



# The Flyer

## Newsletter of the Williamsburg Bird Club

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

February 2011



### President's Corner

By Shirley Devan

The Williamsburg Bird Club has awarded two Bill Williams Nature Camp Scholarships to Emily Council and Justine Koleszar for 2011. Emily is in the 11th grade at Lafayette High School and Justine is home schooled. This is the fourth year the Bird Club has granted scholarships to local youth to attend nature camp.

Congratulations to both students. I am confident that both will have a wonderful learning experience this summer.

Many thanks to Chuck Rend, Mary Anne Fennell, Alex Minarik, Lee Schuster, Gary Carpenter, and Jeanette Navia for their time and effort in evaluating the nine applications.

These scholarships are possible because of the generous support of all of our members. In addition to paying dues, twenty-one members have made additional designated contributions to Nature Camp Scholarships to the tune of almost \$500 (as of January 24).

The generosity of our members is awesome and gratifying. You make it possible for the Bird Club to make a difference in the lives of these two students. **Thank you.**

Later in the spring we'll announce the winners of the Bill Sheehan and Ruth Beck Ornithology Research Grants to students at William and Mary. Stay tuned for more good news.

### Welcome to New Members

Barbara Berlin and Susan Werlau

### February Meeting

At the February meeting, Bill Williams will present a program about a birding trip to Brazil's Atlantic Coastal rainforest that he and Mitchell Byrd took in late September–early October 2010.

Bill is retired from the Williamsburg-James City County Schools where he served for 31 years as a teacher and K-12 Science and Mathematics Curriculum



Coordinator. He was the founder of the Region 2 Science and Mathematics Coalition and served on the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Living Museum and the Board of Directors of the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition.

Bill is an Adjunct Faculty member of the School of Education at the College of William and Mary and has conducted science education workshops at the national, state, and local levels. He was a founder of the Williamsburg Bird Club and the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory. Author of numerous publications in the field of ornithology, Bill is a past president of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and is the Coastal Region editor for the journal *Virginia Birds*. He was Director of the Virginia Barrier Islands Colonial Waterbirds Survey for the Virginia Coast Reserve of The Nature Conservancy from 1975–2005. Bill has been awarded the President's Stewardship Award by The Nature Conservancy, the Harry Armistead Service Award by the Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory, and the James Eike Service Award by the Virginia Society of Ornithology. He founded the Kiptopeke Hawk Watch and was Director from 1977–2002. He was a founding member of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy (formerly the Historic Rivers Land Conservancy), and is presently its Chairman of their Board of Directors.

Plan to join us on February 16 at 7:30 PM in Room 150, Millington Hall, on the W&M campus. Virginia Boyles will be providing the refreshments. **Don't forget to use your parking permit.**

### February Field Trip

Our monthly field trip on February 19th will be a visit to the Dutch Gap Conservancy in Chesterfield. On a recent visit, there were large numbers of beautiful Northern Pintails, American

Wigeons, Northern Shovelers and Ring-necked Ducks, plus Gadwalls, Black Ducks and others in the wetlands, plus an Osprey and a pair of courting Bald Eagles flying



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## 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 website.

## Wild Birds Unlimited

Don't forget that the WBC receives a 5% rebate on the pre-tax amount our members spend at Wild Birds Unlimited in Monticello Marketplace. You do have to let them know that you are a member.

**Seed and suet sale through Feb. 26.**

and perching in bare limbs above. The marshland affords up-close views of the waterfowl so that binoculars, scopes and cameras can bring in beautiful wetland scenery and wildlife. Beyond the marshlands are easy-to-enjoy wooded walking trails with rich songbird habitat. There is no admission fee and no sign-up is needed. All are welcomed to join us!

We recommend carpooling and will depart from Colony Square at 0730 on Saturday, 19 February, for the drive to Dutch Gap, which takes a little over one hour. We will make a rest stop just short of Dutch Gap and plan to begin birding there at the wetlands at about 0900. For those wishing to drive on their own, there are directions on line at the web site for Dutch Gap Conservation Area, which is at the restored historic village of Henricus. Feel free to call Geoff Giles for any further info at 757-645-8716.

