



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 34, No. 4

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

April 2010

### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

Indulge me for one more soapbox session as I continue on with the theme from last month's Corner, in which I focused on the importance of supporting federal and state wildlife habitat purchases with your dollars. Purchasing Duck Stamps and VA hunting and fishing licenses supports the purchase and protection of wildlife (and bird!) habitat around the country and in Virginia.

What about locally? Who speaks up for protecting habitat in our two local counties and city of Williamsburg? Answer: The Williamsburg Land Conservancy.

If you belong to The Nature Conservancy (TNC), then you might consider joining the Williamsburg Land Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy works **globally** to protect habitat by purchasing land or by buying development rights. TNC owns quite a few parcels in Virginia, including the Piney Grove area where the state's only Red-cockaded Woodpeckers nest, and much of Virginia's barrier islands.

The Williamsburg Land Conservancy works with **local** landowners to develop conservation easements to preserve and protect land around our area **forever**. The Williamsburg Land Conservancy is not affiliated with The Nature Conservancy even though their missions are similar.

Members of the Williamsburg Bird Club were instrumental in forming the Williamsburg Land Conservancy 20 years ago and many continue to be active today. Bird Club members Carolyn Lowe, Bill Williams, Joy Archer, Brian Taber and Tori Gussman were there at the beginning in 1990.

Virginia's Land Preservation Tax Credit encourages landowners "to work with land trusts [like the Williamsburg Land Conservancy] to develop conservation easements that preserve and protect their property in perpetuity." This is from a Letter to the Editor in The Virginia Gazette March 20, 2010 from Bill Williams, Chairman of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy. *(continued on page 2)*

### April Meeting

Marie Pitts will be the speaker at the April Club meeting. Marie 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 her presentation is *The Influence of Landscape Design on Eastern Bluebird Reproductive Success*.

Marie graduated from the University of Maryland in 2006 with a B.S. in Zoology and an environmental studies concentration. After graduation she was a lab technician for Dr. Gerald Wilkinson, working on stalk-eyed fly sexual selection and genetics. In 2008 she joined Dr. John Swaddle's lab at William and Mary to get her masters in avian ecology, and she plans to graduate this August. She wants to go on to a career in a wildlife-related field such as park manager or working for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Plan to join us on **April 21** at 7:30 p.m. in **Room 150**, Millington Hall, on the William and Mary campus. Joanne and Alex Andrews will be providing the refreshments.

### April Field Trip

Our **April 17th** field trip will be to the Great Dismal Swamp. The leader will Alex Minark.

Our group will meet at Colony Square Shopping Center at 6 am. Anyone wanting to meet at Dismal Swamp should go directly to Jericho Ditch. The group should arrive there around 7:30 and will bird until 11:00. Bring insect repellent, water and snacks. (There are restroom facilities at the Jericho Ditch parking area.)

### Thank You Wild Birds Unlimited

A big thank you to George and Val Copping at Wild Birds Unlimited in Monticello Marketplace for a donation of \$361. This is based on sales to WBC members during the period of July–December 2009.

## Officers

<b>President</b>	813-1322
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<b>Vice-President (Programs)</b>	871-3418
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Chuck Litterst	<i>clitterst@aol.com</i>
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Jeanette Navia	<i>Jnavia@gmail.com</i>
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Bob Long	

## 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
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>mafjff07@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)

According to Bill's Letter to the Editor, "a total of 2,310 conservation easements have been placed on lands within the Commonwealth since 2000, for a total of 493,352 acres that are now permanently protected."

Locally, the Land Conservancy protects over 3,000 acres in James and York River watersheds, according to their web site:

[www.williamsburglandconservancy.org/whatwedo.html](http://www.williamsburglandconservancy.org/whatwedo.html)

Bill Williams described the benefit of land trusts like the Land Conservancy this way: "Acres protected by this program provide Virginia's citizens and future generations permanent protection of flora and fauna through watershed and forested land protection, farmland preservation, protection of cultural and historic lands, and conservation of uninterrupted viewsheds." The Williamsburg Land Conservancy is one of the oldest in VA and celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. Consider supporting them with your efforts and funds.

