



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 34, No. 7

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

August 2010

### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

The good news is that a pair of Bobwhite Quail were spotted July 24 at New Quarter Park near the bobwhite habitat in the early evening by park staffer Jack Cole. He even got a photo. The less than good news—if you've visited the bobwhite meadow at NQP lately, you've noticed an abundance of fescue. Ewwwww! Not what we had in mind for the meadow.

On August 3, Cynthia and Bob Long and I met with park personnel Sara Lewis and Molly Nealer, York County Landscape Supervisor Joanne Chapman, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Wildlife Biologist Steve Living and US Department of Agriculture's Local Wildlife Biologist Tiffany Beachy.

We wanted their advice on the fescue problem and then how to start over to prevent the fescue from coming back. Today we noticed some of the native plants we put in last year hiding in the fescue. But the fescue has won this battle.

Based on advice from Steve Living, Tiffany Beachy, and Joanne Chapman, York County plans to mow, rake, and spray the meadow with Round-Up in mid-August. They will do the same again in mid-October. Most of the existing natives will survive the moderate, appropriate use of Round-Up, and the fescue will die off with the double spraying.

Planting will be in the spring—warm season native grasses like little blue stem, big blue stem, Indian grass, gamma grass, broom sedge, for example, plus partridge pea and native wildflowers like coneflowers, rudbeckia, coreopsis, tickseeds and others donated by volunteers.

Steve Living and Tiffany Beachy are willing to provide technical advice and assistance as the months go on. In the spring look for a call for volunteers to help plant wildflowers.

Meanwhile, as always, listen out and look out for Bobwhite Quail at New Quarter Park. Be sure to let the folks at the Park know when you see them and let the Bird Club know too. Thanks!

### Monthly Meeting

There is no monthly meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 15.

### August Field Trip to Craney Island

Our annual field trip to Craney Island will be on Saturday, August 21st.

Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, Red-necked Phalaropes, Black Skimmers and a Wilson's Plover are among the many birds that have been seen at Craney in the last five weeks. As always, this is a field trip you do not want to miss.

In you want to go, please meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center (on Jamestown Road) at 7:00 am—carpooling is very important. Be sure to be prepared for mosquitoes and the sun—wear a hat, long sleeves, long pants and use sun screen. Bring water and snacks. If you have a spotting scope, please bring it. The administration building at Craney Island will be closed, so we cannot use the restrooms there, but there will be a bathroom stop made before entering Craney Island and then again on the way out. To observe the birds in the cells, we'll have to walk up to the impoundments and along the dike road so be prepared for some walking—but not long distances.

Ruth Beck will be the leader for this field trip.

### Welcome to New Members

#### George and Virginia Boyles

#### June/July 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!

**June 6:** George and Virginia Boyles joined other birders and leader Jane Frigo for the HRBC bird walk at Newport News Park. A total of 60 species were seen during the morning, including a good look the the Great Horned Owl and young owlet.

## Officers

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

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Field Trips</b>	564-4542
Susan Powell	<i>smapowell@cox.net</i>
<b>Records &amp; Bird Counts</b>	229-1124
Bill Williams	<i>jwwil2@wm.edu</i>
<b>Library Liaison</b>	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
<b>Refreshments</b>	565-0250
Barb Streb	<i>gandbstreb@verizon.net</i>
<b>Membership/Webmaster</b>	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
<b>Adopt-A-Highway</b>	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>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.

**June 11:** Alex Minarik reports hearing two Whip-poor-wills calling about 8:45 PM on Menzel's Road.

**June 16:** Adrienne Frank & Gary Driscoll see a Cliff Swallow nest at Little Creek Reservoir.

**June 19:** Lynda Blair sees and photographs a Clapper Rail while birding in Poquoson. Beautiful photos of this and many other birds can be seen at [http://lyndablair.smugmug.com/Other/2010-new-stuff/10969900YwVi#906495134\\_RNVZ2](http://lyndablair.smugmug.com/Other/2010-new-stuff/10969900YwVi#906495134_RNVZ2)

**June 24:** Kathi Mestayer watches a baby Eastern Towhee being feed by it's parents in her yard.

**July 13:** Among other birds seen by Hugh Beard at Goodwins Islands in York County were 5 Boat-tailed Grackles, 3 American Oystercatchers and 5 Willet.

**July 14:** Shirley Devan went birding at Freedom Park. Identified 20 species during the morning.

**July 15:** Tom Armour reports that he and Jeanne, along with Dave Anderson saw a Marbled Godwit at Hog Island. There were also a few Dowitchers, Greater Yellowlegs, Semi-palmated and Lesser Sandpipers.