Recommended driving route: From Williamsburg go West on either Route 5 or I-64 to I-295 South. From I-295 South take exit 15B to Route 10 West. Follow signs to Henricus Historical Park. Just before a Raceway gas station on the right side of 10, turn right onto Old Stage Road and continue 2 miles and then turn right onto Coxendale Rd. After half a mile take a right onto Henricus Park Rd, which leads along the border of the Conservancy marshland.

## January (and several December) 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 or travels, please share!

**Sent in on Jan. 1** from Geoff Giles: "Since the snow fell on 26 December I have had three new birds come to my backyard feeder. First were 4 Rusty Blackbirds in with a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds on the day of the snowfall. The next day I had my first Pine Siskin, then two, then six on subsequent days. Also on the day after the snowfall I had my first pair of Purple Finches, which came independent of the goldfinches and House Finches which show up in small numbers. Also unusual for my place, the neighborhood bluebirds (4) have become persistent diners at the feeder, rather than just coming by to see what the other birds are up to. They like sunflower chips and suet. And finally, since the snow, the mockingbird who normally patrols my front yard has suddenly come to chow down at the feeder (out back) and spends the rest of the day trying to run off all the cardinals."

**Jan. 1:** Lee Schuster has a Brown Creeper in her yard. Tom and Jeanne Armour report seeing what Tom thinks was a Western Grebe on the York River, in with a mixed raft of a few hundred Ruddies and a dozen or so Canvasbacks.



Photo by Bill Williams

**Jan. 1:** Bill Williams goes over to Oyster on the Eastern Shore and sees the **Mountain Bluebird** (this is only the second confirmed sighting of this species in Virginia).

**Jan. 2:** Shirley Devan sees a Barred Owl in a pine tree along Longhill Road. Tom McCary sees an Eastern Phoebe at Shirley Plantation.

Photo by Carol O'Neil



**Jan. 6:** Carol O'Neil sends a photo of a Snow Goose first spotted around the 4th by her husband Harry at Governor's Land. She also reports a Baltimore Oriole continues to visit her feeder and that she has about a dozen or so Pine Siskins.

**Jan. 7:** Fred Blystone and Louise Menges invite Shirley Devan to go over to the Eastern Shore. They find the **Mountain Bluebird** right where the numerous emails said it should be. Louise was much more impressed with the American Woodcock display we were able to watch up



Photo by Fred Blystone

close and personal. Mary Anne and John Fennell report they have Pine Siskins on their feeders and a Hermit Thrush comes several times a day to the waterer.

**Jan. 8:** Sara Lewis has a Pine Warbler at her suet feeder. Jeanette Navia reports she also has one coming to her suet. Tom McCary reports seeing a Brown Creeper at Shirley Plantation.

**Jan. 12** from Shirley Devan: "I was driving up Longhill Road from Seasons Trace toward Olde Towne Road about 11:45 am. As I was passing Windsor Forest, my windshield filled up with the creamy breast and large wings of a Red-tailed Hawk. At least that's what I think it was! It reacted faster than I did and it lifted up above my car. I tried to follow it in my rearview mirror but it flew higher and landed in a tree out of my line of vision."

**Jan. 14:** Shirley Devan has a Brown Creeper in her yard and also sees a Golden-crowned Kinglet at York River State Park. Martha Briggs sees a Bluebird in her backyard with an aluminum band. Lois Leeth reports from Florida "at least 300 Northern Gannet putting on an aerial feeding frenzy close to the shore." Tom Armour reports having 2 beautiful male Purple Finches (first ones this year) at their feeder. Tom McCary sees at least 2 White-crowned Sparrows at Shirley Plantation."

**Jan. 15:** Kathi Mestayer looks out her window and spots a **Western Tanager** on the bird bath. Luckily she had a camera handy.



Photo by Kathi Mestayer

**Jan. 15:** Tom Armour spots a White-winged Scoter, with 6 Lesser Scaup and some Ruddy Ducks, on the York River just east of the wooden pier in Yorktown.