Update on the "Friends of Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area": I attended the "formational" meeting March 16. The room was packed with local landowners, farmers, hunters, volunteers, and wildlife managers. One member of the Williamsburg Bird Club was there (me) and four members of the Historic Rivers Chapter of the VA Master Naturalists attended. (I wore two hats for this meeting.) The sense of the group was that a "Friends" group would be a good thing and that formation of a 501(c)(3) organization is in their future. Their wish list included over 25 large and small projects in the categories of habitat, recreation, and infrastructure. Building and maintaining bluebird box trails and duck boxes were just two of the habitat suggestions for the "Friends." The next meeting is April 8 at 5:00 pm at the Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area. Attendees will get a "boots on the ground tour" of the area and learn more about what the WMA needs. If you want more info, contact the area manager, Donald Earl, on his cell phone: 804-357-1715. Hope to see you there.

## The Williamsburg Spring Bird Count-May 2010

by Bill Williams

All bird club members are invited to participate in the Williamsburg Spring Bird Count to be held May 2, 2010. This annual event follows the same format as the Christmas Bird Count, covering count sections located within 7.5 miles of the Colonial Williamsburg Information Center, the count circle center. Designated teams will devote as much time that day as they can to document as many birds of as many species as possible. The day will conclude with a compilation tally at 6:00 p.m. at Carrot Tree Kitchens on Jamestown Road.

Those members who have been a part of this or the Christmas Bird Count, and who intend to participate in this Spring Count, are asked to contact the count leader you have worked with in the past to be a part of his/her team. If you are new to the count, please contact Bill Williams at 229-1124 or [jwwil2@wm.edu](mailto:jwwil2@wm.edu) no later than April 25, 2010. We are always interested in having folks who are not currently members of the bird club join us. So if you know of anyone that might be interested in this valuable club activity please let them know to contact Bill as well.

## March 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!

**Mar. 1:** In Shirley Devan's yard are 3 Cedar Waxwings, 2 American Robins, 2 Common Grackles, 2 European Starlings, plus the usual suspects. Tom and Jeanne Armour still have a Red-breasted Nuthatch and a male Purple Finch coming to their feeder.

**Mar. 6:** Bill Williams reports there was at least one Great Blue Heron incubating at a nest at College Creek. This resets the early incubation date that was previously 10 March.

**Mar. 7:** Margaret Ware joins leader Jane Frigo and 12 other birders for the Hampton Roads Bird Club sponsored walk at Newport News Park. Jane reports the birds were active and quite vocal. A flight of 40–50 Tundra Swans flew overhead. Several Winter Wrens were spotted. One was particularly busy gleaning bugs from the logs. A male Pine Warbler was brilliant in the morning sun. A total of 51 species were identified.

**Mar. 7–8:** Jeanne and Gil Frey from Birnam Wood in Surry County: “Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 1 Carolina Wren, 4 American Goldfinches, 6 House Finches, 4 Purple Finches, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch, 6 Mourning Dove, 2 Tufted Titmice, 2 White-throated Sparrows, 1 Dark-eyed Junco, all the usual guys. Best observation about one week ago, on 2 different days—a Wood Duck swimming in our creek. We are so hoping they will occupy the boxes that Gil built for them several years ago.”

**Mar. 10:** Tom McCary reports 30+ Tundra Swans at Felgates Creek. He could hear their “dog-like” calls. He also saw 3 male and 2 female Bufflehead.

**Mar. 12:** Tom McCary saw six Common Mergansers (3 males and 3 females) on 2 ponds at Shirley Plantation. Also saw two pair of Wood Ducks.

**Mar. 12:** Jeanne and Gill Frey reports seeing a Woodcock at Chippokes State Park. It was around dusk, and the bird stayed in front of their car's headlights and gave them a very good look. Later, while walking their dog Oliver through the park, Gill thought he heard their rustling wing activity. Earlier in the day, a very noisy Eastern Phoebe was hanging around the clothesline—looking for a nest maybe?

**Mar. 13:** Members of the HRBC visited Hog Island WMA and tallied 70 species. The highlights of the day were a nice flyby of an American Bittern, five sparrow species, 3 wren species, both kinglets, and good looks at some baby Bald Eagles.

**Mar. 13:** Randy Carter and Tom McCary led a walk at

Shirley Plantation. A number of duck species and other interesting birds were seen. A full report will be in the May issue of *The Flyer*.

**Mar. 15:** Last day that Bill Williams sees the Western Tanager that had been visiting his feeder.

**Mar. 16:** Bill Williams travels to Virginia Beach and sees the Iceland Gull that had been reported earlier.

**Mar. 17:** Bill Williams heads back over the river to First Landing State Park and sees the California Gull first reported by Andrew Baldelli.

