



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 34, No. 5

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

May 2010

President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

May 8 is International Migratory Bird Day this year. It just so happens that we'll have a bird walk at New Quarter Park that day—Saturday, May 8, at 8 am. Hugh Beard will be our leader and will help us identify the newly arrived migrants. Many are already nesting at the park.

We'll be back at New Quarter Park May 22 for our regular fourth Saturday bird walk—7 AM.

Also save this date—Saturday, May 15—for our field trip to our local hotspot, Greensprings Nature Trail with Bill Williams at 7 AM.

Celebrate the return of migratory birds and learn which ones we host in our area. See you on the trail!

May Meeting

Leah Wilson will be the speaker at the May Club meeting. Leah 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 *Guarding Your Mate on the Fly: Avian Promiscuity and the Best Way to Cheat Without Being Cheated On*.

Growing up, Leah spent time in Michigan, New Zealand, Spain and Maryland. She first became interested in birds and their many behaviors while studying biology at Oberlin College, where she graduated in 2006. Since graduating she has worked on projects focusing on the demography and social behavior of many species, including Gray Catbirds, Black-throated Blue Warblers and Red-backed Fairy Wrens. In 2008 she entered the master's program at William and Mary, and her research has focused on the breeding behavior of the Australian Zebra Finch. Next fall, Leah will be entering the doctoral program at Indiana University, where she will be examining the neuroendocrine mechanisms of avian social behavior.

Plan to join us on May 19 at 7:30 p.m. in **Room 150**, Millington Hall, on the W&M campus. Jennifer Boag, Helen Hamilton and Gus Hall will be providing the refreshments.

May Field Trip

Our May 15th field trip will be to Greensprings Nature Trail. The leader will be Bill Williams. Bill saw 66 species of birds when he walked the trail on April 18th.

The group will meet at the parking lot at Greensprings Nature Trail at 7 AM. The parking lot is at the end of Eagle Way off John Tyler Highway (Route 5). (Eagle Way is the entrance road for Jamestown High School.)

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.

There is a field trip on Friday that starts at 1:00 PM that will explore southern parts of Highland County. With different types of habitats along these rural roads, participants will be looking for orioles, sparrows, warblers, vireos and a variety of raptors.

On the Saturday field trip you would expect to see warblers like Golden-winged, Canada, Blackburnian, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green. Other target birds include Veery, Warbling Vireo, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows, and Bobolinks. Target birds for the Sunday field trip are Black-capped Chickadee, Red-headed Woodpecker, and resident warblers such as Chestnut-sided, Magnolia and American Redstart.

The Highland Inn in Monterey is the host hotel. The owners of the Inn also own the Montvallee Motel, just down the street. Phone number to make reservations at both the Highland Inn and the Montvallee Motel is 1-888-466-4682.

Complete information can be found at:
http://virginiabirds.net/f_trips.html

Welcome to a New Member

Anne Haupt

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John Fennell	<i>maffjf07@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.

April 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!

Apr. 1: Brian Taber reports the 3rd best day in the 14 seasons of the College Creek Hawk Watch. There were 139 migrants of 8 different species.

Apr. 4: Shirley Devan has two Brown Thrashers, two European Starlings, two Northern Cardinals and two White-throated Sparrows at her feeder station. On the ground a vole is darting in and out of his little burrow.

Apr. 4: On the Hampton Roads Bird Club walk at Newport News Park, a total of 47 species of birds were found. FOS Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were welcome spring arrivals.



Apr. 6: While doing a bird survey for a private property owner in northwest Charles City County, Bill Williams sees and photographs an **Anhinga**.

Apr. 8: Tom McCary has a male Common Yellowthroat in his backyard.

Apr. 10: Bill Williams reports two fly-by Spotted Sandpipers at the hawk-watch at College Creek.

Apr. 10: Kathi Mestayer emailed that her husband Mac saw a Parula Warbler and an Ovenbird while walking at Newport News Park.

April 10: Eileen Weldon passed on the following tidbit that she had heard—“Evidently the two resident mute swans on the small lake behind the Williamsburg Country Club on Route 143 were nesting and the workers came in one morning in the last 2 weeks and found only feathers and carcasses. Their deaths were attributed to a pack of 4–5 coyotes, according to the footprints. If so, that's really worrisome when you think how close that is to New Quarter Park, the parkway, all the ground nesting birds who are already struggling.”

