



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

Vol. 34, No. 8

www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

September 2010



President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

Birding on the Coastal Plain of the Mid-Atlantic States in the fall is prime birding! Virginia's coastal migration path features great shorebirds, raptors and warblers. Not too

late to plan to attend the Annual Chincoteague Field Trip September 10–12 sponsored by the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO). Great leaders will focus on the varied habitats at Chincoteague and Assateague, which will be stuffed with migrating shore birds and waders. More info at www.virginiabirds.net.

In October the Eastern Shore Birding Festival [October 8–10] features great field trips to experience the height of fall migration on the shore. The festival includes field trips to private or restricted locations you cannot visit on your own (Fisherman Island and Wise Point, for example). Check out the schedule at their web site and register on line (new this year) at www.esvafestivals.com. Click on "Get Tickets" to register and see the schedule of trips and activities.

Then November 9–14, the Outer Banks "Wings Over Water" Birding Festival explores the barrier islands of North Carolina. By then many waterfowl have arrived for their winter residence at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Check it out at their web site at www.wingsoverwater.org.

Meanwhile, remember you can visit Kiptopeke State Park on the Eastern Shore any day of the week between now and Thanksgiving to witness the raptor and songbird migration up close and personal. Visit the Songbird Banding Station and watch staff and volunteers from Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) net, band and measure migrating warblers. Then make your way to the Hawk Watch Platform to share the wonder of hawks flying over and learn from the CVWO hawk watchers how to ID them from below and afar! Nature at its wildest! Check out the Kiptopeke blog at www.kiptopeke.blogspot.com.

So get out there and bird!

Monthly Meeting

At the September meeting, Susan Powell will show a PowerPoint presentation of the week long birding trip she and her husband Mike took earlier this year with Seig and Alice Kopinitz to Texas. Among the places they visited were Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge and South Padre Island.

Plan to join us on September 15th at 7:30 p.m. in **Room 150**, Millington Hall, on the W&M campus. Sara Lewis and Molly Nealer will be providing the refreshments as a thank you for the bird walks the club sponsors at New Quarter Park.

September Field Trip to Kiptopeke

Our field trip to Kiptopeke will be on Saturday, Sept 18.

In you want to go, please meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center (on Jamestown Road) around 6:45 AM so carpools can be formed for a 7 AM departure. If you would rather meet on the Eastern Shore, plan on meeting the group around 8:30 at the picnic area at Kiptopeke State Park. The group will visit the hawkwatching platform, the hawk banding site, the songbird banding station and probably the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. The group should leave from the Eastern Shore sometime around noon to 1:00 PM. It's recommended that you bring your cameras, since you will probably see some hawks and songbirds up close and personal.

Brian Taber will be the leader for this trip.

Thank you Wild Birds Unlimited

A big thank you to George and Val Copping for the check for \$530, which covers their sales to club members during the first half of 2010.

Kiptopeke Challenge Needs Your Support

By Shirley Devan

September 25 and the 16th Kiptopeke Challenge will be here soon. Teams of birders from all over the state will be racing around the Eastern Shore that day including two teams from the Williamsburg area.

Officers

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

Committee Chairpersons

Field Trips	564-4542
Susan Powell	<i>smapowell@cox.net</i>
Records & Bird Counts	229-1124
Bill Williams	<i>juwil2@wm.edu</i>
Library Liaison	565-6148
Lee Schuster	<i>dljschuster@cox.net</i>
Refreshments	565-0250
Barb Streb	<i>gandbstreb@verizon.net</i>
Membership/Webmaster	565-2597
Jeanette Navia	<i>jnavia@gmail.com</i>
Adopt-A-Highway	566-2615
John Fennell	<i>mafjjf07@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.

Once again several members of the Williamsburg Bird Club are forming **two** teams to scour the Eastern Shore to see which team can find the most species in the 24-hour period.

Brian Taber, Paul Nasca (from Fredericksburg) and Calvin Brennan, Kiptopeke songbird bander, will form the "Wild Birds of Williamsburg" team supported by Val and George Copping at Wild Birds Unlimited here in Williamsburg. The "Wild Birds of Williamsburg" is the only team to participate in the event every year.