**Jan. 16:** George and Virginia Boyles joined leader Jane Frigo and 20 other birders on the HRBC walk at Newport News Park. Although ice was still extensive, the limited open water provided views of a substantial group of Hooded Mergansers along with Mute and Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon and Gadwall. The Great Horned Owl was also located thanks to the sharp eyes of Elisa Enders. Both Brown-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches were seen and heard. A big highlight was seeing the Eastern Meadowlarks at the Discovery Center. Finally Cedar Waxwings were spotted but only in a flyover. Interestingly no Common Grackles or Starlings were observed! For the whole morning 53 species were identified. A friend shows Tom McCary a Barred Owl that was perched in a tree in her backyard near Route 5 in Williamsburg.

**Jan. 17:** Linda Scherer reports one lone Pine Siskin at her nyger seed feeder.

**Jan. 21:** Jeanette Navia reports having 12 Pine Siskins at her feeders.

**Jan. 23:** On a two hour swamp romp close to her home, Shirley Devan found 19 species of birds, including 3 male Red-headed Woodpeckers, a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Red-tailed Hawk at Longhill Swamp adjacent to Lafayette High School, and 5 Rusty Blackbirds and a Brown Thrasher at the swamp adjacent to Warhill Sports Complex.

**Jan. 25:** Bill Williams sees an American Woodcock while on his weekly Greensprings Trail walk. Shirley Devan went birding on Jamestown Island. She saw 23 species including a Northern Harrier, a Brown Creeper and a Fox Sparrow. Tom McCary sees a Golden-crowned Kinglet at Shirley Plantation.

**Jan. 26:** From Florida, Lois Leeth reports a minimum of 500 Northern Gannets feeding with great aerial display.

**Jan. 27:** Among the 67 species Bill Williams entered in e-Bird for Craney Island were 31 Snow Buntings, 2 Horned Larks and 1 **Western Sandpiper**.

**Jan. 28:** From Tom Armour: "Lots of waterfowl on the York River and adjacent creeks enroute to Yorktown via the Parkway today—3 Common Loons, 20 tundra Swans, 3 Black Ducks, 40 Lesser Scaup, 10 Bufflehead, 2 Common Goldeneye (both males at Yorktown), 25 Hooded Mergansers, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 5000+ Ruddy Ducks and 35 Ring-billed Gulls."



Photo by Todd Dixon

**Jan. 29:** Louise Menges, Shirley Devan and Fred Blystone saw the **White-winged Crossbill** that has been visiting Todd Dixon's backyard feeder in Glen Allen. Then on to Chester where the **Allen's Hummingbird** ( it has been

coming to a feeder for over two months) made an appearance. Then they visited Dutch Gap Conservation Area and were rewarded with 25 species in the swamp along the entrance road, including an Osprey that has been wintering there.

**Jan. 30:** From Tom Armour: "Today on Treasure Island Road there were 7 Eastern Meadowlarks, 3 Killdeer, 10 Eastern Bluebirds, 20 Yellow-rumped Warblers. The pond at the Vineyards is 75 percent ice-covered and has 4 Ringed-necked Ducks and 25 Canada Geese." Bill Williams reports 54 Redheads off Felgates Creek.



Photo by Bill Williams

**Jan. 31:** Bill Williams "spots" a **Spotted Sandpiper** at Yorktown (on the beach near the Waterman's Museum), a rare winter visitor here.

## The 2010 Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count

By Bill Williams

The weather for the 34th edition of the Williamsburg Bird Club's Christmas Bird Count felt very much like a replay of the discomforts we experienced during the 2009 CBC. The snow-covered ground, blustery chilling winds and mostly frozen open water played out like a here-we-go-again contribution to the National Audubon's Society's international bird monitoring endeavor for this its 111th iteration. Despite the less than welcoming conditions our 54 contributors, an all-time participant high count, documented 108 species, almost exactly the 34-year average of 107. We all know, however, a day of birding/bird counting is seldom if ever really "average". There are always day-in-the-field findings that are more or less than just ordinary, even if that finding is several fewer grackles or more than the "normal" number of Red-bellied Woodpeckers! The 2010 Christmas Bird Count did not err from that rule.