Apr. 11: Grace and Joe Doyle bird at Camp Peary. In addition to three Eagles and a Kestrel, they have their FOY Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-throated Warbler.

Apr. 12: Ruth Beck calls to report two singing Ovenbirds in her yard. While driving on Route 5, near Evelynton Plantation, Tom McCary sees a Wild Turkey flying across the road in front of him.

Apr. 13: Shirley Devan reports “the five eggs in the nest box at the edge of my driveway hatched today. I noticed lots of comings and goings by both Carolina

Wren adults this morning and figured today must be the day. First egg was laid March 24. Fifth egg was laid March 28. Incubation of 15 days!"

Apr. 15: While leading two woman from New England on a bird walk at Shirley Plantation, Tom McCary reports seeing the following—3 White-crowned Sparrows near the kitchen, 5 Ruddy Ducks at the Earle Pit and 2 Caspian Terns and a Royal Tern flying over the James River.

Apr. 16: Tom McCary sees a Great Crested Flycatcher near the Great House at Shirley Plantation.

Apr. 17: While at the hawkwatch site at College Creek, Brian Taber sees 6 White Pelicans circling over Hog Island (also sees them again on the 20th).

Apr. 18: Margaret Ware and 14 other birders joined Jane Frigo for the HRBC sponsored walk in Newport News Park. Highlights of the walk included: FPS Red-eyed Vireo and Green Heron, a Barred Owl, fabulous looks at the remarkable nest of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 3 Bald Eagles and 3 species of Swallows. A total of 68 species were seen during the morning.

Apr. 20: Received an email from member Lois Leeth who now lives in Florida— "Wow!! 12 Roseate Spoonbills resting by a small pond on Highway 312, causing traffic to congest. Three Great Blue Herons—2 Great Egrets—16 Brown Pelicans sailing by my residence giving me a closer look at such a height. Happy birding there with most of the migrants already in Williamsburg."

Apr. 21: Tom Armour reports the FOS Ruby-throated Hummingbird at his feeder.

Apr. 22: Tom McCary spots a male Orchard Oriole near the formal gardens at Shirley Plantation.

Apr. 23: Brian Taber spots a **Raven** soaring with 3 Turkey Vultures over Monticello Marketplace. Also soaring close by were an Osprey, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Cooper's Hawk and a Broad-winged Hawk. This is only the third reported record for a Raven—the previous records are for 1996 and 1949.

Apr. 25: Lynda Blair reports hearing her FOY Wood Thrush singing outside the bedroom window early in the morning.

Apr. 25: Bill Williams had one adult Little Blue Heron at Greensprings. New year birds for the trail were Green Heron, Northern Waterthrush, Indigo Bunting and Blue Grosbeak. Brian reports having three of the same species on the trail.

Apr. 26: On her morning walk, Shirley Devan hears her First Wood Thrush of the season. When she returns home, a Gray Catbird is on her red pepper suet feeder. Shirley is also still

hearing White-throated Sparrows.

April 27: Shirley Devan's Carolina Wrens fledged—exactly two weeks after hatching. She moved her bird box closer to the road where she'd seen Eastern Bluebirds flying around. Last time she did that the box and pole were stolen. She's waiting to see who takes the box first.

April 28: While in the parking lot of the Urgent Care at Williamsburg Crossing Shopping Center, Mike Minarik heard Northern Bobwhite calling from across John Tyler Hwy. Alex Minarik reports that a Veery landed on her deck railing around 10 a.m.

April 28: From Shirley Devan— "a pair of very handsome Gray Catbirds are flitting and flirting around my yard. Still have a White-throated Sparrow and a Yellow-rumped Warbler, who is also looking mighty fine in his breeding plumage. The sparrow and warbler should take off soon!"

March in Southern Arizona

By Alex Minarik

Photos by Mike Minarik

In March, Mike and I journeyed to the birding Mecca of the United States, southern Arizona. Our itinerary more or less prescribed a loop, as much as the terrain would allow. On the 16th we flew into Phoenix, grabbed a rental car and drove southwest to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. In all respects OPCNM is a national park, with a visitor center, campground, a fantastic 21 mile scenic drive, miles of hiking trails, interpretive programs and gorgeous Sonoran desert scenery. We camped there for two nights, which allowed us to be there when the Poor-will began calling at dusk, to enjoy the early morning chorus as we ate our breakfast, and to watch the Gilded Flickers and Gila Woodpeckers coming and going to their nest holes in the giant Saguaros surrounding our tent. When we left on the morning of the 19th, we had 29 birds on our trip list and five lifers.