**Mar. 20:** From Florida, Lois Leeth reports 60 Anhingas flying north over the ocean. She also saw two Great Horned Owls with one owlet at Fort Metanzas State Park. She also saw 8 Snowy Egrets flying out over the ocean.

**Mar. 20:** Lynda Blair reports “took a quick trip to the CBBT and finally got to see some Harbor Seals and Northern Gannets on the first island. Also, Common Mergansers hanging around and the usual Ruddy Turnstones, Double-crested Cormorants and Rock Pigeons. A few Ring-necked Ducks and a Gray Catbird on Ramp Road in the Wildlife Refuge, but that was it. The gannets and seals made my day!”

**Mar. 21:** Gary and Ann Carpenter bird York River State Park. Seen were: Laughing Gulls, Ring-billed Gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, Ruddy Ducks, Buffleheads, Osprey, Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Carolina Chickadee, Blue Jay, Eastern Bluebirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, American Crow, Dark-eyed Juncos, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Chipping Sparrows and a 12–bird flock of Cedar Waxwings.

**Mar. 21:** During the HRBC walk in Newport News Park, 55 species were tallied. Jane Frigo writes “the cherry blossoms were in full bloom and their colors spectacular. Love was in the air as a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers shared their affections. Male Pine Warblers were singing as were the Northern Cardinals and Tufted Titmice. A Winter Wren and a Brown Creeper were still at the park. A Hermit Thrush gave a lengthy vocalization that was a treat. A pair of Black Snakes were seen nestled in a hollowed tree. Sadly, the ducks seemed to have moved out.”

**Mar. 26:** Tom McCary reports “Wild Turkey seen by side of road in Charles City County about 2 miles from bridge. Watched as he did a slow “turkey trot” into woods.”

**Mar. 29:** Shirley Devan finds 5 Carolina Wren eggs in her nest box. First egg was laid March 24 and the last on March 28.

## Ornithology Research Grants

The 2010 Ornithology Research Grants presented by the Williamsburg Bird Club have been awarded. The following students at William and Mary will each receive \$500:

Sarah Lemelin—*Effects of Mercury on Reproductive Success and Adrenocortical Function*

Catherine Lewis—*The Sublethal Effects of Mercury on the Songbird Immune Systems: An Experimental Study*

Amanda Bessler—*The Effect of Mercury on Zebra Finch Spatial Memory*

## 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://virginiabirds.net/f\\_trips.html](http://virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html)

## Ontario Visitors Bird Around

By Shirley Devan

Relatives and friends of Club members Joanne and Alex Andrews visited from Ontario in mid-March and spent several days visiting birding hot spots. Total number of species was 63. They also attended the monthly Bird Club meeting at Millington March 17.

Lois and Howard Bridger, daughter and son-in-law of Joanne and Alex, visited along with friend Owen Weir. Over March 13 – 16 they observed 63 species on their outings between Jamestown and Yorktown with Queen's Lake in the middle.

Highlights along the Colonial Parkway included 2 Tundra Swans, 14 Wood Ducks, 4 Gadwall, 50 Bufflehead, 4 Hooded Mergansers, 1 Common Merganser, 1 Ruddy Duck, 4 Common Loons, 4 Brown Pelicans.

At Jamestown, they observed a Horned Grebe, Red-tailed Hawk, Great Egret, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, and Savannah Sparrow.

At Queen's Lake, they observed 4 Ring-necked Ducks, 4 Lesser Scaup, Pied-billed Grebes, Hermit Thrush, plus the usual winter suspects. They observed 8 Bald Eagles on their travels between Yorktown and Jamestown.

Many thanks to Owen, Lois, Howard, Joanne, and Alex for sharing their observations. The Ontario contingent enjoyed the warmth of spring in Virginia!

## From Stephen Curtis - Clevedon, N. Somerset, England

Since 1992, at about 5 year intervals, I have been taking vacations in Williamsburg—staying with my brother Chris

Curtis & his wife Janet (a Williamsburg Bird Club member). This year, for the first time, I met fellow birders from the Williamsburg Bird Club, which inspired me to write a few words for your excellent newsletter *The Flyer*.

Being an avid lister, I always set aims for “The Williamsburg Vacation”, and always aim for 100 different species of bird. My record was 105 different species in 2 weeks—this year I have exceeded this figure, and the Williamsburg Bird Club played an important role in achieving this. Indeed, my record equaling bird was spotted for me by Bill Williams at College Creek—a Forster's Tern, and my record breaking bird—Pied Billed Grebe—was seen at the Vineyards, from information I got from *The Flyer*.