**July 29:** Geoff Giles went birding at Chincoteague with a high school buddy who has published a field guide to the birds of Maryland and specializes in shore birds. A total of 70 species were seen during the morning, including two overflights of White Ibis (40 and 20 birds) and Piping Plover in breeding plumage.

## College Creek Hawkwatch Season Ends

**By Brian Taber**

The 14th consecutive late winter/spring hawkwatch at College Creek ended on May 30th. It began on February 12th and coverage was 68 days (6th highest) and 130.75 hours (4th highest). The total was 1550, the 3rd highest.

Bald Eagles set a new season record of 150, thanks to 2 remarkable days in May (see Blog posts below) and the Osprey total of 266 was also a new season record.

Turkey Vultures at 917 were the 4th best, Black Vultures at 41 were only 8th best, as were Northern Harriers, at 30. A rather low Sharp-shinned Hawk total of 45, combined with a high Cooper's Hawk total of 22, to make the ratio of Cooper's to Sharp-shinneds a startling 48%....that compares to 12% and 20% for 2009 and 2008 respectively.

There were 2 Mississippi Kites on May 16th, a species that was widely reported in Virginia this spring. Only 2 years have seen fewer than our 3 Broad-winged Hawks, though they are rare at this water-crossing site and are never seen in flocks here. Red-shouldered Hawks are sporadic and were about average at 5, Red-tailed Hawks at 45 were the 4th best, though far below the record 68.

American Kestrels at 20 were fewer than last year's 33, though better than the previous 4 years. There were 2 Merlins, always rare at the site and no Peregrines, though a Peregrine seen at Hog Island on May 2nd likely flew across the river and past College Creek.

The 1,000th bird of the season was recorded on April 5th, the 2nd earliest date for that event; however, the second half of the season slowed considerably with only 522 birds or 37% of the season total seen after the midpoint, April 7th.

Six American White Pelicans were seen on two April dates for a great non-raptor highlight and there were many excellent swallow flights and even some good flights of butterflies crossing the river when winds were strong from the southwest.

The complete data is on the Hawkcount.org website. For more details about the hawkwatch, please contact me directly. Thanks again to the other regular volunteers Tom Armour, Bill Williams and Fred Blystone.

## Reaching a Milestone-Kirtland's Warbler

By Bill Williams



If you are a Byrd who has traveled all over the world in search of birds and one who routinely flutters about the local countryside looking at birds from your L. L. Bean Special Edition Subaru, what would be the best way to see a Kirt-

land's Warbler, a life bird and the only regularly occurring North American warbler you had not twitched? Really!?

Consider. There are only 3 possibilities of encountering this warbler, whose total known population is less than 4,000 individuals. It migrates past Virginia each spring and fall between its Bahamas, Turks, Caicos, and Hispaniola islands wintering grounds and its few northern central Michigan, Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada breeding sites. So chance one is to wait for the va-birds list serve to announce that a Kirtland's Warbler was seen in Wise County (it happened in 1994, the state's most recent of 5-6 records) then run out there in hopes it has hung around. Chance 2 is to go to the Bahamas in winter. Not bad. Or, choose door #3, a trek to its breeding grounds. After all, the on-line travel page said it was only 872 miles to get there. Piece of cake for the Sub(aru) Hmmm? That sounds good. Wonder who else could be enticed to make the trek? **Hello!!**

And so it was that on 22 May Mitchell (Byrd) and a kid (me) he first met when that kid was wrapped up in reptiles at age 10, loaded the 'Ru and lit out northbound to make

that benchmark Kirtland's Warbler tick. Our highway trajectory took us through northern Virginia, a slice of West Virginia and western Maryland, western Pennsylvania past Pittsburgh, then across northern Ohio (overnight near Cleveland), before entering Michigan where the L. L. Beanaru delivered us to the Ramada Inn at Grayling the afternoon of 24 May.

The Kirtland's Warbler, named for Ohio naturalist Dr. Jared Kirtland, was described for science in 1851. Its winter range was determined in 1879 from a specimen collected on Andros Island. But it was 1903 before the first nest was found. That last tidbit suggests why this species is one of the continent's rarest songbirds. The species' ecological niche is so narrowly defined, especially its nesting requirements, that there are literally no other places on earth where it can be found other than those cited above.

