at 8:30 am.

Special price for members of the Williamsburg Bird Club is \$5.00. Reservations are requested. Call 804-829-5121 to reserve a spot and be sure to advise that you are a member of the Williamsburg Bird Club so you can get the discount. (Others pay \$15.00)

## Balmy CBBT Trip February 20

By Shirley Devan

Likely that most of the folks signed up for the CBBT trip Feb. 20 were holding their breaths. Would this Saturday be the first one in four weeks to dawn without snow?

**Yes!** Considering it was the middle of February, our group of 16 enjoyed a “balmy” day in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay for our February field trip. With sunny skies, light winds and temperatures in the low 40s, we moved out at 8 am with our CBBT security guard leading the way to island #4—our first stop. The security guard advised us that we could not visit island #2 because of “sink hole” problems.



Alex Minarik, Tom McCary,  
Brian Taber and Chuck Litterest

Photo by Shirley Devan

As soon as we parked we spotted a raft of about 75 Surf Scoters close in near the rocks. A handful of Long-tailed Ducks were mingling with them along with eight Black Scoters. The absence of white caps eased the task of finding and identifying the birds both near and far and getting extended good looks through the spotting scopes.

Our leader Brian Taber advised us to keep an eye on the channel between island 3 and 4. Many ducks were observed just flying straight through the channel. Such was the case with the Red-throated Loons. Almost all the loons we saw from island 4 were flying north through the channel. As soon as he spotted some birds, Brian called out “Red-throated Loons flying north through the channel!” Then came “Two White-winged Scoters flying north through the

channel.” That was our only look at White-winged Scoters for the day. Total number of species for island 4 was 13.



Chuck Litterest and Brian Taber

Photo by Shirley Devan

About 9:30 we jumped back in our caravans and followed the security guard to island #3. More Surf Scoters, but we were thrilled to find three Brant on the rocks along with 19 Great Cormorants, two Purple Sandpipers, 15 Red-breasted Mergansers and one Savannah Sparrow. We scanned the skies for Northern Gannets in their usual behavior – flying and diving for fish. Finally we spotted nine Northern Gannets. Like the Red-throated Loons, they “were flying north through the channel” heading for some unknown fishing hot spot. Bill Williams spotted a Red-necked Grebe in the distance and Brian and several others observed it before it disappeared – fishing underwater. No telling where that bird surfaced. Never seen again. We had a total of nine species for island 3.

Only one species was interesting enough to coax the security guard from the warmth of his vehicle—the harbor seals basking on the rocks at the point of island 3. As we scanned the waters around the point, we observed several more seals – heads bobbing in the water. Total number of seals was about a dozen. We got scopes on four loafing on the rocks as the tide came in. Definitely the mammal of the day!

About 11 am we bade our security guard good day and headed back to island #1—open to the public. Note that the restaurant and gift shop are closed until summer for badly needed renovation. The fishing pier is still open and travelers can still stop and check the rocks and water for birds. Restrooms are open as well. At island 1 we finally found 7 Ruddy Turnstones, 24 Bufflehead, and two Greater Scaup, whose identification was confirmed by Dr. Mitchell Byrd.

Many thanks to Bryan Taber for identifying those flying dots and getting us on the birds. Thanks also to everyone

who helped ID and find birds, shared spotting scopes, drove carpools, paid bridge tolls, and contributed to the wonderfully congenial morning. Total number of species for the day was 23. Several people got year birds, at least one person got a life bird. A memorable outing on the Bay!



Participants were: Brian Taber, Leader; Mitchell Byrd, Lynn Collins, Shirley Devan, Gary Driscole, Adrienne Frank, James Hutchins, Mary-Margaret Hutchins, Chuck Litterst, Jan Lockwood, Thomas McCary, Alex Minarik, Mike Minarik, Jeb Minarik, Shanna Minarik, and Bill Williams.

### **WBC at the JCC Expo**

**By Jeanette Navia**

The question of the day was, “How do I get rid of the blackbirds?? They’re eating all the food!” Mary Anne Fennell and I tried to assure folks that the black birds – grackles, starlings, cowbirds and red-winged blackbirds – wouldn’t be around forever, at least not in the flocks that we’ve been seeing since the snowstorms.

We were in the lobby of the James City County Community Center next to the hallway where dozens of little children in football uniforms, swim gear and other sports outfits filed past to get to their teams and classes. Hundreds of other people came specifically for the County’s Destination Recreation Expo and Community Center Open House. It was billed as a “one-day, one-stop-shopping opportunity to learn about all the recreational programs and services available to you and your family through Parks and Recreation and its programming partners.” The main activities – live animal shows featuring helper dogs, snakes, lizards and other small animals, door prize drawings and announcements —were held in the gymnasium where the sports groups ringed the basketball courts.