I am writing this just after my last bird watching trip to College Creek—not the best day to finish on with the rain but I did, like every other day of the holiday see one new bird - my 109th—American Wood Duck—four of which flew over College Creek into the woods at 10:30 am this morning (March 12th, 2010). The highlights of my two week stay are as follows: Eastern Meadowlark, King Rail (both of which were my only Lifers), grappling Bald Eagles at Green Springs on Feb. 28th, Eastern Phoebe on March 11th, all 3 Scoters, Purple Sandpiper (the later being a USA tick) at Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, Northern Harriers in flight and on the ground at Eastern Shore, 4 very close Common Loons, Tundra Swans, Black Brant, Snow Geese, Willet, Marbled Godwit and two close Delmarva Squirrels at Chincoteague. Locally, watching the first Ospreys arrive on March 7th—the nest building, and this morning (March 12th), the closest pair to the house mating. Also seeing the first Tree Swallows arrive whilst canoeing with my brother on the Powhatan Creek. Another highlight was seeing all the Cooper's Hawks migrating across the James River at College Creek, with fellow birders Bill Williams and Shirley Devan.

Every day I have added at least one specie to my list. My 100th bird was in the best site of the trip—my brother's backyard—a Barred Owl. Other species of note here were a daily Red-Headed Woodpecker (not with the red head, but a winter juvenile who has steadily gained more red on his head in the two weeks), occasionally an adult Red-headed Woodpecker has been in the front garden. Other visitors have included Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrows, Pine Warbler, Brown-creeper, Purple and House Finches, Brown Thrashers, about thirty Cedar Waxwings, and regular Red-Tailed Hawks who I think are breeding at the back of the garden. The only disappointment this time as been my lack of any decent views of one of my favorite USA birds the Pileated Woodpecker, but I cannot



complain because I have had a great holiday, and another favorite of mine, the Bald Eagle, I have seen every single day.

The Williamsburg Bird Club has been instrumental in making my vacation this year such a great one. Perhaps in 5 years I will write another piece for your Newsletter!

Anyway, bye for now and as we say in England – GOOD BIRDING.

PS: At 4.30 am on March 12th I at last had good views of Pileated Woodpecker in woods opposite the house, with brief good views also at 5.00 pm- The vacation is complete.

### **WBC Adopt a Highway Program**

John Fennel reported that after five weather cancellations of highway cleanup dates in February, they finally succeeded in getting the task accomplished. Dick Keifer, David Monahan, Chuck Litterest, Mike & Alex Minarik joined Mary Anne and John on March 8th and collected 17 bags of trash from the club's two mile stretch of Croaker Road. Many thanks to those who participated.

### **Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival**

**By Stephen Living**

The Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival will kick off May 6th and run through May 8th—a great way to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. There are a variety of guided walks, owl prowls, bus tours and workshop. Saturday's festivities will include an exhibition area with a variety of exhibitors and activities for the whole family. There will be live music and food as well.

Call 757-986-3705 for reservations and more information. The full schedule for the festival is available at [www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp/pdf/SOE102.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp/pdf/SOE102.pdf)

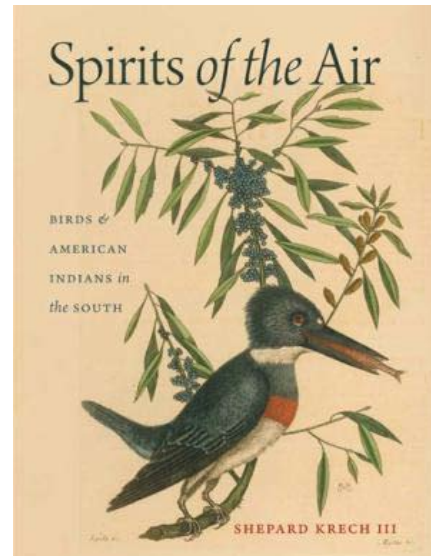
### **Live Bird Cams**

**By Cathy Millar**

I've long been a fan of the eagle cam at NBG and am eagerly awaiting the first hatchling, possible as early as March 10th. Thought our members might find the site [www.littlebirdie-home.com](http://www.littlebirdie-home.com) interesting, as among other things of bird interest, it includes a long list of links to other live bird cams in the US and several other countries. One of my current favorites is of a nest of 7 barn owlets at the Audubon Sanctuary at the Starr Ranch in CA. Their raspy demanding calls for food sound like that made by speed skaters on ice.