The species is a ground nester. So? Big deal. There's plenty of ground almost everywhere, just ask a Killdeer. Yeah, but the ground Kirtland's Warblers covet must be below the living branches of pine trees, jack pine trees, to be specific. And those trees must be at least five feet tall, between 5–20 years of age, and be part of a uniform stand of jack pines that is 80 acres or more. A single pair of Kirtland's Warblers generally requires 6–10 acres for optimal breeding success. Then there is the soil. The soil under the nests must be on Grayling sand, the substrate that best suits the ground vegetation necessary for nesting!

### Kirtland's Warbler Habitat



One more thing...all of this habitat is dependent on fire. The heat from fire causes jack pine cones to open so seeds can be released, and the fire creates ground conditions critical for those seed to germinate. Whew!!

Driving north through central Michigan found us in gently rolling farmland with the usual roadside rabble—an occasional Turkey Vulture, Mourning Doves, Barn Swallows, American Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles. We



did have a very passing glance at 2 Sandhill Cranes feeding in a fallow field, and we passed numerous economic recovery road projects throughout all along the way. What was remarkable every day of the entire trip to and from Michigan was the significant volume of road-killed animals, especially raccoons, with fox squirrels squashing in at a close second! By the time we got to northern central wolverine country, the landscape had flattened and was densely covered with forest.

There is nothing to howl home about small central Michigan towns like Grayling. They are quaint with the necessary amenities for the rugged weather demands, and that's about it. Dense forests are dominated by birch and jack pine trees. The strikingly beautiful Au Sable River navigates its way across the landscape, frequented by canoeists and kayakers who hail from all over the country. The character and presence of the land is inescapable and defining.

Mitchell and I spent our first afternoon in Grayling exploring, following guidance from *A Birder's Guide to Michigan* by Allen Chartier and Jerry Ziarno. Just beyond the hotel parking lot a Rose-breasted Grosbeak was singing in concert with a Red-eyed Vireo. A stroll among very mature jack pines outside of town put us in the company of Pine Warblers, Chipping Sparrows, lots of Blue Jays, an Ovenbird, and a couple of fly-over Cliff Swallows. It soon became apparent that even with considerable effort we were finding few birds of any species. With a brisk 15–20 mph wind and 90+ temperatures a modicum of frustration developed. By the time we traipsed back to our Ramada Inn headquarters around 5:00 p.m. we were ready for a bit of vino tinto as preliminary for a locally prepared meal. Because we were so much farther north and west than here in the burg, we were not fully prepared for daylight lasting until 9:30 p.m.

The Grayling Ramada Inn is one of the places where Kirtland's Warbler tours, conducted at no cost by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service interns, are run each day, one at 7:00 a.m. and one at 11:00 a.m. As early birds, we chose the former time slot, joining a delightful group of students from Alma University who were taking a course in avian migration studies. After a very informative Kirtland's Warbler natural history video, our intern had us follow her to a managed jack pine plantation about 15 minutes beyond Grayling.

As soon as we emerged from the 'Ru we heard a Kirtland's Warbler singing off in the distance. Serious listers get real impatient with a new bird that close and a group leader who wants to take captive-audience-time to continue where the video left off. But patience and courtesy were the order for the moment. And boy did those moments last.

Our path off the dirt road that brought us to the warbler site was sandy-Grayling sand, don't you know! On each side of us were modestly spaced jack pines each about 6-7 feet tall, creating the very real feeling of being in someone's Christmas tree farm.

Well, by now there were at least 3–4 singing Kirtland's Warbler males just over there, and there and . . . boy there's one really close. It could not have been more than 30–40 feet away. Don't they sit up on the tip-top branches to stake out their territories? OK, just stop lecturing for a few minutes until we see this guy, **Please!!**

"I've got it" the lady with Texas birding t-shirt said! "There it is. It's down on the ground over there by that log out in the opening. Oops! It just flew away". That's the last thing an already twitching twitcher wants to hear! Wait. More wait. More singing. Ten to fifteen minutes lumber by. Its right there, but stays so low in the dense foliage that you can't find it.

Then there it is, up a little higher in that pine that bends over the right a little bit. Oh, it's down again.

"I've got one over here in the big dead snag" the intern announces. She's saved! Scope views had by all with the obligatory oooos and ahhhhs and "it's a beautiful bird" kudos. All life birds are, especially ones you share with your mentor!!