The plan for the 19th was to head to Sierra Vista via Buenos Aires N. W. R. The wildlife refuge was established to manage the habitat and reintroduce the “masked” bobwhite, a native species that had been extirpated by habitat degradation due to the cattle ranching of the 19th and 20th centuries. We arrived at the wildlife refuge in the late morning and toured the facility, including the bobwhite pen, then drove east and birded the riparian areas of the refuge near Arivaca. Frommer’s Guide suggested we take the scenic route, Ruby Road, a forest service road through the mountains to the interstate. We couldn’t resist. Twenty-five trip birds and two lifers later, we arrived at the Sierra Vista Quality Inn. After two nights of camping, I am not sure what we enjoyed more; the hot tub, the shower, the delicious Mexican restaurant, or the bed!

Saturday, the 20th we went to the Nature Conservancy Preserve at Ramsey’s Canyon to participate in the 9 a.m. nature walk. Immediately we were greeted by the stunning Painted Redstart! Then we were entertained by the hummingbirds at the nine feeders behind the visitors’ center and by our guides, Sandy and Betsy, a husband and wife team extraordinaire. We headed over to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, where we picnicked after birding the 2 mile long nature trail. From there we went to Fort Huachuca (USA) to hike up Scheelite Canyon, the well-known hangout of a pair of the endangered spotted owls. Without going into all the gory details, suffice it to say we saw the target bird, **and** a Montezuma quail as we were descending the trail. We added twenty more trip birds and 5 additional lifers for the day.

We backtracked a bit on the 21st to go to the Patagonia area to bird at three hotspots: Patagonia Lake State Park, Mrs.

Paton’s feeders, and The Nature Conservancy Preserve at Patagonia-Sonoita Creek. The birding was disappointing since many of the species we were looking for had not yet migrated north. Of the 17 trip birds, the bird-of-the-day was the violet-crowned hummer at Mrs. Paton’s. (This is a private residence that welcomes anyone and everyone to come enjoy the birds.) That afternoon we drove north and then west around the Santa Rita Mountains to Madera Canyon. The national forest campground, Bogs Springs, was fantastic and our hot dogs tasted great on a roaring mesquite fire. It got down to the 30’s that night as we listened to a whiskered screech-owl hooting outside our tent.

We devoted the morning of the 22nd to Madera Canyon, went on three hikes and checked out the birds at the feeders at several lodges in the canyon. We only added three more trip birds that day, but two were life birds, the whiskered screech-owl and an Arizona woodpecker. We searched long and hard to no avail for the rufous-capped warbler which had been seen at Florida Wash, then left for the west unit of Saguaro National Park. We set up camp at the nearby Gilbert Ray campground, another top-notch campground.



Overnight it rained for the first time of our trip, and it was chilly and overcast the next morning. After seeing the visitors’ center, driving the scenic loop drive, and seeing the petroglyphs, we headed out for a 7 mile hike to the highest point of the park, Wasson Peak. While we were at the summit, a cloud moved in and totally enveloped the peak. We made a quick decent and just beat the rain as we headed to Desert Trail’s B&B on the east side of Tucson. This was a wonderful treat for the last night of our trip.

We tallied 18 species of birds at the B&B the morning of the 24th. Since we had the entire day to kill before catching the red-eye back to Williamsburg, we explored the east unit of Saguaro NP, drove the Catalina highway to 9000 foot Mt. Lemmon, and took lots of back roads through interesting desert and mining areas northeast of Tucson. At the end of the trip we had a total of 101 species and 16 life birds. We can't wait to go back, maybe in April next time!

Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival

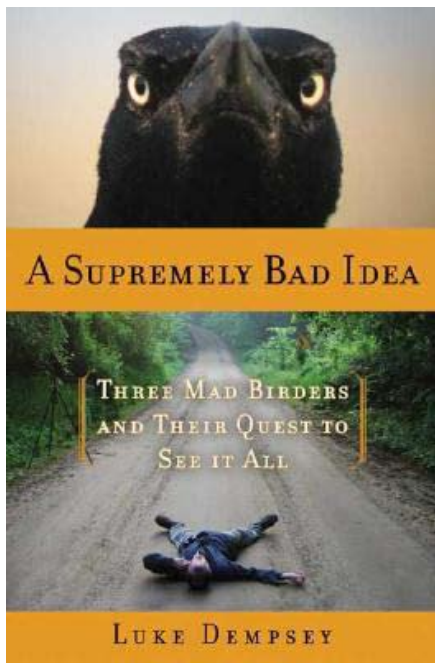
By Stephen Living

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 workshops. 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 <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp/pdf/SOE102.pdf>

Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Tom McCary



A Supremely Bad Idea: Three Mad Birders and Their Quest to See It All. by Luke Dempsey. Bloomsbury, 2008. \$24.99. 257 p. James City Library Call Number 598.072 DEM

When Luke Dempsey is introduced to a Common Yellowthroat in the yard of his Pennsylvania home by two birdwatching friends, a profound transformation

takes place. The transplanted Englishman Dempsey falls head over heels in love with birds. This love affair, with its obsessions, joys, and disappointments, is the subject of Dempsey's remarkable book *A Supremely Bad Idea*.

A series of annual trips with the two inspirational friends, Don and Donna Graffiti, provides the framework for this story. Naturally, the "three mad birders" are drawn to places

considered birding meccas due to diversity and the presence of rarities: Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Texas and Colorado. Often ecstatic encounters with birds are juxtaposed with often weird and frightening encounters with human beings.

Dempsey loves birds, to be sure, but he is often less than enchanted by members of his own species. He is a passionate crusader for Mother Earth and her creatures, and woe betide a human who does not render proper respect to the natural world. Enter Luke Dempsey, a.k.a. "Small Injustice Man." When he dons the crusader's cape, his self-righteous anger frequently overcomes his common sense. Whether he is chastising a guide for a group of elderly birders about her loud voice or preventing a family in Florida from approaching a feeding Osprey too closely, he invariably adopts a confrontational stance. Clearly, a different approach is needed.

Another propensity which causes the reader to balk is the author's frequent and usually gratuitous use of profanity. Perhaps a teen-aged boy might find the vulgar passages amusing.

These criticisms aside, Dempsey nevertheless relates a fascinating and compelling story of the frenetic and often hilarious attempts of "three mad birders" on their journey "to see it all." The guest is sometimes quixotic, sometimes harrowing, sometimes frightening, but always exciting.

Not only is the story captivating, but the writing stay is refreshing and at times downright poetic, especially when the author waxes eloquent on subjects dear to his heart such as the protection and preservation of our planet's fragile ecosystem. There is a sense of urgency, not just for Dempsey and his companions to spot a species in decline, but for the author's children and for all future generations. Beyond the engaging character studies and the witty dialogue lies this serious theme of nature and her creatures on the brink. There is a second quest: to save it all.

Congratulations

To Lynda Blair for having two photos she took of the Roseate Spoonbill, seen last summer near Lyndhurst, Virginia, published in the latest issue of *North American Birds* (Volume 63: No. 4).

2010 VSO Annual Meeting—April 23–25

By Shirley Devan

The "early birder" field trip Friday afternoon for those who arrived in Farmville by 3:00 pm attracted about 35 birders! Yow! That's the kind of weekend it was—great attendance and great field trips. The Friday afternoon walk around Wilck's Lake in the center of Farmville gave up some wonderful birds including great looks at Prothonotary Warblers nesting in a dead snag just beside the trail. The group observed

at least 6 Prothonotary Warblers. Other highlights: Eastern Kingbird, Spotted Sandpiper and Osprey. Besides seeing the warblers go in and out of their nest cavity, the find of the day for me was the Eastern King Snake coiled up right next to the trail. A life snake for me, and it posed for great photos!

I made a new friend almost immediately—Tiffany Corsello, a new birder from King George County, who offered me a ride to Wilck's Lake. She was attending her first VSO annual meeting. Williamsburg Bird Club members Christine and Dave Wilcox also attended the conference and we found each other Friday evening at a local restaurant and bumped into each other several times throughout the weekend. As we left the restaurant Friday night, we observed a remarkable phenomenon – about 75 Chimney Swifts swirling around in the dusk around an old chimney in downtown Farmville.

Saturday morning I chose the late departing (8 am) field trip to High Bridge Trail State Park – the newest state park in Virginia. The trail is the historic railroad bed of the Norfolk and Western railroad line that ran through Farmville starting in the 1850's. Indeed, the state park crosses Main Street in Farmville! We only walked about two miles of old roadbed, nicely surfaced with sandy gravel.

The new park (and the trail) is 33.8 miles through the counties of Cumberland, Nottoway, and Prince Edward and the towns of Burkeville, Farmville, Pamplin City, Prospect, and Rice. According to the park brochure, the park is home to the “majestic High Bridge. Over 2400 feet long and 160 feet above the Appomattox River, High Bridge was built in 1853 as part of the South Side Railroad.” Currently, the High Bridge itself is not open to the public, but it will be in a few years when the wooden bridge is safely restored and railings are installed. When the High Bridge opens, I'll definitely be going back to bird in the tree canopy.

Damien Fehrer of the host Margaret Watson Bird Club led our walk. The morning started out cool and damp but the predicted rain did not materialize. The birds were reluctant to show themselves, but as the temperatures warmed and the skies cleared, we enjoyed Eastern Bluebirds, Blue Grosbeaks, Yellow-rump Warblers and other usual suspects. Amazingly enough we saw the most birds where the beagles were barking. Go figure!!

Several scholarship winners presented papers Saturday afternoon, including our own WBC scholarship recipient Marie Pitts, who received the VSO's 2010 J. J. Murray Research Award. This prestigious award is designed to promote graduate and undergraduate research in field studies on Virginia birds. The award is based on scientific merit and the likelihood that the work will make a meaningful contribution to

our understanding of Virginia avifauna. Marie presented information about her research on Eastern Bluebirds and their reproductive success on golf courses.

The keynote speaker for the Saturday evening banquet was Ted Floyd, editor of the ABA magazine, *Birding*. To the 100 attendees, he enthusiastically extolled the new birding frontier—nocturnal birding. He recently came upon this phenomenon when his toddler son awoke at 1 am and demanded a playmate. So Ted strapped the boy to his back and set out in the early morning hours in July about 5 years ago in his neighborhood in Boulder, Colorado. Lo and behold, he could hear clearly the flight calls of migrating birds! More study of these nocturnal sounds revealed new data about where and when some species migrate down the Rocky Mountain range. Ted is an engaging speaker and charming storyteller. He has birded all over the world, and he seemed perfectly happy to be birding in the Piedmont of Virginia.

So I was really pleased when Ted turned up on our Sunday



morning trek to Kerr Reservoir and Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area in Mecklenburg County about an hour south of Farmville. Again our field trip leader was David Spears, who seemed proud to have a star in the birding world on his field trip. Both areas were very “birdy” with Palmer Point at Kerr Reservoir yielding Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Caspian Tern, Bald Eagle, Orchard Oriole, Common Mergansers (flying off), Common Loon, nesting Eastern Bluebirds and Eastern Kingbird. We also visited Tailrace Park just below the dam, where we observed hundreds of Double-crested Cormorants feeding along with quite a few Great Blue Herons, five Bald Eagles, an occasional Osprey, some Canada Geese, Caspian Terns and Herring Gulls. A Yellow Warbler and White-eyed Vireo were singing and flitting around the vegetation.

Then over to nearby Dick Cross WMA. This is a huge tract of varied habitats ranging from managed wetlands to grassy meadows to mixed forest woodlands with small creeks. After two hours there chasing warblers and vireos on and off the

trail, we called it quits at 1:00 pm. Ted Floyd's list numbered 81 species. My list was more modest, to say the least. Ted has bionic ears and was a good sport at pointing out differences between warbler songs and imitating for our benefit some of the birds he (and others) heard but some of us could never find with our binoculars – Kentucky Warbler and Hooded Warbler, for example. I observed Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Parula, Prairie Warbler, Red-tail Hawk, and Ring-necked Ducks still lingering (perhaps nesting?) on a pond.

Dave and Christine Wilcox and Tiffany Corsello and I shared the same table at the Saturday night banquet, where Dave and Christine each won prizes. Dave won the Door Prize—a framed Audubon print of Baltimore Orioles and Christine won the table centerpiece—a birdhouse constructed, decorated, and donated by the local Garden Club in Farmville. Perhaps Dave and Christine will share their lottery numbers with the bird club?