## **Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review**

**By Jeanette Navia**



*Spirits of the Air: Birds & American Indians of the South.* by Shepard Krech III. University of Georgia Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780820328157. \$44.95. 245 p. Williamsburg Library call number 975 KRE. Donated to the library by the Williamsburg Bird Club.

Picture an American Indian. In that image, are feathers present? Maybe the individual is wearing a feather headdress or a single feather in his or her hair. According to Shepard Krech III, “the most persistent visual image of the indigenous people of the New World is that they were feathered.”

Krech is currently a Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, at the Smithsonian Institution. He is a renowned researcher of American Indians\* and their interaction with the environment. In this beautiful, richly illustrated book, *Spirits of the Air*, he focuses on the impact of birds on American Indians and vice versa. In an early chapter, he uses accounts from several European explorers to list and describe which birds were prevalent in the South during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. In seventeenth-century Virginia, for instance, John Smith found “...swannes, cranes, geese, duckes, and mallards, & divers sorts of fowles none would desire’ as well as ‘diverse sorts of small birds, some red, some blew, scarce so bigge as a wrenne...”.

In different chapters, Krech explores the use of birds as food (including a fascinating section on the history of chickens in America), birds and feathers in fashion, birds and feathers as symbols of power and spirituality, and birds in art and play. In some instances, Krech describes the birds themselves. In a discussion of bird art depicting peregrine-human caricatures, he writes, “The peregrine is a remarkable bird. ... [It is] known to kill over 425 species of birds in North America, ranging in size from humming-birds to the sandhill crane, often by stooping at breath-taking speed and then grabbing or striking a bird with talons splayed at impact and then balled into a fist.” His

implication is that it is no wonder a peregrine was often used in imagery depicting power.

The artwork in this coffee-table quality book is stunning. Works by John James Audubon, Mark Catsby, Alexander Wilson, Robert Havell, George Catlin, John White and other artists are included. There are photos of American Indians in feathered garb as well as photos of archeological artifacts depicting birds. The text is somewhere between scholarly and popular. As a result, it is stilted at times, but the information Krech provides is fascinating. The library catalogs this in the 975 section, history of the American South, rather than in 598, the section where the majority of bird books are shelved. It could go in either section and can be enjoyed and appreciated by both bird lovers and early American history scholars.

\*Krech uses the term “Indians” rather than “Native Americans” throughout the book.

## Smithsonian's Division of Birds

By Shirley Devan

As the Virginia Living Museum Safari mini-bus headed north on I-95, the 14 passengers observed the usual avian species along a high speed thoroughfare: Turkey Vultures, American Crows, Red-tail Hawks, Rock Pigeons.

When we reached our destination—the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History—the quality of our birds improved considerably: Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Carolina Parakeet, Passenger Pigeon, King Penguin, Trogon. **What?**

Photo by Seig Kopinitz



We were deep in the basement of the museum for a behind-the-scenes visit in the Division of Birds. Our host for the morning was Dr. Carla Dove from the Division's Feather Identification Lab. The March 6 trip was sponsored by the Virginia Living Museum, and Lisa Wright and Rock Moes-

lin accompanied the twelve of us and took turns driving the bus. The Williamsburg contingent included Bird Club members Alice and Seig Kopinitz, Susan, Mike, and Alex Powell, and me. Master Naturalists Felice and Tom Bond and Les and Laura Lawrence also joined us. A mother-daughter duo from Tabb rounded out our group.

When we arrived at our appointed spot in the basement, Carla proceeded to describe the study skins she had assembled for us. Yes, she let us hold the study skins for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, the Carolina Parakeet, and the Passenger Pigeon, with frequent reminders to **wash your hands really well when you leave here!**

She had also brought out a box of four birds collected by John James Audubon in the early 19th century. The Smithsonian also holds historically significant specimens from Theodore Roosevelt, even though we did not see those.

Dr. Dove had set out interesting feathers from various American birds. Some birds were pickled in jars. An American Bittern stretched halfway across the table. Several skeletons as well as a few unusual nests were on display. Two boxes contained Song Sparrow study skins illustrating the variation in size of one species as collected across the United States. Another box contained tanagers from South America; still another contained eggs of Rufous Hummingbirds. Dr. Dove showed us the tiniest hummingbird as well as the largest.

The museum houses the third largest bird collection in the world with over 640,000 specimens. Only the British Museum and the American Museum of Natural History in New York City have larger collections. The Smithsonian collection contains almost 4,000 “type” specimens. Original taxonomic descriptions are based on these “type” specimens! Hundreds of scientists from around the world visit the Division of Birds every year to conduct research.