We hang with the Kirtland's another 15–20 minutes then depart to go the cowbird traps! Brown-headed Cowbirds, with their nest parasite behavior, are a serious threat to endangered, restricted range and restricted habitat species such as Kirtland's Warbler. The Kirtland's population reached an all time low of 167 singing males in 1974 and 1987, due in part to extensive nest parasitism by the cowbird. An aggressive trapping program begun in 1972 now removes up to 4,000 cowbirds annually and has been integral to a sustained increase in the warbler's population. The 2009 census found 1,826 singing males.



Walking away from the cowbird pens we belly up to a life snake, a smooth green snake with young, slithering across the Grayling sandscape!!

With the all-important warbler tucked away on the ticker, Mitchell pointed the L. L. Bean eastward towards Mio about 30 miles straight away. We poked along the Au Sabel finding a Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle, Osprey, a dead-in-the-road Whip-poor-will, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Nashville Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, a few more of those can't-get-enough of them Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Bunting among others. Lunch at a Mio restaurant that seemed to cater to the river runner crowd was delightful. The rest of the afternoon was hot and windy again, and produced almost no new birds for the trip. We decided that we would exit stage south and east in the morning, homeward bound.

Trips like this are always learning experiences that raise as many questions as they answer. How secure is the Kirtland's Warbler? We found out that the U. S. Forest Service has a crop rotation program designed specifically to remove old jack pines and replace them with new jack pines so that there will be a constant supply of suitable nesting habitat for the warblers. The old jack pines are of limited commercial use for the wood chips industry. And obviously fire use and/or suppression must be considered when such events occur. Why is the Ohio Turnpike so construction free, clean and well maintained when the Pennsylvania Turnpike is still under construction? Yeah. Really!

Finally, are the female parents of those students we met called Alma maters???

### **West Virginia's Southern Boreal Birding Festival, June 4 – 6**

**By Shirley Devan**

Fellow Bird Club member Kathi Mestayer turned me on to this event in March with an innocuous email. After checking the event schedule online and the list of likely birds, I decided it was worth the 6-hour drive to Canaan Valley, WV.

This part of WV is famous as a winter skiing destination. Recently, the Canaan Valley State Park and the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge have sponsored birding festivals to highlight the area's unique boreal habitat and wildlife. In 1994 the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge became the 500th NWR and conserves the largest shrub and bog wetland complex in the southern Appalachians. The valley's high elevation and position in the Allegheny Mountains combine to create a cool, moist climate more typical in boreal Maine and Canada.

Jeanette Navia agreed to share a room at the Lodge at the

Canaan Valley Resort and Conference Center, the state park. They offered bargain rates for two nights, breakfasts, lunches, and the birding festival. A deal too good to pass up. No extra charge for the birds!

After a long drive Friday afternoon, the first bird we saw was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker—on a tree right in front of our car in the parking lot in the first week in June! We took that to be a good sign. Added bonus: temperatures in the 60s while the folks at home suffered with 100 degrees.

Jeanette and I decided against the 5:30 am field trip Saturday and opted instead for the 7:00 am Birds of Canaan Valley trip (Difficulty rating 2–3). The sky was spitting rain and heavy downpours were possible plus the wind was blowing. Given the weather, Michael Welch, the trip leader, decided to stay close to the cars so we caravanned around the large state park and a few neighboring tracts of the Canaan Valley NWR, stopping at likely birding spots. We stayed fairly dry. Kathi and Mac Mestayer rode along with us.



We had good birds despite the less than optimal conditions: Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Bobolink, Swamp Sparrows, Willow Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher plus some usual suspects. At one spot, Bobolinks were everywhere—on the wires, teed up on the grasses, fence posts, and utility poles. Wonderful birds. Oh yes—several snapping turtles on the park property moving around and laying eggs. A large one in the path allowed photographers to snap some close photos, but not too close!

Jeanette and I decided to skip an organized field trip in the afternoon and strike out on our own. We visited the Nature Center at the Wildlife Refuge to learn more about

the interesting geology of the valley. Then we returned to a morning hot spot—wetlands along Freeland Road where the boardwalk allowed us to skulk around nesting habitats for Yellow Warblers, House Wrens, and flycatchers. I was able to get a nice photo of a Yellow Warbler that came in to check us out.

Saturday night's keynote address by DNR ornithologist Rob Tallman intrigued me because he described WV's Breeding Bird Atlas—a five-year project to document breeding birds in WV. The Virginia Society of Ornithology is planning its own five-year project, but we're just getting started on the planning. I was eager to see how the WV folks were doing on their efforts one year in and the processes and software they had in place to collect and verify the data. I made a valuable contact and learned a lot to pass on to the VSO.

In our humble opinion, the “not to be missed” field trip on Sunday was the “Mountaintop Birds (Difficulty rating 3).” For only \$5.00 we bought a ticket to ride the ski chair lift to the top of Bald Knob mountain, elevation 4200 feet. Again the weather was foggy, windy and threatening. Severe thunderstorms and heavy rain promised for the morning were now forecast for the afternoon. The leaders said the chairlift ride would be safe as long as no lightning moved in.

The ride up the mountain was a treat in itself and I would gladly pay \$5.00 for another trip! As soon as we got off the chairlift the leader, Michael Welch again, heard and spotted a Blackburnian Warbler on a bare branch at the top of a nearby tree. One of the participants had brought his spotting scope on the off chance that we might find something good. We all got good looks at the warbler through his scope and listened to the male singing his heart out. Everything after that was gravy for me. We trekked through the boreal spruce forest to a pipeline cut where we walked about a mile to the grassy Bald Knob overlook. Along the way we heard **lots** of warblers and our leader identified almost all of them. We did get a good look at a Black-throated Green Warbler in the top of a tree along the pipeline cut.

On a clear day we could have seen almost the entire Canaan Valley from Bald Knob. But that was not in the cards this day because of the fog, clouds and rain. We took a few quick snapshots and then quickly made our way down the mountain on foot to beat the approaching rainstorms. We were glad for our rain jackets by the time we reached the parking lot. Luckily, no one turned an ankle or twisted a knee on the steep descent. Now we understood the difficulty 3 rating.

Jeanette and I would recommend this spot for a visit almost any time of the year, except winter (unless you're a skier). I definitely want to return to explore other spots in the valley—Dolly Sods Wilderness Area, Seneca Rocks, and Blackwater Falls State Park.

Here are links to the state park and the wildlife refuge:

<http://www.canaanresort.com>

<http://www.fws.gov/canaanvalley/index.html>

## **Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge**

**By Jeanne Millin**

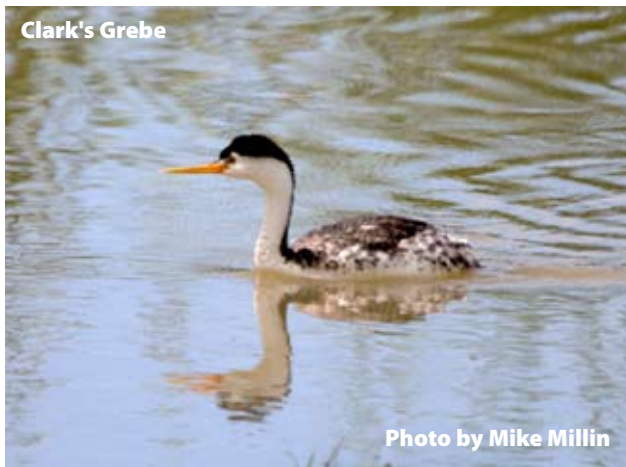


Mike and I go to Utah at least once or twice every year and are always looking for new places to explore, sometimes even venturing more than a day trip from our base in Park City. We usually visit Antelope Island State Park in the middle of the Great Salt Lake and find both wildlife and birds but last February we took a 1½ hour trip up to the Brigham City area to visit the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (MBR). The MBR contains a mix of marsh, open water, uplands, and alkali mudflats managed using a complex system of dikes and water control structures. We took the 12 mile auto tour over a dirt road which started at the Visitor Center. Even in February we saw about 22 species (mostly water birds but counted six Bald Eagles) so we decided that a spring trip was in order. The Refuge checklist contains 212 species and 36 additional are listed as accidental; 72 are known to breed at their location.

The Refuge is putting in a paved road into their 74,000 acres, so for this summer only you have to book with the Park Service and take one of the vans into the back area. We went in on Wednesday, June 2, which was a bit late for observing spring migration but saw 44 species and a few young. I added 12 life birds to my list, among them the Brewer's Blackbird, which is uncommon, and the Yellow-Headed Blackbird, which is all over the Refuge. We saw the Burrowing Owl hole but he didn't want to show his face



that day. Mike returned the following Saturday hoping to catch a few more pictures but a different guide moved the group along too fast. We will probably plan another visit next year but for earlier in the spring when we hope to catch more of the shorebird migration.



If you are in the area of Park City and are interested in Eco Construction the Swaner Eco Center is worth a visit. The building is on the edge of a wetland and was constructed

using recycled materials. It is water and energy self sufficient. There is a list of 97 birds on their list and many small and medium sized mammals. They do lots of cool educational events that I'd love to bring to this area.

### **Prothonotary Warbler Nest Boxes**

**By Alex Minarik**

In early April of this year, WBC members/Master Naturalists Gary Driscoll and Adrienne Frank put up two Prothonotary Warbler (PRWA) nest boxes in Longhill Swamp. One box was located behind my house on Hempstead Road and the other was erected along Ford's Colony Nature Trail. I monitored the progress of each box weekly until mid-July.



Both boxes had a successful first nesting by PRWAs of four young each. The nest box behind my house had a successful second nesting, again with four fledglings.





## Pelagic Trips Out of Virginia Beach

Brian Patteson is going on pelagic trips out of Virginia on two weekends in September (September 17th & 18th and 24th & 25th). He usually goes out of Hatteras, which often means an overnight stay (or two) in the OBX area. By taking the Virginia Beach trip, you can save travel time and hotel bills, plus the birds seen can count on your Virginia list. More information at [www.patteson.com](http://www.patteson.com).

## WBC June and July Walks

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



Photo by Jeanette Navia

According to leader Tom McCary the group got good looks at the usual suspects, but several species (like the Summer Tanager) teased them with vocalizations only on the June 12th walk at New Quarter Park. A total of 37 species were identified.

Left to right: Tom McCary, Geoff Giles, Virginia Boyles, Lynn Collins, George Boyles, Mary Margaret Hutchins, Jim Hutchins. Not pictured—Jeanette Navia

Bill Williams led ten other birders on the steamy morning of June 26th on the bird walk at New Quarter Park. A total of 48 species were seen. Bill was able to focus his scope on a Yellow-throated Vireo and all got good looks at it.

Left to right: George Boyles, Virginia Boyles, Jan Lockwood, Jennifer Trevino, Sharon Plocher, Betty Peterson, Bill Williams, Shirley Devan and Jeanette Navia. Not pictured are Joanne Andrews and Margaret Ware.



Photo by Margaret Ware



Thirty-six species of birds were observed at the New Quarter Park Saturday, July 10th walk led by Tom McCary. The morning started with drizzling rain but it ended soon after the group got underway. Birds of the day were two Wild Turkeys observed across the creek grazing on the bank at Camp Peary and the Summer Tanager seen high on a snag on the path from the Fire Circle.

Left to right: Tom McCary, Linda Scherer, Jeanette Navia, Sharon Plocher, Rich Bennett, Marian Bennett and Jennifer Trevino. Not pictured is Shirley Devan.



The eleven birders who joined Bill Williams on a hot and muggy morning for the July 25th bird walk at New Quarter Park were treated to a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Queens Lake Marina. Everyone got good looks at the bird through spotting scopes. A total of 41 species were identified during the walk.

Front row: Jennifer Trevino, Cynthia Long, Jeanette Navia and George Boyles.

Back row: Virginia Boyles, Anne Haupt, Sharon Plocher and Bill Williams

Missing from picture: Shirley Devan, Geoff Giles, Sara Lewis and Bob Long.



**Photos from Members and Friends**



**Two Barred Owl Photos by Laura Coleman**



**Downy Woodpecker**

**Photo by Carol O'Neil**



**Fledgling Wood Thrush**

**Photo by Shirley Devan**





**Photo of Northern Bobwhite by Jack Cole**



**Northern Parula**

**Photo by Alex Minarik**



**Fledging Downy Woodpecker**

**Photo by Kathi Mestayer**



Shirley Devan and Bill Williams presenting certificate of appreciation to Debi Helseth of Carrot Tree for hosting our Bird Count tallies.

## 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.



Photo for August



June's photo. Wigeon on the left is an American Wigeon. The wigeon on the right is an Eurasian Wigeon. The ducks across the back are Mallards.

## CALENDAR

Saturday, August 14	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Susan Powell, Leader
Sunday, August 15	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, August 21	WBC Field Trip to Craney Island, see front page
Saturday, August 28	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
September 10–12	VSO Field Trip to Chincoteague, more info at <a href="http://www.virginiabirds.net">http://www.virginiabirds.net</a>
Saturday, Sept 18	WBC Field Trip to Kiptopeke, Brian Taber, Leader
Saturday, Oct 16	WBC Field Trip to Chippokes, Hugh Beard, Leader
Saturday, Nov 20	WBC Field Trip to Little Creek Reservoir, Lee Schuster, Leader