Tables featuring outdoor activities such as ours, the Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, York River State Park, the Williamsburg Botanical Garden and others were in the

lobby. Our table got people coming and going, and we rarely had a moment to rest before someone stopped by to ask questions or look at the photos of birds we had on panels or the slide show playing on Mary Anne’s laptop. Quite a few people showed interest in coming to a bird walk and we gave out brochures to interested people. (Note: next time take maps showing where New Quarter Park is, ones that clearly show we don’t mean Quarterpath Park).



Mary Anne had filled a hundred baggies with bird seed to give away. She put labels on each one with the name of our club and our web address. Partway through the morning, I realized we should also have written “Not for human consumption!” on them. Kids sometimes looked askance when we offered them bird seed. “To feed the birds,” I’d say, which may have seemed redundant if you didn’t know that at the next booth over, the Master Naturalists had little bags of BBQ-flavored, freeze-dried meal worms that they were offering kids to eat!

The Club donated the book National Geographic Birding Essentials and a bag of birdseed from Wild Birds Unlimited to be given away as a door prize. Near the end of the morning, a mother and two small children around 3 and 5 years old came by to tell us they had been the winners. She was very excited to have won, and took a brochure about our club.

The Williamsburg Bird Club paid \$50 for the table. I think it was a good investment. We let hundreds of people know who we were, that we held bird walks, field trips and meetings, and that we would welcome newcomers to our club.

## Check out Bird Watcher's Digest for March/April 2010

By Shirley Devan

I always find this magazine interesting. Two articles in the latest issue caught my eye, and I want to pass along info so you can check them out. The library has copies or you can subscribe at [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com).

William and Mary alumna Caitlin Kight's article entitled "Nest Building in the Material World" features the "science (and art) of nest construction." Caitlin describes how birds "are adapted to choose some materials and ignore others." Caitlin received Ornithological Research Grants from the Bird Club 2004–2006. Recently she completed her Doctorate from the Department of Applied Science at W&M. Congrats, Caitlin!

Ellen Sandbeck describes in her article, "Sunflower Hulls: Putting Refuse to Good Use," how you can recycle the sunflower hulls under your feeder to use as an organic herbicide to prevent weeds from growing between paving stones or sidewalk and driveway seams. If you need to be neat and tidy about it, grind up the hulls in an old blender (designated for making homemade garden products) and then spread the finer product or sludge where you don't want grass to grow. You have about a year before you need to do it again!

### Photos from Members and Friends



Baltimore Oriole by Inge Curtis



Ring-billed Gull by Bill Williams



Redheads by Bill Williams



Redheads by Bill Williams



## WBC February Walks & Field Trip

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



Susan Powell lead the bird walk at New Quarter Park on February 13th. A total of 28 species were observed. Highlights were a immature Bald Eagle near the floating dock which took a fish from the creek, and a nest hole in a tree near the trail to the fire circle that, unfortunately, had raccoons and not owls.

Left to right: seated: Cynthia Long, Sara Lewis, Susan Powell, Shirley Devan. Standing: Bob Long, Steven David, Rhonda DeChirico, Nancy Norton, Mike Powell.

Photo by Margaret Ware.



Leader Brian Taber led 15 other birders on the February 20th field trip to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands. A total of 23 species were seen. (See article on page 6)

Left to Right: Bill Williams, Mitchell Byrd and Lynn Collins

Photo by Shirley Devan.

Fifteen other birders joined leader Bill Williams at New Quarter Park for the February 27th walk. A total of 37 species were seen, including the first Osprey seen this year on one of the club's walks in the park. Left to right: Mike Lowry, Jennifer Trevino, Geoff Giles, Sharon Plocher, Jeanette Navia, Don Shepler, Ann Boehm, Bill Williams, Joanne Andrews and Jean Bruce. Missing from picture: Cathy Bond, Sara Lewis, Joe Piotrowski, Dean Shostak and Margaret Ware.

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 *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 photo March.

Last month's picture was of a Field Sparrow.



## CALENDAR

Sunday, Mar 7	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM; Jane Frigo, Leader
Thursday, Mar 11	HRBC Monthly Meeting, Bill Leaning, Speaker, "A Walk in the Wild", 7 PM, Conference Room of the Sandy Bottom Nature Center
Saturday, Mar 13	HRBC Field Trip to Hog Island, Contact Dave Youker at 224-1188 or youkerd@aol.com for more information
Saturday, Mar 13	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM; Bill Williams, Leader
Saturday, Mar 13	Bird Walk at Shirley Plantation, Tom McCary and Randy Carter, Leaders. See page 6 in newsletter
Wednesday, Mar 17	WBC Monthly Meeting. Andrew McGann, Speaker. See front Page.
Saturday, Mar 20	WBC Field Trip to Beaverdam Park. See front page
Sunday, Mar 21	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM; Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, Mar 27	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM