



The Flyer

Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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www.williamsburgbirdclub.org

October 2010



President's Corner— Kiptopeke Challenge Summary By Shirley Devan

Last year our “Gulls Gone Wild” team tallied 103 birds and aimed to top that number this year. The four “gulls” were Susan Powell, Lee Schuster, Alex Minarik and I. The forecast promised hot and windy conditions and did not disappoint. Unfortunately, the cold front coming in Sunday would be too late for us to benefit from a new set of birds.

We arrived at the end of Magotha Road on the seaside at 5:30 am—well in advance of sunrise. We watched the sun rise over the Atlantic and waited for the birds to wake up. One of the first birds we saw was a Pileated Woodpecker, then a Wild Turkey meandering in the road. The birds came fast and furious after that, by 8:45 am, we had 44 species and felt good about our start. We picked up a few species at each of the next few stops—Machipongo Road, Oyster Harbor, Oyster Landfill, and Willis Wharf. By noon, we had 71 species. The winds served to suppress activity of the land birds and we worked hard for the passerines.

We drove across the causeway at Chincoteague at 1:40 pm and headed for the beach road and Tom's Cove as the tide was falling. We spotted the usual suspects—egrets and herons plus Black Skimmers, Royal Terns, Caspian Terns and one Sandwich Tern. We ventured into the woods at the Woodland Trail to try for some warblers. We picked up 5 more species for our effort, including Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Black-and-white Warbler.

Then to the Wildlife Loop drive for shorebirds and waterfowl. Snow Goose pool was very dry and most birds were too far away to ID even with binoculars. Scopes were a necessity to ID just about everything. And we had to hold onto the tripods to keep the wind from blowing over the scopes! Yow! “Wind blown” is an understatement. We did find the Marbled Godwit but could not locate the Hudsonian Godwit that most teams found. We birded until the light abandoned us. Then we stopped off at a convenience

store to “refuel” with caffeine and snacks where we ran into the “Wild Birds Unlimited” team with Brian Taber, Paul Nasca, Calvin Brennan and Chris Foster. We all bemoaned the terrible conditions for birdwatching today.

Our final tally was 96 birds. We had hoped to tally at least 100, but we felt good about the birds we had seen and heard, given the wind and heat.

Most important of all, we raised funds for the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory and for their research and staffing operations at the Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, Songbird Station, and Butterfly Banding Research. Many thanks to all Bird Club members who sent in donations to both teams – “Gulls Gone Wild” and “Wild Birds Unlimited.” You can still donate to the Challenge. Send your check, payable to CVWO, to me at 106 Winter East, Williamsburg, VA.

Oh yeah, we definitely had fun. The “gulls” always do!

Monthly Meeting

At the October meeting, Bob Reilly will present a program titled *The Prothonotary Warbler Project in Virginia*. Bob is a professor in the Center for Environmental Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University and is also the Station Master and Vice President of the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory.

Plan to join us on October 20th at 7:30 PM in **Room 150**, Millington Hall, on the W&M campus. Jan Lockwood will be providing the refreshments.

October Field Trip to Chippokes Plantation State Park

Our field trip to Chippokes will be on Saturday, Oct. 16th. If you want to go, please meet at the Colony Square Shopping Center on Jamestown Road around 7 am so car-pools can be formed to make the 7:30 ferry. There is a \$4 entrance fee, so we will want to carpool as much as possible. If field trip participants wish, the group may go to Hog Island after visiting Chippokes. Those who wish to go to Hog Island should have their driver's licenses to get through security at Dominion Power. Hugh Beard will be the leader for this trip.

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>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.

WBC Offers Two Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships. Deadline January 15, 2011

The Williamsburg Bird Club requests applications from Williamsburg, James City County, and York County students in grades 5 to 12 for the Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships, two full tuition (\$700) scholarships for a two week summer camp program in 2011 at the Nature Camp in Vesuvius, Virginia.

The deadline for applications is January 15, 2011. The Williamsburg Bird Club will contact the students who earn the scholarships in early February 2011.

Complete information and application is available later on our club website at www.williamsburgbirdclub.org.



Bill Williams and Emily Simpser, one of the recipients of the 2010 Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships.

September Bird Sightings (and one late August sighting)

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 29: Bill & Arlene Williams watched a Wild Turkey feeding along the entry road to Harris Teeter. Bill said the turkey was unfazed by the traffic here or the volume of cars on Route 199.

September 5: Bill Williams reports a male Blue-winged Warbler at Greensprings Trail boardwalk.

September 5: Geoff Giles, George Boyles and Virginia Boyles joined leader Jane Frigo and 13 other birders for the Hampton Roads Bird Club walk in Newport News Park. There were 69 species seen between 7:00 AM and 1:30 PM, including a Cape May Warbler, a Blackburnian Warbler and a Blackpoll Warbler. Also seen were Spotted and Semipalmated Sandpipers and a very cooperative Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

September 6: Grace Doyle reports finding a stunned female Common Yellowthroat at her home. The bird soon recovered and flew away.

September 7: Grace Doyle finds another stunned bird, this time an Ovenbird. Grace thinks a foraging hawk is causing the birds to bolt and hit the glass in her house. She had to leave before the bird recovered, but did not find it on her return and assumes it too flew away.

September 16: Shirley Devan went with a friend on a birding trip/photo shoot to the East Shore with the final destination being the Wildlife Loop at Chincoteague. They spent nearly 6 hours on the Wildlife Loop. The winds were so high they were unable to face into the wind to look at birds and were unable to walk on the beach because they could barely stand up. A total of 44 species were seen at Chincoteague, the highlight being the White-cheeked Pintail, an extremely rare sighting in Virginia. (VARCOM will have to try and decide whether this is a naturally occurring individual or an escaped or released bird.)

September 21: From Florida, Lois Leeth reports seeing 8 adult Wood Storks, 3 immature Glossy Ibises, 2 Ospreys, 20 Brown Pelicans and 3 White Egrets.

September 26: Grace and Joe Doyle bird at Camp Peary. They found 26 species including a Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

September 27: Virginia and George Boyles and 12 other birders joined Jane Frigo for the Hampton Roads Bird Club walk at Newport News Park. A total of 68 species were identified during the morning, including a Least Bittern heard near the Swamp Bridge. Warblers of note included Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Northern Parula and American Redstart.

September 27: A Black-throated Blue Warbler visited Grace and Joe Doyle's yard.

In-Flight Meals **By Geoff Giles**

This late September morning as I sat on the deck behind our house and watched nature come alive I saw an unfamiliar shape coast high overhead without a sound—a chimney swift. I had usually seen these in small flocks hawking unseen insects above my yard. They had been over my house in the summer, but had not been around for a few weeks. I had wondered if they might have already departed for their wintering grounds in the Andes. Maybe this one had started south from farther to the north. Towards nine in the morning I came out on the deck again to have my breakfast and heard a familiar twittering sound, fairly high above me. I looked up to see about

a dozen chimney swifts turning and burning, chattering away and doing their familiar bug mop-up maneuvers. Guess this was an in-flight breakfast! This continued for a while and the flock swept over my roof and back several times then finally came in much lower and grew to about forty strong, more than I had usually seen in the summer. I supposed that they were tanking up for longer flights south in the near future.

As I watched, a few came down really low to near rooftop level and began to swirl about my neighbor's chimney, about 100 feet away from me. Single swifts began to descend towards the opening of the chimney one after the next, but I could not tell if they were entering or flying off after descending below the chimney top. The entire flock drew in and swirled over the chimney, getting progressively lower. Was this going to be a rest stop? Were they all going to swirl into the chimney, as I had heard that they do, and rest for the day?

There seemed to be some confusion, as the birds just at the chimney top were acting as if they wanted to go in but couldn't. Was the chimney sealed off? Suddenly there was a blazing whoosh sound coming from behind me and going just over my roof and over my head. I looked up to see the blur of a small hawk hurtling into the midst of the chimney swifts, with his trajectory tweaked to a gradual left bank as he blazed into their midst—an apparent course correction reflecting a lock-on to his target for his own breakfast. The contrast between the slow fluttering flight of the swifts and the hawk's sudden meteoric attack was stunning.

The twittering and swirling activity of seconds before became instant silence, and the swifts, as if the move had been rehearsed many times, all swerved to the same southerly heading with no wasted motion and faded quickly and noiselessly out of view. It was suddenly as if they had never been there. The sharp-shinned hawk's trajectory carried him out of view into foliage soon after his pass through the flock. I could not confirm a kill on this pass, but also could not say it did not happen. I can give him high marks for airmanship and excellent use of the element of surprise. He too was focused on taking on sustenance for a flight farther south. Hope his breakfast was better than some of the in-flight meals I've known!

The Chincoteague Field Trip, Sept. 10–12, 2010

By Ruth A. Beck Photos by Larry Meade



Immature Yellow-crowned Night-heron

Take 90 + people who attended the VSO field trip in Chincoteague, VA September 10–12, 140 different bird species, perfect weather Friday and Saturday and you have a wild and wonderful weekend of birding.

The leaders were Meredith and Lee Bell, Jerry Via, Bill Akers, Michael Beck and yours truly. I could not have led the motorcade trip without the persistence and assistance of Michael Beck and Mary Penyack (new and budding birder and my cousin). Thanks to all!

The winged special of the weekend was the White-checked Pintail. If you looked at the amazing number of waterfowl and scanned through the Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal and all the other “ducks”, the reward was the White-checked Pintail.

There were two trips via bus to the mudflats (an area usually closed to vehicular traffic). Saturday was warm and sunny and Sunday was a dose of much needed liquid sunshine. We had excellent looks at the Cape May Warbler, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, and Glossy Ibis.

The highlights of beach motorcade trips were the one Whimbrel, several Marbled Godwits, 200 plus Black Skimmers on the beach, the banded American Oystercatcher and the one American Avocet.

Meredith and Lee led a group of 24 on the birding and biking trip Saturday morning; a good time was had by all. They all had great looks at a Solitary Sandpiper, heard a Marsh Wren and were surprised by a fly-by Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

A Black-throated Green Warbler and Philadelphia Vireo were seen on The Refuge Inn grounds. The warbler walk produced some excellent birds and some blood was given to the mosquitoes by birders for the cause. The Brown-headed Nuthatches generally greeted us every day as we entered and exited the area around the motel.

Total species list for the weekend was 140 birds. Thank you to all the leaders and birders for a wonderful winged weekend. The photos were taken by Larry Meade. I thank you Larry for your permission to use them for our WBC newsletter.

Bird Banding Training—More Practice

By Shirley Devan

In the June/July newsletter, I described my experience in the formal bird banding training class at First Landing State Park in March. When I left the park on the final day, I did

not know if I would be able to put my newfound (but unpracticed skills) to use. The training had been fun but whether I would band another bird was very much up in the air.

Until July 2 when I received a call from Dr. Bob Reilly, Master Bander and Professor at the Center for Environmental Studies at VCU. He asked if I was interested in learning to band Prothonotary Warblers (PROW) with the chance to manage a Prothonotary Warbler trail in Chesapeake next year, sponsored by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO). Oh, by the way, could I join him at Dutch Gap Monday, July 5, to ride around in the canoe with him to watch him work with the birds and boxes there? **Of course—sign me up!**

July 5 I helped him load up the canoe with the all-important battery and electric trolling motor plus his supplies for measuring and banding PROW adults and nestlings. We spent about 4 hours trolling around Dutch Gap in Chesterfield County in 90-degree heat. Thank goodness no paddling required! The electric motor makes quick work scooting from box to box. There are over 150 PROW boxes at Dutch Gap. A volunteer from Richmond Audubon Society was checking a separate set of boxes there that day. Bob described and demonstrated his protocol for each box. He knew which boxes were likely to have nestlings and we only visited about 25 boxes that morning. I handled a few nestlings, weighed them, and banded a few tiny legs under Bob's keen eyes.

More practice is the only way to gain skills at this point. Bob asked me to work with him at Kiptopeke State Park Sunday and Monday, September 19 and 20 for additional practice with all aspects of songbird banding—extracting birds from the mist nets, banding, weighing, measuring wings and tail feathers, measuring fat stores, and examining skulls to determine age.

Sunday morning I arrived at 7:10 am to learn that I was 50 minutes late to see an Eastern Screech Owl, discovered by CVWO station bander Calvin Brennan when he opened the nets at 6:15 am. They quickly banded and released the owl since he had probably been in the net for a good while. I learned my lesson—don't be late for net opening! I spent all day Sunday training with Bob. There were only about 25 birds netted all morning, so the pace was slow enough that I had time to band a few birds without making other birds wait too long. Bob is a wonderful teacher and very patient. Learning from him is fun. Calvin Brennan and intern Jennifer Wilcox banded most of the birds that day.

Extracting birds from the net is a test of patience. The smallest birds – wrens, warblers and kinglets – can almost fly through the mist net opening. Often the head and most of the breast are through the net and their wings and feet are tangled. Then they twist and thrash around to make the tangle worse. Removing the tiny creatures without damaging any of their body parts (or mine) is a challenge. The wrens challenge even the most experienced banders. The most important lesson is to call for help if you find that it's taking too long. The bird gets stressed with such prolonged handling in the net. If necessary, banders will cut a strand or two of net to free a bird that is too stressed.

After all that work extracting, the next challenge is to keep the bird from escaping as you transfer it to its own little bag and then out of the bag to be weighed and banded. Definitely a right way and a wrong way to do it.

We learned how to hold the birds at our March training sessions and I was comfortable handling and banding the birds fairly quickly. But there's more! The wing and tail have to be measured down to the millimeter. That's easy compared to measuring the fat stores and skull pneumaticization (skulling). Good eyesight is a plus. My vision with glasses is not strong enough to see the tiny body parts under the feathers and skin to provide the correct data for the small birds. In the photo I'm wearing Bob's pair of Optivisor glasses for additional magnification.

Finally, the bird has to be weighed. If you've been to the banding station, you've seen the banders place the bird headfirst into a tube for weighing. Once the weight is recorded down to the hundredth of a gram, the bird can go free. All of these steps must be

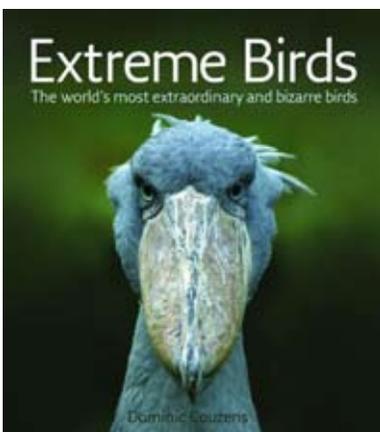


performed and recorded manually for **every** bird captured in the nets. The skilled banders can perform these steps quickly. I'm still slow but learning.

On Sunday and Monday we had less than two dozen birds each day. Bob Reilly went home Sunday night because of the low number of birds. In fact, we closed the nets early Monday because the winds were so strong that the nets were tangling themselves. A cold front was on the way and we looked forward to what Tuesday might give us in the nets.

Sure enough, the first net run Tuesday at 7 am produced more birds than we had netted the previous day! And they kept coming with each net run. Sometimes we ran out of bags on the net runs and had to rush back for more. With such a large number of netted birds, the experienced banders took charge and banded the birds quickly so that they would not be held in the bags longer than necessary. Later in the morning I banded a few under the supervision of Calvin with assistance in skulling from Jennifer Wilcox. On the very last net run, two House Wrens were tangled in the nets and required about 30 minutes to extract. Calvin and Jennifer took on those challenges and got the little guys out after some major frustration. The final number of banded birds for Tuesday, September 21 was 124 birds of at least 23 species! Lots of Gray Catbirds! Yow! What a day to be at the station. Check out Calvin Brennan's Kiptopeke Blog at the CVWO web site to get the latest on the activities plus some great photos: <http://www.kiptopeke.blogspot.com/>

I still need more practice and I'm not a subpermitee yet. I plan to return to the Kiptopeke songbird banding station for a day or two in the coming weeks to work with Calvin and Jennifer, who are very patient and helpful. Meanwhile I'm looking forward to working the PROW trail in Chesapeake next spring. Stay tuned—I'll need volunteers.



Williamsburg Bird Club Book Review

By Jeanette Navia

Extreme Birds: The World's Most Extraordinary and Bizarre Birds, by Dominic Couzens. Firefly Books, 2008. ISBN 9781554074235. \$45. 287 p. Williamsburg Library call number 598 COU.

Millions of years of evolution have resulted in some very weird creatures and bizarre behavioral adaptations. Birds have had to adjust to different habitats and circumstances in order to survive. Dominic Couzens, a British-based birder and author, has gathered beautiful photos of 124 species of birds from around the world, labeling each with a superlative. A few accompanying paragraphs explain the superlative he has chosen.

The bird in the cover photo, the shoebill from central Africa, is labeled as the “most patient feeder.” Shoebills can stand motionless for half an hour or more. “Observers watching shoebills feeding often miss the strike, having passed into a kind of torpor themselves,” Couzens writes. The bird with the “longest bill” in relation to its body length is the sword-billed hummingbird from the Andes, whose bill is nearly as long as the bird’s body. The bird with the “most flexible mouth” is the Eurasian Nightjar. It has “jaws that move sideways as well as up and down.” The species with “best grooming aids,” powder and a comb, is the great egret. “Herons and egrets have two unusual adaptations to enable them” to keep their plumage clean. “The first is powder, which is manufactured on the breast and rump. It begins life as down... which quickly disintegrates as it grows. The powdery remains can be preened onto the plumage. ... The second adaptation is on the middle toe of each foot, where the claw is pectinated – that is, it is fitted with small projections like the teeth of a comb.”

There are four sections in this coffee table-styled book. In “Extreme form,” we learn that the Comb-crested Jacana from Australia has the longest toes, and the “sexiest tail” belongs to the barn swallow. In “Extreme ability,” Couzen tells us that the bird with the sharpest hearing is the barn owl, and the birds with the biggest communal nests are the sociable weavers of southern Africa. “Extreme behavior” includes the bird with the “best tap routine,” our familiar Red-bellied Woodpecker, and the bird that has the longest sleep—going into a state of torpidity for up to 100 days—is the Common Poorwill from the deserts of North America. “Extreme families” deals with courtship, rearing and defense. The bird with the “most eggs in a season” belongs to the (boo!) Brown-headed Cowbird, and the “coziest nest” belongs to the American Goldfinch.

This is a great book to look through at one’s leisure. I wouldn’t use it for serious research although I’m sure the author researched his subjects well. Check it out from the Williamsburg Library!

Cabo St Lucas, Mexico



My older brother has a timeshare in Cabo St Lucas, Mexico, and invited my wife and me down in the last week of August. Using frequent flier miles I was able to spend 4 days on the tip of the Baja for \$160.00. How could I resist? We flew from Richmond to Atlanta in a little over an hour, had the requisite layover, and it was a short 3.5 hour flight into San Jose del Cabo. A short 25-minute shuttle ride and we were in paradise (although a dry one).

Article and photos by Joe Piotrowski



White-winged Dove

Cabo means cape and it is on a long peninsula hanging off the bottom of California. At the tip, close to where the town of Cabo St Lucas encircles a beautiful bay, the Pacific Ocean meets the Gulf of California. It is a long dry peninsula and stretches 1000 miles from the border to the tip. The peninsula is in the Mexican State of Baja California and straddles a rocky chain of mountains called the Sierra de Giganta. The hotel/timeshare was along the so-called tourist corridor and, as expected in Mexico, the grounds were lush and tropical. However on either side of this green paradise were strips of pure scrub desert with large saguaro cacti. If you are a bird (see you knew I would get to this eventually), what better place to hang your hat. Between sumptuous meals and dips in the water I was able to see many Life birds since the climate was so different.



My wife and I rented a car, took our lives in our hands, and braved the Mexican drivers for a day. We first drove from Cabo St Lucas to San Jose del Cabo which is about 12 Km



Common Moorhen



Hooded Oriole

away. There besides visiting the town we went on a bird walk to the “famous Estuario”. As you can see the path is used by the locals to walk their horses and does not really conform to our picture of a preserve.

Also it was near a swamp where we saw this coot and we were drenched in sweat from the heat and humidity. The birds were very shy and close pics were not forthcoming. So we drove back to Cabo St Lucas and then up the Pacific coast to a charming artist’s community called Todos Santos. Well worth the visit.

The best birding, however, seemed to be around the hotel and surrounding desert in the short time we were there. All too soon we boarded our flight for Virginia. Hope you enjoy some of the pictures I have included. *See additional photos on page 10.*

Alaskan Voyage

Article and photos by Inge Curtis

Ivory Gull



A voyage to the wildest part of Alaska had been a longtime dream of mine. Finally, this summer it became a reality. We sailed out of Nome toward the Bering Strait. We explored uninhabited King Island and circled rocks and cliffs in a Zodiac. Murres, kittiwakes, puffins and auklets accompanied us in great numbers. We crossed the Arctic Circle where some crazy people insisted on an "Arctic Plunge." That accomplished, Provideniya was our next destination. There, in Plover Bay we saw our first really rare bird—the Ivory Gull. The birders went nuts. Even though it was close to midnight and very cold, we endured more than an hour with the pure white bird

until the captain was threatening abandonment.

From Provideniya we sailed south to Hall Island and to Mathew Island close by. There we encountered the McKays Bunting; apparently it exists on this island only. I have no idea whether

Tundra Walk



or not that is true. Not only did we see a pair, we saw the nest site in a crack of the cliff and the female busying herself with the furnishing of her nest. That was a lovely place with a wonderful tundra teeming with singing voles.

Further south in the Pribilofs, the scenery was more inviting, the tundra blooming with orchids, lupins, wild geraniums and many flowers I could not identify. Puffins were gathering colorful bouquets of flowers to adorn their nests. Common Murres were sitting on single eggs, Least Auklets and Parakeet Auklets were beautiful in their breeding plumage and the Crested Auklet was a particular favorite of mine. I did not see a lot of Pigeon Guillemots and Ancient Murrelets. *See several more photos from Inge's trip page 10.*



Common Murre

Parakeet Auklets



WBC September Walks

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



Photo by Shirley Devan

Shirley Devan led the walk at New Quarter Park on September 11. Richard Smith, Nelson Ensley, Susan Currey, Betty Peterson, Margaret Ware, Jennifer Trevino, Sara Lewis, Bob Long, Geoff Giles and Jeanette Navia saw 23 species on a beautiful Saturday morning.

Thirteen birders joined leader Brian Taber September 18th on the Eastern Shore for a morning spent visiting the songbird banding station, the hawk banding station and the hawk watch platform, all operated by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory at Kiptopeke State Park. There was also a stop at the Butterfly Garden.

Left to right: Ann Haupt, Susan Powell, Geoff Giles, Jeanette Navia, Inge Curtis, Gary Driscole, Linda Scherer, Alice Kopinitz, Nancy Norton, Adrienne Driscole, Brian Taber. Kneeling: Shirley Devan and Sig Kopinitz. Missing from picture is Judy Jones



Photo by Judy Jones



Photo by Jeanette Navia

Hugh Beard led the New Quarter Park walk on September 25. The ten birders who joined him enjoyed a pleasant morning and were treated to a Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a good flyby by a Bald Eagle and a great view of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. A total of 36 species were seen.

Standing: Hugh Beard, Nelson Ensley, Sharon Plocher, Mike Lowry, Richard Smith, Lindsay Lowry, Ian Lowry

Seated: Joanne Andrews, Cathy Millar, Janet Crowther

Missing from picture: Jeanette Navia

Additional photos from Joe's Mexico vacation



Cactus Wren



Gila Woodpecker



Osprey

Additional photos from Inge's Alaska vacation



American Oystercatchers



Unimak Island



McKays Buntings

Photos from Members



Two photos on the left are of a Cooper's Hawk. One on the right is a Red-tailed Hawk. These were taken by Inge Curtis on the Kiptopeke Field Trip on September 18th.



Top photo is a Cooper's Hawk—taken by Shirley Devan on Penniman Road. Photo to the right is of an American Dipper±—taken by Kathi Mestayer on the American River near Strawberry, CA.



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 October

September's bird is a California Quail—photo taken in Baja California.



CALENDAR

Saturday, Oct 9	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 8 am, Geoff Giles, Leader
Thursday, Oct 14	HRBC Monthly Meeting, Conference Room at Sandy Bottom Park, 7 pm. Teta Kain will present a program titled <i>Birding Ecuador</i> .
Saturday, Oct 16	WBC Field Trip to Chippokes Plantation State Park, Hugh Beard, Leader. See Front Page
Saturday, Oct 16	HRBC Field Trip to the Eastern Shore. All day trip. Contact Dave Youker via email at youkderd@aol.com
Sunday, Oct 17	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 am, Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, Oct 20	WBC Monthly Meeting. See Front Page
Saturday, Oct 23	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 am, Bill Williams, Leader