This was the third Williamsburg CBC accomplished with ice and snow defining the day. The other two were 17 December 1989 and 20 December 2009. That said, our 12 field parties covered 338 party miles over 91.5 party hours. Among those submitting count-day results were 10 feeder watchers whose close scrutiny made a significant contribution to the count's success. Their careful observations contributed 2 of our 4 Baltimore Orioles, and the only Purple Finches and Pine Siskins to make the final tally!

The highlight of the day came from the Kingsmill team, which found a Semipalmated Plover, a species never recorded on the Williamsburg Christmas Count. Although this is not a rare species in Virginia, being common during spring and fall migration, it is considered an uncommon to rare winter visitor along the coast. One would therefore suspect that the rambunctious weather helped deliver this bird to our count circle.

All time high counts were posted for several species. Our 1188 Double-crested Cormorants exceeded the 1067 recorded 15 December 2002. Was the weather a factor here too, or were counters just in the right place at the right time this year to find the 121 additional birds it took to set a new high mark? We also came through with a new high for Red-shouldered Hawk at 23, a trio above the previous record of 20 established just last year. We have actually had years that only one of this species was found, and as recently as 2007 the best we could muster was 7! Did the weather help us out with this one too, forcing birds to forage in places where they were more easily detected?

On 15 December 2002 we set a local CBC record of 117 Red-bellied Woodpeckers. This year we posted 140. As good as that looks, one must ponder how many more we could record if only we rallied enough people to thoroughly canvas more feeders and local neighborhoods for this and all the other species we sum up as routine.

Two other species high counts were bested this year, both originally laid down for posterity on that first ice/snow CBC of 17 December 1989. The Hairy Woodpecker tally that day was 17 and that for the Brown Thrasher was 30. This year we recorded 25 Hairy Woodpeckers and an exuberant leaf-tossing 35 Brown Thrashers!

The wind-worn Hog Island group flushed 5 Northern Bobwhite, the first for this troubled species since 7 made the 16 December 2007 list. For some perspective on this consider that the 16 December 1984 Williamsburg CBC had 102 Northern Bobwhite. Hog also had a House Wren this year.

We almost missed Common Goldeneye, yet another species that is struggling across its range. Way to go Skimino for finding the 2 we needed and for detecting the only Greater Yellowlegs (3) for the count. Equally important was the Peregrine Falcon Skimino came up with too. Some other near misses included Clapper Rail and Green-winged Teal. One Clapper was ferreted out by Kingsmill and 4 Green-wings were noted at Hog Island. The blessing and curse of the day's meteorological circumstances was that waterfowl were hard to come by, but those that were found were closely packed, especially those on small ponds.

The Camp Peary contingent, Geoff Giles and Grace Doyle, were good enough to find us an Osprey. How tough it must have been for that bird to find the fish it needed to sustain itself. Another goody was 19 Dunlin at the Felgates Creek sand spit on the York River.

Not unexpectedly there were some misses, Great Egret being the most notable. It's a real bummer trying to make a living off minnows beneath a layer of ice, if they are present at all. American Woodcock slipped by us too. No, it wasn't because they were all on the lower Eastern Shore where 759, likely an all-time national high count, were posted on the 30 December 2010 Cape Charles CBC. That was 4 days after a major snow storm which concentrated them in any available open space. This species is so secretive locally that we struggle to find it, although there are several sites throughout the count circle that support them in winter.

For those who are curious—the 4 Baltimore Orioles, all males, were at Rolling Woods, Ford's Colony, Governor's Land and Green Springs West.

In the final analysis, the Williamsburg Christmas Bird Count proved to be a wonderful success; many thanks to everyone who braved the elements. A warm round of applause too to Carrot Tree Kitchens for the superb repast and welcoming accommodations it provided for our evening tally.



Hog Island crew consisted of Ann-Marie Castellani, David Monahan, Brian Taber, Adrienne Frank and photo taker Gary Driscoll.



Jolly Pond counters were Shirley Devan, Jennifer Trevino, Lee Schuster and Sharon Plocher.



Bob Long, Cynthia Long and Tom Armour at the tally at Carrot Tree.

## **Stitch and the Backyard Bandit**

**By Geoff Giles**

*Written during the December snows*

Commensal flocks in winter are usually described as mixed groups of birds, comprised of migrant species (yellow-rumps, creepers, sapsuckers, etc) and indigenous species here year round (like our Carolina chickadee and tufted titmouse), which form flocks for foraging and presumably for mutual predator alerting. I have heard this described as the visiting birds following the locals, who know where the good places to eat are, much like tourists who look for the eateries with lots of local cars in the parking lot to find the best restaurants while traveling. At least in my yard, one of the migrants has turned the tables and opened his own eatery, which is rapidly gaining in popularity.

For the last month or so, an industrious yellow-bellied sapsucker has been perforating the three trunks of a holly tree just outside my dining room window, about six feet from my nose as I work at my laptop. I had not yet had the opportunity to get so closely acquainted with one of his species and have admired his sewing-machinelike pecking at the tree trunk. I have named him Stitch, for his stitching motion, and was interested to see that over time he not only set up the evenly-spaced horizontal rows of evenly-spaced deep holes I thought to be characteristic of his species, but also a grid of three vertical rows, side by side, where he stripped away the outer holly bark in square, bare patches about one centimeter by one centimeter (Stitch has obviously gone to the metric system). These are not deep, like the holes, but shallow patches of white exposed wood where the outer bark has been removed. These rows of bare patches in the trunk are about six feet off the ground and cover about one vertical foot of the tree's bark, ensconced among holly leaves and clusters of red berries, and are just at my eye level so that I can easily admire Stitch's meticulous work.

Stitch spends hours at a time in the holly tree, on some visits working industriously to make more holes or to perfect the bare patches of bark, but on other visits he makes short stays and just comes to dine, sticking his beak deeply into the rows of holes or running it along the bare patches of bark. In spite of the proximity, I can't see if he is just getting sap or if there are insects as well coming to his feeding station. He has largely been preoccupied with what he is doing and oblivious to my presence or the titmice, chickadees, cardinals and others which perch in the tree to rest or peck open the safflower and sunflower seeds they get from my nearby feeder. He has ignored them—until today.

Today was a still, grey day and snow fell gently this afternoon. As I plopped into my chair and turned on my laptop I noticed a commotion in the holly tree, and saw that Stitch was chasing away a tufted titmouse. After Stitch fed then flew off to another holly, the titmouse returned and I saw why the commotion. The titmouse was poking his beak into the sapsucker holes, and after each one he paused and appeared to be swallowing something (sap or insect I could not tell). He did this about six times, clearly enjoying what he was poaching from the sapsucker's holes. Soon after he flew off, a chickadee took his place and did the same thing. A moment later this was followed by the comical sight of a ruby-crowned kinglet who poked her tiny beak repeatedly so deeply into the holes that part of her little head disappeared each time she did so. She must have been enjoying what she got, as she stayed at it for a full minute, moving among the holes. Soon after, a male kinglet came and did likewise.

Stitch returned after a bit for a feeding visit, and spent visibly less time at the holes that had obviously been eaten clean by the other birds. Soon after his departure, a couple of Yellow-rumped Warblers came into the holly and took turns feeding with visible enjoyment in the sapsucker holes. They were comical in the way they did so, as they sat on nearby branches and stretched over so far to reach deeply into the holes that they looked more like a great blue heron's neck-stretching feeding than the usual warbler's gentle, pecking foraging.

No doubt about it, the word is out about the good stuff to eat at Stitch's diner. I had seen no birds but Stitch pay attention to his feeding station until today. Although the other birds are clearly getting some good dietary variety now thanks to Stitch's hard work, it is not clear that Stitch is getting anything in return. I have never seen or heard of this kind of banditry, but then I haven't spent that much time hanging around in holly trees to see what goes on there. I had actually thought about taking those trees out, since they seem to be cultivars of the American holly, and I imagined that a pure native species of some sort would be better—for the birds. As it turns out, this little corner of my yard couldn't be better as it is.

## **A Hawk That "Did It Himself"**

**By Arlene Segó**

On a blustery February day several years ago a Cooper's Hawk followed a pigeon through an open door of a big box home improvement store in suburban Cleveland, Ohio. Once inside the hawk quickly had its meal, much to the disgust of startled onlookers. The hawk then scouted out the store and decided to settle down in the electrical department.

Since the pigeons were savvy as to the operation of the automatic door, the hawk ended up having a constant supply of meals without having to work very hard. The problem was how to get the hawk out of the store without causing him injury, especially since he did not know how to operate the doors. As word of the hawk's presence in the store spread, more and more people came to observe him even though his meal-eating habits left much to be desired.

After several days naturalists and bird-lovers decided the best thing to do was to trap the hawk and release him away from the store. The first attempt involved putting a piece of meat into the trap, which the hawk ignored completely. (Why go for a piece of meat when there is a constant supply of live prey?) It was then decided to entice the hawk by baiting the trap with a live animal. A person brought in a hamster (don't worry, there's a happy ending!), which was placed in the trap in such a way that the hawk would not be able to access it. The next morning the hawk was in the trap.

The happy ending included the Cooper's Hawk being released, unharmed, a good distance away from the store while the hamster was adopted by the owner of the trap, who wanted it for his children. If hamsters have nightmares this one must have had a doozy!

### **Weekly Walks at Great Dismal Swamp**

Robert Ake does a weekly walk in the Great Dismal Swamp. The starting point can change from week to week. The walks normally start at 7:30 and finish up by noon. This is a chance to bird one of the premier local birding stops with one of our area's best birders. The walk on February 9th will start from the headquarters parking lot at Railroad Ditch and Desert Road. Further information can be obtained by e-mailing [rake@cox.net](mailto:rake@cox.net).

### **The 2011 GBBC will take place Friday, February 18 through Monday, February 21**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Participants count birds anywhere for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online

checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count website at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

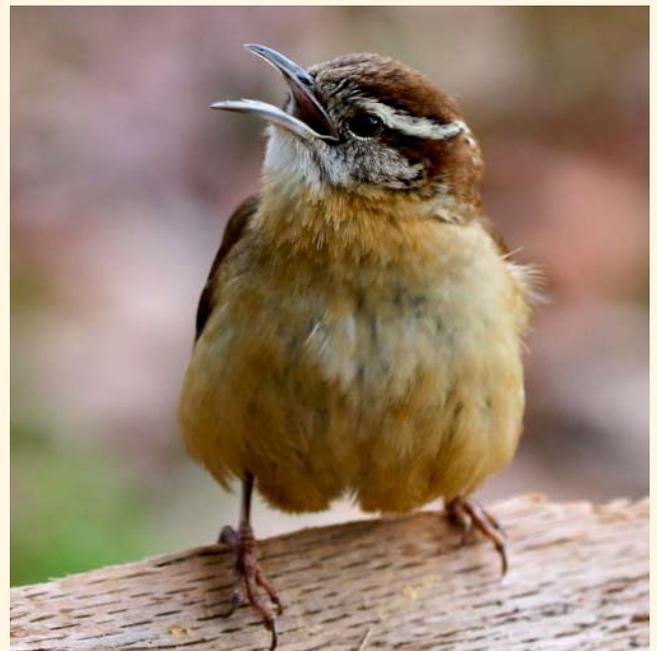
As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or anywhere in the United States and Canada. They can also see how this year's numbers compare with those from previous years. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see.

### **Photos from Members**

**George Boyles's** Photo of a Redhead taken at Belmont Apartments in York County.



**Inge Curtis's** Photo of a Carolina Wren



## WBC January Special Event, Walks and Field Trips

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



Twenty-three birders turned out for the Sixth Annual New Year's Day Boardwalk Bird Show at Greensprings Trail. The "stars" for the day were a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks and 53 Rusty Blackbirds. A total of 25 species were seen during the afternoon.

Hugh Beard led the January 8th walk at New Quarter Park. He was joined by 16 other birders who found 32 species during the morning walk.

Seated: Lewis Flanary, Sara Robbins, Sara Lewis, Lois Ullman, Judy Olbrych, Peter Olbrych

Standing: Cynthia Long, Catherine Bond, Hugh Beard, Jennifer Trevino, Thad Hecht, Sharon Plocher, Geoff Giles, Jeanette Navia, George Boyles

Missing: Margaret Ware and Shirley Devan (who took the photo).



**This photo was taken from one of the CBBT islands by John Adair, who was on a Hampton Roads Bird Club field trip.**

The Williamsburg Bird Club's boat trip out of Lynnhaven Inlet for the CBBT was great on 15 January. Practically balmy between 9 am and 1:30 PM—we lucked out with the weather! We cruised out as far as island 3 then headed south a bit to see if anything interesting responded to our menhaden scraps going over the stern (other than Herring Gulls). Nothing unusual turned up. At Fort Story we turned and headed back to Lynnhaven, cruising by the fish pound pilings for a good look at lots of Double-crested Cormorants and a lone Osprey slumming with the cormorants. Our leader was Brian Taber, President, Coastal VA Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) and Williamsburg Bird Club member. Thanks, Brian! Many thanks to bird club member Geoff Giles for arranging this trip, reserving the boat, taking reservations, and keeping the captain and mate happy. We had 42 people join us for the ride, including people from Arlington, Richmond, VA Beach, Chesapeake, New Kent, and Williamsburg area. A total of 29 species of birds were seen during the trip

On February 22 Bill Williams led 10 other birders on a very cold walk at new Quarter Park. A total of 29 species were seen including a Northern Harrier and a Wilson's Snipe. The group also found 2 raccoons curled up asleep in the "raccoon tree".

Left to right: George Boyles, Jan Lockwood, Virginia Boyles, John Adair, Bill Williams, Sara Lewis, Sharon Plocher, Marilyn Adair and Jennifer Trevino.

Missing are Joe Piotrowski and Shirley Devan, who took the photo.



### More Photos from Members



The Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrow photos were taken by Inge Curtis. George Boyles took the photo of the "stars" of the New Year's Day Boardwalk Bird Show, the Red-shouldered Hawks.



**Photos from the January 15th CBBT boat trip.**

**Photos by Shirley Devan**



**Photos by Inge Curtis**



## 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.



February's bird photo

January's bird was a Sanderling.



## CALENDAR

Sunday, Feb. 6	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Wednesday, Feb. 9	Robert Ake's Weekly Great Dismal Swamp Walk. See Page 7.
Thursday, Feb. 10	HRBC Monthly Meeting, Conference Room at Sandy Bottom Park, 6 PM. Randy Thrasher will present a program titled <i>The Birds of Trinidad &amp; Tobago</i> .
Saturday, Feb. 12	WBC BirdWalk, New Quarter Park, 8 AM, Susan Powell, Leader,
Saturday, Feb. 12	HRBC Field Trip, Mathews County, 8 AM. Contact Dave Youker at 344-9385 or <a href="mailto:youkerd@aol.com">youkerd@aol.com</a> for more information.
Thursday, Feb. 16	WBC Monthly Meeting. See front page.
Feb. 18–21	Great Backyard Bird Count. See Page 7— <a href="http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc">www.birdsource.org/gbbc</a>
Saturday, Feb. 19	WBC Field Trip to Dutch Gap Conservation Area. See front page.
Sunday, Feb. 20	HRBC Bird Walk, Newport News Park, 7 AM, Jane Frigo, Leader
Saturday Feb. 26	WBC Bird Walk, New Quarter Park, 7 AM, Bill Williams, Leader