For the third year, a group of birders I've rounded up will participate. Alex Minarik, Lee Schuster, Susan Powell, and I will be "Gulls Gone Wild." We'll start at Kiptopeke State Park at 0-dark-thirty and make our way up the shore to Chincoteague with stops at some "secret" places along the way.

The Kiptopeke Challenge is a fun, fund-raising event for the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. I urge you to support **both** teams if you can because all proceeds of this event further field research, educational presentations which are free to the public, and conservation efforts such as habitat restoration. The songbird banding station, the hawk watch, and Monarch Migration study at Kiptopeke State Park are funded by the CVWO and your contributions. For more information, see the website at www.cvwo.org.

Send one check payable to CVWO to Brian Taber at 103 Exeter Court, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Then send another check, payable to CVWO, to me at 106 Winter East, Williamsburg, VA 23188. After the competition, each team will send out a note with the results and an account of the day.

It would be great if every member supported at least one of these teams. So pull out your checkbook right now before you forget! Any amount is appreciated and means so much to the research efforts.

August 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!

August 9: Kathi Mestayer enjoyed watching a Carolina Wren take a dust bath in the pile of ashes under her Weber grill. She says the wren was really going at it; jumping around, going in for seconds, etc. She was only sorry that there wasn't enough light to take a picture.

August 14: Tory Gussman reports that the Blue Grosbeak she saw (and heard) at the power line easement that runs through the Lake Toano subdivision was the first one she had seen there since August of 1997.

August 23: Brian Taber went to Hog Island WMA and found the Buff-breasted Sandpiper (see photo on page 8) that had been reported the day before. He also counted 811 Caspian Terns, an apparent state high count.

August 25: Bill Williams went to Hog Island. In addition to the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, he also saw two American Golden Plovers, one Northern Harrier, one Glossy Ibis, approximately 500 Caspian Terns, two Black Terns and two White-rumped Sandpipers.

August 27: Tom Armour reports he and Duryea Morton birded Hog Island. The

American Golden Plovers were still there, as were a few hundred Caspian Terns. They got a brief look at what Tom thinks were 3 Buff-Breasted Sandpipers mixed in with a group of Killdeer. They saw good numbers of Snowy Egrets, lots of Great Egrets, a few Great Blue Herons and one Little Blue Heron. They also saw a Black Tern while on the ferry ride back home.

Birding, Senior Style

By Mary Anne Fennell

I have been a birder for over 35 years, and depending on health, weather and location, have avidly pursued birds in various habitats, tromping through woods binoculars in hand, fighting bugs, heat, cold, and other discomforts [ever try finding a “green room” in the desert?]. As I grow older I must admit that I increasingly enjoy what I call birding “senior-style”. Below is a description of this morning’s birding.

As many of you know, John and I spend 5 months a year in our small cottage on the shores of Penobscot Bay in Belfast, Maine. Most mornings, I get up at 5:30 AM, make a pot of real perked coffee, and take a cup out on the deck to enjoy the sunrise. This morning, as the tide was going out, I could see a small school

of fish so dense that they were causing the water to churn. Knowing this would attract birds, I settled back with my binoculars in anticipation. Sure enough, I soon heard the chirping of an Osprey as he flew toward the water. I enjoyed watching him fish, diving and flying to a nearby tree to devour his catch. Every time he flew over, one of the loons swimming in front of the cottage would protest with his yodeling call. A splash to the left caught my attention, and there was an immature Bald Eagle also fishing. He caught a fish, but dropped it as he was dived bombed by crows. The Osprey flew into the depths of the oak tree by the edge of the water. I could no longer see him, but figured he was

still there. Meanwhile, scanning the water, I saw a sleek seal head swimming near, and 2 small water fowl. Silhouetted against the pink dawn sky, they were hard to identify, but I finally decided they were 2 grebes constantly swimming and diving.

As the tide receded, the small rock island in front of our cottage appeared. While I watched, a mature Bald Eagle landed on the rocks. He stayed there for over an hour, giving me plenty of opportunity to examine him with his shaggy head wet from his fishing forays. Finally, to top off the morning, a small white Harbor Seal lumbered out of the water, and climbed onto the rocks. This didn’t disturb the eagle, but shortly another mature eagle approached, and they both lifted into the air together, performing a kind of “dance” talons and wings touching and circling around each other.



As a backdrop to all this activity, there were several gulls flying by calling and a flock of Double Crested Cormorants also fishing. Finally, the Osprey’s hiding place was discovered by the crows, and they raised the alarm. In nearby trees, could be heard the squeaky wheel sounds of Black and White Warblers, and the calls of Chickadees, Robins, Chipping Sparrows, Pewees,

and Phoebes. I still enjoy getting out in the woods to track down elusive birds, but I have to admit that it is hard to beat birding in your bathrobe on your deck by the water with a cup of coffee. Here’s to lots of “Birding, Senior Style”.

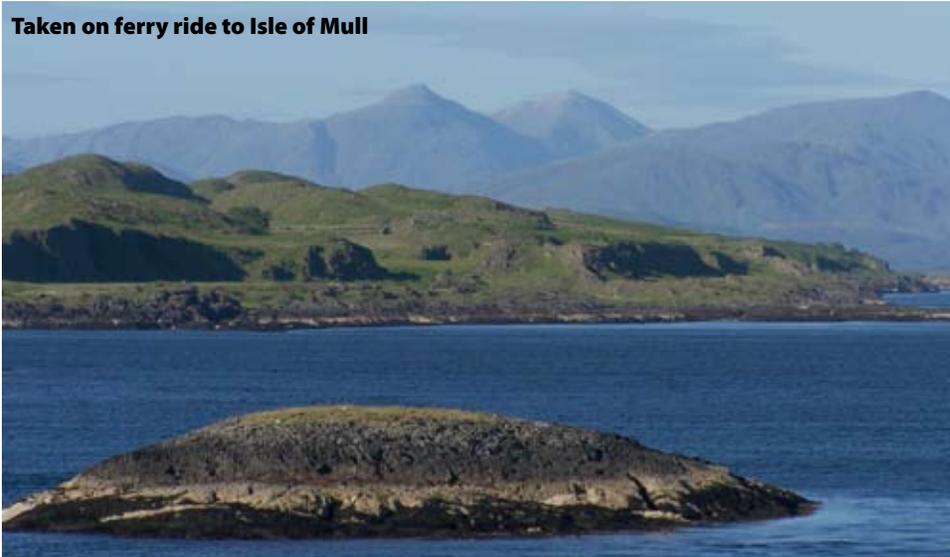
Scotland Trip

Article and Photos by Brian Taber

When my wife Deb and I were planning our Scotland trip, everyone said to prepare for cool weather and lots of rain. When we went, during the last two weeks of June, we found sunshine and high temperatures mostly in the 70s, with a total of three minutes of drizzle! The nice condi-

tions, though, did bring out the midges, which, though tiny, really hurt! This was not a birding trip, though I was a constantly lagging behind Deb and our two friends, with my binoculars, to check out the wildlife. We had all been to England and Wales and Ireland together in recent years,

Taken on ferry ride to Isle of Mull



so I had become somewhat familiar with the birdlife. The seabirds, of course, are quite similar to those in the eastern U.S. and Canada, but their cliff nesting sites over there are truly spectacular. The cliffs make it hard for predators, but also for birders to get a good close look. We were rewarded with great views of Northern Fulmars and Atlantic Puffins and also saw Razorbills, Common Murres and Kittiwakes reasonably well. A seabird I wanted to see, but didn't, was British Storm-petrel, even though we took some ferry rides where they might have been.



Jackdaw

Our route was mostly through rural areas, from the southwest and west coast north through the highlands to the middle of the country and then down the east coast to Edinburgh. Birds that were new for me were Red Kites in Galloway, a White-tailed Eagle on the island of Mull

(when we returned we saw a great nature special on PBS on the eagles of Mull), an Arctic Loon on the Isle of Skye, two Shelducks at Iona, a Blackcap (what they call a "scrub warbler") near Aberfoyle, a Capercaillie in the area of the Cairngorm Mountains and a Dipper on a rocky rushing stream at Pitlochry.

They have "our" Barn Swallow (Swallow to them), Bank Swallow (Sand Martin to them), Common Tern, Common Merganser (Goosander to them), Common Raven and Northern Harrier (Hen Harrier to them), and the sounds of their Carrion Crows and Jackdaws are familiar from being in the background of every

film and TV show from over there.

A day-long ferry trip to some Inner Hebrides islands was full of great coastal views and steep, windy walks along dizzying headlands. Other highlights included

Common Eider chicks, Great Crested Grebe, Whinchat (a small thrush), Wheatear, Spotted Flycatcher, Greenfinch and constant "parachute" singing in meadows by two species of pipits and Skylarks. The total birdlist was 82.

Coastal Birding in Maine with the Carpenters

By Gary Carpenter (Photos by Gary and Ann Carpenter)

The evening before our cruise out to Machias-Seal Island (Ma-chy-us) we watched a heavy fog fill the small boat harbor of Jonesport, Maine. We had already located our cruise boat, Chief, of Norton Cruises of Jonesport, so in the morning of July 13, with a heavy fog still blanketing the harbor, we had no trouble making our departure time....which was 6:30 AM. There were 16 passengers and four crew members. . .well. . .five, if you count Chip, the big friendly black lab that accompanied the crew. All of us



Whinchat

Machias-Seal Island



We were shown to blinds that are scattered about the island, 4 birders to a blind, and we quietly opened the view ports to find ourselves right in the middle of breeding colonies of sea birds. We were literally inches from the Puffins, Murres and Razorbills. They were everywhere: in front of us, behind us, over us (we could hear them tramping about on the roof of the blind) and even, in some cases, under us as the Puffins bred and raised their young in the rocks that ring the island and upon which the blinds were perched. We

had donned jackets and rain gear, since the morning weather looked somewhat chancy, but we were heartened by ever increasing patches of blue sky as we plowed our way 30 miles out into the Atlantic. When we could finally see the island and its lighthouse on the horizon, the sun actually broke out and the rest of our morning was clear and bright. As we drew nearer we could see clouds of birds flying over and around it. It promised to be a great birding day after all. The Chief pulled around to the Atlantic side of the island, and all about us in the water and circling overhead were Atlantic Puffins, Common Murres and Razorbills. The birding got even better when we were put ashore on Machias and were greeted by some Canadian naturalists. Yes, Canadian....seems there is some dispute as to who actually owns Machias... Canada or the USA....but it is a friendly dispute and the upshot seems to be that while the US claims the island, the buildings and the small staff of Coast Guardsmen and naturalists are Canadian.

were able to get some excellent photos since the birds paid us very little mind. The predominant specie was Puffins, but, besides the Murres and Razorbills, Machias also had Common Eiders, and Savannah Sparrows, though in much smaller numbers. To the chagrin of the naturalists, there were some sizeable colonies of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls also. The gulls were not supposed to be there, that far out to sea, but, we were told, some had followed fishing boats out to the island and the gulls found that sea bird eggs and chicks made for rather easy meals. So far, efforts to rid Machias of gulls have proven unsuccessful. We were permitted to spend about 30 minutes in the blinds but then we were hurriedly recalled to the Chief. Seemed the surf was building and it was getting increasingly difficult to get us off the island. But with nothing more serious than some damp feet we all got back aboard the Chief and heading back to Jonesport. The day had cleared and, on the way back, crew members were able to point out Wilson Storm Petrels, Sooty Shearwaters, a Greater Shearwater, and, as we neared Jonesport, a Bald Eagle.



Ann and I spent about another week in Maine.... all of it in Acadia National Park. While high summer is probably not the best time for birding the park, we did see lots of Common Eiders and Black Guillemots off the Park's rocky shores. Other birds we spotted or heard in Acadia were Peregrine Falcons, Common Yellowthroats, White-throated Sparrows, Red-eyed and Yellow-

throated Vireos, Ruddy Ducks, Black-capped Chickadees, Great Blue Heron, Cedar Waxwings and, finally, on our last afternoon, a Common Loon.

Where Have All the Starlings Gone? Or, Mid-summer Birding in Ohio

By Tom McCary

Recently I spent a week visiting an old friend of mine in Akron, Ohio. Whenever I travel, I always enjoy keeping a list of the birds I see; I guess I'm just a confirmed "twitcher."

I know that late July and early August birding would be a challenge; after breeding season is largely done, many songbirds retreat into shady areas and vocalize with far less frequency. The heat and humidity bring forth the insects, but not the birds.

Thus one turns his focus on urban birds and common yard birds: House Sparrows were everywhere in downtown Akron, and Rock Pigeons were not hard to find. Blue Jay and American Crows weren't in hiding, and robins announced their presences from backyard trees, Mourning Doves perched on power lines, and brilliant goldfinches seemed ubiquitous. But where are the starlings? Oh, well...

A trip to the Seiberling Nature Realm was a red letter day indeed. From air-conditioned comfort in the Visitor Center, one can by a huge observation window watch numerous species as they delight in a variety of feeders. House Finches, goldfinches, grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds were there up close and personal, as well as Downy Woodpeckers and one magnificent Hairy Woodpecker. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird took some nectar, and two Chipping Sparrows foraged on the ground along with at least three chipmunks. For me the "bird of the day" was the Black-capped Chickadee, the species one typically encounters in northeast Ohio. His white wing patches are noticeably larger than those of our Carolina Chickadee.

A visit to the nineteenth-century Hale Farm homestead yielded many Barn Swallows and a Song Sparrow. More species were discovered on a delightful ramble by the Cuyahoga River near the charming village of Rininsula. Highlights included a cooperative Great Blue Heron, a tail-wagging phoebe, a pair of Eastern Kingbirds and a noisy pair of kingfishers. My busy fingers twitched away. But where were the starlings? Maybe later.

If the chickadee provided academic interest, the Red-tailed Hawk provided the thrill and the quickened pulse. As we were driving along a country road, suddenly swooping down before us, a powerful red-tail seized a hapless creature from the grassy border and carried off both prey and uprooted

vegetation in its mighty talons. There was no one behind us, and we slowed the car to watch the gory spectacle.

Back to *Sturnus vulgaris*. Surely I should find him around my hotel. Wouldn't he keep company with the many House Sparrows? A rather unwholesome looking pond nearby was favored by some Mallards, and a Turkey Vulture tilted across the summer sky. Rock Pigeons flew about—a favorable sign, I thought.

Thus as my vacation passed I became preoccupied with one common bird turned strangely elusive. Well he played the game of hide and seek. I finally found him—back in Virginia in my own front yard. Dare a birder say it—in a low voice, of course. I missed you, *Sturnus vulgaris*.

The New Taxonomy and the Birder's Life List

By Mitchell Byrd

As I read the numerous ornithological journals and magazines from around the world which I receive, I am constantly impressed with the changes in the classification and organization of birds. This has been promoted because of the incredible advances in genetic technology over the last decade.

Charles Sibley spent most of his career using molecular markers to infer evolutionary relationships in birds. Where once relationships were based on comparison of a few hundred base pairs, usually from a single gene, studies today compare thousands of base pairs from multiple genes in both the mitochondrial and nuclear genomes. The results are much more robust, and we are rapidly converging on a new evolutionary history of both birds and life in general.

When I took my first ornithology class in 1948, we recognized 28 orders of birds, the highest taxonomic group in the class. These orders were established on the basis of morphological features such as feathers and skeletal structure. These are highly plastic features and are readily modified in nature. At the macro scale of the order, there have been major changes in the way birds are classified. The deep relationship among bird orders remain fairly poorly resolved, probably because the radiation of major lineages was so rapid. The latest classification recognizes 39 orders with 222 families of birds, eleven more than when I started.

Specific examples would be placing turacos of Africa in a new order. This gives the Afrotropics the honor of three endemic orders along with ostriches and mousebirds. In South America, the seriemas and the hoatzin are placed in new orders, thus giving South America four endemic orders. Even the remote island of Madagascar receives special consideration by placing the mesites and the cuckoo-roller in their own orders.

I realize that these macro-level changes mean little to the average birder other than create some confusion in the organization of field guides. In some of the newer guides, the new taxonomic arrangement is utilized and others persist with the old scheme. One might not have expected to see waterfowl show up as the first order in the guide when for decades they have been farther along in the book. One might well ask why penguins no longer follow ostriches in the field guides.

If one is a multi-field guides user, this is a minor distraction but you should for efficiency know what plan your guides follow. One, of course, may use the time-honored option known as an index.

At the micro-level of the species, these changes become a little more problematic. This is particularly true for those birders who insist on keeping a record of every bird seen, where, and which number it is on their checklist. A couple of examples should suffice to illustrate the point.

The stripe-headed tanager occurs broadly from Cozumel, Mexico, to Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, and occasionally South Florida. It appears on my life list and probably has a number. Recently it was decided that this species population showed enough genetic diversity to split it into three species. I have seen it in all of the above locations, hence with that change, I gained two life birds, but which two? Do I go back and renumber from 40 years ago or do I just put it on the top of the list as my newest life bird which, of course, it is not?

I know that many local birders have seen the different form of the eastern meadowlark in Southeast Arizona. This population has been found genetically distinct and will be merged with the northern Mexico race and called Lillian's meadowlark. We gain another species but which one?

One of the changes projected, to split the red crossbill complex into several species, is also pending.

I have had the wonderful experiences of birding in many parts of the world and have accumulated a life list slightly over 4000 species. I enjoy world birding and listing as much as any person but I also realize it is nothing more than a numbers game which makes no meaningful contribution to ornithology.

As I reflect on my nearly 70 years of birding, I have to ask myself what have I really seen. On one recent trip to Brazil, we saw 450 species of birds, about 60 of which were endemic to small remnant patches of Atlantic Coastal Forest. I saw the birds, enjoyed them, but what did I really see? Did I speculate on their habitat, what brought them to their population level,

or what could one do about the situation? One does not have to go to a foreign country for such speculation because the same things occur regularly at home.

I belong to a number of world bird organizations including the Neotropical Bird Club, the African Bird Club, and the Oriental Bird Club. I see the passion with which these people with limited resources attack those problems affecting their avifauna and they are making a difference.

As birders, I feel that we need to be at a much higher level to develop the same passion. On the basis of sheer numbers, we birders could wield great influence on decisions regarding land use and land acquisition. We simply need to exercise that influence both individually and collectively through conservation organizations. It is incumbent on us as birders to go far beyond looking at and listing birds and energize ourselves towards being certain that we will always have this wonderful resource which we all enjoy so much.

In the final analysis, is this not far more important than proudly proclaiming in the American Birding Association Newsletter that I have just seen my 2000th Life Bird, a grey-necked Picathartes in Cameroon or was it really Number 2006? I just didn't know it at the time.

Bio survey at Fort Monroe on September 25th. By David Bryan, Virginia Important Bird Areas Program

We would like to invite you to the first of our five events—a bio survey at Fort Monroe to be held on National Public Lands Day, September 25th.

Located at the tip of Hampton Roads, Fort Monroe was built in the early 1800s as a protectorate of the Chesapeake Bay. The Fort played a major role in protecting the Bay throughout several wars and has a rich cultural history associated with it. Now having been listed under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, the Fort is currently being readied for transfer to the Commonwealth of Virginia in September 2011.

While most of Fort Monroe has been developed or impacted by the presence of humans, there are still remnants of natural area left on the northern portion of the base, inclusive of marsh, wetlands, small dunes and beach. Though disturbed, these natural areas allow us to better understand the ecosystems that would have once been vibrant on the property, and they are a part of the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed. Accordingly, the Virginia IBA Program and Virginia Living Museum will be teaming up to survey the area for birds, insects, plants and aquatics. Hopefully the data collected will prove helpful to the future transition of this site into the hands of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The following is a brief agenda for the day:

9:00 AM—Meet at the Virginia Living Museum for introductions. Leave on VLM buses at 9:30 AM.