Dr. Dove (with a name like that, she has to be an ornithologist!) directs the Feather Identification Lab, which processes over 3,500 aircraft bird strike cases per year from around the world. She showed us examples of “snarg”—the term used to describe the blood and bits of unidentifiable body parts left behind after a bird strikes a jet engine (or gets processed in a Cuisinart!).

The Feather Identification Lab's avian DNA database, completed in 2006 for 96% of all bird species in US and Canada, helps solve bird strike cases. The experts in Dr. Dove's lab also use other techniques such as microscopic features on the down portion of feathers.

Luckily, most of us had cameras, which Dr. Dove encouraged us to use. Needless to say we snapped photos of each



person holding their favorite extinct bird! When she had completed her prepared presentation on the items on the display table, she asked if anyone had a particular bird they wanted to see. At our requests she took us into the aisles and stacks and rows and rows of cases holding over 640,000 specimens. She opened up cases to display King Penguin, kingfishers, trogons, macaws, and other colorful birds.

An awe-inspiring visit particularly for the bird nerds in the group! We thanked Dr. Dove for coming to work on Saturday morning specifically to give us a tour. We collected our coats and cameras and made a beeline for the restrooms to **wash our hands really well**. The memories will stick for a long time.

Photos from the visit are on my Flickr site:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/shirley\\_devan/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/shirley_devan/)

### Photos from Members and Friends



Red-shouldered Hawk

Photo by Mike Millin



Killdeer & Killdeer eggs  
photos by Bill Williams



Beaverdam Park field trip

Photos by George Harris





## WBC March Walks & Field Trip

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



Bill Williams lead the bird walk at New Quarter Park on March 13th. A total of 34 species were observed. Socked-in fog and a very high tide made for tough birding. Seeing nine Wood Ducks always makes a good birding day.

Front row—Howard Bridger, Joanne Andrews, Owen Weir, Lois Bridger, Patty Maloney

Center row—Cynthia Long, Ann Boehm, Jean Bruce, Jennifer Trevino, Sharon Plocher

Back Row—Jeanette Navia, Bill Williams, Cronan Maxwell, Steven David, Nancy North

Missing from photo—Max Maxwell and Margaret Ware

Photo by Sara Lewis.



A big thank you to George and Rosemarie Harris for leading our club's first field trip to Beaverdam Park on March 20. A fishing tournament that was going on kept the number of waterfowl down, but the group species total for the day still reached 36.

Left to Right: Ron Giese, Tom McCary, Mary Margaret Hutchins, Geoff Giles, Rosemarie Harris, Hong Trinh, George Harris, Theu Le, Jan Lockwood, Lynn Collins, Joe Piotrowski and Linda Scherer.

Missing from photo—Christine Wilcox

Photo by Shirley Devan.

Fourteen other birders joined leader Tom McCary at New Quarter Park for the March 27th walk. A total of 24 species were seen, the highlights being at least 40 Tree Swallows flying across the water and a Hermit Thrush that did a very good job of posing.

Left to right: Josie Shostak, Mike Lowry, Dean Shostak, Steven David, Tom McCary, Jennifer Trevino, Betty Peterson, Jeanette Navia, Lois Ullman, Sharon Plocher.

Missing from picture—Sharon Falconer, Margaret Ware and Mike and Jeanne Millin.



Photo by Sara Lewis



## 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.



**Bird for April**



**Last month's bird was a  
White-throated Sparrow**

## CALENDAR

Sunday, April 4	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM; Jane Frigo, Leader
Thursday, April 8	HRBC Monthly Meeting, Steve Living, Speaker, "Going Wild—Creating a Backyard Habitat with Native Plants", 7 PM, Conference Room of the Sandy Bottom Nature Center
Saturday, April 10	HRBC Field Trip to the Great Dismal Swamp; contact Dave Youker at 224-1188 or youkerd@aol.com for more information
Saturday, April 10	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM
Saturday, April 17	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM; Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, April 17	WBC Field Trip to the Great Dismal Swamp, Alex Minarik, Leader, see Front Page.
Wednesday, April 21	WBC Monthly Meeting. Marie Pitts, Speaker. see Front Page.
April 23–25	VSO Annual Meeting in Farmville, Va. <a href="http://www.farmvillebirders.net">www.farmvillebirders.net</a>
Saturday, April 24	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
May 6–8	Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival; see Page 4.