The Margaret Watson Bird Club in Farmville put on quite a conference! Teamwork was evident all round and events ran smoothly. Many thanks to the club who worked so hard to plan and organize the conference. Appreciation also goes out to all the field trip leaders who scouted out sites the week before the conference to make sure we saw all the available species. I highly recommend attending an annual VSO meeting—next year in Harrisonburg, VA. You'll see some wonderful birds and make new birding friends.

Update on Bobwhite Habitat at NQP

By Shirley Devan

Eleven volunteers gathered at the Bobwhite meadow at New Quarter Park Wednesday morning to plant a variety of native plants donated by Cynthia and Bob Long and the John Clayton Chapter of the VA Native Plant Society (VNPS).



Tom Armour and Bob Long Photo by Shirley Devan

Participants (including members of Williamsburg Bird Club, Historic Rivers Chapter of VA Master Naturalists, and John Clayton Chapter of VNPS): Bob and Cynthia Long, Sara Lewis, Jeanne Millin, Joanne Andrews, Gary Hammer, Nancy Norton, Patty Maloney, Tom and Jeanne Armour, and Shirley Devan.

The native plants included Penstemon, Swamp sunflowers and goldenrods for the quail. Shade loving plants for the Teaching garden included violets, Lobelia and columbine.

Photos from Members and Friends



Killdeer with chick

Photo by Bill Williams



Killdeer with two chicks

Photo by Bill Williams



American Bittern

Photo by Shirley Devan



Anne Haupt, Lois Ullman and Alex Minark on the Dismal Swamp Field Trip

Photo by Shirley Devan



Two group photos from Dismal Swamp Field trip



Photos by Norah Jancik

WBC April Walks & Field Trip

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



Tom McCary led the bird walk at New Quarter Park on April 10th. A total of 29 species were observed. Tom's note about the walk said— "We had a glorious spring morning for the walk with several spring migrants making their debut. The "bird of the day" was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

Left to right—Kim Reynolds, Tiffany Mathias, Tom McCary, Chuck Ren, Anne Haupt, Sharon Falconer, Cronan Maxwell, Anne Boch, Bill Boch, Sharon Plocher, Steven David, Jennifer Trevino

Missing from photo—Jeanette Navia and Margaret Ware
Photo by Sara Lewis



Thirteen birders joined leader Alex Minarik for the April 21st field trip to the Great Dismal Swamp NWR. The group birded the Jericho Ditch section of the refuge. The bird of the day—seen by the six birders in the Minarik car as they were leaving the swamp—was an American Bittern (see page 8). Runners-up were the Prairie and Prothonotary Warblers. Two of the participants got looks at a Swainson's Warbler, which is always a much sought after find. A Total of 48 species were seen during the morning.

Left to Right: Lois Ullman, Dorothy Funk, Warren Funk, Milos Jancik, Mitchell Byrd, Anne Haupt, Chuck Litterst and Alex Minarik
Photo by Shirley Devan

Missing from photo—Norah Janick, Geoff Giles, Gus Hall, Bill Williams, and Mike Minarik

Thirteen other birders joined leader Bill Williams at New Quarter Park for the April 24th walk. Bill said that the birds were very quiet and hard to come by. A total of 42 species were seen.

Front Row: Jeanne Millin, Tory Gussman, Joanne Andrews, Betty Peterson, Jennifer Trevino, Geoff Giles and Roma Caramawic

Back Row: Bill Williams, Glenn Pastella, Sharon Plocher, Mike Lowry and Jan Lockwood

Missing from picture—Joe Piotrowski and Margaret Ware



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.



Birds for May



**Last month's bird was a
Song Sparrow.**

CALENDAR

Sunday, May 2	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM; Jane Frigo, Leader
May 6–8	Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival (see Page 4).
Saturday, May 8	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Hugh Beard, Leader
Thursday, May 13	HRBC Monthly Meeting, 7 pm, Sandy Bottom Nature Park in Hampton, "Photo Contest" with Michael Poplawski
Saturday, May 15	WBC Field Trip to Greensprings Nature Trail (see Front Page).
Saturday, May 15	HRBC Field Trip to York River State Park, 8 AM, Contact Dave Youker at (344-9385) or youkerd@aol.com for information
Sunday, May 16	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM; Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, May 19	WBC Monthly Meeting. Leah Wilson, Speaker (see Front Page).
Saturday, May 22	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Susan Powell, Leader
June 4–6	VSO Trip to Highland County (see Front Page).