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM -- Survey

1:00 PM to 1:30 -- Lunch

1:30 to 2:00 PM -- Survey totals and project wrap-up

2:00 to 2:30 PM -- Bus back to the Museum

We hope that you will consider volunteering as part of one of the survey groups (for birds, insects, plants or aquatic). As a participant, your lunch will be provided for you. However, please bring your own field clothes, binoculars, insect repellent, sunscreen, hat and water as necessary. Additionally, if you are able and willing to bring along a scope to help with marsh bird identification, that would be greatly appreciated. Finally, all participants must have a valid picture ID in order to enter the military base.

For more information and to register, please contact David Bryan, Outreach Coordinator for the Virginia Important Bird Areas Program, at dbryan.audubon@gmail.com.



Monk Parakeets. Taken in Chicago during August by Sara Lewis.

Photos from Members



Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Taken at Hog Island on August 23 by Brian Taber.



Northern Fulmar. Taken by Brian Taber during his vacation in Scotland.



American Avocets. Taken by Inge Curtis during the Craney Island field trip on August 21.



Additional photos taken by Shirley Devan during the Craney Island field trip on August 21.



Also taken by Inge Curtis during the Craney Island field trip, this is a Snowy Egret



WBC August Walks

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



Photo by Shirley Devan

Susan Powell was the leader for the August 14th bird walk at New Quarter Park. Twelve birders joined her on a relatively cool morning during which 27 species of birds were identified. Susan said the most noteworthy birds included the Yellow-crowned Night-heron that was perched on a piling near the Queens Creek Marina and a young Osprey, also on a piling, that was squawking at the adults in hope of being fed by one of them.

Sitting: Betty Peterson, Cynthia Long, Jan Lockwood. Standing: Roger Gosden, Susan Powell, Bill Boeh, Ann Boeh. Missing from picture: Shirley Devan, Linda James, Bob Long, Jeanette Navia, Janet Ross and Margaret Ware.

Ruth Beck led nineteen other birders (Joanne Andrews, George & Virginia Boyles, Mitchell Bird, Gary & Ann Carpenter, Inge Curtis, Shirley Devan, Louise Gallagher, Geoff Giles, Roger Gosden, Mike Lowry, Cathy Millar, Alex Minarik, Betty Peterson, Dave Wilcox, Bill Williams, Hayes & Joyce Williams) on the clear, calm morning of August 21st on the field trip to Craney Island. A total of 52 species were seen. Highlights were Northern Shovelers, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, White-rumped Sandpipers, Stilt Sandpipers, a Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalaropes, Red-necked Phalaropes, and Black Terns.



Photo by Shirley Devan



Photo by Shirley Devan

On what he described as a very pleasant day for birding, Bill Williams led 19 birders on the August 28th walk at New Quarter Park. There were 36 species tallied during the morning, including a Clapper Rail and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.

Seated: Jeanette Navia, Charles Rend, Geoff Giles, Joanne Andrews, Joe Piotrowski. Standing: Tory Gussman, Bill Williams, Betty Peterson, George Rountree, Jennifer Trevino, Patty Maloney, Sharon Plocher, Lois Ullman, George Boyles and Virginia Boyles.

Missing from picture: Shirley Devan, Sara Lewis Anne Haupt, Margaret Ware and Jan Lockwood.

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 September



August's photo. Two Ruddy Turnstones. The rest, with one exception, are Sanderlings in what's now called basic plumage. The exception is the bird in the far upper right with its head under water. That bird is a Dunlin, also in basis plumage.

CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept 5	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Thursday, Sept 9	HRBC Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM, Sandy Bottom Nature Center, Speaker, Mike Wilson. Program is <i>Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers</i> .
Saturday, Sept 11	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Bill Williams, Leader
Wednesday, Sept 15	WBC Monthly Meeting, See Front Page
Saturday, Sept 18	WBC Field Trip to Kiptopeke, Brian Taber, Leader. See Front Page.
Saturday, Sept 18	HRBC Field Trip to Chippokes. Contact Dave Youker at youkderd@aol.com .
Sunday, Sept 19	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday, Sept 25	Bio survey at Fort Monroe, see page 6
Saturday, Sept 25	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Hugh Beard, Leader